



REAL ESTATE LAWYERS- SELF INCRIMINATION

From 2014 lawyers practicing real estate will be required to complete an annual declaration of compliance with the Law Society's rules and by-laws regarding their area of practice. This is an attempt to combat the high cost of mortgage fraud and real estate related complaints. Undoubtedly the declaration will be relied upon by Law Society prosecutors in future discipline proceedings to demonstrate that we knew of our obligations.

ARTICLING - LAW PRACTICE PROGRAM

A request for proposal has been issued to identify an organization able to design, develop, implement and manage all aspects of the program beginning in the 2014 licensing year. To view the complete RFP visit, www.lsuc.on.ca/LLP. The deadline for proposals is May 31, 2013. A very tight timetable is needed in order to ascertain whether suitable service providers are available as that was a precondition to the implementation of the lawyer licensing pilot project approved by Convocation in November, 2012.

OLAP FUNDING REDIRECTED TO HOMEWOOD HUMAN SOLUTIONS

Effective January 1st the Law Society no longer provides financial assistance to the Ontario Lawyers' Assistance Program. With the cooperation of LawPro, funding has been given to Homewood to operate an independent, confidential assistance program for lawyers and paralegals. The new program offers peer to peer addictions support and the development of peers in the area of mental health. OLAP, although not financially supported by the Law Society, will continue to provide peer-to-peer counseling for those who accessed its services prior to the new year. Necessary changes have been made to the Rules of Professional Conduct to ensure that lawyers who provide new peer-to-peer support will not be required to testify in a Law Society hearing, without the consent of the lawyer from whom information was received.

CEO UPDATE - FIRST ANNIVERSARY

Robert Lapper has been CEO of the Law Society since February 2012. He has successfully climbed a steep learning curve. Mr. Lapper has demonstrated an enormous capacity for hard work and deft management of a large diverse staff and the many Bencher members of Convocation. Under his watch, the Society has maintained and managed numerous initiatives. In the coming year, Mr. Lapper will address the Law Society budget process in order to wrestle with our financial circumstances and the tolerance of the profession to continue to fund an ever increasing bureaucracy. Revisions to the articling program and the lawyer licensing program will further challenge the CEO. The honeymoon continues.

LAW SOCIETY HEARING PANEL OPPORTUNITIES

The Law Society needs qualified lawyers and paralegals for appointment to its hearing panel which considers all types of regulatory matters affecting the profession. The appointments are part-time and are remunerated on a per diem basis. The ability to conduct hearings in both French and English is an asset. The deadline for application is March 8, 2013.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Details are on the Law Society website www.lsuc.on.ca

International Women's Day	March 6, 2013
International Francophone Day	March 21, 2013
Law Society 2012 Annual Report due	March 31, 2013
Law Society Fess due	April 1,2013
Law Week Celebration, The Great Debate	April 16, 2013
Alternative Careers For Women In Law	May 2013
Asian and South Asian Heritage Month	May 16, 2013
Disability Issues Legal Panel - Access Awareness Forum	June 6, 2013
National Aboriginal History Month	June 18 or 20, 2013
Pride Week	June 25, 2013
