

**For Immediate Release
Media Advisory**

April 24, 2007

**Top honours awarded by Law Society:
2007 Law Society Medal, Lincoln Alexander Award to be presented by
Treasurer**

Lawyers dedicated to community legal service and legal education, pro bono work and the promotion of social and economic rights for the disadvantaged are among those being awarded the 2007 Law Society Medal and the 2007 Lincoln Alexander Award. Law Society Treasurer Gavin MacKenzie will present the prestigious awards at a special ceremony at Osgoode Hall on April 26, 2007.

The Law Society Medal, established in 1985, recognizes outstanding Ontario lawyers whose service reflects the highest ideals of the profession. This year's Law Society Medal (LSM) recipients are: **Rodney Hull, Q.C., of Toronto; Professor Martha Jackman of Ottawa; Angus L. McKenzie, Q.C., of London; Claude M.V. Pensa, Q.C., of London; and Reuben M. Rosenblatt, Q.C., of Toronto.**

The Lincoln Alexander Award recognizes one Ontario lawyer who has demonstrated a commitment to the public and its well being through community service. The award was created in 2002 in honour of former Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Member of Parliament and Law Society Medal recipient The Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander, P.C., C.C., O. Ont., Q.C., LSM, to reward his dedication to the people of Ontario and the legal community. This year's Lincoln Alexander Award recipient is **Roger Rowe of Toronto.**

"The Law Society is pleased to honour these accomplished members of the legal profession for their stellar representation of the profession and for their tireless commitment to advancing the cause of justice," said Treasurer MacKenzie. "These awards are bestowed only upon lawyers deemed by their peers to be exceptional role models for the profession."

Law Society Medals Ceremony

When: Thursday, April 26, 2007, 5:30 p.m.
Where: Law Society of Upper Canada, Convocation Hall
130 Queen Street West, Toronto

The Law Society of Upper Canada is responsible for regulating the legal profession in the public interest by ensuring that the people of Ontario are served by lawyers who meet high standards of learning, competence and professional conduct, and by upholding the independence, integrity

and honour of the legal profession for the purpose of advancing the cause of justice and the rule of law. Visit us [online](#). Photos and biographical information for the 2007 Law Society Medal recipients and the Lincoln Alexander Award recipient are available on the Law Society [website](#). Biographical information only is attached to this media advisory.

-30-

For interviews, photographs or additional information, please contact:

Denise McCourtie, Communications Advisor, at 416 947 3362 or dmccourt@lsuc.on.ca

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

2007 Law Society Medal Recipients:

Rodney Hull, Q.C., Toronto: Called to the Ontario Bar in 1957, Mr. Hull is one of the most renowned estates litigation practitioners in Canada. As a lawyer, mentor, teacher, and author, he embodies the highest standards of the legal profession. During his esteemed 50-year career, Mr. Hull has shown equal dedication to both legal education and public service. He has made numerous contributions to academic and professional journals and is the author of two standard reference texts. He is also a frequent lecturer at Law Society and Canadian Bar Association CLE programs. Mr. Hull is well known for his willingness to advise and assist other members of the profession and to encourage and support pro bono legal work – an ideal he has championed throughout his long career. Awarded the Ontario Bar Association Award of Excellence for Estates and Trusts in 2005, Mr. Hull is a founding member of the firm of Hull & Hull LLP and maintains a mediation practice through Hull Estate Mediation.

Professor Martha Jackman, Ottawa: Called to the Ontario Bar in 1990, Professor Jackman has worked tirelessly to aid the disadvantaged, as an academic and writer and as legal counsel. A prolific speaker and author, her early work on social and economic rights under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms is required reading for law students and legal scholars and formed the foundation for her international reputation as an outstanding scholar. As a pro bono litigator, Professor Jackman has fought ceaselessly for the most vulnerable members of society, and has appeared as counsel in many leading Charter cases. She is also an active supporter of minority language rights and the recipient of several prestigious awards including the Marion Porter Prize, the Augusta Stowe-Gullen Affirmative Action Medal and the Yale Law School Fellowship. Professor Jackman is currently on the Faculty of Law, French Common Law Section at the University of Ottawa.

Angus L. McKenzie, Q.C., London: Called to the Ontario Bar in 1953, Mr. McKenzie has dedicated himself selflessly to both the legal profession and his community. At 80 years of age, he continues to draw upon his long-term experience in civil litigation, estate litigation, wealth transfer and family law to mentor younger lawyers in both his professional role and through his commitment to public service. His passion for and knowledge of the law inspires and enriches those who work with him. He has lectured at the University of Western Ontario Law School,

participated as an instructor for the Bar Admissions Course and is a past president of the Middlesex Law Association and past vice-president of the Advocates' Society. Mr. McKenzie's enormous contribution to the profession is rivalled only by his unwavering service to his community. He has participated on a number of volunteer boards, and, together with his wife Jean, has been an ardent fundraiser and supporter of countless charitable organizations. Mr. McKenzie practises with the firm of McKenzie Lake Lawyers, LLP.

Claude M.V. Pensa, Q.C., London: Called to the Ontario Bar in 1956, Mr. Pensa is referred to by many as the Dean of the Litigation Bar in southwest Ontario. He is held in equally high esteem for his advocacy work and his commitment to the highest standards of the profession, manifested through his many appearances before all courts including the Supreme Court of Canada. In addition to excelling as a litigator, Mr. Pensa embodies the best of the profession. His work as a teacher for the Bar Admission Course and lecturer for various CLE programs spans several decades. He is also a great supporter of his community, serving on a number of boards including Chair of the Board of Governors for the University of Western Ontario. Mr. Pensa is the Founding Chair of the London Lawyers Feed the Hungry Program, and has also dedicated much time in support of other worthy causes. His numerous honours include being inducted as a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and being awarded a Doctorem in Legibus (Hon.) from the University of Western Ontario. Mr. Pensa currently practises as counsel to the firm of Harrison Pensa LLP.

Reuben M. Rosenblatt, Q.C., Toronto: Called to the Ontario Bar in 1959, Mr. Rosenblatt is one of the province's most widely respected experts in real estate matters. His profound commitment to the legal profession is manifested in his extensive accomplishments as both a teacher and a mentor. He is impressively knowledgeable and deeply enthusiastic about the law; these characteristics have made him an exceptional mentor. An adjunct Professor at Osgoode Hall Law School since 1977, Mr. Rosenblatt is a frequent lecturer at Law Society and Canadian Bar Association CLE programs. He is also an editor and writer and is qualified as an Expert in Real Estate by the Ontario Court (General Division). Recognitions for his eminence in teaching as well as his contributions to the profession include the Osgoode Hall Law School Award of Excellence in Teaching, the Osgoode Hall Law School Alumni Gold Key Award and the Canadian Bar Association Award of Excellence in Real Estate. Mr. Rosenblatt currently practises with the firm of Minden Gross LLP.

LA Award winner:

Roger Rowe, Toronto: Called to the Ontario Bar in 1989, Mr. Rowe's deep-rooted devotion to public service began while he was still a student at Osgoode Hall Law School, where he served as Community Advocacy Division Leader at the student legal aid office. His work included public legal education and outreach to members of equity seeking groups. Rowe's dedication to helping those in his local community grew to be the defining factor of his career, which he began at Jane Finch Community Legal Services, as a staff lawyer focussing on poverty law. Rowe appeared as counsel for Mavis Baker in the landmark case of Baker vs. Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration at the Supreme Court of Canada, a case that set a new standard for procedural fairness in Administrative Law. He is a co-founder of the Canadian Association for Black

Lawyers (CABL), a group dedicated to promoting legal and social justice and was recently honoured with the CABL Award of Excellence for Advancement of the Profession. Mr. Rowe is perhaps best known for his work with the grass-roots community organization PEACH (Promoting Economic Action and Community Health), where, among other accomplishments, he established a Wraparound program to provide year-long support for young people through community-based support teams. His work for PEACH has received the attention of the *Toronto Sun*, the *Ontario Lawyers Gazette* and the *Globe and Mail*. Mr. Rowe is the recipient of a number of awards, including the inaugural award from Pro Bono Law Ontario for community service. Mr. Rowe currently practises as a sole practitioner.