



BY E-MAIL AND REGULAR MAIL

Law Society of Upper Canada
Osgoode Hall
130 Queen Street West
Toronto ON

Attention: Sophia Sperdakos

Dear Sirs:

Re: Response to Articling Task Force Report “*Pathways to the Profession: A Roadmap for the Reform of Lawyer Licensing in Ontario*” (the “Pathways Report”)

I am writing to you on behalf of the Toronto Lawyers Associations (“TLA”) and its over 3,000 members in response to the invitation from the Law Society to comment on the Pathways Report.

TLA strongly favours the retention of articling. Accordingly, as between the majority and minority reports, TLA supports the majority. TLA also encourages the benchers to vote in favour of the motion currently before Convocation.

TLA congratulates the authors of both the majority and the minority positions in the Pathways Report. They both offer persuasive and well-reasoned arguments. We also thank the Articling Task Force for the very hard work that went into the Pathways Report and the consultations that preceded it.

TLA does not wish to repeat or supplement the comments made in its submission dated March 12, 2012 (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 the need for a professional legal training program. TLA shares the concern that there may be, or may be perceived to be, a two-tiered licensing system. TLA therefore urges the Law Society and other legal organizations throughout the province to encourage their members to offer articling positions and to do everything possible to ensure that the professional legal training program is a safety net rather than a replacement for articling.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Matthews", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Christopher J. Matthews
President, Toronto Lawyers Association

c.c. Thomas G. Conway, Treasurer