

TitlePLUS® Essay Prize: \$3,000 award for real estate law student



One Canadian law student will have an extra \$3,000 to put towards his or her education next year. The award goes to the winner of the TitlePLUS Essay Prize, created by LAWPRO to encourage and recognize outstanding legal scholarship in the practice of real estate law.

The contest, now in its fourth year, aims to encourage Canadian law students to research and better understand current issues and developments in real estate law. Ethical issues in the practice of real estate law, reform of law society rules, practising law in an electronic environment, the role of the lawyer in preventing real estate fraud, and the use of title insurance in real estate transactions are among the topics that students can write on.

The TitlePLUS Essay Prize is but one of several LAWPRO initiatives to support continued growth of the real estate bar, and is consistent with LAWPRO's role as the only Bar-Related® title insurance fund in Canada. LAWPRO is committed to working with the real estate bar in the public interest and to undertaking educational initiatives aimed at informing both the public and lawyers about the role of the lawyer and title insurance in real estate transactions.

The contest deadline is March 31, 2010. Full contest rules are available at www.titleplus.ca.

OBA recognizes LAWPRO's TitlePLUS program for support of real estate bar

LAWPRO and its TitlePLUS title insurance program were honoured with an award for their work with real estate lawyers by the Ontario Bar Association's (OBA) Real Property Section in the summer.

The award – presented by OBA Real Property Chair Jeffrey Schwartz – recognizes LAWPRO's dedicated work over the past three years on behalf of Ontario real estate lawyers through numerous public education/awareness campaigns.

"LAWPRO has for several years gone out of its way to support the real estate bar," said Schwartz in presenting the award to LAWPRO President and CEO Kathleen Waters. "Its promotion and advertising efforts ensure that consumers, financial institutions, even government, who are affected by or involved in the real estate

transaction, better understand what we do and the importance of our role."

Schwartz pointed out that real estate lawyers are often too busy to effectively educate, promote and market themselves. "LAWPRO does that for us. Tonight we recognize that they continue to use their resources and tools to let everyone know the good that (real estate lawyers) do. We are grateful for their efforts that benefit us all."

Through its TitlePLUS program, LAWPRO has undertaken several campaigns to raise awareness among consumers, lenders and government of the critical role lawyers play in protecting consumer interests in a real estate transaction. In 2008 alone, its media campaigns generated coverage that reached 3.5 million consumers across Canada; a separate series of short articles

on topics such as what to look out for when refinancing or issues to consider when buying recreational property were seen or read about 38 million times (i.e. generated 38 million impressions) in 128 publications and online media outlets.

"It's a tremendous honour to be recognized by the OBA for something we so passionately believe in," said Waters, herself a former real estate lawyer. "When people discuss access to justice, they often focus on access to the courts. For most Canadians, access to justice and the law comes more commonly in the form of advice from lawyers on real estate deals, wills and estates, and family issues. Supporting the work of the real estate Bar is crucial to maintaining local access to legal advice throughout Ontario."