
For Immediate Release

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NEWS RELEASE

Continuing professional development requirement supports professional competence

Toronto: The governing body of the Law Society of Upper Canada today approved a continuing professional development (CPD) requirement of 12 hours per year for practising lawyers and licensed paralegals who provide legal services.

“The introduction of the CPD requirement confirms both the Law Society’s commitment to regulation in the public interest and the commitment of lawyers and paralegals to providing the highest level of service to clients,” says Law Society Treasurer W. A. Derry Millar.

The Law Society’s adoption of the CPD requirement, at the February meeting of its governing board, followed a consultation with lawyers and paralegals.

“The consultation with lawyers and paralegals was very constructive,” says Laurie Pawlitzka, Chair of the Law Society’s Professional Development and Competence Committee. “With the profession’s input we’ve developed a flexible, cost-effective and convenient way for lawyers and paralegals to enhance their professional competence.”

“I am impressed with the level of support that the profession showed for CPD,” says Paul Dray, Chair of the Paralegal Standing Committee. “It is clear that this is the right time for this initiative.”

The CPD requirement applies to all lawyers who practise law and paralegals who provide legal services – those lawyers and paralegals in the Law Society’s 100% fee paying category. Lawyers and paralegals may choose from a wide range of eligible CPD activities including study groups. Three of the required 12 hours must be taken in ethics, professionalism, and/or practice management.

The CPD requirement will come into effect January 1, 2011. More details on the model are available in the fact sheet.

The Law Society regulates lawyers and paralegals in Ontario in the public interest. The Law Society has a duty 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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