



Hellenic Canadian Lawyers' Association

THE LEGALESE

August 2003

Urgent - Students in Need of Articling Positions

Due to the difficult legal market in Toronto, together with the double cohort issue which is making it difficult for many students across Ontario to secure employment placements, two of our student members are unfortunately still seeking articling positions. In order to be called with the rest of their class in 2003, these two student members need to secure their articling positions by September 30, 2003. They would enjoy working in any legal field and the HCLA Executive Committee and students involved would welcome and appreciate a prompt response from any HCLA member who would be interested in meeting with these two students, or reviewing their Curriculum Vitae with a view to supervising their Articles for the upcoming year. Please contact us at info@hcla.ca if you are interested or for further information.

HCLA educational grants to its Student Members

The HCLA Executive Committee is pleased to announce the availability of two student awards in the sum of \$500 each. These awards will be presented to the winning candidates at our Annual General Meeting on October 9, 2003. The Board will select the successful applicants, who, in the opinion of the Board, best demonstrate the high ideals and culture of Hellenism in Ontario.

The Board invites short submissions, not to exceed three double-spaced pages, from our student members currently enrolled in Ontario law schools. The content of the submission is in the creative discretion of the applicant, but should touch on the impact of Hellenism in the applicant's life experience.

Applications must be received by the close of business on Thursday, September 25, 2003, and should be addressed to the HCLA's address, care of John Polyzogopoulos, HCLA President. Applications become the property of the HCLA. Applicants agree to permit the HCLA to publish their names and law schools, as well as such excerpts from their submissions as the Executive Committee chooses. The awards are in the absolute discretion of the Executive Committee and are not subject to review. Good luck to all applicants!

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Upcoming Events

“Summer Get-Together”

On Thursday, August 21, 2003, at 7:00 p.m., the HCLA will be hosting a “Summer Get-Together” on the rooftop patio of Bauhaus night club, 31 Mercer Street, Toronto. There is no admission charged and hors d’oeuvres will be served. Please feel free to join us in this casual setting in which we can together enjoy the best of modern Greek music.

Cambridge Club Event

On Thursday, September 18, 2003, the HCLA will be hosting an event entitled “How to Market and How Not to Market Law Firms”, to be presented by two of our senior members, John Sotos and Nicholas Paul, Q.C. Furthermore, two of our members, Jim Karas and Jim Vavitsas will be interviewing our members as part of their research on their project entitled “The History of Hellenic Canadian Lawyers” (see below). The event will take place at the Cambridge Club, Sheraton Centre, 100 Richmond Street West, 11th Floor, Toronto, with cocktails beginning at 6:00 p.m. and dinner at 7:30 p.m. The cost of attendance is \$50 for paid-up members and \$60 for non-paid up or non-members. We hope you can join us for what promises to be an informative and enjoyable evening with colleagues. For further information or to RSVP, please contact Esia Dimacopoulos, HCLA Social Director, Phone: 416-362-2992 ext. 311, Email: edimacopoulos@bbburn.com, or email us at info@hcla.ca.

Annual General Meeting

The HCLA’s Annual General Meeting will take place this year on Thursday, October 9, 2003, at Avra Estiatorio, formerly known as Ellas Restaurant, 702 Pape Avenue, Toronto. Cocktails are at 6:00 p.m., with dinner at 7:30 p.m. and elections thereafter. This is an important AGM which we urge you not to miss, as there will also be a vote on the proposed Constitutional Amendments detailed below. The cost of the dinner is \$50.00. The cost of membership for the upcoming 2003/4 year will be \$60.00 for full members and \$25.00 for student members.

Wine Tasting

The HCLA is planning to hold a *Wine Tasting Event* on Thursday, November 6, 2003, at 6:30 p.m., at a yet undetermined location. Please stay tuned for further details.

Christmas Cheer

After a one-year hiatus, the HCLA is also planning to hold a *Christmas Cheer* event on December 11, 2003, at 6:30 p.m. at a yet undetermined location. Please stay tuned for further details.



Please visit our website at www.hcla.ca for our calendar of events and more details on particular events.

Annual Presidents' Dinner a Smashing Success

As many of you know, the HCLA honoured The Honourable Madam Justice Andromache Karakatsanis, along with our latest calls to the bar at its Annual President's Dinner which took place on Friday, May 2, 2003 at the Toronto Board of Trade. We had approximately 60 of our members in attendance and from all accounts, everyone had enjoyed a wonderful evening. The Board of the HCLA would again like to thank everyone who was in attendance, and wishes Justice Karakatsanis and our new calls to the bar all the best in their careers.

Condolences

The HCLA was saddened to learn of the passing of one of its members, Angelo Raftopoulos just last month and would like to extend its sincere condolences to his family and friends.

The Hellenic Hope Center for Persons with Special Needs Thanks You

By way of letter dated June 18, 2003, one of our own members, Zaharias Jack C. Prattas, LL.M., wrote to the HCLA on behalf of The Hellenic Hope Center for Persons with Special Needs Inc., of which Jack is the President, thanking us for the HCLA's donation to that organization in the amount of \$1,400.00, being a portion of the proceeds raised from the Annual Gala that took place on February 22, 2003. The HCLA once again thanks its members for its support of worthwhile causes such as this. For the complete text of this letter, please visit our newly created "Notice Board" that can be found on the upper right-hand side of the homepage to our website at www.hcla.ca.

Proposed Amendments to HCLA Constitution

As mentioned in the previous issue of *The Legalese*, the Executive Committee will be tabling a motion at the upcoming AGM to amend the HCLA's Constitution. The proposed amendments relate to:

1. The expansion of HCLA membership from members of the Ontario Bar only to members of any provincial or territorial bar within Canada;
2. The ability of the HCLA Executive Committee to appoint two Honourary Directors to the Executive Committee. To be eligible, a member would have to have been a member of the bar for at least 15 years. Although they would not have the power to vote at Executive Committee meetings because they would not be elected by the General Membership, these Honourary Directors would assist the HCLA in furthering its aims and objectives, and in particular, assist in liaising with the HCLA's senior members;

3. In keeping up with the times, changing the notice provisions for meetings that would allow official notices to be sent to members by email or facsimile, rather than mail only; and
4. Non-substantive amendments that relate to matters of form and style rather than to substance.

You will be receiving the complete notice of motion with the proposed amendments in September by mail as part of the notice of the AGM on October 9, 2003.

Legal Developments

LYKOUREZOS OUT

Court strips opposition deputy of parliamentary seat for practicing law

Opposition New Democracy MP Alexandros Lykourezos, one of Greece's leading lawyers, was yesterday stripped of his parliamentary post on the grounds of recent legislation banning MPs from holding second jobs, following a majority vote (eight votes for, and three against) in the Supreme Special Court. Lykourezos, who has been participating in the ongoing November 17 trial at Korydallos Prison, is to be replaced by ND deputy and veteran actress Maro Kontou. Last month Lykourezos said he would seek recourse with the European Court of Human Rights if he lost his seat. (Source: Kathimerini, English Edition, Greece's International English Language Newspaper, website edition, July 4, 2003)

17 NOVEMBER UPDATE

Peynaud: Yotopoulos framed

In her second day of testimony, Marie-Therese Peynaud, the companion of Alexandros Yotopoulos, the alleged mastermind of the November 17 terrorist group, said yesterday the charges against him were fabricated because of his late father's reputation as a leftist and former associate of Trotsky.

Peynaud said it was only by chance that she herself was not on trial.

"I have the good 'fortune' to be French and to be ill. Otherwise I would be (on trial) too. They have as much evidence against me as against (Yotopoulos)," she told the court yesterday.

Peynaud (who is reported to have cancer) said that during her questioning after Yotopoulos's arrest last summer by public prosecutor Yiannis Diotis, he had told her he believed that she was the woman who had participated in the first assassination by November 17 of CIA Athens bureau chief Richard Welch in 1975. Peynaud said Diotis had told her to cooperate so as to help herself and her companion.



Meanwhile, the court has asked self-confessed operative Dimitris Koufodinas to be ready to testify on Tuesday. (Source: Kathimerini, English Edition, Greece's International English Language Newspaper, website edition, July 19, 2003)

Members' Article regarding a History of Hellenic-Canadian Lawyers'

Two of our members, Jim Karas and Jim Vavitsas, have embarked upon a project entitled "The History of Hellenic-Canadian Lawyers", in which they hope to document and chronicle our roots up to the present day. In that regard, they will be interviewing members at the upcoming Cambridge Club event (see above) for stories of the past. They will be publishing their findings in *The Legalese* periodically. In recognition of their efforts, the HCLA Executive Committee recently established a History Committee to assist in and promote the efforts of Messrs. Karas and Vavitsas. Following is their first of what we hope to be many upcoming pieces.

A STORY AND A HISTORY

The first Greek immigrant to Canada was a doctor. No doubt he found the restaurant situation rife for exploitation and sponsored all his cousins to come over.

One of them eventually became a lawyer and acted on every Greek house purchase, drafted wills and ... had to listen to Judges pronounce his name as if they stepped in it. But who was that pioneer? What type of practice did he have? Where are the dozens of stories that he can tell us about himself, his clients and his community?

In 1995 the HCLA published a directory of lawyers of Greek descent and provided a list by year of call. The pre-1970 roll call contained a dozen names, all of them familiar and most of them still around. But seeing them listed like that, one feels as if one should go to the Royal Ontario Museum, fossil section, to find them. (Where *does* Nick Paul live anyway?) They must have a lot of stories to tell.

The 1970s yielded only 11 names and one would have thought there should have been more but perhaps not. After that there is a handful of calls every year until now.

A judge once asked me if my client was suffering from "the Mediterranean disease" meaning congenital mendacity and I replied "no, Your Honour, he is Greek."

We would like to capture some of the life of the Greek lawyer in Canada – the humorous, the sad, the human aspect (and if you are a Darrow or Rumpole and cross-examined William Jennings Bryan or defended the Penge Bungalows murderer) we want to hear about it and record it.

Jim Vavitsas and I want to hear from you and, modestly, produce a few columns for *Legalese*. Less modestly what was the name of that chap from Halicarnassos?



Here is a quiz to test your ignorance and whet your appetite:

QUIZ

1. Who was the first Greek man to become a lawyer in Canada?
2. Who was the first Greek woman to become a lawyer in Canada?
3. Who was the first Greek man to become a lawyer in Ontario?
4. Who was the first Greek woman to become a lawyer in Ontario?
5. Who was the first Greek lawyer to be disbarred?
6. Who was the first Greek to be appointed to the bench?

The winners will get a free drink at the next HCLA function from George Bougadis or Greg Kanargelidis or me (if you can't find the first two.) If you can define the ancient Greek legal term *rhaphanidosis* correctly, you will be entitled to two drinks to be claimed in the same order. HCBT members are not eligible.

James Karas can be reached at jkaras@pridepak.com

Announcement - Golf Tournament

The Saints Panteleimon, Anna and Paraskevi Greek Orthodox Community of Markham, Ontario cordially invite you to its 4th Annual Golf Tournament to take place at Angus Glen Golf Club on Sunday, August 24, 2003, Registration at noon, Shotgun start at 1:30 p.m. Registration is \$250.00 per person (\$50.00 for dinner only), with the opportunity to also become an event or hole sponsor. Proceeds will benefit the Church Building Fund. For more information, please call 905-887-7311 or fax 905-887-0611.

Employment Opportunity

Litigation Lawyer: BOUGADIS, CHANG LLP Barristers

Personal injury associate required commencing work immediately. Greek language skills preferred, but not required.

Two to five years' experience in personal injury or insurance defence a definite requirement, especially with respect to motor vehicle tort actions and accident benefits. Articling experience in personal injury and/or insurance defence preferred. No client base required.



Hellenic Canadian Lawyers' Association

Remuneration commensurate with experience and based on a percentage of billings plus performance bonus, with a guaranteed base, at competitive market value. Complete law clerk and secretarial support, medical and supplemental benefits, LSUC and LPIC fees, and four (4) weeks paid vacation included.

Please send your transcript, resume, reported and unreported decisions, and references to the attention of: George A. Bougadis, Bougadis, Chang LLP, Barristers, 360 Bay Street, Suite 900, Toronto, ON M5H 2V6 by fax to: (416) 703-2406 or by email to: bougadis@bcbarristers.com directly.

All applications will be received in strict confidence. Bougadis, Chang LLP thank all applicants for their interest; however, only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Legalese is published by the HCLA Executive Committee. If you would like to contribute to this publication, please contact Eleni Maniatis at emaniatis@mccarthy.ca.