

 **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 | Chair | Vice-Chair |
|--|---|------------------------------------|
| Access to Justice | Marion Boyd | Ronald Manes |
| Audit Sub-Committee | Bradley Wright | |
| Bicentennial Report Working Group | Joanne St. Lewis | |
| Continuum of Legal Education | George Hunter | |
| Emerging Issues | Heather Ross | Gavin MacKenzie |
| Equity/Aboriginal Issues | Joanne St. Lewis | W.A. Derry Millar |
| Finance & Audit | Clayton Ruby | Abdul Chahbar |
| Government Relations | Julian Porter, Q.C. (Co-Chair) James Caskey, Q.C. (Co-Chair) | |
| Hearings | Larry Banack | |
| Heritage | Constance Backhouse | |
| Inter-Jurisdictional Mobility | W.A. Derry Millar | |
| Law Foundation | Larry Banack | |
| LawPro | Kim Carpenter-Gunn | |
| Lawyers' Fund for Client Compensation | Robert Topp | Larry Banack |
| Litigation | Neil Finkelstein | Earl Cherniak, Q.C. |
| Ontario Gazette Advisory Board | Bradley Wright | Robert Topp |
| PAC | Earl Cherniak, Q.C. | |
| Professional Development/Competence and Admissions | George Hunter | William Simpson, Q.C., LSMGavin |

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|---|---|---------------|
| | | MacKenzie |
| Professional Regulation | Todd Ducharme | Carole Curtis |
| Small Firm and Sole Practitioner Task Force | Abraham Feinstein, Q.C. (Co-Chair) Judith Potter (Co-Chair) | |

ADDITIONAL APPOINTMENTS:

Ontario Bar Association Council - Laurie Pattillo, Ross Murray and Kim Carpenter-Gunn

Ontario Bar Assistance Program - Board of Directors - Gary Gottlieb

CNE Association - Gordon Bobesich

Link Board of Directors - Laurie Pattillo

Specialist Certification Board - Gerald Swaye (Chair), Larry Banack, Kim Carpenter-Gunn, Bill Simpson

Law Foundation of Ontario - Larry Banack (Chair)

MEMBERS' ANNUAL REPORT (MAR): Convocation approved changes to the MAR with the expectation that it will become more "user friendly". The new form will be distributed to the profession for return to the Law Society by March 31, 2004.

DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT COUNSEL: Convocation appointed Ms. Cynthia Petersen as Discrimination & Harassment Counsel following her interim appointment which became necessary because former Counsel, Mary Teresa Devlin was appointed a Judge of the Ontario Court of Justice in November, 2002. Ms. Petersen's practice included areas of Charter Litigation and she was a former professor of law at the University of Ottawa from 1990-1995.

LAWPRO 2004: A series of LawPro Board recommendations were adopted by Convocation for 2004. Last year's base premium will be maintained at \$2,500.00 per lawyer. Other premiums for sole practitioners, new lawyers, criminal lawyers, part-time lawyers in association or lawyers with claims history surcharges have been decreased modestly. These reductions are possible because \$9.7 million has been drawn from the Premium Stabilization Fund built up in previous years (\$22.5 million at June, 2003) and applied to the 2004 insurance premium. In 2002, the practices of real estate and civil litigation represented 60.2% of the claims reported and 53.6% of the claims costs. However, LawPro's successful title insurance program, TitlePLUS, has resulted in a reduction of \$10.2 million less claims costs today than were incurred seven years ago. The LawPro premium can be reduced by attending pre-approved continuing education courses with a saving of \$50.00 premium credit per course, subject to \$100.00 maximum per member for courses between September 2003 and 2004, for which a lawyer must also successfully complete the on-line CLE declaration form.

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