


Banack's Bencher News

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FAX FEEDBACK: I received 186 responses to last month's newsletter. While the questions were not crafted with scientific precision, for which I apologize and the margin for error is probably infinite, the following represents the percentage responses received:

1) Do you support a proposal for a separate organizational body for the joint management of county and district law libraries?

YES: 59% NO: 41%

2) Do you support the central collection by LSUC of library fees from all members of LSUC to fully fund the operation of the county and district law library system?

YES: 76% NO: 24%

3) After consultation with the profession do you agree:

a) The Law Society should designate one or more computer accounting programs which meet the Law Society's bookkeeping requirements:

YES: 71% NO: 29%

b) The Law Society should designate which practice management software program, such as Case Management software, represents the "industry standard" for the profession.

YES: 54% NO: 46%

c) The Law Society should negotiate for the profession and/or buy in bulk for resale to the profession at a discount.

(i) Hardware:

YES: 57% NO: 43%

(ii) Software:

YES: 58% NO: 42%

4) Should Benchers be compensated by an honorarium for time spent:

a) In Convocation (in excess of 10 days per year)

YES: 53% NO: 47%

b) For Committee Days (in excess of 10 days per year)

YES: 58% NO: 42%

c) For Discipline Hearings (in excess of 10 days per year)

YES: 59% NO: 41%

d) To a predetermined, specified amount per year

YES: 64% NO: 36%

5) In relation to Benchers' compensation, do you have any suggestion(s) as to the referendum question(s) that should be put to the profession during the forthcoming election. Please forward them immediately by separate fax.

6) Do you support the merger of CBAO and CDLPA as supported by MTLA?

YES: 79% NO: 21%

7) Do you support an amendment to the Law Society Act empowering (but not requiring) the LSUC to collect membership fees for the merged organization?

YES: 59% NO: 41%

8) If there is a demonstrated, cost-effective, timely, locally available delivery service to permit self-study and other means of qualification determined after consultation with the profession, might you be in favour of mandatory continuing legal education?

YES: 72% NO: 28%

SILLY SEASON: The Bencher Election Campaign is now upon us. Having completed a four-year term, I want to thank you for allowing me the privilege of participating in Convocation. I have had the benefit of working with fellow Benchers who are outstanding lawyers and from whom I learned an immeasurable amount. Law Society staff, albeit in dwindling numbers in recent years, provided superb support and long hours of service. As well, I must point out the obvious that these Bencher Newsletters have required significant effort and patience by Lynn Pipher and Ki Kitamura of my office and I could not have participated to the extent that I did without the support of my entire family. As you will shortly be receiving election solicitation letters that I encourage you to read and assess to identify those candidates you wish to support in the coming election. In the 1995 Election, only a minority of the Profession voted, of which, a small percentage were women lawyers. Hopefully, more of us will vote in the coming election to ensure the most representational Convocation possible.

I have decided to run for re-election for a number of reasons. Those reasons are explained in the Law Society Bencher publication and letters to be sent in the coming month. Please call if you have any suggestions or questions.

If you would join a group of lawyers supporting my Bencher election campaign, please complete and return this page. Your name will then be added to a flyer, under the statement:

"I support the candidacy of Larry Banack for Bencher in 1999".

PLEASE PRINT NAME _____

CITY/TOWN OF PRACTICE _____

AREA OF PRACTICE _____

SIGNATURE _____

Please respond by fax to (416) 977-3316 by March 19, 1999. Thank you.