

## FALL 2024 HEALTH LAW & LITIGATION CONFERENCE

### Conference Co-chair: Danielle Douek



**Danielle Douek** is a partner at Lerner LLP. She is a passionate advocate with over twelve years of diverse litigation expertise including in health law, personal injury, insurance and the education sector.

Danielle has appeared as trial counsel in the Ontario Superior Court of Justice and at the appellate level as well as before various tribunals including the HRTO and HPARB. Danielle frequently represents members of regulatory Colleges in responding to complaints, investigations, quality assurance reviews, and other inquiries.

### Conference Co-chair: Kimberly Knight



**Kimberly Knight** practices exclusively in the area of health law. She has significant experience in medical negligence litigation. Her practice focuses on helping those that have been injured through medical negligence. She obtained her J.D. from the University of Toronto in 2013, articulated with Siskinds, and began practicing Health Law once she was called to the bar in 2014.

She has experience in representing clients before the Provincial and Superior Ontario Courts of Justice, as well as various administrative tribunals, including the Health Professions Appeal and Review Board and the Immigration and Refugee Board.

Born and raised in the province of Newfoundland, Kimberly has come to love the Forest City. She enjoys mountain biking, Crossfit, and reading vampire novels.

### Speakers:



**André Michael**, a partner with Siskinds LLP since 1993, was called to the Bar in 1988. Born and raised in Antigua in the West Indies, André graduated from De La Salle College in Toronto in 1980 and received his B.A. (Psychology and Economics) in 1983 and his LL.B. in 1986 from Western University in London.

André articulated and practiced at the litigation firm, Haines, Livingstone, establishing an interest in medical malpractice that he continued to develop after he joined Siskind, Cromarty, Ivey & Dowler LLP in 1990.

André has a special interest and extensive experience in representing adults and children who have suffered brain injuries. André leads Siskinds' health law medical malpractice group. André has conducted numerous medical malpractice trials, and has extensive experience in all

aspects of health care litigation, including obstetrical, diagnostic, pharmaceutical and surgical cases. André also is actively engaged in tobacco health care costs recovery litigation on behalf of a number of provincial governments. André is a former Director of the Advocates' Society. He was Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee on Advocacy and Practice, and Vice-Chair of Education.

André has been named in the Best Lawyers in Canada List since 2006 for Personal Injury Litigation, and is listed in Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory as a Leading Medical Negligence Practitioner.



**Barbara Legate** is the founding partner of Legate Injury lawyers. Barbara has engraved her vision of excellence in personal injury litigation and service to clients onto the firm. For Barbara, every case is personal. With every client, she asks, "what would I expect if I was sitting in his chair? How can I help my client get back what she has lost, or protect the future of this family?"

After over 35 years of practice, Barbara has earned a high level of respect for her thoroughness, legal acumen and results achieved for children, adults and families affected by injury caused by negligence.

Barbara and her team won a critical decision for children suffering birth trauma in *Liebig v. Guelph General Hospital and Ayanbadejo* which confirmed the rights of children to sue for medical malpractice. For Barbara, representation of children injured by negligence at the outset of their lives is a passion.



**Doug Wallace** is an Amateur athlete, social media novice, husband and father of four children. Doug is the managing partner of Wallace Smith LLP. Born in Sudbury, Ontario he moved to London in 1986 to attend the University of Western Ontario where he obtained Bachelors and Masters degrees in history before attending law school. While attending school, Doug worked for Apple Canada and he maintains an avid interest in the adoption and use of new technologies.

After graduation in 1994, Doug practiced civil litigation at a large firm where he represented both plaintiffs and defendants. In 2008, he founded Wallace Smith LLP as a civil litigation boutique where he focuses on personal injury, professional liability, and insurance law. Doug is experienced trial and appellate counsel and has handled cases in the Ontario Superior Court, Divisional Court, Court of Appeal, and Supreme Court of Canada. He is also consulted regularly on complex coverage issues. Some notable cases include the Algo Mall collapse in Elliot Lake, the Sunrise Propane explosion in Toronto, and the tragic death of eleven migrant workers outside of Stratford. Doug advocates for professionalism and civility in all aspects of practice.

He writes and presents papers in his area of expertise and speaks frequently at legal education and industry conferences. In his spare time, Doug plays hockey poorly and has an even less impressive golf and tennis game. He coached basketball and soccer for many years and supports the Oakridge and Norwest Optimist Clubs. He is a strong advocate for education and research into brain injury and is an active supporter of several community causes.



**Jane Scholes** is a partner at Lerner LLP in London, Ontario. She received her HBA/JD Dual Degree from the Richard Ivey School of Business and Western University Faculty of Law in 2015.

She was called to the bar in Ontario in 2016, and practiced at a large Bay Street firm where she summered and articulated before relocating to London and Lerner in 2018. Ms. Scholes has a diverse advisory, advocacy, and dispute resolution practice.

She practices health law, commercial litigation, and workplace law. She has appeared in all levels of court in Ontario and at the Supreme Court of Canada, as well as before a number of specialized tribunals. In her work advising regulated professionals she regularly assists with responding to complaints and the resulting investigation processes.



**Joni Dobson** is the principal lawyer at MD Lawyers. Joni represents people across Ontario who are seriously injured through medical malpractice. Joni takes an agile, but no-nonsense approach to litigation. She believes an injured person deserves a strong advocate who will go the full distance to obtain fair results.

Every day, Joni is inspired by her clients' approaches to their challenges. She strives to ensure they understand all aspects of their cases, lending her strength to them as they navigate the legal world.

Joni is drawn to medical malpractice as a challenging and fulfilling area of law. The medical malpractice cases she litigates include surgical errors, stroke, infectious disease, delayed diagnosis or misdiagnosis, infectious disease and birth injuries. Practical both in her roles as a litigator and in her personal life, Joni raises chickens, and grows fresh organic produce.



**Sarah Martens** is a partner at Lerner LLP with more than a decade of litigation and advocacy experience in professional regulation and health law. She has experience before the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, Divisional Court, and Court of Appeal, along with various tribunals. Her litigation and advocacy practice includes assisting regulated professionals with a wide variety of legal matters, including regulatory and licensing issues before regulatory Colleges, privacy matters before the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario, and matters before various Ontario tribunals such as the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario and the Health Professions Appeal and Review Board.

She also has considerable and current experience conducting complex and lengthy medical negligence trials, both virtually and in-person. She has a Certificate in Health Law from the Osgoode Hall Law School and has been recognized in the 2023 and 2024 Canadian Legal Expert Directory for Medical Negligence.