

## Access to Insolvency Services Among Racialized and Minority Communities

### Insolvency Law

**Date:** Thursday, December 03, 2020 | 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm  
Webinar Only

**Agenda:** 3:00 pm Program Commences  
4:30 pm Program Concludes



Webcast



**Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Professionalism**  
**Hours:** This program contains up to 1.5 hours.

*The OBA has been approved as an Accredited Provider of Professionalism Content by The Law Society of Ontario.*

Diversity, equity and inclusion in the insolvency law profession is a crucial and multifaceted topic. Racialized and minority communities experience different levels of access to insolvency services and professionals, and this program is intended to explore why that is so, as well as ways it can be effectively changed to ensure equal access to the profession for clients and diverse lawyers alike. Join our experienced faculty at this program, where through a panel discussion on three primary themes, we work to better understand questions such as:

- How are racialized and minority communities impacted differently in their ability to benefit from insolvency laws?
- How is the experience of racialized and minority communities in insolvency proceedings different as a result of their racialized or minority status?
- What can we do as professionals in the industry to increase access and provide more effective service to communities such as these?

**Program Chairs:** **Philip Cho**, WeirFoulds LLP  
**Sharon Kour**, Weisz Fell Kour LLP

**Speakers:** **Master May Jean**, Superior Court of Justice  
**Fiona Han**, EY Inc.  
**Asim Iqbal**, Miller Thomson LLP  
**Meryl Afrika**, President, Canadian Association of Urban Finance Professionals

3:00 pm Welcome and Opening Remarks

3:05 pm **Representation of Racialized and Minority Communities in the Insolvency Bar and Professional Pool**

The community of insolvency professionals is small and less diverse relative to other areas of practice. Why might this be the case and what is the impact of the lack of representation on the public seeking access to insolvency professionals and services?

3:40 pm **Lack of Financial Resources**

Corporate insolvency workouts can be costly. There is a disproportionate number of SMB operators in racialized

and minority (especially new immigrant) communities. This panel will discuss the impact of financial disadvantage for economically vulnerable communities.

4:10 pm **Unconscious Bias**

Stereotypes and preconceived notions may impact a lender's qualitative assessment of a borrower. This panel will discuss how unconscious bias may affect lenders and borrowers, and what steps we can take to eradicate it in the practice of insolvency law.

4:30 pm Program Concludes

Choose an item. [www.oba.org/pd](http://www.oba.org/pd)  
**Questions?** [pd@oba.org](mailto:pd@oba.org)