

# Voting Guide for Lawyers

Voting closes April 28, 2023 at 5 p.m. EDT.

# Guide électoral - avocats

Le vote se termine le 28 avril 2023 à 17 h HAE.



**Law Society**  
of Ontario

**Barreau**  
de l'Ontario

Voting information - 3

Procédure électorale - 7

List of candidates by Region - 11

Liste des candidat(e)s par région - 11

Candidates from Outside Toronto - 13

Candidat(e)s de l'extérieur de Toronto - 13

Candidates from Inside Toronto - 65

Candidat(e)s de Toronto - 65

# Voting information

## Conduct of election

The 2023 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 a unique personal voter identification number, called a control number, to every eligible voter. Only Computershare knows the numbers assigned to eligible voters. The control number is required to access the online voting system and the telephone voting system.

The control number and information on how to access the online voting site will be posted to each eligible voter's Law Society Portal account by April 19, 2023 which is the date voting is scheduled to open. Computershare will also send voting information by email to all eligible voters at the time voting opens on April 19, 2023.

Eligible voters who do not receive their control number must contact Computershare at 1-888-344-2805 (toll-free) or 514-982-2391 if outside Canada or the United States, Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m EDT. Voters will be asked to provide their Law Society licensee number and other personal identifiers to receive their control number.

## Eligible voters

People who, on April 12, 2023, are lawyer licensees of the Law Society and whose licence has not been suspended are eligible to vote in the bencher election for lawyer candidates.

## Candidate information

This Voting Guide provides voters with information about the candidates running in the bencher election. The candidates prepare and provide their biographies 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 of 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.

## 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 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 City of Ottawa.
- **Central East Electoral Region (CE)** - composed of the District Municipality of Muskoka, the counties of Haliburton, Northumberland, Peterborough and Simcoe, the City of Kawartha Lakes, 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 counties of Brant, Haldimand and Norfolk, the regional municipalities of Niagara and Waterloo, and the City of Hamilton.
- **Southwest Electoral Region (SW)** - composed of the counties of Elgin, Essex, Huron, Lambton, Middlesex, Oxford and Perth, and the Municipality of Chatham-Kent.

For candidates outside Toronto, the candidate's region is identified on the ballot by a notation after the candidate's name. A list of the candidates from each region is included in the Voting Guide.

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 of Toronto who receive the most votes from all voters and the 19 candidates from inside Toronto who receive the most votes from all voters.

## Casting and counting votes

Voters can cast 40 votes in total – 20 votes for candidates inside Toronto and 20 votes for candidates outside of Toronto. The ballot is separated into two sections. One section lists candidates from inside Toronto. The other section lists candidates from outside of Toronto.

### 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 to access the voting site. 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 voting system will not permit voters to vote for more than 20 candidates in the section of the ballot for inside Toronto and 20 candidates in the section of the ballot for outside of Toronto. Voters do not need to cast all 20 votes in each section of the ballot. It is possible to submit a ballot with no candidates selected.

Once voters have made their selections from both the outside of, and inside Toronto candidates, and click the "submit" button, voters will be prompted to review their selections and make any changes prior to final submission of their votes. Once the votes are submitted, voters will receive a confirmation message that their votes have been submitted.

Voters may only vote for a candidate once. Voters can submit their votes only once.

### Voting by telephone

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 or say their control number to access the voting system.

The first voting prompt is for the ballot for outside of Toronto candidates. The second prompt is for the ballot for inside Toronto candidates.

Voters will be prompted to select the candidates of their choice first for outside of Toronto by entering or saying the two-digit numeric code appearing beside each candidate's name in the Voting Guide. This process is then repeated for inside Toronto candidates.

The voting system will not permit voters to vote for more than 20 candidates in the section of the ballot for inside Toronto and 20 candidates in the section of the ballot for outside of Toronto. Voters do not need to cast all 20 votes in each section of the ballot. It is possible to submit a ballot with no candidates selected.

Once voters have finished selecting both the inside and outside of Toronto candidates, the system will review their selections and ask voters to confirm them before recording the votes.

Voters may only vote for a candidate once. Voters can submit their votes only once.

#### Voting deadline

The deadline for voting is April 28, 2023 at 5 p.m. EDT. The online and telephone voting systems will shut down at precisely 5 p.m. EDT on April 28, 2023.

#### Counting votes and announcement of results

Counting of votes will be completed after 5 p.m. EDT on April 28, 2023.

The election results will be announced on May 1, 2023 by news release and on the Law Society's website [LSO.ca](https://lso.ca) following the completion of the counting and tabulation of votes.

#### Voting assistance

If you are an eligible voter and do not have your control number and 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 (toll-free) or 514-982-2391 if outside Canada or the United States, Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. EDT. It closes at 5 p.m. EDT on April 28, 2023.

#### Contact Us

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

# Procédure électorale

## Tenue de l'élection

L'élection du Conseil de 2023 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

Le vote est secret. Computershare assignera au hasard des numéros d'identification personnelle, appelés numéros de contrôle, à chaque électeur ou électrice admissible. Seul Computershare connaît ces numéros. Le numéro de contrôle est requis pour accéder au site de vote en ligne et au système de vote par téléphone.

Le numéro de contrôle et l'information pour accéder au site de vote en ligne seront affichés dans le compte du portail du Barreau de chaque électeur ou électrice admissible avant le 19 avril 2023, date à laquelle le vote doit commencer. Computershare enverra également des consignes pour voter par courriel à tous les électeurs et électrices admissibles dès l'ouverture du vote le 19 avril 2023.

Les électeurs et électrices qui ne reçoivent pas leur numéro de contrôle doivent contacter Computershare sans frais au 1 888 344-2805 ou, si à l'extérieur du Canada et des États-Unis, au 514 982-2391, du lundi au vendredi de 8 h 30 à 20 h HE. On demandera aux électeurs et électrices de produire leur matricule de titulaire de permis et autres identificateurs personnels pour recevoir leur numéro de contrôle.

## Admissibilité

Les personnes qui sont, le 12 avril 2023, titulaires de permis d'avocat du Barreau et dont le permis n'est pas suspendu peuvent voter pour des avocats.

## 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 envoient une biographie 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 dans le guide, avec des liens menant à leurs pages.

## 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 :

- **Région électorale de 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 (E)** – formée des comtés de Frontenac, Hastings, Lanark, Lennox et Addington, Prince Edward et Renfrew, des comtés unis de Leeds et Grenville, Prescott-Russell et Stormont, Dundas et Glengarry et de la ville d'Ottawa.
- **Région électorale du Centre-Est (CE)** – formée de la municipalité de district de Muskoka, des comtés de Haliburton, Northumberland, Peterborough et Simcoe, Kawartha Lakes 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, Haldimand et Norfolk, des municipalités régionales de Niagara et Waterloo, et de la ville d'Hamilton.
- **Région électorale du Sud-Ouest (SO)** – formée des comtés de Elgin, Essex, Huron, Lambton, Middlesex, Oxford et Perth et de la municipalité de Chatham-Kent.



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. Une liste des candidats de chaque région est incluse dans le guide électoral.

Dans chaque région, le candidat ou la candidate ayant recueilli le plus grand nombre de voix dans 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.

### 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 bulletin est divisé en deux sections. La première contient la liste des candidats de Toronto. L'autre contient la liste des candidats de l'extérieur de Toronto.

#### Vote en ligne

Pour voter en ligne, les électeurs et électrices se rendront sur le site électoral de 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 case à côté de leur nom. Le système ne permettra pas de voter pour plus de 20 candidats ou candidates de Toronto ou pour plus de 20 candidats ou candidates de l'extérieur de Toronto. Il n'est pas obligatoire de voter pour 20 candidats sur le bulletin et il est possible de soumettre un bulletin de vote sans inscription.

Une fois que les électeurs ont terminé leur choix de candidats, ils et elles doivent cliquer sur le bouton « Envoyer ». On leur demandera alors de revoir leur sélection et de faire des changements s'ils le désirent avant la soumission finale de leurs votes, après quoi, ils recevront un message de confirmation de l'envoi de leur vote.

Il n'est permis de voter qu'une fois pour un candidat et d'envoyer son bulletin qu'une fois.

#### Vote par téléphone

Pour voter par téléphone, les électeurs et électrices doivent appeler le numéro dédié à l'élection, soit le 1 866 301-0994 (sans frais) ou le 514 982-8712, si à l'extérieur de l'Amérique du Nord. Une fois connectés, on leur demandera de saisir leur numéro de contrôle pour accéder au système de vote.

Le premier message concerne le bulletin pour les candidats de l'extérieur de Toronto. Le second message concerne le bulletin pour les candidats de Toronto.

Les électeurs devront d'abord choisir les candidats de l'extérieur de Toronto 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 les candidats de Toronto.

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. Il n'est pas obligatoire de voter pour 20 candidats sur le bulletin et il est possible de soumettre un bulletin de vote sans inscription.

Quand les électeurs auront fait leur choix de candidats tant à Toronto qu'à l'extérieur de Toronto, le système leur demandera de confirmer avant d'enregistrer leurs votes.

Il n'est permis de voter qu'une fois pour un candidat et d'envoyer son bulletin qu'une fois.

#### Dates limites pour voter

La date limite pour voter est le 28 avril 2023 à 17 h HE. Les systèmes de vote en ligne et par téléphone fermeront à exactement 17 h HE le 28 avril 2023.

#### Décompte des votes et annonce des résultats

Le décompte des votes commencera après 17 h HE le 28 avril 2023.

Les résultats seront annoncés le 1<sup>er</sup> mai 2023 par communiqué, dans les réseaux sociaux du Barreau et sur son site Web [LSO.ca](https://www.lso.ca) une fois que les votes auront été comptés.

#### Assistance pour voter

Si vous êtes un électeur admissible et que vous n'avez pas votre numéro de contrôle ni 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 au 1 888 344-2805, ou au 514 982-2391, si à l'extérieur du Canada ou des États-Unis, du lundi au vendredi de 8 h 30 à 20 h HE.

La ligne d'aide ferme à 17 h HE le 28 avril 2023.

#### Pour communiquer avec nous

Pour plus de renseignements, veuillez contacter le Barreau au 416 947-3404, 1 877 947-3404 ou à [bencherelection@lso.ca](mailto:bencherelection@lso.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

### Northwest / Nord-Ouest

- 02. Ryan Alford
- 16. Etienne Esquega
- 39. Cheryl C. M. Siran

### Northeast / Nord-Est

- 05. Daly Canie
- 28. Joelle Malette
- 43. Serge F. Treherne

### East / Est

- 03. Jacqueline Y. Beckles
- 09. Neha Chugh
- 13. Jean-Jacques Desgranges
- 23. Mitchell Kitagawa
- 24. Cheryl Lean
- 26. Andrej Litvinjenko
- 27. Cecil Lyon
- 31. Sonia Ouellet
- 35. Natalia U. Rodriguez
- 38. Stéphane Sérafin
- 44. Douglas Treilhard
- 46. M. Anne Vespry

### Central East / Centre-Est

- 01. Russell Alexander
- 08. Edward Choi
- 12. Arwa DeSantis
- 14.. Horatiu Druma-Strugariu
- 47. Kathryn Whitehead
- 48. Alexander David Wilkes

### Central West/ Centre-Ouest

- 10. Hogarth Clauzel
- 17. Jennifer Gold
- 18. Gary D. Graham
- 19. Mian Hakeem
- 29. Cathi Mietkiewicz
- 34. Brian L. Prill
- 45. Sunish Rai Uppal

### Central South / Centre-Sud

- 11. Winfield Corcoran
- 15. Laura L. Emmett
- 25. Michael LeSage
- 32. Grace Pang
- 33. Trevor Parry
- 40. Andrew Spurgeon
- 41. David Steele
- 42. Stephanie L. Sutherland
- 51. Michael Winward

### Southwest / Sud-Ouest

- 04. Lisa D.S. Bilyd
- 06. Rod Catford
- 07. Gerard Charette
- 20. Jacqueline Horvat
- 21. Karen Hulan
- 22. Jasminka Kalajdzic
- 30. Greg Monforton
- 36. Kevin L. Ross
- 37. Quinn Ross
- 49. Michael Wills
- 50. Matthew Wilson

# 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.

---

## Toronto Candidates / Candidats de Toronto

01. Robert Adourian	21. Pam Hrick	41. Jonathan Rosenthal
02. Sean Aylward	22. Kathryn (Kara) Johnson	42. Stephen Rotstein
03. Steven Benmor	23. Murray Klippenstein	43. Elliot P. Saccucci
04. Avy J. Ben-zvi	24. Shalini Konanur	44. Caryma Sa'd
05. Charles Boulakia	25. Howard A. Levitt	45. Chi-Kun Shi
06. D. Jared Brown	26. Atrisha Lewis	46. Julia Shin Doi
07. John Callaghan	27. William C. McDowell	47. Megan E. Shortreed
08. Gerald Chan	28. Isfhan Merali	48. Mark Surchin
09. Joseph Chiummiento	29. Jonathan Miller	49. Pamela-Jane Taylor
10. Michael Cochrane	30. David Milosevic	50. Sidney H. Troister
11. Antoine Collins	31. Mark Jacob Morris	51. Margaret L. Waddell
12. Barry Corbin	32. Jonathan Odumeru	52. Tanya Walker
13. Rebecca C. Durcan	33. Angela Ogang	53. Peter C. Wardle
14. Annamaria Enenajor	34. Mark Persaud	
15. Jeremy Glick	35. Jorge Pineda	
16. Sam Goldstein	36. Lubomir Poliacik	
17. Heather L. Hansen	37. Geoff Pollock	
18. Sukhi Hansra	38. Mark Quail	
19. Sayeh Hassan	39. Maxwell Radway	
20. Philip Horgan	40. Catherine Rhineland	

Candidates from  
outside Toronto

Candidat(e)s de  
l'extérieur de Toronto



**Russell Alexander**

ria@russellalexander.com

**Central  
East**

**Russell is the founder of Russell Alexander Collaborative Family Lawyers and the firm's senior partner. In addition to helping clients with separation, divorce, custody and support issues, he oversees the operations of all seven of the firm's offices and collaborates frequently with the firm's associate lawyers and their own clients.**

**Russell has written three books on separation and divorce and is a fully trained collaborative practice lawyer. He speaks at conferences on collaborative practice, marketing, technology and the law. He is a faculty member of the American Bar Association TECHSHOW and has spoken at several conferences in Seattle, Chicago and Toronto.**

Through my practice, community service, speaking engagements, and other work in the legal profession, my goal has been to educate and inform my peers and the public. I believe that the public has a right to be informed and as such make educated decisions about their legal representation.

I believe the public has a right to quality legal representation and as a Bencher, my goal would be to uphold the LSO's duty to protect public interest and access to justice in an open and efficient manner.

My focus as a bencher would be to:

- Improve access to justice with presumptively remote court hearings
- Create more opportunities for Indigenous, Black and racialized lawyers in the legal profession.
- Increase public awareness of collaborative practice and other ADR methods

In addition, I would advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion in legal workplaces; support innovation through education; advocate for the use of new technologies in law practice; promote cooperation between lawyers/law firms/other organizations; support young lawyers; support women's issues and promote pro bono work among lawyers.



**Ryan Alford**[ralford@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:ralford@lakeheadu.ca)**Northwest**

**I am a full professor at the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law in Thunder Bay. Currently, I teach Constitutional Law and Professional Responsibility; I have taught Administrative Law and seminars on the rule of law.**

**I recently brought the first successful constitutional challenge to an illicit amendment of the Constitution of Canada: *Alford v. Canada*, 2022 ONSC 2911. I was also proud to be the applicant in the challenge to the Law Society's statement of principles requirement, which was made mooted by Convocation's repeal after my election.**

**Additionally, I was granted standing as a party by the Public Order Emergency Commission, and I was invited to make submissions to the Special Joint Committee on the Declaration of the Emergency.**

The Law Society of Ontario generates roughly seventy million dollars a year from the mandatory fees it charges lawyers to fund its operating expenses. It is time for lawyers and members of public to either receive their money's worth, or to cut these fees significantly; dogma is not a good enough reason for an increasingly heavy-handed legal regulator.

Whenever I have asked whether it is possible to identify ways to cut costs, the response has been that this would require cutting essential programs —as if we run at maximum efficiency. During the pandemic, many lawyers had to cut their practices down to the bone, while the Law Society doesn't even trim its fat.

More than once, I have suggested that business consultants be brought into the Law Society. I did not receive a positive response from its executives, regardless of the forum. Outsourcing and redundancies are simply inconceivable. Conversely, proposals for new regulations that impose heavier burdens of time, money, and ideological compliance on solo and small practices are greeted warmly. While it seems as if the independent bar is increasingly at risk of a death by a thousand cuts, requests for cost-benefit evaluation for these new measures have been rejected; concerns about Charter compliance of intrusive and dogmatic measures must also be taken more seriously. It's time for change.

**Jacqueline Y. Beckles****East**[jbeckles@justice.gc.ca](mailto:jbeckles@justice.gc.ca)**Jacqueline Beckles, B.A., LL.L, LL.B.**

- General Counsel with the Department of Justice Canada, practising International Criminal Law (Mutual Legal Assistance and Extradition);
- Graduate of Ottawa U, National Program;
- Current co-Chair of the LSO Equity Advisory Group (2nd term);
- Served on the executive of the Canadian Association of Black Lawyers (past President and Secretary);
- Vice President of CABL Ottawa Chapter;
- OBA (Member-at-Large of Criminal Justice Section; member of the Institute Committee, Equality Committee and Women Lawyer's Forum);
- CBA (Member-at-Large of the Criminal Justice Section),
- Member of the Advocates' Society.
- Taught Procedure in Summary Conviction Matters (Criminal) (Paralegal Studies) at Algonquin College for 13 years

I would like to serve you as Bencher. We all have a role to play in shaping our environments, whether through active service, such as leading organizations, or passive service, such as the simple act of voting, or making donations.

**Community Service:** I demonstrate my commitment to community service through serving on boards of organizations, such as parent council at my son's school, and my Tae Kwon Do dojang, where I assisted in the development of a diversion program. I have served as an executive member of the Canadian Association of Black Lawyers, and currently sit on committees with the OBA, CBA and LSO. The time commitment involved is often significant, but rewarding and fulfilling. I bring this passion to the role as Bencher.

**EDI:** I am committed to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. I am a founder and member of the Black Employees' Network of the Department of Justice Canada, and currently co-Chair of the Equity Advisory Group of the LSO. The work that I do in this space can be challenging and complex. I am committed to learning from and collaborating with others. I would bring this commitment to the role as bencher.

**Experience across sectors:** I started my legal career as a paralegal in Montreal; completed the French National Program at Ottawa U. La réalité des avocats francophones dans la province d'Ontario ne m'échappe pas. I started practising in a mid-sized firm in Ottawa, and faced the challenge of living off legal aid certificates. I left private practice when I chose to start a family. I was a member of the Women's Equality Advisory Group, which addressed the issue of retention of women in private practice. I made the transition to government, and have been with the federal public service for almost 14 years. Finally, I taught for over 10 years in the paralegal program at Algonquin College.

Given my range of experience across sectors, I have the facility of understanding the challenges faced by lawyers at different stages of their careers that comes from lived experience.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the profession.





## Lisa D.S. Bildy

[bildy@libertaslaw.ca](mailto:bildy@libertaslaw.ca)

Southwest

**Lisa graduated from Western law school in 1993. She was an experienced trial lawyer with a small litigation firm before taking an unanticipated hiatus to raise her sons. On gearing up for a return to full-time practice, she learned of the compelled Statement of Principles. Believing it was not for a regulator to dictate lawyers' personal principles, she spearheaded the StopSOP campaign to elect a slate of benchers committed to repealing the SOP. Her practice now focuses on "defending the little guy" and fighting against the erosion of fundamental freedoms in Canada.**

**Lisa is honoured to sit on the Board of Advisors for FAIR (Foundation Against Intolerance and Racism) and on the Board of Scholars for The Ideas Institute.**

Over the last decade, professional regulators and other public institutions have become captured by illiberal activists, and those who enable or fear them. Some have (mis)used their statutory powers to dictate what is acceptable for others to think, say, and believe, and to punish those with heterodox opinions. My practice is serving increasing numbers of people who have been "cancelled" or disciplined for wrongthink, whether on cultural issues or Covid. As the stranglehold grows, independent-minded people who might remedy this are discouraged from governance roles through the use of "codes of conduct" (which are invariably applied unevenly), ideological litmus tests (like EDI statements), and public shaming or ostracization.

These are disturbing trends for any profession, but especially dangerous for lawyers. Independence of the bar is an essential cornerstone of the rule of law. Lawyers must be able to vigorously defend their clients and are the last line of defence against powerful state actors.

When the public loses trust in the ability of institutions to be neutral, fair, and evidence-based, our "free and democratic society" is exposed as fragile and vulnerable. That is where we are. We must turn this ship around—if we can.

My goal in this election is to restore the LSO to its proper role by:

- i) ensuring it functions within the limits of its statutory mandate;
- ii) preventing it from being weaponized to enforce professional obeisance to "woke" dogma or any other ideology; and
- iii) demonstrating that being a bencher is not an entitlement for establishment lawyers, nor a ceremonial rubber stamp for a ballooning bureaucracy. Serving as a bencher requires humility and respect for how members' dues are spent, and for the impact of unnecessary red tape.

To these ends, questions will be asked, evidence will be sought, debate will be had (even amongst #FullStop lawyers), collegiality and professionalism will be demonstrated, and hard work will be done to restore the LSO to its proper role as a neutral regulator.

Then, and only then, can we be confident in retaining the privilege of self-governance.



Law Society  
of Ontario

Barreau  
de l'Ontario

Bencher  
Election

Élection  
du Conseil



## Daly Canie

daly@mclawyers.ca

Northeast

**Born and raised in Northern Ontario, I received a B.A. in History from McGill University and a J.D. from Queen's University.**

**I returned home to the North, and since my call to the Bar in 2018, have maintained a civil litigation practice with a focus on personal injury/insurance and employment law.**

**I am the current president of the Cochrane Law Association and a member of the Ontario Trial Lawyers Association.**

**Outside of law you can find me spending time with family and enjoying the outdoors: golfing, hunting and snowshoeing.**

Historically, the role of the Law Society was to ensure ethical practice and the competence of licensees. The Law Society's reach has expanded well beyond this original mandate, with the predictable result of increased inefficiency, increased fees, and less transparency. The adverse costs of the Law Society's mission creep and lack of fiscal restraint are disproportionately felt by new licensees and those licensees in solo/small firm practice.

The Law Society has also attracted those determined to use the Law Society to enforce certain beliefs and ideologies on the membership. This should be a concern to all members, particularly those who may come to find themselves holding views deemed "unacceptable" by a small group of Law Society gatekeepers. This is part of a larger and worrying trend of professional regulators enforcing ideological compliance on their members.

The previous bencher election ushered in an unprecedentedly diverse group of individuals who have worked tirelessly in support of fiscal restraint, lower fees, and ideological pluralism. We must continue this work. It is essential that the Law Society fairly and neutrally govern all members, and not preference the large firms, the establishment, and those individuals holding certain political or ideological beliefs.

**Rod Catford**

rodcattford@gmail.com

**Southwest****Rod Catford, B.A., B.Ed, LLB. Called to the bar of Ontario, 1991:****Practice areas have included child protection, Immigration and Refugee and some limited exposure to civil litigation and federal prosecutions;****Significant representation of Children's Aid Societies, both as outside counsel and seven years as in house counsel to the Windsor-Essex Children's Aid Society;****Staff lawyer at Legal Assistance of Windsor, then Community Legal Clinic, Orillia;****Now a sole practitioner representing parents in child protection cases in the Sarnia-Lambton jurisdiction;****Chair of the Organization of Children's Aid Lawyers for a number of years (mid 1990s); Board of Leone Residence for Women 1992-2007; past member of Amnesty International for a period of about 10 years.****Fellow Members:**

The Law Society must improve its relations with the membership. It is mandated to be transparent but it must become more responsive as well. In defending the Law Society's lack of connection to the membership, some respond that the Law Society's duty is not to the membership, but to the public. However those responsibilities are not antagonistic.

**My primary objectives:**

1. Implementation of a "Sunshine" policy with respect to salary disclosure above \$100,000.00;
2. Implementation of a "Freedom of Information" amendment to the Law Society Act. The Law Society believes it is not required to disclose to a member the contents of the files it maintains on that member. LSO's perverse interpretation of s. 49.12 of the Law Society Act results not in "confidentiality" being respected but secrecy being enforced;
3. The CPD program should be eliminated. It is of very little value to the public or the membership. The Law Society is in a conflict in both imposing the requirement and making substantial windfall profits from it;
4. The corporate "culture" of the Law Society needs to be fully reviewed. The pledge to "transparency" by the Law Society is not respected. Non-disclosure approaching secrecy is preferred;
5. A full inquiry into the operations, conduct and competency of the Professional Regulation Division. A full investigation and inquiry into whether a member's defrauding an elderly person of \$96,050 might have been prevented;
6. An end to the extraction of additional fees for "services" to the dues paying membership;

The Law Society must adhere to principles of ethical, civil and transparent good governance while restricting itself to its core mandate. The Law Society must be mindful that it represents the self-governance of a dues paying membership and though mandated to protect the interests of the public that does not justify an adversarial attitude to the membership.





## Gerard Charette

charette@millercanfield.com

Southwest

The last four years as a Bencher have been eye-opening. A lot of work still needs to be done.

Since 1980: Practice of tax planning in Windsor at Miller Canfield and its predecessors. Lecturer on tax planning for associations, including the Tax Foundation, the Michigan Bar and Public Accountants.

- past director of TV Ontario.
- past member of the College of Optometrists Council.

I devote personal time to part-time academics. I am registered in the Art History program at U of T. 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.

After four years as a Bencher, here is my assessment:

1. The LSO is sometimes heavy handed and interferes with the solicitor-client relationship under the guise of the "public interest".
2. It sometimes does not respect the professional autonomy of lawyers. Certain rules presume that lawyers are incompetent or don't know how to get along with people.
3. Here are some examples:
  - a. Some new Anti-Money Laundering (AML) rules ignore the Constitutionally protected rights of lawyers and clients. Some also unnecessarily increase costs and complexity.
    - i. The LSO ignored its role as protector of the solicitor-client relationship by satisfying the AML regulator's excessively intrusive demands.
    - ii. For example, lawyers are now required to ask clients about the source of funds and keep the answers for possible governmental use. This forces lawyers into a conflict of interest and leads clients to mistrust their lawyers.
  - b. The proposal to allow the Proceedings Authorization Committee to force a lawyer to take a "re-education" course without a finding of guilt.
  - c. The LSO's heavy-handed mistreatment of Certified Specialists when it eliminated the designation without fair notice and virtually no grandfathering.
  - d. The 2016 proposal with the innocuous title of "Compliance-Based Entity Regulation". It obliges lawyers to create office policies that allegedly promote equity, diversity and inclusion. The LSO could end up running your HR department according to its vague dictates.
    - i. Some folks at the LSO are waiting to dust off this gem.
4. As to fiscal mismanagement, note that the Law Foundation (LFO) is obligated to at least consider funding law libraries. It used to provide about \$500,000 annually: but for the last 10 years, nothing. That's \$5 Million of funding that has just evaporated. Yet, in 2021 Convocation refused to pass a motion to urge the LFO to support law libraries.
5. So, my position is this: The LSO must manage our money wisely and regulate lawyerly practice without larding up the rules with requirements that are
  - a. Costly,
  - b. Largely ineffective and frequently make matters worse, and
  - c. Presume that lawyers don't know how to get along with people.

**Edward Choi**

echoi@unb.ca

**Central  
East**

**Edward Choi practises law in Markham. His practice is mainly focused on civil litigation and dispute resolution, but also includes solicitor work. Edward held positions in the private, public, not-for-profit, and educational sectors.**

**Volunteer: Markham Public Library Board, Markham Race Relations Committee, CCM Legal Clinic (Steering & Advisory Committee), Christmas Once Again (Founder, homeless program since 2007)**

**Education: JD, University of New Brunswick; LLM, University of Hong Kong; LLB, Queen Mary, University of London; BBA, Wilfrid Laurier University; Diploma in Accounting, Western; Certificate in Ethics, TMU (Ryerson); BEd (Adult Education), Brock, expected June 2023**

**Memberships: Christian Legal Fellowship, Federation of Asian Canadian Lawyers, Runnymede Society, York Region Law Association**

**Edward enjoys travelling, learning, skiing, biking, and volunteering. [www.edwardchoi.ca](http://www.edwardchoi.ca)**

I want to create a law society that focuses on helping you provide competent and ethical legal services to your clients. To that end, I joined the FullStop Team with a proven record of effectively reducing LSO fees while providing value, protecting freedoms, regulating competence, and reducing overregulation.

My priorities are to ensure a competent and ethical legal profession through relevant licensing and CPD programs, improving access to justice, protecting freedoms, supporting diversity, and providing you value for your fees.

I understand the LSO:

As a former LSO employee, I understand the LSO from both a regulatory and member's perspective.

I support access to justice:

Having volunteered at four legal clinics, attended legal aid conferences to network with clinics executives, and as a Steering Committee member creating a new clinic in Ontario, I understand the needs of legal clinics. I aspire to improve By-Law 7 to support legal clinics and other Civil Society Organizations while ensuring effective regulation.

I support a relevant lawyer licensing process:

Having received legal education in Canada and abroad and participated in the LSO Dialogue on Licensing, I understand the legal education and licensing process in Ontario and other jurisdictions. With my expected degree in education, I aspire to improve our licensing and CPD programs.

I will keep the LSO accountable:

My business and accounting education along with my auditing and board experience will help me keep the LSO accountable and advocate value for your money.

I support freedoms and diversity:

As an ethnic minority and member of the Markham Race Relations Committee, I am committed to diversity and ensuring that fundamental freedoms enshrined in our Charter are protected.

I am committed to LSO maintaining professional and ethical standards which will build a good reputation for our profession:

My experience in advocating for high academic standards and relevant policies on a law faculty board and university senate, along with adjudicating on two academic discipline committees will guide me in this endeavour.

Together, we will create a just, competent, ethical legal profession and a Law Society that is accountable to you and the public of Ontario.

**Neha Chugh**

neha@chughlaw.ca

**East****Neha Chugh B.A., B.S.W., M.Sc., JD**

- **Managing Partner at Chugh Law**
- **Practising in Criminal and Family Law**
- **Counsel in the Akwesasne Court and Instructor at Iohahi:ho Institute**
- **Member of The Advocate's Society, the Ontario Bar Association, the South Asian Bar Association, the Women's Law Association of Ontario, Criminal Lawyers' Association, and Defence Counsel Association of Ottawa**
- **Board of Governors of the Law Commission of Ontario and Renison University College (University of Waterloo)**
- **Winner of the 2022 Catzman Award from The Advocate's Society, presented by the Ontario Court of Appeal**
- **Cornwall boards: CUREA/CURET, the Agape Centre, Tri-County Literacy, the York Centre, Editorial Board of the Cornwall Standard-Freeholder**

Vote for Neha Chugh as Bencher in 2023

If elected, I will bring a wealth of governance and leadership experience to the Law Society of Ontario. The public interest is served when our voices are truly represented at Convocation.

My practice is a balance of legal aid certificates and private clients. I have a strong relationship with Legal Aid Ontario, often serving as duty counsel in criminal and family courts in Cornwall courts. I am a criminal trial lawyer, from bail hearing, trial, to sentencing. I have appeared before juries, in judge-alone trials, and at the Ontario Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada.

Being in solo practice and building a small firm has grown my awareness of the regulations and daily challenges faced by firm owners across the province, especially small firm owners in small communities. I will bring a perspective that is informed by my years of practice in rural Ontario, as a business owner, as a barrister working with Legal Aid mandates, and managing a small firm with lawyers, students, and staff.

I am a mom of three kids and I know that being a lawyer is more than simply showing up to our offices and working on legal files. We are lawyers, parents, community members, and talented individuals who have to protect our mental health. If elected as Bencher, I will bring my track record of service to the Law Society.

I am also proudly running with experienced leaders in the legal and paralegal professions as part of the Good Governance Coalition. Please support each of our candidates so we can return good governance and decorum to the Law Society of Ontario. You can meet all the Coalition's candidates at [goodgovernancecoalition.ca/](https://goodgovernancecoalition.ca/)

My commitments to lawyers, if elected as Bencher, include:

1. A voice for small firms in rural Ontario
2. A voice for diversity and representation
3. A voice for mentorship
4. A voice for thoughtful policy reform
5. A voice for lawyers in caregiving roles
6. A voice for lawyers in legal aid practices



**Hogarth Clauzel**

hc@clauzelco.com

**Central  
West****Hogarth Clauzel, B.Sc., B.A., LL.B., LEC, Corporate Commercial Counsel**  
**Practice:**

- **Corporate Commercial and IT law including negotiating IP licensing agreements, structuring corporate financings, developing risk mitigation strategies, structuring mergers, acquisitions, and reorganization transactions.**
- **Called to the Bar in Ontario, Trinidad & Tobago, and St. Lucia**
- **Member of the Canadian Association of Black Lawyers**

**Education**

- **University of Ottawa, B.Sc. (Biochemistry), cum laude 1989**
- **University of Ottawa, B.A. (Social Sciences, Economics), summa cum laude 1990**
- **Queen's University, LL.B. 1993**
- **Hugh Wooding Law School, Legal Education Certificate 2010**

Dear Fellow Members,

I am seeking your support to become an LSO Bencher.

My legal career has been somewhat unique in that I began by articling at a large firm (Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt), went on to work for a boutique Bay Street corporate securities firm and then set out on my own and have successfully maintained a multifaceted corporate commercial legal practice that often involves international components, for over 20 years.

This experience has instilled in me a very pragmatic and detail-oriented approach to addressing complex problems and issues, especially when negotiating matters involving culturally diverse groups from around the world. In short - I help people get along, and get the job done.

It is this pragmatic and detail-oriented approach, coupled with a sound corporate finance and good governance background gained through my years of practice, that will be brought to bear when filling the Bencher role and addressing the issues that currently face the Law Society, Benchers and the legal practice.

As a sole practitioner, I believe in the Law Society maintaining the public trust and adhering to its legislated mandate in the most cost-effective manner. As a Bencher, I will ensure that this fundamental understanding is reflected in all matters that come before me.



Law Society  
of Ontario

Barreau  
de l'Ontario

Bencher  
Election

Élection  
du Conseil



## Winfield Corcoran

winfieldcorcoran10@gmail.com

Central  
South

**I am married for 50 years. Together we have three children and 4 grandchildren. We work together in my practice.**

**My first degree is in Biology from the University of Western Ontario. My second degree is in Law from the University of Windsor. I was called to the Ontario bar at the age of 48 and for the next 31 years I served as a litigator in Criminal, Family, and Estates Law.**

**My areas of interest outside the practice of law are my family and restoring Cadillacs vintage 1987-1992. I currently have 4 unique automobiles from this era.**

**In my first campaign 4 years ago, I garnered 400 votes. I need to achieve 2400 votes to make the cut.**

I offer an eclectic mixture of experience in life and as a legal practitioner. I do not know anyone who has acquired the same insight into the workings of the Law Society that I have acquired. Fortunately, for me I have been given the power I need to overcome the major issues in my life, i.e. alcoholism, hearing disability, and practice management issues. When assessing my candidacy, I ask you to remember that even a turtle would not get in trouble if it did not stick its neck out. I have never been a turtle. I took an Oath. I have no regrets. I continue to stick my neck out as far as is needed to get the job done. I regret that on occasion, I have gone too far, but I think I am in good company. If I am elected, I will serve the interests of the Law Society as one of my clients. I do not know what to expect but it can not possibly be any harder than that which I have already faced and if I am wrong, I am confident I will be given the power to finish what I started.

I have explained in my website where I think I can make a difference in the lives of other lawyers but I do not want to be held to only these areas of competency. I am anxious to hear from any lawyer or paralegal who will alert me to their view of the compelling issues within the Law Society or needs some assistance in an area where I have something to offer. As a general statement about the Law Society, much improvement would be achieved in improving the efficiency and reputation of the Law Society if it were to adhere to the principles articulated in s.4 of the Law Society Act. For example, after decades of regulating our profession, transparency should no longer be a goal. My website is [winfieldcorcoranlaw.com](http://winfieldcorcoranlaw.com) my email address is [winfieldcorcoran10@gmail.com](mailto:winfieldcorcoran10@gmail.com).



**Arwa DeSantis**

arwa@desantislaw.ca

**Central**  
**East****Arwa DeSantis, B.A., LLB (Hons)****Practice Areas: Real Estate Law, Family Law, Corporate/Commercial, Wills & Estates****Activities: Managed Boys Soccer Team, Social Justice Activist**

I am seeking your support for election to serve as a Bencher for the Law Society of Ontario. Although I am a relatively new call to the Bar, I have over 30 years of legal experience in both the private and public sector. Whilst my legal career began as a title searcher in the early 1990's, I am now the principal lawyer of DeSantis Law, a boutique law firm which serves the Vaughan community and surrounding areas.

I am extremely proud to be a member of the Bar and with your support, I hope to continue representing our profession as a Bencher to ensure that the integrity and robustness of the legal profession is upheld amidst these continually changing times. If appointed, I will continue to strive to protect the interest of the public through stewardship, policy-making and the adjudicative functions of a Bencher.

It would be my honour and privilege to serve as a Bencher to protect our collective interest and I sincerely thank you for considering my candidacy.



## Jean-Jacques Desgranges

East

DesgrangesLaw@ncf.ca

**Jean-Jacques Desgranges, MBA, LLB, is originally from Sudbury, Ontario. He worked in construction trades, education and music before his call to the Bar in 1997.**

**Thereafter, he practiced environmental and commercial law at DND, employment law at the External Review Committee, and administrative law at the Whistleblower Tribunal. He now runs a small general practice in Ottawa and is well versed in tax law. He is fully bilingual and proud of his French-Canadian heritage. He sits on the boards of NPOs and foundations including the Fondation Jean-Claude Bergeron.**

**Jean-Jacques is proud to serve the public interest as Bencher and prouder to have contributed to the independence of the legal profession in restoring the LSO as a neutral regulator.**

I was elected on a promise to remove the obligation for members to adopt a Statement of Principles as a member of the StopSOP Slate. I am happy and proud to report: mission accomplished. I am also proud to have been at the forefront of debating and limiting further measures that could negatively impact the small and medium size practices.

I am seeking re-election to ensure the protection of the public interest while respecting the integrity of the individuals who practice in the professions. The following are the three pillars on which my campaign rests:

- (1) **Fiscal restraint:** The Law Society can better manage its resources. It could, for example, examine its finances from a cost accounting perspective. This was the object of two motions which were voted down by non-Slate members at Convocation. I promise to continue working towards finding efficiencies and to pass the savings down to assist members, and small and solo firms.
- (2) **Core mandate and governance:** In previous years, the LSO began undertaking activities that extended well beyond its core mandate of ensuring the public is served by competent practitioners. Despite the Slate's efforts over the last four years, bloated budgets continue as a result of mission creep. I will strive to ensure that LSO programs are examined critically, with a view to withdrawing those that do not directly support LSO's core mandate.

The LSO's actual governance structure ensures that decisions are made at committees, with little to no transparency. I want to return real authority to Convocation where issues can be properly debated before being put to a vote.

- (3) **Stop ideological capture:** The LSO has, for many years, been influenced by a woke ideology that seeks to control, to an unnecessary degree, the practice of law (and beyond). One merely needs to consider the defeated SOP initiative to realize this. But more such agendas are on the way, like the "Inclusion Index". I will oppose any further attempt of the LSO to promote this or any other ideology and will seek to return the LSO to respectability as a neutral regulator.

**Horatiu Druma-Strugariu**[horatiu@alexsei.com](mailto:horatiu@alexsei.com)**Central  
East**

**Horatiu read law at Cambridge University before returning to his home and becoming a litigator. As a litigator, Horatiu worked with many lawyers from across Ontario on a diverse array of matters. Concerned about the lack of access to justice and the antiquated systems faced by the profession, Horatiu found his way into tech where he joined Alexsei. For the last 4 years, Horatiu has been working to help automate legal research, one memo at a time.**

The legal profession has long had and benefitted from an esteemed role in society, and rightly so. It is our profession that guards liberty, freedom, and justice. Sadly, in recent years, our profession has seen some controversies. Some of these have taken place in full view of the public - a public we are sworn to protect.

In my view, these controversies, particularly when coupled with severe access to justice issues diminish our standing in the public's eye. In turn, this weakens the rule of law, and our role.

I have chosen to run for Bencher not because I have decades of experience – I don't. But I do have a lot of common sense, and I am willing to listen. Whatever my own views, I understand that as an elected representative I would be there to represent our profession and that is exactly what I will do.

Areas which I believe need particular attention include:

- Legal Technology and Access to Justice;
- Ensuring ongoing professionalism;
- Elevating our esteem in the public's eye;
- Maintaining the exceptionally high standards; and,
- Fees – especially for non-practising lawyers.

I can't promise I will work miracles. But I can promise that I will try my best, that I will listen to my constituents, and that I will represent the profession's views as faithfully as I can.

As far as the SOP and mandatory retraining are concerned, my stance is pretty simple: we should always work to maintain the highest standards we can. Anything else is an abdication of the duty we swore an oath to.





## Laura L. Emmett

lemmett@sbalawyers.ca

Central  
South

**Partner, Strigberger Brown Armstrong LLP**

**Leadership Roles:**

**Current Director: Defense Research Institute (DRI), Past President: Canadian Defence Lawyers (CDL), Past Director: Ronald McDonald House Charities Southwestern Ontario, Past Director: Better Business Bureau of Western Ontario**

**Advancing Legal Education:**

**Adjunct Professor: Western University, Co-Author: "The Annotated Statutory Accident Benefits Schedule" Textbook, Invited Speaker including OBA; CDL; The Advocates Society; OsgoodePD; International Association of Defense Counsel; DRI; Defense Trial Counsel of West Virginia; Minnesota Defense Lawyers Association**

**Awards:**

**Lexpert "Rising Star" Award honouring Canada's Leading Lawyers Under 40, CDL's Richard B. Lindsay QC Exceptional Young Lawyer Award, Business London's 20 Under 40 Award**

**Interesting Use of Free Time: Picking up abandoned/abused dogs for foster care placement or in my case, keeping him!**

Since becoming a lawyer, I have been committed to excellence in, and for, the legal profession. Early in my practice, I joined a number of professional organizations to build knowledge and skill. Over time, I found the greatest value was in the relationships that I developed. In more than a decade of involvement with the Canadian Defence Lawyers, I developed an understanding, and appreciation, of the value of both diversity of background and perspective. As President, I worked to build consensus among members in order to launch the Diversity & Inclusion Committee's programming initiatives.

The development of peers and future lawyers is important to me, as is the successful growth of our profession. I have benefitted immensely from the guidance and support of senior counsel. As my knowledge and confidence has grown, I have been committed to paying it forward. For the last six years, I have co-authored an annual textbook on accident benefits which outlines key cases and developments in my area of practice. During the last five years, I also have taught Civil Procedure at Western University's Faculty of Law.

I am dedicated to building meaningful and genuine relationships. Throughout my career, I am fortunate to have held leadership roles in local, provincial, national, and international organizations. These legal and community organizations have given me years of experience uniting people from different backgrounds and perspectives to work towards a common goal.

I am seeking election because I believe I have the drive, experience, and leadership qualities that both Convocation and the profession need. Meaningful change starts with a commitment to consensus building. Lawyers have the privilege of helping the public solve a range of problems. I believe that the Bencher Good Governance Coalition can work together to ensure the public is protected, and our profession's proud tradition of self-governance continues. We need to focus on building consensus on what unites us, rather than wasting time on what divides us.

Let's get back to business. I appreciate your vote and urge you to vote for all of the members of the Bencher Good Governance Coalition. Visit: [www.goodgovernancecoalition.ca](http://www.goodgovernancecoalition.ca)



## Etienne Esquega

ee@esquegalaw.com

Northwest

- **Northwest Regional Bencher seeking re-election.**
- **Sole-practitioner, Esquega Law Office, Fort William First Nation**
- **Presiding Inquest Hearing Officer (Contract), Chief Coroner's Office of Ontario**
- **Member, Ontario Civil Rules Committee, Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Justice appointee**
- **Trustee of several First Nation settlement trust funds**
- **Coach, Kawaskimhom Moot Team (Aboriginal Law), Bora Laskin Faculty of Law**
- **Member, Indigenous Human Rights Program Advisory Council, Pro Bono Students Canada**
- **Memberships: Indigenous Bar Association, Canadian Bar Association, Thunder Bay Law Association**
- **Former Trustee, Law Foundation**
- **Former Co-Chair of the Indigenous Advisory Group to the Law Society of Ontario**
- **Former Director, Native People of Thunder Bay Development Corporation**

I am seeking a second term. I am a sole practitioner, and my office is on the Fort William First Nation. I was called to the bar in 2005 and I practise in the areas of Indigenous law, civil litigation, and business law.

In 2012, I decided to hang my own shingle. I know what it is like to be a small firm/solo practitioner from a remote area. I bring experience and perspective that many of you can relate to, no matter where you are in the province. I would be honoured to continue to voice that experience and perspective for you.

As the current Northwest Regional Bencher I held the following engagements and assignments:

- Current Bencher Director, LawPro
- Current Vice-Chair – Equity and Indigenous Affairs Committee
- Current Member and former Vice-Chair – Professional Regulation Committee
- Current Adjudicator, Law Society Tribunal
- Former Vice-Chair – Mental Health Working Group

If elected I would continue to advocate on the following issues:

- I will advocate for the "right touch," or "right amount", of regulation. Nothing more and nothing less. This assessment requires an appreciation of the fact that an overburdened bar does not serve the public interest.
- Competency. To help achieve competency objectives we need to provide tools and resources to assist members. To this end, I will continue to advocate and support adequately resourced county law libraries and support the Coaches and Advisors Network.
- Timely resolution of complaints. We should be meeting the national standards for investigations. The public and the bar do not want these things dragging on for years. We must do better.
- A fiscally prudent, conservative, and responsible regulator. This can be accomplished with a deliberate and pragmatic approach to finding efficiencies rather than through arbitrary cuts.
- Modernization. The LSO needs to continue to modernize its systems so that human resource time is not wasted. We must continue to implement automation where feasible. Modernization should result in reducing investigative times and human resource costs.
- Wellness. We must support wellness and evaluate the current services and consider improvements.

**Jennifer Gold**

jennifer@woodgold.ca

**Central  
West****Jennifer Gold, Partner of Wood Gold LLP**

- Practises Family Law and Wills (called to the Bar in 2002)
- Adjudicator at the Ontario Land Tribunal
- Dispute Resolution Officer for the Superior Court of Justice
- Past President of the Women's Law Association of Ontario
- Board Member of Legal Aid Ontario and Chair of its Audit and Finance Committee
- Board Member of Pro Bono Ontario
- Central West Council Member of the Ontario Bar Association
- Mentor with the Women's Law Association of Ontario and York University's Advancing Women program
- 2021 recipient of the OBA's Award of Excellence in Promoting Women's Equality and 2017 Lexpert Zenith Award celebrating the advancement of women in the legal profession

Dear Colleagues,

Since the 2019 Bencher election, I have observed Convocation proceed in a divisive, inefficient manner. Too many Benchers appear not to understand their fiduciary duty or the challenges facing lawyers and paralegals in their professions. This 2023 Bencher election is critical to changing that.

We need a regulating body that we can be proud of, which will:

- (a) prepare and support the profession in the face of rapid technological change;
- (b) support women and the diversity of licensees pursuing a career as a lawyer or paralegal;
- (c) consider the needs of the next generation;
- (d) value excellence and competency;
- (e) be unafraid of and adaptive to change;
- (f) value our law libraries as hubs for knowledge, social connection and support;
- (g) value the role of law associations as they provide essential supports for lawyers; and
- (h) preserve self-regulation of our profession.

In support of progressive values, there's a clear choice. Please vote for the Good Governance Coalition of which I am a member. We are a group of experienced leaders from large firms, small firms, and are sole practitioners or paralegals. Some work in universities, in-house, government, and legal aid clinics. I bring the small firm experience from outside of Toronto to the role, with experience that includes running a lean, efficient, flexible and inclusive organization.

The Good Governance Coalition is not a voting bloc or a political party. We value respectful debate, professionalism, and know our ability to self-regulate depends on good governance. Please take the time to learn more about us, and please consider voting not only for myself but for all of my co-candidates. It's important to have representatives that we can be proud of. The LSO impacts how you practise wherever you may be in the province. It's important to vote. Consider the impact of your vote on future generations. I would be happy to have a conversation with you; reach out to me by email at [jennifer@woodgold.ca](mailto:jennifer@woodgold.ca). To learn more about the Good Governance Coalition, please visit [goodgovernancecoalition.ca](http://goodgovernancecoalition.ca).

Sincerely,

Jennifer Gold



**Gary D. Graham**

gary.graham@gsklawyers.com

**Central  
West****I bring experience in business, law and governance.****Business:** executive management (President of a Canadian subsidiary of a multinational), part-owner SME business, property development.**Law:** worked in large law firm as a student, as an associate and as the founding partner of an office of a national firm, in-house as General Counsel in a multinational manufacturing company, and founding partner of a small law firm.**Governance:** boards of a reporting issuer, university, public hospital, national trade association, many private companies.**Vision:** smaller, less political LSO that is focused on its statutory mandate and takes care to avoid mission creep.**Happily married for 42+ years to a fellow Osgoode grad. Two kids, 4 grandchildren. Live in Burlington. Runner, Curler, Mediocre Golfer**

3 "WOWs" drive my decision to run for Bencher for a second term.

The first Wow was the January 2023 announcement that the Ontario College of Psychologists was "re-educating" a regulated professional because of things he said on social media unrelated to his clinical practice. WOW. I was proud to be among those who stood up to the previous LSO Bench's now overturned decision to impose beliefs upon the legal profession. Our success in achieving that reversal was well-received in the media and I thought that Ontario society had turned the compelled-speech page. Clearly, there is still work to do.

The second WOW was when I heard of a slate of Bencher candidates called the "Good Governance Coalition". Many people in that coalition were Benchers when the odious Statement of Principles was mandated. Good governance? Good grief. WOW. They approved it without asking the hard questions about the underlying, and now discredited, social science that was the supposed foundation for the panoply of DIE programs. Their version of 'good governance' has created the factionalism which besets the LSO. The toothpaste they let out of the tube is proving difficult to put back in.

The third WOW was witnessing how difficult it has been to reverse at least some of the rapid growth of the LSO budget that occurred in the ten-years prior to last Bencher election, a period when—again—many of the 'good' governance coalition members were Benchers. Actual good governance in finance and budget matters requires board members to ask probing questions—in a collegial and respectful way of course—about budget proposals presented to them, for example, "If you had 5% less to work with what might have been cut?" "What areas did you consider for an increase in resources?" But questions like these are met with extreme resistance by 'good governors' who, despite being in the minority of the elected Bench, occupy all the key Chair roles and the Treasurer role. How about just answering our questions so we can assess whether staff have set the budget right?

WOW. We need a plurality to Stop Bloat.



## Mian Hakeem

mianhakeemlaw@gmail.com

Central  
West

**I have expertise in two sectors (Law and Energy). I have experience of almost 10 years in electrical engineering. After migrating from Pakistan, I changed my profession from Energy Sector to Law. I wanted to make an impact in the field of law as well and have earned respect, honor and achieved success and build up huge client thorough professional services and gaining their trust.**

**I have mastered myself in pursuing public interest litigation, Real Estate Closing, Estate Planning, Immigration Law and Notary Services.**

**I have a family of 8 (My beautiful Wife, Two Sweet girls, four Naughty Boys) and I really enjoy to spent time with my Family. I feel alive being with my Family and Clients.**

1. I believe that our offices shall be hallmarks of protection for everyone, including but not limited to privileged, underprivileged, weak, strong, employees or others, marginalized or non-marginalized.
2. I believe that there is no place for violence in workplace and in our Society hence the journey starts from our home where we respect and keep developing policies that protect everyone to express themselves by providing them equality of speech and expression.
3. I recognize that Canadians are overstretched and they are finding it difficult to get right legal support they deserve. We not only sympathize them but aspire to overcome this hurdle by making policies that support all Canadians in reaching out to get right legal help. We find ways to get resources from all stakeholders for the advancement of support for the People who need right legal support.
4. We emphasize to follow the Rules of Professional Conduct to respect Human right laws and to follow the correct precautionary measures to discriminate such actions. We believe in Universal human rights despite of race, origin, gender, citizenship, sex or sexual orientation, gender identity or whatever status that individual use to hold in the past, rich or poor or abilities and disabilities. Everyone deserves equal respect and protection under Citizen Rights and Law. No one should hold the right to discriminate anyone to build up Healthy, Happy and prosperous neighborhood.
5. We endeavor to develop inclusive employment opportunities that recognize marginalized personalities, and to provide them the Protection they deserve to build a better society.
6. We believe that the land on which we live, and work belongs to Indigenous tribes of the land. We have the honor and respect for them in our hearts and are thankful to the First Nations for allowing us to live and work here.
7. We recognize that the families are breaking apart due to societal and financial constraints and insufficient legal support. We value their hard work and input to build the society. We endeavor to create easy access to get justice and protect their families and children during these challenging times.



**Jacqueline Horvat**

jacqueline@spark.law

**Southwest**

**CALLED TO THE BAR: 2002**  
**LL.B.: University of Windsor**  
**PARTNER & CO-FOUNDER: Spark Law practising Commercial Litigation**

**LAW SOCIETY OF ONTARIO:**  
Treasurer (June 2022 – Present), Bencher (2011 – 2022), Past Chair: Proceedings Authorization Committee, Professional Regulation Committee, Technology Task Force, Treasurer's Women in Law Advisory Group, Litigation Committee, Inter-jurisdictional Committee and Co-Chair of Mentoring and Advisory Services Proposal Task Force  
**FEDERATION OF LAW SOCIETIES OF CANADA:**  
Vice President (November 2022 – Present), Council Member (2019 – 2022), Chair: National Requirement Review Committee, Public Affairs and Government Relations Committee  
**FORMER DIRECTOR: LibraryCo (2011 - 2020), Ontario Judicial Education Network (2014 – 2018)**  
**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 the Southwest Region and proudly running with the Good Governance Coalition.

Since 2011 when I was first elected a bencher, I have chaired numerous Committees and Task Forces. Coupled with the experience of starting my own small firm, I gained perspective on the burdens faced by solo and small firm practices. As a past-chair of the Proceedings Authorization Committee, I have seen over and over again how quickly and easily a practice can fall off the rails when a licensee does not have supports around them. The services and supports the LSO provides need to continue and be enhanced.

As a past director of LibraryCo (LiRN), and a lawyer who practices outside of Toronto, I know how important local law libraries are to maintaining competence and to the local legal communities. I unequivocally support the LSO continuing to provide sustainable funding for local law libraries, and that means not offloading the responsibility to some other organization.

When I was first elected as a bencher, the debates that occurred at Convocation (our board meeting) were thoughtful, measured, and focused on the issues at hand. This past term we have seen benchers waste Convocation's time (and your money) by bringing motions from the floor without committee analysis in support, by speechifying as if they were living out some parliamentary fantasy, and by unnecessary grandstanding and interruptions that disrespect the important role that the LSO is legislated to fulfil.

That's why I am running with the Good Governance Coalition. And it's why I'm asking you to support our entire team; so that we can put a stop to the lack of decorum, stop the extreme rhetoric, and stop the negativity. And, more importantly, so that we can stop wasting your money on fringe politics and focus on the LSO's important work of regulating the professions in the public interest.

The Coalition won't agree on everything. We'll debate. But we'll do so as experienced professionals who all take our responsibilities seriously. That's how Convocation must work if we're going to continue to self-regulate.

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

**Karen Hulan**[khulan@beckettinjurylawyers.com](mailto:khulan@beckettinjurylawyers.com)**Southwest****Karen Hulan** [khulan@beckettinjurylawyers.com](mailto:khulan@beckettinjurylawyers.com)**Education:** Queen's Faculty of Law 2002, Called 2003**Employment:** Practised exclusively in personal injury law; Partner, Beckett Personal Injury Lawyers; Former high school teacher**Volunteer Work with Legal Associations:** President, Middlesex Law Association (until February 2023); Board Trustee, Middlesex Law Association for over a decade. Chaired or active member of all committees including Bench and Bar, Law Library, Continuing Professional Development, Administration, Mentoring, Social, and was Newsletter Editor; Volunteer, Courthouse Rocks (London Lawyers Feed the Hungry); Member, Ontario Trial Lawyers Association; Guest Speaker at Ontario Trial Lawyers Association, Canadian Defence Lawyers, Middlesex Law Association, Federation of Ontario Law Associations, Ontario Bar Association and Young Women in Law

The public is best served when lawyers are well equipped to practise law. The Law Society can further its mandate to regulate our profession in the public interest by supporting practising lawyers. This includes support through continuing professional development as well as practice management and mental health supports.

The LSO's mandate extends to Ontarians in all regions of this province, regardless of whether they live in urban or rural areas. Courthouse libraries provide all practitioners, but especially sole and small firm practitioners with access to resources that may otherwise be unavailable. They are also centres for professional development and mentoring. Access to the same resources regardless of firm size or geographic location, is critical to ensuring that people throughout Ontario are able to retain competent legal professionals in their communities.

The Law Society and lawyers have common goals including providing the public with meaningful access to justice. Law Society consultation with lawyers about Legal Aid funding, contingency fee agreements, paralegal scope of practice and innovative technological legal services is critical. The sustainability of self-regulation requires ongoing consultation with all lawyers and respectful debate at Convocation.

**What You Can Expect From Me:**

1. Regular reporting to lawyers about Convocation, LSO initiatives and consultations.
2. Support LSO funding for courthouse libraries, practice management tools and mental health supports.
3. Consultation with lawyers about LSO initiatives including innovative technological legal services (ITLS).
4. Consideration of ways in which the LSO can facilitate greater access to justice through Legal Aid, contingency fee agreements and supporting paralegals.
5. Support expanded Continuing Professional Development accreditation criteria to include legal volunteer work and pro bono work.
6. Support LSO initiatives aimed at helping newer lawyers remain in private practice.
7. Fiscal responsibility to ensure fees are properly managed.

I am running for election with the Bencher Good Governance Coalition. Please vote for all members of this Coalition. Learn more at [www.goodgovernancecoalition.ca](http://www.goodgovernancecoalition.ca).

You can learn more about me at [karenhulanbencher.com](http://karenhulanbencher.com) or LinkedIn. You may contact me at [khulan@beckettinjurylawyers.com](mailto:khulan@beckettinjurylawyers.com). Your vote will determine how our profession is governed for the next four years.

**Jasminka Kalajdzic**

kalajj@uwindsor.ca

**Southwest****JASMINKA KALAJDZIC, BA, LLB, LLM**  
Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, Univ. of Windsor

- since 2009
- teaching Evidence & Class Action Law
- founding Director of the Class Action Clinic
- former Associate Dean
- frequent speaker at bar & bench events

**Litigator**

- Torys LLP (1996-1998)
- Sutts, Strosberg LLP (1998-2008)

**Member**

- OBA, CBA & National Council of Canadian Muslims

**Author**

- 2 books & edited collection on class actions & access to justice
- dozens of articles & book chapters on evidence & class actions
- Law Commission of Ontario's Class Action Report (co-author)

Benchers should reflect the profession and the people of Ontario whose interests they protect. A diversity of professional backgrounds, lived experiences and skillsets is needed to achieve this ideal.

I was called to the bar 25 years ago. Since then, I have practised in a large full-service firm and in a litigation boutique. I have taught thousands of law students as a full-time professor, and mentored hundreds more. I helped lead a major law reform initiative, and created a first-of-its-kind legal clinic that helps individuals across the country navigate complex litigation. All of these experiences have prepared me for the important work of Bencher.

I bring my research skills, work ethic and dedication to collegial governance to every project, and I will do so as Bencher. There is much work to be done to earn the trust of the public and the profession, and to retain the privilege of self-regulation.

Among the many pressing issues the next Convocation will address, I am particularly well-placed to assist in the following:

1. **Licensing Process:** as the LSO considers multiple pathways to licensing and experiential training for young lawyers, it is more important than ever to have those with expertise in legal education at the table.
2. **Access to Justice:** the LSO must continue to identify and address the serious barriers to legal assistance faced by so many. Particular focus is needed on the disproportionate barriers faced by low-income and equity-deserving communities.
3. **Innovation:** technological and regulatory innovation are needed to meet the challenges of modern legal services delivery. Expanded scope of practice for paralegals, for example, is worthy of further consideration.

I am proud to be running for election with the Bencher Good Governance Coalition to restore competent, experienced, and representative leadership at the Law Society of Ontario. Visit [www.goodgovernancecoalition.ca](http://www.goodgovernancecoalition.ca) to see what we have to offer. Please vote for all candidates in the Coalition.

To learn more about me, visit [www.jasminkaforbencher.ca](http://www.jasminkaforbencher.ca). I am always happy to answer your questions or hear your concerns. And of course, I would be honoured to have your vote.



**Mitchell Kitagawa****East**

mkitagawa@kellysantini.com

**Mitchell K. Kitagawa, B. Soc. Sc. (Hon.), MCA, LLB (Ottawa/95) originally from Mississauga, currently a Partner at Kelly Santini LLP in Ottawa practising insurance defence litigation.**

**Volunteer work: Carleton County Law Association - Chair of CPD Accreditation Committee, Member of Diversity and Inclusion Committee, CCLA Firms Fill Fridges Campaign, Lawyers Feed the Hungry, PBLO Clinic, Blood Donor, U of O and Algonquin College mock trials.**

**Memberships: CCLA, TAS, FACL**

**Awards: 2018 Gordon F. Henderson Award, 2004 Regional Senior Justice Award**

**Activities: Taught Law Clerks and Paralegals at Algonquin College, Speaker at CCLA Litigator's conference, 1,000 Islands Law Conference and insurance industry events, former Board Member of Risk Management Counsel and OCISO, and still playing hockey.**

Dear Colleagues,

I believe that it is important to have as many perspectives as possible heard at Convocation. Solid, well reasoned policy decisions that affect all practitioners and Ontarians will only arrive when differing views are expressed on the issues addressed by benchers. Electing colleagues with only one point of view or a singular objective can threaten the integrity of the LSO. Such a scenario could possibly lead to the end of self-governance of our profession. Policy should not be created based on a sole or narrow political belief but should reflect the interests of the citizens of Ontario.

We are at an inflexion point in the history of our profession. You can vote for a particular group with a certain ideology or you can choose a more open and progressive option. I joined the Bencher Good Governance Coalition ([www.GoodGovernanceCoalition.ca](http://www.GoodGovernanceCoalition.ca)) because I believe that diversity and inclusion is important in decision making. When I say that all opinions should be heard, I include those who would be diametrically opposed to my position on various issues. This is why the BGGC appeals to me; it seeks different voices to be heard within the halls of the LSO. It does not seek to compel a certain perspective; no one is expected to vote as a block. It encourages independent thought and decision making, expressed within the parameters of the Bencher Code of Conduct.

I would like to see the LSO continue to pursue access to justice for Ontarians. There are a number of ways to do this, one of which is to make sure that we respect the many different types of practice and methods of practising that exist in our profession, from small town main street to Bay Street. There will be challenges in finding the balance of the obligations of practice with the protection of the public. Both are important in order to ensure that lawyers and their services are attainable for all of Ontario.

You can count on me to work hard as a bencher, I hope that I can count on your support. [www.mitchkitagawaforbencher.ca](http://www.mitchkitagawaforbencher.ca)

**Cheryl Lean****East**

cherylleanlaw@gmail.com

**Cheryl is a Bencher and LSO Tribunal adjudicator. As a solo practitioner, specializing in family law in the Belleville area since 2004, Cheryl began her legal career in Ottawa in 1991, where she practised for 12 years. In 2003 she received her LLM from Osgoode. Cheryl served as president of the Hastings County Law Association from 2007-09.**

**Prior to entering law, she had a successful career in photography, film and radio broadcasting for which she won prestigious awards. Cheryl was an active feminist, participating in a national campaign in 1981 to secure equality rights in the Charter. She felt compelled to run for bencher in 2019 to challenge the Statement of Principles and the erosion of equality rights.**

It has been my honour to serve as the East Regional Bencher since 2019. I was elected as one of a group of lawyers opposed to the Law Society's mandatory Statement of Principles. We eliminated it. At least for now.

As a sole practitioner in family law I know the challenges faced by independent sole and small firm lawyers. The maintenance of an independent bar is of vital public interest. The sole practitioners and small firm lawyers offer the general public access to justice in the family and criminal cases that dominate our court lists. Policies that restrict speech, conscience, thought and expression rights must be rejected. Such measures threaten to undermine public confidence in the rule of law and the ability of lawyers to defend the rights and freedoms of their clients.

The Law Society can be improved by:

1. De-politicizing the Law Society. The Law Society of Ontario should refocus its attention on regulating the profession in the public interest. I reject ideological training for lawyers and discriminatory race and sex-based quotas as well as the classification of licensees into racialized, gender and ethnic categories.
2. Greater transparency: I want transparency within Convocation and between the LSO and its members/licensees. Benchers are sworn to uphold secrecy even though the issues being discussed are significant to the profession. Benchers, even as directors of the LSO, have not always been permitted access to the information they need to perform their oversight role.
3. Upholding traditional legal values and principles: In the past I fought for equality rights for women. The equality principle the Law Society advocates under its EDI initiative is not the equality of opportunity that I fought for, but equality of outcome. Achieving equal outcomes requires curtailment of individual rights (including equality rights) and devaluing merit, achievement, talent and hard work.

As your representative I will support and speak up for the interests of sole practitioners and small firm lawyers. I will demand respect for the practitioners in family and criminal law practices whose hard work and availability is critical to the public's access to justice.



## Michael LeSage

michael@michaelsfirm.ca

Central  
South

Hailing from Brampton, and a graduate of the University of Western Ontario, I'm proud to call the Niagara Region Home. I was first licensed in Florida in 2006, and work as a litigator. Since 2015, I've run Michael's Law Firm (without full time support staff). As such, I'm familiar with the hurdles faced by Small Firm lawyers, including onerous LSO requirements and an increasingly dysfunctional Superior Court, both of which I frequently write about. 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.

Vote LeSage to 'give em hell'

1. LSO Fees. Though many members were impacted by Covid, the Law Society nonetheless raised fees (\$1,981). Law Pro premiums (\$3,250) also went up. Fees are now higher than those paid by doctors (\$1,725) or pharmacists (\$789.25) though salaries are on average lower. LSO Management appears oblivious to the LSO being the highest spending regulator in the Province (141M).....
2. Burdensome Out of Touch Regulation. What did you think about the Law Society's plan to interfere with lawyers in private practice, and make it more difficult to conduct business via Zoom ('Virtual Verification')? With your help, along with Joseph Chiumminto, I was able to at least delay it, and if elected, will continue to work on your behalf to see it's defeated. I also oppose the LSO's 'great new idea on reeducation.'
3. Broken Courts. If your practice involves any form of litigation, you've likely noticed how our court system collapsed after Covid. Since then, you've likely noticed how difficult it is to file routine documents, get a hearing, or to have a matter heard at trial. This impacts negatively upon lawyer earnings (with Ontario lawyers earning around 50-60% as much as their counterparts in NY State for instance). To the extent the Law Society has an duty to ensure access to justice, it's time for them to actually do something about it.
4. No compensation. If elected, I will continue to refuse to accept Law Society money, to ensure my focus remains on trying to force the Law Society to run efficiently (the polar opposite of its inertial state).





## Andrej Litvinjenko

alitvinjenko@gmail.com

East

**Andrej Litvinjenko is the Founder and Managing Director of TAAG Law, a corporate & commercial law firm**

- Immigrated to Canada from the former Yugoslavia
- Over a decade of senior policy and executive experience through various roles in the public, private, and non-profit sectors;
- Extensive board and organizational experience, including co-founding SatCan, an industrial space technology accelerator and most recently serving on the University of Ottawa's Board of Governors
- Called to the Ontario Bar in 2018; Juris Doctor from the University of Ottawa cum laude
- Graduate degrees in economic policy and political science, and undergraduate degrees in history and political science.
- Decade of volunteer involvement to assist Ottawa's less fortunate, particularly underprivileged youth.

Why did you become a lawyer? To bring justice to the voiceless? To facilitate commerce and prosperity? To advocate for transparency and grassroots change?

For me, it was to safeguard Canada against the mistakes that destroyed the former Yugoslavia, which I fled. Secrecy, top-down control, ballooning budgets for pet projects instead of basic services, and a dangerous obsession with identity politics.

The LSO's recent direction has begun flirting with these mistakes. It is exceeding its mandate and doing so without our consent and off of our dues.

Did you know the LSO's budget is over \$100,000,000.00? Does it really take a tenth of a billion dollars to oversee us – are we that rambunctious? If your dues were cut by 50%, who could spend the money better, you, or the LSO?

Our Benchers are well intentioned, but many remain misguided and refuse to accept the profession's clear 2019 rejection of the current direction. This mismanagement has brought the LSO to a critical juncture: its sheer size is about to overshadow Convocation itself. Soon, the CEO will drive the LSO, not the Benchers, and certainly not you.

I am therefore asking for your vote, to finish what was started in 2019 and restore the LSO to its original mandate.

There are two radically different visions on the table. Your vote has never mattered more.

Candidates like myself want to pull the LSO back from divisive politics, focus on delivering core services, reduce your dues and give you greater control over your practice. We want the finances and decision-making processes made transparent and accessible.

In stark contrast, establishment candidates want the LSO to remain their tool for ensuring you practise the way they think is best. Dues will continue to rise and be spent on political projects. New disciplinary mechanisms will increasingly intimidate you into doing whatever they say. The books will stay closed and you will never know how decisions are made.

So, think back to why you became a lawyer. Choose the vision that best reflects with what drove you to our noble profession in the first place.

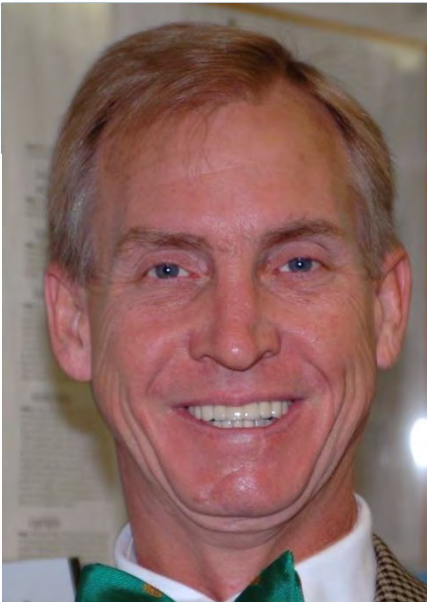


Law Society  
of Ontario

Barreau  
de l'Ontario

Bencher  
Election

Élection  
du Conseil



**Cecil Lyon**

[cecil@lyonfamilylaw.ca](mailto:cecil@lyonfamilylaw.ca)

**East**

**Practising law remains a privilege and I was honoured to serve as a Bencher from 2019 to 2023. I have practiced law for 34 years and operate a small law firm in Kanata with several employee lawyers. My practice focuses on dispute resolution. I am a member of various legal and ADR groups and am an Honoured Fellow of the Canadian Institute for Conflict Resolution. For over ten years I was a regular columnist for the Lawyers Weekly writing under the sobriquet "In the Trenches". I maintain a semblance of sanity still trying to play hockey and then escaping to my cottage to spend time with my son and nephews who keep me young at heart.**

In 2019 twenty-two stalwart souls were elected to bring some sanity to the Law Society. I was fortunate to be one of twenty-two elected under the StopSOP banner. We were successful in reducing fees and in banishing the Statement of Principles, a.k.a., compelled speech, however the work is not yet done so I am proud to cast my lot in with the #FullStop Team for 2023. We have assembled a formidable group with a determined focus to bring fiscal prudence, transparency and less ideological governance at the Law Society. Full stop!

Over the past four years we were frustrated at almost every turn trying to bring openness, transparency and accountability to the Law Society. For instance, Bencher Charette and I brought a Motion to publish executive salaries at the Law Society. That effort has been completely frustrated by the old guard!

I bet you know that the Society is too big. How bloated it is remains a mystery. Those of us running under the StopSOP banner were prevented from even scratching the surface. The bureaucracy is likely too big and its overreach exemplifies mission creep. Its ever-expanding scope of operations is funded with our money and we need to call the Law Society to account! Full stop!

Before venturing beyond its statutory mandate the Law Society must first focus on regulating lawyers, protecting the public and doing so with as little bureaucracy and "red tape" as possible. Full stop!

Access to justice is another critical issue requiring practical solutions. In our role of protecting the public interest we must call government to account. Full stop!

If re-elected I will use all of my energies to ensure that the Law Society focuses on its proper mandate with a view to cost reductions and savings wherever possible. Having run my own business for 34 years I know that one must be ever mindful of the bottom-line. Perhaps that is something the old guard Benchers have forgotten in their efforts at social engineering and fiercely guarding their "rightful" place at the top! Full stop!



**Joelle Malette**

joelle@maletteadrred.com

**Northeast**

**Founder of Malette ADR | RED, offering bilingual advance dispute resolution services in the areas of personal injury, breach of contract, institutional sexual assault liability claims, medical malpractice and employment law.**

**Adjudicator for the Transport Appeal Tribunal of Canada, the Social Benefits Tribunal of Ontario and the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario.**

**Adjunct Law Professor at the University of Ottawa, Faculty of Law where I have taught Advanced Dispute Resolution and currently teach the Art of Advocacy.**

**Memberships: AJEFO; Cochrane Law Association; Canadian Bar Association; Council of Canadian Administrative Tribunals; Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice; Board of Directors of Collège Boréal; Timmins Chamber of Commerce.**

**Activities: Completing a Masters in Dispute Resolution at Osgoode Hall.**

Dear Colleagues, Chers Collègues:

I am seeking your support to be elected as a Bencher for the Law Society of Ontario in 2023. As a Bencher, I intend to work hard to make being a lawyer in Ontario better. I am proud to be running for election with the Bencher Good Governance Coalition to restore competent, experienced, and representative leadership at the Law Society of Ontario.

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

- 1) 18 years of experience as a bilingual lawyer practising in French and English
- 2) Time commitment – I am prepared to put in the required time to be a dedicated Bencher
- 3) Regional representation – my practice is in Northern Ontario
- 4) Practice representation - 16 years of practice in a medium sized boutique firm and 2 years of practice as the owner and operator of a small dispute resolution firm (sole practitioner)
- 5) Adjudicative experience in Provincial and Federal Tribunals
- 6) Academia experience as a Law Professor

To preserve self-regulation, we need to return good governance to the Law Society of Ontario. I request your vote and urge you to vote for all members of the Bencher Good Governance Coalition. Visit the website at: [www.goodgovernancecoalition.ca](http://www.goodgovernancecoalition.ca)

**Cathi Mietkiewicz**

cathi@cathimlaw.ca

**Central  
West**

**Cathi Mietkiewicz is the founder of Mietkiewicz Law in Burlington. As its sole practitioner, she counsels regulators, associations, other not-for-profits, and operators in regulated sectors on governance, regulations, by-laws, policies, and contracts.**

**Before starting Mietkiewicz Law, she practised regulatory and health law at Fasken, then at Steinecke Maciura LeBlanc.**

**She regularly speaks on regulatory compliance, ethics, and board governance. In her community, she served on the Board of Mohawk Shared Services, and serves on Acclaim Health's Governance Committee.**

**Before entering law, Cathi had a career as an optician, and for nine years served on the Council of the College of Opticians of Ontario, the regulator of opticians in Ontario.**

**She was awarded her J.D. by Osgoode Law School.**

I am a sole practitioner and solicitor who is passionate about professional regulation. The bulk of my practice involves providing advice to and representing regulators in Ontario and across the country. As legal counsel to several professional regulators, I have a deep understanding of what it takes to be an effective regulator and I would like to bring that knowledge and experience to the Law Society of Ontario.

A word about the last election's hot button issue – the Statement of Principles. Like many other lawyers and paralegals, I didn't like it and I have no interest in seeing it brought back. I am however interested in ensuring that our regulator is one that recognizes and acknowledges the harms of the past and present, and works to minimize and eliminate them now and in the future. This starts with transparent, fair, entry to practice requirements and processes and prospers with equity-oriented, proactive regulation practices that encourage ongoing engagement and involvement of all members of the professions.

Like other sole practitioners I acutely feel the cost of licensing fees. At the same time, I understand that self regulation costs money. If I am elected, I will make best efforts to make licensing fees as reasonable as possible, but I will not do so in an arbitrary way. I will support fee decisions based on facts and the true costs of self regulation.

I know that many lawyers and paralegals are concerned about the tone and the content of debates and discussions at Convocation over the last few years. I am too. The LSO needs competent, responsible leadership to protect lawyers' and paralegals' ability to self-regulate in the public interest and to do so in a civil way that is respected by the public. To preserve self-regulation in this Bencher election, please vote for me and all of the other members of the Good Governance Coalition so we can return the LSO's focus, attention and resources to initiatives that reflect its responsibility to regulate the professions in the public interest. Visit the website at: [www.goodgovernancecoalition.ca](http://www.goodgovernancecoalition.ca).

**Greg Monforton**

gmonforton@gregmonforton.com

**Southwest****Co-Founding Partner – Greg Monforton and Partners****Practice:****Plaintiff's Personal Injury Litigation, Certified Specialist in Civil Litigation - Law Society of Ontario****Memberships:****Ontario Trial Lawyers Association – Past President, The Advocates Society, The American Association of Justice, Essex Law Association****Activities and Community Involvement:**  
**Windsor-Essex County Mental Health Association – Board Member, Windsor-Essex Head Injury Association – Past President, Guest lecturer University of Windsor Faculty of Law, Editorial Advisory Board of the Law Times – Past Member****Honours:****Recipient of OTLA Distinguished Service Award, Honoured by OTLA at The Personal Injury Bar Gala Dinner – November 2019, LEXPERT Directory leading practitioner in the area of Personal Injury Law (every year since 2006), Best Lawyers in Canada (peer selected 2006-2023)**

Dear Colleagues:

I practice in Windsor, in a small firm that I established immediately after being called to the bar. I understand the struggles in establishing and building your own law firm, especially in tough times. I understand the burdens on sole and small firm practitioners. Having served as president of the Ontario Trial Lawyers Association I understand the importance of collegiality and respect when working with colleagues with different views to solve challenging problems.

I am seeking election as a Bencher of the Law Society of Ontario because I believe that its fulfillment of its statutory obligations depends upon good governance, which in turn depends on electing benchers who understand what that really means and who will work hard to fulfill their statutory duty.

That is why I am running as a member of the Good Governance Coalition, a team of experienced leaders who come from virtually every corner of the province and from law firms of every size and field of practice. We work in universities and NGOs. We include in-house and government lawyers. We believe in diversity over division and the value of respectful debate.

Over the past few years I have witnessed opposition by some Benchers but virtually nothing in the way of well-reasoned alternatives. I have witnessed a lot of divisive "culture war" rhetoric but little evidence-based and respectful debate.

This has got to stop. The legal profession deserves better. And most important—so do the people of Ontario.

This is an important election. Our privilege of self-regulation is at stake. As such, I respectfully seek your vote; and if elected commit to bringing the best of my abilities, experience and energy to the important tasks at hand.

I commit to always engage in respectful debate and evidence-based decision making; with the importance of respect for diversity and fiscal responsibility informing my actions. And to always be ready to find (and work to implement) not the so-called radical-right or radical-left solution, but the very best solution.

I respectfully seek your support, and support for my fellow candidates in the Good Governance Coalition.



**Sonia Ouellet****East****Sonia.Ouellet.LLB@outlook.com**

**Interim Executive Director, University of Ottawa's Community Legal Clinic providing criminal, family, and tenant-related legal services.**  
**Part-time Professor at UOttawa's Faculty of Law, teaching Health Law.**  
**Experienced adjudicator who worked for the Social Benefits Tribunal and was Vice-Chair of the Health Professions Appeal and Review Board and the Health Services Appeal and Review Board for a decade.**  
**Executive Director of AJEFO (2003 to 2010).**  
**Private practice from 1998 to 2003 practising family law, professional responsibility, and linguistic rights in both official languages.**  
**Past Board member: Law Commission of Ontario, LSO's Treasurer Advisory Committee and EAG Committee, LAO French Services Committee, Assemblée de la francophonie, Centre de services communautaires Vanier (Ottawa - 16 years).**  
**AJEFO, Past President (2016-2018) and Board member (2012-2020).**

Je suis fière de me présenter comme conseillère au sein d'une équipe de leaders juridiques d'expérience sous la bannière de la Coalition de bonne gouvernance. Votez pour moi et pour chacun de nos candidats.es afin que nous puissions rétablir la bonne gouvernance au Barreau. Rencontrez tous les candidats.es de la Coalition en suivant ce lien : « [goodgovernancecoalition.ca](http://goodgovernancecoalition.ca) ».

I am proudly running with experienced legal leaders as part of the Good Governance Coalition. Vote for me and each of our candidates so that we can re-establish good governance to the Law Society. Please meet all the Coalition's candidates at "[goodgovernancecoalition.ca](http://goodgovernancecoalition.ca)"

As an experienced adjudicator, I fully understand the privilege and responsibilities attached to self-governance for the protection of the public. I am committed to ensure LSO remains:

- fiscally responsible,
- accessible in both official languages,
- reflective of the diverse community it serves, and
- supportive of the initiatives that aim to remove barriers for Indigenous, racialized, and other diverse candidates and licensees.

Toujours engagée envers ma communauté, la profession et envers la promotion de l'accès à la justice, je souhaite poursuivre ce travail au sein du Barreau de l'Ontario. Je m'engage à travailler fort en collaboration avec les membres du Conseil afin que le Barreau puisse :

- Respecter ses engagements fiduciaires d'autoréglementation,
- Fournir ses services dans les deux langues officielles aux membres du public et les membres de la profession et
- Veiller à ce que les processus d'admission au Barreau soient accessibles, inclusifs et prennent en considération la réalité des jeunes candidats et candidates qui souhaitent compléter leur processus d'admission.

I have the experience and skills to serve our profession well as a Bencher. Vote for me and the other members of the Coalition.

J'ai l'expérience et les compétences nécessaires afin de bien servir notre profession comme conseillère. Votez pour moi et les autres membres de la Coalition.

To reach me : [Sonia.Ouellet.LLB@outlook.com](mailto:Sonia.Ouellet.LLB@outlook.com) : pour me rejoindre.



## Grace Pang

gpgracep@gmail.com

Central  
South

**Grace Pang, B.A., M.A., LL.B.**

**Practice:**

**Criminal law (prosecution). Will be retiring from public service in early 2023, and will be seeking remunerative or pro bono legal work in civil liberties.**

**Memberships:**

**Have been a member of several professional associations such as Canadian Bar Association, Advocates' Society, Lincoln County Law Association.**

**Have also been very actively involved in community volunteer work with a focus on homeless people and animals.**

**First generation immigrant to Canada, and have seen first hand how welcoming and tolerant Canadians are. I am grateful to Canada for the opportunities that I might not have had, and certainly would not now have, in my home country.**

My platform is simple:

- (1) Law Society should be fiscally responsible, and operate on a "small government, small budget, maximum efficiency" model.
- (2) Law Society should return to its fundamental mission of:
  - (a) Supporting the lawyers and paralegals whom it governs; and
  - (b) Ensuring that lawyers and paralegals provide competent and ethical professional service to the public.
- (3) Law Society should otherwise stop engaging in the ideological issues of the day.

This platform is formulated from speaking with my colleagues who have identified some consistent grievances against the Law Society:

- (1) They see little value to the annual fee that they pay. The most significant complaints come from new lawyers in a solo practice calling the Law Society for advice. Those to whom I have spoken, almost to a person, complain that no one at the Law Society helps them. They describe being passed around like a "hot potato", and eventually just have to figure things out on their own.
- (2) They have expressed a fear of speaking freely, even in a private capacity that has nothing to do with their professional obligations. They believe that the Law Society is attempting to dictate conformity in social views and will punish those who deviate.
- (3) New and experienced lawyers alike have expressed that they will act in conformity to the political correctness of the day, even when they privately believe it is nonsensical and unjust, because they feel that they have "no choice".

In order for lawyers and paralegals to provide competent and ethical legal services, it is essential that the Law Society:

- (1) NOT suppress freedom of speech, freedom of conscience, and freedom of association; and
- (2) NOT use members' fees to support a ballooning bureaucracy to enforce social views;  
but rather:
- (3) ENCOURAGE lawyers and paralegals to speak and act truthfully and honestly without fear; and
- (4) FOCUS on developing legal competence.



Law Society  
of Ontario

Barreau  
de l'Ontario

Bencher  
Election

Élection  
du Conseil



## Trevor Parry

TREVOR@TREVORPARRY.COM

Central  
South

**Trevor is a freedom fighter. He adheres to the “boot strap” theory of history and society, and believes that personal responsibility, rule of law, faith and freedom of speech are cornerstones of a free and respectful society. He specializes in tax reduction planning for entrepreneurs, family businesses (including family farms) and professionals. His practice extends to compensation matters, pensions, strategic philanthropy, and the advanced uses of insurance in tax planning.**

**He holds a LL.M in Taxation from Osgoode, a LL.B from Queen's University, a M.A in History from U of T and a B.A (H) from Trinity College.**

**He lives in Ancaster, Ontario with his wife Lindsey and three daughters, and their Great Dane, Tex.**

The Law Society of Ontario is a dysfunctional mess that mirrors student government on a good day. Mission creep and a slavish devotion to woke politics has rendered this once proud organization into a bloated, regulatory Leviathan. The Statement of Principles was what stirred me to run successfully for Bencher in the last election. The woke clique that currently dominates Convocation are reminiscent of the Jacobin Club and left to their own devices will turn the LSO into a modern version of the Committee for Public Safety.

Instead of fulfilling what should be the prime mandate of the LSO, namely licensing competent individuals to practice as lawyers and paralegals, and disciplining and expelling those who aren't competent, the woke elite seek a further muzzling of free speech, ever higher and increasing fees and more Diversity, Inclusion and Equity, because “they know better”.

I pledge to stop the mission creep. Fees need to be cut dramatically. Costs need to be reduced dramatically. The requirement for EDI CPD hours must be eliminated and the LSO must increase testing standards for both lawyer and paralegal candidates to assure the public that competence is its only criteria.

It's time to return the LSO to its original mission and to end this woke trajectory. The practice of law is based on reverence for the truth, tradition and respect for the individual.





## Brian L. Prill

bprill@blplaw.ca

Central  
West

**BLP LAW Professional Corporation; Founder - practising corporate and securities law focused on 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:**  
**Served as a member of the OBA Securities Law Sub-Committee and the OBA Executive Boards of the Natural Resources Section and the Business Section. 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. Advisor to the Canadian Black Directorate and Founder of the annual 1st Responders Appreciation BBQs.**

### Inclusion

I believe that all individuals, regardless of race, color, creed, ethnicity or sexual orientation should be entitled to practise law without fear of discrimination or social engineering mandates.

### 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. The costs of regulatory approval for such technology should be borne by the applicants for such approvals and not subsidized by the fees of our licencees.

### Innovation

Universities are graduating more students than traditional business models can accommodate. Senior lawyers are being moved out of their existing partnership roles. The traditional LLP business model is not meeting the needs of our industry. The Civil Society rules are vastly underutilized.

### 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:

- advocate for policies of inclusion for all and not exclusion of based on special interest group biases;
- advocate for regulatory policies that promote increased use of technology in the practice of law on a cost recovery basis;
- advocate for new and innovative business models that allow for new and experienced lawyers to discover creative ways to 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.



**Natalia U. Rodriguez****East****nrodriguez@conwaylitigation.ca****B.Sc., B.Ed., J.D. – Partner, Conway Baxter Wilson LLP****Practice:**

- Civil litigation with an emphasis on public/admin, commercial litigation and appellate advocacy
- Senior Counsel to the Public Order Emergency Commission
- Counsel to the Elliot Lake Commission of Inquiry
- Former law clerk - Supreme Court of Canada; Court of Appeal for Ontario

**Memberships:**

- The Advocates' Society: Member, 10+ Standing Committee; Member, Diversity and Inclusion Standing Committee; Podcast Working Group; Mentor
- Canadian Hispanic Bar Association: Board Member (Policy and Programs); Mentor

**Community:**

- Member, Equity Advisory Group, The Law Society of Ontario
- Volunteer, Pro Bono Law Ontario
- Articling principal and student mentor
- Former Board Member, The Children's Bridge

I am delighted to be running for bencher in the East Region as part of the Good Governance Coalition.

I have always strived to be an agent of positive change and my candidacy is no exception. The legal profession is at a pivotal moment: socioeconomic realities, technological advancements and a world-wide pandemic are all altering the way we deliver legal services. The Law Society must respond to these new realities so that it can continue to govern in the public interest and so that the two legal professions in Ontario can adapt successfully. I am committed to good governance and recognize that is not only in the public interest, but also in the interest of advancing our legal professions.

Convocation needs to refocus its attention on ensuring that the Law Society continues its commitment to evidence-based, proportionate, cost-efficient regulation of the legal professions in the public interest. This is why we must bring back civil and focused debate to Convocation: so that a variety of perspectives can be heard in a respectful and productive environment. Only then will positive change and progress be possible.

I have served on several Boards in legal associations and the not-for-profit sector. I have worked in a large, national firm, in the federal government, and in a boutique Ottawa-based firm. I am fortunate to have been exposed to a variety of perspectives through my work in diversity and inclusion committees, student recruitment, and as articling principal.

I am active in The Advocates' Society, as a member of the 10+ Standing Committee, the Diversity and Inclusion Standing Committee and the Podcast Working Group. I have had exposure to and have grappled with many issues before Convocation through my work in the Equity Advisory Group, The Advocates' Society, the Canadian Hispanic Bar Association and RODA (Roundtable of Diversity Associations).

I ask for your support along with support for each of my very qualified colleagues in the Good Governance Coalition. Together, we can bring about positive change to Convocation. You can learn more about all our candidates at [www.goodgovernancecoalition.ca](http://www.goodgovernancecoalition.ca)

**Kevin L. Ross**

kross@lerners.ca

Southwest

**Leadership & Community Contributions**

- Practice Group Lead, Class Actions, Lerners LLP (2014-2017)
- Lawson Health Research Institute (2014-2018): Chair, Board of Directors (2016-2018), Vice-Chair, Board of Directors (2014-2016)
- London Health Sciences Centre (2012-2022): Member, Board of Directors (2013-2022), Community Member, Board of Directors (2012-2013)
- The Advocates' Society: Member, Board of Directors (1996-1999)

**Recognition:** Distinguished Alumni Award, Windsor Law, Fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers, Certified Specialist, Civil Litigation, Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory, Best Lawyers in Canada, Chambers Canada

**Professional Experience:** Partner, Lerners LLP (1989-present), Associate, Lerners LLP (1984-1989)

**Education:** LL.B., University of Windsor, B.A., McMaster University

"With Great Change Comes Great Opportunity"

The last three years presented significant challenges to our profession, but have provided opportunity: to embrace new ways of thinking and a catalyst for long overdue change in the administration of justice and the regulation of our profession.

The need for change is critical in this election. Our privilege of self-governance and independence is at stake. The result of this election will resonate within the profession for years. We must embrace change, identify problems, engage a diverse group of voices and opinions and make decisions in a collaborative and respectful manner, by elevating discourse, debate and decision making.

Experience is essential to strong governance. My management and leadership experience has been honed by 40 years of legal practice, nearly a decade of service on the Board of Directors of the London Health Sciences Centre and two years as Board Chair of the Lawson Health Research Institute. The challenges confronting the health care sector, including accessibility, available government resources, barriers to service and discrimination mirror those of the legal profession. It is not enough to identify these issues; change must occur within realistic timelines.

Public confidence in our profession must be nurtured:

- emphasis on the Competency Framework, focusing on critical needs, at risk members, and coaching vs. policing is integral.
- access to justice remains a serious problem. Embracing technological change is insufficient alone to deliver access to affordable legal services.
- expanding the role of paralegals providing legal services is underway. Its success is contingent upon competency training, supervision and oversight.

The demographics of our profession have evolved, but much remains to be done. We must publicly and transparently combat access to justice barriers caused by racism, prejudice and discrimination. We must articulate, and "live" the principles of equity, diversity and inclusion to best represent the public, whose interests we serve.

Elected Benchers must dedicate energy, experience, creativity, professionalism and leadership to the cause of governance of the profession.

I am honoured to be part of the Good Governance Coalition. All coalition members are worthy of your support:

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

**Quinn Ross**

qmross@rossfirm.com

**Southwest**

**Quinn Ross is a current Bencher and CEO of the Ross Firm, a mid size regional law firm with six offices across Southwestern Ontario.**

**In 2020, Quinn developed and initiated the first four-day work week law firm in Canada. Quinn is a 2022 Canadian Lawyer Magazine 'Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers in Canada' awardee.**

**He sits as the inaugural Chair of the Law Society Futures Committee.**

**He is former President of the Ontario Bar Association. As President, he initiated the Innovator in Residence program, dedicated to supporting development and evolution in the legal profession.**

**Quinn practises Corporate/Commercial, Municipal and Expropriation law. Quinn is a certified Adjudicator and presently sits on the Law Society Tribunal.**

As current Bencher, Chair of the Futures Committee, and an adjudicator on the Law Society Tribunal, I have worked to advance the interests of the legal profession and the public we serve. I am proud of the progress we have made, but there is still much work to be done.

One of the key challenges facing the legal profession today is the unprecedented disruption in the traditional modes of the delivery of legal services. I am committed to ensuring that the Law Society is well-prepared to address this challenge, and to promote innovation and technology in the delivery of legal services, while maintaining the highest standards of ethics and professionalism.

The Law Society must find new ways to support lawyers and paralegals who are at the forefront of these innovations, while also protecting the public interest. This means creating a regulatory framework that balances the need for innovation with the need for oversight and accountability.

If re-elected, I will continue to advocate for policies and programs that promote access to justice for all Ontarians, including expanding the use technology in the courts, alternative dispute resolution and supporting the provision of legal aid. I am also committed to ensuring that the Law Society stands as a leader in promoting diversity and inclusion in the legal profession.

I am proud to have served as a Bencher of the Law Society of Ontario, and I believe that my experience and dedication make me well-suited for re-election.

I am running for re-election alongside the experienced leaders in the legal and paralegal professions as part of the Good Governance Coalition. Please support each of our candidates so we can return good governance and decorum to the Law Society of Ontario. Find the candidates at [goodgovernancecoalition.ca](https://goodgovernancecoalition.ca)



**Stéphane Sérafin****East**[sserafin@uottawa.ca](mailto:sserafin@uottawa.ca)

**I am an Assistant Professor at the University of Ottawa, Faculty of Law, Common Law Section, where I have taught courses on contracts, property law, corporate law and legal theory.**

**I hold a Master of Laws from the University of Toronto, along with a Bachelor of Social Science and common law and civil law degrees from the University of Ottawa.**

**Before joining the academy, I practiced law with a regional firm in Ottawa, serving a primarily First Nations clientele.**

**I have been an outspoken critic of the ideological capture of Canadian higher education.**

As an academic, I have experienced first-hand the damaging and exclusionary effects of a single-minded focus on “equity, diversity and inclusion”. I am running for bencher to reverse a similar ideological takeover of the Law Society of Ontario, and to ensure that our professional regulator remains true to its mandate of regulating the legal profession in the public interest.

**(1) Stop ideological capture**

While the Statement of Principles has been repealed, the broader cultural forces that seek to transform our institutions into ideological instruments continue to bear down on the Law Society. As a bencher, I will oppose all attempts to push the Law Society into the service of objectives extrinsic to its core mandate, including most notably those related to the “woke” or “intersectional” ideology. A healthy legal profession requires that individual lawyers be allowed to hold and express a plurality of viewpoints, especially on contentious matters that have a broad public impact. Our regulator must not impose one set of views as a requirement of membership, or mandate that law firms comply with diversity quotas or similar ideologically driven regulatory burdens.

**(2) Ensure the Law Society fulfills its mandate**

If the Law Society does not exist to advance a particular ideology, then this is because it serves a purpose that is all its own: the regulation of the legal profession in the public interest. As a bencher, I will work to ensure that the Law Society remains focused on this mandate and avoids getting drawn into controversies that do not directly relate to the practice of law in Ontario. I will also work to ensure that the Law Society’s broad regulatory powers are exercised in a manner that reflects the true plurality of legal practice in Ontario. Not every law office is a large Bay Street firm, and not every client can or wishes to be represented by one. Regulating the legal profession in the public interest requires that this diversity be acknowledged in every decision the Law Society makes.





## Cheryl C. M. Siran

csiran@hslaw.ca

Northwest

**I would be honoured to return to Convocation and guide the profession for the next four years.**

**I practise in Kenora with a split between residential real estate transactions and litigation—primarily construction, real estate, and estates. I appreciate the challenges facing rural, solo and small firm practitioners, serving their clients on the front lines, and in particular, the extra pressures faced in the last few years.**

**I have extensive Board experience and bring a practical, common-sense approach to issues. In addition to being a Bencher, I am an appointee to the Ontario Judicial Appointments Advisory Committee, a Deputy Judge of the Small Claims Court, and I run a small, off-grid fishing camp with my husband north of Kenora.**

The best protection for the public is a strong, healthy and competent bar. To accomplish this, we need Benchers who bring diverse viewpoints but also appreciate the daily realities of practising in Ontario. I am running with the Good Governance Coalition to ensure competent, representative leadership at the LSO. I practise in a small firm in the north and know the business of law, the value of innovation and the importance of providing services to everyday Ontarians.

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. With that, the LSO must also be a leader in transformative and innovative technologies that facilitate the efficient delivery of services.

I have three priorities if re-elected: the composition of Convocation is in need of change. The Board cannot be nimble and responsive in its current size of 40 lawyers, 5 paralegals and 8 lay appointments. It is time we look at a skills based, representative Board to govern.

Second, financial pressures on lawyers are reaching epidemic proportions and many are leaving the profession. The LSO must take a hard look at its budgets and reduce spending to avoid a mass exodus of lawyers from private practice to the detriment of our communities.

However, this cannot come to the financial detriment of law libraries. As the former Chair of the FOLA, I understand the importance of these hubs for lawyer competence, support networks and spaces to support solo and small front line practitioners. The LSO needs to continue properly funding these spaces.

I have proven experience in addressing legal issues faced by the profession and am practical in my approach to problem-solving. I will challenge the status quo as necessary. I hope to advocate for policy changes that will continue to lead us into the future.



## Andrew Spurgeon

aspurgeon@rossmcbride.com

Central  
South

**A civil litigator for 28 years, I have served for eight years as Bencher which includes four years as Chair of LAWPRO.**

**I am a former President of the Hamilton Law Association; a former Director of the Advocates Society; a recipient of the OTLA Distinguished Service Award and an Adjunct Professor of Law at Western.**

**In the Community: I am Chair of the Board of Empowerment Squared, an organization in Hamilton that aids immigrant children and is building a library and learning centre in Paynesville, Liberia. I am also a member of the Hamilton Integrated (Medical) Research Ethics Board.**

**Personally, I have been married for 30 years to Margot and have two adult children, Betty and Madeleine.**

I have been a Bencher for eight years. In that time, I hope and believe that through my hard work and performance, that I have earned your trust and respect as a Bencher who takes the job of governing our profession in the public interest seriously. I respectfully ask you to repose your trust in me again for another four years.

If elected, I will continue to do my best to ensure:

- Ours remains a strong, independent, self-regulated profession;
- Full funding for county libraries;
- That the Law Society's finances are managed responsibly; and
- That LAWPRO premiums are kept as low as possible for all lawyers in private practice.

I am also part of the Bencher Good Governance Coalition. I am proud to be associated with them. Each member of the Coalition has demonstrated their leadership and dedication to our profession. Though each has their own perspective on important policy matters, they are all united in the belief that each member of the Law Society should be accepted, respected and fulfilled in their profession.

Why am I running for a third term? I am proud to be a lawyer and I am proud that ours is an independent, self-regulated profession. I want it to stay that way. We are at risk of losing it.

The source of that risk is that in the past four years a large group of Benchers formed into a Slate. Many of them spent their time and energy pursuing wrongheaded, misguided priorities and pandered to extremist political ideology. In doing this, several of them (not all), have engaged in behavior which was embarrassing and destructive to both Convocation and the profession.

To preserve self-regulation, we need to return good governance to the Law Society of Ontario. I humbly request your vote and urge you to vote for all of the members of the Bencher Good Governance Coalition. Visit the website at:

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



**David Steele**

dms@kwlaw.net

Central  
South

**Experience relevant to the office of bencher:**

- practised civil litigation continuously from the 1991 call to the bar
- clientele includes municipalities
- clientele includes not-for-profit organizations
- 10 years as trustee of Waterloo Region Law Association, 4 years as treasurer

Dear Colleagues:

The opportunity to help fulfill the LSO's mandate to protect the public motivates my request for your vote. My perspective is that of a private practitioner from a mid-sized firm (13 lawyers) in a mid-sized city (Waterloo). Set a goal, make a plan (within a budget), and move toward the goal (incrementally, if need be).

Issues of paralegals' roles and promotion of equality and diversity should not be controversial among Ontario's lawyers. I believe the LSO's initiatives relating to these issues have been positive, to be continued and built upon. I want to see the LSO continue to focus on promoting competence, and to inform itself through consultation, as it tackles these apparent bugbears, and all other issues.

Your consideration of my candidacy for bencher is appreciated.



**Stephanie L. Sutherland**

ssutherland@cohenhighley.com

**Central  
South****Stephanie Sutherland, B.A.S, LL.B. – Lawyer, Cohen Highley LLP**

**Practice:** Condominium/multi-residential (landlord/tenant, life leases, co-operatives) – governance/operational, litigation, land development  
**Regular speaker at Canadian Condominium Institute (CCI) and industry events, contributor to industry publications**

**Memberships:** CCI-Grand River: Board Member; Member of Education, Governance, Ontario Technical Committees; CCI-Golden Horseshoe: Former Board Member; Co-Chair of Conference Committee; Member of Professional/Business Partners Committee

**Community Involvement:** Trustee, Waterloo Region Law Association; Former Director, Wellington Law Association, Board Member: Tri-Pride Community Association; University of Guelph Research Ethics Board; Former Board positions: Director and Vice-Chair, Guelph Humane Society; Director and President, Dunara Homes for Recovery; Director and President, Zonta Club of Guelph; Animal rescue volunteer/foster

Dear Colleagues,

I am seeking your support for my candidacy for the 2023 Bencher election, as a member of the Good Governance Coalition. I am running as part of the GGC because I am proud to be a member of this profession and I recognize that there are areas for improvement, and I want to play a part in those positive changes.

We are fortunate to have the ability to self-regulate our profession, but that will continue only as long as we do so in a way that benefits not only those within our industry, but also the larger public that we serve. Recognizing and representing the diversity, in all forms, of the profession and the province is a necessary part of that – as is respectful, responsible, and cooperative governance. This is what I and the GGC stand for.

I believe that I am able to offer strong and positive representation in a wide variety of ways.

**Regional:** I have lived and worked across Ontario.: I grew up in a small community in northern Ontario; I went to university in Guelph, law school in London, articulated in Ottawa; and I worked briefly in Toronto before settling down in Guelph and more recently Kitchener.

**Practice:** I do both litigation and solicitor work, and am familiar with the struggles of both and the ways in which those practices could be better supported. I have been a partner at my own small firm with another colleague, and have been an associate at small and medium-sized firms.

**Governance:** I have sat on many not-for-profit Boards, including in several executive positions. I have extensive governance experience, and am very aware of the time and effort required.

**Personal:** I am a woman, a member of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, and someone with a neurodivergent brain. While my experiences will be different from those who belong to other marginalized groups, some aspects are universal.

I hope that you will support me along with my Good Governance Coalition candidate colleagues. You can meet all of the candidates at the GGC website: [www.goodgovernancecoalition.ca](http://www.goodgovernancecoalition.ca).



**Serge F. Treherne****Northeast**

streherne@eastlink.ca

I have been practising law primarily in Northern Ontario – Sudbury for the past 30+ years. Family Law has always been a part of my practice, representing a wide variety of clients at all stages of matrimonial disputes.

In addition to the practice of Family Law, I also have a real estate and general litigation practice, and have for many years acted as agent for the Office of the Children's Lawyer in the representation of children in child protection matters, as well as in disputes over custody and access. Additionally, for the past number of years I have also acted as a Federal Prosecutor in the prosecution of drug offences as agent for the Public Prosecution Service of Canada.

I am well attuned to the demands and challenges of lawyers in small and medium sized firms, and the importance of lawyers having a positive relationship with the Law Society.

In order to provide for an additional and effective voice for lawyers outside of the Toronto area, I ask for your Vote.



Law Society  
of Ontario

Barreau  
de l'Ontario

Bencher  
Election

Élection  
du Conseil



## Douglas Treilhard

East

[douglas.treilhard@protonmail.com](mailto:douglas.treilhard@protonmail.com)

**I am an Ottawa civil litigator (2014 call) who previously practised in Thunder Bay, clerked with the Superior Court of Justice in Toronto, and attended Queen's University in Kingston.**

The LSO's attempt to impose an unconstitutional "Statement of Principles" on the legal profession was a wake-up call for many Ontario lawyers as to how far the LSO had strayed from its statutory mandate and the threat it posed to the independence of the bar if it was permitted to continue unchecked.

The previous StopSOP slate succeeded in having the "Statement of Principles" requirement revoked. But their efforts to depoliticize the LSO, get its financial affairs in order and focus on good governance have been hampered by their minority position as against establishment benchers. This election gives the profession the opportunity to put reformers in a majority position.

If elected, I promise to vote consistently with the principles in the FullStop platform: (1) reduction of budget, fees and red tape; (2) restriction of the activities of the LSO to its statutory mandate; (3) opposition to any attempt to impose political commitments on the practice of law, including any form of compelled speech or racial quotas.



## Sunish Rai Uppal

suppal@ullaw.ca

Central  
West

**Ottawa-born, raised in North America and South Asia, proficient in English, Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu.**

**Called to the bar in 2013. In 2014 he started his own practice, focusing on personal injury, disability, and employment law.**

**Sunish is a part-time yogi and philanthropist. He lives by the motto – “we grow when the community prospers”.**

**He recently started his own non-profit by the name of Seva Supply. His work includes offering 1500 free meals to the underprivileged every week outside a government hospital in India. In addition, every year 21 underprivileged children are sponsored, where their education, meals and transportation are paid for throughout the year.**

**Giving back to the society and raising human consciousness is what he lives for.**

As the managing lawyer of a small personal injury and employment law firm, I am cognizant of the struggles independent practitioners and small firm lawyers are confronted with daily.

The LSO must change to effectively regulate the practice of law in the public interest. The legal profession plays a critical role in providing access to justice and safeguarding the rights and interests of all individuals. However, the LSO is facing several obstacles that impede its ability to fulfill this role.

In particular, the LSO's budget, which is more than 100 million dollars, does not have to be this high. The excessive fees paid by lawyers can be a barrier to providing access to justice for the public, particularly in underserved areas.

Further, policies that restrict speech, conscience, thought and expression rights must be outrightly rejected. Lawyers and paralegals must be able to provide advice and represent clients without fear of interference or retaliation. An independent bar is crucial to ensuring access to justice and maintaining the legal profession's critical role in society.

**M. Anne Vespry**

anne@vespry.ca

**East****Currently**

- Teach at Algonquin Academy, Ottawa: law clerks and paralegals, 2010–present
- Solicitor in sole practice: family law, wills, 2013–present

Canadian Association for Legal Ethics, County of Carleton Law Association, Family Lawyers Association, Board Member, Legal Coaches Association, EDI Committee Member, Ontario Association of Collaborative Professionals, OBA/CBA

**Previously**

- Taught at University of Ottawa, Faculty of Law, Professional Responsibility, 2018–2020
- Taught at Algonquin College: law clerks and paralegals, 2007–13
- Partner in a two-practitioner firm: general practice, 2003–11
- Egale Canada, volunteer, 1996–99
- Various writing and editing work for small, non-profit, arts and justice organizations.

- Called to the Ontario Bar, 2003, LL.B., University of Ottawa, 1999

**Our Profession**

We don't exist in a one-size-fits-all world and we don't need a one-size fits-all Law Society. Recently benchers have been polarized and decision making has suffered. The strength of our Law Society as a policy-making body is that it allows for criticism, debate, and differing opinions. We need independent benchers who bring a variety of life and work experiences and who reflect a wide range of viewpoints. I bring the perspective of a sole practitioner who knows the challenges faced by this group and wants to seek solutions to these challenges and who also knows the frustration felt at times by being a member of visible and invisible minority groups.

**Bencher Experience**

I served as bencher from 2015 to 2019. From the beginning I never hesitated to speak up in Convocation for issues I believed in or to express the concerns of underrepresented voices. For example, I noticed that information gathering strategies from articling students left them scared to speak up, so I pushed for an anonymous survey that yielded more honest and accurate results. The information gained from the new approach helped shape policies for articling.

**Technology**

The use of technology in enhancing access to justice is well underway. Apps and online legal services are creating alternatives for people to resolve legal problems. This gold-rush for technical investors could either significantly improve access to justice, or it could cause public disillusionment and greater distrust in the legal system. I have the tech-savvy to knowledgeably debate the regulation of technology in the profession, to liaise with international regulators to develop best practices, and to educate and inform the public on the safe use of unregulated legal services.

**Why Me?**

We are privileged to be a profession where fully-independent lawyers self-govern in the public interest.

My lived experience has caused me to believe strongly in the importance of transparency – especially to an organization prone to bureaucratic obscurity – which is why I will maintain open communication with you. I will answer your questions and put forward your requests. You can count on me.





Law Society  
of Ontario

Barreau  
de l'Ontario

Bencher  
Election

Élection  
du Conseil



## Kathryn Whitehead

kwhitehead@ainwhitehead.com

Central  
East

**Kathryn Whitehead is a Founding Partner of Ain Whitehead LLP, a dynamic and forward thinking four-member firm in Barrie. Kathryn's practice focuses on real estate, wills and estates and has developed a niche with respect to private mortgage lending and mortgage enforcement. She is also experienced in complex estate planning matters.**

**Kathryn is the past President of the Simcoe County Law Association, the Barrie Real Estate Lawyers' Association and the Estate Planning Council of Simcoe County. Being a community-minded individual, she is the Vice-President of the Barrie Community Foundation. Kathryn also dedicates time to Gilda's Club, which provides support for individuals and families with cancer.**

**Kathryn holds a Bachelor of Human Kinetics and LL.B. from the University of Windsor.**

Having grown up on a farm outside of Sarnia, I bring a strong work ethic and common sense to the operation of my firm in Barrie. Our small firm focuses strictly on solicitor work and is home to three partners, one associate lawyer, and sixteen support staff. I am proud of the successful business we have established in a constantly growing and changing community.

Outside of my practice, I have had the privilege of representing the Simcoe County Law Association as their President for the last three and half years. I successfully led the Association, and our four-hundred members, through a turbulent and unprecedented period of change and uncertainty during the pandemic.

I am well positioned to relate not only to sole and small practitioners, but to other diverse groups in our profession as well. Solicitors have been grossly underrepresented at Convocation, with the result being that our interests are often overlooked. Likewise, the voices and opinions of female solicitors practising outside of Toronto have been, even more so, historically unheard.

Therefore, in an effort to improve the demographics represented at Convocation, I am proud to be running as part of the Bencher Good Governance Coalition on a platform of well-rounded leadership, common sense and experience. My goal is to provide a unique and diverse perspective to policies and issues raised at Convocation, and to ultimately encourage positive change within our profession. I encourage you to review the BGGC website at <https://www.goodgovernancecoalition.ca/> and consider voting for all members of the coalition to return good governance to convocation.



## Alexander David Wilkes

[alexander@wilkeslaw.ca](mailto:alexander@wilkeslaw.ca)

Central  
East

Alexander is a Bencher and Law Society Tribunal adjudicator. He was called to the bar in 2017, after completing the NCA Certificate of Qualification as a foreign trained lawyer, educated in Scotland. Since then, he has run his own general law practice, focusing on civil litigation. While a Bencher, Alexander has acted as Vice-chair of the Professional Development and Competence Committee, and has been appointed to the Competence Task Force and to the Equity and Indigenous Affairs Committee.

Alexander volunteers with the Track 3 Adaptive Sports Organization, where he teaches adaptive athletes to ski. 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.

Last election, I focused on three issues. Despite StopSOP's minority position this term, we made progress— but more is needed:

1. **Reduce Fees:** By 2019, there had been a roughly 50% increase in fees over the decade, burdening small firms, sole practitioners, and those working in smaller, remote communities. Along with other slate benchers, I fought LSO "mission creep," advocating instead for focus on the core regulatory activities expected of the LSO. High costs for lawyers inevitably affect their clients' access to justice.

While we have reduced fees, the LSO administration's highly fluid definition of "operations" versus "policy" was used to block many legitimate inquiries from the elected benchers into its costs and processes, which have remained opaque to the member lawyers and paralegals. To return the LSO's mandate to its core purposes, we need a transparent, external deep dive into the details of the LSO's expenditures.

2. **Eliminate Red Tape:** Good lawyers should not be burdened with unnecessarily onerous compliance requirements.

On the Professional Development and Competence Committee, I work to assist the LSO in balancing compliance burdens with lawyer supports, compromising neither high professional standards nor public protection. Work remains to transform the LSO into a body which supports lawyers in providing competent legal services, rather than unduly burdening them. As a sole practitioner, I understand that many lawyers in Ontario don't have support staff to deal with LSO interactions and regulatory requirements. The LSO can better ensure competence of lawyers by focusing on supportive, rather than combative, regulation.

3. **Repeal the SOP:** We were successful, repealing a policy compelling members to promote controversial political speech as a requirement to practise law.

I strongly oppose the LSO's accompanying EDI recommendations which remain focused on dividing and categorizing people, inevitably doing harm to society. As bencher, I have seen firsthand that there remains an urgent need to return the LSO to being a neutral regulator, not one interested in "accelerating culture shift" nor in re-defining what is meant by "professionalism" in a political way. The LSO should stick to its core regulatory mandate, leaving politics and ideology to politicians.



**Law Society**  
of Ontario

**Barreau**  
de l'Ontario

**Bencher**  
Election

**Élection**  
du Conseil

**Michael Wills**

**Southwest**



**Matthew Wilson**[matthew@wilsonforbencher.ca](mailto:matthew@wilsonforbencher.ca)**Southwest**

**Matthew (Matt) Wilson is the leader of the real estate department of Siskinds LLP in London. His practice assists clients throughout Ontario in all aspects of real estate transactions.**

**He is a Certified Specialist in Real Estate Law by the Law Society of Ontario.**

**Matthew received a Bachelor of Arts from Western University, which also awarded him a LL.B. He is a member of the Middlesex Law Association, the Canadian Bar Association, the Canadian Condominium Institute, and the Ontario Bar Association, where he is in his second term as Chair of its Real Property Law Section executive. He speaks frequently on real estate-related topics across Ontario, including for the Ontario Bar Association and the Law Society of Ontario.**

Matthew (Matt) Wilson is running for Bencher as part of the Good Governance Coalition.

Matthew is well-versed in good governance, currently serving as Vice-Chair of the London Health Sciences Centre—one of Canada's largest, with a budget of about \$1.4 billion—and is a former Chair of Western University's Governance Committee. He believes that our ability to self-regulate depends on good governance. Good governance requires respectful dialogue, and appreciation of fiduciary duties. Governance must occur with transparency, openness, efficiency and engagement. Matthew believes that we must govern ourselves in accordance with our legal obligations to protect the public interest, to advance the cause of justice and the rule of law, and to facilitate access to justice for the people of Ontario.

Benchers cannot forget the interests and needs of lawyers and paralegals. While we have overarching obligations that must be paramount, there are ways to govern that both protects the public and respects the interests, and realities, of licensees. Matthew also believes that we must also continue to find better ways to engage licensees, and to respect the feedback received. To do so, if elected he intends to hold regular feedback sessions, and to make himself available and accessible to all who are practising law or providing legal services in Ontario.

Some other areas of interest are:

- 1) Continuing as a profession to better understand barriers created by racism, unconscious bias and discrimination, and working to reduce those barriers;
- 2) Promoting a continued, and expanded, use of technology as a way to enhance access to justice and to be able to provide legal services to clients in a way that is more accessible and approachable to them, while also being more efficient for lawyers and paralegals;
- 3) Ensuring that different practice realities are understood and respected, recognizing that it is very difficult to implement "one size fits all" solutions in such a diverse profession; and
- 4) Finding a way to support, enhance, and ideally continue the Law Society's Certified Specialist program.

Matthew can be reached at [matthew@wilsonforbencher.ca](mailto:matthew@wilsonforbencher.ca). More information can be found at <http://www.wilsonforbencher.ca>.



**Michael Winward**

winward@mackesysmye.com

**Central  
South****Practice:**

- **Call to the bar - 1985**
- **Partner Mackesy Smye LLP - Hamilton.**
- **Civil litigation with a strong emphasis on plaintiff personal injury together with general commercial litigation.**
- **Certified Specialist in Civil Litigation - 2001**

**Relevant Experience:**

- **Past President - Hamilton Law Association - 2010 to 2011**
- **Central South Regional Representative - Federation of Ontario Law Associations (FOLA) - 2011 to 2018**
- **Chair - Federation of Ontario Law Associations (FOLA) - November 2018 to May 2020**

**Memberships:**

- **Hamilton Law Association, Ontario Trial Lawyers Association, Advocates' Society**

The privilege of self-regulation comes with the fiduciary duty to regulate lawyers and paralegals as mandated under the Law Society Act - ensuring competence, advancing the cause of justice, facilitating access to justice, and protecting the public interest. I believe that the public interest is best met through legal professionals who are well supported by their regulator. This support includes assistance for those who need it, whether it be through mentoring, continuing professional development, or addressing health concerns. As a Bencher, I will be an advocate for sustainable funding for county law libraries; improved mentoring for young lawyers, particularly those in sole practice; assistance for those senior lawyers who struggle to find a succession plan for their practices; and ensuring responsible financial management.

Through my work on the executive and as Chair of FOLA, I was fortunate to work with both LSO staff and past Benchers on a variety of initiatives including: the transition from LibraryCo to LiRN, county law library funding, contingency fee regulation, access to justice, competence task force, lawyer licensing, alternative business structures and advertising. I believe this experience makes me well suited to serve as a Bencher in a way that is collaborative, respectful and results oriented.

I am proud to be running as a member of the Bencher Good Governance Coalition because I want to bring back to the Law Society governance that is grounded on mutual respect and open mindedness. I believe that our coalition best represents and gives voice to the diversity that is today's legal profession: who we are, where we live and how we practise. The coalition is not a party who will vote as a bloc. Rather, we are a group of experienced leaders who will bring respectful discussion and debate back to convocation. In running for Bencher, I am asking for your vote, not just for myself but for all members of the BGGC. Please have a look at our website: <https://www.goodgovernancecoalition.ca/>

Candidates from  
inside Toronto

Candidat(e)s de  
Toronto



**Law Society**  
of Ontario

**Barreau**  
de l'Ontario



## Robert Adourian

[robert.adourian@devrylaw.ca](mailto:robert.adourian@devrylaw.ca)

**Robert (Bob) Adourian is a lawyer with Devry Smith Frank, practising primarily in Real Estate, Wills and Estates. He was a sole practitioner from 1988 until he joined DSF in 2012. He was elected as a Bencher in 2019.**

**Bob enjoys serving as a mentor to young lawyers. He was a Real Estate instructor in the Bar Admission Course and speaks at CPD programs. Over the years he has made presentations to community groups on topics such as "Buying Your First Home" and "Why You Should Make A Will."**

**Committees: Professional Development & Competence, Proceedings Authorization Real Estate Liason, LawPRO Board of Directors**

**Memberships: Toronto Lawyers Association, Durham Region Law Association, Armenian Bar Association.**

**Contact: 416-446-3303 [robert.adourian@devrylaw.ca](mailto:robert.adourian@devrylaw.ca)**

I was honoured to be elected in 2019 and I am once again asking for your support.

My vision is for the LSO to earn the respect of licensees by supporting and equipping them to serve the public as strong and independent professionals. I believe this to be the best way we can fulfil our mandate.

The mandate of the Benchers is set out in paragraphs 4.1 and 4.2 of the Law Society Act. While ensuring that standards of professional competence and professional conduct are upheld, the Law Society in carrying out its functions, duties and powers is required to have regard to the following principles:

1. To maintain and advance the cause of justice and the rule of law.
2. To act so as to facilitate access to justice for the people of Ontario.
3. To protect the public interest.
4. To act in a timely, open and efficient manner.

Given this mandate, here is what I propose to prioritize in the next four years:

- Facilitate Access to Justice (including access to basic legal services);
- Advocate for innovation and increased funding for Legal Aid;
- Maintain funding for law libraries across the Province;
- Provide licensees with free CPD courses in practice management and technology;
- Provide incentives and tools for experienced legal professionals to serve as mentors.
- Ensure that licensees provide competent and professional service to the public;
- Provide succession planning tools for licensees;
- Conduct the business of the LSO in a transparent, cost-efficient, and accountable manner to achieve the statutory mandate.

Implementing these priorities will require the co-operation of other stakeholders including educators, governments, and other regulators. It will also require strategic investment by the LSO in licensees, which will result in the delivery of better service to the public. I am willing to work diligently to achieve these priorities because I care deeply about both the legal professionals we govern and the people we serve.

If re-elected, I will continue to listen to your concerns, build bridges, advocate for our professions, and do my very best to be worthy of your trust.

See [www.bob4bencher.ca](http://www.bob4bencher.ca)



## Sean Aylward

seanaylward.6@gmail.com

I am a graduate of Osgoode Hall Law School (LLB) and the London School of Economics (LLM). From 1990 until 2016 I practiced with Osler, Hoskin and Harcourt with a particular emphasis on commodity taxation and tax disputes. I have also acted as counsel to the House of Commons Finance Committee and been engaged as a consultant to the federal Department of Finance in connection with the preparation of tax legislation. I retired from the Osler partnership in 2016 and have been engaged in both legal practice and private equity business interests since then.

I have two fundamental goals for service as a Bencher.

1. Fiscal discipline: the LSO has a budget which exceeds that of the City of Oshawa, a community of over 400,000 people. I believe a primary obligation of Benchers is the integrity of the fiscal process and achieving value for members, whose fees support the institution. The mission of the LSO should be clearly understood as an independent and responsible regulator acting in the public interest, respecting the independence and welfare of legal professionals. Efforts to undermine this fundamental role and engage in relentless and costly mission creep is not acceptable. Past efforts by some Benchers to propose modest reforms such as a draft budget with 10% spending cuts have been summarily rejected. Such proposals need to be the starting point for thorough analysis of the expenditures and mandate of the LSO to ensure it can become fiscally responsible.
2. Stop the Imposition of Wokeism: Four years ago I became aware of the efforts of the then Bencher majority to impose the so-called Statement of Principles, (the "SOP"). This was a transparent effort at compelled speech using the licensing powers of the LSO as a hammer over individual members. While the "Stop SOP" Benchers elected in 2018 were able to rescind the mandatory application of the SOP, its reimposition remains a project for many of the existing leadership unless a clear majority of Benchers are elected to oppose it. The rule of law, freedom of expression and individual liberties are pillars of what the Law Society and our profession should stand for. The notion that professional regulatory bodies will use their licensing powers to impose arbitrary and procrustean doctrines of what is, and is not, acceptable speech is the antithesis of good governance. Without a strong representation of Benchers in steadfast opposition to this movement the SOP will be merely the first step in a vastly more intrusive and ideological role for the LSO, as has been witnessed in other professional regulatory bodies. Compelled speech and social engineering are not the mandate of what should be neutral professional regulation.





## Steven Benmor

steve@benmor.com

**Steve Benmor, B.Sc., LL.B., LL.M.**  
**Certified Specialist in Family Law**  
**1989 University of Toronto, B.Sc.**  
**1992 University of Windsor, LL.B.**  
**2008 Osgoode Hall Law School, LL.M.**  
**2006 Certified Specialist in Family Law**  
**2013 Fellow, International Academy of Family Lawyers**  
**2015 Certified Family Mediator**  
**2017 Certified Parenting Coordinator Specialist**  
**1996-present Principal & Family Law Specialist, Benmor Family Law Group**

**Faculty, School for Family Litigants, National Self-Represented Litigants Project;**  
**Past Chair, OBA Family Law Section; Past Chair, OBA Elder Law Section; Past Chair,**  
**Walsh Family Law Moot; Past Chair, Access for Parents and Children, Ontario;**  
**Founding Director/Past Treasurer, AFCC-O; Past Adjunct Professor, Osgoode Hall &**  
**Seneca College; Past Panel Lawyer, Children's Lawyer & PGT**

I have 3 goals to achieve as Bencher:

**#1 To address the Access to Justice problems in Family Law including SRL's, Virtual Hearings, FLSP's, ABS & AI**

We have a major problem to solve in family justice. 2 out of 3 separating spouses are not retaining lawyers. The courts are backlogged with self-represented litigants. The LSO is granting licences to paralegals to appear in court instead of lawyers. Canada's Department of Justice is funding the School for Family Litigants so they can represent themselves on their own. Many rural areas have few or no lawyers, with no prospect of more coming soon.

Neither our federal government, provincial government nor Legal Aid has solved the problem. The LSO and the Benchers must address this important public issue.

**#2 To preserve LSO's Certified Specialist Program**

On May 26, 2022, Convocation voted to wind-down the Certified Specialist Program. Four months later, Convocation approved a motion to suspend the wind-up 'pending further consideration' by LSO's Professional Development and Competence Committee.

The public need to know who the lawyers are in Ontario with expertise in each of the 17 specific areas of the law.

**#3 To protect the mental health of lawyers & paralegals**

In "The Litigator and Mental Health", past Chief Justice Strathy stated that success in the practice of law is correlated with depression and anxiety in lawyers.

His Honour stated:

"feelings of isolation, uncertainty and stress experienced by Black, Indigenous, racialized, LGBTQ2S counsel, women, those with different accents and internationally trained lawyers are too frequently viewed as an individual issue rather than understood as the result of subtle acts of exclusion."

In my small law firm, I am doing my part to mentor and train my team of junior lawyers, paralegals and clerks to better manage the stress of practising law and to take their mental health seriously.

Lawyers and paralegals can no longer suffer from high levels of anxiety, depression, substance abuse and other forms of psychopathology. The LSO and its Benchers must prioritize the mental and physical health of its licensees, which is also in the public interest.

**Avy J. Ben-zvi**

avy@ben-zvi.ca

**My Background:**

I was born and raised in Toronto, Ontario and I am married with two children. I was called to the bar in 2008 and I have been practising as a sole practitioner since that time. I am a Certified Specialist in family law who currently practises in the west end of Toronto. I also work as a mediator and arbitrator.

**My credentials:**

**Practice Areas:** General Civil Litigator, Family Lawyer, Accredited Family Mediator, Qualified Arbitrator.

**Memberships:** LSO Certified Specialist Program, Ontario Association for Family Mediation (OAFM), Alternative Dispute Resolution Professional Organization (ADR Institute of Canada), Better Business Bureau (BBB)

**Professional Involvement:** The Ontario Mandatory Mediation Program, LSO Tutoring Program for Bar and Paralegal Exams

"Vote for Change – We can make a difference together"

Dear Colleagues:

I am seeking your support for my candidacy in the 2023 bencher election. Change is essential now in order to restore the integrity and public perception of the Law Society. I am extremely proud of my career and would be honoured to have the opportunity to represent our legal community. I will add my years of practical experience, hard work, dedication, strong values and passion. My focus will be on access to justice, equity, diversity and inclusion, transparency, a frugal and balanced economic budget, improving and restoring lawyer support resources and long standing programs at the LSO as well as technological advancement. I will strive to put my best foot forward to make significant decisions that will impact our legal community with the utmost integrity and make every effort to bring back our legal community to make it stronger and better than ever before. While making decisions I will balance the best interest of our legal profession and the public interest. I have dedicated the time commitment as it will be my number one priority to fulfill those duties.

My Agenda:

Access to Justice – Restoring a practical legal aid budget that is no longer underfunded and is fair for all lawyers and the public

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion– Support programs to educate lawyers of the importance of multiculturalism within our domain

Transparency – Promote better solutions to inform and communicate with lawyers

Economic Budget – Reducing the Law Society's budget, lawyer fees, professional insurance and offerings of more free or low cost CPD programs

Lawyer Resources – Expand the mentorship programs to be more efficient, responsive and helpful for lawyers and improve our Certified Specialist Program

Technological Advancement – Improve technology, support and security for lawyers

In consideration of the above, after serving and assisting individuals and professionals in our community for years I believe I represented our profession admirably and most importantly, I want to continue to do so as a bencher. I sincerely appreciate your support and I thank all of you for voting.



## **Charles Boulakia**

[cboulakia@ridoutmaybee.com](mailto:cboulakia@ridoutmaybee.com)

**Charles Boulakia is an Intellectual Property lawyer at Ridout & Maybee LLP, in Toronto. He is actively involved with intellectual property organizations, and is a member of the Discipline Committee of the College of Patent and Trademark Agents. He volunteers and mentors at Ryerson iBoost, the University of Toronto Hatchery, and is on the selection committee for the Norman Esch Engineering Innovation and Entrepreneurship Awards. He has three young children.**

Charles believes he can contribute as a moderate and reasonable voice with an emphasis on light, cost-effective regulation in the public interest.

**D. Jared Brown****jbrown@brownlaw.ca**

**Trial lawyer, Lead Counsel at Brown Litigation, and a Bencher of the Law Society of Ontario.**

**Advising and managing risk issues for organizations and businesses including contracts, employment, and mission critical litigation.**

**As a Bencher of the Law Society of Ontario, Jared sits on the Professional Development and Competence and Tribunal committees, and is a Tribunal Adjudicator.**

**Testified on legal issues before the Canadian Senate Constitutional and Legal Affairs Committee, and is regularly sought by mainstream media, legal publications, and interest groups for comment and opinion on legal matters.**

**Commentary published in Canadian Lawyer Magazine, Law Times, Lawyers' Daily and online at [www.brownlaw.ca](http://www.brownlaw.ca), including blog posts, youtube broadcasts, podcasts, and speaking engagements, and on twitter @litigationguy.**

**RE-ELECT D. JARED BROWN FOR TORONTO BENCHER**

I was elected Bencher in 2019 to stop the ideological capture of the Regulator.

The woke capture of the Regulator threatens the Law Society as an independent liberal democratic institution. Ideological capture results in bad policy like the compelled speech Statement of Principles which I repealed in 2019.

- The Public Interest is regulating competence in the provision of legal services.
- The Public Interest is the rule of law.
- The Public Interest is neutral regulation applied equally, without ideology, politics, preference, or favour.
- The Public Interest is the elimination of over- regulation.

As Bencher I will:

- a) Depoliticize the Regulator;
- b) Restore ideological diversity and pluralism to governance and regulation;
- c) Reduce regulatory burden on the professions;
- d) Reduce the bloated budget;
- e) Reduce annual dues; and
- f) No remuneration – I will continue my public service to the professions without taking any Bencher remuneration.

With Brown, the Regulator will uphold the public interest without bureaucratic burden on the professions.

With Brown, for every regulatory proposal, the Regulator will identify at least 2 legacy regulations to be reformed or repealed.

With Brown, the ideological capture and one-way regulatory ratchet at the Regulator will stop.

Full Stop. [www.fullstoplso.ca](http://www.fullstoplso.ca)





## John Callaghan

john.callaghan@gowlingwlg.com

### John Callaghan

#### Responsible/ Experienced/ Leadership

- Partner, Gowling WLG (Canada) LLP
- Bencher 2011-19:
  - Past Chair, Government Relations
  - Past Vice-Chair, Audit and Finance
  - Member, Discipline Panel
- Member, Civil Rules Committee: 1994-2022
- Past Director, Legal Aid Ontario
- Past Director, Advocates Society
- Co-author, Class Actions Law and Practice
- Recognized as a leading commercial counsel by Chambers Global, the Best Lawyers in Canada, L'Expert, and Benchmark
- Good Governance Coalition
- Married with three children
- Reformed hockey coach

I was elected as a Bencher in 2011 and 2015. As Chair of the Law Society's Government Relations Committee I saw, first-hand, the respect our elected leaders and the public had for the LSO, the Benchers and our ability to govern the profession in the public interest.

These past four years have seen a decline in how Benchers and the profession are viewed. One bencher reports that "civility is at an all-time low," and described a recent Convocation as "a case study on incivility and the disregard of the public interest." This level of dysfunction endangers our independence.

As the Supreme Court of Canada stated in 1982: "The independence of the Bar from the state in all its pervasive manifestations is one of the hallmarks of a free society."

In practice, this independence depends on the Law Society meeting its obligations to govern the profession in the public interest.

Some Benchers' conduct over the last four years does not instill confidence that Convocation can govern in the public interest:

- Benchers have served libel notices on the Treasurer and filed lawsuits against the LSO.
- Budgets are proposed to be slashed without regard to the public interest, the impact on members or law library funding.
- Progress on EDI was jettisoned without regard to the responsibility we have as a profession to one another or to members of the diverse public.
- Scant attention is being paid to the Society's core responsibilities, such as discipline.

The profession deserves better. The public expects better. The continuation of our professional independence and privilege of self-governance demands better.

I have joined together with the Good Governance Coalition to provide the profession with the type of governance that it deserves and the public demands. Please support me and all the members of the Good Governance Coalition. To learn more about the coalition, please go to <https://www.goodgovernancecoalition.ca> or to learn more about me, please go to [www.johncallaghan.ca](http://www.johncallaghan.ca)



## Gerald Chan

[geraldc@stockwoods.ca](mailto:geraldc@stockwoods.ca)

**I am a partner at Stockwoods, where I practise criminal and constitutional law. I commit much of my time to legal aid and pro bono work.**

**I previously practised with Clayton Ruby at a firm of fewer than five lawyers. Before that, I practised at Goodmans and clerked for Justice Abella at the Supreme Court of Canada.**

**When I'm not practising law, I enjoy teaching and writing. I teach at the University of Toronto law school and as part of the National Criminal Law Program. I have co-edited and co-authored several books on law and technology.**

**I currently serve on the Judicial Appointments Advisory Committee. I am a past president of the Federation of Asian Canadian Lawyers (Ontario).**

I am proud to be running for Bencher as a member of the Bencher Good Governance Coalition. You can find out more about my campaign at [geraldchanforbencher.ca](http://geraldchanforbencher.ca) and the Coalition at [goodgovernancecoalition.ca/](http://goodgovernancecoalition.ca/).

I'm running because I'm concerned about what has happened over the last four years. The LSO has become paralyzed by the toxic atmosphere at Convocation. Legitimate issues, including how the LSO can meet its mandate in a financially responsible manner, are not getting the attention they need. If things continue down this path, I fear we may lose the right to self-regulation.

The Coalition is not a party and its members do not agree on all issues. But we are united in our commitment to restoring thoughtful policy, decorum, and good governance to Convocation.

I care deeply about access to justice. I believe the LSO must take the lead in organizing stakeholders to ensure adequate funding for Legal Aid so that legal clinics can thrive, and lawyers in the criminal, family, and immigration bars can do meaningful work for those in need. Delays in criminal and civil justice must be reduced. More work needs to be done to ensure the active offer of French language services in the court system. And we should harness the power of technology to reduce the cost of legal services for all Ontarians.

Related to access to justice is professional competence. We need Benchers with experience in litigation who can ensure a fair process in disciplinary hearings. We must focus not just on discipline but on other more effective and less costly means of ensuring competence. We can all commit to improving our technological literacy as lawyers and paralegals. And we should recognize the link between equity, diversity, and inclusion and competence. As the Supreme Court of Canada has said, "A diverse bar is more responsive to the needs of the public it serves. A diverse bar is a more competent bar."

I hope to receive your support this April. And I urge you to vote for all members of the Coalition.



## Joseph Chiummiento

joseph@chiummiento.com

**I was called to the bar in 2002 and practise as a sole-practitioner with a focus on corporate reorganizations, securities and international transactions.**

**My experience includes in-house counsel work, building teams and advising boards of private and public companies. I also provide free coaching and mentoring through Coach and Advisor Network at the LSO for solo and small firm owners.**

**I graduated from the University of Windsor (LLB) and York University (BSW and BA Psych), and in the past I have worked in the areas of corporate law, tax law, securities law, construction/commercial litigation.**

**Op-Eds published on LSO issues include: Is Mandatory Re-Training Coming to the LSO? And Law Society of Ontario Needs A Modernization Initiative.**

I have had the privilege of serving as a Bencher for the Central East Region since 2019.

When I first arrived at the LSO Members dues in 2019 were \$2,201.00, and within two years efforts to reduce the budget succeeded, resulting in lows of \$1,873.00 (2021) and \$1,813.00 (2022).

I am seeking re-election to:

1. Be a voice for the solo and small law firms in Ontario.
2. Reduce the budget of the LSO.
3. Return the regulator to its core mandate.

### Over-Regulation and Core Mandate

I believe that prior to 2019 the LSO had lost its way and strayed too far from its core mandate of protecting the public interest, facilitating access to justice and ensuring its Members are competent.

The policies that created the Statement of Principles or the Inclusion Index contributed to increased dues, the potential for much more regulation, and significant intrusion of the LSO into the lives of solo and small firm practitioners, in particular.

The LSO's role should remain neutral and focused on its mandate to regulate with little intrusion into the lives of its Members, unless warranted.

### Solo and Small Firms

Solo and small firms employ the vast majority of practising Members in Ontario, and I am concerned that their needs are overlooked, undervalued or minimized with a "we know best" approach to regulation.

It's important to continue to provide a voice for solo and small firms from within Convocation. With the advent of law firm regulation coming to the LSO this is all the more important.

### Financial Modernization

There remains much work to be done in the area of fiscal budgetary management. A very large percentage of the LSO's expenses come from regulatory processes as well as the \$72,000,000 paid in salaries.

I believe we need to find efficiencies in those areas that represent the largest expense items in our budget. Doing so in a way that does not impact the integrity of the LSO systems but reduces costs should be a priority.





## Michael Cochrane

mcochrane@btlegal.ca

- Counsel to Brauti, Thorning LLP, Toronto
- 43 years in private practice and with the Attorney General
- Practice focused on family, estates, civil litigation, mediation
- Harvard trained in multi-party mediations, negotiations
- Chair of the Attorney General's Advisory Committee on Class Action Reform
- Chair of the Task Force on the Environmental Bill of Rights
- Chair of the Attorney General's Advisory Committee on Mediation in Family Law
- Lecturer at Ottawa U Law School, Osgoode Hall Law School, Ryerson University (now Met), Carleton University, and Bar Ads
- Author of numerous legal texts, including Family Law in Ontario for Lawyers and Law Clerks and Surviving Your Divorce (6th ed.)
- Host of BNN's Strictly Legal for 3 years
- Focused on PLE throughout my career

### One Profession – Not Two Slates

It should be simple. Stick to Fundamentals. Collaborate. Make Decisions in the Public Interest. Instead, this election is now about competing slates of candidates, competing visions for the Bar and control of our Law Society.

By all accounts, the last four years at Convocation have been filled with acrimony, a lack of civility and failed decision-making. If the next four years are going to be any different, we will need Benchers who are prepared to stick to the fundamentals of the LSO's mandate, men and women who can work together collaboratively, who know how to reach the necessary compromises and who will then make good decisions rather than use our governing body as an ideological battleground.

What are the Fundamentals of the LSO's mandate? To make sure the people of Ontario have accessible, competent, and affordable legal services. Those words cover a lot of ground and are a huge responsibility, a responsibility which in some respects we are not meeting.

Our profession is facing some very big challenges. They cannot be ignored for another four years.

Will either slate be 100% successful? If not, then our governing body will need a few Benchers who can make it work through goodwill, mediation/negotiation skills and helping Convocation keep its eye on the ball.

Look at my bio. Visit my website: [cochrane4bencher.ca](http://cochrane4bencher.ca). Those skills are my stock in trade as demonstrated as a mediator/facilitator of major multi-party consultations and in resolving hundreds of individual high conflict matters over my 43 year career in small, midsize and large firms, as well as in government.

As of this writing, I have been endorsed by over 100 leading lawyers from around the province. There is no reason that a Toronto Bencher should not be just as sensitive to regional needs as those of the GTA. We are one profession.

If you want those skills deployed for you and for our Law Society over the next four years, then I am prepared to put in the time and the work, and I am asking for your vote.





Law Society  
of Ontario

Barreau  
de l'Ontario

Bencher  
Election

Élection  
du Conseil



## Antoine Collins

[antoine.collins@irb-cisr.gc.ca](mailto:antoine.collins@irb-cisr.gc.ca)

**Antoine Collins began his legal career almost 19 years ago as an Assistant State's Attorney in Baltimore, Maryland, where he prosecuted cases ranging from minor thefts to felony child abuse and domestic violence. In this role, he learned how to work collaboratively with a variety of stakeholders, and began a lifelong practice of accumulating knowledge and experience on a range of legal and social issues.**

**Currently, Antoine is a Coordinating Member (Adjudicator/Manager) with the Refugee Protection Division (RPD) of the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB). He contributes to Canada's human rights and humanitarian record by making fair and well-reasoned decisions on applicants claiming refugee protection. Antoine is also actively involved in the Ontario legal community.**

As an enthusiastic and proud lawyer who cares deeply about the profession and the future practice of law, I am putting my name forward for Bencher. I am keen to take up the challenge of helping shape the future of our noble profession by focussing on the LSO's public interest obligation to address the legal needs of all Ontarians. I believe that, together....

WE CAN choose to elect a governing body that reflects the values, principles and commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion in Ontario's legal profession, and be representative of the communities we serve. No one in the profession can say that they are unaware of the need for greater diversity in the legal field, including on our governing body. The time for talk is over, we can elect a truly representative governing body that is committed, opened-minded and reflective in its actions.

WE MUST elect a governing body that commits to legal excellence, reinvests in the community, and promotes equality and diversity among the bar – one that will address important issues, like: legal services delivery, pathways to licensing, the cost of legal education, mental health, reconciliation with indigenous communities, diversity and inclusiveness. Together, we must ensure that Convocation represents a diverse public with lawyers from an array of backgrounds, electoral regions, practice areas and settings.

WE WILL work together to elect a governing body that provides good leadership, good policy, and good governance. We will elect individuals to our governing body willing to influence governance in a positive way, push for regulation and the provision of legal services that benefit the entire profession and the communities we serve. We will work together to support worthy initiatives, including a properly-funded law library system, a sustainably-funded Legal Aid system and policies that ensure access to justice for all Ontarians.

There are necessary changes that you can help achieve. Choose Antoine Collins for Bencher and together: WE CAN. WE MUST. WE WILL!



Law Society  
of Ontario

Barreau  
de l'Ontario

Bencher Election | Élection  
du Conseil



## Barry Corbin

[barry.corbin@corbinestateslaw.com](mailto:barry.corbin@corbinestateslaw.com)

**In private practice for 40+ years, the last 18 flying solo -- focusing on estate planning, estate administration and mediating estate disputes. Certified by LSO as a specialist in Estates and Trusts Law. Served 26 years on the Estates Subcommittee of the Civil Rules Committee, the last 15 years as Chair, receiving Court of Appeal medallion. Fellow of American College of Trust and Estate Counsel. Past Chair of the Executive Committee of each of the CBA Wills & Trusts Section and OBA Trusts & Estates Section. Recipient of 2009 OBA Award of Excellence in Trusts & Estates Law. Co-founding editor of monthly newsletter, Money & Family Law (since 1986), and past Editor-in-Chief of Estates Trusts & Pensions Journal (1990-2004).**

I am running for bencher as an "independent"; that is, I belong to neither of the declared candidate coalitions. If elected, I will strive to speak on behalf of those who have become disenchanted with bencher decisions that raise questions as to whether they are falling short of, or in some cases exceeding, the LSO mandate of "regulating the lawyers and paralegals of Ontario in the public interest." One example? The benchers voted more than a year ago to establish a pilot project that would put the LSO's stamp of approval on third party legal software as part of its A2I (Access to Innovation) initiative. The first approved software allows members of the public to prepare a will without a lawyer. That is surely irrelevant to the mandate to regulate lawyers in the public interest. Another example? The benchers voted at their May 2022 Convocation to abolish the certified specialist program, thus preventing all lawyers without the designation from aspiring to attain that higher standard of practice. Worse still, they voted to bar the many hundreds of lawyers who, over the decades, worked hard to earn that designation from continuing to use that designation after 2022. How would such a decision constitute regulating lawyers in the public interest? Thankfully, there was a great hue and cry from practitioners, speaking through a petition initiated by my office, along with an avalanche of separate letters to the benchers. That reaction led the same benchers to vote at the September 2022 Convocation to re-visit the issue after more thorough consideration of the implications of that decision. However, without a greater diversity of thinking among the benchers after the upcoming election, the ultimate fate of the certified specialist program and of certified specialists may well be the same. Colleagues tell me I approach issues with a well-considered intellectual bent. As a bencher, I will use that skill to address the profession's concerns. We pay high annual fees. Let's ensure that they are spent on the right things.

**Rebecca C. Durcan****rdurcan@sml-law.com****Co-Managing Partner at Steinecke Maciura LeBlanc – Law Firm dedicated to professional regulation****Adjunct Professor at University of Toronto Faculty of Law (Professional Responsibility)****Co-author of Annotated Statutory Powers Procedure Act (Carswell: 2017), Understanding Professional Regulation (Emond Publishing: 2019) and A Complete Guide to the RHPA (Thomson Reuters)****BA. H. (Queen's University); LL.B. University of Windsor (2000); Law Society of Ontario (2002); LL.M. (Health) Osgoode Hall, York University (2006)****Memberships: The Advocates Society, Women's Law Association of Ontario, Toronto Law Association, Ontario Bar Association (Governance Committee)****Born in Dublin, Ireland; Mother of Harry (17), Jude (14) and Teddy (12); Registered to run Boston Marathon in April 2023**

I practise in a small firm. My practice is dedicated to assisting professional regulators understand and discharge their role. My experiences as Regulatory General Counsel, Prosecution Counsel, and Independent Legal Counsel will assist Convocation understand and discharge its role.

I write and teach about the importance of regulatory board members understanding their fiduciary duties (including avoiding conflicts of interest, placing the interest of the regulator ahead of their own, and acting in a manner that demonstrates integrity). I assist regulatory board members identify where their role starts and ends. Too often, regulatory board members believe that they have the authority to dictate every decision of the regulator. This is not correct and can have a corrosive impact on the functioning and reputation of the regulator. I understand the consequences when the professions, the public, and the Government lose confidence in its regulator.

If elected, I will press for governance reforms so that Convocation is better equipped to address urgent issues. This could include reducing the size of Convocation, separating membership of Convocation from committees, and increasing the voice of the public within the regulator. I also believe that Convocation needs to identify barriers that can be removed so that Ontarians can access affordable, ethical, and effective legal services. Finally, the Law Society needs to ensure that the fees it collects are spent transparently and in a manner dedicated to its mandate.

I am running with the Bencher Good Governance Coalition, as I believe that they understand and will adhere to the duties that are expected of regulatory board members. I expect that members of the Bencher Good Governance Coalition will not agree on every policy issue that comes before Convocation. But I am confident that deliberations will be respectful, focus will be on policy matters as opposed to operational matters, and the professions, the public, and the Government will have confidence that Convocation is focusing on issues that serve and protect the public interest.

I therefore ask not only for your vote, but for the vote of my thirty-nine other colleagues on the Bencher Good Governance Coalition.

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





## **Annamaria Enenajor**

**aenenajor@rubyshiller.com**

**Since 2015, I have practised criminal defence, regulatory and constitutional law at Ruby Shiller Enenajor DiGiuseppe, Barristers, a small firm in Toronto, where I am partner.**

**Previously, I practised commercial litigation at a law firm in New York.**

**In 2012-2013, I clerked at the Supreme Court of Canada for Justice Richard Wagner, now Chief Justice.**

**I received my B.C.L./LL.B. from McGill University in 2012 as the David L. Johnson Gold Medalist.**

**I am a member of the Criminal Lawyers' Association, the Advocates' Society, the Toronto Lawyers Association, and the Canadian Association of Black Lawyers.**

**I am Founder and Executive Director of the not-for-profit, Cannabis Amnesty.**

I will work hard to enhance professional competence, build an inclusive Bar and bring constructive debate back to Convocation so we can focus on policy rather than politics.

### **Professional Competence:**

The responsibility of the Law Society of Ontario to regulate lawyers is intimately tied to the competence of its members. Competency means fewer complaints, fewer professional liability claims, and ultimately lower fees. Responsible governance of the profession requires a balance between the need to support licensees in a rapidly changing landscape (think AI and COVID-19) with the need to keep fees manageable. As a lawyer practising in a small firm, I am sensitive to this balance. I rely on LSO-funded resources like local law libraries but I also feel the pinch of annual dues. Striking the right balance is key.

### **An Inclusive Bar:**

As the profession grows to reflect the diversity of the population our justice system serves, the LSO must be responsive to the unique challenges faced by lawyers whose paths to the profession have not historically been represented, such as racialized licensees, immigrants, and those with non-traditional backgrounds. The LSO must also consider the challenges of licensees who are pregnant, new parents or facing mental health crises. Nobody wins when licensees struggle. It is in the public interest to ensure that adequate support is available for those who need it in order to minimize lawyer burnout and enhance the ability of lawyers to thrive in the profession. We're in this together.

### **Good Governance:**

I am a strong advocate for freedom of expression and conscience. I joined the Good Governance Coalition because it is time to put divisive politics aside at Convocation. Convocation has become a place for sloganeering, grandstanding and obstructionism. The profession and the public deserved better. Let's focus on governance – good governance – and policy.

I am proud to be running for election with the Bencher Good Governance Coalition, a diverse and representative group of experienced leaders. We are united in our commitment to thoughtful policy, decorum, and good governance at Convocation. Visit our website at: [www.goodgovernancecoalition.ca](http://www.goodgovernancecoalition.ca).

Read more on [www.annamaria4bencher.com](http://www.annamaria4bencher.com)





## Jeremy Glick

[jeremyglick@aloc.ca](mailto:jeremyglick@aloc.ca)

**Jeremy Glick is the elected President of the Association of Law Officers of the Crown (ALOC), the bargaining agent representing approximately 950 civil lawyers and students employed by Ontario. ALOC advances their interests through collective bargaining, member advocacy, education, and systemic and individual work on equity. As President, Jeremy leads the Board of Directors and has operational oversight of the organization.**

**Before becoming President of ALOC, Jeremy was a civil litigator in the Crown Law Office – Civil at MAG. There, he handled complex litigation files in multiple areas of law.**

**Jeremy is an active mentor to lawyers and students and has been an articling principal.**

**Jeremy is a member of the Advocate's Society, the OBA and the CBA.**

I am running for Bencher to be a voice for public sector and other lawyers at Convocation, to improve the governance of the Law Society, and to work for a more inclusive and diverse profession.

I have first hand experience of advocating for public sector lawyers. ALOC represents approximately 950 civil lawyers and articling students employed by Ontario. As President, I am the public face of the organization, advocating for members on both a systemic and individual basis.

I have worked collaboratively with other organizations including the OCAA, the AJC and the Society of United Professionals (representing LAO Lawyers). This has enhanced my understanding of the individual and organizational challenges facing public sector lawyers in Ontario, and I am committed to ensuring that their voices are heard and their interests represented at Convocation.

As President of ALOC, I have developed significant governance experience, leading a 19 person elected Board of Directors. During my tenure, I have led - and members have voted to pass - significant positive change. We strengthened our internal governance mechanisms, amended our election processes, and have taken steps to become a more proactive organization. If elected Bencher, I will bring my experience of leading and managing collaborative change to Convocation.

The pursuit of equity has also been a hallmark of my tenure. I have secured enhanced funding for mental health supports and advocated for members who experienced discrimination in the workplace. ALOC over the past three years has also provided over 50 hours of EDI CPD to members. Along with these and other initiatives, I established the role of VP Equity on the Board and, along with the VP Equity, spearheaded the creation of equity subcommittees which guide ALOC's work to make the workplace more inclusive. If elected, I will bring this same commitment to equity to Convocation.

In conclusion, I bring a change leadership record of successful advocacy for public sector lawyers, good governance and commitment to diversity and inclusion. I believe this experience makes me well-suited to serve as a Bencher. I hope I can count on your support.



## Sam Goldstein

sam@samgoldstein.ca

**I am running for re-election as a Bencher. I am a criminal lawyer, and former Assistant Crown Attorney, with 25 years of experience in handling serious and complex trial matters and criminal appeals. I have been a Director of the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, University Settlement House and AMI Inc. a broadcaster for the visually impaired. I am the Director of Legal Affairs for B'nai Brith Canada and the National Director of the Matas Law Society. Canada's only national Jewish lawyers society.**

**I am an Adjudicator on the Law Society Discipline Tribunal. As a Bencher, I was appointed to the Access to Justice Committee, Mental Health Committee, Tribunal Committee, and Task Force on Technology.**

These last four years at the Law Society have been challenging. While I think the Law Society should concentrate on promoting competency of the legal profession, others think that the Law Society should be an agent of social change. I think those running for Bencher who believe that are well meaning but misguided. I think a regulatory body should be ideologically neutral.

If re-elected I will advocate for the following proposals:

- Re-centering the client as the focus of the practice of law.
- A return of the name, The Law Society of Upper Canada.
- Opening the Osgoode Restaurant.
- Conducting a 360 audit of the Law Society finances and government policies by an independent third-party.
- Making public the salaries of all Law Society employees over \$200,000.00.
- Publicizing the licensing exam pass and fail rates for licensing candidates from each paralegal program and law school.
- Opposing a return of compelled speech.
- Putting an end to conducting a race audit of the profession.
- Opposing remedial disciplining of legal professionals.
- Promoting transparency in Law Society decision making and budgeting.
- Repealing the existing Bencher Code of Conduct as recommended by a Task Force.
- Amending s.4(1) of the Law Society Act to make it clear that the core function of the Law Society is to ensure that Ontario's public is serviced by the best and brightest because Ontarians deserve nothing less.

Take back the Law Society in 2023. Re-Elect Sam Goldstein as Bencher.



## Heather L. Hansen

Heather@mccarthyco.ca

**Heather Hansen is a partner at McCarthy Hansen & Company LLP, a mid-size Toronto firm where she practices exclusively in family law.**

**She is a Certified Specialist in Family Law (Law Society of Ontario), a panelist for the Office of the Children's Lawyer, and Fellow of both the International Academy of Family Lawyers and the Litigation Counsel of America.**

**Heather is actively involved in the Advocates' Society and maintains a leadership role in continuing legal education across the province. Heather has taught, published, and spoken extensively about issues in family law, litigation and practice management, including the use of technology in the profession.**

**She is a graduate of the University of Toronto and University of Windsor, Faculty of Law.**

I've been a family lawyer with a significant litigation focus for the past 15 years. Along with my partners, I run McCarthy Hansen & Co. LLP in downtown Toronto.

Some of the issues I care about are:

**Public Confidence:** Public confidence is critical to our continued success and survival as a self-regulated profession. Public confidence is intertwined with ensuring that we have a justice system that works for everyone. As a bencher I'll continue to support vital access to justice initiatives that include and prioritize providing meaningful access to justice, including family law resources, across the province.

**Supporting Small Firms and Sole Practitioners:** Lawyers need to be supported as small business owners by their regulator. I know firsthand how disproportionately small-firm lawyers are impacted by red-tape, unnecessary expense, and bureaucratic roadblocks. I'll listen to, work with, and support lawyers from across the province. I'll ensure that the small and sole-firm practitioner has a seat at the table.

**Supporting Women and New Lawyers:** I'm extraordinary proud of the fact that my law firm is one of the largest women founded and women-led in the province. We need more of this. I'm committed to doing the same for the next generation of talented women because I'm convinced that this is the best way to ensure young women thrive in this profession. I'm also going to work as a Bencher to guard against roadblocks that might stand in their way.

**Education and Advancing Technological Innovation:** I have been a leader in advancing the accessible use of technology in our courthouses. Simply put: I believe we have a professional responsibility to adopt technology in the interest of saving our clients time and money. The LSO needs to play a leading role in the adoption and promotion of technology to make our justice system more accessible and efficient.

Finally, I'm a member of the Good Governance Coalition. I'm committed to ensuring that Ontario lawyers are represented by proven leaders who will uphold the values and ethics required for continued self-regulation.

Visit [www.heatherforbencher.com](http://www.heatherforbencher.com) to learn more.





Law Society  
of Ontario

Barreau  
de l'Ontario

Bencher  
Election

Élection  
du Conseil



## Sukhi Hansra

sukhi@hansralaw.ca

**Sukhi Hansra is the founder of Hansra Law, an innovative business and franchise law firm located in Toronto. As a business lawyer and former 4x entrepreneur, Sukhi helps ambitious and entrepreneurial business owners discover how to create a more predictable, reliable and profitable business. This means making better decisions at a faster clip, while reducing the chances of unexpected risks and legal troubles.**

**Sukhi is an avid legal operations and technology enthusiast, and he serves as the chair of the Ontario Bar Association's Sole, Small Firm and General Practice Section and the past chair of the Law Practice Management Section.**

**In his free time, he enjoys chasing his husky around the yard, cooking gourmet meals, golfing and getting outdoors.**

I am committed to reducing the Law Society's budget, curtailing overreach, and opposing political mandates that threaten impartiality. The Law Society should focus on serving its members and protecting the public, not wasting resources on unnecessary projects or overstepping its bounds.

With the rising cost of living and threats of a looming recession, it is more important than ever to be fiscally responsible. This year, the proposed budget for 2023 spending is \$140 million and the impact of this will be felt by new lawyers and the 94% of the Ontario bar that are solo and small firm operations. This is not the time to inflate spending and force Ontario lawyers to pay for it.

The Law Society should operate within its means and not overburden members with excessive fees and dues. I will work to reduce costs and streamline operations to ensure that the Law Society is using its resources effectively and efficiently. This will not only save money for individual members but also ensure that the LSO is able to serve the public better in the coming years.

In addition to budget concerns, we must also address the Law Society's overreach of its mandate. As an ethnic minority from a first generation family that moved to Canada, I understand the need to promote a culture of respect, understanding and diversity. However, the LSO is first and foremost a neutral regulator for the legal profession. As such, it should focus on its core responsibilities of regulating competence and protecting the public – not imposing mandatory political ideologies that prevent us from having productive and meaningful conversations.

We must resist the temptation to engage in political or social issues that do not directly relate to the practice of law. I will work to ensure that the Law Society remains focused on its core mission.

With your support, we can make the Law Society more efficient, effective, and responsive to the needs of the legal profession. Let's ensure that the Law Society is committed to respecting our fundamental freedoms while becoming a better and stronger cornerstone of the legal professional.





## Sayeh Hassan

sayehhassan30@gmail.com

**Sayeh Hassan practised criminal defence for 13 years with Walter Fox & Associates and has been practising Charter litigation for the past two years. She has appeared at every level of court in Ontario as well as the Federal Court and Federal Court of Appeal.**

**Sayeh is passionate about the Charter and civil rights and liberties. Her experiences of being born in an authoritarian country where civil and human rights were not respected has motivated her to dedicate her career to defending the rights and freedoms of Canadians.**

**Sayeh believes in strong mentorship within the legal community, especially for first generation lawyers and dedicates significant time to mentoring law students and newly called lawyers.**

I believe that LSO should be a neutral governing body, without any political or ideological agenda. As a woman and an ethnic minority who fled her country and its authoritarian government I am very sensitive to issues surrounding freedom of thought and speech and civil liberties. I did not support the compelled statement of principles and would oppose any similar initiatives in the future.

I am also deeply concerned about the LSO fees, particularly articling fees, fees for new lawyers and those who do not make Bay street salaries. Coming from very humble economic beginnings, I have first-hand knowledge of financial difficulties many of us face to get through law school with hundreds of thousands of dollars in student loans. Those of us who choose to article for smaller firms or pro-bono organizations make minimal salary and yet are expected to pay the same articling fees as those who article for large firms and make comfortable salaries. This is both unfair and non-inclusive.

The same is true for those who are just starting out in their legal careers with large student loans and small salaries, criminal defence lawyers who work passionately to defend the rights of individuals but aren't always well compensated, and solo practitioners. It is unreasonable to expect those individuals to pay the same amount of fees as those who make large and comfortable salaries.

I would like to see lower fees across the board, as well as availability of more support and help for articling students, those who are starting out, and solo practitioners. Help and support should be available before people start making mistakes and have to be dealt with by way of disciplinary measures.

If elected I will take the same passion and dedication I've demonstrated in my work to ensure our freedom of speech and expression is protected, that becoming a lawyer will be more accessible to those with lesser financial means, and that there is support and guidance for those who need it.



## Philip Horgan

phorgan@carltonlaw.ca

**Called to the bar in 1988, I have worked in large and small practices before opening my own firm in 1996. I have appeared before trial, tribunal, and appellate courts, including several appearances at the Supreme Court of Canada.**

**Law Society:**

**Elected as a bencher in 2019; Served on 9 separate committees or working groups, including Audit & Finance, Professional Development & Competence and Strategic Planning; Adjudicator of the Law Society Tribunal.**

**Other:**

**Senator of the University of St. Michael's College; Leader of charitable and non-profit agencies, including the Thomas More Lawyers Guild; Active as a minor hockey coach and referee; Married to Christine, and father of 5 children.**

**Recognitions:**

**TCDSB Alumni Award, 2006, Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, 2012.**

Since my election as a bencher in 2019, I look back on several accomplishments:

- repeal of the compulsory Statement of Principles mandate;
- annual dues have been reduced from \$2,201 in 2019 to \$1,813 in 2022, a drop of 17.6 %. Even with an increase of dues to \$1,981 in 2023, the overall reduction from 2019 remains at 10 %;
- LSO headcount reduction from 618 to 558 full time equivalent employees;
- implementation of the dues deferral program as an interim response to the 2020 pandemic, of which 1,400 licensees took advantage;
- implementation of the Bridge to Practice program in 2020, a series of free practice-focused videos, in part to make up for reduced articling demands, accessed by over 5,000 views to date;
- continued support for law libraries, with an increase in LSO funding of 17 % since 2019, despite discontinuation of funding from the Law Foundation back in 2013.

I remain concerned about the politicization of what should be a neutral regulator that has specific, legislated core functions. The shelving of the Inclusion Index, a three year project, was a recent example of a regulator relying upon flawed methodology to advance ideological objectives.

I believe that the LSO needs to be transparent and accountable. Benchers should be allowed access to LSO information when requested.

I stand for a robust role for benchers in our governance model, rather than leaving many decisions to staff alone. We should take greater advantage of skills and talents available within convocation, especially when it comes to government relations.

I will promote pro bono advocacy. Our pro bono offerings should be expanded, such as with civil society organizations where possible. I believe the LSO should recognize practitioners who perform this valuable work in the public interest.

An independent bar is a significant part of our constitutional matrix. It provides a framework for the pursuit of justice in the public interest, and to serve society with diligence, integrity, and courage.

I commit to continued vigilance as part of the [www.fullstoplso.ca](http://www.fullstoplso.ca) team.

I seek your support.



## Pam Hrick

pam@pamhrick.ca

### Good Governance Coalition Member

**Professional:** Executive Director & General Counsel, Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF); Lawyer, Stockwoods LLP (2015-2021); Called to the Bar, 2014; Legislative Advisor, Attorney General of Ontario (2009-2010)

**Volunteer:** Chair, CBA Administrative Law Section; 10 years on non-profit boards, including Chair of the Board of The 519, a 2SLGBTQ+ organization; Pro Bono Ontario volunteer (2016-2020)

**Legal Education:** Queen's University (J.D.); New York University (LL.M.)

**Honours:** Lexpert Rising Star, Leading Lawyers Under 40 (2022); Precedent Setter (2021); CBA Douglas Miller Rising Star (2021); Start Proud Leader To Be Proud Of (2018)

**Personal:** I was born and raised in London, Ontario. I live in Toronto with my wife and our young child.

I am running as part of the Good Governance Coalition to restore good governance to the Law Society of Ontario.

Self-regulation is a privilege. Lawyers must govern in the public interest. Convocation needs to be representative of the professions and the public to effectively fulfil our public interest mandate.

I am committed to service within the legal professions and the broader community. I would be honoured to bring my extensive governance and legal experience to the role of bencher. I would carry out my work guided by the following principles.

#### Access to Justice

The LSO has a statutory obligation to facilitate access to justice. It must seek to remove barriers to justice encountered by Ontarians, particularly those who are marginalized. I have shown a personal commitment to enhancing access to justice, including through volunteering with Pro Bono Ontario.

L'accès à la justice comprend également l'accès aux services en français. Dans mon rôle de conseillère législative auprès du procureur général de l'Ontario, je me suis impliquée au sein du Comité consultatif de la magistrature et du barreau sur les services en français. Si je suis élue conseillère, je serai une alliée pour les membres francophones de la profession et pour les personnes qui veulent accéder à des services juridiques en français.

#### Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Our professions are as diverse as the public we serve. This must be reflected at Convocation and in the decisions benchers make.

I am a staunch advocate for the equality of women and members of 2SLGBTQ+ communities. I would bring lived and professional experience to Convocation to inform discussion and decision-making that enhances inclusion and directly confronts issues of systemic discrimination experienced by our members and by the public.

#### Good Governance

The LSO is accountable to its members and to the public. Benchers must engage in respectful discussion and make responsible, evidence-based decisions.

In addition to my extensive governance experience, I lead a non-profit organization. As a bencher, I would draw on this experience to ensure the LSO's accountability and transparency to members and to the public.

For more, visit [pamhrick.ca](http://pamhrick.ca) and [goodgovernancecoalition.ca](http://goodgovernancecoalition.ca)





## Kathryn (Kara) Johnson

kara.johnson.here@gmail.com

**Called to the bar in 2016, I practised Charity and Not-for-Profit law before serving the Hon. Michael Tibollo at Queen's Park, including as his Chief of Staff. Previously, I was a school administrator, teacher and consultant. Currently, I'm ensuring my father's golden years are what he deserves.**

**JD from the University of Ottawa (2015), with a Community Service and Social Justice scholarship.**

**Ongoing Conservative Party of Canada director, having held all executive positions, over more than 12 years. Nearly 30 years as a director of Toronto and Ottawa charities supporting and mentoring women of all ages. Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal (2012).**

**Montreal-born, Toronto-raised, proficient in French and Spanish (with Italian competence); with degrees in Liberal Arts and English.**

"Lead me, follow me, or get the hell out of my way." -George S. Patton

From my time as a director of a major political party and several charities, I can see the merits of Patton's dictum.

Benchers "lead" through assiduous fidelity to the LSO's mission. Not only avoiding but curtailing mission creep tells our members that we are focused on the statutory duties entrusted to us.

An organization qualifies as bloated and wasteful when its bureaucracy implicates itself in projects which are not strictly derivative of its mission.

As a former school Director of Character Education, I know well the merit of working with parents and teachers to help develop character—in children. But a Law Society that compels speech exceeds the regulation of adults' competence and honesty in legal services and slides into social engineering.

Benchers "follow" the members of the LSO whose interests they serve by facilitating supports for good professional practice. You can't respond if you don't listen—to all members' voices—to ascertain what needs to be improved in the licensing process, learning options, and professional competence measures.

Benchers who "get out of the way" ensure the LSO is neutral, transparent, and efficient. An ideologically-ruled regulator puts itself "in the way" with divisive political battles of identity and wokeness instead of holding with certainty to principles of the classical liberal legal order.

I did not intend to practise when I started law school as a mature student. But when I eventually entered the licensing process, I found the lack of transparency in the bar exam shocking. As a beneficiary of the LPP, I have pondered the articling crisis, the perception of two-tier pathways to licensing, and obstacles to exercising our profession. After experiencing the challenge of the first years of practice, then the demands of government political staffing, and now temporarily absenting myself from the workforce to care for my aged father, I am sensitive to the varied circumstances in our profession.

Let's keep the ground clear and level for LSO members to do their good work.





## Murray Klippenstein

murray.klippenstein@klippensteins.ca

**Decades of managing my small Toronto litigation firm, focused on access to justice.**

**Counsel for:**

- family of Indigenous protestor Dudley George killed by police at Ipperwash;
- 1,000 class members suing police for protestor mass arrests at 2010 G-20 Summit in Toronto;
- northern Ontario Indigenous tribal council, for thirty years;
- environmental groups at Ontario Energy Board hearings, for two decades.

**Awards:**

- Canadian Lawyer Magazine – “Top 25 Most Influential Lawyer”, 2014 and 2015
- Osgoode’s “Dianne Martin Medal for Social Justice”
- Ontario Federation of Labour “Human Rights Award”
- Aboriginal Legal Services of Toronto “Champion of Justice Award”

### WHY RE-ELECT AN INCUMBENT BENCHER WHO IS SUING THE LAW SOCIETY?

You may find it incredible that I as an incumbent Bencher am suing the Law Society. Why? And I dare to ask for your re-election vote?

I am asking the court for an order that the Society produce internal data and records that I need for my oversight duties as a Bencher and director of the Law Society corporation. The Law Society has the information but won't give it to me. The information involves demonstrated fatal defects in studies purportedly underpinning major ongoing programmes, policies and expenditures that are having serious impacts on our membership.

These include far-reaching Equity, Diversity and Inclusion programmes that the Law Society has been enforcing on 70,000 Ontario licensees, based on statistical studies that claim to show a need for these highly intrusive and politically loaded “interventions”. The problem is that those studies are full of serious mathematical and statistical errors which negate their conclusions and would have been avoided by a second year statistics undergraduate – but the present bencher majority and LSO staff don't want to admit or discuss them.

An example. A planned law firm Inclusion Index would have publicly damaged the reputation of scores of major Ontario firms based on nothing. I repeatedly pointed out its grave statistical flaws until the LSO quietly shelved the Index last June – while issuing a press release not admitting that anything was wrong.

The amount of your membership dues being paid to outside consultants on these harmful projects is large.

I was elected the Regional Bencher for Toronto in 2019. I've done what I said I would do. If you like the idea of a Bencher who cares enough about integrity and transparency in our profession to go to court for it, consider re-electing me in this election, along with other members of the slate with whom I am running.

You can read my ongoing Superior Court Statement of Claim against the Law Society, and the Law Society's Defence, at [klippensteins.ca](http://klippensteins.ca).

Thank you for your consideration.



## Shalini Konanur

shalini.konanur@salco.clcj.ca

**I graduated from Osgoode Hall Law School and was called to the Ontario Bar in 2000. I am the Executive Director of the South Asian Legal Clinic of Ontario, a not-for-profit legal clinic that works with low-income people in Ontario. I practise family, immigration, employment, human rights, income maintenance, and housing law. I also advocate on issues of access to justice for Ontarians including test case interventions at all levels of court up to the Supreme Court of Canada and through appearances at the United Nations. I am a current member of the Law Commission of Ontario's Board of Governors and the Board Chair of Action Canada for Sexual Health and Reproductive Rights (formerly Planned Parenthood Canada).**

I have watched the LSO tackle equity and access to justice, and the passion with which benchers have advanced these issues. I am running for bencher because I believe in that work, and because it is time to get back to a strong governance framework that supports lawyers and paralegals in Ontario. I have an extensive background in board governance and financial management with proven experience in balancing legal services that are both impactful and cost-effective. I am committed to continuing the work of the LSO on equality, diversity, and inclusion based on my lived experience. I also run a small law firm with a tight budget and understand intimately the challenges that many of us face in practising law in Ontario including all of the costs and pressures we carry to keep our practices going. I am dedicated to ensuring that the concerns of legal clinic lawyers, young lawyers, sole practitioner, small firms, lawyers who take legal aid, and the many other who commit their time to support access to justice are raised and addressed at the LSO. I am also proudly running with experienced leaders in the legal and paralegal professions as part of the Good Governance Coalition. Please support each of our candidates so we can return good governance and decorum to the Law Society of Ontario, including voting for all of our candidate. You can meet all the Coalition's candidates at [goodgovernancecoalition.ca](http://goodgovernancecoalition.ca).



Law Society  
of Ontario

Barreau  
de l'Ontario

Bencher  
Election

Élection  
du Conseil



## Howard A. Levitt

[hlevitt@levittllp.com](mailto:hlevitt@levittllp.com)

Howard Levitt is a Canadian lawyer, author, and columnist. He is a senior partner at Levitt Sheikh. Levitt has published six employment law books. He writes a twice weekly column for the Financial Post.[2]. He is the Editor in Chief of the Dismissal & Employment Law Digest.

Levitt has acted as lead counsel in more employment law cases before the Supreme Court of Canada and at more provincial Courts of Appeal than any other lawyer in Canadian history.

Levitt was Ontario Counsel for the Jean Chretien for Leadership campaign in 1990.

He has been interviewed in the media by numerous media sources including Reuters, The Wall Street Journal, and The New York Times. [LevittLLP.com](http://LevittLLP.com) for information

The LSO should not be part of the culture war, enforcing a political perspective on its members. The Jordan Peterson College of Psychologist case is a forewarning of what could occur if the "(More) Government Slate" is elected.

Regulators should focus exclusively on core competencies not political chimeras. The LSO should also focus on financial barriers to entry in the profession by keeping costs low.

I will be a tenacious advocate for these interests as i am for my clients.

As the owner of a smallish firm, i understand the perspective and struggles of sole practitioners and small firms and will bring that voice to Convocation.



## Atrisha Lewis

alewis@mccarthy.ca

**Atrisha Lewis is a partner in McCarthy Tétrault's Litigation Group in Toronto. She is a commercial litigator with a strong trial practice. In 2019, Atrisha was elected as bencher of the Law Society of Ontario. Atrisha serves as the Vice Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee and the Equity and Indigenous Affairs Committee.**

**Atrisha has consistently demonstrated her commitment to leadership in the legal profession. In 2021, she was recognized with the Globe and Mail's "Changemakers" award. In 2020, she was awarded the Women in Law Leadership's "Stronger Together Award" and the University of Toronto's Wilson Prichard award for outstanding contribution to the legal profession. In 2019, she was one of Lexpert's Rising Stars: Leading Lawyer Under 40.**

I am proudly running with experienced leaders in the legal and paralegal professions as part of the Good Governance Coalition. Please support each of our candidates so we can return good governance and decorum to the Law Society. You can meet all the Coalition's candidates at [goodgovernancecoalition.ca](https://goodgovernancecoalition.ca).

My personal platform includes:

- **Responsible budget:** As the Vice Chair of Audit and Finance, I have a true understanding of the LSO's financial picture. I will ensure that LSO's budgets are responsible and I understand that high fees represent an access to justice issue and are a barrier for many.
- **Focusing on issues that impact new calls:** I was a champion in ensuring that licensing candidates will be paid a minimum salary. The minimum wage requirement only narrowly passed by one vote in 2022. The LSO regulates entry level competence and it is important that there is consideration and attention to the realities of new calls (i.e. high debt loads after law school, the need for mentorship, the lack of access to articling opportunities). I want to ensure licensing candidates and new calls have a voice at Convocation in more formal ways than we have (i.e. a formal seat at committees that deal with the bar exam, articling requirements, etc.).
- **Equity, diversity and inclusion:** I support important initiatives like the Discrimination and Harassment Counsel and the need to consult with our equity partners on important decisions. I believe that a diverse bar is a competent bar and the LSO should work towards removing barriers for Indigenous, racialized and other diverse licensees.
- **Local Libraries:** I support sustainable funding for local libraries, which are courthouse based practice resource centres for lawyers across the province and are an important tool to ensure access to justice and maintain competence.
- **Re-opening the LSO's lunch service after its closure during COVID-19:** The restaurant has provided the bar and the bench with an important opportunity to connect which strengthens collegiality and in turn enhances the public's confidence in the justice system. Both of which fall within the Law Society's mandate.



**William C. McDowell**[wmcdowell@litigate.com](mailto:wmcdowell@litigate.com)

**Will McDowell is a Partner at Lenczner Slaght in Toronto. He is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. He is a leading practitioner of libel law, public law and commercial litigation. From 2005 to 2008 he was Canada's Associate Deputy Minister of Justice, responsible for national security, and civil litigation. He was appointed by the Chief Justice of Ontario to mediate questions arising from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Inquiry. He has served as Commission Counsel to the Cunningham Inquiry and to the Gillese Inquiry.**

**He received a Bachelor of Arts from Queen's University and his LL.B. from the University of Toronto.**

**A Bencher from 2011 to 2019, he chaired a number of significant Committees.**

Enough Already.

I am proud to stand as a candidate for the Bencher Good Governance Coalition ("BGGC") (<https://www.goodgovernancecoalition.ca/>), and I ask the profession to vote for all of our GGC candidates. For the past four years the Law Society has accomplished virtually nothing. Instead, Convocation has been captive to irresponsible attempts to vandalize and dismantle all equity programs, cut the budget by 25% (just because), eliminate all-gender changerooms, and micromanage, badly, in myriad ways. All of this puts the self-governance of our profession – in place since 1797 – at risk. I have the experience to find common ground. As a former Associate Deputy Minister of Justice and a Bencher 2011-2019, I have the experience and skills to help right the ship. I chaired the Professional Regulation Committee, co-chaired the Government Relations Committee and served on the Racialized Licensees' Task Force. I have given much strategic advice to successive Treasurers. Of course, the Law Society doesn't get everything right all of the time. But the experience of the past few years screams out for better governance. COVID has changed the norms of our profession and has brought new regulatory issues. The challenges facing small and sole practitioners remain as do those for racialized lawyers. We must focus on these and not continue the pointless squabbling. The future of an independent Bar depends on it.

**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.



## Isfhan Merali

[contact@isfhanmerali.com](mailto:contact@isfhanmerali.com)

### **Past Bencher Responsibilities:**

**Chair, Tribunal Committee; Vice-Chair, Equity & Indigenous Affairs; Priority & Planning Committee, Challenges Facing Racialized Licensees, Indigenous Review Panel, Mental Health Implementation & Strategy Task Forces**  
**Adjudicator, Law Society Hearings & Appeals**

### **Practice Experience:**

**Senior Counsel, Consent & Capacity Board Board, 2012 to present**  
**Counsel, Ministry of the Attorney General & OHRC, 1997-2012**  
**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: Former Trustee, Law Foundation of Ontario; Women's Law Association; ALOC; Honsberger Award; Toronto Lawyer's Association (TLA), 2022; Legal Award for Excellence & Leadership; South Asian Bar Association, 2015**

Our profession continues to face significant and complex challenges: self-governance, access to justice, articling and licensing, mental health, 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. I remain committed to continuing this difficult but important work. I ask you once again to vote for progressive voices on the issues that impact the public interest and profession.

### **My Strong Track Record and Experience:**

As a Bencher, I have advocated for progressive changes at the LSO. This includes my work on Challenges Facing Racialized Licensees, my leadership as former 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 former 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, inclusive and principled manner.

### **Bringing Good Governance back to the Law Society:**

I am proud to be running for re-election with the Bencher Good Governance Coalition to restore professional, experienced, and inclusive leadership at the Law Society of Ontario. For more information, please visit: [www.goodgovernancecoalition.ca](http://www.goodgovernancecoalition.ca)

For more information about my experience and background, please see: [www.isfhanmerali.com](http://www.isfhanmerali.com)



## Jonathan Miller

[jm@jmillerlawservices.ca](mailto:jm@jmillerlawservices.ca)

**Call to the Bar of Ontario, 1976**

**B. Comm, Sir George Williams University 1971,**

**LL. B., Osgoode Hall Law School of York University, 1974**

**Board member, formerly Toronto Hebrew Re-Establishment Services, a non-sectarian United Way funded agency providing interest free loans to immigrants**

**Board member and Executive Committee member, Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda synagogue**

**Practice during my career in criminal law, family law, and civil litigation**

**Current practice: primarily family law and civil litigation**

As a sole practitioner, I have gained the experience to understand what is required to practise law in the best interest of our clients and the public while at the same time recognizing the pressures, both emotional and financial, of practising our profession.

My practice has evolved over many years from a general practice to being limited to family law and civil litigation and helping clients of lower to middle income.

I believe that one of the most serious problems in the legal system today is access to justice. Despite numerous studies, discussions, debates, and proposals, my view is that the problem is getting worse. The number of "limited scope" retainers that I have acted upon is increasing at an alarming rate. I do not suggest that I have THE solution, but I do believe that I have the experience and knowledge to contribute in a meaningful way to reduce the problem.

My service on the Boards of THRS and of BEBY, a synagogue with a substantial budget, has taught me not only the importance, but also the benefit, of reaching out to other members with respect. Respect of the other person, respect of other opinions, and respect of other proposed solutions to the issues under discussion: all of this can be described in 1 word – synergy. Synergy is building solutions together –  $1 + 1 = \text{more than } 2$ .

I believe in Equality – equality of opportunity, not inequality in the guise of promoting equality.

I believe in Diversity – diversity of beliefs and diversity of opinions which are listened to, considered carefully, and respected.

I believe in Inclusiveness – understanding everyone else and treating them with respect, not excluding some "to make room" for others. Inclusion and inclusiveness are not "zero sum" games.

Yes, I was called to the bar way back in 1976. Hopefully, EDI includes "old people". People my age and older have contributed and can still contribute: Rosalie Abella, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Gandhi, Meryl Streep, The Boss, Dusty Baker, and Sir John A. Macdonald, to name a few.





## David Milosevic

dm@mflitigation.com

**David Milosevic is a commercial litigator and principal of a commercial litigation boutique in downtown Toronto. He studied law at McGill University and was called to the bar in 2005. David holds a Master of Laws (LLM) in civil litigation from Osgoode Hall Law School and is a certified fraud examiner.**

**David has acted on some of the largest civil fraud claims in Ontario and has experience managing complex litigation involving large volumes of documentary disclosure and multiple parties.**

**David has brought and defended clients at trial in claims involving tens of millions of dollars in dispute. David appears regularly before the Superior Court and Court of Appeal for Ontario and has appeared before the Supreme Court of Canada.**

I am running as a candidate for the Law Society of Ontario (LSO) Bencher election to be a strong advocate for the 94% of Ontario lawyers who practise in small or solo firms. With 18 years of experience running my own commercial litigation boutique, I understand the hard work and dedication required to build a successful practice. I believe that sharing my experience through shaping LSO initiatives for solo and small firm lawyers can help others do the same.

I am convinced that the LSO can play a crucial role in empowering solo and small firm lawyers to succeed by providing them with training, mentorship, educational resources, and support. While the regulation and enforcement activities of the LSO are important, I believe that more can be done to prevent disciplinary actions by intervening earlier to assist and support lawyers who may be struggling. By making the LSO a shared resource for all lawyers in Ontario, we can help our profession develop and our colleagues grow and prosper.

In addition to supporting solo and small firm lawyers, I am committed to safeguarding our profession's right of self-regulation. This power is a valuable asset that must be exercised responsibly. As a thoughtful and collaborative member of the profession, I am dedicated to fulfilling my governance responsibilities in the best interest of the profession as a whole.

Throughout my career, I have had the privilege of mentoring many young lawyers and have seen firsthand how a strong foundation in professionalism, civility and ethics is essential to building a successful career. My involvement with the OBA Civil Litigation Executive, the Advocates' Society 10+ standing committee, and Pro Bono Ontario has instilled in me a strong desire to contribute to our profession in a meaningful way.

If elected as a Bencher, I will work tirelessly to represent the interests of solo and small firm lawyers, promote access to justice, and uphold the high standards of our profession. I ask for your support in bringing your voice to the governance of the LSO.



**Mark Jacob Morris**

mmorris@legalclosing.ca

**I am a real estate lawyer with deep experience in the field. I presently run Legalclosing.ca Professional Corporation and am the owner and operator of Legalreview.ca, Ontario's largest status review site. My career highlights include:**

- **Teacher at the Ontario Real Estate College teaching the Real Estate Law Articling Class for 7 years.**
- **Professor of Law at Ryerson University of Law teaching advance Real Estate**
- **Founding and Administering the largest Facebook real estate legal information site for professionals in the Province (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/OntarioRELegalDiscussions>)**
- **Co-founded and ran Axess Law ([www.axesslaw.com](http://www.axesslaw.com)), one of Ontario's largest consumer facing law firms in the Province.**
- **Acted as the Attorney General's Policy Advisor for Justice Issues.**

I care deeply about law, its history and the state of innovation of our industry. Though my career has been diverse, it is one that, in every facet, has sought to ensure that law continues to service Ontarians in meaningful way.

Law Reform has made great strides in recent years. In seeking to represent my colleagues as a Bencher, I intend to ensure that those strides are cemented, reinforced and continue to flourish. I do this in the knowledge that the Law Society most meaningfully represents Ontarians when we collectively embrace meaningful change and technologies that make law better, more affordable and more accessible for all.

Above all, it is my steadfast belief that law must not be allowed to be the privilege of only those who have the means to afford it. Justice is a hollow term if not accessible to those who need it the most. My career is steeped in volunteerism and, if privileged to be elected, I intend to continue to be a stalwart advocate for all initiatives that increase access to justice in this Province.

I have had the privilege of running both large and small law firms in this Province and I am acutely aware of the pressures that face us as professionals and as business people. If given the opportunity to represent our industry I will do so with pride, with an enduring respect for those who I represent and with a stalwart determination to make our profession a more efficient, more transparent and more equitable one for all.



Law Society  
of Ontario

Barreau  
de l'Ontario

Benchers  
Election

Élection  
du Conseil



## Jonathan Odumeru

jonathan.odumeru@td.com

**In my 10 years at the Ontario Bar, I have worked as a commercial litigator in a small firm, a large full-service firm, and for the last 6 years, I have been working as in-house corporate counsel at the TD Bank Group.**

**I possess a BSc., JD, and LLM, as well as a Masters in Public Policy from the London School of Economics.**

**I am an out and proud member of the LGBTQ2+ community, a racialized minority, and a first-generation lawyer.**

I am a firm believer that representation of under-represented groups at Convocation is essential to a fair, accessible, and future-ready legal profession and legal system.

As a lawyer under the age of 40, I seek to bring the perspective of early-career licensees to Convocation, and support policies and initiatives that support the development and welfare of early-career licensees.

I will champion diversity, equity and inclusion policies and initiatives that support our increasingly diverse legal professions, and approach my responsibilities through the lens of equity for all the pillars of diversity, be they disability, gender, race, faith, sexual orientation or gender identity.

I also wish to bring the in-house lawyer perspective to Convocation, which at-present, is scarcely represented.

I believe the Law Society has a duty to be financially prudent, and would advocate against significant increases to licensing fees.

Finally, climate change is the defining wicked problem of our time, and I believe the legal profession has an important role to play in responding to it. For this reason, I wish to explore how Convocation can support policy and initiatives that recognize the legal professions' roles in addressing and adapting to climate change.



## Angela Ogang

angela@angelaw.ca

**Born in Côte d'Ivoire to Ugandan parents and brought up in a francophone environment. Moved to Burundi with my family in 1992, but forced to evacuate the country in 1994, at the height of the genocide. Placed in a boarding school in France until I graduated from high school.**

**Obtained a Certificate in English Law from the London School of Economics, then studied English & French Law at the University of Essex and the University of Strasbourg.**

**Completed a Master's in Commercial & Corporate Law at Queen Mary University of London before immigrating to Canada in 2005.**

**Awarded a Certificate of Qualification by the National Committee on Accreditation (NCA) in 2008.**

**Called to the bar in Ontario in 2018.**

Website: [www.AngelaOgang.ca](http://www.AngelaOgang.ca) LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/in/angelaogang](https://www.linkedin.com/in/angelaogang) Twitter: @AngelaOgang Email: [angela@angelaw.ca](mailto:angela@angelaw.ca)

### ELECTION STATEMENT

I chose to pursue a career in law because of the violence, oppression, and injustice I witnessed growing up in Africa, and my experience navigating through different cultures across three continents as a young person. I had a heightened sense of justice and became convinced that studying law would equip me with all the tools to fight for people who are oppressed and marginalized.

Upon being called to the Bar in Ontario, I was confronted with the reality of limited opportunities for foreign-trained lawyers, so I opened my own law firm in 2019. Working as an immigration, wills & estates, and business lawyer has been immensely rewarding. This has allowed me to engage with diverse clients in English and French.

I feel I can make a significant contribution to the profession as a bencher because I understand:

- the challenges that newcomers face upon immigrating to Canada;
- the difficulties that NCA students and foreign-trained lawyers have accessing the profession;
- the issues affecting the Black community and lawyers of African descent; and
- the needs of other equity-seeking groups in Ontario, including the Francophone linguistic minority population.

### MEMBERSHIPS & SERVICE

Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Ontario - Membre du Comité Atelier de plaidoirie

Black Business Law Clinic - Volunteer

Canadian Association of Black Lawyers - Member

Canadian Bar Association Women Lawyers Forum - Secretary, Chair of the Madam Justice Committee, and Member of the Touchstones for Change: Equality, Diversity and Accountability Committee

Coach and Advisor Network - Volunteer

Law Society of Kenya - Member of the Editorial and Cross Border Practice Committees

Ontario Bar Association - Council Member

Ontario Bar Association Citizenship & Immigration Law Section - Newsletter Editor

Ontario Bar Association Policy & Public Affairs Committee - Member

Ontario Bar Association Women Lawyers Forum - Secretary

Ontario Bar Association Young Lawyers Division (Central) - Secretary

Pro Bono Ontario (PBO) Free Legal Advice Hotline - Volunteer

Rotary e-Club of Uganda Global - Secretary

Toronto Lawyers Association - Member

Transatlantic Negotiation Competition - Volunteer



## Mark Persaud

mark@persaudlaw.ca

**Senior Counsel, Persaud Law Group Professional Corporation (former homeless refugee)**

**PRACTICE:**

Civil and criminal litigation including in the areas of commercial and real estate litigation, administrative and regulatory law. Previously, federal prosecutor, counsel to RCMP and civil litigation counsel

**BACKGROUND:**

Osgoode Hall Law School and Harvard University. Adjunct law professor in the United States

**AWARDS:**

Includes: Public Sector Law Alumni Gold Key Award in 2007 from Osgoode Hall Law School; Queen Elizabeth II Golden, Diamond Jubilee Medals, 2022 Platinum Jubilee award and Canada 150 Medal for leadership and significant service to Canada. Recognized as an exceptional lawyer by the Law Society of Ontario (LSO) Doctor of Laws (LL.D.) in June, 2016 from the LSO

I seek your support to be elected as a Bencher. I am inspired by the work of previous Bencher colleagues who have tirelessly served the profession and public. I recognize the need for new perspectives and leadership from among us in the general profession at this critical time as we endeavour to strengthen the profession and public confidence.

Many of you know me as a fearless but fair advocate who is not shy to vigorously advance positions that promote our profession and enhance the administration of justice.

What many of you do not know is that I started my life in Canada as a political refugee having spent my first winter in Canada as a homeless youth living on the streets of Toronto. Fortunately, I was rescued off the streets by the Scott Mission. I was indelibly influenced by this experience which informed my decades of public service and work in the social justice sector in different capacities. This includes being a civic bridge builder between communities in conflict domestically and internationally (including the Jewish and Muslim communities). My work in this regard earned me a nomination by the diplomatic community for the 2007 prestigious international Seoul Peace Prize.

As an independent Bencher candidate, the skills, knowledge and experience I have acquired would be invaluable in allowing me to successfully navigate some of the pressing issues in relation to governance of our profession including seeking much needed collaborative solutions. I will offer a credible and independent voice to Convocation. Among the issues I plan to highlight and address are:

- Support for newer members of our profession especially in sole and small practices;
- Working collaboratively with others such as former Chief Justice Strathy in accessing and providing better quality mental health support and services for our colleagues; and
- Enhancing governance and promoting sound fiscal policies.

I trust that I will earn your support as a Bencher candidate and I very much look forward to serving you by pursuing sound policies for the benefit of our noble profession and the public.

My website is [www.markpersaud.com](http://www.markpersaud.com)





## Jorge Pineda

j.pineda84@gmail.com

**Jorge Pineda is a litigation lawyer with Charter Advocates Canada, a not-for profit organization. Prior to focusing on Charter litigation, he practised law as in-house litigation counsel, and as a civil litigator in private practice. Jorge is a current Bencher of the LSO. He sits as a member of the Equity and Indigenous Affairs Committee and is an adjudicator at the Law Society Tribunal. Jorge was born in Costa Rica, and raised in Hamilton where he still lives. 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.**

The LSO must change to effectively regulate the practice of law in the public interest. The legal profession plays a critical role in providing access to justice and safeguarding the rights and interests of all individuals. However, the LSO is facing several obstacles that impede its ability to fulfill this role.

The LSO must reduce the fees of its members while reducing the regulatory burden on legal professionals and workplaces. The LSO must provide solutions to the public that is facing excessive backlogs in the administrative tribunals and courts. Backlogs hinder the legal system's efficiency, making it harder for individuals to have their cases heard and resolved in a timely manner. The LSO must work with stakeholders to find solutions and avoid creating obstacles.

Crucially, the LSO must also confront the threat of undue ideological and political influence on the bar. The compelled Statement of Principles, which was a requirement for LSO members until 2019, was a direct attack on the bar's independence and impartiality. I was honoured to be part of the effort to rescind the SOP. But there is still a lot of work to be done. If re-elected, I will resist any initiatives that create political litmus tests as a condition of membership such as the SOP; diversity audits that aim to stratify the profession along racial lines; and the use of CPD hours to advance political agendas.

Lawyers and paralegals must be able to provide advice and represent clients without fear of interference or retaliation. An independent bar is crucial to ensuring access to justice and maintaining the legal profession's critical role in society. I am confident that the LSO can meet these challenges with the right leadership and focus, and I am committed to working with my fellow Benchers to achieve this.



## Lubomir Poliacik

lubomir.poliacik@ceplaw.ca

**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**

**Law Society:**

**Elected as a bencher in 2019.**

**I currently serve on seven separate Law Society committees or working groups, including as chair of the Compensation Fund and vice-chair of the Audit & Finance Committee.**

**I am an adjudicator on the Law Society Tribunal, both on the Hearing and Appeal Divisions.**

**I practise civil litigation in Toronto in a 2-lawyer firm.**

**I am a member of the Ontario Trial Lawyers Association and the Toronto Lawyers Association.**

Four years ago I joined StopSOP because I found the requirement for the mandatory Statement of Principles (S.O.P.) too reminiscent of the totalitarian communist regime in Czechoslovakia, where I was born and raised.

While we, the StopSOP benchers, were successful in having Convocation revoke the S.O.P. requirement, the S.O.P. was a direct consequence of the continuing mission creep and the Law Society's loss of focus on its core mission: licensing and discipline.

I decided to run again in this bencher election with a group of like-minded lawyers on the FullStop slate ([www.fullstoplso.ca](http://www.fullstoplso.ca)) in order to bring the Law Society back to that core mission.

The mission creep has financial ramifications, as the new tasks taken on by the law Society result in the need for additional staff, the costs of which are borne by the licensees.

The relationship between lawyers and the Law Society has deteriorated to the point where lawyers increasingly view the Law Society only with apprehension and dread. The apparently innocuous change in nomenclature from "members" to "licensees" made 15 years ago corresponded with a fundamental shift in the relationship between the Law Society and lawyers. Lawyers no longer regard themselves as members, active participants in the Law Society, but rather as mere passive licensees.

A lack of transparency and accountability contributes to this feeling of alienation. It took a motion in Convocation, brought by fellow StopSOP bencher Fagan and myself, to give benchers the right to attend all meetings of LSO committees.

But there is no reason why all licensees, and the public, should not have the right to attend committee meetings. If Ontario municipalities and legislature can function with open committee meetings, why can't the Law Society?

StopSop Benchers Charette and Lyon filed a motion requiring that the LSO publicly disclose the salaries of employees making \$200,000 or more. The Treasurer created the Public Salary Disclosure Working Group to examine the issue. However, since its inaugural meeting last October, no further meetings of the Working Group have taken place.

There is no accountability without transparency.



## Geoff Pollock

geoff@geoffpollock.com

**I am a proud husband, father, Western graduate, and Canadian Army Reservist. I was called to the bar in 2010 after a career in banking.**

**I have my own firm, Geoff Pollock & Associates, focused on real estate, and litigation.**

**Outside of work, I have served on several community 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.**

**Currently, I serve as a member of the Board of Governors of Western, and on the board of Ontario Justice Education Network. I am a long-time supporter of Pro Bono Ontario — and am proud to be the first sitting Bencher to serve as duty counsel.**

See my full plan and bio at: [www.geoffpollock.com](http://www.geoffpollock.com), or call me at (416) 777-0088 to share your ideas and ask any questions regarding my candidacy.

I am seeking re-election because I believe the Law Society needs to continue to focus on supporting its rank-and-file members as its top priority. Convocation has made great strides in the past four years on this front, but we need to make sure the Law Society does not return to the days where it spent its time and money on billboards and transit ads which did nothing to serve members or protect the public. I ran on these values in the last election, and am running again because there is more to be done.

I am proud to be the seconder on the motion which put an end to the Statement of Principals. And while we won that battle, it remains important that we continue to support individual practitioners and keep them free from Law Society overreach.

During my term as Bencher, I successfully advocated to reduce our member fees and I remain committed to reducing the size and regulatory burden it imposes on members which disproportionately impact small and medium-sized practitioners.

If re-elected, I will continue to advocate for:

- Reducing member fees an additional 15%;
- Streamlining the regulatory burden facing practitioners;
- Improving training for new lawyers;
- Supporting Pro Bono Ontario and other organizations;
- Harsher prosecutions for serious ethical breaches; and
- Greater recognition of outstanding lawyers.

I have a strong track record of advocating for the little guy — for those in our profession who take the risk of running their own firms, and who strike it out in smaller organizations. I know what it means to have my own shingle and truly believe that the Law Society exists to serve its members, not the other way around.

To read about my priorities in full, please visit my website, [www.geoffpollock.com](http://www.geoffpollock.com). I would be pleased to hear from all members of our profession with their thoughts on how we can improve our Law Society.





Law Society  
of Ontario

Barreau  
de l'Ontario

Bencher  
Election

Élection  
du Conseil



## Mark Quail

[mark@markquail.com](mailto:mark@markquail.com)

**Called to the Bar in Ontario in 1990. First 11 years of practice spent as a litigation associate in a boutique Bay Street firm, as an associate in a boutique entertainment law firm and two positions as in-house counsel. The 22 years after that have been spent as a sole practitioner.**

**Co-Author of two Lexis-Nexis published titles on music law matters.**

**Co-Managing Partner in a music publishing company handling world-wide administration for over 10,000 song copyrights.**

**Panelist on the Ontario Ministry of Labour's 2021 "Ontario Workforce Recovery Advisory Committee".**

**Past member of the Board of Advisors and a past elected member of the Executive Board of the Association for Electronic Music, a music industry trade association with global purview.**

Dear Colleagues,

I am seeking your support to be elected as a Bencher. I see lawyers as essential to the operation of a free society. I want to ensure that lawyers maintain their independence as a self-regulated profession and I want the LSO to oversee a well-qualified, honourable and fair-minded cadre of people who can provide access to justice for the people of Ontario. I have been in practice as part of law firms or as corporate counsel for 33 years and it's time to give back to the profession of which it has been my privilege to be a part.

I have experience in the running of law firms and small businesses as well as the ability to act as a team member to accomplish goals. I therefore have experience in keeping an organization on point to act on its purposes and not letting it get side-tracked by those with other motives. I have an affinity for budgets and the fiscal discipline to work within those budgets. I want to work as part of an ideologically diverse group of people, free of the constraints that others would needlessly impose on the legal profession.

I recognize that serving as a Bencher is a big, time-consuming responsibility and I am willing to take this on. I hope I can count on your support in the upcoming election.





## Maxwell Radway

maxwell@radwaylaw.ca

Principal Lawyer, Maxwell Radway Professional Corporation, email:  
[maxwell@radwaylaw.ca](mailto:maxwell@radwaylaw.ca)

- I am a labour and employment lawyer. Before law, I studied human health and conducted cancer research.
- I have represented a broad range of clients, from low-income individuals to massive international corporations.
- I have worked for one of Canada's largest law firms, a mid-size firm, and a small firm. Now, I am a sole practitioner.
- Ongoing contribution to our profession is important to me. I have written for textbooks, guest lectured, and provided news media commentary.
- I am on the board of the Employment Lawyers Association of Ontario because I believe that fostering collegiality supports lawyers' mental health.
- For my own mental health, I foster dogs looking for forever homes.

Friends and colleagues,

With a background in health studies and a practice built on workplace law, I understand that the well-being of professionals is contingent upon organizational health. This starts with minimizing burnout and encouraging honesty, integrity and collegiality.

If elected LSO Bencher, my mission is to promote lawyer well-being in the workplace as a crucial pillar of professional responsibility and comprehensive self-governance. This is vital because public confidence depends upon the health of the profession and, consequently, the health of our lawyers.

Working within a variety of law firm sizes and structures has convinced me that lawyers are best empowered to act competently and courteously when practising in respectful environments that support their mental health.

I have observed the particular importance of supporting the health and development of students and junior lawyers, as they are disproportionately affected by working environments that encourage exhaustion, instill unethical practices, and permit palpable abuse.

A well-nurtured lawyer is a competent and productive lawyer and a junior lawyer who learns, at an early stage, to act with honesty and integrity develops into a better colleague, better co-counsel and better opposing counsel. As such, we must develop programs to further address individual legal workplace challenges, as organizational health is a primary influential force upon a lawyer's development, conduct and competence, at all career stages.

I ask for your vote to support me in promoting lawyer health and well-being as a fundamental guiding principle, while dedicating all of the time and effort required to perform the many obligations inherent in the role of Bencher.

See how I plan to effect this change and promote further professional innovation and access to justice by visiting my website:  
<https://radwaylaw.ca/election-platform>

Maxwell



## Catherine Rhineland

Catherine.Rhineland@ontario.ca

- Brings experience to the Law Society of Ontario having practised as a sole practitioner, an associate, and government employee.
- Currently, is an Assistant Crown Attorney in Toronto at the Guns and Gangs unit.
- Was the Lead Counsel for the Criminal Law Division at the Ministry of the Attorney General on the Joint Inquiry Team that represented Ontario at the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls National Inquiry.
- Is a member of the Indigenous Bar Association, The Advocates' Society, the Death Investigation Oversight Council, and the Ontario Crown Attorneys' Association and sits on the Education Committee, and Committee on Diversity and Inclusivity.
- Has years of experience sitting on boards and councils as a volunteer.

I am proud to be running for election alongside recognized experienced leaders in the legal profession as part of the Bencher Good Governance Coalition. I request your support to vote for all candidates of the Good Governance Coalition. Get to know us at [www.goodgovernancecoalition.ca](http://www.goodgovernancecoalition.ca).

I am running for Bencher because the Law Society of Ontario needs to be responsible to and representative of the demographics it seeks to serve. As an Indigenous candidate and co-chair of the Indigenous Advisory Group to the Law Society, I understand current issues facing our profession. I am prepared to take the next step and embrace the role of Bencher if elected.

My priorities are:

**Ensuring Self Regulation:** We are fortunate to have the ability to self-regulate our profession, but that will continue only if we do so in a way that benefits the larger public that we serve. Ensuring public trust in the profession.

**Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity:** Representing and recognizing diversity in all forms of the profession and the province is necessary to properly serve the public at large.

**Access to Justice:** Exploring methods to address accessibility and ensuring consultation with members of the communities, with a focus on languages, northern and remote areas, social, and economic barriers.

**Fiscal Responsibility:** Examine budgets and ways to reduce fees for new licensees, sole practitioners, and small firms.

**Good Governance:** Respectful, responsible, and cooperative governance.

**Licensing Reforms:** Examine the current system and develop a plan to support the growth of the profession and solutions to overcome barriers for Indigenous, racialized, and other diverse licensees.



## Jonathan Rosenthal

[jrosenthal@bondlaw.net](mailto:jrosenthal@bondlaw.net)

**Called to the Bar 1989 Criminal Lawyer, Sole Practitioner**  
**Bencher 2015-present: Chair, Proceedings Authorization Committee; Law Society Foundation; Professional Regulation; Access to Justice; Equity and Indigenous Affairs; Strategic Planning and Advisory**  
**Adjunct Professor Osgoode Hall, Director Trial Advocacy, Co-Director Intensive Program in Criminal Law, Director Certificate in Oral Advocacy, Team Leader Intensive Trial Advocacy Workshop**  
**Teaching - University of Notre Dame, Ontario Criminal Lawyers Association, Law Society of Ontario, Advocates Society, Alberta Department of Justice, Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, Ontario Court Toronto Regional Judges' Seminar, Ontario Court East Regional Judges' Seminar, Nova Scotia Provincial Court Judges' Conference, Ontario Centre of Forensic Sciences**  
**Former Vice President Criminal Lawyers' Association**  
**Fellow American College of Trial Lawyers, McMurry Visiting Clinical Fellow 2018-19**

I am proud to say I am a lawyer and deeply care about the future of our profession.

I have been practising criminal law as a sole practitioner for more than 30 years and know the challenges, including the financial pressures, of a sole practitioner.

I have been teaching criminal law and trial advocacy to both lawyers and law students for more than 20 years to assist every lawyer to become the best lawyer they possibly can.

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 and the public interest as a bencher.

I was first elected a bencher in 2015 and truly appreciate the importance of being a bencher and the importance of self-regulation. I have always worked tirelessly for our profession as a bencher in varying roles.

As chair of the Proceeding Authorization Committee I have done my best to streamline the discipline process always appreciating the significant impact the process has on the lawyer or paralegal. I believe 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.

I have witnessed first-hand the behaviour of the majority of the FullStop at Convocation. There is no doubt in my mind self-regulation will end if they are elected. The practice of law is an honourable profession. Let's return dignity and honour to Convocation.

I am hardworking, dedicated and energetic and would be privileged to continue to represent the public interest at Convocation.

To preserve self-regulation I am also proudly running with experienced leaders in the legal and paralegal professions as part of the Good Governance Coalition. Please vote for me and each of our candidates so we can return good governance and decorum to the Law Society of Ontario. You can meet all the Coalition's candidates at [www.goodgovernancecoalition.ca](http://www.goodgovernancecoalition.ca)

Please visit [www.jonathanrosenthal.ca](http://www.jonathanrosenthal.ca)





## Stephen Rotstein

sarotstein@gmail.com

### Qualifications:

- BA (Western), LL.B (Osgoode Hall)
- Licenced to practise law in Ontario and New York
- In-House Counsel Certification (CIC.C)

**Career:** Providing legal and policy advice in public, private and not-for-profit sectors.

### Positions include:

- Director, Global and Domestic Affairs, Ontario Securities Commission
- VP, Policy, Regulatory Affairs & General Counsel, FP Canada
- Director, Government Relations and General Counsel, Human Resources Professionals Association
- Senior Policy Advisor, Ontario Government – Ministry of Finance and Ministry of the Attorney General

**Volunteer Leadership Experiences:** President, Canadian Bar Association, President, In-House Counsel Worldwide, Chair, Canadian Corporate Counsel Association, Chair, Credit Counselling Society, Chair, Four Villages Community Health Centre, Counsellor, Campfire Circle

I am asking for your support to become a Bencher of the LSO. I am proudly running as part of the Good Governance Coalition. Please support me along with the Good Governance candidates.

I am an in-house lawyer who has spent most of my career in the public and not-for-profit sectors. As a firm believer in the rule of law, I have taken on leadership roles to improve the profession and advance access to justice. As President of the Canadian Bar Association and the Canadian Corporate Counsel Association, I worked collaboratively with stakeholders to make a difference. I have a strong understanding of the issues facing the profession. I am ready to take on the role of Bencher.

I am running because we need to change what has been happening at the LSO. The profession's ability to regulate itself has been called into question because we cannot govern ourselves effectively. Self-regulation is a privilege, not a right. We must ensure that the LSO serves the public interest and addresses the profession's real issues.

If elected, my priorities are:

1. Restore Responsible Governance – Support evidence-based, non-ideological decision-making where the public interest and access to justice are primary.
2. Ensure the Viability of the Profession and Different Practice Types– Access to justice requires a healthy and diverse legal profession. Types and sizes of practice, geographical realities, and a cost/benefit analysis must be considered in decision-making.
3. Focus on Mental Health and Wellness – The recent National survey was a wake-up call on this issue's prevalence and seriousness. More needs to be done on education and support.
4. Professional Competency and Discipline – This is LSO core responsibility and where public trust is gained or lost in the profession. The LSO needs to get this right.
5. Address the Future of the Profession through Licensing Reforms – The current system is not working. We need a long-term vision to support the growth of the profession.
6. Fiscal Discipline - LSO is funded by licensees so Benchers must spend that money wisely.

Learn more: LinkedIn, [www.stephenrotstein.com](http://www.stephenrotstein.com), [www.goodgovernancecoalition.ca](http://www.goodgovernancecoalition.ca)



**Elliot P. Saccucci**[esaccucci@loonix.com](mailto:esaccucci@loonix.com)

**Elliot is a Partner in Loopstra Nixon's Employment Group and the Head of its Sports Law Group.**

**Elliot advises management-side employment clients in all manner of employment issues and disputes. He also has experience in Judicial Review and administrative law proceedings. He is a frequent author and commentator on legal developments in the employment law realm.**

**Elliot also has extensive sports law experience as both a lawyer and an arbitrator, having acted as counsel for professional and amateur athletes, national and provincial sports organizations, and professional teams, including National Hockey League clubs.**

**He represents clients in professional and amateur athletic issues, including salary negotiation, endorsement advice and negotiation, and arbitrations involving salary, carding, team selection, discipline and doping violations.**

As a bencher candidate for 2023, I pledge to work toward a modern, transparent Law Society of Ontario that uses its platform to advocate for:

**(1) Access to Justice**

The legal system has never been harder to access. Litigation lasts years, not months. Delays are consistent and costly. Outside of Toronto, Ottawa, and Windsor litigants do not have access to mandatory mediation, compounding the issue. The Law Society has an obligation to advocate for reforms to ensure access to justice. As a Bencher I would work to see the Law Society increase its advocacy, including to the provincial government, toward reform and increased funding for:

1. Expanded Mandatory Mediation Across the Province
2. More Judicial Resources to Ease Critical Delays in our Courts
3. Increased Support for 'Pro Bono Ontario' to Level the Playing Field

**(2) Support for Foreign Trained, New, Solo and Small Practitioners**

The profession is changing. There are more foreign trained lawyers, and more lawyers practising alone or in small practices. To ensure that the profession is equitable, diverse and inclusive, and in turn best serves the public interest, it is incumbent upon the Law Society to support:

1. Expanded Programming and Outreach for Solo and Small Practitioners
2. Creation of a Task Force to Investigate and Promote Hiring of NCA Candidates by Ontario Firms
3. A Review of Law School Tuition as a Barrier to Accessing the Profession
4. A Mandate that Ensures that Minimum Wage for Articling Students Does not end in 2026

**(3) Keeping Convocation Current**

I support governance reform at Convocation to keep it fresh and bring new perspectives. As a Bencher I would push for proportionate representation of the bar through:

1. Increased Access to, and Touch-points with, Convocation for the Bar and Especially Young Practitioners
2. Reduced Term Limits
3. Mandatory Election of Young Bencher(s) with Less than 10 years of Practice Experience
4. Mandatory Election of Bencher(s) from Small Firms



## Caryma Sa'd

[help@sadvocacy.com](mailto:help@sadvocacy.com)

**Caryma Sa'd is a sole practitioner in the areas of housing, criminal, and cannabis law. She also documents political extremism.**

**Her footage and commentary are regularly featured by major national and international broadcasters including CBC, CNN, CP24, CTV, Fox News, Global, NEWSTALK 1010, TVO, VICE News, and Yahoo News.**

**In addition to media appearances, Caryma creates and produces original content, using social media to publish analysis and satire on a range of legal and political issues.**

**Caryma graduated cum laude from the University of Ottawa in 2015. She hung out her shingle in 2017.**

**In her spare time, Caryma likes to watch professional wrestling.**

The past four years of governance at the Law Society of Ontario have been characterized by acrimony, dysfunction, hostility, and polarization.

This breakdown of civility is a microcosm of society. I spent most of the pandemic documenting deepening ideological divides and reactionary groupthink. It is disturbing to see such trends play out within the legal community and the public at large; I do not believe the way forward is more cliquishness.

Historically, benchers in Ontario got elected based on their personal reputations, skillsets, and connections. There seemed a clear understanding of the duty to regulate the profession in the public interest, notwithstanding any interpersonal or political differences between individual benchers. That said, the composition of Convocation reflected a notable degree of elitism and status quo.

In 2019, I vied for a seat at the table in the hopes of adding a fresh perspective. As a then-recent call and sole practitioner, I was keenly aware that onerous Law Society fees and requirements had a negative impact on serving people in need. My platform was premised on the idea that access to justice cannot be achieved without ensuring adequate support and reducing barriers for legal professionals, particularly those working with non-wealthy clients. Brick by brick, I earned endorsements from organizations, firms, and lawyers by engaging thoughtfully (and at times provocatively) with substantive issues.

I was 421 votes shy of being elected.

That same year, a slate of 22 licensees successfully campaigned on a single-issue platform. The group often voted as a bloc to oppose progressive change and engaged in antics that disrupted real work. They have since re-branded and are seeking a majority of seats in 2023. This turn of events prompted other licensees, including several incumbents, to run as an opposing coalition with a view towards restoring dignity to Convocation.

I was not invited to join any slate. But to paraphrase Groucho Marx, I do not care to join any faction that would have me as a member.

When casting your ballot, save one vote for me. A wild card.



## Chi-Kun Shi

[cks@chikunshi.ca](mailto:cks@chikunshi.ca)

**I am a civil litigator in sole practice for more than 25 years.**

**I obtained my LL.B. at the University of Toronto in 1989 and was called to the Bar in 1991.**

**Since 1997, I have acted as mediator for the Ontario Mandatory Mediation Program for its duration, and has since continued to provide mediation service in both English and Chinese language.**

**Prior to attending law school, I earned a Bachelor and Master of Applied Science and Engineering at University of Toronto, and worked at Spar Aerospace as well as nuclear safety at Ontario Hydro.**

**Outside legal practice, I volunteer as an alumni assessor for admission to UT Engineering, and at a Humane Society thrift shop.**

I am honoured to have served as benchner in the last four years. Elected on a promise to abolish the mandatory Statement of Principles, I am proud to report "mission accomplished".

This time, my focus is in 3 areas where the Law Society can do better:

- (1) Fiscal restraint: the Law Society budget for 2023 spending is \$140 million. My past motions to see draft budgets with less spending (eg. 10% less, no annual due increase) have all been rebuffed by the majority at Convocation. If you want the Law Society to stop assuming itself to be operating at 100% efficiency, support those of us who want to see smaller budgets, even if in drafts only. It is just a start to strive for efficiency and to stop the slide into a bloated bureaucracy.
- (2) Stop mission creep: the Law Society's main mandate is to regulate competence and honesty in legal services. It is where it should focus its efforts and resources. With its tremendous authority comes the responsibility to justify its activities, reach and spending in relation to the discharge of its mandate. On the other hand, apart from rhetoric, has it done enough to support the sole and small practices which are vital to access to justice to the less privileged? I believe it can do better.
- (3) Stop wokism: I am opposed to the Law Society promoting, favouring or imposing any ideology on any members, regardless of my personal views on such ideology. Our society was built on respect for individual rights and freedoms. The Law Society as a pillar upholding our rule of law must lead by example and be staunchly vigilant in its respect for such fundamental freedoms. I am fully supportive of individual freedoms as the way for our society to continually renew itself and adjust to an everchanging world. Freedom of expression is the foundation from which we may interact with and learn from each other, and evolve together. Robust and healthy exchange of different ideas is the key to a robust and healthy society.





## Julia Shin Doi

julia.shindoi@torontomu.ca

**General Counsel, Secretary of the Board of Governors, and University Privacy Officer,**  
Toronto Metropolitan University  
**BA, JD, LLM, CIC.C, ICD.D**  
**Adjunct Professor, Osgoode Hall Law School, Lincoln Alexander School of Law**  
**Co-Author, Behind and Beyond Boilerplate: Drafting Commercial Agreements**

**LEGAL COMMUNITY: President, National GC Network, Past Chair, Canadian Corporate Counsel Association Ontario, Co-Founder of: Korean Canadian Lawyers Association, Federation of Asian Canadian Lawyers, Women General Counsel Canada, RODA, Korean Legal Clinic**

**BOARDS: CPA Foundation, Baycrest Hospital**

**AWARDS: Chambers Diversity & Inclusion (2020), FACL Lifetime Achievement (2019), Top 25 Most Influential (2017), CCCA Award of Excellence (2017), WXN Top 100 (2014)**

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE: In-House: York University, Imax Corporation**  
**Firms: Gowling WLG, Borden & Elliot**  
**Called to the Bar, 1994**

INCUMBENT BENCHER, ADJUDICATOR, LAW SOCIETY TRIBUNAL, CHAIR, TRIBUNAL COMMITTEE, MEMBER, BENCHER GOOD GOVERNANCE COALITION

It has been a privilege and pleasure to be a Bencher for the last four years. I have supported good governance, equity, diversity, and inclusion, collegiality, and adjudication that is fair, just, and in the public interest.

### 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 of the National GC Network, Korean Canadian Lawyers Association, Federation of Asian Canadian Lawyers, Women General Counsel Canada, Roundtable of Diversity Associations, 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 appreciate the 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.

Please vote for Julia Shin Doi and the Bencher Good Governance Coalition (<https://www.juliashindoi.com/> <https://www.goodgovernancecoalition.ca/>).

Thank you.





## Megan E. Shortreed

megan.shortreed@paliareroland.com

- **Called to the Bar – 1997**
- **Partner, Paliare Roland. Practice in professional regulation, employment, estates and commercial litigation**
- **Bencher (2019-2023): Chair, Professional Regulation Committee, Chair, Proportional Regulation Task Force, Chair, Trustee Services Working Group, Vice Chair, Paralegal Standing Committee, Law Society Tribunal and Appeals Tribunal, Proceedings Authorization, Audit & Finance, Strategic Planning and Advisory, Equity and Indigenous Affairs Committees**
- **Director, Law Society Foundation**
- **LSO Justicia Project (2008-2014)**
- **Director, Advocates' Society (2014-2018)**
- **Editorial Board, Commercial Litigation and Arbitration Review**
- **Former Director, Homes First Foundation**
- **TLA Honsberger Award (2014)**
- **Member, The Advocates' Society, TLA, OBA, and WLAO**
- **Listed in Chambers, LExpert, Best Lawyers, Benchmark**

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 harbour 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 persuasive voice.

A significant part of my practice is professional regulation. I also routinely advise clients on board governance and workplace matters.

This legal and board experience has allowed me to contribute meaningfully as a Bencher at the Law Society. As a Bencher, my approach is one of principled, fair and cost-effective governance. In my first term, I was entrusted by three Treasurers with significant leadership roles, because I know how to keep focus on the regulator's core mandate and get things done. I believe in proportional regulation - every measure should protect the public while being fair and reducing burdens where possible to licensees.

I am dedicated to advancing women in the professions and to ensuring Law Society support of small firms, sole practitioners, and young and racialized lawyers. In 2008, I took on a leadership role with the Law Society's Justicia Project for the Retention of Women, work that needs to be continued. Rapid technological and social change are affecting our work. I believe the Law Society can do more to ensure lawyers and paralegals are supported to meet these challenges competently.

Before becoming a Bencher, I had the privilege of serving as a Director of The Advocates' Society. I have also been involved for decades in issues confronting the homeless, including in director's roles with Homes First and the Law Society Foundation.

I believe I have more to contribute to the professions. I am running with the Bencher Good Governance Coalition because I believe competent, representative leaders can bring common sense, thoughtful debate, and decorum back to Convocation.

<https://www.goodgovernancecoalition.ca/>



## Mark Surchin

msurchin@goodmans.ca

### Mark Surchin

- 1983 Call
- Partner at Goodmans LLP: Business Law (corporate/commercial, legal opinions and financing)
- Listed in various peer reviewed legal directories and contributing author in various publications
- Education: B.A. (1978, Brandeis University) and J.D. (1981, University of Toronto)
- Adjunct Faculty teaching Business Organizations at University of Toronto, Faculty of Law
- Member of the governing board of Brandeis University and of the College of Electors at University of Toronto (in each case with special attention to non-profit board governance)
- Vice-President of the Law Alumni Association at University of Toronto and Past President of the Alumni Association at Brandeis University
- Professional Affiliations: Toronto Opinions Group, Canadian Bar Association, Ontario Bar Association

I have practised law in Toronto for 40 years and have been at Goodmans LLP for most of that time. If elected I will adhere to the highest standard of care, without being animated by ideology or politics.

I believe it is important that Convocation include representation of solicitors so that policy decisions are made taking into account the perspectives of and challenges confronting solicitors.

In that regard, my career has been focused on business law and has at times involved difficult governance issues among various stakeholders. My Business Organizations course at U of T is at heart a governance course examining what directors as fiduciaries ought (and ought not) to consider in their decision making process. My role as a trustee on a university's governing board, where I chair the Nominating and Governance Committee, is a leadership role in non-profit governance including understanding the different roles of board members and management.

I am the co-author of numerous publications including Practical Law Canada's Cross-Border Contracts and Boilerplate Clauses content and the Canadian chapter of The Law Review's Securitisation Law Review - 3rd Edition.

Beyond my career, I am active in the community including as a long-standing volunteer at Princess Margaret Hospital, Toronto General Hospital and Toronto Rehab.

I am at a relatively late stage in my legal career. Accordingly, I am not running to build a profile in the legal profession or to otherwise advance my career. Rather--and inspired by the example of the late Eddie Goodman--I am running out of a sense of duty to ensure that the professions not only can maintain self-regulation but do so at a very high standard of professionalism that includes collegiality among the benchers in exercising their oversight role. I feel confident that I can use my years of experience in completing transactions, teaching and board work for the benefit of the Law Society and in service of the public interest.

I am running as part of a coalition dedicated to good governance and ask you to support all of our candidates:

[goodgovernancecoalition.ca](http://goodgovernancecoalition.ca)

You can read more about me at [marksurchinforbencher.ca](http://marksurchinforbencher.ca)



## Pamela-Jane Taylor

PTAYLOR@TAYLORLEGAL.CA

**Pamela-Jane Taylor B.A., M.B.A., J.D., Sole practitioner (bilingual English/French) Corporate/Entertainment/Media law, Employment law, Governance not for profits; formerly General Counsel/Conseillère principale to media and broadcast organizations, Corporate-commercial associate.**

**Editor, Carswell O'Briens/Thomson Reuters in Entertainment law. Trade Marks agent, Mediator/mediation training coach. Member, Institute of Corporate Directors.**

**Board Directorships (current and past): Board Chair/Director: Fred Victor Centre, Rapport Credit Union Limited; Governance Chair/ Director: Toronto Community Housing Corporation, Fred Victor Centre; Corporate Secretary: TVOntario Foundation, Fred Victor Centre; Board Director: Canadian Retransmission Collective, Perrin Foods Ltd.; Advisory Board Director: Nightwood Theatre**

**Former lecturer Business Law University of Toronto Scarborough, and Toronto Metropolitan (Ryerson) University. Recipient of City of Toronto "City Builders Award".**

Being a Bencher is a responsibility, not an entitlement, and good governance is more than just words. It requires a commitment to the principles of accountability, transparency and fairness. It is also not achievable without the adoption of governance best practices.

Does the Law Society follow current best practices? Given that there is no committee responsible for governance at Convocation, we do not know. Good governance today requires adherence to these practices, and regular oversight of their performance. Like good housekeeping, things quickly fall apart without it.

Benchers are responsible for setting policy and strategic direction.

Yet policy initiatives like the Statement of Principles, Inclusion Index and expanded Remedial Outcomes Re-education are highly intrusive to members and a distraction from the real work to be done.

The Law Society both serves and reflects its membership, and its policies must reflect the needs and values of membership as a whole, not those of a small ideologically captive group. The Law Society's primary mandate is ensuring access to justice, lawyer competency and integrity of the profession.

Benchers also have the fiduciary responsibility for approving the Law Society budget including staff compensation, which directly affects your fees. Despite this, budget setting has become a quasi-secret staff driven process with limited ability by Benchers to provide input or oversight to ensure finances are properly spent.

Benchers must take responsibility for Law Society governance, or Convocation has no purpose.

I bring the following skills and experience to address these and related issues:

- 1) Broad experience as sole practitioner, in-house counsel and large firm associate;
- 2) Seasoned provider of strategic legal and business counsel to leaders, executive teams, and boards across Ontario;
- 3) Governance counsel for not-for-profit sector and government agencies;
- 4) Experienced Corporate Director, Board Chair and Governance Chair for both for profit and not for profit organizations;
- 5) Parfaitement bilingue – j'exerce en français et en anglais.

I would be honoured to have your support to bring change to the Law Society in a way that reflects the values of all of our membership, and governance that restores confidence in our regulator.





## Sidney H. Troister

stroister@torkinmanes.com

**Called to the Bar 1974**

**Partner Torkin Manes LLP**

**Elected Bencher 2015-2023**

**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 and 2021 Toronto Real Estate Lawyer of the Year by Best Lawyers in Canada**

**Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent Peer Review Rated**

**Author: The Law of Subdivision Control in Ontario**

**Founding and Continuing Chair of the LSO Annual Real Estate Law Summit**

**Chair, LSO Audit and Finance Committee**

**Past Chair, LSO Competency Task Force**

**Past Chair, LSO Professional Development and Competence Committee.**

**Co-head: Bar Admission Course Real Estate Section 1990-2000**

**Past OBA representative on Ministry task force on real estate and mortgage**

Leadership, Experience, Common Sense, Good Governance

As a two term Bencher, I have learned that, first and foremost, this election is about electing proven leadership, experience and competence and bringing good governance back to Convocation. To that end, I have joined the Good Governance Coalition of leaders across the province to take their place on the board of governors of the Law Society.

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.

I have had the privilege of leading three very important committees at Convocation. As Chair of Professional Development and Competence, I led Convocation through the difficult challenges of licensing new lawyers during Covid. As Chair of the Competency Task Force, I led a review of all competency programmes at the LSO, insisted on a Practice Essentials course for new solo lawyers and supported grandparenting the Certified Specialist designation. As Chair of Audit and Finance, I brought in a budget that involved a less than inflation increase in annual fees that included bolstering our compensation fund for crooked lawyers and supporting libraries.

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.

As for issues, the divisive SOP is dead. The finances of the LSO are sound and carefully managed. I believe in moderate, thoughtful, proportionate regulation, no hard left, no hard right. There will always be issues, but ultimately, I believe that my best contribution is bringing smart, experienced, practical and balanced decision making and leadership 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); To learn about my colleagues on the Good Governance Coalition, visit the website at [www.goodgovernancecoalition.ca](http://www.goodgovernancecoalition.ca)





## Margaret L. Waddell

[marg@waddellphillips.ca](mailto:marg@waddellphillips.ca)

Margaret L. Waddell, LL.B, LL.M [marg@waddellphillips.ca](mailto:marg@waddellphillips.ca)

**Education:** Osgoode Law School, LL.M, 2002, Queen's University, LL.B, 1987  
**Bar Admissions:** Ontario, 1989, Alberta, 1991

**Practice Areas:** Class Actions (predominately plaintiff-side), Commercial and Civil Litigation, Employment, Professional Negligence, Human Right, Appellate Advocacy.

**Founding and Managing Partner, Waddell Phillips Professional Corporation.**

**Member, Civil Rules Committee, Past President, Toronto Lawyers Association  
Past Chair, OBA Class Action Section, Past Board Member, The Advocates Society and  
Chair of the Sub-Committee on Advocacy and Practice, Past Member CBA National Task  
Force on Multi-Jurisdictional Class Actions, Member, Federal Court Class Action Task  
Force Liaison Subcommittee**

**Accolades: Chambers Canada, Lexpert, Benchmark Canada, Best Lawyers Canada**

Colleagues,

Lawyers and paralegals need an effective and efficient regulator. We are fortunate to be self-governing professions. To me, that means that those licensees who are entrusted with that governance must approach the role of Bencher with seriousness and a due regard to the heavy responsibility that the LSO has to act in the best interests of the public. It takes time, understanding of the many functions that the LSO performs to fulfil that duty, and a commitment to supporting and enhancing our professionalism. That is why I am proud to be a member of the Good Governance Coalition.

I am not a "Bay Street" lawyer. In 2017, I started my own litigation boutique with two partners. Early in my career, I was also at a small litigation firm, and for much of the time there, I was the sole, or one of two junior lawyers. I am a small business owner, and I understand the manifold challenges that comes with trying to balance running a law firm and practising law. If elected as a Bencher, I will bring this important street-level perspective to the table.

I care deeply about the legal profession, and understand the importance of maintaining its credibility with the public and with government. I have a long and demonstrated record of serving the legal profession. I have served on the executive of multiple lawyer organizations, most recently as President of the Toronto Lawyers Association, and am current sitting on the Civil Rules Committee. If elected, I will bring the same commitment and decades of experience to Convocation.

What am I concerned about?

- licensee competency, including maintaining and enhancing library funding and resources through LiRN;
- fiscal responsibility and accountability at the LSO, including ensuring effective use of fees to meet the LSO's roles and objective of governing for the protection of the public;
- improved efficiency in the investigation of complaints and discipline where required, but with the focus on improving licensee practices and procedures
- improving public access to the services of qualified and competent licensees
- good governance to benefit all licensees



## Tanya Walker

tanya@tcwalkerlawyers.com

- **Director and Founder of the firm Walker Law, 2010**
- **Called to the Bar, 2006**
- **Elected Bencher of the Law Society of Ontario, 2016 and 2019, serving on the following committees: Audit & Finance, Entity Regulation, Human Rights Monitoring Group: Co-Chair, Equity and Indigenous Affairs, Adjudicator: Law Society Tribunal**
- **Community Involvement: Regular legal issue commentary on national television and radio**
- **Recognition as follows:**
  - **Certified Specialist in Civil Litigation, 2018**
  - **Alumni Gold Key Award, Osgoode Hall Law School, (Service), 2019**
  - **Lexpert Rising Stars Leading Lawyers Under 40, 2018**
- **Memberships:**
  - **Advocates Society**
  - **Canadian Association of Black Lawyers**
  - **Ontario Bar Association**

Dear Colleagues,

Seeking a third term as a Bencher, I ask for your support.

The work of the Law Society is carried out on behalf of the public, but that obligation can only be effected by assisting lawyers and paralegals in the province in their work on behalf of their clients. As a Bencher, my work is carried out with a view to professional competency, support for the personal well-being of lawyers and paralegals with transparency for the public.

In making your electoral choice, it may assist you to know about the practice of Walker Law. The firm is composed of 10 dedicated legal professionals and staff who are attentive to our clients and engaged in public service for the community.

If re-elected, I will continue to devote myself to the issues mentioned below and support new initiatives that develop workable solutions for the profession as a whole:

- **Professional Competency:** Since COVID, Caselines and presentations before the Court with Zoom require refinement and, in some circumstances, new training for those who require it and thereby encourage the Law Society to put mechanisms in place to ensure, lawyers and paralegal receive effective and efficient training as needed
- **Resources for professional development and health:** The Law Society should continue to assist lawyers and paralegals in their professional and personal development. To that end, extra resources for that support should be increased as needed.
- **Transparency for the public and the profession:** I am committed to ensuring that the Law Society conducts its affairs with transparency for the public and the profession, including Law Society activities and policies and industry related matters, including salaries, firm composition and career prospects.

Read more about me and my campaign here: [www.tcwalkerlawyers.com/bencher](http://www.tcwalkerlawyers.com/bencher) and <https://www.goodgovernancecoalition.ca>.

**Peter C. Wardle**[pwardle@singleton.com](mailto:pwardle@singleton.com)

**Partner, Singleton Urquhart Reynolds Vogel LLP**  
**LL.B. (Queens, 1984)**  
**Called to Bar 1986**

**Activities:** Fellow, International Academy of Trial Lawyers; Included in the 2022 Lexpert Special Edition on Canada's Leading Litigation Lawyers, Ranked in Lexpert, Best Lawyers, Benchmark and Chambers Canada in corporate commercial litigation, directors' and officers' liability, securities and professional liability; Director, The Advocates' Society, 2001-2006; Lecturer, Advanced Civil Procedure, Queens University, 2003-2006; Speaker, numerous CLE programs; Published articles in Canadian Bar Review, Ottawa Law Journal, Canadian Business Law Journal and other publications

**Elected Bencher, 2011-2019: Chair, Compensation Fund, 2012-2014; Co-Chair, Mentoring Task Force, 2013-2015; Co-Chair, Audit & Finance, 2014-2016; Chair, Professional Development & Competence, 2016-2019**

**Why I am Running**

In 2019 a radical group of lawyers were elected as a substantial minority. Those benchers have made it difficult for Convocation to function as it should. Some of them appear to have no understanding of the fiduciary obligations required of board members. Who would have thought that in the last twelve months we would see one elected bencher sue the Law Society, a second serve the Treasurer with a libel notice, and a third ejected for incivility? As another bencher recently wrote: "Civility is at an all-time low at the LSO."

This is not the Convocation I left in 2019 after two terms. From 2011 to 2019 I worked with a collegial group and played a major role in many of the Law Society's important initiatives, including its review of licensing, governance reform, and mentoring. I advocated for a minimum salary for licensing candidates. I remain an adjudicator at the Law Society Tribunal.

I have a long track record as a thoughtful, engaged and progressive board member.

But that is not why I am running again.

The chaos and incivility on display at Convocation over the past term is not just inside baseball. Self-regulation is a privilege which can be taken away if the legal profession cannot regulate itself – look at what has taken place elsewhere. And that should matter to all of us.

The profession needs capable and experienced leadership. That is why I am running this time as part of the Good Governance Coalition – a diverse group of professionals committed to returning good governance to the LSO. Visit the website at: <https://www.goodgovernancecoalition.ca>. We will bring professional values and commitment back to Convocation. The legal professions face many challenges, and we need thoughtful, engaged representatives who understand their roles. We also need a Law Society which actively addresses discrimination and includes representation from diverse perspectives.

My personal priorities as a bencher will remain licensing and governance reform as well as prudent management of the LSO's budget. Furthermore, I am committed to ensuring open and respectful decision-making in the public interest.

**Benchers**  
Election

**Élection**  
du Conseil

**Vote**

The deadline for voting  
is April 28, 2023  
at 5 p.m. EDT.

**Votez**

**La date limite pour  
voter est le 28 avril  
2023 à 17 h HAE.**



**Law Society**  
of Ontario

**Barreau**  
de l'Ontario