

Banack's Bencher News #74

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*Larry Banack, Certified by the Law Society as a Specialist in Civil Litigation
Member of the ADR Institute of Ontario*

April 25, 2008

LAW SOCIETY MEDAL: The Law Society Medal is awarded by the Law Society to lawyers who have made significant contributions to the profession. Convocation has conferred the Law Society Medal on:

Earl Cherniak, Q.C.	Kirby Chown	John Evans, Q.C.	Abraham Feinstein, Q.C.
Clifford Lax, Q.C.	Audrey Loeb	Sidney Troister	David Ward, Q.C.

LINCOLN ALEXANDER AWARD: The Lincoln Alexander Award was established to acknowledge a member of the profession for demonstrating longstanding interest and commitment to matters public and to the pursuit of community service on behalf of the residents of Ontario. Convocation has conferred the Lincoln Alexander Award on Morley Wolfe, Q.C.

LAURA LEGGE AWARD: The Laura Legge Award was created to recognize a woman lawyer in Ontario who has exemplified leadership within the profession. Convocation has conferred the First Laura Legge Award on E. Susan Elliott, LSM.

LAWPRO AUDIT: Convocation received a report to the Audit Committee reflecting that LawPro's financial statements are in accordance with appropriate accounting standards and consistent with budget expectations.

JUSTICE KIM CARPENTER-GUNN: The Judiciary has been enhanced through the appointment of our Bencher colleague, Kim Carpenter-Gunn to the Superior Court of Justice. She worked tirelessly at the Law Society and at LawPro where she will be missed.

JACK BRATHWAITE (SUDBURY): As a result of the vacancy created in Convocation by the judicial appointment of Kim Carpenter-Gunn, Jack Brathwaite has been called upon to serve as a Bencher, on the basis of the votes cast in the last Bencher election.

END OF ARTICLING? The Law Society's Licensing and Accreditation Task Force seeks the profession's comment on proposals and options respecting the Licensing Process and, in particular, the Professional Responsibility and Skills component and the Articling component. Please review an important Task Force Report and provide written comments on the proposals and options or provide additional options for consideration. The goal of the consultation process is to consider practical solutions to the difficult issues raised. The report is available on the Law Society's website www.lsuc.on.ca/latest-news/a/hottopics/licensing-and-accreditation-task-force/ Please submit written comments no later than May 31, 2008 to: Ms. Sophia Sperdakos, Policy Counsel - Policy Secretariat, Law Society of Upper Canada, Osgoode Hall, 130 Queen St. W., Toronto, ON, M5H 2N6; email: ssperdak@lsuc.on.ca; phone: 416-947-5209; fax: 416-947-7623.

LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY: The proposal for the creation of a new faculty of law has now moved from the Law Society to the National Committee on Accreditation (a sub-committee of the Federation of Law Societies) and the Ministry of Training, College and Universities for consideration. It will be up to the National Committee to determine whether the proposed curriculum will be sufficient to enable graduating students to enter into the Bar Admission program, as it may then exist.

BARRIER FREE OSGOODE HALL: Efforts have been underway since 2006 to redesign the main access at Osgoode Hall Courthouse to allow barrier free equal access to the public and the legal profession. The Law Society was involved from the outset. Substantial effort has been made to accommodate the heritage components of the building while respecting the underlying premise that accessibility through the main door of the Courthouse is an essential requirement. Further information about the design is available by contacting the Equity Initiatives Department of the Law Society.

COMPLAINTS RESOLUTION COMMISSIONER: The Annual Report of Commissioner, Clare Lewis was presented to Convocation. In 2007, 154 requests for review were received by the Commission resulting in approximately 56 personal meetings with complainants. The vast majority of complaints were closed following the review process. However, 14 complaints representing almost 13% of the files required further action be taken by the Law Society. The objective of the Complaints Resolution Commissioner is to provide the public with an independent and impartial forum for reviewing Law Society decisions to close complaint files.

A.G.M.: The Law Society Annual General Meeting will be held at Osgoode Hall on Wednesday, May 7, 2008 starting at 5:15 p.m. Please attend.

CONVOCATION REPORTS: All reports to Convocation can be viewed at <http://www.lsuc.on.ca/news/>.

In order to more fully understand the issues facing Convocation, you may wish to review previous editions of Banack's Bencher News at http://www.kmlaw.ca/publications/banacks_bencher_news_home.aspx.

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