

FOLA News

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Federation of Ontario
Law Associations
Fédération des associations
de barreau de l'Ontario

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Important Information

FOLA Announces New Director of Policy and Advocacy

FOLA is pleased to announce the appointment of Ian Hu as its new Director of Policy and Advocacy, effective January 15, 2024.

Ian brings 15 years of experience as a lawyer in private practice, as the face of the province’s legal malpractice insurer, and in leadership positions with law associations in Canada and the United States. We are excited to welcome him to our organization.

Law associations and other stakeholders are encouraged to connect with Ian at ian.hu@fola.ca.

Read our media release [here](#).

FOLA Spring Plenary – Save the Date

The FOLA Spring Plenary will be held in Toronto from Wednesday, May 8 (evening only) to Friday, May 10. Further details will be provided in upcoming FOLA communications but please mark these dates off in your calendar.

LAWPRO: Social Engineering – Protect Your Firm and Your Clients

Fraudsters are using social engineering methods to get you and your clients to provide them with information or to transfer funds to them.

Starting in 2024, your LAWPRO coverage has a new sublimit of \$250,000 for claims based on social engineering. You can maintain full coverage with a simple information exchange with your client.

Visit LAWPRO’s social engineering [toolkit](#) for full details.

Jeffrey Lem Memorial Scholarship

Following the unexpected passing of Director of Titles, Jeffrey Lem on September 3, 2023, we have learned that the Federation of Chinese-Canadian Professionals (Legal Section) is raising funds for the Jeffrey Lem Memorial Scholarship in memory of Mr. Lem and his many valuable contributions to the legal profession and particularly his impact on real estate systems, delivery and legal advancement. For those interested in making a contribution, please see their website [here](#).



FOLA Estates Committee: Identifying Issues and Interest

In response to feedback from lawyers, FOLA is currently exploring whether to strike an Estate Law Committee to provide advocacy around the issues facing the estates bar.

Estate law practitioners are invited to help us identify areas of advocacy that are impacting their estate practice. We are aware of concerns regarding long delays in the granting of Certificates of Appointment in various jurisdictions. In addition, members of the estates bar interested in being part of this committee or listserv are asked to contact us.

Please direct your communications to Corey Wall, FOLA's Central East Representative and Treasurer (corey@walllaw.ca) and Kelly Lovell (kelly.lovell@fola.ca).

FOLA Real Estate Update, Issue 1

The most recent update from FOLA's Real Estate Committee Chair, Mark Giavedoni, can be found [here](#).

Current Consultations and Submissions

Ottawa Law Review: Call for Submissions

The *Ottawa Law Review's* Blog is currently accepting submissions on a rolling basis for publication from Presidents and members of law Associations.

The Blog Submission Policy can be found [here](#).

If you have any questions or would like more information, please email rdo-olr.enligne-online@uottawa.ca.

Recent FOLA Submissions

There are no recent submissions.

Notices

Ministry of the Attorney General: Justice Services Online Enhancements

The Ministry of the Attorney General will deploy changes to its Justice Services Online (JSO) platform on January 22, 2024, to improve the user experience and streamline processes for court staff.

The following changes will be made to the Bankruptcy Submissions Online, Civil Submissions Online, Family Submissions Online, and Small Claims Court Submissions Online portals:



- File size limits will increase (from 15MB to 30MB for individual files and from 50MB to 100MB for the total limit for all documents within a submission).
- Users will be able to check the status of their submission (whether it has been accepted, rejected, or is in-progress) on their transaction history page. Once a submission has been accepted, all documents filed and/or issued will be available to the user for download for 90 days. Filed or issued documents under 25MB will also be automatically emailed to the user.
- The transaction history page will display the physical file name(s) of the document(s) uploaded by the user (and not just the document type(s) submitted).
- Users will be able to access a downloadable list of all documents eligible for online filing or issuance. The list will provide helpful information, such as whether any court filing or issuance fees apply. This list is expected to make it easier for users to upload the right documents and select the appropriate document type.
- Applications to bring a child to a place of safety will automatically be flagged as time-sensitive to assist court staff in prioritizing submissions.

If you would like to discuss these enhancements further, please feel free to contact Vaia Pappas, Director, Operational Support Branch, at Vaia.Pappas@ontario.ca

Ministry of the Attorney General: Amendments to Rules of Civil Procedure (O. Reg. 388/23)

On December 14, 2023, Ontario Regulation [388/23](#) was filed to amend the court rules and forms for estate court proceedings in the Superior Court of Justice.

The regulation will come into force on **April 1, 2024**. The amended forms are available on the [Court Services Division Court Forms](#) website.

Notices of the regulation and summaries of the amendments are available on the [Ontario Regulatory Registry](#) and the [Court Forms](#) websites.

Ministry of the Attorney General: Amendments to Rules of Civil Procedure (O. Reg. 383/23)

On December 11, 2023, [Ontario Regulation 383/23](#) was filed to amend the court rules for civil court proceedings.

The regulation updates requirements for appellate factums and references to the bond series used to calculate the discount and gross-up rates.

The regulation will come into force on **January 1, 2024**.



The rule amendments:

- replace the references to bond series V121808 in the discount rate and gross-up rate formulas with the successor bond series V80691347;
- replace the reference to bond series V121758 in the gross-up rate formula with the successor bond series V80691331;
- replace the references to the Bank of Canada's Weekly Financial Statistics in the discount rate and gross-up rate formulas with reference to the Bank of Canada's website;
- add a provision noting that for the purposes of the discount rate and gross-up rate, reference may be made to the rates published by the Ministry of the Attorney General on a Government of Ontario website;
- expand the existing certification statement for both the appellant's and respondent's appeal factums in the Court of Appeal and Divisional Court to require the certifier to
 - confirm that the factum complies with the word and page limits set out in the rules or otherwise in a court order;
 - disclose the number of words in the factum; and
 - confirm that they are satisfied as to the authenticity of every authority cited in the factum;
- add a provision prescribing the word limit for appellate factums to be 9,200 words and the page limit to be 40 pages, except with leave of the court;
- add a provision specifying which parts of the appellate factum are to be counted in the word limit; and
- add a provision to stipulate that, for the purposes of the certification requirement for appellate factums, authorities published on a government website or by a government printer, on CanLII, on a court's website, or by a commercial publisher of court decisions are presumed authentic, absent evidence to the contrary.

A summary of O. Reg. 383/23 is available on Ontario's Regulatory Registry at [23-MAG008](#).

Upcoming Events and Law Association News

FOLA promotes law association events and other news. If your organization has upcoming events or related news that would be of interest to our members, please email Kelly Lovell (kelly.lovell@fola.ca) and we will include it here. Click [here](#) to register.

TLA: Fluff is for Pillows, Not Legal Writing

This session will take place on **Tuesday, February 13** from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM via Zoom Webinar.

Join Stuart Teicher, Legal Educator, in learning about a more concise way of persuasive legal writing. In this program, you will learn more about how lawyers can make their writing clear, concise, and direct by using Plain English.



Register [here](#).

Osgoode PD: Making Sense of Pensions in Family Law in 2024

This session will take place on **Thursday, February 15** from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM. in-person or online (live).

This unique one-day program, designed and delivered by family law experts and pension professionals, will provide you with the critical knowledge and strategies you need to tackle the most challenging issues in pension and retirement assets that arise upon separation.

To help with accessibility, the program can be completed entirely online from anywhere in Canada or the world. Registration also includes 120-day unlimited online access to the recorded program.

Register [here](#).

TLA: Investigating Insurance Claims with Geosocial Data

This session will take place on **Tuesday, February 20** from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM via Zoom Webinar.

Learn firsthand from a private investigator, Jacqueline Batista, what geosocial data is, and exactly how this type of information is used to investigate insurance claims of all kinds.

- During this session, you will learn:
- How to utilize real-life case examples to demonstrate this new technology's impact on risk management, law, and insurance.
- How evidence can be uncovered and leveraged in a variety of scenarios.
- Privacy and legal issues and preserving, authenticating, and presenting this type of cyber evidence will also be discussed.

Register [here](#).

TLA: Preparing for and Advocacy at Mediation

This session will take place on **Tuesday, February 27** from 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM via Zoom Webinar.

This program by Jennifer Egsgar, will touch on risk analysis, pre-mediation conferences, content of mediation briefs, practical considerations for multi-party cases, and the underlying interests of the parties as important things to consider before your mediation.

It will also address mediation advocacy, mediator strategies and styles, and how you can create value for your client at mediation even where no settlement is reached.

Register [here](#).



Osgoode PD: Certificate in Family Law Skills and Practice

Over 10 intensive modules – spread out over 3 months – you will work closely with and receive personalized feedback from senior family law judges, experienced counsel, and specially trained simulated clients. With hands-on skills workshops and interactive, discussion-based lectures you will acquire the key foundational knowledge and practical skills you need to practice family law with confidence.

The first module will be held on **Wednesday, February 28**. Given the interactive nature of this program, space is strictly limited. **Reserve your place now to take advantage of this unique learning opportunity by clicking [here](#).**

TLA: How to Use Arbitration in the Face of Court Delays to Save Your Clients Time, Money, and Headaches in Any Dispute

This session will take place on **Tuesday, March 26** from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM via Zoom Webinar.

Join Eric Morgan, Arbitration Place and Kushneryk Morgan LLP for an insightful discussion on *how you can best use arbitration to resolve your clients' disputes quickly, efficiently and cost-effectively*.

You will be learning about practical tips and strategies for how to lay the foundations for successful arbitrations. The discussion will also include ethical and professional issues in arbitration including arbitrator conflicts and independence and interviewing arbitrators.

Register [here](#).

TLA: Estate Law Round-Up

This session will take place on **Wednesday, March 27** from 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM via Zoom Webinar.

This annual Estates program will continue this year with a review of various timely topics impacting the Estate and Trust practitioner. Ian M. Hull, Jordan M. Atin, Jonathon Kappy, Suzana Popovic-Montag, will be discussing topics on:

- Initial Steps in Estate Administrations
- Dealing with Foreign Assets
- Review of Common Estate Claims
- Executors Compensation
- Litigating Insolvent Estates
- Estate Administration Issues Relating to Receipts, Releases and Indemnities
- Undue Influence – “A Ball of Wax”
- Wills for Typical Situations
- Trusts for Residences
- Planning for Unusual Assets



Register [here](#).

Osgoode PD: Access Canada's leading Professional LLM from the comfort of your home.

Osgoode's Part-Time Professional LLM is designed to fit into your busy life, allowing you to pursue professional development goals while working full-time. The option for interactive online learning enables you to engage with peers and instructors across the globe in real-time, from anywhere in Ontario.

Choose from these specializations:

- Administrative Law
- Business Law
- Canadian Common Law
- Constitutional Law
- Construction Law
- Criminal Law and Procedure
- Dispute Resolution
- Energy and Infrastructure Law
- Financial Law
- General Law
- Health Law
- Intellectual Property Law
- International Business Law
- Labour and Employment Law
- Privacy and Cybersecurity Law
- Securities Law
- Taxation Law

Now accepting applications for programs starting in Fall 2024. The deadline is **May 1, 2024**.

Find out more about pursuing your Professional LLM [here](#).

Job and Appointment Opportunities

ACTO (Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario)

ACTO is seeking community members (persons not employed at a clinic) who live or work in Northern or Eastern regions who are passionate about tenant's rights and the progressive realization of adequate housing to join our Board. We are specifically looking for applicants who have current or past experience with housing precarity or is a current renter.



The Board is accepting applications on a rolling basis until all community vacancies have been filled. You can find more information on the posting [here](#).

Licence Appeal Tribunal (Tribunals Ontario)

To view advertised available positions, please click [here](#). Please note that the deadline to apply is **Sunday, February 11**.



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