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## ***Fair Trial Cornerstone of Canada's Justice System***

TORONTO – Vice-President of the Ontario Bar Association (OBA), James Morton, issued the following statement today in response to questions that have been raised as a result of the arrest of the 17 alleged terror suspects in Ontario.

“Canada is a nation based on the rule of law and central to this concept is that accused are innocent until proven guilty. Very serious charges have been made and, if proven, those committing the crime will be, and ought to be, subject to the severest of criminal sanctions. That said, until and unless guilt is established the accused are entitled to be treated as innocent. Media reports of allegations must be viewed with great care – that which is alleged is not that which is proven. Our justice system entitles everyone to a full and impartial hearing and while these matters remain before the courts, speculation as to what will or will not be proven is neither necessary nor helpful.”

- James Morton

James Morton is Vice-President of the Ontario Bar Association and Chair of the Advocacy, Government Relations and Communications Committee. Morton is also Partner at Steinberg Morton Frymer LLP, where he is head of the Litigation group. His practice focuses on commercial, criminal and constitutional litigation.

The OBA, a branch of the Canadian Bar Association, represents 16,000 lawyers, judges, law professors and law students across the Province.

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