



FOLA News

Issue 24: February 20, 2026

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Important Information

2026 FOLA Spring Plenary – Save the Date! May 12 to 14 in Toronto

We are working on the 2026 FOLA Spring Plenary, which will take place at the downtown Toronto Hilton Doubletree from May 12 to May 14. We are happy to announce that the Attorney General of Ontario, Doug Downey, will give a keynote speech for the dinner on May 12.

If you have any questions please contact Kelly Lovell at Kelly.Lovell@fola.ca.

Lobby Day

Lobby Day will take place on March 26, 2026. Thank you for those signing up! We have invited Ministers and MPPs and will provide an update once the agenda is finalized.

Real Estate Update – December 15, 2026

The [December 15, 2025 Real Estate Update](#) contains important information for real estate lawyers. FOLA is working on advocacy regarding the wiring of funds, and welcome any feedback.

Further to the release of the December 15 update, we are now advised that the Province of Ontario is delaying the implementation of the 10-day rescission (cooling-off period) for construction of new homes, which was intended to be January 1, 2026. It will now be implemented as of January 1, 2027. Please note this correction in the event that you are advising your clients of same. Thanks to Real Estate Committee Chair and 2nd Vice Chair, Mark Giavedoni for drafting the update!

Oshawa Courthouse Incident

FOLA responded to this incident with an [open letter to stakeholders](#) and a [press release](#). The [Law Times](#) covered the issue. We support the Durham Region Law Association in their efforts to ensure a safe courthouse for all. Thanks to FOLA Criminal Law Committee Chair Karen Seeley for spearheading the efforts.



FOLA meets with LSO re Governance Reform

On January 12, 2026 FOLA board members met with benchers and the Treasurer of the Law Society of Ontario to discuss governance reform proposals, and in particular the bencher-representation of areas outside of Toronto. We continue to advocate for a balanced convocation that is not Toronto-centric.

FOLA Provides feedback to LSO A2I 5 year pilot program

Thanks to Curtis Pineiro, Central East Representative, for meeting with and providing feedback to the LSO A2I 5 year pilot program. Please contact Ian Hu, FOLA Director of Policy & Advocacy, at ian.hu@fola.ca, if you have any questions.

Current Consultations

Please contact Ian Hu, Director of Policy & Advocacy, at ian.hu@fola.ca if you have feedback or any questions.

CCLA: Bail Reform

The County of Carleton Law Association has [written a letter to federal and provincial governments](#) to review and remedy conditions at the Ottawa-Carleton Detention Centre and in other institutions. FOLA has requested a meeting at Lobby Day with the Honourable Zee Hamid, Associate Solicitor General for Auto Theft and Bail Reform.

Legal Aid Ontario Surplus

FOLA, as part of the Alliance for Sustainable Legal Aid, met with LAO on January 14th to discuss the LAO's significant budget surplus. We continue to advocate for clarity surrounding the use of the monies and for enhancing the legal aid program.

Civil Rules Review

[The Civil Rules Review Working group has submitted their final report](#) to the Attorney General, which was completed October 31, 2025, and was released to the public on December 15, 2025. Thank you to the CCLA for hosting the presentation by Justice Boswell and Allison Speigel on January 15, 2026. The FOLA sub-committee is considering a further response.



Proposed amendments to Court Rules to implement the new Courts Digital Transformation online filing portal in Toronto

The Attorney General of Ontario is making proposed amendments to authorize use of the new Ontario Courts Public Portal and its operational functions and processes in Toronto courts. [Click here](#) to view the letter from the AG, including more information and how to provide feedback.

Recent FOLA Submissions

FOLA was involved in at least **14** consultations and submissions in 2025. See our advocacy efforts [at our website here](#). Please contact Ian Hu, Director of Policy & Advocacy, at ian.hu@fola.ca if you have feedback or any questions.

LSO: Consultation re Assessment of Lawyer Licensing Candidates

On September 25 the Professional Development and Competence Committee submitted reports to Convocation. Included is a proposal that seeks to overhaul the licensing process by replacing bar exams with a skills-based bar course. [Click here](#) and go to pages 13-28.

FOLA [submitted our response on December 16, 2025](#).

LSO: Consultation re Piloting pro bono services as an eligible activity for Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

The LSO is proposing to allow pro bono services to be an eligible activity for CPD hours. [Click here to view](#).

FOLA [submitted our feedback on November 28, 2025](#).

MAG: Update on changes to the Notary and Commissioner of Taking Affidavits Application Program

FOLA [provided feedback](#) regarding proposals to modernize [Ontario's notary and commissioner for taking affidavits application program](#). MAG provided updates as follows:

The proposals put forward were to:



- 1) extend appointment term lengths from 3 years to 10 years for non-lawyer/non-paralegal notaries public and commissioners for taking affidavits; and
- 2) include additional individuals/positions as commissioners by virtue of office (thereby removing the need for these individuals to apply for a commissioner appointment through the program).

The government reviewed the feedback and advised the following:

- 1) **Effective January 1, 2026**, term lengths for appointments made through the program will be extended **from 3 years to 10 years**. Therefore, any new appointment or renewal of an appointment that is processed and approved as of January 1, 2026 will be for a 10-year term.

[O. Reg. 337/25](#) under the [Commissioners for Taking Affidavits Act](#) and [O. Reg. 338/25](#) under the [Notaries Act](#) have been amended to effect this change.

Appointees will continue to receive a Notice of Approval that sets out details for their appointment (i.e., term length/expiry, limitations). However, certificates of appointment will no longer be issued since the Notice of Approval acts as the appointing instrument confirming authority to act as either a notary public or commissioner.

In addition, these regulations were also amended to:

- remove outdated references that required heads of municipalities to request the appointment of their employees in order for the fee waiver to apply (in both regulations);
 - remove an outdated reference that required the former Ministry of Children and Youth Services to request the appointment of children's aid society employees in order for the fee waiver to apply (in Reg. 76 for commissioners); and
 - confirm fee waivers for employees of a First Nation (in both regulations).
- 2) The ministry continues to consider including additional individuals/positions as commissioners for taking affidavits by virtue of office in accordance with [O. Reg. 386/12: Commissioners and other persons who may take affidavits](#).

Should you have any questions regarding changes to the program, please contact Lynn Dicaire, Manager, Legal Appointments – Operations, at lynn.dicaire@ontario.ca or 613-986-1353.



Updates for the Profession

Digital Information and Repository expanded to OCJ in Northeast and Northwest regions

See the [ADAG CSD Memo to External Stakeholders re Expansion of the DIR Solution in the North](#).

LSO Licensee Update – January 30, 2026

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

Upcoming Change to Document Distribution on the Ontario Courts Public Portal

Effective February 2, 2026, documents will be automatically distributed through the courts' system, replacing the current manual email process used by court staff. This change improves efficiency and ensures timely delivery of court documents.

Key Details:

- **Court-Generated Notices, Amended Documents or Issued Documents**
 - When the court generates a notice or amends a document (e.g., endorsements, orders, documents requiring registrar signatures, added court dates, etc.), you will receive a system-generated email with the document attached.
 - If multiple documents are issued, you will receive separate emails from the system. We are exploring a future enhancement of including multiple documents within a single email.
 - Copies of these documents will also be available in Ontario Courts Public Portal (OCPP) to verified parties with designated case access.

- **Documents Submitted via the Ontario Courts Public Portal**
 - When a submitted document is accepted and issued or filed, you will receive a confirmation email.
 - This email does **not** include the document as an attachment; accepted documents can be accessed anytime through the OCPP.

- **Maintaining Updated Contact Information**
 - Legal representatives and parties must ensure that the email address identified in their OCPP account is up to date, and that it matches the email address identified on materials filed with the court and on their Case Center account.

Managing Notifications:

- Email notifications are automatically generated whenever an action occurs (e.g., submission, acceptance).



- Notification preferences can be managed at any time through the OCPP by clicking on the user profile in the top right-hand corner of the page, navigating to the notification preferences page to select which notifications you would like to receive, and saving your preferences. If you do not wish to receive email notifications for certain or all functions listed, please uncheck the appropriate box. For instance, if you do not wish to receive automated emails for endorsements issued by the Court, uncheck the “Document Service Notification” box.
- For more details, please follow [these instructions](#).
- Visit the Public Portal for additional [Helpful Resources and Links](#).

Support Services

For questions about the OCPP, contact the Ministry of Attorney General – Court Services Division Contact Centre:

- CourtsPortal@ontario.ca
- Tel: 647-438-0403
- Toll-free: 1-800-980-4962
- TTY: 416-368-4202
- Toll-free TTY: 1-833-820-0714

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we continue to work toward improving processes.

Notice: Amendments to Rules of Civil Procedure (O. Reg. 2/26 and O. Reg. 3/26)

On January 6, 2026, two new regulations were filed to amend the *Rules of Civil Procedure*, R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 194.

First, [Ontario Regulation 2/26](#) introduces restrictions on parties’ choice of court location and increases judicial authority to transfer proceedings to a new location.

In summary, O. Reg. 2/26 updates Rule 13.1 in two key respects:

- **Rule 13.1.01:** Replaces the existing freedom that plaintiffs and applicants have to choose a court location (unless a statute or rule provides otherwise) with a new requirement for the plaintiff or applicant to commence their proceeding in a court location with which there is a rational connection, on the basis of factors set out in existing rule 13.1.02(2)(b).
- **Rule 13.1.02:** Replaces the existing authority of a Regional Senior Judge (RSJ) to transfer a proceeding to another court location within their region on their own initiative (i.e. without requiring a motion by a party) with a broader authority of any judge or associate judge to transfer a proceeding commenced at their court location to any other court location in the province on their own initiative, on the basis of the existing factors in rule 13.1.02(2)(b). The amendments also clarify that the hearing previously required before the RSJ made a transfer



order continues to be required for all judges contemplating a transfer and specifically designate the hearing as a case conference.

As a housekeeping matter, O. Reg. 2/26 also revokes a prior commencement provision that was already marked as spent.

The amendments in O. Reg. 2/26 respecting judicial authority to transfer proceedings came into force on the day of filing (January 6, 2026), and the amendments respecting parties' obligation to select a rationally connected venue will come into force on February 1, 2026.

Second, [Ontario Regulation 3/26](#) introduces specialized forms for use in various types of motions during appeals in the Court of Appeal and Divisional Court, to support clarity for users. The new forms mirror the existing generic motion form (Form 37A). However, the title of each new form states the type of motion in which it is to be used, the forms contain fillable fields specifically designed for parties in appeal proceedings, and the options for methods of attendance are tailored to the particular court and hearing type. The existing notice of appeal forms have been similarly reformatted, as well as being renumbered.

In summary, O. Reg. 3/26 introduces or modifies the following 8 forms, prescribed in the indicated rules:

- Rule 61.03: New **Form 61A** Notice of Motion for Leave to Appeal to the Divisional Court
- Rule 61.03.1: New **Form 61A.1** Notice of Motion for Leave to Appeal to the Court of Appeal
- Rule 61.04:
 - Renumbered and revised **Form 61A.2** (Notice of Appeal to the Court of Appeal – previously Form 61A)
 - Renumbered and revised **Form 61A.3** (Notice of Appeal to the Divisional Court – previously Form 61A.1)
- Rule 61.16:
 - New **Form 61M** Notice of Motion Before a Single Judge – Court of Appeal
 - New **Form 61N** Notice of Motion Before a Single Judge – Divisional Court
 - New **Form 61O** Notice of Motion Before a Panel – Court of Appeal
 - New **Form 61P** Notice of Motion Before a Panel – Divisional Court

O. Reg. 3/26 also includes:

- Complementary amendments to clarify the form to be used to seek leave to appeal to the Divisional Court in specific circumstances under the *Class Proceedings Act* and the *Rules of Civil Procedure* (rules 12.06 and 62.02) or to seek leave to apply for judicial review (rule 68.01); and
- Housekeeping amendments to reflect the creation of new notice of motion forms and to correct French terminology (rules 37.01, 37.06, 37.10).



The new and revised forms are available for download on the [Ontario Court Forms website](#).

The amendments in O. Reg. 3/26 and the incorporated forms will come into force on February 1, 2026.

A summary of O. Reg. 2/26 and O. Reg. 3/26 is available on the Regulatory Registry at: [26-MAG001](#).



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 Ian Hu, Director of Policy & Advocacy, at ian.hu@fola.ca or 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!

Clio

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

Until September 30th, get up to three month of Clio for free in the first year!

Why Choose Clio?

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- **Get Continuous Support:** Our dedicated 24/5 support team is here to ensure your experience is smooth and uninterrupted, keeping your practice operational at all times.
- **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.



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.

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- International Business Law
- Labour and Employment Law
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The application window for programs starting in Fall 2026 closes May 1, 2026.

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



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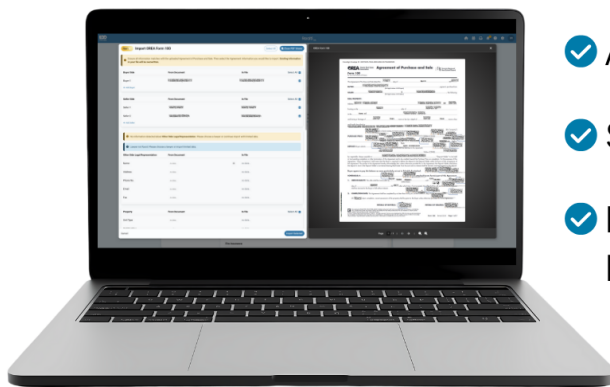
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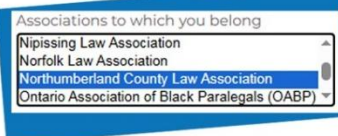
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1. Register as new user, choose 'Personal Email' option
2. Enter **FOLA** in the company/association field and select your company from the drop-down
3. Upload proof of **FOLA** membership (PDF or JPG formats)
4. Check out your exclusive offers from Bell



Hilton



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Flexible ways to spend your Points - the choice is yours.

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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).

Featured Promotions

Sponsor Your Association's Event with the LDD CLE Partnership Program!

LDD, as the Organization Sponsor of FOLA, is proud to launch the CLE Partnership Program—an initiative offering financial and promotional support to help local law associations deliver accredited professional development to their members. This program is designed to make CLE more accessible and flexible, empowering lawyers to stay current in a rapidly evolving legal landscape. Associations interested in participating are invited to contact LDD and [click here to explore how this program can support their CLE efforts](#).



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FOLA members receive 10% off using promo code **FOLA-10**

The Osgoode Certificate in Negotiation - starting **March 27, 2026**

The Osgoode Certificate in Negotiation is a dynamic, learn-by-doing program designed for professionals who want to improve their ability to negotiate effectively in any context. Delivered online, this five-day intensive program combines theoretical insights with practical simulations to help you understand key concepts, redefine your negotiation strategies, and apply proven techniques. [Register today!](#)



County And District Law Associations

Halton County Law Association – Annual General Meeting and Judges’ Night – March 3

The HCLA Annual General Meeting and Judges’ Night will take place on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, from 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM via in-person at the Burlington Golf and Country Club.

The cocktail reception begins at 6:00 pm and Dinner/Award Ceremony at 7:00 pm. The evening will close with a few remarks from the Halton County Law Association.

Register [here](https://haltoncountylaw.ca/event-6473823) (link: <https://haltoncountylaw.ca/event-6473823>)

Toronto Lawyers Association - Ask a Legal Recruiter Anything: Your Career, Your Questions – March 4

This session will take place on Wednesday, March 4, from 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm via Zoom Webinar.

Wondering where the Canadian legal market is headed? Thinking about making a career move but unsure where to start? Whether you're a new lawyer, seasoned associate, partner, or in-house counsel, this is your chance to get insider knowledge directly from a legal recruiter!

The legal landscape is constantly evolving, and staying ahead of the curve is crucial for your career growth. Join us for a FREE, relaxed, and interactive lunch-and-learn session to get the latest scoop on trends, opportunities, and the dos and don'ts of navigating your next career step.

[Register here](#)

Toronto Lawyers Association - Estate Law Roundup: Key Issues for 2026 – March 25

Join the TLA for this year’s highly anticipated annual Estate Law program where we review critical topics that are shaping the future of Estate and Trust practice. The expert panel will discuss the latest trends, legal developments, and essential principles that continue to influence estate planning and litigation.

Discussion Topics Include:

- Review of the top cases of 2025 and their impact on estates practice
- Changing Wills - alterations, codicils and revocation
- The use of AI in an Estates Practice
- Pitfalls in the Practice of Wills and Estates - an update from LawPRO
- Inter vivos gifts and joint assets - recent cases and trends
- Contingency planning for estate lawyers
- Cottage Properties - succession and co-ownership agreements



Whether you're an experienced practitioner or newer to the field, this program will provide practical insights into the pressing issues facing Estate and Trust professionals.

[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

Associate Judge Vacancies – Ottawa (Bilingual) and Toronto

Please see the below job ads for new Associate Judge vacancies in Ottawa and Toronto.

[The posting can be viewed here – Ottawa \(Bilingual\).](#)

[The posting can be viewed here – Toronto.](#)

Apply for a Judicial Appointment: OCJ

Posting Date: December 16, 2025

Shape the future of justice in Ontario.

The Judicial Appointments Advisory Committee (JAAC) is inviting your support in promoting an important opportunity for qualified members of the Bar to serve as judges in the Ontario Court of Justice.

JAAC has recently switched to a new, streamlined pool-based process and is now accepting applications for judicial appointments on a continuous basis across all base court locations in Ontario. Candidates will be assessed and classified for three years from the date of application.

Applicants must have at least a combined 10 years' membership at the Bar in one of the provinces or territories of Canada.

JAAC is committed to ensuring that Ontario's judiciary reflects the excellence and diversity of our legal community. We strongly encourage applications from qualified candidates of diverse backgrounds and experiences.



Why Apply Now?

- This is a meaningful chance to contribute to Ontario's justice system and make a lasting impact on your community.
- Candidates can express interest in judicial appointment in multiple base court locations across the province, and if classified as 'highly recommended' or 'recommended' by JAAC, remain in the pool for three years.
- The Central East, East and West Regions have active vacancies.

Resources for Interested Candidates:

- Access the [Judicial Candidate Information Form](#) and other application materials.
- Subscribe to receive [email notifications](#) about any updates.
- Review JAAC's selection criteria, policies and process on the [JAAC Website](#).
- See the [advertisement](#).



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