



FOLA'S MONTHLY SECTOR MEETING UPDATE

Fola.ca

SECTOR CHECK IN LOG #91

March 8, 2023

Summary

Invited Participants: Sector Calls

OBA, FOLA, LSO, LAO, the Advocates' Society, & OTLA

Superior Court of Justices in Ontario, Court of Appeal for Ontario, & Ontario Court of Justice

MAG - Department staff and the Recovery Secretariat

SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE UPDATES

SCJ's GUIDELINES TO DETERMINE THE MODE OF PROCEEDING IN CIVIL, FAMILY, CRIMINAL, & SCC:

The Office of the Chief Justice of the SCJ is seeking input on the Guidelines to Determine the Mode of Proceeding in Civil, Family, Criminal and Small Claims Court. [Please visit here for more information.](#)

Deadline is March 15th.

ONTARIO COURT OF JUSTICE UPDATES:

No updates this week

COURT OF APPEAL FOR ONTARIO UPDATES:

No updates this week

MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

JUSTICE SERVICES ONLINE - LIVE (VIRTUAL) FEEDBACK SESSIONS

FOLA and MAG are planning on co-hosting a series of regional live virtual one-hour feedback sessions for Ontario lawyers and legal support staff who have used the JSO and have questions, suggestions, or other feedback about the portals. Dates will be announced next week. In the meantime, please send Katie (katie.robINETTE@fola.ca) any questions and issues you have with the JSO and we will work to include these into the sessions and use them to craft an updated FAQ page. **Please put "JSO Feedback Sessions" in your subject line and include your name and law association in your email message by March 22nd by 5pm.**

JSO TIP

Do you find you need to provide additional information to staff when processing documents? A little-known option allows you to do this. MAG introduced the 'Memo to Court Staff regarding a Submission' feature in JSO on November 15, 2021 but not many people know about this. This "memo" feature is available in the Family Submissions Online, Civil Submissions Online, Small Claims Court Submissions Online and Bankruptcy Submissions Online portals. The memo allows filers to provide additional information to staff when processing documents. For example, the memo could be used to indicate documents are being submitted pursuant to a court order. Currently, messaging about the memo can be found on the JSO portals at the point

when the filer is ready to upload documents (see below image). As part of a future iteration, MAG is working to make the messaging more prevalent in each portal for better awareness.

The ministry has also worked closely with the Superior Court of Justice and Ontario Court of Justice to provide enhanced guidelines on valid rejection reasons. The guidelines are publicly available on the Ontario court forms site (ontariocourtforms.on.ca) or directly through this [link](#). These guidelines were also provided to court staff.

Upload the documents *

Important information:

- Upload your completed documents by selecting the document type and clicking "Upload document".
- ★ If you are submitting a Memo to Court Staff Regarding a Submission, you must ensure that this is the first document you are uploading. The Memo will not be saved to the court file or otherwise retained after your submission is reviewed.
- Each document must be in PDF or Word (.docx) format and cannot exceed 15 megabytes (MB). The latest versions of the court forms, available on the [Ontario Court Forms](#) website, should be used. Please note, documents can be submitted in Word (.docx) format, however, PDF is the preferred format.
- The total size of all documents cannot exceed 50 megabytes (MB).
- Each page of the document must be letter sized (8.5" x 11") and portrait orientation.
- File names must contain only letters, numbers, spaces, underscores, periods, apostrophes, hyphens, brackets and French characters and must not exceed 255 characters (including the extension).

Documents ?

Begin typing the name of the document and the predictive text will provide a list of the forms. Press the spacebar to see the entire list. The available documents will depend on the type of case selected on the first page.

★ Memo to Court Staff Regar [input] \$0.00 [Upload document] [Remove document]

[Add document]

JUDICIAL VACANCIES: The Judicial Appointments Advisory Committee is currently seeking applications for two OCJ judicial positions in Brampton. [Learn more here](#).

OTHER ONTARIO GOVERNMENT NEWS

REMINDER: ONTARIO'S NOT-FOR-PROFIT ACT: Ontario's Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA) took effect on October 19, 2021. Existing non-profits have 3 years from that date to bring their governing documents into compliance with the new law. Learn more on our [ONCA Resource Page](#).

FOLA

❖ LOBBY DAY 2023

FOLA's 2023 Lobby Day took place via Zoom yesterday. FOLA will be sending out a detailed Post-Lobby Day Report shortly. In the meantime, you can take a look at our [Post Plenary Press Release](#). And check out this article in today's Law 360 Canada: "[FOLA raises multiple issues impacting justice system at annual Queen's Park lobby day](#)".

❖ **FOLA SUBMISSIONS:** On February 22, 2023, FOLA sent in a letter to the Chief Justice of the SCJ regarding growing concerns about the court's expectations regarding the use of CaseLines. You can read that letter [here](#).

❖ **FOLA IN THE NEWS:** On February 15, 2023, FOLA was featured in the Law Times in an article titled "[FOLA Calls For Ontario to Boost Legal Aid Funding and Court Innovation](#)". You can read it [here](#).

❖ **FEATURED MEMBER REWARD #1:** Bell Mobility has a brand new offer for the rest of March! [Learn more and shop now!](#)

- ❖ **FEATURED MEMBER REWARD #2:** Hilton Hotels is offering Double Points on every stay (plus 1,000 Bonus Points) each time you stay with a different brand within the Hilton portfolio. Offer available through April 30, 2023. [Learn more and book your stay today!](#)
- ❖ **FEATURED MEMBER REWARD #3:** Destination CPD is back Destination CPD is thrilled to invite FOLA members to their annual criminal law conference in Las Vegas from May 3-5, 2023. All Law Association members get 20% off! [Learn more & book your trip!](#)
- ❖ **FREE OFFER FROM JURISAGE:** Sign up for free customized daily Canadian case law summaries with Jurisage. [Learn more & sign up here.](#)
- ❖ **FOLA AWARDS 2023:** FOLA'S 2023 Awards have changed a bit. We have changed (slightly) the eligibility requirements for the Presidents' Award and the Luminary Award (for library staff and association staff) and have replaced the Distinguished Service Award with the Emerging Leader Award. Nominations are now open and full eligibility requirements and nomination forms can be found [here](#).
- ❖ **ELDER ABUSE PREVENTION ONTARIO (EAPO) - FREE PROGRAMMING OFFER:** The EAPO is offering Law Associations customized education programs free of charge! They will work with your Association to organize in-house training initiatives or community knowledge sharing sessions. If you are interested, visit [here](#) to learn more. If you have any questions, you can contact Sheila Schuehle in at SSchuehlein@eapon.ca
- ❖ **FOLA's MARCH NEWSLETTER:** FOLA's March newsletter is now available. You can access it [here](#).
- ❖ **MLA's MARCH NEWSLETTER:** The Middlesex Law Association's March newsletter is now available. You can access it [here](#).

BENCHER ELECTIONS

- ❖ **BENCHER ELECTIONS:** Nominations have now closed. The voting begins in April with the results announced on May 1, 2023 after the tabulation of votes. FOLA has added Outside Toronto candidate names to our website (sorted by region) and have sent out a survey to all candidates (including the Toronto area ones) asking them a series of questions to help Law Association members be better able to identify "FOLA Friendly". Responses will be added to our website shortly. We will be sharing the results with the Toronto Lawyers Association so that they can use that information for their website. You can find more information on [FOLA's Bencher Elections webpage](#). If you want to have a quick look at the candidates, click [here](#). Note that bios and contact info is not yet available.

LAW SOCIETY OF ONTARIO

- ❖ **NEXT LSO CONVOCATION:** The next Convocation will be held on April 27, 2023. Information will be posted on their website closer to the event.
- ❖ **LSO AGM:** The Law Society's AGM will take place virtually on May 10 at 5:15pm.

LAW FOUNDATION OF ONTARIO

- ❖ **GRANTS:** The Law Foundation of Ontario is currently inviting applications for its 2023 Responsive program. Responsive grants fund community-led initiatives that improve access to justice. Responsive grants aim to encourage new projects that fill existing legal gaps, supplement existing services, or otherwise help address emerging needs by connecting more people to legal information and support, especially people who are not currently being reached. [Learn more & apply here](#). **Deadline is April 11th**
- ❖ **AWARDS:** The Law Foundation of Ontario is currently seeking nominations for the Guthrie Award. [Learn more here](#). **Deadline is March 24th**.

LEGAL AID ONTARIO

IMPACT OF RACE AND CULTURE ASSESSMENTS (IRCAS): Legal Aid Ontario (LAO) is funding pre-sentencing reports, known as Impact of Race and Culture Assessments (IRCA), to help address systemic racism and discrimination faced by Black and other racialized people in the criminal justice system. [Learn more here](#).

JOBS

- ❖ **ONTARIO GOVERNMENT:** The Government of Ontario offers a challenging opportunity for an experienced labour and employment lawyer to serve as a full-time Vice-Chair of the Ontario Labour Relations Board. **Deadline is March 20th. Learn more & apply [here](#).**

ASSOCIATION & OTHER EVENTS & COURSES

LAW SOCIETY OF ONTARIO: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY PROGRAM

March 8, 2023, 5:30 PM to 7:15 PM

[Innovation and technology for gender equality in the legal professions](#)

Please join the Law Society of Ontario, the Ontario Bar Association's Women Lawyers Forum, the Women's Law Association of Ontario, the Women's Paralegal Association of Ontario, the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund, the Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic and Young Women in Law, for their annual International Women's Day program.

[Learn more & register here](#)

ONTARIO MOCK TRIAL ASSOCIATION (OMTA)

March 11th - 6-9pm

Centre for Innovation, 720 Bathurst Street, Toronto

The official launch of the OMTA

[Learn more & register here](#)

THE OSGOODE CERTIFICATE IN MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT LAW AND PRACTICE (TORT AND ACCIDENT BENEFITS)

Dates: Apr 12, 17, 24 & May 1 & 8, 2023 (5 Modules) - online (live)

Once seen as an acceptable area for 'dabblers', injury law is shaping up as a practice area in which only those with a pronounced edge in practical expertise will prevail. This unique, intensive Certificate program will give you the edge you need to handle injury files effectively as well as efficiently, on both the tort and AB sides, and from plaintiffs' and defendants'/insurer's perspectives.

Over five non-consecutive one-day modules-via Zoom from the convenience of your office or home- you will:

- acquire essential knowledge as distilled by experts,
- learn where the pitfalls are and how to avoid or surmount them
- build your practice skills and have your most pressing questions answered.

[Learn more & register here](#)

OSGOODE PD: 12TH ANNUAL RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN ADVANCED AND COMPLEX ISSUES IN PROPERTY AND EQUALIZATION

Dates: Apr 13, 2023 In-Person Online (Live) // May 10, 2023 Online (Replay)

Property and equalization issues just keep getting more complex. Which means you need to more ready than ever. This annual OsgoodePD program – designed and delivered by the leading family law experts – focuses on the more complex and challenging current and emerging issues in property and equalization.

This is not a quick summary of the year in review. Rather, it is an in-depth analysis of the critical issues confronting the family law bar. Invest a day acquiring the key knowledge, practical strategies and contacts you need to manage these challenges – and your clients – with confidence.

[Learn more & register here](#)

LAW SOCIETY OF ONTARIO: HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY PROGRAM

April 18, 2023, 5:30 PM to 7:15 PM (virtual event)

Save the date. More information coming soon

[Learn more here](#)

TLA EVENT: ESCAPING THE PRISON OF BELLIGERENCE: MENTAL WELLNESS FOR LAWYERS

Thursday, April 20, 2022 (Free virtual event)

Incivility in the practice of law is reaching epic levels. The business of law has transformed the art of argument as a form of discourse into a war of words. Hyper-aggressiveness is becoming synonymous with good advocacy. This has a significantly negative impact on our mental health, and ultimately on the credibility of our justice system. In this session, the TLA panel will explore the toxic effect of high-conflict behaviour on our mental health, our relationships with others, and discuss the importance of self-accountability.

[Learn more and register here](#)

SAVE THE DATE: DURHAM REGION LAW ASSOCIATION 2nd ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE

DATE: Thursday, September 28 & Friday September 29, 2023

Ajax Convention Centre

Information and registration coming soon

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS?

COURT WORKING GROUPS

SCJ FAMILY LAW & IN-PERSON vs. ONLINE MATTERS

If you have ongoing concerns regarding in-person vs online appearances at the SCJ, please direct your concerns to Katie at katie.robinette@fola.ca and she will relay them to our Family Law Working Group.

SCJ SMALL CLAIMS COURT WORKING GROUP: FOLA is requesting that practitioners (as well as Deputy Judges) take a moment to consider and comment on what works well and what could use improvement in our Small Claims Court so that constructive feedback can continue to flow to the Small Claims Court Working Group. Please send comments to Katie at katie.robinette@fola.ca.

EVERYTHING ELSE

Law Association members are welcome to send any issues/concerns related to the above Updates by FOLA by emailing Katie at katie.robinette@fola.ca. We will address them in as timely a manner as possible. Please also note that FOLA cannot assist in issues related to a specific case and the Courts will NOT provide clarification on any Notice to the Profession.