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**For Immediate Release**

**June 11, 2010**

## **Media Advisory**

### **Pride Week event to examine competing human rights**

When does one human right trump another? A panel of legal human rights experts will share their views on competing human rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans-identified (LGBT) communities at a forum at the Law Society on June 16 to kick off its celebrations for Toronto's Pride Week.

Panellists will discuss the court decision regarding the Ontario Human Rights Commission v. Christian Horizons, involving a case of sexual orientation discrimination and religious group exemption in the Human Rights Code. The Marriage Commissioners Reference case recently argued before the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal will also be discussed. As well, panellists will reflect on the balance between religious freedom and LGBT equality rights.

Panellists will include:

- **Cynthia Petersen**, Law Society Discrimination and Harassment Counsel, partner at Sack Goldblatt Mitchell LLP, Toronto
- **Raj Dhir**, Counsel, Ontario Human Rights Commission, Toronto
- **Reverend Dr. Brent Hawkes**, Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto
- **Matt Caron Francino**, Trans Activist and French Language Services Program Co-ordinator, 519 Church Street Community Centre

**Milé Komlen**, Chair of the OBA Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Section, will be the panel moderator.

**Douglas Elliott**, of Roy Elliot O'Connor LLP, will be the keynote speaker at the reception that follows the forum. A well-known advocate for human rights, he has played a leadership role in landmark constitutional, government liability and health law cases with national impact, especially on LGBT issues.

Both the forum and the reception that follows it are part of the Law Society's Public Education Equality Series, and are co-hosted by the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Section of the Ontario Bar Association (OBA). The events provide LGBT lawyers, law students and members of the public with an opportunity to meet and discuss issues of discrimination and strategies for eliminating discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

The program is offered **FREE-OF-CHARGE**. Space is limited. Registration is required **by June 14, 2010** to attend. To register, visit the Law Society website at <http://ecom.lsuc.on.ca/equity>. The Law Society reserves the right to change program content, speakers and locations without notice.

**Members of the media** interested in attending are required to **confirm their attendance in advance**, to help ensure adequate space and audio requirements. Contact Susan Tonkin at **416-947-7605** or [stonkin@lsuc.on.ca](mailto:stonkin@lsuc.on.ca).

**Details**

**Date:** June 16, 2010  
**Location:** Law Society of Upper Canada, Osgoode Hall  
130 Queen Street West, Toronto (Enter via east doors)  
**Time:** Panel Discussion – 4 to 6 p.m., Upper Barristers’ Lounge  
Reception – 6 to 8 p.m., Convocation Hall