

Banack's BENCHER NEWS

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CAREER COACHING PROGRAM: The Law Society has launched a six-hour coaching program for women lawyers as part of the Retention of Women in Private Practice Project. It is designed to assist women taking a leave from their practice, during the leave and reintegration thereafter. The program was designed to empower women to take charge of their careers and assist in maintaining the viability of small firms and sole practices.

TREASURER'S ELECTION: Watch for coming developments!
Nominations close on May 10, 2012.



THE LAW SOCIETY GOES PAPERLESS!

It took us 217 years BUT this morning, Convocation was paperless! The historic pile of monthly reports for review by the Benchers has now been reduced to electronic data distributed and read by Benchers either by laptop or ipad.

A great development!

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: For 2012, we will now be able to participate in interactive programs to secure six out of the required 12 hours of learning through archived video and audio webcasts of previously held learning programs and completion of online programs which require questions to be answered and other prompts to progress through learning modules. These changes reflect some of the frustrations and concerns experienced by lawyers in the first 2011 learning cycle. A comprehensive report will be made to Convocation by the end of April 2013, addressing the first two years of operation.

PRACTICE MANAGEMENT HELP LINE: This confidential service helps lawyers with the application of the Rules of Professional Conduct, Law Society legislation and By-Laws. Calls are initially screened to identify existing resources and, if necessary, for referral to Counsel to discuss ethical issues, applicable legislation, and potential options, including the advantages and disadvantages of each option. In 2011, the Help Line received an average of over 500 calls per month. To contact the Help Line, call 1-800-668-7380 (Ext 3315) and ask to be connected to the Help Line.

ARTICLING DEBATE: Following unprecedented, Province-wide Task Force consultations, over 100 submissions were delivered. Other provincial law societies also have a significant interest in the same issue of transitional training. As a result, the Task Force will now only deliver an interim report at May Convocation. You will be able to watch the presentation by webcast, details of which will be available on the Law Society site in May. Significant additional work is necessary to consider the options. A final report and recommendations will now be delayed at least until the Fall. It may be necessary to consider possible interim measures to address the current problems including that approximately 15% of articling candidates remain without a job.

MORE LAWYERS: Convocation has approved another law school for the granting of a common law degree. Subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions, the Université de Montréal will institute a program to confer the common law J.D. that will entitle its holders to apply for admission to the Law Society of Upper Canada. For more information, visit the Law Society website: www.lsuc.on.ca.

PARALEGAL COMMITTEE CHAIR: Ms. Cathy Corsetti has been unanimously re-elected by the Paralegal Standing Committee as its Chair for a further term to April 2013.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR TO ATTEND THE LAW SOCIETY PUBLIC EDUCATION, EQUALITY AND RULE OF LAW SERIES:
ASIAN/SOUTH ASIAN HERITAGE—May 17 ACCESS AWARENESS-LEGAL SYMPOSIUM ON DISABILITY ISSUES—June 6
NATIONAL ABORIGINAL HISTORY—June 19 PRIDE WEEK—June 21



May 1: Annual fees are due.

May 7: Deadline for applications to apply for Membership in the Law Society Equity Advisory Group.
For more information, contact 1-800-668-7380 (Ext. 3315)

May 9: Annual General Meeting

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CONVOCATION REPORTS: All reports to Convocation can be viewed at <http://www.lsuc.on.ca> In order to more fully understand the issues facing Convocation, you may wish to review previous editions of Banack's Bencher News at <http://www.kmlaw.ca/publications>

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