



Criminal Lawyers' Association
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Press Release - For Immediate Distribution

Toronto, ON, November 27, 2009 – The members of the Criminal Lawyers' Association (Ontario) passed a resolution at their Annual General Meeting empowering the Board of Directors to take up the Ministry of the Attorney General's invitation to engage in good faith discussions in order to resolve the ongoing legal aid dispute.

The resolution also empowers the Board of Directors to take any and all necessary steps to expand the boycott and withdraw from participation in the Ministry's Justice on Target Project if the negotiations are not meaningful and in good faith.

The resolution, passed, upon a motion from the floor at the Annual General Meeting states:

A) That the Board is hereby empowered by the membership to take all necessary steps – including expanding the cases covered by the boycott and withdrawing from Justice on Target – in order to improve Legal Aid funding and secure a meaningful and effective review mechanism.

B) That in light of the Ministry's commitment to enter into good faith discussions, the board not proceed with any additional escalation at this time, and for so long as the Board considers those discussions to be productive.

The Criminal Lawyers' Association (CLA) is one of the largest specialty legal organizations in Canada, with more than 1,000 members. The CLA is a voice for everyone concerned with the quality of criminal justice and civil liberties in Canada. Our advice and perspective is sought frequently by all levels of government and the judiciary on issues relating to legislation and the administration of criminal justice. The CLA also assists its members in every aspect of the practice of criminal litigation. A list our membership and a more detailed description of our organization is located at <http://www.criminallawyers.ca/>

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