



### MY MISTAKE:

In June, Convocation elected Teresa Donnelly in fact as the 68th Treasurer of the Law Society not the much inflated number I reported. Sorry and thanks to those who pointed out my error.

### COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

The Treasurer made the following selections to lead Convocation into a brave new world with other Benchers assigned to each committee:

#### Access to Justice

Cathy Corsetti (Co-Chair)  
Doug Wellman (Co-Chair)  
Murray Klippenstein (Vice-Chair)

#### Audit & Finance

Joseph Groia (Chair)  
Lubomir Poliacik (Vice-Chair)

#### Compensation

Teresa Donnelly (Chair)

#### Law Society Awards/LL.D. Advisory

Teresa Donnelly (Chair)

#### Paralegal Awards

Teresa Donnelly (Chair)  
Joseph Chiumminto (Vice-Chair)

### **Paralegal Standing**

Robert Burd (Chair)  
Joseph Chiumminto (Vice-Chair)

### **Priority Planning Government and Public Affairs Litigation**

Teresa Donnelly (Chair)  
Jacqueline Horvat (Vice-Chair)

### **Proceedings Authorization**

Jacqueline Horvat (Chair)

### **Professional Development and Competence**

Barbara Murchie (Chair)  
Philip Horgan (Vice-Chair)  
Claire Wilkinson (Vice-Chair)

### **Professional Regulation**

Megan Shortreed (Chair)  
Jacqueline Horvat (Vice-Chair)  
Michelle Lomazzo (Vice-Chair)

### **Tribunal**

Julia Shin Doi (Chair)  
Marian Lippa (Vice-Chair)  
Ryan Alford (Vice-Chair)

### **Competence Task Force**

Sidney Troister (Chair)  
C. Scott Marshall (Vice-Chair)

### **Technology Task Force**

Jacqueline Horvat (Chair)  
Jack Braithwaite (Vice-Chair)  
Gary Graham (Vice-Chair)

### **Human Rights Monitoring Group (Equity)**

Julian Falconer (Co-Chair)  
Tanya Walker (Co-Chair)

### **Mental Health Working Group (PRC)**

Gerard Charette (Co-Chair)  
Etienne Esquega (Co-Chair)

### **FAMILY LAW CONSULTATION:**

The Law Society has implemented a Family Law Action Plan to allow paralegals a limited license to deal with family law issues. November 30, 2020 has been fixed as the date for comment on a proposed model for a Family Legal Services Provider Licence.

Also a Request for Information has been issued to institutions for the delivery of an educational training program. This will be the first specialized license that will roll out before other practice areas, but is facing resistance from practitioners.

### YOUR BENCHERS HARD AT WORK:

You should be aware that Convocation has decided to "reduce regulatory burdens, streamline processes and achieve savings and internal efficiencies" as follows subject to by-law revisions:

- August 15th may be the final deferral date to avoid a late payment fee for those unable to pay 2020 dues (2228 licensees) and that also applies to 2019 CPD requirements, after which the administrative suspension process will begin;
- Lawyers will now have to elect to be called to the Bar through a paper administrative Call or through a traditional Call to the Bar ceremony but NOT both;
- Lawyers no longer sign the Rolls of the Court of Appeal and the Superior Court;
- All standard interactions with the Law Society, including Trust Account reporting, will be through the Portal unless an alternative is required by the Ontario Human Rights Code;
- March 31st annually is to become the common date for paying the Annual Fee, reporting completed CPD requirements and completing the Annual Report;
- Defaults will trigger a suspension period;
- Lawyers over 65 who are licensed must continue to pay Annual Fees even if they do not practise law;
- Lawyers who are still in practice after 50 years must pay Annual Fees;
- The Lawyers Feed the Hungry Program will continue with cold take-away meals only and may have to find a future alternate location if the Cafeteria is permanently closed;
- Licenses administratively suspended for more than 12 months will be revoked.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

The COVID-delayed meeting will proceed as a virtual meeting at 5:15 p.m. on Monday August 10th. It should be a languid event with no external motions for debate, although a quorum of 50 is required.

### EXTERNAL APPOINTMENTS:

The Law Society makes appointments to various bodies including the Legal Aid Ontario Board, the Federal Judicial Advisory Committee as well as the Civil and Family Rules Committees. For more information and filing dates visit <https://lso.ca/about-lso/careers/working-with-the-law-society/recommendations-for-external-appointments-application>

### COMMISSIONING AFFIDAVITS:

Effective August 1, 2020, new Ontario legislation permits the practice of remote commissioning. As well paralegals are now appointed as notaries public, on the same basis as lawyers. Nothing obliges a receiving party to accept a document that has been commissioned remotely. Accordingly, lawyers and paralegals should determine if the

receiving party is able and willing to accept remotely commissioned documents prior to engaging in such a practice. For assistance refer to [Best Practice for Remote Commissioning](#), [Remote Commissioning Checklist](#), [Commissioners for Taking Affidavits Act](#), [Guide for Newly Appointed Commissioners for Taking Affidavits](#). The OBA is running a "What You Need to Know" webcast on August 17th, check it out at [www.oba.org](http://www.oba.org).

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