

For Immediate Release

April 8, 2010

## News Release

### Committee elects paralegals to serve as Law Society benchers

**Toronto:** The Law Society of Upper Canada welcomes Michelle Haigh and Paul Dray as new benchers to its governing body, following their election today by members of the Paralegal Standing Committee. Cathy Corsetti was elected committee chair.

The committee's five paralegal members and three lay benchers elected the two new benchers during the first meeting of the Paralegal Standing Committee following the election of its paralegal members at the end of March. The entire committee elected the chair.

All five paralegal members of the committee, including the benchers, will serve a four-year term. The chair will serve a one-year term.

Biographies of the newly elected paralegal committee members are [available](#).

The Paralegal Standing Committee plays an integral role in the governance and regulation of licensed paralegals throughout the province.

Ontario became the first jurisdiction in North America to licence paralegals in 2007. Almost 3,000 paralegals in Ontario are now licensed by the Law Society. Licensed paralegals can help people with small claims court matters, as well as traffic matters, tribunal hearings and minor criminal matters.

The Law Society regulates lawyers and paralegals in Ontario in the public interest. The Law Society has a mandate to protect the public interest, to maintain and advance the cause of justice and the rule of law, to facilitate access to justice for the people of Ontario and act in a timely, open and efficient manner.

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