

President's Report – March 2010 by Stephen Taran

When I read the Olympic analogy in Cathy Bruni's final president report I couldn't help missing these Winter Games. Who wouldn't miss another nail-biting gold-medal hockey game or a breath-taking ice dance by London's Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir. I'm sure Jim Virtue is very happy to now be known as "Tessa's dad". Carrying forward Cathy's Olympic analogy, I'm happy to take the torch this year as your president and hope to have a gold medal performance like that of Cathy's this past year. I would like to thank Cathy for her dedication, leadership and accomplishments. She will remain on our board as past president, and I'm happy that I will be able to continue to rely on her counsel.

I'm looking forward to working with our new and returning board of trustees: Tracy Leckie (Vice President), Jennifer McGill (Treasurer), Jeanine LeRoy (Chair: Newsletter & Website), Bill Woodward (Chair: Library), Charlie Walters (Chair: CLE), Sylvia Loyens (Chair: Administration), Greg Van Berkel (Bench & Bar), Lindsay Kirk (Chair: Entertainment), Lianne Armstrong, and newcomers Ed Corrigan (Secretary), Michael Cormier (Complaints), Larry Blokker, Dagmara Wozniak and Matthew Dale. I know that I will continue to enjoy working with our dedicated librarians, Gail and Cynthia and library assistant, Vanja.

Continuing Legal Education

I am pleased to announce that Paula Puddy has renewed her contract with the MLA as its Director of CLE. We are very fortunate to have Paula. She has done an outstanding job, and has positioned the MLA very well for January 2011 when the mandatory continuing professional development (CPD) requirements come into effect. The Law Society of Upper Canada announced that:

the CPD requirement applies to all lawyers who practise law and paralegals who provide legal services – those lawyers and paralegals in the Law Society's 100% fee paying category. Lawyers and paralegals may choose from a wide range of eligible CPD activities including study groups. Three of the required 12 hours must be taken in ethics, professionalism, and/or practice management." The law society intends on providing courses at no cost on the issue of civility, which would satisfy the professional responsibility portion of the CPD.

For more details of the announcement click <http://www.lsuc.on.ca/index.cfm> .

I hope you have already registered for MLA's 5th Annual Straight from the Bench Litigation Conference on April 22nd and entertaining dinner with comedian Derek Edwards on April 21st. This year's Conference focuses on "The New Rules – A New Era" and "Hot Topics in Appellate Courts". The New Rules portion of the Conference will address expert witness requirements, discovery plans and summary judgment motions. The appellate hot topics include case comments on: Fiduciary duty, Mary Carter & Pierrenger agreements and evidence law. On March 31st, lawyers practicing for less than

eight years have a unique opportunity to dine at the London Club with colleagues, senior lawyers and judiciary. To register for the Mentoring Dinner or other CLE programs click http://www.middlaw.on.ca/site_files/cle.htm .

Justice on Target

Justice on Target (JOT) is the province's strategy to reduce delay in Ontario's criminal courts. JOT is the first ever results-based approach to criminal justice, setting system-wide goals to drive change. A critical element of the strategy is transparency. To date, the statistics suggest JOT is stopping the upward trend of delays that have challenged the system for nearly 20 years. If you have found an innovative or creative way for justice participants to work together to make the criminal justice system more effective, I encourage you to speak with Jeanine LeRoy, our representative on JOT's Local Leadership Teams or to send your story or suggestion directly to JusticeonTargetIdeas@ontario.ca .

Future Social Events

Don't miss a night of great music and fun at the annual Court House Rocks on March 26, 2010 from 6:00 pm to close at Downtown Kathy Brown's. This annual event supports London Lawyers Feed The Hungry.

We will be returning to FireRock Golf Club for our Annual Golf Tournament on Thursday, September 16, 2010. Please save this date.