May 27, 2019

Call for Comment – Short Term Pro Bono Legal Services Rules
Law Society of Ontario
130 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON
M5H 2N6

Delivered by online submission

RE: TLA SUBMISSIONS TO LSO PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMITTEE

The Toronto Lawyers' Association (**TLA**) is the voice of its 3,700 members who practise law in all disciplines across the Greater Toronto Area.

We are writing with respect to the Law Society of Ontario's Call for Comment on proposed amendments to the *pro bono* rules in the *Rules of Professional Conduct*. In response to the two questions posed in the Professional Regulation Committee's Consultation Report:

1.   **Should the Short-term Pro Bono Legal Services Rules be amended to include lawyers providing short-term legal services while employed by Legal Aid Ontario or through a Legal Aid Ontario program or clinic?**

The TLA supports amending the *Pro Bono* Legal Services Rules to provide for the situation where *pro bono* services are being provided by lawyers while employed by Legal Aid Ontario.

2.   **Should the Short-term Pro Bono Legal Services Rules be expanded to include other not-for-profit legal service providers? If so, which providers, why, and under which circumstances?**

At this time, and unless specific organizations are proposed to provide short-term *pro bono* legal services, the TLA is not in a position to comment one way or another other than to say that the *Pro Bono* Legal Services Rules should only apply in specific

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circumstances and to specific organizations (*i.e.,* organizations under the auspices of a PBO clinic or the proposed amendment to capture lawyers providing short-term legal services while employed by Legal Aid Ontario or through a Legal Aid Ontario program or clinic).

The TLA appreciates the opportunity to provide its input and looks forward to a continuing dialogue with the LSO on this and other issues relevant to the practice of law and access to justice.

Yours very truly,

Margaret L. Waddell
President
Toronto Lawyers Association