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TREASURER ELECTION:

Following a vote of Benchers Peter Wardle has today been elected Treasurer for the coming year.

He was called to the bar in 1986 was elected a Bencher from 2011 to 2019 and was re-elected in 2023. He has served the Law Society in numerous senior committee positions. Peter has been a leading commercial litigator for more that 38 years, including appointments as counsel to various public Inquiries.

In the coming months, the Treasurer will makes critical committee appointments that will shape the tenor and substance of the work of Convocation.

ADIEU TREASURER HORVAT:

Treasurer Jacqueline Horvat ended her second term at the May meeting of Convocation. She was first elected as a Bencher in 2011 and has worked tirelessly for the last two years to protect the public interest and advance the role of the Law Society in achieving its mandate. In her first term she presided over a very fractious and often dysfunctional group of Benchers with diverse objectives. In her closing comments to Convocation, after praising all the LSO staff the Treasurer took to task those Benchers she believes have acted in a harmful, bullying and unethical manner as leaders of the professions. She called it for what it is – wrong! There being no opportunity for reply in Convocation, all of us can only hope that the coming year under our new Treasurer will be civil and productive.

KLIPPENSTEIN COSTS – TOMORROW:

As an elected Bencher, Mr. Klippenstein was forced in 2022 to initiate a Superior Court lawsuit to secure requests for information that were denied and vigorously defended by the LSO in part on the silly basis that Benchers are not directors of the Law Society. That is, until it capitulated in the face of imminent cross-examination

of the Law Society on its affidavit in Klippenstein's summary judgement motion in December 2023. Fortunately, the Benchers elected in May 2023 agreed to provide all the requested and previously undisclosed internal information and documents to settle the motion. BUT the LSO only offered Mr. Klippenstein "partial indemnity" costs although he had spent over \$200,000 from his own pocket. As a result, the Superior Court will tomorrow be asked to fix the costs payable to Mr. Klippenstein for its astounding willingness to engage in meritless and unseemly litigation with an elected representative / director. It is breath taking that, the LSO filing for tomorrow still maintains the uber-technical position that "The Law Society's position [in the lawsuit] was that it is a sui generis entity - *not* a corporation governed by a board of directors." What lawyers' gobbledygook. The LSO position in Court is inconsistent with decades of bencher education sessions and was wrong from any correct corporate governance perspective. Whatever the outcome might be tomorrow it is again wrong for the LSO to require the Court to determine the issue of partial indemnity costs relying on the jurisprudence limiting the judicial award of elevated costs claimed by Mr. Klippenstein. Benchers had been, over a period of 6 months, fully informed about the costs dispute motion and did not resolve to settle it. Like many obstinate clients it is easier for them to avoid responsibility for a decision and simply say "let the court decide". Benchers should have required Mr. Klippenstein be fully reimbursed for having the courage to undertake a fight for the benefit of all Benchers, the institution of the LSO, the public and the professions by pursuing a principled cause that should never have been created by the LSO. Where is the Bencher accountability for the amount of our collected dues which the LSO wasted on its own legal fees throughout in addition to the costs to be paid to Mr. Klippenstein, at whatever level they may be fixed by the Court? A wasted dime is too much.

LAW SOCIETY CONNECTS – Watch out

This summer, LSO Connects will be implemented for all of us. It is to be a one-stop secure online communications channel that will allow you to complete your administrative requirements and business transactions with the Law Society. It is also the platform used to communicate with respect to regulatory and discipline matters.

The LSO Portal will be retired. It is important to know that the ability of firms to make bulk fee payment for its lawyers and paralegals will be eliminated because of claimed inefficiencies and inaccuracies. The LSO operational change will necessitate It is important to know that the employers who previously paid fees on behalf of their licensees to revise their payment methods. This will end the firm risk of paying for people who no longer work there and/or pay under an incorrect fee category. It will be the responsibility of each of us to ensure the correct fees are paid in a timely way to avoid suspension and reputational harm.

In the coming months, you will receive information through your primary email address on file with the Law Society about setting up your LSO Connects account. Make sure now that your contact information in the existing LSO Portal is up-to-date so you receive the new information in a timely manner.

You must create your LSO Connects account only through the invitation link that is sent to you to ensure that you are correctly accessing the LSO Connects account to which the Law Society has ported your information.

PERSONAL AND BUSINESS INFORMATION—whose is it?

For the stated purpose of increasing transparency, the Professional Regulation Committee is considering a proposal to expand the personal and business information licensees are required to report to the Law Society. The Law Society will

disclose some of that information to the public where it is believed to be in the public interest to do so. You can read the [report](#). But most importantly have your say in the consultation intended to obtain feedback. The [consultation](#) is open until November 30, 2024.

LAW SOCIETY REFERRAL SERVICE (LSRS):

The LSRS connects Ontarians with lawyers and paralegals. Members of LSRS, who pay a Law Society fee to participate, provide a free consultation of up to 30 minutes, in the areas of law you sign up for. Users of LSRS are advised that legal advice is not covered by the free consultation. The purpose of the free consultation is to review options and rights. It does not include legal work such as reviewing documents, completing forms, conducting legal research, telephone calls and other correspondence or representation in court. If you are interested in giving back to the community, expanding your profile and potentially generate more clients consider joining the LSRS. The application can be found in your [LSO Portal](#) account within the Law Society Referral Service section.

ENJOY A HAPPY HEALTHY SUMMER – YOU HAVE EARNED A BREAK

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Larry Banack
Banack Resolutions, Inc.
Bay Adelaide Centre
333 Bay Street, Suite 900
Toronto, ON M5H 2R2
email: larry@banackresolutions.com
Phone: (416) 477-6880

Banack Resolutions, Inc. | Bay Adelaide Centre, 333 Bay Street, Toronto, M5H 2R2 Canada

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