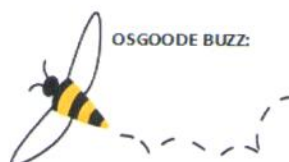




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BENCHER ELECTION

The nomination process is now underway and details are posted on the Law Society's website at www.lsuc.on.ca. There will be a free webcast to inform potential candidates about the issues that are currently facing the legal profession, issues on the Law Society's agenda and the election process and running for bencher. The webcast is scheduled from 5:00 to 6:30 pm on Monday, January 19, 2015. Nominations close February 13, 2015 and voting takes place from April 13 to 30th. Serving the profession and the public in this manner is an opportunity not to be missed. Go for it!!

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

December 31 is the deadline for completing 9 CPD hours in eligible educational activities plus 3 professionalism hours. There are numerous organizations providing educational content through a variety of media. There is no excuse for non-compliance which could have serious consequences. Make sure you log in to the Law Society Portal to record your time.

BENCHER PLANNING RETREAT

Following the Bencher election, a retreat will likely be scheduled in September 2015, to permit Convocation to set strategic priorities for the following four years.

ALTERNATE BUSINESS STRUCTURES

Stakeholder consultations have occurred across the province. Responses to a discussion paper are due by the end of this month. There is a dedicated ABS webpage on the Law Society's website for more information and educational material. Go to www.lsuc.on.ca. This is an enormously important discussion that will certainly not come to a vote before the coming Bencher election and will likely be delayed until after a review is conducted of ABS in other jurisdictions. For an overview of the issues you may wish to read a great paper by Nick Robinson, "When Lawyers Don't Get All the Profits"

(http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2487878). To conceptualize the scope of the ABS situation in the U.K., a private equity firm has recently invested a further £13 million into the Parabis Group which is a self-described "end-to end legal and professional services organization to the insurance, travel and related sectors". The investment is said to be made to enable "Parabis to capitalize further on opportunities presented by accelerating change in the legal services sector". For Ontario, this may be a case of "be careful what we wish for".

LAW SOCIETY MEDAL NOMINATIONS

January 30, 2015 is the deadline to nominate worthy candidates for the Law Society Medal, Lincoln Alexander Medal and Laura Legge Award. Details of the award and the selection process can be reviewed at www.lsuc.on.ca.

2015 ANNUAL FEES

Law Society paper invoices are now a thing of the past. By now you should have received an email entitled [Finance Portal](#) advising that your 2015 invoice is available for review through the LSUC Portal. [Open it](#). You will access the invoice in the same manner as you log CPD credits (<http://www.mailoutinteractive.com/Industry/View.aspx?id=644270&p=538b>). Payment will be possible on line with a credit card, by mailing a cheque with the invoice you print or in person at the Law Society. This change is intended to help lawyers and reduce Law Society costs while enhancing the efficiency of the collection process.

DISCIPLINE PROCEEDINGS

Once a Notice of Hearing is issued to commence a discipline proceeding, that information is displayed with the lawyer's name on the Law Society Lawyer Directory until the regulatory proceeding is concluded. Information about the proceeding is also available to the public by email inquiry to the Law Society. In addition, following a hearing, the disposition is posted by the Law Society and often local media publish details. Once a proceeding is commenced there is no place to hide.

THE LAW FOUNDATION

Established in 1974 by the *Law Society Act*, a novel idea of using interest earned on lawyers' mixed trust accounts for the public good has blossomed into our LFO becoming an internationally recognized catalyst to promote access to justice. During its history the LFO has provided more than \$900 million in funding to various organizations which support its

mandate, including 61 different organizations last year alone. In addition, the balance of the interest on lawyers' mixed trust accounts has provided over \$675 million to Legal Aid Ontario. More than 136 fellowships have been created to support careers in public interest law, share access to justice expertise and extend legal services to linguistic minorities and residents of rural areas. The LFO has provided more than \$80 million to Ontario law schools. To learn more visit www.lawfoundation.on.ca.

MARK SANDLER

He will be leaving the Law Foundation this month, having provided long service as a Trustee and remarkable Chair. He is to be congratulated for his hard work. Many of the accomplishments of the LFO are due to Mark's extraordinary devotion to the task. His many initiatives have left the LFO well positioned to meet the challenges of the future and support access to justice initiatives throughout the province.

CHALLENGES FACED BY RACIALIZED LAWYERS

A working group has presented Convocation with a consultation paper which has been made available to the profession and public for further consideration. Open House consultations will occur at the Law Society and be available via simultaneous webcast on January 15 and February 25, 2015. Written submissions may be made by March 1, 2015 to jbouchard@lsuc.on.ca. At the conclusion of the process final recommendations will be made to Convocation.

TWU ACCREDITATION

Following a hearing next week in Nova Scotia, our Superior Court is scheduled in January to hear the Trinity Western application that the Law Society erred in not accrediting its law school. The Attorney General of Canada has intervened along with a number of parties that have been given intervener status to participate in the proceeding. As a recent development, British Columbia has withdrawn its approval of the proposed Law School in face of opposition from the province's lawyers.

HOLIDAY WISHES

I wish for you and your family a happy, healthy and safe holiday season.

I am sending this public service newsletter to you at the email address you provided or published, as permitted by Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation. If you no longer wish to receive it please "Unsubscribe" below.

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