

Communiqué

Number 11

19th January, 1973

Mr. Robert Faulkner and Mr. Patrick O'Keefe, two of the lay members of the Law Society Council, attended Convocation today at the invitation of the Treasurer and were welcomed by the 38 Benchers present.

A special meeting of Benchers with representatives of the County and District Law Associations and others who may be specially invited will be called in February to discuss the Report of the Special Committee on Legal Education before any decisions are taken in Convocation. The Report will also be discussed at the meeting of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada in Winnipeg during the first weekend in February.

Persons in the York County area accused of serious crimes are to have legal advice available to them around the clock. The York County office of Legal Aid is establishing a telephone number so that those who need it can obtain advice either over the phone or by having a Legal Aid solicitor visit them if they are confined. This new service is being undertaken on a trial basis for two months.

From time to time disputes and disagreements arise between members of the profession not involving questions of professional misconduct or the interests of clients. Occasionally members of the public have complained against their lawyers' behaviour in minor ways again not involving the question of disciplinary action. Until now there has been no convenient forum for dealing with these disputes. Convocation today approved of the formation of a Mediation Committee of experienced senior Benchers to meet monthly with a minimum of formality to help iron out minor difficulties that have arisen between members or between members and their clients.

Lorenzo Jose Andres Girones was found guilty of professional misconduct, reprimanded in Convocation and required to pay \$875, being part of the cost of the Society's investigation of his affairs. The solicitor had submitted certificates for payment by the Ontario Legal Aid Plan which misstated times spent interviewing Legal Aid clients and in travelling to and from such interviews.

Kenneth Jarvis

Secretary