

CONVOCATION AGENDA

Convocation Date: December 1 and 2, 2022
Location: Elk Ridge, Prince Albert and virtually via *Zoom* on both Thursday and Friday
Commencement and End Time: Thursday, December 1st from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, Bencher Strategic Planning Session; Convocation commences at 8:30 am on Friday, December 2nd, with lunch service at noon.

1. Approval of the Agenda

1.1 Apologies for Absence

None.

1.2 Confirmation of Agenda

1.3 Bencher Conflict of Interest Disclosures

1.4 Committee Reports and Documents Which Are Not Available to the Public

Documents and Reports related to the following items are not available to the public.

- i. Bencher Strategic Planning Session – Thursday, December 1, 2022
- ii. Appointments
- iii. Informational Package – Operational reports, Committee Reports and reports from Representatives of outside organizations

2. Decision Items

2.1 Appointments

- i. Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission

The Nominations Committee will present a recommendation for appointment to the Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission.

A motion will be required.

- ii. Inaugural Adjudicator Hearing Pool

At September Convocation, nine Benchers were approved for placement on the Hearing Committee Roster. A recommendation and supporting report from the Hearing Administrator, Greg Walen, K.C. regarding the balance of

the roster (comprised of members of the Law Society and members of the wider public) is included in the materials for the Closed Agenda.

A motion will be required to approve the balance of the roster.

2.2 Approval of Budget 2023

A motion will be required.

3. Discussion Items

3.1 Society Governance

i. Standing Reports

- a. President's Report – verbal report will be provided.
- b. Executive Director's Report – Tim Brown, K.C. will provide a written report in advance of Convocation
- c. Federation Council Report – written report provided by Erin Kleisinger, K.C.

ii. Financial Reporting

a. Financial Statements

Financial statements for the month ended October 31, 2022 are provided for discussion.

b. Investment Reports

Enclosed for review is the October 31, 2022 TDAM Investments Summary.

The Quarterly Investment Report for the period July 1 to September 30, 2022 is also enclosed for review.

iii. Firm Regulation

A memo regarding the integration of Firm Culture Principles in the Online Assessment Tool is attached for Benchers consideration/discussion.

iv. 2022 Workplan

An updated workplan is provided for review and discussion.

4. Strategic Initiative Updates

4.1 Strategic Initiatives

i. Increased Access to Legal Services (Goal 5) and Future of Legal Services Initiative

a. Limited Licensing Pilot

The Pilot has been active since January 2022 with the following information available:

- 4 potential applicants: Administration has exchanged with four individuals anticipated to apply.
- 20 applicants: 18 approved; 1 not approved; 1 pending.
- 19 risk assessments: 1 low risk; 13 medium-low risk; 5 medium-high risk.
- 19 areas of law identified in 4 general areas of practice
 - Administrative tribunal and provincial court matters (+ related enforcement)
 - General corporate/contract
 - Future planning services - basic wills, powers of attorney and health care directives
 - Family services - separation, uncontested divorces, mediation

Based on reporting information received to November 1st, the following data is available:

- 602 client inquiries
- 1,509 clients served
- 50 geographic locations outside of Regina/Saskatoon
- \$0 - 300 fee range (+ approved contingency arrangements)
- 4 days to 4 months time range for services
- 5 consumer reviews (positive)

b. Exemptions

Consultation is continuing with stakeholders regarding several exemptions from unauthorized practice and proposed amendments will be considered by the Future of Legal Services Committee at upcoming meetings.

5. Truth & Reconciliation Initiatives

5.1 Statement on Commitment to Reconciliation

The Statement on Commitment to Reconciliation was approved at September Convocation, subject to several clarifying amendments. The amendments will be shared with the Truth & Reconciliation Advisory Group at their meeting on November 23, 2022. Additionally, Administration is reaching out to the Federation of Sovereign

Indigenous Nations and Métis Nation Saskatchewan to determine if there is interest in engaging with the Law Society in advance of the Statement's release.

5.2 Final Report on Truth and Reconciliation Through Treaty Implementation

The Office of the Treaty Commissioner presented their final report to the Benchers at September Convocation containing 38 recommendations for the Law Society. Following discussion at September Convocation, Administration has been engaged with the OTC regarding several items:

- *Statement*: request to consider a synthesized version of the recommendations for publication and accessibility, including the removal of details (ie. minimum hour requirements) regarding ultimate Law Society implementation;
- *Sharing indicators*: providing identified indicators for the justice sector with the Law Society to finalize the first Memorandum of Understanding (MOU);
- *Phase II implementation plan*: developing an implementation plan to advance our reconciliation journey based on the recommendations created in Phase I (Phase II tentative January - May 2023); and
- *Sector-wide engagement*: bringing together different legal stakeholders for a sector-wide conversation about Truth and Reconciliation.

6. Informational Items

i. Committee Reports

An information package is included in the materials.

ii. Bencher Committee Preferences

Attached is a questionnaire for Benchers to complete by ranking their Committee preferences. The Administration asks that completed questionnaires be provided to Liz by December 9th.

iii. Bencher Evaluations

The Annual Bencher Self-Evaluation Questionnaire will be sent to the Benchers later in November so as not to overlap with the Bencher Competency Self-Assessment Survey related to filling Bencher vacancies. The results will be considered by the Governance Committee either later this year or in the new year.

7. Election of President and Vice-President

Time will be allotted for the Vice-Presidential and Presidential Elections if required.

In the event of an election, candidates will be allowed an opportunity to make a brief presentation and the Benchers will then cast a secret ballot.

The successful President and Vice-President for 2023 will be announced at the conclusion of the meeting.

8. New Business

9. Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda includes items which are not considered controversial and will collectively be enacted by one motion at Convocation.

The items included on the Consent Agenda are set out in 9.1 below:

9.1 Approval of the Bencher Minutes

The following Bencher Minutes are provided for approval:

- a. Minutes from the Bencher meeting held September 23, 2022;
- b. Minutes from the *In-Camera* Bencher meeting held September 23, 2022;
- c. Minutes from the Bencher meeting held October 28, 2022; and
- d. *In-Camera* Minutes from the Bencher meeting held October 28, 2022.

A motion is required.

10. Meeting Finalization

10.1 Review Actions to be Taken

10.2 Meeting Evaluation

10.3 Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for February 16 and 17, 2023 in Regina.

10.4 Motion to Adjourn