

President's Report – January 2010

Happy New Year to all! I hope everyone had the opportunity to take some time to enjoy the holidays with their families and friends.

MLA Board of Trustees Elections and Annual General Meeting

Nomination forms have been distributed for the upcoming MLA Trustee elections. There are a number of vacancies this year and I strongly encourage members to put their names forward for this very rewarding opportunity.

Immediately following the election on February 18, 2010, we will be holding our Annual General Meeting commencing at 5:00 p.m. followed by a cocktail reception. We will be arranging a more informal, social format this year and we will be joined by a guest speaker from the Ontario Lawyers' Assistance Program.

LSUC Return to Practice Working Group

The Working Group, which is part of the larger initiative, the Retention of Women in Private Practice, is mandated to identify the challenges faced by women who have left the practice of law for an extended period (5+ years) and now wish to return. The goal of the Working Group is to generate recommendations to present to the Convocation of the Law Society to assist in the development of resources to help women return to practice after their absence.

The Working Group is requesting your assistance in locating women in our area who left the practice of law for an extended number of years and who have returned to practice or are contemplating returning to practice. The intent of the Working Groups is to interview these women and, if possible, to hold a focus group to discuss these issues.

If you or someone you know qualifies and are interested in participating, please contact me and I will put you in touch with the Chair of this organization.

LSUC Treasurer's Civility Forum

While you have already likely seen the announcements in the Ontario Reports or via email, I would also like to encourage our members to attend this event to be held in London on February 3, 2010 at the Best Western Lamplighter Inn from 5 to 7 p.m. I am told that nearly 100 individuals attended this event in Windsor and I am hopeful we will have an even better showing here.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss civility issues and their effect on the administration of justice system in Ontario as well as our role in achieving the desired standards. A number of our local Justices are slated as guest speakers. We are encouraged to raise any issues pertaining to local issues at the forum.

Swearing In Ceremony of New Local Justices of the Peace

His Worship Abdul Chahbar and Her Worship Kristine Diaz will be sworn in on Wednesday, February 10, 2010 at the Ontario Court of Justice, Courtroom #2 on the second floor of the court house. All are welcome to attend.

Joint Articles Option / Articling Option

If you could benefit from an Articling Student but do not have enough work to fully support a student, please remember that joint articles offered in conjunction with other lawyers are always an option.

Please be sure to post any potential positions on the LSUC Articling Registry who can also offer assistance with this process.

Our local Articling Day for UWO is scheduled for March 23, 2010. CDLPA will again have a table wherein articling in smaller centres will be promoted. CDLPA is also always willing to offer assistance in creating and promoting new positions.

Continuing Legal Education

Look for details shortly in regards to upcoming seminars including an Introduction to Financial Planning and Investing in January, a Bill 133 seminar in February and our annual Mentoring Dinner in March 2010.

As always, I remind you to save the date for our annual Straight from the Bench Dinner and Conference scheduled for April 21 and 22, 2010.

Finally, for our family practitioners, the MFLA conference will take place on May 14, 2010.

Social Events

Our annual Courthouse Holiday party was held on December 17, 2009. As always, a good size crowd attended to celebrate the season.

The MLA will once again be hosting our Family Skate at the JLC on Sunday February 7 from 2 to 4 p.m. While we realize this is Super Bowl Sunday, we hope you and your families will join us for some afternoon fun before the big game.

Other future events include the annual Court House Rocks on March 26, 2010. Please watch for emails with further particulars.