



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

2026 FOLA Spring Plenary

May 12 to 14
Toronto, Ontario

Welcome to Toronto!

As I preside over my last plenary as Chair, I reflect on the challenges facing our communities. Governments around the world, including ours, question the rule of law, attack the importance and role of impartial judges, and undermine democracy. Lawyers are disappearing from rural communities, as older lawyers retire and younger lawyers follow promises of higher salaries and urban living. The greater these challenges are, the more important our federation becomes. Our county and district law associations need to connect to kindle and re-kindle friendships, gather ideas, and take action to improve the justice system. With a view to these goals, I welcome you to the 2026 Spring Plenary.

This plenary we welcome the Attorney General to discuss efforts being made to improve delay and fairness in our justice system; we introduce a new law school focused on helping communities like ours; we tackle courthouse security and how each of our associations can improve relations with local police; and as always explore ways to improve our associations.

We thank you, the presidents, directors, and staff of Ontario's law associations for your leadership and dedication. In the past year we have submitted over a dozen submissions to justice system decision-makers, advocated at Queen's Park, and built long-lasting relationships. Together, we push for a better future.

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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	Total Professionalism Hours	4 Hours and 25 Minutes
	Total EDI Professionalism Hours	None

WIFI Network: Hilton Honors Meeting
Wifi Code: diamond2025

Tuesday, May 12

6:30 PM - 10:00 PM	<p>Welcome Reception & Dinner – University Club University Club, 380 University Avenue</p> <p>Reception: 6:30 PM to 7: 15 PM Dinner: 7:15 PM</p> <p>Join us for a welcome dinner at the University Club to open the plenary, including a keynote address by The Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General of Ontario, and an opportunity to network with peers.</p>	<p>Keynote Address: The Honourable Doug Downey Attorney General of Ontario</p> <p>Organization Sponsor:</p> 
10:00 PM - 12:00 AM	<p>Hospitality Suite 26th Floor, San Francisco/Los Angeles</p> <p>Unwind and socialize in the hospitality suite, generously provided by our platinum sponsor, LAWPRO.</p>	<p>Sponsor:</p> 

Wednesday, May 13

7:30 AM - 4:30 PM	<p>Registration Open</p> <p>Collect your nametag at our registration table.</p> <p>Downtown Toronto Hilton Doubletree</p>
7:45 AM - 9:00 AM	<p>Breakfast and Networking</p> <p>Buffet breakfast is included with your registration.</p>



<p>9:00 AM - 9:25 AM</p>	<p>Call to Order, Welcoming Remarks from the Chair, and Roll Call of the Presidents</p> <p>Opening remarks from Allen Wynperle, Chair of FOLA, and, in a time-honoured tradition, presidents are invited to introduce the members of their delegation.</p>	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allen Wynperle, Chair, FOLA • You!
<p>9:25 AM - 9:30 AM</p>	<p>Welcoming Remarks from Toronto Law Association</p> <p>TLA President Anna Wong welcomes us to Toronto!</p>	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anna Wong, Immediate Past President, TLA
<p>9:30 AM - 10:40 AM</p>	<p>Committee Chairs' Reports</p> <p>Reports will be presented from FOLA's Real Estate, Family Law, Estates, Criminal Law, and Legal Aid committees. For follow-up purposes or feedback, you will find their contact information printed on the last page of this document.</p>	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logan Rathbone, Family Law Committee Chair, FOLA • Mark Giavedoni, Real Estate Committee Chair, FOLA • Terry Brandon, Legal Aid Committee Chair, FOLA • Andrew Keesmaat, Estate Law Committee Chair, FOLA • Karen Seeley, Criminal Law Committee Chair, FOLA
<p>10:40 AM - 11:00 AM</p>	<p>Law Society of Ontario Update</p> <p>We welcome new LSO CEO Tom Teahan to provide the LSO update.</p>	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tom Teahan, CEO, LSO
<p>11:00 AM – 11:20 AM</p>	<p>Break</p> <p>With a word from our Silver Sponsor, Counsel Public Affairs</p>	<p>• Sponsor:</p> 
<p>11:20 AM – 12:00 PM</p>	<p>LiRN Update</p>	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theresa Leitch, Managing Director, LiRN • Jennifer S. Rooke, 1st Vice Chair, FOLA • Vicki Whitmell, Board Chair, LiRN
<p>12:00 PM - 1:00 PM</p>	<p>Lunch</p> <p>With a word from our Gold Sponsor, Closer</p>	<p>• Sponsor:</p> 



1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Courthouse Security From panic buttons for law association libraries to the safety of lawyers working in courthouses, this session will discuss current issues facing our communities.	Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Erika Cotter, CAO and Assistant Deputy Attorney General, Corporate Services Management Division• Karen Seeley, Criminal Law Committee Chair, FOLA
2:00 PM - 2:25 PM	Guelph University – A new law school proposal Our communities need more young lawyers and law students. Guelph University will present a possible solution with a new kind of law school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Byron Sheldrick, Associate Vice-President, University of Guelph
2:25 PM - 2:55 PM	Wiring of Funds - LAWPRO An overview of evolving challenges in moving trust funds for real estate transactions, including delays, risk exposure, and the need for clearer, modernized practices.	Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ray Leclair, LAWPRO
2:55 PM – 3:10 PM	Break: Go to the next Breakout session!	



3:10 PM –
3:45 PM

Breakout Sessions

#1: Mandarin Ballroom Associations Tune-up

Strong local law associations are essential to a thriving profession—but many are facing declining membership, burnout, and engagement challenges. This session explores practical strategies to recruit, retain, and support members, strengthen community connections, and promote lawyer well-being, ensuring associations remain relevant, resilient, and responsive to the needs of their members.

#2: 25th Floor, Tokyo Room Civil Litigation Roundtable

The new proposed Rules aim to bring cases to resolution within two years – how will this work? Whether you're grappling with the new Summary Track requirements or adjusting to the Directions Conference model, your frontline experience is vital. We'll discuss common hurdles, share tips for the new "paper-record" hearings, and gather data for FOLA's ongoing advocacy with the Civil Rules Committee

#3: 25th Floor, Shanghai/Bangkok Room Real Estate Roundtable

Stay current on the rapidly evolving real estate practice landscape. This interactive session can cover key developments including new and proposed HST rebate regimes, Teraview correction processes and updated eReg procedures, municipal land transfer tax changes, and emerging risks around undertakings, payout statements, and discharge delays. We'll also explore the growing complexity of moving funds in transactions and the practical implications for lawyers, with a focus on risk management, best practices, and advocacy priorities.

Speakers:

- Mary-Jo Petsche, Executive Director, Welland County Law Association
- Tanya Jenkins, Executive Director, County of Carleton law Association

- Kevin Cooke, East Rep., FOLA

- Mark Giavedoni, 2nd Vice-Chair, FOLA
- Ray Leclair, LAWPRO

3:45 PM –
4:00 PM

Break - Go to next Breakout session!



4:00 PM -
4:35 PM

Breakout Sessions

#1: Mandarin Ballroom

Greying of the Bar: Attracting and Keeping Lawyers in Your Communities – the Southwest Region Pilot Project

From free student membership to a job portal for associations, the Southwest Region Pilot Project explores practical strategies to recruit and retain lawyers and sustain legal services in local communities.

#2: 25th Floor, Tokyo Room Family Law Roundtable

Join colleagues for a practical discussion on emerging issues and evolving practices in family law. This session will highlight recent legal developments, procedural changes, and day-to-day challenges facing practitioners, with a focus on risk management, access to justice, and effective client service. Share experiences, identify common concerns, and help shape advocacy priorities for the year ahead.

#3: 25th Floor, Shanghai/Bangkok Room AI Crowdsourcing

Crowdsourcing how you use AI in your practice. From CoCounsel to CanLII and beyond, this practical session will explore actual use of these and other legal research tools. What works for you?

Speakers:

- Jennifer S. Rooke, 1st Vice Chair, FOLA
- Leanna J.T. Simpson, Southwest Region Representative, FOLA
- Bill Woodward, Past President (2020-2021), FOLA
- Logan Rathbone, Family Law Committee Chair, FOLA

- Matt Johnstone, Sullivan Festeryga LLP

4:30 PM -
6:30 PM

Free Time

6:30 PM -
9:00 PM

Law Society Treasurer's Reception and Dinner Malaparte, 350 King Street West

Reception: 6:30 PM to 7: 15 PM
Dinner: 7:15 PM

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

Speakers:

- Peter Wardle, Treasurer, LSO

Sponsor:

- Law Society of Ontario



9:00 PM -
12:00 AM

Hospitality Suite
26th Floor, San Francisco/Los Angeles

Sponsor:
• LAWPRO

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

Thursday, May 14

9:00 AM -
9:45 AM

Regional Breakfast Meetings AND Regional Director Elections

Start the day with breakfast with the delegates from your region of Ontario. The Regional Director Election will take place, please arrive on time. Your breakfast is included with registration.

9:45 AM –
10:00 AM

Plenary Survey!

10:00 AM –
10:30 AM

FOLA General Meeting

10:30 AM -
10:45 AM

LDD
A word from our official sponsor

Speaker:
• Maurizio Romanin, President & CEO,
LDD



**Federation of
Ontario Law
Associations**

10:45 AM -
11:05 AM

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

11:05 AM –
11:00 AM

Precedent bylaws & articles for law associations

David Kornhauser, Toronto
Representative, FOLA

Introducing ready-to-use templates and insights to help law associations update, streamline, and strengthen their governing documents.



11:20 AM –
11:50 AM

30 Tips in 30 Minutes

Fast, practical, and packed with value—this rapid-fire session delivers 30 essential tips in just 30 minutes to help you streamline your practice, enhance client service, and stay ahead in the ever-evolving legal landscape. From time-saving tech tools to risk management strategies and advocacy hacks, our panel of experts will share actionable insights you can implement immediately. Don't miss this power-packed session designed to boost your efficiency and effectiveness!

Speaker:

- Laura Dickson, President, Hamilton Law Association
- Ashley Gibson, Central South Regional Representative, FOLA
- Curtis Pineiro, Central East Regional Representative, FOLA
- Jennifer Rooke, 1st Vice Chair, FOLA
- Danielle Vincent, Northeast Regional Representative, FOLA

11:50 PM -
12:00 PM

Final Remarks, Lunch, and Departure

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

Speaker:

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



FOLA Executive Contacts

Allen Wynperle
Chair
allen@dwlaw.ca

Jennifer S. Rooke
First Vice Chair
Chair, Practice Resource
Committee
jrooke@mousseaulaw.com

Mark Giavedoni
Second Vice Chair
Chair, Real Estate Committee
Mark.giavedoni@gowlingwlg.com

Doug Judson
Past Chair
info@douglasjudson.ca

Corey Wall
Treasurer
Corey@walllaw.ca

Curtis Pineiro
Central East Representative
curtis@pineirolaw.ca

Ashley Gibson
Central South Representative
ashley@gnrlaw.ca

Leanna J.T. Simpson
Southwest Representative
Chair, Practice Resource
Centre Committee
jrooke@mousseaulaw.com

Karen Seeley
Northwest Representative
Chair, Criminal Law Committee
kseeley@mcauleylaw.com

Danielle Vincent
Northeast Representative
danielle@vincentlaw.ca

Kevin Cooke
East Representative
kcooke@cswan.com

Laura Oliver
Central West Representative
Co-Chair, Family Law Committee
laura@rusolaw.ca

Terry Brandon
Chair, Legal Aid Committee
terrylbrandon@acriminaldefence.ca

Logan Rathbone
Co-Chair, Family Law
Committee
logan@rathbonelaw.com

Andrew Keesmaat
Chair, Estates Law Committee
akeesmaat@anclaw.com

David Kornhauser
Toronto Representative
dkornhauser@ln.law



Thank you to our speakers!

Terry Brandon is thirty-two years a Criminal Defence Lawyer proudly serving clients in her home community of Sarnia, Ontario in Lambton county.

Criminal defence services see clients with needs ranging from shoplifting and simple assaults to aggravated assaults, attempt murder and murder. Past murder cases, early in her career, opened the door to current work including two current first-degree murder cases.

By way of background: Ms. Brandon studied at Huron College at the University of Western Ontario. A four years honours BA with a double major in history and political science (1989) saw a logical progression, on graduation, with entrance into law school. A summer at the Attorney General's office at 720 Bay St. was an opportunity for this small city girl to experience Toronto, and despite offers of articling matches on Bay Street, Ms. Brandon chose to return to Kingston, Ontario for another year post graduation from Queen's Law. On completion of her articling experience and the bar admission course, a return back to her hometown for a hire with a number one local criminal defence counsel quickly saw expansion into family law practice, which was not anticipated, but was the place for women back in the day.

Wanting nothing to do with that plan, a shingle was hung and success was easily achieved in the criminal court system.

Ms. Brandon has also served as a regional director for the Ontario Bar Association and has served a term and a half on the executive along with other section participation.

Ms. Brandon is a relatively new member of the Criminal Lawyers Association.

She is also a long serving executive member of the Federation of Ontario Law Associations [FOLA] following board engagement and service as the president for the Lambton County Association. This has allowed service as the Southwest representative and throughout, most of her engagement, as the FOLA Legal Aid Chair. It is also through FOLA that Ms Brandon has served as the FOLA stakeholder on the Alliance for the Sustainability of Legal Aid.



These volunteer services have led to lobby attendances at the Ontario Provincial Parliament and many Law Society of ONTARIO consultations.

Ms. Brandon strongly believes in service to defend both those who can afford criminal defence representation and equal service for those who are marginalized with wellness issues, addiction issues, social inequity and a myriad of family of origin struggles, bringing people to the attention of the criminal justice system . She does not believe in a two-tiered system where only those who can afford representation in criminal defence should achieve success. She believes in pro-bono work. She believes in equal defence services for all. Ms Brandon is a ferocious courtroom advocate, but also someone who believes in a true acknowledgement of guilt, forgiveness and healing. She is a strong supporter of individual rehabilitation plans especially through collaboration with other professional support providers.

Although Ms. Brandon took on the rare articling student early in her career, she has been a sole practitioner as of 9 months into her career. Succession planning is a hot topic, since the Law Society brought this into focus for all practitioners, and like others it is ever present in her current practice management analysis. Anyone seriously interested in a practice restricted solely to criminal defence work would see their resume and letters of support, well received.



Erika Cotter serves as the Chief Administrative Officer and Assistant Deputy Attorney General (CAO/ADAG) for the Corporate Services Management Division at the Ministry of the Attorney General (MAG). In this capacity, she leads key sector-wide initiatives and oversees strategic management in areas such as business and fiscal planning, facilities management, human resources, freedom of information, French language services, audit, and justice security.

Erika brings over 15 years of experience within the Ontario Public Service (OPS), specializing in Internal Audit and Business and Fiscal Planning. She is a forward-thinking leader known for her pragmatic approach to challenges, engaging in direct and transparent conversations, and challenging the status quo. Erika collaborates across the organization to develop innovative, streamlined solutions and bases her decisions on facts and data analysis. Erika champions a culture of trust, empowerment, and



accountability, promoting diverse perspectives and insights to enhance the workplace experience at all levels of the OPS, while advancing organizational excellence, building meaningful partnerships, and ensuring the effective delivery of strategic programs.

A central focus of Erika's leadership within MAG is advancing system-wide court and courthouse security. In response to heightened safety concerns across Ontario courthouses, she partners with MAG's leadership team to lead coordinated divisional efforts to strengthen physical security, improve consistency, and enhance risk mitigation across the justice sector. This work includes overseeing continued investments in facility upgrades such as Single Points of Entry (SPOE) to improve access control and screening, supporting the development of a dedicated Physical Security Team, and advancing minimum court security standards to be applied consistently across all courthouses as the foundation of a comprehensive MAG Court Security Strategy. Through this work, MAG is committed to sustained, coordinated, system-wide action to support safe workplaces and the effective administration of justice.



Laura Dickson was born and raised in Scotland, UK and moved to Canada in 2008. Laura earned her L.L.B in Scots Law from the University of Glasgow, Scotland, in 2007. After moving to Canada, she completed her NCA qualifications at the University of Toronto. Laura completed her training with Allen Wynperle in 2011/12 and was called to the Bar in 2012. It was only a matter of time before Laura and Allen would once again join forces in creating Dickson Wynperle Associates in 2024.

Laura chose a career in law to help those most vulnerable. Laura practices exclusively plaintiff civil litigation with experience in all aspects of Life and Disability claims, wrongful or constructive dismissal claims, critical illness denial claims, estate litigation matters, statutory accident benefit matters as well as claims resulting from auto accidents, slips and falls, WSIB claims and brain and spinal injuries.



Doug Downey is the Attorney General of Ontario, and the Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) for Barrie - Springwater - Oro-Medonte. As Minister, Doug is focused on addressing operational issues within the justice system in order to simplify the court process for all Ontarians. Doug stands for a fair and equitable court system that allows for all Ontarians to receive fair representation and access to the justice system in a timely manner.

Doug was raised in Bond Head, and has spent much of his life working and living throughout Simcoe County. He obtained his Hons. B.A. from Wilfrid Laurier University; M.A. specializing in Judicial Administration from Brock University; a Law Degree from Dalhousie University at Halifax; and a Master of Laws in Municipal and Development Law through Osgoode Hall Law School. He has served as a Professor for Laurentian University at Georgian College, taught for the Real Estate Bar Admission Course, and occasionally lectured when asked.

He is a founding partner at Downey, Tornosky, Lassaline & Timpano Law Professional Corporation and has earned professional recognition including the Lawyer of the Year award from the Simcoe County Law Association, the Business Leader of the Year by the Orillia Business Association, and as one of Canada's Leading Lawyers by Lexpert magazine. He has extensive experience in politics from working as a city councilor, to chairing the Independent Panel on the Future of the Trent-Severn Waterway, the largest federal asset in Ontario. The panel's work has resulted in over \$625 million in investments into upgrading the Waterway's infrastructure.

Doug has also been active in numerous community organizations, including the Orillia and District Chamber of Commerce, the Orillia Kiwanis Club, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Orillia and District, the Orillia Area Community Development Corporation and hosted Politically Speaking on Rogers television for 8 years. His volunteer work has earned him the Order of Orillia, and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.



Mark Giavedoni is a partner in Gowling WLG's Hamilton office where he is the firm's National Leader of the Real Estate Industry and Sector Group, and also a member of the Construction/Infrastructure Law Group, Expropriation Law Group and Municipal Law Group.

Mark prides himself on being a responsive and dedicated strategic adviser on all aspects of real property transactions: title repairs, financing, project structure and development, dispute prevention and resolution. As a Certified Specialist in Real Estate Law by the Law Society of Ontario, Mark has the expertise and personal touch to bring the right solution to task.

He is frequently consulted by municipalities, universities, school boards, utilities and other lawyers to advise on complex matters. His experience enables him to guide and represent clients on condominium structures and developments; commercial leases; financings and secured lending; purchase and sale transactions; land use planning and assembly; expropriations; construction contracts and facilities management.

Mark is a past president of the Hamilton Law Association. He is a member of the Real Estate, Municipal and Education Sections of the Ontario Bar Association and is the 2nd Vice-Chair and Chair of the Real Estate Committee for the Federation of Ontario Law Associations.



Before joining the CCLA, **Tanya Jenkins** most recently served as a Vice President of People & Markets, and as Managing Director. In those positions she led operations, strategy, HR, marketing, sales initiatives, driving change management, and contributing to an organization's performance. Known for her expertise in change management and operational efficiency, Tanya has a proven track record in leading teams, developing innovative business strategies, and fostering sustainable growth. Her diverse background in leadership, consulting, and marketing makes her a dynamic force in her role as Executive Director, dedicated to furthering the CCLA's goals and the broader legal community in Ontario.

In her spare time, Tanya can be found hiking with her dog, spending time at her family cottage in Central Ontario, and advocating for seniors.



Tanya is passionate about the mission of the CCLA and is committed to advancing the interests of its members with an extremely dedicated and talented group of staff and volunteers!

Matthew A. Johnstone began his legal career at Sullivan Festeryga in 2010 and became a Partner in 2018. His broad litigation practice focuses on insurance defence, plaintiff personal injury, employment law and criminal law as a per diem Crown Attorney. After completing a B.A. with Honours in Political Science at McMaster University in 2007, he went on to earn his LL.B from the University of Windsor in 2010.

Matt regularly appears before the Ontario Court of Justice, the Superior Court of Justice, and various tribunals including the License Appeal Tribunal.

As an active member of the Hamilton legal community, and is the current President of the Hamilton Lawyers' Club. In addition, he sits on the Hamilton Law Association's CPD committee and is the coach of the St. Thomas More Competitive Mock Trial team.

Matt enjoys golfing and spending time with his wife and their two German Shepherds, Kalie and Kenya.

Andrew Keesmaat is a partner at Wynne, Pringle, Jeske & Keesmaat LLP. He obtained his LL.B. at Ottawa University after an honours undergraduate at Carleton University. He practices civil litigation with a focus on estate litigation, capacity litigation and elder law. He is presently the past president of the Hamilton Law Association, a past president of the Hamilton Lawyer's Club and is the chair of the estates committee of the Federation of Ontario Law Associations.

David Kornhauser has a broad-based business law practice involving two complementary areas. One being franchise law and the second being corporate/commercial law.

David's franchise law practice involves representing franchisors, franchisee associations, franchisor advisory councils, groups of franchisees, as well as individual franchisees in the areas of franchising, licensing, and distribution. David provides legal advice with respect to the structure and preparation of franchise agreements and ancillary documentation; the preparation of disclosure documents; the determination of the obligations imposed on a franchisor by franchise legislation; terminations and transfers; addressing relationship problems and advising on ways



to enhance franchise and distribution relationships; the sale or acquisition of franchise systems; the establishment of a new franchise system in Canada. Additionally, David has considerable experience in the structure and organization of franchise associations, providing ongoing advice to franchisee associations and advocating the position of franchise associations and franchisees with franchisors.

In respect of his corporate/commercial law practice, David provides legal advice and representation in connection with the structure and negotiation of, and draft agreements for: the purchase/sale of businesses; shareholder, partnership, joint venture and co-tenancy agreements; corporate amalgamations, restructuring and reorganizations; royalty based agreements, including the licensing and/or distribution of software, patents, products and franchises; corporate governance for both for profit and not-for-profit corporations.

David is recognized as a leading franchise lawyer by the Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory and by Best Lawyers in Canada. David is the recipient of the 2015 Markus Cohen Award, an award granted by the Ontario Bar Association's (OBA) Franchise Law Section for scholarly contributions to the area of franchise law. He is co-author of "Franchisee Associations in Canada" (Carswell, 2011) and is the Franchise Law Editor for the Toronto Law Association Journal. He has co-chaired several conferences for the Canadian Franchise Association (CFA) or OBA; has been a speaker at numerous franchising conferences and authored or co-authored numerous papers.

David is also a director of the Toronto Lawyers' Association and is privileged to also serve as the TLA representative on the FOLA Board. David is the father of four daughters and an avid yoga enthusiast.



Theresa Leitch is LIRN Inc.'s inaugural Managing Director.

Early in her career, Theresa practiced municipal law as both a litigator and a solicitor. After leaving the practice of law, she served in positions in law firm and organizational management, knowledge management, continuing professional development and project management of strategic initiatives.

Throughout her career she has developed a superior understanding of the legal information and knowledge needs of the profession. She has demonstrated a collaborative approach to leadership and expertise as a communicator and relationship-builder, bringing vision and creativity to her work.

In the Managing Director role, Theresa is responsible for the strategic leadership and management of LIRN, including administration of funding to county law libraries, creation and implementation of appropriate business and operational protocols to support LIRN, establishing collaborative relationships with stakeholders, and governance, legal and other compliance obligations.

When she's not working, Theresa can be found traipsing the trails around the GTA with her hiking group, the Viking F'ing Warriors. She also sings in a punk rock choir, and has performed at such storied venues as the Horseshoe Tavern and the Bovine.



Mary-Jo Petsche is the Executive Director of the Welland County Law Association, where she provides legal research support and is responsible for the daily operations of the library and law association. Prior to her work at the WCLA, Mary-Jo was a Knowledge Management Consultant at Nortel Networks and Architel Systems Corporation. Mary-Jo graduated from the Library and Information Technician program at Sheridan College in 1997. Mary-Jo is the current Past-President of the Canadian Association of Law Libraries. Mary-Jo has been a member of CALL/ACBD since 2001 and has served on the following committees and SIGS: Diversity, Inclusion & Decolonization, Website, Vendor Liaison, Mentoring, Preservation, Courthouse and Law Society Libraries. Mary-Jo is a member of the Ontario Courthouse Libraries Association where she served as Chair from 2004 to 2006. While serving as Chair of OCLA, she joined LibraryCo Inc. as a Director from 2004 to 2007. Mary-Jo was a Library Committee Member for the



County & District Law Presidents Association from 2007 to 2014. In her leisure time, Mary-Jo enjoys playing the piano, listening to music, and spending time with family and friends.



Curtis Pineiro is originally from Kingston. After he graduated from the Computer Science program at Trent University, Curtis worked as Trent's Adaptive Technologist in the Student Accessibility Centre for 5-years in which he completed a graduate certificate from Cambrian College in Applied Learning Disability Studies. In 2009, Curtis left Peterborough to study law at the University of Glasgow in Scotland, United Kingdom, where he graduated with merit. Curtis completed his National Committee on Accreditation and was called to the bar of Ontario in 2013.

Since then, he has provided high quality legal service to the Peterborough community in the areas of family law, wills and estate administration. Curtis has been active on the board of the Peterborough Law Association for over ten years, most recently having completed a two-year term as president. He also sits on the board of the Kawartha Family Court Assessment Service and is a faculty member at Trent University in the Law & Arts Trent/Swansea Dual Degree program, where he has taught Foundations of Canadian Law since 2020. In 2024, he was elected to the board of the Federation of Ontario Law Associations as the representative to the Central East region. Curtis tries his best to maintain a work-life balance to maximize time with his wife and two young children when he is not working or volunteering.



Jennifer S. Rooke graduated from the University of Windsor in 2002 (Bachelor of Arts, Hons., Criminology and Sociology) and 2005 (Bachelor of Law). Jennifer was called to bar in Ontario in 2006. She started her career at the law firm of Mousseau DeLuca McPherson Prince, LLP and became a partner in 2018. She has a dual practice: family law and federal prosecutions as agent for the Director of Public Prosecutions. Jennifer was also a sessional instructor at the law school (Walsh Negotiation Moot coach) and St. Clair College in the Business and IT Department (family law, family law forms, immigration law, criminal law, and ethics), for many years. She is actively involved in the community and has held many board /director positions including but not limited to the University of Windsor Alumni Association, Hiatus House, Children First, John Howard Society of Windsor, Essex Law Association, and Federation of Ontario Law Associations.



Tom Teahen joined the Law Society in February 2026 as its Chief Executive Officer. He is a lawyer and senior executive with extensive experience spanning government, the broader public sector and highly regulated industries. Tom has a strong record of advancing public-interest mandates, strengthening governance and leading complex organizations through periods of change.

Before joining the Law Society, Tom spent five years in the private sector as a senior executive at a multinational renewable fuels and ethanol producer. He was previously President and Chief Executive Officer of Ontario's Workplace Safety and Insurance Board, one of North America's largest insurance organizations. Earlier in his career, Tom held senior roles in government, including serving as Chief of Staff to a former Premier of Ontario.

Throughout his career, Tom has been known for his integrity, sound judgment and ability to build trust across diverse perspectives. He brings a clear focus on service excellence, accountability and transparent, principled decision-making.

Tom contributes significant governance experience, including service on the Board of Directors of Avicore Health. He holds a Bachelor of Laws from Queen's University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Government from Western University. He was called to the Bar in 1997.



Peter C. Wardle was elected as Treasurer by the Law Society's governing body (Convocation) on June 19, 2024 and he took office on June 28, 2024. The Treasurer is the top-elected official of the Law Society, which regulates Ontario's lawyers and paralegals in the public interest. He is the Law Society's 70th Treasurer. Treasurer Wardle served as a bencher from 2011 to 2019 and was re-elected in 2023. He was called to the Bar of Ontario in 1986. He is a partner with the Commercial and Business Litigation and Professional Liability Practice Groups at Singleton Urquhart Reynolds Vogel LLP.

Treasurer Wardle has built his reputation as a recognized and trusted advocate over more than 38 years, representing parties in commercial disputes involving contract interpretation, shareholder and partnership obligations, securities, directors' and officers'



liability, professional negligence, construction, estates and real estate.

He has appeared as counsel in many trials, applications and appeals involving shareholder and partnership disputes, securities, directors' and officers' liability, professional negligence, wrongful dismissal, estates and real estate development, as well as a wide variety of contractual disputes. He has also participated as counsel and as arbitrator in a number of arbitrations involving commercial issues.

In addition, Treasurer Wardle has appeared before a wide variety of regulatory tribunals. He has prosecuted a number of discipline cases on behalf of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario. He has acted in a number of public inquiries, including as counsel for a group of affected families before the *Inquiry into Pediatric Forensic Pathology* in Ontario and a citizens group in the *Cornwall Public Inquiry*. In 2022, he acted as lead counsel for the City of Ottawa in the *Ottawa Light Rail Transit Public Inquiry*. He is ranked by Best Lawyers for his work in directors' and officers' liability and securities litigation. He is recognized by LEXPERT for his professional liability practice and he is designated by Martindale-Hubbell as "AV® Preeminent™" — its highest peer review rating. His external appointments include:

- Past director of The Advocates' Society
- Fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers



Vicki Whitmell has been the chair of LiRN since June of 2024. She is a librarian who has served the Ontario legal and legislative communities through her work in academic and law firm libraries and as the former Legislative Librarian for the Province of Ontario. She is passionate about building advocacy and leadership skills in libraries and is active on a number of community boards and organizations, including chairing the Sundridge Strong Union Public Library Board.



Anna Wong is the Immediate Past President of the Toronto Lawyers' Association. She is also a civil litigator with Weintraub Huang LLP. Her practice focuses on commercial disputes, real estate litigation and administrative matters.

Anna is an educator and author, with a graduate degree from the University of Oxford. She teaches Canadian administrative law at the Master's level, and has presented at a number of educational programs. Anna's writings, which have appeared in peer-reviewed law journals, have been cited with approval by courts, including the Supreme Court of Canada. She is co-author of the book, *Canadian University Law*.

Anna speaks Mandarin and Cantonese.

Bill Woodward was called to the Bar in 1988. He has practised in London in the insurance defence field. He is the former President of the Middlesex Law Association and the former Chair of FOLA.



Allen Wynperle is a founding partner of DWA Law. Called to the Bar in 1996, he became a certified specialist in civil litigation in 2006.

Attending York University, Allen achieved a B.A. (Sociology) in 1991 and graduated from Osgoode Hall Law School in 1994.

In 2002 Allen founded his own law firm, and in 2024 Laura Dickson joined to create Dickson Wynperle Associates.

Restricted to Plaintiff focused personal injury litigation, Allen's has appeared before the Ontario Court of Appeal, Superior Court of Justice, The Ontario Court of Justice and several Tribunals. Allen has also integrated several methods of alternative dispute resolution to improve client service.

Allen is the recipient of the AEmilius Irving Award from the Hamilton Law Association and the John F. Evans Award from the United Way of Hamilton/Halton (2025).

Board Affiliations and Lectures:



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- Chair of the Federation of Ontario Law Associations 2025-date
 - Past President of the Ontario Trial Lawyers Association 2019-2020
 - Past President of the Hamilton Law Association 2005-2006
 - Past President of the Hamilton Medical-Legal Society 2011-2012
 - Instructor at the Law Practice Program - Toronto Metropolitan University 2020-2023
 - Member of the Judicial Advisory Committee, Ontario-South and West 2017-2019
 - Member of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Paraplegic Association (Ontario) 1999 to 2007.
 - Executive member and Honorary Legal Council for the Hamilton Jewish Federation and United Jewish Appeal
 - Allen has spoken and chaired at numerous community and legal education events at the Hamilton Law Association, Ontario Trial Lawyers' Association, The Federation of Ontario Law Associations, Canadian Paraplegic Association (Ontario), Chedoke Acquired Brain Injury Program, the Canadian Academy of Psychologists and Disability Assessments and the Hamilton Brain Injury Association.
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