
For Immediate Release

November 21, 2013

NEWS RELEASE

Law Society announces new, innovative paths to lawyer licensing

Toronto — The Law Society of Upper Canada today announced the names of the providers of its Law Practice Program (LPP) that will provide aspiring lawyers with a new, additional pathway to the Ontario Bar, in addition to an enhanced Articling Program.

Ryerson University will provide the Law Society’s LPP in English, while the University of Ottawa will provide the French LPP. Now, Lawyer Licensing Process candidates may choose to either article or complete the LPP.

The articling enhancements and LPP are part of the Law Society’s innovative three-year Pathways Pilot Project, designed to proactively respond to the changing legal landscape and remove barriers to licensing created by the articling placement shortage.

Both paths provide experiential skills-based training to ensure the required competencies for entry-level practice.

Additionally, the Law Society has approved another innovative option for fulfilling the experiential training component of its licensing requirements: the Integrated Practice Curriculum offered by Lakehead University, as part of its law degree program.

“We’re extremely pleased that there are new, innovative pathways providing licensing candidates with choices in fulfilling the Licensing Process, says Law Society Treasurer Thomas G. Conway. “I want to commend Ryerson University, the University of Ottawa and Lakehead University on these groundbreaking initiatives.”

“The LPP is a natural fit with Ryerson’s academic culture of innovation, entrepreneurship and collaboration,” says Ryerson President Sheldon Levy. “We look forward to working closely with Ontario’s legal community on this groundbreaking initiative to prepare law school graduates for the future in dynamic and exciting ways that leverage Ryerson’s expertise in innovative use of technology and experiential learning tools.”

“The University of Ottawa has a long and distinguished track record of providing a bilingual law program and we are very pleased to provide French-language candidates with the French LPP,” says Nathalie Des Rosiers, Dean of the University of Ottawa Faculty of Law, Common Law Section.

“Lakehead University’s Integrated Practice Curriculum is the first of its kind in Canada to integrate legal professional training into its JD degree,” says Lee Stuesser, Founding Dean of the Faculty of Law at Lakehead University. “Students will not only learn law, but also the necessary practice skills to apply that law effectively.”

The LPP and articling pathways will be evaluated over a three-year period to determine how they achieve the required entry-level competencies.

More details, including a fact sheet, are available online at <http://www.lsuc.on.ca/media>.

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.

For more information about the Law Society, visit us [online](#).

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