

## MINUTES OF CONVOCATION

Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2015  
9:00 a.m.

### PRESENT:

The Treasurer (Janet E. Minor), Anand, Armstrong, Banack (by telephone), Beach, Bickford, Boyd, Braithwaite, Bredt, Burd, Chrétien (by telephone), Clément, Cooper, Corbiere, Corsetti, Criger, Donnelly (by telephone), Earnshaw, Epstein, Evans, Falconer, Ferrier, Furlong (by telephone), Go, Goldblatt, Gottlieb, Groia, Haigh, Hartman, Horvat, Krishna (by telephone), Lawrie, Leiper (by telephone), Lem (by telephone), Lerner, Lippa, MacKenzie (by telephone), MacLean, Manes (by telephone), McDowell, McGrath, Merali, Mercer, Murchie, Murray, Nishikawa, Papageorgiou, Pawlitza, Potter (by telephone), Richardson, Richer, Rosenthal (by telephone), Ross (by telephone), Schabas, Sharda, Spence, Spurgeon, St. Lewis, C. Strosberg, H. Strosberg (by telephone), Troister, Udell, Vespry, Wardle, Wright (by telephone) and Yachetti (by telephone).

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Secretary: James Varro

The Reporter was sworn.

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### TREASURER'S REMARKS

The Treasurer welcomed the following guests to Convocation:

- Jeffrey Hirsch, President, Federation of Law Societies of Canada
- Law Foundation of Ontario representatives Tanya Lee, Judy Mark and Kirsti Mathers McHenry
- Law Commission of Ontario representatives Dr. Patricia Hughes and Nye Thomas

The Treasurer informed Convocation of her various activities during the month of November, and highlighted some of the events including her trip to the Law Society of Nunavut. The Treasurer thanked the President of the Law Society of Nunavut, Scott Wheildon and Chief Executive Officer Nalini Vaddapalli for their hospitality.

Other annual conferences attended included The County and District Law Presidents' Association fall conference noting the name change to Federation of Ontario Law Associations, and meetings of The Advocates' Society, the County of Carleton Law Association and the Association of Law Officers of the Crown.

The Treasurer reminded benchers that nominations for the Law Society Awards close on January 29, 2016.

The Treasurer congratulated Isfahan Merali on receiving the SABA Legal Excellence Award at the South Asian Bar Association Gala held recently.

The Treasurer advised that she brought greetings on behalf of the Law Society to the Family Dispute Resolution Institute of Ontario Conference on November 23, and thanked the Attorney General for her remarks, which opened Family Dispute Resolution (FDR) week. The Treasurer indicated that the Law Society hosted a number of FDR sessions in connection with this event, at which the work of the The Action Group on Access to Justice (TAG) was noted.

The Treasurer advised that on November 29 she participated in Attorney General Madeleine Meilleur's Justice Roundtable with representatives of the courts and other legal organizations.

The Treasurer advised that she wrote to the new Minister of Justice, the Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould, to congratulate her on her appointment, to extend best wishes and the Law Society's desire to collaborate on shared important objectives.

The Treasurer also advised that she wrote to Prime Minister Trudeau, and noted his publicly released mandate letters for each Minister.

The Treasurer advised that in keeping with the strategic plan, a bencher education program will be organized at the start of each Convocation and benchers will be canvassed for topics.

The Treasurer reminded benchers of upcoming events:

- January 26, 2016 – International Day of the Endangered Lawyer Rule of Law Event
- January 27, 2016 – Lawyers Feed the Hungry – Bencher Volunteer Day

#### MOTION – CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Ms. Hartman, seconded by Ms. Corbiere, that Convocation approve the the consent agenda set out at Tab 2 of the Convocation Materials.

Carried

#### Tab 2.1 – DRAFT MINUTES OF CONVOCATION

The draft minutes of Convocation of October 29, 2015 were confirmed.

#### Tab 2.2 – MOTION – Appointments

Re: Tab 2.2.1 – Appointments to the LibraryCo Inc. Board of Directors

THAT Gisèle Chrétien, Ross Earnshaw, Jacqueline Horvat and W. A. Derry Millar be reappointed to the LibraryCo Inc. Board of Directors for a one year term commencing December 31, 2015.

Carried

Re: Tab 2.2.2 – Appointments to the Law Society Tribunal – Pursuant to Section 49.21 of the *Law Society Act*.

THAT The Hon. James M. Spence and Sidney H. Troister be appointed to the Hearing Division of the Law Society Tribunal effective December 4, 2015 for a term ending May 25, 2017.

Carried

Tab 2.3 – REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPETENCE

THAT the Report of the Executive Director of Professional Development and Competence listing the names of the call to the bar candidates be adopted.

Carried

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

Jeffrey Hirsch, President of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada, brought greetings from the Federation.

LAW FOUNDATION OF ONTARIO REPORT

Mr. Schabas presented a report on the Law Foundation of Ontario for information.

ADDRESS BY DR. PATRICIA HUGHES, LAW COMMISSION OF ONTARIO

Dr. Patricia Hughes, Executive Director, addressed Convocation on the work of the Law Commission of Ontario. Nye Thomas, incoming Executive Director, also addressed Convocation on the work of the Commission.

## PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Treasurer advised that the matter respecting the proposed Summary Revocation Authority for Indefinitely Suspended Licenses is deferred.

Mr. Mercer presented the Report.

### Re: Professional Regulation Division Quarterly Report

Mr. Mercer presented the Report for information.

#### *For Information:*

- Professional Regulation Division Quarterly Report

## AUDIT & FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Bredt presented the Report.

### Re: Law Society Financial Statements for the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2015

Mr. Bredt presented the report on the Financial Statements for information.

## EQUITY AND ABORIGINAL ISSUES COMMITTEE/COMITÉ SUR L'ÉQUITÉ ET LES AFFAIRES AUTOCHTONES REPORT

Mr. Falconer presented the Report.

### Re: Human Rights Monitoring Group Requests for Interventions

It was moved by Mr. Falconer, seconded by Mr. Goldblatt, that Convocation approve the letters and public statements in the cases set out at paragraph 2, sub-paragraphs a. through g. of the Report, and the letters and public statements set out at Tab 13 of the Convocation Materials, to be modified to indicate that the perpetrator(s) of the death of Tahir Elçi is unknown, and that the government will be requested to effectively and independently investigate the death.

Carried

Mr. Falconer presented the items in the Report at Tab 4.2 for information.

#### *For Information:*

- Equity Advisory Group Update
- Equity Legal Education and Rule of Law Series Calendar 2015/2016

PRIORITY PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Hartman presented the Report.

Re: Convocation's Priority Planning – Details of the Law Society's Strategic Plan 2015-2019

Ms. Hartman presented the report for information.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & COMPETENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Goldblatt presented the Report.

Re: Appointment to the Certified Specialist Board

Mr. Goldblatt presented the report for information.

REPORT FROM THE ACTION GROUP ON ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Mr. Goldblatt presented the report for information.

COMPLIANCE-BASED ENTITY REGULATION TASK FORCE REPORT

Mr. Earnshaw presented the Report.

Re: Proposed Consultations

Mr. Earnshaw presented the report for information.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Mr. Lapper presented the Chief Executive Officer's Report for information.

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*REPORTS FOR INFORMATION ONLY*

AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

- Law Society Third Quarter Financial Statements
- Investment Compliance Reports
- Other Committee Work

PARALEGAL STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

- *Paralegal Guideline* Amendments: Transferring Practitioner
- *Provincial Offences Act* Rule Development

PRIORITY PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

- Convocation's Priority Planning – Details of the Law Society's Strategic Plan 2015-2019

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & COMPETENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

- Appointment to Certified Specialist Board

REPORT FROM THE ACTION GROUP ON ACCESS TO JUSTICE

COMPLIANCE-BASED ENTITY REGULATION TASK FORCE REPORT

- Report on Proposed Consultations

TREASURER'S ACTIVITIES

CONVOCATION ROSE AT 12:54 P.M.