

MINUTES OF CONVOCATION

Thursday, 25th May, 2023
9:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

In person: The Treasurer (Jacqueline Horvat), Alford, J. Callaghan, Chan, Chugh, Dimokopoulos, Emmett, Enejajor, Epstein, Gold, Hansen, Hrick, Hulan, Kitagawa, Konanur, Lewis, Lomazzo, McDowell, Monforton, Moriah, Ouellet, Painchaud, Radan, Rodriguez, Rosenthal, K. Ross, Rotstein, Sellers, Shortreed, Siran, Spurgeon, Strosberg, Surchin, Sutherland, Troister, Waddell, Wardle, Whitehead and Wilson.

Via Videoconference/Teleconference: Banack, Banning, P. Callaghan, Donnelly, Durcan, Lau, Malette, Merali, Mietkiewicz, Minor, Q. Ross, Sheff, Walker, Wellman, and Winward.

.....

Secretary: James Varro

The Reporter was sworn.

IN PUBLIC

TREASURER'S REMARKS

The Treasurer welcomed everyone to Convocation.

The Treasurer recognized that Convocation is 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 Inuit and Métis peoples and thanked all Indigenous peoples who lived and live in these lands for sharing them with us in peace.

The Treasurer welcomed benchers elected in the 2023 election to Convocation.

The Treasurer noted the recipients of the honorary LL.Ds to be conferred at upcoming calls to the bar:

The Right Honourable Richard Wagner, P.C., Chief Justice of Canada

The Honourable Bruce G. Thomas

Kimberly Murray

The Honourable Kathryn N. Feldman

Mark J. Sandler

The Honourable J. Michal Fairburn

The Treasurer congratulated the recipients of the Law Society Awards bestowed at a ceremony last evening:

William J. Simpson Distinguished Paralegal Award: Paul Cappa

Lincoln Alexander Award: Selwyn Hicks

Laura Legge Award: Courtney Harris

J. Shirley Denison Award: Tami Moscoe

Law Society Medal Recipients:

François Baril

Ena Chadha

Reva Devins

Igor Ellyn

Ian Hull

Randall Seller

The Treasurer highlighted upcoming events:

May 31 – National Accessibility Week Program

June 6 – National Indigenous History Month

June 13 – Pride Month Program

The Treasurer reminded benchers that the close of nominations for candidates for the Treasurer's election is May 26, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

The Treasurer noted two reports for information:

- Secretary's Report on the Law Society Annual General Meeting
- Law Society Tribunal 2022 Annual Report

The Treasurer noted an item in the federal budget bill of concern to the Law Society, related to licensee reports to the Canada Revenue Agency on legal services provided to taxpayers, and advised that in addition to Law Society appearances on this issue before the Standing Committee of Finance, further advocacy actions are planned.

The Treasurer addressed the protocol for a hybrid Convocation.

MOTION – CONSENT AGENDA – TAB 1

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

Tab 1.1 – DRAFT MINUTES OF CONVOCATION

The draft minutes of the April 27, 2023 Convocation meeting were confirmed.

Tab 1.2 – MOTIONS

Tab 1.2.1 – Tribunal Appointments

MOTION 1:

That Convocation appoint or reappoint the following for a term from May 25, 2023 to June 30, 2025:

APPOINTMENTS TO THE HEARING DIVISION

Elected and Lay Bencher Adjudicators

1. Catherine Banning	Lay	Reappointment
2. John Callaghan	Lawyer	Appointment
3. Paula Callaghan	Paralegal	Appointment
4. Neha Chugh	Lawyer	Appointment
5. Demetra Dimokopoulos	Paralegal	Appointment
6. Rebecca Durcan	Lawyer	Appointment
7. Annamaria Enenajor	Lawyer	Appointment
8. Seymour Epstein	Lay	Reappointment
9. Jennifer Gold	Lawyer	Appointment
10. Heather Hansen	Lawyer	Appointment
11. Karen Hulan	Lawyer	Appointment
12. Jasminka Kalajdzic	Lawyer	Appointment
13. Mitchell Kitagawa	Lawyer	Appointment
14. Shalini Konanur	Lawyer	Appointment
15. Howard Levitt	Lawyer	Appointment
16. Michelle Lomazzo	Paralegal	Appointment
17. Joelle Malette	Lawyer	Appointment
18. William McDowell	Lawyer	Appointment
19. Deborah J. Moriah	Paralegal	Appointment
20. Sonia Ouellet	Lawyer	Appointment
21. Geneviève Painchaud	Lay	Reappointment
22. Michael Radan	Paralegal	Appointment
23. Natalia Rodriguez	Lawyer	Appointment
24. Quinn Ross	Lawyer	Reappointment
25. Stephen Rotstein	Lawyer	Appointment
26. Cheryl Siran	Lawyer	Appointment
27. Andrew Spurgeon	Lawyer	Reappointment
28. Margaret Waddell	Lawyer	Appointment
29. Tanya Walker	Lawyer	Reappointment
30. Peter Wardle	Lawyer	Reappointment
31. Doug Wellman	Lay	Reappointment

Ex-officio bencher adjudicators

1. Larry Banack	Lawyer	Reappointment
2. Vern Krishna	Lawyer	Reappointment
3. Ross Murray	Lawyer	Reappointment
4. Harvey Strosberg	Lawyer	Reappointment
5. Bradley Wright	Lawyer	Reappointment

Each a former Treasurer or Life Bencher

Appointed lay adjudicators

1. Laura Arndt	Lay	Reappointment
2. Ingrid Berkeley	Lay	Reappointment
3. Suzanne Clement	Lay	Reappointment
4. Randi Druzin	Lay	Reappointment
5. Michelle Richards	Lay	Reappointment

APPOINTMENTS TO THE APPEAL DIVISION

1. Cathy Banning	Lay	Reappointment
2. John Callaghan	Lawyer	Appointment
3. Gerald Chan	Lawyer	Appointment
4. Cathy Corsetti	Paralegal	Appointment
5. Rebecca Durcan	Lawyer	Appointment
6. Annamaria Enenajor	Lawyer	Appointment
7. Seymour Epstein	Lay	Reappointment
8. Michelle Lomazzo	Paralegal	Appointment
9. Joelle Malette	Lawyer	Appointment
10. Geneviève Painchaud	Lay	Reappointment
11. Peter Wardle	Lawyer	Reappointment
12. Doug Wellman	Lay	Reappointment

MOTION 2:

That Convocation reappoint the following for a term from May 25, 2023 to December 31, 2023:

REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE HEARING DIVISION

1. Raj Anand	Lawyer
2. Christopher Bredt	Lawyer
3. Etienne Esquega	Lawyer
4. Barbara Murchie	Lawyer
5. Lubomir Poliacik	Lawyer

REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE APPEAL DIVISION

1. Raj Anand	Lawyer
2. Christopher Bredt	Lawyer
3. Barbara Murchie	Lawyer
4. Lubomir Poliacik	Lawyer

MOTION 3:

That Convocation appoint Rebecca Durcan as Vice-Chair of the Hearing Division and Peter Wardle as Vice-Chair of the Appeal Division, each for a term from May 25, 2023 to June 30, 2025.

Carried

Tab 1.2.2 – Election of Benchers

WHEREAS Jacqueline Horvat was elected as a bencher from the Province of Ontario “B” Electoral Region (Outside the City of Toronto) on the basis of the votes cast by all electors.

WHEREAS upon being elected Treasurer on June 15, 2022, Jacqueline Horvat ceased to hold office as an elected bencher in accordance with subsection 25(2) of the *Law Society Act*, thereby creating a vacancy in the office of bencher elected from the Province of Ontario “B” Electoral Region (Outside the City of Toronto) on the basis of the votes cast by all electors.

THAT under the authority contained in By-Law 3, Ryan Alford, having satisfied the requirements contained in subsections 43(1) and 45 of the By-Law, and having consented to the election in accordance with paragraph 12(1)(d) of the By-Law, be elected by Convocation in accordance with subsection 43(1) of the By-Law as bencher to fill the vacancy in the number of benchers elected from the Province of Ontario “B” Electoral Region (Outside the City of Toronto) on the basis of votes cast by all electors.

AND

THAT Howard Levitt, having satisfied the requirements contained in subsection 43(1) and section 45 of By-Law 3, and having consented to election as bencher in accordance with paragraph 12(1)(d) of the By-Law, be elected by Convocation in accordance with subsection 43(1) of the By-Law as bencher to fill the vacancy in the number of benchers elected from the Province of Ontario “A” Electoral Region (City of Toronto) on the basis of the votes cast by all electors, as a result of the appointment of Julia Shin Doi as a judge of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, who was elected from the Province of Ontario “A” Electoral Region (City of Toronto) on the basis of the votes cast by all electors, and being appointed as a judge became unable to continue in office as a bencher, thereby creating the vacancy.

Carried

The Treasurer welcomed benchers Prof. Ryan Alford and Howard Levitt to Convocation.

The Treasurer congratulated former bencher Julia Shin Doi on her appointment as a Judge of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice earlier this month.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Troister presented the Report.

Re: LAWPRO Annual Shareholder Resolutions

It was moved by Mr. Troister, seconded by Ms. Shortreed, that Convocation authorize the Treasurer to sign the shareholder resolutions for the Lawyers' Professional Indemnity Company (LAWPRO) set out at Tab 2.1.

Carried

IN PUBLIC

REPORTS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

SECRETARY'S REPORT

- Law Society of Ontario Annual General Meeting

TRIBUNAL COMMITTEE REPORT

- Law Society Tribunal Annual Report 2022

CONVOCATION ADJOURNED AT 9:31 A.M.

Confirmed in Convocation this 28th day of June, 2023.

Jacqueline Horvat,
Treasurer