

# Banack's Bencher News #67

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**LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY:** An application has been made to the Government to establish a new law school in Thunder Bay. Its focus is to educate students to provide legal services to Aboriginal Committees and others in Northwest Ontario and elsewhere in the province. The Law Society must first approve the program before graduates may participate in the Bar Admission licensing process.

**SPECIAL INTERFAITH DIVINE SERVICE:** This Special Service to mark the opening of the Courts was held on January 10, 2007 attended by various members of Convocation and the judiciary at the Metropolitan United Church. It was an uplifting and invigorating service held in advance of the formal opening of Courts conducted on the afternoon of the same date. Last year's service was conducted at Beth Tzedec Synagogue.

**LAW SOCIETY MEDAL/LINCOLN ALEXANDER AWARD:** The deadline for letters of nomination is February 23, 2007. These awards recognize lawyers for their community service, pro bono work or contributions to the law or the justice system. More information can be obtained from the Ontario Reports or the Law Society website.

**MCMURTRY GARDENS OF JUSTICE:** As a tribute to the Chief Justice upon his retirement, a group of lawyers and judges has established a sculpture garden located near Osgoode Hall and Nathan Phillips Square in Toronto. The sculptures will represent the values that underlie the Canadian justice system. For more information about the Gardens, scheduled to open in June 2007, visit <http://www.mcmurtrygardensofjustice.ca>.

## FAX/EMAIL FEEDBACK:

IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO ME IF YOU WOULD CIRCLE YOUR RESPONSES AND REPLY BY EMAIL OR RETURN THIS SHEET BY FAX TO ME AT 416-204-2824 TO ADVISE OF YOUR VIEWS WITH RESPECT TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

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| 1) Do you support that a portion of your annual Law Society levy be used for the regulation of paralegals to be licensed by the Law Society effective May 1, 2007?   | YES | NO |
| 2) Do you think the Law Society should be involved in an effort to sustain:  |     |    |
| (a) Women in the Profession:   | YES | NO |
| (b) Sole and small firm practitioners:   | YES | NO |
| 3) Do you have any knowledge of the amount lawyers have paid for Bencher remuneration since the proposal was approved by the Profession in 2005?   | YES | NO |
| 4) Do you think you should be provided with that information?  | YES | NO |
| 5) Should the number of students admitted to law schools be limited?   | YES | NO |
| 6) Do you believe that the new licensing examinations should fail a significant number of all candidates?  | YES | NO |
| 7) Do you believe the Law Society should subsidize law firms and students in respect of the cost of students participating in the licensing process by an annual contribution in the amount of \$32.00 per lawyer (in addition to the \$1,000,000. grant given to the Law Society by the Law Foundation of Ontario)? | YES | NO |
| 8) Do you believe that the Law Society should be in the business of providing continuing legal education programs?   | YES | NO |
| 9) If there is a demonstrated, cost-effective, timely, locally available delivery service to permit self-study and other means of qualification determined after consultation with the Profession, might you be in favour of mandatory continuing legal education?   | YES | NO |

I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU. IF YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER COMMENTS, PLEASE FILL THIS IN AND RETURN IT BY FAX 416-204-2824 OR EMAIL ME AT [ibanack@koskieminsky.com](mailto:ibanack@koskieminsky.com)

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**CONVOCATION REPORTS:** This month's Convocation Report can be found at [www.lsuc.on.ca/news/b/conv/](http://www.lsuc.on.ca/news/b/conv/)

For back issues of this Newsletter, please visit [www.koskieminsky.com](http://www.koskieminsky.com)