

Voting Guide

www.investorvote.com/lsuc

Voting closes April 30, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. EDT.



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2015

BENCHER ELECTION
ÉLECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL

www.voteendirect.com/lsuc

Le vote se termine le 30 avril 2015 à 17 h HAE.

Guide électoral





X

2015

BENCHER ELECTION ÉLECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL

Table of Contents / Table des matières

Voting Information >

List of Candidates by Region >

Candidates from Outside Toronto >

Candidates from Inside Toronto >

Procédure électorale >

Liste des candidat(e)s par région >

Candidat(e)s de l'extérieur de Toronto >

Candidat(e)s de Toronto >





X

2015

BENCHER ELECTION ÉLECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL

Voting Information

Conduct of Election

The 2015 Bencher Election will be conducted in accordance with the *Law Society Act* and By-Law 3 made pursuant to the *Law Society Act*. The election will be conducted in both French and English.

The Law Society has hired Computershare, a third party company, to provide the online voting site for the election.

Voter Anonymity

Voting is by secret ballot. Computershare will randomly assign personal identification numbers to every eligible voter. Only Computershare knows the numbers assigned to eligible voters. This number is required to access the internet voting site.

An email communication and a letter from Computershare will be sent to all eligible voters which will include the control number and a link to the internet voting website. The internet voting system provides the online Voting Guide, ballot and voting instructions, which will provide detailed information on how to vote online.

Voters who do not receive, or who lose or delete, their control number must contact Computershare at 1-888-344-2805 or 514-982-2391 if outside Canada or the United States. Voters will be asked to provide their licensee number and other personal identifiers to receive their control number.

Eligible Voters

People who, on April 7, 2015, are lawyer licensees whose licences have not been suspended are eligible to vote in the bencher election.

Candidate Information

This Voting Guide provides voters with information about the candidates running in the bencher election. The candidates provide their biographical information, email address and election statements, which reflect their views only.

The Voting Guide is divided into two sections. The first section contains information about candidates from outside Toronto. The second section contains information about candidates from inside Toronto. Candidates in each section appear alphabetically by last name. **A list of the candidates from each region is here in the Voting Guide**, with links to the candidate pages.

Regional Election Scheme

Forty lawyer benchers will be elected - 20 from inside Toronto and 20 from outside Toronto. Of the 40 benchers, eight will be elected as regional benchers. The regional bencher is the candidate within each region who receives the most votes from voters in that region. The business address of the regional bencher must be within that electoral region at the time of the election.

For the purposes of the election, the province is divided into eight electoral regions. The eight electoral regions are as follows:

- **City of Toronto Electoral Region**
- **Northwest Electoral Region (NW)** - composed of the territorial districts of Kenora, Rainy River, and Thunder Bay.
- **Northeast Electoral Region (NE)** - composed of the territorial districts of Algoma, Cochrane, Manitoulin, Nipissing, Parry Sound, Sudbury, and Timiskaming.
- **East Electoral Region (E)** - composed of the counties of Frontenac, Hastings, Lanark, Lennox and Addington, Prince Edward and Renfrew, the united counties of Leeds and Grenville, Prescott and Russell and Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, and the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton.
- **Central East Electoral Region (CE)** - composed of the District Municipality of Muskoka, the counties of Haliburton, Northumberland, Peterborough, Simcoe and Victoria, and the regional municipalities of Durham, and York.
- **Central West Electoral Region (CW)** - composed of the counties of Bruce, Dufferin, Grey and Wellington, and the regional municipalities of Halton and Peel.



X

2015

BENCHER ELECTION ÉLECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL

Voting Information

- **Central South Electoral Region (CS)** - composed of the County of Brant, and the regional municipalities of Haldimand-Norfolk, Hamilton-Wentworth, Niagara, and Waterloo.
- **Southwest Electoral Region (SW)** - composed of the counties of Elgin, Essex, Huron, Kent, Lambton, Middlesex, Oxford, and Perth.

The candidates from each region who receive the most votes from voters in that region will be declared regional benchers. The remaining 32 benchers will be the 13 candidates from outside Toronto who receive the most votes from all voters and the 19 candidates from inside Toronto who receive the most votes from all voters.

For candidates outside Toronto, the candidate's region is identified on the ballot by a notation after the candidate's name.

Casting and Counting Votes

Voters can cast 40 votes in total – 20 votes for candidates inside Toronto and 20 votes for candidates outside Toronto. The ballot is separated into two sections. One section lists candidates from inside Toronto. The other section lists candidates from outside Toronto. Voters need not cast all 40 votes, but cannot exceed 20 votes in each section. Voters may only vote for a candidate once.

To vote, voters must go to the election website through the link provided by Computershare, where they will be prompted to enter their control number. Once they are logged into the system, the list of candidates will be displayed. Voters select candidates by clicking the boxes next to the candidates' names. The system will not permit voters to vote for more than 20 candidates from outside Toronto or more than 20 candidates from inside Toronto. It is possible to submit a ballot with no candidates selected. Once voters have finished selecting both the outside and inside Toronto candidates, voters click the "Submit" button. Voters will then be prompted to review their selections and make any changes they wish to make prior to final submission of their votes.

Voting Deadline

The deadline for voting is April 30, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. EDT. The internet voting system will shut down at precisely 5:00 p.m. EDT on April 30, 2015.

Announcement of Results

Tabulation of votes will begin after 5:00 p.m. EDT on April 30, 2015. The election results will be announced by press release and on the Law Society's web site at www.lsuc.on.ca once votes have been tabulated.

Voting Assistance

If you are an eligible voter and you did not receive an email or letter from Computershare with your voting instructions, or if you require assistance with voting or accessing the voting site, please call Computershare's toll-free help line at 1-888-344-2805, or 514-982-2391 if outside Canada or the United States information. The help line is available Monday to Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. EDT. It closes at 5:00 p.m. on April 30, 2015.

Contact Us

For more information, please contact the Law Society at 416-947-3404, 1-877-947-3404 or by e-mail at bencherelection@lsuc.on.ca



X 2015

BENCHER ELECTION ÉLECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL

Procédure électorale

Tenue de l'élection

L'élection du Conseil de 2015 se déroule conformément à la *Loi sur le Barreau* et au Règlement administratif n° 3 pris en application de la *Loi sur le Barreau*. L'élection est tenue en français et en anglais.

Le Barreau a retenu les services de Computershare, une société indépendante, pour tenir l'élection.

Anonymat des électeurs et électrices

Le vote est secret. Computershare assignera au hasard des numéros d'identification personnelle à chaque électeur ou électrice admissible. Seul Computershare connaît les numéros assignés aux électeurs et électrices admissibles. Ce numéro est requis pour accéder au site de vote en ligne.

Computershare enverra une communication par courriel à tous les électeurs et électrices admissibles qui contiendra le numéro de contrôle et un lien au site Web de vote en ligne. Le système de vote en ligne donne aux électeurs et aux électrices accès au guide électoral, au bulletin de vote et à des consignes d'utilisation détaillées du scrutin.

Les électeurs et électrices qui ne reçoivent pas leur numéro de contrôle, l'ont perdu ou effacé doivent contacter Computershare sans frais au 1 888 344-2805 ou, de l'extérieur du Canada et des É-U, au 514 982-2391. On demandera aux électeurs et électrices de produire leur matricule de titulaire de permis et autres identificateurs personnels pour recevoir leur numéro de contrôle.

Électeurs et électrices admissibles

Les personnes dont le permis d'avocat n'est pas suspendu au 7 avril 2015 peuvent voter.

Renseignements sur les candidats et candidates

Le présent guide électoral contient des renseignements sur les candidates et les candidats qui se présentent à l'élection. Tous les candidats et candidates ont été invités à envoyer une biographie, une adresse courriel et une déclaration électorale qui n'exprime que leur opinion.

Le guide électoral est divisé en deux sections. La première contient des renseignements sur les candidats de l'extérieur de Toronto. La deuxième contient des renseignements sur les candidats de Toronto. Les noms apparaissent en ordre alphabétique du nom de famille dans les deux sections. **Une liste des candidats de chaque région se trouve ici sur la guide**, avec des liens menant aux pages des candidats.

Déroulement des élections régionales

Quarante conseillers et conseillères seront élus – 20 de Toronto et 20 de l'extérieur de Toronto. Sur les 40, huit seront élus comme conseillères et conseillers régionaux. Un conseiller régional est le candidat qui a reçu le plus de votes dans sa région. L'adresse professionnelle des conseillères et conseillers régionaux doit se trouver dans les régions électorales où elles et ils sont élus.

Aux fins de l'élection, la province est divisée en huit régions électorales. Les huit régions électorales sont :

- **Toronto**
- **Région électorale du Nord-Ouest (NO)** – formée des districts territoriaux de Kenora, Rainy River et Thunder Bay.
- **Région électorale du Nord-Est (NE)** – formée des districts territoriaux d'Algoma, Cochrane, Manitoulin, Nipissing, Parry Sound, Sudbury et Timiskaming.
- **Région électorale de l'Est (EA)** – formée des comtés de Frontenac, Hastings, Lanark, Lennox et Addington, Prince Edward et Renfrew, les comtés unis de Leeds et Grenville, Prescott-Russell, Stormont, Dundas et Glengarry et la municipalité régionale d'Ottawa-Carleton.
- **Région électorale du Centre-Est (CE)** – formée de la municipalité de district de Muskoka, des comtés de Haliburton, Northumberland, Peterborough, Simcoe, Victoria et des municipalités régionales de Durham et de York.
- **Région électorale du Centre-Ouest (CO)** – formée des comtés de Bruce, Dufferin, Grey, Wellington et des municipalités régionales de Halton et Peel.



X 2015

BENCHER ELECTION ÉLECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL

Procédure électorale

- **Région électorale du Centre-Sud (CS)** – formée du comté de Brant et des municipalités régionales de Haldimand-Norfolk, Hamilton-Wentworth, Niagara et Waterloo.
- **Région électorale du Sud-Ouest (SO)** – formée des comtés de Elgin, Essex, Huron, Kent, Lambton, Middlesex, Oxford et Perth.

Dans chaque région, le candidat ou la candidate ayant recueilli le plus grand nombre de voix de l'électorat de sa région sera déclaré conseiller régional. Les 32 conseillères et conseillers restants – 13 à l'extérieur de Toronto et 19 à Toronto – seront choisis parmi les candidates et candidats qui auront recueilli le nombre le plus élevé de voix de l'ensemble de la profession.

Pour les candidats de l'extérieur de Toronto, la région est mentionnée à côté du nom de chaque candidat ou candidate sur les bulletins de vote.

Vote et dépouillement du scrutin

Les électeurs disposent d'un total de 40 voix, soit 20 voix pour les candidates et candidats de Toronto et 20 voix pour ceux et celles à l'extérieur de Toronto. Le guide électoral est divisé en deux sections. La première contient des renseignements sur les candidats de l'extérieur de Toronto. La deuxième contient des renseignements sur les candidats de Toronto. Les électeurs ne sont pas dans l'obligation de voter pour 40 candidats et candidates, mais ne peuvent pas voter pour plus de 20 membres par section. Les électeurs ne peuvent pas voter pour la même personne plusieurs fois.

Pour voter, les électeurs et électrices se rendront sur le site électoral de Computershare, où on leur demandera d'inscrire leur numéro de contrôle. Une fois qu'ils et elles seront dans le système, la liste des candidats et candidates s'affichera. Les électeurs et électrices choisiront les candidats et candidates en cliquant sur la boîte à côté de leur nom. Le système ne permettra pas de voter pour plus de 20 candidats ou candidates de l'extérieur de Toronto ou pour plus de 20 candidats ou candidates de Toronto. Il est possible de soumettre un bulletin de vote sans inscription. Une fois que les électeurs ont terminé leur choix des candidats de l'extérieur de Toronto et de Toronto, ils et elles doivent cliquer sur le bouton « Envoyer ». On demandera alors aux électeurs et électrices de revoir leurs sélections et de faire des changements s'ils le désirent avant la soumission finale de leurs votes.

Dates limites pour voter

La date limite pour voter est le 30 avril 2015 à 17 h HAE. Les systèmes de vote par Internet fermeront à exactement 17 h HAE le 30 avril 2015.

Annnonce des résultats

Le décompte des votes commencera après 17 h HAE le 30 avril 2015. Les résultats seront annoncés par communiqué et sur le site Web du Barreau à www.lsuc.on.ca une fois que les votes auront été comptés.

Assistance pour voter

Si vous êtes un électeur admissible et que vous n'avez pas reçu un courriel ou une lettre de Computershare vous donnant les consignes de vote, ou si vous avez besoin d'assistance pour voter ou pour avoir accès au site de vote, veuillez appeler la ligne d'aide de Computershare sans frais à 1 888 344-2805, ou 514 982-2391 de l'extérieur du Canada ou des États-Unis. La ligne d'aide est ouverte du lundi au vendredi, de 8 h 30 à 20 h HAE. Elle ferme à 17 h le 30 avril 2015.

Pour communiquer avec nous

Pour plus de renseignements, veuillez appeler le Barreau au 416 947-3404, 1 877 947-3404 ou communiquer par courriel à bencherelection@lsuc.on.ca.

**X****2015****BENCHER ELECTION
ÉLECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL****List of Candidates by Region / Liste des candidat(e)s par région****Outside Toronto Candidates / Candidats de l'extérieur de Toronto****Central East / Centre-Est**

John Arkelian
Nathan N. Baker
Jay Chauhan
Paul M. Cooper
Dianne G. Corbiere
Doug Downey
Robert F. Evans
Ben V. Hanuka
Deanna L. Sgro
Darryl Singer

Central South / Centre-Sud

Lorraine (Lorrie) Beagan
Janis P. Criger
Ross F. Earnshaw
David W. Howell
Michael B. Lesage
Charles Lugosi
Andrew Spurgeon
Daniel Strigberger

Central West / Centre-Ouest

Kimberly Dustine Graber
M. Virginia MacLean
H. S. (Harry) Mann
Ray Mikkola
Raj Sharda

East / Est

Peter Beach
Les Bunning
Tanya L. Carlton
Lynne Cohen
Paul DioGuardi
Yavar Hameed
Bill Jeffery
Michael M. Johnston
Colin J. Lachance
Dominic J. Lamb
Susan Armatage Richer
Joanne St. Lewis
R. P. (Bob) Tchegus
M. Anne Vespry

Northeast / Nord-Est

Michael Bennett
Jack Braithwaite
Carol Hartman
Susan T. McGrath

Northwest / Nord-Ouest

Fred James Whelan Bickford
Rene Larson

Southwest / Sud-Ouest

Teresa Donnelly
Jacqueline A. Horvat
Michael J. Lamb
Michael M. Lerner
Jerry B. Udell

Toronto Candidates / Candidats de Toronto

Lee Akazaki
Raj Anand
Karen E. Andrews
Renatta Austin
Steven Benmor
Christopher Brett
Alexander Burton-Vulovic
John Callaghan
Henry John Chang
Morris Anthony Chochla
Peter Downard
Rebecca Catherine Durcan
Julian Falconer
Rocco Galati
Eldad Gerb
Avvy Yao-Yao Go

Howard Goldblatt
Shawn L. Graham
Joseph Groia
Alan Heisey
Barbara Hendrickson
Mitchell Kowalski
Janet Leiper
Jeffrey W. Lem
William C. McDowell
Isfahan Merali
Malcolm Mercer
Janet E. Minor
Barbara Murchie
Sandra Y. Nishikawa
Gina Papageorgiou
Dan Revington

Sean Robichaud
Vincenzo (Enzo) Rondinelli
Jeffrey B. Rosekat
Jonathan M. Rosenthal
Douglas Sanderson
Paul B. Schabas
David Smagata
Bob Tarantino
Sidney H. Troister
Susan Jane von Achten
Tanya C. Walker
Peter C. Wardle
Tannis Allison Waugh
John B. West
Heather L. Zordel

Candidates from Outside Toronto

Candidat(e)s de l'extérieur de Toronto



X

2015

BENCHER ELECTION
ÉLECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL





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2015

BENCHER ELECTION

John Arkelian

Central East

johnarkelian@yahoo.com



My professional experience has run the gamut from international diplomacy to courtroom advocacy. I have represented Canada abroad as a diplomat, responsible for political, security, and consular relations. I have advised the Government of Canada on issues of international and constitutional law, co-authored Canada's brief in the infamous Sidney Jaffe international kidnapping case, instructed Canada's delegation to NATO, and drafted both new federal legislation and international treaties. As a Federal Crown Attorney, I conducted criminal prosecutions in Toronto's busiest courtrooms. As a Professor of Law and Journalism, I taught such subjects as defamation, copyright, and criminal procedure. As an award-winning public interest author and journalist, I have written extensively on international relations, public policy, and law reform.

The face the Law Society projects to its members is one of unaccountable and undemocratic governance -- the face of an organization that is impenetrable, heavy-handed, bureaucratic, curt, and coldly unreceptive to input by its members. The Society ought to reinvent itself to present a more humane, collegial face. To start, it should request the government to amend the Society's mandate. In addition to protecting the public interest, the revised mandate should *also* direct the Society to protect the interests of both the legal profession and Law Society members. A paramountcy clause would stipulate that in the event of a conflict between those objectives, protection of the public interest would take priority. The Society's charter should also explicitly state that a key function of Benchers is to serve as representatives of the Society's members, accountable to them (perhaps through some kind of forced recall provision) and readily accessible to their concerns. At present, Society members are without any meaningful input into their own governance. Provision *used* to exist for any member to easily petition Convocation on issues of concern. However, it appears that procedure was quietly discontinued, leaving members without *any* mechanism for getting a complaint, concern, request, or proposal before the body empowered to govern them. Every member should have an *absolute right* to communicate any matter directly to Convocation and to promptly have said matter deliberated upon and decided by Convocation. The Society should abolish its arbitrary and needlessly meddlesome practices: (1) The Society should discontinue recording the names of members *as they appear at christening* and instead rely on members to provide, in good faith, the form of their names by which they are *actually* known. A member's common-use name, combined with their unique membership number is enough to distinguish one member from another. (2) Members should be referred to as *members*, not *licensees*. (3) Members should have the freedom to receive annual report materials, fee billings, and other communication via hard-copy mail. Mandatory e-filing flies in the face of the well-founded qualms some members have about the reliability and privacy of *anything* done online.



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2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Nathan N. Baker

Central East

neumanbaker@yahoo.ca



My practice focuses on criminal defence. I am the past-president of the Peterborough Law Association and continue to work with the County District Law Presidents' Association on their Library Committee.

Professionally, I am a member of the Criminal Lawyers Association and the Advocates Society. I remain active in my community through the Royal Canadian Legion and service on the local hospital's board of directors.

I am involved in rugby across Ontario both through my local club as a player and as a director of Rugby Ontario.

I am a lifetime resident of the Peterborough area, having attended Trent University for undergraduate studies and Queens University for law.

Service is very important to me. I believe strongly that the first responsibility of a bencher is to serve. The Law Society exists to regulate the profession in the public interest but too often the focus seems to be on providing cheaper service rather than better service.

Community – Self-governance exists because lawyers are best suited to ensure access to and competence of the legal profession. Engagement of lawyers needs to be increased. Communication with the profession about the decisions being made is improving but remains far from where it should be to properly involve lawyers in the decisions that affect them. Engaging at a local level through existing forums such as local law libraries and associations can help us better regulate our profession.

Town to City to Province - Many people in our province only see a lawyer once or twice in their life. They often deal with us at very distinct points in their life. What works in one part of Ontario will not work as well in another and making sure that the Law Society is responsible to its membership and the public in all areas is something I am committed to working toward.

Paralegals – Rationalization of the education, training, licensing and scope of paralegals needs to be undertaken. Their scope was defined originally through common practices at the time licensing began. Many were grandfathered in without adequate schooling. The Law Society needs to focus on a rationalization of the scope and training that paralegals require to ensure that the public is receiving proper legal services.

Alternative Business Models - The Law Society is focused very much on alternative business models to help drive cost down for the average person. These models need significant study to determine whether or not they actually provide better service to the public or only the appearance of it.



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2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Peter Beach

East

pbeach@beachmunsterman.com



Peter Beach was called to the Bar at Gray's Inn London in 1970.

From 1970 to 1973 he took a Master's degree in Criminology at the University of Ottawa where he was also President of the Student Federation.

He practiced as a barrister in London from 1974 to 1982, conducting many jury trials including appearing at the Old Bailey. He is still a member of the English Bar.

He was called to the Bar in Ontario in 1984 and has practiced here in criminal law ever since.

He is a member of:
Defense Counsel Association of Ottawa
Criminal Lawyers Association,
County of Carleton Law Association
Advocates' Society

After years of concentrating my energies on my practice, I have recently been galvanized into action by issues that I see as important to the future of the legal profession. I want to play a part in maintaining the viability of the practice of law so that younger lawyers are able to share my pride in being a lawyer.

Some of My Concerns:

Legal Aid

It is crucial that lawyers practicing in areas extensively covered by Legal Aid be properly remunerated. Our justice system depends on a strong, independent bar; the bar can be neither strong nor independent if it is underfunded. The Law Society should be playing an active role in addressing the Legal Aid situation.

Sole Practitioners / Small firms

Having been a practitioner in a small firm for my entire career, I have experienced the many challenges of running a small business. It is vital that members of small firms, particularly those in outlying areas, be adequately represented and be given the support they require to sustain their practices.

Development of the Profession

The issue of articling and the ever-increasing numbers entering the profession needs to be re-addressed. Subsidizing small firms and sole practitioners to hire articling students would encourage them to shoulder this financial burden.

Transparency of the Law Society

The Law Society and its workings should not be a closed book. Convocation and its decisions should be accessible to lawyers and made available via webcast.

What I have to Offer

I have reached the stage in my career where I have the time to take on the responsibilities of a Bencher. I intend to vigorously defend the interests of rank and file members of our profession.

Website and video: www.peterbeach.ca



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2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Lorraine (Lorrie) Beagan

Central South

lorraine.e.beagan@gmail.com



Education:

- Called to Ontario Bar (1980)
- LL.B. from Osgoode Hall Law School (1978)
- B.A. in Psychology, University of Waterloo (1975)

Practice:

- Sole Practitioner (1990 to present)
- Senior Legal Counsel Gore Mutual Insurance Company (1987 – 1990)
- Associate at Haney White Law Firm in Waterloo (1983-1987)
- Associate at Paul M Mann Law Firm (1980 – 1983)

As a sole practitioner (for the last 23 years I have run my own practice and developed a niche practice doing contract work for sole, small, and medium-sized litigation firms), I am invested in reconciling the gap between meeting the public interest mandate and supporting lawyers who struggle with building their practices, while working long hours and maintaining professional standards.

So why run for Bencher now?

When I became a lawyer I put my head down and went to work, and I continue to do so. But I have come to realize that the governance of the profession no longer resonates with me – and if I feel disconnected, what about other practitioners?

Throughout my career, I have made it a point to keep an eye on the future of the profession. Since 2010, I have participated on a committee that sets the exam questions for the Licensing Process, work that helps determine the calibre of the next generation of lawyers. But what about the calibre of the Law Society, our own self regulating body? Through connecting with other lawyers, I found out that many in our profession have concerns.

My aspiration to be a Bencher has arisen from my desire to make a difference to the future of the profession by:

- Delivering on our promise to young lawyers entering the profession.
- Supporting all lawyers while recognizing the unique challenges of sole practitioners and lawyers in small to medium-sized practices.
- Meeting the public interest mandate while meeting the needs of all lawyers.

With your support, I hope to be elected as Bencher so as to be in a position to bring about change in our profession. I will continue to listen to the concerns of my colleagues and put our concerns forward with enthusiasm, passion, and tenacity.



X

2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Michael Bennett

Northeast

ssmlaw@soonet.ca



B.A., M.S.W., LL.B.

Year of Call: 1986. Sole practitioner 25+ years. Civil and criminal litigation. Aboriginal law.

Criminal Lawyers' Association (member and a former Regional Director).

Ontario College of Registered Social Workers (member since 2003), superseding Ont. College of Certified Social Workers (1982-2003, member of College's Governing Council, Discipline Committee, Nominating Committee, etc.).

Algoma University (Sessional faculty, Law and Social Work; member of university Senate); formerly teaching master at St Lawrence College; former Trustee, S,D & G Public School Board.

Published articles in Advocates' Quarterly.

<http://bennett4bencher.ca/>

Who do Benchers Represent?

Since the *Access to Justice Act, 2006* came into effect, the Law Society has been explicitly obliged to "*protect the public interest*" and "*to act so as to facilitate access to justice for the people of Ontario*". In a bencher election, the benchers' constituency is comprised of those people of Ontario excluded from the rights and protections provided for by law. The election determines who will act as benchers to protect those people and who will act to facilitate their "access to justice". Bencher elections are not typical elections -- lawyers don't elect 40 representatives as stand ins for themselves or some other group of lawyers. Lawyers are not themselves usually members of the very constituency on whose behalf votes are solicited by bencher candidates. For example, there is no procedure for the proportional representation of people whose access to justice is frustrated.

Access to Justice?

The Law Society's initiatives to implement "access to justice" concern equity and diversity, alternate business structures, legal education, articling and the law practice program, numbers in the profession, law clinics, civil and family law services, the self-represented, legal aid, professional regulation, professional development and competence. In short, "access to justice" questions cut across the broad range of the Law Society's activities. But what is "justice"? Benchers have had to consider the question in order to fulfill their statutory obligation to try to operationalize accessing it. Talk about "justice" necessarily involves talk about values, ethics, ideology, beliefs, politics. Witness for example the debate about -- (and Convocation's eventual rejection of) -- the accreditation of Trinity Western University. Progress depends upon resisting the temptation to narrowly interpret "justice" as merely formal or procedural justice. In setting goals and building on the significant initiatives already taken, benchers should continue to address awkward questions of justice without the expectation of easy answers. In doing so, they should be mindful of the views, attitudes and preferences of those who elected them.



X

2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Fred James Whelan Bickford

Northwest

fbickfor@wmnlaw.com



- **Birthplace:** Port Arthur, Ontario
- **B.A., M.A., University of Manitoba**
- **LLB (Queens University)**
- **Counsel, Weiler Maloney Nelson**
- **Certified Specialist (Labour Law)**
- **Member, LSUC, Certified Specialist Board**
- **Member, Ontario Bar Association**
- **Member, Board of Directors, Ontario Bar Association**
- **Elected member, OBA Council (2004-2010)**
- **Member, Labour and Employment OBA -Section Committee (2004-2010)**
- **Past Alternate Chair, Ontario Review Board**
- **Advocates' Society**
- **Past Director, Thunder Bay Law Association**
- **Counsel on 55 to 60 reported cases**
- **Editor-in-Chief, Federated Press Legal Journal "Management Rights"**
- **Served, Canadian Armed Forces Camp Valcartier, Quebec, Brigade Signal Squadron and 1st (Parachute) Battalion Royal 22nd Regiment (The "Van Doos")**
- **Honorary Colonel, Lake Superior Scottish Regiment.**

My experience as Counsel in countless hearings across Ontario, is an asset in LSUC's Tribunal and Committee work.

I have experience LSUC needs so Benchers can hit the ground running at Convocation and in Panel and Committee work.

As a member of the Law Society's Labour Law Specialty Board (2004), and as a member of the LSUC's Certified Specialist Board since 2008, I am familiar with many LSUC policies and procedures, and have worked with a number of Benchers.

I am committed to the goal of maximizing access to justice for all Ontarians, particularly in remote regions.

Increasing diversity is, and will continue to be, an area of critical importance and a challenge, to ensure equity and fairness for all lawyers. I am committed to moving forward with current initiatives underway.

I am committed to continuing the Justicia Project relating to the retention and advancement of women lawyers in private practice.

The Treasurer has announced the ABS working group will soon make its interim report to Convocation. I am confident I have the necessary experience, and objective perspective, to play an important part in evaluating the merits of this and related initiatives.

In 2013, the LSUC approved the Law Practice Program (LPP). The program consists of 17 weeks training followed by 17 week practical skills work placement. I am committed to continuing this program.

These and other initiatives require careful balancing of oftentimes diverse interests by thinking outside the box.

I am confident I am up to the challenge to participate in decisions moving our profession forward in these and other areas.

I invite you to visit <http://www.fredbickford.ca> for more information about my campaign.



X

2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Jack Braithwaite

Northeast

jbraithwaite@weaversimmons.com

Election Statement

Dear Colleagues:

I am again seeking your support to be re-elected as a Bencher. My reasons are simple. I am proud of the profession and the dedication of those who make up the profession.

I believe I have brought and continue to bring the necessary ingredients to assist in ensuring the profession continues to strive to achieve its ideals of ultimate service to the community.

In addressing the continued self-regulation of the profession and the future of its growth, I bring the following:

- 1) Past and current Bencher experience;
- 2) Time commitment – I am prepared to put in the time as demonstrated in my past service as Bencher;
- 3) Diversity including:
 - i) Regional representation – practice in the North;
 - ii) Experiential representation – practiced in the South and North (Toronto and Sudbury);
 - iii) Practice representation
 - Practiced in both a relatively small and medium sized boutique firm
 - Practice in a relatively medium/large full service firm;
 - iv) Firm knowledge representation
 - Associate; Partner; Counsel

In consideration of at least the above, I believe I have served our profession well and most importantly, I want to continue to do so in a Bencher capacity.



Jack Braithwaite, B.Sc., B.A., M.A., LL.B

– Counsel, Weaver Simmons LLP

Practice:

-Labour/Employment Law;
(Management) including WSIB; OHSA prosecutions;

- collaborated in writing a leading textbook titled “Canadian Employment Law”

-past Associate Editor of the Dismissal and Employment Law Digest

Memberships:

CBA; OBA; National Bar Association (U.S.); Canadian Association Black Lawyers; Canadian Association of Counsel to Employers; Past Board of Directors, Advocates Society; Past President, Sudbury District Law Association; Past Governing Council, Ontario Chamber of Commerce; Past Board of Directors, Ontario Chamber of Commerce; Past Chair, Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce; Member of Human Resources Professionals Association of Ontario (“HRPAO”) ; CNE, Strategy/Policy/Innovation; Governance Committee; Board of Directors, Weengushk Film Institute; Afro Heritage Association

Other Activities:

-Guest lectures, Laurentian/Western University/Osgoode Hall



X

2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Les Bunning

East

lesbunning@travel-net.com



Called to the Bar in 1981

**Senior Partner, Bunning & Farnand
LLP**

Previous experiences

**Greater Orleans Law Association,
Vice President**

**Carleton County Law Association,
Real Estate committee member**

Instructor, Bar Admission course

**Ottawa Citizen newspaper, Chess
Columnist**

**Chess Federation of Canada,
President**

RCGA, qualified Golf Rules Official

**Board member for several
organisations within the community**

Lawyers with a solicitor's practice and smaller law firms are under represented in convocation and my candidacy seeks to redress this. Currently, I practice in the area of Real Estate, Wills and Estates and previously practised Litigation and Corporate Law. In a previous Bencher election, I was recommended by the now defunct Ontario Real Estate Lawyers Association.

Solicitors involved in real estate transactions use their Personal Security Licence and password to sign off on deeds that are to be registered. If the opposing law office makes minor changes to the deed the solicitor has to re-sign. This causes problems in small offices when the solicitor is not always available. A small change in the Teraview system would make this re-signing unnecessary for minor amendments. If elected I will endeavour to have these changes made.

One of the issues that many small law firms face is where a matter leads to Civil Litigation which does not get resolved and is heading for trial. The Law Society should maintain a list of lawyers willing to step in and take over such cases where a small law firm does not have the resources or the desire to go to trial. This will not only assist younger lawyers seeking to build a practice but assist smaller law firms who do not do trial work.

Our profession faces a number of challenges, in particular as they apply to women with family responsibilities, to sole and small law firms, and to minorities. The Law Society has programs and procedures to help, but in some situations these do not go far enough. I do not advocate increasing the bureaucracy at Osgoode Hall, along with the accompanying expense, but would support a review of our present programs to determine which are the most effective and where the Law Society should be involved.

Being a lawyer is a privileged and prestigious occupation and it is important for the Law Society to maintain our dignity and respect by adopting practices that are in the best interests of the public. Only in this way can we maintain our self-governance.



X

2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Tanya L. Carlton

East

tcarlton@drache.ca



**Associate at Drache Aptowitz LLP
Solicitor - Charity and Not-for-Profit
Law**

Called to the Ontario Bar in 2013

Education:

J.D.: University of Ottawa (2012)

B.Ed.: University of Western Ontario
(1998)

Hon. B.Sc.: Bishop's University
(1997)

Previous Work Experience:

Carters Professional Corporation
Municipal Councillor (Town of
Renfrew)

Secondary School Mathematics and
Chemistry Teacher

Memberships:

Ontario Bar Association

County of Carleton Law Association

Ontario College of Teachers

Community Activities:

Board Member/Secretary of Lupus
Canada (March 2015)

Over the past five to ten years, the Ontario legal community has faced many changes of which, as a relatively new graduate, I have had firsthand knowledge and experience. I have witnessed many of my colleagues having to deal with law school overcrowding, lack of articling positions and lack of employment opportunities, all of which are issues that still have not been fully addressed by the LSUC. The regulation of law in Ontario needs to change and I feel that both my professional and personal experiences would bring a fresh perspective to the LSUC. The following are a few of the areas that I would like to focus on over the next four years:

Law Practice Program (LPP)

The LPP's inaugural year is almost complete and already concerns have been raised by students in regards to high costs and lack of paid positions, issues that the LSUC needs to address in a timely fashion.

This three-year pilot project has been developed to address the lack of articling positions in the province; however, if students cannot afford to participate in the program, the purpose of the LPP is lost. Furthermore, the LSUC needs to address the growing (and troubling) concern among LPP candidates that Ontario is entering a two-tiered system that favours new Calls that have articulated.

Small/Solo-Practitioner Firms

With the collapse of Heenan Blaikie, the future of the "big law" business model is uncertain. More lawyers are turning to small or solo firms either out of choice, or need. The LSUC needs to recognize this changing landscape and create more programs and incentives to assist these lawyers, especially new licensees forced to start their own firm due to the lack of job prospects.

Alternative Business Structures (ABS)

The introduction of ABS is a necessary next step in the evolution of the practice of law. ABS would result in improved access to justice while providing new business and technological opportunities for all lawyers. Nonetheless, the LSUC needs to ensure that the introduction of ABS does not create a legal system where the professional values, for which we are renowned, are compromised.

**X****2015**

BENCHER ELECTION

Jay Chauhan**Central East**bencherselection@jaychauhan.com

2010-2015 Mentorship Group
2010 J.D. Osgoode Hall
2009 Lecture: Fair Trial as a Human Right, University of Saurashtra
2007 Lecture: Law Reform in India, University of Chandigarh
2006 Speech: Canadian Association of South Asian Lawyers
2004 Award for Probono legal writing
1992 Deputy Judge, Richmond Hill
1990s Probono Legal Aid Lawyer, Catholic Community Services
1982 Advocate, Bar Council of Gujarat
1981 Founding member, Indo Canada Chamber of Commerce
1980-1983 Chairman Ontario CBA for Law Office Economics & Management
1980 Advisory committee, Seneca College
1980 Director, Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce
1972 Called to the Bar, LSUC
1970 LL.B., Osgoode Hall
1967 Master's, Development Economics, Berlin
1965 Called to the Bar, Lincoln's Inn, UK
1962 B.Sc. (Econ) L.S.E.

My name is Jay Chauhan. I am looking for your vote as a Bencher in 2015 for the Law Society of Upper Canada.

I have practiced 42 years as a lawyer in Richmond Hill, Ontario, and have been a Deputy Judge in this town for 22 years.

During the last 20 years the profession has accepted more women and minorities into the profession and we need to address this issue to provide opportunities for the new groups in the profession.

I would urge you to look at the report of Josée Bouchard of the Law Society on the Law Society website to understand the problems encountered by the minorities in obtaining articling positions and job opportunities and in starting their practices. We need changes in attitude and acceptance for the new groups both in the profession at large and also at the Law Society.

I would like to work on improving articling opportunities for these groups and use a mentorship programme as a method of providing opportunities for the new groups in the profession.

Our profession has established its fine traditions over 200 years in Ontario.

As the profession evolves, all qualified graduates, including women and minorities, should be given the opportunity to article in a law office. The mentorship programme should be enhanced to provide networking and practice launching support.



X

2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Lynne Cohen

East

lynnebenami@rogers.com



B.A. (Hons). Pol. Sci. Carleton-1981
Journalism - One Year Degree
Program, Carleton 1983; LL.B.
University of Ottawa 1993; called to
the bar 1995
freelance journalist/columnist 1979-
present (more than 40 publications,
beginning with Inuvik Drum, NWT)
author 2 books 2012, 2014; law
teacher, private high school, grades
11 & 12, 2008-2009; feature writer,
Canadian Lawyer 1998-2004;
Lawyers Weekly, Law Times, 1998-
2004; Ottawa Citizen freelance
columnist 1997-2012; Law
columnist: Medical Post, 1996-1998
and National Report, 2002-2003;
articling student: Lawrence
Greenspon, 1994;
Carleton lecturer, BJ, MJ students,
1990-1991; awards,
accomplishments: Hawaii Ironman
Triathlon, completed 1985;
American Embassy Book Award,
nominated by political science
department 1981; Rachel Edwards
Memorial Award for student
journalism, 1984; hobbies: writing
book reviews, Masters competitive
swimming; condominium president
2011-2014

Unlike other candidates, my career focus, both before and after being called to the bar, has been journalism. I have written about the law as well as corollary issues lawyers face as *lawyers* every day in both their professional and private lives. As such, I believe that **I would bring a fresh and unique perspective** to the position of Bencher. Some of the issues that are of particular interest to me are:

1. **Alternate Business Structures:** Last year's discussion paper observed that "The Internet has changed the game – and the public's expectations – with regard to legal services." The growth in unregulated legal service providers in Ontario is an indication that consumer demand is not being met by traditional practices. Rather than opposing the trend and constraining innovation, I believe the LSUC should embrace and lead it.
2. **Reputation:** Too many people believe the LSUC exists to promote and protect the interests of lawyers rather than the general public. I believe that more must be done to educate the public on the LSUC's true and indispensable role as protector of the *public* interest.
3. **Pathways:** This program must be evaluated to ensure that its participants are as ready for the bar as their counterparts in the traditional program. Furthermore, I believe that the Society should be prepared, if necessary, to explore other ways of addressing the scarcity of articling positions. Possible solutions may be allowing articling in other provinces, or delaying articling for a year while still training by using, for example, computer courses. We need to be flexible in our thinking and approach to alleviating these problems.
4. **Access to Justice:** This is a major concern that the LSUC has yet to adequately confront, as evidenced by the growth in unregulated service providers and self-representation. Many lawyers provide services *pro bono*, but I am not convinced that this is a major solution and I oppose pressuring lawyers to provide more. The ideas in the TAG report are a good start, especially in the area of process and procedure, which I believe are badly in need of reform.



X

2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Paul M. Cooper

Central East

paul@330u.ca



ABOUT ME:

Graduated Osgoode Hall Law School, 1990
Called to Ontario Bar February, 1992
Standing Agent of the Attorney General of Canada – DOJ, 1994-2000
Small firm practitioner – 23 years
Criminal lawyer
Creator of the “Garage Series” CPD

MEMBERSHIPS:

York Region Law Association
Toronto Lawyers Association
Criminal Lawyers’ Association
Ontario Bar Association

STRONGER BAR - STRONGER REPRESENTATION

The strength and reputation of our profession rests upon education, mentorship, diversity and the ability to adapt to the needs of our members. As our profession grows, we face new challenges including the retention of women, and the embracing of diversity amongst our colleagues. Access to justice can be achieved through the promotion of the small firm and sole practitioners throughout Ontario. Creating programs which support our members’ needs is essential, not only in the form of educational programs, but programs which cover exit strategy, parental leaves, mental health issues, and leaves of absence. It is only through the support of strong advocacy, with the support of our members, that the Law Society can serve the public.

STRONG RECORD

My practice has touched on almost every aspect of criminal litigation. I have appeared in all levels of Court throughout Ontario as well as the Supreme Court. I have also acted as a Federal Crown Attorney. As a small firm practitioner, I understand the challenges of practicing law and managing your own business. I am committed to ensuring that the needs and voices of small firms and sole practitioners are heard.

STRONG MENTOR

Education is essential to continued success in our profession and to honour and maintain our profession’s reputation. I am a frequent speaker and contributor at CPD engagements. However, my greatest pride comes from an initiative I pioneered in 2010 called the “Garage Series”. The aim of the “Garage Series” is to deliver high quality CPD seminars in the Ethics and Practice of Criminal Law. The series is free and open to Criminal Defence Practitioners, Crown Attorneys and Judges, and its goal is to engage new members and mentors. With more than 40 prominent speakers, and 18 programs since its inception, I have created and hosted this grassroots program to connect and educate junior counsel, help those struggling in practice, and to give back to our legal community.

STRONG PLATFORM, visit www.votecooper.ca



X

2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Dianne G. Corbiere

Central East

dgcorbiere@nncfirm.ca



Background

Born and raised on Manitoulin Island
Living in Minesing with her husband
and two children.

Education

LL.B. University of Toronto Faculty of
Law, 1996, HBSW., Laurentian
University

Practice

Managing Partner,
Nahwegahbow Corbiere

www.nncfirm.ca, Aboriginal law,
specializing in Treaty and Aboriginal
rights for First Nations. I represent
First Nations in Ontario, Quebec and
Alberta.

Professional Service

President and Board Member
Indigenous Bar Association in Canada
(2000-2005)

Chair of the National Secretariat on
Hate and Racism Canada (2003-2006)

Memberships

Indigenous Bar Association in Canada
Advocates' Society
Simcoe County Law Association

CLE

Lecture and author Aboriginal law
papers and presentations regarding
Indigenous law and Indigenous
peoples

Honours/Awards

Canada's Top 25 most Influential
lawyers, Changemaker (*Canadian
Lawyer*, August 2012);
Indigenous Peoples' Counsel, 2013

As past President of the Indigenous Bar Association in Canada and Chair of the National Secretariat Against Hate & Racism in Canada, I have assisted both Aboriginal communities and diverse ethno-racial and faith-based communities of Canada to develop a national common effort on promoting access to justice, equity and diversity in the legal system, and fighting racism and discrimination in Canada.

A lack of access to justice for Ontarians continues to be an issue, specifically for Aboriginal people, low income Ontarians, and increasing numbers of underrepresented parties, especially in rural and northern communities across Ontario. Greater support for Legal Aid Ontario is essential in this regard, but more is needed.

I commend the work that the Law Society has done on the retention of women in the profession, the challenges for racialized licensees and other important initiatives. As someone who works to affect change, I will contribute to the development of innovative solutions to **improve and promote access to justice** for all underserved communities by contribution to the work already underway and with other partners. The Law Society should also engage itself to ensure a balance between security and fundamental freedoms, especially with respect to legal rights and administration of justice. I will also promote making the civil justice trial process more accessible, efficient, and less costly.

As a partner in a small law firm serving First Nation clients across Ontario and Canada, I understand and appreciate the challenges that exist for **sole and small firm practitioners**. While local bar associations continue to provide their members access to library, research and other supports, I believe the Law Society and other partners in the justice system can do more to improve services offered to our practitioners.

Finally, I am committed to further strengthening the programs and supports available to licensing candidates and lawyers and to addressing the issue of racialized licencees. Our ability as a profession to continue to self-regulate and serve the public relies on sound **professional development and competence programs**. This means further enhancing affordable and accessible CPD, and improving mentorship for licensing candidates and new lawyers.



X

2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Janis P. Criger

Central South

jpcriger@crigerlaw.com



Called to the Bar in 1985

**Sole Practitioner since 1995,
practicing personal injury law in
Hamilton, Ontario.**

**Deputy Judge of the Hamilton Small
Claims Court since 1996.**

Member:

**Hamilton Law Association (Trustee)
Advocates' Society
Ontario Deputy Judges
Association (Secretary)
Hamilton Jewish Federation (Chair,
Administration)**

I have been a sole practitioner for the past 20 years. Here are my positions on the major issues facing Convocation for the next term.

Alternative Business Structures: This is the major issue to be debated in the upcoming Benchers term. Careful consideration, full discussion and thorough analysis are required before the Law Society can decide what Alternative Business Structures, if any, are appropriate. I will assure that thorough analysis and careful consideration occur as I do not support Alternative Business Structures.

County Law Libraries: Funding is an ongoing concern. County Law Libraries are a vital resource and need the Law Society's vigorous support. I will be a voice for that support.

Law Practice Programme: The programme itself is well-run and intensive. It will be important to measure the results, and assure that candidates graduating from the programme are able to take their place in our profession. I will support the effort to provide alternate pathways to professional accreditation.

Racialized Licensees: I support full inclusion of all qualified practitioners in our profession. I will support any effort to assure that racialized practitioners do not continue to suffer barriers to entry or advancement in our profession.

Access to Justice: The Law Society must continue working with other providers in the justice system to see that individuals needing legal assistance have the ability to retain a lawyer.

I am retiring from active law practice on July 31, 2015. I will continue to sit as a Deputy Judge about 2 days monthly, leaving ample time to devote to the affairs of Convocation.



X

2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Paul DioGuardi

East

Talktome@PaulDioGuardiForLSUCbencher.ca



- Co-Founder DioGuardi Tax Law
- Offices in Ottawa, Toronto, Mississauga
- Born in Ottawa
- Called to the Ontario Bar 1966
- Queen's Counsel
- Member British Columbia Bar and Turks and Caicos Islands Bar
- B.A. University of Ottawa
- Graduate Queen's Law, Kingston
- Tax Counsel, Ottawa Head Office, Department of National Revenue
- Tax Litigation Counsel at Department of Justice (Ottawa Head Office)
- Private tax and litigation practice including criminal tax defense
- Author of three books:
Tax Amnesty: Avoiding the Tax Trap (2004); *The Taxman is Watching: What Canadians Need to Know and Fear* (Harper Collins 2008); *Never Smile At A Crocodile: Confessions Of A Tax Traveller* (2014).

A VOICE FOR THE SMALL PRACTITIONER

I believe that the regulation of the profession should give equal voice to small practitioners, whose experience and practice is very different from the large firms. If elected as a Bencher, I will undertake to speak for the small practitioner, and to bring forward issues of particular relevance to our practices.

More Transparency, Less Bureaucracy

If we wish to retain the privilege of self-governance – a privilege by no means guaranteed to us – we must dial back the bureaucracy that has overtaken our original purpose, which is regulation of lawyers, by lawyers, for improvement of the profession and protection of the public interest. As a Bencher I will be an advocate for greater transparency in the processes and protocols of the Law Society.

Proactive Policy Review for Changing Conditions of Practice

Some law practices, more often the small firms, are developing new structures to better serve the public. The Law Society must be open to policy review, and other shifts in its traditional regulation of the profession, to address changing conditions of practice for the profession. As a Bencher I will work to establish an Ombudsperson role to assist Members in presenting recommendations for policy review and change.

Complaint Process Jeopardizes Clients' Right to Privilege

The public is unaware that filing a complaint against a lawyer exposes them to possible loss of privilege and professional secrecy if the matter goes to discipline. Protection of personal details from public exposure is fundamental for those who engage the services of a lawyer. As a Bencher I will undertake to revise policy and practice in the complaints process to ensure complainants are made fully aware of the risk of public exposure and loss of lawyer/client confidentiality before the Law Society accepts the complaint.

I have been a Member of our Law Society for 49 years. Should it be your wish, it would be my honour to represent you as a Bencher in the service of the Law Society.

I invite you to share your comments, concerns, and support for my candidacy. Email me at Talktome@PaulDioGuardiForLSUCbencher.ca



X

2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Teresa Donnelly

Southwest

Teresa.donnelly@ontario.ca

I believe in the dignity and integrity of the legal profession and our obligation to ensure all members honour it.



Called to the Bar 1991

Employment

- Crown Attorney, Huron County 2011-present
- Assistant Crown Attorney, 1994-2011
- Associate Lawyer, Siskind, Cromarty, Ivey and Dowler, 1993-1994
- Research Assistant/ Lawyer, Sarnia Judicial Inquiry, 1993
- Research Lawyer/Law Clerk, Ontario Court (General Division), Southwest Region 1991-1993.

Memberships

- Advocates' Society
- Huron Law Association
- Senior Association of Crown Attorneys

Community Work

Contributing to the lives of children, the elderly, and people with developmental disabilities.

Priorities for our profession include:

- Embracing the opportunities and confronting the challenges of technology and globalization;
- Ensuring that we are promoting diversity, equality and inclusiveness by continuing the work of the *Challenges Faced by Racialized Licensees Working Group*;
- Continuing the discussion on Alternative Business Practices;
- Ensuring that candidates in the *Lawyer Licensing Process* have opportunities to launch their legal careers by access to experiential training through either the Articling Program or the Law Practice Program; and
- Improving Access to Justice – many people including low or middle income earners, vulnerable populations, First Nations peoples, members of diverse communities, and members of rural communities are unable to access our justice system. For those who are able to access justice, in many cases it is costly, inefficient, unnecessarily complex and filled with delays. We are failing some citizens and in a profession that strives for justice, this is not acceptable. We must implement strategies and innovations to overcome barriers to access to justice.

I am a proud member of a legal family and a third generation lawyer. My grandfather, Frank, and my father, James, were both privileged to serve as Supreme Court of Ontario Justices. I aim to continue the family tradition of public service and dedication to the legal profession.

I am honoured that my nominators are:

- My four brothers – Mike Donnelly: a criminal lawyer in Goderich; Dan Donnelly: lawyer working at Scotiabank in Toronto; Tom Donnelly: an insurance lawyer in Toronto; Pat Donnelly: lawyer at HudBay Minerals in Toronto.
- My husband - Mike Murdoch: Crown Attorney for Perth County.
- My brother-in-law - Scott Stoll: an energy lawyer at Aird & Berlis Toronto.



X

2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Doug Downey

Central East

ddowney@greatlaw.ca



Practice located in Orillia, Ontario

Certified Specialist in Real Estate

Secretary/Treasurer (5 years) with Ontario Bar Association

Treasurer's Appointee to Review Library Info Support Services

Chief Volunteer for Law Practice Program

Chair, Panel on the Future of the Trent Severn Waterway

Member, Provincial Expert Panel on the Regulation of Home Inspectors

First national non-metro Top 40 under 40 lawyer

Bertha Wilson Honour Society

Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal

2008 Simcoe County 'Lawyer of the Year'

Through my volunteer roles with the Law Society and OBA I have endeavoured to advance the interests of the public and our profession. The public interest and the interest of the profession are not mutually exclusive. Both are enhanced by an independent and self-governing profession. I request your vote so that I may continue these efforts.

Alternative Business Structures

We have already brought market forces to bear on the cost and delivery of legal services in real estate, wills and estates, and basic corporate law. There is competition. There is choice. Costs are accessible.

The starting point of a discussion on innovation needs to be 'what standards we will change to allow innovation'. Lawyers are innovators but we have constraints. Third party business interests will demand change after they are authorized. I see no compelling reason to facilitate alternative business structures for non-members of our profession.

Access to Justice

As an advocate of improving access to justice, this does not mean encouraging an increase in self-representation. I have an M.A. in Judicial Administration and I have several ideas on why we should 'focus on the web and not on the spider'. We need to take a serious systemic approach to this issue and avoid unintended consequences.

Law Practice Program (alternative to traditional articling)

Practical training is crucial. Being involved in the LPP from conception to execution, I would like to follow through by monitoring this important three year trial program.

Law Libraries

Library & Information Support Services are over 14% of the LSUC budget. As part of the Review Team appointed by the Treasurer I remain an advocate for local and regional libraries, and the delivery of cost effective services.

Please see my website for my full positions: www.dougdowney.ca



X

2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Ross F. Earnshaw

Central South

ross.earnshaw@gowlings.com



Personal:

Age: 62
Hometown: St. Thomas, Ontario
Location: Region of Waterloo

Education: A. Mus. (piano), UWO, 1973
B. Sc., York U., 1974
LL.B., Osgoode Hall, 1977

Practice:

1979: Called to Ontario Bar
1979-86: Litigation associate and partner('84) with Simmers, Edwards, Jenkins, Cambridge, Ontario

1986-

Present: Gowlings equity partner, commercial litigation practice (more at www.gowlings.com)

Professional – Recent Accomplishments:

- Past President (2003 – 2005) of 560 member Waterloo Region Law Association
- Coulter A. Osborne Award recipient (2009) (more at [\[Coulter Osborne Award\]](#))
- Gowlings Associate Mentorship Award (2010)
- LSUC Bencher 2012 - present

I am an experienced Bencher with a proven track record of commitment to the duties and responsibilities of a Bencher. There are many reasons to cast your ballot to **RE-ELECT** me for a second term in the coming Bencher Election. Here are three:

LIBRARIES: Last June the Library Information and Support Services ("LISS") working group report was released [\[LISS Report\]](#). It galvanized CDLPA, TLA and LSUC, shareholders of LibraryCo [\[www.libraryco.ca\]](http://www.libraryco.ca), to initiate a sea change in the corporation last autumn. Visionary transformation of LibraryCo is now being undertaken under the direction of a newly minted Board of Directors. I have served on the Board both before and after delivery of the LISS report. Janet Whitehead, Chair of the LibraryCo Board and past president of CDLPA, nominated me as a candidate in this election.

REAL ESTATE PRACTITIONERS: The November 2013 CDLPA plenary passed a resolution calling for the Law Society to address issues identified by the real estate bar as challenges to the survival and prosperity of solicitors practising in that field of specialty. Such solicitors are disproportionately represented by sole practitioners and small firms, especially in rural Ontario. Treasurer Conway responded by establishing the Real Estate Liaison Group ("RELG") and appointing me as its Chair. I have worked closely with RELG, consisting of representatives of CDLPA, the OBA, LawPRO and the Law Society. RELG has completed the first phase of its mandate [\[Report to Plenary\]](#) and will continue under my chairmanship during 2015.

ALTERNATIVE BUSINESS STRUCTURES ("ABS"): There has been a Law Society working group studying this complex and important issue since 2012 but it has come to the forefront with the profession at large since the release of the Discussion Paper [\[ABS Discussion Paper\]](#). Last September Treasurer Minor made several additional appointments to the working group, including me. The study of ABS by the Law Society will continue through much of the upcoming Bencher term. I am determined to maintain an open mind on the subject. I will advocate for working towards an informed debate following careful deliberations and thoughtful analysis of input from the profession and the public.



X

2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Robert F. Evans

Central East

bob@evansevans.ca



**University of Toronto B.A. 1961
Osgoode Hall Law School LL.B.
1964, LL.M. 1981
Called to the Bar 1966
Queen's Counsel 1981
Senior member of Evans & Evans,
Bradford, a family firm dating back
to 1894
Real estate, wills and estates,
corporate and commercial practice
President of York Region Law
Association 1976- 1978
Member of Council of CBA 1985 -
1990
Member of OBA Institute Committee
1986- 1990
Past President of Bradford Rotary
Club 1973 - 1974
Paul Harris Fellow (Rotary) 1984
Trustee of Simcoe County District
School Board 1991 - 2000
Chairman and Founding Member
Bradford West Gwillimbury &
District Community Foundation
Bencher since 2011
Married to Janet Evans, 4 children,
15 grandchildren**

I have been in general practice in Bradford (at the south end of Simcoe County) since 1966. My work has been mainly on the solicitor side, in real estate, corporate and commercial, wills and powers of attorney, and estates. It has been my privilege to work with long-time clients of our firm as well as with newcomers to our area.

I have been a Bencher since 2011. I have served on the following Committees: Access to Justice, Professional Regulation, Paralegal Standing, and Audit. I have been on the Board of LawPRO for 3 ½ years and serve on the Investment Committee. I have taken an active part in the Committees, in Convocation, and in the LawPRO Board meetings, and as a panel member in disciplinary proceedings.

The opportunity of working with many wonderful people at the Law Society is very rewarding. I salute my friend 12 year Bencher Alan Silverstein, an expert in real estate law, who has been very generous in sharing his knowledge with the profession.

I am passionate about children and endeavour to represent their interest in discussions involving separation and divorce in the Access to Justice Committee. I also support initiatives for the retention of women and for the promotion of the diverse minority groups in our profession.

I am proud to be a lawyer, not just a licensee, as we are referred to in government documentation. I would be honoured to continue to represent you as a Bencher at the Law Society.

I extend my best wishes to the candidates in the Bencher Election and to the members of our profession throughout Ontario.

**X****2015**

BENCHER ELECTION

Kimberly Dustine Graber**Central West**

Kim0305@rogers.com



Having been born and raised in the GTA, it was an adventure to move to London, Ontario for my undergraduate and legal education at the University of Western Ontario. Later, I gained insight into private practice at both a larger firm and a small firm in London.

After having my wonderful daughter, I moved back to the GTA to pursue a career in-house. My first in-house counsel position was with a small, highly regulated organization and the second (and current) position overseeing the Canadian legal department for a large, global group of companies.

When I am not enjoying time with my family, I love the movies and try not to let a TIFF go by without a visit or two.

I am excited to bring an open-mind and a thirst for the knowledge on all sides of an issue to a position as LSUC Benchers.

I bring a well-rounded resume consisting of experience gained in both private practice and in-house settings as well as in urban and rural areas. These roles have spanned from articling student to management. I will use this experience to see the issues before me through a variety of lenses before casting any vote.

Since being called to the Bar, I have completed an MBA degree which has led to an active curiosity about the business side of the practice of law. I have also engaged in volunteer work as a vice-president and board member on the board of a London charity. This effort opened my eyes to the work, commitment and personal rewards involved when one pledges her or himself to committee and board endeavours such as those presented to Benchers.

The issues to be addressed by Convocation over the coming term are numerous and varied. I feel strongly about improving access to justice in the province as well as ensuring that any new alternative business models adequately balance the needs of the public with those of the profession.

My legal career thus far has been almost as rewarding as being a parent. I understand the challenges involved for today's practitioners in attempting to balance the demands of a career with those of a personal life. I look forward to giving back to the legal community as Benchers for the upcoming term. Thank you for your consideration.



X

2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Yavar Hameed

East

yhameed@hf-law.ca



Education:

Called to Ontario Bar (2001)
BA Hon U of Alberta (1995);
LL.B. U of Ottawa (1999);
M.A. (International Affairs) Carleton University (2001)

Focus of Practice: www.hf-law.ca

Human Rights and social justice law practitioner based in Ottawa for 14 years. Currently working in the association of Hameed & Farrokhzad (since 2009). Cases include: national security law, constitutional litigation, anti-poverty law, human rights law, transfer of offenders, immigration security certificates, criminal defense of protestors, police abuse/ accountability cases.

Sessional Lecturer: Dept of Laws, Carleton University (since 2007)

Community Involvement:

Organizer, A2Justice Coalition
Editorial Board member, Voices Project on Dissent, Democracy and the Law
Provides legal support and advice to grassroots social justice organizations in Ontario and Quebec

We must respond to the access to justice crisis in Ontario at its root.

This means going beyond simply producing more lawyers and regulating them more efficiently. Certainly, creating greater equity in our self-regulation is important; however, it does not necessarily mean that we will prioritize and more effectively address the needs of marginalized groups. We need to envision a renewed Law Society - one not based on rhetorical interest in access to justice; but rather, one that actualizes the principles of social justice that led many of us to become members of this profession. We must foster lawyers committed to working with marginalized communities while vigorously advocating for public funding of such work. But can we address structural oppression, while social justice lawyers are encumbered by insurmountable debt?

I am running for bencher based on the following platform of social justice priorities that I intend to pursue if elected:

1. To advocate for enhanced LAO coverage in areas of civil concern, (including human rights and equality law), while maintaining and enhancing LAO coverage in existing areas;
2. To lobby for increased provincial and federal test case litigation funding;
3. To partner with law schools to create new shared models of education that offer practicums during 3 year JD program at legal clinics/ community-based organizations that will count towards articling and will replace need for the current pilot LPP program;
4. To strategize on building more sustainable faculty supervised legal clinics housed within law schools that provide legal training, advocacy and public interest intervention;
5. To review findings of the 2014 LSSO study and conduct a further province-wide law student consultation/ survey to design a concrete action plan for making law school tuition proportionate to ability to pay.

New lawyers and students are speaking out about the need for such priorities, but the Law Society has not been hearing them. The strength of our profession comes from our ability to facilitate transformative social change. If social justice is what we believe in, let the Law Society stand for it.

Visit my platform at A2Justice.ca or tweet [@yavar_hameed](https://twitter.com/yavar_hameed)



X

2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Ben V. Hanuka

Central East

ben@lawworks.ca



- LL.B. (Osgoode), 1996
- Ontario Bar, 1998
- LL.M. Candidate (Osgoode)
- Recognized in Lexpert® (Franchise Law)
- Practised at mid-size and boutique firms; currently sole practitioner in Vaughan
- Contributor, Huffington Post
- Technology Columnist, Canadian Lawyer Magazine
- Member of Executive, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (Toronto)
- Founding Chair, OBA Joint Subcommittee on Franchising
- Chair of Prof. Dev., OBA, 2005-06
- Chair, Civ. Lit. Sec, OBA, 2004-05
- Member, RSJ's Toronto Motions Committee, 2003-04
- Member, Federal Court Bench & Bar Liaison Committee, 2002-04
- Instructor, Civ. Lit., BAC, 2004
- BAC Review Focus Group, 2004
- Quoted frequently in legal media
- Authored published articles
- Counsel in reported decisions
- Presented at many CLE programs

We should be making it easier for lawyers to run their practices. We must strengthen the trust of the public and the profession in our ability to self-govern (see <http://lawworks.ca/ben-for-bencher/>):

1. *Competency and Diversity* – (a) raising entrance standards, and (b) promoting diversity through broader mentorship and engagement.
2. *Smarter Policing* – focusing our investigative and prosecutorial efforts on serious offenders.
3. *ABS* – except for family non-voting shares, opposing broad ownership of firms by non-lawyers.
4. *Technology* – helping lawyers with better access to technology.
5. *Collections* – amending the *Solicitors Act* so lawyers may also pursue unpaid accounts in the Small Claims Court.

Representative Endorsements (see <http://lawworks.ca/ben-for-bencher/endorsements/>):

Ben is acutely aware that diversity and excellence are complementary objectives in a bar that will best serve the public interest. I am delighted to endorse his candidacy. RAJ ANAND, L.S.M., Bencher (2007, 2011)

Our profession is now under scrutiny and attack from many sources. It is now changing weekly, unheard of just a short few years ago. I have known Ben for some years now and he, in my opinion, can and will react quickly and keep on any matter until it is resolved. This is what is so very important. I have absolutely no reservation about endorsing his candidacy. DAVID I. BRISTOW, Q.C., L.S.M., C.Arb.

Ben Hanuka is well able to distinguish what is baby and what is bath water, and as my grandma used to say, 'Soon begun is sooner done.' Ben is not a blame-thrower, he'll put his back into his job as a Bencher – he's a guy where, were he an archeologist, he'd dig down until the whole ancient city was excavated. EUGENE MEEHAN, Q.C., LL.B., LL.M., LL.B., D.C.L., Former President, Canadian Bar Association

**X****2015**

BENCHER ELECTION

Carol Hartman**Northeast**

hartmanc@millermaki.com

**Biographical Data**

Born, Sudbury
Called to the Bar of Ontario 1987
Partner, Miller Maki LLP
Practice, Family Law
Former Chair LSUC Finance Committee
Former Co-Chair LSUC Audit & Finance Committee
Currently Vice-Chair Strategic Planning Group
Former Executive member of the County & District Law Presidents' Association (CDLPA)
Former President of the Sudbury & District Law Association (SDLA)
Former Chair of the Sudbury Regional Hospital
Former President CKLU 96.7FM
Former board member Family Enrichment Centre
Member of the SDLA; Canadian & Ontario Bar Associations; Women's Law Association Ontario; The Advocates' Society;
Membre de l'Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Ontario

Election Statement

I am seeking re-election as a Bencher from outside Toronto and I ask again for your support.

Over the next 4 years, Convocation will address a number of pressing issues. My priorities will be strategic planning and access to justice.

I am excited to be Vice-Chair of the Priority Planning Committee's Strategic Planning Steering Group. Our Treasurer, Janet Minor, is Chair of the Group.

Following this April's Bencher election, a planning session will be held to set the priorities for the 2015-2019 Bencher term. The inaugural Steering Group, after consultation with all Benchers, will develop the process and agenda for the September 2015 session. Following this session, the Steering Group will consider and will make recommendations with respect to the ability of the Law Society to address these priorities.

Having practiced family law exclusively for more than 25 years, I am keenly aware that family law is the leading access to justice problem in Ontario. More than 50% of people in need of family law services are unable to afford them. Self-representation is rarely by choice, it is most commonly by necessity.

Convocation is supporting the Law Society's role as facilitator of the Action Group on Access to Justice (TAG). By supporting TAG it is evident that we can talk the talk but it is now time for us to walk the talk. We must be pro-active in developing solutions to improve access to Justice. If we fail to deliver, we run the risk of the public losing faith in our profession.

I ask for your support to help me steer priorities that will preserve a strong and independent profession.

**X****2015**

BENCHER ELECTION

Jacqueline A. Horvat**Southwest**jhorvat@strosbergco.com

ASSOCIATE PARTNER:
Sutts, Strosberg LLP

BORN AND RAISED:
Windsor, Ontario

CALLED TO THE ONTARIO BAR:
2002

LL.B.: University of Windsor

LITIGATOR:
Class Actions
Corporate/Commercial
Bankruptcy and Insolvency
Counsel to the former Attorney
General of Ontario at the Ipperwash
Inquiry
Appeared before the Court of
Appeal for Ontario, Divisional Court
of Ontario, Ontario Superior Court
of Justice and Registrar in
Bankruptcy

MEMBER:
Essex County Law Association
The Advocates Society
Ontario Bar Association

THE LAST FOUR YEARS

I was privileged to be elected as a bencher in 2011. Over the last 4 years I served as Chair of Interjurisdictional Mobility Committee; Vice-Chair of Professional Development & Competence Committee; Member of the Alternative Business Structures (ABS) Working Group, Articling Task Force, Professional Authorization Committee, Professional Regulation Committee, Paralegal Standing Committee, Priority and Planning Committee, and Mentoring Task Force; and as a director of LibraryCo.

I am most proud of my work on the Articling Task Force where I co-authored the Minority Report and voted against the LPP structure. I am also grateful that I had the opportunity to vote against the accreditation of Trinity Western University (TWU) in Ontario.

ALTERNATIVE BUSINESS STRUCTURES (ABS)

As a member of the ABS Working Group I share the concerns expressed by many of you. I also recognize that much of what is of concern about ABS is already being practiced in Ontario in indirect ways. I believe that we must be at the forefront in regulating it. The process has only begun and I seek the opportunity to complete the work I have started as a member of the ABS Working Group.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

One of the core values the LSUC must promote is greater and more affordable access to legal services for the public, regardless of income bracket or geographical location. To ensure that the legal system works for everyone, we must support sole practitioners and small firms across all of Ontario who dedicate their practices to public interest work.

FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

The fees charged place a financial burden on many members of our profession. The LSUC must work efficiently to avoid unnecessary expenditures and unduly high fees.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT
WWW.JACQUELINEHORVAT.CA



X

2015

BENCHER ELECTION

David W. Howell

Central South

dhowell@esblawyers.com



- Born and raised in Hamilton
- Called to the bar 1985
- Solicitor (Business Law, Tax)
- Evans Sweeny Bordin LLP

Professional Activities:

- President, Hamilton Law Association (2013-2014)
- Member, County and District Law Presidents Association
- Founding Chair, Corporate Commercial Committee (HLA)
- Co-Chair Annual Business Law Seminar (HLA)
- Seminar Instructor, Tutor, BAC
- President, Estate Planners Council of Hamilton

Community Involvement:

- Director, Royal Botanical Gardens
- Director, Hamilton Health Sciences Foundation
- Director, Hamilton Civic Hospitals Foundation
- Ontario Volunteer Service Award

Why I am running to be a Benchers

Our profession plays a vital role in making our society prosperous and just. We have the privilege of self-regulation and the opportunity to make our profession stronger and our contribution greater. An effective and strong profession requires lawyers who are fulfilled, respected and successful.

After 30 years as a hard-working lawyer, I have the experience, ability and enthusiasm to advance those interests.

Hamilton Lawyer, Solicitor

I have practised as a solicitor at big and small firms in both Toronto and Hamilton. I bring the perspective and skills of a business and tax lawyer. I am a practical and thoughtful problem solver.

Hamilton Law Association - Endorsement

My work as a Trustee and President of the **Hamilton Law Association**, and as a member of the **County and District Law Presidents' Association**, has given me the opportunity to be engaged in many of the issues facing our profession. **Issues in the counties and districts** will receive my special attention. I am honoured that the Hamilton Law Association has endorsed my candidacy.

Issues

- I promise to be a **problem solver** to find solutions that work for lawyers and the public.
- **Access to Justice** is a key issue without one size fits all solutions. Legal aid is an important ingredient. I will work to find access remedies.
- **Library funding** is important to lawyers and **local law associations**. County libraries and related services provide vital support to lawyers.
- **Alternative Business Structures** with non-lawyer ownership could threaten core values such as independence and professionalism. There is an absence of empirical evidence that non-lawyer ownership will achieve public interest goals.
- We must strive to achieve **diversity** and to provide **equal access** and **opportunity** for everyone.
- I ask for your support and vote.
- Visit my website: www.HowellforBencher.ca



X

2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Bill Jeffery

East

jefferyb@istar.ca



Bill Jeffery, BA, LLB,
National Coordinator,
Centre for Science in the Public
Interest

- articulated, Public Interest Advocacy Centre;
- member/consultative status,
 - United Nations Economic and Social Council, and Codex Alimentarius Commission,
 - Minister of Health's Sodium Working Group, and Trans Fat Task Force,
 - Law Commission of Ontario's Community Council;
- oral arguments at:
 - 12 legislative committees,
 - 100 speeches in 40 cities;
- comments/research published in *The Lancet*, the *European Journal on Risk Regulation*, *Loyola of Los Angeles Law Review*, *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, *World Encyclopedia of Food Policy*, etc.;
- 1,000 comments in news media;
- led 12 joint-statements of more than 200 Canadian groups in total; and
- hosted nine conferences with 170 experts and 1,000 registrants in total.

I will make equity, fairness, transparency, and frugality my watchwords and deliberate using conscientious straight talk and a bit of humour.

1. IMPROVING ACCESS TO JUSTICE:

I am running on an access to justice platform to help inspire the public and soon-to-be-new federal government to support adequate funding for legal aid, and to convert the thematic remit in the provincial AG's mandate letter into real change for Ontarians.

- a) **Unrepresented litigants epitomize unfairness in a system so complex that it presumes the involvement of lawyers:** Equality, fairness and the rule of law have become indulgences of the rich, powerful, extremely poor, and those lucky enough to be spared family discord, unscrupulous landlords, wrongful dismissal, mental or physical illness, victimization by crime, and risk of incarceration or deportation. Children, the environment, and consumers are nearly always vulnerable to asymmetric power relations. Justice McMurtry reported that nearly half of low- and middle-income Ontarians experience a justiciable event in any three year period. For all its laws, the federal government pays only \$3 per capita annually for legal aid in Ontario. The much larger provincial contribution still falls far short of needs. Resemblance to days before Medicare—once controversial, now sacrosanct—warrants strategic reflection.
- b) **Efficiency:** Convocation should champion regulations, rules, and incentives to promote transparency, use of efficient technologies, timely dispute resolution, and conflict prevention.
- c) **Momentum:** The chief justices of every court helped coalesce views in the professional and The Action Group on Access to Justice promises community mobilization.

2. OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES:

- a) **Education:** CLE, articling and mentoring opportunities should be more responsive to needs and flexible (e.g., with video archives that can be accessed at any time, on-line chat).
- b) **Equity groups and retention of women:** The bar should exemplify the values its members champion for clients. *Justicia* and the *Diversity and Inclusion Charter* show promise. So might a computer matching system for cross-cultural mentorship.
- c) **Demographic Realities:** The greying bar raises concerns about wellness, group pension options, workforce replacement, and preparation to serve many older clients. Comprehensive (compared to PLAP) parental lawyer/paralegal program might help retain women.



X

2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Michael M. Johnston

East

mike@stewartcorbett.com



**Born and raised in Brockville
B.A. (History) 1969, Western Ontario
LL.B., 1972, Queen's University
Called to Bar, 1974**

**Partner, Stewart Corbett (Brockville)
general practice with emphasis in
real estate, wills, trusts, estate
administration, corporate and
commercial**

Married with two grown sons

**Past President of Leeds and
Grenville Law Association (2001 –
2003) – current member
County and District Law Presidents
Association (CDLPA)**

- **Chair (2011-2012)**
- **Executive Member (2003-2014)**
- **Chair or member of various committees including Real Estate and Succession Planning**

**LibraryCo – member of Board of
Directors (2004 – 2011), member of
Finance and Audit Committee**

Since my call to the Bar, 41 years ago, my general practice has evolved from one which included criminal, civil and family litigation, to one which is almost exclusively a solicitor's. As a result, I am concerned with the under representation of solicitors at Convocation, particularly on discipline proceedings.

During the period of time that I was an Executive member and Chair of the CDLPA, and a Board member of Library Co, I gained a greater appreciation of the importance of being a member of a self-regulating profession. I was part of two organizations that were consulted and worked with Law Society staff and Benchers on many issues such as the funding of law libraries, the delivery of legal information, the regulation, education and licensing of lawyers and paralegals, succession planning, the challenges to sole practitioners, small firms and women in the practice, real estate issues and membership assistance. Although the mandate of the Law Society is to regulate our profession in the public interest, there are many aspects of regulation that are largely unknown to our members and yet benefit lawyers and paralegals. With this experience, I believe that if I am elected as Benchers, I will be able to make a valuable contribution to many Law Society programs and committees.

I maintain an open mind with respect to the proposed Alternate Business Structures. However, I believe that the Law Society should move forward cautiously, if at all, because of potential conflicts and regulatory issues.

I have been a strong advocate for the retention of our existing law library system across the Province. Law Libraries have become more than just a research facility – they are practice resource centres and an integral part of all law associations.

Throughout my years of practice, I have seen the increasing difficulty that many Ontarians have obtaining access to justice. I have always been a strong advocate for a property funded Legal Aid Plan and I am prepared to commit myself to working for other solutions.

I am respectfully asking for your support in this upcoming election.



X

2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Colin J. Lachance

East

vote@colinlachance.ca



CEO, CanLII
(April 2011 to April 2015)

2014 – Top 25 Most Influential –
Canadian Lawyer Magazine

2014 – Legal Rebel – American Bar
Association Journal

2014 – Do Law Differently featured
professional – CBA

2013 – legal innovator – Fastcase 50

2013 – LL.M. (concentration in Law
and Technology) UOttawa

Called – 2004 (Ontario)
Called – 1998 (Alberta)

1997 – LL.B. - UAlberta

1994 – B.Comm. (hons.) –
UManitoba

Married father of 4 - ages 18, 15, 15
and 15 (yes...triplets)

2019

Think ahead. This is more than a 2015 election. It is about regulation of the legal profession in the public interest in 2019 and beyond.

The Benchers we elect this spring will make decisions for *the next four years*. Moreover, the priorities they adopt and the events they set in motion will carry significant influence well beyond that date.

We must equip the Law Society with a governance team that can honour the past, serve the present and create the future. We need a diversity of experience, function and perspective. If I am among the forty Benchers elected by the profession, I believe that through my experience (CanLII CEO, lobbyist, technology marketing director, regulatory lawyer, internet policy advocate) and perspective, I will make unique and valuable contributions as the Law Society pursues its mandate during these rapidly changing times.

As you build that diverse group, I ask for but one of your forty votes.

My priorities

In my years leading CanLII, I developed a passion for access to justice and legal technology matters. If elected, it is in support of bringing improvements in these areas – for the profession and in the public interest – that I hope to make my greatest contribution.

For more about me and my priorities, please visit www.colinlachance.ca or <http://ca.linkedin.com/in/colinlachance>

Your priorities

I want you to tell me. Now, and if I'm elected, often.

Let's talk:

Twitter @ColinLachance

Email: vote@colinlachance.ca

Phone 613-316-3290



X

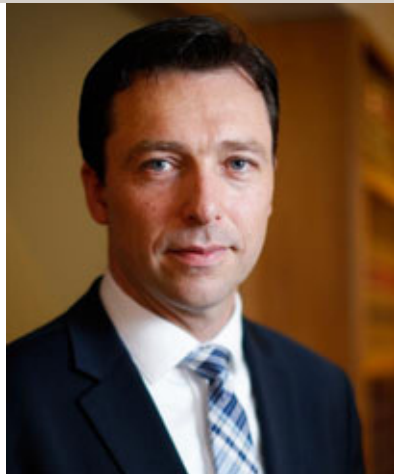
2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Dominic J. Lamb

East

dominic@edelsonlaw.ca



Called to the Bar of Ontario 2001.

Certified Specialist – Criminal Law.

**Edelson Clifford D'Angelo Friedman
2009 – present.**

Sole practitioner 2002-2009.

**Vice President: Defence Counsel
Association of Ottawa (DCAO) 2012-
2014.**

Treasurer: DCAO 2010-2012.

Director DCAO 2008-2010.

Junior Director: DCAO 2006-2008.

**Treasurer, Collaborative Justice
Program 2014 – present.**

www.dominiclamb.com

New voices bring fresh ideas. I seek election because I believe the regulation of the profession needs to reflect the demographics of the profession. I was a sole practitioner for many years and have now practiced in a small firm for the past six years. Through my work in the wider legal community, I have been actively engaged in several key issues that would continue to be priorities for me if elected.

Continuing Professional Development: Accessible, Affordable and Province Wide

Those who need it the most are those who can least afford it. 31% of complaints against lawyers in 2013 were against those with less than 5 years experience. The Law Society took in revenue of \$8 million from CPD programming in 2013. During my eight years on the Executive of the Defence Counsel Association of Ottawa, I made CPD a key priority by helping to introduce cost-recovery based programming, as well as a two day intensive advocacy program. This program, which was offered in both English and French, was open to junior counsel from across Eastern and Northern Ontario. It was free, including travel costs. Quality CPD delivered across the province, at a reasonable cost, will benefit both the profession and the public.

Access to Justice

Great lawyers give back to their communities – that is what we do when we act *pro bono publico*, whether volunteering our expertise in the courts and in the larger community, or accepting legal aid certificates. The latter is a great example of a public-private partnership that works. Improving and expanding these programs is the solution to current access issues, not the introduction of a costly public defender office.

Retention of women in the profession

The criminal bar is ground zero for the exodus of women from private practice – it is, however, a problem that unfortunately exists across the profession. The current trends are extremely troubling, both for the profession and the public. I strongly believe that the Law Society can and should play a greater role in addressing this crisis.

**X****2015**

BENCHER ELECTION

Michael J. Lamb**Southwest**

LAMBLAW@on.aibn.com



**1985 J.D. (converted from LL.B.)
Western University**

1986 Called to the Bar of Ontario

**1992 –present Adjunct Professor of
Real Estate Law, Faculty of Law,
Western.**

**Former Vice-Chair of Real Estate
Specialist Committee, Law Society**

Member, Middlesex Law Association

**Member & Past President, Canadian
Condominium Institute(London
Chapter)**

I have no doubt that many lawyers reading this statement are in the same boat as I am!

A sole practitioner dealing mainly with solicitor work such as Real Estate and Wills and Estates. It is a constant challenge to provide professional and competent services to clients while at the same time juggling office expenses, staff and other financial obligations in the expectation of making a reasonable income for one self.

Notwithstanding that sole practitioners form the biggest constituency of members of the Law Society we have the smallest voice at Convocation. It is no wonder that there is a common perception amongst that group that the practical and professional concerns of sole practitioners are not addressed effectively. Those concerns become of greater urgency with the current discussions of alternative business models which may very well be detrimental to the viability of sole practice in the future.

I have had the pleasure of serving the public as a Solicitor since 1986 and in sole practice at my present location since 1993 and my ability to do so is partly due to the efforts of fellow lawyers who have served as benchers of what is in essence OUR Society.

It seems to me that it is time for me to step forward and offer my time and effort to you as a bencher and bring a voice to convocation that might otherwise not be heard. I ask for your vote on April 30th 2015. Even if you prefer another candidate I urge you to at least VOTE!

Thank you for taking time to read this statement.



X

2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Rene Larson

Northwest

Rene.Larson@renelarson.com



Born in Kenora ON

**Married to Leslie Walker Larson
Three children, Amy, Lisa & Cole
Four g-c, Nick, Kaleb, Keira, Alli**

**Lakehead University Hon. BA
(Economics) 1969
Osgoode Hall Law School, York
University J.D. 1973**

**Called to Bar March 20, 1975
40th year of law practice**

**Currently sole practitioner with 5
associate lawyers, 1 paralegal, 1
LPP Student, 10 administrative staff**

**Served 8 years as City Councilor in
Thunder Bay; Numerous community
boards**

**Currently Vice President of Thunder
Bay Law Association & attending
CDLPA meetings regularly**

I come from the solicitor side of the bar, practicing primarily in the areas of wills, powers of attorney, estates, real estate, corporate-commercial, municipal, land development and employment law. I have in the last 15+ years broadened my practice to include civil litigation in the above areas, so I am not a stranger in Small Claims and Superior Court proceedings, and with even a few cases in Divisional Court, Court of Appeal and Federal Court. I have practiced for forty years in a firm of less than 6 lawyers, and will bring a sole practitioner, small law firm and solicitor perspective and focus to benchers duties & activities. I will work with the bureaucracy at Osgoode Hall on responsiveness to licensee inquiries and keeping annual fees low.

I do not support the implementation of Alternative Business Structures (ABS) being studied by the benchers, and believe that opening the doors to non-lawyer ownership will destroy our profession without advancing the public's access to justice, and without fulfilling unmet legal needs of the public.

I believe that allowing ABS in Ontario would be an irreversible step that the profession would not recover from, and would destroy many smaller law practices that were unable to sell out to the national and international accounting and legal firms, title insurance companies, insurance companies, and maybe even grocery/drug stores.

I believe that the strength of the Ontario legal profession's ability to service the public in Ontario is based upon the independence, professionalism and ethics of individual lawyers, soles and small firms, and the fiercely competitive legal market which exists when many soles and small firms are offering services to the public.

There is insufficient empirical evidence from other jurisdictions where ABS has been implemented to demonstrate that ABS will benefit the public and meet identified unmet legal needs in Ontario. I believe that there are unexplored options other than ABS to help Ontario lawyers develop innovative, more effective and competitive practices to benefit the public and to satisfy identified but unmet legal needs in Ontario.



X

2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Michael M. Lerner

Southwest

mmmlerner@lerner.ca



EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL

- University of Western Ontario, Bachelor of Arts (1967)
- University of Western Ontario, Bachelor of Laws (1972)
- Called to the Bar (Ontario) (1974)
- Partner Lawyer, Lerner LLP
- Lecturer, Fanshawe College
- Adjunct Professor, Western Law 2015
- Middlesex Law Association, Member President 1988
- Advocates' Society
- Canadian Bar Association
- Bencher, Law Society of Upper Canada

COMMUNITY BOARDS, PAST AND PRESENT

- Outstanding Young Londoner 1984
- Past-President, Masonville Ratepayers Association
- Counsel, Royal Canadian Legion Poppy Fund
- Past-President, Canadian Club of London
- London Humane Society
- Merrymount Children's Foundation
- Ronald McDonald House Advisory Board
- Foundation for Gene & Cell Foundation
- Board Member, London Health Sciences Centre
- Chair, Children's Health Foundation
- Vice-Chair, Ontario Human Rights Tribunal
- Board of Governors, Western University 2014 - present

I have had the privilege of serving the Law Society and the profession for the past four years as the Senior Regional Bencher for the south-west region. I am proud of my near-perfect attendance at both Convocation and in Committee. I have served as a member of several Committees; including, Finance (supporting close scrutiny of all Law Society expenses), Professional Development & Competency (PD&C), and Access to Justice. I am presently the co-Chair of the Law Society Foundation. I am committed to making the profession better and to enhancing its reputation in the community. In the 2011 election, I identified accountability and transparency as important issues and believe that the last four years have clearly demonstrated progress with regard to both. There is more work to be done.

Going forward, the practice of law is likely to dramatically change. Alternate Business Structures (ABS), Access to Justice, and legal education and licensing are priority issues. For the time being, I have adopted "uninformed opposition" to ABS as currently proposed; however, I believe a closer look is required. To me, the reported results of similar programs in Australia and the UK are inconclusive. I am particularly concerned how ABS will impact sole and small practitioners, particularly those in small urban and rural communities.

I am mindful of the Law Society's mandate to the public in the licensing of new lawyers. I believe that licensing candidates ought to be subjected to real and meaningful testing of their core competencies before being permitted to practice.

While currently a partner of a full-service regional firm, I have had the opportunity to practice as a sole practitioner in a branch office location. My experience in that environment makes me acutely aware of the unique issues that a sole or small group practitioner faces on a daily basis and with the knowledge from that experience feel qualified to represent the interest of those practitioners before Convocation.

I ask for your support to continue the work that has been done over the past four years and would be honoured to continue to serve my colleagues.



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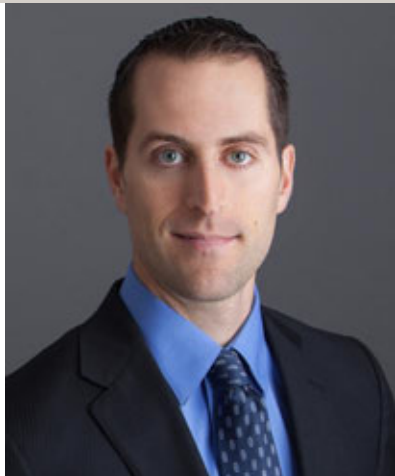
2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Michael B. Lesage

Central South

michael@michaelsfirm.ca



Originally from Brampton and a graduate of the University of Western Ontario, I'm now proud to call the Niagara Region Home.

First licensed in Florida in 2006, my legal background is largely litigation based. Including clerkships during law school, I have worked in 5 law firms, in 3 separate jurisdictions.

I've just opened my own law firm, creatively named "Michael's Law Firm." It's been a great experience, and helped me appreciate the issues facing sole practitioners and smaller firms.

In my spare time, I like to spend time with family, bike around the Old Town, play hockey, squash and a ski a few days a year. I also love visiting friends' cottages during the summer.

I'm running as a Reform candidate to improve the function of the legal system in Ontario. If elected, I will press for change in the following areas:

1. The time has come for electronic filing of Court documents. Many US jurisdictions have had electronic filing for 10-15 years, which includes the ability to file, view and print documents from the Court file. It's time Ontario caught up.
2. Certain Rules of Civil Procedure discourage actions from proceeding through the system in a timely manner, namely, the rule prohibiting discovery after a case has been noticed for trial, and the rules governing (providing for) interlocutory appeals.
3. It should be possible, indeed preferable, for counsel to be able to attend routine hearings and motions by phone, with calls initiated by the Judges and/or Masters. Such an action would reduce the amount of time wasted waiting in Court, or traveling to routine hearings.
4. Additionally, I believe that LSUC should begin to obtain performance metrics on Judges, Masters and the Court system in general, essentially, through the use of "customer satisfaction surveys." Such surveys would provide objective evidence of those areas requiring improvement.
5. Further, LSUC needs to be made more responsive to the needs of sole practitioners, small and mid-sized firms. This includes a focus on reducing costs to such firms, i.e. reducing excessive paperwork requirements (i.e. for routine motions), long lines at the Court office, to examining the impact of market saturation, the illicit payment of referral fees and the impacts of lawyer advertising.
6. If you have further ideas on how LSUC could actually help you practice law, please feel free to email me your comments, ideas, and suggestions.



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2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Charles Lugosi

Central South

charles@lugosi-law.com



Charles Lugosi was born and raised in Brantford Ontario. He has a JD from Western, and a Master of Law, a Master of Bioethics, and a Doctor of Juridical Science from the University of Pennsylvania. Charles was a law professor in Michigan, Florida, Ontario and Tennessee over eight years, and published 14 law review articles in five years. Previously, Charles practiced mostly criminal law, generally murder cases, throughout British Columbia. Currently Charles is a sole practitioner, and practices family, constitutional, administrative, immigration and criminal law. Charles has achieved success in both the US Supreme Court and the Supreme Court of Canada. Charles is active as a single father and does pro bono work for disabled people.

See: www.lugosi-law.com

I am concerned about: the needs of sole practitioners; issues pertaining to civility; the negative impact a 13% HST tax has on access to legal services for individuals; the inadequate resources provided by Legal Aid to enable full answer and defense in criminal cases; and the budget cuts in rural libraries, including the recent elimination of free remote access to Lexis computer assisted legal research from the Toolkit of Legal Resources upon which sole practitioners heavily depend; and the loss of articling jobs in rural Ontario where there is need for young lawyers.

I would like to: establish bench/bar functions and conferences; decentralize CLE seminars throughout the province; and provide mentorship to sole practitioners. I would like to reinstate free remote access to a full Toolkit of Legal Resources. I would like to begin a debate as to whether gowning for court should be abolished in all trials. I would like to see legal expenses in criminal, family and immigration law matters be made tax deductible for individuals, to improve access to justice; cases be called with priority given to senior counsel, as determined by date of call to the Bar; live television broadcasts of trials and appeals; and a weekly TV show hosted by the Law Society, updating the public on the latest cases that advance the law. A Practice Advisor should be available in person on a drop in basis. I would like to see that all future appointments for Justice of the Peace have a law degree, and have practiced law in Ontario courts for 8 of the last 10 years.

I believe in a strong independent self-regulating bar that is integral to the rule of law. I am open-minded on all current issues and willing to embrace new ideas and discard any of my ideas if I am persuaded a better idea is presented. I will listen to you if you take the time to contact me. My commitment to you is to strengthen the practice of law as a profession, put client interests first, promote legal ethics and inspire public confidence in our profession.



X

2015

BENCHER ELECTION

M. Virginia MacLean

Central West

Virginia@viriniamaclean.com



Sole practitioner, Certified Specialist Municipal Law-Local Government/Land Use Planning and Development Law practiced in public sector, large and boutique law firms.

Ontario Bar Association past president, Director the Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History, member Advocates' Society, Halton County Law Association, Northumberland Law Associations, Ontario Bar Association, Women's Law Association of Ontario.

Lectured and authored municipal law papers, co-authored The Ontario Municipal Act, A Comprehensive Guide, Forms & Precedents: Land Development and A Users Guide to Municipal By-laws.

Linda Adlam Manning Award (OBA)(2006), Law Society Medal 2010

Called to the Bar of Ontario, 1969 LL.B., Osgoode Hall Law School, 1967 Queen's Counsel, 1982

Certified Specialist, 2006

Who am I

I am seeking re-election as an outside Toronto Bencher (Central West Region)

Why I am seeking re-election for a second term

My first term was an exciting learning experience. My second term will be an opportunity to increase my contribution. With paralegal Benchers, lay Benchers, lay adjudicators and 500 or so staff, one lawyer Bencher cannot make a difference alone. We must work together. I appreciate the key issues and players. I believe that I can continue to make a difference if I am re-elected.

Why Vote for Me?

I am dedicated to our profession, hardworking, a good listener, a consensus builder, and tenacious. Being a bencher is a substantial time commitment. I will spend the time required. I have kept up my practice as a sole practitioner while performing Bencher duties without support from an assistant.

My main goal in the last election was a leaner and more transparent Law Society. The Law Society has a new CEO. There is a greater recognition of the need for transparency in governance. Room for progress remains. I will continue to advocate for this.

My goals that remain unaddressed are attracting younger lawyers to smaller communities and lawyer pensions. Small communities need lawyers of all ages and diversity. Most lawyers are sole practitioners or in small law firms, so the Law Society must move on pensions. Many lawyers continue to practice beyond traditional retirement.

What lies ahead?

The Treasurer's focus for the next term is: Diversity in the profession, the Law Practice Program, Access to Justice and Alternative Business Structures. I will work with the other Benchers on these and the other ongoing challenges faced by the Law Society.

Please vote for me to continue my work on your behalf and in the public interest.

My Website is <http://www.viriniamaclean.com/>



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2015

BENCHER ELECTION

H.S. (Harry) Mann

Central West

hsm@mannlaw.ca



PERSONAL & PROFESSIONAL:

- Founding Partner of Mann Law Barristers & Solicitors
- Called to Ontario Bar in 1992
- Previously practised in India from 1983 to 1988
- LL.B.: University of Western Ontario (1991)
- LL.B.: Punjabi University (1982)
- Married and father of two children (one lawyer)
- 32 years legal experience: Litigation, Family, Corporate Commercial and Immigration
- Inquiry Officer – Expropriations

ACTIVITIES:

- President, Board of Directors of Peel Children's Aid Society
- Director of Sikh Foundation of Canada
- Past Director and Chairman of United Way of Peel Region
- Past Director: Peel Law Association
- Past President: South Asian Lawyers Association
- Presenter: NFP Boards - Institute of Corporate Directors
- Speaker: Educational and Social Forums
- Recipient of Golden Jubilee and Diamond Jubilee Medals of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Colleagues and Friends,

I am running for Bencher to not only take the voice of sole or small firm practitioners to Convocation, but also of those who are facing barriers due to racial, gender, ethnicity or demographic factors. I believe I have the experience and ability to effectively contribute to address the challenges faced by all members.

While going through the process for internationally trained lawyers, I received another law degree in Canada in 1991 and have since practiced as a sole practitioner and then in a small firm for over 22 years in Ontario. Being a racialized licensee, I have endured and dealt with the challenges still faced by many of my colleagues today.

Challenges such as those faced by trailblazers like Delos Davis in 1880, Kew Dock Yip in 1945 and by Syed Mumtaz Ali in 1962 are to some extent currently pervading.

The consultation paper very recently prepared by LSUC on Addressing Challenges Faced by Racialized Licensees clearly acknowledges the issues and seeks suggestions to address them.

I recently attended a session organized to follow up on the consultation paper and realized that there needs to be experienced and effective representation from the racialized group amongst the Benchers to bring about real change.

The Law Society governs in the interest of the public. Having more resources and support available to sole practitioners and small firm lawyers allows for more competent and effective legal service being available to the public. We know from research that a large majority of racialized lawyers practice as sole practitioners or in small firms. They are also more at risk of complaints.

Internationally trained lawyers also face many challenges similar to racialized lawyers, including finding articling positions.

Addressing all of these issues effectively at Convocation is important not only for the Licensees, but also for the public. As you will see from my Personal and Professional Activities, I have extensive experience dealing with these issues as a practitioner and the skills and experience of being involved in governing roles to be an effective Bencher.



X

2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Susan T. McGrath

Northeast

mcgrath@nt.net



Sole Practitioner Iroquois Falls
 1981-2015
Benchers North East Region
 2007-2015
Chair of LawPro
 2012-2015
Co-Chair of A.B.S. Working Group
Past Chair
 Compensation Fund Committee
 Interjurisdictional Mobility Committee
Vice-Chair
 Paralegal Standing Committee
Member
 Priority Planning Committee
 Government & Public Affairs
 Alliance for Sustainable Legal Aid
 Strategic Planning Working Group
 Unbundling Working Group
President Cochrane Law Association
 1982-1984
CDLPA Representative
 1982-1984, 1996-2000
OCL Personal Rights Panel
 1986-2000
Legal Aid Area Committee
 1980-1988, 1992-2010
President Ontario Bar Association
 1999-2000
President Canadian Bar Association
 2004-2005
CBA Conflicts of Interest Task Force

I believe that I have the experience, commitment and dedication necessary to continue to serve your interests as a Benchers. I have served as your Benchers in various capacities over the last 8 years and would be honoured to be elected to continue to do so.

I have served as Chair of LawPro, Co-Chair of the Alternative Business Structures Working Group, Vice-Chair of the Paralegal Standing Committee, Past Chair of the Compensation Fund Committee and Interjurisdictional Mobility Committee, a member of Priority Planning, and Government and Public Relations Committees, the Alliance for Sustainable Legal Aid, Strategic Planning Working Group, and Unbundling Working Group.

I am committed to the following initiatives:

1. The investment of time, services and financial resources to provide the support and assistance necessary to respond to the unique needs of solo and small firms.
2. Promoting and supporting measures that will maintain and improve the viability of our practices.
3. Maintaining the high level of integrity of the legal profession necessary to provide public confidence in the legal profession.
4. Strengthening the competency measures required to be entitled to continue to practice.
5. Advocating for adequate funding for legal aid, both at the provincial and federal levels.
6. Continuing the gathering of data and information on A.B.S., analyzing the results and continuing the dialogue with the professions on whether the Law Society should approve a model of A.B.S. that is tailored to the unique needs of our professions in Ontario, and which will preserve our professionalism and independence.
7. Vigilance to protect the independence of the profession and, as a necessary component of that independence, the self-regulation of the profession.
8. Continuing to work on access to justice issues, particularly focused on maintaining practices in smaller communities to ensure that access to justice is available to the public locally.
9. Ongoing liaison and discussion with the provincial and federal governments to further the goals and the mandate of the Law Society.
10. Listening to your concerns, issues, and ideas, and taking the appropriate steps to respond to them.

I ask for your support.



X

2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Ray Mikkola

Central West

rmikkola@pallettvalo.com



Partner, Pallett Valo LLP, since 2004

Associate and Partner, FMC (now Dentons), to 2004

1983 BA (Econ. and History) and 1986 LLB: University of Toronto

Canadian Forces Decoration (with bar) and Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal

Long Service Medal, Last Post Fund of Canada

Past Chair, CBA National Real Property Section, and current Executive Committee member

Executive Committee Member, OBA Real Property Section

Editor, Abstract Page (OBA)

Editor, CBA Real Property Section Newsletter

I have a broad solicitor's practice, often requiring the involvement of other lawyers from a variety of other practice areas.

I am currently a partner at Pallett Valo LLP in Mississauga. Most recently (until 2004) I practiced as a partner with Fraser Milner Casgrain (now Dentons) LLP.

I have been very active in the legal community since my call to the Bar in 1988. I am past Chair of the CBA National Real Property Section, and I continue to be on the Executive Committee of both the CBA and OBA Real Property Sections. I have for several years been the editor of both the OBA and CBA Real Property Section newsletters. I write widely for and have been interviewed by a variety of publications including Law Times and the Lawyers Weekly, and I have been a regular contributor to the annual Document Registration Guide, published by LexisNexis.

I am a regular speaker at OBA, CBA and LSUC CPD programs, including the LSUC Real Estate Summit, and am a past chair of the OBA Real Estate Institute. I am fiercely proud of our profession.

I am a former member (26 years' service) of the Canadian Armed Forces, having retired as Commanding Officer of the 7th Toronto Regiment RCA in 2003 in the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

This election is of seminal importance to the profession and to the public. In particular, how Convocation deals with such issues as Alternative Business Structures, Access to Justice, and the Law Practice Program will have far ranging consequences for everyone. The involvement of solicitors in addressing these issues is of paramount importance to us all. Please go to www.raymikkola.com for my thoughts and positions on these and other matters.

It would be my honour to serve as a Bencher. Thank you for your consideration of my candidacy. Please call or email me any time.

Ray



X

2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Susan Armatage Richer

East

susanricher@gmail.com



Background

- Married with two grown children
- Called to the bar in 1979
- In practice with my husband focusing on criminal law

The Law Society

- Bencher since November 2010
- Member of Professional Regulation (vice chair), Access to Justice, and Equity and Aboriginal Affairs committees
- Challenges Facing Racialized Licensees working group
- Active and enthusiastic participant in bencher duties

Professional Associations

- County of Carleton Law Association
- Criminal Lawyers' Association
- Defence Counsel Association of Ottawa
- Women's Law Association of Ontario

As a bencher, I am willing to speak up about the issues that matter. There are many new challenges facing the legal profession in Ontario and we must be prepared to meet them. There is a lot of work to be done.

Legal Aid

A strong Legal Aid plan, which includes certificates to the lawyer of choice, is essential to a balanced criminal justice system and a free and democratic society.

Small and Sole Practitioners

Lawyers and paralegals in small practices should have access to education and practice assistance at a reasonable cost. Local libraries must continue to be available as places to meet and share ideas with colleagues as well as to conduct research.

Les Droits Linguistiques

Je continuerai de faire valoir les droits aux services en français devant les tribunaux et par le Barreau du Haut-Canada.

Equity and Diversity

People from all walks of life should be able to succeed in our profession - but for this to happen, it's important we identify any systemic issues impeding this goal and take steps to rectify them.

Discipline Hearings

Although no longer mandatory for benchers, I consider this an important duty and will continue to approach hearings with fairness and empathy.

The Future of the Profession

The legal profession is changing and so are expectations surrounding what a work life should look like. It's important that young people see law as a worthwhile career choice - and we need to ensure that they aren't mistaken. At the heart of it all is the need for lawyers and paralegals to be competent, enjoy their work, and be able to earn a living.

What I have to Offer

I am enthusiastic, tenacious, and practical. I have the time and energy to work to improve the profession for us all. My web site is susanricher.com



X

2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Deanna L. Sgro

Central East

deanna.sgro@affglo.com



EDUCATION

2012 LLM Osgoode Hall Law School
Specialization in Civil Litigation and
Dispute Resolution

1994 Called to the Bar

Recipient of a share of The
International Lawyers Plaque and The
Herbert Egerton Harris Advocacy
Scholarship for the student attaining
the highest grade in civil litigation
during the Bar Admission Course.

1992 JD, Osgoode Hall Law School

1989 HBA, York University

EXPERIENCE

**2006-Present: Affinity Global,
General Counsel**

**1999-2006 TCR, General Counsel,
1996-1999 Province of Ontario, MBS
1994-1996 James and Associates**

**Law Help Ontario Volunteer at both
the Small Claims Court and Superior
Court.**

I am enthusiastic to put my name forward for the first time to represent my colleagues as a bencher in Ontario. In consideration of my candidacy for bencher the following represents the three areas where I believe I could contribute the most and briefly why:

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

I have had the pleasure of volunteering for Law Help Ontario at both the Superior Court and Small Claims Court since 2011. I am a strong believer in the program and recognize this as just one of many ways we encourage access to justice in Ontario. I am committed to improving access for the benefit of all Ontarians and our members.

DISCIPLINARY PROCESS

I would like to become engaged in an effective review of the LSUC disciplinary process. I believe I am in an exceptional position to help steer the LSUC in the direction of improved efficiencies for members based on direct past experiences I have had. I would be mindful of our duty to the public while advancing the protection of members as well. I would want to see improvement in communication and transparency for our members. The use and application of resources and expenditures supported by our dues would also benefit from additional evaluation and review I believe.

EXPERIENCE OF WOMEN IN LAW

I have been practicing law in Ontario for over 20 years, most recently in my maiden name "Sgro" and previously in my married name "Natale". I am married to a lawyer who is a partner at a downtown firm. We are the proud parents of two children. I understand what it was like and is like to be a mother, spouse and lawyer in private practice and in an in-house role. I believe my direct experience would be valuable to various concerns within the practice relating to women and those either in private practice or in an in-house role.

I hope you will consider supporting me as a Bencher in the upcoming election. I can assure you I will endeavor to make a difference. For more information email me at deanna.sgro@affglo.com or call me at 9052582829.



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2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Raj Sharda

Central West

shardalaw@bellnet.ca



Education

LL.B. University of Ottawa 1994

McMaster University

B. A. Gerontology 1990

B. A. Hons. Political Science 1989

LSUC, Barrister & Solicitor 1996

Solicitor, England and Wales 2000

Professional

Sharda Law 2005–present

Adjudicator, Consent and Capacity

Board of Ontario 2002-2008

Ron. E. Folkes Barristers and

Solicitors, 1997-2005

Crown Counsel, Office of the Public

Guardian and Trustee, Ontario 1996

Legal Community Service

OBA Council Central West Rep 2014-2016

Co-Chair RODA Roundtable on Diversity Associations 2013-present

Mentor LSUC & OBA

President, Peel Law Association 2011-2012

President, Canadian Association of South Asian Lawyers 2012-2013

Vice-Chair, Peel Family Mediation Services 2010-present

Member, PJEN 2010-present

Director, Advocacy Centre for the Elderly 1996-2004

Experience

Since 1996, I have practiced law with government, a small firm and currently as a sole practitioner. My legal practice is focused upon Family, Criminal, Real Estate, Civil Litigation, Corporate and Commercial law. Collectively these experiences allow me to appreciate the challenges faced by a broad spectrum of lawyers. This plurality of vision is important for a benchers to address both the common and the unique needs of all our lawyer members.

For over 25 years I have taken on leadership accountabilities in legal and non-legal organizations in Peel, Toronto, Halton, Hamilton and Ottawa. This has ranged from serving as President of the Peel Law Association, President of the Halton Multicultural Council, Director of the Advocacy Centre for the Elderly and leadership roles with the United Way of Oakville.

I am a mentor with the LSUC and the OBA and I am a member of the OBA, The Advocates Society, TLA, HCLA, PLA, CASAL and SABA.

I am a person who commits my time, passion and experience to make an impact. I focus on being a good listener, a bridge-builder, a balanced decision-maker, and above all, someone who gets things done.

Having roots in the Canadian, British, and East-Indian cultures, I understand issues from many perspectives. I speak Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu. This ability to understand diverse communities is an asset which I believe can enrich my perspective and decision-making as a Benchers.

Focus Areas

In my view, issues which require thoughtful attention and proactive action on the part of Benchers include:

- Addressing the barriers to effective and efficient legal practices and services to the public
- Facilitating access to justice through the development of functional policies and initiatives
- Strengthening the relationship between Lawyers, Paralegals and the Law Society of Upper Canada

I believe that my legal experience, my dedicated leadership with legal and community organizations and business skills, will enable me as a Benchers to strengthen and uphold the Law Society's mandate and principles for the benefit of all Ontarians.

I thank you for this opportunity to serve you and humbly ask you for your vote.



X

2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Darryl Singer

Central East

darryl@darrylsinger.com



I have practised civil litigation for 21 years, as sole practitioner, at small and mid-sized firms, and in-house, until I started my own 6 person firm 5 years ago.

I see being a Bencher as a natural evolution of my demonstrated commitment to the profession.

I have taught at the Bar Admission Course; Ryerson's LPP; George Brown College; LSG College of Law; as well as been a frequent speaker at CPD seminars.

I am a peer mentor and board member of Lawyers Helping Lawyers, devoted to assisting licensees in crisis due to mental health and substance abuse issues. I also act as pro bono duty counsel through the Advocates Society and Pro Bono Law Ontario.

For too long now, the LSUC has been governed by a group not representative of the changing face of our profession. Past and current Benchers are well-meaning, but a Convocation lacking youth, diversity, and representation from those who toil in the trenches of the profession cannot properly understand and address the issues facing the overwhelming majority of lawyers in Ontario. Most members do not practice in the biggest firms or with any measure of career security.

After 21 years in small and mid size firms, as a solo practitioner, and now as the owner of a 6 person firm, I know what it's like to have to pay my bills even when clients haven't paid theirs. I know the pressure of being a one-person show going toe to toe with firms that can out-staff and out-paper me on a file, not because they are better lawyers, but because their firms are larger and their clients wealthier. Having been through divorce and slow economic cycles, I know what it's like to deal with financial pressures while trying to keep my firm running and maintain the highest standards of our profession.

Having suffered from and triumphed over substance addiction and depression, I understand the silent pressures suffered by so many of our peers. Having been on the receiving end of a discipline hearing as a result of the aforesaid issues, I have truly been in the shoes of those who lack a voice at the Law Society.

The success I have found at this stage of my career is as a result of my ability to build bridges; to find common ground with even the most entrenched opponents; to turn competitors into referral sources. I will bring these experiences and values with me to Convocation so that I will be able to build coalitions to ensure a Law Society responsive to the changing needs of our profession.

Many lawyers have commented that the Law Society doesn't have its members' backs. Elect me on April 30th and let me have yours.



X

2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Andrew Spurgeon

Central South

aspurgeon@rossmcbride.com



Called in 1995.

Practicing civil litigation and plaintiff personal injury.

Past President – Hamilton Law Association.

Past Director – Advocates Society.

Recipient - OTLA Distinguished Service Award.

Member - LSUC Barrister Advisory Group.

Member - Hamilton Medical Research Ethics Board.

Chaired, written papers for and presented in numerous CLE programs.

Endorsed by the Hamilton Law Association

It's good to be a lawyer and I, like you, am proud to be one. Good governance of our profession is crucial to maintaining its independence, vitality, and in turn, guaranteeing the public's interest in access to justice.

I am standing for election because I want to do my part to contribute to my profession; to make it better for both its members and the public. In respect of some of the leading issues I would address as a Bencher I say:

1. The current proposal to allow non-lawyer owned law firms (ABS) to exist in Ontario is not justified given the available evidence. ABS would not enhance access to justice and it raises numerous difficulties which, if implemented could bring our profession into disrepute and result in loss of our power of self-regulation.
2. Legal practice in small firms outside of the major cities is withering. Lawyers in those practices deserve the Law Society's help. They need enhanced resources made available through increased funding of local law associations. Those associations are often the best support networks available to practitioners in small firms.
3. In dealing with all issues I may be confronted with as a Bencher, my approach will be practical. Whatever policy is under consideration, I will be concerned about how it will affect the relationship of lawyers as servants of their clients; and the profession in service to the public. Whatever the task, I will work hard to achieve the best possible result.

Thank you for considering my candidacy.

Please visit my website: www.andrewspurgeonforbencher.com

Please vote.



X

2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Joanne St. Lewis

East

joanne.stlewis@uottawa.ca



My entire career has focused on social justice. As a law prof at uOttawa, my teaching is pragmatic. My students enter practice confident that heightened attention to equality can yield tangible results for their clients. I design equality training for governments, ngos and the broader public sector. I am an instructor in the USC-CREATE Executive Program on Counter-Terrorism. I have worked for diverse organizations including LEAF, both the Ontario and Canadian Human Rights Commissions and the Grand Council of the Crees of Quebec. I served as the National Advisor of BLSAC for its first 17 years. I am most proud of receiving the 2008 DreamKEEPERS' Life Achievement Award from the MLK Jr. Day Coalition for my community work.

During my time as a Bencher (2001-2009), I took my work in Convocation seriously and devoted myself to meaningful participation and regular attendance – even continuing my obligations while on sabbatical. I do not do anything by half measures. I resigned to work on my social justice projects rather than compromise my work as a Bencher. The LSUC has made great progress in Access to Justice. It still lags behind in achieving tangible results for lawyers from the same Access to Justice client communities. I do not support unpaid articles. Work has value and should be paid. I am in favour of a specific levy to support articles in the Law Practice Program and Legal Clinics. A shrinking economy and systemic barriers mean that more lawyers will hang out their own shingle. This puts additional pressure to support young lawyers faced with this inevitability.

I served in a number of capacities including as Chair of the Equity and Aboriginal Issues Committee. Some of the accomplishments during my term include:

- Establishing The Working Group on Retention of Women in the Legal Profession
- An equity decision-making template for all levels of the Law Society
- Establishing a dynamic interface between the sub-committees on French Language, Disability and Aboriginal Issues with the Benchers
- Strengthening EAG (Equity Advisory Group) through a transparent selection process

The values that I bring to the table as a Bencher have not changed since 2001. My decisions in Convocation will not be solely individual. I bring a heightened awareness that I can be a conduit for voices not in the room. I believe that lawyers in their early years of practice should not find the dreams that brought them to law school crushed by too much debt and a focus on preserving structures, income and privilege of the most well established. There can be a strategic balance between establishing new visions of practice and protecting hard won and well-deserved achievement. I still believe "... that an approach which recognizes complexity, incorporates a pragmatic politics and never loses sight of the emancipatory goal of full equality will best serve our profession."



X

2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Daniel Strigberger

Central South

dstrigberger@millerthomson.com



I am against Alternative Business Structures.

I am interested in the continued development of the Pathways Pilot Project to ensure that lawyer licensing candidates receive effective experiential training – whether through the Law Practice Program or Articling.

I will push for an ice cream parlour at Osgoode Hall, available for all lawyers, paralegals, and students.

Daniel Strigberger is a partner in Miller Thomson's Insurance Litigation Group. His first insurance experience was in Blackjack, but today Daniel provides litigation services to many of Canada's leading property and casualty insurers.

Daniel has tried to play Risk, but he could never occupy Europe. So he decided to stop playing board games and conquered the Canadian Risk Management (CRM) Certificate. Now he takes risks advising clients on risk management issues, including cyberbreaches, legal liability, and skydiving.

The Waterloo Region Record honoured Daniel as a Region's Top 40 Under 40. The award highlights young residents who have excelled in their careers and demonstrated commitment to community leadership. Daniel is over 40 now but is still keeping his award.



X

2015

BENCHER ELECTION

R. P. (Bob) Tchegus

East

rtchegus@cswan.com



I am a Partner in the Kingston, Ontario law firm of Cunningham, Swan LLP. I was raised in a farming community in near Waterford, Ontario, perhaps explaining my passion for “dirt law”. I came to Kingston in the fall of 1981 and graduated from Queen’s University’s Faculty of Law in 1986. I was called to the Bar in 1988 and designated by the LSUC as a Certified Specialist in Real Estate Law in 2004. I have been active in the OBA, CBA and Frontenac Law Association. Since 2006, I’ve served publicly as both a Part Time Member of the Ontario Assessment Review Board and, since 2010, Canada’s Payments-in-Lieu of Taxes Dispute Advisory Panel.

Colleagues: Please consider me when you vote for Bencher. I have served on the Governing Council of the Ontario Bar Association (O.B.A.), as a voting member for the National Council of the Canadian Bar Association, and on the O.B.A.’s Real Estate Law Section executive. I held all of these positions for the full maximum six-year period. I was also elected to the O.B.A. Board of Directors for the years 2009-2010 and 2011-2012 and continue to serve as one of two O.B.A. representatives appointed by the Board to the LSUC/CDLPA/OBA Real Estate Liaison Group and on its Law Practice Program Planning and Review Committee. My work on the former informs the recently reformed Frontenac Law Association Real Property Committee, of which I am a co-chair.

Through my work in these positions, I have acquired a very good understanding of the Law Society and its role. I am putting my name forward for Bencher because I believe that a new perspective is needed at the Law Society. Many believe that the Society has drifted from the core value expressed in its motto “Let Right Prevail.” Pursuit of the laudable but ultimately misguided “access to justice” agenda has deepened divisions in the profession. Alternative Business Structures have been promoted without proper analysis of the impact in those jurisdictions where the model has been tried. The Law Practice Program at Ryerson (in which I have been directly involved), lacks the broad support of the profession that it will need to succeed. Not only is there no agreement about what the Law Society should be doing, but even matters where there is consensus are mired in disagreement over how things should be done.

The LSUC’s endeavours create resentment when the information seemingly trickles down to the profession instead of coursing up. I will do my best to turn the tide. I need your vote to reinvigorate our governing body, and I hope for and greatly appreciate your help and support



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2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Jerry B. Udell

Southwest

judell@mctaguelaw.com



Jerry graduated from Windsor Law in 1974 and was called to the Ontario Bar in 1976. He began his career in a small practice, but since 1993 has been a partner with McTague Law Firm LLP, one of the leading law firms in Southwestern Ontario.

Jerry's practice throughout his career has focused primarily on Real Estate, Mortgage and Commercial Business Law.

Jerry has been married to his wife Janice (Brenda), since 1974, and together they have raised two children. He is now also the proud grandfather of two grandchildren.

Along with his family, Jerry has been very supportive of the Windsor and Essex County community, being a past Board member and legal counsel to a number of non-profits.

I am pleased to announce my candidacy for Bencher, and ask for your support. I believe I can put the knowledge and experience I have gained in almost 38 years of legal practice to work for everyone. As I have managed both a small practice and participated in a partnership in a larger firm, I understand the challenges that lawyers from all practice backgrounds face.

Once elected, I will focus on two broad themes:

- (1) addressing major issues facing the profession; and
- (2) creating a more positive public perception of lawyers.

I will work vigorously to address all issues facing the profession, but I want to focus on the unique challenges facing junior lawyers. I believe that the Law Society can and should be doing more to address the issues facing our fresh calls to the bar and our younger colleagues to ensure that they and the profession can continue to succeed.

Throughout my career, I have mentored countless Articling students and junior associates, all in the early stages of adjusting to the realities of practice. I have also taught courses on behalf of the CBA, LSUC, OBA, and University of Windsor. I believe that the Law Society should sanction a mentorship program. A mentorship program beyond articling is essential for the long term development of high practice standards within our profession, as this will ensure junior professionals are steered in the right direction at the outset of their careers.

As a bencher I will advocate for more study and input prior to the Law Society making any recommendation regarding alternative business structures. There is no definitive evidence that alternative business structures will advance the cause of justice or better assist lawyers in their practice. Before we move forward this needs to be demonstrated.

Finally, I will address the negative public perception of our profession. This perception is largely due to lawyers who have misbehaved. I intend to advocate for a more transparent disciplinary process with input from lawyers and the public to ensure complaints are handled in manner that is as fair as possible to all concerned.

**X****2015**

BENCHER ELECTION

M. Anne Vespry**East**

anne@vespry.ca

**Employment**

- Lecturer at Algonquin Academy, Ottawa: Paralegal Program, 2011–present
- Solicitor and negotiator in a sole practice: family law, wills and estates, 2013 – present

Memberships

- Canadian Ass'n for Legal Ethics
- County of Carleton Law Ass'n
- Egale Canada, volunteer (1996-99)

Qualifications

- Called to the Ontario Bar, 2003
- LL.B., *Cum Laude*, University of Ottawa, 1999
- B.A., University of Toronto, 1989

Previously

- Partner in a two-practitioner firm, Ottawa: general solicitor's practice, 2004 – 2011
- Various writing and editing positions; instruction and support for information technology used by small, non-profit, arts and social justice organizations.

As an educator and sole practitioner, I find that LSUC policies often do not connect with the lived experience of the public the Society protects or the Licensees it regulates. This is not due to ill intent, but at least in part to the relative homogeneity of elected Benchers. LSUC is a big ship, and will not right itself quickly, but we must begin to turn. As a Bencher, I would raise concerns such as the following.

ABS: Legal practices are changing as other providers appear – e.g. international outsourcing agencies, and Internet companies offering “complete” computer generated divorces, wills, corporate documents etc. Contention arises over the perceived competition between lawyers and paralegals for clients, but does the ABS discussion include regulating those alternative businesses? To protect the public LSUC must recognize that quick-fix online services create suboptimal outcomes. We can increase access to justice by finding ways for all licensees to provide services economically – to make the pie bigger, not fight over crumbs.

Both Licensees and the public need more transparency: we deserve evidence-based policies. Presented with “black box” policies, we question whether they are based on evidence or whim. Aggregated data collected by LSUC should be public. Instead of saying some schools are substandard, the Society could publish licensing exam pass rates per school, as some US Bar Associations do. Students will pick accordingly, and LSUC can cease to micromanage educational institutions.

Information-gathering strategies need regular and skeptical review: the purpose of the information should be clear and anonymity considered. If, for instance, a student fears that responding negatively (on the strength of an educational program, work placement or articling position) will risk their chance to write the licensing exam, they will hardly be candid.

CPD: should LSUC provide course content, or would resources be better employed in evaluating whether mandatory CPD improves competence and outcomes for clients? Should CPD be a profit centre for the Society? If so, then LSUC must exercise greater care in accreditation, to avoid apparent conflicts of interest.

Candidates from Inside Toronto

Candidat(e)s de Toronto



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2015

BENCHER ELECTION
ÉLECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL





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2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Lee Akazaki

lakazaki@gilbertsondavis.com



Partner, Gilbertson Davis LLP
Past-President, OBA
Call: 1990 LSUC Cert. Spec.: 2000
JusticeNet Patron Council Award
OBA Linda Adlam Manning Award

OBA Awards Comm. 2014-15;
Editorial Board, Just.ca 2013-15;
Director, Canadian Defence Lawyers
2012-15; Chair, OBA-CJO
Fellowships 2013-14; Trustee, OBA
Foundation 2012-present; CBA Fees
Comm. 2010-12; OBA President,
CBA Director 2010-11; OBA VP and
Chair, Governance 2010-11; ABA
Young Lawyers Annual Meeting
Keynote 2011; OBA Chair of CLE
2008-09; Chair, OBA Civil Lit.
Section 2008-09; UofT Moot Court
Supervisor 2007 – present; LSUC
Certified Specialist Review Comm.,
2009; LSUC Barrister Advisory
Group 2005-09; Chair of Outreach,
Medico-Legal Society of Toronto
2003-06; Presenter, OJEN/ROEJ
2005-09; also member of TLA,
AJEFO, CIAJ, Advocates Society

@LeeAkazaki

LeeAkazaki.com

In the public interest, vote for a future of lawyers, made by lawyers.

Stand firm, or give in to the market? The choice of our profession's future cannot be clearer. To maintain control of our destiny, we need:

- strengthened independence of lawyers
- firms, legal departments and clinics tapping the world's most diverse and gender-balanced legal talent pool
- a regulatory environment allowing lawyers to shape the legal market, not to be shaped by it

We have so much work to do. Catch up to the rest of Canada in the advancement of women and minorities. Regulate commercialism in legal marketing by standards of good taste and public confidence. Ensure anyone with a meritorious cause or defence has access to a lawyer. As we stumble in meeting our core purposes, we become more vulnerable to market irrelevance and the public's contempt. We need more than ever to exhibit sophistication and pride of purpose in deciding what kind of legal profession we can call our own.

In private practice, in-house and government, the lawyer's role commands the highest ethical standards in very different practice settings. In tough times, funding for succession assistance and access to library and CPD facilities should not be trimmed but better supported. *L'épanouissement des services juridiques en français vers l'égalité ne doit jamais reculer.* From Main Street to Bay Street, commoditization of legal services – society's desire for a 'Big Mac Index' for the things we do – threatens to substitute standards with sameness. The link between the challenges to the future of our profession in various regions and sectors is a common humanity, quest for excellence and sense of duty.

Vote for change for the better, not for change for the sake of change. If you agree, vote for me!



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2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Raj Anand

ranand@weirfoulds.com



Practice areas: counsel, arbitrator/mediator
Bencher 2007–15
Interim President: ICJ Canada
Past Chair:
Pro Bono Law Ontario
U of T Law Alumni Council
Ontario Human Rights Commission
Ontario Human Rights Legal Support Centre
Former Director: Advocates' Society, Legal Aid Ontario, and two clinics, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
Member: OBA, Advocates' Society, FACL, SABA, CABL
Teaching/writing: "The New Administrative Law"; "Canadian Legal Practice" chapter on professional liability; Bullen & Leake chapter on administrative law
Recipient: Award of Justice, Advocates' Society; Law Society Medal; Professional Man of the Year, Indo-Canadian Chamber of Commerce; Lifetime Achievement Award, SABA
Lexpert listings in Litigation – Public Law; Professional Liability; Workplace Human Rights
Best Lawyers listings in Administrative and public law; Labour and employment law

I would be honoured to serve our profession and the public for a third and final term as a bench

er. My first four years presented a steep learning curve for a rookie bench

er, and my second term provided an opportunity to lead some important initiatives. In a third term, I hope to build on two of those initiatives: equity and access to the legal and paralegal professions, and creation of a cutting-edge, top-quality administrative tribunal to decide discipline, capacity and admission issues.

During my first term, as Vice Chair of the Equity and Aboriginal Issues Committee, we began to implement the Task Force report on retention of women lawyers in private practice, involving a parental leave program for small firms and the Justicia Project for medium and large firms. During my second term, I served as Chair from 2012-14 of a parallel initiative, to address challenges faced by racial minority lawyers and paralegals. After a great deal of research and consultation, we presented a report in October 2014 which I believe provides a new starting point in Canada for an understanding of the barriers in entering and advancing within this profession. We are now consulting widely within the profession, and we will bring recommendations to Convocation on concrete measures to address these challenges.

I also served on the Hearing and Appeal Divisions of the Tribunal and chaired the Tribunal Committee. We studied and put forward reforms that were adopted in June 2012. The Tribunal now has an independent identity, a full-time non-bench

er Chair, ongoing simplification and improvements of its procedures and rules, and increasingly expert adjudication by both benchers and non-bench

er members of our profession. Investigation and adjudication of professional misconduct issues, and accommodation and support for practitioners in a stressful profession that increasingly experiences mental health concerns, are at the core of our function as a professional regulator.

Je préside aux auditions dans les deux langues officielles; pour moi, il est très important d'encourager le bilinguisme et l'épanouissement des services juridiques de langue française en Ontario.

Please contact me at WeirFoulds LLP with any inquiries at 416-947-5091 or ranand@weirfoulds.com.

**X****2015****BENCHER ELECTION**

Karen E. Andrews

andrews@lao.on.ca



36608S

Education:

**University of Toronto, B.A. 1986
Osgoode Hall Law School, LL.B.
1993**

Call to the Bar, 1995

Employment:

**Toronto Public Library, 1978- 1992
Researcher, Report of the Ontario
Legal Aid Review, 1997**

**Rexdale Community Legal Clinic,
1997-2008**

**Advocacy Centre for Tenants
Ontario, 2009- present**

Teaching:

**Course Director, Housing and
Homelessness, George Brown
College**

Volunteer Work:

**Mayor's Committee on Lesbian and
Gay Issues, Ernestine's Women's
Shelter, Habitat for Humanity,
Mediator, Conflict Mediation
Services of Downsview**

I have read that one of the first things a law student forgets is why she went to law school in the first place.

I am part of a cohort who went to law school because of the community or social justice work that we had done in our lives before law. Many of us wanted a legal education so we could deploy different skills and knowledge to address the great social issues and problems in our communities – poverty, violence against women and children, workers' rights, civil liberties, racism, homophobia, environmentalism, disability rights and so on. We were not interested in big salaries. We were interested in making a difference.

Many of us have had rewarding legal careers – we have been able to build on the work that brought us to law in the beginning. For me, this has meant a career in Ontario's community legal clinic system after an inspirational term as a Parkdale student. Too few Benchers have front-line or direct experience in the areas of law that most directly impact low-income Ontarians. The Law Society cannot properly fulfil its mandate if it lacks expertise in these areas.

I will bring an independent voice to Convocation. Particular concerns include access to justice, the two-tier or unpaid articling experience, astronomical law school tuition, and licensing and discipline issues. In my view, the Law Society needs to increase its efforts to protect and promote the interests of low-income and marginalized Ontarians.

If the primary focus of legal practice in Ontario is on the business of law, then our professionalism and our responsibility to act in the public interest are impacted. Convocation needs to have an even greater representation of lawyers who still believe that we have a significant role to play in building a just society.



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2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Renatta Austin

renatta@renattaaustin.ca



Renatta Austin is a dynamic lawyer and government relations adviser whose career is focused on the intersection of law, policy and politics. She provides intergovernmental relations and public policy advice on municipal governance and accountability, liability and labour relations to a non-profit advocacy organization. A strong believer in equal access to justice, Renatta maintains an independent law practice through which she provides unbundled and low bono legal services in education law, administrative law and civil litigation. Renatta graduated from U of T Law in 2012 and was called to the Bar in 2013.

Memberships: the Advocates' Society, the Canadian Association of Black Lawyers, Justice for Children and Youth, JusticeNet

Volunteer work: PBLO's Education Law Project, Pathways to Education

Consultation is not enough. Young lawyers want in.

Adapting the regulatory model to the needs of the 21st century public, ensuring fair and equal access to the legal profession and cultivating a legal culture where diversity and inclusion are the norm, rather than challenges to be overcome, are policy issues that primarily impact the next generation of lawyers. Yet, we are largely excluded from the governance table. The 2015 Bencher Election presents an opportunity to transform the Law Society into a regulatory body that truly reflects the rich diversity of backgrounds and experiences of the membership and the public we serve.

It would be an honour to help steer the Law Society's transformation by serving as a Bencher. I am young, energetic, diverse, entrepreneurial, thoughtful, skilled in public sector governance and policy and engaged in access to justice work at the grassroots level. If these are qualities you would like to see reflected in Convocation, I need your support.

The following are a few highlights from my platform, which is available at www.renattaaustin.ca:

- Technology has both created possibilities to deliver legal services in innovative and affordable ways and changed the public's expectations about how they receive legal services. I support ABS model # 3.
- The fee increase imposed on licensing candidates is untenable. LSUC must encourage and support additional options to address the articling crisis, such as credit for clinic work done during law school, more integrated practice programs and the creation of legal incubators.
- LSUC must take an honest look at its role in erecting barriers to equal justice. I will advocate for sliding scale membership fees based on income and will explore ways to further reduce barriers to providing unbundled legal services.
- I support LSUC collecting mandatory demographic information to better understand and address diversity, discrimination and harassment in the profession. A cultural competence requirement for licensees would serve the public interest.
- I will advocate for bylaw reforms to reserve 8 Bencher seats for licensees who are within their first 10 years of call. I believe this will help to develop a more diverse, relevant and responsive LSUC.



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2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Steven Benmor

steve@benmor.com



- 47 years old
- married with 3 children
- sole practitioner since 1997
- B.Sc., University of Toronto, 1990
- LL.B., University of Windsor, 1992
- LL.M. (Family Law), Osgoode Hall Law School, 2008
- Certified Specialist in Family Law
- Fellow, International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers
- Chair, Family Law Executive, Ontario Bar Association
- Treasurer and Founder, Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, Ontario Chapter
- Organizer and Judge, Walsh Family Law Moot
- Past Adjunct Professor, Osgoode Hall Law School
- Past Chair, Access for Parents and Children in Ontario
- Past Director, Ontario Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse
- Past Member, Expert Advisory Group on Family Justice Improvements to the Attorney General
- Recipient, 2012 Distinguished Service Award, AFCC Ontario

Why I wish to serve as a Bencher? I have contributed to the legal profession and law reform through my work as a sole practitioner, a litigator, an adjunct law professor, an articling mentor, an educator and an avid writer on legal topics. Having attempted to improve the law and the legal profession through my past volunteer work, I would now like to devote my time, ideas and energy to the Law Society.

Why now? Our role and mandate as lawyers is about to be challenged in a radical way (read on).

Sole Practitioners & Small Firms: We lawyers who operate in a firm of 1-10 lawyers are the silent majority. There are 14,524 of us, but our survival is under threat for many reasons, not the least of which is the development of Alternative Business Structures. ABS is a small term, but with an enormous effect on the business model of law. If approved, ABS would allow non-lawyers (banks, insurance companies, accounting firms, websites, conglomerates, etc.) to become the owners of law firms, who will then guide the delivery of legal services based on shareholder agendas, profitability and business values. The doctrines of social justice, pro bono publico and access to justice may become extinct.

Paralegals: 28 Ontario community colleges (as compared to the 7 Ontario law schools) are busy graduating paralegals eager to be licensed by the Law Society. In an era of epic self-representation in the courts, a tide of paralegals will be flooding the legal market competing with lawyers on rates, access, speed and service.

Young & Gray Lawyers: The graying of the bar has never been so pronounced as now. Lawyers throughout Ontario are retiring and shutting their doors with no succession plan. At the same time, the newest lawyers are beginning their careers with an average student debt load of \$55,000, facing an articling crisis and lack of employment.

I am eager to work on these issues, while preserving the dignity, importance and relevance of our legal profession.

www.BenmorForBencher.com



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2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Christopher Bredt

cbredt@blg.com



PROFESSIONAL

- **Bencher since 2008, have served as:**
 - Co-Chair, Audit & Finance Committee
 - Member, Governance Task Force, Tribunal Reform Task Force, Priority & Planning Committee
 - Hearing Panel (bilingual, adjudicator on French language hearings)
- **Partner**, Borden Ladner Gervais
- **Law Clerk**, Supreme Court of Canada
- **Served as Assistant Deputy Minister** Constitutional Policy for Ontario
- **Adjunct Professor**, Osgoode Hall Law School
- **Past Chair**, OBA Constitutional and Administration Law Sections

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- **Past Chair**, CODE - a charity focused on women's and children's literacy in Africa; Led climbs of Mt. Kilimanjaro in 2006, 2010 and 2014 that raised over \$2 million for CODE's literacy programs in Tanzania

A TRACK RECORD OF REFORM

As a Bencher since 2008, I have been a strong voice for reform at the Law Society. Some of the key areas of reform in which I have been involved include:

- **Access to Justice** – Establishment of TAG – The Advisory Group on Access to Justice.
- **Tribunal Reform** – Reforms include the establishment of a new tribunal structure and the hiring of a full-time non-Bencher Chair.
- **Governance Reform** – Reforms include term limits and eliminating the role of life Benchers – these reforms led to a younger and more diverse group of Benchers.
- **Fiscal Reform** – Reforms have focused on fiscal prudence.

Equity and Diversity: A More Inclusive Profession

We must expand opportunities for women, racialized minorities and aboriginal peoples and look to practical solutions to effect change.

Regulation of the Profession: Protecting the Public Interest

The public interest and the interest of the profession are both served by an independent and self-governing bar that strives to improve access to justice and maintains high standards of professionalism. We need to be cautious on alternative business structures (ABS). We also need to do more to ensure competence on entry into the profession.

Access to Justice: Sustainable Legal Aid

The Law Society must be at the forefront of working towards a sustainable Legal Aid program.

Pro Bono: The Importance of Giving Back

I have acted on a pro bono basis in a number of constitutional cases, including cases on behalf of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, the LGBTQ communities, and adoptive parents. The Law Society must show leadership in encouraging and developing pro bono legal programs.

Lawyers in Smaller Firms and Communities: Expand Service

Sole practitioners and lawyers practicing in smaller firms and communities face unique challenges. The Law Society must expand its level of service, including support of local libraries and creating accessible continuing education.

For further information, please email me at cbredt@blg.com or visit my website at www.BredtforBencher.com.



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2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Alexander Burton-Vulovic

aburtonvulovic@carltonlaw.ca



Born, and raised in the City of Toronto and called to the bar in 2014, I intimately understand the issues facing new lawyers- but with nearly a decade of experience in the legal world.

- Law clerk for sole practitioner through undergrad and law school
- J.D., University of Windsor Faculty of Law (2013)
- Co-Author, Articling Task Force Report, University of Windsor Student Articling Working Group
- Employed by small sole proprietor in the City of Toronto

When I'm not practicing law, I play board games and soccer; write fiction; ski; and enjoy cooking creations that my friends and family often describe as 'frightening'.

The public might think all lawyers are big shots, but lawyer jokes aside- it's difficult to be a lawyer these days, especially if you're just out of law school, in a small firm, or on your own.

That's where I come in.

The articling process is still in crisis. The Legal Practice Program is merely a Band-Aid on that wound. It's not enough to have benchers who've been called to the bar for decades looking at this problem. The profession needs someone who's been through it to provide solutions- and I have.

Beyond articling, there's a reason many in our profession are dissatisfied. We are often deeply adversarial and young lawyers feel hemmed in and helpless by privilege requirements, ethical rules, and a confrontational system that leave them nowhere to turn and provide very little real-world guidance.

The Law Society should do more. I want to:

- Provide flexible, clear pathways to the profession. The Law Society spent years working on the Legal Practice Program. Yet candidates- and those just looking to enter law school- are faced with uncertain prospects. Will the LPP still be here in two years? The Law Society owes the profession clear answers and actual solutions.
- Make the Law Society more helpful to lawyers. Getting answers to ethical questions and practice problems should be easy, not a maze of web-based PDFs and a voicemail box.
- Create an easy-to-use precedent database for lawyers. Right now resources are scattered and hard to find. These resources are fundamental to the practice of every lawyer- old hands and new.

The Law Society is our professional organization, and I, for one, would like to see it doing more to help us serve the public and our clients.



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2015

BENCHER ELECTION

John Callaghan

john.callaghan@gowlings.com



John Callaghan is a partner in Gowlings' Toronto office, where he practices civil and commercial litigation. He is the former Head of the Commercial Litigation Practice.

John was elected as Bencher in 2011. He has served on several committees. He is a member of Ontario's Civil Rules Committee. He is co-author of *Class Action Law and Practice*, the leading class action text in Canada.

His litigation expertise has been recognized in numerous prestigious legal directories, including *Chambers Global*, *The Best Lawyers in Canada*, the *Canadian Legal Expert Directory* and *Benchmark Canada*.

He is married with three children. Best of all, he coaches his 8 year old son's rep hockey team, with tepid results.

A PROUD PROFESSION

When I ran for bencher in 2011, I professed to be proud to be a lawyer. I can now add that I have been proud to represent the profession as a bencher.

As a part-time minor hockey coach, I have come to appreciate that Convocation operates rather like a minor rep hockey team. Not all benchers skate towards the same goal; most don't stay to their side of the ice; and it can feel like a contact sport. Nonetheless, all its benchers come ready to play; they play with vigor and put in an honest effort. As a result, much has been accomplished these past four years.

AN INDEPENDENT PROFESSION:

An independent bar is the cornerstone of our civil society. I will continue to vigorously represent the independence of the bar.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS:

Over the years, I have been either Vice-Chair or Co-Chair of Government Relations. This is an important committee that interacts with the provincial and federal government. Much of the work is done behind the scenes. In particular, we have been successful in working with the government to extend legal aid funding. Moving forward, it is important to ensure our independent bar is part of that funding equation.

LEGAL AID INCREASED:

Last election, I stated that I would "remain vigilant to ensure future fees, and any fee increases, are manageable for all our members". As Vice-Chair of Audit and Finance, I kept an eye on the fees to ensure any fee increases were modest. This was accomplished by insisting on an operational review to ensure the Law Society's operations were kept in check. If re-elected, I promise to continue to ensure that we have an affordable profession.

MY PLEDGE:

If re-elected, I pledge to continue to devote my energy, my experience and my enthusiasm to serve you and to make this a better profession.

To learn more go to: www.johncallaghan.ca



X

2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Henry John Chang

hchang@blaney.com



Henry J. Chang is partner with the firm of Blaney McMurtry LLP. He co-chairs the firm's International Trade and Business Group; he is also a member of its Corporate and Immigration Groups.

Mr. Chang obtained his JD from Osgoode Hall Law School in 1990. He is a member of the State Bar of California and the Law Society of Upper Canada.

Mr. Chang acts for foreign and domestic companies seeking to engage in cross-border business transactions. He is also a recognized authority in the field of U.S. and Canadian immigration law.

Mr. Chang is currently recognized as a top practitioner in Canada by the *Lexpert Legal Expert Directory*, *Who's Who Legal*, *Best Lawyers*, and holds an AV rating from *Martindale-Hubbell*.

In recent years, we have seen stories in mainstream media that have continued to reinforce the public's already negative perception of the legal profession in Ontario. This negative perception persists despite the fact that most lawyers in Ontario choose to practice in an ethical and legal manner. No amount of regulation will completely eliminate the possibility that a few bad members will violate ethical rules, or even criminal laws. Instead, it is the manner in which the Law Society of Upper Canada (the "Law Society") chooses to respond to these violations that will have the strongest effect on the public's perception of the legal profession in Ontario.

Rather than simply imposing stricter and more onerous rules on all members (most of whom are compliant), the Law Society should focus on the enforcement of existing rules. If the Law Society's resources are limited, it should give higher priority to the worst violations. These enforcement activities should also extend beyond simply disciplining members and include fighting the unauthorized practice of law by non-members.

One example of where the Law Society can improve relates to its regulation of Foreign Legal Consultants ("FLCs"). The FLC permit was initially established to regulate only foreign lawyers in Ontario but now also applies to members of the Ontario Bar who give advice on foreign legal matters. The Law Society spends considerable resources on getting its existing FLCs to renew their permits each year but has not done enough to enforce the requirement against members who consciously ignore it, or against non-members who violate the *Law Society Act*. It also has not done enough to educate the public on the need to hire a registered FLC, including publishing the names of those who have registered under the FLC rules.

I believe that the Law Society can do more to protect both the public interest and the interests of the membership. In most cases, those interests will be aligned. If elected, I will do my best to implement these common-sense reforms. Please visit www.henryjohnchang.org for additional information.



X

2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Morris Anthony Chochla

mchochla@forbeschochla.com



I have been practising civil litigation specializing in professional liability for over 30 years at a boutique litigation firm, Forbes Chochla LLP. For many years I have been recognized in both the Lexpert and Best Lawyers peer reviews as a leading practitioner.

My community service includes the Boards of both the Toronto East General Hospital and its Foundation, having served as Foundation Vice Chair and Governance Committee Chair for many years.

In the past I have served the profession through the Ontario Bar Association as Chair of the Insurance Section, Governance, Strategic Planning and Audit Committees. I was elected as 2nd Vice President in 2011, following which I became President in 2012.

Over the past decade I have had the privilege of serving our profession through the Ontario Bar Association including a year as its President during 2012-2013. In this time we collaborated and cooperated with the Law Society on many issues including the transition from the Ontario Lawyers' Assistance Program, the Pathways initiative regarding alternatives to traditional articling, the implementation of the Law Practice Program as the alternative to articling, and Past Treasurer Conway's Access to Justice initiative.

The next Convocation will face many important issues that will affect the way we practise law. The Law Society must continue to act cautiously and transparently in consultation with its many stakeholder organizations. When I addressed Convocation in June of 2013 (as President of the Ontario Bar Association) I applauded the Law Society for its transparency and consultative style through such initiatives as the Treasurer's Liaison Committee and the Regional Treasurer's dinners. These initiatives must continue.

In the months to come the Law Society faces important issues which include the use and regulation of Alternative Business Structures, the modernization of libraries, the proliferation of advertising, the evaluation of the LLP and, on a continuing basis, access to justice. For more on each of these issues please visit my website at www.morrischochla.com.

I am familiar with the issues facing our profession and have a proven track record of commitment to our profession. I ask you to consider voting for me in this important election and grant me the privilege of continuing my service to our profession.



X

2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Peter Downard

pdownard@fasken.com



Over 25 years as litigation counsel at trial and on appeal in all courts, in public inquiries and alternative dispute resolution; repeatedly recognized for defamation and media litigation expertise in Lexpert Guide to the Leading US/Canada Cross-Border Litigation Lawyers in Canada.

Author of the legal text *Libel* (LexisNexis, Third Edition, 2014) and the volume *Defamation in Halsbury's Laws of Canada*, cited as authority by courts across Canada.

One of three appointed members of the Advisory Panel to the Attorney General of Ontario on Strategic Litigation Against Public Participation ("SLAPP").

www.peterdownard.ca

I am very proud to be a lawyer. I grew up in Orillia, Ontario, as the son of a sole practitioner. His was a dedicated real estate and wills practice. In my years at the bar I have taken a different path, moving to Toronto and acting as counsel in courts and other tribunals across the province. But I still return every day to the fundamentals I learned from my father's example: respect for the law, common sense and personal integrity.

One of the principal duties of a bencher is to hear and respect the voices of all members of our profession, in all practices, across all regions. If I am elected I will do that.

I am committed to promoting equality and diversity within our profession and our society. Our profession continues to face challenges in the pursuit of these goals. For example, too many women are leaving the profession. That must change. Our profession also continues to be underrepresented by persons of diverse races and cultures, persons of different faiths, the LGBT community, and persons with disabilities. All of that must change too. I will continue to support measures to address and overcome these challenges.

The equality of everyone before the law necessarily requires access to justice. If I am elected I will support access to justice by advocating in favour of enhanced funding for legal aid and through all available means in the civil justice sphere. The quality of justice requires the self-renewal of our profession through effective mentoring, something I have been a part of my whole career. The Law Society must create an atmosphere in which mentorship can thrive.

While professional regulation is vital to ensure that professional standards, competence and ethics are fostered and enforced, rules governing our profession should be thoroughly considered, clearly articulated and efficiently administered. We should allow our members to get on with doing what they do best, with no more regulatory engagement than is clearly required.

If elected, I will do my best to be worthy of your trust.



X

2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Rebecca Catherine Durcan

rdurcan@sml-law.com



Born in Dublin, Ireland 1974

**Partner, Steinecke Maciura LeBlanc
(Small professional regulation
boutique firm in Toronto)**

**Practice includes solicitor and
barrister work**

Called to the Bar in 2002

**LL.B. from University of Windsor
(2000)**

**LL.M. (Health Law) from Osgoode
(2006)**

**Member of Advocates Society, and
Canadian Institute for the
Administration of Justice**

**Married to Shane Smith who is also
a lawyer in Toronto. Parents to
Harry (8), Jude (6) and Teddy (3)**

I am a barrister and solicitor who works solely in professional regulation. My practice involves advocacy (as prosecution counsel) and governance work (as general counsel) to several Ontario regulators.

If elected as benchers, I would strive to do the following:

- **Advocate that LSUC do more to ensure that all Ontarians have access to justice.** Ontario court systems and processes need to be simplified so that all Ontarians can access the justice system. LSUC can lend its voice to this debate and development so that a “collaborative, cooperative and systemic approach”¹ is created which will benefit all Ontarians.
- **Advocate for a diverse legal profession.** LSUC is there not to advance the profession but to ensure that the public is protected. However, the public benefits by a robust and diverse legal profession. It is in the interest of the public that women, aboriginal and racialized licensees remain within the profession and assume positions of leadership. LSUC can act as a beacon and demonstrate how such diversity can be achieved and increased.
- **Support small firms.** Lawyers in small firms face de facto higher hurdles than lawyers in larger firms. Smaller firms have difficulty hiring articling students or attracting associates. Lawyers in small firms are disproportionately represented at discipline hearings. LSUC can assist in this regard by incentivizing the hiring of articling students and associates and provide resources to smaller firms to ensure that its lawyers meet the obligations of LSUC and avoid complaints and appearances before the discipline committee.
- **Commit to heightened transparency.** Regulators across Ontario are being asked to share more information about its licensees with the public. LSUC needs to determine if enough information is displayed on the Register so that it maintains the confidence of the public to discharge its statutory duty.

Please visit www.rebeccadurcan.com for further information

¹ Access to Civil & Family Justice: A Roadmap for Change: October 2013. Action Committee on Access to Justice in Civil and Family Matters.

**X****2015**

BENCHER ELECTION

Julian Falconer

falconerj@falconers.ca



Partner: Falconers LLP
www.falconers.ca

Julian Falconer is a Bencher and the principal of Falconers LLP in Toronto. His practice focuses on human rights and public interest litigation. Falconers LLP maintains an office in Thunder Bay where Julian represents Nishnawbe Aski Nation, the Nishnawbe Aski Police Service, Anishinabek Police Service, and numerous First Nation remote communities. Julian has also represented Maher Arar, the Family of Ashley Smith, Urban Alliance on Race Relations, Adam Nobody, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in all levels of court.

As a Bencher, Julian serves as Co-Chair of the Equity and Aboriginal Issues Committee, and Vice-Chair of the Task Force addressing Challenges Faced by Racialized Licensees.

I have had the privilege of being a Bencher since 2010. I have brought the same focus to access to justice, diversity and service to the profession that characterizes my work as a small firm practitioner.

As Co-Chair of the Equity and Aboriginal Issues Committee and Vice-Chair of the Challenges Faced by Racialized Licensees WG, together with my colleagues, I have led initiatives to strengthen our commitment to Aboriginal justice and to supporting the racialized bar. I have pushed for proactive steps to hear from and respect our equity partners. I am proud that our dialogue with key organizations has significantly improved and that they have become key players in our initiatives. These initiatives cut across the private and public sector bars. I believe that, when it comes to creating supports for colleagues, there are many more similarities than differences amongst us. I also believe that, in all areas of the justice system including the judiciary, we must reflect those whom we serve.

Last election I committed to accountability and transparency. My push for webcasting convocation (which is now being piloted) is one example. The pending internal Equity Audit of the Law Society's operations is another initiative that I strongly support and will monitor.

Much remains to be done. I previously campaigned for a robust mentoring program for small firm and sole practitioners. There are hopeful signs in this area with the striking of a Mentoring Task Force of which I am a member. We have yet to produce a product and I think this issue needs a strong voice. I will continue to be that voice as the need for mentoring affects our most vulnerable colleagues.

Talk is cheap but, with a commitment to teamwork with other Benchers, I believe we can produce results. My commitment to diversity and access to justice didn't begin when I became a Bencher. These principles have animated my practice since I began my career 25 years ago and will continue to be my mainstay for the years to come. I would be honoured to be an Agent for Change for another four years.



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2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Rocco Galati

rocco@idirect.com



- Year of call- March, 1989.
- Education: B.A. (McGill) 1984; LL.B. (Osgoode) 1987; LL.M. (Osgoode) 1997.
- Fluent in English, French, Spanish, Italian, Calabrian.
- Employment: Fall, 1987- Spring, 1990- Department of Justice, Toronto. 1990-Present, private practice: Proceedings Against the Crown.
- Books (co-)authored: "*Criminal Lawyer's Guide to Immigration and Citizenship Law*" (1996), "*The Power of the Wheel: The Falun Gong Revolution*" (2001).
- Member of Canadian Who's Who (since 2011).
- Named as one of Top 25 Influential Lawyers, Canadian Lawyer Magazine, 2014.
- Executive Director of Constitutional Rights Centre Inc. (2004-present).
- Recent 2014-2015 litigation: "*Nadon Reference*"; "*Mainville Reference*" (currently before the SCC); challenge to C-24, the new *Citizenship Act*.

Recognizing that the Law Society is primarily there to regulate the profession in order to protect the public, there are five (5) areas of concern to me that need to be addressed:

1. Lack of racial Diversity in the governing body which unacceptably carries through to the same lack of racial inclusion on the bench, particularly the Superior Court bench. To date little, to no effective, action has been taken by the Law Society to meaningfully address this inseparable problem. This has now manifested itself in an unacceptable number of racial minority students unable to obtain Articling positions.
2. Discipline of Lawyers. There appears to be an alarmingly disproportionate action taken against sole-practitioners and small-firm lawyers and a pass, if not reluctance, to initiate proceedings against big-firm lawyers. This schism is self-evident.
3. Insurance. The monopoly of LPIC effectively run by the LSUC has never been justifiable for many reasons, including:
 - a) it creates a real conflict of interest, and disincentive, on acting on professional complaints with huge amounts of money at issue because of potential, consequent liability to LPIC;
 - b) the governing body should not have a monopoly on insurance and few Bars in North America have a monopoly, nor do other professions. Lawyers should be free to shop the open and free market to insure themselves against whatever risk their practices pose;
 - c) the current insurance scheme has the sole practitioner and small-firm lawyer unfairly subsidize the big firms.
4. The Law Society fails to intervene, against government, on cases and issue(s) which affect the profession and lawyers at large. The Law Society has this duty and is failing miserably at it.
5. The election rules for bencher elections need to be amended so that they constitutionally reflect our democratic electoral process: **one** person, **one** vote.

My reason for running is to ensure a strong voice for the sole practitioner, small-firm lawyer, and insist that the LSUC act, on behalf of lawyers, when acting in turn protects the public, particularly on matters of equality.



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2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Eldad Gerb

eldad.gerb@devrylaw.ca



- **Tax Lawyer**
- **Devry Smith Frank LLP**
- **Focusing on:**
 - Tax disputes
 - Tax fraud
 - Tax litigation
 - Tax planning
- **B.B.A. (Schulich, 2002)**
- **J.D. (Suffolk, 2010)**
- **Called to Bars of:**
 - Ontario
 - New York
 - Massachusetts

Other Activities and Accreditations:

- **Delegate, CPA In-Depth Tax Course, Level 2**
- **Course Instructor, Private College, Legal Accounting**
- **Member, Canadian Tax Foundation**
- **Entrepreneur Mentor, Futurpreneur Canada**
- **Student-Lawyer, FINRA Investor Advocacy Clinic**

I believe it is a privilege to be a lawyer in Ontario, or anywhere in the world for that matter.

As a human being, husband, son, grandson, brother, friend, student, teacher and tax lawyer, I'm loyal, patient and an active listener. And, if this was my online dating profile (and, more importantly, if I wasn't married), I would tell you that I love guacamole, Boston, all-day-breakfasts, Downton Abbey, hoppy-honey-coloured-pints, the stock market, learning about the history of the Supreme Court, running, the first Home Alone movie, and enhancing financial literacy.

While I am not prepared to make bold promises or predictions about any particular change or agenda, I am prepared to promise you that I will work tirelessly at the issues of the day and look to jurisdictions near and far to adopt best practices. I believe that the simplest, most cogent solutions are often the best and I will strive to achieve such solutions by leveraging my fresh perspective to question and think critically about Law Society practices and procedures.

As a tax lawyer serving individuals and small and medium businesses, I spend a great deal of time educating clients about the administration of the Canadian tax system and how that affects their financial affairs. This experience has allowed me to hone my skills at breaking down and simplifying an otherwise complex and dynamic system in such a way that makes it easy to understand; a portable skill that is sure to serve me in good stead as a benchner.

In keeping with my belief that the best solutions are often the simplest, my goal as a benchner is simply to leave the Law Society better than I found it.



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2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Avvy Yao-Yao Go

goa@lao.on.ca



Call to the Bar (1991)
LL. B. (University of Toronto) 1991,
LL.M. (Osgoode) 1999
Bench (2001-2003, 2006-2011, 2013-present) and have served on the following committees: **Access to Justice, Equity & Aboriginal Issues, Human Rights Monitoring Group and Professional Regulation Clinic Director, Metro Toronto Chinese & Southeast Asian Legal Clinic (1992-present)**
Recipient of Order of Ontario (2014),
FACL Lawyer of Distinction Award (2012), City of Toronto William P. Hubbard Race Relations Award (2008), **Women's Law Association of Ontario President's Award (2002)**
Community Council Member, Law Commission of Ontario (2011-present)
Member, Director's Resource Committee of Special Investigations Unit (2002-present)
Founding Member, Colour of Poverty Campaign
Former Vice Chair, Court Challenges Program of Canada
Former President, Chinese Canadian National Council (Toronto Chapter)

Make it Count

Having had the privilege of serving as a bench, on and off, since 2001, I have long come to realize that getting elected is only half of the battle. The real challenge is to ensure that Convocation has the fullest benefits of and is equitably responsive to the needs of the diverse group of lawyers who make up the Ontario bar.

Diversity in the legal profession certainly encompasses members of the various equity seeking groups reflected in its membership. It also includes, among others, lawyers working in the legal aid system and small firms, as well as sole practitioners. Collectively, their voices are by and large still muffled when it comes time for decision making, notwithstanding the changing faces of Convocation in recent years.

Without question, Convocation knows that too. That's why efforts have been made to reach out to the under-represented constituencies with such critical new initiatives as the Challenges Faced by Racialized Licensees Working Group process.

The journey to inclusion has not been an easy ride. Mistakes have been made along the way. With the input and guidance from the members at large and the various associations within the profession, Convocation finally did adopt a more comprehensive framework to make Access to Justice a real focal point of the Law Society business.

The road ahead will no doubt be paved with pitfalls and encounter unexpected turns. Who knows what the Alternative Business Structure (ABS), if brought to Ontario, will truly mean for the profession, particularly for small firms and sole practitioners. Time will tell if any of the plans to promote access to justice for the public, and racial equity in the profession, will pan out successfully in the end.

The only way to help ensure the best outcomes of these initiatives is by getting involved. And we can all start by making our vote count.



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2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Howard Goldblatt

hgoldblatt@sgmlaw.com



- Founding partner, Sack Goldblatt Mitchell LLP (soon to be Goldblatt Partners LLP)
- Labour, administrative, human rights and constitutional lawyer
- Recipient of numerous awards for practice excellence and recognized by peers as an outstanding lawyer

Law Society Committees

- Professional Development and Competence Committee (Chair)
- Equity and Aboriginal Issues Committee (Past Chair/Member)
- The Action Group on Access to Justice (Treasurer's Designate)
- Racialized Licensees' Working Group (Vice-Chair)
- Mentoring Task Force (Vice-Chair)
- Working Group on Tribunal Reform
- Working Group on Implementing Articling Reform
- Priority Planning Committee
- Strategic Planning Committee
- Discipline Hearing and Appeal Panels

I am pleased to stand for re-election as a Bencher. Over the past four years, I have immersed myself in my Bencher work and believe that I have become a respected voice at the Law Society.

I have been a chair, vice-chair or member of many committees, working groups and task forces, and have participated in the discipline process at both the hearing and appellate levels. Issues arose during the past term that could not have been anticipated, perhaps most notably the challenging question of whether to grant accreditation to the proposed law school at Trinity Western University (which I strongly opposed).

I believe that my experience and continued commitment to serve the public and our profession will be critical in the next four years. Our most fundamental task will be to improve access to justice for all Ontarians. "Access to Justice" cannot simply be a trendy phrase. As the Treasurer's designate to The Action Group on Access to Justice, I hope to continue to play a strong role in making access to justice the cornerstone of the Law Society's work.

We must also continue the process of tribunal reform to ensure the disciplinary process is independent and transparent. Addressing the challenges faced by racialized licensees in a meaningful way is another high priority, as are developing a more effective mentoring initiative and critically evaluating the new Law Practice Program to determine its efficacy as an alternative to articling. In addition, I believe we must renew and reinvigorate our commitment to broad based equality for all of our members and rededicate ourselves to promote the retention of women in our profession.

I seek your support to continue this important work and address the challenges ahead.

For more information, visit www.sgmlaw.com/GoldblattforBencher.



X

2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Shawn L. Graham

shawngrahamforbencher@gmail.com



- Senior Counsel at the Royal Bank of Canada since 2010.
- Actively volunteers with the PBLO Law Help Centre, Amicus Curiae at the Court of Appeal and the OSC Litigation Assistance Program.
- Chair of the Securities Law Committee (Ontario Chapter) and the Programs Co-Chair for the Corporate and Securities Law Committee (International) of the Association for Corporate Counsel.
- Called to the bar in Ontario in 2004.
- In 2004, began as an associate at Siskinds LLP in the Commercial Litigation Group.
- In 2009, began as an associate at Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP in the Advocacy Group.
- In 2014, recipient of Lexpert's Rising Stars - Leading Lawyers Under 40 award.

In-house counsel in Ontario require a voice in Convocation. In the last ten years, the in-house legal community has grown by more than 50%. From small, privately held companies to large, publicly traded multinationals, we are often the first point of access for clients. In-house lawyers are a talented, diverse group, but yet, in the last bencher election, not a single lawyer was elected to represent the views of this important segment of the legal community. We need to elect an in-house lawyer to Convocation in order to ensure that we have an inclusive Convocation.

If elected as a bencher, I am committed to advocating for the following:

- Revisions to the *Rules of Professional Conduct* in order to more accurately reflect the experiences and realities of in-house counsel;
- Amendments to By-Law No. 6 in order to increase the amount of coverage for in-house counsel providing *pro bono* legal services from the current maximum coverage of \$250,000, which will enhance access to justice for those who cannot afford to pay for legal services. Currently, many in-house counsel are discouraged from participating in *pro bono* programs due to the low amount of coverage available in the event of a claim for negligence; and
- Amendments to By-Law No. 4 and By-Law No. 6 in order to accurately reflect and protect in-house counsel who work and provide legal services to national and multi-national corporations.

I have a varied legal background, which enables me to represent the interests of lawyers practicing in diverse settings. I practiced in private practice for several years prior to joining the Royal Bank of Canada and understand the different challenges facing lawyers in both types of practice. Moreover, as a younger lawyer, I understand the pressures and challenges facing younger lawyers in the profession.

I request the support of all lawyers in Ontario to ensure that our next Convocation is much more inclusive of all of the diverse needs of our legal community.



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2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Joseph Groia

jgroia@groiaco.com



Groia & Company Professional Corporation, Founder & Principal

Practice area:
Securities Litigation

Publications:
Securities Litigation and Enforcement with Pamela Hardie, presently in its 2nd edition

Teaching:
Guest lecturer at: Toronto; Queens; Osgoode; Western; Ryerson; McGill; Calgary; Memorial; LSUC; Barreau du Quebec; Oxford

Education:
1979 – LL.B. / J.D. Toronto
1976 – B.A. Toronto

Notable cases:
Asbestos Corp.; Atlas Cold Storage; Canada Malting; Canadian Tire; Cinar; Hollinger; Philip Services; R v Felderhof; Torstar/Southam; YBM Magnex

The Law Society is badly in need of new ideas and a new direction. To help I have decided to go all in and run for benchers.

I have had a diverse career as a lawyer. I've worked in small, medium, and large firms, as well as for the government. I've been an associate, a partner, a shareholder, and have built my own firm. I've taught and I've published. I've been awarded great honours and convicted of professional misconduct for how I successfully defended John Felderhof.

This is what I want for the profession: greater access to justice, strict discipline for crooked lawyers but fair treatment for everyone charged with misconduct, a greater emphasis on the zealous defence of our clients' interests, and greater support for students and young lawyers. Some specific ideas:

Access to justice: We must prevent further cuts to legal aid. We must continue to stress the importance of *pro bono* work by giving professional development credits for our *pro bono* activities.

Access to the profession: The legal profession should reflect the diversity of our country. I am committed to increasing opportunities for women and people of minority groups. We need to find more entry-level jobs for young lawyers. We should worry more about issues in the Canadian legal community and less about those in other countries.

Discipline: Discipline must be fair and proportionate. I believe the Law Society has gone far astray, prosecuting lawyers who do not deserve it and wrist slapping others that deserve far more.

Support for Small Firms: I understand first-hand the financial challenges faced by those working in small firms. The Law Society needs to help keep costs low and provide resources and small-business support.

The Public Interest: We need to fix how the public perceives the profession. To do that benchers must be open, frank, and self-critical.

I would be grateful for your support and honoured to represent your interests as a benchers. Je vous serais sincèrement reconnaissant de votre appui et honoré de défendre vos intérêts comme membre du conseil.

For more information:
www.zealousadvocacy.com • jgroia@groiaco.com • 416-203-4472



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2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Alan Heisey

heisey@phmlaw.com



Alan Heisey Q.C. has been a barrister for 35 years having been called to the bar in 1980. His first job was with a 2 person general practice followed by 4 years at Blakes. Alan has a litigation practise and has appeared before a variety of administrative tribunals and courts throughout Ontario. He has given numerous lectures in the area of land development law. Alan has 15 years of public service as Chair of the Toronto Police Services Board, Chair of the Green P (Toronto Parking Authority) and currently as a TTC Commissioner. Alan is married to Janet Hebbes and has 4 children ages 11, 12, 28 and 30.

I was called to the Bar in 1980 and have practised law ever since.

I have worked as a law student in a trade union, an associate in both a small and a "Top 5 Corporate" firm, in a multinational's in-house legal department and now as a partner at Papazian Heisey Myers.

I am a litigator who has practised in nearly every litigation area. At the outset of my career I did some criminal defense work and labour arbitrations. For years I appeared before various courts and tribunals. I enjoy the cut and thrust of litigation.

I now practise in front of the Ontario Municipal Board. One of my most interesting cases was acting for the environmental group "Save the Rouge" before the OMB in Richmond Hill. The hearing went on for months and was ended by legislation - the Oak Ridges Moraine Act which protects a large natural area from development.

Surprised?...Yes!...and so were my developer clients but I believed in it (and still do).

In 2011 I ran for Bencher...well perhaps I jogged because I'm running again (did not win).

My experience in board governance on public commissions has extended over 15 years and I have been a change agent. I served as Chair of the Toronto Police Services Board, Chair of the Toronto Parking Authority "Green P" and currently am a member of the TTC Board. I have lectured on land development and transportation law and policy at several universities (McGill, Windsor, Ryerson and Waterloo) and the CBA.

The last 17 years I have been a part-time Chair of the Insurance Advisory Board, which reviews life insurance agents' conduct— relevant to a Bencher's role sitting on discipline cases.

Two of the toughest challenges facing our profession are the difficulty for new law school graduates in finding employment and the struggle of sole practitioners and small law firms. The Society needs new initiatives to support these segments of our profession.

I would encourage the Society to adopt more active polling of members to ascertain your views on issues so that decisions aren't top down.

Thanks for your consideration.



X

2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Barbara Hendrickson

bhendrickson@baxsecuritieslaw.com



Securities lawyer with my own firm BAX Securities Law. Worked in government, private practise and in-house including with the OSC, small, mid-sized and international law firms.

Member of the OBA Securities Committee; OSC's Small & Medium Enterprises Committee; Prospectors & Developers Association Canada; Environmental Finance Advisory Committee, University of Toronto; Responsible Investment Committee University of Toronto; Past Chair of the CBA Business Law and Co-Chair of the CBA's Securities Committee and Trustee of the OBA Foundation.

Past member - OBA Council, OBA Natural Resources & Energy Section Executive, OBA Pension & Benefits Section Executive; Past President - Women's Law Association of Ontario; Past Chair - Joint Committee on Gender Equality; Past President - Association of Law Officers of the Crown.

As a profession we are facing monumental challenges, some historical but many that have emerged more recently. Our overarching challenge is to maintain our value and role in Canadian society as trusted advisors. Our Law Society can and must play an important role in this endeavor.

Our ability to maintain our value in Canadian society is being affected by a number of factors including: the high numbers of new entrants to our profession either as graduates from Canadian law schools or law schools outside of Canada; our inability to absorb new entrants into our traditional articling programs; the lack of employment opportunities for newly called lawyers and further training once called to the bar; fundamental access to justice issues not only for the poor and disadvantaged but for the "average" Canadian; the commoditization of professional services generally; and the need for our business model to adopt to changing markets for legal services and a changing world.

Our members, whether sole practitioners or in large, medium-sized law or small firms, and whatever their experience levels are faced with a number of challenges: a legal regulatory environment which does not always operate in an open and efficient manner proportionate to its regulatory objectives; complex fiduciary obligations owing to our clients; competition from web based and non-regulated legal service providers; changing demographics; constantly changing technology; the grueling treadmill and endless demands of private practice; practice areas which are complex and ever changing and struggle to maintain balance in our lives. Many members of our profession face additional challenges including due to their gender, gender and sexual orientation and membership in racialized communities. Sole practitioners and lawyers in small law firms who are shouldering the burden of these challenges on their own require special support.

We require a radical rethink of all aspects of our regulation and we need Benchers who have the tools and courage to implement the needed changes. Business as usual is not an option. I would be honored to have your support in the upcoming bencher election. Je serais honoré d'avoir votre soutien à la prochaine élection de conseiller.

www.baxsecuritieslaw.com



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2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Mitchell Kowalski

mekowalski@rogers.com



Solicitor – boutique real estate practice

Visiting Professor – University of Ottawa Law and University of Calgary Law

Raised in Hamilton and Burlington

Called to the Bar in 1991

LL.M. in Real Estate Law

Author of the critically acclaimed, “Avoiding Extinction: Reimagining Legal Services for the 21st Century.”

Frequent speaker on the future of the legal profession globally.

ICD.D designation in corporate governance

Prior Directorships: Ontario Realty Corporation and Ontario Infrastructure and Lands Corporation.

We are now at the beginning of the Great Legal Reformation.

Under the current Convocation, Ontario’s A2J problem has grown along with the rate of depression among lawyers. Students face increasingly horrendous job prospects, while female lawyers and racialized lawyers continue to feel disenfranchised.

The 2015 Bencher Election may be the most important election in decades, as these issues will only continue to increase if left unchecked. Convocation has become increasingly disconnected from lawyers in this province and has lost its way.

It’s time for change. It’s time for new, fresh perspectives that can set a new course to create a better future for the people of this great province, and the lawyers who serve them.

Solicitors are underrepresented in Convocation and I fill that gap.

We need to learn from the Australian and UK experiences and give more flexibility to lawyers who want to effectively and efficiently deliver legal services to Ontarians in different and better ways. I am the only candidate who regularly teaches, speaks and writes in this area – I am also the only one that has travelled to other jurisdictions to undertake primary research in this regard.

A determination on articling vs. LPP will be made in a few short years. This decision must be made based on clear metrics and data with a full understanding of the impact on future generations.

The Law Society is a \$100 million enterprise and it is time for it to be run like one. My training and experience in corporate governance on major corporate boards provide me with the tools to make Convocation and the Law Society function better.

For more information visit: www.kowalskiforbencher.com

Follow me on Twitter: @mekowalski



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2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Janet Leiper

jl@15bedford.com



Bencher Responsibilities

Committee/Working Group Member:

- ✦ Audit and Finance
- ✦ Professional Regulation
- ✦ Equity and Aboriginal
- ✦ Access to Justice
- ✦ Bencher Election
- ✦ Costs
- ✦ Bencher Remuneration
- ✦ Challenges Faced by Racialized Licensees
- ✦ Hearing Tribunal
- ✦ Appeal Tribunal
- ✦ Tribunal Implementation

Chair/Co-Chair/Vice-Chair Positions:

- ✦ Certified Specialist Board
- ✦ Challenges Faced by Racialized Licensees
- ✦ Equity/Aboriginal Committee
- ✦ Tribunal Committee

Practice Experience

Barrister and Solicitor in Independent Practice, Toronto, Certified Specialist in Criminal Law since 1995
 Member, Ontario Review Board and Nunavut Review Board
 Integrity Commissioner, City of Toronto 2009-2014
 Visiting Professor, Osgoode Hall Law School 2007-2009
 Chair of Legal Aid Ontario 2004-2007

Service

Director, Pro Bono Law Ontario 2009-2014
 Mentor-WLAO Mentoring Program 2011-2014
 Speaker/Educator, Various Legal Organizations and Faculties of Law 1988-2015

Our profession continues to face issues of access to justice, diversity within our profession, mentoring needs, non-lawyer ownership (ABS), the articling practice program review, proactive discipline regulation and more. The practice of law is increasingly complex, difficult and stressful. We need to treat these issues as interconnected and look at their potential impact across broader time and geographic horizons. Our decisions rest on the values at the core of an independent legal profession. This has been my approach to decision-making as a bencher: I am seeking re-election to continue to serve you with energy and diligence.

My Record

I pressed for a report from Legal Aid Ontario on the woeful state of financial eligibility. Convocation received a compelling presentation from LAO and the Law Society joined the many voices within the administration of justice calling for change. In 2014, increased government funding was announced to improve financial eligibility. I ran on increased transparency by the Law Society. I urged webcasting and posting of the Law Society's business policy. Both initiatives have been implemented with the first webcasting of Convocation proceedings taking place during the articling and the TWU accreditation debates.

I have served as a member and now as Chair of the *Challenges Faced by Racialized Licensees Working Group*, which was struck in 2012 to study and address challenges and opportunities for racialized lawyers and paralegals. We are undertaking province-wide consultations to address inclusion, marshal the talents of the entire bar and work toward educating the profession on the importance of embracing diversity.

While Chair of the Certified Specialist Board, we brought greater awareness to the program, approved development of a new specialty area for indigenous practitioners and maintained ongoing policy oversight of this program.

A Recommendation for a New Bencher: Planning for the Future

I am pleased to support **Isfahan Merali**, Counsel with the CCB who has served the Law Society well as a member of the *Equity Advisory Group*. Ms. Merali's record of wise and principled service to the public and the Law Society make her an ideal candidate for Bencher.

More on our platforms:

www.reelectjanetleiper.com

www.isfahanmerali.com

**X****2015**

BENCHER ELECTION

Jeffrey W. Lem

jeffreywlem@gmail.com



Director of Titles for the Province of Ontario

1984 B.Comm, University of Toronto

1987 J.D., Osgoode Hall

2002 LL.M., Osgoode Hall

Called to the Bar 1989 (Ontario)

Solicitor on the Rolls 2000

(England & Wales)

Current LSUC Bencher

OBA Award for Excellence

TLA Honsberger Award

FACL Lifetime Achievement Award

LSUC Specialist in Real Estate Law

Martindale-Hubbell rated AV®

Editor, Real Property Reports

Director, Osgoode Hall LL.M.

Former OBA Real Property Exec.

Past President of the Association of

Chinese Canadian Lawyers Ontario

As the Director of Titles for the Province of Ontario with the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services, I have responsibility for the *Land Titles Act*, the *Registry Act*, the *Land Registration Reform Act*, and the *Boundaries Act*. Ontario has almost 6.5 million real estate parcels, and I work directly and regularly with the Province's real estate bar to ensure a smooth functioning real estate sector. I feel very strongly that real estate lawyers must remain a central and indispensable part of real estate transactions in the Province.

I am a current bencher, serving Convocation on several committees: the Proceedings Authorization Committee (which vets and authorizes the discipline process); the Professional Regulation Committee; the Equity and Aboriginal Issues Committee; and the Real Estate Liaison Group.

I also sit on the Alternative Business Structures ("ABS") Working Group. The potential introduction of non-lawyer ownership of law firms is one of the biggest issues facing the profession today. I commend the hard work of the ABS Working Group, and the thoroughness of its report to the profession on the issue, although I continue to disapprove of any introduction of ABS in Ontario.

If re-elected, I will continue to bring much needed diversity of practice to Convocation. Amongst the existing cohort of benchers, there are very few with solicitor practice backgrounds or public sector backgrounds. I believe that Convocation should reflect the myriad of practices found in the bar itself. Before becoming the Director of Titles, I was in private practice as a solicitor for almost 25 years. If re-elected, I would serve all lawyers by bringing a solicitor's perspective to Convocation as well as the perspective of a Provincial regulator and a public sector lawyer. I believe that Convocation should also reflect the rich racial and ethnic mosaic that is the general membership of the Law Society. If re-elected, I would continue to contribute to the racial and ethnic diversity of Convocation.

Thank you very much for your consideration of my candidacy.



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2015

BENCHER ELECTION

William C. McDowell

wmcdowell@litigate.com



Professional

- Partner, Lenczner Slaght Royce Smith Griffin LLP
- Associate Deputy Minister of Justice (2005-2008)
- Associate, Partner, McCarthy Tétrault LLP (1988-2005)

Other Activities

- Vice-Chair, University of Toronto Academic Disciplinary Tribunal (2010)
- Federal Lead on the Tri-level Committee on Gang Crime (2006-2008)
- Director, The Advocates' Society (2006-2010)
- Membre, Conseil d'Administration l'Alliance Française de Toronto (2001-2004)
- Instructor in Advocacy, University of Toronto, Osgoode, Queen's (1999-2011)
- Counsel to Toronto Chief of Police in the JKE "Mega-Inquest" Into Mental Health (2013-2014)
- Counsel to the Chief Justice of Ontario for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (2008)

Awards

- Department of Justice National Award (2007)
- Arbor Award, University of Toronto (1999)

Me

I grew up in Trenton. When I came to law school in Toronto, I formed a clever plan to get my degree, find articles, get called, and head back to Trenton (or Belleville or Kingston) to practise. Thirty-two years later, things are not shaping up that way.

As a litigator, I have practised with the one of the largest firms in the country, served in Ottawa as Associate Deputy Minister of Justice for Canada, and now practise at Lenczner Slaght, a litigation boutique. My practice has been broad, focusing now on commercial litigation, public law and libel but with extended stops in Commissions of Inquiry and commercial crime. Leaving aside a day here or there, I have thoroughly enjoyed the journey so far.

Why Me?

I said when I first ran for Bencher in 2011 that I hoped to help Convocation bridge its many divisions given the diversity of the profession. This seemed to be a modest promise, but as it turned out, the past four years presented some of the most difficult issues the Law Society has confronted in its recent history. Our response to the articling crisis, and the creation of the Law Practice Program, presents one example. We have also struggled to find practical and focussed ways to improve access to justice. I have been immensely proud of my colleagues for the civility which has surrounded the discussion of these and our other hard questions.

I have had the privilege to be included in many of these efforts. I have led the Society's relations with the federal and provincial governments as Chair of the Government Relations Committee. Our Committee worked with the provincial government to ensure new investment in Legal Aid.

Early in my term, I acted as Chair of the Professional Regulation Committee as we synchronized our Rules of Professional Conduct with the new National Code of the Federation of Law Societies. I continue to work with the Committee on Racialized Licensees as we strive to ensure a level playing field for all Ontario lawyers.



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2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Isfahan Merali

elect@isfahanmerali.com



Practice Experience

Tribunal Counsel, Consent & Capacity Board since 2012
Counsel, Ministry of the Attorney General & OHRC since 1997
Acting Director, Int'l Human Rights Prgm., University of Toronto, 1999-2000

Education

Human Rights Law Fellow, University of Toronto, 1999-2000
Call to the Bar, 1997
LL.B., University of Toronto, 1995

Membership & Service

Equity Advisory Group, The Law Society of Upper Canada, 2009-Present
Association of Law Officers of the Crown (ALOC)
Society of Ontario Adjudicators & Regulators (SOAR)
Women's Law Association
South Asian Bar Association
Pro Bono Students Canada & Law in Action within Schools, Former Mentor and Volunteer
Trinity-Spadina Community Service Award, 2013

As a member of the Law Society's Equity Advisory Group (EAG), I have been inspired and encouraged to run by my colleagues and an extraordinary mentor and friend, Bencher Janet Leiper. I've practiced law for 20 years and my deep commitment and respect for the legal profession, ethical practice and public service is evident in my work as a public service lawyer and in my interactions with colleagues and our legal institutions. I would be honoured to represent our profession as we face significant policy challenges ahead.

I have participated in EAG for many years, and have direct experience with issues that our profession is facing: Challenges Faced by Racialized Licensees; the Articling Practice Program review; Access to Justice and Equity initiatives; ABS (non-lawyer ownership); and Professional Discipline Regulation and Professional Responsibility. I believe that it is critical for our profession to include informed, progressive and diverse ideas on how to face these complex issues and I am eager to work on these issues in a collaborative, accountable and progressive manner.

Throughout my years of practice, which have exposed me to human rights and mental health law, I have seen many challenges faced by our profession – many of which still need the attention and support of the Law Society. These challenges include: equity initiatives to increase inclusion, focusing particularly on racialized and indigenous practitioners; challenges facing lawyers with disabilities and mental health issues; addressing needs unique to our colleagues in rural areas and small towns; the stresses of sole practitioners and those new to our profession, including the need for mentoring; and more accessible ways in which to participate meaningfully in our governing profession.

The complex issues and challenges faced by our profession require a thoughtful approach, taking into account the diversity of our profession and our responsibility to the public. It is with these values and commitments that I would be honoured to serve.

For more information please see:

www.isfahanmerali.com

www.reelectjanetleiper.com



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2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Malcolm Mercer

mmerc@mcCarthy.ca



Law Society of Upper Canada

- Bencher since 2011
- Chair, Professional Regulation and Co-Chair [ABS Working Group](#)
- Member, Access to Justice and Paralegal Standing Committees and [Challenges for Racialized Licensees](#) Working Group

Canadian Bar Association

- Past Chair, [Ethics and Professional Responsibility Committee](#)
- Team Lead, Ethics and Regulatory Team, CBA [Futures Initiative](#)
- Member, [Task Force on Conflicts of Interest](#)

McCarthy Tétrault

- [General Counsel and Partner](#)

Other

- Director, Pro Bono Law Ontario
- CBA [Louis St Laurent Award](#) in 2013 and [25 Most Influential](#) Lawyers in 2014
- [Slaw.ca legal ethics](#) columnist

www.malcolmmcCarthy.ca

The Law Society exists to maintain and advance the *cause of justice* and the *rule of law*, to facilitate *access to justice* and to protect the *public interest* all in the exercise of its regulatory responsibilities. I seek your support so that I may continue to contribute to this important work.

As a bencher and as a lawyer, I have committed myself to issues of legal ethics. I have been deeply involved in the development of our Rules of Professional Conduct and effective professional regulation. I am committed to proper adjudication as an active member of the Law Society Tribunal.

Access to justice is of fundamental importance. But access is a serious problem in many areas. I believe that we must undertake significant reform while at the same time not compromising existing legal services and professionalism. I believe that it is important to our diverse and pluralistic society that justice be served by lawyers and paralegals who reflect the diversity of our society. My work with respect to Alternative Business Structures, the accreditation of Trinity Western University and as member of the Racialized Licensees Working Group reflects these beliefs.

Self-regulation is of great importance to our legal system and to effective regulation by the Law Society. The interests of the legal profession are mostly but not perfectly aligned with the public interest. While benchers are elected by the profession, I believe that it is important that the electors and the elected understand that we must all act in the public interest in self-regulation. This is the point and the foundation of self-regulation. I am committed to these principles.

I have offered my leadership and have made significant contributions to our profession on significant matters. Some of these matters have been controversial, many not. My promise is that I will continue to dedicate myself, my time and my expertise, to carefully consider all views with an open mind and to do what I think is in the public interest. I ask for your support in this bencher election so that I may continue to make a difference.



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2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Janet E. Minor

janet@janetminor.ca



Treasurer

Law Society of Upper Canada

Elected Bencher

2001 – 2003, 2006 – 2014

General Counsel

Ministry of the Attorney General,
Constitutional Law Branch
1977- 2014

2013 Carol Creighton Award

ALOC

2013 Zenith Award

Lexpert

2010 Tom Marshall Award

Ontario Bar Association

2003 President's Award

Women's Law Association

Board Experience

Centre for the Legal Profession

Law Foundation of Ontario

Ontario Lawyers' Assistance Program

Ontario Justice Education Network

University of Toronto Tribunal &

Discipline Appeals Board

Past Chair

Sir William Campbell Foundation

University of Toronto Law

Alumni Association

Member, Past Director

The Advocates' Society

Member

Lawyers Club of Toronto

Ontario Bar Association

Ontario Judicial Council

Supreme Court Advocacy Institute

Toronto Lawyers' Association

Women's Law Association

Founding Director

Association Law Officers of the Crown

I was elected Treasurer by my bencher colleagues in June 2014. I seek your support to continue to lead Convocation in the public interest.

It has been a privilege to serve the profession as Treasurer and bencher.

I have served as a bencher across our mandate:

- Member, Hearing Appeal Panel
- Member, Governance Task Force, which developed term limits
- Member, Access to Justice Committee
- Chair, Equity and Aboriginal Issues Committee
- Member, Retention of Women in Private Practice Project
- Member, Challenges for Racialized Licensees Working Group
- Chair, Inter-jurisdictional Mobility Committee
- Chair, Professional Development and Competence Committee, introducing Pathways, a pilot Law Practice Program - an alternative and enhancement of the articling requirement
- Co-Chair, Mentoring Working Group

As Treasurer, I have endeavoured to provide strong leadership that is inclusive, consultative and collaborative both at Convocation and within the profession. Self-governance of the legal profession is fundamental and our initiatives must be considered and principled.

We need progressive initiatives to maintain and enhance competence of our members, to improve equity in the profession and access to justice for the public, particularly in rural and remote areas and amongst linguistic communities. It is critical to strengthen our aboriginal engagement.

We must maintain public confidence in our regulatory system. We have commenced a dialogue with the profession about alternate business structures. My priority is to ensure that any Convocation decision assesses whether there are benefits to the profession and the public, and importantly, whether we can regulate to meet high standards of integrity and professionalism.

My opportunities to meet lawyers in every region of the province have been energizing, reinforcing my belief that the best initiatives are based on consultation. One size does not fit all.

I ask for your support so that I may continue to bring leadership, experience, energy and enthusiasm to the important work of Convocation. For more information, visit my website at janetminor.ca.



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2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Barbara Murchie

murchieb@bennettjones.com



**Raised and schooled in
New Liskeard, Ontario**

**BA from U of T
LLB from Osgoode Hall Law School
Called 1986**

**10 plus year career in Television,
before and during law school,
including as producer, director**

**Practised litigation in small and
large firms
Partner Bennett Jones since 2005**

**Professional Service includes:
Co-chair Courthouse series 2005-
2015 in Windsor, London, Kitchener,
Hamilton, Kingston, Ottawa,
Thunder Bay, Sudbury, Toronto
Assessor Arnup Cup 2004 -2015
TAS Board of Directors 2002-2005
Member: CBA, IPIC, TLA, LC, WLAO**

**Community Service includes:
Ovarian Cancer Canada director &
chair 2002 - 2010
Casey House Fdn director & chair**

I am running for re-election because I am active, dedicated and bring a sensible and realistic perspective to the table. I am committed to responsible regulation that fulfils our mandate to protect the public interest. My priorities continue to be:

Raising the Bar on Competence. In the past two years, the Law Society has established standards for articling principals and initiated the Law Practice Program (LPP) which must still be assessed. To ensure lawyers have the practical skills they require to serve the public, we need to implement comprehensive exams after articling and the LPP. We must also increase monitoring to ensure post-licensing competence.

Relevant, Effective and Responsive Regulation. Regulation must recognize the challenges of practice. It must also be fair, equitable, transparent and support the diversity of the bar. Your annual dues must be used effectively and efficiently and only to the extent necessary for fulfilling our mandate. I will support practical and reasonable initiatives that (i) ensure competent and honest lawyers in a civil and honourable profession and (ii) facilitate access to justice.

Increasing Support for Soles and Smalls. Access to justice is largely provided by those in smaller firms. The Law Society must continue to support increased legal aid. We must also maximize the value provided by local libraries, deliver local CPD programs and develop more resources designed to assist soles and smalls in the efficient delivery of effective legal services to the public.

Commitment as a Benchers: I have an excellent attendance record and take my duties seriously. As vice-chair of the Professional Development and Competence Committee, my priority has been professional standards. As co-chair of the former Retention of Women working group, I have worked hard on the advancement of women in the profession. I am an adjudicator for the Law Society Tribunal and have authored decisions on misconduct ranging from mortgage fraud to misleading the courts to good character. I am active on the Tribunals, Equity and Access to Justice committees and am a director at LawPro.



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2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Sandra Y. Nishikawa

sandra@sandraforbencher.ca



Counsel, Ministry of the Attorney General, Crown Law Office Civil Department of Justice (2003-2011)
Shearman & Sterling LLP, New York (1999-2002)

Professional Activities:

- Chair, EAG, LSUC (member since 2008)
- Director, Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF)
- Director/VP External, Federation of Asian Canadian Lawyers (2012-14)
- Chair, DOJ Advisory Committee on Visible Minorities (2007-08)
- TAG Reference Group
- Chief Justice's Advisory Committee on Professionalism
- OBA, Advocates' Society

Education:

Called 1999 (Ontario and New York)
LL.M., Toronto (2009)
LL.B./B.C.L., McGill (1997)
B.A., Toronto (1993)
Married with 3 children

A diverse and inclusive profession is a more vibrant profession, and one that will better serve the public interest.

As a bencher, I will bring 15 years of experience as a litigator in the public and private sectors, in Ontario and in the United States. This experience has made me a practical and results-oriented advocate, who sees issues from a range of perspectives, while balancing broader policy or client objectives. De plus, en tant qu'avocate bilingue, je valorise la pluralité linguistique canadienne.

My priorities as a bencher will be as follows:

- **Accountability and Engagement** – We must manage the Law Society's resources responsibly, to ensure its continued ability to address the most pressing issues. I will enhance accountability and member engagement by advocating for increased transparency at the Law Society, particularly at Convocation.
- **Equity and Inclusion** – As Chair of the Equity Advisory Group (EAG), I have been actively involved in the Challenges Faced by Racialized Licensees project, among other initiatives. I am committed to ensuring that concrete steps are taken to address the challenges that have been identified.
- **Access to Justice** – As a member of The Action Group on Access to Justice (TAG) Reference Group, I have been engaged in developing the framework for the Law Society's role. I will continue to help find ways for the Law Society to improve access to justice.
- **Pathways to the Profession** – As EAG commented when the Law Practice Program (LPP) was proposed, the LPP must not become a second tier that disproportionately impacts equity-seeking groups. Entry to and advancement in the profession should be accessible to all.

Over the years, I have had the privilege of collaborating and building relationships with lawyers, paralegals and organizations from various practice areas and settings, and believe that Convocation must represent the full diversity of the profession. I would be honoured to bring my **perspective, experience and commitment** to serve as your bencher. Please visit www.sandraforbencher.ca.



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2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Gina Papageorgiou

papageorgiou@me.com



EDUCATION

LLB: UWO, 1989

Called to Bar: Ontario, 1991

**LLM: Osgoode Hall Law School,
2006**

CURRENT POSITIONS

**Counsel: Class Proceedings
Committee of Law Foundation of
Ontario since 2006**

**Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Member:
Board of the Human Rights Legal
Support Centre since 2008**

**Deputy Judge of the Small Claims
Court since 2009**

PAST POSITIONS

**Partner: McCarthy Tétrault
Assistant Crown Attorney: Ministry
of Attorney General**

**President: Barbra Schlifer
Commemorative Clinic**

**Special Investigator of Sexual
Harassment Complaints: York
University**

**Special Lecturer, Business Law:
University of Toronto**

The Right Honourable Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin said it best:

"There is no justice without access to justice."

To me, achieving accessible justice entails confronting the enormous, profound and counterintuitive changes that have taken place in the legal profession over the past several decades. The number of lawyers has grown dramatically, but more and more people cannot afford them. The Bar is more diverse overall, but women and racialized lawyers continue to face significant hurdles and barriers in advancement. We are all concerned about standards and professionalism, but opportunities for training and mentoring are harder and harder to find. All of these issues are related. Access to justice is not just about the price of legal services; it includes ensuring that the greater diversity of the profession is fully marshaled to the benefit of the clients and communities that we serve. We cannot achieve access to justice without addressing disparities in outcomes for women and racialized lawyers and without providing the best training and mentoring possible.

For over a decade, everything I have done professionally has provided me with "on the ground" insight and perspective on these critical issues. As a Deputy Judge of the Small Claims Court, I help address impacts on diverse litigants who cannot afford legal advice or representation. I cannot overstate the pride I feel for our profession when presiding over trials where young, earnest and talented lawyers provide their services at reduced rates or on a *pro bono* basis. As counsel to the Class Proceedings Fund of the Law Foundation of Ontario, I help ensure that people with meritorious claims receive the funding they need to vigorously pursue them. As former President of the Schlifer Clinic and current Vice-Chair and Treasurer of the Human Rights Legal Support Centre I have led organizations which provide free legal services to some of the most marginalized and vulnerable people in our society, many of whom do not speak English. These organizations pride themselves on their diversity.

I have seen access to justice in action. It is a realizable goal to which I am committed.

www.ginapapageorgiou.ca



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2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Dan Revington

votedan@danrevington.com



General Counsel,
Workplace Safety and Insurance
Appeals Tribunal, for 15 years

Acted on leading cases in tribunal
hearings, judicial reviews, trials,
and appeals

Chaired and presented at
dozens of CLE programs

Served on OBA Section
Executives:

- Administrative Law
- Health Law
- Labour and Employment Law
- Workers' Compensation Law

Articled in Hamilton to Law Society
Treasurer John D. Bowlby

LL.B., University of Western
Ontario

Happily married to Kate Revington
for over 30 years

Check out DanRevington.com

We must uphold the rule of law and access to justice across the whole legal spectrum.

- **Balanced legal perspective.** I have practiced law in a small firm and in government. I have acted for plaintiffs and for defendants, for large companies and for the poor and marginalized. As Tribunal General Counsel, I have fulfilled a neutral role. Serving on four different OBA Section executives has enabled me to learn from my colleagues in big firms and small firms, and from sole practitioners.
- **Innovative, able to find common ground.** Tapping the goodwill and shared values of lawyers from different backgrounds and communities, I discovered a wealth of common ground to create the OBA's Workers' Compensation Law Section. This section has become one of the OBA's most dynamic and collegial, known for standing up for the best interests of parties, lawyers, and adjudicative institutions.
- **Empathetic and committed to access to justice.** Every day I see first-hand that the marginalized and vulnerable lack access to legal services. I also appreciate the need for realistic Legal Aid fees. Further, as an articling principal for many years, I have seen the challenges faced by new lawyers, particularly women and members of diverse groups – these must be addressed.
- **Experienced with paralegal regulation.** I have years of front-line experience with paralegals. Paralegal regulation is a success story, but much more needs to be done.
- **Committed to the rule of law.** My experience as Tribunal General Counsel has confirmed my belief that adjudicative tribunals must have adjudicators who are competent, with the independence to make impartial decisions. The statutory principles that are fundamental to our Law Society's self-governing mandate – the rule of law, access to justice, and the public interest – require us to address this issue.



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2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Sean Robichaud

sean@robichaudlaw.ca



Biographical Data

Lead counsel, Robichaud's Barristers & Solicitors | Owner/Operator of King Law Chambers Inc.

Certified Specialist in Criminal Law
B.A. (Queen's, 2001)
LL.B. (Queen's, 2004)
LL.M. (Osgoode, 2012)
Called to the Bar 2005

Past Activities and Accreditations:

- Director of the Criminal Lawyers' Association
- Guest Speaker at the University Toronto (Law, Faculty of Geography)
- Guest Instructor Queen's Trial Advocacy
- Toronto Lawyers Association (member)
- ESM Criminal Law Panel, Legal Aid Ontario
- Numerous CLE events speaker

Personal:

- Avid motorcyclist and outdoor enthusiast
- Father of twin four year-old boys

Our profession is entering a time of profound change. The present direction our Society has taken is moving our members towards an inevitable devaluation of our services as lawyers. It is incumbent upon our benchers to make efforts against the oversaturation of legal professionals, the corporatization of law, and complacency towards governmental underfunding.

A more robust Legal Aid system and greater governmental cooperation towards access to justice.

Put simply, access to justice is not about empowering and educating unrepresented litigants, it is about facilitating access to lawyers. Lawyers' expertise is as skilled and essential as any other. "Access to Health" does not advocate people treating themselves in complicated medical matters; the same should be said for justice. It is the obligation of our benchers to facilitate and insist upon a stronger governmental role in enhancing access to lawyers through Legal Aid or other viable measures that recognize this need, and recognition of fair remuneration.

Opposition to Alternative Business Structures

If elected, I will advocate and vote against the present movement towards implementing Alternative Business Structures. I am strongly of the view that these models will erode the purpose of our profession, reduce access to justice in a qualitative sense, and serve to exploit younger lawyers into working for wages far less than they ought to be entitled to.

Curtailing the ever-increasing supply of lawyers and better training for those who are called.

Ontario's legal market has far too many young graduates unable to find jobs. This is a matter of economics that cannot be solved by regulatory efforts. The present system enables a mindset towards a false hope of immediate solutions once called to the bar, all this while incurring further debt through skyrocketing fees. The trial LPP program only aggravates this problem. If anything, we should be moving back towards modular training sessions of candidates in classroom settings and involvement of our members similar to B.C. The movement away from articling and thorough, intensive training is misguided and ought to be opposed.



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2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Vincenzo (Enzo) Rondinelli

rondinelli@sympatico.ca



Called to the Bar in 1997
LL.B. (Osgoode); LL.M. (Osgoode)
Certified Specialist in Criminal Law

Teaching Activities
Osgoode Hall Law School
Adjunct Professor since 2003

University of Toronto
Sessional Instructor since 2013

Ryerson Law Practice Program
Curriculum Developer (Criminal law)

Author
Co-author of Criminal Procedure in
Canada (LexisNexis)

Co-author of Cox's Evidence
Handbook (Canada Law Book)

Professional Associations
Treasurer of the Criminal Lawyers'
Association

Executive Member - Criminal Justice
Section (Ontario Bar Association)

I am a certified specialist in criminal law, with a practice devoted mainly to criminal appeals. I have argued over 80 appeals at the Court of Appeal and have been co-counsel on 4 appeals before the Supreme Court of Canada. As an Adjunct Professor at Osgoode Hall, I am currently the co-director of the Criminal Intensive Program, as well as a lecturer in the Canadian Common Law LL.M. program. I most recently developed the criminal law curriculum for the Ryerson Law Practice Program. I am a co-author of a leading criminal procedure text that has been adopted in law schools and cited by various appellate courts across the country.

I am currently the Treasurer of the Criminal Lawyers' Association. In the past, I have presented submissions on behalf of the association to House of Commons Standing Committees relating to proposed legislation. I am also an executive member of the Criminal Justice Section of the Ontario Bar Association. I contribute to the section's monthly newsletter and have assisted in organizing CPD programs. Due to my practical, academic, and committee experience, I have gained a 360-degree view of the legal profession. As Benchers, I hope to assist in dealing with the following pressing challenges faced by LSUC:

Alternative business structures. LSUC must take a hard stance at keeping the door closed to non-lawyers seeking to commoditize legal services. The duty of care to the client and matters of integrity will fall by the wayside as non-lawyer firms chase profits rather than justice.

Access to justice for low and middle-income members of society. At the very least, an expansion of community outreach programs could assist with early management of legal issues and informal dispute resolutions.

Attrition of members. Law schools may have highly diverse student bodies, but we must do better as a profession to retain female lawyers and provide opportunities to its racialized members.

For more information about me and my platform, visit: **bencher2015.ca**



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2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Jeffrey B. Rosekat

jrosekat@gardiner-roberts.com



Jeff Rosekat grew up in Kitchener, has a degree in English Literature from UW, graduated from Osgoode Hall Law School in 1998, and was called to the Bar in 2000.

Jeff has worked at a variety of firms, but has been at Gardiner Roberts LLP since 2006, practicing bankruptcy and insolvency law and commercial litigation.

Jeff has served since 2008 on the Board of Directors (including 5 years as Chair) of Justice for Children and Youth.

Jeff recently joined the OBA Insolvency Section Executive and was a director for Pro Bono Law Ontario from 2006 to 2009. Jeff is a member of The Advocates' Society.

Jeff is married to Elisa Gerardo, and has two young boys, Lucas and Nicolas.

"The first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers." Lawyer jokes are at least as popular today as when Shakespeare wrote this famous line for Dick the Butcher. That a piece of paper "scribbled o'er should undo a man" is lamentable according to Dick, and his solution is simply to do away with lawyers entirely.

Apologists for the legal profession attempt to reinterpret this famous line by pointing out that when he delivers the line, Dick is contemplating the instigation of a popular revolt. Surely one of the first steps in a revolution is to snuff out those who would stand in the way: those guardians of civil society; those protectors of independent thought; the lawyers.

I don't think we need apologists; I think that we need to work together to be better as a profession.

We need to recognize that the business of law and the need to make a decent living as lawyers are not incompatible with the pillars of professionalism, civility, and ethics. We need to be comfortable with the premise that fierce advocacy and civility are not incompatible. And we need to ensure that the pressure for billable hours does not distract young lawyers from learning the key responsibilities of their profession: those of advising, serving, and advocating for their clients, rather than simply docketing time.

I want to be a benchner in order to work to make our profession better. I want to ensure that the LSUC continues leading the way in improving access to justice and to legal services. I want to be a benchner to offer perspective at Convocation on issues facing the almost 60 percent of practicing lawyers who are under the age of 50. And I want to be a benchner in order to improve the transparency, efficiency, flexibility and responsiveness of the LSUC as a governing body.

With your support, I will pursue these goals as a benchner. I look forward to the opportunity to serve the profession, to address the challenges we face, and to help us all work together to be a better profession. More at www.rosekatforbencher.ca.



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2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Jonathan M. Rosenthal

jrosenthal@bondlaw.net



Called to the Bar 1989
Criminal Lawyer, Sole Practitioner
Vice-President Ontario Criminal
Lawyers' Association
Adjunct Professor Osgoode Hall

Some Endorsements

Martin Teplitsky
Lorne Sossin
Sheila Block
Alan Lenczner
Brian Greenspan
Frank Addario
Michael Watson
Julie Hannaford
Clayton Ruby
Evan Green
Patrick Ducharme
Cynthia Sefton
Hartley Nathan
Marie Henein
Lisa Borsook
Brian Heller
Norman Boxall
Janet Leiper
David Humphrey
Paul Copeland
William Kaplan
Frank Gomberg
Adam Wagman

I have been practicing criminal law as a sole practitioner for more than 25 years. I have also been teaching trial advocacy to both lawyers and law students for almost 15 years. There are challenges facing our profession. My experiences as a litigator, teacher and sole practitioner give me the perspective and connection to all members of the bar, from recent calls to multi-decade practitioners, to serve you as a benchner.

Education: Education does not end at graduation. Alternatives to costly CPD to fulfill all CPD requirements such as mentoring and pro bono work should be considered.

ABS: This is a bad idea. It will be a terribly sad day if retaining a lawyer becomes the equivalent of buying a large screen television in a big box store.

Diversity: This incredibly important issue has proven very difficult for the LSUC to solve. The solution does not lie in more studies to prove what we already know, but with the courage to take bold steps to ensure a more diverse governing body.

Discipline: The formal discipline process should be reserved for cases in which the public is put at risk or the conduct brings our profession into disrepute. Alternatives such as ADR, mentoring and restorative justice should be used in other cases.

Access to Justice: The number of self-represented litigants is unacceptable. The LSUC needs to take a leadership role in solving this problem by both engaging governments for better legal aid funding and working with the courts to develop procedures which specifically address the needs of self-represented litigants.

I am hardworking, dedicated and energetic and would be honoured to represent you at Convocation.

www.rosenthalforbencher.com

**X****2015****BENCHER ELECTION**

Douglas Sanderson

d.sanderson@utoronto.ca



- Law Professor, University of Toronto, Faculty of Law, 2009-2014
- Senior Advisor to the Government of Ontario: Aboriginal Affairs (2004/5), Attorney General (2006/7)
- LL.M. Columbia University, 2004; Fulbright Scholar
- J.D. University of Toronto, 2003
- Member of the Opaskwayak Cree Nation

I believe that the legal profession in Ontario needs to ensure that all lawyers have the opportunity to practice law and to thrive in practice.

Recent changes to the articling program, and particularly the introduction of the Law Practice Program were designed to make the profession more accessible to graduating law students. It is an experiment whose outcome is not yet known. What I want is to ensure that all students who graduate from an Ontario accredited law school have the opportunity to practice law in Ontario. Foreign trained lawyers too should have the opportunity to bring their experience to the legal profession here in Ontario.

While in government as a senior advisor to the Attorney General, I worked tirelessly to bring about reform to the Human Rights system in Ontario. I fought for direct access to the Tribunal because I believe that no one should have to wait to hear their claims heard. I am proud to have participated in truly fundamental changes to the structure of the human rights system in Ontario.

As Bencher, I will bring that same energy and commitment to ensuring that law students are able to find a place within the legal profession. Whether that is through still further changes to the articling and law practice program, or through changes to the structure of legal practice ensuring the health and well-being of the law firms themselves.



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2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Paul B. Schabas

paul.schabas@blakes.com



- Partner, Blakes
- Bencher, served as:
 - Chair/Co-chair, Human Rights Monitoring Group, Access to Justice, Professional Regulation and Proceedings Authorization Committees
 - Member, Equity and Aboriginal, Tribunals and Finance Committees; Articling and Mentoring Task Forces
- Chair, Law Foundation of Ontario
- Past President, Pro Bono Law Ontario, Canadian Media Lawyers Association
- Adjunct Professor, U of T
- Director, Canadian Civil Liberties Association, Osgoode Society
- Former Director, Advocates' Society, Family Service Toronto, National Youth Orchestra, Lawyers Rights Watch Canada
- Fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers

A STRONG VOICE: The Law Society confronts tough issues these days, including articling, Trinity Western, the discipline process and competency, diversity, and access to justice. As a Bencher since 2007, I have spoken out on all these issues. My diverse practice - I started in criminal defence before moving to a large firm where I litigate commercial, constitutional, criminal/regulatory and media law – and involvement in legal and community organizations gives me experience and knowledge of the profession. My voice is strong, principled, and well-informed.

REFORM: Governance reform has been important. But more needs to be done. Convocation remains large and cumbersome. New initiatives can take years to implement. The Society must be more responsive to the public interest and be more efficient. I have urged more openness and transparency to foster public confidence.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: The Law Society is now bringing A2J organizations together – something I have advocated for years. The Society can't solve the access problem alone, but it can do more. It should communicate better with the public – help people find the legal services they need, tell them what lawyers do and what services are available. After all, how many Ontarians have even heard of the Law Society of Upper Canada, or know what it does? The Society must be more pro-active and not remain hidden behind Osgoode Hall's iron fence.

THE FUTURE – DIVERSITY, ARTICLING, ABS: I spoke out against Trinity Western, and am proud of our decision. The Society must continue to prioritize equity and diversity, and continue its work on racialized licensees, aboriginal issues, the retention of women, and mentoring. I also opposed the Law Practice Program for creating a two-tier licensing process. There will be a review of it soon, and if it's not working we mustn't be afraid to dump it. Alternate Business Structures is controversial, and change, if any, must be justified.

Member: Criminal Lawyers' Association, Advocates Society, Friends of the Community Clinics Committee, CBA, OBA, TLA.



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2015

BENCHER ELECTION

David Smagata

dsmagata@das.ca



Since completing my LL.B. and LL.M from the University of Ottawa, I have had the privilege of representing individuals and companies as plaintiffs and as defendants, while working in private practice, and as in-house counsel.

My current work as corporate counsel, provides me with another perspective on the practice of law and its demands.

I have been fortunate to work with the LSUC previously as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Equity Advisory Committee - identifying and advising the Bencher Committee on issues affecting equity seeking communities, both within the legal profession and relevant to those seeking access to the profession.

How will the practice of law be carried out four years from now?

The next four years will see an increased pressure for the legal profession. Overconcentration of lawyers in the urban centers with an ever increasing number of legal professionals, while at the same time the lack of legal services in rural areas, will put tremendous pressures on the traditional practice of law in Ontario. At the same time, clients are requiring increasing accountability from the legal profession to ensure that the services they receive are of value.

My experiences as both a solicitor and litigator - working in private practice and as in-house counsel provides a unique perspective. If we wish that the practice of law in Ontario continues to provide access to justice, we must ensure that all voices are heard when alternative business structures are discussed. The changes that come, not only must make the legal services more accessible and serve our clients better, but also must ensure that the practice of law is not diminished and continues to be as rewarding as ever.

We must ensure that as many disparate voices are heard and brought to the table for this debate, and the many other challenges the legal profession will face in the coming years. The makeup of Benchers needs to reflect the diversity of the legal community.

We must also review and examine if the creation of the law practice program is meeting the needs of our clients and those lawyers who choose this avenue over articles.

Other jurisdictions have dealt with issues already. Although we can look to their experiences, we must ensure that the solutions we arrive at meet our unique needs.

I believe my background and experience will be an asset in reaching those solutions.

<https://ca.linkedin.com/pub/david-smagata/5a/a82/34b>



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2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Bob Tarantino

bob.tarantino@dentons.com



Counsel, Dentons Canada LLP
Called in Ontario 2002; NY 2000

Education

LL.B., LL.M. (Osgoode)
B.C.L. (Oxon.)

Recognition

Best Lawyers in Canada; Who's Who Legal; Lexpert®/American Lawyer Guide to the Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada

Teaching

Adjunct Lecturer, Osgoode Hall Law School; Western University Faculty of Law

Ontario Bar Association

Past Chair, Entertainment, Media & Communications Law Section
Elected member of OBA Council
Pro Bono Task Force / Committee
Governance Committee
Strategic Planning Committee
ABS Working Group

#bob4bencher / bob4bencher.ca

I don't want to be a Bencher to advocate for the interests of lawyers – I want to advocate for the interests of the public. Too many Ontarians believe the Law Society acts to protect lawyers. My goal is to ensure there is no credible basis for that belief.

Accountability earns us the privilege of self-regulation. It should be the touchstone for Convocation's decisions, and the metric by which solutions to all of our challenges are assessed. From access to justice to retention of women to diversity and inclusiveness, from the graying of the bar in rural and remote communities to alternative business structures, enhancing accountability should be our goal.

If elected as a Bencher, I will work to advance the following initiatives:

- Eliminate the \$150,000 cap on victim compensation fund claims.
- Make revocations of license permanent: once a license has been revoked, a former licensee should not be permitted to practice law in Ontario again.
- Implement productive programs from other jurisdictions such as the Rural Education and Access to Lawyers initiative (British Columbia) and the Diversity Access Scheme (England and Wales), and pioneer our own, such as permanent liaisons with law schools to address matters of mutual concern such as law graduate debt.
- Pro-actively promote ethical infrastructure (which includes regulating *law firms* and not merely *lawyers*) and supplement reactive lawyer discipline with active support for ethical, affordable and sustainable practices.

I commit to bringing seriousness of purpose and dedication to service as a Bencher, to protect and promote the public interest.

Finally: No, I'm not related to Quentin Tarantino.



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2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Sidney H. Troister

sidforbencher@torkinmanes.com



Called to the Bar 1974
Partner Torkin Manes LLP
Awarded the Law Society Medal 2008
Recipient OBA Award for Excellence in Real Estate Law 2000
Certified Specialist Real Estate Law Mediator and Certified Arbitrator by ADR Institute of Ontario
Named 2015 Toronto Real Estate Lawyer of the Year by *Best Lawyers in Canada*
Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent Peer Review Rated
Author: *The Law of Subdivision Control in Ontario*
Founding and Continuing Chair of the LSUC Annual Real Estate Law Summit
Co-head Real Estate Section of Bar Admission Course 1990-2000
Past OBA representative on Ministry task force on real estate and mortgage fraud

Over the years, many lawyers practising in a variety of areas of law have encouraged me to run for bencher. They have told me that I am well-known enough and have the professional credibility to possibly get elected and that with my solicitor's experience, I would add balance to the benchers traditionally elected, especially from Toronto. I have decided that it is time to step up.

There are many issues that affect the public interest with which the Law Society is struggling, including alternative business structures, racialization, licensing reform, and access to justice. Those issues also affect lawyers and the future of the role of lawyers in our society. None of the issues involves a simple process or solution.

I am mindful of the importance of the debate and bring no preconceived opinions to the table. I am concerned however that some of the issues may put at risk our professionalism and the integrity of our duty to act independently and competently in the best interests of our clients. I will want to ensure that we take great care in the process of decision-making to preserve that integrity. I would like to think that, with my background, I will bring a fresh perspective to the table.

My particular interests are twofold: Our licensing process should produce competent lawyers and not just lawyers who have organized detailed written materials in order to write exams. We need to ensure that young lawyers starting their own practices have the necessary practical competencies to serve the public well. I have also had some experience looking in on the discipline process from the outside. A profession concerned about justice should subscribe to timely adjudication of discipline matters and should consider alternative or creative penalties that will still protect the public interest. Few, if any, discipline panels include solicitors, yet solicitors are frequently the subject of discipline. I hope to have some role in adding a new outlook and balance to the discipline process. To learn more about me, see my website at

www.sidforbencher.com



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2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Susan Jane von Achten





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2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Tanya C. Walker

tanya@tcwalkerlawyers.com



Awards

- Universal Peace Federation, Ambassador for Peace, 2014;
- National Bar Association, Chair's Award for Outstanding Service, 2014;
- Young Entrepreneur Award, 2013;
- Award of Excellence for Community Service, 2012; and
- Woman's Enterprise of the Year Award, 2010.

Adjudicator and Directorships

- Adjudicator: Assessment Review Board;
- Director: Osgoode Hall Law School Alumni Association; and
- Director: McMaster University Alumni Association.

Active Member

- Canadian Association of Black Lawyers; and
- OBA Executive: Franchise and Civil Litigation Sections.

Member

- Advocates Society;
- American Bar Association; and
- Toronto Lawyers Association.

Dear Colleague,

Practicing our shared profession has been my passion for almost ten years. Five years ago, I opened my own firm, Walker Law Professional Corporation. This election allows me to present myself as a spirited and passionate member of the Bar with experience to help guide the profession.

My aspirations for the future of the Law Society focus on raising new solutions to existing and emerging issues:

Access to the Profession: The Law Society can help to address the difficulties faced by the newest members of the profession in obtaining employment by developing an online registry, similar to the Articling Registry already in existence, to match firms with candidates. Further, until a statistical analysis of the success of the Law Society's Lawyer Licensing Process initiative has been completed, I believe that the Law Society should refrain from accrediting any additional law schools.

Efficiencies in the Judicial System: The Law Society should advocate for electronic initiatives in the Court system that will result in greater efficiency and reduce the usage of paper. By encouraging the courts in this direction, the Law Society will demonstrate a commitment to both reducing client costs and environmental responsibility.

Fiscal Prudence: Commitment to maintaining Law Society fees at a moderate level by identifying efficiencies in the operations of the Law Society and by focusing on its core functions.

Diversity: Continued efforts to ensure that female and visible minority members of the profession are afforded the same opportunities as all members of the Bar.

Read more about me and my campaign here:

<http://www.tcwalkerlawyers.com/bencherelection>



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2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Peter C. Wardle

pwardle@wdbblaw.ca



Founder and Partner, Wardle Daley Bernstein Bieber LLP
LL.B. (Queens, 1984)
Called to Bar 1986
Activities:
Lecturer, Advanced Civil Procedure, Queens University, 2003-2006
Director, The Advocates' Society, 2001-2006
Chair, Education Committee, The Advocates' Society, 2005-6
Member, Toronto Advisory Committee, Civil Justice Reform Project, 2007
Guest Instructor, Osgoode Hall Law School Trial Advocacy Program
Speaker, numerous CLE programs
Published articles in Canadian Bar Review, Ottawa Law Journal, Canadian Business Law Journal and other publications
Fellow, International Academy of Trial Lawyers
Ranked in Lexpert, Best Lawyers and Chambers Global in litigation
Elected Bencher, 2011
Chair, Compensation Fund 2012-14
Currently Co-Chair, Audit & Finance
Currently Co-Chair, Mentoring Working Group
Member, Articling Task Force, 2011-12
Member, ABS Working Group
Member, various standing committees

Why I am Running for Re-election

Being a Bencher has been a challenging but rewarding experience. During the past 4 years I have sat on many of Convocation's standing committees. For two years I chaired the Compensation Fund Committee and oversaw a major revision to our compensation Guidelines. I co-authored the minority report of the Articling Task Force. I currently serve as co-chair of Audit & Finance and of the Mentoring Working Group. I voted against the accreditation of Trinity Western University.

I believe I can continue to make a contribution as your representative.

Key issues facing the Law Society:

Our Licensing Process: The Law Society is currently experimenting with a Law Practice Program for those unable to find articling positions. Convocation will have to determine whether this program continues and if so on what basis. I do not support a two-tiered licensing process.

Discipline: Over the last four years Convocation has completely revamped its adjudication process to create a more professionalized tribunal. More needs to be done to simplify the process and reduce the number of hearings.

Alternate Business Structures: Opening up opportunities for lawyers to practice differently could have great long-term benefits for the profession and the public. At the same time, the experience from the jurisdictions which have the most experience with ABS is mixed. The Law Society must act cautiously.

Support for Young Lawyers: In the current economic climate, many young lawyers are opening up their own practices and struggling to make a living. They need more assistance. The Mentoring Working Group is currently considering how to provide additional mentoring and advisory services to young lawyers.

Diversity: Promoting diversity should continue to be a key priority. I support the ongoing work of the Task Force on Racialized Licensees. We need to take further steps to ensure that Convocation itself is representative of the makeup of the profession.

Financial Prudence: Benchers have an important responsibility to ensure that members' funds are managed prudently and that our insurance plan is well-run. Since 2011 fee increases have been modest. We must continue to look for further efficiencies and savings.



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2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Tannis Allison Waugh

tannis@tannisw.com



(1999) B.A. Carleton University
(2002) J.D. University of Ottawa
(2003) Called to the Bar of Ontario

2003-2006: Associate in a small firm in Toronto with practice focused on real estate, estates and corporate.

2006-Present: Sole Practitioner practicing in real estate, estates and corporate.

Membership, Committees and CLEs:

- 2010-Present: TLA Trustee
- 2012-Present:
Condominium Document
Sub-Committee of the
Working Group on Lawyers
and Real Estate
- Frequent speaker for TLA
and the OBA
- Several articles published
in the Toronto Law Journal

To learn more, please go to:

www.tannisw.com

www.benchertanniswaugh.com

Lawyers practising as sole practitioners or small firms make up more than half of the Law Society of Upper Canada's licensees. As a sole practitioner myself, I appreciate both the satisfactions and the challenges facing this group.

By the nature of our type of practice, sole practitioners and small firms have the least amount of support: there is no corporate, institutional, governmental or extensive firm structure on which to rely. As a result, external support through LSUC and other organizations is even more important.

As a sole practitioner, I have a deep understanding of our day-to-day concerns, to name just a few: increased competition, the impact of technology, and maintaining professional competency in a cost-effective manner while servicing the needs of our clients.

As a Bencher, I will represent and advocate for this group of licensees.

This is only one, but very important, area of concern I have as a Bencher candidate. I am also deeply concerned with the future of ABS, diversity and representation in our profession, the challenges facing young lawyers and issues that affect the real estate bar: competency, mortgage fraud and professional responsibility.

I invite you to visit my platform website where I've outlined these concerns and my relevant experience: www.benchertanniswaugh.com.

Furthermore, I would invite you to contact me directly by phone: 416.533.2996 x28 or by email: tannis@tannisw.com.

Your concerns as a licensee are important. We all have a voice; let me be that voice for you in Convocation.



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2015

BENCHER ELECTION

John B. West

john.west@nortonrosefulbright.com



Senior Partner Norton Rose Fulbright Canada LLP

Born in Toronto, Ontario

Called to the Bar 1978

Former Managing Partner 2008 - 2012 of Toronto Office Norton Rose Fulbright

Past National Chair, Employment and Labour Law Group, Ogilvy Renault (now Norton Rose Fulbright Canada) 2008 - 2012

Recognized in leading labour directories from Best Lawyers to Lexpert

Certified as a specialist in Labour Law by the Law Society of Upper Canada

Widower with 4 children (2 of whom are lawyers) and 5 grandchildren

Vice President of Rescuing Our African Daughters, charity devoted to helping women and girls in West Africa

<http://www.johnwestforbencher.com/home.html>

I am running for Bencher because I believe I will be able to make a positive contribution in representing the interests of lawyers and paralegals and ensuring that our profession remains self-regulated.

I was one of the first lawyers to join Ogilvy Renault (now Norton Rose Fulbright) in Toronto. I saw our office grow from approximately 6 lawyers to almost 200. In holding leadership positions in my firm, I have had to deal firsthand with many of the issues our profession faces. These include recruitment and retention of women, encouraging applications from racialized licensees, and supporting our firm's initiatives in pro bono activities. I have witnessed the challenges that young lawyers face and have also seen more senior lawyers coping to address concerns as they approach the end of active practice. As a former Managing Partner of a large office, I have participated in matters including mentoring, continuing education, encouraging diversity and dealing with emerging technologies. As a Bencher, I would draw from my experience in the hope of benefitting everyone from licensees in large firms to those in smaller and solo practice firms across Ontario. I would strive to make the Law Society relevant to all.

Among the issues I am committed to working on include retention and advancement of women, the needs of racialized licensees, equity and diversity and a review of the Law Practice Program. I would work with Convocation on these and other important key issues. I believe that the advancement of women has to be a keystone commitment of the Law Society. I am committed to supporting Convocation's initiatives respecting inclusiveness of racialized licensees, those with disabilities and others who are entitled to be welcomed into our profession. I am also committed to working with Convocation on the ongoing problem of a shortage of articling positions and a review of the Law Practice Program.

I would be honoured to represent you as a Bencher and would be committed to ensuring the Law Society remains accountable not just to our profession but, more importantly, to the needs of the public at large.



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2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Heather L. Zordel

hzordel@casselsbrock.com



- **Partner, Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP in Toronto with focus on corporate finance, securities regulatory compliance and governance for listed companies and investment funds**
- **Co-Director and Course Director, Osgoode LL.M. Securities Law**
- **Presenter at PD programs**
- **Member of OBA Public Affairs Committee 2014-2015**
- **Member of Expert Panel on Securities Regulation 2009**
- **Former Chair, Securities Advisory Committee to the OSC 2011-2013**
- **Executive Committee and Board Member, Albany Club of Toronto**
- **Media commentator; contributing author in "Corporate Finance for Canadian Executives", Carswell**
- **Volunteer for corporate & securities mooting programs**
- **Cdn Legal Lexpert Directory 2015 (Corp Fin & Securities; Corp Mid-Market)**
- **B.Comm., U of Saskatchewan - LL.B./J.D. 1987 and LL.M. 1998, Osgoode Hall Law School**

I am pleased to be considered for a position as a Law Society Bencher representing Toronto and bringing a corporate solicitor's perspective to our governing body.

I have been practicing as a corporate and securities lawyer in Toronto for over 25 years, including in private practice and in a corporate setting at the Toronto Stock Exchange. I have contributed to the development of public policy as a TSX policy and listings counsel, as staff support to a TSX blue ribbon committee addressing disclosure issues and civil liability in capital markets, as a board member of a crown corporation considering pensions and potential privatization, as a member of a committee tasked with providing advice to the federal government on improving securities regulation in Canada, and as chair of a committee providing advice to the Ontario Securities Commission on legislative and policy initiatives and capital markets trends.

My contribution to the legal profession has been focused on teaching, particularly in the part-time masters of law programs that help lawyers significantly update their skills throughout their careers; and frequently help young lawyers to obtain jobs and mature lawyers to change jobs.

I am interested in contributing to the successful future of the legal profession as we evolve along with the business of law. We need to (i) enhance our public reputation as a profession; (ii) recognize that changes in the way we provide services are necessary to compete locally and globally, and help lawyers and organizations adjust; and (iii) improve access to legal services in Ontario in ways that increase overall demand for lawyers.

I hope to bring fresh ideas to issues before the LSUC using the analytical, problem solving and "get-it-done" approaches I've learned through my work with multiple organizations.

Over the course of the campaign, please visit my website at <http://heatherzordel.ca>.

The deadline for voting is April 30, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. EDT.

Vote >

Votez >

La date limite pour voter est le 30 avril 2015 à 17 h HAE.



The Law Society
of Upper Canada

Barreau du
Haut-Canada