

Civility tour generates interest in legal community

TREASURER **W. A. DERRY MILLAR** HAS held the first few sessions of the Civility Forum, a province-wide series of meetings to discuss the importance of civility and professionalism in the courts and in practice.

“The objective of the meetings is to provide an open forum to promote dialogue within the profession on the importance of civility,” said the Treasurer. “We want to encourage people to attend so that we can discuss how lawyers, paralegals, the Law Society and the judiciary can take a proactive approach to raising the standards of professionalism.”

Lawyers, licensed paralegals and articling students are welcome to attend and join the Treasurer in the discussions, facilitated by Alan Stitt of ADR Chambers. Each meeting has a panel of guest speakers comprised of local members of the judiciary, regional senior practitioners and staff from the Law Society Professional

Regulation division. Meetings are free and are held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. with refreshments being served.

The first three sessions were held in Sudbury, Ottawa and Windsor. All were well attended, with paralegals and an excellent cross-section of the local bar participating. ■



Dates for 2010 meetings are:

January 11 – Barrie	January 26 – Kitchener-Waterloo
January 12 – Mississauga	February 3 – London
January 14 – Hamilton	February 8 – Thunder Bay
January 18 – Oshawa	February 16 – Toronto

Details of the specific locations are available on the Law Society website.

There is no cost to attend. Lawyers, paralegals and articling students are asked to register for the session they choose to attend through the e-transactions website at <http://ecom.lsuc.on.ca/civilityforum/>.

The Articling Registry is in full swing

Since the summer, the Law Society has been contacting all 8,500 private law firms in the province to conduct an articling survey. The qualitative telephone survey is designed to assess the scope of articling placements across Ontario and the Law Society is grateful to those firms that have taken the time to complete the survey.

Practitioners are being asked if they have ever hired an articling candidate or if they have considered implementing an articling program in their law office. They are also asked to provide reasons why they have not hired an articling candidate and what supports they would require to facilitate implementing an articling program in their office.

The survey also provides the opportunity to tell firms about non-traditional articling structures they may not be aware of, or may not have considered, including joint articles and part-time articles. For joint articles, two or more articling principals can agree to share a student-at-law for

the articling period; they can split the time by 2.5 days a week at each firm or one week at one firm and the next at the other. The firms can submit joint or individual education plans, and normally share the articling candidate's salary.

Speaking with practitioners has provided an opportunity to raise awareness of the new Articling Registry which was launched on the Law Society website in June 2009. The registry is a recruitment and job search tool that is available to law firms, legal organizations, law students and licensing candidates. Using the registry, firms can post available articling positions and search articling candidates' profiles, and candidates can use the registry as a tool in their job search to review articling opportunities. The registry also helps smaller firms outside of major urban centres to locate law students or licensing candidates who are interested in available articling positions.