
For Immediate Release

June 29, 2010

NEWS RELEASE

Laurie H. Pawlitza elected as Treasurer of the Law Society



Laurie H. Pawlitza has been elected to lead the Law Society of Upper Canada as its 63rd Treasurer and third woman Treasurer. The Treasurer is the top-elected official of the Law Society and presides over Convocation, the Law Society's governing body. Treasurer Pawlitza succeeded former Treasurer W. A. Derry Millar on June 29, 2010.

The new Treasurer received her LLB from the University of Saskatchewan in 1983 and was called to the Bar of Ontario in 1986. Treasurer Pawlitza is a committed advocate with extensive knowledge in the area of family law and has been named as one of Canada's Leading Practitioners by *The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory* and a "Best Lawyer" by *Best Lawyers in Canada*. In 1995, Pawlitza was counsel in the first Canadian case which allowed same-sex couples to adopt. She was recently recognized by the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund for her work on the retention of women in private practice.

Treasurer Pawlitza is very active in the legal community having served on a number of boards, including as director of LAWPRO and as a member of the Ontario Bar Association family law executive, the Family Law Rules Committee and trustee of The Lawyers Club. She has also served as the chair and director of the Casey House Foundation and was actively involved in Metro Central YMCA's Regional Council.

A partner at Torkin Manes LLP, Pawlitza was first elected as a bencher of the Law Society in 2003 and was re-elected in 2007. Pawlitza has held a number of high-profile positions, including co-chair of the Retention of Women in Private Practice Working Group and member of the Licensing and Accreditation Task Force. Most recently, she served as chair of the Professional Development & Competence Committee and vice-chair of the Government & Public Affairs Committee.

“I am deeply honoured and privileged to be elected Treasurer of the Law Society,” says Pawlitza. "Change is happening quickly, both in our increasingly diverse profession, and in the way we provide legal services. I look forward to leading the lawyers and paralegals of Ontario in serving the public interest in these exciting and challenging times."

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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