

## **LEGAL AID ONTARIO (LAO) ADVISORY COMMITTEES – VICTORIA STARR (PERSONAL CAPACITY)**

Although we are working to convince Legal Aid to assign a devoted seat on its Advisory Committee to the Family Lawyers Association, it has been the case for some time that at least one of our board members sits on this committee. Previously it was Mary Reilly and at present it is Victoria Starr was asked and agreed to join. In this way we strive to bring the voice of the Family Lawyers Association to the table.

The role and objectives for the advisory committees are to:

- Provide expertise and advice to the LAO Board in order to ensure that the Board is informed about environmental factors that have the potential to affect LAO's clients and service delivery and that should be taken into consideration during the strategic and business planning process;
- Review and provide input on proposed service priorities and initiatives that are being considered for inclusion in the next LAO business plan;
- Report to the Board on any other issues that affect access to justice for low-income Ontarians or inform the development of longer-term strategic and business planning.

The last meeting was on November 16, 2011. We were presented with a slide show about some of the goals and objectives of LAO, the reasons behind their current plan and the concerns they see as needing to be addressed. I am unable to reveal what was discussed in much detail but I have asked them to tell me what portions I can share, or at least give me the version of the material they agree to share with the FLA so that I can share it. I will let you know what happens and if they give me anything will share it.