

Candidate Profile: Official

I have been asked as all candidates for the PSC should be ... where I am 'coming from' (my paraphrase). I take that to mean 'why are you seeking election to the PSC and based on your background why would you be the right choice for one of seats?'

Most grandfathered paralegals that I know, at least in my neck of the woods, have not taken much part in these discussions and are certainly not on the cutting edge of the issues. In a way, why should they be? A lot are nearing the end of their careers and what is done here won't really affect them all that much. More than one are surprised that I should have put my name forward and quite frankly it is a daunting proposition in terms of the work and responsibility. It is not something I do lightly or without some hesitation.

But I do see this election as a significant event in a truly historic process. One that may set the standard model for legal services throughout the country and beyond. It is crucial that we manage this process with judicious, informed consideration.

So for the record I will attempt to outline a bit academic and professional background I am and why I have the skills needed for the PSC.

I have university level education in law/poli sci. and public admin (so I know a bit about legal theory, government and regulatory bodies), I was a driving instructor for 6 years during school and have also been a paralegal professor (so I know a bit about what at least was taught in the colleges). I have a LL.B. from University of London (so I know a bit about substantive law) and I have been a practicing paralegal for more than twenty years (so I know a bit about running my own practice). I franchised paralegal offices (so I know a bit about what new paralegals need to do to make it happen in biz). On top of that both my parents were teachers and my father was President of the Ontario Teachers Federation (so I know a bit about education, teachers and the teaching profession).

On a personal note I am a product of two worlds ... one foot in the old and one firmly planted in and looking forward to the new. I am respectful of the positions and sensibilities of other but I am poignant and direct with my questions and not afraid to challenge discrepancies in someone else's analysis and paradigms as I attempt to do with my own. I am a die-hard rationalist, I don't believe in the 'Kobiashi Maru' (unwinnable) scenario and I like to exchange ideas with any that have informed and considered opinions. I don't have all answers myself but follow the dialectic of Socrates by trying to ask clear and piercing questions.

All I will say about my marital status is that I have a 'significant other' and have recently taken on the role of 'step-dad' to a boy (ten) and a girl (eleven). Yes, this takes some juggling and sacrifices but it is a joy and an experience that I will never regret.

I will always acknowledge the fortune I have had in so many ways. As people get older, they often look to ways that they can give back something to the benefit of others as a

way of 'making a difference'. I look at my family background, my education and my experiences and despite the daunting challenge in front of our profession I put myself forward as a candidate for a seat on the PSC because, as fate would have it, I have core skill set, and an understanding and vision of what we need to help steer us through the rough waters ahead and, to mix metaphors, enable us to 'accelerate out of the turn'.

As a PSC candidate I am stepping up and will use the knowledge and experience I have to the best I am able. You can know I will represent and speak for you with passion, dignity and truth - even the truths you don't want to hear. ". Other than that ... there are no promises. To steal a quote ... "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears, and sweat." What more can I or really anyone offer and should you believe anyone that promises you more?

I have posted my resume and academic record online for review. When you vote, consider what I can bring to the table in support of the paralegal profession. If you make informed and considered choices then I thank you for voting regardless of which box you check off.