



The Law Society  
of Upper Canada

Barreau du  
Haut-Canada

FINDING AID FOR

# Laura Legge fonds

PF45

## Summary

The "Laura Legge fonds" Fonds contains:

0 Subgroups or Sous-fonds

4 Series

0 Sub-series

0 Sub-sub-series

4 Files

0 File parts

19 Items

0 Components

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**PF45**

**Laura Legge fonds. -- 1982-[2001?]. -- 5.5 cm of textual records, 7 photographs : col. ; 21 x 26 cm or smaller, 1 drawing**

**Biographical/Sketch/Administrative History**

Laura Louise Legge (nee Down) was born in Delhi, Ontario. She completed a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Western Ontario in 1942 and graduated from the Toronto General Hospital School of Nursing in 1945. She later attended Osgoode Hall Law School and was called to the Bar in 1948. In 1950 she married Major General Bruce Jarvis Legge, a fellow student at Osgoode Hall Law School. Legge got her first position as a solicitor with the Ontario Department of Health. Legge resigned from the Ontario Department of Health in 1955 and opened a general law practice with her husband. Legge was appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1966. In 1975, Legge was elected the first female bencher of the Law Society of Upper Canada, and was subsequently re-elected in 1979 and 1983. On June 24, 1983, Legge became the first female ever to be elected Treasurer of the Law Society of Upper Canada. Her term as Treasurer ended in June of 1985. When W. Dan Chilcott resigned as Treasurer in May of 1988, Legge was elected Treasurer for the remainder of Chilcott's term in office. In 1989, Legge was given both a lifetime membership to the Law Society of Saskatchewan and appointed an honorary member of the Law Society of Alberta. In 1997, she received the Award of Excellence from Osgoode Hall Law School, and in 2003 received the Order of Ontario.

An active member of the legal profession, Legge was involved with numerous organizations: President of the Women's Law Association of Ontario, 1964-1966; Member of Council at the Canadian Bar Association, 1964-1966; Member of the County of York Law Association; Member of the Medico-Legal Society of Toronto; Chair of the Toronto Parking Authority; President of Soroptimist International of Toronto, 1974-1976; Director of Home Care Program of Metropolitan Toronto, 1975-1983; Manitoba Advisory Council on the Status of Women, 1980; Director of the Board of Ontario Safety League, 1986-1988; Member of the Royal Commonwealth Society; Member of Council of Ontario College of Art, 1980-1983; Board of Directors of the Canada Life Assurance Company, 1984; Director of the Board of Trade for Metropolitan Toronto; Member of Board of Governors of Women's College Hospital, Toronto. Legge died in Toronto on October 5th, 2010.

**Scope and Content**

Fonds consists of records relating to the legal career of Laura Legge. The fonds consists of speeches to various organizations; correspondence, largely relating to her election as the first female Treasurer of the Law Society of Upper Canada and her election to the board of Canada Life Assurance Company; certificates awarded to Legge; photographs, and a pencil drawing of Legge.

The pencil drawing was transferred to the Law Society of Upper Canada Fine Art collection.

**Restrictions**

No restrictions on access.

**Arrangement**

The fonds is arranged in four series.

**Title Notes**

Title based on contents of the fonds.

## **PF45-1 Correspondence. -- 1983-1997. -- 3.5 cm of textual records**

### *Scope and Content*

Series consists of correspondence relating to the personal and legal career of Laura Legge. Correspondence predominately relates to her election as Treasurer of the Law Society and to other appointments and accomplishments. Correspondents include friends, family, committee members, colleagues and acquaintances. Also included is a legal opinion by R.P. Fraser in regards to lawyers being permitted to advertise.

### *Restrictions*

No restrictions on access.

### *Arrangement*

The series is arranged chronologically.

### *Title Notes*

Title based on content of series.

2004057-001 Election as Treasurer. -- 1983. -- 3 cm of textual records

### *Scope and Content*

File consists of correspondence expressing congratulations to Laura Legge on her election to Treasurer of the Law Society of Upper Canada.

### *Restrictions*

No restrictions on access.

### *Title Notes*

Title based on content of file.

2004057-002 Appointment to the Board of Canada Life. -- 1984-1985. -- 0.25 cm of textual records

### *Scope and Content*

File consists of correspondence and greeting cards expressing congratulations to Laura Legge on her appointment to the Board of Canada Life.

### *Restrictions*

No restrictions on access.

### *Title Notes*

Title based on content of file.

2004057-003 Correspondence. -- 1988-1989, 1996-1997. -- 0.25 cm of textual records

### *Scope and Content*

File consists of letters sent to Laura Legge. Letters relate to her receiving the honorary Doctor of Laws and the Robinette Medal, having delivered addresses for the Ontario Prayer breakfast and the Award of Excellence Dinner and other matters.

### *Restrictions*

No restrictions on access.

### *Title Notes*

Title based on content of file.

2004057-012 Arguments against advertising by lawyers. -- [between 1983 and 1988]. -- 3 p. of textual records

### *Scope and Content*

Item is a legal opinion prepared by R.P. Fraser arguing against allowing lawyers to advertise.

### *Restrictions*

No restrictions on access.

### *Title Notes*

Title based on content of item.

## **PF45-2 Addresses. -- 1982-2000. -- 0.5 cm of textual records**

### *Scope and Content*

Series consists of addresses given by Laura Legge, in most instances at law-related events.

*Restrictions*

No restrictions on access.

*Arrangement*

The series is arranged chronologically.

*Title Notes*

Title based on content of series.

2004057-004 Address for the Hon. Grant Devine. -- 16 June 1982. -- 2 p. of textual records

*Scope and Content*

Item is an address prepared by Laura Legge for the Progressive Conservative Canada Luncheon recognising Grant Devine, the recently elected premier of Saskatchewan.

*Restrictions*

No restrictions on access.

2004057-005 Ottawa call to the Bar. -- 1984. -- 2 p. of textual records

*Scope and Content*

Item is an address prepared by Laura Legge. In the address, Laura Legge introduces Bette Stephenson, Minister of Education of Ontario, who was to provide the main address at the University of Ottawa call to the Bar.

*Restrictions*

No restrictions on access.

*Title Notes*

Title based on content of item.

2004057-006 The Women's Show. -- 8 Nov. 1985. -- 4 p. of textual records

*Scope and Content*

Item is an address prepared by Laura Legge for delivery at The Women's Show.

*Restrictions*

No restrictions on access.

*Title Notes*

Title based on content of item.

2004057-007 Unveiling of sculpture. -- [26 Feb. 1987]. -- 2 p. of textual records

*Scope and Content*

Item is an address by Laura Legge at the unveiling of the sculpture of her.

*Restrictions*

No restrictions on access.

*Title Notes*

Title based on content of item.

2004057-008 Appointment of Ronald Sobier to the Bench. -- [1990?]. -- 4 p. of textual records

*Scope and Content*

Item is a speech prepared by Laura Legge for a ceremony marking the appointment of Ronald Sobier to the Bench.

*Restrictions*

No restrictions on access.

*Title Notes*

Title based on content of item.

2004057-009 Award of excellence dinner. -- 10 Apr. 1997. -- 4 p. of textual records

*Scope and Content*

Item is a speech prepared by Laura Legge for the Award of Excellence dinner. Address has two fax covering sheets.

*Restrictions*

No restrictions on access.

*Title Notes*

Title based on content of item.

2004057-010 The Robinette Medal. -- 16 Apr. 1997. -- 3 p. of textual records

*Scope and Content*

Item is an address prepared by Laura Legge for the presentation of the Robinette Medal by the Osgoode Hall Law School Alumni. Laura Legge, Lincoln Alexander and Samuel Grange were co-recipients of the award in 1997.

*Restrictions*

No restrictions on access.

*Title Notes*

Title based on content of item.

2004057-011 Women's Law Association eightieth anniversary dinner. -- 14 Jan. 2000. -- 5 p. of textual records

*Scope and Content*

Item is an address prepared by Laure Legge for the eightieth anniversary dinner of the Women's Law Association. Address has two fax covering sheets.

*Restrictions*

No restrictions on access.

*Title Notes*

Title based on content of item.

**PF45-3 Photographs and drawing. -- 1982, 1987-[2001?]. -- 7 photographs : col. ; 21 x 26 cm or smaller, 1 drawing : pencil on paper ; 28 x 22 cm**

*Scope and Content*

Series consists of photographs depicting Laura Legge at various legal events and with several of the legal committees she served on, as well as a portrait drawing of Legge by Enzo D'Amico.

*Restrictions*

No restrictions on access.

*Arrangement*

Series is arranged chronologically.

*Title Notes*

Title based on content of series.

2004057-01P Photograph of Laura Legge and Margaret Thatcher. -- 18 June 1988. -- 1 photograph : col. ; 18 x 13 cm

*Scope and Content*

Item is a photograph of Treasurer Laura Legge with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Prime Minister Thatcher is shaking hands with an unidentified man.

*Restrictions*

No restrictions on access.

*Title Notes*

Title based on content of item.

2004057-02P Photograph of Treasurer Scace with the benchers. -- 1987. -- 1 photograph : col. ; 21 x 26 cm

*Scope and Content*

Item is a group photograph of Treasurer Arthur Scace and the benchers of the Law Society, taken in the Upper Barristers' Lounge.

*Restrictions*

No restrictions on access.

*Title Notes*

Title based on content of item.

2004057-03P Photograph of Federation of Law Societies executive. -- 1988. -- 1 photograph : col. ; 21 x 26 cm

*Scope and Content*

Item is a group photograph taken at the office of the Federation of Law Societies. Laura Legge was president of the Federation in 1988.

*Restrictions*

No restrictions on access.

*Title Notes*

Title based on content of item.

2004057-04P Photograph of Laura Legge with Kim Campbell. -- [1990?]. -- 1 photograph : col. ; 13 x 18 cm

*Scope and Content*

Item is a photograph of Laura Legge, the Hon. Kim Campbell (Minister of Justice) and two unidentified men.

*Restrictions*

No restrictions on access.

*Title Notes*

Title based on content of item.

2004057-05P Photograph of Laura Legge, William Howland and others. -- 18 Apr. 1985. -- 1 photograph : col. ; 21 x 26 cm

*Scope and Content*

Item is a group photograph of eleven people taken on the occasion of a luncheon held during the call to the Bar Ceremony. The photograph was taken in front of some portraits in Osgoode Hall. Seated, from left to right, are: Chief Justice William Howland, Barbara Dickson, Justice Brian Dickson, Laura Legge and Justice Patrick LeSage.

*Restrictions*

No restrictions on access.

*Title Notes*

Title based on content of item.

2004057-06P Photograph of the women benchers. -- [2001?]. -- 1 photograph : col. ; 21 x 26 cm



*Scope and Content*

Item is a group photograph of the female benchers of the Law Society of Upper Canada. The photograph was taken in Convocation Room. Depicted are: (standing, left to right) Carole Curtis, ?, ?, ?, ?, Marilyn Pilkington, (seated, left to right) ?, Laura Legge, Helene Puccini, ?, ?.

*Restrictions*

No restrictions on access.

*Title Notes*

Title based on content of item.



2004057-07P Photograph of Treasurer Krishna with the benchers. -- [2001?]. -- 1 photograph : col. ; 21 x 26 cm

*Scope and Content*

Item is a group photograph of Treasurer Vern Krishna with the benchers of the Law Society. The photograph was taken in Convocation Room.

*Restrictions*

No restrictions on access.

*Title Notes*

Title based on content of item.

**PF45-4 Certificates. -- 1989. -- 4 p. of textual records**

*Scope and Content*

Series consists of certificates granted to Laura Legge by provincial Law Societies and the Women's Law Association of Ontario.

*Restrictions*

No restrictions on access.

*Arrangement*

The series is arranged chronologically.

*Title Notes*

Title based on content of series.

2004057-013 The President's Award of the Women's Law Association of Ontario. -- 28 Feb. 1989. -- 1 p. ; 21 x 26 cm

*Scope and Content*

Item is a certificate from the Women's Law Association of Ontario granting the President's Award to Laura Legge.

*Restrictions*

No restrictions on access.

*Title Notes*

Title based on content of item.

2004057-014 Certificate of life membership with the Law Society of Saskatchewan. -- 17 Mar. 1989. -- 1 p. : 1 seal ; 33 x 41 cm

*Scope and Content*

Item is a certificate granting Laura Legge life membership in the Law Society of Saskatchewan.

*Restrictions*

No restrictions on access.

*Title Notes*

Title based on content of item.

2004057-015 Law Society bencher certificate. -- 26 Apr. 1999. -- 1 p. : 1 seal ; 49 x 44 cm (in frame)

*Scope and Content*

Item is a certificate presented by the Law Society of Upper Canada to Laura Legge in recognition of the significant contribution she made to the legal profession as a bencher and Treasurer.

*Restrictions*

No restrictions on access.

*Title Notes*

Title based on content of item.

2004057-016 Certificate of honorary membership with the Law Society of Alberta. -- 6 June 1989. -- 1 p. : 1 seal ; 39 x 42 cm

*Scope and Content*

Item is a certificate granting Laura Legge honorary membership with The Law Society of Alberta.

*Restrictions*

No restrictions on access.

*Title Notes*

Title based on content of item.