

Banack's Bencher News #70

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BENCHER ELECTIONS: I thank those of you who voted in the 2007 Bencher Election. I am very grateful and excited to have been re-elected. Below you will find the names of the elected Benchers, 11 of whom will be sitting in Convocation for the first time. Detailed election results are posted on the Law Society website: <http://www.lsuc.on.ca>

Toronto			
MacKenzie, Gavin	Gottlieb, Gary Lloyd	Ruby, Clayton	Rothstein, Linda, LSM
Porter, Julian, Q.C.	Aaron, Bob	Pawlitza, Laurie	Banack, Larry
Anand, Raj, LSM	Gold, Alan D.	Minor, Janet E.	Heintzman, Thomas G., O.C., Q.C.
Curtis, Carole	Millar, Derry	Dickson, Mary Louise, Q.C.	Symes, Beth, LSM
Sandler, Mark J.	Schabas, Paul	Tough, Bonnie A.	Campion, John A.
Outside Toronto			
Lewis, Hon. Doug	Swaye, Gerald A., Q.C.	Henderson, Paul J.	Conway, Thomas
Hartman, Carol	Pustina, Nicholas John, Q.C.	Caskey, James R., Q.C.	Backhouse, Constance, LSM
Aitken, Melanie L.	Carpenter-Gunn, Kim	McGrath, Susan T.	Ross, Heather Joy
Warkentin, Bonnie R.	Crowe, Marshall A.	Halajian, Jennifer	Hare, Susan M.
St. Lewis, Joanne	Potter, Judith M.	Wright, Bradley H.	Silverstein, Alan G.

LAY BENCHER APPOINTMENTS: The Attorney General has appointed/re-appointed the following Lay Benchers for a 4 year term:

Dr. Aslam Daud	Seymour Epstein (<i>reappointed</i>)	Rabbi Dow Marmur	Jack Rabinovitch
Baljit Sikand	Cathy Strosberg	Marion Boyd (<i>reappointed</i>)	Ab Chabar (<i>reappointed</i>)

TREASURER ELECTION: Congratulations to Gavin McKenzie who was acclaimed to serve an additional year as Treasurer. The Treasurer completed the unexpired term created by the resignation of George Hunter and had been elected for one year. However, in order to be eligible as a Treasurer candidate, it was necessary that Mr. McKenzie run in the recent election. It is a significant benefit to Convocation that the Treasurer's tenure will thus extend into the first year of the term for the many newly elected Benchers. With the Treasurer's acclamation, a vacancy was created that was filled by Ms. Avvy Go.

WOMEN BENCHERS: 19 of the 40 elected Benchers this term are women; the highest number elected in Law Society history. In 2003, 11 women were elected.

BENCHER/ELECTION ORIENTATION: A disappointing small turn out of 34% of the profession (compared with 42% in 1999, 39% in 2003) elected the members of Convocation. It had been hoped that there would be a better turnout in this election as lawyers could vote electronically through email (45%) or by telephone (4%), rather than merely by mail (51%). A series of orientation and educational sessions have been held for newly elected Benchers in order to facilitate their transition so that Convocation can continue to govern the profession in the public interest as required by its Role Statement.

PARALEGAL REGULATION: Effective May 1, 2007, the Law Society now regulates all legal service providers, including independent paralegals. Two paralegals will sit in Convocation. Testing and qualification protocol is presently being implemented in order that paralegals will be subject to Law Society oversight.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS: Treasurer MacKenzie has made the following appointments as Chair/Vice-Chair of the Committees noted:

Access to Justice: Marion Boyd & Judith Potter	Appeal Panel: Mark Sandler
Audit: Beth Symes/Marshall Crowe	Compensation Fund: Bradley Wright
Equity & Aboriginal Issues: Joanne St. Lewis/Raj Anand	Finance: Derry Millar/Bradley Wright
Governance Task Force: Tom Heintzman/Vern Krishna	Government Relations: James Caskey & Doug Lewis/Laurie Pawlitza
Hearing Panel: Larry Banack/Bonnie Warkentin	Heritage: Connie Backhouse/Gary Gottlieb
Law Foundation of Ontario: Larry Banack	LawPro Board: Kim Carpenter-Gunn
LibraryCo Board: Abe Feinstein	Licensing & Accreditation Task Force: Vern Krishna
Litigation: Allan Rock	Paralegal: Paul Dray/Bonnie Warkentin
Proceedings Authorization: Julian Porter/Beth Symes	Priority Planning: Gavin MacKenzie/Tom Heintzman
Professional Development/Competence: Laurie Pawlitza/Connie Backhouse, Mary Louise Dickson & Alan Silverstein	Professional Regulation: Clayton Ruby/Heather Ross, Julian Porter & Linda Rothstein
Tribunals: Mark Sandler/Bonnie Warkentin	

In order to more fully understand the issues facing Convocation, you may wish to review previous editions of Banack's Bencher News at http://www.kmlaw.ca/publications/banacks_bencher_news_home.aspx.

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