

Fair Registration Practices Report

Lawyers (2013)

The answers that you submitted to OFC can be seen below.

This Fair Registration Practices Report was produced as required by:

- the Fair Access to Regulated Professions Act (FARPA) s. 20 and 23(1), for regulated professions named in Schedule 1 of FARPA
- the Health Professions Procedural Code set out in Schedule 2 of the Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA) s. 22.7 (1) and 22.9(1), for health colleges.

Provision of Information About Registration Practices (1 / 13)

Describe how you make information about registration practices available to individuals applying or intending to apply for registration. Specify the tools used to provide information, and the manner in which you make that information available, current, accurate and user friendly in each of these subcategories:

a) steps to initiate the registration process

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

The Law Society of Upper Canada (Law Society) provides information on registration practices for individuals applying or intending to apply for the Licensing Process on its website at www.lsuc.on.ca. The website link "Become a Lawyer" guides individuals or potential applicants to the Lawyer Licensing Process - Home Page where one can access the Career Map and voluntary university bridging programs for Internationally Trained Lawyers, fees, the application prerequisite information and the formal online application. The online application is accompanied by a memorandum containing explicit instructions on how to complete the online form, download it and submit the completed copy with the required documents and certification which registers the applicant in the Licensing Process. The required application fee can be paid online or submitted with the completed application and documents to the Law Society by the prescribed deadline to avoid a late filing fee.

When the applicant completes the online application and pays the application fee, the applicant becomes a Licensing Process Lawyer candidate and is issued a secure Law Society web-message account which provides the candidate and the Law Society an immediate and direct means of communication. The candidate's account houses all correspondence conducted between the candidate and the Law Society, and is used for various communication purposes including posting of fee invoices, any and all information regarding Lawyer licensing examinations, self-study materials, the Articling Program, and once eligible, information on Licensing (call to the bar).

Other initiatives taken to provide information on the registration process include (i) yearly visits by Law Society staff to Ontario law schools to address graduating students who plan on applying for entry to the Licensing Process, (ii) presentations to internationally trained candidates on the steps involved in becoming licensed in Ontario, (iii) advising all Canadian law schools in September of each year that the updates to the online application for the upcoming Licensing Process will be available to applicants in the first week of October, and (iv) arranging to have the Law Society and its Licensing Process information link available on the National Committee on Accreditation website for international law school graduates and lawyers who may be interested in becoming a lawyer in Ontario.

b) requirements for registration

Academic requirements for applying to and entering the Licensing Process are as follows: complete a common law degree program (LL.B or JD) from an approved law school at a Canadian university or complete a Certificate of Qualification from the National Committee on Accreditation (NCA) of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada (FLSC).

Requirements for registration: complete the online application, download the completed version of the application and submit it to the Law Society with all required documents, duly commissioned or notarized, and pay the applicable application fee. Candidates are registered for the Licensing Examinations that they select on the application, and are invoiced for the applicable fees which must be paid by the specified deadline. Once registered into the process, the candidate must complete two Licensing Examinations and the 10-month Articling Program, which includes an online Professional Responsibility and Practice course that must be taken during the articling term.

Beginning in 2014, candidates will be able to select from the 10-month Articling Program or the new Law Practice Program in order to fulfill the experiential training component of the Licensing Process. The Law Practice Program consists of a four-month training course followed by a four-month work placement.

Requirements for licensing: successfully complete all components of the Licensing Process, filing of all required documents for the Articling Program where applicable, being of good character as required by the *Law Society Act* and payment of all outstanding fees including the application for licensing (call to the bar) fees.

A late filing fee is applied to applications submitted after the specified deadline.

c) explanation of how the requirements for registration are to be met, such as the number of years of schooling required for a degree to be deemed equivalent to an Ontario undergraduate degree, length and type of work experience, credit hours or program content

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

There are no other or further requirements that must be met for application and registration into the Law Society's Licensing Process than those set out in (B) above.

d) any education or practical experience required for registration that must be completed in Ontario or practice that must be supervised by a member of the profession who is registered in Ontario

All candidates who have less than 10 months of law practice experience in a common law jurisdiction or who have obtained their legal experience in a non-common law jurisdiction are required to complete the Articling Program, a 10-month term supervised by an articling principal (a registered member of the Ontario Bar for Ontario Articles) who has been approved by the Law Society. During the Articling Program, candidates must complete an online Professional Responsibility and Practice course, which must be reviewed by the Articling Principal/supervisor. If candidates have legal work experience of less than 10 months, they may apply for an abridgment of the articling term that could reduce the 10-month term by the amount of time approved as legal work experience through the abridgment application process.

Beginning in 2014, candidates will be able to select from the 10-month Articling Program or the new Law

Practice Program in order to fulfill the experiential training component of the Licensing Process. The Law Practice Program consists of a four-month training course followed by a four-month work placement and will be offered by Ryerson University in English and the University of Ottawa in French.

e) requirements that may be satisfied through acceptable alternatives

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

Articles are flexible and can be completed in Ontario, nationally or internationally.

"Ontario Articles" is a placement served with an Articling Principal who is providing the articling student-at-law with experience that substantially deals with laws and practices applicable to the practice of law in the Province of Ontario. The Articling Principal must be a member of The Law Society who has been approved by the Executive Director of Professional Development and Competence to supervise the student-at-law during the articling term.

"National Articles" is an articling placement approved by the Law Society and supervised by a lawyer in good standing who has been licensed in another Canadian jurisdiction, or by a Principal, who will not be providing the articling candidate with an experience that substantially deals with laws and practices applicable to the practice of law in the Province of Ontario.

"International Articles" is an articling placement approved by the Law Society and supervised by a lawyer in good standing who has been licensed in another jurisdiction, or by a Principal, who will not be providing the articling candidate with an experience that substantially deals with laws and practices applicable to the practice of law in the Province of Ontario. International candidates who have a law degree and have practised law in another common law jurisdiction for 10 or more months can apply to be exempted from the articling requirement. International candidates who receive an exemption from the Articling Program are required to attend a mandatory 3-day course on Professional Conduct and Practice in Ontario and complete the Licensing Examinations in order to become eligible for licensing (call to the bar).

f) the steps in the assessment process

Candidates must write and pass two licensing examinations, which are offered three times during the licensing cycle – June, November and March (of the following year) – in English and French. Candidates must also complete 10 months of articling unless otherwise exempted from articling or granted an abridgment. Candidates submit, with their application, information pertaining to their good character. If a good character issue is identified by the candidate, the candidate's information will be reviewed by the Administrative Compliance unit.

If the review deems there is an issue, the file is forwarded to Intake and then to the Investigation unit of the Law Society's Professional Regulation Division. If the review by the Investigation unit determines that there is a good character issue, the candidate's information and Investigation's review is submitted to the Proceedings Authorization Committee which determines if a good character hearing is required. If a hearing is required, arrangements for a Hearing Panel are made and the candidate advised. The Hearing Panel will determine the candidate's fitness for entry into the profession. A candidate can be represented by Counsel during all aspects of the pre-hearing and hearing process. A candidate may appeal the Hearing Panel's decision if denied entry into the profession.

g) the documentation of qualifications that must accompany each application; indicate which documents, if any, are required only from internationally trained applicants

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

Candidates must request the university to issue their official law school transcript directly to the Law Society, and the transcript must indicate the date that the LL.B or JD Degree was issued. Internationally qualified candidates must request their official Certificate of Qualification be issued directly to the Law Society by the National Committee on Accreditation. No further or other information is required from internationally trained candidates who apply to register in the Licensing Process.

h) acceptable alternatives to the documentation if applicants cannot obtain the required documentation for reasons beyond their control

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

There are no alternatives as these documents are always available through the requisite Canadian university or the National Committee on Accreditation.

i) how applicants can contact your organization

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

Applicants can contact the Law Society by email, by their assigned web messaging account that is provided to them by the Law Society upon completing the online application, by phone, fax, mail, or by arranging an appointment. Walk-ins will also be handled by staff.

j) how, why and how often your organization initiates communication with applicants about their applications

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

Law Society administrators visit the Ontario law schools prior to registration to explain the Licensing Process. The Law Society's website for the Licensing Process is quite extensive in providing the applicants with all information about the registration practices for those applying or intending to apply.

Candidates are contacted immediately via their web messaging account when (i) an application form is filed incorrectly, (ii) it is not accompanied by all required documentation for registration or (iii) the information is not completed correctly on the form. Candidates are provided a confirmation email through their personal Law Society web messaging account when the application is complete and they are officially registered in the Licensing Process. Candidates are provided registration information through their web messaging account which is the tool used for all communication between the Law Society and candidates during the entire Licensing Process. The Society communicates regularly with candidates on all matters relating to the Licensing Process including Licensing Examinations dates and locations, licensing examination results, matters concerning the examination reference materials and any updates, fee payments, Articling Program

information, support services, and the eligibility of candidates for licensing (call to the bar), which include the filing of any outstanding documents and confirmation of licensing (call to the bar) information, dates, times, and locations.

k) the process for dealing with documents provided in languages other than English or French

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

Such documents are sent for translation through an appropriate translator or translation service.

l) the role of third-party organizations, such as qualification assessment agencies, organizations that conduct examinations or institutions that provide bridging programs, that applicants may come into contact with during the registration process

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

The National Committee on Accreditation (NCA) is a standing committee of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada. It is made up of representatives from the Council of Law Deans, members of the practising bar and members involved with the administration of provincial law societies. The mandate of the NCA is to help Canada's law societies protect the public interest by assessing the legal education and professional experience of individuals who obtained their credentials outside of Canada or in a Canadian civil law program. An assessment is done before an individual may apply for admission to any law society's bar admission/licensing process in a Canadian common law jurisdiction, and is based on the academic and professional profile of each application to the NCA.

The NCA applies a uniform standard on a national basis so that applicants with common law qualifications obtained outside of Canada or with civil law training in Canada do not need to satisfy different entrance standards to practise law in the different provinces and territories of Canada. Once a file is assessed by the NCA, all applicants are required to complete the 4 mandatory standard examinations in Canadian subjects (Principles of Canadian Administrative Law, Canadian Constitutional Law, Canadian Criminal Law and Procedure and Foundations of Canadian Law). Additional NCA examinations may be required to be written by the applicant besides the mandatory four based on the assessment of the applicant's qualifications and credentials. The NCA may also require the applicant to complete specific law school courses within a prescribed time frame. Upon successful completion of these requirements, the NCA issues a Certificate of Qualification.

All law societies in Canada require the NCA's Certificate of Qualification to access their bar admissions/licensing process with the exception of the Barreau du Québec which regulates a civil law jurisdiction. Applicants with internationally-obtained legal qualifications can apply to the NCA regardless of which common law province or territory in which they plan to practise.

A voluntary "Bridge Training Program for Internationally Trained Lawyers", is delivered by the University of Toronto. Osgoode Professional Development Centre, York University offers a NCA Exam Prep Course which is designed for international qualified lawyers planning to write the NCA four mandatory exams.

m) any timelines, deadlines or time limits that applicants will be subject to during the registration process

Upon registration into the Licensing Process, a candidate has three years from the date of registration in the initial licensing cycle (May 1 to April 30) to successfully complete all components of the Licensing Process and be licensed (called to the bar). Candidates are provided three attempts to successfully complete each of the Barrister and Solicitor Licensing Examinations over the three-year term. Within the three year deadline to complete the Licensing Process, candidates may appeal to the Executive Director of Professional Development and Competence for a fourth write of a failed licensing examination if there were compelling reasons that affected their success to pass in any one of the previous three writes.

n) the amount of time that the registration process usually takes

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

The registration process for licensing takes, on average, less than one full year to complete. However, the registration process is flexible and candidates may choose their preferred timeline, ensuring that they complete all components within three years.

o) information about all fees associated with registration, such as fees for initial application, exams and exam rewrites, course enrolment or issuance of licence

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

2013-2014 Fees associated with registration and subject to applicable tax:

- 1) Licensing Process application fee - \$160.00
- 2) Late filing of the Licensing Process application- \$75.00
- 3) Licensing Examination Fees (materials included) - \$750.00 per Licensing Examination
- 4) Rewrite of a Licensing Examination (materials provided on CD at no charge) - \$600.00
- 5) Request for a hardcopy of the materials for rewrites - \$150.00
- 6) Articling Program (includes the online Professional Responsibility and Practice course) - \$900.00
- 7) Application Fee for Licensing (Call to the Bar) - \$250.00
- 8) Professional Conduct and Practice in Ontario course (mandatory for candidates who are granted an exemption for the Articling Program) - \$500.00
- 9) Application for Exemption or Abridgment of the Articling Program - \$160.00

p) accommodation of applicants with special needs, such as visual impairment

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

The Law Society's policy regarding accommodation for the Licensing Process is available to candidates on the Law Society's Licensing Process website. The online Licensing Process application allows candidates to indicate whether they wish to receive the "Request for Special Needs Accommodation" package for the purpose of applying for special needs accommodation. Upon request, a hard copy of the Request for Accommodation package is sent to the candidate in confidence, and must be completed and returned by the stated deadline. Candidates may also receive an electronic copy, if required, and may request information about special accommodation at anytime by email to the designated special needs account or by calling Support Services through our general enquiry line. Calls and email are returned within one business day. All information provided by a candidate or a supporting third party is held in strict confidence and separate to a candidate's Licensing Process registration and records file. The candidate's accommodation documentation/file is retained for one year after being licensed and then all information is disposed.

Please identify and explain the changes in your registration practices relevant to this section that occurred during the reporting year.

Minor changes in grammar or some minor details added to sentences in the following sections: 1(a), 1(b), 1(e), 1(f), 1(j), 1(m) and 1(o). There have been no changes to the Law Society's registration practices in 2013.

[BACK TO INDEX](#)

Amount of Fees (2 / 13)

Are any of the fees different for internationally trained applicants? If yes, please explain.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

The fees for the Licensing Process are identical for all candidates regardless of their status.

Please identify and explain the changes in your registration practices relevant to this section that occurred during the reporting year.

[BACK TO INDEX](#)

Provision of Timely Decisions, Responses and Reasons (3 / 13)

a) What are your timelines for making registration decisions?

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

The timelines for making registration decisions for licensing (call to the bar) are dependent on successful completion of the components by the candidates in the Licensing Process. In most cases this constitutes one year if all components are successfully completed and the candidate has no serious good character issues. A candidate, who receives an exemption of the Articling Program or is granted an abridgment to articles, may be licensed in a lesser timeline should the candidate successfully complete all the above conditions.

b) What are your timelines for responding to applicants in writing?

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

Applicants can expect a written response within 40 to 72 hours depending on the type of enquiry and information required for the response. In many cases, email questions are answered within 24 hours.

c) What are your timelines for providing written reasons to applicants about all registration decisions, internal reviews and appeal decisions?

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

Written responses to applicants about registration decisions, internal reviews and appeal decisions are provided within one week following review and decision respecting the application or registration issues. Hearing Panel decisions respecting good character are public and published immediately after the Hearing Panel issues its order. The timeliness of internal reviews and appeal decisions rests on the seriousness of the candidate's good character issue, the length of time it takes to investigate, the responsiveness of the candidate, and of third parties, and/or the representation by counsels for the candidate and/or the Law Society.

The timeliness in dealing with good character issues is based on the seriousness of the matter at hand. The following steps are taken sequentially and a decision may be rendered on the matter at any one of the steps:

(1) Administrative Compliance unit determines if the good character issue(s) of a candidate requires investigation, and if so, the file is referred to the Intake unit.

(2) The Intake unit reviews the good character issue(s) and assigns the file for investigation.

(3) The Investigation unit, once it has investigated the issue(s), determines if the issue(s) requires further review and if so, the file is referred to the Proceedings Authorization Committee.

(4) The Proceedings Authorization Committee becomes involved if Investigation's review determines the issue(s) requires legal opinion, and

(5) the Hearing Panel becomes involved if the Proceedings Authorization Committee's review determines the issue(s) requires a final decision (order) on the licensing application by the candidate.

d) Explain how your organization ensures that it adheres to these timelines.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

Response protocols have been established for each respective unit and the department overseeing the various components of the registration process.

Please identify and explain the changes in your registration practices relevant to this section that occurred during the reporting year.

Minor adjustments in wording for sections 3(b) and 3(c). No changes in registration practices in this section.

[BACK TO INDEX](#)

Access to Records (4 / 13)

a) Describe how you give applicants access to their own records related to their applications for registration.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

The application form is an electronic online form and completing the form is entirely the applicant's responsibility. Applicants control all aspects for completing the form, downloading it and submitting the completed application to the Law Society with all required documents duly commissioned or notarized. After applicants are registered in the Licensing Process as candidates, they can access their Licensing Process records online or make a request to view their records in person.

b) Explain why access to applicants' own records would be limited or refused.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

There are no circumstances under which access to or a copy of the candidate's original application or documents submitted would be limited or refused.

c) State how and when you give applicants estimates of the fees for making records available.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

There are no other fees charged for making records available to the applicant while in the Licensing Process other than those listed on the fee schedule. The schedule lists the fees for documents that can be requested by candidates which include transcripts for Licensing Examination results, replacement of a lost Law Society identification card, or a second or replacement copy of the Licensee's Certificates to practice law. No fees are charged for copies of the candidate's personal original documents if requested by the candidate.

d) List the fees for making records available.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

An official copy of a Licensing Process transcript which must be mailed directly to a third party - \$25.00 plus applicable tax.

An unofficial copy of licensing transcript - \$15.00 plus applicable tax.

Replacement of a Licensee's Certificates, either the Degree of Barrister-at-Law or the Court Certificate - \$75.00 per replacement or copy plus applicable tax.

Replacement of a candidate's lost Licensing Process photo identification card - \$15.00 plus applicable tax.

e) Describe the circumstances under which payment of the fees for making records available would be waived or would have been waived.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

There is no waiver for the above fees unless a misprinted document was issued originally for any of the above records.

Please identify and explain the changes in your registration practices relevant to this section that occurred during the reporting year.

No changes in registration practices in this section.

[BACK TO INDEX](#)

Resources for Applicants (5 / 13)

a) List and describe any resources that are available to applicants, such as application guides, exam blueprints or programs for orientation to the profession.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

- 1) A Career Map is posted on the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration's website and the link to it is provided on the Law Society website. The posting provides all information on entry to the Lawyer Licensing Process and the requirements to become licensed.
- 2) The Law Society's website link to the Lawyer Licensing Process webpage "Become a Lawyer" and it provides information, all the documentation and guidelines for completing the entire licensing process from application to certification.
- 3) The Lawyer Licensing Examinations competency profiles, guidelines, study guide and sample examination format questions for practice purposes are available on the website.
- 4) The Licensing Examination materials for self-study and preparation to write the Licensing Examinations are provided to candidates upon them being fully registered and paying or arranging to pay the required fees.

b) Describe how your organization provides information to applicants about these resources.

Information is provided to applicants at all potential entry points into Ontario's Lawyer Licensing Process, including on the Law Society's website, through direct communication with all Canadian approved law schools, the Career Map on the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration's website and the National Committee on Accreditation. Applicants may directly contact the Law Society and all candidates have access to website links for relevant information on the process. Canadian law schools and the National Committee on Accreditation have direct links to the Law Society's website on their respective websites. Law Society administrators visit the law schools in Ontario in November and March, when requested, to inform potential graduating law students about the Licensing Process policies, rule and procedures. Information sessions are held by various organizations that assist internationally trained law applicants and these organizations invite the Law Society to speak and inform the potential applicants about the Lawyer Licensing Process.

In September and again in October of each year, the Law Society notifies all Canadian approved law schools and the National Committee on Accreditation on the launching of the new online application process for the upcoming Licensing Process for applicants to commence their application process.

Please identify and explain the changes in your registration practices relevant to this section that occurred during the reporting year.

Minor rewording in section 5(b). No changes in registration practices in this section.

[BACK TO INDEX](#)

Internal Review or Appeal Processes (6 / 13)

In this section, describe your internal review or appeal process. Some regulatory bodies use these two terms (*internal review* and *appeal*) for two different processes, some use only one of these terms, and some use them interchangeably. Please use the term that applies to your profession. If you use both terms (for two different processes), please address both.

a) List your timelines for completing internal reviews or appeals of registration decisions.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

Internal reviews or appeals of registration reside solely with issues related to good character. These matters are conducted and completed within the same licensing year as the applicant is registered unless the assessment of good character issues require more time due to the complexity of the matter or the candidate's requests for adjournments of process delays the decision-making.

The timeliness in dealing with good character issues is based on the seriousness of the matter at hand. The following steps are taken sequentially and a decision may be rendered on the matter at any one of the steps:

(1) Complaints Services and By-Law Administration Services unit determines if the good character issue(s) of a candidate requires investigation, and if so, the file is referred to the Intake unit.

(2) The Intake unit reviews the good character issue(s) and assigns the file for investigation.

(3) The Investigation unit, once it has investigated the issue(s), determines if the issue(s) requires further review and if so, the file is referred to the Proceedings Authorization Committee.

(4) The Proceedings Authorization Committee becomes involved if Investigation's review determines the issue(s) requires legal opinion, and

(5) the Hearing Panel becomes involve if the Proceedings Authorization Committee's review determines the issue(s) requires a final decision (order) on the licensing application by the candidate.

i. State the number of internal reviews or appeals of registration decisions that exceeded your timelines.

In 2013, the review of a good character issue exceeded the 12-month licensing cycle for one candidate, but remained within the three-year term provided to candidates to complete the licensing process.

ii. Among internal reviews or appeals that exceeded your timelines, state the number that were from internationally trained applicants.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

None.

b) Specify the opportunities you provide for applicants to make submissions regarding internal reviews or appeals.

The appeals available to applicants for registration apply to good character Hearing Panel decisions and to the denial of an exemption or abridgment of the Articling Program.

Good Character

If applicants are denied entry to the profession based on a failure to exhibit good character, they have the right to go before the Law Society's Hearing and Appeals Panel. The applicants can choose to be represented by counsel at the hearing and the hearings are public. As part of the hearing process, applicants can request that the Law Society's Investigation unit disclose information that was used to deny their entry to the profession and the applicant may make submissions personally or through counsel to respond to this information. Information about the Law Society Hearing and Appeals Panel processes (for good character issues) is available on the Law Society website. Candidates may also contact the Law Society for an oral or written explanation.

Articling

Applicants appealing a decision by the Manager regarding the abridgment or exemption of the articling requirement may make a written submission. The Licensing Processing Policies available on the Law Society website state that a candidate may appeal, in writing, the decision of the Manager with regard to an articling abridgment or exemption decision, and must submit to the Law Society a request to appeal in the prescribed form within 30 days after the date on which the Manager notifies the person of the decision. Final decisions on such appeals rest with the Executive Director of Professional Development and Competence.

c) Explain how you inform applicants about the form in which they must make their submissions (i.e., orally, in writing or by electronic means) for internal reviews or appeals.

Format to appeal the decision of the Hearing Panel

Information about the Law Society hearing and appeals processes is available on the Law Society website. Applicants may also contact the Law Society for an oral or written explanation. A written explanation of the Hearing Panel's decision is provided to the applicant or Counsel, if Counsel was retained. If the applicant wishes to appeal and requires information about the appeal process, the applicant can contact the Law Society Tribunal Office.

Format to review or appeal a decision on an application for Articling exemption or abridgment

The Licensing Processing Policies available through the Law Society website state that a candidate may appeal the decision of the Manager, in writing on an abridgment decision, and must submit to the Law Society a request to appeal in the prescribed form within 30 days after the date on which the Manager notifies the person of the decision. Candidates may also contact the Law Society for an oral or written explanation.

d) State how you ensure that no one who acted as a decision-maker in a registration decision acts as a decision-maker in an internal review or appeal of the same registration decision.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

The relationship of the appeal/review bodies to the assessment and decision-making bodies in the registration

process is arm's length. The Hearing and Appeals Panels are privy only to the issues related to good character/conduct. They are not privy to any information respecting the completion of other components of the registration process and whether or not they have or have not been completed. Decision-makers, who deal with the completion of the registration components not including good character, do not sit on Hearing Panels as they are not qualified to do so.

e) Describe your internal review or appeal process.

Review or appeal process for good character

Licensing Process applications, in which good character issues have been listed by the candidate, are sent to the Complaints Services and By-Law Administration Services unit where the issue is reviewed to determine if the issue requires further investigation. If it is determined that there are no issues of good character the decision is communicated to the Licensing and Accreditation Division and the candidate's record file is marked "cleared".

If it is determined an issue exists, the candidate's file is submitted to the Intake unit of the Professional Regulation Division and an investigator is assigned to the file. Investigation takes place and involves the candidate throughout the process. The assigned investigator may determine, based on the findings of the investigation, that no further issue of good character exists and the file is returned to the Licensing and Accreditation Division to be marked as "cleared".

If the investigator's process determines that there is a good character issue, the file is forwarded to the Discipline unit and the Proceedings Authorization Committee. The Proceedings Authorization Committee reviews the candidate's issue and determines if it will proceed to a Hearing. If it is determined that a hearing is required, a public Admissions Hearing is held. A candidate is permitted to appear before the Hearing Panel with counsel, if desired, and make submissions.

If the Proceedings Authorization Committee determines there is no issue that warrants a hearing, the candidate's file is returned to the Licensing and Accreditation Division to be entered as "cleared" in the candidate's registration file.

Internal review or appeal process for articling exemption or abridgment

A candidate can appeal, in writing, the decision of the Manager on an articling exemption or abridgment decision. The candidate must submit to the Law Society a request to appeal in the prescribed form accompanied within 30 days after the date on which the Manager notifies the person of the decision. The appeal will be reviewed by the Executive Director of Professional Development and Competence and as outlined in the Licensing Process Policies, that decision will be final.

f) State the composition of the committee that makes decisions about registration, which may be called a Registration Committee or Appeals Committee: how many members does the committee have; how many committee members are members of the profession in Ontario; and how many committee members are internationally trained members of the profession in Ontario.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

A Hearing Panel must be composed of at least three persons appointed by the Law Society's Governing Board, of whom at least one shall be a person who is not a licensee, one must be a Bencher (governor of the Law Society), and a licensee or a person approved by the Attorney General for Ontario to be appointed to a Hearing Panel.

The Hearing and Appeals Panels are composed of lawyers, paralegals and non-lawyers. Information on how

many of these members were internationally trained is not collected.

Please identify and explain the changes in your registration practices relevant to this section that occurred during the reporting year.

Some minor changes in wording to some sentences in sections 6(a), 6(b), 6(c), 6(e) and 6 (f), but no changes to registration practices.

[BACK TO INDEX](#)

Information on Appeal Rights (7 / 13)

This section refers to reviews or appeals that are available after an internal review or appeal. Describe how you inform applicants of any rights they have to request a further review of or appeal from a decision.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

The applicant receives a copy of the order of the Hearing Panel and can refer to the Law Society Act and Rules of Practice and Procedure for the Tribunal of the Law Society (Hearing Panel) outlining the avenues of appeal. The legislation and Rules of Practice and Procedure are available on the Law Society's website.

Please identify and explain the changes in your registration practices relevant to this section that occurred during the reporting year.

[BACK TO INDEX](#)

Assessment of Qualifications (8 / 13)

This category covers your processes for assessing all qualifications, such as academic credentials, competencies, language ability or practical experience.

a) List the criteria that must be met in order for an applicant's qualifications to satisfy the entry-to-practice requirements for your profession.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

The following criteria must be met by an applicant to enter the Licensing Process and satisfy the requirements for entry-to-practice (licensing):

- 1) Complete a common law degree requirements (receive a LL.B or JD) from an approved Law Society law school program at a Canadian University, or receive the Certificate of Qualification after completing the requirements of the National Committee of Accreditation.
- 2) Write and pass the two Licensing Examinations.
- 3) Complete the 10-month Articling Program (including the online Professional Responsibility and Practice course), or the remaining portion of the Articling Program where an abridgment has been granted, or if an application for exemption of the Articling Program is granted, complete the mandatory 3-day Professional Conduct and Practice in Ontario course.
- 4) Be of good character.

b) Describe the methodology used to determine whether a program completed outside of Canada satisfies the requirements for registration.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

The National Committee on Accreditation assesses all international law graduates for equivalency of a Canadian common law degree for all the Federation of Law Societies in Canada except the Barreau du Quebec, which is a civil law jurisdiction. The National Committee on Accreditation reviews the applicant's academic achievements, age of the academic qualification, country where the applicant obtained the education and its legal system, subjects the applicant studied and content of the courses taken, academic marks and standing in all years of the degree program, nature of the degree-granting institution attended, professional qualifications earned, and any relevant graduate legal education. The assessment criteria are described in detail in the NCA Policies and Guidelines.

The Law Society participates as a member of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada in developing and promoting transparent, objective, impartial and fair access to the legal profession for internationally-trained lawyers with individually based education and work experience assessments and the assignments of examination requirements based on the policies, processes and procedures approved by the Federation membership. The Law Society has established open communication with the NCA where a concern by an applicant with a NCA process or procedure during the assessments can be addressed. If a NCA applicant contacts the Law Society regarding a matter related to the transparency, objectivity, impartiality or fairness in an assessment that affects the requirements for registration, the Law Society will enquire and address the matter with the NCA, then respond directly to applicant.

The Law Society continues to actively participate with the NCA Examination Policy Committee in promoting and supporting examination policies that are transparent, objective, impartial and fair. Through continuous monitoring and review of NCA Examination Policies, the Law Society ensures that the examinations processes and procedures remain transparent, objective, impartial and fair.

Once an applicant receives the Certificate of Qualification from the National Committee on Accreditation, the applicant has satisfied the requirements to enter any of the Law Societies' Licensing Processes for whom the National Committee on Accreditation applies its evaluation process. For more details on the methodology used, see the National Committee on Accreditation's website at <http://www.flsc.ca/en/nca/applying-to-the-nca/how-we-assess-your-file/>

c) Explain how work experience in the profession is assessed.

Internationally trained candidates, who have a common law degree and have practised for 10 months or more in an international jurisdiction, are eligible to apply for an exemption of the Articling Program.

Internationally trained candidates, who have been admitted to the bar of an international jurisdiction and had practised as a lawyer or had legal experience in that non-common law jurisdiction, may have their previous work experience considered for an abridgment of the Articling Program. The application for an abridgment or exemption is available on the Law Society website and requires the following:

1) Payment of an application fee of \$160.00 plus applicable tax.

2) Submission of a letter by the candidate setting out the period of legal experience, and describing the legal experience in relation to the criteria for abridgment and citing specific examples, and explaining how this legal experience is relevant to the legal skills, practices and systems ordinarily experienced during traditional articles by referring to the Articling Goals and Objectives.

3) Submission of a Certificate of Good Standing sent directly to the Law Society from the governing body where the candidate had been admitted to the bar of that foreign jurisdiction.

4) Submission of an original letter(s) from one or more lawyers or judges acting as a referee(s) and who have direct knowledge of the nature of the applicant's legal experience (in some instances, where an candidate has worked in numerous law firms, more than two referee letters may be required) must:

- be sent directly from the referee to the Law Society,
- verify the candidate's periods of legal experience,
- describe the nature of the candidate's legal experience, citing specific examples, and
- explain how this legal experience is relevant to the legal skills, practices and systems ordinarily experienced during traditional Articles by referring to the articling goals and objectives.

d) Describe how your organization ensures that information used in the assessment about educational systems and credentials of applicants from outside Canada is current and accurate.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

As an active member of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada the Law Society monitors and reviews the NCA website, assessment and examination policies, processes and procedures regularly to ensure they remain transparent, objective, impartial and fair. The assessment of educational systems and credentials are conducted regularly by the NCA in consultation with recognized assessing bodies in and outside of Canada. The results of these assessments are posted on the NCA website so that applicants can clearly determine what the assessments and requirements for registration would be. Assessments and examination requirements are regularly updated, posted and based on defined policies, processes and procedures approved by the Federation membership.

The Law Society has established open communication with the NCA with regard to maintaining information on international requirements current and accurate. If a NCA applicant contacts the Law Society regarding a matter related to the transparency, objectivity, impartiality or fairness of an assessment of his or her educational system and credentials, the Law Society does enquire and address the matter with the NCA, and then responds directly to applicant.

Through the monitoring and review of the NCA's website information, the Law Society is able to ensure that the information is current and accurate as it applies to access and registration for licensing. The Law Society continues to actively participate with the NCA Examination Policy Committee in promoting and supporting examination policies that are transparent, objective, impartial and fair.

The Law Society requires original documentation that must be sent directly from the governing body or referees and this allows the Law Society to verify the accuracy and currency of the documents.

e) Describe how previous assessment decisions are used to assist in maintaining consistency when assessing credentials of applicants from the same jurisdictions or institutions.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

The Law Society does not make assessment decisions on credentials of international applicants. The responsibility for assessment decisions and maintaining consistency resides with the National Committee on Accreditation. The NCA Assessment Policy can be found at

http://www.flsc.ca/_documents/NCAPolicychangesJan2014.pdf

The NCA maintains consistency when assessing credentials of applicants from the same jurisdictions or institutions where the applicants have completed a law degree program with the same courses of study and standings. When applicants make claims of inconsistencies to the Law Society, the Law Society will address the issue with the NCA. In the past all such follow-ups have revealed there were differences in either the program, courses or standing of the applicants and the applicants had not distinguished those differences in their request for a review.

Assessment decisions for exemptions and abridgment of the Articling Program are based on prior work experience, for those who apply, and are determined on a case-by-case basis with regard to the criteria that meet the Law Society's articling program's goals and objectives. Consistency is maintained in the process by applying the criteria for articling program goals and objectives to each assessment. The articling program goals and objectives are publicly available.

f) Explain how the status of an institution in its home country affects recognition of the credentials of applicants by your organization.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

The NCA Assessment Policy clearly details how the status of an institution in its home country may affect recognition of the credentials of applicants in the assessment process. The core competencies required to be eligible to receive a Certificate of Qualification from the NCA are outlined in the Assessment Policy.

As the Law Society does not assess international applicants' institutional credentials, it does not affect the Law Society's recognition of an applicant once the applicant acquires the Certificate of Qualification from the National Committee on Accreditation. There are no other credentials required to enter the Licensing Process beyond the applicant receiving the Certificate of Qualification.

g) Describe how your organization accommodates applicants with special needs, such as visual impairment.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

The applicant submits a Request for Accommodation which must include adequate supporting documentation that clearly outlines the need for accommodations. The documentation must be current and must confirm:

- 1) that a disability or impairment exists;
- 2) how the disability adversely affects the applicant's ability to participate in the Licensing Process;
- 3) provide the recommendation for accommodation and how the recommended accommodation will negate the adverse affect of the disability while writing the exam and provide a rationale that relates to those adverse effects.

Once the request and documentation have been reviewed and approved, appropriate steps and mechanisms are put in place to provide the approved accommodation. This may entail the booking of a private room, additional proctors or providing the exam in an electronic format for those with visual impairments who have been granted permission to use adaptive technology.

h) State the average length of time required to complete the entire registration process, from when the process is initiated to when a registration decision is issued.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

Average length of time is approximately one year. An exemption or abridgment of the Articling Program, the passing of the two Licensing Examinations within the licensing cycle of entry into the Licensing Process and having no good character issues, could result in a shorter length of time to become licensed.

i. State whether the average time differs for internationally trained individuals.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

The average time does not differ for internationally trained candidates.

ii. If the average time differs for internationally trained individuals, state whether it is greater or less than the average for all applicants, and the reasons for the difference.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

Not applicable.

i) If your organization conducts credential assessments:

i. Explain how you determine the level (e.g., baccalaureate, master's, Ph.D.) of the credential presented for assessment.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

The Law Society does not conduct credential assessments. See (e) and (f) above.

ii. Describe the criteria that are applied to determine equivalency.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

The Law Society does not conduct credential assessments. See (e) and (f) above.

iii. Explain how work experience is taken into account.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

The Law Society does not conduct work experience assessments (see (e) and (f) above), unless the candidate is applying for an exemption or abridgment of the Articling Program requirements (see (c) above).

j) If your organization conducts competency assessment:

i. Describe the methodology used to evaluate competency.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

Evaluation of competency is conducted by writing and passing the two licensing examinations. The Licensing Examinations have been developed through a rigorous blueprinting and competency profiling process that engaged thousands of lawyers and others in the development of minimal expectations for entry into the practice of law.

ii. Explain how the methodology used to evaluate competency is validated, and how often it is validated.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

The Licensing Examinations have been developed through a rigorous blueprinting and competency profiling process that engaged thousands of lawyers and others in the development of minimal expectations for entry into the practice of law; the competencies are validated as necessary and on an ongoing basis as the knowledge and skills requirements in practice change.

iii. Explain how work experience is used in the assessment of competency.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

Previous work experience is not used to assess competency for the Law Society's Licensing Process. Legal work experience is used only in determining the skills set of the candidate's application for an exemption or abridgment of the Articling Program.

k) If your organization conducts prior learning assessment:

i. Describe the methodology used to evaluate prior learning.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

The Law Society does not conduct prior learning assessments.

ii. Explain how the methodology used to evaluate prior learning is validated, and how often it is validated.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

Not applicable.

iii. Explain how work experience is used in the assessment of prior learning.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

Not applicable.

l) If your organization administers examinations:

i. Describe the exam format, scoring method and number of rewrites permitted.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

The format of the Law Society's Licensing Examinations is multiple-choice and scoring is completed by scanning bubbled answer sheets through an electronic scoring system. A candidate can attempt the licensing examination 3 times and the candidate has 3 years to complete the Licensing Process after being registered. A candidate can request a 4th attempt of a licensing examination within the 3 year term if the candidate has not be successful after 3 attempts, and if he or she has experienced extenuating circumstances during any of the previous writes.

ii. Describe how the exam is tested for validity and reliability. If results are below desired levels, describe how you correct the deficiencies.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

The blueprint process that tests the reliability of every question held in the Law Society's secured Licensing Examinations question databanks. Every question that is used on an examination has been assessed both in a pre-written examination and then post the writing of the examination by external psychometric experts and Advisory Groups. Passing scores are adjusted if required and in accordance with the blueprint specifications.

iii. State how often exam questions are updated and the process for doing so.

The Law Society develops new examination questions on an ongoing and regular basis. Examination question development takes place approximately ten times per annum and undergo several cycles of review and validation. During a final review process that occurs twice per annum, examination questions are reviewed, updated and added to a secure databank of questions for each of the two Licensing Examinations.

Please identify and explain the changes in your registration practices relevant to this section that occurred during the reporting year.

Minor changes in wording to sections 8(b), 8(c), 8(d) and 8(l)(iii). No changes in registration practices in this section.

[BACK TO INDEX](#)

a) List any third-party organizations (such as language testers, credential assessors or examiners) relied upon by your organization to make assessment decisions.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

The National Committee of Accreditation (NCA), a Committee of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada (FLSC), evaluates and makes all assessment decisions for applicants wishing to enter the licensing process to any of the Law Societies in Canada, except for the Barreau du Québec (non-common law degree).

b) Explain what measures your organization takes to ensure that any third-party organization that it relies upon to make an assessment:

i. provides information about assessment practices to applicants

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

The National Committee of Accreditation maintains several pages on the Federation's website. These include background on the National Committee of Accreditation, all policies and guidelines, frequently asked questions, application form, and information about the challenge examinations. In 2010, a new document, 'How to Answer Fact Based Law Exam Questions', was added to the website to assist NCA students. The Law Society continues to actively participate with the NCA Examination Policy Committee in promoting and supporting examination policies and procedures that are transparent, objective, impartial and fair.

As a member of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada, the Law Society participates in developing and promoting individual assessment practices based education and work experience assessments and that the assignments of examination requirements are based on the policies, processes and procedures approved by the Federation membership. The Law Society has established open communication with the NCA where a concern by an applicant with a NCA process or procedure during the assessments can be addressed.

If a NCA applicant contacts the Law Society regarding a matter related to the transparency, objectivity, impartiality or fairness in an assessment that affects the requirements for registration, the Law Society will enquire and address the matter with the NCA, and then respond directly to applicant.

Further, the NCA does maintain consistency when assessing credentials of applicants from the same jurisdictions or institutions where the applicants have completed a law degree program with the same courses of study and standings. If an applicant makes claims of inconsistencies in such assessments to the Law Society, the Law Society has followed-up with the NCA and such follow-ups revealed there were differences in the program, courses or standing which the applicant failed to distinguish in their request for a review.

ii. utilizes current and accurate information about qualifications from outside Canada

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

National Committee of Accreditation staff members subscribe to several newsletters, databases and lists servers about higher education and attend conferences on related subjects.

iii. provides timely decisions, responses and reasons to applicants

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

Assessment decisions are provided to applicants within three months of the date that all required documents are received. Most assessment decisions are mailed within six weeks.

iv. provides training to individuals assessing qualifications

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

National Committee of Accreditation staff members attend relevant conferences, courses and webinars. In the past year, staff attended the CLEAR Conference (Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation), relevant parts of the CNNAR (Canadian Network for National Association of Regulators) Conference and webinar on psychometrics.

v. provides access to records related to the assessment to applicants

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

National Committee of Accreditation staff members respond promptly to any of the Law Societies requests for information, including the Law Society of Upper Canada.

vi. accommodates applicants with special needs, such as visual impairment

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

Accommodations may be requested for examinations. A doctor's note is required in order to approve the request and to determine the appropriate accommodation.

c) If your organization relies on a third party to conduct credential assessments:

i. Explain how the third party determines the level (e.g., baccalaureate, master's, Ph.D.) of the credential presented for assessment.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

National Committee of Accreditation administrators have researched the legal education systems in countries around the world and are developing a library of course calendars. Based on this information, the level of the legal education presented is determined.

ii. Describe the criteria that are applied to determine equivalency.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

The National Committee of Accreditation assessment of the applicant's legal background is based on academic and professional credentials. The assessment takes into account the source country's legal education (common law, non-common law, "hybrid"), the courses studied, academic marks in core legal subjects, overall academic achievement, the approval/accreditation status of the degree granting institution, the mode of study (in class or distance education) as well as the applicant's professional qualifications and length and nature of his/her professional legal experience. The applicant's education and professional experience are compared to the National Committee of Accreditation's list of ten core subject areas. When the applicant has not demonstrated competency in a core subject area, the applicant will be asked to write an examination in that subject or take a course in the subject in a Canadian law school.

For more details on the assessment criteria, please see <http://www.flsc.ca/en/nca/nca-resources/policies/>

iii. Explain how work experience is taken into account.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

If an applicant is licensed in another jurisdiction, the assessment will take into account the licensure process, which may include courses, examinations, supervised experience, etc. The National Committee of Accreditation will evaluate licensed practice in another jurisdiction based on a detailed applicant CV and statements from the applicant's employer. Work experience may be relevant in the National Committee of Accreditation assessment when the applicants can demonstrate that they gained knowledge in a core subject area that they either did not take at law school or in which they received poor marks in law school.

d) If your organization relies on a third party to conduct competency assessments:

i. Describe the methodology used to evaluate competency.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

Not applicable.

ii. Explain how the methodology used to evaluate competency is validated, and how often it is validated.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

Not applicable.

iii. Explain how work experience is used in the assessment of competency.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

Not applicable.

e) If your organization relies on a third party to conduct prior learning assessments:

i. Describe the methodology used to evaluate prior learning.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

Not applicable

ii. Explain how the methodology used to evaluate prior learning is validated, and how often it is validated.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

Not applicable.

iii. Explain how work experience is used in the assessment of prior learning.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

Not applicable.

f) If your organization relies on a third party to administer examinations:

i. Describe the exam format, scoring method and number of rewrites permitted.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

Each NCA examination is composed of essay and/or short answer questions. The pass mark for each examination is 50%. Applicants are normally allowed two opportunities to pass each examination with a third opportunity provided when justified. In exceptional cases, a fourth opportunity has been provided. For more information, please visit

[http://www.flsc.ca/en/nca/nca-resources/exam-schedules-and-policies/#Exam info](http://www.flsc.ca/en/nca/nca-resources/exam-schedules-and-policies/#Exam%20info)

ii. Describe how the exam is tested for validity and reliability. If results are below desired levels, describe how you correct the deficiencies.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

The examinations are set and marked by law professors from across the country at the same level of difficulty required of students in Canadian law schools. The examinations are set based on the National Committee of Accreditation syllabi.

iii. State how often exam questions are updated and the process for doing so.

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

New examinations are set for each of the examination sessions.

Please identify and explain the changes in your registration practices relevant to this section that occurred during the reporting year.

Minor changes in wording to sections 9(b)(i), 9(b)(v) and 9(f)(i). No changes in registration practices in this section.

[BACK TO INDEX](#)

Training (10 / 13)

a) Describe the training that your organization provides to:

i. individuals who assess qualifications

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

National Committee on Accreditation staff administrators attend relevant conferences, courses and webinars. In the past year NCA staff attended the CLEAR (Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation) Conference, CNNAR (Canadian Network for National Associations of Regulators) Conference and a webinar on psychometrics.

ii. individuals who make registration decisions

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

Individual administrators are trained to make registration decisions by reviewing the official transcript issued directly to the Law Society by law schools or receiving the Certificate of Qualification directly from the National Committee on Accreditation. Administrators ensure that the LL.B or JD was issued from a law school that law program was approved by Convocation (Benchers of the Law Society). This information is accessible on the Law Society website and in the Licensing Process Policies.

iii. individuals who make internal review or appeal decisions

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

*** SAME AS LAST YEAR ***

1) Members of the National Committee on Accreditation make up the National Committee on Accreditation's Appeal Panels. The Committee members are also responsible for setting assessment policy. The National Committee on Accreditation members are provided with the National Committee on Accreditation guidelines and, at each National Committee on Accreditation meeting, a training session is provided on relevant topics.

2) The Law Society provides training on an ongoing basis to all internal staff, Benchers (governors of the Law Society) and adjudicators on their respective roles in the registration and internal review and appeals processes. That training includes ongoing external education, education programs offered internally to address specific Law Society needs and requirements, and ongoing improvement of process and procedures to ensure efficient and effective application of the Rules of Practice and Procedure.

Please identify and explain the changes in your registration practices relevant to this section that occurred during the reporting year.

[BACK TO INDEX](#)

Agreements on the Recognition of Qualifications (11 / 13)

Examples of agreements on the recognition of professional qualifications include mutual recognition, reciprocity and labour mobility agreements. Such agreements may be national or international, between regulatory bodies, associations or jurisdictions.

a) List any agreements on the recognition of qualifications that were in place during the reporting period.

The National Mobility Agreement signed by each of the Law Societies in Canada permits the mobility of lawyers to become members of another provincial bar and practice law in that province without having to complete the Licensing Process. The province of Quebec signed the National Mobility Agreement in 2013 and is expected to implement the mobility provisions in April 2014.

Under the Transfer Agreement with the Barreau du Québec, a Québec lawyer, who has completed a common law degree (LL.B or JD) or has obtained a Certificate of Qualification from the NCA, is permitted to write the two Licensing Examinations. If successful on both examinations, a Quebec lawyer can become a member of the Ontario Bar without having to complete the Articling Program.

A member of the Barreau du Québec, who has completed a civil law degree (LL.L or BCL) in Canada, may apply to become a member of the Ontario Bar as a Class L3 licensee and would be restricted to advising a person in respect to the laws of Québec, the laws of Canada and public international law, only.

b) Explain the impact of these agreements on the registration process or on applicants for registration.

Lawyers who are licensed in one or more of the Law Societies in Canada can apply to the Law Society and register as members of the Ontario Bar. They may commence the practice of law without having to undertake any aspects of the Licensing Process.

Transfer candidates who are members of the Québec Bar and apply to practice in Ontario, must have a common law degree or a Certificate of Qualification from the National Committee on Accreditation and pass the two Licensing Examinations in the Licensing Process. They are not required to complete the Articling Program.

Members of the Québec Bar who have a civil law degree from Canada can be licensed in Ontario with a Class L3 Licence and is restricted to advising a person in respect to the laws of Québec, the laws of Canada and public international law only. Such members are not required to complete the Licensing Process to apply for this alternate licence.

Please identify and explain the changes in your registration practices relevant to this section that occurred during the reporting year.

Changes in wording in section 11(a) and 11(b) to reflect upcoming changes for 2014 and minor wording

changes. No changes in registration in 2013.

[BACK TO INDEX](#)

Data Collection (12 / 13)

Languages in which application information materials are available

a) Indicate the languages in which application information materials were available in the reporting year.

Language	Yes/No
English	Yes
French	Yes
Other (please specify)	

Paid staff employed by your organization

b) In the table below, enter the number of paid staff employed by your organization in the categories shown, on December 31 of the reporting year.

When providing information for each of the categories in this section, you may want to use decimals if you count your staff using half units. For example, 1 full-time employee and 1 part-time employee might be equivalent to 1.5 employees.

You can enter decimals to the tenths position only. For example, you can enter 1.5 or 7.5 but not 1.55 or 7.52.

Category	Staff
Total staff employed by the regulatory body	547
Staff involved in appeals process	164
Staff involved in registration process	22

Countries where internationally educated applicants were initially trained

c) In the following table, enter the top source countries where your applicants¹ were originally trained in the profession (**excluding** Canada), along with the number of applicants from each of these

source countries.

Enter the country names in descending order. (That is, enter the source country for the greatest number of your applicants in the top row, the source country for the second greatest number in the second row, etc.)

Use the dropdown menu provided in each row to select the country.

Note that only one country can be reported in each row. If two or more countries are tied, enter the information for these tied countries in separate rows.

Country of training (Canada excluded)	Number of applicants in the reporting year
U.K.	180
U.S.	116
India	63
Australia	58
Nigeria	29
Ireland	18
Pakistan	14
Philippines	8
Bangladesh	7
China	4

¹Persons who have applied to start the process for entry to the profession.
Select "n/a" from the drop-down list if you do not track this information. Enter "0" in a "Number of applicants" field if you track the information, but the correct value is zero.

Jurisdiction where members were initially trained

d) Indicate where your members² were initially trained in the profession (use only whole numbers; do not enter commas or decimals).

The numbers to be reported in the **Members** row are the numbers on December 31st of the reporting year. For example, if you are reporting registration practices for the calendar year 2009, you should report the numbers of members in the different categories on December 31st of 2009.

	Jurisdiction where members were initially trained in the profession (before they were granted use of the protected title or professional designation in Ontario)
--	---

	Ontario	Other Canadian Provinces	USA	Other International	Unknown	Total
Members on December 31st of the reporting year	42331	1713	n/a	2015	0	46059

² Persons who are currently able to use the protected title or professional designation of the profession.

Enter "n/a" if you do not track this information. Enter "0" if you track the information, but the correct value is zero.

Additional comments:

Applications your organization processed in the past year

e) State the number of applications your organization processed in the reporting year (use only whole numbers; do not enter commas or decimals).

	Jurisdiction where applicants were initially trained in the profession (before they were granted use of the protected title or professional designation in Ontario)					
from January 1st to December 31st of the reporting year	Ontario	Other Canadian Provinces	USA	Other International	Unknown	Total
New applications received	1618	105	116	416	0	2255
Applicants actively pursuing licensing (applicants who had some contact with your organization in the reporting year)	1584	105	114	384	0	2187
Inactive applicants (applicants who had no contact with your organization in the reporting year)	34	0	2	32	0	68
Applicants who met all requirements and were						

authorized to become members but did not become members	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
Applicants who became FULLY registered members	1494	104	106	285	0	1989
Applicants who were authorized to receive an alternative class of licence³ but were not issued a licence	0	0	0	0	0	0
Applicants who were issued an alternative class of licence³	0	5	0	0	0	5

³ An alternative class of licence enables its holder to practise with limitations, but additional registration requirements must be met in order for the member to be fully licenced. Please list and describe below the alternative classes of licence that your organization grants, such as student, intern, associate, provisional or temporary.

Enter "n/a" if you do not track this information. Enter "0" if you track the information, but the correct value is zero.

Additional comments:

	Class of licence	Description
a)	L2	A licensee who holds a Class L2 Licence is entitled to practise law in Ontario as a barrister and solicitor in the employ of the Attorney General for Ontario or if, appointed under the Crown Attorneys Act, as a Crown Attorney or as assistant Crown Attorney.
		A licensee who holds a Class L3 Licence must be a member of the Barreau du Québec in good standing and as a member of the Ontario Bar, would be restricted to practice Quebec civil law and Canadian Federal law as a barrister and

b)	L3	solicitor of Ontario. Note: A Class L3 licensee must complete a common law LL.B. or JD degree from an accredited law school program at a Canadian University approved by Convocation of the Law Society if the member wishes to obtain a Class L1 Licence.
c)		<input type="text"/>
d)		<input type="text"/>
e)		<input type="text"/>
f)		<input type="text"/>
g)		<input type="text"/>
h)		<input type="text"/>
i)		<input type="text"/>
j)		<input type="text"/>

Reviews and appeals your organization processed in the past year

f) State the number of reviews and appeals your organization processed in the reporting year (use only whole numbers; do not enter commas or decimals).

	Jurisdiction where applicants were initially trained in the profession (before they were granted use of the protected title or professional designation in Ontario)					
from January 1 st to December 31 st of the reporting year	Ontario	Other Canadian Provinces	USA	Other International	Unknown	Total
Applications that were subject to an internal review or that were referred to a statutory committee of your governing council, such as a Registration Committee	99	1	15	26	0	141
Applicants who initiated an appeal of a registration decision	0	0	0	0	0	0
Appeals heard	0	0	0	0	0	0
Registration decisions changed following an appeal	0	0	0	0	0	0

Enter "n/a" if you do not track this information. Enter "0" if you track the information, but the correct value is zero.

Additional comments:

Statistics in (f) reflect the number of applicants who had good character issues submitted to Professional Regulation for investigation.

Please identify and explain the changes in your registration practices relevant to this section that occurred during the reporting year.

Statistical data for the 2013 reporting year has been entered for this section. No changes in registration practices.

[BACK TO INDEX](#)

Certification (13 / 13)

I hereby certify that:

- i. I have reviewed the information submitted in this Fair Registration Practices Report (the "Report").
- ii. To the best of my knowledge:
 - all information required to be provided in the Report is included; and
 - the information contained in the Report is accurate.

Name of individual with authority to sign on behalf of the organization: Diana Miles, BA LLB CDir

Title: Executive Director, Professional Development and Competence

Date: February 28, 2014

[BACK TO INDEX](#)
