



CONGRATULATIONS TO TREASURER CONWAY

The Treasurer has been elected to a second term of one year. This will give him an opportunity to pursue important initiatives and pursue the priorities established by Convocation.

CHANGES TO CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS.

Since 2011 we have had an obligation to participate in and report 12 hours of CPD annually to ensure that we meet standards of learning, professional competence and conduct. The vast majority of programming is provided in-house by law firms, followed by professional organizations and law associations. Over 94% of lawyers comply with the CPD requirements. As a result of a mandated two year review and based on feedback received, Convocation has now changed some of the rules without altering the fundamental goals. There will be greater flexibility in satisfying the requirements and new licensees will be allowed to begin satisfying their CPD requirements without delay. In addition the Portal reporting system will be simplified and improved. To view the report and changes visit www.lsuc.on.ca.

LAW SOCIETY COST CUTTING

The Treasurer has cancelled the Law Society's traditional end of term dinner which had recognized the hard work of Benchers and the sacrifice of our families. This will save about \$75,000.00. This small step will hopefully be a prelude to more significant savings to reduce the high cost of self-regulation. It is in conjunction with the CEO quest for improvements to achieve operational and cost efficiencies to ensure that the Law Society will be on a sound financial footing for the future.

CHAIR, LAW SOCIETY TRIBUNAL

The search is underway to hire a lawyer to chair the Tribunal which administers adjudicative responsibilities in relation to all licensees. Previously this function was fulfilled by elected Benchers on a part-time basis. The position has now correctly been identified as a full-time job to be fulfilled by an individual having strong adjudication experience, with an understanding of the importance of independence in the adjudicative function and the ability to manage complex matters involving multiple perspectives. If this is of interest, please consider the advertisements published in the Ontario Reports.

ADJUDICATOR APPOINTMENTS

In response to recent advertisements, over 250 applications were received for appointment to the Hearing Panel by lawyers, paralegals and lay persons. The review process is underway and hopefully the much needed appointment process will be completed by the fall.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DOCTOR OF LAW RECIPIENTS

The Law Society will grant honorary doctorates during forthcoming Call to the Bar ceremonies to

David Onley, Ontario Lieutenant Governor
Annemarie Bonkalo, Chief Justice of the Ontario Court of Justice
J. Douglas Cunningham, Edward Duchrame and Dennis O'Connor

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR COLLEAGUES

You may wish to reach out and congratulate the following exceptional lawyers who received awards from the Law Society on May 29, 2013:

LAW SOCIETY MEDAL RECIPIENTS:

Daniel Chilcott	Paul Copeland
Ralph Haskings Frayne	Edward Greenspan
Martha McCarthy	Roy McMurty
Delia Opekokew	

LINCOLN ALEXANDER AWARD RECIPIENT

Frank Walwyn

LAURA LEGGE AWARD

Marie Henein

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM was held on May 8, 2013. Because of the interest created by a motion brought in respect of paralegal practice, the meeting was moved, at significant expense, from Convocation Hall to a nearby hotel. A large number of lawyers, paralegals and members of the public intended to attend and participate in the motion which was only withdrawn hours before the commencement of the meeting. However, many still attended and the AGM had an unusually large attendance. In addition to the usual comments and tabling of reports, those present had the opportunity to speak. Many voiced disparate and conflicting views in respect of the current and future for paralegal practice in Ontario as well as other matters of concern to licensees. It is encouraging that so many individuals chose to attend the meeting. Their comments, however, reveal a deep divide within the profession that must be addressed in a timely and effective manner.

CONVOCATION PRIORITIES

Convocation has identified the following priorities against which the effectiveness of the current Bench will be judged in the next election of Benchers:

- Access to justice
- Competence and professional standards
- Equity, diversity and retention
- Tribunal issues
- Business structures/law firm financing
- Professional regulation

Examine the Law Society 2012 annual report for performance highlights in respect of each of the priorities. In addition, feel free to discuss the matters with any Benchers.

MAKE UP OF OUR PROFESSION

You may find it interesting to know that:

- Our profession is made up of 60% men and 40% women
- 57% of our profession is under the age of 50
- 77% of Ontario firms are sole practitioners
- 98% of our profession practices in firms that have 10 or fewer lawyers
- Less than 1% of law firms have more than 50 lawyers
- Those large law firms constitute 21% of all practicing lawyers
- 49% of lawyers practice in Metropolitan Toronto
- 15% of lawyers are employed by government

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 Benchers News at <http://banackresolutions.com/bencher-newsletter/>.

If you would like to either receive this newsletter via email or be removed from the subscription list, please send a message with your instructions to: larry@banackresolutions.com

PLEASE NOTE MY NEW COORDINATES

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