



FOLA'S WEEKLY COURTS UPDATE

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February 15, 2023

SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE UPDATES

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

The Ontario Superior Court of Justice's Guidelines to Determine the [Mode of Proceeding in Civil, Family, Criminal and Small Claims Court](#) came into effect on April 19, 2022. In his message to the Bar announcing the Guidelines on March 17, 2022, Chief Justice Morawetz explained that the Guidelines are living documents and would be reviewed in the new year after the Bar and the Court had some time to work with them.

Accordingly, the Office of the Chief Justice of the SCJ is seeking input on the Guidelines. The Guidelines set out the presumptive method of hearing for any given matter and were developed with consultation and input from the Bar, the Court's specialized working groups and the judiciary. Consideration of all justice participants' needs required a careful and thoughtful balance between the continued availability of both in-person and virtual attendances. The framework of those considerations are captured in the over-arching principles accompanying each set of the Guidelines and which inform the Court's application of them.

For your convenience, summary charts of the Court's Guidelines in Civil, Criminal and Family, with reference to any Regional variation, can be found [here](#).

If you are interested in providing input on the Court's Guidelines, FOLA would be pleased to receive your input by March 15th for consideration in FOLA's submission to the SCJ. Please send comments to Katie at Katie.Robinette@fola.ca.

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. While we are still working out dates, 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.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING - COMMUNITY SERVICES RECOVERY FUND

Do you qualify? The Community Services Recovery Fund is a \$400 million investment from the Government of Canada to support community service organizations, including charities, non-profits and Indigenous governing bodies as they focus on how to adapt their organizations for recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. [Learn more here](#). **Deadline for applications is February 26th.**

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 will take place on March 7th via Zoom. Registration is now closed.

Whether or not you've registered, you can check out what we have planned and read our Talking Points on our Lobby Day webpage [here](#).

❖ **FOLA'S FEDERAL BUDGET SUBMISSION:** On Monday, February 13, 2023, FOLA send in a submission to the Prime Minister and Ministers of Finance and Justice regarding the 2023 Federal Budget. In it, we flag to two priority areas for all Ontarians: funding for legal aid and resources to increase the capacity of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice. You can read it [here](#).

❖ **FEATURED MEMBER REWARD #1:** Bell Mobility has a new offer for the rest of February! [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 at SSchuehle@eapon.ca

❖ **JOBS:**

BRUCE GREY CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES (BGCFS) - LEGAL COUNSEL: The BGCFS was established in 2012 through the consolidation of the former Bruce and Grey Children's Aid Societies. Together, each organization brought a history of more than a century of protecting children. They are a team of over 150 child protection workers, child and youth workers, lawyers, support and administrative staff working together and in partnership with the community to help families to keep children safe and well. The BGCFS is currently seeking a Legal Counsel. Reporting to the Senior Legal Counsel, the Legal Counsel is responsible for providing

comprehensive legal consultation, representation and training for Bruce Grey Child and Family Services (BGCFS) and its staff in all matters related to the execution of its mandate under the Child, Youth and Family Services Act (CYFSA). [Learn more & apply via our Job Board here.](#) **Deadline is Feb 17th.**

BENCHER ELECTIONS

- ❖ **REMINDER - BENCHER ELECTIONS:** Nominations are now open for the 2023 Bencher Elections! You can find more information on [FOLA's Bencher Elections webpage](#). Information as to how FOLA will be involved in these elections is posted on that page as well as resources for those considering running – so please do visit this page regularly! **Nominations are open until February 24th and voting will occur online in April 2023 with the results announced on May 1, 2023 after the tabulation of votes.**
- ❖ **THINKING ABOUT RUNNING AS A BENCHER?** Cheryl Siran, a Bencher from Kenora, has written a guest article for FOLA about what being a Bencher is really about. It's on our Bencher elections page [here](#).
- ❖ **STEWART TITLE - CALLING ON SOLICITORS TO RUN FOR THE BENCHER ELECTIONS:** As a supporter of legal professionals and the associations that represent them, Stewart Title is once again working with FOLA to encourage the participation of Solicitors in this election. Read their press release [here](#).

LAW SOCIETY OF ONTARIO

- ❖ **LSO CONVOCATION:** LSO's next Convocation will take place Feb 25th starting at 9am. Live weblink, Agenda, and materials will be accessible [here](#) closer to the date.
- ❖ **LSO AGM:** The Law Society's AGM will take place virtually on May 10 at 5:15pm.

LAW FOUNDATION OF ONTARIO

- ❖ **AWARDS:** The Law Foundation of Ontario is currently seeking nominations for the Guthrie Award. [Learn more here.](#) **Deadline is March 24th.**

ASSOCIATION & OTHER EVENTS & COURSES

PLA: HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND CHILD PROTECTION PRACTICE

Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 4pm (in-person event)

Learn more about human trafficking and what is being done to protect children in Peel.

Topics discussed will include:

- Human trafficking and sex trafficking - recruitment, myths, signs, and impacts
- Changes to the CYFSA relating to human trafficking cases.
- Community support agency POVs

Of interest to counsel who are new to child protection law - come learn about

- Areas of legal representation in a child protection case
- Requirements for LAO child protection panel
- LAO child protection mentorship program

[Learn more & register here](#)

OSGOODE PD: THE OSGOODE CERTIFICATE IN FAMILY LAW SKILLS AND PRACTICE

Dates: Mar 1, 8, 22, 29 & Apr 5, 12, 19, 26 & May 10, 2023 - Online (Live) (9 Modules)

If you practise or want to practise Family Law – you **MUST** take this unique, hands-on skills program. Over 9 intensive modules – spread out over 3 months – you will work closely with and receive personalized feedback from senior family law judges, experienced counsel, and specially trained simulated clients. With hands-on skills workshops and interactive, discussion-based lectures you will acquire the key foundational knowledge and practical skills you need to practice family law with confidence.

The Osgoode Certificate in Family Law Skills and Practice was designed and is delivered by the leading family law judges, lawyers and experts. Focusing on the practical, we will work through the key stages of a family law file using a combination of in-depth case studies, simulated clients, and skills workshops. You will benefit from individualized feedback and practice learned concepts in a supportive learning environment. In an intimate online environment, you will have lots of opportunities to ask questions, engage with faculty and forge valuable connections with other family law professionals. Given the interactive nature of this program, space is strictly limited. Reserve your place now to take advantage of this unique learning opportunity.

[Learn more & register here](#)

OSGOODE PD - FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR LEGAL PROFESSIONALS

March 8-9, 2023 9:00 am to 5:00pm (In-Person or Online [Live])

Now in its 17th year, this acclaimed interactive program is specifically designed for legal professionals. Program Director Professor John Friedlan reviews complex concepts in a clear and interactive manner, providing you with comprehensive and practical guidance so that you can effectively understand analyze financial statements and reports in your practice.

[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](#)

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.