



The County & District
Law Presidents' Association

L'Association Des Bâtonniers
De Comtés et Districts

Janet M. Whitehead, Chair

Daniel J. Rosenkrantz, Vice Chair

In The Trenches

A summary of the March 2013 CDLPA Executive Meeting

On March 7th, 2013 the Executive of the County and District Law Presidents' Association held a scheduled meeting in Toronto to deliberate on matters affecting our Membership.

Since that meeting we have communicated with you on priority issues such as the distribution of **Registration Information for the May Plenary** (memo March 18), a **Library Survey through CDLPA's Library Committee** (memo March 26) and a submission by the CDLPA on the **Two Year Review of Compulsory Professional Development** (memo March 27). As a part of our CDP submission, among other comments, we are strongly encouraging the Law Society to remove the current requirement to report CPD via the Portal.

In addition to these activities, we wish to provide you with an overview matters considered at our meeting and encourage you to share these details with your Association.

UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair received correspondence from the *Law Society* informing the CDLPA that they were likely to discontinue the *Articling Symposium*, traditionally held in concert with our November Plenary, after this year. This decision is the result of expected changes that will occur through the implementation of the Law Practice Program (LPP) being offered to graduating law students as an alternative to articling. It is the view of the CDLPA, based upon participant feedback, that the symposium offered considerable benefit in the form of leads and contacts to our membership to assist with recruiting articling students and new calls to practice outside the large Toronto firms. Further, the symposium's focus and priorities are unique to those of the LPP. In support of our members, Janet will be responding to the Treasurer requesting the continuance of the symposium for an additional year after the LPP is established to allow for a proper evaluation of its contribution to the students who opt to pursue the articling path and to participating firms.

As a representative of the CDLPA, Janet participated in a number of activities related to the profession including; the swearing-in ceremonies for two justices to the Ontario Court of Appeal, providing input toward the selection of nominees as a part of the Awards and Medals Committee of the Law Society, participated in a Working Group teleconference on racialized licensees and the challenges they face within the profession and attended a Bencher's dinner at Convocation Hall. With respect to the work of the Awards and Medals Committee, the CDLPA will be working with Regional Representatives in the year ahead to increase the number of nominations from our Member Associations province wide. The commitment and work of our members throughout Ontario merits greater acknowledgement and celebration.



Janet also continued her dedicated efforts in support of the CDLPA's advocacy initiative, details of which follow later in this newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The CDLPA's finances continue to be strong and stable. The Law Society has advised the CDLPA that the non-discretionary direct purpose funding provided to our organization to reimburse law association presidents or designates who attend plenary will continue for the near term. Additionally, an initiative to increase sponsorship opportunities toward our activities is contributing to supplementing member contributions toward our important work. Each of these make a positive contribute to the sustainability of our organization. As importantly, CDLPA membership dues are being received from member Associations. Regional Representatives will be following up with Presidents to ensure our finances remain in good standing.

As a part of our ongoing commitment to our membership, we are also strengthening our financial reporting to the Law Society and to our Presidents. As a part of our disclosure to Associations, we will be including additional details on our allocations including distinct figures related to our Advocacy Initiative. Interim financial reports will be provided to Presidents in advance of our May Plenary, as well as our 2012 Year End Financial statements as prepared by KPMG

ADVOCACY INITIATIVE UPDATE

The 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 members we serve.

By example, in early March, Janet and Director of Public Affairs Scott Lovell travelled to the Northwest to support the District of Rainy River Law Association and gain additional perspective on how the District's judicial complement is affecting access to appropriate justice in the region. With the participation of Northwest Regional Representative Cheryl Siran and local president Barbara Morgan, the CDLPA learned more of the challenges the profession faces without a resident Ontario Court of Justice judge and the lengths to which the community continues to work to accommodate untenable circumstances related to their court facilities. As a part of our travel, we received media coverage through the Fort Frances Times (online and print) and local radio. In addition, Janet did a follow up interview with the Law Times on her experience and learning about the justice system in the north that is expected to be published shortly.

The Northwest tour also involved a trip by Janet, Cheryl and Scott to Dryden to participate in the Kenora District Law Association AGM. While in Dryden, we were interviewed by the Dryden Observer on the recently released Iacobucci Report on the circumstances facing our First Nations communities accessing the justice system.



Though this specific trip was to the Northwest, it captures the spirit and intent of our outreach that we will continue to replicate in every region. We were able to support and help raise the profile of current local issues within the community and help describe to residents through the media the role of the profession in seeking a solution. We were able to connect with our membership base and offer the strength and voice of the CDLPA to their efforts. And we are able to share the experience of these Associations with others who may find themselves in similar circumstances. A summary of our scheduled and completed activities through April follows:

| ACTIVITY SUMMARY | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---|
| Date | Region | Location | Description |
| 01.09.13 | All | 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 - 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 East Region 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 | Milton | Halton County Law Association Executive Meeting |
| 04.17.13 | Central East | Newmarket | York Law Association AGM |
| 04.27.13 | South West | Windsor | Essex Law Association AGM |



LIBRARIES

The CDLPA Library Committee and the Executive continued their strong engagement and leadership in promoting and protecting the profession's vital resource that is our province wide system of law libraries. It remains our stated position that the CDLPA will not accept uncertainty with respect to Libraries, and we are continuing to develop a strategy to confront emerging funding challenges and improve the function and services offered within.

The Executive is working on securing funding surety and stability in the immediate term, especially as relates to staff resources. Additionally, through the work of our Library Committee, a survey has been circulated province wide to better inform us of how these resources are currently being utilized by our membership. Responses to the survey by all libraries will be critical to our efforts and help all shareholders respect the value and contribution they make to the profession.

We anticipate that this survey will demonstrate that the traditional Law Library is already evolving toward a more modern Practice Centre. Law Libraries will have a prominent role in our discussions at our May Plenary.

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 have remained 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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