



Manage your corporate practice at high speed.  
www.doprocess.com DO PROCESS  
LAW OFFICE PRACTICE SYSTEMS



## The Inside Story

**LAWYER DISBARRED OVER MORTGAGE DEALS**  
Mississauga lawyer **Mariano Mazzucco** has had his licence revoked after a **Law Society of Upper Canada** hearing panel found he knowingly assisted in a mortgage fraud scheme worth almost \$7 million.

According to the findings, Mazzucco was advanced the money for 20 different mortgage transactions. The panel found he misapplied the funds by disbursing them to other participants in the fraud scheme, himself, and clients he owed money to.

Mazzucco was also given 30 days to pay the law society \$5,000 in costs.

### GOWLINGS PARTNER TO HEAD CFIA PANEL

The federal government has appointed **Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP** partner **Ronald Doering** to chair a ministerial advisory board to the **Canadian Food Inspection Agency**.

Agriculture Minister **Gerry Ritz** said the panel of seven industry experts would strengthen Canada's food safety system in the wake of Ontario's 2008 listeriosis outbreak.

"This outstanding group of individuals will be a vital, external source that will advise on how to further strengthen our food safety system," Ritz said. "This highly qualified and diverse advisory board builds upon our government's increased investments, hiring of more inspectors, and enhanced listeria testing."

Doering was president of the CFIA from 1998 to 2002. In addition to more than 35 years of experience in law, public policy, and administration, he has broad experience in all aspects of food and agricultural law, including labelling, recalls, biotechnology regulation, plant protection, and animal health.

### SABA HONOURS RAJ ANAND

The **South Asian Bar Association** has presented its 2010 Distinguished Career Award to **WeirFoulds LLP** partner **Raj Anand**.

Anand is a senior civil litigation, administrative, and human rights lawyer as well as a **Law Society of Upper Canada** benchler. He is a former chief commissioner of the **Ontario Human Rights Commission** and was recently appointed by the Ontario government to set up the **Human Rights Legal Support Centre**.

"We all congratulate Raj on this achievement and hope the South Asian Bar Association might plan to create a 'Longer Distinguished Career Award,' for which he is eminently qualified," said **Lisa Borsook**, managing partner at **WeirFoulds**.

### EZRA LEVANT TO PAY \$25K FOR LIBEL

On Ontario judge has ordered free-speech advocate **Ezra Levant** to pay \$25,000 for libelling **Canadian Human Rights Commission** lawyer **Giacomo Vigna**.

**Superior Court Justice Robert Smith** said Alberta-based Levant's "reckless disregard" for the truth in his comments mocking Vigna made them malicious.

Smith found Levant had defamed Vigna six times in blog posts between March and May 2008, including occasions on which he accused the lawyer of lying to the **Canadian Human Rights Tribunal**, switching evidence, and being fired.

Vigna had been prosecuting **Marc Lemire** in a case related to hate speech on the web site **freedomsite.org**. In May 2007, an adjournment was granted because of Vigna's undisclosed illness and security fears. He was later replaced by another lawyer. Months later, Levant used the episode as part of what Smith called his "ulterior purpose of denormalizing the Human Rights Commission across Canada."

Smith rejected Levant's attempt to use the new responsible communication defence because he hadn't done enough to check his facts or get Vigna's side of the story. **LT**

For more Inside Story, please visit [www.lawtimesnews.com](http://www.lawtimesnews.com).



## Bizarre Briefs

By Viola James

**FAKE DOCTOR GIVES FREE BREAST EXAMS**  
BOISE, Idaho — A bar is an odd place for a doctor's office, needless to say.

An Idaho woman who used to be a man has been charged with two counts of practising medicine without a licence, according to Reuters. The fake doctor was accused of providing at least two women with a breast exam and consultation session in downtown Boise bars and nightclubs.

Authorities allege 37-year-old **Kristina Ross** posed as a plastic surgeon named **Berlyn Aussieahshowna** while persuading victims to let her touch their breasts. In the meantime, Ross would allegedly give victims the phone number of an actual surgeon's office. As a result, the women called the medical office to confirm appointments with **Dr. Aussieahshowna** for both consultations and actual surgeries. The office received numerous phone calls asking for **Dr. Aussieahshowna**, who doesn't exist, before alerting authorities.

**GUN OWNER NO PALIN FAN**  
VERMONT, Wis. — We were pretty upset, too, but this is a little extreme.

Reuters reports that a Wisconsin man has been charged with reckless endangerment and use of a dangerous weapon

after shooting his TV. At the time, **Steven Cowan**, 67, was outraged over **Bristol Palin's** success on TV's *Dancing With the Stars*.

According to Reuters, Cowan's wife **Janice** told police her husband was watching **Palin's** unimpressive performance when he became upset after she was voted into the show's final round. Apparently, he doesn't think **Sarah Palin's** daughter is a good dancer.

After loudly cursing at the TV, Cowan allegedly grabbed his shotgun and fired a round into his TV screen. The act then sparked a 15-hour standoff between him and police, after which he surrendered.

**HIGH-END DINE-AND-DASH**

LONDON, England — At least this scammer has good taste.

A man in London has been accused of dining at several of the city's top restaurants before leaving without paying his enormous tabs. The Latvian-born 27-year-old is accused of pulling off his tasty scam on three separate occasions at three different establishments, according to Reuters.

In fact, the man allegedly ran up charges of more than 349 pounds (approximately \$560) at the **Glass House** restaurant; 965 pounds (about \$1,560) at the **Connaught Hotel**; and

1,021 pounds (nearly \$1,700) at London's **L'Oranger** French restaurant between Oct. 14 and Nov. 15.

Now that's a whole lot of caviar.

**CORONER HOPES TO REVIVE GIFT SALES**

LOS ANGELES, Calif. — The Los Angeles morgue isn't usually the top spot on California's must-see list, but officials at the coroner's office are hoping to make its gift shop an attraction.

According to The Associated Press, the county coroner's office is reporting that sales at the gift shop are down. Nevertheless, it's waiting on a fiscal report from county auditors before going forward with a plan to promote its trademarked line of merchandise. The line, which will be available at the gift shop, will feature items like water bottles labelled as bodily fluids and beach towels with chalk outlines.

**TEEN BURGLAR FALLS ASLEEP ON FLOOR**

ORLANDO, Fla. — A teenage burglary suspect made it easy for police to catch him.

After responding to reports of a sliding door that was forced open, Florida police found the teen asleep on the bedroom floor.

According to the *Orlando Sentinel*, the homeowner claims his home had been broken into several times in the few days prior, but reports didn't disclose what, if anything, was stolen.

After waking up, the 17-year-old boy was charged with burglary. **LT**



"No doubt about it. Bill was the dean of the real estate bar. And he sure had a soft spot for the Condominium Act."

# Get more online

lawtimesnews.com • canadianlawyermag.com

Fresh Canadian legal news and analysis every week

Canadian Lawyer | Law Times | 4Students | InHouse

