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## Professional Development and Competence

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### Information Report: Certified Specialist Board Chair Appointment

November 26, 2021

**Committee Members:**

Barbara Murchie (Chair)  
Robert Adourian (Vice-Chair)  
Alexander Wilkes (Vice-Chair)  
Jared Brown  
Murray Klippenstein  
Michael Lesage  
Atrisha Lewis  
Marian Lippa  
Cecil Lyon  
Isfahan Merali  
Sidney Troister  
Tanya Walker  
Doug Wellman  
Claire Wilkinson

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## Purpose

To inform Convocation that the Professional Development and Competence Committee is appointing a new chair to the board of the Certified Specialist Board (CSB) pursuant to By-Law 15, section 4(1).

## Context

The Certified Specialist Program recognizes members of the Law Society of Ontario who have met established standards of experience and knowledge requirements in one or more designated areas of law and have maintained exemplary standards of professional practice.

The CSB is established under Law Society By-Law 15. Section 5 of By-Law 15 provides that it is the function of the CSB to determine the areas of law in which licensees may be certified as specialists, to establish standards for the certification of licensees as specialists, and to certify licensees as specialists, among other things.

Section 4(1) of By-Law 15 provides that the Committee shall appoint a member of the Board as the Chair.

## Discussion

Pursuant to Section 4(1) of By-Law 15, the Professional Development and Competence Committee has approved the appointment of May Cheng as chair of the CSB. Ms. Cheng was the only board member to put her name forward, and therefore was the only candidate. Ms. Cheng has held a Certified Specialist designation in intellectual property law since 2005, and has been a CSB member since June 2016.

Biographical details for the chair are outlined below:

### **May Cheng C.S. (Intellectual Property Law, Toronto)**

May is a Certified Specialist in Intellectual Property Law (Trade-mark/Copyright), and a senior partner at Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP. She has 25 years of experience in advising clients on all aspects of intellectual property protection and enforcement, including branding strategy, acquisition, licensing and anti-counterfeiting. She is regularly involved in a wide variety of intellectual property (IP) infringement cases and complex licensing deals.

May has acted as an expert consultant to the Government of the Bahamas in redrafting its intellectual property legislation for ascension to the World Trade Organization. She has consistently been recognized as a leading lawyer in by: IAM Strategy 300: The World's

Leading IP Strategists 2019, IP STARS and Top 250 Women in IP (2017-21) *Managing IP*, and WTR1000: World's Leading Trademark Professionals (2013-2019) Gold Band ranking for IP litigation. May has also received the Lexpert Zenith Award in 2018 and the Women's Law Association of Ontario President's Award in 2016.