

Banack's Bencher News #87

Volume 4
Issue 18

Larry Banack, Certified by the Law Society as a Specialist in Civil Litigation
Member of the ADR Institute of Ontario

November 20, 2009

Your Governance Input

After my last Bencher Newsletter, I received a wide range of responses to the issues raised by the Governance Task Force. The opportunity to effect change in governance at the Law Society is likely a once in a lifetime opportunity. For Benchers, the debate is fraught with conflicts of interest and personal agendas. Your views should not be misunderstood by the Benchers sitting in Convocation. Accordingly, I reiterate my encouragement that you make your thoughts known to Benchers, the Treasurer or any Committee Chair you are comfortable speaking with.

In order to fully understand the rationale behind the issues to be canvassed, please refer to the full Governance Task Force Report on the Law Society website: www.lsuc.on.ca/media/convdec09_governance.pdf

Kindly consider the following questions which are to be determined by Convocation and provide your responses by fax or email by December 2, 2009.

FAX FEEDBACK – COMPLETE AND RETURN BY FAX TO (416) 204-2824

1) **TERM LIMIT:** I think a person should be entitled to serve as an elected Bencher for:

PLEASE CIRCLE THE MOST APPROPRIATE ANSWER!

- a) 8 years (b) 12 years (c) Indefinitely without limit
(status quo)

IT IS PROPOSED THAT:

ONCE A BENCHER HAS SERVED THE MAXIMUM LENGTH OF TIME DETERMINED APPROPRIATE, THAT BENCHER WILL BECOME AN EMERITUS BENCHER, ENTITLED TO PARTICIPATE IN DISCIPLINE MATTERS AND LAW SOCIETY COMMITTEES.

ALL EXISTING MEMBERS OF CONVOCATION WHO HAVE ALREADY ACQUIRED AN EX OFFICIO OR HONOURARY STATUS WILL BE GRANDPARENTED SO THEIR RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES WILL NOT BE ALTERED BY PROSPECTIVE CHANGES.

- 2) After governance reform, should the role of former Treasurers be limited to that of an Emeritus Bencher participating only in discipline matters and Law Society Committees?
YES NO
- 3) After governance reform, should the role of former Attorneys General be limited to that of an Emeritus Bencher participating only in discipline matters and Law Society Committees?
YES NO
- 4) After governance reform, should the designation of Life Bencher status (for elected Benchers who have served 16 years) be eliminated?
YES NO
- 5) Should Convocation encourage the appointment of non-Bencher lawyers and paralegals and non- licensees to Law Society Committees
YES NO

PLEASE REPLY NOW!

CONVOCATION REPORTS: All reports to Convocation can be viewed at <http://www.lsuc.on.ca/news/>. In order to more fully understand the issues facing Convocation, you may wish to review previous editions of Banack's Bencher News at http://www.kmlaw.ca/publications/banacks_bencher_news_home.aspx.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER VIA E-MAIL, SEND A MESSAGE TO: subscribe@kmlaw.ca
PLEASE INCLUDE THE NAME OF THIS NEWSLETTER AND YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS. IF YOU WISH NAMES ADDED OR DELETED, PLEASE RETURN THIS PAGE BY FAX TO (416) 204-2824 INCLUDING YOUR INSTRUCTIONS.