



**T O R O N T O L A W Y E R S
A S S O C I A T I O N**

October 24, 2012

BY EMAIL

Mr. Thomas G. Conway
Treasurer,
Law Society of Upper Canada
Osgoode Hall
130 Queen Street West
Toronto ON M5H 2N6

Dear Mr. Conway:

Re: Convocation debate on Articling Task Force Report: “Pathways to the Profession: A Roadmap for the Reform of Lawyer Licensing in Ontario”

I am writing to you on behalf of the Toronto Lawyers’ Association (“TLA”) (and its over 3,000 members) in response to the request by The Advocates’ Society that the debate on the above-mentioned report be deferred. I understand the request has been made in order to allow members of the profession to make their views known to benchers.

TLA is not in favour of a deferral of the debate. The report is the result of a lengthy and extensive consultation process during which the profession was provided the opportunity to comment on a number of options, including those that form the bases for the majority and minority positions in the report. There would seem to be little benefit in delaying the debate in order to allow representations to be made to the benchers directly, when they have already been made to the Articling Task Force and are available to the benchers on the Law Society website. For instance, should anyone wish to see TLA’s submission, it may be found at the following link: <http://www.lsuc.on.ca/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=2147487585>. In that submission, TLA urged that articling be retained and suggested strategies to reduce or eliminate the need for a professional legal training program.

In short, TLA believes the benchers are well-armed to consider the issues and decide on a path forward without further delay. TLA will follow the debate with interest and looks forward to assisting its members in implementing any changes Convocation may adopt.

Yours truly,

Christopher J. Matthews
President, Toronto Lawyers Association

c.c. Benchers, Law Society of Upper Canada
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