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DEALER'S CHOICE

Our New Treasurer has been busy over the summer getting into the job, including the important selection of Committee, Task Force and Working Group chairs who serve as a de facto inner circle guiding Law Society work in designated portfolios. An astounding number have both chairs and co-chairs. The most significant are:

Audit & Finance

Christopher Bredt, Co-Chair

Peter Wardle, Co-Chair

Adriana Doyle, Vice- Chair

Professional Development & Competence

Howard Goldblatt, Chair

Barbara Murchie, Vice-Chair

Alan Silverstein, Vice- Chair

Tribunal

Raj Anand, Chair / Janet Leiper, Vice-Chair

Government and Public Affairs

Marion Boyd, Co-Chair

John Callaghan, Co-Chair

William McDowell, Co-Chair

Professional Regulation

Malcolm Mercer, Chair

Susan Richer, Vice-Chair

Paul Schabas, Vice-Chair

LAW PRACTICE PROGRAM (LPP)

The alternative to traditional articling has now been rolled out for 239 students at Ryerson University in English and another group of 19 at University of Ottawa in French. The program begins with 4 months of practical training followed by a 4 month work placement in the winter. While best efforts are expected, there is no guarantee that students will have paid work placements. They may face the final indignity of having to work without

compensation for 4 months in order to satisfy the placement requirement. Most of the Ryerson training is online. As a result students only spend 3 weeks on campus so it is difficult to understand how they will benefit from the participation of the many members of the practicing Bar who assisted in the design and delivery of the course. The students come from law schools in Canada and beyond. Based on participation numbers, the program has clearly captured a market niche but may not be sustainable in the future. For this licensing year, students in the program and those completing articles all pay \$4,710.00 for the licensing process that includes examinations and fees. Only time will tell whether the law office employment market will differentiate in hiring those who article from those who graduate from the program. Perhaps we will have merely shifted from having a glut of law school graduates unable to find articles to a surplus of lawyers called to the Bar who can not secure employment and resort to opening their own offices but may never have worked in a law office. Good luck LawPro.

PARALEGALS AT LEGAL AID ONTARIO (LAO)

Likely as a result of budgetary constraints LAO has trained some of its paralegal staff to have an expanded role in criminal courts in summary matters. This includes providing clients with legal advice, advise on diversion services and even in negotiating and entering guilty pleas and addressing sentencing, all under the direct supervision of a lawyer. For now legislation does not permit LAO to issue legal aid certificates to independent paralegals in private practice. However that may change when a case can be made in respect of the cost effective and high quality service that a paralegal can provide in place of a lawyer.

LAWPRO 2015

As we head into a Bencher election year, next spring, LawPro's cost to the profession is unchanged. Base premiums with a \$5000.00 deductible (\$3350.00) and Real Estate Practice Coverage for eligible lawyers (\$250.00) remain the same. The base premium can be increased or decreased depending on the deductible selected. Lawyers will still be eligible for up to a \$100.00 premium credit for taking pre-approved legal and other educational programs.

E-FILING DISCOUNT-Save \$25.00 per lawyer by filing by November 1, 2014

APPLICATION FILING DEADLINE-File by November 11, 2014 to avoid a 30% surcharge

CLAIMS-The practice of real estate and civil litigation result in significantly more claims than other practice areas. However, in almost every practice area, the predominant cause of claims relates to communication issues. Failure to know the law is less often the origination of the problem. Surprisingly a significant number of claims arise in relation to time management and inadequate investigation. As in the past, 80% of the claims come from only 20% of practitioners. Lawyers with past claims within the last 10 years are 3 times more likely to report a claim than a lawyer with no claims in the same period.

DISCRIMINATION AND HARRASSMENT COUNSEL

Convocation received a report that in the 6 month period ending June 30th, of 37 complaints made against lawyers 17 were by members of the public and 20 by members of the profession. The complaints arose from issues relating to disability, sex, race, ethnic, gender and age.

HONORARY DEGREES TO LAW STUDENTS KILLED IN WW1

After 100 years, on November 10th, the Law Society will give honorary calls to the bar to many young soldiers whose legal education was ended by their deaths in Europe. Some family descendants have been located and are expected to attend the ceremony. Please see the Ontario Reports for details so you can also attend.

BENCHER ELECTION 2015

Announcements will be forthcoming for the spring election. All lawyers should consider running for election, regardless of age, gender, geographic or practice area. Many current Benchers would be pleased to speak with you about the process and the obligations, commitments and benefits that you might experience as an elected member of Convocation.

TRINITY WESTERN LAW SCHOOL

Law Society decisions respecting recognition of graduates are proceeding to Court in British Columbia, Ontario and Nova Scotia. Stay tuned.

EVENTS TO NOTE AT THE LAW SOCIETY

AIDWYC Wrongful Conviction Day-October 2, 2014
CABL Fall Conference-October 31, 2014
Remembrance Day-November 10, 2014
Black History Month-February 12, 2015

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