

It is very important that our members vote and vote in a manner that is not self-defeating. For example, you are not obligated to cast 20 votes for prospective benchers in or outside of Toronto unless you actually wish to support all those benchers. You are wiser to vote only for those benchers in or outside of Toronto who you actually wish to endorse. Otherwise, you are effectively canceling out your own vote.

The trustees of the Hamilton Law Association are endorsing the bencher campaigns of Jim Scarfone, Joe Sullivan and Andrew Spurgeon. All three of these gentlemen are former Presidents of the Hamilton Law Association. As such, they have

served for at least 6 years as trustees and have also chaired numerous committees of the Hamilton Law Association. All three have devoted extensive time and energy to the business of the Hamilton Law Association and have participated extensively in continuing legal education programs. The trustees strongly feel that they know these three candidates very well based on the work they have done on behalf of the Hamilton Law Association. Their integrity, judgment and commitment to the Hamilton Bar is exemplary. As President, it is my pleasure to announce that the Hamilton Law Association is endorsing Jim, Joe and Andrew in their campaign to become benchers and I would encourage all

of our members to lend their support and vote to get these three members of our Association elected as benchers of the Law Society. We must all remember how important these elections are. We are asked to elect those men and women from in and outside of Toronto who will be charged with the task of regulating what we do for a living. It is an important election and I hope you all be sure to vote and vote wisely. In the last bencher election, the Hamilton Bar had about a 50% turnout. I am hoping that we can show some considerable improvement on that figure. ■



## New Lawyers' Subcommittee

Ian Brisbin

I am happy to report that I have heard from a number of lawyers expressing interest in the New Lawyers' Committee, its mandate and activities. As I mentioned previously, we are always pleased to hear from anyone who has any questions, concerns or suggestions about the committee, and invite you to contact me or any of our committee members through the contact information found on our webpage, located at: <http://www.hamiltonlaw.on.ca/About-the-HLA/New-Lawyers-Subcommittee>.

We have met three times to date, and are gathering steam with plans for the future. We have been largely focused

upon volunteer opportunities available to new lawyers within the community, and the benefits of volunteering that can accrue to our members. We have had external speakers at each of our October and November meetings, which have brought varied experiences and perspectives on what we and the community may have to offer one another.

The first event hosted by the committee will have taken place by the time this article hits your desk, and next time, I hope to be able to report on a successful Lawyers' Pub Night, hosted by the committee at Slainte on January 13.

Another topic that we have discussed at length is what the committee might be able to do to assist new lawyers with issues relating to practice management. We are pleased to announce that we are starting a series of lunch-time events to encourage discussion of topics that we expect to be of interest to new lawyers in practice. The first event will take place on February 15, when we will be discussing "Handling Difficult People". I expect that by the time this article is published, you will already be aware of this event, and we hope that this and the events to follow will be well-received.

As you may already know, the committee has assumed responsibility for the Annual New Lawyers' Seminar and Welcome Dinner, and details will be forthcoming as that event approaches. This event is tentatively scheduled for October 6, 2011.

Best wishes for a Happy New Year! ■

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