

Oral Advocacy Boot Camp

Young Lawyers Division



In-Person

Date: Thursday, May 21, 2020 | 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Location: OBA Conference Centre
20 Toronto Street, 2nd Floor, Toronto

Program Chairs: **Maureen Littlejohn**, Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg LLP
Ivan Merrow, Glaholt Bowles LLP

Professionalism Hours: This program contains **0h 45m**
Substantive Hours: This program is eligible for up to **2h 45m**



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

Become an outstanding orator and a more effective advocate!

Take advantage of this valuable opportunity to get “on your feet” in a relaxed environment. Leading members of the judiciary and bar will work with you to fine tune your oral advocacy skills in a practical small group format, where any mistakes you might make will be used for learning purposes.

You will walk away from this session with:

- The ability to articulate your ideas confidently and clearly
- Practical guidelines on oral advocacy, including body language and voice control
- Hands-on oral advocacy experience
- Essential advice from experienced litigators and members of the judiciary
- Videotaped presentations for self-viewing and critique

Register now to build the practical skills you need to succeed in the courtroom. Lunch will be provided.

8:30 am Registration and Coffee

9:00 am Welcome and Opening Remarks

9:10 am **Spin Your Story, Knit Your Narrative**

- Identify your theme and narrative
- Frame your arguments and tell your client’s story
- Outline, organize and develop
- Being mindful of the law, the evidence and the equities

9:40 am **Presence in the Courtroom**

- Demeanour, body language and voice awareness – timing, tone and volume
- Developing a personal style
- Capturing the Court’s attention
- Effective use of electronic aids to emphasize as opposed to detract from submissions

10:10 am **Interacting with the Bench**

- Gauge the Court’s familiarity with your case
- Interpret, understand and respond to questions
- Dealing with a “hot bench” or a silent judge
- When to concede, abandon arguments and how to handle mistakes

10:40 am Networking Break

11:00 am **How to Lose Your Oral Argument: What Not to Do**

- How to get under the Court’s skin
- How to confuse your audience
- How not to be heard

11:30 am **Oral Hearings**

Participants will break up into small groups. Faculty will review a brief fact scenario and discuss how to approach the argument. You will learn more about:

- Organizing issues and focusing the presentation
- What a successful outline looks like
- Tips for delivering compelling advocacy
- Preparing for the end: how should you conclude?

Each participant will present their oral argument for a maximum of 10 minutes each. Faculty may ask questions during your argument to simulate the courtroom experience.

Following arguments, faculty will provide individual feedback. Arguments will be video-recorded and faculty will be able to re-play specific parts to assist in their feedback. You will receive your recording after the program ends to apply all you have learned to become a better advocate!

2:00 pm Program Concludes

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

Questions? pd@oba.org