

Welcome Remarks from the President

Bon Soir et Bienvenue - I am delighted to welcome you this evening to Toronto on behalf of the Local Planning Committee and the Association for the 31st Annual Course in International Legal Information and Law. The setting here in this venerable and beautiful Convocation Hall which originally was the first Law School built in Ontario, and apart from its previous incarnations now serves as an exclusive venue for significant special events. As such, it is a fitting place in which to hold our particular event this evening. I hope you will enjoy the program for the Annual Course and the social events which have been organized for us.

The Association is most grateful to our joint hosts, The Faculty of Law, University of Toronto and Osgoode Hall Law School, York University for their hospitality in making their excellent facilities available to us, and for their kind and generous collaboration in making our conference possible. We are honored also to have with us this evening as Chief Guest, Mrs. Deborah Deller, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario

The Association is meeting for the first time in Toronto, the largest of Canada's vibrant urban centers. Situated on the north shores of Lake Ontario, Toronto is the center of Canada's commercial, financial, industrial, and cultural life, and is the capital of the Province of Ontario.

The theme of the conference is, *Canada: The Cultural Mosaic and International Law*. Speakers at the sessions include some of Canada's leading legal academics, scholars, legal practitioners and law librarians, with presentations covering topics which reflect Canada's unique perspectives on international and domestic issues.

Earlier this evening we were kindly granted a tour of the Great Library of the Osgoode Hall Law Society situated within this splendid building. Further visits will be made to a number of other significant law libraries including the Ontario Legislative Library based in the imposing Romanesque style building known as the 'Pink Palace' due to the pink hue of the sandstone; a tour will also take place of the new Osgoode Hall Law School Library. While at Osgoode Hall on Wednesday we will be fortunate to be given a viewing of a special selection of fonds (archival documents) donated to the Clara Thomas Archives of the York University Libraries. The

donor, Donald Simpson, will present a talk about them in the Moot Court of the Osgoode Hall Law School.

The educational focus of the Optional Day session at Niagara College will be on Foreign Investments and International Trade Law. Additionally, the day will provide a winery tour and the choice of either visiting Niagara Falls or a visit to Niagara-on-the-Lake.

On behalf of all of us, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Local Planning Committee, who together with our Board Liaison, have worked tirelessly to put together this excellent and varied program.

I am certain that over the next few days you will all enjoy not only hearing about the significant legal aspects of Canadian law, but also experiencing the art and architecture of this vibrant and multicultural city. And those of us attending the Optional Day look forward to seeing the beginning of the magnificent fall colors of Southern Ontario.

I would now like to present our Chief Guest of the evening, Mrs. Deborah Deller, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

Petal Kinder, President