

Communiqué

Number 116

20th November 1981

Colin E. Bennett of Toronto has been appointed Under Treasurer of the Society to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the late Albert E. Shepherd of London.

A Special Committee has been appointed to consider the recent amendments to the Income Tax Act respecting "work in progress" in lawyers' offices. It will work with a similar Committee of the Canadian Bar Association.

A proposed new rule of professional conduct on the use of law clerks was mailed to all members of the profession recently with a request that comments be received by the 30th November 1981. The time for receiving the profession's comments has been extended to the 31st December 1981, and members are urged to give the Committee their reaction to the proposed rule.

The coverage period under the Society's Errors & Omissions Insurance Plan will change from the calendar year to a year beginning 1st July. The levy for the six-month period from 1st January 1982 to the 1st July 1982 has been set at \$490. Those for whom no payments have been made from the fund in the past 3 years are entitled to the Experience Rating Allowance and will pay a levy of \$465. Members starting to practise in April, May or June of 1982, including those graduating from the Bar Admission Course next spring will pay half the levy, or \$232 for the six-month period.

Convocation gave approval today to a recommendation of the Legal Aid Committee that a pilot project be established to run for two years in the Ottawa area. Its purpose is to improve the quality of legal defence services provided under the Legal Aid Plan by making trained social workers who are experienced in the correctional system available to counsel to assist in the identifying of the client's social problems, to co-ordinate with community resources, and to provide that advice and assistance which will enable defence counsel to present informed submissions on behalf of clients charged with a criminal offence with respect to their sentence.

Howard Edward Katz of Hamilton was reprimanded in Convocation. He had failed to maintain sufficient balances in his trust account to meet his trust obligations and failed to comply with the provisions of the rule of professional conduct respecting borrowing from clients, but the Discipline Committee was satisfied that he had not been involved in the transfer of funds from his firm's trust account which had led to the disbarment of his two partners.

Kenneth Jarvis,
Secretary.