



The Law Society of Upper Canada Pathways Pilot Project

PATHWAYS

The Pathways Pilot Project

- The Pathways Pilot Project (Pathways) is establishing the Law Society Law Practice Program (LPP) as one pathway to licensing. Pathways is proactively responding to the changing legal landscape and removing unfair barriers to licensing created by the articling placement shortage.
- With the LPP in place, all qualified candidates have the opportunity to complete the Lawyer Licensing Process and be called to the Ontario Bar.
- The LPP and articling pathways will be evaluated over the three-year pilot project to determine the most effective means of experiential legal training. Improvements and adjustments may be made to the LPP and Articling Program during those three years.
- Pathways is scheduled to run for three years, with the option of up to an additional two years.

THE LAW SOCIETY LAW PRACTICE PROGRAM (LPP)

- The Law Society LPP is an experiential legal training program consisting of a 4-month training course and a 4-month work placement.
- Candidates may now choose to either article or complete the Law Society Law Practice Program to satisfy the experiential training requirement of the Law Society's Licensing Process.
- The English-language LPP will be provided by Ryerson University. The University of Ottawa will provide the French-language LPP.
- The LPP will be in place for the 2014-15 Licensing Process and will begin in September 2014.
- Candidates from the 2012-13 Licensing Process onward will be eligible to complete the LPP.
- The LPP is part of the Law Society's Licensing Process. Only candidates seeking to be called to the Ontario Bar and enrolled in the Law Society of Upper Canada's Licensing Process may choose to register for the LPP.

THE LAW SOCIETY LAW PRACTICE PROGRAM AT RYERSON UNIVERSITY

- The LPP at Ryerson will be technology-driven and will replicate the experience of working in a law firm using digital and simulation tools.
- Ryerson University has and is continuing to develop a range of partnerships with the legal community across the province that will support work placement opportunities in all areas of practice, size of firm and type of organization, including those where articling positions are not as common, such as in-house counsel, NGO's, legal clinics, small firms, rural firms and criminal and family practices.
- The majority of the course component of the Ryerson LPP will be completed through interactive web-based modules and can be undertaken at Ryerson or any other location with web connectivity. Candidates in the Ryerson LPP will only need to attend in Toronto for two days at the beginning of the program and approximately 10 days throughout the four-month program. Regional opportunities to reduce the need to attend in Toronto will be explored.

THE LAW SOCIETY LAW PRACTICE PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA

- With its long and distinguished track record of providing a bilingual law program, the University of Ottawa Faculty of Law is perfectly poised to deliver the LPP in French.
- The number of candidates expected in the French LPP will support intensive, in-person training.

THE ENHANCED ARTICLING PROGRAM

- As part of the Pathways Pilot Project, the Law Society is developing measures to better evaluate the effectiveness of the Articling Program. These enhancements will be introduced in the 2014-15 Licensing Process year.
- A new, online Articling Assessment Tool will include performance-based evaluations of candidates by their principals in core competencies. These evaluative measures are similar to those that will be employed in the Law Practice Program. The enhanced program will also require principals to submit a training plan.

THE INTEGRATED PRACTICE CURRICULUM AT LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF LAW

- Lakehead University Faculty of Law's Integrated Practice Curriculum satisfies the Law Society's experiential training requirement for lawyer licensing.
- Beginning with the inaugural class, graduates of Lakehead's JD program will only need to pass the licensing examinations and satisfy the good character requirement to complete the Lawyer Licensing Process and be called to the Bar in Ontario. They will not need to article or complete the Law Practice Program or pay the articling/LPP portion of the Licensing Process fee.
- Students enrolled in the JD program at Lakehead will complete integrated practice training and do work placements within their three-year degree. The curriculum integrates legal skills with substantive legal knowledge. It is the first program of its kind in Canada to integrate legal professional training into its JD degree. There will be no additional cost to students.

The Law Society's Lawyer Licensing Process

- The Law Society's Lawyer Licensing Process ensures that candidates possess the required entry-level competencies to be called to the Ontario Bar.
- To qualify for admission to the Lawyer Licensing Process, applicants must have graduated from a Canadian Law School or have obtained a Certificate of Qualification from the *National Committee on Accreditation*.
- The Licensing Process consists of the following requirements:
 - the Barrister and Solicitor Licensing examinations;
 - the experiential training requirement—either the Articling Program or Law Practice Program; and
 - the good character requirement.
- The fee for the 2014-15 Licensing Process will be in the range of \$4,700 (plus HST) depending on the number of candidates in the program and the amount of the contribution from lawyer licensees, which is to be determined at November Convocation.
- This projected fee is comparable to the 2005 fee of \$4,735 (plus GST) paid by each candidate in the Law Society's Bar Admission Course.

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