

# Banack's Bencher News #59

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**TREASURER ELECTION:** On June 9<sup>th</sup>, the Treasurer candidates had an opportunity to present their views and distinguish themselves from each other. The election campaign was a low-key, dignified process. Congratulations to George Hunter who was elected by Convocation as Treasurer on June 22, 2005. With this election, a vacancy was created that has been filled by Marshall Crowe of Ottawa who has joined Convocation. Mr. Crowe previously served as a Bencher until May 2003. He is welcomed back.

**FARWELL TO TREASURER MARROCCO:** With the election of the new Treasurer, Treasurer Frank Marrocco's two-year tenure came to an end. During that period, under the leadership of Mr. Marrocco, the Law Society finally came to grips with and implemented Bar Admission reform, advanced the regulation of paralegals and received Task Force reports concerning the sole practitioner and small firm as well as the regulatory tribunal process. Mr. Marrocco's steady hand and understanding of government relations assisted the Law Society in maintaining momentum and enhancing our relationship with governmental authorities for the benefit of all lawyers. As a profession, we have many reasons to be grateful for his years of service.

**LAW SOCIETY MEDAL:** In a special ceremony, the Law Society's highest honour, the Law Society Medal, was awarded to:

Paul Cavalluzzo  
Jeffrey Leon  
Linda Rothstein

Gregory Goulin  
Christine Kates  
David Stockwood

Charles Harnick  
Brendan O'Brien

The award recognizes outstanding service by each of these lawyers, reflecting the highest ideals of the Profession. Hopefully with the completion of the Osgoode Hall renovation in 2006, it will be possible to permanently record these awards.

**LINCOLN ALEXANDER AWARD:** Keith Landy has been awarded this honour, demonstrating his long-standing interest and commitment to matters of a public nature and the pursuit of community service on behalf of Ontario residents.

**HONORARY DOCTOR OF LAWS:** At the forthcoming call to the Bar ceremonies in July, Honourary Doctor of Law degrees will be granted by the Law Society to Elizabeth Sheehy (Ottawa), James Lockyer (London), Mr. Justice David Watt (Toronto), Jane Pepino (Toronto) and Claude Thomson (Toronto).

**2006 LICENSING PROCESS:** With the implementation of the new process, the Law Society requires lawyers who have exemplary professional conduct, strong practice management skills and a keen interest in participating in the new learning environment to apply to be instructors. The deadline for submission for applications is July 15, 2005 and should be emailed to [dmiles@lsuc.on.ca](mailto:dmiles@lsuc.on.ca). For more information about the program, please consult the Law Society website [www.lsuc.on.ca](http://www.lsuc.on.ca)

**TRIBUNALS TASK FORCE:** Convocation received and adopted various recommendations of this Task Force which was established in September 2004. A number of procedural changes have been made to ensure that the Law Society regulatory process is maintained in the public interest, with fairness in the adjudicative process and a transparency intended to avoid or minimize complaints based on the appearance of bias or conflicts of interest. There will now be a delay until detailed implementation documentation can be prepared and approved by Convocation. Additional work is yet to be undertaken to assess alternate models for composition of hearing panels. The Tribunals Task Force Final Report can be viewed at the Law Society website- [www.lsuc.on.ca](http://www.lsuc.on.ca).

**PRIDE WEEK:** On June 23, 2004, the Law Society will host its annual Pride Week reception. The keynote address is to be delivered by Rodney Croome, a well-known spokesperson for Tasmanian gay and lesbian rights in Australia.

**SUBMISSIONS REQUESTED:** The Profession and Legal Organizations are requested to submit written comments on the Final Report of the Sole Practitioner and Small Firm Task Force. For more information and to review the report, go to the Law Society website at <http://www.lsuc.on.ca/news/a/hottopics/sole-practitioner-and-small-firm-task-force/>.

**Have a happy and safe summer with family and friends. As in the past, should you have any questions, criticisms or suggestions, please do not hesitate to let me know.**

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