

MINUTES OF CONVOCATION

Friday, 1st October 2021
9:00 a.m.
Via Videoconference

PRESENT:

The Treasurer (Teresa Donnelly), Adourian, Alford, Banack, Banning, Braithwaite, Brown, Burd, Charette, Chiumminto, Corbiere, Corsetti, Desgranges, Epstein, Esquega, Fagan, Ferrier, Goldstein, Graham, Groia, Horgan, Horvat, Klippenstein, Krishna, Lalji, Lean, Lesage, Lewis, Lippa, Lockhart, Lomazzo, Lyon, Marshall, Minor, Murchie, Painchaud, Parry, Pawlitzka, Pineda, Pollock, Prill, Rosenthal, Ross, Sellers, Shi, Shin Doi, Shortreed, Spurgeon, Strosberg, Troister, Walker, Wellman, Wilkes, Wilkinson and N. Wright.

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Secretary: James Varro

The Reporter was sworn.

IN PUBLIC

TREASURER'S REMARKS

The Treasurer welcomed everyone to Convocation.

The Treasurer recognized that Convocation would normally be meeting in Toronto which is a Mohawk word that means "where there are trees standing in the water".

When Convocation meets in Toronto, the Treasurer acknowledges that Convocation meets on the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. She advised that for this Convocation, benchers are participating across the province and perhaps elsewhere, and across many First Nations territories. She recognized the long history of all the First Nations in Ontario and the Métis and Inuit peoples and thanked the First Nations people who lived and live in these lands for sharing them with us in peace.

The Treasurer acknowledged that yesterday, September 30, was the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The Treasurer affirmed the Law Society's commitment to enhancing cultural competence within the legal professions as key to meaningfully advancing reconciliation.

LL.D. CEREMONY – FRANKLYN HARRIS BENNETT, LSM

The Treasurer introduced Franklyn Harris Bennett, LSM, the candidate for the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.

Mr. Marshall read the citation.

The Treasurer admitted Franklyn Harris Bennett to the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.

Mr. Bennett addressed Convocation.

The Treasurer thanked Mr. Bennett for honouring Convocation with his presence.

TREASURER'S REMARKS

The Treasurer welcomed those joining Convocation by webcast and addressed the protocol for Convocation via Zoom videoconference.

The Treasurer welcomed the following guests to Convocation:

- Daniel Pinnington, President and Chief Executive Officer of LAWPRO
- Stephen G. Raby, Q.C., President of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada
- Jonathan G. Herman, Chief Executive Officer of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada

The Treasurer welcomed benchers back after the summer break and indicated that she is looking forward to working with benchers and staff on the Law Society's important regulatory initiatives.

The Treasurer reminded benchers of the Strategic Planning Mid-Term Review planned for later this month.

The Treasurer congratulated Robert Burd on his election as chair of the Paralegal Standing Committee for the term commencing September 14, 2021.

The Treasurer noted the tragic death of Julia Ferguson of Hicks Adams LLP and on behalf of Convocation expressed condolences to the firm and her family and friends.

The Treasurer thanked all licensees who participated in the National Well-Being Study.

The Treasurer noted Mental Health and Awareness Week from October 3 to 9, 2021.

The Treasurer reminded benchers that the deadline for submissions on the consultation by the Competence Task Force is November 30, 2021.

The Treasurer updated Convocation on the pilot project of innovative technological legal services called Access to Innovation or A2I, and advised that Will Morrison, Strategic Policy Counsel, has been appointed as Manager of the project, in preparation for its launch this fall.

The Treasurer advised benchers that she was honoured to take part in the Opening of the Courts ceremony on September 14, 2021 where she affirmed the Law Society's commitment to supporting transformational change in the justice system.

The Treasurer noted that The Action Group (TAG) will be hosting the sixth annual Access to Justice Week from October 25 to 29, 2021.

The Treasurer noted upcoming events:

- Hispanic Heritage Month celebration on October 19, 2021
- Law Society Remembrance Day Ceremony on November 10, 2021
- Louis Riel Day on November 16, 2021

The Treasurer reminded benchers of the deadline for nominations for the Law Society Awards on December 17, 2021 and encouraged everyone to consider nominations.

REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERATION OF LAW SOCIETIES OF CANADA

The Treasurer introduced Stephen G. Raby, Q.C., President of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada.

Mr. Raby addressed Convocation on the work of the Federation.

MOTION – CONSENT AGENDA – Tab 1

It was moved by Ms. Lockhart, seconded by Mr. Troister, that Convocation approve the consent agenda set out at Tab 1 of the Convocation Materials.

Carried

Tab 1.1 – DRAFT MINUTES OF CONVOCATION

The draft minutes of Convocation of June 23, 2021 and July 27, 2021 were confirmed.

Tab 1.2 – APPOINTMENTS

THAT Michael Lesage be removed from the Access to Justice Committee at his own request.

THAT Cathy Corsetti be appointed to the Hearing Division of the Law Society Tribunal for a term ending May 31, 2023.

Carried

Tab 1.3 – STRATEGIC PLANNING AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Re: By-Law 12 Amendments Respecting the Compensation Fund Subcommittee

THAT based on the recommendation of the Strategic Planning and Advisory Committee, Convocation make amendments to By-Law 12 as set out in the motion at Tab 1.3.1 to remove transitional provisions relating to establishing the Compensation Fund Subcommittee.

Carried

LAWPRO REPORT

Mr. Spurgeon presented the Report.

Re: LAWPRO 2022 Program of Insurance

It was moved by Mr. Spurgeon, seconded by Ms. Sellers, that Convocation approve the Primary Program of Insurance for 2022 as offered and recommended by the Lawyers' Professional Indemnity Company (LAWPRO) Board in the Report at Tab 2.1.

Carried

PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Shortreed presented the Report.

Re: Updates to Form 9D

It was moved by Ms. Shortreed, seconded by Ms. Lomazzo, that Convocation approve the motion at Tab 3.1.1 which amends Form 9D, Investment Authority, to update and correct an error.

Carried

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Burd presented the Report.

Re: By-Law 3 Amendments Respecting the Paralegal Standing Committee Chair Election

It was moved by Mr. Burd, seconded by Ms. Horvat, that on the recommendation of the Strategic Planning and Advisory Committee, Convocation make amendments to By-Law 3 as set out in the motion at Tab 4.1.1 to simplify the description of the process to elect the chair of the Paralegal Standing Committee.

Carried

HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING GROUP REPORT

Ms. Walker presented the Report.

Re: Letters of Intervention on Behalf of Jonathan Ross, Selma Masood and the Hong Kong Law Society

It was moved by Ms. Walker, seconded by Mr. Ross, that Convocation approve the letters and public statements in the following cases:

Jonathan Ross, Selma Masood, and the Hong Kong Law Society – Hong Kong – letter of intervention and public statement presented at Tab 5.1.

Carried

ROLL-CALL VOTE

Adourian	For
Alford	For
Banning	For
Braithwaite	For
Brown	For
Burd	For
Charette	Abstain
Chiumminto	For
Corbiere	For
Corsetti	For
Desgranges	For
Epstein	Abstain
Esquega	For
Fagan	Abstain
Goldstein	Abstain
Graham	For
Groia	For
Horgan	For
Horvat	For
Klippenstein	For
Lalji	For
Lean	For
Lesage	For
Lewis	For
Lippa	For
Lockhart	For
Lomazzo	For
Lyon	For
Marshall	For
Murchie	For
Painchaud	For
Pineda	For
Pollock	For
Prill	For
Rosenthal	For
Ross	For
Sellers	For
Shi	Abstain
Shin Doi	For
Shortreed	For
Spurgeon	For
Troister	For
Walker	For
Wellman	For
Wilkinson	For

Vote: 40 For; 5 Abstain

For Information:

- Human Rights Monitoring Group Intervention - Afghanistan

IN PUBLIC

REPORTS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

- Law Society of Ontario Financial Statements for the Six Months ended June 30, 2021
- LIRN Inc. Financial Statements for the Six Months ended June 30, 2021
- LAWPRO Financial Statements for the Six Months ended June 30, 2021
- Investment Compliance Reports
- In camera Item

EQUITY AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT

- Report of the Activities of the Discrimination and Harassment Counsel from January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021

TRIBUNAL COMMITTEE REPORT

- Updates to Tribunal Practice Directions

CONVOCATION ROSE AT 11:43 A.M.

Confirmed in Convocation this 28th day of October 2021.

Teresa Donnelly,
Treasurer