

# FOLA News

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

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*The FOLA Newsletter is distributed to FOLA member associations. If you wish to subscribe, please do so at our website here: <https://www.foia.ca/category/newsletter/>*



*Featured Member Rewards Partners in this Issue:*





## Important Information

### FOLA Fall 2024 Plenary – Your Feedback

Thank you for attending the plenary! Your participation is valued and the plenary continues to be the best way for member associations to work on ideas and problems facing our profession and the justice system. This fall we responded to your feedback by aking the plenary more interactive. We are always trying to improve! Please fill out [this survey](#) to help us make the next plenary even better!

### A Successful LSO A2J Week 2024

FOLA participates annually in LSO's A2J 2024 week. This year we held a panel on October 30, 2024 titled "Answers to Your Everyday Legal Questions". Thanks to Cheryl C.M. Siran, Ashley Gibson, Terry Brandon, Laura Dickson, and Jennifer S. Rooke for volunteering! The panel took questions from the public and were well received.

### Thank you Doug, and welcome Sam!

FOLA thanks outgoing chair Doug Judson for his exemplary work representing our members and advocating for a better justice system. Learn more about Sam in our [press release here](#). We are excited to welcome Sam Misheal to the chair!

### Law Society Awards – Call for Nominations

Each year the Law Society of Ontario proudly recognizes Ontario lawyers and paralegals who have made outstanding contributions to the legal professions.

Nominations are now open for the 2025 Law Society of Ontario Awards for the following 5 categories:

**Law Society Medal**

Outstanding Service

**William J. Simpson Distinguished Paralegal Award**

Outstanding professional achievement

**Lincoln Alexander Award**

Community Service

**Laura Legge Award**

Leadership

**J. Shirley Denison Award**

Commitment to access to justice and/or poverty issues.



We encourage you to nominate local members who you feel meet the criteria for any of the 5 awards. You can find more detailed information regarding the Awards and the Nomination process [here](#).

**Please note that the deadline for Nominations is December 13.**

## **LAO Call For Nominations – Sidney B. Linden Access to Justice Award**

Do you know someone who has shown a long-standing commitment to supporting access to justice for low-income people in Ontario? Is there a person who regularly goes above and beyond to help? If so, please consider nominating them for the Sidney B. Linden Access to Justice Award! The deadline for submission is 5:00 p.m. **Friday, December 6**.

This award is named after Justice **Sidney B. Linden**, the first chair of Legal Aid Ontario (LAO), who has been involved with legal aid for over 38 years. The Sidney B. Linden Access to Justice Award created by LAO honours exceptional individuals who have demonstrated ongoing support and help to low-income people in Ontario by giving their time, expertise, or service to promote access to justice.

### **Who is eligible?**

- Lawyers in the private sector
- Community legal clinic staff
- People who work at a student legal aid services society
- Paralegals
- Academics
- LAO staff lawyers and employees
- Other professionals

### **Nominate someone!**

Please consider nominating someone you know by completing the [nomination form](#) and sending it [tearlek@lao.on.ca](mailto:tearlek@lao.on.ca).

## **Current Consultations**

### **LSO – Call for Comment: Towards More Effective Governance — Governance & Electoral Reforms at the Law Society of Ontario**

The LSO's Governance Review Task Force requests input on a foundational set of future changes for a new governance model for the LSO. The changes can significantly impact how and to what extent your association can be represented at the LSO. For more information see [the Governance and electoral Reforms website](#).

FOLA will be submitting feedback by the LSO's deadline of **January 31, 2025**. Please provide any comments on the LSO website and/or to FOLA Director of Policy & Advocacy, Ian Hu, at [ian.hu@fola.ca](mailto:ian.hu@fola.ca)



## LSO – Considering Increased Transparency: Licensee Reporting and Disclosure to the Public

The LSO is considering disclosing charges and convictions against lawyers, amongst other things, in its Lawyer and Paralegal Directory. In particular:

- Require that licensees report additional information to the Law Society that is relevant to their practise of law or provision of legal services, including a more comprehensive list of criminal and other charges, findings of guilt, business and trade names, and licensure in other provinces.
- Disclose on the Lawyer and Paralegal Directory some of that information, where it is in the public interest, is relevant to the licensee's professional business and obligations as a licensee, and/or which can be ascertained from other public sources. This includes certain criminal and other charges and findings of guilt and when an investigation is underway, where disclosure is in the public interest.

You can provide your own opinion on the [LSO's consultation page for this program here](#). You can also provide your feedback to FOLA by emailing Ian Hu, Director of Policy and Advocacy, at [ian.hu@fola.ca](mailto:ian.hu@fola.ca). FOLA will be submitting feedback to the LSO by the deadline of **November 30**.

## Ontario Courts Digital Transformation

Ontario's Courts Digital Transformation (CDT) initiative is a key modernization effort by the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General (MAG), the Ontario Superior Court of Justice (SCJ), and the Ontario Court of Justice (OCJ). This initiative aims to replace Legacy technology, standardize processes, and integrate systems to significantly transform the way justice is delivered in Ontario.

Members of the Judiciary, Court staff, Private Bar, Crown counsel, Self-represented parties, Police as well as Broader Public Sector users, all stand to benefit from this new solution.

### Key Features of the new Digital Justice Solution

The new digital justice solution will be implemented province-wide over 7-years, with the first phase scheduled to Launch in Summer 2025 for the Toronto region.

A brand-new public facing portal will replace the existing Justice Services Online platform for stakeholders and the public. The online solution will enable: easy and 24/7 access to case documents one-time document submission secure tracking of case documents online fee payment and quick access to court documents Like orders and endorsements.

### Sign up for feedback and updates!

FOLA is participating and giving feedback at various stages of the CDT. You may [sign up here](#) to provide feedback directly to the program or email FOLA Director of Policy and Advocacy, Ian Hu, at [ian.hu@fola.ca](mailto:ian.hu@fola.ca).



## **MAG - Discount Rate Subcommittee of the Civil Rules Committee**

The Discount Rate Subcommittee of the Civil Rules Committee seeks feedback regarding a number of issues, please [click here](#) for more information. The deadline is **December 1**. Please provide your feedback directly to the MAG or email FOLA Director of Policy and Advocacy, Ian Hu, at [ian.hu@fola.ca](mailto:ian.hu@fola.ca).

## **Recent FOLA Submissions**

### **LSO – Feasibility of Extending the Certified Specialist (CS) Designation to Paralegals**

We thank you for providing feedback via our survey to the Presidents. We are putting together the comments and will be providing feedback to the LSO.

## **Updates for the Profession**

### **Law Society Licensee Update – October 31, 2024**

Please click [here](#) for the latest LSO Update.

## **Member Rewards**

A reminder that all FOLA members have access to the rewards program here: <https://www.fola.ca/resource/member-rewards/>.

Discounts are available for a number of services and products!



## Osgoode Part-Time Professional LLM



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- International Business Law
- Labour and Employment Law
- Privacy and Cybersecurity Law
- Securities Law
- Taxation Law

Now accepting applications for programs starting in Fall 2025. Deadline: May 1, 2025  
Find out more about pursuing your Professional LLM at: [osgoodepd.ca/foia](https://osgoodepd.ca/foia)





## Alexi

FOLA Members, receive 10 free AI-generated research memos over a 2-week period when you sign up [here](#) and use the discount code "FOLA".

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Alexi has been serving law firms in Canada since 2018, and our AI is trained on tens of millions of questions and answers from real cases. Alexi is like having an army of associates.

## Clio

FOLA members **get an exclusive 10% off Clio**—the leading cloud-based legal tech suite.

### Why Choose Clio?

- **Streamline Your Practice:** Make case management effortless, enhance client communication, simplify transactions, and automate your document handling for greater efficiency.
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- **Drive The Best Outcomes:** Focus on supporting your clients, maximizing their settlements, and closing their cases faster, with Clio's Personal Injury add-on.

As a FOLA member, you're entitled to a 10% discount on Clio products. [Dive into your free trial or claim your discount today](#). Already a Clio user? Great! Secure your discount by emailing [affinity.partners@clio.com](mailto:affinity.partners@clio.com). Plus Clio will be at the upcoming Plenary so you can connect with the Clio team there.



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## Hilton



### 11% CORPORATE DISCOUNT AND GLOBAL 9% CHAIN-WIDE DISCOUNT

Members of the Federation of Ontario Law Associations can enjoy a 11% corporate discount at select Hilton Hotels and, in addition, have a 9% chain-wide discount at all other Hilton Hotels Globally. Discounts are subject to availability and valid for both business and personal travel.

### ACCESSING SPECIAL RATES

Corporate travelers can book using the client ID to the right for each Brand. Enter the number when booking at Hilton.com and under 'Special Rate,' type the associated Client ID in the Corporate Account box.

OR

Simply click on this Booking Link to go right to a reservation page with your Client IDs already linked:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/preferred-rates/foia/>

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GLOBAL: Embassy Suites, DoubleTree by Hilton, Homewood Suites, Hampton by Hilton, Home2 Suites	0003083059
International (Except Americas): Hilton and DoubleTree	112183059





## 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 complete the form that can be found [here](#) and submit to both Ian Hu ([ian.hu@fola.ca](mailto:ian.hu@fola.ca)) Kelly Lovell ([kelly.lovell@fola.ca](mailto:kelly.lovell@fola.ca)).

Event details are also listed on the calendar on FOLA's website [here](#).

### Canadian Collaborative for Engagement & Conflict Management – Foundational Arbitration Workshop

Arbitration, although considered a form of alternative dispute resolution, is an adversarial process based on findings of fact and the legal results arising from those facts. Arbitrators must decide matters in accordance with law and equity. The arbitrator's role is not to help work out a settlement, but to render a decision. The most important skills that an arbitrator must have are the ability to control the process and to decide on the evidence and law presented by the parties. Using a variety of interactive training techniques, you will develop and refine practical skills for arbitrating disputes. Attendees will consider process design, conducting the hearing and writing awards that offer parties closure. This 40-hour workshop approved by the ADR Institute of Ontario towards a professional Chartered Arbitrator designation. Dates and times are **February 4 to 6, 2025 and February 11-13, 2025** from 12:00 pm to 6:00 PM EST. [Register online here for a 15% discount exclusive to FOLA members.](#)

### Osgoode PD - 19th Annual: The Civil Litigator's Survival Guide to Evidence

Evidence can make or break your case! Stay current so you have the tools you need to build a successful litigation strategy with OsgoodePD's 19<sup>th</sup> annual one-day program. Join a distinguished faculty of leading judges and senior practitioners covering topics such as: hearsay, evidence in motions and applications, techniques for handling experts before and during trial, Tips from the Bench, and more. The online (live) program takes place **January 22, 2025**, or register for the **March 26, 2025** online replay. Learn more and register [here](#).

### Toronto Law Association – Top 6 in 60: The 6 Recent Cases from the SCC You Must Know

This session will take place on **Wednesday, December 4 from 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm** via **Zoom Webinar**.

Join legal powerhouse Earl Cherniak K.C. and criminal defence counsel Ian Kasper for an engaging, fast-paced, and insightful hour of legal debriefing. In this dynamic session, you'll dissect six pivotal Supreme Court of Canada decisions from 2023 and 2024 that are must-knows for any lawyer.

FOLA members have an exclusive discount using the discount code **FOLADEC2024**

[Register here](#)



## Toronto Law Association – How to Support Your Neurodivergent Colleagues

This session will take place on Tuesday, December 10 from 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm via Zoom Webinar. In this online seminar, Simon Margolis will tell his story and will set some ground points on how to better support your neurodivergent colleagues. He will focus primarily on supporting neurodivergent lawyers who are already employed but will also include tips on recruitment. Simon will also explain what distinguishes neurodiversity from many other DEI/EDI initiatives and the potential pitfalls of some remedial measures that employers may take to assist their neurodivergent employees.

FOLA members have an exclusive discount using the discount code **FOLADEC2024**

[Register here](#)

## Appointment and Job Opportunities

Judicial vacancies and job opportunities are free to advertise. Please submit your opportunities to FOLA Director of Policy & Advocacy, Ian Hu, at [ian.hu@fola.ca](mailto:ian.hu@fola.ca)

## Three Judicial Vacancies – Fort Frances/Kenora, Kenora, and Thunder Bay

For more information [click here](#). **Deadline to apply: December 10.**

## Halton Region 2025-2026 Articling Opportunities

Halton Region's Legal Services division is currently accepting applications to fill three (3) Articling Student positions for the 2025 - 2026 term. For more information [click here](#). All applications or inquiries are to be submitted to [articling@halton.ca](mailto:articling@halton.ca) by **December 2**.



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<sup>1</sup> Offer subject to change. \*Price includes \$10/mo. Autopay credit. <sup>5</sup> One time Connection Service Fee (\$70) applies. New activations only. \*\*Over 24 months compared to our device full price with new activation of a Samsung Galaxy S24 128 GB or Google Pixel 9 128 GB with Bell SmartPay™ on a 2-yr eligible plan. <sup>6</sup>