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

FOLA News

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The FOLA Newsletter is distributed to FOLA member associations. If you wish to subscribe, please do so at our website here: https://www.fola.ca/category/newsletter/. All back issues are also available there. To unsubscribe email ian.hu@fola.ca

Featured Member Rewards Partners in this Issue:

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Law Society of Ontario

Important Information

FOLA Meets With LSO Regarding Paralegals Access to Associations

Further to the general meeting resolution of the 2026 FOLA Spring Plenary, FOLA met with Shalini Konanur, Treasurer of the Law Society of Ontario over the summer to advocate as per the resolution. We made progress and will provide updates.

2026 FOLA Fall Plenary, November 4 to 6, London

We look forward to seeing you in a few days! For more details see the website.

FOLA @ A2J Week

We participate in Access To Justice Week every year. This year we presented *Answers to your everyday questions* on Wednesday, October 28, from 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM. Thank you to our speakers including FOLA board members Jennifer S. Rooke and Ashley Gibson, and LiRN Chair Augustine Krawchenko.

FOLA Welcomes the Honourable Patrick J. Boucher as Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Justice of Ontario

FOLA welcomes the new Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Justice of Ontario, the Honourable Patrick J. Boucher. Chief Justice Boucher was previously Regional Senior Judge of the Superior Court of Justice of Ontario for the Northeast Region. He replaces the Honourable Geoffrey B. Morawetz, who retired effective May 15, 2026. We look forward to working with Chief Justice Boucher!

FOLA Wants You to Nominate People For The LSO Awards

The Law Society of Ontario is seeking nominations for the Law Society Awards. FOLA strongly recommends you nominate a member of your local bar. Let's fill the candidate pool with nominations outside of Toronto!

From Shalini Konanur, the Treasurer of the Law Society of Ontario:

I am writing to encourage you and the members of your association to consider making nominations for the Law Society awards.

The Law Society Medal was established in 1985 as an honour to be awarded by the Law Society to lawyers in recognition of outstanding service and significant contributions to the profession.

The Lincoln Alexander Award is awarded annually in recognition of an Ontario lawyer or paralegal who has demonstrated long standing interest and commitment to the public and to the pursuit of community service on behalf of residents of Ontario.

The Laura Legge Award was established in 2007 and is to be given annually to a female lawyer of the Law Society who has exemplified leadership within the profession.

The William J. Simpson Distinguished Paralegal Award recognizes a paralegal who has demonstrated outstanding professional achievement that brings credit to the paralegal profession.

The J. Shirley Denison Award in recognition of significant contributions to access to justice and/or poverty issues. Both paralegal and lawyer licensees are eligible for this award.

We know that there are members in your communities that would be excellent candidates, and we would be delighted to receive their nomination. Full details on the awards and how to file a nomination are available on the Law Society website at Nominations and Selection Process | Law Society of Ontario. The deadline for nominations is December 11, 2026.

I hope that you and your association will give this serious consideration. Should you have any questions please contact Mary Shena at mmshena@lso.ca.

Probate Wait Times: A Survey by Max Shiffman

Max Shiffman, a lawyer member from the Waterloo Region Law Association, is conducting a survey regarding current processing times facing estate practitioners. The survey continues to be open and gathering information. The survey has been covered by the Globe and Mail.

FOLA Estates Law Committee Chair Andrew Keesmaat asks you to please distribute and fill out the survey for estates lawyers in your Association.

Survey link: https://bit.ly/ProbateSurvey

FOLA Advocacy: Recent Consultations

FOLA is deeply involved in advocacy work including consultations with the government, advocacy groups, and legal change-makers. In the statistics below, *consultations* are defined as including meetings and submissions with these entities, in which FOLA advocated for our members. See our advocacy efforts on our website. Please contact Ian Hu, Director of Policy & Advocacy, at ian.hu@fola.ca if you have feedback or any questions.

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FOLA provides feedback to LSO A2I Program

The LSO Futures Committee requested feedback regarding the next steps for the A2I program. FOLA provided feedback on August 28, 2026. Thank you to Curtis Pineiro, Central East Regional Representative, for penning our response.

FOLA provides feedback to MAG our feedback regarding Consultation: Implementing the Uniform Access to Digital Assets by Fiduciaries Act in Ontario – FOLA

The Ministy of Attorney General provided a report requesting feedback for a Consulation: Implementing the Uniform Access to Digital Assets by Fiduciaries Act in Ontario. FOLA submitted our feedback on September 11, 2026. Thank you to Andrew Keesmaat, Estates Committee Chair, for drafting our response.

FOLA submits feedback regarding potential elimination of the Civil Notice of Action

On September 15, 2026 the Ministry of Attorney General requested feedback regarding potential elimination of the Civil Notice of Action. FOLA provided MAG with feedback on October 2, 2026. Thank you to Kevin Cooke, 2nd Vice Chair, for working on this.

Updates for the Profession

LSO Licensee Update – September 28, 2026

Please click here for the latest LSO update.

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, Director of Operations, 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 months of Clio for free in the first year!

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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.



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- Securities Law
- Taxation Law

Request more information here.

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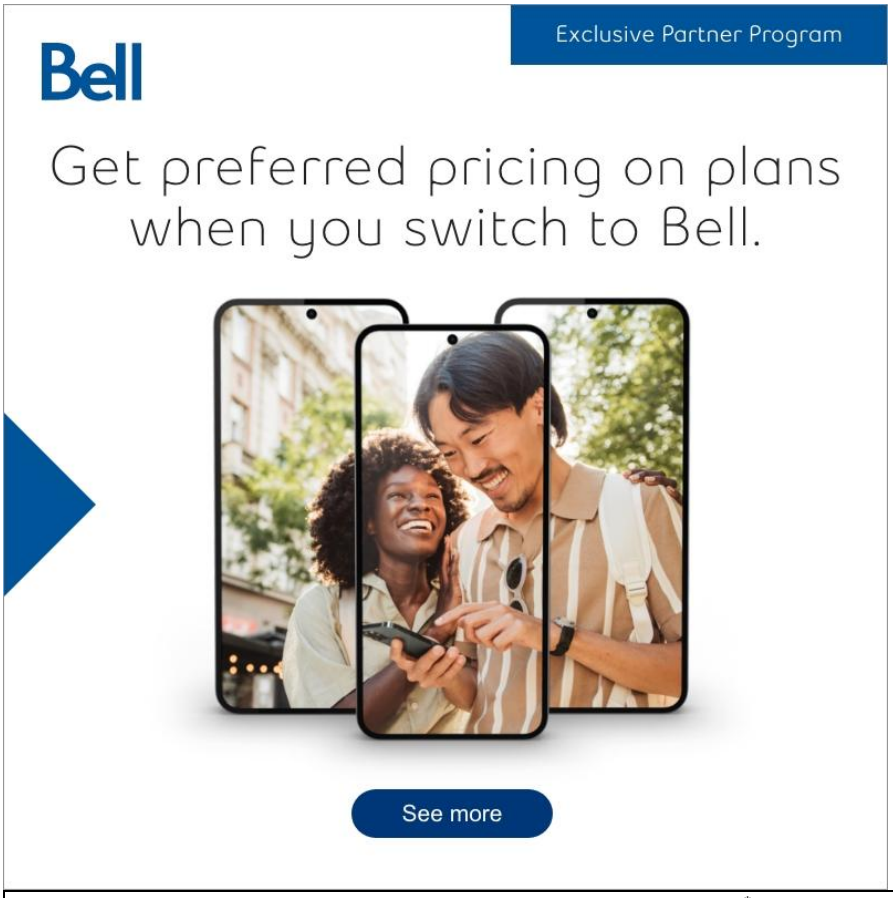


Law Associations that host virtual CPD programs can simply send us the recordings; those that hold in-person conferences or programs can invite us to **videotape on-site completely free of charge**. In both cases, we promote each video on our site and split the resulting revenue 50/50 with your association.

Some partner law associations earn **tens of thousands of dollars each year** from this stream alone, and CPDonline pays more than **sixty thousand dollars annually** to Ontario law associations.

Interested in learning how to boost your association's bottom line?
Connect with us to learn more at media@cpdonline.ca or call 1-888-295-4868

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TRUST ACCOUNTING COMPLIANCE

Trust accounting is one of the most important and often least understood compliance responsibilities for Ontario lawyers.

Law school teaches legislation, procedure, and advocacy. It does not necessarily prepare lawyers for the practical requirements of By-Law 9, three-way trust reconciliations, client trust ledgers, or the rules around withdrawing fees from trust.

Yet these requirements apply from the moment a lawyer begins handling trust funds.

Under By-Law 9, lawyers who maintain trust accounts must keep detailed records, including trust receipts and disbursements, individual client ledgers, monthly reconciliations, client trust listings, and supporting bank documentation. Reconciliations must be completed by the 25th of the following month, and lawyers may also have additional reporting and filing obligations depending on their area of practice.

In practice, compliance gaps are often not the result of carelessness. They come from misunderstandings: a fee deposited incorrectly, a trust withdrawal made before all required conditions are met, a reconciliation completed late, or a client ledger that does not accurately reflect the funds held.

These issues are preventable.

The challenge is making the rules practical and understandable for lawyers and their staff. Once the requirements are clearly understood and the right processes are in place, trust accounting becomes much more manageable and ongoing compliance becomes part of the regular workflow rather than a source of year-end stress.

Practical trust accounting education can be a valuable resource for members across practice areas. A clear understanding of the rules can help lawyers identify common issues before they become compliance concerns and build stronger, more consistent accounting practices within their firms.

About the Author

Simran is a CPA and founder of Counting Cloud CPA Professional Corporation, an Ontario accounting firm **specializing in bookkeeping and accounting for law firms**. She is also the creator of an LSO-accredited bookkeeping course for legal professionals covering trust accounting, By-Law 9 compliance, and legal accounting software.

Interested in bringing practical trust accounting guidance to your members? Simran is available to deliver a complimentary **live webinar and Q&A for regional law associations** on the most common By-Law 9 and trust accounting issues facing Ontario lawyers. **Email: simran@counting.cloud / Visit: www.counting.cloud**

Come **visit Simran at her booth at the upcoming FOLA plenary on November 5th and 6th** to connect, discuss trust accounting challenges facing your members, and explore opportunities to bring practical, relevant education to your association.

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Team Members at **Federation of Law Associates** can receive a **10% chain-wide discount** at all North American Hilton hotels. The chain-wide discount is subject to availability, non-commissionable and valid for both business and personal travel.

Access Special Rates Discounted rates are available by booking via :

https://www.hilton.com/en/preferred-rates/fola/

Simply click into the link above, insert the Code:

FOLACA
to access the booking page and make your reservation.

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

Featured Promotion

Accredited CLE, Brought to Your Association

Keeping up with CLE requirements is one thing. Finding sessions worth the time is another. That's the gap the FOLA / LawyerDoneDeal CLE Partnership Program was built to close.

Through the program, LawyerDoneDeal sponsors continuing legal education sessions for local law associations across Ontario. Sessions cover the issues that cut across today's practice — client identity and FINTRAC obligations, fraud prevention, electronic signing, handling funds, and HST/GST new housing rebates — delivered by experienced presenters, including LawyerDoneDeal's Maurizio Romanin and LAWPRO's Ray Leclair. There's room to shape the program around the topics your members are asking about.

For the association, the lift is light. LawyerDoneDeal handles the content, the speakers, and the materials. The association brings its members. Sessions are designed to count toward professional development hours, so attendance delivers real value, not just an afternoon out of the office. Associations including Welland, Northumberland, Hastings & Prince Edward County, and Lennox & Addington have already hosted sessions, with more on the calendar. See the full picture — what the program covers, upcoming dates, and photos from recent sessions — at https://ldd.ca/cle-events/.

Interested in bringing a session to your association? The page has everything you need to get started, or reach out and we'll help you find a date.

LDD Connect Organization Sponsor of | Federation of Ontario Law Associations | CLE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

County And District Law Associations

Toronto Lawyers' Association - Managing Difficult People Without Burning Out – November 10

This session will take place on **Tuesday, November 10**, from **12:00 pm – 1:00 pm** via **Zoom Webinar**. High-conflict situations and difficult conversations are part of daily practice for many lawyers. But constant exposure to stress, hostility, urgency, and emotional intensity can take a toll over time. This practical one-hour session presented by a therapist who supports lawyers, will explore evidence-informed strategies for emotional regulation to help lawyers respond more effectively under pressure, protect their wellbeing, and sustain a healthier long-term practice.

Register here

Halton County Law Association – 1st Annual Fall Conference – November 11

This session will take place on Wednesday, November 11, 2026 from 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM via in-person at the Holiday Inn Burlington Conference Centre, 3063 S Service Road, Burlington ON L7N 3E9.

Pick a morning track — corporate, estates, or family law — then stay for afternoon topics including advocacy, EDI, and professional development. Open to members and non-members, with special rates for newly licensed lawyers, students, and staff. Questions? Contact Arielle Baksh at info@haltoncountylaw.ca.

For more information, please see our conference webpage. (link: https://www.haltoncountylaw.ca/page-1075283)

Register here (link: https://haltoncountylaw.ca/event-6627707)

2025 National Pro Bono Conference - November 12 to 13

This conference is being hosted during Pro Bono Ontario's 25th anniversary year and will bring together leaders from across Canada's legal, technology, nonprofit, and justice sectors to discuss the future of pro bono and access to justice.

Additional information is available here: https://www.probonoconference.com/

County of Carleton Law Association – 46th Annual Civil Litigation Updated Conference – November 13 to 14

From the CCLA: Join us for an exceptional litigation conference featuring distinguished members of the judiciary, including The Honourable Justice Mary T. Moreau of the Supreme Court of Canada, Justice Sally A. Gomery of the Court of Appeal for Ontario, and many judges of the East Region. And you won't want to miss our afternoon session devoted to the latest developments in Artificial Intelligence, practical applications, and best practices and ethical considerations for the use of AI in law.

The special conference guestroom rate is available until October 22, 2026. Our room block is already **70% sold out**, so we encourage you to book your accommodations as soon as possible to ensure you don't miss out on the discounted conference rate.

Book your accommodations today!

VIA Rail Discount Code:
Skip the traffic and construction – relax and enjoy a smooth, scenic ride to Montreal by train! We are pleased to offer a Conference Discount Code for VIA Rail. The code is valid from November 7 to November 19, 2026, and can be used to receive 10% off the best available fare in Economy, Economy Plus, Business, Business Plus, or Sleeper Class. Attendees must enter the event's VIA convention discount code 16106 as a Conference Fare.

🔔 Book your room today to secure the discounted rate!
📣 Register for the conference today

Middlesex Law Association - 25th Annual Wills, Estates & Trusts Conference – November 25

Committee co-chairs Kimberly Cura of Lerners LLP, Lou-Anne Farrell of Harrison Pensa LLP, Justin Newman of Harrison Pensa LLP and Ian Wright of Ian S. Wright Law, welcome you to the 25th annual Wills & Estates Conference.

The program includes the following topics and more:

- **Capacity Panel:** Dr. Paul Ferner, Karen MacDonald of Worrad Murray & Associates, and Ian Wright of Ian S. Wright Law
- **Case Comment on *Kentros v. Kentros*:** Gemma Charlton of Harrison Pensa LLP
- **Section 21.1 Update:** John Morrissey of Siskinds LLP
- **Islamic Wills:** Sanan (Sunny) Mirza of Lerners LLP
- **Professionalism Panel:** Daniel McNamara formerly of McNamara Pizzale/Menear Worrad (moderator), Susan Carlyle of Carlyle Peterson LLP, and Paul Morrissey of Siskinds LLP

Register here

Toronto Lawyers' Association - Top 6 in 60: Six 2026 Supreme Court of Canada Decisions Every Lawyer Should Know – December 7

TLA - Top 6 in 60: Six 2026 Supreme Court of Canada Decisions Every Lawyer Should Know ***
This session will take place on **Monday, December 7**, from **12:00 pm – 1:00 pm** via **Zoom Webinar**. Keeping up with the Supreme Court of Canada's latest decisions is essential for every lawyer. In this program, lawyers Ewa Krajewska (Partner, Henein Hutchison Robitaille) and Sujit Choudhry (Principal, Circle Barristers) will examine six of the Court's most significant decisions of 2026 - the rulings most likely to influence legal analysis, advocacy, professional practice, and the development of Canadian law. This program will provide you with:

- Clear, concise explanations of the key decisions and their broader significance
- Insight into emerging themes and trends in the Court's jurisprudence

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

Justices of the Peace: 28 vacancies

JPAAC seeks highly qualified candidates who reflect Ontario's diverse communities, particularly from Indigenous and Francophone communities. Prior legal training is not required as all appointees receive extensive education and ongoing mentorship while on the bench.

As leaders in your community, we would greatly appreciate your assistance in sharing our notice of vacancies with your networks. Information on the current 28 vacancies, the JPAAC process, and the role of the justices of the peace in Ontario is available at https://www.ontariocourts.ca/ocj/jpaac.

The advertisement below may be shared through newsletters, social media, or other outreach channels. Candidates may also wish to attend the informational live webinar on Monday, November 2, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

The Committee is accepting applications until **11:59 p.m. EST on Tuesday, January 5, 2027**.

Current Vacancies, Justices of the Peace	
Barrie (1) Chatham (2) Dryden (1) Fort Frances (1) Kenora (1) Kenora (Indigenous-1) Kitchener (Indigenous-1) London (Indigenous-1) Newmarket (2) Newmarket (Bilingual-1) Ottawa (Bilingual-2)	Sault Ste. Marie (1) Sioux Lookout (1) Sudbury (Bilingual-1) Sudbury (Indigenous-1) Thunder Bay (1) Thunder Bay (Indigenous-1) Timmins (2) Timmins (Bilingual-1) Toronto (2) Toronto (Indigenous-2) Windsor (1)

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