



January 28, 2026

The Honourable Justice Lara Crawford  
Local Administrative Judge  
Ontario Court of Justice  
Oshawa Courthouse

The Honourable Justice Cecile Applegate  
Regional Senior Judge, Central East  
Ontario Court of Justice

The Honourable Mark L. Edwards  
Regional Senior Judge, Central East  
Ontario Superior Court of justice

The Honourable Doug Downey  
Attorney General, Ontario

The Honourable Michael S. Kerzner  
Solicitor General, Ontario

Via Email ([lara.crawford@ocj-cjo.ca](mailto:lara.crawford@ocj-cjo.ca), [mark.edwards@scj-csj.ca](mailto:mark.edwards@scj-csj.ca), [doug.downey@ontario.ca](mailto:doug.downey@ontario.ca),  
[michael.kerzner@pc.ola.org](mailto:michael.kerzner@pc.ola.org))

Dear Honourable Justices, Attorney General, and Solicitor General:

**Re: Incident at Oshawa Courthouse on January 23, 2026**

I write on behalf of the Federation of Ontario Law Associations (“FOLA”), which represents Ontario’s 46 county and district law associations and their members. Many of our members are lawyers practicing criminal law, in local courts, including the Oshawa courthouse, on a daily basis.

We are aware of the incident involving Sudine Riley that occurred on January 23, 2026 at the Oshawa courthouse. The safety of all participants and individuals who attend courthouses across Ontario is of utmost importance. Any individual who attends a courthouse in Ontario must be safe and feel safe.

We are shocked and appalled by the very serious allegation of an assault by multiple officers on a racialized female lawyer. The attack on a defence counsel is an attack on the rule of law. Defence counsel do not just represent clients but are Officers of the Court who are sworn to uphold the administration of justice. We are a vital stakeholder in the justice system.

Steps must be taken to ensure that all licensees can access Ontario court spaces without intimidation, harassment, or violence by police, security, or any state actors.

Local courthouses are the bastion of Charter Rights and must be a place where the Charter of Rights and Freedoms is respected. No one entering a courthouse should be subject to a

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violation of their section 9 rights against arbitrary detention or have the section 7 right to life, liberty and security of the person violated, while in the very place that those rights are enforced and preserved.

We call on all involved, to ensure a swift, thorough, and impartial investigation into this incident. And if this is revealed to be part of a negative culture, that it be rooted out and replaced with one fitting for the Oshawa court and all courthouses across Ontario.

We also call on all involved to implement policies, procedures, and training that recognize and reflect that all licensees, including those in the private bar, are a vital stakeholder in the justice system. All stakeholders must be able to work in safety and security within Ontario's courthouses.

Should you have any questions or require further details, do not hesitate to reach out to Ian Hu, our Director of Policy and Advocacy, at [ian.hu@fola.ca](mailto:ian.hu@fola.ca) or by calling (705) 818-9094.

Sincerely,

*Allen Wynjperle*

Allen Wynjperle  
Chair, FOLA

cc.

Vaia Pappas  
Director, Operational Support Branch  
Court Services Division  
Ministry of the Attorney General