

MINUTES OF CONVOCATION

Thursday, 28th January, 2016
9:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

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

.....

Secretary: James Varro

The Reporter was sworn.

.....

IN PUBLIC

.....

TREASURER'S REMARKS

The Treasurer welcomed those joining Convocation by webcast.

The Treasurer welcomed David Wright, Chair, Law Society Tribunal, attending for the Tribunal Three-Year Review report.

The Treasurer informed Convocation of her activities, including her attendance in Hong Kong for the opening of the legal year and her visit to the Department of Justice, her attendance in Cambridge with Central South county and district law associations, her meeting with the Treasurer's Liaison Group, where they spoke of mutual initiatives, and her second meeting with the Early Careers Roundtable.

The Treasurer informed Convocation that she attended a dinner on January 18, 2016 that the Law Society sponsored for the Elders Forum on Justice Issues where she extended a welcome from the Law Society.

The Treasurer advised that she attended an event on January 26, 2016 that the Law Society hosted with Canadian Lawyers for International Human Rights (CLAHR), on the International Day of the Endangered Lawyer.

The Treasurer thanked benchers who volunteered to serve at the Lawyers Feed the Hungry dinner last evening.

The Treasurer noted the deadline for Law Society award nominations on January 29, 2016.

The Treasurer reminded benchers of the first call to the bar of 2016 tomorrow at which the Honourable George W. Adams, Q.C., will receive an honorary Doctor of Laws.

The Treasurer congratulated the Honourable Stephen T. Goudge, Q.C., former bencher, and former judge of the Ontario Court of Appeal, on receiving the Order of Ontario.

The Treasurer congratulated Chief Executive Officer Robert Lapper who will be receiving the University of Victoria Distinguished Alumni Award on February 2, 2016.

The Treasurer advised that the first bencher education session will be held at Convocation on February 25, 2016.

The Treasurer advised of a number of upcoming Law Society events.

The Treasurer announced the following guests at the Convocation luncheon:

- The Honourable Justice Rosalie Silberman Abella and the Honourable Mr. Justice Michael J. Moldaver of the Supreme Court of Canada; and
- Chief Justice George R. Strathy of the Court of Appeal for Ontario.

MOTION – CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Mr. Anand, seconded by Ms. Merali, that Convocation approve the consent agenda set out at Tab 1 of the Convocation Materials.

Carried

Tab 1.1 – DRAFT MINUTES OF CONVOCATION

The draft minutes of Convocation of December 4, 2015 were confirmed.

Tab 1.2 – MOTIONS

Re: Tab 1.2.1 – Annual General Meeting

THAT Convocation approve Wednesday May 11, 2016 at 5:15 p.m. at Osgoode Hall, 130 Queen Street West, Toronto as the time and place of the 2016 Annual General Meeting, in accordance with Section 5 of By-Law 2 [Corporate Provisions].

Carried

Re: Tab 1.2.2 – Appointments

THAT Janis Criger be appointed to the Access to Justice Committee.

THAT Michelle Haigh be appointed to the Law Society Awards/LL.D. Advisory Committee.

Carried

Tab 1.3 – 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

MENTORING AND ADVISORY SERVICES PROPOSAL TASK FORCE REPORT

Ms. Horvat and Mr. Wardle presented the Report.

Re: Law Practice Coach and Advisor Initiative

It was moved by Mr. Wardle, seconded by Ms. Horvat, that Convocation:

- a. approve a law practice coaching and advisory initiative for lawyers and paralegals, the components of which are set out at paragraph 14 of and the details of which are described in the Report; and
- b. approve funding for the initiative as set out in paragraph 72 of the Report, with the estimated annual cost for 2016 of \$250,000 to be funded from the Law Society's contingency, as recommended by the Audit and Finance Committee.

Carried

Ms. Hartman left the room.

PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Mercer presented the Report.

Re: Retired Judges Returning to Practice

It was moved by Mr. Mercer, seconded by Mr. Schabas, that Convocation approve the amendments to the Rules of Professional Conduct set out at Tab 4.1.1 of the Report.

Carried

Ms. Hartman returned to Convocation.

For Information

- Law Society Response to Proposed Ontario Securities Commission Policy

AUDIT & FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Wardle presented the Report.

Re: Law Society Funding of Coordinator for Lawyers Feed the Hungry Programs

It was moved by Mr. Wardle, seconded by Ms. Leiper, that Convocation approve the funding for two years of a new Law Society fundraising and stakeholder management coordinator dedicated to support the Lawyers Feed the Hungry programs in all Ontario centres and assist the Toronto program in moving toward a self-sustaining model over two years. The estimated cost of \$100,000 per annum will be funded from the Law Society's contingency in 2016 and the operating budget in 2017.

Carried

For Information

- LAWPRO Third Quarter Financial Statements for the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2015
- LibraryCo Inc. Third Quarter Financial Statements for the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2015

ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Corsetti presented the Report.

Re: Update on Publications

Ms. Corsetti provided an information report on the distribution of the Law Society's publication, a guide entitled Handling Everyday Legal Problems.

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

Mr. Schabas presented the Report.

Re: Human Rights Monitoring Group Requests for Interventions

It was moved by Mr. Schabas, seconded by Ms. Donnelly, that Convocation approve the letters and public statements in the cases set out in the Report at Tabs 6.1.1 to 6.1.8.

Carried

For Information

- Access to Justice in French Update
- Human Rights Monitoring Group Access to Justice Report
- Equity Legal Education and Rule of Law Series Calendar Winter 2016 – Summer 2016

TRIBUNAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Murchie presented the Report.

Re: Tribunal Model Three-Year Review Final Report

Ms. Murchie and Mr. Anand presented the report for information.

Mr. Anand thanked David Wright, Grace Knakowski and Sophia Sperdakos for their assistance with the three-year review.

.....
IN PUBLIC

.....

REPORTS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMITTEE REPORT

- Update on Publications

REPORT FROM THE ACTION GROUP ON ACCESS TO JUSTICE

CONVOCATION ROSE AT 12:56 P.M.