

## [RODA's 4th Annual Diversity Conference in Partnership with the OBA: Accelerating a Culture Shift in the Legal Profession](#)

*Ontario Bar Association and Roundtable of Diversity  
Associations (RODA)*

**Date:** Wednesday November 28, 2018  
9:00 am – 5:00 pm

**Location:** Twenty Toronto Street Conferences and Events  
20 Toronto Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Toronto

**Program Chairs:** **Dina Awad**, Vice-Chair of RODA  
**Fernando Garcia**, Member-at-Large of the OBA  
Equality Committee



In-Person



Webcast



To view accreditation, [click here](#).

The RODA-OBA Annual Diversity Conference returns to provide thought-provoking, practical discussions on current issues for diverse lawyers and allies. Join us to debate some of the biggest developments in 2018 and hear advice on how to support diversity as part of your practice.

This year's conference will feature timely discussions on hot topics including the #MeToo Movement and the Law Society's strategies to combat discrimination and harassment. Choose from a vast array of topics that will specifically address the often complex issues that diverse lawyers face in their legal career including bias and mental health in the legal profession.

Back by popular demand, choose sessions from the substantive track and/or career track. This year's substantive track includes a discussion on the current state of law concerning racism in human rights law. The career track offers sessions on activist lawyering and career opportunities and trends. Our diverse lineup of experts will share practical tips on combatting discrimination to help you accelerate a culture shift in the legal profession.

9:00 am	Registration and Coffee
9:35 am	<b>Welcome and Opening Remarks from Program Chairs</b>
9:40 am	<b>Remarks from Ontario Bar Association</b> <b>Colin Stevenson</b> , Stevenson Whelton MacDonald & Swan LLP and OBA 1st Vice President
9:50 am	<b>Implementing Strategies to Combat Discrimination</b> <b>Jayashree Goswami</b> , Intact Insurance and exiting Chair of RODA (Moderator) <b>Dianne Corbiere</b> , Law Society of Ontario <b>Lai-King Hum</b> , Hum Law Firm, Discrimination and Harassment Counsel Program, Law Society of Ontario <b>Atrisha Lewis</b> , McCarthy Tétrault LLP <b>Paul Schabas</b> , Blakes LLP, Past Treasurer, Law Society of Ontario (LSO) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LSO's strategies to combat discrimination and harassment</li> <li>Compliance issues and challenges related to implementing recommendations from the Report</li> </ul>
11:00 am	Networking Break

**PROGRAM REGISTRATION IS ONLINE** [www.oba.org/pd](http://www.oba.org/pd)

Questions? [pd@oba.org](mailto:pd@oba.org)

11:15 am

CAREER TRACK	SUBSTANTIVE TRACK
<b>Trends and Opportunities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Competencies and skills that employers and head-hunters are looking for</li> <li>What employers are doing to support diversity and inclusion initiatives</li> <li>Emerging career opportunities to look out for</li> <li>Opportunities for both Licensing Candidates (LPP and Articling) and lawyers at all career stages</li> <li>Tips on search and career strategies for diverse candidates across all career stages</li> </ul> <p><b>Fernando Garcia</b>, Member-at-Large of the OBA Equality Committee (Moderator)  <b>Gina Alexandris</b>, Law Practice Program - Ryerson University  <b>Warren Bongard</b>, ZSA Legal Recruitment  <b>Corrine Kennedy</b>, Aird &amp; Berlis LLP</p>	<b>Racism in Human Rights Law</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updates concerning racialized and marginalized communities</li> </ul> <p><b>Raj Anand</b>, WeirFoulds LLP  <b>Reem Bahdi</b>, Faculty of Law, University of Windsor</p>

12:15 pm

Lunch

1:15 pm

## Mental Health in Law

**Dina Awad**, Vice-Chair of RODA (Moderator)

**Elsa Ascencio**, Student-at-Law

**Orlando Da Silva**, Serious Fraud Office - Prosecution Division

**Anita Szigeti**, Anita Szigeti Advocates

- The prevalence of mental health issues in the legal profession
- Supporting lawyers with mental health issues in the legal profession
- The unique mental health issues facing diverse lawyers and how they can be supported
- Intergenerational trauma among diverse lawyers
- Eliminating bias and enhancing diversity from a mental health perspective

2:15 pm

Networking Break

2:30 pm

CAREER TRACK	SUBSTANTIVE TRACK
<b>Activist Lawyering</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Politics and law</li> <li>The business of access to justice lawyering including processes, marketing, sales, financial management, and planning</li> <li>Advancing awareness of human rights issues affecting marginalized communities and using art/film to further this dialogue</li> </ul> <p><b>Prasanna Ranganathan</b>, Independent Street Checks Review (Moderator)  <b>Renatta Austin</b>, Eglinton West Law Office  <b>Saron Gebresellassi</b>, Barrister and Solicitor  <b>Dania Majid</b>, Barrister and Solicitor</p>	<b>Sexual Assault and Misconduct</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>#MeToo Movement and its impact on law and practice</li> <li>Developments in the case law – criminal, civil and employment contexts</li> </ul> <p><b>Susan Vella</b>, Rochon Genova LLP (Moderator)  <b>Elizabeth Grace</b>, Lerner LLP  <b>Jennifer Mathers McHenry</b>, Teplitsky, Colson LLP  <b>Danielle Robitaille</b>, Henein Hutchison LLP</p>

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- 3:30 pm Networking Break
- 3:45 pm **Keynote Address**  
**The Honourable Justice Jasmine Akbarali**, Ontario Superior Court of Justice
- 4:05 pm **Increasing Your Awareness of Indigenous Legal Traditions and Laws**  
**Lori Mishibinijima**, Osgoode Hall Law School  
**Jodie-Lynn Waddilove**, Independent Street Checks Review
- Discussing Canadian law and Indigenous legal traditions and laws.
  - How do these laws work in tandem? Learning from real life scenarios
  - How can the legal profession assist to promote understanding and awareness of Indigenous Traditions and Laws?
- 4:50 am **Closing Remarks from Program Chairs**
- 4:55 pm Program Concludes

Register: [In Person](#) | [Webcast](#)

	Program	Table of 7
Live (includes lunch)	<b>\$70*</b>	<b>\$450*</b>
Webcast	<b>\$70*</b>	

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