



FOLA'S WEEKLY COURTS UPDATE

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FOLA'S WEEKLY UPDATE April 19, 2023

SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE UPDATES

No updates this week

ONTARIO COURT OF JUSTICE UPDATES:

No updates this week

COURT OF APPEAL FOR ONTARIO UPDATES:

No updates this week

MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

No updates this week

JUDICIAL VACANCIES - REMINDERS:

ASSOCIATE JUDGE (TORONTO)

Associate Judges perform judicial duties in civil actions in the Superior Court of Justice, exercising the jurisdiction assigned to Associate Judges by the Rules of Civil Procedure. MAG is currently accepting applications for an Associate Judge in Toronto. **Deadline is May 3rd.** [Learn more & apply here.](#)

OTHER ONTARIO GOVERNMENT NEWS

MINISTRY OF FINANCE - FAMILY LAW CONSULTATIONS (MULTI-EMPLOYER PENSION PLANS)

The Ministry of Finance (MOF) is proposing to establish a permanent framework for target benefit plans in regulations made under the Pensions Benefits Act. This framework will impact how the value of pension benefits is calculated for the purposes of family law matters for all Multi-Employer Pension Plans (MEPPs) that can reduce accrued benefits. [Learn more \(including information on how to send comments\) here.](#)

MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS & HOUSING

RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES ACT, 2006: The Ministry is seeking feedback on proposed changes to help protect tenants from bad faith renovation evictions. **Deadline is May 21st.** [Learn more here.](#)

RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES ACT, 2006: The Ministry is seeking feedback on proposed changes to the Residential Tenancies Act, 2006 (RTA) which would clarify and enhance rules related to the installation of air conditioning (A/C) units and enhance tenant access. **Deadline is May 6th.** [Learn more here.](#)

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

❖ RESPONSES TO FOLA SUBMISSIONS

1. The Honourable Geoffrey B. Morawetz's [response](#) to FOLA's [Submission](#) re: Practice Direction Concerns and CaseLines (the response includes a useful link to [CaseLines in the SCJ - Quick Tips](#))
2. The Honourable Michael S. Kerzner, MPP and Solicitor General of Ontario's [response](#) to FOLA's [Submission](#) re: Amendments to the Police Services Act.

❖ **FOLA'S SPRING 2023 PLENARY:** FOLA will be hosting our Spring 2023 Plenary from May 10-12th in Toronto. With a theme of **Growth & Opportunities**", we have great speakers, panels, and sessions lined up. Please take a moment to check out our Agenda, Speaker Bios, and Sponsors [here](#).

❖ **FEATURED MEMBER REWARD #1:** Bell Mobility has a new special offer this month. [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!](#)

❖ **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

❖ **FAMILY LAW SURVEY: The Use of Virtual Technology to Improve Accessibility to Family Courts in Ontario**

Professor Nicholas Bala, Faculty of Law, Queen's University, is leading a project to study the effect of the Pandemic and on the practice of family law and the use of virtual family court proceedings and have launched a survey about the experiences and views of family lawyers about policies that should be adopted going forward. He would appreciate your taking the time to complete a brief survey (15 minutes). **Here is the link to the survey:**

https://uwo.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6FoA68POJ90H0Sp

The survey results will be presented at a virtual Town Hall and will also be available from the researchers on request.

BENCHER ELECTIONS -

❖ **BENCHER ELECTIONS:** Voting opens at 9am today! You can vote online or by phone. Learn more about the voting process on our [FOLA's Bencher Elections webpage](#).

❖ **BE AN INFORMED VOTER:** To help Law Association members identify "FOLA Friendly" candidates, FOLA sent a survey to all Candidates. You can find all responses from Candidates who completed the survey by deadline (alphabetically by region - starting with Central East) [here](#). To learn more about our survey, please visit [FOLA's Bencher Elections webpage](#).

- ❖ **FOLA ENDORSEMENT:** Over the weekend, FOLA's board endorsed its past chairs and directors who are running in the 2023 bench election: Cheryl Siran, Michael Winward, & Margaret Waddell – each of whom have all been strong advocates for sustainable courthouse law library funding. That said, FOLA recognizes that there are other law association leaders running in this election who are also supportive of libraries. You can see our announcement and learn more about the Candidates who are active in their Law Associations and are supportive of Law Libraries on our [Bench Elections page](#).

APPOINTMENTS/JOBS

- ❖ **PUBLIC PROSECUTION SERVICE OF CANADA:** The Public Prosecution Service of Canada is inviting applications from private-sector lawyers or law firms with experience in prosecuting or defending criminal matters, to act as Agents of the Director of Public Prosecutions. A Fixed-Term Agreement (contract) is currently available in the following Ontario locations: Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (including Cornwall and the satellite courts of Alexandria and Morrisburg); Hastings County (including Belleville and the satellite courts of Bancroft); and Prince Edward County (including Picton). **Deadline is April 30th.**
- ❖ **ONTARIO SECURITIES COMMISSION (OCS) - CAPITAL MARKETS TRIBUNAL:** The Capital Markets Tribunal, an independent tribunal that is a division of the OSC, seeks applicants for part-time member positions with adjudicative and regulatory expertise. **Deadline is May 4th.**
- ❖ **JUSTICES OF THE PEACE (MULTIPLE):** At the request of the Attorney General, and in accordance with the Justices of the Peace Act, the Justices of the Peace Appointments Advisory Committee (the Committee) invites applications for vacant Justice of the Peace positions in the Province of Ontario in multiple locations across the province. **Deadline is May 31st.**

Learn more & apply to any of the above postings on our [Job Board](#).

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. Watch the [LSO Portal](#) for log-in and meeting information and take a moment to check your [Portal](#) account now to ensure you have your credentials and that they are up to date.
- ❖ **FOLA MOTION AT THE LSO's AGM:** FOLA is bringing a motion to have the LSO devote more resources to ensuring access to lawyers in less populated areas of the province. As many of you will know the population of lawyers is not getting any younger but, in some areas, people in need of legal services will not be able to get a lawyer. As time goes on this situation is getting worse. FOLA's motion asks the LSO to develop a plan and devote resources to this growing challenge. We encourage you to attend the AGM and support our Motion. [Read our Motion here](#).
- ❖ **EXTERNAL APPOINTMENTS - CALL FOR APPLICATIONS:** As part of its mandate, the Law Society recommends and makes appointments to a variety of boards, councils and committees. The Law Society is currently seeking applications from qualified lawyers for the Judicial Appointments Advisory Committee. **The application deadline is May 10th.** [Learn more & apply here](#).
- ❖ **SEEKING PARTICIPANTS:** Phase two of the National Study on the Health and Wellness Determinants of Legal Professionals in Canada. In phase two of this study, the research team at the Université de Sherbrooke is looking for lawyers, paralegals, articling and LPP students in Ontario to participate in confidential, virtual interviews about mental health and wellness in the legal profession. Read the [Gazette](#) for more information about the study. If you are interested in participating, please complete this [online form](#) or email wellnessinlaw.eg@usherbrooke.ca directly.

ASSOCIATION EVENTS

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](#)

MLA - STRAIGHT FROM THE BENCH - 2023

May 1, 2023

The MLA is excited to open registration for their ever-popular Straight from the Bench Conference taking place Monday, May 1st. Back to in-person for the first time since 2019, our Co-Chairs (Rasha El-Tawil, John Nicholson, Evelyn ten Cate, and Dara Lambe) are presenting an incredible agenda with keynote, retired Justice George R. Strathy as well as three panels which include Mentorship, Advocacy Tips for Motions & Pre-trials, and Appellate Advocacy: Best Practices at the Court of Appeal. There are many more sought-after presenters from among their MLA membership and our regional judiciary. Information can be found on their registration page and each week leading up to the Conference, they will profile the exceptional leadership and expertise at this year's Straight from the Bench.

[Learn More & Register here](#)

HALTON COUNTY LAW ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL ESTATES SEMINAR

Date: Friday, May 12, 2023, 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM

Oakville Golf Club, 1154 Sixth Line, Oakville L6H 6M1

This program contains 1.5 Professionalism Hour(s) and 1.0 Substantive Hour(s)

[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.robinette@fol.ca and they will be shared with 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.robinette@fol.ca.

ANYTHING ELSE? Email Katie at katie.robinette@fol.ca