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BENCHER ELECTION

Malcolm Mercer

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Law Society of Upper Canada

- Bencher since 2011
- Chair, Professional Regulation and Co-Chair [ABS Working Group](#)
- Member, Access to Justice and Paralegal Standing Committees and [Challenges for Racialized Licensees Working Group](#)

Canadian Bar Association

- Past Chair, [Ethics and Professional Responsibility Committee](#)
- Team Lead, Ethics and Regulatory Team, CBA [Futures Initiative](#)
- Member, [Task Force on Conflicts of Interest](#)

McCarthy Tétrault

- [General Counsel and Partner](#)

Other

- Director, Pro Bono Law Ontario
- CBA [Louis St Laurent Award](#) in 2013 and [25 Most Influential Lawyers](#) in 2014
- [Slaw.ca legal ethics](#) columnist

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The Law Society exists to maintain and advance the *cause of justice* and the *rule of law*, to facilitate *access to justice* and to protect the *public interest* all in the exercise of its regulatory responsibilities. I seek your support so that I may continue to contribute to this important work.

As a bencher and as a lawyer, I have committed myself to issues of legal ethics. I have been deeply involved in the development of our Rules of Professional Conduct and effective professional regulation. I am committed to proper adjudication as an active member of the Law Society Tribunal.

Access to justice is of fundamental importance. But access is a serious problem in many areas. I believe that we must undertake significant reform while at the same time not compromising existing legal services and professionalism. I believe that it is important to our diverse and pluralistic society that justice be served by lawyers and paralegals who reflect the diversity of our society. My work with respect to Alternative Business Structures, the accreditation of Trinity Western University and as member of the Racialized Licensees Working Group reflects these beliefs.

Self-regulation is of great importance to our legal system and to effective regulation by the Law Society. The interests of the legal profession are mostly but not perfectly aligned with the public interest. While benchers are elected by the profession, I believe that it is important that the electors and the elected understand that we must all act in the public interest in self-regulation. This is the point and the foundation of self-regulation. I am committed to these principles.

I have offered my leadership and have made significant contributions to our profession on significant matters. Some of these matters have been controversial, many not. My promise is that I will continue to dedicate myself, my time and my expertise, to carefully consider all views with an open mind and to do what I think is in the public interest. I ask for your support in this bencher election so that I may continue to make a difference.