



## THE ADVOCATES' SOCIETY WELCOMES NEW PRESIDENT MARK LERNER AT END OF TERM DINNER

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The Advocates' Society (TAS) hosted some 1,350 members and special guests at its End of Term Dinner on June 15, 2011 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. The annual black-tie event is a highly-anticipated opportunity for collegiality amongst members of the bar and the bench.

Members paid tribute to outgoing president Marie T. Henein of Henein and Associates in Toronto, and welcomed **new president Mark D. Lerner of Lerner's LLP in London.**

Joining Mark Lerner on the Society's **2011-12 Executive Committee** are **Peter H. Griffin** of Lenczner Slaght Royce Smith Griffin LLP in Toronto (First Vice President); **Alan H. Mark** of Norton Rose OR LLP in Toronto (Second Vice President); **Robert B. Bell** of Borden Ladner Gervais LLP in Toronto (Treasurer), and **Peter J. Lukasiewicz** of Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP (Secretary).

In his remarks, Mr. Lerner focused on the Society's commitment to enhancing member services, including its creation of website-based practice groups that enable members in diverse geographic areas to connect with each other and to benefit from practice-specific news, blogs, question-and-answer exchanges and networking events. He also noted that the Society, enjoying record-breaking registration in its education programs, would continue to expand its educational offerings to provinces beyond Ontario.

Special guests at the End of Term Dinner included the **Honourable Simon Noël**, Acting Chief Justice of the Federal Court; the **Honourable Warren K. Winkler**, Chief Justice of Ontario; the **Honourable Heather J. Smith**, Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Justice, the **Honourable Annemarie E. Bonkalo**, Chief Justice of the Ontario Court of Justice, and the **Honourable Christopher A.W. Bentley**, Attorney General of Ontario.

**Jeffrey Toobin**, senior analyst for CNN and staff writer for *The New Yorker*, presented the keynote address.

The Advocates' Society **Pro Bono Volunteer Award** was presented to **J. Gregory Richards** of WeirFoulds LLP in Toronto, in honour of his ten years of outstanding service as chair of The Advocates' Society pro bono projects.

**Lucas E. Lung**, of Lerner's LLP in Toronto received the **Arleen Goss Young Advocates' Award**, recognizing innovative and passionate advocacy, contribution to social justice, and commitment to the community on the part of an individual engaged in the practice of law for 10 years or less with a principal focus on advocacy.

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Continuing with a fund raising initiative launched in 2010 called “**The Advocates’ Society Gives Back,**” Mark Lerner closed the evening by announcing that the Society’s 2011-12 project would involve raising the funds required for an existing, innovative medical-legal partnership developed by Pro Bono Law Ontario to be expanded from its current base at the Hospital for Sick Children – where it has served nearly 900 children and their families to date -- to children’s hospitals in other parts of the province.

*The Advocates’ Society is a professional association for advocates with some 4,400 members throughout Ontario and beyond. It is the primary provider of advocacy skills training in the province and it plays a prominent role in contributing to justice reform initiatives and in preserving and strengthening the position of advocates and the rights of the public.*

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**Attachment:** 2011-12 Board of Directors

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