



President's Report

W Patric Mackesy

One of the onerous pleasures of the Presidency is the bimonthly report to the members. This one contains a little more of the “I”.

Two years ago, pursuant to a survey initiated by the Trustees of the HLA, it was determined that promoting wellness initiatives for members of our profession should become a major objective. We then began to introduce the topic at seminars and brought in some speakers. We ramped it up over the past year by partnering with Momentum Fitness to offer lunch hour indoor walks over the winter months

at FirstOntario Centre, and by providing Lunchtime Yoga in the HLA Library. Since I strongly advocated for the yoga sessions, I had to try it out. However, I only lasted four of the ten sessions. I was not as agile, slim, and young as the other participants, but I hope participation in the program will continue to grow. I also started to walk (just around the block) two years ago and still continue, even through the winter. Now I get to work at 8:30 a.m. instead of 8:00 a.m., but I have found myself more chipper throughout the day. I even formulate a bit of a plan for the day: the to-do list. Bill Morris and Gerry Swaye did it for over 30 years together and always found it rewarding.

There is then a lengthy discussion of these options and what led to them. This is probably the single most important present issue that we lawyers will face relative to the future of our profession. I urge ALL to go to the HLA website to read the paper. The HLA distributed a survey on this topic to all members at the end of July. One of the new HLA objectives is to be more aggressive and forthcoming with issues related to the Law Society, FOLA and the OBA. We have over 1,000 members and are highly regarded by other legal organizations. We represent an excellent cross-section of practitioners and are well-known for our excellent CPD. Please respond to this survey promptly so we can synthesize a comprehensive report before the October 26th deadline.

Continuing with the issue of articling, the Law Society of Ontario has a regulation in place that disadvantages Hamilton. Essentially, Hamilton law firms are not permitted to interview prospective candidates until 24 days after the rest of the Province (excluding Toronto, Ottawa and London) and no offers of acceptance can be made until eighteen days after the rest of the Province (excluding Toronto, Ottawa and London). Of the eighteen firms that we are aware of that hired articling students last year, nine attended a meeting hosted by the HLA

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Current Issues - Articling

The Law Society of Ontario has put forward a discussion paper called “Options for Lawyer Licencing - A Consultation Paper”, which lays out four options for the future:

- (a) Current Model;
- (b) Current Model with enhancements;
- (c) Examination – Based Licencing;
- (d) LPP for all Candidates.

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HLA Journal

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and bencher Andrew Spurgeon. All nine indicated that this regulation negatively impacted their hiring opportunities this year and urged that the HLA petition for Hamilton's removal from such. Similarly sized Associations like Peel, York and Waterloo do not face this hurdle. The HLA has written to the Law Society to be relieved of this burden.

HLA News

In other news, I must congratulate Michael McHugh (now retired) for his many years of contribution to the HLA, which resulted in his being chosen to receive the 2018 Distinguished Solicitor Award.

The HLA wishes to congratulate Breigh-Anne Gerrard, a student in Mohawk College's Office Administration Legal Program, as the beneficiary of our annual Hamilton Law Association Scholarship. All the best to her as she completes her studies.

I also wish to warmly welcome Eric Nanayakkara as your new trustee, and Hussein Hamdani as the newest member of the Executive of the Association. Both are superlative choices.

Finally, I would recommend that members sign up for the American Bar Association's Journal (www.abajournal.com). Issues are frequently discussed therein that subsequently become issues in Ontario. Generally, it is more advanced on issues of technology, cybercrime, data loss prevention, and wellness. It comes in digital format on a weekly basis and can be scanned quickly for issues that interest you south of the border.

Agenda

My agenda of events over the next few months is as follows:

- August 2-4 – National Conference of Bar Presidents Annual Meeting
- August 15 – New Lawyers' Meet n' Eat at Library - 12 noon
- September 5 – Red Mass – 9:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.
- September 6 – HLA and Hamilton Lawyers' Club Welcome Dinner for Articling Students – Spice Factory
- September 13 – Opening of Courts in Toronto – 3 p.m. – 7 p.m.
- October 4 – Commercial Litigation Practice Group Dinner
- October 9 – Regional Law Association Presidents' Dinner – 5:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.
- October 11 – Corporate Commercial Seminar

Lastly, I hope all members get in at least some small (or large) holidays as a breather and refresher – mine was in Morocco in June. ■

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