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BENCHER ELECTION 2023

The Professions have spoken LOUDLY and CLEARLY. Below you will find the names of the 45 newly elected lawyer and paralegal Benchers, of whom 31 will be sitting in Convocation for the first time. The candidates organized by the Good Governance Coalition were enormously successful electing all 40 of the new Benchers. Of note, future vacancies in Convocation will be filled by the next most successful candidates most of whom were participants of the STOP slate. 9 incumbent Benchers failed to secure re-election. For a deep dive into regional voting and insight into local concerns, see the detailed election results posted on the Law Society website: <http://www.lsuc.on.ca>

ELECTED TORONTO BENCHERS

1. Gerald Chan - Good Governance Coalition (12,825)
2. Sidney H. Troister - Good Governance Incumbent (12,362)
3. Atrisha Lewis - Good Governance Incumbent (12,130)
4. Annamaria Enenajor - Good Governance Coalition (12,118)
5. Jonathan Rosenthal - Good Governance Incumbent (12,112)
6. John Callaghan - Good Governance

ELECTED OUT OF TORONTO BENCHERS

1. Kathryn Whitehead - Good Governance Coalition (11,713)
2. Andrew Spurgeon - Good Governance Coalition (11,586)
3. Jennifer Gold - Good Governance Coalition (12,428)
4. Mitchell Kitagawa - Good Governance Coalition (11,801)
5. Joelle Malette - Good Governance Coalition (11,536)
6. Cheryl C. M. Siran - Good

Coalition (12,009)

7. Tanya Walker - Good Governance Incumbent (12,084)

8. Heather L. Hansen - Good Governance Coalition (12,065)

9. Rebecca C. Durcan - Good Governance Coalition (12,017)

10. Julia Shin Doi - Good Governance Incumbent (11,998)

11. Margaret L. Waddell - Good Governance Coalition (11,852)

12. Isfhan Merali - Good Governance Incumbent (11,820)

13. Peter C. Wardle - Good Governance Coalition (11,816)

14. Pam Hrick - Good Governance Coalition (11,795)

15. Catherine Rhineland - Good Governance Coalition (11,775)

16. William C. McDowell - Good Governance Coalition (11,708)

17. Megan E. Shortreed - Good Governance Incumbent (11,635)

18. Shalini Konanur - Good Governance Coalition (11,400)

19. Stephen Rotstein - Good Governance Coalition (11,197)

20. Mark Surchin - Good Governance Coalition (10,697)

21. Howard Levitt - STOP (6,170)

Governance Coalition (11,350)

7. Greg Monforton - Good Governance Coalition (11,763)

8. Neha Chugh - Good Governance Coalition (12,609)

9. Jacqueline Horvat - Good Governance Incumbent (12,454)

10. Laura L. Emmett - Good Governance Coalition (11,924)

11. Natalia U. Rodriguez - Good Governance Coalition (11,920)

12. Jasminka Kalajdzic - Good Governance Coalition (11,821)

13. Sonia Ouellet - Good Governance Coalition (11,691)

14. Karen Hulan - Good Governance Coalition (11,659)

15. Quinn Ross - Good Governance Incumbent (11,529)

16. Kevin L. Ross - Good Governance Coalition (11,404)

17. Matthew Wilson - Good Governance Coalition (11,295)

18. Cathi Mietkiewicz - Good Governance Coalition (11,260)

19. Stephanie L. Sutherland - Good Governance Coalition (11,188)

20. Michael Winward - Good Governance Coalition (11,186)

21. Ryan Alford - STOP Incumbent (5,877)

PARALEGAL ELECTION:

The following were elected Paralegal Benchers:

1. Michelle Lomazzo - Good Governance Incumbent (1,012)
2. Paula Callaghan - Good Governance Coalition (873)
3. Demetra Dimokopoulos - Good Governance Coalition (799)
4. Deborah Moriah - Good Governance Coalition (781)
5. Mike Radan - Good Governance Coalition (629)

WOMEN BENCHERS:

24 of the 40 elected lawyer Benchers this term are women (being 60% of lawyer

Benchers while women comprise 47% of our profession). That compares with 11 elected in 2019, 16 elected in 2015, 18 elected in 2011, 19 elected in 2007 and 11 elected in 2003. 80% elected paralegal Benchers are women. While 68% of paralegals are women.

VOTER TURNOUT:

36% of the Professions' ballots were voted from a pool of about 57,000 lawyers and 10,800 paralegals. This compares with a lawyer's turnout of about 31% in 2019, 34% in 2015, 37% in 2011 and 56% in 1987. This reflects the enthusiastic and persistent campaigning by the candidates and the well organized "STOP" and Good Governance Coalition campaigns.

From one who knows, I congratulate all the candidates who sought election in what is a very difficult and costly process. Thank you for offering to serve the Professions, and a special thank you to those who served in Convocation during the last 4 years but are not continuing.

TREASURER ELECTION:

A Treasurer Election will be held in June Convocation. It is anticipated, absent some unexpected circumstance, that Treasurer Horvat will be re-elected for a second one-year term. In that event, a vacancy will be created within the lawyers elected outside the Toronto area to be filled by the candidate receiving the next highest number of votes.

THE RUBBER HITS THE ROAD:

It is now time to hold all elected Benchers to their election platforms. They have complementary leadership skills that must be fully devoted to their elected positions. The Professions have expressed great confidence in the newly constituted Bench to hit reset and govern the Law Society with the singular purpose of governing the Professions in the public interest. They will be held to account.

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