



PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

Position Description

The Law Society of Saskatchewan regulates the legal profession in the public interest. It sets standards for admission, education, ethics and the conduct of lawyers. The principle of self-regulation gives oversight of this responsibility to members of the profession who are elected as Benchers. They are the governing board of the Law Society.

It is also essential that the legal profession have input and oversight by members of the public on the board. Public Representatives provide a positive and effective mechanism for the Society to demonstrate transparency, independence and accountability. They ensure that the public perspective is represented in the decision-making of the Benchers and often provide a particular expertise. They reflect the diverse population of Saskatchewan.

There are no particular qualifications, although an understanding of professional regulation and board governance would be an asset.

It is expected that the Public Representatives will:

- Ensure that the Benchers and committees are made aware of issues that are of most interest to the public;
- Assist in keeping discussions focused to ensure that the public interest is always reflected;
- Pose difficult questions, question assumptions and test arguments from a non-lawyer's perspective;
- Ensure that the obvious is not overlooked;
- Ensure that concerns of the most vulnerable members of the public are addressed;
- Ensure that policies and decisions are communicated in clear and plain language that can be understood by the public;
- Fully participate in Council and committee activities to which they are assigned;
- Bring a general understanding of the regulation of professional groups and protection of the public interest;
- Have a broad understanding of the legal system;
- Have an understanding of procedural fairness;
- Possess analytical and decision-making skills.

Personal attributes

Desirable personal attributes include the following:

- Objective
- Reliable
- Perceptive
- Attentive listener
- Not easily intimidated
- Trustworthy
- Non-judgmental
- Articulate
- Discrete
- Courteous

Core competencies

It is desirable that all Public Representatives have competencies in the following areas:

- Accountability
- Sound judgment
- Integrity
- Credibility
- Independent thinking
- Respect for confidentiality
- Analytical and decision-making skills
- An understanding of procedural fairness
- An understanding of the role of self-regulating professions to protect the public interest
- A commitment to team work