



The County & District
Law Presidents' Association

L'Association Des Bâtonniers
De Comtés et Districts

Janet Whitehead, Chair

Cheryl Siran, Vice Chair

In The Trenches

A summary of the April & May 2013 CDLPA Executive Meetings

In April and May 2013, in advance of our Spring Plenary, the Executive of the County and District Law Presidents' Association held scheduled meetings in Toronto to deliberate on matters affecting our Membership. The primary focus of these meetings was on the agenda and presentations for our spring session, however other important issues were considered.

Since those Executive meetings and Plenary, we have communicated with you details on priority issues and activities including; information on ***a motion to be debated at the Law Society AGM on the scope of practice of the paralegal profession*** (memo April 30th, letter to the editor – Law Times, May 6th), distribution of our ***2011-12 Financial Statements*** (memo May 3rd), information on ***claiming expenses for attending Plenary and a link to an online survey*** (memo May 13th) and an overview of some of the ***processes related to the establishment of a Law Practice Program in Ontario*** (May 15th).

In early June Presidents will also be receiving a copy of our Plenary Summary that will include links to transcripts and presentations.

Update from the Chair

The Chair's commitment to the advocacy initiative continued through March and April, during which time she participated in a number of events with key decision makers and profession leadership in support of our interests as well as those of our local Law Associations. A summary of these meetings and provincial outreach is included later in this document.

In addition to her work on advocacy, the Chair shared important information on changes to the Executive. Janet announced that Dan Rosenkrantz had formally submitted his resignation as Vice Chair and acknowledged his longstanding contribution to CDLPA and his commitment through the Executive to the profession. The Executive, with regret, accepted this resignation. Resulting from Dan's decision, the Board moved and approved the ascension of Cheryl Siran from her role as Second Vice Chair to that of Vice Chair, while Eldon Horner assumed the position of Second Vice Chair in addition to that of Treasurer. In assuming these new roles, further changes to the Executive would follow including the selection of Jaye Hooper (County of Carleton Law Association) as the Eastern Regional Representative and Roy Karlstedt (Thunder Bay Law Association) as the Northwest Regional Representative.



Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer advised the Executive that the finances of CDLPA remain in good order. Budget projections are on target and Eldon affirmed CDLPA's ongoing commitment to improving our communication with Member Associations as relate to finance. As a part of this, it was announced that our Financial Statements would be distributed to Presidents in advance of Plenary. Additionally the Treasurer committed to continuous improvement in the types of information CDLPA provides, allowing us to be responsive to some of the feedback we receive from our Members.

Regional representatives have been asked and reminded to compare year-over-year membership numbers in their districts and contact Presidents in Associations with notable changes. As well, Regional Representatives will be responsible for ensuring all Associations have paid their dues for this year.

Libraries

CDLPA continues to advocate for a strong County Library system province wide and is seeking to ensure reliable and consistent access to this resource for our members. As a result of our efforts and through strong partnership with the Toronto Lawyers Association, we are beginning to see encouraging signs of progress. There are indications from the Law Society that there is an increasing willingness to engage shareholders outside of LibraryCo. and their processes to explore options in order create a more sustainable County Library system. Further, and a necessary pre-condition of moving forward with such discussions, the Law Society seems supportive of committing to stable funding for the current system while these discussion occur. Additionally, CDLPA maintains that any consideration of changes to the County Library system must also extend to a review of costs and contributions of the Great Library and CanLII to this necessary province-wide resource.

Advocacy Initiative

CDLPA continues to be active with respect to our Advocacy Initiative and sustaining our efforts in promoting the priority issues of our organization on behalf of the Membership we serve.

Through April we continued our meetings with Members of Provincial Parliament, local Law Associations, Benchers and other leadership in the profession. Our approach and commitment to advocacy continues to raise the profile of our organization and positions us to more actively engage decision makers in the issues and solution points that affect our Membership. Our value as a stakeholder and as the consensus voice of the practising bar is increasing and this is a result of the participation of our Presidents and Members throughout Ontario. We are seeing results from our collective effort, especially so as relates to judicial complement issues in the Northwest and our progress on the County Library system and the drive to establish a more modern Practice Centres.

A summary of our activities in 2013 follows:



Date	Region	Location	Description
01.09.13	Eastern	Queen's Park	Meeting with Attorney General
01.26.13	Eastern	Ottawa	CCLA-ABCC 125th Anniversary
01.28.13	South West	Queen's Park	Meeting with MPP Bob Bailey
01.28.13	Eastern	Queen's Park	Meeting with MPP Steve Clark
01.28.13	Eastern	Queen's Park	Meeting with MPP Jack MacLaren
02.05.13	South West	London	Meeting with Michael Lerner, Bencher
02.13.13	Central West	Orangeville	Meeting with MPP Sylvia Jones, MPP
02.20.13	Northeast	Sudbury	Meeting with Carol Hartman, Bencher
02.21.13	Northeast	Sudbury	Sudbury Law Association AGM
02.21.13	Northeast	Sudbury	Meeting with Jack Braithwaite, Bencher
02.21.13	Central West	Brampton	Peel Law Association AGM
02.22.13	Central East	Barrie	Meeting with MPP Rod Jackson
02.26.13	Toronto	Toronto	TLA Awards of Distinction
02.27.13	Toronto	Toronto	Law Society Event inc. Bencher Dinner
02.28.13	Toronto	Toronto	Law Society Event - Racialized Licensees
03.01.13	Northwest	Rainy River	Meeting with Rainy River Law Association
03.01.13	Northwest	Dryden	Kenora Law Association AGM
03.05.13	Central East	Lindsay	Victoria Haliburton Law Association AGM
03.07.13	Central South	Hamilton	HLA Annual Dinner and Silent Auction
03.20.13	Central South	Hamilton	HLA Executive Meeting
04.02.13	Eastern	Ottawa	Meeting with Minister Yasir Naqvi
04.02.13	Eastern	Ottawa	Treasurer's Eastern Dinner
04.10.13	Northwest	Toronto	Meeting with MPP Sarah Campbell
04.10.13	Toronto	Toronto	Treasurer's Advisory Group - Access to Justice
04.11.13	Central West	Toronto	Meeting with MPP Jagmeet Singh
04.17.13	Central East	Newmarket	York Law Association AGM
04.18.13	Central West	Halton	Halton County Law Association Meeting

Law Society Tribunal Panel

The Law Society is in the process of recruiting a Chair for the Law Society Tribunal Panel. Candidates for Chair must be a non-bencher lawyer and through this position would play a role in the implementation of hearing reforms approved by Convocation in June 2012. CDLPA has been asked to notify our members of this opportunity and is encouraging anyone interested in learning more about the position to visit the Law Society website [here](#) or email your resumé in confidence to Amrop Knightsbridge at lsuc@amropknightsbridge.ca to stand as a candidate



Communications

We continue to encourage our Presidents to share our Executive messages with their membership, and again invite your comments or feedback on the content. We commit ourselves to ensuring we are discussing and responding to the issues that affect members of the practicing bar, and improve our ability to do so with your input and support.

In addition to providing our message to Presidents and our members, we are active on Twitter and can be followed at @cdlpa. Our intent through this medium, and through an improved public website, will be to better communicate our organization to the general public on the issues that affect our organization and profession.

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