



[ONTARIO JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS-WAKE UP AND SPEAK UP:](#)

Our Attorney General is thinking way out of the box, into a realm that may jeopardize the judicial independence, integrity and public respect of our Bench in this province for years to come. He has spoken publicly about impairing the current independent, judicial appointment process that is widely respected as a result of 30 years of refinement and is mandated by legislation (an impediment which can of course be overcome with the government's majority in the Legislature). As lawyers we must resist any initiative that could bring us closer to the U.S. style of a politicized, value driven appointment process that will lead to a belief that patronage appointments have returned to Ontario. To understand the looming crisis in a more fulsome way read Bill Trudell's recent article that describes the mischief that can arise and leave a blemish on our excellent provincial court.

[Canadian Lawyer Mag - Judicial Appointments](#). Make your views known by contacting the Law Society Treasurer and elected Benchers, the Presidents of the OBA and Advocates' Society and your MPP before legislation is tabled and it is too late to maintain our effective, independent Judicial Appointment Advisory Committee.

[MONEY LAUNDERING:](#)

Canadian lawyers have successfully resisted inclusion in the federal government's crime legislation on the basis of solicitor-client privilege and independence of the bar. However, that is now recognized to be problematic as a barrier to effective enforcement operations. As a result, new guidance material has been provided to the profession and Rules of Professional Conduct will be revised across the country to ensure lawyers do not unwittingly become engaged in criminal activities. The changes aimed at fighting money laundering and terrorist financing will have day to day consequences in the practice of law. By-law changes will now be drafted by interested Benchers for future Convocation approval. This important report can be found at [AML Amendments](#).

[NEW TRIBUNAL RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE:](#)

Convocation has, at long last, approved changes first presented last February that have been under consideration by the Tribunal Committee since 2017. The new Rules are intended to

reflect, current and best practices of the courts and administrative tribunals. A key change is the move to a values-based approach to communicate the "why" behind Tribunal actions. Panels are given wider principled discretion to be responsive to particular needs of the parties, complainants, witnesses and the public. Greater use of written submissions, active adjudication and technology are all contemplated. The new Rules take effect on January 1, 2020 and can be found at [Rules of Practice and Procedure](#).

[GOOD-Bye - LibraryCo. \(circa 2001\)](#)

[HELLO - Legal Information and Resource Network \(yes-LIRN\):](#)

Management of the County Courthouse library system has been transferred to LIRN which is mandated to modernize the delivery of legal information and library services. A newly appointed independent, skills based board will assume responsibility for the evolution from traditional library resources with evolving technology. Funding will continue to be provided from levies paid to the Law Society by Ontario Lawyers (\$182 each in 2020). Perhaps by 2021 Paralegals will be allowed access to all County libraries and permitted to contribute to the cost of LIRN as users of necessary legal information in their practices.

[LAW SOCIETY AWARDS:](#)

The Law Society annually recognizes exceptional colleagues in the profession. The deadline for nominations is January 20, 2020. More information on the awards and how to file a nomination is on the Law Society website at: [Nominations and Selection](#)

Nominations are reviewed by committees which report to Convocation in February with their recommendations for the awards. The Honorary Doctor of Laws degrees are usually conferred at the Call to the Bar ceremonies. The Law Society Awards Committee, acting as the Advisory Committee, will make recommendations to Convocation for the award of the LLD to suitable candidates. The list of current recipients can be found at: [Honorary LLD](#).

[BLACK FUTURE LAWYERS - UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO:](#)

The Faculty of Law wants to increase the number of Black students who join the legal profession by introduction of undergraduate activities such as a new mentoring and job shadowing program, a lunch series with Black alumni, invitations to special law school events and an annual Black Future Lawyers conference. Starting in 2021, the law school will launch a new admissions stream for Black students to offer assistance with applications and guarantee that those applications will be read by at least three staff, students, and alumni who identify with the Black community. For more information visit the website. Questions can be directed to alexis.archbold@utoronto.ca.

[IS MCDONALDS A BETTER CHOICE THAN LAW SCHOOL:](#)

Toronto lawyer Michael LeSage, in Canadian Lawyer, September 9, 2019, carefully concludes that deciding to be a lawyer cannot be all about money. Enjoy his article at [CanadianLawyerMag](#).

The many wonderful opportunities we are afforded by our professional associations make the practice of law an outstanding calling that permits us to contribute to others in so many ways.

[IN MEMORIAM TOM HEINTZMAN:](#)

In October, Canada lost one of its best and brightest lawyers. Although a passionate courtroom lawyer for 44 years, Tom was not defined merely by his dedication to the law or the profession which he served so well as a leader of the Ontario and Canadian Bar Associations. He richly deserved the many awards bestowed upon him. Tom served as an example for all lawyers to be engaged in important causes of public interest, politics and charity. He typified

the highest traditions of our profession. He loved music, children and the outdoors. If Tom saw a need, he found a way to address it while engaging colleagues and friends to support the effort. All of us fortunate to have basked in Tom's unreserved, broad smile and infectious laugh are better people for that. Tom will be long remembered and his positive influences will live on through the many of us he mentored and the important works he promoted.

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.

**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**