



Welcome to the Winter edition of the Legalese for 2007! The HCLA Executive Committee is extremely excited as we look forward to yet another successful and record breaking year for the HCLA. Interest and participation in the HCLA has never been higher as evidenced by the attendance at *all* of our events. However, in order to continue to grow we need the continued support from our current members as well as interest from lawyers of Hellenic decent across Canada. For information on all our upcoming events and highlights from the past, please visit the HCLA website at www.hcla.ca and read below. For the few of you who have yet to renew your membership or for all new members, there is still time! Please contact Membership Directors John Yiokaris, jiokaris@sotosllp.com or George Bougadis, bougadis@bcbaristers.com for more information. Enjoy!

Happy New Year!

The HCLA Executive Committee extends our warm wishes to the community for a healthy and prosperous 2007. We look forward to serving our members, new and old, in the upcoming year.



THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO - UPCOMING EVENTS:

Tenth Annual Professionals' Gala

The Hellenic Canadian Lawyer's Association, the Hippocrates Hellenic Canadian Medical Association, and the Asclepius Dental Society proudly present the tenth annual Hellenic Professionals' Charitable Gala.

This year's Gala will take place on Saturday, February 10, 2007 at The Liberty Grand, 25 British Columbia, Exhibition Place. The festivities will commence at 6:30 p.m.

Join fellow Hellenic professionals for a special evening of dining and dancing. This year promises to be the biggest and best Gala ever! Once again we will be entertained by the live Greek music of Orchestra Opa-Opa! The Silent Auction returns by popular demand so bring your collectible items, sports tickets or memorabilia, or vendor's gift certificates to donate. Looking forward to seeing all of you there!

The event is sold out, however if you have any questions please feel free to contact Francesca Smirnakis at (416) 350-2585 or info@hcla.ca

Presidents Dinner

Come join your fellow HCLA members for dinner and drinks in honour of the newly-called lawyers of Hellenic descent at the annual President's Dinner. We now have over five hundred lawyers of Hellenic descent across Canada, and that number will grow this year! This event will take place in May 2007; check the HCLA website (www.hcla.ca) for updates.

WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING- RECENT EVENTS:

2nd Annual Osgoode Hall/HCLA Wine and Cheese

The Hellenic Canadian Lawyers' Association, in collaboration with the Hellenic Law Students Association – Osgoode Chapter, presented the second annual Wine and Cheese on Friday, January 19, 2007 at the offices of Heenan Blaikie. Held at a new venue, this event was a tremendous success for the second year in a row. We had a great turnout with over 25 people in attendance which included HCLA members, current student members, undergraduate students (hopeful future law students) and faculty from Osgoode Hall. It was a great opportunity for students to meet and mingle with practicing lawyers and faculty. The HCLA would like to thank Stella Kyriacou for her hard work, planning and co-coordinating this event, as well as our gracious host of the evening, Executive Committee Member, George Karayannides, who made sure there was enough wine, cheese and Ouzo to go around, not to mention the bouzouki music! We would also like to thank Professor James



Stribopoulos (Osgoode Hall Law School) for attending and providing helpful insight and advice.

Christmas Cheer

Our "Annual Christmas Cheer" celebration, held on Friday, December 8, 2006 at the Rosewater Supper Club was a great way to ring in the holidays. It was our largest turnout ever with approximately 35 to 40 people stopping by to share a drink with each other and to celebrate the festive season!



2006 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting took place on Thursday, October 26, 2006 at The Toronto Board of Trade with over 40 people in attendance. Former President George Bougadis chaired the meeting as everyone was treated to a wonderful dinner, tasty desserts and delicious red and white Greek wine.

Keynote Speaker

We were fortunate to have yet another excellent speaker address the members this year: MPP Dr. Marie Bountrogianni, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, who provided an interesting and informative discussion on Democratic Renewal. The HCLA would like to thank Dr. Bountrogianni for attending the AGM and for her excellent presentation.

Elections

At the close of the meetings, elections were held to appoint the new Executive Committee. The Executive Committee welcomed back Jim Vavitsas and John Salmas, who were re-elected for two more years. The

Executive Committee also welcomed three new directors as Elena Balkos, George Karayanides and George James who were elected for two year terms. The HCLA would like to extend our gratitude to outgoing Directors, Rita Gratsis, Deanna Wolfe and Christos Grivas for all their hard work and dedication while serving the HCLA.

Also, this year's AGM marked the end of George Bougadis' tenure as President. Mr. Bougadis is praised for his dedication, leadership and tireless efforts over the past two years. We will not be saying goodbye to the former President however as he will continue to serve

on the Executive Committee as Membership Director.

The AGM also marked the culmination of Chris Tzekas' four year tenure as Honorary Director on the HCLA. Chris has been an invaluable asset over the last four years, providing both guidance and advice to board members. He will be missed.

The HCLA also continues to include Honorary Directors on its Executive Committee. We warmly welcome back both Tom Karvanis and George Glezos and extend a new welcome to Greg Kanargelidis.

The 2006/07 HCLA Executive Committee is as follows:

John Salmas (President),

James Zibarras (Vice-President),

Jim Vavitsas (Treasurer),

Elena Balkos (Secretary),

Francesca Smirnakis (Social Director),

George A. Bougadis (Membership Director),

John Yiokaris (Membership Director),

George Karayannides (Student Director)

George James (Communications Director)

Student Scholarships

Congratulations to the recipients of the HCLA 2006 Panagiotis Alexis Family Student Scholarships: Stella Kyriacou (Osgoode) and John Georgopoulos (Ottawa). They each received \$1,750 donated by the Panagiotis Alexis family. Many worthy applicants applied for the award and the Board was thoroughly impressed with the caliber of the applicants.



Montreal

The HCLA held its 3rd Annual Montreal Event the weekend of September 22nd – 24th, 2006. Some 30 HCLA members and non-members from Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal and even Chicago, gathered at Mythos Restaurant in Montreal for a evening of wonderful food, wine and parea! The mingling began early with a Greek wine toast at the bar and continued into the night with lots of tasty complimentary mezedes – grilled octopus, fried zucchini, salates, and of course, lamb! We ended the night with healthy servings of homemade loukoumades; and all throughout, we had the pleasure of enjoying live bouzouki and dancing with our friends and colleagues, new and old, the young and the veterans! This year's Montreal Event proved to be the best one yet!





Wine Tasting

On June 20, 2006, a great new event was added to the HCLA calendar: "A Tutored Tasting of Fine Greek Wine." This event had master sommelier John Szabo leading a group of 40 HCLA members through a tutored tasting of six fine Greek wines from all the major wine regions in Greece. The group greatly benefited from John's expertise as he had personally visited all of the wineries of the samples provided that evening.

Special Contributions

We would like to thank Tina Margellis, who submitted the following article she wrote on "The World Council of Hellenes Abroad ("SAE")":

The World Council of Hellenes Abroad ("SAE") held the first pan-Canadian Regional Convention from September 29 to October 1, 2006, at the Hotel Intercontinental in Toronto. Delegates from across Canada met to hold the first Regional Convention for Canada and elect a Regional Coordinating Council.

SAE is a non-governmental organization with its headquarters in Thessaloniki, Greece. SAE was created in 1995 by a Presidential Decree of the Hellenic Republic and operates as the advisory and consultative body to the Hellenic Republic on all matters of interest to Hellenes Abroad. As a result of an amendment in November of 1999, the Presidential Decree, included in Article 108 of the Constitution, defined SAE as the official body for the representation of the Omogenia at the Hellenic State.

SAE was previously divided into a number of regions including Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia and North and South America, which included Canada. Canada has now been constituted into a separate region. In December, the new world SAE executive board was elected during the Sixth World SAE Convention in Thessaloniki. Its president, Stefanos Tamvakis of Egypt, heads the new board. The other key members of the board include the Secre-

tary, Dr. Olga Sarantopoulos of Austria, and the Treasurer, Costas Dimitriou of Cologne. The remaining members of the board consist of Regional Coordinators, representing the various SAE regions, and who sit on the board as vice presidents. Philip Christopher, from New York, was elected representative of the Cypriot overseas organizations POMAK and PSEKA. Previously, the North and South America Region was represented by a Regional Coordinator, Chris P. Tomaras, a successful Greek-American based in Chicago. However, as noted above, recent legislative amendments in Greece this past summer resulted in a number of changes including the creation of three separate regions. This, in part, resulted in Canada and the US becoming separate regions within the SAE family.

Accordingly, a primary goal during the first pan-Canadian Convention was to elect the first Regional Coordinating Council for Canada. The results from the election are as follows: the new Regional Coordinator for Canada is Costas Menegakis, the current President of Toronto's Greek Community. The remaining members of the Council include Dr. Athanasios Foussias, and Messrs. Spyros Volonakis, John Dagonas, and John Theodosopoulos. Mr. Dagonas is an Archon of the Order of St. Andrew, and Mr. Theodosopoulos is the current president of the Greek Community of Montreal. Mr. Volonakis has been involved in education programmes at the Metropolis for many years, and Dr. Foussias is a psychiatrist and former President of the Greek Community of Metropolitan Toronto as well as president of the Hellenic Canadian Congress. Of 73 registered delegates, a total of 72 voted.

The Convention, procedurally speaking, seemed to run relatively smoothly, guided as it was by Jim Karas, in-house counsel to a food import company and President of the Pan-Macedonian Association of Ontario. His good humour kept things moving along, even during some 'lively' debate on whether the election period should be enlarged to allow congregants of various parishes on Sunday to get down to the hotel to vote. Asked for his comments, Mr. Karas stated "SAE is a good idea provided it sticks to its mandate of uniting Greeks abroad in relation to Greece and does not become another organization trying to speak for Greek-Canadians on local issues. We have the Hellenic Canadian Congress for that." Certainly, SAE's mandate was originated as a global one, with a role to play internationally for Hellenes abroad. It will be interesting to see how the new region of Canada contributes to these international efforts, which include lobbying and formal statements made with respect to the Cyprus and Macedonian issues on the world stage.

Various important issues arose, both in public session during the meetings of the Con-

vention and privately among delegates and observers. Formally, the Conclusions Committee overseeing the proceedings produced 18 'conclusions' that resulted from the convention. Among them was included the proposal that the Cyprus issue be one of priority for SAE, and a call for further development and sustenance of education and teaching in the Diaspora by the Greek Government. During the Convention, there was the not unsurprising mention of the youth's efforts to become an active membership base of the organization. Various "networks", in addition to the regions, are part of SAE. One of them, "youth", has engaged in networking and mobilizing efforts throughout the lifespan of SAE. Note was made of the desire of young Greeks to be active participants and a respected constituency in this global organization of Omogenia. Proposals were heard whereby the youth would be assisted with a more facilitating infrastructure to pursue its aims of supporting and promoting the unification of young Greeks internationally. It seems that unless the administrative processes of SAE permit more active and effective participation by the "youth", that constituency will be relegated largely to a "networking" function.

A somewhat contentious issue among both critics and supporters of SAE has been the democratic process within the organization, and in fact the issue of just how democratic it has been is under some scrutiny. The number of delegates to the conventions is a hallmark of this issue. At the 2003 World SAE Convention, where the present World SAE Board obtained its mandate, there were over 900 delegates sent by member organizations from all over the world. For the Convention this past December, that number was cut to just shy of 500. Notably, one of the 'conclusions' at the Toronto Convention expressed delegates' disappointment with the Greek Government's reduction of the number of delegates to the Sixth World SAE Convention in December, and specifically the reduction of the number of Canadian delegates. Interestingly, another "conclusion" cited the desire that delegates be elected by their respective organizations instead of being appointed. SAE and the Greek Government reimburse expenses of delegates, in attending SAE Conventions for example, therefore these issues have practical consequences.

How member organizations are selected, who selects them, why, and how delegates are picked are also key questions, which are at least in part addressed by SAE's enabling legislation and its regulations. The consequences that stem from those questions go directly to the issue of how representative SAE is in practice. Part of the perceived problem is the comparative weight of the member organizations in terms of delegate votes. Issues

arise as to why some organizations are allotted as many delegates as other organizations deemed far larger and more representative of the Greek community at large. It appears that there is some effort taken to 'balance' the constituent memberships. For example, it is generally recognized that the leadership and councils of SAE are representative of both the secular and religious entities within the Greek communities at large.

Another apparent representation issue is, for example, the lack of representatives from Western Canada on the new Regional Coordinating Council. Three members of the new Council and the Coordinator are from Toronto, while one is from Montreal. This did not fare well with delegates representing the Greek communities from the western provinces.

Clearly, it appears that the same issues that arise in other democratic fora are not absent from SAE's processes. However, SAE is the only organization of its kind and it is important that the proverbial baby is not thrown out with the bath water. SAE has a lot of potential and it is hoped by many that the new leadership, both at the regional and world level, will rise to the challenges facing SAE and the Omogenia it represents.

Where are all the lawyers? None of the elected members of the Council is a lawyer, though one from Vancouver ran for a position. It is also not readily apparent how many, if any, lawyers are on the World SAE Executive Board. Further, there is no member organization representing the Hellenic Bar of the respective countries, nor is there a professionals' organization, whether doctors, lawyers, or engineers. There are SAE 'networks', which are presumably meant for business people and professionals, but given the important mandate of SAE as well as its challenges, perhaps it is time that the Greek lawyers begin to stir.

HCLA MISSION STATEMENT

NEA: Network - Educate - Advocate

The HCLA is a national non-profit organization founded in 1990. Its primary purpose is to maintain a reliable network of lawyers, judges and law students of Hellenic origin. In addition to creating professional opportunities, this network serves as a platform for members to educate one another on issues that are of common interest, as well as to educate the Hellenic Canadian community at large on relevant legal issues. When necessary, the HCLA is ready, willing, and able to advocate on behalf of its membership and the greater Hellenic Canadian community.

Thank you for reading this edition of the Legalese!

••• *The Legalese* is published several times a year by the HCLA Executive Committee. We welcome your contributions and feedback. Please contact George James, Communications Director, at gjames@willbarristers.com