



December 16, 2013

Press Release re: Megan Shortreed to receive the Honsberger Award

The Board of Trustees of the Toronto Lawyers Association (“TLA”) is pleased to announce that Ms. Megan Shortreed will be the inaugural recipient of the TLA's new Honsberger Award. She personifies and represents each of the Three Pillars of the TLA — information, education and advocacy.

From its inception, Ms. Shortreed has been a member of the steering committee of the LSUC's *Justicia* project for the retention of women in private practice, and a chair of several of its working groups. Megan has dedicated an enormous amount of time to this project, which has been tremendously successful in educating law firms about the unique issues faced by women in the legal profession. She has been influential in creating best practices for *Justicia* law firm members to customize for their own firms, including such things as parental leave and flexible work arrangements.

Her generosity with her time is also evidenced by her near decade of involvement with Homes First, a charitable organization that provides affordable, stable housing and support services to Toronto's chronically homeless. Currently, Ms. Shortreed is the Chair of the Homes First Foundation.

Ms. Shortreed is a prolific writer, and an enthusiastic speaker and instructor. Both from within her firm and outside of it, many young advocates seek out Megan as their mentor. She is one of those rare advocates who takes seriously her obligation to give back to the legal community. She sits on the Editorial Board of the *Commercial Litigation and Arbitration Review*, and has contributed to various bench and bar advisory initiatives. In practice, Ms. Shortreed is the consummate professional in her dealings with other lawyers, clients, experts and witnesses. As a prosecutor for several professional regulators, she often must navigate through the presenting the evidence of emotion-charged witnesses to a lay panel of adjudicators, which she does with professionalism and in the public interest. A testament to her versatility and supreme advocacy skills, Megan is also one of very few senior female litigators with an impeccable reputation among the Commercial List bar.

The Honsberger Award is named in honour of John D. Honsberger, President of the Toronto Lawyers Association in 1967-68 and historian of the association's first 100 years. Through his extensive legal scholarship and contributions to the Toronto legal community, Mr. Honsberger exemplifies the three pillars of the TLA: Information, Education and Advocacy. This award, to be presented annually to a member of the Toronto Lawyers Association (“TLA”), is in recognition of a single unique accomplishment or ongoing contributions to the legal community and the community at large, exemplifying the TLA's three pillars: Information, Education, and Advocacy.

The award will be presented to Ms. Shortreed at the association's annual TLA Awards Reception February 20th, 2014.

Miriam Young  
President  
Toronto Lawyers Association

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