

# CAMELOT STREET JOURNAL

March TBLA Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Thunder Bay Law Association's

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, March 31, 2010

VICTORIA INN

4:30 P.M.

Come out to hear what is happening with your Association  
Open Bar + Complimentary Dinner

### REAL ESTATE MEETING

A meeting of all real estate lawyers and their staff will be held on May 6, 2010 commencing at 12:00 noon at the Italian Hall. Anyone from the real estate bar who would like to suggest topics for discussion should contact either Kristi Burns at 623-2500 or Randall Johns at 623-8444. The cost of attending this meeting is \$15.00 and includes a buffet lunch.

### Vice Chair Janice Vauthier

Congratulations goes out to Janice Vauthier who has accepted a full-time position with the Health Professions Appeal and Review Board tribunal. Effective February 24, 2010, Janice's appointment as a permanent Vice Chair means that while she will still remain in Thunder Bay, she will no longer be in private practice. Any requests for information regarding her files should be directed to Seppo Paivalainen. Good luck on this exciting new career venture, Janice !

## BENCHER REPORT

Our local Bencher, Nick Pustina, informed the Board that the Law Society has approved mandatory continuing legal education requirements which will be effective beginning in 2011. Anyone who is a practising lawyer or paralegal will now be required to engage in a minimum of 12 hours of "continuing professional development" on an annual basis to ensure the maintenance and enhancement of a lawyer or paralegal's professional knowledge, skills, attitudes and ethics through their career. Part of this new program will be random annual audits to monitor compliance. Also on Convocation's radar is the upcoming election for a new Treasurer, with candidates such as Beth Symes and Laurie Pawlitza in the running.

### Nominating Committee Report Highlights

The TBLA Nominating Committee is pleased to announce that Chris Hacio has been nominated to serve as Secretary on the Executive Committee, and that Claudia Belda, Lori Bertoni, Robin Clinker and David Shannon have all been nominated to fill vacancies on the Board of Directors. These nominations are subject to a vote and ratification at the AGM.

### Upcoming Judges' Dinners

The TBLA is currently consulting with Justice Elder and Justice Fregeau, our two most recent appointments, in an effort to find dates for their traditional "Welcome to the Bench" TBLA dinners. Watch for more details of these events which will likely be scheduled sometime in the Spring of 2010.

## Successful End to Legal Aid Boycott

Neil McCartney reported at the last Board meeting that on the eve of the Criminal Lawyers' Association's intention to expand the Legal Aid boycott, the Attorney General, Legal Aid Ontario and the CLA reached a historic agreement on the future of legal aid in Ontario. Some of the highlights of the deal include a 40.5% increase to the tariff for all levels by April 1, 2015, a new "big case" tier effective February 1, 2010 to be increased 66% by April 1, 2015, a 10% increase to standard case tariffs for certificates issued on or after April 1, 2010, a 30% increase to the top level tariff for "big cases" effective for certificates issued on or after April 1, 2010, an elimination of the 25% reduction for fees paid to junior lawyers on "big cases", block fees for standard criminal cases reflecting both the higher tariff levels and 50% of the average discretionary increase to current tariff awards, and a commitment from the AG and LAO to sit down with the CLA on or before April 1, 2015 to discuss the future of legal aid. This deal is applauded by all those lawyers who are committed to continuing to perform legal aid work, despite the fear - as George Joseph pointed out - that it is anticipated that a flood of lawyers from Bay Street will now begin seeking and accepting certificates.

## The End of an Era : Congratulations to Claudette Chicoine

The TBLA would like to extend the best wishes and congratulations on behalf of all of its members to Claudette Chicoine who will be retiring after three decades of dedicated service to the Superior Court of Justice. She has been an invaluable asset to the judges she has worked with and the lawyers who have appeared in "her court", and it is hard to imagine a Motions' Court or a Jury Sittings without her being there to lend a helping hand when needed. All the best to you in your next career, Claudette, and may you enjoy many happy years of retirement with your family.

## TBLA Fall CLE

Make sure you have your calendars marked for another great CLE program scheduled from Wednesday, September 29 to Friday, October 1, 2010. The CLE Committee is still actively seeking ideas for potential sponsors as well as a lunch time speaker, so if you have any ideas please contact the Chair of the CLE Committee, Terry-Lynn Miettinen.

# LAW DAY 2010

Come Celebrate the Charter With Us

**Thursday, April 8, 2010**

★ Superior Court of Justice Open House

★ Grade 5 Poster Contest

★ Charter Challenge Contest

**Friday, April 9, 2010**

★ High School Mock Trial Competitions

➤ St. Ignatius v. Superior CVI

➤ Hammar skjold v. Westgate

## LAST NEWSLETTER FOR THIS EDITOR

As you know, the TBLA Newsletter is a monthly publication produced by the Past President of the TBLA. The AGM at the end of this month will mark the end of the current term of the TBLA and my stint on the Executive Committee, as well as my role as Editor of the Board Newsletter. I can honestly say that I have enjoyed working as a Director and Executive member of the TBLA as this has given me the opportunity to work with a great bunch of lawyers that I do not otherwise deal with during the course of my practice. The hard work and dedication shown by those who are fortunate enough to be nominated as Directors of the TBLA are testament to the group of professionals which make up the Thunder Bay Bar. We have a reputation within this province as being a collegial bunch without ever compromising the duties we owe to our clients, and engage in the practice of law in a manner which is the envy of the entire Ontario Bar. In my capacity as a Director, I have heard these accolades from various organizations such as The Advocates' Society and the Law Society of Upper Canada, and from individuals such as Chief Justice Heather Smith as well as The Honourable Coulter Osborne, who in undertaking his recent task force to assess issues within the litigation bar remarked to us, and others, that Thunder Bay should be the model for all other practitioners to follow. It has been a pleasure working with the TBLA over the past decade, and I encourage all TBLA members to avail themselves of this rewarding experience. Good luck to your incoming President, David Dubinsky, and all four of the TBLA members - Claudia Belda, Lori Bertoni, Robin Clinker and David Shannon - newly appointed to the Board.