



# FOLA'S WEEKLY COURTS UPDATE

*Fola.ca*

FOLA's WEEKLY UPDATE  
March 15, 2023

## 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. **Deadline is today (March 15<sup>th</sup>).** [Please visit here to learn more.](#)

## 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 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. Below are the registration links for each Regional Session. **Note - in order to attend, you MUST pre-register.**

### Zoom Registration Links for JSO User Feedback Sessions:

- East Region (March 27, 2023 at 1:00-2:00 PM EST):  
[https://ca01web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_EaNd66tgSfuWHg37-uMpMA](https://ca01web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EaNd66tgSfuWHg37-uMpMA)
- Central West Region (March 28, 2023 at 1:00-2:00 PM EST):  
[https://ca01web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_7LdwGdfNTv6S5bhO5dq0Og](https://ca01web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7LdwGdfNTv6S5bhO5dq0Og)
- Central East Region (March 31, 2023 at 8:30-9:30 AM EST):  
[https://ca01web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_PzsAE30TQ0yOO4Dv0Q\\_t3A](https://ca01web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_PzsAE30TQ0yOO4Dv0Q_t3A)
- West Region (April 3, 2023 at 1:00-2:00 PM EST):  
[https://ca01web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_R3fWupZRMa3KX7JLHm5mg](https://ca01web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_R3fWupZRMa3KX7JLHm5mg)

- **Northeast and Northwest Regions (April 4, 2023 at 1:00-2:00 PM EST):**  
[https://ca01web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_NQA1W4gdSuKrDplIRerRBO](https://ca01web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NQA1W4gdSuKrDplIRerRBO)
- **Toronto Region (April 6, 2023 at 1:00-2:00 PM EST):**  
[https://ca01web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_X26fIz6RT3aFSr2pp2GDsA](https://ca01web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_X26fIz6RT3aFSr2pp2GDsA)

In advance of these sessions, please send Katie ([katie.robinette@fola.ca](mailto: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 22<sup>nd</sup> by 5pm.**

## JSO UPDATES

MAG will be releasing these additional enhancements to its JSO platform on April 3, 2023:

- An informational document that will be attached to all acceptance emails for documents filed through Family Submissions Online (FSO), Civil Submissions Online (CSO), and Bankruptcy Submissions Online (BSO) to provide information about CaseLines, each party's responsibilities to upload documents, and available resources.
- Filers will be able to identify in the CSO, BSO, FSO and Small Claims Court Submissions Online portals if they are resubmitting previously rejected documents. These resubmissions will be flagged as a priority in the court case tracking system for court staff review.
- A new family portal will enable users to request a list of all documents previously filed in a family case. The list will be automatically generated and emailed to the requestor with no action required by court staff.
- Additional document types will be eligible for submission through the FSO portal, including:
  - \*Form 8: Application (General) or Form 10: Answer for claims of wrongful removal to or retention of child(ren) in Ontario involving a country outside Canada
  - \*Form 12: Notice of Withdrawal
  - \*Form 36: Affidavit for Divorce (fee already paid).
- The automatic FSO acceptance and rejection email sent to filers once submissions have been reviewed and processed by court staff have been redesigned to ensure clear and concise messaging in both English and French.

## CHANGES TO PANEL COMPOSITION REQUIREMENTS OF THE LAW SOCIETY TRIBUNAL

MAG is proposing an amendment to the Law Society Act that deals with the Law Society Tribunal. **The deadline for comments is March 17, 2023 at 5pm.** [Learn more here.](#)

**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 Recap is now available! If you weren't able to attend and want to see what you missed – you definitely need to take a look. And if you were able to attend, and want a quick refresher of what we heard, [click 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 at [SSchuehle@eapon.ca](mailto:SSchuehle@eapon.ca)

#### BENCHER ELECTIONS

- ❖ **BENCHER ELECTIONS:** The race is on! Candidates have begun campaigning and we encourage all Law Associations to host an event with their local Candidates. To help Law Association members identify “FOLA Friendly” candidates, FOLA has created a survey that we have currently circulated to all Candidates. A “FOLA friendly” Candidate is one who supports sustainable funding of our Law Libraries, Legal Aid, and a competency levy for paralegals. As responses come in, we are adding a quick look at some of their responses on our website. You can find all Candidates listed alphabetically by Regions (also sorted alphabetically) [here](#) starting with those in Central East. In early April, FOLA will post all responses in full so you can learn as much as possible about each Candidate and FOLA will identify those we consider to be “FOLA Friendly”. To learn more about the voting process and our survey, please visit [FOLA's Bencher Elections webpage](#).

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

## 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 20<sup>th</sup>. Learn more & apply [here](#).**

## ASSOCIATION EVENTS & COURSES

### **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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.