



FOLA'S WEEKLY COURTS UPDATE

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February 22, 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 March 15th.** [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 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.

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		\$0.00	Upload document	Remove document
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[Add document](#)

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 sent out a Media Release encouraging members of the media to reach out to FOLA spokespeople to discuss our priority issues. We encourage individual participants and/or Law Associations to send reach out to local media contacts and do the same. Read our Media Release [here](#). If you have any questions about speaking with the media, feel free to email Katie at katie.robinette@folo.ca and put Lobby Day Media in the subject line.

❖ **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 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

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.**
- ❖ **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

LAW SOCIETY OF ONTARIO: BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2023 PROGRAM

Tuesday, February 28 2023 - 6:30 - 8:15 pm EST (Virtual event)

Please join the Law Society of Ontario, the Canadian Association of Black Lawyers (CABL) and the Ontario Association of Black Paralegals (OABP) for their annual Black History Month program: Celebrating Black excellence in the legal professions.

[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](#)

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](#)

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.