



HOLD ON TO YOUR HATS:

Treasurer Schabas who has been committed to change, only has six more meetings of Convocation to implement his ambitious agenda. His expressed goals include enhanced transparency, inclusion and engagement with the profession. Convocation's short and long term focus may be crystallized through the Bencher retreat scheduled for October. In any event, the Treasurer is leading an important and long overdue charge with respect to improved governance, the licensing process (Bar Admission course and LPP), family legal services, advertising and contingency fees. In the past year there have been significant improvements to the Law Society's communications, advances in confronting challenges faced by racialized licensees and attention to indigenous issues.

NAME CHANGE - ADIEU "UPPER CANADA":

As supported by the Treasurer and recommended by a Strategic Communications Steering Group, a majority of Benchers voted in Convocation (38 to 11) to approve the change of the name of our Regulator. Like the LLB degree previously granted by most universities we now can say good bye to the Law Society of Upper Canada being the moniker established in 1797. A new name is to be determined in November. I wish good luck to those who believe the name change is anything other than feel good "progress". It will be tough to detect any empirical positive effect that will be achieved by virtue of the change alone. However, in conjunction with the Treasurer's other initiatives perhaps this will be another step in the right direction.

GET INVOLVED:

The Law Society regularly recommends potential appointees to a variety of organizations. Until Friday, October 6, 2017, applications are being sought from qualified individuals for appointment to the Legal Aid Ontario Board of Directors, Civil Rules Committee and the Family Rules Committee. For more information visit www.lsuc.on.ca. To apply online see www.lsuc.on.ca/appointmentapplication/.

Questions can be directed to adenhart@lsuc.on.ca or 416.947.5269.

A HEADS UP OR ELSE:

Beginning in 2017 the Law Society has proactively initiated action to remove barriers faced by racialized lawyers and paralegals, create more inclusive legal workplaces and increase proportionate representation of racialized licensees. All law firms must adopt a Statement of Principles and those with 10 or more licensees must develop, implement and maintain a Human Rights/Diversity Policy. Reporting of compliance will be monitored by questions posed on our filed Annual Reports. The Law Society is committed to reporting on outcomes achieved. As lawyers learn of these new requirements many are unhappily questioning the Law Society's initiatives (or some say intrusion).

CONTINGENCY FEE ARRANGEMENTS:

Following a decision made in June, today is the close of consultation with the working group considering changes to the regulation of contingency fee arrangements. Feedback will be considered and may result in future recommendations being made to Convocation.

LAWPRO 2018:

Base premiums for the coming year will remain unchanged from 2017 at \$2,950.00. The part time premium option to reflect flexible hours chosen by some practitioners remains available to those working less than 20 hours per week but the annual gross billing limit will increase to \$90,000.00. As family law litigation related claims are fewer than other types of family law errors, the initiation of family law proceedings will no longer be subject to the civil litigation transaction levy. However for other matters the levy will be increased from \$50.00 to \$100.00 for files opened next year. For more detailed information see the LAWPRO report at www.lsuc.on.ca.

LAW PRO CLAIMS:

The number of claims relating to civil litigation (31%) have increased over time in comparison with other practice areas such as real estate (26%), corporate (14%), wills (9%) and family (7%). The average cost per litigation claim is \$5,935, which is far higher than the premiums and transaction levies collected. The leading causes of errors relate to time management (42%), communications (21%) and inadequate investigation (13%). For more information visit www.lawpro.ca.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

In 2016 the Law Society commissioned research to better understand the public's view of legal services in Ontario. 81% of clients were satisfied with their experience of hiring a lawyer. Of 19% who were dissatisfied the reasons expressed related to cost and timing. In choosing legal help the most significant factors were trust, honesty, expertise, value for money and competency.

UNCLAIMED TRUST FUNDS:

The Law Society is trustee of a fund (now holding \$4.9 m) which receives transfers of trust monies, when approved, that have been unclaimed by the person entitled to them for a period of at least two years. A Law Society Notice of Application to Pass Accounts for the period from 2012 to 2017 is scheduled to be heard in the Superior Court on December 14, 2017. The Law Society is claiming compensation from the fund of \$136,470. More information can be obtained by examining the Court filing or from counsel for the Applicant, dabraham@lcuc.on.ca.

CONGRATULATIONS JERRY UDELL:

Bencher Jerry Udell's exceptional contributions in real estate law were recognized when he was presented with the Award of Excellence in Real Estate by the Ontario Bar Association.

GOOD BYE ROBERT LAPPER:

The Law Society CEO has resigned effective October 31st.

Ms. Diana Miles will be acting CEO as a search is undertaken.

REFLECTION ON THE PAST YEAR

"TO THOSE I MAY HAVE WRONGED, I ASK FORGIVENESS,
TO THOSE I MAY HAVE HELPED, I WISH I HAD DONE MORE,
TO THOSE I NEGLECTED TO HELP, I ASKED FOR UNDERSTANDING,
TO THOSE WHO HELPED ME, I THANK YOU WITH ALL MY HEART."

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Larry Banack
Banack Resolutions, Inc.
Bay Adelaide Centre
333 Bay Street, Suite 900
Toronto, ON M5H 2T4
email: larry@banackresolutions.com
Phone: (416) 477-6880