



**Bencher**  
Election

**Élection**  
du Conseil  
2019

# Voting Guide for Lawyers

[www.webvotedirect.com/lsolawyer-avocat](http://www.webvotedirect.com/lsolawyer-avocat)

Voting closes April 30, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. EDT.

# Guide électoral - Avocats

[www.webvoteendirect.com/lsolawyer-avocat](http://www.webvoteendirect.com/lsolawyer-avocat)

Le vote se termine le 30 avril 2019 à 17 h HAE.



**Law Society**  
of Ontario

**Barreau**  
de l'Ontario



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## Voting Information

### Conduct of Election

The 2019 Bencher Election will be conducted in accordance with the [Law Society Act](#) and By-Law 3 made pursuant to the *Law Society Act*. The election will be conducted in both French and English. See [By-Law 3](#) for complete details.

The Law Society has hired Computershare, a third party company, to provide the online voting site and telephone voting for the election.

### Voter Anonymity

Voting is by secret ballot. Computershare will randomly assign personal identification numbers to every eligible voter. Only Computershare knows the numbers assigned to eligible voters. This number is required to access the internet voting site and telephone voting.

An email communication from Computershare will be sent to all eligible voters which will include the control number and a link to the internet voting website. The control number will also be posted to each eligible voter's Law Society Portal account. The internet voting system provides the online Voting Guide, ballot and voting instructions, which will provide detailed information on how to vote online.

Voters who do not receive, or who lose or delete, their control number must contact Computershare at 1-888-344-2805 or 514-982-2391 if outside Canada or the United States. Voters will be asked to provide their licensee number and other personal identifiers to receive their control number.

### Eligible Voters

People who, on April 5, 2019, are lawyer licensees whose licences have not been suspended are eligible to vote in the bencher election.

### Candidate Information

This Voting Guide provides voters with information about the candidates running in the bencher election. The candidates provide their biographical information, email address and election statements, which reflect their views only.

The Voting Guide is divided into two sections. The first section contains information about candidates from outside Toronto. The second section contains information about candidates from inside Toronto. Candidates in each section appear alphabetically by last name. A list of the candidates from each region is here in the Voting Guide, with links to the candidate pages.



## Voting Information

### Regional Election Scheme

Forty lawyer benchers will be elected—20 from inside Toronto and 20 from outside Toronto.

Of the 40 benchers, eight will be elected as regional benchers. The regional bencher is the candidate within each region who receives the most votes from voters in that region. The business address of the regional bencher must be within that electoral region at the time of the election.

For the purposes of the election, the province is divided into eight electoral regions. The eight electoral regions are as follows:

- **City of Toronto Electoral Region**
- **Northwest Electoral Region (NW)** - composed of the territorial districts of Kenora, Rainy River, and Thunder Bay.
- **Northeast Electoral Region (NE)** - composed of the territorial districts of Algoma, Cochrane, Manitoulin, Nipissing, Parry Sound, Sudbury, and Timiskaming.
- **East Electoral Region (E)** - composed of the counties of Frontenac, Hastings, Lanark, Lennox and Addington, Prince Edward and Renfrew, the united counties of Leeds and Grenville, Prescott and Russell and Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, and the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton.
- **Central East Electoral Region (CE)** - composed of the District Municipality of Muskoka, the counties of Haliburton, Northumberland, Peterborough, Simcoe and Victoria, and the regional municipalities of Durham, and York.
- **Central West Electoral Region (CW)** - composed of the counties of Bruce, Dufferin, Grey and Wellington, and the regional municipalities of Halton and Peel.
- **Central South Electoral Region (CS)** - composed of the County of Brant, and the regional municipalities of Haldimand-Norfolk, Hamilton-Wentworth, Niagara, and Waterloo.
- **Southwest Electoral Region (SW)** - composed of the counties of Elgin, Essex, Huron, Kent, Lambton, Middlesex, Oxford, and Perth.

The candidates from each region who receive the most votes from voters in that region will be declared regional benchers. The remaining 32 benchers will be the 13 candidates from outside Toronto who receive the most votes from all voters and the 19 candidates from inside Toronto who receive the most votes from all voters.

For candidates outside Toronto, the candidate's region is identified on the ballot by a notation after the candidate's name.



## Voting Information

### Notice: Acclamation

As only one candidate, **Jack Braithwaite**, has been nominated as a candidate in the Northeast electoral region as of the close of nominations on February 8, 2019, the Elections Officer, in accordance with s. 13 of By-Law 3, has declared Mr. Braithwaite elected as the bencher for the Northeast electoral region.

### Casting and Counting Votes

Voters can cast 40 votes in total – 20 votes for candidates inside Toronto and 20 votes for candidates outside Toronto. The ballot is separated into two sections. One section lists candidates from inside Toronto. The other section lists candidates from outside Toronto. Voters need not cast all 40 votes, but cannot exceed 20 votes in each section. Voters may only vote for a candidate once.

### Online Voting

To vote online, voters must go to the election website through the link provided by Computershare, where they will be prompted to enter their control number. Once they are logged into the system, the list of candidates will be displayed. Voters select candidates by clicking the boxes next to the candidates' names. The system will not permit voters to vote for more than 20 candidates from outside Toronto or more than 20 candidates from inside Toronto. It is possible to submit a ballot with no candidates selected. Once voters have finished selecting both the outside and inside Toronto candidates, voters will then be prompted to review their selections and make any changes they wish to make prior to final submission of their votes.

### Telephone Voting

To vote by telephone, voters will call the dedicated election telephone number, 1-866-301-0994 (toll free) or 514-982-8712 if outside North America. Once connected, voters will be prompted to enter their control number to access the voting system. For telephone voting, **Item 1** indicated in the telephone prompts is the ballot for outside Toronto candidates. **Item 2** is the ballot for inside Toronto candidates. Voters will be prompted to select the candidates of their choice first for Item 1 by entering the two-digit numeric code that appears beside each candidate's name in the Voting Guide. This process will be repeated for Item 2.

The system will not permit voters to vote for more than 20 inside Toronto candidates or more than 20 outside Toronto candidates. Once voters have finished selecting both the inside and outside Toronto candidates, the system will review their ballot, and ask voters to confirm their selections before recording the votes.



## Voting Information

### Voting Deadline

The deadline for voting is April 30, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. EDT. The internet and telephone voting system will shut down at precisely 5:00 p.m. EDT on April 30, 2019.

### Announcement of Results

Tabulation of votes will begin after 5:00 p.m. EDT on April 30, 2019. The election results will be announced by press release and on the Law Society's web site at [www.iso.ca](http://www.iso.ca) once votes have been tabulated.

### Voting Assistance

If you are an eligible voter and you did not receive an email from Computershare with your voting instructions, or if you require assistance with voting or accessing the voting site, please call Computershare's toll-free help line at 1-888-344-2805, or 514-982-2391 if outside Canada or the United States. The help line is available Monday to Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. EDT. It closes at 5:00 p.m. on April 30, 2019. As noted above, voting instructions are also available in each eligible voter's Law Society Portal account.

### Contact Us

For more information, please contact the Law Society at 416-947-3404, 1-877-947-3404 or by e-mail at [bencherelection@iso.ca](mailto:bencherelection@iso.ca).



## Procédure électorale

### Tenue de l'élection

L'élection du Conseil de 2019 se déroule conformément à la *Loi sur le Barreau* et au Règlement administratif n° 3 pris en application de la *Loi sur le Barreau*. L'élection est tenue en français et en anglais. Consultez le Règlement administratif n° 3 pour avoir tous les détails.

Le Barreau a retenu les services de Computershare, une société indépendante, pour tenir l'élection en ligne et par téléphone.

### Anonymat des électeurs et électrices

Le vote est secret. Computershare assignera au hasard des numéros d'identification personnelle à chaque électeur ou électrice admissible. Seul Computershare connaît les numéros assignés aux électeurs et électrices admissibles. Ce numéro est requis pour accéder au site de vote en ligne et par téléphone.

Computershare enverra une communication par courriel à tous les électeurs et électrices admissibles qui contiendra le numéro de contrôle et un lien au site Web de vote en ligne. Le numéro de contrôle sera également affiché dans le compte du portail du Barreau de tous les électeurs admissibles. Le système de vote en ligne donne aux électeurs et aux électrices accès au guide électoral, au bulletin de vote et à des consignes d'utilisation détaillées du scrutin.

Les électeurs et électrices qui ne reçoivent pas leur numéro de contrôle, l'ont perdu ou effacé doivent contacter Computershare sans frais au 1 888 344-2805 ou, de l'extérieur du Canada et des É-U, au 514 982-2391. On demandera aux électeurs et électrices de produire leur matricule de titulaire de permis et autres identificateurs personnels pour recevoir leur numéro de contrôle.

### Électeurs et électrices admissibles

Les personnes dont le permis d'avocat n'est pas suspendu au 5 avril 2019 peuvent voter.

### Renseignements sur les candidats et candidates

Le présent guide électoral contient des renseignements sur les candidates et les candidats qui se présentent à l'élection. Tous les candidats et candidates ont été invités à envoyer une biographie, une adresse courriel et une déclaration électorale qui n'exprime que leur opinion.

Le guide électoral est divisé en deux sections. La première contient des renseignements sur les candidats de l'extérieur de Toronto. La deuxième contient des renseignements sur les candidats de Toronto. Les noms apparaissent en ordre alphabétique du nom de famille dans les deux sections. Une liste des candidats de chaque région se trouve ici sur le guide, avec des liens menant aux pages des candidats.



## Procédure électorale

### Déroulement des élections régionales

Quarante conseillers et conseillères seront élus – 20 de Toronto et 20 de l'extérieur de Toronto. Sur les 40, huit seront élus comme conseillères et conseillers régionaux. Un conseiller régional est le candidat qui a reçu le plus de votes dans sa région. L'adresse professionnelle des conseillères et conseillers régionaux doit se trouver dans les régions électorales où elles et ils sont élus.

Aux fins de l'élection, la province est divisée en huit régions électorales. Les huit régions électorales sont :

- **Toronto**
- **Région électorale du Nord-Ouest (NO)** – formée des districts territoriaux de Kenora, Rainy River et Thunder Bay.
- **Région électorale du Nord-Est (NE)** – formée des districts territoriaux d'Algoma, Cochrane, Manitoulin, Nipissing, Parry Sound, Sudbury et Timiskaming.
- **Région électorale de l'Est (EA)** – formée des comtés de Frontenac, Hastings, Lanark, Lennox et Addington, Prince Edward et Renfrew, les comtés unis de Leeds et Grenville, Prescott-Russell, Stormont, Dundas et Glengarry et la municipalité régionale d'Ottawa-Carleton.
- **Région électorale du Centre-Est (CE)** – formée de la municipalité de district de Muskoka, des comtés de Haliburton, Northumberland, Peterborough, Simcoe, Victoria et des municipalités régionales de Durham et de York.
- **Région électorale du Centre-Ouest (CO)** – formée des comtés de Bruce, Dufferin, Grey, Wellington et des municipalités régionales de Halton et Peel.
- **Région électorale du Centre-Sud (CS)** – formée du comté de Brant et des municipalités régionales de Haldimand-Norfolk, Hamilton-Wentworth, Niagara et Waterloo.
- **Région électorale du Sud-Ouest (SO)** – formée des comtés de Elgin, Essex, Huron, Kent, Lambton, Middlesex, Oxford et Perth.

Dans chaque région, le candidat ou la candidate ayant recueilli le plus grand nombre de voix de l'électorat de sa région sera déclaré conseiller régional. Les 32 conseillères et conseillers restants – 13 à l'extérieur de Toronto et 19 à Toronto – seront choisis parmi les candidates et candidats qui auront recueilli le nombre le plus élevé de voix de l'ensemble de la profession.

Pour les candidats de l'extérieur de Toronto, la région est mentionnée à côté du nom de chaque candidat ou candidate sur les bulletins de vote.



## Procédure électorale

### Avis : Acclamation

Étant donné qu'une seule candidature, celle de **Jack Braithwaite**, a été proposée pour la région électorale du Nord-Est à la clôture de la période de mise en candidature le 8 février 2019, le responsable des élections, conformément à l'art. 13 du Règlement administratif no 3, a déclaré M. Braithwaite élu comme conseiller pour la région électorale du Nord-Est.

### Vote et dépouillement du scrutin

Les électeurs disposent d'un total de 40 voix, soit 20 voix pour les candidates et candidats de Toronto et 20 voix pour ceux et celles à l'extérieur de Toronto. Le guide électoral est divisé en deux sections. La première contient des renseignements sur les candidats de l'extérieur de Toronto. La deuxième contient des renseignements sur les candidats de Toronto. Les électeurs ne sont pas dans l'obligation de voter pour 40 candidats et candidates, mais ne peuvent pas voter pour plus de 20 membres par section. Les électeurs ne peuvent pas voter pour la même personne plusieurs fois.

### Vote en ligne

Pour voter en ligne, les électeurs et électrices doivent se rendre sur le site électoral à l'aide du lien fourni par Computershare, où on leur demandera d'inscrire leur numéro de contrôle. Une fois qu'ils et elles seront dans le système, la liste des candidats et candidates s'affichera. Les électeurs et électrices choisiront les candidats et candidates en cliquant sur la boîte à côté de leur nom. Le système ne permettra pas de voter pour plus de 20 candidats ou candidates de l'extérieur de Toronto ou pour plus de 20 candidats ou candidates de Toronto. Il est possible de soumettre un bulletin de vote sans inscription. Une fois que les électeurs auront terminé leur choix de candidats à Toronto et à l'extérieur de Toronto, on leur demandera de revoir leurs sélections et de faire des changements s'ils le désirent avant la soumission finale de leurs votes.

### Vote par téléphone

Pour voter par téléphone, les électeurs et électrices doivent appeler le numéro dédié à l'élection. Une fois connectés, on leur demandera de saisir leur numéro de contrôle pour accéder au système de vote. Quand le message indique **Item 1**, il s'agit du bulletin pour les candidats de l'extérieur de Toronto. Quand le message indique **Item 2**, il s'agit du bulletin pour les candidats de Toronto. Les électeurs devront choisir les candidats pour l'item 1 en composant le code numérique à deux chiffres qui apparaît à côté du nom de chaque candidat dans le guide électoral. Ce processus sera répété pour l'item 2.

Le système ne permettra pas de voter plus de 20 fois pour les candidats de Toronto ou plus de 20 fois pour les candidats de l'extérieur de Toronto. Quand les électeurs auront fait leur choix de candidats tant à Toronto qu'à l'extérieur de Toronto, le système récapitulera leurs choix et leur demandera de confirmer avant d'enregistrer leurs votes.



## Procédure électorale

### Dates limites pour voter

La date limite pour voter est le 30 avril 2019 à 17 h HAE. Les systèmes de vote par Internet fermeront à exactement 17 h HAE le 30 avril 2019.

### Annonce des résultats

Le décompte des votes commencera après 17 h HAE le 30 avril 2019. Les résultats seront annoncés par communiqué et sur le site Web du Barreau à [www.iso.ca](http://www.iso.ca) une fois que les votes auront été comptés.

### Assistance pour voter

Si vous êtes un électeur admissible et que vous n'avez pas reçu un courriel de Computershare vous donnant les consignes de vote, ou si vous avez besoin d'assistance pour voter ou pour avoir accès au site de vote, veuillez appeler la ligne d'aide de Computershare sans frais à 1 888 344-2805, ou 514 982-2391 de l'extérieur du Canada ou des États-Unis. La ligne d'aide est ouverte du lundi au vendredi, de 8 h 30 à 20 h HAE. Elle ferme à 17 h le 30 avril 2019. Comme indiqué ci-dessus, les instructions seront également affichées dans le compte du portail du Barreau de chaque électeur admissible.

### Pour communiquer avec nous

Pour plus de renseignements, veuillez appeler le Barreau au 416 947-3404, 1 877 947-3404 ou communiquer par courriel à [bencherelection@iso.ca](mailto:bencherelection@iso.ca).



## List of Candidates by Region / Liste des candidat(e)s par région

The two digit code beside each candidate's name is for the purpose of telephone voting. Please refer to the Voting Information for details.

Le code à deux chiffres à côté du nom de chaque candidat s'applique au vote par téléphone. Veuillez lire les renseignements sur la procédure électorale pour des détails.

### Outside Toronto Candidates / Candidats de l'extérieur de Toronto

#### Central East / Centre-Est

02. John Arkelian  
03. Nathan Baker  
10. Joseph Chiumminto  
13. Paul M. Cooper  
14. Dianne G. Corbiere  
17. Michael Demczur  
40. Tania Perlin  
43. M. Steven Rastin  
52. Alexander David Wilkes

#### Central South / Centre-Sud

15. Winfield Corcoran  
16. Janis P. Criger  
30. Michael B. LeSage  
37. Michael Maurice Metzger  
38. Trevor Robert Parry  
41. Jorge E. Pineda  
48. Andrew Spurgeon

#### Central West/ Centre-Ouest

07. Ayoun Bin Haroon  
11. Andrea L. Clarke  
21. Gary D. Graham  
24. Grant Isaac  
32. M. Virginia MacLean  
33. G. S. Mangat  
34. C. Scott Marshall  
42. Brian L. Prill  
45. Radan Rusev  
46. Raj Sharda  
49. Deepa Tailor  
53. Claire Wilkinson

#### Northwest / Nord-Ouest

01. Ryan Alford  
06. Fred James Whelan Bickford  
20. Etienne Esquega  
25. Douglas W. Judson  
27. Rene Larson  
47. Cheryl Siran

#### Southwest / Sud-Ouest

09. Gerard Paul Charette  
19. Teresa Donnelly  
23. Jacqueline Horvat  
29. Michael Lerner  
35. James John Mays  
44. Quinn M. Ross  
50. Jerry B. Udell

#### East / Est

04. François N. Baril  
05. Peter Beach  
08. Rebecca Bromwich  
12. Antoine L. Collins  
18. Jean-Jacques Desgranges  
22. Yavar Hameed  
26. Howard Philip Knopf  
28. Cheryl R. Lean  
31. Cecil Lyon  
36. David A. McKercher  
39. Sylvie Patenaude  
51. M. Anne Vespry



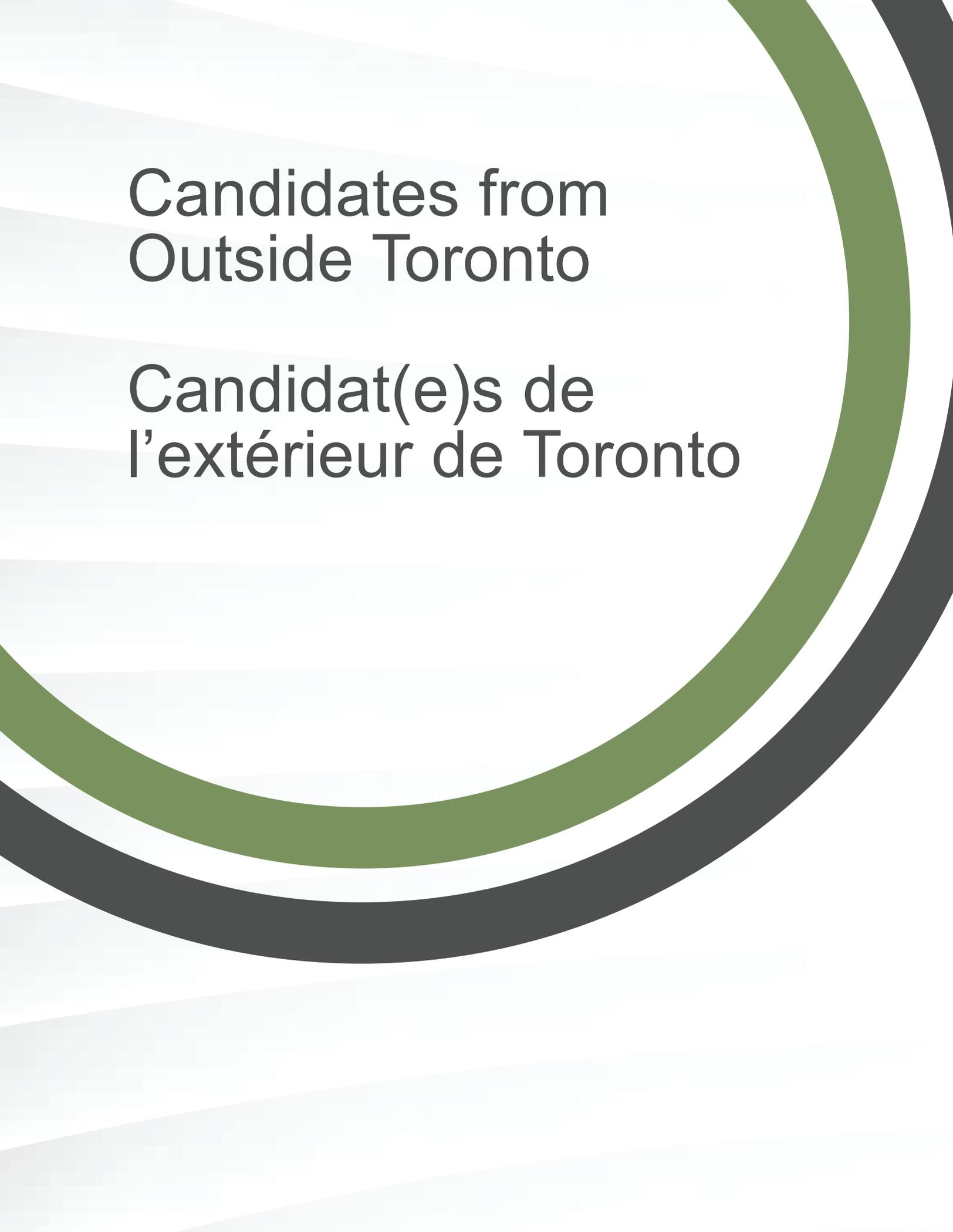
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Le code à deux chiffres à côté du nom de chaque candidat s'applique au vote par téléphone. Veuillez lire les renseignements sur la procédure électorale pour des détails.

### Toronto Candidates / Candidats de Toronto

- |                          |                         |                               |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 01. Robert P. Adourian   | 26. Howard Goldblatt    | 51. Pranav Patel              |
| 02. R. Lee Akazaki       | 27. Sam Goldstein       | 52. Saidaltaf I. Patel        |
| 03. Kenneth Alexander    | 28. Jayashree Goswami   | 53. Ryan J. Peck              |
| 04. Karen E. Andrews     | 29. Joseph Groia        | 54. Selwyn Pieters            |
| 05. George Begic         | 30. Billeh Hamud        | 55. Lubomir Poliacik          |
| 06. Robert Besunder      | 31. Barbara Hendrickson | 56. Geoff Pollock             |
| 07. D. Jared Brown       | 32. Christopher Hicks   | 57. Yigal E. D. Rifkind       |
| 08. Donald F. Bur        | 33. Philip H. Horgan    | 58. Sean Robichaud            |
| 09. John Callaghan       | 34. Kristin Hutton      | 59. Jonathan Rosenthal        |
| 10. Addison Cameron-Huff | 35. Liran Kandinov      | 60. Caryma F. Sa'd            |
| 11. Craig Carter         | 36. Murray Klippenstein | 61. Mirilyn R. Sharp          |
| 12. Sudha Chandra        | 37. Shalini Konanur     | 62. Robert Shawyer            |
| 13. Jeff Cowan           | 38. Mitchell Kowalski   | 63. E. Patrick Shea           |
| 14. Orlando Da Silva     | 39. Paul Le Vay         | 64. Chi-Kun Shi               |
| 15. Ian Daley            | 40. Jeffrey Lem         | 65. Julia Shin Doi            |
| 16. Signa Daum Shanks    | 41. Atrisha Lewis       | 66. Megan Shortreed           |
| 17. Jeremy Devereux      | 42. Kelly MacGregor     | 67. Darryl Singer             |
| 18. Rebecca C. Durcan    | 43. Samuel Marr         | 68. Ian Speers                |
| 19. David MacLeod Faed   | 44. William C. McDowell | 69. Maria Taverniti           |
| 20. John F. Fagan        | 45. Isfahan Merali      | 70. Sidney H. Troister        |
| 21. Julian Falconer      | 46. Malcolm Mercer      | 71. Tanya Walker              |
| 22. William Friedman     | 47. David Milosevic     | 72. Peter C. Wardle           |
| 23. Rocco Galati         | 48. Barbara Murchie     | 73. Nicholas dePencier Wright |
| 24. Shaleem Gill         | 49. John Nunziata       | 74. Heather Zordel            |
| 25. Anita Goela          | 50. Gina Papageorgiou   |                               |



Candidates from  
Outside Toronto

Candidat(e)s de  
l'extérieur de Toronto



**Bencher  
Election**

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**Ryan Alford**

ralford@lakeheadu.ca

**Northwest**



Ryan is a tenured professor at the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law in Thunder Bay, who teaches constitutional law, administrative law, and seminars in legal history.

He holds a research doctorate in constitutional law from the University of South Africa, a master's degree in law from the University of Oxford, and a law degree from New York University.

In addition to teaching at Bora Laskin, Ryan served as a Visiting Fellow of the Max Planck Institute for European Legal History (in Frankfurt, Germany) and a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Victoria.

Before teaching, Ryan practiced law in Brussels and in New York City.

He is the Applicant challenging the constitutionality of the Law Society's Statement of Principles requirement.

Last year, the Law Society adopted a requirement that lawyers demonstrate “a personal valuing” of its chosen ideals. Despite appreciating that this compelled speech infringed Charter rights, and predicting that it would inevitably lead to another costly legal challenge, the Society rejected any compromise and relied on an aggressive conception of its regulatory powers and its own interpretation of how to balance lawyers' rights against its own objectives. In this election, Ontario's lawyers can put a stop to this. Equity, diversity, and inclusion are important objectives. They should be promoted effectively in ways that do not infringe fundamental rights or exceed the Society's statutory powers.

#### **Curbing Excessive Regulation:**

The Law Society should always carefully consider the costs of imposing further regulations on its licensees, particularly small firm and solo practitioners. Not every problem should be addressed by imposing onerous regulatory burdens on lawyers. The benchers wield a weighty hammer, but not every problem is a nail.

#### **Addressing Financial Irresponsibility:**

Ontario's lawyers should receive a detailed explanation for why the dues we pay are higher than any other jurisdiction in the world. If these dues prove to be excessive, we should look for ways to reduce these fees, particularly for the newly called. I see no reason why the Society should continue to operate a lavish bencher's dining hall and wine cellar.

#### **Promoting Access to Justice:**

Access to justice should be promoted by removing regulatory and financial barriers to small firm practice, which are particularly harmful to access to justice in Northern Ontario. The Law Society should carefully scrutinize any proposals that would increase the number of lawyers entering the profession, especially if those new lawyers will be burdened by student loan debts that preclude them from entering small firm or small town practice.

Ontario's lawyers deserve benchers who listen to and take seriously everyone's concerns about how the Law Society regulates the profession. Please take this opportunity to make this a reality.



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John Arkelian

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Central East



My professional experience has run the gamut from international diplomacy to courtroom advocacy. I have represented Canada abroad as a diplomat, responsible for political, security, and consular relations. I have advised the Government of Canada on issues of international and constitutional law, co-authored Canada's brief in the infamous Sidney Jaffe international kidnapping case, instructed Canada's delegation to NATO, and drafted both new federal legislation and international treaties. As a Federal Crown Attorney, I conducted criminal prosecutions in Toronto's busiest courtrooms. As a Professor of Law and Journalism, I taught such subjects as defamation, copyright, and criminal procedure. As an award-winning public interest author and journalist, I have written extensively on international relations, public policy, and law reform.

The face the Law Society projects to its members is one of unaccountable and undemocratic governance -- the face of an organization that is impenetrable, heavy-handed, bureaucratic, curt, and coldly unreceptive to input by its members. The Society ought to reinvent itself to present a more humane, collegial face. To start, it should request the government to amend the Society's mandate. In addition to protecting the public interest, the revised mandate should *also* direct the Society to protect the interests of both the legal profession and Law Society members. A paramountcy clause would stipulate that in the event of a conflict between those objectives, protection of the public interest would take priority. The Society's charter should also explicitly state that a key function of Benchers is to serve as representatives of the Society's members, accountable to them (perhaps through some kind of forced recall provision) and readily accessible to their concerns. At present, Society members are without any meaningful input into their own governance. Provision *used* to exist for any member to easily petition Convocation on issues of concern. However, it appears that procedure was quietly discontinued, leaving members without *any* mechanism for getting a complaint, concern, request, or proposal before the body empowered to govern them. Every member should have an *absolute right* to communicate any matter directly to Convocation and to promptly have said matter deliberated upon and decided by Convocation. The Society should abolish its arbitrary and needlessly meddlesome practices: (1) The Society should discontinue recording the names of members *as they appear at christening* and instead rely on members to provide, in good faith, the form of their names by which they are *actually* known. A member's common-use name, combined with their unique membership number, is enough to distinguish one member from another. (2) Members should be referred to as *members*, not *licensees*. (3) Members should have the freedom to receive annual report materials, fee billings, and other communications via hard-copy mail. Mandatory e-filing flies in the face of the well-founded qualms some members have about the reliability and privacy of *anything* done online.



**Bencher  
Election**

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**Nathan Baker**

nathanbakerlaw@gmail.com

**Central East**



My practice focuses on criminal defence. I am the past-president of the Peterborough Law Association and am on the board of the Federation of Ontario Law Associations (formerly CDLPA) and chair its library committee.

I am a member of the Criminal Lawyers' Association and The Advocates' Society. I remain active in my community through the Royal Canadian Legion and the Peterborough Family Health Team.

I am involved in rugby across Ontario both through my local club as a player and as a director of Rugby Ontario.

I am a lifetime resident of the Peterborough area, having attended Trent University for undergraduate studies and Queen's University for law.

**Service** is key. The first responsibility of a bencher is to serve. The Law Society exists to regulate the profession in the public interest but too often the focus seems to be on providing cheaper service rather than better service.

**Regulation** – We are one of the most highly regulated professions in existence. Yet major issues are dealt with in a minor way while minor issues can get blown up beyond their importance. More regulation is not needed. Better enforcement with proportional response is what needs to be brought back.

**Community** – Self-governance exists because we, as lawyers, are best suited to ensure access to, and competence of, the legal profession. Too many things are justified “in the public interest” when they merely pay lip service to issues without finding real solutions. Real work to ensure equality and diversity needs to be undertaken.

**Paralegals** – Many were grandfathered without adequate schooling. Now, they seek to move to a “special credential” in family law. This is especially concerning given the complexity of that area of law and the inability of the public to recognize that lawyers already exceed that credential. Lawyers need to be more involved controlling this.

**Articling** – The current system is broken and needs repair. Not all articles are created equal. Improving this experience makes competent young lawyers. More lawyers being admitted is not better. The Law Society needs to regulate the number of lawyers entering the profession by ensuring maximal competence.

**Local to Provincial** - What works in one part of Ontario will not work as well in another and making sure that the Law Society is responsible to its membership and the public in all areas is something I am committed to. Support of local law associations and other organizations that work to promote competency needs to improve.

For more information go to  
[www.nathanbakerlaw.com/bencher-election](http://www.nathanbakerlaw.com/bencher-election)



**Bencher**  
Election

**Élection**  
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2019

**François N. Baril**

francois.baril@gowlingwlg.com

**East**



Called to the Bar in 1997, François is a partner at Gowling WLG in Ottawa. He is an experienced litigator with a practice focused on health law and competition law. François is fluently bilingual and has appeared at all levels of the Ontario and Federal Courts, including the Supreme Court of Canada.

Actif dans sa communauté, Il est ancien président de l'AJEFO et ancien président du Centre des services communautaires Vanier.

Benchmark 2019 – Litigation Star

Chambers 2018 – Notable Practitioner; Health Law.

Expert 2018 Leading Practitioner; Health Law

Member of the Supreme Court Advocacy Institute

Part-time professor of competition law at University of Ottawa since 2005.

Member of the CCLA CPD Accreditation Committee since 2014

Frequent speaker at various CPD events.

Our profession is facing societal and technological upheavals, i.e. New service models, AI, big data and block chain technologies. These developments present opportunities for lawyers, clients and the administration of justice but also carry risk. They require new skill, new standards, and adapted best practices. The LSO needs to proactively guide the profession through this evolving landscape and develop the appropriate regulatory framework and member support.

Comme président de l'AJEFO, j'ai eu le privilège d'inaugurer le Centre d'information juridique de l'Ontario et de contribuer à l'essor d'une association dynamique et crédible. Je suis également fier d'avoir été un des chefs de file du mouvement citoyen qui a mené à la modification de la loi sur la Ville d'Ottawa et la reconnaissance officielle du caractère bilingue de notre capitale.

I bring a varied viewpoint practicing in a large firm, but in a regional market. My health law practice is mostly provincial but my competition law practice is federal. I practice in French and English. I have lived and worked in Toronto and Washington DC, but my home is in Ottawa. I am a past president of the AJEFO and well versed in access to justice issues. I hope to bring this blend of perspective and experience to Convocation.

Afin d'assurer un accès égal à la justice en français le Barreau doit appuyer ses membres francophones et francophiles et servir le public en français. Certes il y a eu progrès depuis les dix dernières années mais il reste du travail à faire.

As a part-time professor since 2005, I have seen first-hand the challenges facing law students. I believe we need to ensure a clear, accessible and fair pathway to licensure. The LSO should carefully monitor the effects of its latest iteration of the licensing model and remain open to adjustments to address the changing needs of the profession and of those seeking to join it.

To remain credible and relevant, the Law Society of Ontario needs to carry out its mandate innovatively, fairly, proportionally and in the public interest. I am committed to bringing those values to Convocation.



**Bencher  
Election**

**Élection  
du Conseil  
2019**

## Peter Beach

pbeach@beachstarkie.ca

# East



Peter Beach was called to the Bar at Gray's Inn London in 1970. From 1970 to 1973 he took a Master's degree in Criminology at the University of Ottawa where he was also President of the Students' Federation.

He practised as a barrister in London from 1974 to 1982, conducting many jury trials including appearing at the Old Bailey. He is still a member of the English Bar.

He was called to the Bar in Ontario in 1984 and has practised here in criminal law ever since.

He is a member of  
-Defense Counsel Association of Ottawa  
-Criminal Lawyers Association,  
-County of Carleton Law Association  
-The Advocates' Society  
-l'Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Ontario.

Four years as a Bencher has opened my eyes to the difficulty of effecting change in our profession, and the challenges that lie ahead that must be addressed. I believe that my experience at Osgoode will allow me to hit the ground running for the next term.

### MY CONCERNS:

#### **Legal Aid Ontario**

I was a member of the Law Society's Legal Aid Working Group, which produced the recent report entitled, "An Abiding Interest". The Report recommends that the Law Society take a stronger and more active role in addressing the Legal Aid situation and advocating for the fair remuneration of lawyers practising in that area. The next challenge is to implement these recommendations

#### **Development of the Profession**

The Law Society recently tried but completely failed to address the many issues surrounding entry into the profession, especially articling, the ever-increasing number of new lawyers and adequate bar admission standards. These issues must continue to be addressed.

#### **Sole Practitioners / Small Firms**

Having been a practitioner in a small firm for my entire career, I have experienced the many challenges of running a small business. It is vital that members of small firms, particularly those in outlying areas, be adequately represented by our governing body and be provided the support they require to sustain their practices.

#### **Transparency and Communication with the Profession**

The Law Society continues to fail to connect with ordinary members of our profession. A great deal more work must be done to inform and involve members in decisions and policies of the Law Society.

#### **The Federation of Ontario Law Associations**

The Law Society must enhance support for and cooperation with FOLA.

#### **What I Have to Offer**

The role of Bencher requires a lot of time and commitment; I am at the stage of my career where I am able to take on the challenges of this important position. I am proud to be a lawyer, and over the next four years I will continue to vigorously advance and defend the interests of the rank and file members of our profession.

Website and video: [www.peterbeach.ca](http://www.peterbeach.ca)



**Bencher**  
Election

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**Fred James Whelan Bickford**

fjwb@shaw.ca

**Northwest**



Birthplace: Port Arthur, Ontario  
Education: B.A. M.A., University of Manitoba;  
LL.B., Queen's University,  
Past Certified Specialist  
(Labour Law)  
Past Member,  
LSO Certified Specialist Board  
Past Member, Board of Directors, Ontario  
Bar Association  
Past Elected Member,  
OBA Council  
Past Alternate Chair,  
Ontario Review Board  
Past President, Local Association, Boy  
Scouts of Canada  
Member, Thunder Bay Law Association,  
Board of Directors  
Past Editor-in-Chief,  
Federated Press Legal Journal,  
"Management Rights"  
Served three years, Regular Army,  
Camp Valcartier, Quebec, Brigade Signal  
Squadron, and 1st Paratroop Battalion,  
Royal 22nd Regiment, ("Van Doos")  
Honorary Colonel, (Ret), Lake Superior  
Scottish Regiment (LSSR)  
Member, LSSR Senate

During the next four years the Law Society is continuing its progressive leadership role bettering access to justice for people in Indigenous communities and in rural and Northern Ontario; promoting inclusivity and diversity in the profession; enhancing awareness of Indigenous legal and cultural issues; mentoring new lawyers; researching the optimum use of technology in legal services; and achieving an appropriate balance on diverse issues arising from the Bonkalo Report. These interconnected issues require careful, thoughtful consideration and resolution.

My Bencher experience in Committee and Convocation work would be a valuable asset in dealing with these pressing issues. I have attended all LSO meetings and all Convocations, but one, as well as all training sessions and retreats. This bears out my availability and willingness to spend the requisite time and energy to fulfill diverse Bencher responsibilities. I have taken training to qualify as a certified Tribunal adjudicator and regularly sit as a Panel member on disciplinary hearings. I appreciate the valuable relationships I have established with my colleagues and LSO staff during my term.

As a Bencher, I have served on the following committees: Professional Regulation, Equity and Indigenous Affairs, Access to Justice, Professional Development and Competence, the ABS Working Group, and as an LSO representative to the OBA Council. In those meetings, I have voiced my opinions and shared many of the concerns and comments expressed to me by lawyers. In my region, I have regularly sent monthly reports to keep everyone informed about Convocation developments and decisions, and, if re-elected, I will continue the practice, as I understand our area's practitioners have appreciated these.

I thoroughly enjoy my work as a Bencher, discharging my duties diligently and faithfully, and would like the opportunity to continue to serve as a Bencher. I feel I have the necessary interest, commitment, experience and qualifications to play a significant role in fulfilling the Law Society's dual mandate of protecting the public and regulating the profession. Your support in my quest to serve in this capacity for another four years would be greatly appreciated.

Please Visit my Election Website: [fredbickford.ca](http://fredbickford.ca)



**Bencher  
Election**

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du Conseil  
2019**

## Ayoun Bin Haroon

info@ayounlaw.com

## Central West



**Ayoun Haroon, is a recent Call to Bar, and proudly owns and operates Ayoun Law.**

**Ayoun has strongly advocated for Women Rights in the Muslim community and is a supporter for the underprivileged. He has privately mediated family matters on a Pro Bono basis to help those who cannot afford legal advice but need the urgent help.**

**Apart from his legal involvements he was an editor of a provincial study called, The Art in Medicine- Treatment Decision-Making published by McMaster University.**

**Additionally, he was a successful leading voice in a Medical Student movement for the J1 visa requirements. He reached out to MMPs and MPs and pressed for a change that ended in success and policy change.**

### Who Is Ayoun Haroon?

Ayoun Haroon, is the owner and operator of Ayoun Law, a boutique style law firm; he was called to the Bar in 2018.

### Ayoun's Beliefs and Stand for Change:

Ayoun strongly believes that the Law Society of Ontario – Convocation should support change and begin to welcome new and younger minority voices to become Benchers, instead of only giving opportunities to individuals that are part of major firms in Toronto. Coming from a minority South Asian community, and understanding the needs of his community, Ayoun wants to influence policy change by providing a platform for lawyers that are from a visual minority, and in providing a platform for the unspoken younger lawyers who exist without a voice.

### Younger Lawyers from Minority Groups Stand Up and Have a Voice!

He says, “It is time that younger lawyers take the stand and try to reach for the position and not shy away from the work that is ahead.” He wants to encourage change to ensure that not only younger voices take the position, but also visual minorities are seen in the Law Society of Ontario, who truly represent Ontario and our pride of multiculturalism.

### Stand up and Empower!

Ayoun is a strong advocate for the access-to-justice crisis, he believes in community involvement and has mediated many private family affairs within the South Asian community on a Pro-Bono basis.

For the current issues regarding law students and new graduates, Ayoun proposes that the legal crises we face today needs to be addressed by individuals who have gone through the licencing process most recently and first-handily experienced the gaps within the system.

Ayoun believes he is the ideal candidate for Bencher because he can provide Convocation with the resources that instill the right form of concurrent ideal; he can provide effective practice management in regards to the access-to-justice crisis, and lastly, he can voice and bring forward issues that are unique to young lawyers today.



**Bencher**  
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## Jack Braithwaite

JBraithwaite@weaversimmons.com

## Northeast



**Jack Braithwaite, B.Sc., B.A., M.A., LL.B -  
Counsel, Weaver Simmons LLP**

**Practice:**

-Labour/Employment Law; (Management) including WSIB; OHSA;

-collaboration: writing a leading textbook entitled "Canadian Employment Law"

-past Associate Editor of Dismissal and Employment Law Digest

**Memberships:**

CBA; OBA; National Bar Association (U.S.); Canadian Association of Black Lawyers; Canadian Association of Counsel to Employers; Past Board of Directors of Advocates' Society; Past President of Sudbury District Law Association; Past Governing Council of Ontario Chamber of Commerce; Past Board of Directors of Ontario Chamber of Commerce; Past Chair of Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce; Human Resources Professionals Association; CNE: Strategy, Policy and Innovation Committee; Governance Committee; Board of Directors of Weengushk Film Institute; Afro-Heritage Association

**Activities:**

-Guest lectures: Laurentian/Western University/Osgoode Hall

Dear Colleagues:

I am again seeking your support to be re-elected as a Bencher. My reasons are simple. I am proud of the profession and the dedication of those who make up the profession.

I believe I have brought and continue to bring the necessary ingredients to assist in ensuring the profession continues to strive to achieve its ideals of ultimate service to the community.

In addressing the continued self-regulation of the profession and the future of its growth, I bring the following:

- 1) Past and current Bencher experience;
- 2) Time commitment – I am prepared to put in the time as demonstrated in my past service as Bencher;
- 3) Diversity including:
  - i) Regional representation – practise in the North;
  - ii) Experiential representation – practised in the South and North (Toronto and Sudbury);
  - iii) Practice representation
    - Practised in both a relatively small and medium sized boutique firm
    - Practise in a relatively medium/large full service firm;
  - iv) Firm knowledge representation
    - Associate; Partner; Counsel

In consideration of at least the above, I believe I have served our profession well and most importantly, I want to continue to do so in a Bencher capacity.



**Bencher  
Election**

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## Rebecca Bromwich

Rebecca.Bromwich@Carleton.ca

## East



**Dr. Rebecca Jaremko Bromwich was called to the Bar of Ontario in 2003. She began her career at a large litigation firm and worked in private practice until 2009, when she started her PhD and took on the role of Staff Lawyer, Equality and Law Reform, for the CBA.**

**Upon completing her PhD in 2015, Rebecca joined the faculty at Carleton University. She continues to maintain a private practice, as a per diem Crown Attorney.**

**In addition to her PhD from Carleton, she has an LLM and LLB from Queen's and certificates in mediation and negotiation from Harvard Law School.**

**Rebecca is Vice Chair of the CCLA Diversity Committee.**

**She lives in Ottawa with her husband and four children.**

The people of Ontario deserve an effective and strong legal profession. As a profession, we can serve justice best if we are diverse, inclusive, healthy, and innovative. I am hardworking, qualified, committed, and ready to help shape the legal profession of Ontario to be nimble, fit, and ready for the challenges of the twenty first century. As an LSO Bencher, I would be committed to ensuring effective justice through support for the legal profession in Ontario, with a specific focus on the Ottawa region. My priorities will be diversity, inclusion, mental health, and professional and technological innovation.

I have the experience and skills required for the role of Bencher. From my varied work in private practice, legal academia, law reform, and policy work, I have had many vantage points on the practice of law in Ontario.

We need to do better to ensure inclusion for diversity. Having worked as staff lawyer, equality and law reform, for the Canadian Bar Association for six years, serving now as Vice Chair of the Diversity Committee of the Carleton County Law Association, and in my personal life as a mother of four, I have professional and lived experience with challenges relating to equality in the legal profession.

We need to be sensitive to mental health issues and talk openly about the challenges we face. I am committed to effectively addressing these issues and am currently enrolled in a workplace mental health leadership certificate program.

We need to embrace the possibilities of a tech-enabled legal future while we exercise caution about the dangers tech and AI can pose. As a legal researcher, I do work that connects business innovation, interpersonal relationships, justice, and technological innovation.

As a Bencher, I will serve you well. As a mediator, I am a conflict resolution professional, as well as a lawyer; I am trained to be disruptive while being collegial. I have the skills and vision to serve the underlying best interests of the public while assuring the interests of the legal profession. I would be grateful for the opportunity to serve as a Bencher.



**Bencher**  
Election

**Élection**  
du Conseil  
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**Gerard Paul Charette**

charette@millercanfield.com

**Southwest**



Since 1980, I have practiced tax planning in Windsor at Miller Canfield and its predecessor firms. Throughout my career, I have lectured on tax planning for diverse associations, including the Canadian Tax Foundation, the Michigan State Bar, and Michigan's Public Accountants.

I am a past director of TV Ontario and past lay member of the Council of the College of Optometrists.

I devote personal time to part-time academics. I am about to complete an MA and begin a new project at the University of Windsor. My area of study is theological aesthetics comprising Jewish, Islamic and Eastern studies and visual arts.

I also volunteer as a church deacon by serving the needs of men recovering from drug and alcohol addiction.

1. LSO seems intent on converting itself into a social change agent in what it calls an "accelerated culture shift." In consequence, Convocation has decided that you and I are to be pressed into active service as promotional agents for EDI (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) via its enforcement mechanism, SOP (the Statement of Principles).
2. In so doing, LSO has, to a worrisome extent, demonstrated excessive single-issue devotion to a social agenda. It has confused social activism with the appropriate regulation of lawyerly practice.
3. The public requires a more broadly balanced approach that honours the key aspects of lawyerly practice, sound standards of learning, professional competence and conduct.
4. It may well be that EDI is a laudable goal. Yet laudability does not bestow jurisdiction. In my view, LSO has no authority to require that we sign a statement of allegiance to anything. Until now, it has never purported to do so.
5. Moreover, SOP is structured as a personal interest that we are each required to adopt. It is no stretch of the imagination to say that our clients who come into conflict with any EDI regime might well be concerned about our allegiance to SOP. They may rightly perceive that we have compromised our professional independence and loyalty to them when we disclose to them - as we must - a pre-existing allegiance to SOP.
6. I promise to vote so as to convert SOP into a practice guideline.
7. Please support the candidates who are running as part of the StopSOP slate.
8. Last, I urge all lawyers, especially our younger members, to be and become jealous guardians of our professional independence, now and into the future.



**Bencher**  
Election

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**Joseph Chiumminto**

joseph@corelawyers.ca

**Central East**



**My current law practice is located in the Town of Woodbridge, City of Vaughan and is focused on Corporate transactions.**

**I have had in-house experience and have worked with teams and boards of public companies. In my role I was fortunate to be part of many growing teams, large international sale transactions and to have learned how to manage competing interests to address priorities.**

**I graduated from the University of Windsor and York University.**

**In the past I have worked in the areas of corporate law, tax law, securities law, construction litigation and commercial litigation and am practical in my approach to problem solving.**

As professional lawyers we are thinkers, challengers and protectors.

The Law Society provides us with the guidance, direction, education and tools to ensure the fair balance between public interests and zealous advocacy. Belief systems are passed down from mentor to prodigy, from principals to students and from the Courts and our Rules.

The Law Society has become a bureaucratic organization driven by its own machinations and politically imposed ideals forced on us by the few internal or loudest voices that are far removed from the everyday lawyer experience.

Excessive fees, increasing CLE requirements and related training, and the proliferation of privatizing access to case law and resources that make us better has only increased the competitive nature or divide among us.

As a Bencher I would direct my energy to achieving the following change:

1. Removing political ideology starting with the Statement of Principles
2. Ensuring the Law Society runs on budget and with transparency
3. Advocating for the interests of Solo, Small and Medium Sized Firms

An efficient, well run, Law Society focused on the happiness and wellbeing of its members/licensees is best for the public interest.

The LSO can make incremental changes to adjust the sails and point the ship in the right direction, and restore confidence to the reputation of lawyers and its members.

Protecting our ability to challenge, think, speak and act for our clients and for society as the gatekeepers of natural laws, the Charter freedoms and development of common law is key to a better society.

I plan to ensure the LSO provides the support needed for us to continue to do so.



**Bencher  
Election**

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## Andrea L. Clarke

alclarkelaw@gmail.com

## Central West



**Law Offices of Andrea Clarke - Lead  
Counsel 2018 - Present**

**Practiced in the UK  
2005 - 2018**

**Partner at CCW Solicitors (UK)  
2008 - 2018**

**Admitted to the Third Appellant Division  
State of New York - 2007**

**Call to the Bar at Gray's Inn London  
2002**

**University of Birmingham LLB Graduate  
2001**

**University of Birmingham  
Law Society - President - Holdsworth  
Club 2000**

**Rotary Scholar  
1999-2000**

**Aitchison Memorial Prize Winner**

As a Bencher, Andrea Clarke's primary focus will be to ensure there is a voice for lawyers in her region. She will seek to consult and collaborate with individual members and local Associations (please visit [www.clarke-law.ca/bencher-election-2019](http://www.clarke-law.ca/bencher-election-2019)).

As a sole practitioner, Andrea is aware of the challenges being faced; particularly in rural communities. Andrea aims to fairly represent the voice of these communities, and will work towards increased access to Justice in rural regions.

Andrea has lived, worked and studied abroad. She believes that these are assets, and as such, will be beneficial as she continues to champion diversity and equality. We have made so many strides over the years, it is important to continue the progress; our communities and professions are stronger when we encapsulate diversity through representation.

As a mother of three young boys under the age of five, Andrea Clarke is an advocate for programming directed at the retention of women in law, along with supporting the transition for women back into practice following maternity leave. It is a difficult transition period for many women, particularly those who are in small practices or sole practitioners, and it is so vital that as a profession we acknowledge and appreciate the contributions that women make and the need for an active support system.

Passionate about education and leadership, Andrea will champion mentorship programs for those coming into the practice. She understands the perils of uncertainty that is faced by those entering into the profession. Both young lawyers and those coming to the profession from other jurisdictions need a structured and collaborative environment to thrive.

The road to get here can be a long, meticulous and a costly endeavour which is often eased with structure and support.

Andrea L. Clarke.

A lawyer. A professional. A woman. A mother. Committed to assisting others.



**Bencher  
Election**

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## Antoine L. Collins

antoine.collins@alclawyers.ca

# East



Antoine L Collins has practised law in the United States and Canada over the past 15 years. After graduating in 2002 from The John Marshall Law School in Chicago, he began his career as an Assistant State's Attorney for the Baltimore City's States Attorney's Office. There, he prosecuted cases ranging from theft to felony child abuse and domestic violence. Subsequently, he took a position with one of Baltimore's top law firms, defending civil cases in the area of Workers' Compensation. He was called to the Ontario Bar in 2011.

Now based in Ottawa, Antoine is the Principal Lawyer of The Law Firm of Antoine L Collins, a progressive litigation firm offering personalized service in a variety of legal disciplines.

### "NOTHING GREAT WAS EVER ACHIEVED WITHOUT ENTHUSIASM"

Ralph Waldo Emerson's words of more than 150 years ago still ring true. I believe that enthusiasm and commitment to excellence remain critical for success. I am an extremely enthusiastic and proud lawyer who cares deeply about these values and the future of the practice of law. I would be honoured to be elected as a bencher and to take up the challenge of helping shape the future of our profession.

### ACCESS TO JUSTICE

My background in prosecution afforded me the opportunity to be introduced to people from all walks of life, which reinforced my belief in the primacy of fairness and impartiality in employing my skills as a lawyer. As a prosecutor, I was never pro-prosecution or pro-defendant, but focused on being pro-JUSTICE. Coming from a system where the public defender's office had resources on par with those of the prosecution, I felt that the accused were able to have adequate representation if they chose. Through my volunteer work here in Ottawa I see the continued need for access to Justice and for additional and ongoing resources to our Pro Bono Offices, as well as for those who cannot afford to hire private lawyers.

### DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

I am proud to be part of a profession which attracts an amazing and diverse array of talent. We all benefit when our profession reflects the diversity of all of its members and it is our obligation to strive to increase its visibility. I am personally committed to promoting diversity and inclusion at all levels of the legal profession. I will strive to help the Law Society create clear guidelines to help promote racial, gender, LGBTQ equality. I hope to participate in initiatives that increase the visibility of our legal community in promoting diversity, inclusion and battle the remaining vestiges of racism in our profession.



**Bencher**  
Election

**Élection**  
du Conseil  
2019

**Paul M. Cooper**

paul.cooper@cj-law.ca

**Central East**



Graduated Osgoode Hall Law School,  
1990

Small firm practitioner – 27 years

Creator of the “Garage Series” CPD

Trustee - Law Foundation of Ontario

Vice Chair - Law Society Tribunal  
Committee

Adjudicator – Law Society Tribunal

Member – Legal Aid Working Group

Member – Advertising & Fees Working  
Group

Founding Director -Rights Advocacy  
Coalition for Equality (R.A.C.E.)

**MEMBERSHIPS:**

York Region Law Association  
Toronto Lawyers Association  
Criminal Lawyers’ Association  
Ontario Bar Association  
Advocates Society

**INCLUSION, INNOVATION, and INSPIRATION**

**STRONG VOICE**

I am seeking RE-ELECTION as a Bencher from OUTSIDE TORONTO. I have been honoured to serve as a progressive voice at Convocation. I believe that the strength and reputation of the Law society rests upon education, mentorship, diversity and the ability to adapt to the needs of our profession.

**STRONG RECORD**

My practice has touched on almost every aspect of criminal litigation. I have appeared in all levels of Court throughout Ontario as well as the Supreme Court. I have also acted as a Federal Crown Attorney. In 2010, I pioneered the “Garage Series”, a free high quality CPD series delivering relevant legal and ethical content in a setting that promotes mentorship and an opportunity to give back to our profession. Most importantly, I understand the challenges of practicing law and managing one’s own business.

**STRONG BENCHER**

Four years of historic change at the Law Society of Ontario. Here is some of that change: Practice supports and resources have been enhanced including the introduction of the coach and advisor network; We regained our footprint in the access to justice space through the efforts of the Legal Aid Working Group; we protected the public and the profession in addressing referral fees and advertising; And, the first phase of the challenges report has been implemented.

**STRONG VISION**

In the next four years we must build on our accomplishments and focus on the future. Here are my priorities:

1. Eliminate systematic barriers and become a truly equitable and diverse profession.
2. Continue supports for small firms and our local legal communities.
3. Enhance our commitment to access to justice (not through the expansion of paralegal scope of practice).
4. Dialogue with LAO and preserve the lawyer of choice certificate system.
5. Support and increase competency.
6. Address the AI and technology revolution.
7. Inspire the profession to transition to bespoke legal service providers.

Je m’engage a bien représenter tous les membres de la profession.

[www.votecooper.ca](http://www.votecooper.ca)



**Bencher  
Election**

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**Dianne G. Corbiere**

[dgcorbiere@nncfirm.ca](mailto:dgcorbiere@nncfirm.ca)

**Central East**



**Managing Partner, Nahwegahbow Corbiere**  
[www.nncfirm.ca](http://www.nncfirm.ca)

**Background:**

Born and raised on Manitoulin Island. Resides in Minesing with her husband and two children.

**Education:**

LL.B., University of Toronto, Faculty of Law  
HBSW., Laurentian University

Called to the Bar of Ontario in 1998.

**Practice Area:**

Aboriginal law, focusing on Aboriginal and Treaty rights of First Nations.

**Professional Service:**

- Bencher, LSO (2015-2019);
- Chair, National Secretariat Against Hate and Racism in Canada (2003-2006);
- President and Board Member, Indigenous Bar Association (2000-2005).

**Honours/Awards:**

- Inspire Award Law & Justice (2019);
- The Sam Delmar Memorial Award (2016);
- Indigenous Peoples' Counsel designation (2013);
- Canada's Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers, Changemaker Category (Canadian Lawyer Magazine, 2012).

I am running for re-election as Bencher for the Central East Region in order to help sustain the momentum of recent advancements at the Law Society, including important developments on issues related to equity, diversity and inclusion within the profession, and Access to Justice.

As a bencher and through my past experiences, I have assisted Indigenous communities, women, and diverse ethno-racial, faith-based and LGBTQ communities in Ontario and across the country in promoting Access to Justice and equity and diversity in the legal system. I have also worked towards combating racism and discrimination across Canada. I am proud to have been able to continue this important work in my capacity as Bencher from 2015-2019.

I am currently Chair of the Law Society's Equity and Indigenous Affairs Committee. I also serve or have served on a number of other committees, task forces and working groups at the Law Society, including:

- Professional Development & Competence Committee;
- Governance Task Force;
- Challenges Faced by Racialized Licensees Working Group;
- Chair of Keshen Review Panel;
- FLSC Truth and Reconciliation Advisory Committee;
- The Law Society Awards/LL.D. Advisory Committee;
- Priority Planning Committee;
- Mental Health Working Group; and
- The Strategic Planning Steering Group.

As a Bencher, I was a strong proponent for the adoption of both the Statement of Principles and the new CPD requirement focused on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. If re-elected, I will continue to advocate for greater equity, diversity and inclusion in the legal profession, as well as enhanced Access to Justice for all Ontarians.

As Managing Partner of a small law firm, I also understand and appreciate the challenges faced by sole and small firm practitioners in Ontario. While local bar associations do their best to provide members with resources, I believe the Law Society can do more to improve the services and supports offered to practitioners in Ontario.

Finally, I am committed to further strengthening the programs and resources available to both licensing candidates and lawyers. This includes, but is not limited to, greater access to quality, affordable CPD programs as well as improved mentorship opportunities for licensing candidates and new lawyers.



**Bencher**  
Election

**Élection**  
du Conseil  
2019

## Winfield Corcoran

winfieldcorcoran@sympatico.ca

## Central South



I was born in Windsor, Ontario, January 23, 1944. I have been married for 44 years. We have 4 children and 4 grandchildren.

My first degree is in Science from the University of Western Ontario, 1983.  
My second degree is in law from the University of Windsor, 1990.

I articulated for the City of Toronto Legal Department.

I was called to the Ontario Bar in February 1992. I have a permit to practice Law in Quebec.

I was a truck driver for 18 years immediately prior to becoming a lawyer.

My hobbies include travelling, learning Spanish and restoring 2 vintage Cadillacs I own.

Here is what some of the people I admire have had to say.

Mr. Jerome Garson... "A good lawyer gets the job done".

Mr. Justice Lamer... "If you are not going to represent me, give me back my money"

Mr. Justice Callaghan... "You will have to pay some dues but after that, good fortune will be yours."

Father Paul Charbonneau, Director, Brentwood Recovery Home, "Gratitude is more than words!!!! You have to do something."

### **ON BEING A LAWYER**

At my highest, I opened on average 100 client files a year. More recently, I have been occupied as counsel on larger files, including a very nasty estate file. I am ardent believer in CPD, (20-30 Substantive/year). I am a Canada wide member of the Lawyer Referral Service. I manage on average 10 referrals a day. I have a permit to represent clients in other provinces and I have represented Canadian clients in the Dominican Republic and Dominican clients in the United States.

I never thought I would be a lawyer. I was grateful to be accepted into law school: I did something; I graduated; I was called to the bar, articles at City of Toronto Legal; being called was an extremely gratifying experience for myself and my entire family, my children, to give them an example to follow; and after my call to pay my dues, to learn how to be a lawyer and how to get the job done; good fortune but not wealth, has since been mine.

### **ON BEING ELECTED**

I am extremely grateful to the LSO, more than you can possibly imagine. Therefore, my only campaign promise, to wit; if elected, I will do something.

### **ON BEING A BENCHER**

I never planned on being a bencher. I have certainly thought about it. I want the job. I am asking for the job. My only concern is "fitting in", will I be accepted by the other 52 benchers? In any event, I think the time has come: Everything is falling into place; I have the time and I expect I can do the work.



**Bencher**  
Election

**Élection**  
du Conseil  
2019

**Janis P. Criger**

Thinqr1@gmail.com

**Central South**



**Deputy Judge, Hamilton 1996 to present**

**President, Ontario Deputy Judges Association.**

**Bencher, 2015 to present**

**Adjudicator, Law Society Tribunal Hearing Division (2015) and Appeal Division (2017)**

**Audit & Finance Committee  
Litigation Committee  
Paralegal Standing Committee  
Tribunal Committee  
Governance Task Force  
Tech Task Force**

**Sole practitioner in a tech-adept personal injury and insurance defence practice, 1995 – 2015**

**Interests  
Regulating in the public interest  
Tech and innovation in the practice of law  
Equity, Diversity & Inclusion  
Fair, transparent, independent adjudication of conduct matters**

Thank you to all who voted for me in 2015. I have enjoyed this Bencher term, working on governance and at the Law Society Tribunal, hearing conduct, capacity, and character matters. I am fortunate to be doing work I enjoy with people I like and respect.

The issues:

**Equity, Diversity, Inclusion:** I voted in favour of the Statement of Principles. The people who worked on the Challenges report for four years are better informed than I as to the existence of systemic discrimination. I was (and am) prepared to defer to their better-informed opinions.

**Governance:** Convocation needs many types of diversity – geographic, demographic, socioeconomic, racial, gender, practice size and type. I do not support lowering the number of elected Benchers, this accommodates this goal. I believe only elected/appointed Benchers should be voting on any issue.

**Lawyer Licensing:** I would prefer LPP for all, but it's expensive and students are already burdened by tuition costs. I supported status quo with enhancements as the second-best option.

**Paralegals in Family Law:** Staff are working on this. I want to make sure that scope is clearly defined, so that both professions know who is to do what. I will review reports on curriculum development, to ensure competence.

**Pro Bono Funding:** I support stable funding for Pro Bono Law offices. I do not support a levy on the profession. It is unfair to make 60,000 Ontario taxpayers fund what about 7 million (1/2 2018 population) taxpayers should be paying for. A levy also disproportionately penalizes young lawyers and those already doing pro bono and low bono work, whose average income is likely lower than that of lawyers not doing such work. I look forward to hearing from Treasurer Mercer about potential sources of stable funding.

Like last time, I would be very pleased if you vote for me. I would like to serve a second term. However, even if you don't vote for me, please vote.

Thank you.

I only have 350 words for this statement. More at [www.lsobencher.com](http://www.lsobencher.com).



**Bencher  
Election**

**Élection  
du Conseil  
2019**

**Michael Demczur**

votedemczur@gmail.com

**Central East**



I am married and the proud father of two daughters.

For the last 20 years I have been an Assistant Crown Attorney in Newmarket. Throughout my career, I have been active in the legal profession, including being a director of the Ontario Crown Attorneys Association for the last six years, a Regional Director of the OBA's Criminal Law Division and a Director of the Dufferin County Law Association.

I am also an active volunteer in my local community. For five years, I was the President of Theatre Orangeville, a hub for philanthropic activities in the area, and remain on its Board. I am currently a director of the Literacy Council York Simcoe, which provides adult literacy and skills upgrading programs.

As the governing body of lawyers, the Law Society of Ontario (LSO) not only has an obligation to its members but to society as a whole. The proper functioning and regulating of the legal profession contributes immensely to our society being prosperous and just. While there are many areas that the LSO should be focused on in order to discharge its duties, the following are the key ones that I, as a bencher, press the LSO to pursue:

**Technology:** The impact of technology is everywhere in our society and accelerating. The Law Society, on behalf of the membership, needs to be involved in the conversation with the governments on how the disruptive effects of technology can best be blunted and how the promise of technology to deliver access to justice in a more effective way to more people can be fulfilled.

**Diversity:** The LSO should develop and implement a strategy for ensuring the practice of law is as open, accessible and fair for all. While this process has begun, it needs to be persisted with, experimenting to see what works and what does not and making the necessary adjustments.

**Discipline:** I believe in a progressive discipline process that makes use of ADR, mentoring and restorative justice, and focuses on correcting and education rather than on the formal discipline process. The formal discipline process is the final stage of the process, which should only be reached after other means have been tried and failed and when the circumstances warrant.

**Access to Justice:** There is a diminishment of access to justice for a growing portion of the population. Each year the number of self-represented accused grows and, with them, grows the burden on a court system that is already struggling. The Law Society needs to take a leadership role in solving this problem. As a bencher, I would press for the LSO to work with the Courts to develop procedures that deal with the challenges of the unrepresented. As well, I would press for LSO to work with the governments to address the underfunding of legal aid.



**Bencher**  
Election

**Élection**  
du Conseil  
2019

## Jean-Jacques Desgranges

DesgrangesLaw@ncf.ca

# East



Jean-Jacques Desgranges hails from Sudbury, Ontario.

He worked in the Alberta oil patch, in the construction trades, taught in high school and college, and was double-bass player for the Sudbury Symphony Orchestra.

He holds a B.A (Arts – music major) and a B.Ed. from Laurentian University.

In 1992, he moved to Ottawa to pursue a law career. He graduated in 1995 from the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Law (Common Law) and was called to the Bar in 1997. He has been practicing law since then as a general practitioner.

He completed an International MBA in 2001 from the University of Ottawa and the École supérieure de Commerce in Reims (France). He is versed in tax law and fully bilingual.

**StopSOP** - As your representative, Jean-Jacques Desgranges will fight to cut law society fees, work to eliminate red tape and defend our profession's traditions and values.

### **Reduce Fees**

The law society's mission creep and resulting bloated budget have led to steadily increasing law society fees that will likely increase significantly in years to come. Jean-Jacques will fight to find way to reduce unnecessary expenses to get the Law Society back on track and focused on its core competency – regulating the legal profession.

### **Eliminate Red Tape**

Good lawyers should be left to practice law. Unnecessarily onerous compliance requirements take up valuable time that is better spent serving the public. Jean-Jacques will work to create efficiencies to reduce compliance time and burden without compromising high standards and public protection.

### **Defend our Traditions and Values**

Special interest groups have gained a foothold in convocation. They seek to erase our history, mandate ideological training and implement discriminatory race and sex-based quotas. Jean-Jacques will defend our profession's proud traditions and values which include above all excellence in the practice of law without regards to social determinants. Jean-Jacques is part of the #StopSOP slate to repeal Recommendation 3.1, which sought to compel licensees to promote controversial political speech as a requirement to practice law. This requirement is now before the Court at significant law society expense.

**Learn more at [www.stopsop.ca](http://www.stopsop.ca)**



Bencher  
Election

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du Conseil  
2019

## Teresa Donnelly

teresa.donnelly@ontario.ca

## Southwest



Called to the Bar 1991

### Employment

- West Region Sexual Violence Crown, Sexual Violence Advisory Group, Ministry of the Attorney General, 2015-current. Have been a Prosecutor since 1994
- Lawyer, Siskinds, 1993-1994
- Research Lawyer, Sarnia Judicial Inquiry, 1993
- Research Lawyer/Law Clerk, Ont. Ct (Gen. Div.), Southwest Region, 1991-1993

### Memberships

- Huron Law Association
- Women's Law Association
- Southwest Region Women's Law Association
- Ontario Association of Senior Crown Attorneys
- Advocates' Society
- Ontario Bar Association/CBA

### Community Work

- Contributing to the lives of children, the elderly, and people with developmental disabilities.

I am seeking **re-election** and ask for your support. I would be honoured to continue to work for you.

**Priorities** for our profession include:

- Promoting **equality, diversity, and inclusion** and implementing the Challenges report
- Ensuring **fiscal accountability**
- Regulating in the public interest and achieving effective oversight through our governance structure
- Facilitating **access to justice** including through collaboration with stakeholders
- Embracing opportunities and confronting challenges of technology and globalization
- Supporting all lawyers, with a focus on **sole and small practices** to ensure access to supports and resources
- Implementing enhancements to Articling and Law Practice Program to reduce barriers and to ensure **quality placements** free from harassment and discrimination

As a **Bencher**, I am engaged, committed and dedicated, as evidenced by my attendance record and involvement in committees including Chair of Audit and Finance, Chair of Human Rights Monitoring Group, **Co-Chair** of Compliance Based Entity Regulation, and member of the Indigenous Review Panel.

While I am a **government lawyer**, I work in Goderich which is a small town and I understand the challenges facing sole and small firms and rural practitioners. As a **Prosecutor**, I have dedicated my career to providing access to justice for victims of domestic and sexual violence – the majority of whom are women and children. As the West Region Sexual Violence Crown, I am one of seven Prosecutors in the province dedicated to **enhancing the quality of sexual violence prosecutions** and the victim's experience in the criminal justice system.

I am a proud member of a legal family and a **third-generation lawyer**. I am honoured that my nominators are my husband, four brothers, two brothers-in-law and nephew whose experiences include a variety of:

- Settings – small towns and big cities
- Practice areas - criminal, insurance, banking, mining, energy, civil litigation, real estate, wills; and
- Practice sizes and types - two lawyer firm, large firms, in-house, non-practicing corporate.

Like the majority of lawyers, they are hardworking, dedicated, committed professionals who enhance the reputation of the profession and the administration of justice. I believe in the **dignity and integrity** of the profession and that each of us must uphold those standards.



**Bencher**  
Election

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du Conseil  
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**Etienne Esquega**

ee@esquegalaw.com

**Northwest**



I live in Thunder Bay and my office is located on the Fort William First Nation. I am a member of the Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek. I graduated from Osgoode Hall Law School and was called to the bar in 2005.

I represent clients on land claims, civil litigation, First Nation governance, and corporate/commercial matters. Recently, I acted for a First Nation in a settlement of a flooding land claim. I also acted for a party at the 7 First Nation Youth Inquest.

I am a co-chair of the Indigenous Advisory Group to the Law Society of Ontario. I also volunteered on the working group which developed the Certified Specialist in Indigenous Legal Issues designation.

The world and the practice of law is changing around us and the LSO must keep up. One of the biggest challenges and opportunities to the practice is the ever-expanding use of technology. When I first started practicing the large, block-like blackberries were a must-have. Now look how far we have come, and where we may go. As a lawyer in Northwestern Ontario I truly appreciate how technology makes the practice of law in the north easier. However, I believe there are many opportunities for the LSO to improve technological efficiency and to integrate technology in a more mindful, workable and efficient manner to facilitate and assist both the membership and the public.

Our regulator must have a greater presence in the North to support its members. One means of accomplishing this is to explore opportunities, and perhaps partnerships, for CPD programming to be made available (live) for members in the North and in remote locations. CPD programming and events provide us with great up-to-date information, but also provide networking opportunities and our regulator should play a role in facilitating this.

We must also be mindful of members who face health challenges; mental health challenges in particular. We need to improve and explore new ways that the LSO can offer early support to members so that their struggles do not result in disciplinary proceedings.

We need to ensure that our regulator engages in prompt investigations and disciplinary proceedings. In particular, the recommendations from the 2018 Review Panel on Regulatory and Hearing Processes Affecting Indigenous Peoples must be addressed. While some of these recommendations are specific to Indigenous peoples and issues, implementation would be beneficial to the membership and community as a whole.

Finally, I appreciate that LSO fees are something that we must remain mindful of. Costs, that are downloaded to the membership, must be kept down.

I understand that the duties of a bencher require a significant time commitment. I am prepared to accept that responsibility as I bring a new perspective to convocation.



**Bencher  
Election**

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## Gary D. Graham

gary.graham@grahamstephensonllp.com

## Central West



**Award-winning Business Law lawyer with Executive Management experience**

### Professional History

- Partner Graham Stephenson 2018 to present
- Senior Partner at Gowling WLG 1995-2018
- President Westinghouse Canada 1991-1995
- General Counsel Westinghouse Canada 1983-1991

### Awards

- 2015 Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal recipient for service to industry
- 2011 Distinguished Hamilton Citizen of the Year
- Sir James Dunn Scholar

### Education

- 1982 Called to the Ontario Bar
- 1980 LL.B. Osgoode

After nearly 3 decades in big law and big business I have chosen to practice in my home community, providing strategic corporate/commercial advice out of a two-partner law office in Burlington. Some ideas I will bring to the role of bencher follow.

### 1. Use new technology to multiply the number of articling jobs

In the building in which I practice, there are 3 law offices. Our practices are distinct: intellectual property, family law and corporate/commercial. None of these is large enough to afford an articling student. But the LSO could enable the three firms in the building to share one on a mutually beneficial and rotational basis, by using a web-based facility or app that would track the student's assignments and time, among other things. It would not need to be a big software development project; indeed, I am surprised this has not been developed yet.

### 2. Statement of Principles

When I first heard about the mandated Statement of Principles, I was bewildered; how could a group of lawyers-- who must understand inalienable rights such as freedom of speech, and its corollaries freedom from compelled speech and thought-- arrive at a conclusion that they could take away our licenses to practice, if we did not say that we believe what they believe. Where did they think they got the right to do that? The law can tell me what not to do. No one should be allowed to type thoughts into my head. We need to 'stand up for freedom as in the olden times'.

### 3. Do we need to have the best wine cellar, 550 employees and run an insurance operation that perhaps could be outsourced?

There certainly appears to be an empire-building element to the operations of the Law Society. Organizations that have de facto taxing power, when left unmanaged, will grow. Mission creep is like a law of organizational physics. From the limited public information, it appears we are supporting an organization that employs over 550 employees. Headcount is a useful metric to track, and we should expect the Benchers to be doing that.



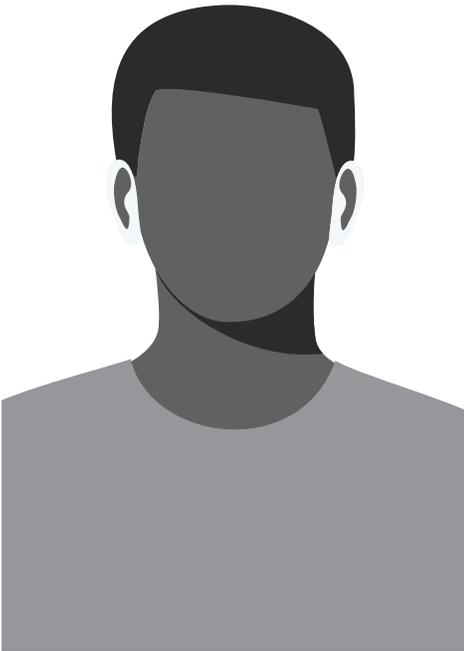
**Bencher**  
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**Yavar Hameed**

yhameed@hameedlaw.ca

**East**



There is an articling crisis, there are mounting debt loads for students and new calls and we have confused and antiquated licensing requirements despite a year-long dialogue on licensing. Access to justice issues abound both within the profession, as part of its hierarchy and the gate keeping function of the LSO as well as in respect of public access to the Courts and our services and representation of marginalized communities.

I campaigned for Bencher four years ago on a platform to encourage a voice for new lawyers within the profession by attempting to make the LSO take notice of debt burden, licensing fees and liaison between the LSO and law schools to encourage experiential learning opportunities. I am stepping up again in 2019 to address these same issues and to use every opportunity in the lead up to this election and, if elected as Bencher, to address these same problems because they have not gone away – they have only intensified.

I have been privileged to be part of the a2justice.ca coalition for the last five years, which has been engaged with these questions in consultative processes with the LSO and like-minded groups of lawyers, law students, articling students and community members. Key to my approach – based on my work and consultation with concerned licensees and others – is to help to help foster better, more effective, less costly and more relevant methods of training with a view to responding to important social challenges in the delivery of legal services.

Such an approach must remain conscious of the profession's obligation to provide services in a manner that considers both individual rights and interests of clients and systemic political and social barriers that create and reproduce social inequities.

Through my work with the a2justice.ca coalition I believe I have gained valuable experience, which I will continue to apply to listen, liaise and generate discussion and dialogue on these issues with a view to debureaucratizing the LSO and prioritizing the shape of what this profession should become in the future.

**Education:**

Called to Ontario Bar (2001)  
BA Hon U of Alberta (1995);  
LL.B. U of Ottawa (1999);  
M.A. (International Affairs) Carleton  
University (2001)

**Focus of Practice:** [www.hameedlaw.ca](http://www.hameedlaw.ca)

Human Rights and social justice law  
practitioner based in Ottawa for 18 years.  
Areas include: national security law,  
constitutional litigation, anti-poverty law,  
human rights law, transfer of offenders,  
immigration security certificates, criminal  
defense of protestors, police abuse/  
accountability cases.

Sessional Lecturer: Dept of Laws,  
Carleton University (since 2007)

**Community Involvement:**

Organizer, A2Justice Coalition  
Editorial Board member, Voices Project  
on Dissent, Democracy and the Law.  
Provides legal support and advice to  
grassroots social justice organizations in  
Ontario and Quebec



**Bencher  
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**Jacqueline Horvat**

jacqueline@spark.law

**Southwest**



**BORN and RAISED:**  
Windsor, Ontario

**CALLED TO THE BAR:** 2002

**LL.B.:** University of Windsor

**PARTNER & CO-FOUNDER:** Spark LLP  
(<https://spark.law/>)

**PREVIOUSLY:** Associate Partner at  
Strosberg Sasso Sutts, LLP

**LITIGATOR:** Class Actions Corporate/  
Commercial

**CURRENT CHAIR OF:**  
Technology Task Force  
Professional Regulation  
Proceedings Authorization

**MEMBER:**  
Essex County Law Association  
Toronto Lawyers Association  
The Advocates Society  
Women's Law Association of Ontario

I am seeking **re-election** as a Bencher from outside Toronto and I am asking for your continued support.

Over the last four years, I served as **Chair** of the Proceedings Authorization Committee, Professional Regulation Committee, Litigation Committee and Technology Task Force. I also served as Co-Chair of the Mentoring Task Force and Vice-Chair of the Professional Development & Competence Committee. In the 2019-2023 term, I am committed to taking action to address crucial issues in the following emerging areas:

**TECHNOLOGY:** The increasing prevalence of legal technology and tools, as well as the rise of artificial intelligence in legal applications, is both a concern and an opportunity for the LSO and its licensees. Embracing technological tools that complete routine and repetitive tasks will provide licensees more time to concentrate on giving clients the benefit of their experience, judgment, and legal advice. I hope to continue my work with the Technology Task Force in assessing the implications of technological tools and promoting education of legal technology among licensees.

**DIVERSITY:** Complex issues can only be properly addressed when those considering them bring to the table a diversity of views, perspectives, and backgrounds. To ensure this kind of diversity, Convocation should consider appointing non-benchers to committees and task forces to ensure that the right interests and views are taken into account at the policy making stage.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:** One of the core values the LSO must promote is greater and more affordable access to legal services for the public, regardless of income bracket or geographical location. To ensure that the legal system works for everyone, we must support new calls, sole practitioners and small firms across all of Ontario who dedicate their practices to public interest work.

**FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY:** The fees charged place a financial burden on many members of our profession, particularly our sole and small firm practitioners. The LSO must eliminate unnecessary expenditures and reduce unduly high fees.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT  
[WWW.JACQUELINEHORVAT.CA](http://WWW.JACQUELINEHORVAT.CA)**



**Bencher**  
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2019

## Grant Isaac

chambersisaaclaw@gmail.com

## Central West



**Born (March 4,1947) and raised in Toronto; Summers-Elgin and Middlesex counties; Residing/ practicing in Mississauga,as A Barrister-sole practice- -Chambers,Isaac Law Firm-Est. 1911; Married with a son and daughter-in-law; Humberstone Collegiate, Toronto(1966); University of Ottawa(B.Com. 1969-Telfer School of Business; Dalhousie University(1972-LL.B.); Hastings College of the Law-University of California-San Francisco(Certified Mediator-2012); Adjudicator-American Bar Association,National Law School Mediation Competitions; Charter (Founding) President -Kiwans Club of Georgetown,Ontario; Recipient-Kiwans International Award for Excellence & Outstanding Club President Award (twice); Practicing Family, Estates,Real Estate and Commercial litigation, appearing before Courts at all levels and Administrative tribunals,including Judicial Reviews and Appeals, therefrom;**

T-905-814-7677;  
e-[chambersisaaclaw@gmail.com](mailto:chambersisaaclaw@gmail.com)

### LAW SOCIETY TRIBUNAL

- 1.Abolishment of Chairman "sitting at the pleasure of Convocation",and selecting panelists;
2. Replace employee LSO prosecutors with non-employee Member licencees,at predetermined hourly rates,if requested by Respondent;
3. All panelists to certify,in writing, that they do not suffer from medical conditions preventing expected/required performance of their duties/appointment and that they are fully competent in the language of the designated Hearing;
- 4.All Hearings to be video/audio transcribed and all parties to be able to access said transcriptions at any time,even during proceedings,with all said transcriptions to be available to all parties for, Appeal and judicial review purposes, free of charge;
5. Tribunal Orders to be stayed, upon service of an Appeal/Review Application and proceedings totally confidential,until all appeal/review rights ended;LSO to demonstrate the need for anything different;
6. Abolish summary suspension provisions for unpaid Tribunal Costs orders requiring Order non-compliance proceedings,as was in effect,prior to 2014 Amendment;
7. Proceedings Authorization Committee authorizing Tribunal Applications to become independent except for one LSO representative on each PAC panel;

### TREASURER

- 8.To be a full-time position,with incumbent not practicing,or having any affiliation with a law firm/practice;
9. Treasurer to be elected by the Members at Bencher election and otherwise,as required;

### CRIMINAL RECORDS

10. Membership not allowed for persons with serious criminal and/or similar records, such as tax evasion,insider trading,drug trafficking, incurred anywhere;

### LSO TRUSTEE DEPARTMENT

11. To be dismantled,with functions allocated to existing Trust companies with substantial cost savings realized;

### LSO INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT

- 12.To be dismantled,with functions allocated to independent, investigative organizations and/or referred to policing/government organizations(R.C.M.P.,O.P.P.,OSC),for Prosecution,with LSO getting involved after convictions registered,resulting in substantial cost savings,

### ONGOING INCOMPETENT/NEGLIGENT PRACTICE

- 13.To be treated as PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT;

### REDUCTION OF FEES

14. The savings realized by implementation of the initiatives set out herein,would allow for a substantial reduction in annual fees.

IT'S TIME FOR CHANGE!



**Bencher  
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**Douglas W. Judson**

info@douglasjudson.ca

**Northwest**



**Douglas Judson practices in Fort Frances, where he also serves as a municipal councillor and as CEO of Grand Council Treaty 3's economic initiatives.**

**Doug is actively involved in the profession. He is President of the Rainy River Law Association, Vice-Chair of the Northwest Community Legal Clinic, and involved with the CBA's SOGIC. Doug has served a term on the LSO's Equity Advisory Group, on the Start Proud board, and is a Past President of the Law Students' Society of Ontario.**

**Doug's practice has taken him from Bay Street to Indigenous restorative justice to a Crown Attorney's office and private practice. He brings experience in politics and public administration, and holds a JD/MBA and degrees in commerce and political science.**

It's time for a generational shift in the leadership of our profession. Younger lawyers need to lead the modernization of legal service delivery and drive improvements in access to justice. The challenges facing newer calls are unique from previous generations and can only be addressed through their participation in the leadership of our profession.

I am running for bencher to give voice to the future of law and to ensure the public we serve is heard at Convocation. Our Law Society must uphold its statutory commitment to access to justice, and adapt that commitment to respond to contemporary challenges and public expectations. I want to break down silos across the justice sector to address these issues and ensure our profession leads this work.

I have collaborated on a number of significant policy initiatives in the profession through the organizations listed in my biography. I am a passionate advocate for improving the diversity and financial accessibility of the bar, and have written extensively and contributed to submissions on matters such as the Pathways to the Profession review of licensing and the Challenges Faced by Racialized Licensees.

I supported the Law Society in its legal challenge surrounding Trinity Western University by coordinating the intervention of LGBTQ2 groups, and I was the primary author of the Law Students' Society of Ontario's 2015 Just or Bust report on the impacts of skyrocketing legal education costs. In my current work, I advocate for the justice and health needs of Treaty 3 First Nations.

The Law Society's public-facing mandates must remain central to its work. In my practice, through my work with Indigenous communities, as a director of a community legal clinic, and through my time volunteering with Law Help Ontario, I have seen firsthand some of the challenges facing Ontarians navigating everyday legal problems unserved by lawyers. I see a role for our Law Society in enhancing public education, outreach, and legal resources, and doing more to integrate technology and pilot innovative practice models to serve these unmet needs.

Read more at [www.douglasjudson.ca](http://www.douglasjudson.ca) or connect with me on Twitter at @dwjudson.



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## Howard Philip Knopf

howard.knopf@macerajarzyna.com

# East



Howard P. Knopf, B.A., M.S., LL.M., is Counsel with Macera & Jarzyna LLP in Ottawa. Since 1980, he has worked in government, the private sector and academia on intellectual property and related issues. He has appeared in several important cases before the Copyright Board, the Federal Courts, and the Supreme Court of Canada.

He has been Chairman of the Copyright Policy Committee of the CBA and advisor to the Law Commission of Canada on security interests in intellectual property. He has published extensively as author and editor, and has organized numerous conferences.

He has frequently lectured at the invitation of the judiciary, government, law schools, the LSO, and other national and international organizations, and has appeared before many Parliamentary committees.

After decades of both working with and creatively challenging conventional concepts, I would urge the LSO to:

1. Encourage Ontario and Federal courts and tribunals to make all public documents available online for free or at low cost;
2. Improve mandatory CPD by making professionalism courses more informative, more useful, and less costly;
3. Consider CPD credit for skill development that can enhance access to justice, e.g. training in “digital literacy” skills including social media, web site development, podcasting, and media interaction skills;
4. Advocate for adequate criminal and civil legal aid;
5. Address access to justice issues for individuals and small and medium sized businesses, including the encouragement of cost-beneficial legal insurance plans by third party insurers and possible LSO endorsement of such plans when appropriate;
6. Address whether LSO can enhance access to justice by providing, for example, basic annotated templates for litigation documents, links to CanLII, court and other useful websites, as well as mechanisms and information for limited scope retainers;
7. Raise the threshold for civility complaints – especially lawyer v. lawyer– and consider imposing administrative costs for frivolous, vexatious, tactically motivated or unnecessary lawyer-based complaints;
8. Consider whether the LSO Rules of Professional Conduct regarding conflicts of interest need to be updated along with “best practices” guidance;
9. Investigate the high costs of legal education and suggest solutions;
10. Promote and improve the operation of the Coach and Advisor Network to better facilitate an informal “mentor” network whereby experienced senior practitioners with particular expertise can provide informal and *pro bono* advice on substantive and practice issues to less experienced lawyers in smaller firms;
11. Address the administrative costs of various LSO “initiatives”, such as “Compliance-Based Entity Regulation” and whether these are all necessary or can be more cost effective; and,
12. Address the high cost of LSO membership including examination of whether money is being well spent and/or providing greater transparency of costs in areas such as re-branding, advertising, CPD, and unnecessary reporting requirements.

Additional comments may appear on my firm’s website at [www.macerajarzyna.com/HPKforBencher2019](http://www.macerajarzyna.com/HPKforBencher2019) or my Twitter account @HowardKnopf



**Bencher  
Election**

**Élection  
du Conseil  
2019**

## Rene Larson

Rene.Larson@larsonlawyers.com

## Northwest



I am a solicitor practising as a sole practitioner in a small law firm with three associate lawyers in Thunder Bay, serving clients in many small towns in Northwestern Ontario. I ask for your vote to represent the many sole practitioners and small firms in Ontario and give them a clear and strong voice in Convocation.

I understand and am committed to the Law Society's responsibilities to protect the public of Ontario and promote and facilitate access to justice. However, the current administration of the Law Society is too focused on militaristic regulation of lawyers, and has forgotten its role to help and support individual lawyers to become better able to do their job so that the public will be better served. LSO can help lawyers AND serve the public!

I want to tackle the LSO fiscal disaster. The number of LSO employees is 606, rising to 615 in the 2019 draft budget. Does that ring your alarm bells? Believe it or not, the LSO has an operating DEFICIT of \$7.54M on expenditures of \$136.64M in 2018, rising to \$8.71M on projected expenditures of \$142.54M in 2019. Lawyers' annual fees of \$2201 will continue to escalate into the stratosphere! I want to represent all the lawyers who are concerned about increasing annual fees and increasing numbers of employees every year at LSO. I want to be your Bencher who tackles fiscal responsibility at LSO!

I am extremely concerned about the survival of the County & District libraries as useful and accessible resources for lawyers who cannot afford library resources within their offices. I pledge to fight for your access to affordable library resources!

I will make myself available to listen to your concerns by email, telephone, Skype, Zoom, etc., and by accepting your invitations to attend your meetings throughout the Province. I am committed to more transparency and less secrecy at Bencher meetings – ordinary lawyers should be able to know what is being considered at committee meetings of Benchers, and Bencher consultations should be earlier, allowing for more time and opportunity to provide input. We are busy practitioners too!

Born in Kenora ON; live in Thunder Bay ON

Married with three children and  
four grandchildren

Lakehead University Hon. BA (Economics) 1969

Osgoode Hall Law School, York University J.D.  
1973

Called to Bar March 20, 1975  
44th year of law practice

Lecturer Bora Laskin Law School Lakehead  
University

Sole practitioner in small firm with 3 associate  
lawyers

City Councillor in Thunder Bay; Many community  
boards

Past President - Thunder Bay Law Association

Northwestern Ontario Rep on Executive of  
Federation of Law Associations of Ontario (FOLA)  
(formerly CDLPA)



**Bencher  
Election**

**Élection  
du Conseil  
2019**

**Cheryl R. Lean**

cherylleanlaw@gmail.com

**East**



Cheryl Lean has been practising family law and child protection law in Prince Edward County since 2004, having previously practised, family law, employment law and civil litigation in Ottawa for 12 years. She is a sole practitioner and many of her clients are low income and vulnerable. She has long been committed to facilitating access to justice. Cheryl graduated from Dalhousie Law School (now Schulich School of Law) in 1989, was called to the bar of Ontario in Ottawa in 1991, in 2003 she was granted an LLM by Osgoode Hall Law School. Cheryl served for several years on the Board of the Hastings County Law Association and served as its president from 2007 until 2009.

As your representative I can speak for the interests of sole practitioners and small firm lawyers working outside large urban centres. I will demand respect for the practice of Family Law within the profession and will defend our profession's traditions and values.

#### **Elevate Family Law Practice**

The Family Law Action Plan is seriously flawed and there is no supporting evidence that it will address access to justice for Ontario families. The Action Plan goes beyond the recommendations in Justice Bonkalo's report and looks to quickly implement another licensing framework to begin in 2020. The objections of the Family Law Bar were largely ignored by the Committee and submissions from the profession were given no consideration. Convocation demonstrated a lack of understanding of family law practice and rejected the expertise of its own family law licensees.

#### **Reduce Fees**

The law society's mission creep and bloated budget have led to increasing law society fees. The law society needs to get back on track and focused on its core competency and rationale, regulating the legal profession.

#### **Defend our Traditions and Values**

Special interest groups have gained a foothold in Convocation. Licensees are now required to participate in "accelerating a cultural shift." Convocation is mandating ideological training and implementing discriminatory race and sex-based quotas. It seeks to identify all licensees primarily in racialized, gender and ethnic categories. In doing so they seek to erase our history and run roughshod over established legal principles and Charter rights. Cheryl will stand up to these special interest groups to defend our profession's proud traditions and values. Cheryl is part of the #StopSOP slate to repeal bylaw 3.1 which sought to compel licensees to promote controversial political speech as a requirement to practise law.



**Bencher**  
Election

**Élection**  
du Conseil  
2019

**Michael Lerner**

mmlerner@lerner.ca

**Southwest**



Throughout my career, I have been a passionate advocate for access to justice. I consider access to justice to be the highest priority of the Law Society and the most significant issue facing the profession. In law school, I offered a non-credit course that prepared senior students for their post secondary education. Since then, I have been actively involved in accepting pro bono work. I organized an 8 week program held in the main branch of the London libraries on general legal topics such as buying a house and making a will. I introduced a pro bono service to the Children's Hospital of Western Ontario for families who encounter legal problems during their children's extended hospital stays. I have regularly appeared on "morning talk" shows offering general legal information to callers and listeners. I speak regularly at CPD programs as well as at a law school. I prepare a monthly report for the Middlesex Law Association newsletter on current issues and invite comment. As a bencher, I served as vice-chair of the Access to Justice Committee.

During the last term, I actively participated as a member of the working group on the regulation of referral fees, contingency fees and advertising. I am committed to enhancing the reputation of the profession in the eye of the public.

I oppose change for the sake of change. I respect the traditions of the Law Society over the past 220 years; however, I recognize that there are changes which need to be made to better inform the public, increase access to justice and improve the process for entrance into the profession. I do not believe that admission to law school should be an automatic entrance to the profession. The standards for admission must be elevated to ensure that a newly called lawyer has the basic competencies to practise.

In the next term, the Law Society will deal with the introduction of modern technology to make legal service more readily available at the lowest possible cost. Our ongoing focus must be on efficiency in addition to quality.

I wish to continue to serve.

**EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL**

- University of Western Ontario, Bachelor of Arts (1967)
- University of Western Ontario, Bachelor of Laws (1972)
- Called to the Bar (Ontario) (1974)
- Partner Lawyer, Lerner LLP
- Lecturer, Fanshawe College
- Adjunct Professor, Western Law 2015
- Middlesex Law Association, Member President 1988
- Advocate's Society
- Canadian Bar Association
- Bencher, Law Society of Upper Canada

**COMMUNITY BOARDS, PAST AND PRESENT**

- Outstanding Young Londoner 1984
- Past-President, Masonville Ratepayers Association
- Counsel, Royal Canadian Legion Poppy Fund
- Past-President, Canadian Club of London
- Past Chair London Humane Society
- Merrymount Children's Foundation
- Ronald McDonald House Advisory Board
- Foundation for Gene & Cell Foundation
- Board Member, London Health Sciences Centre
- Chair, Children's Health Foundation 2007 2013
- Vice-Chair, Ontario Human Rights Tribunal
- Board of Governors, Western University 2014-present



**Bencher**  
Election

**Élection**  
du Conseil  
2019

**Michael B. LeSage**

michael@michaelsfirm.ca

**Central South**



Originally from Brampton and a graduate of the University of Western Ontario, I'm now happy to call the Niagara Region Home.

First licensed in Florida in 2006, my legal background is largely litigation based. I've worked in a number of prominent law firms and am a proud OTLA member.

Since 2015, I've run Michael's Law Firm as a sole proprietorship, meaning I'm familiar with the challenges faced by small firms along with some LSO impediments to practice.

In my spare time, I like to spend time with family, bike around the Old Town, play hockey, squash, volleyball and ski a few days a year. I also enjoy visiting friends' cottages during the summer.

### **LSO – It's Time for a Change**

Faced with an ineffectual MAG, bottlenecks within the Courts, having called too many lawyers to the bar, and having failed to adapt to technological change, Convocation debates whether it prefers tea over crumpets. More pressing issues include:

**1. Inefficiency:** The LSO has failed to embrace simple cost saving technologies (i.e. e-filing and online viewing and service of legal documents), at a cost to lawyers and the public.

**2. Civil Expenses:** Increasingly, the time and expense necessary to prosecute cases outweighs expected returns, (i.e. most medical malpractice, chronic pain in auto cases, accident benefits), resulting in a loss to lawyers, the public and justice writ large.

**3. Too Many Lawyers:** Despite stagnant or declining demand for legal services, the LSO continues to license more lawyers (currently more than 52,000 plus 8,600 paralegals) and accredit more law schools (Lakehead, soon Ryerson and Trinity Western).

**4. LSO Fees.** Our annual fees of \$2,183.00 are higher than doctors (\$1,725.00), dentists (\$200.00), nurses (\$226.00) and teachers (\$150.00). Are our wages and benefits?

**5. Poor Judgment.** The LSO recently advocated for ABS and expanded the scope of paralegal practice into Family Law.

### **If elected:**

1. I will push common sense solutions, such as using technology to allow lawyers to save time and money, along with belt tightening at the LSO and tougher bar exams.
2. I will push to keep bad ideas from Convocation at Convocation. When Convocation comes up with another bad idea (ABS, the further expansion of paralegal practice without addressing the underlying problems), I will push hard for further committee study, further discussions, further debate, and weigh in on the enduring tea and crumpets controversy, doubtless evoking fiery Bencher passions and returning the discussion to crumpets once more.



**Bencher  
Election**

**Élection  
du Conseil  
2019**

**Cecil Lyon**

cecil@lyonfamilylaw.ca

**East**



Called to the Bar in 1989 I have been practicing for 30 years. I operate a small family law firm in Kanata employing four lawyers. I still feel it is a privilege to practise law and hope to continue to do so for many years to come. My practice focuses on dispute resolution. I am a member of various and diverse legal and ADR groups. For over ten years I was a regular columnist for the Lawyers Weekly and had fun writing articles under the title "In the Trenches". When not in the office I maintain a semblance of sanity by playing hockey in the winter and, after ice out, fly fishing and kayaking in the summer.

I am joining with #StopSOP as the time has come for more thoughtful and less ideological governance from Osgoode Hall.

We owe it to ourselves and posterity to rollback the Statement of Principle (SOP). It is beyond the pale how the Law Society deigns to mandate that lawyers proffer some mantra. The idea that there is a "one size fits all" Statement of Principle is anathema to the profession we serve.

My principal concerns with SOP are two fold. First, mandating that we parrot some ideology, any ideology, however laudable, is abhorrent and contrary to our hard won independence. It beggars belief how anyone would suggest such an Orwellian initiative. Second, and notwithstanding the laudable sentiment, those espousing equality, diversity and inclusion cannot get past formulating a useful definition much less any practical implementation.

The Society's current overreach is an obvious symptom of mission creep. Its ever expanding scope of operations is funded with our money and such initiatives are far beyond its proper function.

The Society must account for every dime it receives and spends. Before venturing beyond its core mandate it ought to first focus on regulating lawyers and protecting the public and doing so with as little bureaucracy and "red tape" as possible.

Access to justice is another critical issue requiring practical solutions. In our role of protecting the public we must call government to account. Government must not be allowed to ignore the needs of the legal system.

We really have to fix the articling/lawyer training model. The current "system" needs to be re-tooled to produce people who have a working grasp of what it is to practise law.

If elected I will use my energies to see that the Law Society focuses on its core mandate with a view to cost reductions and savings wherever possible. Having run my own business for over 30 years I know that one must be ever mindful of the bottom-line. Perhaps that is something the Benchers have forgotten in their efforts at social justice engineering.



**Bencher  
Election**

**Élection  
du Conseil  
2019**

**M. Virginia MacLean**

virginia@virginiamaclean.com

**Central West**



#### **Practice**

Sole practitioner, Municipal Law Certified Specialist (2006), prior practice with boutique law firm, large law firm (Toronto), public sector municipal, public sector provincial (Toronto) articulated and commenced practice with small firm in rural Ontario  
Lecturer and author of various municipal texts and papers

#### **Offices and Awards**

Past president Ontario Bar Association, Women's Law Association of Ontario  
Director Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History  
OBA award for Volunteerism, Law Society Medal (2010).

Professional Association Memberships  
Advocates' Society,  
Halton County Law Association, Ontario Bar Association,  
Women's Law Association of Ontario

Queens Counsel 1982  
Bencher Law Society 2012-2019  
B.A. (U of T) LLB ( Osgoode)

#### **Why am I a candidate for bencher re-election?**

To effectively participate in governing the affairs of the Society, a bencher must appreciate and understand the functions, duties and powers of the Society and the principles set out in section 4.2 of the Law Society Act. The Society's core function is to ensure that lawyers and paralegals meet standards of learning, professional competence and appropriate professional conduct; in short, to regulate the lawyers and paralegals. We are a self-regulating profession. If re-elected, I will act to ensure the continuation of our self-regulating status during these times of volatile politics and changing technology and demographics. I will also act to ensure that the opinions and the interests of Ontario lawyers are always sought, heard and considered by the Society in carrying out its core function activities and that the Society acts in an efficient, affordable, and forward-looking manner.

#### **Why Vote for Me?**

I am: a sole practitioner (municipal lawyer) dedicated to my profession, experienced, hardworking, a good listener, thoughtful and reasonable, tenacious, principled with no ulterior motive for seeking re-election. I am well qualified to perform the functions required of a bencher.

#### **Challenges**

Today the Society is reasonably transparent when carrying out its duties and functions. The Act requires the Society to function in a timely, open and efficient manner. Many lawyers neither support or agree with some of the actions of the Society. In part because the communication has not been totally open and effective on many key issues. By adhering more closely to all of its functions and principles the Society would earn more respect and cooperation from lawyers and meet this challenge.

Other challenges include addressing and accommodating the oversupply of lawyers and access to justice for Ontarians.

#### **Last words**

I am experienced on committees, working groups and discipline hearing panels. I am prepared for more challenges if I am re-elected. I will continue to work on your behalf for improved regulation of our profession in the public interest.

Please look at my website at [www.virginiamaclean.com](http://www.virginiamaclean.com).  
I would be most grateful if you would support my candidacy.



**Bencher  
Election**

**Élection  
du Conseil  
2019**

**G.S. Mangat**

captmangat@gmail.com

**Central West**



**Born in India in the year 1961, Joined legal profession in 1984 and I am an Alumni of Punjabi University Patiala, India. I have a small law firm "Mangat Law Office" in Brampton.**

**I belong to a family of Lawyers which includes my brothers, nephews, a number of close relatives and friends who are practicing law in Ontario**

**I live in Brampton with family. My two sons are in process of becoming lawyers in Ontario.**

**Hence I understand the issues faced by the profession and consider myself to be your right choice.**

I am enthusiastic to ask for your support of my candidacy for Bencher. I believe I have the necessary experience, qualifications, work ethic and determination to be an effective Bencher.

I understand the challenges faced by today's practitioners in attempting to balance the demands of a career with those of a personal life. My main goal in this election is a leaner and more transparent Law Society. I will stress on the need for transparency in all aspects of governance of the profession.

I am committed to Promoting and supporting measures that will maintain and improve the viability of our practices. I will advocate for adequate funding for legal aid at the provincial and federal levels.

I believe that protecting the public interest should always be the LSO's primary objective but this should not prevent it from promoting the interests of the membership as well, as long as those interests do not conflict with the public interest we need to balance the needs of the public with those of the profession.

I will be always accessible, by listening to your concerns, issues, ideas, and taking the appropriate steps to highlight them I believe that I can make a difference if I am elected.

Thank you for taking time to read these submissions. I am asking for your consideration, support and ultimately your vote.



**Bencher**  
Election

**Élection**  
du Conseil  
2019

## C. Scott Marshall

scttmrshll957@gmail.com

## Central West



I was called to the Bar in 1996 after articling for a small Toronto firm. After my call I moved to Hong Kong where I worked as an editor for The Wall Street Journal and later for Bloomberg News. I returned to the practice of law in 2002 after a move to California. I practised as a litigator in Los Angeles and Santa Rosa before returning to Canada in 2006. Since 2006 I've been in sole practice in Kincardine, Bruce County, focusing on real estate, wills and estates and corporate law. I have three employees including one associate who practises family law. We have a good name in the community and try to go the extra mile for our clients.

The Society is in danger of forfeiting its moral authority to govern the profession with the Statement of Principles initiative. Reasonable people can disagree about policy and politics, but in a healthy, liberal democratic society, freedom of conscience is non-negotiable. That freedom is under threat with SOP. Any bencher who failed to oppose the initiative at Convocation (and I'm sad to say that's every one of them) isn't fit to hold the office.

Now the powers that be may say the initiative is no great burden on members, having been defanged somewhat. Yes you must have a Statement of Principles, but we won't ask to see them, wink wink. But that's not good enough. It's sophistry of the kind that gives lawyers a bad name. And do you trust the current benchers not to re-fang their initiative? Maybe what we have is tyranny in bunny slippers rather than jackboots, but it's tyranny nonetheless. It won't stand and you deserve better representation than either dangerous ideologues or greasy sophists. The office demands some spine and some integrity.

The Society has also become recklessly bloated in recent years. Its core mandate is licensing, (reasonable) regulation and discipline. Anything that deviates from that core mandate is a waste of your money. The financial and regulatory burden on the private bar has grown excessive and must be pruned back. I'm also a member of the California bar and 2019 dues for active members are approximately \$600 for a membership four times the size of the LSO. It's not unreasonable to ask what you get for the \$2,500 you pay the LSO each year.

That said, in addition to working to roll back SOP, I'll oppose any initiative that deviates from what should be the **Society's** core mandate. By working with other members on the **#StopSOP** slate, we'll put money back in your pocket and check the bureaucratic grandiosity in which the LSO is mired. Bureaucracies naturally metastasize and lose sight of those they're meant to serve: members and the public. Let's put it in its place. Thank you.



**Bencher  
Election**

**Élection  
du Conseil  
2019**

## James John Mays

jim.mays@siskinds.com

## Southwest



Graduated from Western Law School in 1985.

Called to the bar in 1987

Commenced employment at Siskinds LLP shortly thereafter and was invited into the partnership in 1992.

I have practised principally in the Civil Litigation area since then acting for both Plaintiffs and Defendants. I am recognized as a specialist in Civil Litigation by the Law Society.

I served on the Middlesex Law Association Board ending that tenure as president. I also served several years as a councillor with the OBA. I am a member of the Advocates Society and on occasion am invited to serve on an ad hoc committee.

With my wife, enjoying the roller coaster ride of raising four wonderful young people to adulthood.

Thank-you for reading this statement and considering casting your ballot for me.

My guiding principle is that, in all facets of our professional life, we must give our clients' interests pre-eminence. I am fully aware that this is a sweeping comment that is easily trumpeted but much harder to recognize and express to fulfilment as we are addressing the topics of the day.

After practising for 32 years I am motivated to put myself forward to serve as your bencher in an effort to give back to a profession that has given much to me.

My professional background is in Civil Litigation for both Plaintiffs and Defendants with an emphasis in personal injury and insurance litigation. My office is in London but I travel throughout Southwestern Ontario. The Law Society has recognized me as an expert in Civil Litigation.

My "administration" experience includes serving on the Middlesex Law Association Board ending as president. I spent 13 years as part of the management team of my firm. I served for a few years as a councillor for the OBA and I have also served on ad hoc committees for the Advocates Society most recently contributing to a position paper on mandatory Personal Injury Retainer Agreements.

If you would like to explore my views on the "topics of the day" please go to [maysbencher2019.com](http://maysbencher2019.com)

I can also be contacted by e-mail at [jim.mays@siskinds.com](mailto:jim.mays@siskinds.com) or by phone 519 660 7856.

Thank-you for your consideration.



**Bencher**  
Election

**Élection**  
du Conseil  
2019

## David A. McKercher

David.McKercher@ppsc-sppc.gc.ca

# East



**General Counsel, Public Prosecution Service of Canada**  
Born in Ottawa, Ontario  
Ontario Bar, 1982  
LLB: U of T Law School, 1980  
BA (Hons) Linguistics: Carleton University, 1975

**In Ottawa**  
Prosecutor, PPSC since its creation in 2006 and with the predecessor Federal Prosecution Service, Department of Justice, since 1989  
Counsel, Criminal Code Review, DOJ, 1984-89

**In Toronto:**  
Duty Counsel, LAO, 1983-84  
DOJ Research Contract, 1982  
Articles: Raphael, Wheatley, MacPherson 1980-81

37 years of criminal law experience: 30 in prosecutions, 5 in policy development, 2 in defence

Member: County of Carleton Law Association; PPSC National Prosecution Policy Committee

Thirty-seven years of work in the criminal justice system, including five years of policy work reviewing legal trends looking back to the 1830s and forward to the 21st Century, have given me a long perspective on the law, which is pertinent to all areas of practice.

### Legal Aid and Access to Justice

One of the more disturbing trends has been the underfunding of legal aid. Accessibility to justice is crucial not only to the fairness of the justice system, but to its efficient functioning as well. There have been small improvements in the last twenty years but the problem of chronic and recurring underfunding remains.

### Our Law Society Serves the Whole Province

Most lawyers in Ontario practise in or near Toronto, which is well-represented in Convocation. But eight out of fourteen million people live outside of Metropolitan Toronto. Important events also take place elsewhere in the province, and many different concerns arise. I have handled cases in Thunder Bay, Windsor, Sault Ste Marie, Sudbury, North Bay, Cornwall, L'Original, Alexandria, Pembroke, Ottawa, Gananoque, Kingston, Napanee, Belleville, Brockville, Perth, Smiths Falls -- and Toronto. I understand and respect that each jurisdiction has its own problems and has crafted its own solutions tailored to its particular population, culture and traditions.

### Licensing

It is important to have a licensing process which is fair and accessible to everyone, while still ensuring the highest standards of competence and integrity.

### Governance

A thriving profession where members in all areas of practice can make a living is in the public interest. The Law Society must continue to offer its members support in terms of education and guidance, while recognizing the significant stresses of practice. The growing size of the legal community presents increasing challenges to the Law Society in meeting this and other aspects of its mandate to the public and to the profession.



**Bencher**  
Election

**Élection**  
du Conseil  
2019

## Michael Maurice Metzger

metzgerlaw@outlook.com

## Central South



Presently reside Port Colborne, Married, 3 children, and 3 step-children. Earned a B.A., Statistics 1988, J.D. 1991, admitted to the New York Bar 1992, called to Ontario Bar in June, 2015.

Admitted to practice in the U.S. District Court 1992, U.S. Bankruptcy Court 1993. Solo practitioner in Fort Erie, Ont., and Buffalo, N.Y., currently decreasing my New York practice.

Deputy Town Attorney and Town Prosecutor, for the Town of Boston, N.Y., serving from 2004 through 2006.

Served two terms as Town Justice, Town of Boston, New York, January 2007 – December, 2014.

Declined third term as Justice to pursue my Call to the Ontario Bar and my Canadian Citizenship.

Granted Canadian Citizenship in March, 2017.

I am committed to working with lawyers and the Law Society to ensure that all lawyers are equipped as best as possible to serve their communities. The demands in law have increased steadily and smaller firms and solo practitioners are having to specialize and this means requiring increased support from the bar and the Law Society.

My vision is a supportive bar, a supportive Law Society full of lawyers who are respectful and supportive of each other.

We need to treat minorities within our profession better.

Over the years I have heard stories from female colleagues that are completely unacceptable. I have watched for years; female lawyers struggle to prove themselves. In our profession men can be adequate and be deemed a good lawyer. Women have to be perfect to garner the same respect.

As a would-be bencher and a man, I feel that it is my responsibility to work to help overcome this disparity. I look forward to a time where women are truly treated equally.

The tides are changing, but I would like to do more to ensure equality for all.

The stress in this profession is monumental and, often, insurmountable. There are time constraints, deadlines, difficult clients, a difficult regulatory board, with which the bar generally maintains a fearful relationship, among other factors.

The stress is often not manageable, and the resources for lawyers are improving, however the stigma has not decreased enough. I would prioritize mental health in the profession. We need more lawyers who speak out about the struggles they have overcome so that we all know we are not alone.

I have the experience, the time, the patience and the passion to fulfill my role as bencher. I would be happy to represent my fellow lawyers to bring about change within the profession, and specifically to advance the position of female lawyers and focus on mental health.

I thank everyone for their consideration and I look forward to the privilege of serving each and every one of you.



**Bencher**  
Election

**Élection**  
du Conseil  
2019

**Trevor Robert Parry**

trevor@trevorparry.com

**Central South**



**I am a tax strategist working with clients and professional advisors across Canada. Together with my wife and three young daughters we make our home in Ancaster.**

**I was called to the Ontario Bar in 1996. I am a member of the Ontario Bar Association, Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners, Canadian Tax Foundation, Hamilton Law Association, Conference for Advanced Life Underwriting, the Royal Canadian Military Institute and the Albany Club.**

**LL.M (Taxation) Osgoode Hall 2013**

**LL. B Queen's University 1994**

**M.A. (History) University of Toronto**

**BA. (Hons) Trinity College, University of Toronto**

Burke wrote, "When ancient opinions and rules of life are taken away, the loss cannot possibly be estimated. From that moment we have no compass to govern us, nor can we know distinctly to what port we steer".

When I first heard of the imposition of a Statement of Principles, as a historian and as one with reverence for the traditions that constitute the rule of law I was moved to action. From Magna Carta to the Declaration of Independence; from the Gettysburg address to "We will never surrender", our shared history is one of sacrifice and struggle to see true justice prevail.

That justice is under assault, by those who know not what it truly is or from where it emanates. Theirs is a history of emotion not fact. While there is no denying past historical tragedies, they reinforce the frailty and imperfection of mankind. We strive towards perfection by embracing our long and storied traditions and precedents. We see no predetermined outcomes based on how loud one group cries. Instead we seek examination, governed by evidence, the crucible of the law and we arrive at justice.

I believe in objective analysis, in the academic process, and the rules of evidence. Through this great process diverse backgrounds and traditions can arrive at a common goal, a just and tolerant and free society.

I will therefore work for and support the repeal of the Statement of Principles and its associated accoutrements, which simply seek to coerce compliance. I will support the adherence to the rule of evidence in all disciplinary matters. I support a reduction in fees, and a reduction in administrative burdens. I will support a Law Society that does not break from its sacred motto, Let Right Prevail.



**Bencher**  
Election

**Élection**  
du Conseil  
2019

**Sylvie Patenaude**

spatenaude@sicotte.ca

**East**



Accountable. Transparent. Practical. Responsive.

I don't need a paragraph of 350 words to tell you who I am and how I intend to represent you as Bencher and how I want the Law Society to be. I only need those four simple yet meaningful words.

Responsable. Transparente. Pratique. Attentive.

Ces quatre mots décrivent qui je suis et ce que j'anticipe être en tant que votre membre du Conseil. Je m'attends également à ce que le Barreau reflète ces mêmes qualités.

Solicitor who still has that passion for law with over 25 years of experiencing the highs and lows of working as a sole practitioner, General Counsel to a franchise system, practicing in a small firm and now being a partner in a medium size firm.

For decades, I have kept involved with the LSO, from teaching the Real Estate Bar Admission Course, to correcting the exam and acting as an appeal monitor to now tutoring various students who need help passing the exam. I have donated all per diem from tutoring to the Lawyers Feed the Hungry Program and was repeatedly vocal in getting the LSO to agree to add that donation option to their invoices - (it finally worked!)



**Bencher  
Election**

**Élection  
du Conseil  
2019**

## Tania Perlin

tania.perlin@gmail.com

## Central East



**Sole practitioner for over 25 years in residential/commercial real estate, business, wills/estates. I have also practiced family law and debtor/creditor.**

**Recently appointed as Deputy Judge, Small Claims Court.**

**Roster mediator with the Superior Court of Justice for 20 years.**

### **GOVERNANCE**

**College of Nurses of Ontario: Public member, Member of Discipline, Conduct, and Finance Committees.**

### **TEACHING**

**Professor – Business Law; Ryerson University. Teacher of the Year Award.**

**Professor - Property Law, Business Law, Debtor/Creditor Law, Legal Entities; Seneca College.**

**Instructor/Tutor – Licensing (LSO).**

**Writer – Licensing Materials.**

**Content Writer - Legal publishers.**

### **VOLUNTEER**

**Ontario Deputy Judges Association, Education Committee.**

**Chasdei Kaduri – Jewish Food Bank.**

**National Self Represented Litigants Project.**

**Member Assistance Program – Peer Support.**

**Alumni Peer Support – Osgoode Hall Law School.**

I have been a sole practitioner for 25 years. The primary focus of my practice is residential/commercial real estate, corporate/business law, contracts and will/estates.

I have noticed that sole practitioner solicitors, and small firm solicitors, especially those practising real estate are not properly represented in Convocation.

Having practised as a solicitor with a focus on real estate law for 25 years, I deeply understand issues that affect the real estate bar, as well as the challenges that sole practitioners and small firm solicitors encounter in their daily practice.

In addition to my private practice, I have also been teaching/tutoring law students and articling students for over 20 years. I am, therefore, very aware of the difficulties that law students, articling students, and those who are newly called to the bar are facing, such as the anxiety of passing the licensing exams, finding articling positions, and looking for a permanent job. Being a sole practitioner, has given me the opportunity to see what clients expect and need from their lawyer. I advocate for eliminating barriers to access to justice and ensuring that our legal system is accessible to everyone.

My experience and deep understanding of the above issues, will allow me to provide an important perspective and knowledgeable input to Convocation in its development of regulations governing the profession.

Regulating the profession requires the input of lawyers from all areas of law and different types of practice. At present, Convocation does not accurately represent the diversity of lawyers regulated by the LSO.

When everyone is fully represented, then we can ensure that the rules of professional conduct can be applied to the profession in practicality and not just in theory. That is why we need more solicitors in general, as well as those who belong to the real estate bar, to bring their practical experience to Convocation.

Without our input as solicitors, the LSO cannot fully execute its mandate to govern in the public interest.

I hope that you will entrust me with the privilege of representing the solo and small firm solicitor bar at Convocation by voting for me.



**Bencher**  
Election

**Élection**  
du Conseil  
2019

**Jorge E. Pineda**

j.pineda84@gmail.com

**Central South**



Jorge Pineda is an in-house lawyer at the City of Brantford. He was born in Costa Rica and raised in Hamilton where he still lives. Prior to law school, Jorge studied history and took a Master's degree in History at Brock University. He obtained a Juris Doctor from the University of Alberta in 2012. After articling at a litigation boutique in the City of Calgary, he was called to the Bar in Alberta. In 2014 he was called to the Bar in Ontario where he continued to practice primarily in commercial and civil litigation. Jorge joined The City of Brantford in 2017 and teaches courses in law at Conestoga College's School of Business.

It is a tremendous privilege to practice law in Ontario. This privilege is accompanied by a duty to participate in the governance of our profession and to be vigilant in upholding its standards and values. This is why I am standing for election. As your representative, my focus will be on upholding our profession's integrity and the LSO's core competencies by rescinding Recommendation 3.1, reducing law society fees, and working to eliminate unnecessary regulatory burden.

#### Rescind the SOP

I am proud to run on a platform to repeal Recommendation 3.1, the new "Statement of Principles" compelled speech requirement. The Recommendation forces licensees to abide by and promote broad, ill-defined principles. This is a worrying precedent. It is crucial for the integrity of the profession and the LSO that Recommendation 3.1 be repealed and that similar initiatives be stopped. Licensees must be able to practice independence of thought and action while fulfilling their professional obligations.

Further, the LSO is spending significant sums of money defending this ill-conceived Recommendation in the Courts. This should also stop. The LSO should stop spending resources passing and defending provisions such as Recommendation 3.1, and, instead, should focus on promoting competence, high ethical standards and the public interest. If elected, I will work toward these ends.

#### Reduce Fees

The LSO's misplaced priorities and resulting bloated budget have led to steadily increasing law society fees that will increase significantly in years to come unless direction is shifted decisively. I will work with my colleagues to focus on fiscal responsibility, eliminate unnecessary expenses, and to get the LSO back on track and focused on regulating the legal profession.

#### Reduce the Regulatory Burden

More and more, we see onerous compliance requirements take up valuable time for law firms and individual licensees. Time is better spent serving clients and the public. It is crucial to the profession that lawyers be left to focus on the practice of law. I will work to reduce compliance time and regulatory burden without losing sight of the need to maintain high professional standards and public protection.

Thank you for considering my candidacy.



**Bencher  
Election**

**Élection  
du Conseil  
2019**

**Brian L. Prill**

bprill@blplaw.ca

**Central West**



**BLP LAW Professional Corporation,  
Founder & Principal  
Sole Practitioner practicing corporate and  
securities law with a focus on corporate  
finance and securities transactions, exempt  
market financings and IPOs. Provide  
legal services to mining, tech and start-up  
companies.**

**Called to the Bar  
Ontario – 2002  
New York – 2003**

**Education  
BA, LLB, (2000) MBA (2001) & LLM (2009)**

**Volunteer Activities  
Member of the Securities Law Sub-  
Committee of the OBA and has served  
as a member of the Executive Boards of  
the Natural Resources Section and the  
Business Section of the OBA.**

**Securities Committee for the Prospectors  
& Developers Association of Canada,  
Director and President of the Private  
Capital Markets Association, Director of the  
Toronto Business Development Centre.**

### ***Inclusion***

I believe that all individuals, regardless of race, color, creed, ethnicity or sexual orientation should be entitled to practice law without fear of discrimination. The Statement of Principles obligation is based on excluding certain segments of society from the practice of law and compels our members to promote special interest groups over other members of society.

### ***Technology***

The practice of law is undergoing rapid changes. Clients are looking for lawyers to use more technology and deliver cheaper and more efficient legal services.

### ***Innovation***

Universities are graduating more students than traditional business models can accommodate. Mandatory retirement policies are forcing senior lawyers out of their existing partnership positions. The traditional LLP business model is not meeting the needs of our industry.

### ***Over-Regulation***

The past decade has seen a rise in special interest and social engineering policies in the Law Society which has resulted in over-regulation of our profession. Over-regulation increases operating costs for our members, stymies innovation and prevents the development of new business models that will improve access to justice. The Law Society should resist the tendency to regulate the business of law and restrict its activities to regulating the practice of law.

### ***Education***

Law schools produce excellent graduates that understand legal theories underlying the practice of law. However, they do not produce graduates that understand the business of law or the management of a legal practice.

### ***As a Bencher I will:***

- work to repeal the mandatory Statement of Principles;
- advocate for policies of inclusion for all and not exclusion based on special interest group biases;
- advocate for policies that promote increased use of technology in the practice of law;
- advocate for new and innovative business models that allow for new and experienced lawyers to discover creative ways provide legal services and improve access to justice;
- work to simplify the regulatory regime and reduce the number of social engineering policies that we have been subject to;
- work towards improving the quality and the delivery of education programs that improve our members' use of technology, practice management and business management tools.



**Bencher**  
Election

**Élection**  
du Conseil  
2019

**M. Steven Rastin**

rastin@rastinlaw.com

**Central East**



**Steve Rastin practises civil litigation throughout Ontario from his small firm based in Simcoe County. He has tried cases at all levels of the Court system.**

**He is past president of the Ontario Trial Lawyers Association and has served his profession in many other ways including regularly speaking at conferences for OTLA, CBA, Osgoode and LSO. He has served his community as Rotary Club President, Hospital Board President and the Simcoe “Helmets on Kids” program.**

**Steve is running for Bencher because he is concerned about the future of the profession, the preservation of the independent practitioner, and finding ways to ensure lawyers can continue to provide outstanding service in an age of disruption. He is endorsed by OTLA.**

I am running for Bencher because I am concerned about the future of the profession, the preservation of the independent practitioner, and finding ways to ensure lawyers can continue to provide outstanding service in an age of disruption.

The Law Society Act directs that the Society’s primary function is to ensure that all persons who provide legal services in Ontario meet standards of learning, professional competence and professional conduct. The Act directs the Society to advance the cause of justice and the rule of law, facilitate access to justice, protect the public interest and act in a timely, open and efficient manner. I believe and support that,

- LSO should govern and conduct itself in accordance with its legislative mandate.
- The public interest is served by ensuring that we maintain a healthy, independent and professional bar. In order to fulfil its place within Ontario society, law must be a profession, not a commodity.
- LSO should emphasize ethical and community-minded conduct.
- LSO should support pro bono legal services.
- LSO must protect robust and properly funded regional law libraries.
- LSO should set clear rules with respect to advertising and referrals and should take fast and decisive action to penalize practices that bring the entire profession into disrepute.
- The public interest would be served by a mandatory, simple retainer agreement.
- LSO has the right and the duty to require that lawyers agree to follow the law, but not the right to require that lawyers agree with beliefs.
- LSO should engage government and law schools to examine whether rapid increases in law school tuition and the number of new lawyers may hinder access to justice and diversity in the profession. Law should not be a profession only for the affluent. We need to foster lawyers seeking to embark on careers providing access to justice to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.
- LSO should facilitate Court reform to reduce the length of Ontario trials which are significantly longer than trials in other jurisdictions.
- LSO should exercise caution in expanding the scope of practice for paralegals into family law absent clear evidence that it is in the public interest.



# Bencher Election | Élection du Conseil 2019

## Quinn M. Ross

qmross@rossfirm.com  
[www.bencher2019.com](http://www.bencher2019.com)

## Southwest



Partner to Erin Ross and Dad to Greyson Ross.

Immediate Past President of the Ontario Bar Association (OBA).

OBA Chair of the Practice Innovation and Technology Committee.

Managing Lawyer – The Ross Firm Professional Corporation. 3 office, 10 lawyer, paperless full service regional firm.

2nd Generation lawyer of two lawyer parents.

Regular speaker at OBA, LSO, and Law Schools on topics of professionalism and technology.

Ultramarathon Runner.

Certified PADI Dive Master.

I am running for bencher because I have the skill, knowledge and passion for the role. I am an experienced corporate governor of other provincial organizations including the Ontario Bar Association, where I served as President in 2017-2018 and in my capacity as governor of the Alzheimer's Society of Ontario. My work with the OBA has had me in contact with and addressing the issues facing the LSO and its members for a decade. I am familiar with the processes, senior management, staff and benchers who serve the organization.

I want to help the LSO and the profession address the challenges posed by rapidly evolving technology and consequent market disruption. These disruptions have manifested in, among other things, articling position shortages and changing client expectations. I want to use what I have learned as a leader in practice and system innovation to help shape our response to the access to justice crisis.

I believe my track record with respect to issues of equality, diversity and inclusion and Indigenous affairs speaks for itself. I would like very much to build upon my absolute belief that without facing squarely the shortcomings of the profession in the area of equality, diversity and inclusion, we will not only suffer the consequent relevance problem, but miss an opportunity at a currently unrealized abundance of thought and ability contained in those who are held back by virtue of systemic prejudice.

In sum, I want to serve as a bencher because I know I would bring to the role a sophisticated, experienced and resolute energy, focus and dedication.



**Bencher  
Election**

**Élection  
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**Radan Rusev**

radan.rusev@rusevlaw.ca

**Central West**



**Education:**

- Called to Ontario Bar (2012)
- Called to New York State Bar (2011)
- LL.B. from University of Windsor, Faculty of Law (2010)
- J.D. from University of Detroit Mercy, School of Law (2010)
- 2007 - B.A. in Economics with a minor in Computer Science from University of Windsor, Faculty of Economics (2007)

**Practice:**

- Sole Practitioner at Rusev Law Office (2015 to present)
- Partner at Rusev Kwon LLP (2013 to 2015)
- Associate at Cintosun Law Office ( 2011 to 2013)
- Articling Student at Lofranco Chagpar Corriero (2011)
- Law Clerk (Summer Student Intern Program) at Wayne County Corporation Counsel (2009)

**About Me:**

I am a sole practitioner who has been practicing in Ontario since being called to the Ontario bar in 2012. I have practiced law in diverse legal areas such as personal injury, family, immigration, intellectual property, and civil litigation before deciding to focus my practice on real estate, contract drafting, and other primarily transactional work.

**Why I Am Running For Bencher:**

The legal profession and landscape are rapidly changing and this rapid change will continue into the foreseeable future with little indication of abatement. To remain competitive, Ontario lawyers will need to evolve and adapt just as rapidly. As a regulator, the Law Society must stay abreast of these changes and support the Bar in adapting.

I have personally experienced the difficulties and issues that lawyers face, trying to keep up with integrating new technology, new business methods, and new payment methods into our practices while balancing compliance with outdated rules and regulations - rules that are not designed to take into account the rapid changes resulting from the rise of social media, automation of legal work through software, and the implementation of virtual payment systems such as e-mail money transfers and cryptocurrencies.

My aim, if elected Bencher, is:

- to help modernize our rules and regulations;
- to support lawyers, both new and old, in keeping their businesses competitive and relevant, in this ever changing landscape;
- to provide guidance and clarity to lawyers seeking an integration of new technologies and business practices into their business while still meeting our mandate to protect the public interest;
- to help lawyers balance the ever changing demands, and expectations placed on us by society, and our professional standards with their own personal struggles in running a business and building a stable practice;

It has been a privilege to be a lawyer in Ontario. I feel compelled to contribute to our profession's future to pay forward all the benefits that being a lawyer in Ontario has afforded me over the years.

In April, 2019 vote Radan Rusev for Bencher of the Law Society.



**Bencher**  
Election

**Élection**  
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**Raj Sharda**

raj@shardalaw.ca

**Central West**



LSO, Barrister & Solicitor 1996  
Solicitor England and Wales 2000

**Professional**

Deputy Judge 2016- present  
Sharda Law (2005 – present)  
Adjudicator, License Appeal Tribunal 2018-2020,  
Adjudicator, Law Society Tribunal 2015-present  
Adjudicator, Consent and Capacity Board (2002-  
2008)  
Ron. E. Folkes Barristers and Solicitors, (1997-  
2005)

**Community Service**

OBA Council Central West Rep. 2014-2016  
Vice-Chair RODA  
Roundtable on Diversity Associations (2013-  
present)  
President, Peel Law Association (2011-2012)  
President, Canadian Association of South Asian  
Lawyers (2012-2013)  
Vice-Chair, Peel Family Mediation Services (2010  
- present)  
Member, Peel Justice Education Network (2010  
- present)  
Director, Advocacy Centre for the Elderly (1996-  
2004)

**Experience**

- Current Regional Bencher Central West 2015-2019
- I am a good listener, a bridge-builder, a balanced decision maker, and above all, a person with a passion for getting things done.
- I am a Past President of the Peel Law Association and the Canadian Association of South Asian lawyers. I am, Vice Chair for Peel Mediation Services. I have served as Central West Representative on the OBA Council and Vice Chair of the Round Table for Diversity Associations.
- Since 1997 I have practised law in Peel with a small firm and currently as a sole practitioner. My legal practice is broadly focused and includes both litigation (family, criminal, and civil Litigation), as well as solicitor's work (real estate, corporate commercial).
- These varied experiences allow me to appreciate the challenges faced by a broad spectrum of lawyers.
- With diverse roots in the South Asian, British and Canadian cultures, I understand issues faced by lawyers from many cultural backgrounds

**Focus Areas**

**I believe that the** issues facing the Law Society which require immediate action include:

- Ensuring competency in the licensing processes for lawyers and paralegals.
- Facilitating access to justice through the development of functional policies and initiatives, such as the maintenance or increase of Legal Aid accessibility, developing initiatives which can provide affordable representation to self-representeds. Identifying and addressing the causes of self-representation, assisting organizations such as Pro Bono Ontario.
- Strengthening the relationship between Lawyers and the Law Society of Ontario. Barristers and Solicitors feel unheard and ignored. I have continued, over my first term to bring your concerns to the attention of Convocation and staff. I will continue to raise your concerns so that issues relevant to lawyers from Central West and beyond have their voices heard.

Over the last four years I have applied my legal experience, communication and leadership skills as your Bencher to speak up for issues that directly impact small and sole practitioners.

In my opinion, the public interest is served by service to the public, which remains the foundation of small and sole law practices throughout Ontario.

**Please re-elect Raj Sharda, your Bencher**

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**Bencher  
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## Cheryl Siran

csiran@hslaw.ca

## Northwest



I have been in Kenora since my graduation from Robson Hall (Manitoba) in 2005. As Past Chair of the Federation of Ontario Law Associations (formerly CDLPA), I was involved extensively with the LSO and other stakeholders in issues facing the profession, including library system challenges, responses to Alternative Business Structures, paralegal regulation, and Legal Aid funding. I practise in a six lawyer firm and appreciate the challenges facing rural solo and small firm practitioners. I am a Deputy Judge of the Small Claims Court, board member of LibraryCo and an appointee to the Judicial Appointments Advisory Committee. I am hardworking and dedicated. I am 39 years old and live off-grid at a fishing camp with my husband and dogs.

The best protection for the public interest is a strong, healthy and competent bar. To accomplish this, we need Benchers who bring diverse viewpoints to the table and appreciate the daily realities of practicing in Ontario. I bring the perspective of a mid-level lawyer from a small firm in the north, who knows the business of law, the value of innovation and the fundamental importance of providing access to justice to the public.

With half my practice as a solicitor, I appreciate the concerns of solicitors about the demands of this work, and the vital role we play in maintaining the fabric of communities across Ontario. I believe more solicitor representation is needed at Convocation to ensure that proposed changes to policies that affect everyday realities of practice will bring useful and needed improvement, not just increased regulation.

The LSO must also be a leader in transformative and innovative technologies that facilitate the efficient delivery of services. We need to think differently about the practice of law, and with that, how we govern ourselves, in order to properly prepare for the future. I am up to that job. I have operated a paperless office since 2011 and am constantly working to improve my delivery of legal services.

Through my leadership roles in the Federation of Ontario Law Associations (CDLPA), I have gained an understanding of the respective roles of the LSO, its justice partners, and government in addressing the issues facing the profession and the public.

I have strong and proven experience in addressing legal issues faced by the profession and am practical in my approach to problem solving. I can bring fresh perspective and ideas to the table from the voice of a younger practitioner, a voice that I believe is currently underrepresented. I will challenge that status quo if necessary. If elected, I hope to advocate in Convocation for policy changes that will continue to lead us into the future.



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**Andrew Spurgeon**

aspurgeon@rossmcbride.com

**Central South**



Called in 1995 – Bencher since 2015

Civil Litigation and Personal Injury

- **Bencher Committee Work:**
- **Fee Arrangements Working Group (Chair)**
- **Professional Development and Competence**
- **Audit and Finance**
- **Equity and Indigenous Affairs**
- **Real Estate Committee**
- **Member – Law Society Tribunal**
- **Board of Directors – LawPro**

Past President – Hamilton Law Association

Past Director – Advocates Society

OTLA Distinguished Service Award

Adjunct Professor of Law at Western

Regular CLE program presenter

Endorsed by OTLA and  
The Hamilton Law Association

Like you, I am proud to be a lawyer. I am also proud to have been the Regional Bencher for Central South since 2015. Good governance of our profession is crucial to maintaining its independence and vitality which are in the public interest.

I stand for re-election because I wish to continue contributing to our profession; to make it better for both its members and the public. To this end, I have worked for and will continue working for:

1. **Contingency Fee Agreements (CFA)** – As a member and Chair of the Fee Arrangements Working Group I have advanced the development of a standard form CFA (without caps) which will protect the public and lawyers by simplifying and clarifying the relationship between them.
2. **No Expansion in Scope of Independent Paralegal Practice** – Family law requires highly qualified practitioners. Paralegals should not be allowed to act or appear on family law matters unless they are under the supervision of a lawyer.
3. **Well-funded County Libraries and Law Associations** – Many lawyers feel beleaguered. The most effective support for sole and small firms often comes from their County Law Association. Enhanced funding for County Law Associations is crucial.
4. **Inclusiveness and Diversity** – Change is difficult. But it is necessary. I am committed to advancing the cause of inclusiveness and of having all lawyers feel they are accepted, respected and fulfilled in our profession.

My approach as a Bencher has been and will always be pragmatic and practical. Whatever the policy or issue under consideration, I am concerned about how it will affect the role of lawyers as servants of their clients and the profession in service to the public. Whatever the task, I will work hard to achieve the best possible result. Please visit:

[www.spurgeonforbencher.com](http://www.spurgeonforbencher.com)

Thank you.



**Bencher**  
Election

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**Deepa Tailor**

dtailor@tailorlaw.com

**Central West**



Deepa is the founder and Managing Director of Tailor Law Professional Corporation. She is a graduate of the University of Ottawa, Faculty of Law. She was called to the bar in 2014.

Deepa founded Tailor Law early in her legal career. Tailor Law is a general practice law firm based in Mississauga, Ontario.

In her spare time, Deepa serves on the board of directors for Many Feathers, a non-profit which focuses on creating local community spaces focused on food security in urban and rural settings across Canada. She also spends her time mentoring the next generation of law students through the Women's Legal Mentorship Program and as a guest speaker at the University of Ottawa's Business of Law class.

#### **Why am I running?**

The regulation of the legal profession should reflect the demographics of the legal profession and the lawyers within it.

I am running for Bencher of the Law Society of Ontario because I want to bring a fresh perspective to how our profession is regulated and represent early-career lawyers in the Law Society's elected leadership. Despite the vast number of new and recent calls in this profession, we are severely underrepresented within our governing body. The decisions made by the Law Society apply to us nonetheless.

#### **Why should you vote for me?**

Historically, it has been rare for early-career lawyers to serve in Convocation. My goal is to change that and provide representation for lawyers who are early in their career on issues that will impact them throughout the course of their legal career. Convocation needs benchers in the early stages of their career who can comment on policy that will impact new and recent calls to the bar. The new generation of lawyers entering the legal profession face unique challenges that previous generations of lawyers did not face – mounting tuition fees and a lack of articling opportunities and junior lawyer positions to name a few. As a lawyer in her fifth year of practice, I have firsthand experience of the challenges that lawyers who are graduating into the legal profession today are facing.

We must be heard. I will be that voice.

For more information about my candidacy, please visit [www.tailorlaw.com](http://www.tailorlaw.com).



**Bencher  
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**Jerry B. Udell**

Udell@millercanfield.com

**Southwest**



**Jerry graduated from Windsor Law in 1974 and was called to the Bar in 1976, and has practiced in Windsor since then.**

**Jerry has experience working in both a small and large law firms. Firstly, with a small firm, then as partner at one of the largest firms in Southwestern Ontario for 25 years, and now as Senior Counsel with Miller Canfield – Windsor.**

**A Bencher since 2015, Jerry's practice involves Real Estate, Mortgage Remedies, and Business Law.**

**Jerry has been recognized and honoured by his colleagues and peers many times, most recently as the recipient of the OBA Awards for Distinguished Service (2016) and Excellence in Real Estate (2017).**

I have had the privilege of representing you since 2015 as Bencher. My experience both as a lawyer and a Bencher will allow me to continue to be a voice for all lawyers in the province.

As only one of three Solicitors elected to Convocation, I have co-chaired the Committee for Real Estate Issues, and continue to be a staunch advocate and “voice” for Solicitors. Also, as a member of the OBA Real Estate Executive, I will continue to bring a Solicitor’s perspective to Convocation.

I will continue to use the knowledge and experience I have gained over 43 years of practice. Having managed a practice as both a partner in small firm, and in a large firm, I am now Senior Counsel in the Windsor office of a large multinational firm. I understand the challenges that lawyers from a variety of practice areas and backgrounds continue to face.

Once re-elected, I will continue to focus on:

1. More aggressive consultation with the profession before changes are implemented;
2. Having Convocation deal with “real” issues facing practitioners; and
3. Creating a more positive perception of lawyers;

I will also focus on the unique challenges facing Solicitors today.

The LSO must do a better job in surveying and consulting the Profession before taking action, particularly on issues like changing our Society’s name and the inclusion of mandatory statements /requirements in annual reports.

Throughout my career, I have mentored countless Articling Students and associates. I have also taught at the CBA, LSO, OBA and Windsor Law. The proposed changes to the Articling program demand a mentorship program beyond articling so that high practice standards will be maintained. I pledge to focus on ensuring that we implement a program to assist new lawyers and benefit the profession while protecting the public.

The negative public perception of our profession (mainly from lawyers who have misbehaved) must be addressed. I have, and I will continue to advocate for a more public, transparent discipline process so as to ensure that all complaints and issues are fair to all parties, including lawyers.



**Bencher  
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**M. Anne Vespry**

anne@vespry.ca

**East**



**Currently**

- Teach at University of Ottawa, Professional Responsibility, 2018–present
- Teach at Algonquin Academy, Ottawa: Paralegal Program, 2011–present
- Solicitor in sole practice: family law, wills, 2013–present
- Canadian Ass'n for Legal Ethics
- County of Carleton Law Ass'n
- OBA/CBA
- Called to the Ontario Bar, 2003
- LL.B., University of Ottawa, 1999
- B.A., University of Toronto, 1989

**Previously**

- Partner in a two-practitioner firm: general practice, 2004–11
- Egale Canada, volunteer, 1996–99
- Various writing and editing work for small, non-profit, arts and social justice organizations.

The public and the profession don't exist in a one-size-fits all world. Often Law Society policy-making starts from a perspective that considers demographic diversity important while, at the same time, demanding ideological conformity. But the strength of the Society as a decision making body is that it is more like a parliament than a corporate board. We make better and clearer decisions in public in a body that (tentatively) allows room for loyal opposition, observations on the emperor's new clothing, and actual debate.

When first elected I said the Society's information-gathering strategies needed regular and skeptical review. Example: articling students must report on the suitability of articles without knowing whether negative responses would terminate their articles, leaving them unable to write the licensing exam. That information was used as a measure of articling success without considering the pressure on students to mislead. Prompted by this suggestion, the Society conducted an anonymous survey and obtained different and more nuanced replies. This new information has been used in making decisions on improving the articling process.

The Society recognizes the growing role of technology: Apps and online legal services are creating new opportunities for people to resolve legal problems. This gold rush for tech investors could be a significant step in improving access to justice, or it could leave behind abandoned apps and greater public distrust in the legal system. I hope to work with the Technology Task force to monitor tech development, to liaise with international legal regulators to develop best practices, and to educate and inform the public on safe use of unregulated legal services.

During the last four years as a bencher, I have worked to bring less-represented points of view to policy making. I am seeking your vote so that I may continue to broaden perspectives, and so that I can welcome new benchers, with new perspectives, into the conversation.



**Bencher  
Election**

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## Alexander David Wilkes

alexander@wilkeslaw.ca

## Central East



Alexander Wilkes is trained in Canadian, Scots, English and European law.

After completing his articles at one of the top construction law firms in Ontario, Alexander founded his own practice, representing clients in civil litigation, ADR, corporate, municipal, employment, and criminal matters.

Alexander maintains a strong commitment in his own practice to facilitating access to justice, taking on a cross-section of cases, including low income and vulnerable clients.

LL.B. (Hons.) Edinburgh University 2015  
Called to the Ontario Bar 2017

Alexander@wilkeslaw.ca

As your representative, Alexander Wilkes will work steadfastly towards **reducing law society fees, eliminating red tape and repealing Recommendation 3.1.**

### **Reduce Fees**

The approximately 50% increase in fees over the past decade represents a significant burden for small firms, sole practitioners, and those working in smaller, remote communities. Where such increases are the result of “mission creep,” as opposed to core activities, there are opportunities to reduce costs by narrowing the focus of the society. Given that access to justice is a key concern for many in the province, we should be mindful that higher costs also affect clients of the legal system. Alexander will work to bring the LSO’s mandate back in line with what should be its core purposes, such as licensing and discipline.

### **Eliminate Red Tape**

Good lawyers should be left to practice law. Unnecessarily onerous compliance requirements take up valuable time that is better spent serving the public. Alexander will work to create efficiencies to reduce compliance burdens while compromising neither high standards within the profession, nor public protection.

### **Repealing Recommendation 3.1 – Statement of Principles (SOP)**

Alexander is part of the #StopSOP slate to repeal recommendation 3.1, which compels licensees to promote controversial political speech as a requirement to practice law. The matter is now before the Court at significant law society expense. Numerous concerns have already been expressed by lawyers regarding the compelled speech found in the SOP, directly infringing lawyers’ Charter rights, as is acknowledged by the LSO. On a more fundamental level, the SOP and the accompanying EDI recommendations advanced by the LSO, though well-intentioned, reflect policies that focus on dividing and categorizing people, and thus inevitably do more harm than good to society when implemented. Alexander, like most lawyers in Ontario, is committed to addressing and eliminating any residual racism in the profession, but this must involve a return to a societal focus on individuals over group identity, where, as advocated by Martin Luther King, people are judged by the quality of their character and not the color of their skin, nor any other immutable characteristic.

Visit [www.stopsop.ca](http://www.stopsop.ca)



**Bencher**  
Election

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du Conseil  
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## Claire Wilkinson

Claire.Wilkinson@mhalaw.ca

## Central West



Claire is a plaintiff personal injury and sexual assault litigator at Martin & Hillyer Associates in Burlington. She was called to the bar in 1995.

- Endorsed by the Ontario Trial Lawyers Association.
- Immediate Past President of the Ontario Trial Lawyers Association
- Past President of the Halton County Law Association
- Superior Court One Judge Model Case Management Pilot Project Consultation Group (2018)
- Board of Directors member for Mind Forward Brain Injury Services (2013 to present)
- OTLA Distinguished Service Award (2012)
- Regular CLE presenter: OTLA, Hamilton Law Association, Canadian Defence Lawyers, Osgoode Hall Continuing Legal Education, The Advocates Society, The Canadian Institute, Halton County Law Association, Ontario Bar Association

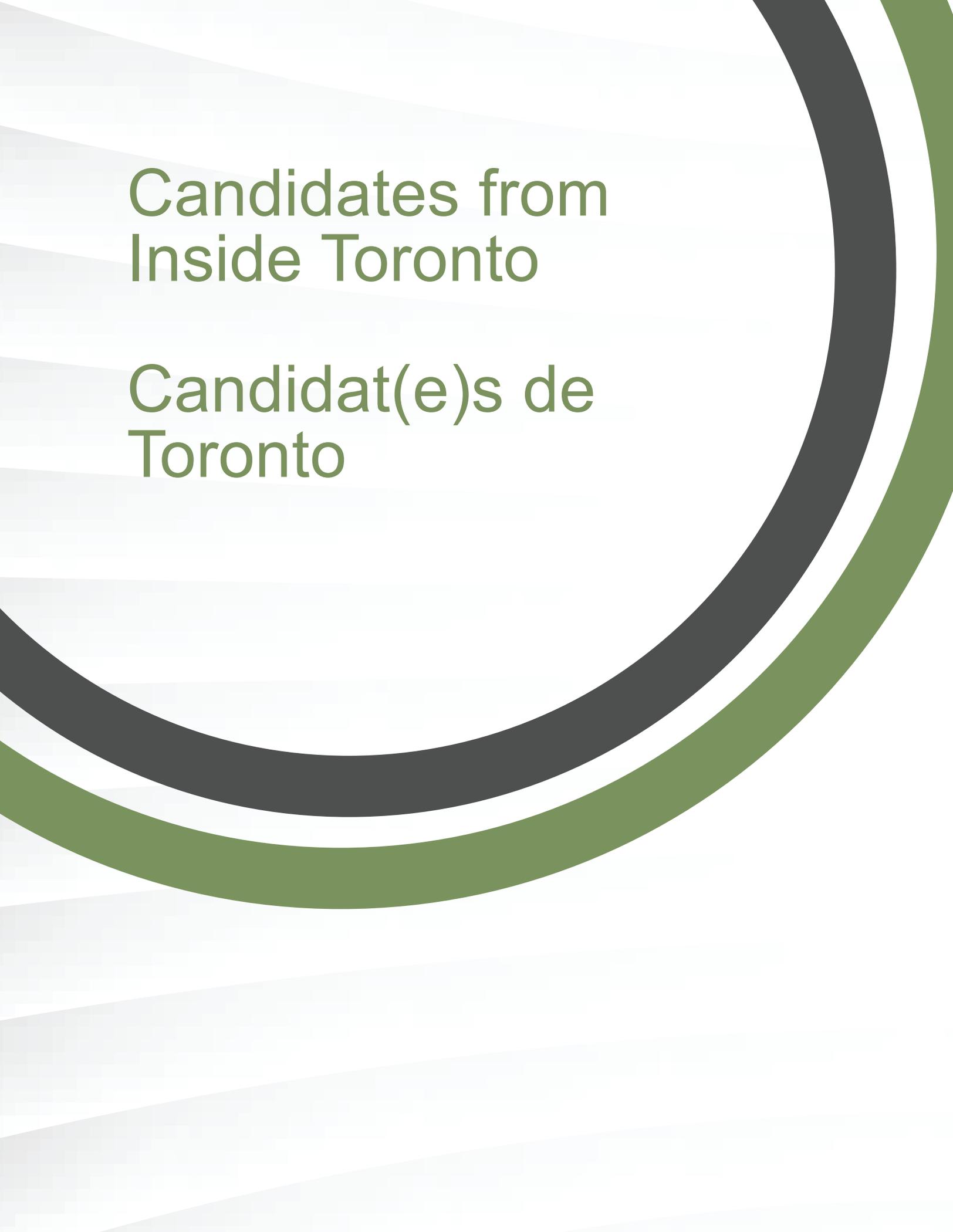
Through my work as President of the Ontario Trial Lawyers Association, I had the opportunity to work closely with the Ministry of the Attorney General and the LSO. I determined that there is a need for a continued emphasis on strong policy development that will ensure the protection of the public, along with the need to ensure access to justice for those coming before the courts with legal disputes, and continued financial support for the county law libraries. I will focus on all three areas if I am elected bencher.

**Enhanced funding for county law libraries and law associations** – Law libraries and associations are valuable resources that provide education, administrative support and research assistance, along with important social and networking opportunities. My 17 years serving Halton taught me the value of an active and thriving county law association, particularly to lawyers in solo and small practices. Ongoing financial support is critical.

**Access to justice** - The administrators of our courts are experimenting with different models to ensure greater efficiency within the court system, including the one judge model pilot project launched in February 2019. This approach may not work in every case, but it is an excellent initiative to try to tackle the backlogs facing our court system. We need to continue to explore opportunities to streamline litigation.

**Changes to the Solicitors Act** - The LSO working group has done an outstanding job this year working with the AG and other legal groups to draft changes to the Solicitors Act that increase transparency to the consumer and remove confusion. But the work is not yet finished. The amendments have not yet been proclaimed, and there is still work to be done with the Regulations and drafting a standard contingency fee agreement to be used province-wide. This work is fundamental to access to justice for people who are injured and can't afford representation any other way.

The LSO needs benchers who are prepared to work hard, work collaboratively, and to speak their minds. I intend to do all three. Learn more about me and my platform at [clairewilkinson.ca](http://clairewilkinson.ca)!



Candidates from  
Inside Toronto

Candidat(e)s de  
Toronto



## Robert P. Adourian

Robert@devrylaw.ca



### Education

- 1978 LL.B. University of Windsor
- 1980 Called to Ontario Bar
- Practice: in real estate, wills, estate planning and estate administration
- 1980-1982 Sole Practitioner
- 1982-1986 Associate at Lobl, Reht, Freedman and Danson, Barristers and Solicitors
- 1986-1988 Partner at Cobban/Mogan, Barristers and Solicitors
- 1988-2011 Sole Practitioner
- 2012-present Associate at Devry Smith Frank LLP, Lawyers and Mediators

### Volunteer

- Speaker at community events on law-related topics including “Why You Should Make A Will”
- Team Captain for the annual “Coldest Night of the Year” walkathon in downtown Toronto

### Teaching

- Real Estate section of the Bar Admission Course

### Affiliations

- Member of Armenian Bar Association, a worldwide organization of Armenian lawyers

### Contact

- t. 416-446-3303

### For more info

- See [www.devrylaw.ca/adourian](http://www.devrylaw.ca/adourian)

I am running for Bencher with two objectives:

- to give voice to concerns about the EDI initiative; and
- to meaningfully enlarge the public’s access to effective legal representation.

### EDI Initiative

Self-regulation requires that we consider the impact we have. We help to create our society. That means, we cannot allow a core value of our profession – the sanctity of independent thinking – to be overrun by a well-meant but ill-defined idea.

I am pained to say that I cannot support the Statement of Principles as presented by the Society. It is too vague, and the terms are not sufficiently defined. Many members worry that it amounts to “compelled speech.” This initiative has caused a rift in our profession.

Yes, we need to actively work to rectify imbalances in our profession. Education, broad consultation with members and open discussion forums will do more to achieve these goals than requiring licensees to check a box.

If elected, I will do my utmost to listen to your concerns, honour your confidence and work on building consensus.

### Access to Justice

The second requirement that flows from self-regulation is that we must represent the society we serve. We must ensure public access to effective legal advice and representation.

Lawyers in sole practice and small firms are most often the first point of contact for individuals requiring a lawyer. The Society must invest further in tools and mentoring programs to build a diverse and inclusive profession.

Her Excellency the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson challenged us:

*Think of the many transactions that can't be done in our society without the help of a lawyer. The purchase of a house, for example...*

*It is so important to realize that how they [first-time home-buyers] are treated by the legal profession will reinforce, and perhaps even create, their view of society – for the good, hopefully.*

Effective governance requires that we serve the public interest; therefore, we must enhance access to justice.

I offer my service as Bencher. I will advocate for our profession, to help bring us into alignment with the distinct yet cohesive values of our profession and our country.



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## R. Lee Akazaki

lakazaki@gilbertsondavis.com



**Partner, Gilbertson Davis LLP**  
**Called: 1990**  
**Certified Specialist (Civil Lit): 2000**

**Awards:**

**OBA Joel Kuchar Award for Professionalism and Civility**  
**JusticeNet Patron Council Award**  
**OBA Linda Adlam Manning Award for Volunteerism**

**Current Professional Duties:**

**Council, OBA**  
**Trustee, OBA Foundation**  
**Director, Canadian Defence Lawyers**

**Past Professional Duties:**

**President, OBA 2010-11**  
**Director, CBA 2010-11**  
**Chair of CLE, OBA 2008-09**  
**Chair of Civil Litigation, OBA 2008-09**  
**LSUC Barrister Advisory Grp 2005-09**  
**Volunteer: UofT Law, OJEN/ROEJ,**  
**Advocates Society Pro Bono Duty Counsel,**  
**OBA Racialized Lawyer Working Grp**

**@LeeAkazaki LeeAkazaki.com**

Vote for a future of lawyers that is made by lawyers and defends our independence and standards. The public interest is best served by a strong, ethical legal profession.

We have so much work to do. To catch up to the rest of Canada in the advancement of women and minorities. To regulate commercialism in legal marketing by enforcing standards of good taste and public confidence. To advance the cause of Access to Justice. To increase the Law Society's sensitivity to the practices of transactional lawyers and general practitioners on Main Street Ontario. To make the Law Society more relevant to the experience of in-house and government lawyers.

If we stumble in meeting our core purposes, we become more vulnerable to public criticism and government regulation. We need more than ever to exhibit sophistication and pride of purpose in deciding what kind of legal profession we can call our own.

L'épanouissement des services juridiques en français vers l'égalité ne doit jamais reculer.

Now more than ever, the lawyer's role in Canadian society requires the highest ethical standards in very different practice settings. In tough times, funding for succession assistance and access to library and CPD facilities should not be trimmed but better supported. From Main Street to Bay Street, commoditization of legal services – society's desire for a 'Big Mac Index' for the things we do – threatens to substitute standards with sameness. The link between the challenges to the future of our profession in various regions and sectors is a common humanity, quest for excellence and sense of duty.



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## Kenneth Alexander

kalexander@davenportlaw.ca



Called to Bar 1994  
University of Windsor LLB. BPA (Hons)  
University of Windsor Alumni Board of  
Directors.

Clark Award for Outstanding Volunteer  
Service to Alumni.

John Whiteside Award for outstanding  
contribution to Faculty of Law.

Principal Davenport Law Group  
Association. Practices in area of  
Employment Law, Civil Litigation, Human  
Rights, Labour Law.  
Co-author Written Contract of Employment.

Former Adjunct Professor Employment Law  
UWO.  
Member HRPAAO Discipline and Capacity  
Committee.

Off time plays squash, hockey (not well),  
and cycles. Married for 20 years and has  
two sons.

website [www.kenalexander.ca](http://www.kenalexander.ca) direct line is  
416-323-3614

### Small Firms

Effectively regulating lawyers does not mean additional bureaucratic process. The LSO must instill confidence in their members who predominately practice in small firms - that their voice is heard.

Financial Accountability to members is paramount. This includes holding the line on membership fees and ensuring that the LSO budget balances. The LSO needs to be vigilant in understanding the potential cost to members of any by-laws and regulations imposed. Programs should be reviewed regularly to ensure efficacy and cost effectiveness.

### Diversity in the Profession

I have a first-hand understanding of the requirement for diversity in the profession. My family is from Trinidad and my ethnic origin includes Lebanese and Syrian ancestry. LSO needs to foster efforts to remove barriers and encourage diversity in the profession. However simple statements required to be signed by members will not fulfill this goal. The LSO should encourage meaningful mentoring within the profession providing CPD credits, or other incentives for those that undertake this. I am in favour of promoting and encouraging diversity in the election of benchers but am not in favour of mandating representation.

### Licensing Process

With many students unable to find traditional articling roles the LSO should look for ways be creative in its approach to Licensing. The LPP should be reviewed for effectiveness. The LSO must also be diligent in guarding against the exploitation of students.

### Discipline Process

The LSO must be vigilant in prosecuting lawyers for significant offences. However, they must strike a balance between protecting the public interest and proportionality in disciplinary measures. I would work to streamline complaints which are frivolous. Not all complaints merit an investigation.

### The Nuts and Bolts

In 25 years as a litigator I have obtained skills of problem solving and pragmatism. I will bring these skills to the role as bencher. I believe benchers have a difficult job to do but through honest effort and vigorous debate we can come to decisions to address the challenges facing the legal profession. If elected I promise to engage colleagues on the issues and obtain input before voting on controversial issues.



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## Karen E. Andrews

Andrews@lao.on.ca



### **Education:**

University of Toronto, B.A. 1986  
Osgoode Hall Law School, LL.B. 1993  
Call to the Bar, 1995

### **Employment:**

Toronto Public Library, 1978- 1992  
Researcher, Report of the Ontario Legal Aid  
Review, 1997  
Rexdale Community Legal Clinic, 1997-2008  
Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario, 2009-  
present

### **Advocacy:**

Boards, Tribunals, Inquests and Courts  
including the  
Ontario Court of Appeal and the Supreme  
Court of Canada

### **Teaching:**

Course Director, Housing and  
Homelessness, George Brown College  
Adjunct Professor, Law and Poverty,  
Osgoode Hall Law School

I ran for Bencher in 2015. Things have changed since 2015. Things are worse for the people I represent as a legal clinic lawyer. Given this, the election statement I drafted four years ago remains relevant, today.

I am part of a cohort who went to law school because we wanted to learn legal skills that could be deployed to address the social issues and problems that existed in our community – poverty, homelessness, violence against women and children, workers' rights, civil liberties, racism, homophobia, environmentalism, disability rights and so on. We were not interested in big salaries. We were interested in making a big difference.

Many of us have had rewarding legal careers – we have been able to build on the work that brought us to law in the beginning. For me, this has meant a career in Ontario's community legal clinic system after an inspirational term as a Parkdale student. Too few Benchers have front-line or direct experience in the areas of law that most directly impact low-income Ontarians. The Law Society cannot properly fulfill its mandate if it lacks expertise in these areas.

My voice at Convocation will be informed by the clients I have, the students I teach, and the work I do both in the profession and in the community. Particular concerns include access to justice, access to the profession, the provision of legal aid, and licensing and discipline issues. In my view, the Law Society needs to increase its efforts to protect and promote the interests of low-income and marginalized Ontarians as it did for me, and others like me, with its stand in Trinity Western and its recent initiatives for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion within the profession.

If the primary focus of legal practice in Ontario is on the business of law, then our professionalism and our responsibility to act in the public interest are impacted. Convocation needs to have an even greater representation of lawyers who still believe that we have a significant role to play in building a just society.



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## George Begic

gbegic@deloitte.ca



Assistant General Counsel,  
Deloitte LLP

Called to the Ontario Bar in 1994

Education: B.A Hons University of Toronto  
(1989), LLB Queen's University Law School  
(1992)

Previous Work Experience: Torys LLP

Memberships: Toronto Lawyers  
Association, Association of Corporate  
Counsel

Directorships: Toronto Lawyers  
Association

Recognition: 2018 Lexpert Zenith Awards:  
Mid-Career Excellence in the Legal  
Profession Corporate Commercial Law.

I have been practicing law for 25 years including 20 years as Assistant General Counsel at Deloitte LLP, the largest professional services firm in Canada and a marketplace leader in diversity and inclusion. My experience as a solicitor both in private practice and in-house is unique and I will bring a fresh perspective as a bencher. Solicitors and in-house counsel are under-represented among benchers. Also, I understand the pressures of a smaller practice as in-house counsel have to deliver timely high quality work with limited resources and budgets. Moreover, I have seen first-hand as counsel for Deloitte LLP, the transformation of professions other than law through globalization, emerging technologies, heightened regulation and disruptive market forces all of which increasingly impact lawyers.

My platform is as follows:

**Public Interest Mandate and Access to Justice** – Continued self-regulation of the profession requires that we govern with a view to public interest and access to justice. Initiatives of Convocation and the LSO cannot be self-serving and must always be in the interests of both lawyers and the public.

**Equality, Diversity and Inclusion** – Fairness and justice demands that benchers and the LSO address discrimination and barriers to the profession including for women, minorities, those with disabilities and indigenous peoples.

**Licensing and Competency** – I support the recent decision of Convocation to maintain the articling and LPP program with enhancements. Relying on articling alone is not enough and moving to examinations as the sole basis of licensing and management of competency post call through the disciplinary system is not optimal. While LPP has some challenges, together with articling, it is an important commitment to competency.

**Pro-Bono** – Convocation and the LSO should explore new and innovative funding of pro-bono law. Not only do pro-bono initiatives advance access to justice but can be integrated with licensing and competency to provide valuable experience and mentorship.

**Technology and Innovation** – The profession needs to embrace technology and innovation. The increasing ability of technology to perform legal research and other functions should be encouraged by the LSO to improve the efficiency of practicing law and the affordability of legal services.



**Bencher**  
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## Robert Besunder

robert@besunder.ca



I am a sole practitioner in Toronto, whose focus over the past three decades has been on litigation.

Prior to starting my own firm in 2016, I worked in a small firm primarily practising insurance defence and plaintiff personal injury litigation, as well as some family law.

I was called to the bar in 1991 after graduating from McGill University's Faculty of Law in 1989.

Since 2015, I have also carried on a practice as a mediator and arbitrator, having received the Q.Med. designation from the ADR Institute of Ontario. Since 2006, I have also been a Deputy Judge of the Small Claims Court for the Central East Region.

It seems rare lately to hear an Ontario lawyer say something positive about the Law Society. I don't believe in complaining, however – I believe in listening to the concerns of other lawyers, and finding out why they have concerns, and then working to find solutions. It is for that reason that I am running for Bencher, to try to effect some needed change for the benefit of the profession.

I am a sole practitioner litigator, whose career has always been in a solo or small firm setting. The financial and practice management issues that concern lawyers, along with general licensing and governance issues, are very real and immediate for me. I live in the ADR world as a mediator as well, and also have spent 13 years sitting as a deputy judge in Small Claims Court. I believe that I can be a voice for a large but under-represented demographic in the profession, knowing the demands of juggling multiple roles.

Law is not just a business - it is a profession that can consume the hours and lives of its practitioners. The Law Society has a role in regulating its members to protect the public, but it also needs to assume a role in protecting its members.

The first step is to be actively engaged with its members and listen to them – too many lawyers say that the Law Society is detached from their day to day issues. The regulation of advertising, for example, needs to strike more of a balance, recognizing the need to have a public profile for business purposes, yet also ensuring that the profession is not degraded in the eyes of the public, eroding public confidence and creating unrealistic pressures within the profession.

The licensing process is another area where the Law Society can be more responsive and consistent, to ensure that lawyers and paralegals come out of the process ready to handle the legal work they do, and ready to handle the demands of practice.

As a Bencher, I will seek to serve all lawyers, and not just a few narrow interests.



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## D. Jared Brown

jbrown@brownlaw.ca



Trial Lawyer, litigating commercial/employment disputes.

Called 2002, founded Brown Litigation in 2014.

2017, joined Dr. Jordan B. Peterson testifying before the Senate on compelled speech. Testimony viewed over 1 million times on YouTube.

October 2017, spoke about authoritarian initiatives from the LSO in a series of YouTube discussions with Dr. Jordan B. Peterson and Professor Bruce Parry.

February 2018, participated in a CIJA/UJA panel discussion on authoritarianism from the LSO with Bruce Parry and Treasurer Paul Schabas.

July, joined Lindsay Shepherd, Dr. Debra Soh, and Barbara Kay in panel discussion on compelled speech.

Commentary on legal issues can be found at [www.brownlaw.ca](http://www.brownlaw.ca) including MSM articles, YouTube videos, podcasts, and speaking engagements and on Twitter @litigationguy.

The Law Society of Ontario is one of the last self-regulating professional bodies.

It is a public trust.

Self-regulation ensures the separation of the legal profession from the state.

The legal profession in Ontario was entrusted with self-regulation so long as it does so in the public interest.

The LSO has abandoned its public interest mandate, directly threatening the trust placed in our profession by the public, and threatening the existence of an independent legal profession.

As Bencher, I support returning the Law Society to its mandate of regulating the profession in the public interest.

### THE PUBLIC INTEREST

The public interest is served by access to justice, and a strong, competent, diverse, and independent legal profession.

- The public interest is not served by politicizing the profession.
- The public interest is not served by increasing the regulatory and financial burden of practicing law in Ontario.
- The public interest is not served by operating a \$150M/year budget for the Law Society while continuing to run up \$7M/year deficits.
- The public interest is not served by erecting artificial barriers to the practice of law including burdensome articling regulations, ever increasing annual filing requirements, mandatory diversity statements and training, mandatory demographic reporting, and continued expansion of the reach of the regulator into other areas including Law Schools.

The public interest is best served by an efficient, focused, and responsive regulator. Refocusing convocation on regulating the profession in the public interest and returning the Law Society to its core mandate will ensure access to justice, and a strong, robust, diverse, and independent profession.

### AS BENCHER I WILL:

- 1) Restore the independence of the legal profession
- 2) Return fiscal responsibility to the Law Society (no more deficits)
- 3) Reduce annual fees (by scaling back mission creep at the LSO)
- 4) Reduce the regulatory burden on the profession
- 5) Depoliticize the Law Society
- 6) Restore ideological diversity to Law Society governance by, inter alia, revoking the compelled Statement of Principles



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## Donald F. Bur

Donald.F.Bur@gmail.com



LL.B. (Alta.) 1977  
LL.M. (Tor.) 1981  
Dip. (IIDI'H) (1986)  
B.C.L. (McGill) 1990  
Ph.D. (Cantab.) 1990

**Member:**

-Law Society of Alberta (1978)  
-Inner Temple (1986)  
-Law Society of Ontario (1991)

**I have practised:**

-in large firms (Macleod Dixon, now Norton Rose Fuller, Clarkson Tétrault, now McCarthy Tétrault);  
-in government (Law Reform Commission, Constitutional Law Branch, Public Guardian and Trustee); and,  
-as a sole practitioner

**Publications include:**

-Laws of the Constitution: Consolidated (currently with U. of A. Press) 725 pages  
-Law of the Constitution: The Distribution of Powers (2016, LexisNexis) 1787 pages;  
-Canadian Constitutional Law: cases, notes and materials (3rd ed. (Butterworths) (with Whyte and Lederman) 1656 pages

Law is getting more and more complicated, and the practice of law appears to be getting harder. That is why the Law Society's decision to implement CPD requirements, now almost eight years ago, was clearly the correct one.

However attending lectures is not the only, or even the best, way for many lawyers to update their knowledge or to improve their skills. In my experience, I learned much more in researching for a case than in spending two or three hours at a lecture. I'm sure I am not the only one. And, in such cases any research undertaken is immediately applicable to my chosen practice area. Unfortunately, unlike some other jurisdictions, Ontario does not allow self-directed CPD plans that would allow for activities such as directed research, reading articles or observing particular court proceedings. The Law Society should expand the scope of CPD to allow for self-directed plans.

Satisfying the CPD requirements allows a lawyer to maintain their licence, but is not otherwise recognized by the Law Society. Setting a fixed hourly CPD requirement nudges lawyers to meet the minimum requirements but not more. If self-improvement is necessary for the profession, doing something to exceed the annual requirements, or meeting the annual requirements for a number of years, should be encouraged. The medical profession recognizes certain specializations who commit to life-long learning by granting those individuals, in addition to their specialization certifications, a fellowship designation with the consequent ability to add initials after their name evidencing this fellowship. Such a designation provides an additional incentive to do more than the minimum. There is no reason why this same recognition could not be granted by the law society to individuals who have satisfied the necessary criteria so that they could add, for example, the letters FLSO after their names.



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## John Callaghan

john.callaghan@gowlingwlg.com



John Callaghan is a partner in Gowlings' Toronto office, where he practices civil and commercial litigation.

John was first elected as Bencher in 2011. He is Chair of Government Relations for the LSO. He is a member of Ontario's Civil Rules Committee. He is co-author of *Class Action Law and Practice*, the leading class action text in Canada.

His litigation expertise has been recognized by Chambers Global, The Best Lawyers in Canada, the Canadian Legal Expert Directory and Benchmark Canada.

He is married with three children. Best of all, he has been involved in minor hockey for 10 years, albeit with tepid results.

To learn more go to: [www.johncallaghan.ca](http://www.johncallaghan.ca)

### A PROUD PROFESSION

When I ran for bencher in 2011 and 2015, I professed to be proud to be a lawyer. I continue to be a proud member of our profession.

Serving as a bencher for the past 8 years has been an honour. Each day I listen to lawyers and learn more about our profession.

As a part-time minor hockey coach, I have come to appreciate that Convocation operates rather like a minor rep hockey team. Not all benchers skate towards the same goal; most don't stay to their side of the ice; and it can feel like a contact sport. Nonetheless, all the benchers come ready to play, and play with vigor and put in an honest effort. As a result, much has been accomplished these past four years.

During this last term, along with committee work, writing a report on legal aid and presiding on discipline cases, I chaired the Law Society's Government Relations Committee. As Chair of GRC, I worked with the provincial and federal governments to ensure the public understands our role and to ensure public policy is developed with our role in mind. Much of the work is done in the shadows. We successfully petitioned for Unified Family Court expansion, increased legal aid, and ensured continued access to representation for motor vehicle accident victims, just to name a few of our accomplishments. In doing so, I was proud to be a strong voice for the profession at both Queens Park and Parliament Hill.

### MY PLEDGE:

The next four years will be an extremely important period for the LSO, including the Government Relations committee. Having served as Chair for the past four years, I know the challenges well.

If re-elected, I pledge to continue to devote my energy, my experience and my enthusiasm to serve you and to make this a better profession.



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## Addison Cameron-Huff

addison@cameronhuff.com



I'm a blockchain lawyer. Since 2014 I've been advising the people who are building the future, including the founders of Ethereum, Bitcoin core developers, and blockchain companies across Canada and abroad. I'm a sole practitioner in Toronto doing 100% blockchain law.

In 2017-2018 I was the President of a leading blockchain software company where I managed a team of approximately 30 people.

I started my career in law as a summer student in BlackBerry's technology licensing group then articulated at McCarthy Tétrault. I have worked as a software developer and launched several online businesses, including a global law search engine that involved machine translation of foreign laws.

My professional site is [www.cameronhuff.com](http://www.cameronhuff.com).

Uber caught the taxi industry by surprise. They undermined the government-granted monopoly with a popular, customer-focused service. When "Uber for Law" comes to Ontario we will need benchers who understand the law, understand technology, and can ensure that lawyers are active participants in the future of law.

Addison Cameron-Huff runs a blockchain law practice ([www.cameronhuff.com](http://www.cameronhuff.com)) based in the Yorkville neighbourhood of Toronto. He has previously run software businesses, including one that served over half a million users around the world. Addison knows what disruptive innovation looks like because he has been a part of it. As a bencher he will add a unique perspective: law + tech + business.

Addison works with clients ranging from world-changing startups (the early Ethereum team) to multinational investment funds. He understands the mindset of innovators and the reality of software-based businesses in 2019. We need benchers who have this experience so we can ensure that lawyers are an intelligent part of the conversation.

Addison Cameron-Huff: a bencher who deeply understands technology, the business of law, and will represent Ontario's lawyers in a thoughtful manner as we grapple with the possibilities of 21st century law.

Read more about Addison Cameron-Huff's background at [www.cameronhuff.com](http://www.cameronhuff.com).



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## Craig Carter

ccarter@fasken.com



**B.Sc. and LLB. (Toronto) LLM. (Osgoode) called to bar 1979; OBA Award for Excellence (Real Estate) Distinguished Service Award (OBA) Law Society Medal, Certified Specialist Real Estate; Partner/Counsel Fasken Martineau Commercial Real Estate, Mortgages, Mortgage Enforcement, Easements, Founding Chair Six Minute Real Estate Lawyer since 1998; Former Adjunct Professor Queen's and Osgoode, Co-Chair LLM Real Estate; Adjunct Professor Toronto Faculty of Law; Past Chair Real Property Section and Education OBA; Co-Author Agreements of Purchase and Sale, Falconbridge on Mortgages and Real Estate Transactions; Chaired Programs on Mortgages, Mortgage Remedies, Ground Leases, Title Insurance, Waterfront Law, Title Searching, Easements, Residential Real Estate, Options; Contributed over 100 papers on various real estate topics. Currently writing a Treatise on Easement Law in Canada**

In my first six years of practice, I worked for a small litigation firm doing all of the solicitor's work that walked in the door. Real estate, commercial, wills, family. To get ahead, I taught at the bar admission course, taught business law at Ryerson, took courses towards an MBA and completed an LLM and then went to work at Fasken Calvin now Fasken Martineau for the next 34 years of my practice. I saw first hand the pressure on small firm lawyers and the challenges of big firm practice.

Throughout my lengthy career, I have made substantial commitments to educating lawyers and law students including extensive teaching at various law schools and continuing legal education. For instance I founded the popular Six Minute series at the Law Society and for the last twenty years I chaired or co-chaired the Six Minute Real Estate Lawyer. I have also provided effective advocacy for solicitors at various levels of the Ontario Bar Association including chair of the real property section.

I believe that solicitors and transactional lawyers are the backbone of the legal profession providing access to justice and that the Law Society can respect, support and encourage a healthy solicitor bar. Traditionally solicitors have been underrepresented at the Law Society and if elected I intend to vigilantly represent solicitors' interests in the public interest to ensure they are not burdened by excessive or unnecessary regulation.

I believe the Law Society's self governing mandate to protect the public means ensuring that the public has access to solicitors and transactional lawyers who can carry on productive and competent practices. Front line solicitors interact with the public on a daily basis and the public is best served if they are given the tools necessary to provide high quality advice, for fair fees, free of restrictions unless those restrictions enhance the solicitor/client relationship or are necessary for good governance.

If elected I will work with you to ensure respectful, positive and supportive regulation by the Law Society.



## Sudha Chandra

chandralawoffice@gmail.com



**SUDHA CHANDRA  
BARRISTER & SOLICITOR  
109 WOODBINE DOWNS  
UNITS 9 & 10  
ETOBICOKE  
M9W 6Y1**

**YEAR OF CALL: 1998  
EDUCATION: LL.B (UNIVERSITY OF  
WESTERN ONTARIO) (1993)  
CERTIFICATES IN MEDIATION AND  
NEGOTIATIONS  
FROM HARVARD UNIVERSITY  
COURSES ATTENDED AT HARVARD  
UNIVERSITY:  
INTERNATIONAL LAW, INTELLECTUAL  
PROPERTY  
SOLE PRACTITIONER: SINCE 2006  
GENERAL PRACTICE**

### 1. RACIAL INCLUSION FOR BENCHER SEATS

Although the LSO has stressed diversity in recent years, its Benchers have not been a very inclusive group, especially with respect to racialized members. While some may say that all of this will change in time, this ignores the challenges that racialized members face when it comes to becoming a Bencher, and further ignores the fact that diversity is something that is needed now, and not something that can wait for the future. In order to remedy this situation and make the LSO leadership more inclusive, I propose that a certain percentage of seats be reserved for racialized Benchers.

### 2. RECOGNITION OF THE UNIQUE CHALLENGES THAT SMALL FIRMS FACE

Although sole practitioners and lawyers in small firms face different challenges than their counterparts in large firms face, and frequently enjoy less income, the LSO currently treats both types of lawyers as the same. I, therefore, propose that LSO assist sole practitioners and small firm lawyers by reducing the costs for them, in accordance with their income, of such things as their annual fees and Continuing Professional Development programs.

### 3. TRIBUNAL DISCIPLINE ORDERS

Although the LSO is correctly charged with protecting the public, it also has obligations towards its members, especially when it comes to disciplinary proceedings. Consequently, I propose the following:

- a. A review of the Rules of Professional Conduct and By-Laws in order to determine whether they take into account the challenges that lawyers, especially sole practitioners and those in small firms, face;
- b. A reform of the disciplinary process to make it more educational and less penal; and
- c. A limitation period with respect to discipline orders so that they do not remain an albatross around the member's neck for the remainder of their career.

### 4. ARTICLING

Although many have sought a solution for the "articling crisis", the reality is that the American legal system gets along just fine without articling, and the best solution to the crisis would be simply to abolish the articling requirement and allow law school graduates to commence practicing upon successful completion of their Bar examinations.



**Bencher  
Election**

**Élection  
du Conseil  
2019**

## Jeff Cowan

jcowan@weirfoulds.com



**Partner of WeirFoulds LLP. Former Managing Partner. Public law (including professional self-regulation) and real estate litigation, arbitration and mediation. Co-editor, with Derry Millar, of Ontario Annual Practice.**

**Member of Secretariat of the Civil Rules Committee, Divisional Court Users Committee, Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice Administrative Law Committee, Advocates' Society, OBA, Toronto Lawyers Association, ADRIO. Head of Public Law Section of Bar Admission Course and thereafter member of the BAC Barristers Bar Advisory Group.**

**Past director Advocates' Society, past Chair and current executive member of OBA Administrative Law Section. Recipient of the SOAR Medal for outstanding service to the administrative justice system of Ontario and OBA dedicated service award.**

**Recognized by Lexpert, Best Lawyers, and Martindale-Hubbell.**

### Experience and Commitment to Change

Globalization and its economic impact, rapid technological advances, Ontario's changing society, and available government resources pose challenges to the legal profession and to the justice system. They are also opportunities for the LSO to demonstrate leadership.

The LSO must be proactive in its public interest regulatory role, while listening to lawyers and assisting them in adapting to the evolving legal environment and the need for change. It must defend their independence and that of the judiciary and tribunals.

My experience, both as a managing partner and a participant in the civil and administrative justice systems, has taught that strategic planning and adaptive change are "necessary and good". Progressive ideas and plans have been put forward by the Benchers to date, which I support. Action on them requires commitment and hard work.

Vulnerable and marginalized people continue to face barriers in the justice system. Access to justice must be improved through ongoing collaboration and advocacy with government, courts and tribunals, Legal Aid Ontario, ACLCO, and other justice stakeholders.

I support the need for inclusiveness in the profession to better represent the diverse communities it serves. My roles as a managing partner and the father of a daughter who is a lawyer have brought home the challenges facing both racialized and women licensees in law, and the need for continued promotion of meaningful equity. My firm has been actively involved with the Equity Advisory Group, and is a member of the Law Firm Diversity and Inclusion Network.

My LSO experience has strengthened my commitment to improved competencies and alternative training models for entry to the profession. Review of lawyer conduct should include entity regulation, be guided by sound risk assessment principles, and provide for diversion rather than prosecution when appropriate. Reduced investigation and hearing costs help lower annual fees.

Aussi, il est très important pour moi d'encourager le bilinguisme et l'offre active de services juridiques en français en Ontario.

My experience reinforces my commitment to change and to public service. I ask for your support.

Questions and ideas are welcome by email or at 416-947-5007.



**Bencher**  
Election

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2019

## Orlando Da Silva

ovdasilva@icloud.com



**Education:** JD, University of Toronto  
Faculty of Law (1993)

**Private Practice:** Borden Ladner Gervais,  
LLP, as an associate and partner (1995-  
2005)

**Public Sector:** Ministry of the Attorney  
General, as a civil litigator and criminal  
prosecutor (2005 – present)

**Leadership:** President of the Ontario Bar  
Association (2014-2015); Treasurer, OBA  
(2007); Chair, OBA Civil Litigation Section  
(2003-4); Co-Founder, Portuguese Canadian  
Lawyers Association (2004)

**Recognition:** Law Society Medal; OBA  
Distinguished Service Award; Top 25 Most  
Influential, Canadian Lawyers Magazine;  
Tom Marshall Award of Excellence for  
Public Sector Lawyers; Transforming Lives  
Award, CAMH Foundation; Torontonians of  
the Year (nominee), CBC Radio

Having worked 11 years in the private sector and another 13 years in the public sector (in both civil litigation and criminal prosecutions), and as a Past President of the Ontario Bar Association, I will, with the benefit of many perspectives, exercise a strong voice at Convocation. These perspectives are enhanced by my personal background, lived experience, and culture. Combined, they have taught me the importance of improving equality, diversity, and inclusion in the justice system for all legal professionals, including those with invisible challenges. I will “lean in” to this cause as a first generation Canadian, the first in my family to attend university, and as a strong advocate for mental wellness in the law.

If elected Bencher, I will encourage the Law Society of Ontario, Convocation, and all willing justice sector participants, to forge partnerships committed to improving the mental health of the legal profession, including lawyers, students, and paralegals. The LSO is also well suited, through strategic partnerships, to address the mental health of the broader justice community, including, judges, prosecutors, first responders, jurors, self-represented litigants, and vulnerable members of society engaged in the justice system. With your support, I will be a strong advocate for this process and these partnerships.

A mentally healthy profession enhances competence, professionalism, civility, and the public interest. It serves the LSO mandate well.

Subject to thorough consultation, I would also like to modernize and simplify the LSO governance structure, allowing the LSO to accomplish more, quicker, and with less expense. If done properly, without sacrificing adequate representation, the LSO will make better decisions and implement them faster while lowering costs and reducing fees.



**Bencher**  
Election

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## Ian Daley

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**My professional background includes in-house experience with a focus on regulatory law and litigation. Presently, I am Senior Legal Counsel with the Real Estate Council of Ontario. Recent experiences include; Vice President for the Board of Directors, at the Oakville Soccer Club (OSC), and Chair of an Ontario Soccer Association Discipline Committee presiding over discipline hearings at OSC. My personal interest initiatives include; volunteer work with community sport clubs, namely coaching in the Town of Oakville and City of Burlington, being my current local community. Additional personal initiatives include volunteer work with “at risk” neighborhood schools in the Jane and Finch area of Toronto, being my former local community.**

My name is Ian Daley and I am seeking your support in the 2019 Bencher Election. My decision to run in this election is based a desire to continue making professional contributions towards a public protection body with the ability to enhance the legal profession. Presently I am Senior Legal Counsel with the Real Estate Council of Ontario (“RECO”) and have 12.5 years of RECO Legal Counsel experience. RECO is a consumer protection regulatory body that governs registered Real Estate professionals in the Province of Ontario. RECO enforces the governing legislation and protects the public’s interest through a fair safe and informed marketplace. The Law Society of Ontario (“LSO”) and RECO share similar objectives as both are regulatory bodies with a public interest mandate. In addition, both RECO and LSO have an enforcement and discipline arm and both have education and licensing requirements. My RECO experiences have provided me with the opportunity to develop transferable skills and a unique approach to regulatory and professional services governance, management and related issues. My professional background includes senior level legal experiences with a primary focus on regulatory law and litigation, administrative law and board management. Recent volunteer experiences include; Vice President for the Board of Directors with the Oakville Soccer (“OSC”) and Chair of an Ontario Soccer Association Discipline Committee presiding over discipline hearings at OSC. As a LSO bencher, I believe that my background has provided the experiences required to deliver a balanced, diverse and qualified voice to the management and governance of a regulated profession. I welcome the opportunity to do so as a LSO bencher. Thank you for your consideration.



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## Signa Daum Shanks

SDaumShanks@osgoode.yorku.ca



**Métis lawyer and legal academic at Osgoode, Dr./Prof. Signa Daum Shanks (LLB '99) was raised by a single mom and has family from small towns, farms and reserves in Saskatchewan. Signa currently serves on the OBA's Board of Directors, its Provincial Council and its WLF Executive. She has a long history of working for various governments and the private sector. She started working as a civil servant in 2005, taught post-secondary levels since 1998 and has been a law professor since 2009. At Osgoode, Signa was the school's inaugural Director of Indigenous Outreach. She is also an appointed representative at the UN for an NGO. Working and teaching around the world, Signa has always concerned herself with the public interest.**

### Statement

As a Métis lawyer and legal academic at Osgoode Hall Law School, I'm recharged by professional projects I'm involved in pertaining to legal education, public service, the cost of legal services, and the historic exclusion of marginalized voices. I graduated in 1999 and since then have worked for post-secondary institutions, governments and the private sector. My focus is Indigenous rights, torts, and law and economics. I acted as the law school's inaugural Director of Indigenous Outreach. My Saskatchewan family, from small towns, farms, and reserves, has been supportive as I became the first woman in my family to receive a university degree. While working within universities and the public sector, I've also worked with the private bar including in efforts to develop strong ties to Indigenous communities as they become part of every area of private practice. I've gained experience in various administrative and disciplinary functions, learned how to mentor, and organized educational activities that move us forward in understanding what reconciliation can mean. More recently, the United Nations appointed me to annually represent an NGO at its Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

In my 2019 voluntary roles, I'm currently on the Board of Directors of the Ontario Bar Association, elected to the OBA's Women Lawyers Forum Executive, and on the OBA's Provincial Council for the 4th time. Frequently, my voluntary contributions focused on education of lawyers, access to justice, government-lawyer relations and the increase of knowledge about Indigenous peoples within the legal profession. Within Osgoode, I served as Co-Chair of the Indigenization Subcommittee at Osgoode Hall Law School, which organized the integration of learning Indigenous knowledge into every student's academic experience.

Whether in the classroom, a training session, or in the media, I participate in dialogues about student debt, the cost of providing legal services and how that impacts who's actively in our legal systems, learning Indigenous peoples' views, and how elected governments appreciate what our profession does. Our governance and its bureaucracy need not be big; it needs participants whose background, attitude and efforts show ability to move forward on whatever the LSO faces in the future.



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## Jeremy Devereux

jeremy.devereux@nortonrosefulbright.com



**Commercial litigator in the Toronto office of Norton Rose Fulbright Canada, with a focus on securities and financial services.**

**Practiced at two national firms (McCarthy Tetrault and Ogilvy Renault), a global firm (Norton Rose Fulbright, following the merger with Ogilvy Renault) and a business law boutique (Meighen Demers).**

**Held several firm management positions including Chair of the Associates Committee, Member of the Conflicts Committee, Chair of the Student Recruitment Committee and Chair of the Toronto Litigation Group (during the mergers with Norton Rose and MacLeod Dixon).**

**Frequent presenter at CLE programs offered by my firm, industry organizations, the Law Society, the Association of Corporate Counsel, Osgoode Professional Development, and others.**

**Member of the OBA Civil Litigation Executive.**

Colleagues, I believe we are on the cusp of some of the most radical changes our profession has ever seen – changes that we as a profession must address with foresight to enhance what is best in our profession and to continue to promote the administration of justice.

- **The Death of the Hourly Fee?** – Until recently, most legal services were offered at an hourly rate. That is changing rapidly. Many clients are pressing for fee alternatives, such as fixed fees, capped fees and risk sharing by their lawyers. Some lawyers are developing new fee alternatives in advance of client demand, to gain a competitive advantage. These changes will not only affect lawyer compensation but will drive major changes to the way that lawyers in all practice settings deliver services, such as the use of unbundled legal services, project managers and other non-lawyers, and lower cost service providers in Canada and overseas.
- **The Robot Colleague?** – Artificial intelligence and other technologies hold tremendous promise for increasing efficiency and reducing the cost of legal services. But these technologies will cause tremendous disruption to our profession at all levels, including students and junior lawyers who may be most affected.
- **The Disappearing Lawyer's Office?** – The structures and settings in which lawyers practice will continue to change. Alternative and novel business structures will be used to increase access to legal services and to provide practice alternatives for lawyers.
- **The Lawyer?** – The practice of law is already demanding and often stressful. The disruptive changes to the profession will create new challenges and stresses, but also new opportunities. We need to help lawyers prepare. At the same time, we must continue to foster diversity and inclusion within the profession.

I have found myself at the forefront of several of these transformational challenges because of the initiatives of clients and the global and national mergers within my firm while I held a management role. I will bring my experience, and dedication, to the role of Bencher. I hope you will support me.



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## Rebecca C. Durcan

rdurcan@sml-law.com



**Bencher Responsibilities – Hearing Tribunal, Professional Regulation Committee**

**Partner at Steinecke Maciura LeBlanc –Law Firm dedicated to professional regulation**

**Publications: Co-author of Annotated Statutory Powers Procedure Act (Carswell: 2017) and Understanding Professional Regulation (Emond Publishing: 2019)**

**Education: LL.B. University of Windsor (2000); LL.M. (Health) Osgoode Hall, York University (2006)**

**Memberships: Advocates Society, Women's Law Association of Ontario, Toronto Law Association, Ontario Bar Association**

**Personal: Born in Dublin, Ireland; Called to Bar in 2002; Married to Shane Smith , Mother of Harry (12), Jude (10) and Teddy (7)**

I am running for re-election as a Bencher and ask for your vote.

I am a partner in a small firm in Toronto and practise exclusively in professional regulation. I am a mother of three young boys. I was elected as a Bencher in August 2018 and believe that I have the values, experiences and commitment to continue in this role for another four years.

Recognizing that the mandate and role of the LSO is to protect and serve the public interest, below is a description of the issues I will advance if I am re-elected:

**Transparency:** Lawyers pay \$2,201 per year to maintain their license with the LSO. The LSO can make greater efforts in being transparent with its licensees to show how and why their money is being spent.

**Governance Review:** Convocation is too large. The LSO should continue its efforts to make the board smaller. The LSO should look to Bencher selection criteria other than simply geographic location. Other factors should be considered when selecting benchers - such as year of call (thereby ensuring that Convocation includes a bencher that is within 10 years of call) and look to competency based criteria.

**Inclusion Efforts:** The public benefits with a robust and diverse legal profession. It is in the interest of the public that women, Indigenous, parent and racialized licensees remain within the profession and assume positions of leadership. Continued efforts to ensure inclusion are required and necessary. Further, the LSO needs to amplify its efforts to address the #METOO movement.

**Access to Justice:** The LSO should consider reducing or eliminating licensing fees for new calls, providing financial support or incentives for law students and recent calls who commit to working in underserved areas of Ontario, working directly with community stakeholders to address how Ontarians can access the legal system in a less expensive manner, providing additional resources to solo and small firms who provide legal services to the majority of Ontarians, and investing in technological innovation so the legal system becomes more accessible and less expensive for Ontarians.

[www.rebeccadurcan.com](http://www.rebeccadurcan.com)

@durcanrebecca



**Bencher**  
Election

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2019

## David MacLeod Faed

gratitudeinthismoment@gmail.com



This is Kitty Antenna Meowski my former Psychic Cat who is now mouseing in Polish Kitty Heaven waiting for reincarnation. Don't be cruel Kitty.

In the background is an old picture of me. It is the best picture I have. Kitty makes it great!

My dogs who lived for 28 years (14 then 14) were Bow and Wow. They ran wild in Toronto at night after traffic training.

Me:

No children.

48 years a Criminal Lawyer.

Still having fun at it. Only because I almost always win which is the real fun. I attend all relevant educational events or get the materials. And seek advice wherever it may be.

I do not consider myself to be a "lawyer". That is not who I am.

Yet:

48 years of the best job ever! Flying solo I have not fired or retired myself.

I hope to be aweseomistic enough to appreciate everybody. So what if Compassionate Pity is sometimes necessary? Love is still the answer to give to the All.

I hope, possibly, to be an example of the possible human for all of possibility. Impossible? May I give it my best shot?

When I criticize others I often project my unloving self on them and fail to see me intermingled. They are showing me to me outside me. When I finally love them I have learned to love that part of me.

Wow!

I do not just see myself mirrored in others, which we all are, I also project what the world is becoming and how we may all be. The future is up to me, as it is for all projectors. Up to US.

Project me into bencherhood if you are willing my fellow projector.

Let me be the force for change for your dissatisfactions with what we fondly remember as LSUC and now experience as requiring plenty of CHANGE!!!

Tired of a Discipline Disorder that leaks outcomes before they are decided. Politically correct, ivory tower, foot dragging and naïve.

Tired of losing business because of them. Angry.

Ready to weed the garden.

Revenge transformed. I'm lucky that way.

I will monitor [gratitudeinthismoment@gmail.com](mailto:gratitudeinthismoment@gmail.com) for your guidance. Allow me to be your motive force to better self governance.

Check [gratitudeinthismoment.com](http://gratitudeinthismoment.com) for an ongoing presentation and forum for how, together, we are shaking things up.

When I am grateful I feel the foundation of love and am ready to appreciate others. All others.

I wish you gratitude. In this continuing moment.



**Bencher**  
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## John F. Fagan

johnffagan@gmail.com



I was in small-firm general legal practice, mostly in North York, for 16+ years after my 1975 Call. I then spent 19+ years, until my 2011 retirement, based in Oshawa as a roving Tax Prosecutor for the Attorney General of Ontario. I'm U of T Law '73. I belong to the Canadian Bar Association and to the Toronto and Durham law associations. I've run for office several times for the NDP, including provincially in 2011 and 2014; young people are now taking charge on that front. In law and in riding politics, I've always enjoyed mentoring the new recruits. Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, I migrated to Canada in 1969, during the Vietnam War.

Law Society issues of top concern to me:

Any residual racism in the legal profession: We should repeal The Law Society's "Statement of Principles" requirement, an instance of unjustified compelled speech. As a person of the left, and of a certain age, I am vibrantly aware that threats to free speech in North America once came mostly from the right; times change, but the need to stand up for free speech does not. Beyond that, the "Statement of Principles" requirement is just poor policy. Compelling lawyers to profess such "Statements of Principles," while creating damaging uproar, will never help anyone achieve any advancement in the legal profession. I will support licit and useful action toward overcoming any residual racism lurking in the profession.

Problems in legal education, and of access to justice: I will help try to get the membership of The Law Society at large, the provincial and federal governments and taxpayers, and the universities in Ontario to collaborate to find new money and/or savings to grapple with the unacceptably high cost of law school tuition; the shortage of (decently-paid and worthwhile!) articling jobs; and the generally untenable price of legal services these days. Temptations to abandon articling, replace lawyers with paralegals in family law, and send commercial legal work offshore, strike me as indicative of desperation. We must manage costs without throwing the baby out with the bathwater.

Delays in the courts: We owe it to the public to speak out collectively and to lobby politicians for faster judicial appointments. The pool of judgeship-ready seasoned lawyers is ample.

Law Society governance: We need the Society's members at large more involved in the profession's governance. (Changing the number or mode of selection of benchers won't help, and indeed could hurt.) It's hard to get busy, cash-strapped lawyers to spend time on Law Society matters, but let's try. We should, to start, restore the status of bar-admitted lawyers in Ontario to that of "members" (not mere "licensees") of The Law Society. We are, after all, a self-governing profession, are we not?



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## Julian Falconer

julianf@falconers.ca



Founding Partner: Falconers LLP  
[www.falconers.ca](http://www.falconers.ca)

Julian Falconer is a Bencher and the principal of Falconers LLP. His practices focuses on human rights and public interest litigation. Falconers LLP also maintains an office in Thunder Bay where Julian represents Nishnawbe Aski Nation, the Nishnawbe Aski Police Service, the Treaty Three Police Service, and numerous First Nation communities. Julian has also represented Maher Arar, the Family of Ashley Smith, Urban Alliance on Race Relations, OPP Deputy Commissioner Brad Blair, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in all levels of court.

As a Bencher, Julian serves as a member of the Equity and Aboriginal Issues Committee, the Legal Aid Working Group, the Human Rights Monitoring Group and the Treasurer's Appointments Advisory Group.

I am submitting my candidacy for a third term as a Bencher in the hopes of contributing to improving conditions for those receiving, and for those delivering, legal services. There is much work to be done. I am committed to continuing my role as an agent of change at the Law Society. Access to justice, diversity and service to the profession are all priorities that inform my work as a Bencher and inspire my private practice.

Historically, I have led initiatives to strengthen our commitment to Aboriginal justice and to supporting the racialized bar. I have pushed for proactive steps to hear from and respect our equity partners. I believe we risk losing what gains we have made through a troubling combination of (1) ongoing resistance to change in a significant number of my Bencher colleagues, and (2) complacency in others who may wrongly believe the work is done. It is not done, and I fear that this reality is not understood.

My private practice is growing across Northern Ontario while we continue to maintain our presence in the south. My journeys are teaching me that the Law Society continues to be criticized as a Toronto-centric body lacking the capacity to address the needs of a diverse bar (lawyers and paralegals) across the province. Regrettably, I believe these criticisms are justified.

Much remains to be done. My strength is that I am a relentless advocate for change. That is also probably my weakness, as I continue to find the politics at the Law Society cumbersome and insular. I am very clear on my desire to enhance our transparency. I am equally clear on my desire to break down the tiresome walls of self-justification that make Benchers resistant to seriously contemplating reform.

I am ever hopeful that those of my colleagues who are committed to real and meaningful accountability and change will continue to partner with me to get the work done. In the meantime, I will continue to "call it the way I see it" and I will insist on progress. The work is too important to settle for less.



**Bencher**  
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**William Friedman**

wf@friedmans.ca





## Rocco Galati

rocco@idirect.com



- Year of call- March, 1989.
- Education: B.A. (McGill) 1984; LL.B. (Osgoode) 1987; LL.M. (Osgoode) 1997.
- Fluent in English, French, Spanish, Italian, Calabrian.
- Employment: Fall, 1987- Spring, 1990- Department of Justice, Toronto.
- 1990-Present, private practice: Proceedings Against the Crown.
- Books (co-)authored: "Criminal Lawyer's Guide to Immigration and Citizenship Law" (1996), "The Power of the Wheel: The Falun Gong Revolution" (2001).
- Member of Canadian Who's Who (since 2011).
- Named as one of Top 25 Influential Lawyers, Canadian Lawyer Magazine, 2014, and 2015.
- President's Award, OBA, 2015.
- Executive Director of Constitutional Rights Centre Inc. (2004-present).
- Elected Bencher: 2015-2019.
- Some major cases Litigated (initiated) include:  
Baker (SCC); Nadon Reference (SCC);  
Mainville Reference(SCC); Felipa (FCA);  
Wang (OCA)

Recognizing that the Law Society regulates the profession in the "public interest", what concerns me is:

1. The LSO is currently more about the concerns of government and big firm interests, and less about the public's real interest and health of the profession. Too much Politically Correct talk, and not enough concrete action.
2. Lack of racial Diversity in the LSO executive governance. This notwithstanding Convocation's initiatives and hollow mantra that the LSO will "lead by example". Racial exclusion on the bench, particularly the Superior Court bench. Unacceptable number of racial minority students unable to obtain Articling positions is also part of this malaise. No effective action has been taken by the LSO to meaningfully address these problems.
3. Discipline of Lawyers. There is alarmingly disproportionate action taken against sole-practitioners, small-firm lawyers and a pass if not reluctance, to initiate proceedings against big-firm lawyers. Government Lawyers are never disciplined. This is unacceptable.
4. I am dead against ABS (Alternative Business Structures) beyond limited applications to Charities and Legal Aid Clinics.
5. We need reasonable radicals as Benchers to change the dismally festering, perfunctory state of the LSO.

My reason for running for re-election is to continue to ensure a strong voice for the sole practitioner, small-firm lawyer, and insist that the LSO act, on behalf of lawyers, when acting in the "public interest", which in turn protects the public.



**Bencher**  
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## Shaleem Gill

[shaleemjohngill@gmail.com](mailto:shaleemjohngill@gmail.com)



Shaleem Gill is a recent-call. He practices criminal law as a sole practitioner in Toronto. He is a new face in the Law Society of Ontario and brings a new perspective. Being an immigrant from Pakistan who has lived in various countries across Asia and North America, Shaleem has a unique multi-cultural background. He has legal training in the United Kingdom and Canada. This diversity gives Shaleem experience and the ability to connect with all members of the bar with diverse cultures and training. Shaleem's fresh outlook, distinct background, and enthusiasm will help him to serve you as a bencher and add value to its priorities.

Contact for more information:  
[shaleemjohngill@gmail.com](mailto:shaleemjohngill@gmail.com)

The Law Society of Ontario and the legal profession are continuously evolving. The priorities to enhance regulatory efficiency, life-long competence for lawyers, and access to justice in Ontario, organizational efficiency and responsive communication have underscored the strategic direction of the Law Society. Besides cultural competence, EDI issues, reduction in the cost of legal services, cybersecurity, and innovation in training for the practice of law are increasingly shaping the legal practice. These trends come with challenges. I believe these challenges can be addressed strongly with an added focus on current trends, better technology, enhanced policies for cybersecurity and improved legal services procedures. There is an ever-increasing number of law graduates seeking to be licensed to practice law in Ontario. Millennials are outnumbering the baby boomers and can change outcomes if engaged effectively. In addition to the existing robust experience and years of collective wisdom, the Law Society needs new vision, new perspectives, new ideas, and a new approach to fulfil its priorities. We need everyone to work together – young and well versed, amateurs and experienced, students and teachers, mentees and mentors - to be part of the required change. I believe a new perspective is vital to help set the direction for the legal profession during this period of transformative change. I believe I can bring this perspective and add value to the bench. I bring diverse experience, a unique outlook, passion, flexibility and enthusiasm to serve. These characteristics give me the ability to find common ground with everyone on the bench and serve you as a bencher with creativity and innovation.

I am not intimidated by what I don't know; I see that as strength to guide me to do things differently.

Let's increase diversity and vote for a new face with a new perspective.



**Bencher  
Election**

**Élection  
du Conseil  
2019**

## Anita Goela

acgoela@gmail.com



**Adjudicator: Cross-appointed to Licence Appeal Tribunal, Ontario Parole Board, Fire Safety Commission and Animal Care Review Board**

**General Counsel: Sakura Medical Centre**

**Law Practice Program: Mentor and Assessor**

**Legal Aid Ontario: Duty Counsel in Brampton Family and Criminal Court**

**French and Spanish Translator and Interpreter: Certified by the Association of Translators and Interpreters of Ontario**

**L'Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Ontario**

**South Asian Bar Association of Toronto**

**Public Legal Educator**

**Dual JD University of Windsor and University of Detroit Mercy**

**2012 Call to the Bar**

### **Relevant experience throughout Ontario.**

I started my career working as a French-English translator for the federal government in Ottawa. After law school, I lived in and worked as a lawyer in Windsor, Hamilton, Brampton and Toronto.

Having worked for Legal Aid Ontario as a family and criminal duty counsel in Brampton, one of the busiest courthouses in Canada, I provided frontline services to some of the most vulnerable and marginalized members of the public. Currently, I am an adjudicator on several provincial tribunals.

I have been an active mentor and assessor for the Law Practice Program and have served on the Board of Directors of the Association of Translators and Interpreters of Ontario.

### **Substance and insight.**

Current issues facing Convocation that are important to me:

- Lawyer licencing and regulation – identifying and developing the desired skill set and competencies of the next generation of lawyers, adjudicating disciplinary matters on the Law Society Tribunal
- Legal aid and pro bono – responding to the rise in self-represented parties, subsequent adverse outcomes and delays faced by the public in our justice system
- Future of the legal profession – addressing job shortages by embracing technological advances and exploring meaningful opportunities outside of traditional legal careers
- Work-life balance and wellness – raising awareness of the challenges faced by lawyers wanting to establish their careers during their reproductive years, including infertility
- Mentorship – improving and building on current programs that facilitate knowledge transfer
- Language rights – ensuring the public has access to justice in the official language of their choice and optimizing solutions for those who need assistance outside of English or French

### **Convocation needs more recent calls.**

As a newer call, I can offer a fresh perspective to many of the above issues, some of which are especially critical to my generation of lawyers.

### **Strong foundation for the role of benchers.**

Equipped with an acute understanding of the access to justice crisis, challenges faced by new lawyers, visible minorities and women in our profession and adjudication experience, you can trust me to serve the public interest and our profession with maturity, integrity and fairness.



**Bencher**  
Election

**Élection**  
du Conseil  
2019

## Howard Goldblatt

hgoldblatt@goldblattpartners.com



**Founding Partner, Goldblatt Partners LLP**  
•Recipient of numerous awards for practice excellence and recognized by peers as an outstanding practitioner

**Since first elected Bencher in 2008:**

- Past Chair, Equity and Indigenous Affairs Committee
- Past Chair, Professional Development and Competence Committee
- Current Chair, Access to Justice Committee
- Current Chair, Legal Aid Working Group
- Current Chair, Family Law Working Group
- Member, Priority Planning Committee for 7 years
- Member, Strategic Planning Committee
- Member, Law Society Discipline Tribunal
- Member, Law Society Appeals Tribunal
- Vice Chair, Working Group on Racialized Licensees
- Vice Chair, Mentoring Task Force
- Vice Chair, Treasurer's Advisory Group on Access to Justice
- Member, Technology Task Force

**A strong and respected voice in Convocation and for the profession**

Since I was first elected as a Bencher in 2011, I have remained committed to the issues which formed the basis for that candidacy - equity, competency, and access to justice. If elected, I intend to continue to focus on these issues for the next Bencher term.

I have been an extremely active Bencher over the past 8 years, serving as the chair or vice-chair of a number of important standing committees, including Professional Development and Competence, Equity and Indigenous Affairs and, most recently, Access to Justice.

I have been, and remain, a chair, vice-chair or member of a number of working groups and task forces including the Legal Aid and Family Law Working Groups, the Treasurer's Advisory Committee on Access to Justice, the Working Group on Racialized Licensees, Mentoring, and the Technology Task Force. I am also a member of the Priority Planning Committee and the Strategic Planning Steering Group, helping to set the direction of the LSO between meetings of Convocation and for the next Bencher term.

The profession must continue to move positively in the areas of diversity and equity. It must also ensure that it serves the public interest by pursuing, in a meaningful and substantive way, Convocation's unanimous commitment in February 2014 to Access to Justice.

I have shown that I am prepared to spend the necessary time and effort to make the contribution expected and needed of all Benchers. I have also, in my work as a Bencher, always remembered that we are elected to serve the profession "in the public interest".

While I am proud of my record and believe that I have earned the respect of my colleagues at the LSO, I am running for another term because I know that much work remains to be done. If elected, I know that I can be a significant and important voice in achieving our common objectives.

I firmly believe that my demonstrated experience and leadership as a Bencher will serve the profession well in the next term.

For these reasons, I seek your support.



**Bencher**  
Election

**Élection**  
du Conseil  
2019

## Sam Goldstein

sam@samgoldstein.ca



Sam Goldstein practice is a sole-practitioner focusing on criminal law. He is a former crown attorney.

Sam is a legal advisor to B'nai Brith. He has sat on the boards for various community organizations and is a dedicated volunteer for the Second Chance Scholarship Fund.

He is a columnist for The Lawyer's Daily.

He is a founding member of the Stop the SOP Bencher campaign.

He has appeared at all levels of court in Ontario as well as at the Supreme Court of Canada.

Take back the Law Society by voting for a STOP the SOP (Statement of Principles) Candidate.

### **RETURN TO CORE COMPETENCY:**

The Law Society of Ontario's core competency is to protect the public by ensuring members of the profession are competent and ethical.

### **REDUCE FEES:**

The Law Society of Ontario has fallen victim to mission creep resulting in steadily rising budgets and increased professional fees.

### **ELIMINATE OVER REGULATION:**

Good lawyers should be left to practise law. Unnecessary surveys and compliance requirements get in the way of serving clients.

### **DEFENDING LEGAL RIGHTS**

The Law Society of Ontario has adopted a divisive social agenda that divides and categorizes people according to ascriptive attributes.

Sam Goldstein believes the focus of our profession should be supplying the best legal service.

### **VOTE FOR SAM GOLDSTEIN – a STOP the SOP Candidate**



**Bencher**  
Election

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du Conseil  
2019

## Jayashree Goswami

jayashree.goswami@intact.net



### Work Experience

Senior Counsel, Intact Financial Corporation,  
Toronto (2015 – Present)  
Associate, Zurich Insurance Company Ltd.,  
Toronto (2011 – 2015)  
Associate, Heenan Blaikie LLP (2007 – 2011)

### Credentials

Member, Law Society of Ontario (June 2007)  
Bachelor of Laws (Common Law), University  
of Ottawa (2003-2006)

### Relevant Leadership/Board Experience

Member, Government of Ontario Anti-Racism  
Strategic Plan Consultation Group (2017-2018)  
Director, Canadian Civil Liberties Association  
(2015 to 2018)  
Member of Council, Ontario Bar Association  
(2017-2018)  
Chair, Roundtable of Diversity Associations  
(2016 – 2018)  
Vice-Chair, Ontario Bar Association, Equality  
Committee (2016-2017)  
President, South Asian Bar Association (2013  
– 2015)  
Member, Equity Advisory Group, LSO (2007 –  
2011, 2016-2018)  
Director and Member of Executive, Children's  
Peace Theatre (2011 – 2014)

I am honoured to be running with **Bencher Isfahan Merali's** affirmation and partnership in the upcoming election. I am senior counsel at one of Canada's largest in-house litigation departments. I have worked at a national law firm, a multi-national corporation and currently, at one of Canada's largest insurance companies. I bring over a decade of leadership experience working with the LSO and non-profit organizations on equity, access, inclusion, social advocacy, governance and financial management.

I am running for bencher because I believe it is time that LSO's initiatives and activities be informed by the perspectives and interests of all its constituencies. In the LSO's long history, voices representing in-house counsel, lawyers under 15 years of call, racialized lawyers and women have been conspicuously absent or statistically lacking. I believe that the rich tapestry of ideas, viewpoints, and experience characterising our profession is an infinite resource waiting to be harnessed. As your bencher, I will ensure that historically overlooked and disregarded voices become part of the mainstream, contribute to discussion and debate and enhance LSO's effectiveness and currency.

Shifting demographics, globalization, technology, outsourcing, and artificial intelligence are rapidly and radically transforming our profession. Irrespective of our appetites for change, innovation, agility and creativity will be the dominant themes for survival and success in the future. Equally, the future of this profession will require finding creative solutions to long-standing problems such as:

- escalating cost of legal services impeding access to justice;
- historical absence of the Indigenous perspective on Canadian law; widespread institutional bias creating a diversity deficit, particularly in positions of influence;
- the growing epidemic of young lawyers graduating with career-limiting debt; and
- the unconscionable shortage of paid articling positions in Ontario.

Growth is the synthesis of continuity and change - C.S. Lewis. If elected, I will continue to enhance accountability, ethics, access to justice and inclusion. I will support innovation, introduce fresh insight and be the bridge connecting lawyers of different generations and interests to help steer our profession into the future. For more information on our campaign, please visit [www.isfahanmerali.com](http://www.isfahanmerali.com).



**Bencher  
Election**

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2019**

## Joseph Groia

[jgroia@groiaco.com](mailto:jgroia@groiaco.com)



**Groia & Company  
Professional Corporation  
Founder & Principal**

**Practice area:  
Securities and Corporate Litigation**

**Publications:  
Securities Litigation and  
Enforcement with Pamela Hardie,  
presently in its 2nd edition**

**Teaching:  
Guest lecturer at Toronto, Queen's,  
Osgoode, Western, Windsor, McGill,  
Calgary;  
Guest Lectures at the LSO, Barreau du  
Quebec, Oxford, Advocates' Society, CBA,  
OBA, BCBA, Memorial University**

**Education:  
1979 – LL.B. / J.D. Toronto  
1976 – B.A. Toronto**

**Notable cases:  
Asbestos Corp.; Atlas Cold Storage; BP;  
Canada Malting; Canadian Tire; Cinar;  
Hollinger; Philip Services; R. v. Feldherhof;  
Torstar/Southam; YBM Magnex**

When I decided to run for Bencher in 2014 I believed that the Law Society needed to head in a new direction. While we have made some real changes in the last 4 years, the need for further improvement remains true today. That is the reason that I am running for re-election.

I discovered that to be a good Bencher I needed to work hard, to speak carefully and to be patient. I did that. This is my record – and I am proud to be running on it:

I opposed the continuation of articling because that system is broken, exploitative and discriminatory. Separate but “equal” licensing pathways are just plain wrong.

I supported diversity and equality initiatives, especially for those who have their own principles and live by them, by opposing the Statement of Principles. I continue to believe that we gain nothing by offending men and women of conscience and faith.

I did not become an Adjudicator, because there was a more important role that I could play: working to ensure that the Law Society only prosecutes the right discipline cases.

I worked hard to get the Compensation Fund limits, a Committee which I now chair, increased to \$500,000.

I have tried to persuade my colleagues that we need to show greater fiscal restraint and discipline when it comes to spending your fees.

I supported the name change and all of the proposed corporate governance reforms. The Bench must continue to move the Law Society into the 21st century as a modern and focused regulator.

My civility fight with the Law Society is finally over. My principled opposition to the civility movement was vindicated in the Supreme Court of Canada. I hope that by waging that battle, I advanced the interests of the profession and the public.

Accordingly, I would be grateful for your support and honoured to continue to zealously represent your interests as a Bencher. Je serais sincèrement reconnaissant de votre appui et honoré de défendre vos intérêts comme membre du Conseil.

**For more information:**

[www.zealousadvocacy.com](http://www.zealousadvocacy.com) • [jgroia@groiaco.com](mailto:jgroia@groiaco.com) • 416-203-4472



## Billeh Hamud

bhamud@hamudlaw.ca



Called to the Bar in 2012

Labour, Employment and Human Rights  
Lawyer

Former Adjudicator with the Licence Appeal  
Tribunal

Practiced law in a variety of legal work  
settings, including in-house counsel and  
sole practitioner.

Member, Canadian Association of Black  
Lawyers

Former President of the Canadian  
Association of Somali Lawyers

Contributed towards inclusion and diversity  
initiatives in the profession by preparing  
and submitting recommendations to the  
Working Group on the Challenges Faced by  
Racialized Licensees

Past Board Member with Centre for  
Equality Rights in Accommodation

### Transparency, Inclusion, Accountability

I am running for bencher because I want to provide a fresh new voice on behalf of lawyers who have been historically excluded and underrepresented from the profession.

### Diversity and Inclusion:

Since my Call to the Bar, I have contributed towards making the legal profession more diverse, equitable and inclusive.

Too often, racialized lawyers are faced with discrimination, bias and racism from other lawyers, judges, adjudicators and even clients, and are either silent or silenced from raising these issues.

As Bencher, I will commit to strengthening the Law Society's efforts to eradicate racism and discrimination from the profession. Quite frankly, the current measures are simply not enough. I commit to advocating for the following:

- Strengthening the powers of the Discrimination and Harassment Counsel to include the same investigatory powers as the Law Society's Investigation Counsel
- Including an anti-racism lens to the Rules of Professional Conduct and clearly addressing unconscious bias and systemic discrimination as professionalism issues.
- Mandating name-blind recruitment practices for law firms to reduce conscious or unconscious bias

### Transparency:

An independent bar should also be a transparent and accountable one.

As Bencher, I will work towards making the Law Society's activities more transparent and accountable. I believe the Law Society should be subject to provincial freedom of information legislation. As Bencher, I will commit to advocating for the inclusion of the Law Society under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

### Financial Accountability:

The Law Society should respect the annual fees collected from lawyers.

There is no reason why the Law Society agreed to spend \$1.2 million dollars on a marketing campaign following the Law Society's recent name change to the Law Society of Ontario.

As Bencher, I will commit to respecting the annual fees collected from lawyers and advocate for using the funds to provide additional practice resources to lawyers including smaller firms, new calls and sole practitioners.



**Bencher**  
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## Barbara Hendrickson

bhendrickson@baxsecuritieslaw.com



Securities lawyer with my own firm, **BAX Securities Law**, which was awarded Top 10 Corporate Boutique Law Firm 2016-2019 in a peer review vote sponsored by Canadian Lawyer. [www.baxsecuritieslaw.com](http://www.baxsecuritieslaw.com)

Present - Secretary Treasurer of the CBA's Small and Solo General Practice Section, OBA's Securities Committee; OSC Securities Advisory Committee; sole sponsor of the Toronto Business Lawyers Association – [www.torontobusinesslawyersassociation.org](http://www.torontobusinesslawyersassociation.org)

Past - OSC's Small & Medium Enterprises Committee; Board of PDAC; Environmental Finance Advisory Committee, University of Toronto; Vice Chair Responsible Investment Committee University of Toronto; Chair of the CBA Business Law Section; Trustee of the OBA Foundation; member of OBA Council; President Women's Law Association of Ontario; Chair Joint Committee on Gender Equality; President Association of Law Officers of the Crown.

I would be honored to have your support in the upcoming Bencher election. Je serais honoré d'avoir votre soutien à la prochaine élection de conseiller. My platform includes:

**LSO to Regulate Firms** – The Law Society needs to deal with systemic and individual discrimination in our profession. The ability of the Law Society to regulate law firms as well as lawyers, will have an important impact on issues faced by female and racialized lawyers as well as the LGBTQ community. Regulation of law firms will provide the Law Society with an important tool in this area.

**Access to Justice** – Let's put the "aid" back in legal aid – we need more government funding, full stop. It is in the interest of the profession and society at large to have a properly funded legal aid system.

**Support for Small Law Firms and Sole Practitioners** – The LSO needs to develop a wider range of programs and practice aids for sole practitioners and smaller firms. This need has been magnified recently by the inability of law school graduates to find articling positions, and newly called lawyers to find positions with experienced practitioners.

As a profession, we face numerous challenges, some historical, but many having emerged more recently. Our Law Society's role in meeting these challenges is to govern in a way that both meets its public interest mandate and ensures that we have a viable profession going forward.



**Bencher**  
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## Christopher Hicks

chicks@hicksadams.ca



- **Born & raised and resident in Toronto**
- **Educated at the University of Toronto Schools; University of Toronto – B.A. (Political Science), M.A. (History); University of New Brunswick LLB;**
- **One term Director of Criminal Lawyer's Association**
- **University of Toronto Bronze T with Bar for Varsity Football & Rugby**
- **GTHL Hockey Coach & Hockey School Convenor**
- **Married with 3 sons.**

Since my call to the bar in 1981, I have practiced criminal law exclusively, both trials and appeals at all levels of court, including the Supreme Court of Canada. My practice is now comprised of appeals and murder trials.

I have been a sole practitioner, a partner in a small firm, and senior partner in one of the largest criminal law firms in Canada.

These varied experiences have given me an understanding of the professional and administrative demands and pressures of the practice of law.

I have served clients in a number of jurisdictions in Ontario. As a consequence, I have become familiar with the views, resources, challenges and needs of a significant number of practising counsels, both within the Greater Toronto Area and elsewhere in the province.

These informative experiences and my years at the bar give me confidence that I can bring a fresh and informed perspective to our future challenges.

In the recent past, the disciplinary procedures of the Law Society have proven to be overly judgmental and punitive rather than consultative and inquiring.

While our self-governing profession must exercise discipline over our profession and its members, the values of consultation, mentoring and rehabilitation should assume primacy in our pursuit of the highest professional standards.

I believe the future will demand a more enlightened and progressive approach to our governance of ourselves.

With your support, I will bring experience, knowledge and dedication to the role of Bencher.

I will work to understand. I will work to consult. And I will work with you.



**Bencher**  
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## Philip H. Horgan

phorgan@carltonlaw.ca



I have worked in large and small firms, before establishing my own firm in 1996. I have appeared in trial and appellate courts across Canada, including the SCC.

I have served as a leader of charities and non-profits, including the Thomas More Lawyers' Guild, the Catholic Civil Rights League, the Faith and Freedom Alliance, and on parent advocacy councils.

I am active in legal teaching, and in fundraising for civil liberties, conscience rights, Coats for Kids, and pro bono work.

I am an active volunteer, and serve as a minor hockey coach and referee. I received the TCDSB Alumni Award and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for contributions to constitutional freedoms, services to the profession, and development of public policy.

The Law Society has strayed from its governance role, and from protecting the public from unscrupulous actors, toward an activist engagement to demand compelled speech from its members on ideological viewpoints.

In recent years, the Society has forced members to adopt an "accelerated culture shift" by adopting a Statement of Principles, which overreaches into our freedoms, however well intentioned. Its denial of accreditation of the previously approved Trinity Western law school was contrary to positions taken by other provincial law societies and the previous approval of that school's program. The Society continues to engage as a government actor into areas where legitimate differences should be allowed. These are all examples of a Law Society that is advancing critical legal theory by imposing a "politically correct" viewpoint on its members.

We must value our independence as individuals and as a profession, and remain focused on the Society's core roles.

The Law Society should support our deeply cherished constitutional freedoms, including the allowance of lawyers to make their own decisions on matters of public debate. Its civic "totalist" advocacy risks sacrificing our independence and freedom as a profession to the next roll-out of ideological demands. I share the views of [www.stopsop.ca](http://www.stopsop.ca).

The Society needs to remain frugal. Why are our fees the highest of any similar jurisdiction? I stand for holding the line or reducing dues, which in turn will allow for greater pro bono options, and enhanced access to justice.

I believe that we need to elect benchers who recognize the importance of our independence as a profession, both as lawyers, and in recognition of the role we play for our clients in defending and advancing their interests.



## Kristin Hutton

khutton@lawhutton.com



Kristin Hutton was called to the Ontario bar in 2002 after completing his L.L.B at the University of Ottawa.

While at the University of Ottawa, Kristin worked at the Department of Justice (Health Canada).

Prior to law school, Kristin graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science from East Carolina University (Greenville, North Carolina) while juggling the responsibilities of playing on the varsity tennis team. He was the recipient of several academic awards at his university including, The Rivers Scholarship, the Catherine Hirsch Memorial Award and Cecil Todd Scholarship.

Kristin is included on the Best Lawyers list for Canada in the practice area of construction law for the years 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018.

### Duel-Capacity Conflicted Lawyers and Law Firms

The integrity of the legal system and of solicitor-client confidentiality is of paramount importance to the foundation of our legal system and of an open and democratic society.

These tenants are specifically recognized and espoused in our Rules of Professional Conduct (Rule 3.3 – Confidentiality and Rule 3.4 – Duty to Avoid Conflicts of Interest).

We must ensure that all licensed lawyers and legal firms adhere to these tenants and hold no undisclosed secondary “duel-capacity” rolls that inherently conflict with our Rules of Professional Conduct.

As an elected Bencher I promise to ensure that all lawyers and legal firms shall remain from being under the influence of - or accepting funds to influence conduct (in any form or guise) from any organization whose mission statement and operations inherently conflict with the duties and undertakings of a lawyer licensed in the Province of Ontario.

As an elected Bencher I will advocate for the creation of procedural mechanisms to investigate all lawyers and law-firms to determine if they operate with a “duel-capacity” conflict of interest and - by way of open forum – bring this issue to the public light.

### The Right Name - The Law Society of Upper Canada (1797)

It was a bonafide mistake to change the name of the Law Society of Upper Canada to the Law Society of Ontario – a name engrained with hundreds of years of history collectively shared by tens of thousands of former and current licensed lawyers in the Province of Ontario.

As an elected Bencher I will press for a permanent “secondary” name recognition and use of **The Law Society of Upper Canada** (along with the Law Society of Ontario) for any written publication or advertisement by a licensed lawyer in the Province of Ontario.

The erosion and revision of our legal history – and waste of our limited financial resources - for questionable gains - ends.



**Bencher**  
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## Liran Kandinov

liran@nca-tutor.com



Liran is the CEO and Executive Director of LexPD, a legal education and consulting firm. He also sits on the Board of Directors and chairs the Corporate Governance and Regulatory Committee for a publicly traded investment firm listed on the CSE.

Liran was called to the New York bar in 2013 and to the Ontario bar a year later. In 2014, he left private practice to pursue a Master of Laws degree in business law on a full scholarship at the University of Toronto, Faculty of Law. He obtained his undergraduate degree in business management at the University of Toronto and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Manchester.

### Recognizing diversity and promoting access to justice

The government of Canada announced plans to accept 1 million new immigrants by 2021. Many of these individuals will be highly skilled professionals, including lawyers. We are already experiencing a high volume of foreign trained lawyers applying to the NCA, and that number should continue to rise with the government's new commitment.

For the last seven years, I have worked with over 1500 foreign trained lawyers from over 51 countries, introducing and acclimatizing them to the Canadian legal system and helping them navigate through the licensing process. It is clear to me that we are failing these candidates in the realm of post-call support. Despite the high volumes of foreign-trained lawyers entering our legal community and the anticipated rise in volumes, support and programs for them remains low.

I myself am an immigrant. I believe that the creation of a diverse legal community is one method of tackling the disparity we see in access to justice – both in the legal community and the public.

I watched my parents do business and mostly interact with people from our own community. It gave them comfort to do business with people who spoke their own languages and understood their cultural nuances. The same would be true for accessing legal services: The more diverse the profession, the more likely we will succeed in making legal services available to members of all communities.

The creation of a culturally diverse and collectively accessible legal community will succeed if it is headed by those who recognize its importance based on experience; by those who know the current realities of feeling isolated due to language barriers and other cultural challenges. Electing benchers with diverse backgrounds is an important first step. This group of individuals should ideally include recent calls to the bar, so they can provide current knowledge and experience on which to build upon. I fit this mold, and my presence as a bencher would be the catalyst for change.



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## Murray Klippenstein

murray.klippenstein@klippensteins.ca



Three decades of litigation practice and managing a growing firm focused on access to justice;

**Counsel for:**

- o the family of Dudley George killed by police at Ipperwash, through litigation and public inquiry;
- o Indigenous Mayan women suing a Canadian company for rape and murder at its mine in Guatemala;
- o 1,000 individuals in a class action against police for mass-arrests at the 2010 G-20 Summit
- o an Indigenous tribal council in Ontario's far north
- o environmental groups

**Awards:**

- o *Canadian Lawyer Magazine – a “Top 25 Most Influential Lawyer”, 2014 and 2015*
- o *Dianne Martin Medal for Social Justice Through Law*
- o *Ontario Federation of Labour Human Rights Award*
- o *Champion of Justice Award from Aboriginal Legal Services of Toronto*

Our Law Society has recently sailed into dangerous waters in imposing on each individual lawyer a compulsory Statement of Principles (SOP) expressing a particular political ideology, an unprecedented incursion on our basic freedoms as lawyers and citizens. In addition to addressing that important issue, I would hope as a Bencher to use my extensive experience from decades of successful legal practice and law firm management to offer some thoughtful, prudent and solution-oriented input on behalf of the profession as a whole, and the public we serve.

### The Compulsory, Politicized Statement of Principles

This is the reason I am offering myself as a candidate for Bencher, something I never in the past thought I would be interested in. Instead of a profession that serves the public based on the principle of equality, and that acknowledges and supports competence, effort, and contribution, and that seeks to help those who are disadvantaged or unfairly treated, the compulsory SOP enforces a “diversity ideology” that will create in the profession a culture of entitlement and preferential treatment based on the skin colour and sex chromosomes a person was born with, or on some self-proclaimed “identity”, and on suppression of free thinking and free expression. That is not what the profession of law should be. The enforced SOP takes us down a wrong road and should be rescinded.

### Competence, Articling and Mentoring

Being competent is one way we lawyers can best serve the public. And learning competence is one of the best ways for young lawyers, including those from disadvantaged communities, to get ahead. Mentoring, along with the articling experience, is very important for developing competence, but good mentoring is hard work and not something that comes automatically. The Law Society could and should do more to encourage, teach and assist senior lawyers to be willing and able to be good mentors. The present approach, with all its burdens and restrictions, makes it hard to be a good mentor. Working on changing that over time offers real benefits to everyone.

I hope you will consider supporting me in this important election.



**Bencher  
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## Shalini Konanur

konanurs2@lao.on.ca



### Education / Work

- Called to the Bar in 2000, Graduated from Osgoode Hall Law School in 1998
- Worked exclusively with legal aid: Renfrew Country Legal Clinic, Mississauga Community Legal Services, 2008 – Present South Asian Legal Clinic of Ontario (Executive Director)

### Practice Areas

- Immigration, Employment, Income Maintenance, Tenancy, Human Rights

### Advocacy

- Test cases (SCC, Federal Court, FCA)
- National / International advocacy on gender / race equity, including speaking to United Nations Committees

### Awards / Recognition

- Ontario Bar Association Award of Excellence in the Promotion of Women's Equality
- Lexpert Zenith Award: Celebrating Women in the Law
- Legal Aid Leader, Canadian Bar Association

### My Background

Being a legal clinic lawyer for the past 18 year has been incredibly rewarding and also incredibly challenging. I have worked with marginalized and vulnerable clients at the intersections of poverty, mental health, racism, gender discrimination, violence, etc. Every day I see the critical importance of access to justice that is foundational to our justice system, and the fundamental role that lawyers / paralegals play in ensuring meaningful access to justice.

### Why Vote For Me?

I have watched the LSO tackle issues of equity / access to justice, and the passion with which benchers have advanced these issues. I am running for bencher because I believe in that work.

As our profession becomes more diverse and the populations that we serve also become more diverse, I think it is important that the LSO continue to be a strong advocate for equity within and outside the profession.

I have excellent governance experience in chairing / sitting on the boards of several not-for-profit organizations. I have significant experience working in collaboration on complex issues, including serving on the province's Roundtable on Violence Against Women, the Toronto Police Services Anti-Racism Advisory Panel, and Legal Aid Ontario's Clinic Advisory Committee.

I am confident that I can add value to the important role of a bencher with my depth of knowledge, my experience in good governance, and my background working on issues of gender / race equity and access to justice.

### The Future

Looking outward, I am deeply concerned about access to justice for vulnerable populations. I see the growth of self-representation across courts and tribunals and I believe that our profession needs greater support to provide those much needed legal services.

Looking inward, I am interested in advancing the work of the LSO on equity within our profession to grow the scope and diversity of opportunities for lawyers / paralegals.

I believe that these are issues that will be at the forefront of the work of the LSO, and I believe that the LSO and our profession can and should be a leading voice on issues of access to justice and equity.



**Bencher  
Election**

**Élection  
du Conseil  
2019**

## Mitchell Kowalski

mekowalski@kowalski.ca



**ICD.D designation in corporate governance**

**Prior Directorships: Ontario Realty Corporation, and Ontario Infrastructure and Lands Corporation.**

**Gowling WLG Visiting Professor in Legal Innovation – University of Calgary Law School**

**Author of two critically-acclaimed books on innovation in legal services.**

**Frequent speaker on the future of the legal profession [www.kowalski.ca](http://www.kowalski.ca)**

**Solicitor and In-House Counsel Experience**

**Raised in Hamilton and Burlington**

**Called to the Bar in 1991**

**LL.M. in Real Estate Law**

The Law Society is a \$100+ million enterprise. It's time for it to be governed and operated like one.

My training in corporate governance and my experience on major corporate boards give me the skills necessary to make both Convocation and the Law Society function with greater efficiency and at lower cost.

Governance reform must continue: Convocation is still too large and too slow – and has become increasingly disconnected from both lawyers and every day Ontarians.

Licensees should not be viewed as an unlimited source of funds.

All decisions to expend money or resources must have a clear and measurable definition of success; those decisions must be reviewed on an ongoing basis to determine their continued existence.

We need Benchers who understand the future of the profession and how technology can enhance the profession – I've written two books on the subject and I believe that I'm the only candidate who regularly teaches, speaks and writes on the changes coursing through the legal services marketplace.

I'm also among those candidates with the widest range of legal services experience having been a large firm partner, partner in a medium-sized firm, a sole practitioner, inhouse counsel and an adjunct law professor.

The future members of our profession not only face horrendous articling prospects, they're also saddled with huge debt and high bar admission fees. Female lawyers and racialized lawyers continue to feel disenfranchised and the profession suffers with a high rate of mental health issues. The LSO is well-placed to lead the profession in dealing with these issues and it must do so.

Ontario has a shameful A2J problem of which the LSO must take charge. There will be no more government funding for these initiatives, so it's up to the LSO to lead and to act as a conduit for new, cost-effective solutions that do not create additional burdens for lawyers.

In short, it's time for fresh perspectives to set a new course.

I ask for your vote.

Please visit my Facebook page for more information:  
<https://www.facebook.com/Kowalski2019/>

Or follow me on Twitter: @mekowalski



**Bencher**  
Election

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## Paul Le Vay

paullv@stockwoods.ca



En tant qu'associé dans un cabinet de taille modeste, je comprends les enjeux auxquels font face les avocats et avocates en pratique privée. Je soutiens l'autoréglementation responsable et juste de notre profession. Mon expérience dans des postes de service volontaire, notamment la présidence de l'AJEFO et auprès des conseils d'administration de la Fondation du Droit et de la Société des Plaideurs, m'a fourni l'occasion de travailler avec des groupes visant l'équité dans la profession et je soutiens leurs efforts. Le mandat du Barreau de promouvoir l'accès à la justice m'est important. À mon avis, la réglementation de notre profession doit être intelligente et efficace. Elle doit nous permettre de maintenir nos meilleures traditions et aussi de nous adapter aux nouvelles réalités économiques et technologiques.

As a partner in a small firm, I understand the challenges facing my colleagues in private practice. I believe in responsible and fair self-regulation of our profession. My experience in volunteer positions, notably as the former president of the AJEFO and on the boards of the Law Foundation and the Advocates Society, have given me the opportunity to work with equity seeking groups in the profession, whose efforts I support. I believe in the Law Society's statutory mandate to promote access to justice. I believe in smart and efficient regulation that will maintain the best traditions of the bar while allowing us to adapt to new technological and economic realities.

**Associé (ancien associé-gérant) chez Stockwoods srl à Toronto où il exerce dans le domaine du litige. Ancien président de l'AJEFO. A servi comme administrateur de la Société des Plaideurs. Membre du conseil d'administration de la Fondation du Droit. A co-présider (avec le juge Rouleau) une enquête sur l'accès à la justice en français. Le Barreau lui a accordé le prix Lincoln Alexander pour service communautaire.**

**Partner (former managing partner) at Stockwoods LLP in Toronto where he practices litigation. Former president of the AJEFO. Former board member of the Advocates Society. Trustee of the Law Foundation. Co-chaired (with Justice Rouleau) a review of access to justice in French. Received the Lincoln Alexander Award from the LSO for community service.**



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## Jeffrey Lem

jeffreywlem@gmail.com



Jeffrey Lem, B.Comm, J.D., LL.M., was called to the bar in Ontario in 1989 and has been a solicitor-on-the-rolls in England & Wales since 2000. Jeffrey is a Certified Specialist in Real Estate and is the Director of Titles for the Province of Ontario. Jeffrey has lectured frequently and has been an instructor in the Ontario Bar Admission Course, a lecturer at Bora Laskin Law School, and the director of the LL.M. Program for Real Estate Law at Osgoode Hall Law School. Jeffrey is the proud recipient of: the OBA's Award of Excellence in Real Estate; the Toronto Lawyers Association's Honsberger Award for dedication to the legal profession; and the Federation of Asian Canadian Lawyers' Lifetime Achievement Award.

I would like to see the Law Society return to its core responsibility of simply regulating the legal profession. For too long now, the Law Society has suffered from a form of mandate-creep, and in so doing, has lost sight of its core obligation to simply license and regulate lawyers and paralegals in a fair, efficient, and effective way. While the Law Society of course regulates in the public interest, benchers should always be mindful of the practical impacts of our policies on the very lawyers whom we are entrusted to regulate. The public interest is not served if the profession itself is not healthy, prosperous and engaged.

Solicitors, as opposed to barristers, have historically been under-represented at the Law Society. I have always supported the greater representation of solicitors in the bencher ranks. I was a real estate solicitor in the private sector for over twenty-five years. I know the issues that affect solicitors and their clients, and will continue to give solicitors a voice at the Law Society if re-elected as a bencher.

Likewise, public sector lawyers have also historically been under-represented at the Law Society. I am the current Director of Titles for the Province of Ontario, a position within the Ontario public service that, by statute, can only be held by a lawyer. Having been a lawyer in both the private and public sectors, I am attuned to the issues that affect both camps, and will continue to give public sector lawyers a voice at the Law Society if re-elected as a bencher.



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## Atrisha Lewis

alewis@mccarthy.ca



I am a 2013 call and a 6th year litigation associate at McCarthy Tétrault LLP. I am a trial advocate and a business leader. I am a prolific writer and a diversity and inclusion champion. Aside from teaching, moot coaching, and doing Pro Bono work, I've recently taken great pride in being a CivicAction Fellow. This unique fellowship has deepened my appreciation for our responsibility as lawyers to invest in our profession, and to be leaders in our communities. I was recently honoured in 2018 with a Precedent Setter Award, which recognizes 'precedent setting' lawyers in their first 10 years of practice. I was also awarded an Arbor Award in recognition of my volunteer contribution to the University of Toronto.

It is with great enthusiasm and humility that I ask for your vote to be a Bencher of the Law Society of Ontario.

In fulfilling the Law Society's mandate, I pledge the following 3 pillars to you:

**Inclusion.** Our profession must reflect our communities. As a profession, the most basic measure of our commitment to equal opportunity is our diversity. The Law Society has made great strides, but there is more to do. As a diverse lawyer and recent call, I will bring my generation's voice to Convocation.

**Access.** We must find ways to ensure that our profession is accessible to all, including removing financial barriers to law school and licensing. The de-regulation of law school fees has significantly compromised both access to the profession, and access to justice. The Law Society must work with law schools to address this growing problem. The flip side of access to the profession is access to the justice system. The Law Society has a role to play in working towards a sustainable and innovative approach to access to justice in all areas of practice including family, criminal, immigration and civil litigation.

**Governance.** Members of the Law Society have a right to demand accessibility, accountability and prudent judgment from Convocation. You deserve strong decision makers that consider a variety of perspectives, represent diverse lived experiences, and are responsive to your concerns. Sound regulation requires consultation and collaboration. If elected, my first duty will always be to listen — to work with you to develop better solutions to our challenges. Let's start the conversation.  
(Follow me on Twitter at @atrishalewis!)

Find out more at [atrishalewis.com](http://atrishalewis.com)



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## Kelly MacGregor

kelly.macgregor@kellymacgregorlaw.ca



Kelly is the principal of **MACGREGOR LAW**. Based in Toronto, he specializes in corporate and commercial law, with an emphasis on consumer goods, marketing, sales and operations.

Before founding his firm, Kelly was Senior Legal Counsel with Kraft Canada Inc., where he provided business and legal leadership in all aspects of consumer packaged goods law, including sales and competition law, operations, supply chain, and international trade and policy.

At Kraft, Kelly was also the Director of Government and Industry Affairs. In that role, he helped found the Dairy Processors Association of Canada and sat on its Board of Directors.

He is a graduate of the University of Manitoba (BA), the University of Windsor (LL.B.) and Osgoode Hall Law School at York University (LL.M. in Law and Regulation).

### COMMUNITY

I see my role as a Bencher is to serve all of the legal community, including addressing the unique issues faced by my community – the Sole and Small Practitioners as well as In-House Counsel.

### COMMUNICATION

I see my role as a Bencher is to encourage effective and efficient communication among the Law Society, the legal community and the consumer of legal services so as to represent all interests today and in the future.

### COMPASSION

I see my role as a Bencher is to continually advocate for improved access to the legal system – both Criminal and Civil – so that the system works for all Ontarians. This includes easing access to underserved legal consumers and assisting the members of legal community to overcome mental and physical challenges.

### COMPETENCY

I see my role as a Bencher is to maintain and continually improve professional standards to protect and enhance the lawyer “brand” in Ontario. This includes both individual standards as well as standards expressed and practiced by firms.

I see my role as a Bencher is to use my personal competencies, including a focus on solutions, strategic thinking and execution, relationship building, stakeholder / cross functional management, talent management and integrity, to advocate and service the issues and concerns of all legal stakeholders.

### COMPUTERS

I see my role as a Bencher is to embrace and expand the available technological tools and supports to maintain and enhance access to the legal system for lawyers and for all consumers of legal services in Ontario.

### CLARIVoyANCE

Finally, I see my role as a Bencher is to continually influence the Law Society to have in place strategic goals and directions to anticipate and embrace the challenges and opportunities we will all face well beyond 2023.



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## Samuel Marr

smarr@lmklawyers.com



I have significant experience serving on the governing bodies in many law organizations. I think I can make significant contributions as a Bencher of the Law Society of Ontario.

I want to assist in making sure law schools are adequately preparing lawyers for life in the profession. While I do not think there is a need for more law schools, I support efforts to ensure that all future lawyers have articling and other experiential training to prepare candidates for legal practice when they are called to the bar.

I would ensure that the LSO continues to focus on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion initiatives. As President of the Toronto Lawyers Association, I helped to promote diversity in the legal profession by launching the inaugural Diversity Soirée, and played a pioneering role in setting up the Roundtable of Diversity Associations (RODA).

I believe the LSO can do more to support lawyers in addressing issues before they escalate into disciplinary matters.

With respect to access to justice, I have concern for the inability of a substantial segment of the population to get the legal services that they need. I want to take steps to help ensure that the profession continues to be vibrant and economically viable, and able to deliver legal services that are required.

- Call to Ontario Bar in 1988
- Civil litigator (1988–present)
- President of the Toronto Lawyers Association (TLA) (February 2011-March 2012).
- Member of TLA Executive (2006-2012) and Member of Board of Trustees of TLA (2002-2012)
- Board Director of Trillium Gift of Life Network, the Ontario government agency in charge of organ and tissue donation in the province of Ontario (2017 to present)
- Past Member of the Executive of the Ontario County and District Law Presidents' Association (CDLPA), now known as the Federation of Ontario Law Associations (FOLA)
- Toronto Deputy Small Claims Court judge (July 2012-present)



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## William C. McDowell

wmcdowell@litigate.com



William C. McDowell is a partner at Lenczner Slaght. With his broad experience and judgement, Will has artfully represented clients in many important public law and commercial litigation cases.

From 2005 to 2008, Will was Canada's Associate Deputy Minister of Justice, with responsibility for civil litigation, national security and issues involving federal central agencies. Upon his return to private practice, Will was appointed by the Chief Justice of Ontario to mediate issues arising from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Inquiry into Aboriginal residential schools.

Will is also a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. He was a joint recipient of the Department of Justice National Award and has been honoured with the University of Toronto Arbor Award.

### **ME**

I am a barrister. I have practised with the one of the largest firms in the country, served in Ottawa as Associate Deputy Minister of Justice for Canada, and am now practising at Lenczner Slaght.

### **WHY ME?**

From my eight years as a Bencher I have helped Convocation find common ground. While the Law Society needs new Benchers, it also needs experienced leadership. We continue to deal with difficult, and often, controversial questions. But, we manage to conduct business with great civility.

I have led the Society's relations with the federal and provincial governments as Chair of the Government Relations Committee. I was proud of the work of the Task Force on Mental Health on which I served as Chair.

Again this term, I acted as Chair of the Professional Regulation Committee.

### **Racialized Licensees**

I was pleased to serve as a member of the Issues Faced by Licensees Working Group. Our work took more than three years and led to important recommendations. We seek to create more inclusive legal workplaces. To be blunt, the population of Bay Street law firms must look a whole lot more like the population of Toronto.

### **Governance Reform**

I was pleased to vote in favour of the significant reforms to our governance model. We have reduced the size of Convocation, including by eliminating the office of Life Bencher. While we have benefitted from the contributions of our Life Benchers over the years, I do not believe that anyone in a self-governing profession should hold office for life.

### **Service en Français**

En tant qu'avocat bilingue, qui plaide en français de temps en temps, j'appuie le droit de nos membres francophones de communiquer avec le Barreau et d'être servis par le Barreau en langue française. Il est important que le Barreau accorde les ressources nécessaires et fasse l'offre active de services en français pour donner plein effet à ces droits.



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## Isfahan Merali

contact@isfahanmerali.com



### Bencher Responsibilities

Chair, Tribunal Committee  
Vice-Chair, Equity and Indigenous Affairs  
Priority & Planning Committee  
Challenges Facing Racialized Licensees  
Mental Health Working Group  
Indigenous Review Panel

Mental Health Implementation Task Force  
Mental Health Strategy Task Force  
Adjudicator, Law Society Hearings &  
Appeals

### Practice Experience

Senior Counsel, Consent & Capacity Board  
Board since 2012

Counsel, Ministry of the Attorney General &  
OHRC since 1997

Acting Director, Int'l Human Rights Prgm.,  
University of Toronto, 1999-2000

### Education

Human Rights Fellow, U of T, 1999-2000  
Call to the Bar, 1997

LL.B./J.D., University of Toronto, 1995

### Membership & Service

Trustee, Law Foundation of Ontario  
Association of Law Officers of the Crown  
Women's Law Association of Ontario  
South Asian Bar Association  
*Trinity-Spadina Community Service Award*

Our profession faces significant and complex challenges: access to justice, articling and licensing, mental health, entity-based regulation, new technologies and AI, amongst many others. The difficulties faced by sole practitioners, new calls, lawyers practising in small towns, and equity-seeking lawyers are particularly notable. The LSO will need to act thoughtfully to positively represent the public interest. I have worked directly on these challenges and understand their interconnectedness. The profession requires Benchers who are dedicated to public service and to finding creative and effective ways to address these challenges, including greater supports in the profession and advancing mentoring and coaching initiatives. It is critical for our profession to include informed, progressive and diverse ideas on how to face the challenges ahead, and I remain committed to continuing this difficult but important work.

### **My Record**

I have advocated for progressive changes at the LSO. This includes my work on Challenges Facing Racialized Licensees, my leadership as Vice-Chair of the Equity and Indigenous Affairs Committee, my active role on the Indigenous Review Panel, my commitment and work on the Mental Health Working Group and Task Forces, and my role as Chair of the Tribunal Committee, which has successfully worked on developing and implementing initiatives to increase the independence and professionalism of the Tribunal. I believe that my record demonstrates that I take a thoughtful and informed approach on LSO work and that I do this work in a collaborative and principled manner.

### **A Recommendation for a New Bencher: Sponsoring New Voices**

I am pleased to support Jayashree Goswami, an exceptional Senior In-House Counsel. She has served ably on the Equity Advisory Group and brings a fresh voice and proven track record on equity and inclusion issues. Her service and dedication on diverse issues make her an ideal candidate for Bencher.

For more information on each of us, and on our unique joint campaign, please see:

[www.isfahanmerali.com](http://www.isfahanmerali.com)

[www.jayashreegoswami.com](http://www.jayashreegoswami.com)



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## Malcolm Mercer

mmerc@mcCarthy.ca



**Treasurer of the Law Society and  
Elected Bencher since 2011**

**Former Chair of the Professional  
Regulation Committee and Advertising  
and Fee Arrangements Working Group.  
Former Co-Chair of ABS Working Group  
and member of numerous Law Society  
committees, task forces and working  
groups**

**Former Chair of CBA Ethics and  
Professional Responsibility Committee and  
CBA Futures Initiative regulatory team lead**

**Adjunct Professor, Legal Ethics, and Legal  
Ethics columnist for slaw.ca, member of the  
Canadian Association for Legal Ethics, co-  
chair CBA/FLSC Legal Ethics Forum**

**Partner, former General Counsel and  
National Litigation Practice Leader,  
McCarthy Tétrault LLP**

**CBA Louis St Laurent Award and 25 Most  
Influential Lawyers 2014**

As Treasurer, I have worked to ensure that benchers and Law Society management work effectively to fulfil our mandate in the public interest.

We are a self-governing profession. The Law Society determines the education and training required for licensing and the standards of competence and professional conduct required of licensees. The Law Society determines who can provide legal services and the scope of legal services that can be provided by different types of licensees.

All of this must be done in the public interest, in support of the rule of law and the cause of justice and to facilitate access to justice.

Having decided that articling and the LPP will continue, the Law Society should now focus on improving competence and professional conduct in practice. We should carefully examine where there are risks to address, consider all possible approaches and set a strategic course.

There are substantial legal needs that are not addressed or are not well addressed. The Law Society is required to facilitate access to justice in determining who may provide legal services.

We must take steps to better address access to justice. We must be liberal and creative about who may provide services and we must ensure competent provision of services.

Legal services technology is rapidly evolving. This presents opportunities and challenges. We must encourage lawyers to innovate and we must take advantage of new ways of serving legal needs that are not now effectively served by lawyers and paralegals.

The time has come to recognize that law firms, not just individual lawyers, provide legal services. Law firms should be accountable for their service to clients and their professional conduct.

We must be dedicated to equality, diversity and inclusion in practice. The human rights of our colleagues and the legal needs of our diverse society demands that we do so. We must be dedicated to the work of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and work to address past injustices.



**Bencher  
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## David Milosevic

dm@mflitigation.com



Help me make access to justice a reality

I am Pro Bono Ontario's (PBO) most active volunteer. I have maintained a weekly shift at the PBO Help Centre at 393 University Avenue in Toronto for over 10 years. I have handled appeals for PBO clients to the Court of Appeal for Ontario and the Supreme Court of Canada.

In my ten years at PBO, I have served thousands of clients, and I know first-hand the importance of access to justice, and how denial of that access can devastate families and individuals.

PBO centres helped over 25,000 Ontarians in 2018. Yet we all saw that this lifeline for the public was almost lost recently when funding could not be found to keep the PBO centres open. It was in large part as a result of individual firms and lawyers meeting an urgent appeal for funds that the centres were able to remain open through this year.

However, these emergency measures are not enough. As a profession, we need to make a commitment to access to justice, and to the front-line access provided by Pro Bono Ontario.

The Law Society of Ontario (LSO) needs to take a lead role in developing a sustainable funding model for PBO. The profession showed we are truly committed to access to justice by raising over \$250,000 this year for emergency assistance to PBO. It is time for our governing body to assist us in maintaining our commitment and expanding the reach of pro bono. As part of this commitment, the LSO should consider recognizing pro bono activities as part of our annual continuing professional development hours.

The self-governance of our profession is a public trust. It is clear to me that our profession takes that trust seriously and feels a duty to give back, especially to marginalized populations in Ontario who lack adequate access to our courts and the civil justice system. Please vote for me to bring this mission to the forefront of the LSO's agenda so that we can each play a role in making access to justice in our Province a reality.

**2005 Call Civil Litigator**

**Articled at Ogilvy Renault LLP (now Norton Rose LLP)**

**LL.M in Civil Litigation from Osgoode Hall Law School**

**13 years as principal of boutique downtown litigation firm**

**10 year weekly volunteer at Pro Bono Ontario, having served thousands of clients, and handled pro bono appeals to the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court of Canada**

**McGill University B.C.L./LL.B**

**Issues:**

**Sustainable funding for Pro Bono Ontario  
CPD credit for pro bono volunteering  
Exploring alternative business structures, including public listing  
Mentoring for young lawyers**



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## Barbara Murchie

murchieb@bennettjones.com



**PERSONAL AND EDUCATION**  
Raised in New Liskeard, Ontario  
BA from U of T  
LLB from Osgoode 1984

**BENCHER FOCUS**  
Adjudicator, Law Society Tribunal  
Tribunal reform and development  
Professional Development & Competence  
Retaining women in the profession

**PRACTICE**  
Partner Bennett Jones since 2005  
Practised litigation in small and  
large firms 1986 - 2005

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**  
TAS Courthouse regional co-chair:  
Windsor, London, Kitchener,  
Hamilton, Kingston, Ottawa, Thunder Bay,  
Sudbury, Toronto, Milton, Kingston  
Active in advocacy training

**COMMUNITY SERVICE**  
Past chair: Ovarian Cancer Canada  
Past chair: Casey House Fdn

Member: CBA, IPIC, TLA, LC, WLAO  
Member: CBA, IPIC, TLA, LC, WLAO

I am committed to responsible and proportionate regulation that governs the profession in the public interest. Our obligation is to ensure the public has access to competent lawyers. But the public also needs affordable legal services. My priorities for the upcoming term are:

### RAISING THE BAR ON COMPETENCE

The last issue on licensing is whether to increase the rigour of the current licensing exams. I am in favour. Clear thinking, good communications and problem solving are essential skills for all lawyers today. We should test for them in a fair and transparent manner. Post licensing, I favour the continued development of resources and services that will support lawyers in delivering competent, efficient and cost-effective legal service to an increasingly diverse public.

### FOSTERING INNOVATION

The Law Society has a role to play in facilitating and encouraging the use of technology in practice. In the next four years, we need to encourage and assist our members to incorporate new technologies into their client service. We need to look at best practices around the world and throughout the profession, consider changes that may be required to the Rules of Professional Conduct and develop practical CPD programs. We need to think about how and if to regulate technological delivery of legal services directly to the public.

### WOMEN IN THE PROFESSION

I have been involved in the Justicia program and in the decision to extend the Racialized Recommendations to all equality-seeking groups. It's time to take another look at the statistics on women in practice, their success, their career trajectories. We need to track sexual harassment and all forms of discrimination and focus on preventing it. We're lawyers. We know this is wrong and we know it's against the law.

### RELEVANT, EFFECTIVE AND PROPORTIONATE REGULATION

Regulation must recognize the challenges of practice and not be oppressive. It must support the mandate of the Law Society and the diversity of the bar. I will support practical and reasonable initiatives that (i) ensure competent and honest lawyers in a civil and honourable profession and (ii) facilitate access to justice.



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## John Nunziata

john@johnnunziata.com



John was born in Revelstoke BC.

He graduated from York University with a degree in Political Science in 1977. He graduated from Osgoode in 1980 and was called to the Bar in 1982. Upon graduation he established the law firm of Nunziata, Anand & Levy.

In 1978, while in 2nd year law, John was elected as an Alderman in the Borough of York and was re-elected in 1980.

On September 4, 1984 John was elected to the House of Commons as the MP for York South-Weston and re-elected three times, serving 16 years in Parliament.

On June 2, 1997 after leaving the Liberal Party over a matter of principal, John made political history by being elected as an independent MP.

Having practised in a small firm and as a sole practitioner for 35 years, I believe I have the experience in our profession to make a meaningful contribution to the Law Society.

At my stage in life and in my career, I have the time and desire to devote to the governance of our profession in the public interest and in the interest of my fellow lawyers.

My 20 years in elected office has provided me with the relationships to assist our profession in lobbying government and in particular, the provincial government. I have a personal relationship with the Premier, the Attorney General and many members of cabinet. In the result, I believe I would be able to assist to effectively lobby the Provincial Government for positive changes to the laws and regulations governing lawyers and paralegals in Ontario.

As well as serving on other committees, I would particularly be interested in serving on the Government and Public Affairs Committee

If I am honoured to be elected as a bencher, I believe that as well as having an obligation to help the Law Society to govern in the public interest I also have an obligation to represent my constituents, that is, the lawyers of Ontario. I have always believed that an elected official, whether a politician or bencher, has a duty to represent his or her constituents faithfully and completely. Toeing the party line is not always conducive to the essence of democracy.

Over the last number of months in anticipation of running for bencher, I have asked numerous lawyers for their thoughts about the Law Society. The responses were predominantly negative. I would like to help change that.

As a bencher, I would regularly consult with lawyers on significant matters dealt with by Convocation before casting my vote. I would also invite lawyers to contact me with their concerns regarding the Law Society, so I could apprise myself of ongoing issues.

As a bencher I would not hesitate to challenge the status quo and to be an active member of Convocation.

I would appreciate your vote.

Thank you.



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## Gina Papageorgiou

GPapageorgiou@lawfoundation.on.ca



Called to the Bar 1991

### CURRENT POSITIONS

- **Counsel: Class Proceedings Committee of the Law Foundation of Ontario**
- **Bencher: Law Society of Ontario**
- **Deputy Judge of the Small Claims Court**
- **Board Member: Ontario Justice Education Network**
- **Equity and Indigenous Affairs Committee: LSO**
- **Governance Task Force: LSO**
- **Professional Development and Competence Committee: LSO**

### PAST POSITIONS

- **Partner: McCarthy Tétrault**
- **Associate: Stikeman Elliott**
- **President: Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic**
- **Vice-Chair, Treasurer: Human Rights Legal Support Centre**
- **Assistant Crown Attorney**
- **Access to Justice Committee: LSO**
- **Adjudicator: LSO Tribunal**
- **Treasurer's Appointments Advisory Committee: LSO**
- **Sexual Harassment Investigator: York University**

I am running for re-election with a view to strengthening the legal profession and the public interest which it serves.

There is an access to justice crisis. Further, while the profession is more diverse, women, racialized, Indigenous, LGBTQ2S and other equity-seeking groups continue to face significant obstacles.

Opportunities for training and mentoring are increasingly difficult to find, as are jobs. The debt carried by law school graduates inhibits them from working for public law organizations, where salaries are typically lower, and makes it difficult for them to start their own practice. If they do, they must charge higher billable rates to service their debts. These circumstances undermine access to justice.

Other jurisdictions have lost the right to self-regulation due to loss of public confidence. Unless our profession addresses access to justice and reflects the diversity of the public it serves, we too risk losing the confidence of the public and the privilege of self-regulation.

These complex and interrelated issues are not easily addressed. Those who serve as Benchers require experience and a proven track record.

Over the twenty eight years since my call to the Bar, I have shown my commitment to diversity, equity, access to justice and the related public interest. In addition to working in private practice, I have been a Deputy Small Claims Court Judge and also led organizations that provide free legal services to marginalized and vulnerable groups.

As your Bencher, I have strongly advocated for improved LSO transparency, accountability and governance. I have also served on the Equity and Indigenous Affairs Committee which is working towards implementing recommendations made by the Racialized Lawyers Task Force and the Truth and Reconciliation Report, as well as evaluating and addressing concerns of women and other equity-seeking groups.

For more information on issues I have tackled and to which I am committed, please visit my website at [www.ginapapageorgiou.ca](http://www.ginapapageorgiou.ca).

I believe in hard work, thoughtful solutions, accountability and transparent communication with the entire community.

If re-elected, I will continue working on your behalf to strengthen the profession and the public interest.

Sincerely,

Gina Papageorgiou

@GPapageorgiou\_  
[www.GinaPapageorgiou.ca](http://www.GinaPapageorgiou.ca)



**Bencher**  
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## Pranav Patel

info@patellawoffice.ca



**Called to the Bar: 2011**

**In Private Practice**

**Believing in Truth Alone Triumph, Pranav is passionate about legal education, awareness, and access to justice rights. After achieving Commerce and Law degree from India, Pranav attended Osgoode Law School, and enrolled as a barrister and solicitor in Ontario. Pranav volunteered at global era of social, economic and professional development as a President Of Indo Canada Chamber Of Commerce, President Of Gujarat Public Affairs Council Of Canada, Vice President Canada India Global Forum, Chair Of School Council, Advisory Committee Member of Canada' Chief Negotiator on CEPA, Advisory Committee Member SCTMP LAC City of Toronto, HHM Planning Committee Member Toronto District School Board, International Advisory Council-Nirma University (Law2018) etc.**

As one of the younger candidates running in this election, I will bring a fresh voice for a large section of our profession that often does not have a voice. Young lawyers face particular challenges as they navigate the nuances of our profession and its ethical obligations. I am able to reflect on my own experiences as a young lawyer in providing guidance and assistance to those in need. In the beginning of my practice as a criminal lawyer, I felt every day the unique challenges that my clients face, often as a result of impossible situations. I have seen how a single mistake in judgment can lead to someone facing serious criminal charges. I know that lawyers who are facing discipline are often doing so as a result of similar circumstances. At present, I am more involved with soliciting work, which also gives me special insight into the challenges faced by individuals who are vulnerable to higher authoritative parties in the society. If elected, I will work to provide more and better resources to those who are struggling due to social and/or mental health issues. My Indo Canadian heritage has given me first-hand experience of the unique challenges faced by migrant lawyers. I will also passionately advocate in favour of reconciliation activities that the Law Society can undertake to ensure that voices of the new practising lawyer community are properly represented. My previous experiences as a president of Indo Canada Chamber of Commerce, committee member with city of Toronto and Toronto district school board will be an asset, which has given me a solid background in administrative area, and will be of assistance in policy frame work and disciplinary hearings. I believe in strong conviction in the Canadian values of volunteerism and giving back to the community. "Humanity is the soul of a true lawyer, and we provide a ray of hope." - Pranav Patel



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## Saidaltaf I. Patel

altaf@splawoffice.ca



Helping the profession and my community is of utmost importance to me. I believe in fairness, transparency and teamwork.

If elected, I would promote the following areas:

1. Promoting diversity and raising awareness.
2. Promoting awareness regarding Mental Health issues and creating programs to better equip lawyers dealing with stress and depression.
3. Promoting and creating programs to mentor new calls by developing a mentorship plan pairing lawyers so that we can be of value and help each other.
4. Working on equity initiatives to increase inclusion, focusing on women and minority lawyers.
5. Better screening of complaints to exclude frivolous and vexatious complaints

**My name is Saidaltaf Patel and I am first generation immigrant. I came to Canada with my young children in 2002. As a new immigrant, I worked several jobs prior to completing the qualifying process and being called to the Bar. This was a difficult process but I never gave up and the hard work paid off.**

**Prior to immigrating, I practiced law in India for several years. I have been an advocate for human rights and a big part of my practice involved Immigration law representing individuals who desperately required legal representation.**

**I feel privileged to be a part of this noble profession and would like an opportunity to be a bencher in Law Society of Ontario.**



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## Ryan J. Peck

peckr@lao.on.ca



Ryan Peck graduated from the University of Toronto, Faculty of Law in 2000, and was called to the Ontario Bar in 2002. Since 2007, he has been executive director of the HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario (HALCO), where he was an articling student and staff lawyer. Ryan worked at the Advocacy Centre for the Elderly and acted as tenant and criminal duty counsel. He was a member of the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General Poverty Law Advisory Committee (2009), and sits on the Legal Aid Ontario (LAO) Clinic Law Advisory Committee and Group Applications and Test Case Committee. Ryan was awarded the LAO Sidney B. Linden Award (2016) and Ontario AIDS Network Social Justice in HIV/AIDS Award (2017).

With the current crisis surrounding the lack of affordable legal services and consequent lack of access to justice in Ontario, it is essential that there are benchers who have experience in making access to justice a reality. With almost 20 years in legal aid settings, I am such a person. I understand what it is like to work in a small overworked office on a limited budget with highly dedicated staff but little administrative support, and everyday be required to find unique ways to provide services. While proper funding is foundational and as necessary as ever, innovative thinking and action must also be constants.

As executive director of the HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario (HALCO), I have led or been actively involved in the development of innovative legal programs and legal service delivery approaches, internally and through the Health Justice Program at St. Michael's Hospital (Toronto) and the TRANSforming Justice legal needs assessment for trans Ontarians. I have worked closely with other lawyers, private bar and legal aid, on routine matters as well as interventions at the Court of Appeal for Ontario and the Supreme Court of Canada. I have also delivered hundreds of legal education workshops.

Through such work, and through involvement with committees such as Legal Aid Ontario's Clinic Law Advisory Committee and the Ministry of the Attorney General's Poverty Law Advisory Committee, I have come to understand the patchwork quilt of legal services that exists for most Ontarians and have worked with various stakeholders to address access to justice challenges.

I am now eager to apply my experience to the role of bencher to support legal services for Ontarians of all means as well as lawyers who provide such services. I will advocate for additional legal aid funding, reduced training costs for lawyers in small firms or doing legal aid work, and funding for articling students for lawyers who do legal aid work.

Benchers play a vital role in fostering access to justice and I will bring deep knowledge and fresh ideas to the position.

Please consider voting for me.

Thank you,

Ryan Peck



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## Selwyn Pieters

selwyn@selwynpieters.com



- Sole practitioner, Pieters Law Office.
- Criminal, human rights, constitutional and social justice lawyer who has appeared at all levels of courts, including the Supreme Court of Canada.
- Recipient of several awards for human rights and social justice work.
- Successful litigant in the human rights case of Peel Law Association v. Pieters 2013 ONCA 396, which is now a leading case in the test for discrimination, social science evidence and other areas of human rights law.
- Volunteered with the LAWS (Law in Action Within Schools) and Black Law Students Association of Canada as a speaker and moot court judge.
- Provided pro-bono legal assistance to the Black Action Defence Committee and many other deserving organizations and individuals.

I am competent, committed, and collaborative advocate who is interested in serving as a Bencher in the interest of us members and in the public interest. I am interested in working on the following issues:

- 1) Lawyer wellness;
- 2) Keeping fees down for lawyers, student licensees, and law students
- 3) Access to Justice;
- 4) Supporting Legal Aid Ontario, Pro-Bono Law Ontario;
- 5) Human Rights, Equity and equality rights issues;
- 6) Legislative Review / Government relations;
- 7) Continuing Legal Education/Professional Development;
- 8) Regulatory issues inclusive of the Law Society Tribunal.

My legal work has always been conducted with strict adherence to the principles of societal equity, with the goal to nudge society further towards this ideal with every legal case. I understand the ethics and professionalism associated with the legal profession and this is consistently reflected in my approach to my work. Even in my personal life, I made the decision to go beyond fighting the injustices experienced by my clients, but to also seek redress when I myself suffer similar indignities, regardless of the consequences for seeking this reparation. I experienced first-hand the possibilities of the justice system in allowing for aggrieved persons to receive justice, when I made one decision to challenge the racially motivated treatment I experienced, which resulted in the Peel Law Association v. Pieters, 2013 ONCA 396 case.

At its core my work shows me as a fair, fearless person with immense integrity. I am for positive and transformational change at the Law Society of Ontario. It is for these reasons that I believe that I can be your voice as a Bencher.

For more information, visit <https://www.linkedin.com/in/selwyn-pieters-b-a-l-l-b-l-e-c-0b077a34/?originalSubdomain=ca> or email [selwyn@selwynpieters.com](mailto:selwyn@selwynpieters.com)



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## Lubomir Poliacik

lubomir.poliacik@Ceplaw.ca



**I practise civil litigation in Toronto in a 3-lawyer firm.**

**I am a member of the Ontario Trial Lawyers Association and the Toronto Lawyers Association.**

**I was called to the Bar in 1983.**

**LL.B. Windsor 1981**

**M.Sc. (Econ.) London School of Economics, 1978**

**B.A. University of Toronto 1977**

I was born and raised in communist Czechoslovakia. My parents, brothers and I left in 1969, leaving behind family, friends and employment because my father, a government functionary, was unwilling to publicly declare his support for the 1968 occupation by “the fraternal forces” of the Warsaw Pact and for the new regime and its “principles”.

The Law Society’s requirement of a Statement of Principles is abhorrent to me. To be clear, I am not opposed to diversity, but to the imposition of personal or political principles by our professional regulator on its members. Other members, who also support diversity, may not see the imposition of beliefs on all members as an erosion of their rights. My history makes me uniquely aware of the fundamental difference between encouraging laudable principles, and imposing them. My parents left everything they had to oppose the government’s imposition of required beliefs, and I will not betray their sacrifice by complying with the LSO’s directive.

I have therefore decided to run for bencher and join a slate of like-minded lawyers (<http://stopsop.ca/>) who object to the mandatory Statement of Principles.

We must also address the root problem which permitted this encroachment on individual rights. The LSO’s EDI initiative, which produced the compelled Statement of Principles, is a symptom of mission creep beyond its mandate of licensing and discipline. Democratically elected governments may quite properly regulate conduct that infringes on human rights, but even they would not compel citizens to state their agreement with mandatory principles.

Mission creep also results in an ever-expanding bureaucracy. The LSO’s 2019 budget calls for 619 full-time employees, with an average annual remuneration of \$113,758, and total expenditures of \$142,535,700. Comparatively, the LSO’s total expenditures for 2006 were \$66,486,000. The 2019 budget represents a greater than 100% increase in just 13 years, which clearly isn’t sustainable.

The Law Society must re-focus on its core responsibilities of licensing and discipline and should not embark on new initiatives without directly consulting its members. I would be privileged to help get the LSO back on the proper track of professional regulation that previously earned my respect.



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## Geoff Pollock

Geoff@geoffpollock.com



I am a proud husband, father, and Western graduate, but I am proudest of having served our country as a Canadian Army Reservist.

I was called in 2010 and previously came from a career in investment banking. I live in Toronto with my wife Evgeniya, and our three children, Daniel, Elizabeth, and Alexandra.

I have my own law firm, Geoff Pollock & Associates, where our team practices real estate, corporate law, wills & estates, and litigation.

Outside of work, I am an avid community volunteer and am passionate about public service. I have served on many boards, run in a federal election, and was a founding member of Haven Toronto's The Fortunate 500, a charity focused on homeless senior men.

See my full plan and bio at: [www.geoffpollock.ca](http://www.geoffpollock.ca), or call me at 416 777 0088 to share your ideas and ask any questions regarding my candidacy.

I am running because our society needs to focus more on empowering our members and less on its own perception and branding. We need to do more to ensure that the public receives top-quality service from new and existing lawyers. We need to spend less time and money on billboards and transit ads which do nothing to serve members or protect the public.

We need to let the outstanding work of our members speak for itself.

My campaign focuses on four principal areas:

1. Better Training for New Lawyers – I have spoken to many members, who agree that new lawyers are less and less equipped to handle the demands of practice. In addition, it has become more challenging for new graduates to find articles. If elected, I will explore solutions so that our law school graduates can hit the ground running.
2. Improve Support for Pro Bono Ontario – The biggest barrier to access to justice is the cost of retaining a lawyer. Our society must do more to ensure that those who cannot afford a lawyer can still access high-quality legal advice for a variety of matters. If elected, I will advocate for crediting CPD hours to members who volunteer their time with Pro Bono Ontario.
3. Prosecute Serious Ethical Breaches – As guardians of the profession, our society needs to focus less on prosecuting small errors, and more on behaviour that directly undermines the public's confidence in lawyers and other legal professionals.
4. Recognize Outstanding Lawyers – Our society needs to do more to celebrate the exceptional work of our members across the province. The best way to improve our society's image and the perception of lawyers is to shine a spotlight on the good community and charitable work of our members at all levels of practice. If elected, I will advocate for more ways to recognize and promote members of our profession across Ontario.



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## Yigal E. D. Rifkind

yigal@yigalrifkind.com



### A brief word about myself:

I was born in Hamilton, Ontario, but have lived most of my life in Toronto. I went to undergrad at York University, after studying for two years in Israel. I attended Osgoode Law School, and articulated for the firm Solomon Rothbart Goodman LLP, under Mel Solomon. I have worked as a sole practitioner for approximately 11 years, focusing primarily on real estate and mortgage transactions. I volunteer for a number of charitable endeavors, such as Laniado Hospital, the Jerusalem College of Technology, and I am currently president of my synagogue, Yavneh Tsion.

Over the last 15 years, I have become increasingly dismayed with the state of affairs, both within our own law society, and society at large.

In the play 'A Man For All Seasons', Sir Thomas More is being cross examined by the prosecutor. Sir Thomas More asks the prosecutor: "you would break the law to capture the devil?"

The prosecutor responds, "Break the law? I would cut down every law in Christendom", to which Sir Thomas More responds, "and when you have finally caught the devil and he turns against you, where would you go to for protection, having already cut down all the laws?"

Every day I see new public lynchings of individuals for statements that they say, or are implied to have thought. Our own Law Society demands that we make a diversity pledge to value diversity, not recognizing that this pledge, at times, infringes on certain inalienable rights of others. For example in the United States it seems that Chinese students, because they are over-represented in universities, face a more difficult time in getting admitted. All this is done in the name of diversity. This is not to say that diversity is a bad thing. It isn't. But to be so condescending, didactic, pretentious and self-righteous to demand that we sign a pledge affirming that our thinking is like your thinking strikes me as inherently improper. Even if I agree with the statement, the idea that I'm being policed on what I think is a truly revolting idea.

The role of the Law Society is to govern our profession and to engage in good works that benefit the members of our profession and the community at large.

In short, I speak for the lawyers who see the bureaucracy and inefficiencies of our society grow year after year. Each year we become more and more intolerant of different implied thoughts and words.



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## Sean Robichaud

sean@robichaudlaw.ca



### Education & Accreditations:

- Called to the bar in 2005
- B.A., LL.B. (Queen's), LL.M. (Osgoode)
- Certified Specialist in Criminal Litigation
- Legal Aid Ontario: criminal law panel, extremely serious cases panel, complex case rate.

### Professional:

- Lead Counsel / Founder to Robichaud's (2010)
- President, King Law Chambers Inc. (2010)
- Board of Directors, Legal Aid Ontario
- Host / Creator to Of Counsel podcast

### Organizations and Involvement:

- Advocates' Society (Member)
- OBA/CBA (Member)
- Criminal Lawyers' Association (Member, Past Director)
- Toronto Lawyers' Association
- York Regional Law Association

My vision for the Law Society is one that is younger, leaner, and louder.

Our Law Society must understand that the present course we are on is not sustainable or desirable as lawyers.

Regulations are overbearing. Costs of practice are excessive. Law school tuition is unconscionable. Recent calls are underrepresented. The public's awareness of our legal system, the Rule of Law, and role we play in society is dangerously ignorant.

All this needs to change, and soon.

It starts with your vote.

If elected Bencher, I hope to advance:

- Aggressive efforts to reduce licensing fees and efforts to audit wasteful and non-essential spending;
- Public education initiatives to increase awareness of lawyers' value in society;
- A "Recent Call" sub-category of Bencher;
- An enhanced licencing accreditation for specialized areas of practice;
- Increased adoption of modernized business practices and technologies;
- A reduction of excessive regulatory and marketing intrusions;
- Increased efforts with stakeholders to drastically reduce law school tuition;
- Aggressive prosecutions and sanctions for lawyers engaged in serious regulatory / criminal misconduct;
- Access to justice initiatives (but not funding through lawyers' fees);
- Measures to modernize our courts and delivery of justice in the province; and,
- Recalibrate, modernize, and reduce costs in articling, licencing, and mentorship of lawyers in the province.

My philosophy if elected Bencher:

Regardless of any specific issue, my approach is one prioritized by efficiency, austerity, and a willingness to challenge settled norms.

Fundamentally, this election is about the sustainability of our profession and the inclusion of voices who will inherit it.

Website: <https://robichaudlaw.ca>



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## Jonathan Rosenthal

jrosenthal@bondlaw.net



Called to the Bar 1989  
Criminal Lawyer, Sole Practitioner  
Bencher 2015-2019  
Adjunct Professor Osgoode Hall  
Fellow American College of Trial Lawyers  
McMurtry Visiting Clinical Fellow

### Some Endorsements

Paul Schabas  
Sheila Block  
Lori Anne Thomas  
Omar Ha-Redeye  
Alan Lenczner  
Brian Greenspan  
Frank Addario  
Brian Gover  
Ian Hull  
David Porter  
Julie Hannaford  
Evan Green  
Patrick Ducharme  
Lisa Borsook  
Brian Heller  
Janet Leiper  
Trevor Farrow  
William Kaplan  
Frank Gomberg  
Adam Wagman  
Teresa Donnelly

I have been practicing criminal law as a sole practitioner for almost 30 years. I have also been teaching trial advocacy to both lawyers and law students for 20 years. There are challenges facing our profession. My experiences as a litigator, teacher and sole practitioner give me the perspective and connection to all members of the bar, from recent calls to multi-decade practitioners, to serve you as a bencher.

**Diversity:** This incredibly important issue has proven very difficult for the LSO to solve. The solution does not lie in more studies to prove what we already know, but with the courage to take bold steps now to ensure a more diverse governing body.

**Advertising:** Hiring a lawyer is not like buying a big screen television. I was a member of the Advertising Fee Arrangements Issues Working Group. Our work was a good start. Our job is not nearly finished. I hope to continue the work.

**Education:** Education does not end at graduation. Alternatives to costly CPD to fulfill all CPD must be considered. I was a member of the Coach Advisory Network that granted all required CPD for participants.

**Discipline:** The formal discipline process should be reserved for cases in which the public is put at risk or the conduct brings our profession into disrepute. Alternatives such as ADR, mentoring and restorative justice should be used in other cases. As a member of the Proceedings Authorization Committee I helped streamline processes.

**Access to Justice:** The number of self-represented litigants is unacceptable. The LSO needs to continue taking a leadership role in solving this problem by both continuing to engage governments for better legal aid funding and working with the courts to develop procedures which specifically address the needs of self-represented litigants. Expansion of paralegals is NOT the solution.

I am hardworking, dedicated and energetic and would be honoured to continue to represent you at Convocation as I have for the past four years.

[www.jonathanrosenthal.ca](http://www.jonathanrosenthal.ca)



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## Caryma F. Sa'd

help@sadvocacy.com



Caryma Sa'd is a spunky young lawyer practicing in the areas of criminal and landlord/tenant law. She has a budding cannabis practice.

An educator at heart, Caryma is frequently called upon by the media as a trusted source for their news stories. Her cases and legal commentary have been featured by reputable media outlets including Associated Press, BNN Bloomberg, CBC, Canadian Lawyer, CityNews Toronto, CP24, CTV, Global Toronto, Globe and Mail, Law Times, Ming Pao, Sing Tao, StarMetro Vancouver, Toronto Star, and VICE News.

Caryma graduated cum laude from the University of Ottawa in 2015 and was called to the Bar in 2016. She hung out her shingle in 2017.

In her spare time, Caryma likes to watch professional wrestling.

### **Access to justice is about facilitating access to legal professionals.**

Aside from the price of legal services, access to justice includes ensuring that the makeup of the profession reflects the diversity of the clients and communities we serve.

Law schools have made moderate progress in diversifying student cohorts, but the skyrocketing cost of a legal education threatens to undo this headway. Additionally, excessive tuition fees affect the public's access to legal services. New lawyers are increasingly unable to consider work at affordable rates, or practice in areas that directly serve middle or lower-income clients. Changes to the licensing process have more than doubled in cost for new graduates over the last decade.

**There is no silver bullet.** It is easy to pay lip service to lofty ideals, but concrete and collective action is urgently required. The Law Society of Ontario should be at the forefront of helping lawyers and paralegals serve the public. We must maximize the value provided by local law libraries and deliver accessible and relevant CPD programs. Members should not be afraid to seek guidance on ethical questions or practice problems. Convocation should consider partnering with law schools, legal clinics, and community-based organizations to promote paid practicums that can count towards articling.

### **My platform is shaped by my lived experiences:**

- I struggle with depression, which derailed the formative stages of my career. I was very fortunate to receive support from a caring and well-resourced firm, but not everyone is as lucky. I will promote mental wellness initiatives, including examining strengths and weaknesses of the current Member Assistance Program.
- As a sole proprietor, I am familiar with the ongoing challenge of providing competent legal services while juggling financial obligations. I will advocate for improved small-business support.
- I spearheaded the #WhatsABencher #WhatDoBenchersDo social media campaign to elicit discussion about key issues facing Convocation. I will continue to push for platforms to amplify unheard voices.

If elected, I undertake to perform my duties thoughtfully and with care. I will show up prepared, participate in a meaningful way, and do my best to leave things better than I found them.

[www.sadvocacy.com/bencher2019](http://www.sadvocacy.com/bencher2019)



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## Mirilyn R. Sharp

msharp@blaney.com



### EDUCATION

Called to the Bar of Ontario 1987  
University of Toronto Law School LLB 1985  
York University 1979-1981, 2 yrs toward BFA

### PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

Partner Blaney McMurtry February 1993 to date  
Associate Blaney McMurtry 1987 to January 1993

### PRACTICE AREAS

Class Actions - 23 class actions in Ont, BC, and  
Sask, in lower Courts and Courts of Appeal  
Commercial & Insurance Litigation  
Coverage advice

### OTHER PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Chair OBA Class Actions Section Executive  
Committee  
Member CBA Civil Litigation Section Executive  
Committee  
Member OBA Council  
Member The Advocates' Society - Class Actions  
Group  
Co-Chair 10th Annual Class Action Colloquium  
December 2018  
Speaker OBA Institute February 2019  
Newsletter Editor OBA Class Actions Section  
Executive (2016-2018)  
Member-at-Large OBA Civil Litigation Section  
Executive (2016-2018)

I am running for Bencher as I believe I can have a positive impact on matters that are of importance to lawyers and the public at large. After practising law for over 30 years, while being a single mother to my three now grown children, I believe I can bring a valuable perspective to the Law Society and would welcome the opportunity to do so.

I am currently the Chair of the OBA Class Actions Section Executive Committee, having previously been the Newsletter Editor for the Class Actions Section for two years as well as a member-at-large for the Civil Litigation Section for two years. I take my responsibilities on the OBA Executive seriously, and have successfully engaged both the members of my committee as well as the members of our section in organizing and participating in various events including not only CPD events but also social events.

I have been involved in various policy initiatives over the years, most recently being an active contributor to the Law Commission of Ontario report on Class Actions, which is due to be released shortly.

As a class action litigator for the last 23 years, I am aware of and sensitive to the access to justice issues that permeate not just class actions but also the practice of law generally.

For many years I was actively involved in providing coverage advice to the Law Society in relation to lawyers who had been sued for their involvement in fraudulent real estate transactions, eventually preparing a list of 'red flags' which I understand are still used today. I believe this experience will serve me well in dealing with issues faced by LSO.

I have been a mentor to a young lawyer who I am happy to say is now an active member of the OBA as well as a hardworking lawyer practicing litigation in Toronto.

I look forward to serving the legal community as a Bencher with the same passion and dedication that I have demonstrated in my practice, in my role on the OBA Executive, and in my never ending role as a mother.



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## Robert Shawyer

robert@shawyerlaw.ca



**I am the founder of Shawyer Family Law & Mediation PC. My practice focuses on collaborative law, mediation and litigation.**

**Recently I graduated from the Rotman Independent Corporate Directors Not for Profit Governance Program. I currently sit as a public member of on the Council of the College of Dental Technologists of Ontario ("CDTO").**

**As a family law lawyer, I acted as counsel for two separate litigants who challenged the constitutionality of section 31 of Ontario's Family Law Act in Court and led to the wording of section 31 being amended on December 14, 2017. I am also one of only two lawyers, too challenge Ontario's adoption law that prevent biological parents from appealing an adoption in Ontario.**

If elected Bencher of the Law Society of Ontario my priorities over the next 4 years will be (1) the promotion of Pro Bono by the Bar and (2) Governance Reform.

In order to ensure Pro Bono Ontario's sustained and ongoing funding I will propose and support a motion that will see \$25 of each member's dues contributed towards PBO's annual Budget.

If elected I will propose and support the following reforms to Convocation.

**Smaller more Responsive Convocation** - A smaller Convocation intentionally structured to bring different perspectives, composed of members possessing the required governance competencies and provided with additional perspectives through feedback from Advisory Groups and stakeholder engagement.

**Appointment of Members of Convocation** - Members of Convocation selected based on having the competencies required to be a member of a Regulatory body. Doing this will ensure that all members are appointed to Convocation in the same way.

**Governance Boot Camp** – The creation of a mandatory "boot camp" for members of the bar interested in participating as a member of Convocation or the committees that will support Convocation will give those interested members an understanding of the voluntary roles they are considering and the requirements needed to serve.

**Appointments Process** – The creation of (1) a Nominating Committee and (2) a Governance Committee. The nominating committee will recommend appointments for directors and committee members who are not directors, and address succession planning for those roles. The Governance Committee made up of directors whose role is to support the board in remaining attentive to changes in governance, steer evaluation processes, support the board in identifying the competencies, and recommend the appointments of board and committee leadership.

**Member Engagement** - Engage members of the bar through governance mechanisms such as advisory groups, consultations and a more engaging quality assurance program instead of elections in which few members vote.

**Diversity** - An emerging practice in governance is advisory groups established by the board to bring different perspectives. The advisory groups report directly to the board. Appointment rather than election of board members supports diversity



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## E. Patrick Shea

Patrick.Shea@gowlingwlg.com



**Partner at Gowling. Commercial lawyer. Law Society Medalist and Certified Specialist. University Lecturer. LSO Tutor and Mentor. Published author. Proven leader with governance experience. Active and dedicated volunteer.**

**Member of OBA Council. Chair of the OBA Recognition and Leadership Development Committee. Member of CBA Sections Council and Chair of CBA and OBA Insolvency Sections. Co-Chair of American Bankruptcy Institute's International Committee.**

**Consultant to Governments of Jamaica and St Lucia. Vice-Chair of Business Law Advisory Council. Active in CBA and OBA law reform initiatives.**

**Member of Order of St John. Recipient of QEII Diamond Jubilee Medal, Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers and two Veterans Affairs Commendations.**

**Spearheading an initiative to have Canadian law students killed in WWI and WWII admitted to the profession.**

I practice commercial law at a Toronto firm, but maintain my working-class roots in a small Northern community. I was the first member of my family to attend university and served in the Canadian Forces Reserves to pay my tuition.

I believe that we have an obligation to give back. I am active with the OBA, the CBA and other organizations. I am Vice-Chair of a charity that raises money to support an Eye Hospital in the Middle East and funds a first aid program for Indigenous communities. I volunteer with a charity that provides micro-loans to entrepreneurs from disadvantaged communities and manages a \$1.5 million loan fund to permit immigrants to upgrade their credentials.

I have governance experience. I sit on multiple non-profit boards. I served on the board of a charity with a \$35+ million investment portfolio and \$17+ million in revenue, and as the sole director of a statutory corporation with \$50+ million in revenue.

I am concerned that the high cost of a legal education is a diversity and accessibility issue that must be addressed by the LSO. Access to the profession should not be available only to the wealthy or those willing to go into debt.

The LSO must be reflective of the profession. The voices of those stakeholders not adequately represented must be heard and Convocation must evolve quickly to reflect the profession in all respects. I support shorter terms and term limits for Benchers and believe that LSO Committees should include non-Benchers.

The LSO must ensure that lawyers are well trained and highly skilled. In the early years of practice, training and support is essential to enable lawyers to develop the skills and judgment necessary to become strong and capable practitioners. The LSO should engage and work with the OBA and local law associations to provide mentorship and training to practitioners in the early years of practice.

The LSO name change was the right thing, but rebranding and advertising is not the best use of LSO resources. LSO resources should be deployed supporting young practitioners, and on Pro Bono Ontario and access-to-justice.



**Bencher  
Election**

**Élection  
du Conseil  
2019**

## Chi-Kun Shi

cks@chikunshi.ca



**I am a civil litigator with an interest in intellectual property and have had my own practice in Toronto since 1994.**

**I obtained my LL.B. at the University of Toronto in 1989 and was called to the Ontario bar in 1991.**

**Following a summer training program in mediation at Harvard University, I acted as a mediator between 1997 and 2013 for the Ontario Mandatory Mediation Program and the Alternative Dispute Resolution Centre.**

**Prior to attending law school, I earned a Bachelor and Master of Applied Science and Engineering at U of T and worked as an engineer at Spar Aerospace and as a nuclear safety engineer at Ontario Hydro.**

**In addition to English, I speak Mandarin, Cantonese & Shanghainese.**

I am running to be a bencher at the Law Society of Ontario (“LSO”) because I am offended that the LSO is forcing us to choose between the privilege to practice law in Ontario and signing the Statement of Principles (“SOP”). If elected, I would like to see the mandatory nature of the SOP eliminated.

My background: I was born in Hong Kong to Chinese parents and emigrated to Canada in 1975 when I was 15 years old. I was called to the Bar in 1991. For more than 20 years, I have been a sole practitioner in civil litigation.

The Law Society’s requirement that we all sign a pledge to promote diversity, equality and inclusion is forced speech. Of all people, lawyers need freedom of expression as we are advocates for clients some of whom may hold viewpoints that are unpopular at certain particular times. We must have the freedom to express our views and that of our clients without fear in order for our system of rule of law to evolve and reflect the values of our society. It is not the place for the Law Society, or anyone else, to regulate, censor or compel speech. Furthermore, it is not the place of the Law Society to tell us what values we must promote.

At a more fundamental level, I cherish that we live in a society with guaranteed fundamental freedoms. As an ethnic minority and a woman, I am less threatened by anyone who vocally opposes diversity, equality and inclusion than by the loss of my freedom of expression.

Will you support me?



**Bencher**  
Election

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## Julia Shin Doi

julia.shindoi@ryerson.ca



General Counsel & Secretary Ryerson University,  
BA, JD, LL.M., CIC.C., ICD.D

Adjunct Professor, Osgoode Hall Law School,  
University of Toronto Faculty of Law

Instructor, Ryerson Law Practice Program

### LEGAL COMMUNITY

Executive, Women Lawyers Forum, Ontario Bar  
Association  
Coach, Coach and Advisor Network, Law Society  
of Ontario  
Chair, Lawyers for Possibility, Holland Bloorview  
Kids Rehabilitation Hospital  
Former Chair, Canadian Corporate Counsel  
Association  
Co-Founder, Korean Canadian Lawyers  
Association, Federation of Asian Canadian  
Lawyers, Women General Counsel Canada,  
General Counsel Chapter WLAO, RODA

### AWARDS

CCCA Award of Excellence (2017), Top 25 Most  
Influential (2017), WXN Top 100 (2014)

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

In-House: York University, Imax Corporation  
Private Practice: Gowling WLG, Borden & Elliot  
(BLG)

Called to the Bar, 1994

### VOICE FOR CORPORATE COUNSEL

I bring the corporate counsel perspective to Law Society decision-making. Corporate counsel work in complex multi-stakeholder environments in varying roles. In-house lawyers need a voice at the Law Society table to ensure their professional roles are respected.

### DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE

As a racialized lawyer, woman, working mother, and spouse of another busy legal professional, I understand the challenges faced by many. The Law Society should continue to foster equity, diversity, and inclusion so that the legal profession thrives, and access to justice is sustained.

### COMMUNITY BUILDER

I have a proven track record of building communities in the legal profession. I have founded many organizations to unite lawyers and support lawyers professionally. I am a co-founder and past president/chair of the Korean Canadian Lawyers Association, Federation of Asian Canadian Lawyers, Women General Counsel Canada, and many other professional groups.

### SKILLS AND SUPPORT

For many years, I have taught as an adjunct professor and also trained and mentored lawyers. I understand generational differences, the importance of workplace mental health and wellness, and advanced skills and support required for lawyers at all stages to succeed.

### BROAD EXPERIENCE FOR THE FUTURE

I have worked in private practice, the broader public sector, academia, and the legal clinic setting. I bring over 25 years of broad and varied professional legal experience in understanding the changing nature of the legal profession and the needs of clients and the public so that Law Society regulation and innovation make sense and help.

### GOVERNANCE EXPERTISE

I am a corporate governance expert with board experience. I understand the difference between oversight and management. I want to ensure that you have the independence that you require to manage and grow your practice.

**I would appreciate your vote. For further information, please contact me or visit my website [www.juliashindoi.com](http://www.juliashindoi.com). Thank you.**



**Bencher**  
Election

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## Megan Shortreed

megan.shortreed@paliareroland.com



I grew up in Waterloo, Ontario and became the first person in my family to go to law school. I spent the first five years of my career at a large, national law firm. In 2001, I left that safe harbor to start a small firm with a group of progressive and dedicated advocates.

I have been a leader, teacher and mentor in my firm and the profession. My involvement in legal and community organizations has allowed me to speak with an informed and motivated voice.

In 2008, I joined the Law Society's Justicia Project for the Retention of Women. I dug in, and took on a leadership role. That experience was a formative one and made me passionate about the role the Law Society can play to make a real difference in the way we practice law and protect the public. I believe the Law Society can do more to ensure lawyers are supported to meet the challenges of rapid technological and social change with competence. Small firms, sole practitioners, and young and racialized lawyers need the support of the Law Society to succeed. We must do better to address the additional barriers that many members of the profession face in both entry-to-practice and seeking equity and inclusion throughout their careers.

It is time for the Law Society to take a leadership role on the crisis in legal aid, by partnering with Legal Aid Ontario, the Law Foundation of Ontario, Pro Bono Law Ontario and others to address the access to justice needs of Ontarians.

A significant part of my practice is representing regulators and professionals in the professional regulation context. My approach is one of principled, fair and cost-effective governance.

For the last four years, I had the privilege of serving as a Director of The Advocates' Society. I had the opportunity to become engaged in the many challenges that confront our profession and the administration of justice, and to take steps to address those challenges. I believe I have more to contribute to the profession. I have the energy and enthusiasm needed to do so.

[www.meganforbencher.com](http://www.meganforbencher.com)

- Called to the Bar – 1997
- Partner, Paliare Roland
- LSUC, Justicia Project (2008-14):
  - Member of Steering Committee
  - Co-Chair – Medium Firms
  - Chair – Compensation for Parental Leaves Working Group
  - Chair – Flexible Work Arrangements Working Group
  - Chair – Leadership Working Group
- Director, The Advocates' Society (2014-18):
  - Diversity Task Force
  - Chair, Standing Committee on Advocacy and Practice
  - Vice-Chair, Education Committee
  - Nominating Committee
- Editorial Board, Commercial Litigation and Arbitration Review (LexisNexis)
- Identified in the peer reviewed lists of Lexpert, Best Lawyers, and Benchmark Litigation
- Member, The Advocates' Society, TLA and OBA
- Former Director, Homes First



**Bencher**  
Election

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## Darryl Singer

darryl@diamondlaw.ca



- Called to the Bar 1993
- Civil litigator experienced at all levels of court and tribunals in Ontario
- Has been primarily a sole practitioner, member of small firm, or principal of a firm
- Outspoken advocate for lawyers with mental health and addiction issues
- Peer volunteer with Members Assistance Program
- Regularly defends lawyers in LSO discipline matters
- Devotes 10-15% of his annual billable hours to pro-bono
- Board member- York Region Law Association
- Board member- Osgoode Alumni Assoc.
- Advocacy Committee member- TLA
- Author of 2 personal injury texts
- Adjunct professor at Osgoode
- Regular CPD speaker on advocacy and professional responsibly

### A voice for small firm and solo lawyers

For most of my 25 years in law, I was a sole practitioner, small firm lawyer or owned my own growing firm. I understand the unique challenges facing the majority of lawyers in the province. I have never had a guaranteed salary. I know what it's like to meet a payroll, deal with the LSO, hustle to get business, and do my own photocopying to meet a deadline. The realities of main street law throughout Ontario need to be represented with a strong voice at Convocation.

### A voice for wellness

After my own struggles with addiction and mental health, I have spent the last near-decade since my recovery speaking and writing about wellness issues in an attempt to shed light on a very real issue in our profession. The overwhelming majority of lawyers have struggled with something: addiction, depression, anxiety, financial stresses, marital strife, physical illness and external stressors. And yet the LSO has not changed the way it helps lawyers, nor considered the harm it does to them by heavy-handed discipline. I will lead the charge for a more progressive and humane LSO.

### Protecting lawyers

LSO needs to care as much about its members as it does about our clients. Its mandate to protect the public trumps any measure of protecting its own members. Most lawyers I have spoken to across the province tell me the LSO is not there for them, and they see LSO as an adversary. We need an LSO that supports lawyers to be the best that they can be; that recognizes the specific challenges affecting women lawyers and those from racialized and diverse backgrounds.

### Modernization

It's 2019 people!!! Why are we still faxing and photocopying? So many ways to modernize the courts, practice more efficiently, resolve the articling crisis, reduce tuition fees, and increase access to justice. LSO is a key influencer of government policy in this regard and I will work to ensure LSO's voice is heard at Queen's Park.



**Bencher**  
Election

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## Ian Speers

ian@speers-law.com



**Call to the Bar: 2009**  
Sole practitioner since 2014

**Professional Organizations**  
**Ontario Bar Association**  
Real Property Executive (2011-date)  
Chair, Real Property (2016-2018)  
Provincial Council (2016-date)

**Canadian Bar Association**  
Real Property Executive (2016-date)  
Secretary, Real Property (2018-date)

**Toronto Lawyers Association**  
Board Member (2018-date)

**Educational Experience**  
Law School Adjunct Faculty  
Queen's (2016-date)  
Osgoode Hall (2018-date)  
Law Clerk Adjunct Faculty  
Humber College (2018-date)  
**Professional Development**  
Chaired or co-chaired 12, and presented  
at 17 PDs since 2013.

As a sole practitioner in real estate law, I appreciate the challenges, stresses, and isolation that can be faced by colleagues in sole practice and small firms. Sole-and-small firms comprise the preponderance of the practicing bar, but this constituency is under-represented at Convocation, as are solicitors in general. I propose to provide an effective voice from these perspectives, to ensure that the regulator properly reflects and responds to the regulated.

My top priorities will focus on nuts-and-bolts aspects of professional governance, moving forward matters of a pragmatic nature that aim to help lawyers better serve the public. I am particularly concerned about areas where regulatory guidance has not kept pace with technology, and practitioners are left to develop ad hoc solutions. I welcome comment from lawyers in all fields of practice as to how specific regulation might be streamlined, formal guidelines clarified, or existing guidance made to better reflect modern realities, to help the profession provide more effective services to their clients.

I have demonstrated experience in governance and advocacy for the profession. I am currently serving my eighth consecutive term on the OBA Real Property Section executive, following two years as Chair (2016-2018). During my time as Chair, I worked closely with other stakeholders in successfully opposing proposed governmental over-reach into the solicitor-client relationship during the implementation of the Non-Resident Speculation Tax. I have been active in the design and delivery of CPD throughout my time at the OBA. I currently sit on the OBA Council, the Board of the Toronto Lawyers Association, and am Secretary of the CBA Real Property Section.

My background in real estate will add depth to discussions on topical issues of competence, fraud, and professional responsibility, and my experience in legal education will contribute to the LSO's mandate of furthering professional competence. As the LSO increasingly focuses on matters of ongoing quality assurance, these skills, particularly from the perspective of a sole-practitioner and solicitor, will provide valuable insight to guide these developing policies.

For further information, visit [www.ianforbencher.com](http://www.ianforbencher.com).



**Bencher**  
Election

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2019

## Maria Taverniti

maria.tvlaw@gmail.com



**I am proud to be a lawyer, wife and mother of five children.**

**I practice as a sole practitioner, primarily in the area of Civil Litigation in Toronto.**

**I articulated at Cariati Law Firm in 2013 and was called to the Bar in 2014.**

**Prior to going off on my own, I founded TAVERNITI | VASHISHTH LLB in 2014, and was a partner practicing personal injury law until 2018.**

**Outside of my legal profession, I own and manage a restaurant with my husband.**

I am a passionate advocate and if elected as a Bencher, I hope to use my valuable perspective to advance two important issues.

### Promoting Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

I recognize the challenges faced by women, minorities and LGBTQ lawyers. I have had opportunities, support and role models that were influential in helping me succeed as a lawyer. I believe that initiatives to advance equality, diversity and inclusion require all of these components, in order to empower women, minorities and LGBTQ lawyers to overcome the challenging barriers they face on a daily basis.

With your support, I hope to expand on the equity initiatives and policies in place by promoting and fostering peer leadership and peer mentoring programs to provide these additional resources for women, minorities and LGBTQ lawyers. As a Bencher, I will be committed to supporting equality, diversity and inclusion within all levels of the legal profession.

### Improving Access to Justice

The Law Society has been instrumental in implementing initiatives and policies to address the need to improve access to justice, however the law needs to be further improved to increase access to justice for all individuals. I hope to enhance the Law Society's work in this area by advancing initiatives that strengthen the capacity of all individuals to exercise their legal rights.

If elected, I will be committed to focusing on ways that support individuals that have limited English language skills, individuals with disabilities and self-represented litigants.

I would be honoured to have the opportunity to become a Bencher and play a vital role in creating and implementing judicial changes that will enforce equality and equal access to justice.



**Bencher**  
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## Sidney H. Troister

stroister@torkinmanes.com



Called to the Bar 1974  
Partner Torkin Manes LLP  
Bencher 2015-2019  
Awarded the Law Society Medal 2008  
Recipient OBA Award for Excellence in Real Estate Law 2000  
Mediator and Certified Arbitrator by ADR Institute of Ontario  
Named 2015 Toronto Real Estate Lawyer of the Year by Best Lawyers in Canada  
Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent Peer Review Rated  
Recognized in The Lexpert Guide to the 500 Leading Lawyers in Canada  
Author: The Law of Subdivision Control in Ontario  
Founding and Continuing Chair of the Law Society Annual Real Estate Law Summit  
Co-head Real Estate Section of Bar Admission Course 1990-2000  
Past OBA representative on Ministry task force on real estate and mortgage fraud

### Leadership, Experience, Common Sense, Critical Thinking

As a first term bencher, I have the privilege of serving on important committees including Professional Development, Equity, Governance, Entity Regulation, and the Solicitors Working Group. I am committed to the work of being a bencher and I have the time to do it. I am also not afraid to speak my mind in the interests of sound decision making. My record at Convocation proves it.

There are no easy answers to the many issues that affect the public interest and the future role of lawyers with which the Law Society is struggling. I have learned however, that as one of only a handful of bencher solicitors, and with a small firm history, I add experience, balance, and a different perspective to the decision making process. Regulating the profession requires diversity in all respects including the diversity of practice areas, practice size, and provincial regions. Convocation needs solicitors and solicitors who understand small firm practice.

The best solutions in any organization depend on the quality of the decision makers, their experience, their judgment, their common sense, their practicality, and their ability to think critically and creatively. My record as a lawyer, mediator, legal educator, arbitrator and bencher proves that I bring all of that to Convocation.

Some of Convocation's issues have put the Law Society's focus elsewhere than on what I regard as its priority mandate: to ensure the professional competence and integrity of our members. I believe in access to justice but before that, I believe in access to competence. We need to keep this priority front and centre.

To this end, our licensing process must produce competent and practice-ready lawyers. The law schools are not doing that. We need to ensure that young lawyers starting their own practices have the necessary practical competencies to serve the public well.

Ultimately, I believe that my best contribution is bringing smart, practical and balanced decision making to Convocation. I hope to continue to do so. To learn more about me, see my website at [www.sidforbencher.com](http://www.sidforbencher.com)



**Bencher  
Election**

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2019**

## Tanya Walker

tanya@tcwalkerlawyers.com



Dear Colleagues,

For three years as an elected Bencher, I have devoted myself to the work of the Law Society on behalf of the public interest by assisting with governing lawyers and paralegals. I ask for your support to continue that work.

On a professional note, practising law has been my passion for thirteen years, nine of which I have spent fashioning my own law firm with four lawyers and paralegals. We are attentive to our clients, involved in legal issues in this election and engage in public service. I bring this passion in seeking your vote to be re-elected as Bencher in this election.

If re-elected I will devote myself to the further refinement of existing issues and development of solutions for new matters as they arise.

**Technological Innovation, Efficiency and Preparation:** Expand the Law Society Technology Task Force mandate, develop plans and studies to expand and refine technology solutions to prepare for revolutionary changes in the interface between legal technology, the profession and the public with a view to increasing efficiency (i.e. e-filing and CourtCall) and enhancing lawyer-client service while avoiding difficulties such as breach of cybersecurity and privacy.

**Training and Mentorship for Junior Lawyers:** Promote and expand initiatives that offer mentorship opportunities for junior lawyers through education and a permanent mentorship committee at the Law Society.

**Fiscal Prudence:** I am committed to maintaining Law Society fees at the present level and identifying efficiencies in Law Society operations to accomplish that commitment.

**Diversity:** Diversity is a significant and important commitment of the Law Society and the lawyers of Ontario in service to the Ontario public. In the areas of service, recruitment and retention, I will continue that effort.

Read more about me and my campaign here:

[www.tcwalkerlawyers.com/bencher](http://www.tcwalkerlawyers.com/bencher)

- Called to the Bar, 2006
- Partner and Founder of Walker Law Professional Corporation, 2010
- Elected Bencher of the Law Society of Ontario, 2016
- Committees with the Law Society as an Elected Bencher
  - Audit & Finance Committee
  - Compliance-Based Entity Regulation Committee
  - Equity and Indigenous Affairs Committee
  - Adjudicator: Law Society Tribunal
  - Certified Specialist in Civil Litigation, 2018

#### Community- Television

- Regularly comments on legal issues for the public as an analyst on CTV, CBC and City TV

#### Awards and Achievements

- Expert Rising Stars Leading Lawyers Under 40, 2018
- Precedent Setter Award, 2016

#### Member

- Advocates Society
- Canadian Association of Black Lawyers
- Ontario Bar Association



**Bencher**  
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## Peter C. Wardle

PWardle@singleton.com



Associate Counsel, Singleton Urquhart Reynolds  
Vogel LLP  
LL.B. (Queens, 1984)  
Called to Bar 1986

### Activities:

- Lecturer, Advanced Civil Procedure, Queens University, 2003-2006
- Director, The Advocates' Society, 2001-2006
- Chair, Education Committee, The Advocates' Society, 2005-2006
- Guest Instructor, Osgoode Hall Law School Trial Advocacy Program
- Speaker, numerous CLE programs
- Published articles in Canadian Bar Review, Ottawa Law Journal, Canadian Business Law Journal and other publications
- Fellow, International Academy of Trial Lawyers
- Ranked in Lexpert, Best Lawyers and Chambers Canada in commercial litigation and professional liability

### Elected Bencher, 2011

- Chair, Compensation Fund, 2012-2014
- Co-Chair, Mentoring Task Force, 2013-2015
- Co-Chair, Audit & Finance, 2014-2016
- Chair, Professional Development & Competence, 2016-2019
- Member, Governance Task Force
- Adjudicator with Law Society Tribunal and Appeal Division

### Why I am Running for Re-Election

I am proud of my accomplishments as your representative over the past four years.

From 2014 to 2016 I co-chaired the Audit & Finance Committee and was responsible for presenting the Law Society's annual budget to Convocation. Since 2016 I have been the chair of the Professional Development & Competence Committee, which has overseen a complete review of our licensing process. I have also been an active participant in a Governance Task Force, reviewing how to make Convocation and our committee structure more efficient. I have chaired a Federation of Law Societies committee dealing with legal education. Finally, I have been a very active adjudicator and have written a large number of discipline decisions.

I am passionate about the work of the Law Society. If re-elected, I will continue to work hard on your behalf.

### Key Issues Facing the Law Society:

**Modernization and Relevance:** A new name and logo is not enough. The Law Society continues to struggle to modernize and be relevant to lawyers, paralegals and the public.

**Governance:** Although Convocation has enacted some reforms, we have a long way to go, in comparison to other regulators who have simplified their governance structure. I believe the size of Convocation (now 55 elected and appointed representatives) is simply too large.

**Licensing:** Recently Convocation adopted changes to articling designed to eliminate discriminatory and abusive practices. Our licensing system faces pressures caused in part by a growing number of international licensing candidates. We must do more to find a long-term solution.

**Regulation of the Professions:** Technology is one of the main drivers affecting regulation of our profession, affecting not only how lawyers practice, but also what legal services can be provided by non-lawyers.

**Support for New Lawyers:** The Law Society must do more to support newly called lawyers, particularly those in sole and small practice.

**Diversity:** Promoting diversity should continue to be a key priority. I support our efforts to end systemic discrimination in the legal profession, including the requirement that licensees adopt a Statement of Principles.



**Bencher**  
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## Nicholas dePencier Wright

[nick@wrightbusinesslaw.ca](mailto:nick@wrightbusinesslaw.ca)



Nicholas dePencier Wright is a certified specialist in corporate/commercial law and principal of Wright Business Law. He has extensive experience helping organizations structure, negotiate and finance their business strategies. Nick has been actively involved in politics and the not-for-profit sector for many years and is an advisor and board member for a number of organizations. He has frequently appeared in the media advocating for civil liberties and on matters of public policy. Nick holds Law and Masters of Business Administration degrees from Dalhousie University, a masters in tax law LLM from Osgoode Hall Law School and an Honours BA in Philosophy from King's College, Halifax.

#StopSOP - As your representative, Nick Wright will fight to cut law society fees, work to eliminate red tape and defend our profession's traditions and values.

### *Reduce Fees*

The law society's mission creep and resulting bloated budget have led to steadily increasing law society fees that will likely increase significantly in years to come. Nick will fight to cut the gravy to get the law society back on track and focused on its core competency – regulating the legal profession.

### *Eliminate Red Tape*

Good lawyers should be left to practise law. Unnecessarily onerous compliance requirements take up valuable time that is better spent serving the public. Nick will work to create efficiencies to reduce compliance time and burden without compromising high standards and public protection.

### *Defend our Traditions and Values*

Special interest groups have gained a foothold in Convocation. They seek to erase our history, mandate ideological training and implement discriminatory race and sex-based quotas. Nick will stand up to special interest groups to defend our profession's proud traditions and values. Nick is part of the #StopSOP slate to repeal bylaw 3.1, which sought to compel licensees to promote controversial political speech as a requirement to practise law. The bylaw is now before the Court at significant law society expense.

[Learn more at www.stopsop.ca](http://www.stopsop.ca)



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## Heather Zordel

hzordel@grllp.com



Having been elected to a Bencher position last year when another Bencher became a judge, I have been “learning the ropes” and I am finding Bencher work interesting and rewarding. Accordingly, I’m requesting your vote to re-elect me in 2019.

I am working in the public interest to ensure we, as Benchers in partnership with Law Society staff, (i) license individuals well qualified for general practice and chosen specialties; and (ii) ensure Ontario licensees receive good value for the fees you pay the Law Society. As a self-governing profession, we must also recognize and respect that the overwhelming majority of the profession govern themselves well as individuals.

The “industry” of law is evolving at an increasing pace, and it is hard to keep track of associated issues. We need your input as to where regulatory change is needed, not just on big picture issues, but also the little ones that take time away from your working day or cause you to incur unnecessary expenses. We all complain about such annoyances over coffee or in written submissions, and forget about them until we realize they have never been addressed and have gotten lost, and start again in the next round of consultations. I propose to focus attention on simple record-keeping and then a database to keep track of your concerns, issues and ideas for solutions, so the Law Society can address them in an organized fashion as we move forward with Convocation, staff, processes and technology.

Please visit my Linked-In profile at

[www.linkedin.com/in/heather-zordel-08813818/](http://www.linkedin.com/in/heather-zordel-08813818/)

and my website at <http://heatherzordel.ca>.

- **Bencher since January 2018; member of Audit & Finance and Government & Public Affairs Committees, Compliance-Based Entity Regulation Task Force**
- **Part-time Adjudicator, Law Society Tribunal**
- **Partner, Gardiner Roberts LLP in Toronto with focus on corporate finance, securities regulatory compliance and corporate governance**
- **Co-Director, Osgoode LL.M. in Securities Law**
- **Board & Audit Committee Member, Toronto Hydro Corporation**
- **Board & Audit Committee Member, LawPro**
- **Board Member, Condominium Authority of ON**
- **Member, WLAO**
- **B.Comm., U of Sask. 1986**
- **LL.B./J.D. 1987 and LL.M. 1998 Osgoode Hall Law School**

**Vote**

**The deadline for voting  
is April 30, 2019 at 5:00  
p.m. EDT.**

**Votez**

**La date limite pour  
voter est le 30 avril  
2019 à 17 h HAE.**



**Law Society**  
of Ontario

**Barreau**  
de l'Ontario