


**Banack's Bencher News**

Larry Banack, Certified by the Law Society as a Specialist in Civil Litigation Member of the Arbitration and Mediation Institute of Ontario and Roster Mediator, Ontario Mandatory Mediation Program - Ottawa/Toronto

Telephone  
416-977-8353

TeleFax  
416-977-3316

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**TREASURER COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:** By tradition, the Treasurer, elected in June, has assigned all Benchers to various committees of Convocation. The following have been appointed Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Committees indicated:

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Vice-Chair</b>
Access to Justice	Marion Boyd	Ronald Manes
Audit Sub-Committee	Bradley Wright	
Bicentennial Report Working Group	Joanne St. Lewis	
Continuum of Legal Education	George Hunter	
Emerging Issues	Heather Ross	Gavin MacKenzie
Equity/Aboriginal Issues	Joanne St. Lewis	W.A. Derry Millar
Finance & Audit	Clayton Ruby	Abdul Chahbar
Government Relations	Julian Porter, Q.C. (Co-Chair) James Caskey, Q.C. (Co-Chair)	
Hearings	Larry Banack	
Heritage	Constance Backhouse	
Inter-Jurisdictional Mobility	W.A. Derry Millar	
Law Foundation	Larry Banack	
LawPro	Kim Carpenter-Gunn	
Lawyers' Fund for Client Compensation	Robert Topp	Larry Banack
Litigation	Neil Finkelstein	Earl Cherniak, Q.C.
Ontario Gazette Advisory Board	Bradley Wright	Robert Topp
PAC	Earl Cherniak, Q.C.	
Professional Development/Competence and Admissions	George Hunter	William Simpson, Q.C., LSMGavin

		MacKenzie
Professional Regulation	Todd Ducharme	Carole Curtis
Small Firm and Sole Practitioner Task Force	Abraham Feinstein, Q.C. (Co-Chair) Judith Potter (Co-Chair)	

**ADDITIONAL APPOINTMENTS:**

Ontario Bar Association Council - Laurie Pattillo, Ross Murray and Kim Carpenter-Gunn

Ontario Bar Assistance Program - Board of Directors - Gary Gottlieb

CNE Association - Gordon Bobesich

Link Board of Directors - Laurie Pattillo

Specialist Certification Board - Gerald Swaye (Chair), Larry Banack, Kim Carpenter-Gunn, Bill Simpson

Law Foundation of Ontario - Larry Banack (Chair)

**MEMBERS' ANNUAL REPORT (MAR):** Convocation approved changes to the MAR with the expectation that it will become more "user friendly". The new form will be distributed to the profession for return to the Law Society by March 31, 2004.

**DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT COUNSEL:** Convocation appointed Ms. Cynthia Petersen as Discrimination & Harassment Counsel following her interim appointment which became necessary because former Counsel, Mary Teresa Devlin was appointed a Judge of the Ontario Court of Justice in November, 2002. Ms. Petersen's practice included areas of Charter Litigation and she was a former professor of law at the University of Ottawa from 1990-1995.

**LAWPRO 2004:** A series of LawPro Board recommendations were adopted by Convocation for 2004. Last year's base premium will be maintained at \$2,500.00 per lawyer. Other premiums for sole practitioners, new lawyers, criminal lawyers, part-time lawyers in association or lawyers with claims history surcharges have been decreased modestly. These reductions are possible because \$9.7 million has been drawn from the Premium Stabilization Fund built up in previous years (\$22.5 million at June, 2003) and applied to the 2004 insurance premium. In 2002, the practices of real estate and civil litigation represented 60.2% of the claims reported and 53.6% of the claims costs. However, LawPro's successful title insurance program, TitlePLUS, has resulted in a reduction of \$10.2 million less claims costs today than were incurred seven years ago. The LawPro premium can be reduced by attending pre-approved continuing education courses with a saving of \$50.00 premium credit per course, subject to \$100.00 maximum per member for courses between September 2003 and 2004, for which a lawyer must also successfully complete the on-line CLE declaration form.

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