

Your Guide to Critical Child Protection Appearances

Child and Youth Law and Young Lawyers Division



In-Person



Live Online

Date: Monday, December 08, 2025 | 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

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

Agenda:
8:30 am Registration
9:00 am Program Begins
12:00 pm Program Concludes



This program contains:
3hr 00m of Substantive Content
The OBA has been approved as an Accredited Provider of Professionalism Content by the Law Society of Ontario

Are you new to or considering adding child protection law to your practice? Join our experienced faculty as they walk you through the fundamentals of a child protection file, from first appearance to motions and beyond. Our skilled advocates will engage in live demonstrations to help you understand the key elements of effective advocacy in this unique and important area of the law. Don't miss out! Register now to secure your spot.

Program Chairs: **Anna Harris**, York Region Children's Aid Society
Kenneth Atkinson, Office of the Children's Lawyer

8:30 pm Registration

9:00 am Welcome and Opening Remarks

9:05 am **Keynote Address: A View from the Bench**
The Honourable Justice Manjusha Pawagi, Ontario Court of Justice

- What is child protection law?
- Why should you consider this practice area?
- Overview of key proceedings and their impact

9:20 am **Introduction of Fact Scenario**

9:25 am **Demonstration of First Appearance**

Presiding Judge: **The Honourable Justice Manjusha Pawagi**, Ontario Court of Justice

Demonstrators:
Anna Harris, York Region Children's Aid Society
Kenneth Atkinson, Office of the Children's Lawyer
Kourtney O'Dwyer, Ewart O'Dwyer Barristers and Solicitors
Julia Tremain, Phillips Barristers Professional Corporation

9:35 am **Discussion and Debrief**
Julia Tremain, Phillips Barristers Professional Corporation

- Understanding the purpose of the First Appearance
- Advocacy considerations for counsel
- How to approach kinship involvement

9:50 am **Demonstration of Temporary Care and Custody Hearing (TCCH)**

Presiding Judge: **The Honourable Justice Manjusha Pawagi**, Ontario Court of Justice

Demonstrators:
Anna Harris, York Region Children's Aid Society
Kenneth Atkinson, Office of the Children's Lawyer
Kourtney O'Dwyer, Ewart O'Dwyer Barristers and Solicitors
Julia Tremain, Phillips Barristers Professional Corporation

10:05 am **Discussion and Debrief**
Kourtney O'Dwyer, Ewart O'Dwyer Barristers and Solicitors

- Purpose of the hearing
- Legal test, onus and standard of proof
- Key evidentiary considerations
- Types of orders
 - Placement with parents with or without conditions (TSO)
 - Placement with kin (TSO)
 - Temporary Care and Custody (TCC)
- Important strategic considerations

10:20 am **Demonstration of Records Motion**

Presiding Judge: **The Honourable Justice Manjusha Pawagi**, Ontario Court of Justice

Demonstrators:
Anna Harris, York Region Children's Aid Society
Kenneth Atkinson, Office of the Children's Lawyer
Kourtney O'Dwyer, Ewart O'Dwyer Barristers and Solicitors
Julia Tremain, Phillips Barristers Professional Corporation

www.oba.org/pd
Questions? pd@oba.org

10:35 am **Health Break**

10:50 am **Demonstration of Settlement Conference**

**Presiding Judge: The Honourable Justice
Manjusha Pawagi**, Ontario Court of Justice

Demonstrators:
Anna Harris, York Region Children's Aid Society
Kenneth Atkinson, Office of the Children's
Lawyer
Kourtney O'Dwyer, Ewart O'Dwyer Barristers
and Solicitors
Julia Tremain, Phillips Barristers Professional
Corporation

11:05 am **Discussion and Debrief**
Kenneth Atkinson, Office of the Children's
Lawyer

- Settlement Conference
 - Resolving issues without trial where possible
 - Judicial guidance on realistic outcomes

- Trial Scheduling Conference
 - Identifying trial issues and setting timelines
 - Preparing clients for trial, including their role and expectations

11:20 am **Major Motions**
**Presiding Judge: The Honourable Justice
Manjusha Pawagi**, Ontario Court of Justice

Demonstrators:
Anna Harris, York Region Children's Aid
Society
Julia Tremain, Phillips Barristers Professional
Corporation

- Records Motion
- Special Party Status Motion
- Section 98 Assessments

11:40 am **Panel Discussion**

11:50 am **Q&A and Closing Remarks**

12:00 pm **Program conclude**