



## New Lawyers' Update

Lacey Bazoian

As many of us will have just completed our Law Society Annual Reports for the past year, we are reminded of the Law Society's annual requirements for Continuing Professional Development. It is always good to start collecting CPD hours early in the year, so you will not be struggling to find your last Professionalism hour next December.

Lawyers and paralegals who are practicing law or providing legal services must complete at least 12 hours of Continuing Professional Development each calendar year. These CPD hours must consist of a minimum of 3 Professionalism hours, related to topics of professional responsibility, ethics, or practice management, as well as up to 9 Substantive hours per year.

The Professional hours accumulated must be accredited by the Law Society of Upper Canada; however, the remaining 9 Substantive hours need not be accredited. It is also worth noting that any Professionalism hours completed in excess of the 3 required can be applied towards the required number of Substantive hours. However, be aware that the reverse does not apply and extra Substantive hours cannot count towards Professionalism hours.

All lawyers and paralegals in the "100% fee-paying category" must fulfil this CPD requirement. Please see the Law Society's Website for further details: <https://www.lsuc.on.ca/For-Paralegals/About-Your-Licence/>

Frequently-Asked-Questions-about-the-CPD-Requirement/.

We are all familiar with the formal CDP programs and courses available through the Hamilton Law Association and other sources, but there are lots of other ways to collect CPD hours. Some other eligible educational activities include:

- Viewing or listening to archived or recorded CPD programs or courses without a colleague, or participation in asynchronous online CPD courses that prompt responses through the learning process.\*
- Participation as a registrant in a college, university, or other designated educational institution program, including interactive distance education.
- Teaching, including acting as a judge or coach in a mooting competition.\*
- Acting as an Articling Principal, LLP work supervisor, mentoring or being mentored, or supervising a paralegal field placement.\*
- Writing and editing books or articles, with or without a co-author.\*
- Participation in study groups of 2 or more colleagues.
- Educational components of bar and law association meetings.

(\*To a maximum of 6 hours per year)

The Law Society also provides a list of educational activities that are *not* eligible for CPD hours, including acting as a chair or member of a tribunal or other institution or board, pro-bono work, or self-study. Please check their website if you are unsure whether or not an educational activity counts towards your CPD hours. The Law Society website includes information about the CPD Accreditation Process, if you are interested in setting up your own Professionalism CPD programming, as well as Professionalism Case Studies for various practice areas that can be used by study groups and are eligible for CPD hours if accredited in advance.

Lawyers and paralegals who do not complete their CPD hours or who fail



to report their CPD hours through the LSUC Portal by December 31 will be charged a late fee of \$100, in addition to being subject to administrative suspension.

The Hamilton Law Association has a long history of providing excellent CDP programming. Some upcoming programs this year include:

- April 7, 2016: Family Law Seminar
- April 19, 2016: HLA Annual Joint Insurance Seminar
- May 31, 2016: HLA Professionalism Session
- October 6, 2016: Corporate Commercial Law Seminar
- October 13, 2016: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Estates & Trusts Workshop
- November 3, 2016: Emerging Issues in Real Estate Seminar

These seminars are in addition to the various lunchtime and other programs offered throughout the year. A full calendar of HLA events can be found on the HLA website: <http://www.hamiltonlaw.on.ca/events-cpd>.

Not only does attendance at these events allow you to continue learning about various aspects of the law and complete your required CPD hours, it is also a great opportunity to mingle with colleagues and meet new friends. The Hamilton Law Association also often has special pricing for Articling Students, making it more affordable to attend.

This year, the New Lawyer's Seminar will be taking place on September 8, 2016. This is an annual event designed to welcome new lawyers and articling students, and provide the basics of what you need to know to practice successfully in Hamilton.

In addition, the New Lawyer's Subcommittee is planning two additional CPD events to take place over the course of this year. Please stay tuned for details. If you have any suggestions for future CPD topics you would like to see, please contact the Subcommittee. We would love to hear your ideas. As always, you can keep up-to-date on New Lawyer Subcommittee news and events by checking out our webpage: <http://www.hamiltonlaw.on.ca/about-the-hla/hla-committees/new-lawYERS'-subcommittee>. ■

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