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February 22, 2024

The Honourable Catrina Braid
Ontario Superior Court of Justice
85 Frederick Street
Kitchener, ON N2H 0A7

Dear Justice Braid:

I am pleased to see that OJEN's sixth annual "Braiding Diversity into Justice" event is returning, in-person, in the Kitchener Courthouse on Thursday, March 7, 2024. As I am unable to attend, I would appreciate you sharing, on my behalf, this message with the participants of the event:

Dear Participants:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to "Braiding Diversity into Justice", an event first held on November 6, 2018, created by the Ontario Justice Education Network and its Kitchener-Waterloo Committee. To the individuals participating in today's event, I expect you will make the most of this excellent opportunity to learn from law professionals within your very own communities. I invite you to take advantage of the collective wealth of their experience and knowledge - be curious and ask a lot of questions!

Braiding Diversity into Justice provides an opportunity for all of you who represent diverse perspectives to participate in and contribute to an equitable and modern justice system. Access to justice is a top priority for the Ontario Superior Court of Justice. This means providing timely, effective, and meaningful justice services to every individual that the justice system serves. Your participation in this event is important to promote educational awareness, inclusivity, and diversity.

The Executive of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice recognizes the importance of promoting awareness, inclusivity and diversity and prioritizes on-going education for the judiciary to better understand the public they serve. This past year, for example, in recognition of the National Day

for Truth and Reconciliation on October 2, 2023, judges of our Court attended a valuable special presentation by Justice Jessica Wolfe, of the Ontario Court of Justice, who is Anishinaabe from Brunswick House First Nation and has many years' experience in Indigenous justice issues as both a lawyer and a judge.

Continuing education can break down barriers and increase awareness and understanding in those who participate. As much as today's event is an opportunity for you to learn from the legal profession, they are also here to learn from you. I am sure you will find this an enriching experience.

I would like to thank the legal professionals for their expertise and contributions today, and to the participants, may you discover new opportunities to learn and be inspired throughout the day. I wish everyone a wonderful day and a successful event.

Yours truly,



Geoffrey B. Morawetz
Chief Justice

GBM/mr