



Citizens For Justice

The April 19-28 Law Society of Ontario (LSO) Benchers election is pivotal to the future of a **free society**. As Citizens of Ontario, we are concerned with identity politics influencing our institutions, and the resulting culture of censorship and fear that threatens our liberal democracy.

Our concern stems from our own personal experiences from policies emanating from identity politics. We have been...

- casually labeled with pejorative terms that bear no relation to reality,
- bullied out of work, and social circles,
- compelled to act against our values,
- forced to fight school policies that deny our parental rights.

Some of us have even been pursued by our professional regulators for expressing heterodox opinions outside of professional settings and dragged through misconduct allegations and discipline. Identity politics frames history exclusively in terms of unequal power relationships between groups. Although well meaning, in practice, equity, inclusion and diversity policies have resulted in unintended negative outcomes, by fostering a world where voicing an opinion leads rapidly to accusations of bigotry, creating a culture of compelled speech and self-censorship.

To be sure, we must expose and root out injustice, and the best way to do that is on a case-by-case basis and not through a predetermined ideology that marks individuals as more or less worthy based on their immutable characteristics. Many people don't have an issue with using the law, corporate or social pressure to censor viewpoints they disagree with but the implications are deeply concerning, not only to legal professionals like you, but also to people seeking access to justice, which is a primary mandate of the LSO.

Legal institutions should strive to be apolitical, transparent, unbiased, and offer everyone, regardless of identity, equal and ethical treatment under the law. We would like lawyers to remain free to think independently and unfettered from mandated ideological philosophies. It is for this reason that, when you vote, we ask you to consider the FullStop slate of candidates.

In all sincerity,
Citizens for Justice

