



Volume 11 / Issue 195

June 18, 2025  
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### **TREASURER WARDLE ENCORE:**

By a significant majority vote of the Benchers in Convocation Mr. Wardle was re-elected. The Professions are very fortunate that he stood for re-election to continue the hard work thrust upon him in the past year. His professional background as a preeminent, trusted advocate and his extensive Law Society track record of facing very difficult issues and taking swift and decisive action allowed the eligible voters to determine that he should be given a second term. Hopefully the two other Treasurer candidates and their supporters will rally behind and support the ongoing efforts to rebuild licensee, candidate, and public trust in the Law Society. There are many important initiatives to be accomplished in the next year, including improving governance and strengthening accountability at the LSO that will depend on the complete co-operation and diligent effort of all Benchers in fulfilling their duties. The Professions expect Convocation will remain laser focused on the LSO mandate to protect the public interest, to maintain and to advance the cause of justice and the rule of law, to facilitate access to justice for the people of Ontario and to act in a timely, open and efficient manner. With important and critical work to be done, this is not the time for “wannabes” to establish campaigns for next year’s Treasurer election or the Bencher election in 3 years.

### **THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE JOELLE MALETTE:**

With her appointment to the Ontario Court of Justice in Thunder Bay an elected Bencher vacancy was created in Convocation. Prior to her appointment, she had established a bilingual dispute resolution firm and was also a part-time adjudicator on the Transport Appeal Tribunal of Canada, the Social Benefits Tribunal of Ontario, the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario, and the Law Society Tribunal.

## **BENCHER DALY CARRIE:**

Having the next highest number of votes from the region in last year's election, Convocation elected Mr. Carrie as a new regional bencher for the northeast region.

## **GOVERNANCE:**

The Governance Review Task Force has presented a [three-stage action plan](#), which includes implementation of the recommendations of the Hon. Dennis O'Connor. At next week's meeting of Convocation, the Task Force will present another report regarding the status of the implementation of the O'Connor recommendations, the Action Plan and the broader governance review. Stay tuned by reviewing the Report to be available on the Law Society website and watch the proceedings by logging in at <https://lso.ca/home>.

## **THE RULE OF LAW:**

A small group of lawyers, recognizing the fragility of the rule of law which can often be taken for granted, have undertaken a proactive initiative asking the rest of the profession to make a public pledge to support the rule of law. More than 700 lawyers from across the country have already put their names forward, promising to protect the judicial system from undue interference, support the rule of law by ensuring access to justice for all litigants (and offering pro bono services where necessary) and uphold the belief that an attack on one member of the legal professional is an attack on all.

Beyond the pledge, the initiative has educational goals for both members of the profession and the public. Its goal is to explain what the rule of law means since it can be such an abstract phrase, open to interpretation. This initiative is a way to bring the broader profession together in a cause which everybody can champion.

In the context of President Trump's relationship with the American judiciary, Supreme Court of Canada Chief Justice Richard Wagner recently said "the rule of law and judicial independence is under attack" around the world. He further encouraged that we be "prudent" to safeguard our institutions and judicial system where court rulings are respected by all, including elected officials. He correctly asserted that in Canada "the rule of law is non-negotiable".

If you wish to be part of a growing group to protect the independence of the bar and judiciary, before attacks are manifest please consider taking the pledge at <https://ruleoflawproject.ca/>

## **ENJOY A HAPPY HEALTHY SUMMER – YOU HAVE EARNED A BREAK**

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