



May 4, 2016

Janet E. Minor
Treasurer
Law Society of Upper Canada
Osgoode Hall, 130 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M5H 2N6
Email: lawsociety@lsuc.on.ca

Howard Goldblatt
Chair, Professional Development & Competence Committee
Law Society of Upper Canada
Osgoode Hall, 130 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N6
Email: hgoldblatt@goldblattpartners.com

Delivered by email

Dear Treasurer Minor and Mr. Goldblatt,

RE: Proposed Revisions to Licensing Process for New Lawyers

The licensing process for lawyers is integral to our profession in order to ensure competence for all members who provide service to the public. The Toronto Lawyers Association (“TLA”) welcomes the opportunity to respond to proposed revisions to the licensing process.

The TLA would appreciate the opportunity of reviewing, in full, the report of the Committee in order to have an appropriate understanding of the background and rationale for its proposal to significantly and dramatically change the licensing process for new lawyers, starting as early as 2017/2018. However, our organization represents thousands of members and, in order to provide meaningful feedback to the Law Society, we need an opportunity to:

- strike a task force;
- review the mandate of the Committee which has presented its report;
- review the background materials studied and investigations made by the Committee which provide the evidence for its recommendations;

- prepare a draft response;
- provide the opportunity to our members for input into the draft response; and after such input;
- finalize our response at the next meeting of the Trustees of the TLA.

It is impossible for the TLA to provide meaningful input on or before the Convocation scheduled for May 26, 2016. Because of the critical importance of this issue to all members of our Association, and the profession, we urge the Committee and our Law Society, to delay consideration of this report and proposal until such time as the profession has had full opportunity for constructive feedback.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our feedback.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Mullings". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephen Mullings
President
Toronto Lawyers Association