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#200



GOOD BYE

This Bencher newsletter #200 will be my last. I hope all of them have served a useful purpose. Thank you for reading and for often responding to me with insights, corrections, and feedback. Together we have thus shared joy, disappointment, excitement, frustration, anticipation, anger, and everything in between.

In 1995 I was first elected as a Bencher and published BBN#1 to establish a regular, two-way line of communication with the profession. In 2011, I said goodbye when I published BBN #100 having completed 16 years as an elected Bencher. By reason of much needed governance reform that I fostered, I was precluded from seeking re-election. At that time, I believed that my new role as a Life Bencher of the Law Society would not necessitate further publications. However, I was soon asked by many colleagues to carry on filling an ongoing gap in timely, comprehensive communications about the LSO (formerly the LSUC as many of you will remember).

In the last 31 years, I had the privilege of serving the profession through many rewarding roles in Convocation, numerous Committees, the Law Society Tribunal, the Law Foundation of Ontario, and the Law Commission of Ontario. I was given the opportunity to meet and engage with many outstanding lawyers and paralegals throughout the province. It was wonderful to work with talented Bencher colleagues, 17 Treasurers, including some extraordinary former Treasurers, and dedicated Law Society staff. Over the years, I have received much more than I could ever have imagined, and I appreciated working with a shared purpose as well as being part of something very important to the profession and the public interest which we served.

It is not the Law Society institution that enriched me but the people with whom I had the opportunity to work. I as well recognize as part of my good fortune the many colleagues who mentored my professional practice and guided me in the intricacies of client care. Many are no longer with us, and I sincerely wish I had properly expressed to them my appreciation when it had been possible. For those of you reading this newsletter please accept my message as intended, being one of heartfelt gratitude as I simply don't have the words to

otherwise express myself to you in a more fulsome way for my rewarding career in the most essential of honourable professions.

Of course, none of this would have been possible except for the loving support and encouragement of my wife Arna and our children, Adam, Hailey, and Mara who made it possible for me to fulfill my Bencher obligations.

I wish for the present and future Benchers, Treasurers, and the new senior leadership team great success in confronting the numerous challenges that are to be faced. Good luck with the tough decisions to be made and for which you will be roundly criticized. Be strong and principled. I have had a great run as a Bencher and a practicing lawyer. I have been blessed in many ways for which I am grateful. I wish for each of us, years of good health to enjoy all that life has to offer. I very much look forward to carrying on my enriching mediation practice and volunteer activities.

It feels strange writing this final newsletter. But now having the opportunity to say goodbye a second and final time, this is another one of my blessings.

THANK YOU

P.S. Having the final word I would be remiss in not commending Treasurer Wardle for his outstanding work as an elected Bencher and for his last two years as Treasurer. Peter fulfilled his role during a completely unexpected and fraught time at the Law Society. His steady, analytic, and respectful manner allowed the institution to weather incredibly difficult issues thrust upon him without warning. In addition to leading us through that firestorm, the outcome of his work will leave the LSO well equipped to manage future challenges. They will be addressed by Peter's innovations including enhanced accountability, much improved corporate governance and transparency to ensure ongoing public trust which will benefit lawyers and paralegals. I thank Treasurer Wardle and his family, who shared and supported his many sacrifices since his first election as a Bencher in 2011. May the wind always fill your sails.

And good luck to Shalini Konanur as you now occupy the Office of Treasurer and the seat at the head of the table. To learn more about our new Treasurer click here: <https://lso.ca/news-events/news/latest-news-2026/shalini-konanur-elected-as-treasurer-of-law-societ>

GOOD BYE.

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