

The Foundational Family Law Toolkit

Family Law / Young Lawyers Division



Webcast

Date: Friday, October 27, 2023 | 9:00 am to 1:00pm

Location: Webinar

Agenda:

- 8:30 am Registration
- 9:00 am Webinar Commences
- 1:00 pm Webinar Concludes



Professionalism Hours: This program contains a total of 1 hour 00 minutes

Substantive Hours: This program contains 3 hours 00 minutes

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

Are you new to or looking to expand your practice to include the field of family law? Build a solid foundation and gain helpful advice on critical procedure and practice considerations for inside and outside the courtroom. From initial client meetings to navigating each step of the family court process, don't miss the opportunity to learn the nuts and bolts of family law matters with this essential program.

Program Chairs: **Allison Boyce**, Mann Lawyers (Ottawa)
Ashley Bennett, Soloway Wright LLP

9:00 am Welcome and Opening Remarks

SETTING YOURSELF UP FOR SUCCESS: FAMILY LAW ESSENTIALS

9:05 am **Legislative Overview**

Jonathan Richardson, Richardson Hall LLP

- Where do your claims lie: *Divorce Act, Children's Law Reform Act, Family Law Act* claims
- Other importance legislation: *Courts of Justice Act, Family Law Rules, Rules of Civil Procedure, and more)*

9:25 am **Initial Client Meetings**

Geoff Carpenter, Carpenter Law

- Preparing for initial client meetings
- Items to include in the retainer agreement
- Strategies to collect key information from the client, and how to ask questions to assess for family violence
- Documents to obtain from the client
- "Issue spotting": Identifying if your client has other legal or non-legal needs – when to talk to other lawyers or professionals

10:00 am **Settling Disputes Outside of Court**

Tanya Parker Wallace, Parker Wallace Family Law

Kerri Ross, Sinclair Ross Family Law

- Negotiation, mediation, arbitration, and collaborative family law
- Determining if ADR will be appropriate to help resolve a dispute - Screening for family violence
- Choosing an ADR professional
- Providing ILA for agreements – helpful tips and red flags to avoid
- Effecting Agreements

10:30 am **Professionalism and Ethical Considerations**

Jennifer Daudlin, Daudlin Law Professional Corporation

- Managing Client Relationships and Communication
 - Balancing empathy with boundaries
 - Breaking bad news to the client
 - How to manage the angry email
- Communicating with self-represented litigants
- Dealing with difficult opposing counsel

11:00 am Health Break

NUTS AND BOLTS OF THE FAMILY COURT PROCESS

11:15 am **Starting/Re-starting Your Case: Preparing Your Pleadings**

Katherine Montagnese, LLDG

Faria Soutter, Beaton Burke Young

- Applications, Answers and Replies
- Preparing proper pleadings and responses and replies
 - Accompanying documents needed
- Motions to Change
- Tips for settlement in the initial stages

11:40 am **The "In-between" Discussions: Conferences**

Richard Glennie, Beaton Burke Young

Emily O'Keefe, McLeod Green Dewar

- DRO Conferences – are they available in your jurisdiction?
- Judicial appearances: Case Conference vs. Settlement Conference vs. Trial Management Conference
- Preparing for your Conference
- Tips for settlement at the Conference stage

12:05 pm **Interim Relief: Motions**

Jared Teitel, Normandin Chris LLP

- Motion rules
- Preparing for Motions
- Tips for settling motions

12:30 pm **Resolving Disputes Within the Court Process**

Christine Marchetti, Marchetti Lee LLP Family Law

- Offers to Settle and Consents
- Binding Judicial Dispute Resolution (some locations)
- Summary Judgment Motions: When to Use Them
- Trial: Getting "trial-ready"

12:55 pm Questions

1:00 pm Program Ends

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Questions? pd@oba.org