

For Immediate Release

March 15, 2010

Media Advisory

Former Canadian diplomat and ambassador to Afghanistan to address Law Society

After three decades of social and political unrest, Afghanistan has an historic opportunity to break with the past and set the direction of its future. One of Canada's esteemed former diplomats and the first-ever ambassador to Afghanistan will deliver a keynote address at the Law Society on March 24, 2010 to reflect on his mission to Afghanistan and the prospects of achieving peace in that country.

Christopher Alexander, Canada's former Ambassador to Afghanistan (2003 – 2005) and former United Nations Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan (2005 – 2009), will share his first-hand experiences of promoting peace, human rights, justice and the rule of law while posted in Kabul.

He will also offer his perspectives on the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, including his role in organizing the country's historic elections, the progress that has been made in rebuilding Afghanistan, and the country's pursuit of peace, democracy and justice.

Alexander joined the Canadian Foreign Service of the Department of External Affairs and International Trade in 1991 and held a number of positions, including serving abroad twice in the Canadian Embassy in Moscow. He has been named one of the "Top 40 under 40" by the *Globe and Mail*.

This special event is being presented by the Law Society, in partnership with the Canadian Lawyers for International Human Rights, Amnesty International and Canadian Lawyers Abroad. It is part of the Law Society's Rule of Law Education Series.

Members of the legal profession and the public are invited to attend this **free** event. Advance registration is required. To attend, **please register by March 22, 2010** by calling **416-947-3413** or **1-800-668-7380, ext. 3413**, or by email at rticzon@lsuc.on.ca.

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.

Event Details

Date: March 24, 2010
Presentation: 6 to 8 p.m.
Location: Convocation Hall
Law Society of Upper Canada
130 Queen St. West (enter through east doors facing Toronto City Hall)