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Preparing for your experience is important to us!



## Connect, Learn and Lead!

To register please fill in our [form](#).



**Deadline is Monday, October 11th, 2026**

We accept e-transfers and cheques payable to Durham Region Law Association. Payment must be made at the same time as the registration. If you are sending a cheque, please provide Jennie with a scanned copy of your cheque.

- Doors open at 8:30 a.m.
- Check in at front desk – MEET AND GREET THE SPONSORS and enjoy breakfast
- Parking is free
- Refunds will be honoured 14 days before event. No exceptions
- Wheelchair accessible
- Washrooms available on both levels
- Washroom: sensor doors and accessible stalls– main floor
- Elevators available
- Volunteers and Committee members are at your disposal if you need assistance.
- Enjoy breakfast and two coffee breaks and lunch!
- Complimentary high-speed internet
- Wi-Fi: Username AjaxConventionCentre
- PW: Ajax2020



# 2026 DRLA FALL CONFERENCE

## OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

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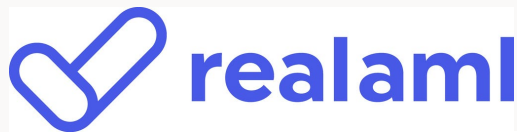


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**Wills & Estates ~ 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**  
**Chairs: Amelia Yiu & Phillipa Goddard**  
**Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026**



**LSO Accreditation Approval**

**Substantive: 6h 40m - Professional: 0h 0m - EDI: 0h 25m**

9:00 a.m. - 9:05 a.m.: Introductory Remarks  
Amelia Yiu & Phillipa Goddard

9:05 a.m. - 9:10 a.m. Speaker – eState Planner  
Jordan Atin & Ian Hull

9:10 a.m. - 9:35 a.m.: The Dual Will Strategy: Protecting Business Assets and  
Minimizing Probate  
Denise Branton

9:35 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.: The Line Between Civil and Criminal: When Elder Abuse  
Becomes a Police Matter  
Detective Martin Franssen

10:00 a.m. - 10:25 a.m.: Capacity Assessments - A Physician Perspective  
Doctor Fiona Menzies

10:25 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.: Morning Break

10:45 a.m. - 11:10 a.m.: The Line Between Errors and Breach: Navigating the Pitfalls of  
Property Management by a POA  
Andrew Felker

11:10 a.m. - 11:35 a.m.: Practical Strategy for Estate Litigation  
Felice C. Kirsh

11:35 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.: The Collaborative Advantage: A Guide to Collaborative Estate  
Practice  
Sydney Osmar

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. – Lunch



**Wills & Estates ~ 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**  
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1:30 p.m. - 1:55 p.m.: Tax Advisory, Succession, and Estate Planning - Farm Planning/  
Post-Mortem Planning  
Francesca Loreto

1:55 p.m. - 2:20 p.m.: Case Law and Considerations Regarding Land Claims  
Jenna Khoury-Hanna & Grace Missen

2:20 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.: Anroop v. Naqvi 2026 ONCA 142 and the Court's Discussion on  
Unconscionable Procurement  
Ayda (Tabrizi) Kay

2:45 p.m. - 3:10 p.m.: The Accessible Advocate: Legal Obligations and Ethical  
Standards for Aging Clients  
Amelia Yiu

3:10 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. – Afternoon Break

3:30 p.m. - 3:55 p.m.: Case Study: New Decisions in Estate Law  
Phillipa Goddard

3:55 p.m. - 4:25 p.m.: Judge's Panel

4:25 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Closing remarks – Amelia Yiu & Phillipa Goddard



**Real Estate ~ 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.**  
**Chairs: Paria Rad & Jason Vanular**  
**Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
**LSO Accreditation to follow**



9:00 am. To 9:10 a.m.

Introductory remarks

Paria Katie Rad, Partner & Jason Vanular

9:10 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.: Closer by LawLabs

9:15 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.: Tax considerations for Real Estate Transactions

Francesca (Frankie) Loreto, Tax partner Baker Tilly KDN LLP

9:45 a.m. to 10:25 a.m.: The Corporate Layer: What every Real Estate Lawyer need to know.

Craig Mack – Mack Lawyers

10:25 a.m. Morning Break

10:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.: LRO: TBD

Director of titles, Rebecca Hockridge

11:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.: Conveyancing Panel: The Title Search an in-depth review

Ted Groves & Lori Lynde

11:45 a.m. to 11:55 a.m. - Question and answer period

11:55 a.m.– Stewart Title

12:00 End of program



**Civil Litigation ~ 12 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

**Andrew Elrick**

**Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**LSO Accreditation to follow**



1:30 p.m. to 1:35 p.m.

Introductory remarks

Andrew Elrick

1:35 p.m. to 1:40 p.m.

Sponsor's remarks

1:40 p.m. to 2:10 p.m.

The Do's and Don't's of Mediation Brief

Penny Georgoudis

2:10 p.m. to 2:40 p.m.

Financial Statements for lawyers and other dummies

Arina Bakhtine

2:40 p.m. to 3:10 p.m.

How to Keep Going at this job

Kat Kinch/Grace Missen

3:10 p.m. Coffee Break

3:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Tips on writing a factum

John Montgomery

4:00 p.m. to 4:25 p.m.

Ahluwalia and its significance for civil litigators

Kirsten Mercer

4:25 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Closing remarks



**Family Law Program ~ 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

**Chairs: Stephanie Ostrom & Amelia Yiu**

**Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026**



**LSO Accreditation Approval**

**Substantive: 6h 15m - Professional: 0 h- 25m - EDI: 0h 35m**

9:00 a.m. - 9:05 a.m.: Introductory Remarks

Stephanie Ostrom & Amelia Yiu

9:05 a.m. - 9:10 a.m. Speaker

Sponsor remarks: Amina Jama-Gardner & Derek Woodruff

9:10 a.m. - 9:35 a.m.: Case Law Updates in Family Law

Aaron Franks/Epstein Cole LLP Presenter

9:35 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Beyond the Bench: Why Arbitration Often Outperforms the Courtroom

Clayton Spencer

10:00 a.m. -10:25 a.m.: The AFCC Guideline and Whether or not Counsel Should be Relying on it and to What Extent as a Starting Point and Crafting Parenting Time Orders in Light of Recent Jurisprudence from the Ontario Court of Appeal

Raymond Goddard

10:25 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.: Morning Break

10:45 a.m. - 11:10 a.m.: How to Manage Family Law Clients So That They Pay Their Bill

Steven Benmor

11:10 a.m. - 12 p.m.: Practical Lesson on Successful Motion Practice

Mary-Jo Maur



**Family Law Program ~ 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**  
**Chairs: Stephanie Ostrom & Amelia Yiu**  
**Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026**



**LSO Accreditation Approval**

**Substantive: 6h 15m - Professional: 0h 25m - EDI: 0h 35m**

12 p.m. Lunch

1:30 p.m. - 1:55 p.m.: Family Law Trial Preparation & Advocacy  
Michael Stangarone

1:55 p.m. - 2:20 p.m.: What Every Litigator Can Learn from the Collaborative Table  
Host: Michelle Mulchan Panelist: Melissa Belliveau Panelist: Patricia Greco Panelist:  
Bev LeMay

2:20 p.m. - 2:55 p.m.: Equality by Design: Building a Diverse and Sustainable Family Law  
Practice  
Jennifer Gold

2:55 – Break

3:10 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. – Judges Panel



# Employment Law Program ~9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Chair: Andrew Lee

Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026



## LSO Accreditation to follow

9:00 – 9:05

Introduction and Opening Remarks

Andrew Lee – Mack Lawyers

9:10 - 9:30

Rapid Fire: Creative and Rule 49-Compliant Offers to Settle; Requests to Admit; Proving Failure to Mitigate (Is It Even Possible?)

Ian Johncox – Mason Bennett Johncox

9:35 – 9:55

The Latest on Termination Clause Litigation

Simone Ostrowski – Whitten & Lublin

10:00 - 10:20

Salary Continuance Pitfalls: Lessons Learned from Cross v. Cooling Tower Maintenance

Alex Henderson – MBAA Law

10:20 – 10:40 Break

10:40 – 11:00

Restrictive Covenants

Joel Smith – Shields O'Donnell Mackillop LLP

11:05 – 11:25

Employment Law Exceptions That Can Catch You Off Guard

Christine Ashton – Wilson Vukelich LLP

11:30 – 11:50

Workplace Investigations

Rupa Karyampudi - Prisma Workplace Legal

Asha Rampersad -Turnpenney Milne LLP

11:55 – 12:00

Closing Remarks



# Young Lawyers Program ~ 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Chair: Henna Mall Vaidya

Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026



## LSO Accreditation Approval 2h and 15m Professionalism

1:00 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. Introductory Remarks

Henna Mall Vaidya

1:15 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Exploring New Practice Areas

Divyansh Dev

2 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. Panel Discussion: Artificial Intelligence & Practice of Law:  
Beginning of an End or End of a Beginning (4 people)

Host: Henna Mall Vaidya

Speakers: Sucheta Dixit, Solo Practitioner & Contract Associate

Nickiesha Blake, Assistant Crown Attorney, Ministry of Attorney General at  
Cobourg

Zachary Davis, Solicitor with the Regional Municipality of Durham

2:45p.m. -3:00p.m. Networking Opportunity

3 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.: Flying Solo as a Young Practitioner – Approaching with  
Confidence by Nneka Samali

3:30 p.m. to 3:50 p.m.: Networking Nuggets

Sumit Garg

3:50 PM: Closing Remarks

