



TREASURER ELECTION:

Voting Benchers will be faced with a tough decision in the coming election. The Law Society and Convocation are facing serious challenges to its effectiveness, credibility and relevance. Those seeking election (in alphabetical order) are Ross Earnshaw, Jacqueline Horvat and Malcolm Mercer.

WHY CONVOCATION?

April Convocation convened without much to do. While it is difficult to project what reports may be ready for debate, Convocation should only convene when it is necessary. The April start time was delayed until 9:30 a.m. in part to avoid the spectacle of completing the day's work by the morning coffee break. Convocation should have been cancelled this month to avoid the enormous cost of assembling Benchers from around the province. Years ago, March Convocation, which conflicted with school spring break, was dropped. Meeting every other month for a full day would be more cost effective and sufficient to complete the work. Urgent unexpected matters or single issues could be dealt with by telephone meetings.

EQUITY REQUIREMENTS:

In 2017, the Law Society introduced the first two requirements of its Equality, Diversity and Inclusion strategy. What you need to know and do in 2018:

1. Begin to meet the requirements for 3 CPD Professionalism Hours focused on Equality and Inclusion and record them in the Portal by the end of 2020;
2. Continue to meet the Statement of Principles requirement - applies to all of us;
3. Continue to meet the Human Rights and Diversity Policy requirement - applies only to firms with 10 or more licensees.

ANNUAL REAL ESTATE SUMMIT - THE 15th EDITION THIS YEAR:

This invaluable Law Society programme had over 1400 attendees. Chaired by Bencher Sidney Troister the two day sessions offered the most comprehensive available educational opportunity for Solicitors to remain current with real estate matters. If you missed the programme this year, look for the re-broadcast opportunities.

Make sure to participate in April of 2019.

BENCHER SID TROISTER:

Sid provides e-mail communications to real property lawyers to keep them alert to issues affecting their practices. If you wish to be added to the email list, just let Sid know at stroister@torkinmanes.com.

BENCHER JERRY UDELL:

Jerry has a Blog that focuses on Solicitors and he posts important information regarding Convocation matters; new Legislation and Rule changes that will affect Solicitors in their daily practice. The name of the blog is www.Bencherblog.ca.

2018 AWARDS SEASON:

We should all celebrate our colleagues' dedication to the public and profession, their accomplishments and most recent recognition.

LAW SOCIETY -

The Law Society Medal recipients are:

- **Lenny Abramowicz**
- **Kathleen Lickers**
- **John Andrew Olthuis**

- **Gilles LeVasseur**
- **Professor Carissima Mathen**
- **Walter Martin Traub**

LINCOLN ALEXANDER AWARD: **Jim Cimba**

LAURA LEGGE AWARD: **Mary Lou Fassel**

SHIRLEY DENISON AWARD: **Antree C. Demakos**

WILLIAM J. SIMPSON DISTINGUISHED PARALEGAL AWARD: **Harry D. Fine**

ONTARIO BAR ASSOCIATION-

PRESIDENT'S AWARD:

Canadian Cross-Border Legal Coalition

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD:

Raj Anand

The Honourable Michael H. Tulloch

LINDA ADLAM MANNING AWARD FOR VOLUNTEERISM:

Edwin G. Upenieks

HEATHER MCARTHUR MEMORIAL YOUNG LAWYERS' AWARD:

Jessica S. Braude

JOEL KUCHAR AWARD FOR PROFESSIONALISM AND CIVILITY:

R. Lee Akazaki

Marcia J. Oliver

APRIL 30, 2018:

This is the last day to remit your quarterly real estate and civil litigation transaction levy filings and payment. As well it is the last day to file annual exemption forms for lawyers not practicing civil litigation and/or real estate in 2018. Logon at lawpro.ca.

LEGISLATIVE AMMENDMENTS:

The recent provincial government budget contained specific amendments requested by the Law Society. These include:

Amendments to the *Law Society Act* change the Law Society's name to the "Law Society of Ontario" and acknowledge paralegals as Officers of the Court in all courts in which they are authorized to provide legal services.

Amendments to the *Solicitors Act* which will not become effective until a later date, will remove the prohibition against including legal costs in the total award on which a contingency fee is based and make the sections and regulations of the Solicitors Act that apply to contingency fees also applicable to paralegals.

DIANA MILES:

It is official. Diana has been named as new Law Society Chief Executive Officer. She has been with the Law Society since 2001, when she started as the Executive Director of Professional Competence. It is now a difficult time of transition which Diana is well equipped to handle. The Law Society operations can be managed much more effectively so there are enormous challenges ahead for her. As well we are heading into a spring Treasurer's election so we will shortly have a new C.E.O. and a new Treasurer. Congratulations, Diana.

IN DISTRESS?

You do not have to go it alone. Remember we have a Member Assistance Program (MAP) for Ontario lawyers, students and our families. It is a confidential service funded by but fully independent of the Law Society and LawPRO. To learn more about what the MAP can offer you, visit myassistplan.com or call 1-855-403-8922.

LAWPRO SUCCESSION:

Dan Pinnington has been appointed as President & Chief Executive Officer to replace Kathleen Waters who served in that position and on the Board of LAWPRO since 2008 having joined the organization in the 1990's. Dan joined LAWPRO in 2001 as Director, practicePRO, and was the driving force behind the practicePRO program, LAWPRO's outstanding claims prevention initiative. In 2012, he was promoted to Vice President, Claims Prevention & Stakeholder Relations. The profession has been well served by Ms. Waters who fulfilled her role with great commitment and distinction. We are very fortunate to have Mr. Pinnington step into the senior role.

LAWPRO:

Through the Law Society we are shareholders with an outstanding investment in the Lawyers' Professional Indemnity Company. To see the LawPro Annual Report go to lawpro.ca/annual-report.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: May 9, 2018

The Law Society AGM will be held in the Lamont Learning Centre at Osgoode Hall beginning at 5:15 p.m. We are invited to attend but the meeting will be webcast for those who may wish to view the meeting online. Two motions have been filed dealing with Law Society good character requirements and the qualifications of candidates to run for election as Bencher.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

Asian-South Asian Heritage Month	May 24, 2018 *
National Access Awareness Week	June 5, 2018 *
Pride Month Program	June 20, 2018 *

* Check the Law Society website for exact program timing and details of availability as a live webcast.

LAW SOCIETY HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD:

Nominations are due by May 31st. The Award recognizes outstanding contributions to the advancement of human rights and/or the promotion of the rule of law provincially, nationally or internationally. It is granted for devotion to the advancement of human rights and the rule of law over a long term or for a single outstanding act of service.

To file a nomination, complete the [online nomination form](#).

The award recipient will be selected by Convocation and will be presented at a Rule of Law event.

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