2026 FOLA Fall Plenary

November 4 to 6
London, Ontario

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

Welcome Message From Our Chair Jennifer S. Rooke

Hello. Bonjour! It is my privilege to share this message with you. Our bi-annual meetings better known as "FOLA Plenary", allow us to join together in one city to discuss challenges in our profession and issues that matter to us concerning the practice of law. Together, we try to find solutions. This year we continue to build stronger relationships with our stakeholders including government officials, ministries, the Law Society of Ontario, Legal Aid Ontario, and beyond.

C'est vraiment un plaisir de partager ce message avec tous. Comme vous le savez, deux fois par année nous assemblons pour discuter les défis dans notre profession et les sujets que nous tiennent à cœur concernant la pratique de la loi. Ensemble nous aspirons de trouver des solutions. Pendant ses rencontres, c'est un réel privilège d'être dans un espace avec des collègues venus de tous l'Ontario.

Over the years, our members have expressed frustration with court delays, digital transformation, lack of support for lawyers, and the greying of the bar. More recently, we have been advocating for increased safety and security in our courthouses, judicial independence, and affordable family law applications, among other things. Priorities for our members may change over time; however, we at FOLA strive to support you and your county or district law association(s). We are the voice of the practising lawyer and take this role seriously. Together, we can strive to improve our shared goals in order to advance the overall practice of law and the justice system.

Pendant notre rencontre, il y aura des discussions concernant le droit de la famille, le droit civil, et le droit pénal, etc. Nous aurons discuté également les thèmes comme l'intelligence artificielle et civilité dans notre profession. Aussi, nous aurons l'occasion de bénéficier des conseils de notre assureur LAWPRO.

During this Plenary, we will discuss topics in family law, civil law, and criminal law, etc. Of note, there will be a session on the Supreme Court of Canada's decision in *Ahluwalia v. Ahluwalia*. We will also discuss topics including artificial intelligence and civility in the legal profession. Additionally, we will hear about best practises from our insurer.

Our members are integral to the justice system. Without you, the "wheels of justice" would stop turning and there would be no access the justice. Together, we have the opportunity to talk, think, and act in a way to help shape a better justice system for the future. There is true value in what we have collectively seen/heard/done during our years of practice. Our knowledge and experience can help improve the future of our justice system. On behalf of myself and the FOLA board, we look forward to speaking with you and building stronger connections.

Welcome to the 2026 FOLA Fall Plenary!
Je vous souhaite une bonne réunion à London.

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Wednesday, November 4

8:00 PM - 10:00 PM	**Welcome Reception** **(Optional – Registration & Payment Required)** **Museum London, 421 Ridout St N, London, Ontario** Gather with friends new and old at a beautiful venue! Refreshments will be served.	Organization Sponsor: LDD Connect Organization Sponsor of Federation of Ontario Law Associations

Thursday, November 5

7:30 AM - 4:30 PM	**Registration Open** **Armouries Ballroom** **Delta Hotels London Armouries** **325 Dundas Street in London, Ontario** Collect your nametag at our registration table.	
7:45 AM - 9:00 AM	**Breakfast and Networking** Buffet breakfast is included with your registration.	
9:00 AM - 9:25 AM	**Call to Order, Welcoming Remarks from the Chair, and Roll Call of the Presidents** Opening remarks from Jennifer S. Rooke, Chair of FOLA, and, in a time-honoured tradition, presidents are invited to introduce the members of their delegation.	Speakers: • Jennifer S. Rooke, Chair, FOLA • You!

9:25 AM - 9:30 AM	**Welcoming Remarks from Middlesex Law Association** MLA President welcomes us to London!	Speakers: • Greg Willson, President, MLA
9:30 AM - 10:40 AM	**Committee Chairs' Reports** 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.	Speakers: • Andrew Keesmaat, Estate Law Committee Chair, FOLA • Karen Seeley, Criminal Law Committee Chair, FOLA • Logan Rathbone, Family Law Committee Chair, FOLA • Mark Giavedoni, Real Estate Committee Chair, FOLA • Terry Brandon, Legal Aid Committee Chair, FOLA
10:40 AM - 11:00 AM	**Break**	
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	**SCC –Ahluwalia v Ahluwalia** The Supreme Court of Canada's groundbreaking decision in *Ahluwalia v. Ahluwalia* has significant implications well beyond the family law context. This panel will examine the decision's impact on the recognition of family violence, civil claims and remedies, and the intersection of family law with estates and succession. Our panelists will explore the practical and doctrinal implications of the SCC's decision for counsel and litigants, including how *Ahluwalia* may shape pleading, evidence, damages, limitation periods, and litigation strategy across multiple areas of practice.	Moderator: • Ashley Gibson, Central South Representative, FOLA • Jessica Pugliese, Northeast Regional Representative, FOLA Speakers: • Chelsea Hishon, Partner, Beckett Personal Injury Lawyers • Geoffrey Carpenter, Carpenter Family Law • John Morrissey, Partner, Siskinds
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	**Lunch**	• Sponsor: Closer
1:00 PM - 1:30 PM	**LDD Presentation** LDD Connect Organization Sponsor of Federation of Ontario Law Associations	Speakers: • Maurizio Romanin, President & CEO, LDD

1:30 PM – 2:10 PM	**LiRN Update** LiRN Managing Director Theresa Leitch provides the update, along with new Chair Augustine Krawchenko.	Speakers: • Augustine Krawchenko, Chair, Board of Directors, LiRN; and Owner, Krawchenko Law • Mark Giavedoni, 1st Vice Chair, FOLA • Theresa Leitch, Managing Director, LiRN
2:10 PM - 3:00 PM	**Civility** This panel will examine civility through the lens of intergenerational differences, courtroom etiquette, interactions with the bench, and equity, diversity, and inclusion. We will consider how expectations of professional conduct are evolving, where tensions arise, and how counsel and the judiciary can foster respectful, effective advocacy in an increasingly diverse legal profession.	Moderator: • Kevin Cooke, 2nd Vice Chair, FOLA Speakers: • Leanna J.T. Simpson, Southwest Regional Representative, FOLA • Ryan Amez, Mckenzie Lake Lawyers, and Treasurer, Middlesex Family Law Association • Surina Sud, Toronto Lawyers Association Representative
3:00 PM – 3:15 PM	**Break: Go to the next Breakout session!**	

3:15 PM – 3:50 PM	**Breakout Sessions** **#1: Armouries Ballroom** **Real Estate Roundtable** Should standard sale closing documents be reviewed and updated? How do you meet practical problems regarding declarations, remote signings, mortgage payouts and evolving practice requirements? This interactive session encourages your participation; share and learn from others the latest practice management tips and strategies. **#2: Officers Club** **Civil Litigation Roundtable** This interactive session is an opportunity for you to share problems and crowd-source solutions. What are you doing to prepare for the new Rules? What practice management changes have you or are you going to implement? **#3: Gunnery Room** **Associations HR: Hiring and Getting The Most Out of Your People** Practical strategies for hiring the right people, building strong teams, and getting the most out of your staff. We'll explore effective recruitment, retention, performance, and engagement strategies for association workplaces.	Speakers: Speaker: • Mark Giavedoni, 1st Vice Chair, FOLA Sponsor: GOVEYANCE POWERED BY TERANET • Kevin Cooke, 2nd Vice Chair, FOLA • Laura Dickson, Past President, HLA • Ted Chadderton, LiRN Vice Chair
3:50 PM – 4:00 PM	**Break – Go back to Armouries Ballroom for plenary session!**	

4:00 PM - 4:30 PM	**IN CAMERA - Hearing From The Presidents (& Delegates): Current Issues** **Armouries Ballroom** What issues are you seeing in your local association? Topical issues include out-of-town law firms posing as local, probate delays, and attacks on the Rule of Law. This plenary session will take input from you and discuss possible next steps to improve advocacy and the justice system.	Speakers: • Andrew Keesmaat, Estates Committee Chair, FOLA • Jennifer S. Rooke, Chair, FOLA • Jordan Lester, Northwest Regional Representative, FOLA
4:30 PM - 6:30 PM	**Free Time**	
6:30 PM - 9:00 PM	**Law Society Treasurer's Reception and Dinner** **London Club** 177 Queens Ave, London, ON **Reception: 6:30 PM to 7: 15 PM** **Dinner: 7:15 PM** A time-honoured tradition, the Treasurer of the Law Society hosts a special reception and dinner for our members.	Sponsor: Law Society of Ontario Speaker: • Shalini Konanur, Treasurer, LSO
9:00 PM - 12:00 AM	**Hospitality Suite** **Gunnery Room** Our hospitality suite is generously provided by LAWPRO, our platinum sponsor.	Sponsor: LAWPRO®

Friday

9:00 AM - 9:45 AM	**Regional Breakfast Meetings** Start the day with breakfast with the delegates from your region of Ontario. 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	**Law Society of Ontario Update** LSO CEO Tom Teahan provides the LSO update.	Speaker: • Tom Teahen, CEO LSO
10:45 AM – 11:00 AM	**Legal Aid Ontario Update** LAO returns to the 2026 FOLA Fall Plenary! President & CEO Aileen Page provides the update.	• Aileen Page, President & CEO, LAO
11:00 AM – 11:30 AM	**LAWPRO Update & AI Presentation** The always-dynamic Dan Pinnington provides the latest AI update. Be ready to be horrified and hypnotized.	• Dan Pinnington, President & CEO, LAWPRO
11:30 AM - 11:55 AM	**Break – Check out now then come back for our final panel!**	
11:55 AM – 12:15 AM	**20 Tips in 20 Minutes** One of our most popular sessions, this session features some of your favourite association Presidents as they give you their top tips for practice management, from wellness to client relationships to tech tips!	Speaker: • David Nusko, President, Bruce Law Association • Jennifer Bolduc, President, Waterloo Region Law Association • Jennifer E. McLeod, President, Lambton Law Association • Robin Brown, President, CCLA
12:15 PM - 12:30 PM	**Final Remarks, Lunch, and Departure** A final word to wrap-up before lunch and departure.	Speaker: • Jennifer S. Rooke, Chair, FOLA

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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.



Robin Brown is a lawyer with Cavanagh LLP in Ottawa. She practices primarily in the areas of insurance defence litigation with a focus on defending professional liability claims. Robin is currently the President of the County of Carleton Law Association ("CCLA"). Originally founded in 1888, the CCLA has 1,800 members making it the second largest law association in the province. She also is a co-chair of the CCLA's Membership Committee. Robin is also a proud alumnus of the University of Ottawa, Faculty of Common Law, where she has recently returned to teach civil trial advocacy.



Ted Chadderton is a litigator based in Barrie, Ontario. He handles complex litigation files, ranging from product liability, facility liability, insurance disputes and other multi-party litigation. Ted is known for being a voice of reason on files and strives to consider not just his clients' legal position but also a broader consideration of their business or personal interests.

Ted was elected as President of the Simcoe County Law Association after sitting as Chair of the SCLA Library committee for nine years and was the recipient of the SCLA Outstanding Service Award. Ted was elected to the Board of Directors of the Association of Ski Defence Attorneys and also elected to the International Association of Defence Counsel, as well as a member of the Canadian Bar Association, The Advocates' Society and Canadian Defence Lawyers. Ted serves as the Vice-Chair of LiRN.

Ted has been involved in many different facets of life in Simcoe County and Huronia, from managing a 1000 seat live music venue in Muskoka, to coaching Timbits soccer to leading a troop of dancing dads and the Extreme Dance Connection Prop Crew at his daughters' studio.

Ted is a part-time professor at Georgian College in the Business School teaching Law Clerks and Business students. He spends his free time skiing, cross training, and relaxing in P.E.I. (when possible) with his wife, daughters and two schnoodles.



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. She is Past President of the Hamilton

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.



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.



Ashley Gibson attended McMaster University and obtained an Honours Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a minor in Anthropology. Ashley graduated from McMaster in 2004, Summa Cum Laude.

After undergrad, Ashley attended the University of Windsor for law school where she developed a passion for social justice. Ashley graduated in 2007 and was called to the bar in 2008. After articling at Chown Cairns, Ashley accepted a position with David Hurren in her hometown of Fort Erie. Ashley partnered with Anthony Reitboeck in January of 2020 to form the firm Gibson & Reitboeck LLP.

In 2012, Ashley was appointed as a panel member of the Office of the Children's Lawyer and this caused her to focus her practice on family law. Ashley still maintains a busy solicitor practice, and she is forever grateful to her staff for keeping her organized.
Ashley was President of the Welland County Law Association for six years and was an executive member from 2008-2025. Ashley has been the South Central Regional Representative for FOLA since 2024. Ashley also sits on the Superior Court of Justice Judicial Liaison Committee, after years of sitting on the Ontario Court of Justice bench bar committee where she liaises with other lawyers, judges and family law participants in order to streamline access to justice for all. In 2012 Ashley was named "Young Professional of the Year" by the Fort Erie Chamber of Commerce and in 2013 she was named one of the "Top 40 under 40" by The Business Link Media Group.

Memberships and Accolades
2008-2017: President of the Fort Erie Bar Association.
2008- present: Lincoln County Law Association.
2008- present: Welland County Law Association 2008- present. President from 2017- present.
2011: Greater Fort Erie Chamber of Commerce Young Professional of the Year.
2012-2014: Fort Erie Young Professionals.
2012-2019: Welland Ontario Court of Justice's Bench Bar Committee.
2013: Business Link Media Group- Top 40 Under 40 Business Achievement Award.
2018-Present: Association of Family and Conciliation Courts.
2019 – Present: Collaborative Practice Niagara.
2020- Present: Welland Community Liaison and Resources Committee.
2020- Present: Superior Court of Justice Family Law Working Group.
January 2022- Present: Dispute Resolution Officer
2022- Planned and delivered presentation to the Fort Erie Junior B Meteors regarding sexual assault, harassment, pornography and consent.



Chelsea Hishon is Senior Partner at Beckett Personal Injury Lawyers. Her practice focuses exclusively on representing victims of both historical and recent sexual abuse. Chelsea received her Bachelor of Arts Degree from Laurier University in 2005, completing a double a major in Psychology and Sociology. During this time, she worked as a Child and Youth Worker both in school and residential settings. She later went on to manage a treatment home for children diagnosed with behavioural and developmental disorders. Chelsea received her JD from the University of Windsor in 2012. She has been representing survivors of sexual abuse since this time. In October 2023, Chelsea was appointed to the Ontario Trial Lawyers Association (OTLA) Board of Directors and is the current Chair of OTLA's Sexual Assault Litigation Section.

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.



Shalini Konanur was elected as Treasurer by the Law Society's governing body (Convocation) on June 17, 2026 and she took office on June 25, 2026. The Treasurer is the top-elected official of the Law Society, which regulates Ontario's lawyers and paralegals in the public interest. She is the Law Society's 71st Treasurer and the first racialized woman to be elected as Treasurer.

Treasurer Konanur was elected as a Bencher in 2023. She graduated from Osgoode Hall Law School in 1998 and was called to the Bar in 2000.

She is the Executive Director and senior lawyer at the South Asian Legal Clinic of Ontario.

Treasurer Konanur has spent her entire legal career in Ontario's legal aid clinic system, practising in rural and urban settings with diverse populations. She practises in a number of areas of law including immigration, family, human rights, employment, income maintenance, housing, and gender-based violence.

She has appeared at all levels of court up to the Supreme Court of Canada and has provided expert advice related to racism, discrimination and gender-based violence to multiple levels of governments, to civil society organizations, the private sector, and internationally at the United Nations.

Treasurer Konanur is a member of the Law Foundation Ontario Board, and the Alliance for Sustainable Legal Aid.

Augustine Emily Krawchenko is the owner of Krawchenko Law, a boutique law firm in Hamilton, Ontario. She focuses on Estate Administration, Wills and Powers of Attorney, and Real Estate, bringing a unique, hospitality-minded approach to her practice. Augustine earned a combined Honours degree from McMaster University before completing her Bachelor of Laws (LLB) at the University of Leicester in England in 2015. As a proud and passionate Hamiltonian, she returned home, was called to the Ontario Bar in 2017, and launched her independent practice in January 2021.

Beyond her practice, Augustine is deeply invested in the local and provincial legal community. As a member of the LiRN board since 2021, she was previously the Chair of Network Policies Committee before being elected as Chair. She serves on the Hamilton Law Association's Estates and Trusts Subcommittee and is a board member for the Lawyer's Legacy for Children. A creative spirit, she has performed in multiple Hamilton Lawyer's Shows at Theatre Aquarius, helping raise vital funds for children's charities. Augustine is a veteran of the Canadian Armed Forces (Royal Canadian Navy Reservist). She remains committed to mentoring new licensees, articling students, NCA candidates, as well as those who have taken the monumental leap to become a sole practitioner. Whether she is globetrotting with her husband, scouting out the best restaurants, or walking her Pomeranian, Augustine is happiest spending time and making memories with family.



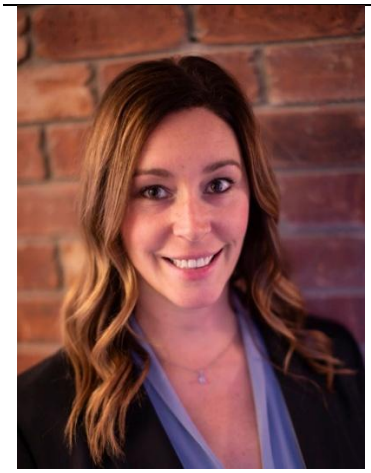
Theresa Leitch is LIRN Inc.'s inaugural Managing Director.

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.



Jennifer McLeod was born and raised in Lambton County. She obtained an honours undergraduate degree from the University of Guelph studying Spanish and International Development. Jennifer then attended the University of Toronto to complete her Master's degree in Spanish Literature. Afterwards, Jennifer spent some time abroad, teaching English in Spain and Spanish in England before returning home and obtaining her law degree at the University of Western Ontario. Jennifer was called to the bar in 2020.

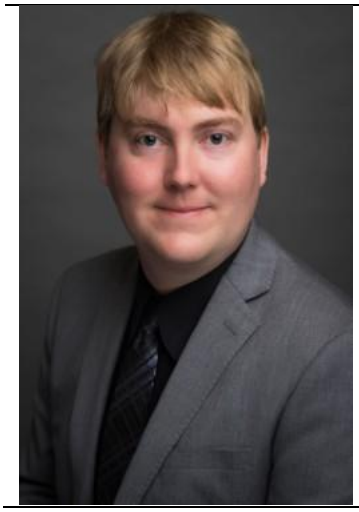
Jennifer is a partner at O'Mahony McLeod LLP in Sarnia, opened in 2023. Jennifer's practice focuses primarily on family law. The firm also offers services in real estate, wills & estates, estate administration, and corporate & commercial transactions. Jennifer is working towards becoming accredited as a family mediator, which she expects to complete later this year. She is very much

looking forward to offering mediations for the benefit of families in Sarnia.

Jennifer has been active on the Lambton Law Association board since being called to the bar and is the current president. Outside of work, Jennifer enjoys spending time in her gardens and at the beach with her family, when she is not operating a busy chauffeur service for her two teenage sons.



John Morrissey is a graduate of the University of Ottawa and was called to the bar in 2016. John is a Partner at Siskinds LLP in the estate litigation group. His practice focuses on all areas of estate and capacity litigation, including Will challenges, fiduciary accounting, power of attorney disputes, guardianship, and property disputes. John is a member on the Office of the Children's Lawyer Property Rights Legal Panel and regularly acts as section 3 counsel and counsel for the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee. John regularly advises long-term care facilities, funeral homes, cemeteries, and individuals on estate and capacity related issues and has represented parties at various levels of court in Ontario including Ontario's Court of Appeal and the Superior Court of Justice. John serves as vice chair on the board of directors for the Alzheimer's Society Southwest Partners Foundation and regularly presents to the Alzheimer Society and long-term care homes on the subject of Wills, powers of attorney, and capacity related issues. For four consecutive years, John was named in *Best Lawyers™: Ones to Watch in Canada*.



David Nusko is a sole practitioner who has been practising in Bruce and Grey Counties since shortly after being called to the bar in both Ontario and Michigan in 2014. Prior to establishing his practice, he articled with the Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation. His general practice focuses on real estate, wills and estate administration, family law, and assisting small business owners with corporate records and governance.

Active in law association governance, Mr. Nusko serves as President of the Bruce County Law Association and is a member of FOLA's Real Estate Committee. His public service includes serving as Chair of the Wiarton B.I.A. Board of Management, a board member of the Grey Bruce Board of Health, and a member of several Municipal Compliance Audit Committees across Ontario.

Academically, he holds dual J.D. degrees from the University of Windsor Faculty of Law and the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law (cum laude), as well as a B.A. (Honours) with distinction from Redeemer University.

When not in the office, Mr. Nusko enjoys spending time with his family, sailing in the summer, and curling in the winter.



Aileen Page brings a wealth of legal and executive leadership experience to her role. After graduating from the University of Toronto, she earned her Juris Doctor from Georgia State University and is a member of the bar in Ontario and Georgia. She began her legal career in the United States in 1996, first as an assistant district attorney, trying felony cases in both rural and urban jurisdictions, and then as a civil litigator in state and federal courts. Ms. Page also served as a magistrate judge, presiding over criminal and civil matters, including bail and preliminary hearings. Upon returning to Ontario, she served as a senior policy advisor to two attorneys general.

Ms. Page joined LAO in 2012 as senior counsel in the General Counsel Office. She went on to become director of litigation and regulatory affairs, leading the creation of LAO's first self-promulgated regulatory regime that supports the Legal Aid Services Act, 2020. Prior to her appointment, Ms. Page served as vice president of strategy and public affairs and chief risk officer, leading stakeholder and government relations, policy, business intelligence, communications and corporate planning and reporting.



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.

Daniel E. Pinnington was appointed President & Chief Executive Officer of LAWPRO in 2018. From 2012 to 2018, he served as Vice President, Claims Prevention & Stakeholder Relations, overseeing LAWPRO's claims prevention and outreach initiatives.

Dan joined LAWPRO in 2001 as Director, practicePRO – LAWPRO's innovative and internationally recognized claims prevention initiative. He used his unique combination of practice experience and technology expertise to provide lawyers with tools and resources to assist them to avoid malpractice claims and succeed in the practice of law.

Before joining LAWPRO, Dan practised for eight years in the litigation department of a Niagara-area law firm. Dan was called to the bar in 1993, having graduated with a combined LL.B./J.D. from the University of Windsor and Detroit Mercy College of Law.

Dan is a Fellow of the College of Law Practice Management and is a prolific writer, speaker and blogger on risk management, legal technology and law practice management issues. He has given hundreds of presentations throughout North America and has chaired more than a dozen major conferences.

Dan was the President of the National Association of Bar-Affiliated Insurance Companies (NABRICO) in 2019. He has been very active in the American Bar Association's Law Practice Division and was a long-time member of the ABA Legal Professional Liability Standing Committee. He was Chair of ABA TECHSHOW 2007 and Editor-In-Chief of Law Practice magazine from 2009-2012. He co-authored The Busy Lawyer's Guide to Success: Essential Tips to Power Your Practice and made several contributions to other books published

by the ABA Law Practice Management section. Dan has also been active over the years in a variety of roles for the Canadian and Ontario Bar Associations.



Logan Rathbone has been the Chair of the Family Law Committee of FOLA since 2026 and Co-Chair since 2022. He has been practising family, child protection and criminal law as a sole practitioner in the Halton Region since 2011. He believes strongly in access to justice in family law. Outside of the legal world, he enjoy music, computer programming, and spending time with family.

Karen M. Seeley was called to the Ontario Bar in 2007 after earning her B.A. (Political Science and History) from McGill University and Juris Doctorate (Hons) from the University of Saskatchewan. Her legal focus is on Criminal Law, Real Estate, and Corporate Law.

Even as a young child, while her contemporaries dreamed of becoming astronauts and hockey stars, Ms. Seeley knew she wanted to become a lawyer. She has been interested in the law for as long as she can remember, and as a lawyer she loves being able to assist her clients through the most difficult periods of their lives and being able to provide them with sound legal advice.

Ms. Seeley has successfully defended two family law matters on appeal at the Divisional Court, Superior Court of Justice. In her free time she loves to read and to travel. She has been and remains a very active member of several local associations: President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer for the District of Kenora Law Association; Chair, Vice-Chair and Board Member of the Dryden Regional Health Centre; and Vice-Chair and Board Member of FIREFLY. She is FOLA's Treasurer and Secretary.



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 Avricore 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.



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:

- 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.