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### **TREASURER ELECTION:**

Treasurer Peter Wardle's one-year term expires in June. Nominations have now closed for the vote by Benchers to be completed by June 18, 2025 with the new term beginning on June 25, 2025.

Nominated (in alphabetic order) are:

Murray Klippenstein, nominated by Ryan Alford and Louis Gagnon

Stephen Rotstein, nominated by Jennifer Gold and Michael Raden

Peter Wardle, nominated by Atrisha Lewis and Matthew Wilson

In a break from tradition (because only Benchers vote), Murray Klippenstein has taken the unusual step of issuing a professionally distributed Canada wide press release through a newswire.

### **COMMITTEE, TASK FORCE, WORKING GROUP, AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS:**

The Treasurer, in his own break from tradition, before the Treasurer election, sought and secured Convocation approval for the following significant appointments:

#### **Access to Justice**

**Neha Chugh (Co-Chair)**

**Cheryl Siran (Co-Chair)**

**Doug Wellman (Vice-Chair)**

#### **Audit & Finance**

Heather Hansen (Co-Chair)  
Mark Surchin (Co-Chair) Laura Emmett (Vice-Chair)

### **Audit & Finance - Compensation Fund Subcommittee**

Laura Emmett (Chair)

### **Equity and Indigenous Affairs**

Catherine Banning (Co-Chair)  
Shalini Konanur (Co-Chair)  
Mitchell Kitagawa (Vice-Chair)

### **Futures**

Karen Hulan (Co-Chair)  
Quinn Ross (Co-Chair)

### **Paralegal Standing**

Michelle Lomazzo (Chair)  
Cheryl Siran (Vice-Chair)

### **Proceedings Authorization**

Matthew Wilson (Chair)

### **Professional Development and Competence**

Atrisha Lewis (Chair)  
Michael Winward (Vice-Chair)

### **Professional Regulation**

Rebecca Durcan (Chair)  
Jonathan Rosenthal (Vice-Chair)  
Matthew Wilson (Vice-Chair)

### **Strategic Planning and Advisory**

Peter Wardle (Chair)

### **Tribunal**

Karen Hulan (Chair) (*Ex-officio*)  
Natalia Rodriguez (Vice-Chair)

### **Governance Review Task Force**

Genevieve Painchaud (Chair)  
Peter Wardle (Co-Chair)  
Pam Hrick (Vice-Chair)  
Quinn Ross (Vice-Chair)

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

Tanya Walker (Chair)

### **Lawyers Professional Indemnity Review Task Force**

William McDowell (Chair) Pam Hrick (Vice-Chair)

## **Summary Orders**

Tanya Walker

## **Access to Justice in French Working Group**

Joelle Malette (Co-Chair)

Sonia Ouellett (Co-Chair)

## **Alliance for Sustainable Legal Aid**

Shalini Konanur

Neha Chugh

## **Law Society Foundations Board of Trustees**

Ian Hull (Chair)

## **Paralegal Future Vision Working Group**

Shalini Konanur (Co-Chair)

Michelle Lomazzo (Co-Chair)

## **Real Estate Liaison Group**

(Law Society Representatives)

Kathryn Whitehead (Chair)

## **Restaurant Working Group**

Michael Winward (Chair)

## **Treasurer's Appointments Advisory Group**

(External representatives for Law Society Awards Recommendations not included)

Peter Wardle (Chair)

## **LSO GOVERNANCE REFORM:**

The LSO has retained Dr. Richard LeBlanc, a noted expert in corporate governance and accountability, to assist in a review and provide advice to respond to the issues identified in the Report of the Hon. Dennis O'Connor. He will undertake a survey of Benchers as well as explore broader governance reform and report to Convocation in the fall of 2025.

## **C.E.O. SELECTION COMMITTEE:**

Convocation has appointed a committee to engage an executive search team and other specialists to support the selection and hiring process. It is expected that the Committee will provide regular progress reports and its recommendation for appointment by November, 2025 Convocation.

## **PARALEGAL REGULATION:**

When contemplated in 2004 the Paralegal Standing Committee was constituted with a paralegal Benchers as Chair and the vice-chair was required to be a lawyer or lay Benchers. Presumably, that structure enshrining a non-paralegal as vice-chair was intended to give Convocation oversight and confidence in the new paralegal regulatory framework. With the passage of time and evolution of paralegal regulation the restriction is outdated and unnecessary. Hence Convocation approved a By-Law amendment so that in the future the role of vice-chair can be filled by any Benchers appointed in the customary fashion.

## **PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY:**

A 2024 public consultation explored what information licensees must report to the LSO and what should be made publicly available. Convocation, recognizing that transparency to the public is fundamental, has taken a further step by adopting in principle the breadth of reporting a licensee must provide to the Law Society and what will be published on the LSO Directory. It has deferred the thorny determination about whether to publish the existence of criminal (and specified other charges) or findings of guilt. Much work is yet to be done. The next step will be preparation and approval of a formal by-law. For the full report see: <chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://lawsocietyontario-dwdodscmayfwh7bj.a01.azurefd.net/media/lso/media/about/convocation/2025/convocation-may-2025-professional-regulation-committee-report.pdf>

## **2024 LAW SOCIETY COMPLAINTS RESOLUTION COMMISSIONER REPORT:**

The role of the Commissioner is to "ensure that complainants are dealt with fairly and that complaints receive thorough attention". For 2024 the Commissioner's investigation process to resolve or refer complaints for discipline or remedial response is better than the standards established nationally. However, there remains a backlog of files that is projected to be cleared by December 2025. The term of the current Commissioner, Ms. Virginia Torrance, expires August 1, 2025.

## **CIVIL JUSTICE REFORM:**

The A.G. is being pressured to extend his June 16 deadline for responses to the sweeping civil justice changes proposed by his review working group which had 16 months to present its 122-page Report in early April. Its laudable goal is to make our civil system more efficient and accessible. However, the changes will result in increased up front cost that may reduce if not eliminate access to the courts by parties of limited means or where the amount in dispute can not warrant the inherent cost of the new protocol. Stay tuned but improve your understanding of the breadth of the changes by reviewing: <https://www.ontariocourts.ca/scj/files/pubs/Civil-RulesReview-2025-phase-two-EN.pdf>

**CONVOCATION:**Next meets on Wednesday June 25. Join via webcast by visiting the Convocation Page at <https://lso.ca/home>

## **LSO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:**

Diarize Thursday September 18, 2025 at 5:15 p.m. to attend electronically.

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