



*In this new, regular feature of Summit magazine, I intend to highlight contributions made in the area of public procurement by key individuals familiar to you, our readers. – Steve Bauld*

# Glenn Ackerley

New Toronto Construction Association chairman brings wealth of experience to the role

**W**ELL-KNOWN CONSTRUCTION and procurement lawyer, Glenn Ackerley, is the Toronto Construction Association's (TCA) newly appointed chairman for 2010.

Although now recognized for his expertise in the law of tendering and procurement, when Glenn began practising law over 20 years ago at WeirFoulds LLP he never imagined he'd end up being so passionate about this highly specialized and unique area.

In the early days, Glenn was a civil litigator but as his practice evolved, he focused exclusively on construction-related matters. Clients began to ask for his help on construction and consultant contracts at the front end of projects and it wasn't long before tendering questions began to crop up – first related to construction projects and then to procurement of other supplies and services.

Now Glenn represents industry clients from across the whole landscape – owners, contractors, trades and suppliers – including many clients in the public sector. He helps government agencies,

municipalities, and other public bodies with their purchasing issues, from up-front advice on tendering and proposal documents, through opinions on issues that arise during the procurement process, to appearing in the courts when necessary.

Glenn recognizes how important it is to get a project off on the right footing, using fair and well-structured procurement and contract documents. To that end, as one of the members of the Ontario General Contractors Association's Ministry of Health Task Force, Glenn helped develop standard template documents which have been gaining wide acceptance across the industry.

Glenn finds the area of procurement law fascinating and sees sharing his experience and insights as a calling. He spends time speaking and teaching within the industry, having developed and taught the construction law course at the Department of Architectural Science of Ryerson University for many years, as well as publishing several articles and giving numerous presentations on legal

topics to both industry and legal groups – most often focused on procurement issues. In recognition of his contributions to construction law, he was inducted into Canadian College of Construction Lawyers this past year.

In his new role this year as TCA chairman, Glenn supports the efforts of the TCA to help address the skills shortage, particularly its initiative this spring to partner with Junior Achievement on an information day in schools to encourage students to consider construction as a career option. As chairman, Glenn's other priorities include promoting dispute resolution in the construction industry and continuing to work with industry groups for reform of the lien legislation in Ontario.

For Glenn, his outreach work and his involvement in the TCA allow him to stay current on trends and events in all areas of his practice – and he truly believes that the work he puts into these volunteer activities is returned many times over in terms of a greater perspective on developments in the industry. 