



BENCHERS ELECTION 2003

RE-ELECT

ROSS W. MURRAY, Q.C.

(THUNDER BAY)

ENDORSED BY THE THUNDER BAY LAW ASSOCIATION

- Sole general practitioner, Thunder Bay.
- Elected a Bencher in 1991, 1995 and 1999.
- Chair of Finance 1995-1997.
- Chair of Lawyers' Professional Indemnity Company (LPIC now LAWPRO) 1997-2002.
- Admitted to the Bar, 1977.
- Education: B. Comm., Queen's, 1967; MBA, York, 1968.
- LL.B. University of Toronto, 1975. Winner of Davies, Ward and Beck prize in Contracts.
- Articled at Osler, Hoskin, and Harcourt.
- Former part time assistant Crown Attorney and Standing Agent, Department of Justice.
- Member, Ontario Trial Lawyers Association (director), Canadian Bar Association, Thunder Bay Law Association (past president and director), County and District Law Presidents' Association (past member), Advocates' Society, Criminal Lawyers Association, ORELA, Joint Committee on Court Reform, Northwest Region Courts Management Advisory Committee, and several community organizations.
- Married with three children

I was first elected as a Bencher in 1991, and I was reelected in 1995 and 1999. I believe that my legal, business, and community experience, and my active Law Society participation have enabled me to be an effective Bencher representing the interests of lawyers in all parts of Ontario.

After graduating from Queen's with a B.Comm. and York University with an MBA, I spent four years in the money market and venture capital areas before starting at U of T Law School.

I practise as a general practitioner in Thunder Bay primarily in civil litigation, corporate and commercial law, and real estate. In the past I also set up two regional offices in Marathon and Terrace Bay where I perceived there was a growing need for legal services.

As a Bencher, I have been dedicated and actively involved. For two years after the 1995 Bencher election I was Chair of the Finance Committee and Vice Chair of LPIC (now LAWPRO). I served as Chair of LPIC from 1997 to 2002. I have also sat on the Regional Election of Benchers Committee, Role of the Treasurer Committee, Advisory Committee on Judicial Appointments, and various standing committees. I have spent approximately three to five days a month in Toronto on Law Society matters over the past 12 years.

As Chair of the Finance Committee I was committed to making the management and organization structures of the Law Society simpler, more modern, and less costly to operate. During my term as Chair of the Finance Committee, from the Spring of 1995 to the Summer of 1997, Convocation had to deal with the insurance crisis, the legal aid crisis, the hiring of a new CEO, and a new CFO. Financial controls were put into place and the General Fund Annual Fee was actually reduced in 1996 and 1997.

While I was Chair of LPIC, the LPIC deficit, which had reached \$154 million, was eliminated and LPIC received an "A" rating from A.M. Best Company, a premier rating organization in the insurance industry. Outstanding claims at LPIC were reduced from 6800 in 1995 to 3000 in 2002. Insurance premiums were reduced from \$5600 in 1995 to \$2500 in 2003, a reduction of 62%. LAWPRO now has over \$400 million in assets and approximately \$80 million in capital. Also, a new, first class management structure is in place, and LAWPRO has moved to a risk rated premium structure. LAWPRO is now commercially viable, a goal that was set in 1994 by the Insurance Committee Task Force of which I was a member.

My commitment to our profession has not been confined to Bencher activities. I have also served as President of the Thunder Bay Law Association and have been an active director for the past twenty-one years. I was also a member of the Joint Committee on Court Reform, and helped establish a separate region for Northwestern Ontario. In 1990 I was appointed to the Northwest Region Court's Management Advisory Committee.

In the community I have actively served in a number of organizations. I was director and treasurer of both the Thunder Bay Historical Museum Society and the National Exhibition Center when our new building to house the National Center for Indian Art was first planned. I did most of the corporate fundraising for the project. Later I served as chairman of McKellar General Hospital, Northwestern Ontario's regional trauma center. I also chaired the Executive, Personnel, Finance, and Joint Conference committees of the hospital over a ten year period.

During my tenure as a Bencher I have tried to represent the best interests of all members of the Law Society regardless of geographical location or size of firm. I remain dedicated to advancing the cause of the legal profession in Ontario as a whole.