

 **Banack's Bencher News**

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**Treasurer Committee Appointments:** By tradition, the Treasurer, elected in June, has assigned all Benchers to various committees of Convocation. The following have been appointed Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Committees indicated:

Committee	Name	
Admissions	Edward Ducharme	Chair
	George Hunter	Vice-Chair
Finance & Audit	Clayton Ruby	Chair
	Seymour Epstein	Vice-Chair
	Marshall Crowe	Vice-Chair
Government Relations & Public Affairs	Frank Marrocco	Chair
	John Campion	Vice-Chair
Lawyers Fund for Client Compensation	Robert Topp	Chair
Professional Development /Competence	Larry Banack	Vice-Chair
	Abdul Chahbar	Vice-Chair
Professional Regulation	Earl Cherniak	Chair
	Kim Carpenter-Gunn	Vice-Chair
	Gavin MacKenzie	Chair
	Carole Curtis	Vice-Chair
	Todd Ducharme	Vice-Chair
	Neil Finkelstein	Vice-Chair
Equity/Aboriginal Issues	Heather Ross	Vice-Chair
	Paul Copeland	Chair
	Derry Millar	Vice-Chair
	Helene Puccini	Vice-Chair
LPIC Board	Ross Murray	Chair
Access to Justice	Ronald Manes	Chair
	Marion Boyd	Vice-Chair
	Barbara Laskin	Vice-Chair
Litigation	Kim Carpenter-Gunn	Chair
	Julian Porter	Chair
Emerging Issues	George Hunter	Chair
	Niels Orted	Chair
Ontario Lawyers' Gazette	Julian Porter	Chair
Advisory Board	Robert Topp	Vice-Chair
Heritage	Thomas Carey	Chair
	Pamela Divinsky	Vice-Chair
Inter-Jurisdictional Mobility	Derry Millar	Chair
	Gavin MacKenzie	Vice-Chair

**Bencher Shuffle:** The election of the Treasurer created a vacancy in Convocation now filled by Janet Minor. The appointment of Bencher, Eleanore Cronk to the Ontario Court of Appeal has been filled by Avvy Go.

**Unclaimed Trust Funds:** Lawyers who have been holding trust funds for at least two years may now apply to transfer the money to the Law Society in certain circumstances. Once effected, the transfer will simplify the lawyer's bookkeeping and permit the money to be held indefinitely by the Law Society until claimed. For an Application

or additional information, please telephone 416-947-3312 and you should receive a response to your specific questions within 48 hours.

**Access to Justice:** Pursuing an initiative of the former Treasurer, Robert Armstrong and the Chief Justice for Ontario, the Treasurer has established the Access to Justice Committee. It is intended to develop options for promoting access to justice throughout Ontario for low and moderate income individuals, including the effective operation of Legal Aid Ontario. It is anticipated that the Committee's work during the next eighteen months may result in the creation of a Centre for the advancement of access to justice in Ontario.

**Virtual Law Library:** This initiative with Law Societies across the country has proven very successful as its initial goals have been attained. By May, 2001, the site received in excess of 16,000 hits per day with an average of 7,300 pages viewed per day. The project has continued to add new case law and legislation to the site and additional hypertext links. Convocation has approved its continuing support for the project as a means of providing Ontario lawyers with free access to primary legal materials from any location with internet access 24 hours a day, in a user friendly fashion. Visit [www.canlii.org](http://www.canlii.org)

**Mobility Rights:** The Treasurer has been appointed, by the Federation of Law Societies, as Chair of a task force examining full mobility rights for lawyers within Canada. Recently, the four western Provinces adopted rules permitting lawyers to practice within any of the Provinces for a period of time and are working to harmonize their compensation funds, trust account rules and bar admission programs.

**LPIC 2002:** Convocation adopted recommendations for the 2002 LPIC program. Details of its comprehensive report may be obtained from LPIC. Base premiums will be reduced by \$100.00 to \$2,700.00. Lawyers will be able to secure a further premium discount by electronically submitting application forms by November 1, 2001. By 2003, lawyers will be eligible for a premium credit up to \$100.00 per member for successful completion of educational courses taken in 2002 that have been pre-approved by LPIC. The real estate and civil litigation transaction levies have been continued. Additional changes have been made to our policy in respect of multi-discipline practices and Law Corporations.