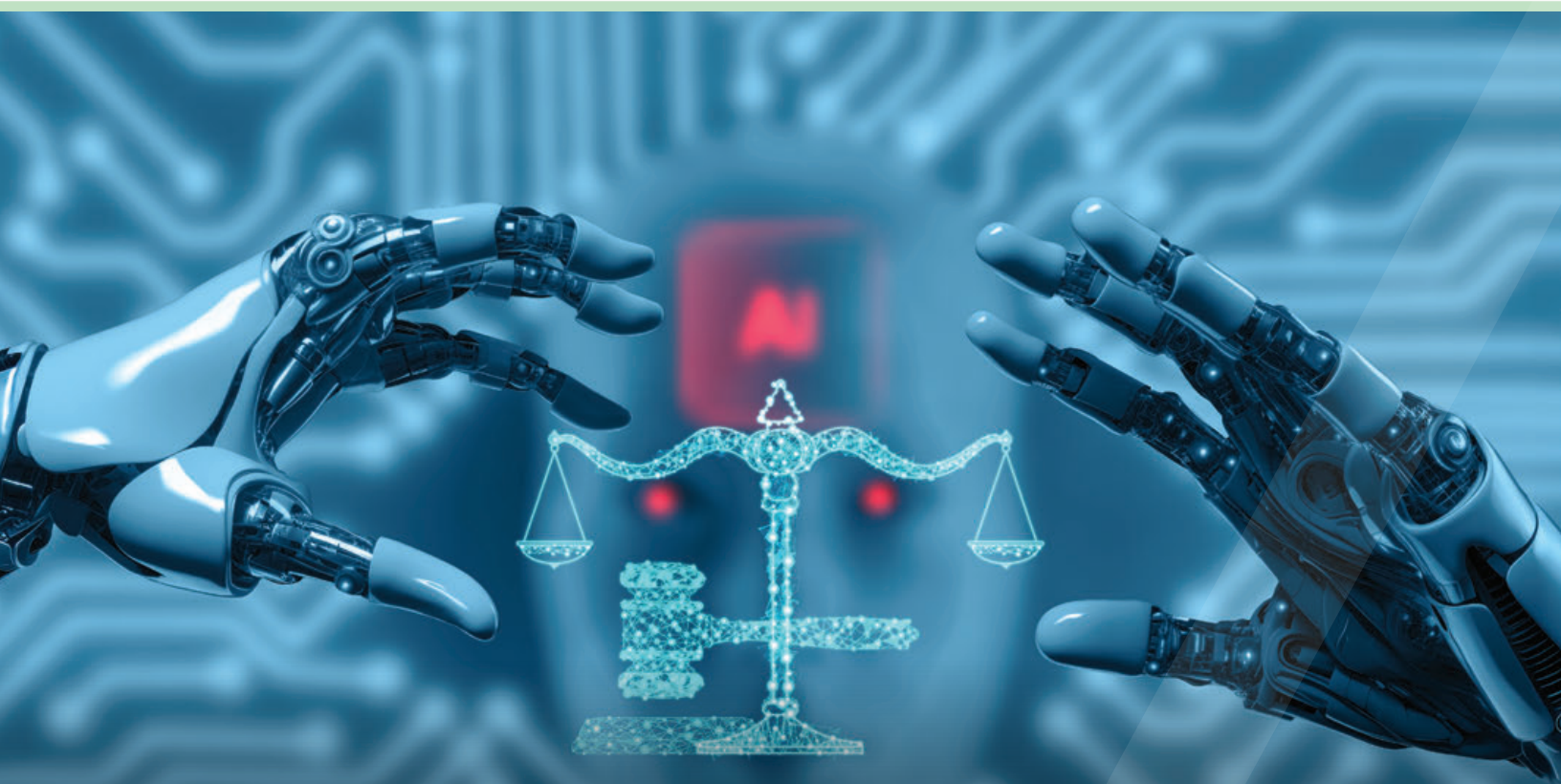


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July 2026 Issue

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The deadline is noon on **September 25, 2026**

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Editor's Message



Contributed by:
Nicole Rogers

Welcome to the July 2026 edition of The Snail. Summer may invite us to slow down, but this issue reminds us how quickly the legal landscape continues to move.

Our contributors this month take us from practical workplace questions to some of the most consequential changes facing the profession. George Hamzo explains what lawyers and employers should know about "use it or lose it" vacation policies, while the Practice Resource Centre shares news and resources for members. We also look at technology from two very different angles: in my own contribution, I explore what Ontario judges are saying about artificial

intelligence in the courts, while David Canton considers what the Taylor Swift private-jet tracking dispute can teach us about privacy law.

This issue also considers developing doctrine and professional craft. Bayly Guslits examines Ahluwalia and questions surrounding the new tort of intimate partner violence, while Daniel Mailer draws lessons from Stephen King (a personal favourite) for lawyers who want to write with greater clarity and impact.

We celebrate the 2026 OJEN-OBA Competitive Mock Trial Tournament and highlight the MLA's partnership with [CPDOnline.ca](https://www.cpdonline.ca) and round out this robust edition with our regular association updates, including a

Bencher's Report, a review of recent CPD programs, along with upcoming programs and events.

Thank you to each of our contributors, advertisers, volunteers, and staff for making this issue possible. I hope you find something here that informs your practice, sharpens your thinking, or sparks a conversation with a colleague.

Welcoming Jackie Sauer

Jackie Sauer has recently joined the MLA as the Administrative Assistant. She will be assisting with the CPD programs and events, and also supporting the Board of Trustees. Jackie recently retired after more than 40 years with Lerner LLP and is pleased to continue contributing to the legal community in this new role. We are delighted to welcome Jackie to the MLA team. Jackie may be reached at Admin@middlaw.on.ca.

Practice Resource Centre News



Contributed by:
Cynthia Simpson and Shabira Tamachi
library@middlaw.on.ca

CALL Conference 2026

We attended the annual Canadian Association of Law Libraries conference in Moncton which had an excellent program so jam-packed you couldn't attend all.

The first keynote was delivered by Dr. Anthony Rosborough from the Schulich School of Law at Dalhousie who spoke about *"The Right to Repair as Information Justice."* Injustice can come from design barriers (designed to be replaced or need expensive diagnostics to repair), proprietary tools (like generic printer cartridges not working in named products), lack of repair information, computerization, IP innovations, and contract/licence agreements. Some progress has happened in the area of the right to repair. By February 2027, for example, all phones must have batteries that can be removed and replaced by the owner. Other legislation in the works are the Federal Bill C-267 (National Framework on the Durability of Electronic Products and Essential Home Appliances Act) and Ontario Bill 91 (Right to Repair Act, 2025). The EU has introduced Directive 2024/1799, and all 50 US states have introduced right to repair legislation.

The second keynote was presented by Michael Marin, Dean of the UNB Faculty of Law, who spoke on *"The Embedded Law Library: The 21st Century Role of Law Libraries in Society."* He noted that law libraries help orient and educate people within the legal system. They are a community within a community; a trusted space that helps people feel welcome in systems that may otherwise feel intimidating. Dr. Marin said embedded institutions invite society in rather

than isolate from it and they suspend hierarchy by providing space that serves students, lawyers, paralegals, judges, arbitrators and, in some cases, citizens all together.

Many of the concurrent sessions had an AI focus as this is an evolving reality in both the practice of law and librarianship. Hannah Rosborough presented on *"Beyond the Books: Student Use, Preparedness, and Perceptions of Gen AI"* while the panel of Kim Nayyer, James Bachmann, and Sarah Gibbs educated us on "GenAI, Data Integrity, and Implicit Bias." Finally, James Bachmann, Michelle Terriss, Jacob Ericsson and Anita Susan-Bilyk discussed their challenges in *"Navigating Legal Research & Writing Instruction in GenAI Infested Waters."*

There were sessions on negotiating vendor licensing contracts, unlocking common rules for tribunals, data surveillance, legal access for underserved newcomers, teaching legal research to diverse audiences, and law library leadership through an EDI lens, plus vendor demos. Probably the best aspect of attending these conferences though comes from the opportunity to converse with our colleagues across the country and representatives from international law library associations. There is always something new to learn about our profession and practices.

New Lexis+ e-Resources at the MLA

We are excited to announce that we now have two new products available on Lexis+ on all our user computers here at the MLA Library. We have now added **Pleadings, Motions & Facta**, and **Law360** Canada to our user access.

Pleadings, Motions & Facta contains the court documents from pivotal cases since 2015 for over 30 practice areas across Canada. This includes pleadings, application records, orders, written submissions, affidavits and more, from provincial and federal courts. **Law360** Canada is a legal news collection to keep you on top of the latest developments in the profession with regular and guest columnists analyzing leading cases and issues.

We have also acquired staff access to **Lexis+ Protégé**, the AI platform that generates answers from the legal databases within Lexis+. The program prompts with follow-up questions to refine the search and can draft documents. The platform is not available for a multi-user IP access like on our user computers, but we can run searches for you and send you the results.

Free E-Resources at Your Fingertips

Check out the following services which you can access directly from your office. A few of the resources require you to first request permanent login credentials from the LSO's Great Library.

CanLII Search+

There are more developments in Generative AI legal research results from reputable legal databases, but these can be costly add-ons to existing subscriptions. However, anyone who has set up a CanLII My Account can take advantage of CanLII's recently launched **CanLII Search+** directly from their office. Check out [the video](#) about this new service and try it out today.

LLMC

The Great Library at the LSO has recently added a new e-resource to its collection available to all licensees and law association libraries. The Law Library Microform Consortium (LLMC) has collected, preserved, and digitized historical documents from around the world to safeguard these valuable

► resources and create a comprehensive, searchable digital archive. Licensees who have already arranged for access to HeinOnline will have automatic access to LLMC. The Great Library posted [an introduction to this new resource](#), and details on how to access it, so check out what is available to you at no charge, especially if you are dealing with a historical legal matter.

Rangeindr

As mentioned before, all lawyers have free access to this criminal sentencing service through the [LSO's dedicated rangeindr access page](#). Please contact the LSO's Great Library at greatlibrary@lso.ca to arrange for your permanent credentials.

HeinOnline

This service is great for Canadian legislation, historical rules of practice, and law journals in addition to its American and British collections. As with rangeindr above, you simply need to contact the LSO's Great Library at greatlibrary@lso.ca to arrange for your permanent credentials.

New Books

Bennett, Frank. **Bennett on bankruptcy, 28th ed., 2026**, LexisNexis, 2026

Billingsley, Barbara. **General principles of Canadian insurance law, 4th ed.**, LexisNexis, 2026

Carthy/Millar/Cowan. **Ontario Annual Practice 2026/27**, Thomson Reuters, 2026

Facey, Brian. **Competition and antitrust laws in Canada: mergers, joint ventures and competitor collaborations, 4th ed.**, LexisNexis, 2026.

Houlden, L.W. et al. **2026 annotated Bankruptcy & Insolvency Act**, Thomson Reuters, 2026

McCarthy Tétrault. **Annotated Ontario securities legislation, 64th ed., 2026**, Lexis Nexis, 2026

McGuinness, Kevin. **Law of guarantee, 4th ed., 2 vol.**, LexisNexis, 2026

n/a. **Martin's related criminal statutes 2026-2027**, Thomson Reuters, 2026

Sopinka, Gelowitz, Rankin. **Sopinka, Gelowitz and Rankin on the conduct of an appeal, 6th ed.**, LexisNexis, 2026

Trask, Brandon. **Essential guide to prosecutions in Canada**, LexisNexis, 2026

Watt, Justice David. **Watt's manual of criminal jury instructions, 2026 ed.**, Thomson Reuters, 2026

Missing Books

Bathgate, Benjamin. **Essential guide to settlement in Canada**, LexisNexis, 2013 - **NEW**

Bourgeois, Donald J. **Charities and not-for-profit administration and governance handbook, 2nd ed.**, LexisNexis, 2009

Bowles, Brendan. **Conduct of lien, trust and adjudication proceedings 2024**, Thomson Reuters

Bullen, Edward et al. **Bullen & Leake & Jacob's precedents of pleadings, 14th ed., Volume 1**, Sweet & Maxwell, 2001

Fridman, G.H.L. **Law of contract in Canada, 5th ed.**, Thomson Reuters, 2006

Harris, David. **Law on disability issues in the workplace**, Emond Publications, 2017

Hull, Ian M. **Macdonell, Sheard and Hull on probate practice, 5th ed.**, Thomson Reuters, 2016

Knight, Patricia. **Small Claims Court: procedure and practice, 5th ed.**, Emond Law, 2021

LSO. **Accommodating age in the workplace**, 2015

LSO. **Duty to accommodate in the workplace**, 2016

LSO. **Six-minute administrative lawyer 2018**

MacFarlane, Bruce A. **Cannabis law**, Thomson Reuters, 2018

Marseille, Claude, ed. **The law of objections in Canada: a handbook**, LexisNexis, 2019

Oosterhoff, Albert H. **Oosterhoff on wills, 8th ed.**, Thomson Reuters, 2016

Osborne, Philip H. **Law of torts, 5th ed.**, Irwin Law, 2015

Samfiru, Lior. **Termination of employment**, Emond, 2018

Sells, Berkley D. **Motions Court practice and procedure, 2nd ed.**, LexisNexis, 2017



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'Use it or Lose it' Vacation Policies: What You Need to Know

Contributed by:

George Hamzo / Partner, Lerner's LLP

Vacation is a benefit that employees earn. Some employers will seek to put in place a requirement, either in a collective agreement in a unionized workplace or through a vacation policy, that employees must 'use it or lose it'. Whether a requirement to 'use' vacation by a specified date, typically year end, or 'lose it' is enforceable is a complex issue, especially when it comes to vacation entitlements that exceed the minimum standards set by the *Employment Standards Act*, SO 2000, c.41 ("ESA").

The ESA provides the foundational framework for vacation time and pay for provincially regulated employees in Ontario. It mandates that employers must pay out any accrued vacation pay upon termination of employment. The ESA also prohibits contracting out of or waiving employment standards, ensuring that employees receive at least the minimum vacation entitlements. However, parties can agree in employment contracts to vacation entitlements that exceed the minimum standards. Recent decisions in [Goruk v Greater Barrie Chamber of Commerce](#) and [Geluch v Rosedale Golf Assn.](#), highlight that while the ESA prohibits 'use it or lose it' policies for the statutory minimum vacation entitlements, it is not clear whether you can apply such a policy to vacation time above the statutory minimum.

Understanding the ESA and Vacation Entitlements

The ESA sets out the minimum vacation entitlements for employees in Ontario. Under the ESA, employees with less than five years of employment are entitled to

two weeks of vacation time and vacation pay of at least four percent of their wages. For those with five or more years of service, the entitlement increases to three weeks of vacation time and vacation pay of at least six percent of their wages. This vacation time is accumulated during a "vacation entitlement year", which is typically a recurring 12-month period following an employee's first day of work.

Practical Implications for Employers and Employees

Employers in Ontario must be diligent in maintaining accurate records of employees' vacation entitlements and ensuring clear communication of vacation policies.

The ESA mandates that minimum vacation entitlements cannot be subject to a 'use it or lose it' policy as such a policy could have the effect of taking away vacation so that the employee does not receive the minimum entitlement. A requirement to 'use it or lose it' set out clearly in a collective agreement for vacation benefits has been upheld in labour arbitrations.¹

The courts have not clearly said otherwise or in favour of such policies and until then, it seems likely that employers would be able to enforce a 'use it or lose it' policy for vacation entitlements that exceed the ESA minimums, provided the policy is clearly outlined in the employment contract, communicated effectively to employees, and consistently implemented by the employer. There can be distinctions between vacation entitlement for vacation time/leave

during a year with specific rules to be met for any requests to carry over unused time/leave versus entitlements to pay in lieu for unused vacation or vacation pay. The description of the benefit as the entitlement to schedule paid time off that expires at the end of a stated period will likely be important to distinguish it from an entitlement to accumulate vacation pay based on a percentage of salary or weeks worked.

Employers who find their standard employment contract or policies lack clarity may wish to consider amending the wording of their contracts and/or policies. Legal advice can assist with this process.

For employees, it is crucial to understand their vacation entitlements under the ESA and their employment contract. Employees should be aware of their employer's vacation policies and ensure they take their vacation time within the required period and/or follow any specified procedures to request carry-overs to avoid forfeiting any earned entitlements.

Conclusion

Understanding the nuances of vacation time and vacation pay policies in Ontario is essential for both employers and employees to ensure compliance with the ESA and to protect their respective rights and obligations. While the ESA provides clear guidelines for minimum vacation entitlements, the application of 'use it or lose it' policies to additional vacation time above the ESA minimums remains a matter of contractual agreement and clear communication – at least until the courts clarify whether such policies are permitted or prohibited.

George Hamzo is a Partner at Lerner's LLP who specializes in employment law. This article first appeared in the Lerner's Insights.

¹ [Community Living Meaford v Ontario Public Service Employees Union, local 235, 2018 CanLII 101953 \(ON LA\)](#)



The Lawyer in the Loop

What Ontario Judges are Saying About AI in the Courts



Contributed by:
Nicole Rogers

Like many litigators, I am closely watching the rapid expansion of AI usage inside court rooms and contemplating what this means for the practice of law. It is an easy thing to pay attention to when the headlines are primarily about cost awards against lawyers for the use, inadvertent or otherwise, of hallucinated citations.¹

In June, I had the pleasure of attending a LexisNexis panel on "Artificial Intelligence and the Ontario Courts" that brought together Justice Peter D. Lauwers of the Court of Appeal for Ontario, Justices Fred Myers and Jill R. Presser of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, and Justice Joseph F. Kenkel of the Ontario Court of Justice to share their perspectives on the current state of AI usage in the courts.

The judicial discussion moved quickly past the abstract question of whether AI is coming to our courts. It is clearly here. The more interesting questions, for judges and lawyers alike, are how it is currently being used and what new challenges it creates.

Justice Kenkel noted that courts are seeing AI generated work frequently filed by self-represented litigants whose quality of submissions may now be better than the counsel they are up against thanks to an AI assist, even where the self-represented litigants themselves do not understand the well-formed materials they have generated and filed. That improvement in self-represented litigant materials, though, comes with a new challenge as self-represented litigants arrive with expectations shaped by American law delivered through a large language model not made for Canadian legal issues.

Justice Myers expressed surprise and frustration that hallucinated citations remain an issue, noting that despite widespread attention and professional

warnings, fabricated authorities continue to reach the courts. From a judge's perspective every false citation consumes time because someone must locate the case, discover that it does not exist, and determine what else in the materials cannot be trusted. Justice Myers also highlighted a less obvious concern related to hallucinations: AI may lurk somewhere inside expert reports, valuations or technical analyses without counsel asking where it entered the process or whether its contribution was material. Leaving that issue to be uncovered and resolved by a judge in a court room puts demands on already strained judicial resources.

The issue of AI usage in evidence, including expert evidence, in a court room is complex and novel. Justice Presser distinguished between acknowledged AI evidence, where everyone knows an AI or algorithmic tool played a role, and unacknowledged AI evidence, where authenticity may be in disputed.

The first category includes applications such as accident reconstruction, probabilistic genotyping and risk-assessment tools. This evidentiary issue raises familiar but increasingly important questions: Is the method used by the expert valid? Is it reliable? Was it operating properly? Is its output affected by bias?

The second category, on the other hand, includes alleged 'deepfakes' and presents its own distinct set of evidentiary challenges, for example texts, photographs, audio or video said to be authentic by one party and alleged to be AI-generated by another. Family cases may be an early testing ground for these issues, but the problem will not remain confined there.

Justice Lauwers discussed the "verification paradox", noting that time

saved by AI can be lost checking the resulting AI generated research or summary. He offered the panel's most memorable warning about cognitive outsourcing, cautioning that if we begin with AI rather than our own engagement with the problem, we risk understanding less, integrating less and remembering less. Justice Lauwers suggested a deceptively simple best practice: first frame and work through the problem yourself; then use AI to support and improve that analysis.

On the question of how much and to what extent judges themselves ought to be using AI in a court room, the judges were equally clear about judicial AI use. Justice Kenkel described a bright line: if a judicial task determines or shapes the legal outcome, credibility findings, contested facts or reasons, generative AI should not be used. Justice Myers connected that boundary to the legitimacy of our justice system itself, in which people submit to judgment by independent human decision-makers, not machines. Justice Presser nevertheless saw room for carefully governed tools to improve an overburdened system, provided courts are transparent about how AI will and will not be used.

The principal takeaway was not "embrace AI" or "fear AI." It was that the human professional must remain responsible for the work from beginning to end. Being "in the loop" cannot mean serving as just the final proofreader of a machine's analysis. The lawyer must frame the issue, choose the sources, assess relevance, test the result and exercise judgment. The public must have confidence that a judge, and not AI, is making judicial decisions.

For those daunted by the use of AI in a court room, Justice Kenkel offered some comfort, noting that the use of AI tends to be an iterative process. He observed that legal training already gives lawyers many of the skills needed to use AI properly: we do not accept the first answer, we identify assumptions, missing facts and ambiguities, we test

¹ See, for example most recently *Mazaheri v. Law Society of Ontario*, 2026 ONLSTH 112 and earlier *Ko v. Li*, 2025 ONSC 2956.

► propositions and probe hypotheticals. According to Justice Kenkel, AI should be approached as an iterative assistant, not an oracle.

AI may reduce drudgery and improve access to information. It may improve expert reports and self-represented litigants' facts. It may also produce confident errors, obscure its role in evidence and tempt us to outsource the very reasoning our clients retain us to provide. The practical response seems to be neither panic nor blind enthusiasm. For me, through a litigator's lens, the primary concern is actually a functional one: as a litigator, how can I best get up to speed on what I need to

know to get ahead of and understand the technical aspects of AI usage in workflows, in court rooms, in evidence... and how can I do that in a way that protects and advances my client's interests while also proactively avoiding a dreaded "inadvertence" error?

The advice from the judicial panel was, at its core, disciplined use. Lawyers should think first, use the tool deliberately, and verify the output. The harder questions remain how to efficiently do that in the face of rapidly changing technology where "inadvertence" is not an excuse. For now, this emerging area clearly raises more questions than answers.

The answers, I suspect, may lie in a fundamental change to how we approach our cases, prepare for the court room and embrace our new role as 'Lawyer in the Loop'.

Nicole Rogers is Associate Practice Counsel and Senior Counsel at Aviva Trial Lawyers. A frequent speaker and committed mentor, she brings more than two decades of litigation experience and a philosopher's curiosity to questions about how AI is changing legal judgment, advocacy and the everyday practice of law. She is also the current editor of the SNAIL.



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Private Jet Tracking and Privacy Law: Taylor Swift Case Study



Contributed by:
David Canton / Lawyer and Trademark Agent

I gave a guest lecture on privacy at Western Law Dean Mohamed Khimji's class called "Law (Taylor's Version)" that uses Taylor Swift's career as a case study to explore various legal issues. This post is one of a three-part series summarizing my talk.

Celebrity jet tracking is an issue that has ruffled some feathers.

There was a Florida college student named Jack Sweeney who was tracking private jets of celebrities, such as Taylor Swift, Elon Musk, and Mark Zuckerberg. He tracked their flights and published the data across multiple social media platforms. He had about 30 accounts on various people on social media, including one called @taylorswiftjets.

Taylor Swift's lawyers sent him a cease and desist letter claiming that the tracking posed a threat to her safety. Based on the notion that it allowed stalkers and those who wished to harm her to know where she was. They claimed it was harassment in violation of various laws. Whether or not his actions actually violated any law is subject to debate.

Sweeney's response was that he believed in the transparency of public information and didn't intend to cause harm.

X and Meta banned Sweeney's accounts.

Frankly, one has to wonder if those accounts were suspended for

breaching any actual laws or any social media acceptable use policies. Or whether the real reason was that Musk and Zuckerberg were upset that they themselves were being tracked.

In March 2025, the U.S. FAA implemented a rule allowing private aircraft operators to hide their jet registration information from the public. But that is not a 100% fix that stops tracking.

Aircraft tracking technology

All aircraft have registration numbers commonly known as tail numbers, or N numbers in the U.S. Those numbers follow an international standard. All aircraft registered in the U.S. start with N. Canadian ones start with C.

Other than as restricted by that new FAA exception, you can go online to a country's aviation authority's website, input the tail number, and it will tell you the type of aircraft, where the plane is based, the name and address of the owner, and other details. Or you can search by a person's or corporate name to see if they own an aircraft. Of course, a celebrity like Taylor Swift would probably own their plane through a corporation, which makes it a bit harder to figure it out.

You don't necessarily need to find the tail # online. All you need to do is see Taylor get on or off a plane and note the tail #. If instead of being owned by the celebrity it is owned by a group of people or is a chartered jet used by many, that doesn't help in the long term. But it might provide some useful short-term information.

So now you know what jet, how do you track it?

There are several online services such as FlightAware, Flightradar24, and JetSpy you can use to track aircraft in real time. ►



- For commercial flights, you can search by flight #. Or if you are outside and see an airplane fly overhead, you can click on the icon of a plane on the site's map and see what the flight is, what kind of plane it is, where it is going, how high it is, how fast it is going, etc.

A system called ADS-B (Automatic Dependent Surveillance – Broadcast) transmits data from aircraft to track them for navigation, air traffic control, collision avoidance, and search and rescue purposes. Each airplane has a device that determines its position by GPS and broadcasts it for pickup by ground stations.

ADS-B is mandatory for most aircraft flying in controlled airspace. Some small private planes don't have it, but most aircraft do.

The FAA, Transport Canada, or other authorities make this info public in real time, which is where sites like FlightAware get it.

But even if the FAA hides registration details, or even if it blocks providing details of certain planes to sites like flightaware, there is another way to get the info.

ADS-B information is not encrypted. Anyone can receive these signals with some basic inexpensive equipment.

ADS-B Exchange aggregates crowdsourced flight data from independent receivers, not government agencies, to track flights. People receive the data directly from aircraft and feed it to centralized servers that aggregate it for their website.

How does privacy fit into jet tracking?

Car license plate numbers are linked to both the vehicle they are on, and the owner of that vehicle. So that tells you similar information as a tail number.

Like airplanes, some cars and trucks are owned by individuals, some are owned by corporations, some are for commercial use, and some are for personal use.

Neither the plate # nor the tail # tells you who is flying the plane or driving the car, or who is a passenger.

Privacy law generally treats a person's location at any given time as personal information. That information can vary on the sensitivity scale depending on the context. For example, the fact that

one's car is parked near one's work is not very sensitive. But if your car was parked outside a healthcare facility that provides specialized services it might be. Tracking a car's location over time can significantly increase the sensitivity of that information. Either by one method or by aggregating data from various sources. That can show patterns of conduct and habits that can be used for various purposes. Such as knowing that one is rarely home at certain times, or that one frequents certain establishments.

As I mentioned in the [first blog post](#), license plate numbers are considered for the most part in Canada to be personal information. We can't just go online and look up who owns a car, unlike tail numbers. And we can't go online and track cars, unlike aircraft.

Logically, cars and airplanes should be treated similarly from a privacy perspective. But clearly they are not. It's hard to say why that is.

David Canton is a business lawyer and trademark agent at Harrison Pensa with a practice focusing on technology, privacy law, technology companies and intellectual property. Connect with David on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#).

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2026 OJEN-OBA Competitive Mock Trial Tournament

Contributed by:

Jason Hatch / Law Teacher, Strathroy District Collegiate Institute

The 2026 OJEN-OBA Competitive Mock Trial tournament was held on Thursday May 7 at the London Courthouse. Approximately 100 students on teams representing eight schools from London, Stratford, and Strathroy competed against one another in a theft case. Round-robin trials were presided over by Marcia Hilliard, Konrad de Koning, Celia Pennycook, Vanessa Decker, Kristina Mildred, Isaac Heo, Alyssa Zoltek, and Nicola Circelli, with the final round being judged by retired Justice Duncan Grace. Mother Teresa Catholic Secondary School defeated Saunders Secondary in the final round of what was an incredibly exciting tournament.

Teams were coached by local lawyers who provided their expertise and guidance to students over several months. Thank you to Robert van Praet, Mark McKelvie, Jenna

Bragg, Nick Cake, Natalie Kuehn, Jim Virtue, Erik Van Drunen and Kirsten Van Drunen for supporting students with your time and expertise.

Saunders' Juod Qwaider was named Outstanding Lawyer of the tournament, Ameilya Shuglo from Stratford St. Michael's won Outstanding Examination, and Mother Theresa's Albin Jaison won Outstanding Witness.

The tournament was generously sponsored by Lerner's, Mckenzie Lake, Harrison Pensa, and the OJEN-OBA Mock Trial Fund.

A very big thank you to everyone who helped to make this tournament a success and the London-OOCMT Committee looks forward to next year's tournament.





Ahluwalia and the New Tort of Intimate Partner Violences

Contributed by:

Bayly Guslits / Partner, Harrison Pensa LLP

Coercive and controlling conduct has been deemed “the most serious type of violence in the family law context”, and we finally have a decision from the Supreme Court of Canada recognizing the harm it causes victims.¹

The term “violence” is usually understood as threats to physical and psychological safety. Intimate partner violence, however, can be understood as coercive and controlling conduct that undermines autonomy in other insidious ways, not just acts of physical violence, but tactics of isolation, manipulation, humiliation, surveillance, economic abuse, sexual coercion, and intimidation that can control and subordinate intimate partners². It can also include exploiting the victim’s vulnerabilities, such as immigration status.³

In this decision, the Supreme Court highlights that the importance of autonomy to one’s dignity is well established in the law. At paragraphs 129–130 and 137, the Court explains:

The right to make meaningful decisions about one’s life is inseparable from one’s equal standing in relation to others. A denial of autonomy is not only a failure to respect the individual’s dignity — it is a mode of unequal treatment that denies their agency, voice, and status [...].

Transposed to the context of private relationships, autonomy refers to the capacity to make fundamental decisions in accordance with one’s values, free from unjustified interference from others. Within a relationship of intimacy and interdependence, autonomy assumes a

relational dimension: it is respected, or eroded, in the ways that one partner treats the other. [...] The equal standing of each partner in an intimate relationship is both the precondition for autonomy and the measure of its protection. A spouse’s abusive conduct towards their partner — when that conduct objectively amounts to coercive control in a manner incompatible with these aspects of the intimate partnership — can cause the loss of that personal freedom for the victim of abuse. Moreover, autonomy demands protection against all modes of unjustified coercion that erode one’s ability to make fundamental decisions. When established as a consequence of intentional conduct, that loss of autonomy is harm deserving of compensation. [...]

*It strikes me as plain that where an intimate partner has been deprived of their ability to live free of coercion, as an equal to their spouse, the victim has not just suffered a loss deserving of compensation, but they have been the victim of a civil wrong in that their right to be treated with dignity, and as an autonomous equal in the relationship, has been violated. The conduct may, of course, also be seen as violating a right to the person’s physical and psychological integrity. But specific to intimate partnerships, as discussed previously, courts have sometimes characterized the relationship as engaging mutually held rights for the partners arising from the intimate nature of the bond. In *Moge v. Moge*, 1992 CanLII 25 (SCC), [1992] 3 S.C.R. 813, L’Heureux-Dubé J. described marriage as a “joint endeavour” which “serves vital personal interests, and may be linked to building a ‘comprehensive*

sense of personhood” (pp. 848 and 870). This interdependence arises not from the legal form of the relationship but in its nature as a “forum for intimacy.”⁴

The new tort of intimate partner violence recognizes that coercive and controlling conduct is a violation of the trust and equality inherent in intimate partnerships in Canadian law.⁵ The new tort is tied to the intimate partnership and is distinct from existing torts in that it seeks to compensate a different wrong of coercive control, and a different harm of the loss of autonomy. It is not simply an aggregate of wrongful conduct already remedied by pre-existing torts. While some of the conduct captured by the new tort may overlap with existing torts, coercive intimate partner violence generally includes and extends beyond discrete acts of physical and psychological abuse. None of the existing torts consider whether the alleged wrongful conduct coerces or controls the victim, nor are they designed to compensate the victim for the distinct injury to their intangible interests in dignity, autonomy, and equality within an intimate relationship.⁶ Coercive control creates a generalized fear of future harm — “a terror of something that might happen, rather than the fear of something specific.”⁷

Under the new tort of intimate partner violence recognized in *Ahluwalia*, a plaintiff must establish three elements: (1) the abusive conduct arose in an intimate partnership or its aftermath; (2) the defendant intentionally engaged in that conduct; and (3) the conduct, on an objective measure, constitutes coercive control. The harm associated with coercion flows from proof of the wrongful conduct. The interference with an intimate partner’s dignity, autonomy, and equality itself constitutes the harm experienced by the victim of coercive

► control. Similar to certain intentional torts, this new tort does not require the plaintiff to prove any consequential harm separately.⁸

The majority decision in *Ahluwalia* sets out the following elements for establishing liability under the new tort of intimate partner violence:

[I]n making a finding of liability under the tort of intimate partner violence, a trial judge must assess whether the evidence establishes all three elements and evaluate the quantum of damages required to remedy the resulting harm. The burden of proof rests with the plaintiff on the civil standard of balance of probabilities.

First, the defendant's wrongful conduct must have occurred during the course of an intimate partnership or in its aftermath.

Second, the defendant must have intentionally engaged in the abusive conduct. The plaintiff need only show that the defendant intended to engage in the impugned conduct, not that they subjectively intended to control their intimate partner. With respect to the abusive conduct itself, the plaintiff must adduce specific evidence to make out the tort claim. However, evidence may show a range of abusive conduct that appears less harmful in isolation but which may, considered cumulatively, form a pattern of coercive control. For guidance, the following are some types of conduct that are capable of constituting coercive control: physical and sexual violence; emotional and psychological abuse, including verbal abuse; harassment, humiliation, and denigration; financial control, stalking, and surveillance; behaviour that isolates a partner from others, or that denies a partner access to educational, employment, and recreational opportunities; litigation abuse; and threatening conduct, including threatening to harm the children or take them away, and threatening to commit suicide [...].

Third, the plaintiff must show the conduct to be, on an objective measure, coercive control. The trial judge must determine whether a reasonable person, fully apprised of the relevant context of the relationship, would have perceived the defendant's acts, considered cumulatively, as amounting to an assertion of control over the plaintiff that has the effect of depriving them of their dignity, autonomy, and equality in the relationship. The key feature of coercive control is, on an objective measure, the breakdown of the plaintiff's will, manifested through a diminished power to decide important matters in their own life or to meaningfully take part in decisions that affect the intimate partnership [...].

Proof by the plaintiff of these three elements establishes liability under the tort of intimate partner violence. The plaintiff's dignitary harm flows from proof of the intentional wrong and does not require proof of other consequential harms. On this basis, the trial judge may then award general compensatory damages to provide redress for the harm to dignity, autonomy, and equality suffered through coercive control, as well as any other harm that flows therefrom.⁹

Cumulatively, Mr. Ahluwalia's conduct subordinated Ms. Ahluwalia to his will in a manner that undermined her rights to dignity and autonomy as a person and to equality in the relationship.¹⁰ The incidents of violence during the intimate partnership did not simply cause Ms. Ahluwalia physical or emotional harm. They served to coerce and control Ms. Ahluwalia both as discrete incidents and, as the trial judge found, as part of a broader pattern of misconduct over the life of the marriage. The trial judge was satisfied that Ms. Ahluwalia had proven that these acts contributed to subordinating her to her husband's will during the marriage by depriving her of her autonomy and equal place in the relationship. Recognizing these acts as battery provides Ms. Ahluwalia with damages for the physical and

emotional harm suffered, but it would be inadequate to compensate her for the distinct wrong associated with the coercive conduct that resulted in the loss of dignity, autonomy, and equality as an intimate partner.¹¹

The objective standard that judges must deploy to assess the abusive conduct is whether a "reasonable person, fully aware of the relevant context of the relationship, would have perceived the conduct as coercive control". The burden will ordinarily be readily met by the plaintiff, since a reasonable person would perceive abusive conduct to be fundamentally incompatible with an intimate partnership.¹²

Once the three elements of the tort are established, the harm is necessarily present and liability follows. The quantum of compensatory damages that may then be awarded "must represent a meaningful response to the seriousness of the breach".¹³ The quantum of damages depends on the extent of the harm and the factual circumstances. Generally, coercive control constitutes a serious breach of a victim's intangible interests, as dignity, autonomy, and equality are fundamental tenets of intimate partnerships.¹⁴

The coercive control lens examines whether the defendant's conduct has objectively undermined the plaintiff's ability to make fundamental decisions regarding their own life or to meaningfully participate in decision making that concerns the intimate partnership. Coercive control constitutes "breaking down a victim's will" such that "the victim's individual decision-making ability" is removed. The victim need not prove that they experienced a complete loss of autonomy, nor can the defendant be absolved of a past wrong by pointing to some notional reconciliation.¹⁵

Once it is established that the defendant's intentional conduct objectively constitutes coercive

► control, the resulting loss of autonomy suffered by the plaintiff in the intimate partnership follows as a matter of course, requiring no separate proof of harm.¹⁶ Courts must therefore examine the totality of the alleged abusive conduct (regardless of whether each act is independently tortious) to determine the cumulative effects over the victim, keeping in mind the "interconnected nature of the different physical and non-physical behaviour patterns that constitute coercive control". Coercive control focuses on "a cumulative effect that is far greater than the mere sum of its parts".¹⁷

Coercive control excludes violence (which may be tortious on another basis) that does not interfere with the victim's dignity, autonomy, and equality, particularly violence associated with resistance against an intimate partner's attempts at domination or control. When an

intimate partner strikes out as an act of resistance against their aggressor, the victim has not acted in a controlling or coercive manner, and the new tort should not cover this conduct.¹⁸

Consistent with the corrective function of tort law, the guiding principle in assessing the quantum of compensatory damages is that the award should restore the plaintiff to the position they would have been in had the specific wrong not occurred. There is not yet a body of Canadian precedents to guide courts in awarding damages for this novel tort. Future damage awards must reflect the specific nature of the tort, its various manifestations, and the extent of the harm it causes to the victim's dignity, autonomy, and equality.¹⁹

The Court noted that findings of intimate partner violence may also be relevant to a court's decision of

whether the misconduct had an impact on the other spouse's ability to be self-sufficient.²⁰

On the procedural mechanisms, the Supreme Court agreed with the trial judge that allowing a litigant to seek damages for family violence in the same court is a matter of access to justice.²¹ This seems to be a nod in favour of family court applicants including the tort claim directly in the application, rather than commencing a separate civil case and joining the two. Legislative direction, and an amendment to the family court forms, may be helpful in this regard.

The Supreme Court deliberately crafted the new tort of intimate partner violence as exclusively between spouses or former spouses, and not other family members such as a parent-child relationship. It left for another day the impact of family violence on other family members.²² The majority decision also raised but did not answer the question of limitation period for this new tort. The decision directs that legislative action may be required to extend or exempt the tort of intimate partner violence from the limitation periods, as done previously with civil claims for assault or battery arising from intimate partnerships.²³

Criminal Lawyers Needed



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¹ *Ahluwalia v Ahluwalia*, 2026 SCC 16 (Released May 15, 2026) at para 119.

² *Ahluwalia* at para 7.

³ *Ahluwalia* at paras 120, 125.

⁴ *Ahluwalia* at paras 129-130, 137.

⁵ *Ahluwalia* at para 8.

⁶ *Ahluwalia* at paras 7-8.

⁷ *Ahluwalia* at para 147.

⁸ *Ahluwalia* at para 184.

⁹ *Ahluwalia* at paras 205-209.

¹⁰ *Ahluwalia* at para 6.

¹¹ *Ahluwalia* at para 145.

¹² *Ahluwalia* at para 197.

¹³ *Ahluwalia* at para 184 citing *Vancouver (City) v. Ward*, 2010 SCC 27, at para 54.

¹⁴ *Ahluwalia* at para 184.

¹⁵ *Ahluwalia* at para 198.

¹⁶ *Ahluwalia* at para 199.

¹⁷ *Ahluwalia* at para 192.

¹⁸ *Ahluwalia* at para 193.

¹⁹ *Ahluwalia* at para 222.

²⁰ *Ahluwalia* at para 218 citing *Leskun v. Leskun*, 2006 SCC 25.

²¹ *Ahluwalia* at para 35.

²² *Ahluwalia* at para 174.

²³ *Ahluwalia* at para 158.



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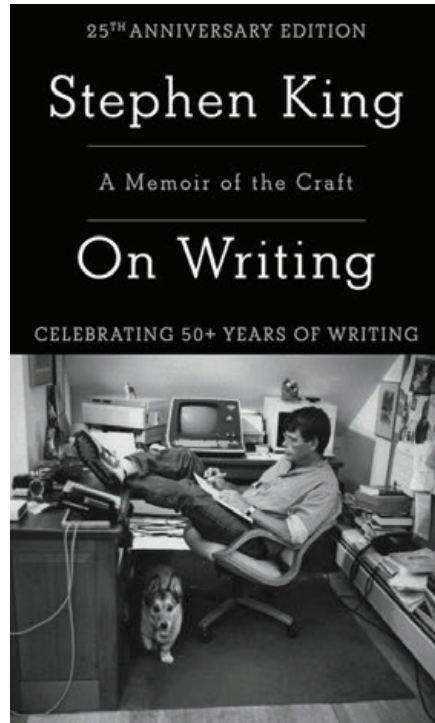
What Stephen King Might Say to Lawyers About Good Writing



Contributed by:
Daniel Mailer

In mid-May I was hurtling over the Atlantic Ocean in a small, cramped steel tube otherwise known as a jet plane. I was heading for Scotland and to pass the time, was reading Stephen King's book "On Writing", his memoir of fifty plus years in the craft. I got to thinking about what King might give as advice to lawyers who want to excel at the art of written advocacy. After all, King has written over 60 books, all of them worldwide best sellers. He is considered the most successful writer of his generation. What could the author of works like "The Green Mile", "The Shawshank Redemption" and "Misery", possibly say to lawyers? I can't speak for King but using some imagination and the advice given in his book, here are some thoughts that you might find helpful.

1. King's first thesis: Good writing consists of mastering the fundamentals of writing. Vocabulary, grammar and elements of style. It might be time to dust off that old high school text by Strunk and White.
2. King's second thesis: No matter how good or bad you are now, there is always room for improvement. Good writing requires hard work, dedication, timely help and sometimes, a good editor.
3. Write with confidence. Don't be timid. Don't be a muggle. Throw



back your shoulders, stick out your chin and show that you are in charge. King states that passive writing makes him want to scream. Insert your passion into your work as an advocate, make it count and win over the reader.

4. Be passionate and imaginative. If your writing always feels like drudgery, maybe it is time to pivot to a new area of practice or perhaps, change professions. If you can find a way to insert passion into your work, it will be undeniably good. Magic, effective and powerful!

5. King's great commandment was "read a lot, write a lot". Conversely, if you intend to write a lot, read a lot. We live in a world where people are increasingly reading less and scrolling more. Reading more, especially reading good work by your colleagues, will make you a more effective writer.
6. Focus on the intended target of your work. Are you writing primarily for the Judge? Opposing counsel? Your client? Good writing shows your client that you understand their cause and their case and that you are on their side. Writing well in your pleadings and briefs, will help persuade the Judge of the rightness of your client's cause, even before you enter the courtroom.
7. Avoid using AI to do the heavy lifting. AI could have never written the Green Mile or the Shawshank Redemption. AI is soulless and lacks passion. Develop a fertile imagination to sow the seeds of effective written advocacy.
8. Finally, good writing is hard work. There are no shortcuts. The law is a jealous lover and at times, demands our full attention sometimes at the cost of sacrificing some of life's pleasures. Know that your commitment to hard work will always pay high dividends.

As lawyers, excellent writing may not win you a Pulitzer prize, but you will find it to be a very effective tool in the litigator's toolbox.



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Deadline:
Friday, August 28, 2026
at 5:00 p.m.



Awards presented at Opening of
the Courts, September 22,
2026



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Contributed by:

Paula Puddy

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A Bencher's Report

Contributed by:
Karen Hulan

I extend warm congratulations to Shalini Konanur, who was elected Treasurer of the Law Society and assumed office at the June 25 Convocation. Treasurer Konanur is well equipped to lead the organization in the coming year. She is the Executive Director and lawyer at the South Asian Legal Clinic of Ontario and has spent nearly 25 years working within Ontario's legal aid clinic system.

I also thank outgoing Treasurer Peter Wardle for his thoughtful leadership over the past two years. During his tenure, the Law Society undertook a comprehensive review of its governance structure and has begun implementing governance reforms.

Justice Leitch Receives Honorary Doctor of Laws

In addition to its regulatory work, Convocation recognized a remarkable career by conferring an honorary Doctor of Laws upon The Honourable Lynne Leitch.

The degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa* (LLD), is awarded in recognition of outstanding achievements and service to the legal profession, the rule of law, and the administration of justice.

Justice Leitch was the first woman appointed to the bench in Southwest Ontario in 1992 and later became the first woman to serve as Regional Senior Judge for the Southwest Region. At age 36, she was the youngest person appointed to the Superior Court of Justice and is now its longest serving judge.

Throughout her career, Justice Leitch has held leadership roles with the Canadian Superior Courts Judges Association, the Judicial Appointments

Advisory Committee for South and West Ontario, and several international judicial organizations. She has also participated in missions to improve judicial systems in Ukraine, Mexico, Peru, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, and Colombia.

Justice Leitch's accomplishments continue to be a source of pride for the legal profession in Southwest Ontario. She is well deserving of this distinguished recognition.

Governance Reform

Following an extensive consultation process, Convocation approved a motion to request that the Ministry of the Attorney General amend the *Law Society Act* to reduce the size of Convocation from 53 Benchers to 37. The consultation feedback, rationale for a smaller governing board, and proposed composition of Convocation, including elected lawyer and paralegal Benchers, lay Benchers, and appointed Benchers, are outlined in the Governance Review Task Force Report dated April 30, 2026.

Convocation also approved the creation of a new Governance Committee. The committee will review and make recommendations regarding the Law Society's governance framework, including measures to improve the effectiveness of Convocation and its committees, as well as any next steps relating to election reform.

Increased Transparency

Lawyers and paralegals are currently required to report findings of guilt where the penalty includes incarceration or a fine exceeding \$5,000, as well as findings of civil or criminal contempt. Effective

September 1, 2026, the Lawyer and Paralegal Directory will also include information about these findings of guilt, notices of proceedings before the Law Society Tribunal, and whether the Law Society intends to seek interlocutory relief arising from criminal or certain other charges.

Mandatory Minimum Compensation for Students-at-Law

Convocation confirmed that the mandatory minimum compensation policy will remain in place for students completing articling or Law Practice Program work placements. The minimum compensation amount will continue to be indexed, and the existing exemption framework will remain unchanged.

Consultation

The five-year Access to Innovation (A2I) pilot project will conclude in November 2026. The program operates as a regulatory sandbox that permits approved technology providers to deliver certain legal services directly to the public.

The Futures Committee is consulting on whether the program should continue beyond the pilot. Licensees who wish to provide input are encouraged to submit comments by emailing PolicyConsultation@LSO.ca no later than August 28, 2026.

Stay Connected

This report highlights a selection of recent regulatory developments. Additional information about these and other initiatives is available on the Law Society's website and social media channels.

As always, I encourage members to contact any Bencher with questions, concerns, or feedback about the work of the Law Society.

Report on Past CPD Programs

Contributed by:

Paula Puddy

Ontario Highway Traffic Act & Provincial Offences Act Seminar

The MLA was delighted to resurrect the HTA & POA seminar on Thursday, March 26, 2026 from 4:45pm to 6:00pm featuring defence lawyer Carolynn Conron of Conron Law PC and licensed paralegal Steven Keyes with 20 lawyers, paralegals and students in attendance.

Carolynn Steven delivered a comprehensive presentation on recent POA amendments, limitations, rules of professional conduct, types of provincial offences, procedural issues, preparation, trial, costs, sentencing, appeals, and more.

The presentation gave a practical look at Provincial Offences Act and Highway Traffic Act advocacy, with a strong focus on how convictions can affect insurance, demerit points, licence suspensions, and client decision-making. It reviewed the legal framework for offence classification, including mens rea, strict liability, and absolute liability, and referred to authorities dealing with liability classification, handheld device offences, insurance fault assessment, disclosure, and fine reduction. It also highlighted practical takeaways such as spotting defects on the charging document, preserving Charter and delay arguments, understanding the gap between demerit points and insurance consequences, advising clients carefully on resolution options, and approaching trial with sound preparation and strategy.

The Middlesex Law Association was pleased to make a donation on behalf of the speakers to London Lawyers Feed the Hungry.

This program was accredited by the Law Society of Ontario for 15 minutes of Professionalism content and 1 hour of Substantive content.

Small Claims Court Seminar

The MLA was delighted to run the Small Claims Court seminar again on Thursday, April 16, 2026 from 4:45pm to 6:00pm featuring Deputy Judges Daniel Mailer and Colin Osterberg with 35 lawyers, paralegals and students in attendance.

Daniel and Colin provided a practical Ontario Small Claims Court session that combined procedural guidance with candid observations from the bench about how cases are presented and assessed. They discussed the purpose and structure of the Small Claims Court, its role in resolving civil disputes with relative simplicity and limited formality, its monetary jurisdiction, the statutory nature of a deputy judge's authority, and the limits on the relief the court can grant.

Following the introduction, the speakers turned to early case preparation, with a strong emphasis on identifying the real issues in dispute, drafting clear and concise claims, naming the correct parties, calculating damages properly, including supporting documents, and avoiding substituted service where possible. There was detailed guidance on motions, settlement conferences, disclosure, and trials, while repeatedly emphasizing the habits that make advocates more effective and more credible before the court. The speakers addressed motion materials and affidavits, adjournment requests, default judgment motions, and requests to change the mode of trial. They stressed that settlement

conferences should be treated as meaningful opportunities both to pursue realistic resolution and to deal with necessary disclosure before trial. In discussing trials, Daniel and Colin focussed on practical courtroom advocacy, including preparation, punctuality, respectful courtroom conduct, the use of agreed facts where appropriate, the limits on leading evidence, the challenges of cross examination, the importance of listening carefully to answers, and the need to present documents, authorities, and expert evidence in a useful and fair way. They also offered brief cautionary comments on remote proceedings, particularly where credibility is at issue, and on the risks of relying uncritically on AI in legal work.

Throughout, the session returned to the themes of judgment, integrity, fairness, and professional reputation, emphasizing that effective Small Claims Court advocacy depends not only on knowing the rules, but on presenting cases with honesty, preparation, and sound professional judgement.

The Middlesex Law Association was pleased to make a donation on behalf of the speakers to London Lawyers Feed the Hungry.

This program was accredited by the Law Society of Ontario for 15 minutes of Professionalism content and 1 hour of Substantive content.

Corporate Law Luncheon

The MLA was pleased to host a Corporate Law Luncheon for solicitors in the region on Thursday, May 28, 2026 from 12:00pm to 1:30pm with 20 lawyers and students in attendance. Thank to our speakers: Joe Hentz of Lerner LLP, Graham Morton of McKenzie Lake Lawyers LLP, Doug Trussler of McKenzie Lake Lawyers LLP and David Swift of Scott Petrie LLP for the excellent presentations. We appreciate having Kristina Shaw of Miller Thomson as the MC of the program. ►

► **Tax Audit Management and Consequences of Keeping Poor Records** is a practical presentation by Keith Trussler, McKenzie Lake Lawyers LLP, who represents taxpayers challenging adverse tax reassessments. The presentation examines CRA audit management, responses to requests for information, and the consequences of inadequate books and records. It reviews the Income Tax Act framework for record keeping, CRA's strengthened audit powers, communication with auditors, and the importance of documenting transactions that support taxable income. Case law including *Poce*, *Buday*, *Hans*, *Fuhr*, and *Encore Cellular* illustrates how poor records, commingled accounts, unsupported expenses, and weak documentation can affect reassessments, penalties, credibility, and the use of alternative assessment methods, while also showing how well-maintained records can help taxpayers respond to audit challenges.

Artificial Intelligence in your Corporate Practice is a "hot off the press" presentation by Joseph Hentz, of Lerner LLP who draws on dual expertise as a lawyer and accountant in advising entrepreneurs and professionals. The presentation examines how AI is changing corporate practice, with practical guidance on document drafting, precedent adaptation, due diligence, regulatory research, client correspondence, board materials, minute templates, and corporate records. It also addresses key risks involving confidentiality, data security, solicitor-client privilege, hallucinated authorities or provisions, competence, verification, insurance considerations, and workflow documentation, offering a practical checklist for responsible AI adoption in a corporate legal practice.

Trusts & Taxes is a "throw back to law school scary" presentation by Graham Morton, a senior Associate at

McKenzie Lake Lawyers LLP whose practice focuses on tax litigation, including tax repair counsel work in professional liability matters across Canada. The presentation examines the tax and legal issues surrounding trusts, including the three certainties from *Knight v Knight*, trust property, subsection 75(2) of the Income Tax Act, timing issues in trust creation, adding beneficiaries, distributions, lifetime capital gains exemption transactions, and dividend allocations. It also highlights practical drafting and planning considerations, including settlor involvement, funding the trust with cash, using multiple trustees where practical, casting a wide net for potential beneficiaries, and ensuring dividend resolutions clearly specify amounts or allocation methods in light of *Evans et al. v. The Attorney General of Canada*.

David Swift of Scott Petrie LLP shares a helpful Commercial

Litigation Update: Key Cases for Corporate Lawyers which reviews recent case law developments involving commercial lease remedies, insolvency proceedings, escrow arrangements, trust issues, and privilege concerns arising from AI-generated legal and factual materials. It highlights *Highbury Narrows Ltd. v. LAF Canada Company*, *Re Earth Boring Co. Limited et al.*, and *United States v. Heppner*, offering practical guidance on lease drafting, creditor entitlement in insolvency, the limits of escrow arrangements, and the risks of using AI tools outside the direction of legal counsel.

The Middlesex Law Association was pleased to make a donation on behalf of the speakers to London Lawyers Feed the Hungry.

This program was accredited by the Law Society of Ontario for 30 minutes of Professionalism content and 1 hour of Substantive content.



SAVE THE DATE

Upcoming CPD Programs and Events



AUG
25

The MLA's Annual Golf Tournament

**Tuesday, August 25, 2026,
8:00am to 2:30pm**

SEP
10

Women's Networking Event

**Thursday, September 10, 2026
4:30pm to 7:30pm**

SEP
22

The 198th Fall Opening of the Courts

**Tuesday, September 22, 2026
4:45pm to 7:00pm**

SEP
22

Bench & Bar Dinner
(following the Fall Opening of the Courts)

**Tuesday, September 22, 2026
7:00pm to 9:00pm**

OCT
8

Court of Appeal Discussion & Dinner

Wednesday, October 8, 2026

An Evening with the Court of Appeal

A rare opportunity for lawyers in the London Region to engage directly with members of the Court of Appeal.

OCT
7

**Wednesday,
October 7, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.**

**Plenary session, focused
roundtables, reception
and dinner.**

**Museum London
421 Ridout Street North, London, ON**

EVENING FORMAT

The MLA is honoured to host members of the Court of Appeal for an informal evening of conversation and small group discussion, followed by dinner with Special Guest Speaker The Honourable Justice Eileen Gillese.

ROUNDTABLES

- Civil
- Criminal
- Family

REGISTRATION

Details coming soon through the Middlesex Law Association.

Co-hosted by the Middlesex Law Association and the Court of Appeal for Ontario. Open to all lawyers in the region.



**Court of Appeal
for Ontario**

Announcement

Michael Robb, Managing Partner

Siskinds LLP is pleased to announce the appointment of Michael Robb to the position of managing partner, effective June 1, 2026.

Michael has called Siskinds his home for almost all of his nearly 25 years in practice. He recently served on the firm's board of directors and as its first chief IDEA officer. Michael will continue his plaintiff-side class actions practice alongside his duties as managing partner.

Siskinds LLP, a firm employing over 230 people in five offices across Canada, looks forward to the benefit of Michael's leadership and experience.



SISKINDS | The law firm

Questions & Comments

If you have any issues or concerns regarding the Middlesex court facilities, operations, judiciary, etc., let them be known! Send all concerns to the current MLA Bench & Bar representatives:

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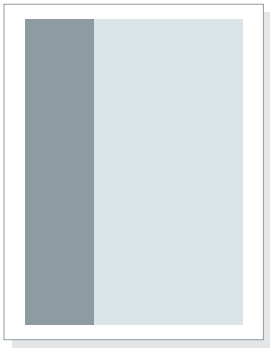
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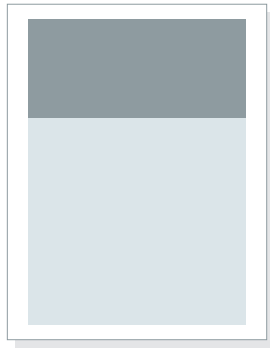
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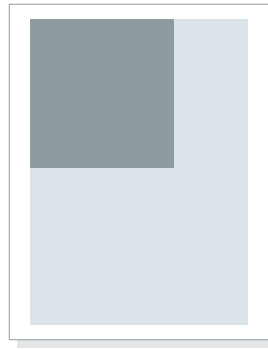
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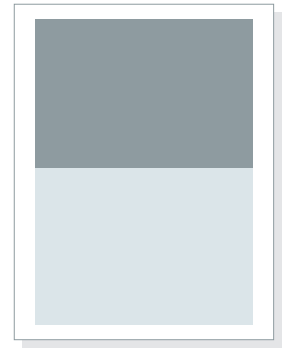
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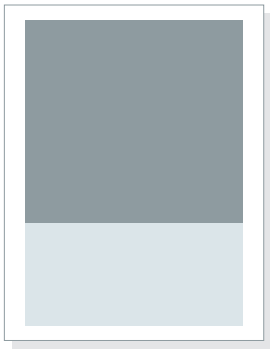
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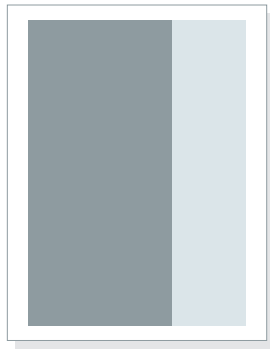
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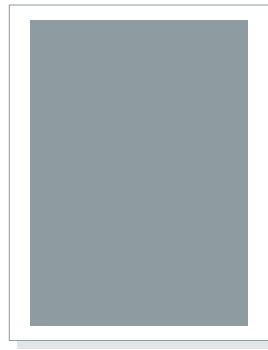
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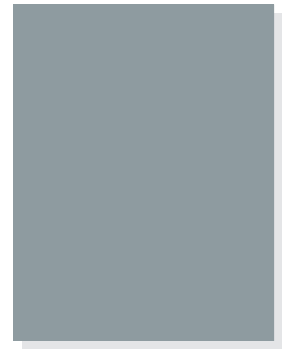
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