

President's Report – May 2010 by Stephen Taran

Regrettably I will be out of town and unable to attend a Special Meeting of the Association for the purpose of honouring Paul Carter on Thursday May 27th at 5:00 pm. I encourage you to attend the service and the reception that will immediately follow in the library.

On behalf of our association, I attended a meeting of the Faculty of Law Decanal Selection Committee April 12th. I was asked to share our views about the Faculty, including its strengths, challenges and possible future directions. I'd like to thank all of the members who shared their views with me in preparation for that meeting. Our views were well received and appreciated. If you did not get a chance to speak with me prior to April 12th, and you would like to share your own views you are strongly encouraged to make written submissions regarding any aspect of the Faculty's operations under the leadership of the incumbent Dean. Those wishing to make such comments to the Selection Committee may address them to: Fred Longstaffe, Provost & Vice-President (Academic), and Chair of the Decanal Selection Committee for the Faculty of Law, Room 119A, Natural Sciences Centre. These submissions will be shared with the Committee members but otherwise kept in strict confidence. To be of most value to the Committee's work, any written contributions should be received by the end of April.

CDLPA

Tracy Leckie and I will be attending CDLPA's plenary at the beginning of May. For those of you who are unfamiliar with this acronym, it stands for the County and Districts Law President's Association. As the name implies, the members of CDLPA are the current presidents of the 46 County or District Law Associations in Ontario. Its focus is on issues affecting the practising Bar and local Law Associations. CDLPA is the only legal organization dedicated to being the voice of the practising Bar in Ontario. Volunteer executive members of CDLPA fulfill this mission by active representation to or on the various Committees of the Law Society that affect the practise of law in Ontario. CDLPA also advocates on behalf of the practising bar through communication with the Attorney General of Ontario, and other branches of government as necessary to meet the needs of the Bar.

The Law Society of Upper Canada will be holding a special career fair for students interested in establishing careers in areas outside Toronto. The career fair will be scheduled to coincide with CDLPA's November plenary. I have been asked to identify two senior members of the Bar who are willing to participate in this career fair, as well as be a liason for future programs encouraging students to look beyond Toronto. If you are interested in participating in this important initiative, please let me know.

Continuing Legal Education

The 5th annual Straight from the Bench Conference was kicked off again this year with a roar of laughter. Derek Edwards gave us all some valuable advice when choosing an “expert”. I particularly enjoyed his bit about the thinking behind the ads by laser eye surgery clinics promoting themselves as “experts”. I was having trouble breathing after he delivered his line about their apparent strategy to distinguish themselves from the avid hobbyist at Ed’s Pupil Hut.

I’d like to thank Paula Puddy, our CLE Director, for organizing another great conference which attracted 130 participants this year. She also secured the participation of 23 of our colleagues who enlightened us with their papers and presentations. We are all grateful to The Honourable Madam Justice Lynne Leitch, Kelly Clark Tranquilli and Karen Hulan for co-chairing this year’s conference. They created an interesting and practical agenda. Everyone appreciated the effort that went into the power point presentations and questions for the panels.

The Middlesex Family Law Association will be having their Annual Conference on Friday May 14th.

Social Events

Court House Rocks was a big hit again this year and raised over \$25,000 for London Lawyers Feed The Hungry. The annual event would not happen without the dedication of David Kirwin, Tracy Leckie, and the amazing acts who entertained us all night long.

The Mentoring Dinner at The London Club was well attended. Approximately 50 lawyers enjoyed dinner with a dozen and a half mentors and members of the judiciary. I’d like to thank Shawn Macdonald for chairing this event and everyone else who participated.

We will be returning to FireRock Golf Club for our Annual Golf Tournament on Thursday, September 16th. We were sold out last year so don’t delay in booking your spot when the registration forms come out.