

Communiqué

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1006 graduates of the Bar Admission Course were called to the Bar at four special Convocations this year. On April 9th, 346 were called in the O'Keefe Centre and took their oaths before Chief Justice Howland. They were addressed by Major-General Richard Rohmer. The following day, 371 attended for call in the O'Keefe Centre, took their oaths before Chief Justice Evans and were addressed by the Honourable Mr. Justice Willard Z. Estey of the Supreme Court of Canada, who received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. On April 13th, 149 were called in Ottawa, where the Honourable Jean Chretien, Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of Canada, was the speaker. The oaths were administered before the Chief Justice of Ontario. In London, 140 candidates were called to the Bar on April 15th and were addressed by the Honourable Mr. Justice W. Gibson Gray of the Supreme Court of Ontario and by George D. Finlayson, Q.C., former Treasurers of the Society, each of whom received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. The new lawyers took the necessary oaths before the Chief Justice of the High Court.

The results of the questionnaire which was sent to all members last October to obtain the profession's views on such matters as numbers entering the profession, advertising, and legal education, have now been analyzed. Rather than attempt to precis the report here, a summary of the analysis will shortly be mailed to all members.

The profession will be asked for its comments on recommendations made today by the Professional Conduct Committee respecting the role of lawyers acting as mortgage brokers. The record of losses paid by the compensation fund and under the negligence insurance coverage for lawyers who were acting as mortgage brokers was reviewed, together with earlier reports and rulings on the subject which has been before Convocation on several occasions in the past. The Committee's recommendation is that lawyers no longer be permitted to act as mortgage brokers, or alternatively, that lawyer-mortgage brokers be required to maintain separate insurance coverage for that part of their practice and follow specific new rulings requiring full disclosure in writing to both borrower and lender of the lawyer's interest; acknowledgement by the lender that he has independent advice; that the borrower receive independent legal representation; and that along with proof of special insurance, notice be filed with the Society that the lawyer arranges mortgage loans or has an interest in a mortgage brokers corporation. A copy of the Committee's report will be circulated to the profession and members will be asked to make submissions by the 1st October 1981.

Many lawyers have been approached by Trans-Canada Press, which plans to publish a "Who's Who in Canadian Law", and have been invited to submit biographical data. The Society has no objection to members names and biographical material appearing in that publication, provided that the suggested headings of their "legal expertise" and "areas of company expertise" are not used. Instead members should use the designations "preferred areas of practice" or "practising in specified areas of the law".

Kenneth Jarvis,

Secretary.