



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

2025 FOLA Fall Plenary

November 12 to 14
Ottawa, Ontario

Welcome to Ottawa!

On behalf of the Board and Executive of the Federation of Ontario Law Associations, welcome to our Fall Plenary. Twice each year, our community gathers to reconnect, learn, and advocate together on the issues that matter most to Ontario's legal profession.

This plenary comes at a moment when the justice system and our profession face tremendous change, from the Law Society's ongoing reforms and the modernization of Ontario's civil rules, to the increasing role of AI in practice and the pressures of recruitment and retention across the province. FOLA is proud to be a strong and credible voice advancing these conversations.

Over the next two days, we'll share insights on key challenges in civil, criminal, family, and estates law, and explore new tools and approaches to strengthen our associations and our practices. We are especially proud to highlight our role as an intervener at the Supreme Court of Canada.

We thank all the presidents, directors, and staff of Ontario's law associations for your leadership and dedication. Together, we build the networks, share the ideas, and create the momentum that improve access to justice and strengthen our profession. And last but not least, thanks to the plenary planning committee who have helped make this all happen: Katie Black, Kelly Lovell, Curtis Pineiro, Karen Seeley, Danielle Vincent.

We look forward to connecting with you throughout this plenary, and to carrying forward our shared mission of supporting Ontario's lawyers, law associations, and the communities we serve.

Sincerely,

Allen Wynperle

Allen Wynperle
Chair

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WIFI Network: Brookstreet_Meeting
Wifi Code: Brookstreet2025

Wednesday, November 12

8:00 PM -
10:00 PM

Welcome Reception - Pub Night @ Calabogie Brewing (Kanata)

Join your fellow Presidents and delegates for a casual pub night! Shuttles will be available.

Unit 130, 105 Schneider Rd, Kanata

Thursday, November 13 - Brookstreet Hotel

7:30 AM -
4:30 PM

Registration Open

Collect your nametag at our registration table.
Newbridge I & II – 1st Floor
Brookstreet Hotel, 525 Legget Dr, Kanata



7:45 AM - 9:00 AM	Breakfast and Networking Buffet breakfast is included with your registration.	
9:00 AM - 9:15 AM	Call to Order, Welcoming Remarks from the Chair, and Roll Call of the Presidents Opening remarks from Allen Wynperle, Chair of FOLA, and, in a time-honoured tradition, presidents are invited to introduce the members of their delegation.	Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allen Wynperle, Chair, FOLA• You!
9:15 AM - 9:20 AM	Welcoming Remarks from the County of Carleton Law Association CCLA President Katie Black welcomes us to Ottawa!	Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Katie Black, President, County of Carleton Association
9:20 AM - 10:25 AM	Committee Chairs' Reports Reports will be presented from FOLA's Real Estate, Family Law, Legal Aid, Estates and Criminal Law committees. For follow-up purposes or feedback, you will find their contact information printed on the last page of this document.	Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Laura Oliver, Central West Representative and Family Law Committee Co-Chair, FOLA• Logan Rathbone, Family Law Committee Co-Chair, FOLA• Mark Giavedoni, 2nd Vice Chair and Real Estate Committee Chair, FOLA• Terry Brandon, Legal Aid Committee Chair, FOLA• Andrew Keesmaat, Estates Law Committee Chair, FOLA• Karen Seeley, Northwest Representative and Criminal Law Committee Chair, FOLA
10:25 AM - 10:40 AM	Break	
10:40 AM – 11:10 AM	LiRN Update Discover what's new at the Legal Information & Resource Network, from collections to physical spaces and the development of the network.	Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Theresa Leitch, LiRN Managing Director



11:10 AM - 11:30 AM	FOLA as Intervener at the SCC: <i>English Montreal School Board</i> FOLA steps onto the national stage as an intervener in the landmark English Montreal School Board case. The Saskatchewan UR Pride appeal may also be heard at the same time. This session will explore the issues at stake, FOLA's role, and what the outcome could mean for justice and the relationships between governments and the courts in Canada.	Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Katie Black, Black & Associates, CCLA Chair• Allen Wynperle, Chair, FOLA
11:30 AM - 12:00 PM	LAWPRO	Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dan Pinnington, CEO, LAWPRO
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Lunch	
1:00 PM - 1:20 PM	Law Society of Ontario Update Hear directly from the Law Society of Ontario on the latest developments impacting the profession.	Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Priya Bhatia, Interim CEO, LSO
1:20 PM - 1:50 PM	Federation of Law Societies of Canada The Federation of Law Societies of Canada will provide a nation-wide perspective on justice issues and the profession.	Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teresa Donnelly, President, FLSC
1:50 PM – 2:30 PM	Transitioning Into a Practice How do you take over an established practice? This session will explore practical strategies for taking over a practice, transitioning files and clients, and ensuring continuity. Also covered will be the flip side, that is, transitioning out of a practice.	Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Curtis Pineiro, Central East Representative, FOLA• Nathan Higgins, EDH Law• Nicole Truman, Fox Law



2:30 PM –
3:00 PM

Executive Performance Skills for Lawyers

Excellence in practice requires more than legal expertise. This session explores the executive-level skills that can help you become a partner or flourish as a sole practitioner: leadership, business development, communication, and professional presence. Gain insight into how to cultivate these abilities to elevate your practice and strengthen your impact within the profession.

Speakers:

- Karen Seeley, Northwest Representative and Criminal Law Committee Chair, FOLA
- Oliver Gleeson, President, Salient Map Executive Consultancy

3:00 PM –
3:10 PM

Break: Go to the next Breakout session!



3:10 PM –
3:45 PM

Breakout Sessions

Speakers:

A:

Newbridge I & II – 1st Floor

Associations Engagement - Roundtable

The strength of every law association lies in its members. From Toronto and Simcoe County, our speakers will share strategies for deepening member engagement, attracting new members, and demonstrating the value of participation. Learn practical approaches and fresh ideas to help your association build stronger connections and a more vibrant community.

- Joan Rataic-Lang, Executive Director, Toronto Lawyers Association
- George Hawtin, Executive Director, Simcoe County Law Association

B:

Newbridge IV – 1st Floor

Civil Rules Roundtable

With significant changes to Ontario's civil rules underway, this roundtable offers an opportunity to hear updates, share perspectives, and discuss the practical impact on lawyers and their clients. Join colleagues from across the province to consider how these reforms affect daily practice and what further improvements may be needed.

- Kevin Cooke, Ad Hoc Civil Litigation Committee Chair, East Region Representative, FOLA

C:

Newbridge V- 1st Floor

People-Centred Ethics & Practice in Ontario Family Law

Ontario's family law practitioners face cases shaped by trauma, cultural complexity, systemic barriers, and family violence—realities that challenge traditional models of professionalism. This session, based on findings from the 2025–26 OBA Foundation Chief Justice of Ontario Fellowship in Legal Ethics and Professionalism, draws on the lived experiences of more than 90 lawyers. It offers trauma-informed, people-centred strategies to navigate ethical dilemmas, support diverse clients with dignity, and reimagine professionalism in ways that strengthen both access to justice and lawyer well-being.

- Archana Medhekar, AM Law Office

3:45 PM –
4:00 PM

Break - Go to next Breakout session!



4:00 PM -
4:35 PM

Breakout Sessions

A:

Newbridge I & II – 1st Floor

LiRN Resources: AI Tools

From research shortcuts to practice support, AI tools are rapidly reshaping how lawyers access and use information. This session will highlight the AI resources available through LiRN, how to access them, and what lawyers across Ontario are finding most useful so far. Learn what's working, what's popular, and how these tools can support your day-to-day practice.

Speakers:

- Theresa Leitch, LiRN Managing Director
- Curtis Pineiro, Central East Representative, FOLA

B:

Newbridge IV- 1st Floor

Estates Law Roundtable

With estates practice evolving alongside demographic shifts, legislative change, and increasing client needs, this roundtable offers a chance to share experiences and explore emerging challenges.

- Andrew Keesmaat, Estates Committee Chair, FOLA

C:

Newbridge V- 1st Floor

Criminal Law Roundtable

Karen Seeley and Danielle Vincent

From security at courthouses to evolving trial practices, criminal lawyers face a rapidly changing landscape. This roundtable brings together practitioners to exchange insights on current issues, share practical strategies, and discuss how to better support clients and colleagues in Ontario's criminal justice system.

- Karen Seeley, Northwest Representative and Criminal Law Committee Chair, FOLA
- Danielle Vincent, Northeast Representative, FOLA

4:35 PM -
6:30 PM

Free Time

6:30 PM -
9:00 PM

Law Society Treasurer's Reception and Dinner Dinner at Marshes Golf Club

A time-honoured tradition at FOLA plenaries is the dinner hosted by the Treasurer of the Law Society.

Shuttles will take you to:
320 Terry Fox Drive, Kanata

Speakers:

- Michael Geist, Canada Research Chair in Internet and E-commerce Law, University of Ottawa

Sponsor:

- Law Society of Ontario



9:00 PM -
12:00 AM

Hospitality Suite
Celtic Ballroom, 1st Floor
Brookstreet Hotel

Sponsor:
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Our hospitality suite is generously provided by LAWPRO,
our platinum sponsor.

Friday, November 14

9:00 AM -
9:55 AM

Regional Breakfast Meetings
Newbridge I & II – 1st Floor
Brookstreet Hotel

Start the day with breakfast with the delegates from
your region of Ontario. Your breakfast is included with
registration.

9:55 AM –
10:00 AM

Plenary Survey!

10:00 AM –
10:15 AM

FOLA General Meeting

The General Meeting brings together association
leaders to review FOLA's business, discuss key priorities,
and chart the path ahead. This session ensures
members have a voice in shaping the direction of the
organization and advancing the interests of Ontario's
legal community.

10:15 AM -
10:30 AM

LDD
A word from our official sponsor

Speakers:
• Maurizio Romanin

10:30 AM –
10:45 AM

**Break – Check out now then come back for our final
panels!**

10:45 AM -
11:15 AM

Lawyers Financial
A word from our platinum sponsor



11:15 AM –
11:45 PM

30 Tips in 30 Minutes

Looking for quick wins you can put to work right away? This high-energy session delivers a burst of practical advice drawn from the real-world experience of our expert panel. From smarter workflows to client care and courtroom strategies, you'll walk away with actionable ideas to make your practice sharper, faster, and more effective.

Speakers:

- Doug Judson, Past Chair, FOLA
- Katie Black, Black & Associates, CCLA Chair
- Tanya Jenkins, Executive Director, CCLA
- Pamela Lee, Executive Director, Middlesex Law Association
- Corey Wall, Treasurer, FOLA

11:45 PM -
11:55 PM

Final Remarks, Lunch, and Departure

A final word to wrap-up before lunch and departure.

Speaker:

- Jennifer S. Rooke, 1st Vice-Chair, FOLA

12:45 PM

Tour of the Supreme Court of Canada

Step inside Canada's highest court for a 1-hour guided tour that brings the institution to life. Learn about the Court's history, architecture, and role in shaping the country's legal landscape while exploring the chambers where landmark decisions are made. A unique opportunity to connect with the heart of Canadian justice

Shuttle departs at 12:45pm for a 1:15pm tour
Shuttle will return around 2:15pm



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