



FOLA News

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Important Information

Civil Rules Review – Thank You and Please Continue To Help!

Thank you for all who attended the April 16 Town Hall with the Civil Rules Review Working Group chairs and managed to work through a global Zoom outage! We have recently sent a letter to the Attorney General of Ontario requesting an extension of time and an in-person meeting. We encourage all Associations to advocate and write letters to the Attorney General, their local MPPs, the CRR Working Group, and politicians and judiciary (including in-person “bench and bar” meetings). You can view our ongoing efforts and stay updated on our website: [FOLA Submission: Civil Rules Review](#).

We thank The Advocates Society for making available and free their recording of their CRR Town Hall held on April 10, [click here to view](#). The Toronto Lawyers Association will also be hosting a CRR Town Hall, free for all, on May 21, [click here to register](#). And for those that missed our CRR Town Hall, we have a recording of the Q&A available – please email Kelly Lovell, Executive Assistant, at kelly.lovell@fola.ca for the link and password.

We have also created an email-list of Association representatives. If you want to be on the list please send a request to Ian Hu, Director of Policy & Advocacy, at ian.hu@fola.ca.

FOLA Spring Plenary 2025

The Spring Plenary will take place from **May 14 to May 16** at the Hilton Doubletree in downtown Toronto. The website is at <https://www.fola.ca/plenary/> with a draft agenda and documents for the general meeting.

LSO CEO Controversy & Corporate Governance

FOLA wrote to the LSO Treasurer on March 11 to request the release of the O’Connor report. On March 27 the report was released. On April 27 the FOLA Board met with the LSO Treasurer to discuss the matter. Convocation is taking steps toward implementing the O’Connor report recommendations. We continue to monitor the situation and communicate with the LSO. [Click here to view the FOLA letter to LSO Treasurer urging release of O’Connor Report, and related documents on our website](#).

2025 FOLA Awards Series – Nominations Wanted

FOLA invites you to nominate a deserving candidate for the 2025 Awards Series! Information is on our website at <https://www.fola.ca/awards/>. For those that put in nominations for the 2024 Award Series, those nominations are on file and will be considered as well.



Current Consultations

SABA & LSO Research Recruitment – Experience of Racialized LGBTQIA+ Lawyers in Ontario

I Sky Consulting, a full-service equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility (EDIA) consulting firm, is partnering with the South Asian Bar Association of Toronto (SABA) on completing a Law Society of Ontario (LSO) research project examining the experiences of racialized LGBTQIA+ lawyers in Ontario. The research is requesting participation through a survey and/or focus group.

They are conducting a survey will be open from May 1-31 and focus groups will be offered at either May 6 (12pm-1pm) or May 13 (6pm-7pm). Please [click here for the flyer](#) and participation information.

LSO Bulk Payments – How's it going?

What is your firm's experience dealing with bulk payments? We are gathering your input to determine if any steps need to be taken to advocate for you. Please email your comments to Ian Hu, Director of Policy & Advocacy, at ian.hu@fola.ca.

Recent FOLA Submissions

Increase to Small Claims Court claims to \$50,000

On April 11 the Ministry of the Attorney General requested feedback regarding a potential increase to the monetary jurisdiction of the Small Claims Court from \$35,000 to \$50,000 and a complementary increase to the minimum appeal amount from \$3,500 to \$5,000. [Click here to view the MAG's letter requesting feedback.](#)

FOLA submitted comments on **April 22**. [Click here to view FOLA's submission.](#)

LSO Indigenous Cultural Training Course Consultation

The LSO requested feedback on this course, [click here to access the LSO's consultation website.](#)

We thank you for your feedback! Based on your comments, we submitted our letter to the LSO on **April 14**, [click here to view.](#)

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

We submitted our comments **January 31**, [click here to view.](#) We understand that this consultation has been delayed due to the LSO CEO controversy.



Updates for the Profession

LSO Licensee Update – February 27, 2025

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

Toronto Region – RSJ Firestone Memorandum Re Civil List Matters – April 7

[Click here](#) for the memorandum from RSJ Firestone.

Featured Member Rewards

A reminder that all members of FOLA county and district law associations have access to the rewards program here: <https://www.fola.ca/resource/member-rewards/>. If you have any questions or issues accessing the member rewards, please contact Kelly Lovell, Executive Assistant, at kelly.lovell@fola.ca.

Discounts are available for a number of services and products! Below are the featured member rewards; more can be found on the website!

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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. Plus Clio will be at the upcoming Plenary so you can connect with the Clio team there.



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Now accepting applications for programs starting in Fall 2025. Deadline: May 1, 2025

Find out more about pursuing your Professional LLM at: osgoodepd.ca/fola



Windsor Law – 3L Resume Book

Windsor Law is thrilled to present our annual 3L resume book, showcasing exceptionally talented, diverse and competitive students who are seeking paid articling positions for the 2025-2026 term. Please reach out to windsorcso@uwindsor.ca for a complimentary electronic copy of this valuable resource. We hope this resume book will help you meet your hiring needs.

The image shows a modern, bright interior space, likely a library or student lounge, with several people sitting at tables. In the foreground, a man and two women are seated around a white circular table, engaged in conversation. A laptop and a water bottle are on the table. A grey backpack with the Windsor Law logo is on the floor next to them. The background shows other students and a large window. The Windsor Law logo is prominently displayed in the upper right corner of the image.

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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) Kelly Lovell (kelly.lovell@fola.ca).

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

Featured Promotion

Hamilton Law Association – 23rd Annual Advocacy Conference – May 1

On **May 1** from 8:45AM to 4:15 PM at the Hamilton Convention Centre, the HLA hosts the 23rd Annual Advocacy Conference, hosted by Joseph Sullivan and Allen Wynperle. Highlights include presentations by the Honourable Justice Michael Bordin on the state of the courts, Jacob Damstra on the Civil Rules Review, Professor Marvin Ryder on World Economic Uncertainty, and much more.

[Register here](#)

County And District Law Associations

County of Carleton Law Association – Civil Rules Review Town Hall – April 30

The CCLA has struck a CCLA Consultation Working Group – Civil Rules Review (“Working Group”) for its members. The Working Group is preparing submissions to the CRR on the proposed changes. The CCLA recognizes that many of its members are against certain rule changes while also being in favour of others. As such, the CCLA wants to emphasize that it is not there to advocate for any one position. Instead, the role of the CCLA is to amplify the voices of its members by highlighting how the proposed rule changes will practically impact each member’s practice differently. We believe that the CRR may benefit from practical, practice based feedback.

[Register here](#)

Toronto Lawyers Association – How to Build a Law Firm: Part 2, Business Planning 101 for Lawyers – May 6

This session will take place on Tuesday, **May 6** from 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm via Zoom Webinar. Join us for the second program in our new series on creating your own law firm! Starting your own law firm can be one of the most rewarding yet challenging endeavors of your legal career. This six-session series will guide you through the critical steps of building a successful law practice, from finding your niche to managing risk. Learn from experienced practitioners across various areas of law and gain practical insights into the business of law firm management.

Part 2: Building Your Firm from the Ground Up: The Essential Business Plan



Starting a law firm involves more than just legal work—it's about creating a solid business foundation. This session covers everything you need to get your firm off the ground, from operations and office space to staffing, IT, and budgeting. Learn how to structure your law firm for long-term success and profitability.

[Register here](#)

Toronto Lawyers Association - Evidence Fundamentals for Litigators – May 22

This session will take place on Thursday, May 22 from 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm via Zoom Webinar. In the ever-changing landscape of evidence law, staying current is crucial. This CPD program will reinforce fundamental evidentiary principles, review the latest case law, and sharpen your skills in handling evidence, from pre-trial to courtroom strategies for jury and judge alone trials.

Program Highlights:

- Materiality: What the case law says about materiality and why it's crucial to your case.
- Relevance: How to define relevance and effectively use it in objections.
- Balancing Probative Value vs. Prejudicial Effect: Understanding how the courts weigh these competing factors.
- Exclusionary Rules: The latest updates on expert evidence, hearsay, privilege, and more.

Keep pace with emerging issues in evidence law and gain the edge you need to succeed in the courtroom.

[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

Judicial Vacancies: OCJ – Sault Ste Marie, Thunder Bay

Deadline for London and Oshawa openings is **May 2**.

Apply via the [JAAC website here](#).



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