How to Effectively Represent Teens and Young Adults Seeking Child Support

**Family Law**

**Date:** Friday, October 3, 2014 | 9:00 am to 1:00 pm  
**Location:** Twenty Toronto Street Conferences and Events  
20 Toronto Street, 2nd Floor, Toronto  

**Program Chairs:** Lucy McSweeney, Children’s Lawyer for Ontario  
Shmuel Stern, Beard Winter LLP

When a child is forced to leave home involuntarily, parents continue to have an obligation to financially support them; however, many youth in these circumstances find themselves living on the street either unaware of their rights or experiencing challenges enforcing them. Hear from youth who have experienced these challenges and the counsel who represent them. Gain a comprehensive understanding of this unique legal area and key practical advice on how to successfully represent these young people.

This program is a joint initiative of the Ontario Bar Association, Office of the Children’s Lawyer and Justice for Children and Youth, which is aimed at identifying lawyers who are well-qualified and willing to assist vulnerable youth in pursuing their rights to financial support. The OBA is supporting this program at a special rate.

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<th>Time</th>
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<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Welcome and Opening Remarks</td>
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| 9:05 am | Understanding Youth Homelessness | Johanna MacDonald, Street Youth Legal Services Lawyer, Justice for Children and Youth  
Acting Out Youth Group, SKETCH Working Arts for Street Involved Youth  
• How youth end up on the street  
• What financial assistance is available to assist children and young adults who leave home?  
• Resources available to help youth access family law advice upon family breakdown, and why we need you |
| 9:35 am | Managing Your Client Relationship with Vulnerable Youth | Mary Birdsell, Executive Director, Justice for Children and Youth  
Katherine Kavassalis, Legal Director, Office of the Children’s Lawyer  
• Key guidance for interviewing children  
• Practical guidelines for taking instructions and providing advice |
| 10:05 am | Representation Strategies From Start to Finish | Andrea Luey, Counsel, Justice for Children and Youth  
Youth Presenter  
• Maximizing settlement opportunities  
• Critical steps in pursuing litigation  
• A personal experience of pursuing support from parents |
| 10:30 am | Networking Break |  |
| 10:50 am | Making Sense of Legal Aid Ontario Requirements | Emma Barz, Family Policy Counsel, Legal Aid Ontario  
• Get up-to-date on the opportunities and limitations on the availability of legal aid for these cases |
| 11:05 am | How to Structure Your Claim | Robert Shawyer, Shawyer Family Law  
• Clarifying the legislative basis for your claim  
• Identifying the defendants  
• Crucial factors in addressing the entitlement hurdle of “withdrawing from parental control” |
| 11:40 am | Securing Interim Child Support | Brian Burke, Epstein Cole LLP  
• Overcoming threshold factors for eligibility, evidentiary burdens and judicial tendencies  
• Obtaining interim child support in the face of an agreement  
• Helpful considerations in determining quantum  
• What you need to know about retroactive awards and payments directly to the child |
| 12:15 pm | Navigating Common Procedural Issues | Katherine Batycky, Kyle & van der Steen LLP  
• Guidance from recent cases, including lessons learned from C.M.M. v. D.G.C  
• Is a Litigation Guardian required?  
• Best practices for seeking interim disbursements and recovering costs |
| 12:50 pm | Questions and Closing Remarks |  |
| 1:00 pm | Program Concludes |  |

In Partnership with:  
Office of the Children’s Lawyer  
Justice for Children and Youth