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### **TREASURER HORVAT ENCORE:**

With the close of nominations today, only one candidate stood for election to be the next Treasurer. That candidate, Treasurer Jacqueline Horvat will be acclaimed as Treasurer to pursue her goals and implement the strategic planning to be decided by the newly elected Benchers.

### **AGM May 10:**

The 2022 Annual Report was tabled and can be viewed at

<https://lso.ca/annualreport/2022/home>.

It contains the Annual Reports of the Law Society, Tribunal, LIRN and LAWPRO

### **CONVOCATION:**

The newly constituted Convocation convened on May 25, 2023. You can view the webinar proceedings when posted at [www.lso.on.ca](http://www.lso.on.ca).

### **PROFESSOR RYAN ALFORD:**

With the election of Jacqueline Horvat as a Bencher in the recent election, as the presiding Treasurer, a vacancy was created that has been filled by Professor Alford, who secured the next most votes of candidates running for election outside of Toronto.

### **HOWARD LEVITT:**

Howard also joined Convocation as a result of the recent judicial appointment of Justice Julie Shin Doi to the Superior Court of Justice.

### **WHAT SHOULD WE EXPECT:**

Recent candidates and newly elected Benchers had no shame inundating our email boxes with vote solicitations. I encourage you to maintain communications with them to ensure they are aware of your views on issues as they arise. Although they face a very steep learning curve, perhaps a good starting point for their deliberations could be:

- 1) Disband the Coalition for Good Governance as promised;
- 2) Foster collegiality and communication among Benchers through the regular use of Committee of the Whole meetings as well as joint committee meetings to enhance knowledge, exchange new ideas and inform debate;
- 3) All meetings of Benchers be in person and not by Zoom to promote collegiality and create strong relationships except when absolutely necessary and with prior leave of the Treasurer who should be gowned for Convocation as was the case from some point after 1797 to 2018 when the Treasurer of that day chose to eliminate the formality and dilute the solemnity of the proceedings.
- 4) Reduce the size of Convocation from 40 elected lawyer Benchers to 20;
- 5) Reduce the term limit for elected Benchers from 12 years (a historic compromise from 16 years) down to 8 years to ensure constant revitalization of Convocation;
- 6) Increase the Treasurer's term in office from 1 year to 2 years which is the de facto reality in any event;
- 7) Create an executive ladder so that an elected Treasurer will have already served 1-2 years as second-in-command and be fully functional from day one; to reduce any on the job learning curve;
- 8) Critically examine the governance of LawPRO (which is wholly owned by the LSO) to reflect current needs and reality yet continue to function as the well run, effective insurance company it is;
- 9) Create the position of LSO Ombudsperson as an independent office to which lawyers can turn when caught up in unmanageable bureaucratic difficulties with our regulator;
- 10) Augment committee membership with subject-matter experts able to bring insight to issues, that is not otherwise available to elected Benchers; and
- 11) Foster an ability for paralegals to become self governing. It is a profession that must govern itself independently of the LSO. There should be an end to its dependence upon the good sense of the majority of elected Lawyer Benchers to govern paralegal's interests and to eliminate the inherent conflict of interest in the current arrangement.

### **CONVOCATION:**

Next meets on June 28, 2023. To watch how your newly elected Benchers assume their responsibilities view the real time webinar link at [www.lso.on.ca](http://www.lso.on.ca). With almost a brand-new composition of Benchers, unburdened with pet projects or self interest this is a unique opportunity for a "reset" of thinking. They bring a great deal of enthusiasm and excitement to their new positions. Stay tuned.

### **AWARD SEASON:**

Celebrating the many accomplishments of our outstanding colleagues.

On May 24<sup>th</sup> a Law Society ceremony granted the following well deserved and prestigious Awards:

William J. Simpson Distinguished Paralegal Award  
**Paul Cappa**

Lincoln Alexander Award  
**Selwyn J. Hicks**

Laura Legge Award  
**Courtney Harris**

J. Shirley Denison Award  
**Tami Moscoe**

Law Society Medal

- **François Baril**
- **Ena Chadha**
- **Reva Devins**
- **Igor Ellyn, KC**
- **Ian Hull**
- **W. Randall Seller**

On May 31<sup>st</sup> the Ontario Bar Association will recognize the following for exceptional contributions to the practice of law in Ontario and to the Ontario Bar Association:

AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE:  
**The Honourable Fred Myers**, Superior Court of Justice

JOEL KUCHAR AWARD FOR PROFESSIONALISM AND CIVILITY:  
**Frances Wood**, Wood Gold LLP

LINDA ADLAM MANNING AWARD FOR VOLUNTEERISM:  
**Kathryn Hendrikx**, Hendrikx Family Law  
**Richa Sandill**, Don Valley Community Legal Services

DAVID SCOTT AWARD FOR PRO BONO:  
**Sarah Armstrong**, Fasken

MUNDELL MEDAL FOR LEGAL WRITING:  
**Professor Carissima Mathen**, University of Ottawa

### **CERTIFIED SPECIALIST PROGRAM:**

Last Convocation precipitously voted to scrap the program. Following appropriate outrage, the cancellation was rescinded, and it was agreed there ought to be an appropriate consultation with the profession. Now is the time to have your say, particularly if you are a lawyer with the Certified Specialist designation – **October 1, 2023** is the deadline, but don't delay.

A report and the consultation form is available at <https://lso.ca/about-lso/initiatives/certified-specialist-program-consultation>. Input can also be provided via [PolicyConsultation@LSO.ca](mailto:PolicyConsultation@LSO.ca).

The consultation outcome will be considered by the Professional Development & Competence Committee in the fall and Convocation will consider any recommendations before the end of 2023.

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