



X

2015

BENCHER ELECTION

Ross F. Earnshaw

Central South

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I am an experienced Bencher with a proven track record of commitment to the duties and responsibilities of a Bencher. There are many reasons to cast your ballot to **RE-ELECT** me for a second term in the coming Bencher Election. Here are three:

LIBRARIES: Last June the Library Information and Support Services (“LISS”) working group report was released [[LISS Report](#)]. It galvanized CDLPA, TLA and LSUC, shareholders of LibraryCo [www.libraryco.ca], to initiate a sea change in the corporation last autumn. Visionary transformation of LibraryCo is now being undertaken under the direction of a newly minted Board of Directors. I have served on the Board both before and after delivery of the LISS report. Janet Whitehead, Chair of the LibraryCo Board and past president of CDLPA, nominated me as a candidate in this election.

REAL ESTATE PRACTITIONERS: The November 2013 CDLPA plenary passed a resolution calling for the Law Society to address issues identified by the real estate bar as challenges to the survival and prosperity of solicitors practising in that field of specialty. Such solicitors are disproportionately represented by sole practitioners and small firms, especially in rural Ontario. Treasurer Conway responded by establishing the Real Estate Liaison Group (“RELG”) and appointing me as its Chair. I have worked closely with RELG, consisting of representatives of CDLPA, the OBA, LawPRO and the Law Society. RELG has completed the first phase of its mandate [[Report to Plenary](#)] and will continue under my chairmanship during 2015.

ALTERNATIVE BUSINESS STRUCTURES (“ABS”): There has been a Law Society working group studying this complex and important issue since 2012 but it has come to the forefront with the profession at large since the release of the Discussion Paper [[ABS Discussion Paper](#)]. Last September Treasurer Minor made several additional appointments to the working group, including me. The study of ABS by the Law Society will continue through much of the upcoming Bencher term. I am determined to maintain an open mind on the subject. I will advocate for working towards an informed debate following careful deliberations and thoughtful analysis of input from the profession and the public.

Personal:

Age: 62
Hometown: St. Thomas, Ontario
Location: Region of Waterloo

Education: A. Mus. (piano), UWO, 1973
B. Sc., York U., 1974
LL.B., Osgoode Hall, 1977

Practice:

1979: Called to Ontario Bar
1979-86: Litigation associate and partner('84) with Simmers, Edwards, Jenkins, Cambridge, Ontario

1986-

Present: Gowlings equity partner, commercial litigation practice (more at www.gowlings.com)

Professional – Recent Accomplishments:

- Past President (2003 – 2005) of 560 member Waterloo Region Law Association
- Coulter A. Osborne Award recipient (2009) (more at [[Coulter Osborne Award](#)])
- Gowlings Associate Mentorship Award (2010)
- LSUC Bencher 2012 - present