



2014 LEVY: Convocation has approved a budget of \$103 million, requiring lawyers to pay by March 1, 2014, **\$1,866.00** which is made up of:

General Fee	\$1,375
Compensation Fund	\$238
LibraryCo	\$202
Capital	\$50

This is a modest fee increase from last year's total of **\$1,851.00**. The increase would have been greater if Convocation did not use \$1.5 million previously accumulated in the General and Compensation Funds. The budget is premised on an increase in lawyers and a reduction in the number of Law Society employees. Once again the Law Society has approved a budget spending more than is taken in as revenue. This is a bad practice that has been followed for too long. By the end of 2014, the Law Society will be regulating over 50,000 active lawyers and paralegals.

IMPORTANT DATES

OCTOBER 29TH CONTINGENCY PLANNING WEBCAST: Don't miss it from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. To view the available planning guide see www.lsuc.on.ca/ContingencyPlanninglawyers.

NOVEMBER 1ST LAWPRO DEADLINE: This is the date to e-file your 2014 insurance application in order to save \$25.00. But in any event, all applications must be filed by the final deadline of November 8th in order to avoid a 30 percent surcharge. If assistance is needed contact LAWPRO customer service at 416-598-5899 or 1-800-410-1013.

DECEMBER 31ST CPD DEADLINE: By this date all full time practitioners must have completed 12 hours of eligible educational opportunities for 2013. Three of the hours must

be related to professional responsibility, ethics and/or practice management. There are numerous accredited programs advertised in the Ontario Reports that you can attend in person or by web cast. If you do not record your completed hours in the Law Society Portal, you may be administratively suspended.

ADJUDICATOR APPOINTMENTS

After seeking applications from the profession, Convocation has approved the appointment of the following non-bencher lawyers to the discipline Hearing Panel for a term ending May 22, 2014:

Philippe Capella	Marc D'Amours	Laura Donaldson
Lyle Kanee	Susan Opler	Frederika Rotter

LAW PRACTICE PROGRAM (LPP)

A process to create an alternative to articling was set out in the Pathways to the Profession Report approved by Convocation in November 2012. The Law Society is continuing with its implementation following submissions from potential providers to a Request for Proposal issued last winter. Stay tuned for developments as the 3 to 5 year pilot project is set to begin for the 2014-2015 licensing year. The cost of the new process is still unknown. However, it remains open to Law Schools to seek approval of a practical program that will allow third year students to satisfy the Law Society's requirement for experiential training and be credited against the LPP obligations. PREDICTION: By the time we are done with this tinkering around 2017, articling will be a thing of the past and students will spend less Law School time studying substantive legal courses and a three year curriculum will include practical legal training. As a corollary, our licensing examinations will have to be ramped up to be able to test applicants' legal knowledge, in a manner sufficient to protect the public interest.

USEFUL RESOURCES

Dealing with difficult clients: www.practicepro.ca/practice/DifficultClients.asp

Sample law firm budget: www.practicepro.ca/practice/PDF/SampleBudgetSpreadsheet.xls

Avoid identity theft and online fraud: www.practicepro.ca/LawPROmag/TechTip-Tips-Identity-Fraud.pdf

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