



Ontario Legal Conference: Family, Estates and Real Estate Law

Wednesday, February 4, 2026 | 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Whether you are a general practitioner or a specialist in residential real estate, estates or family law, it is essential that you have a comprehensive understanding of the myriad of ways in which these legal areas interact to ensure you are updated and ready to effectively represent your clients.

Join us for this unique event as we bring together lawyers from across these practice areas to unravel the complexities, examine recent developments and better understand the impacts of other legal areas on your practice. Ensure that your legal toolkit is equipped with the key information, insights and strategies that you need to provide your clients with effective and timely advice. If your practice touches on family, estates or real estate law, this is a critical event you cannot miss!

- Planning Committee:**
Alex Carr, Lenkinski, Hooper & Carr LLP
Balvinder Kumar, BK Law Professional Corporation
Christine Marchetti, Marchetti Family Law & Mediation
Brittany Miller, Goddard Gamage LLP
Lisa Toner, The Ross Firm Professional Corporation

PLENARY	SESSION A (Salon 1&2)	SESSION B (Salon 3)
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9:00 am	Welcome and Opening Remarks
9:10 am	What I Wish You Knew... Join our expert panel of estates, family, and real estate lawyers as they share valuable advice on how critical issues in their own practice impact, and are impacted by other legal areas. Get expert insights on key issues to watch out for in your own practice. Brendan Donovan , Donovan Kochman LLP David Meirovici , Meirovici Zywoť LLP Julie Stanchieri , Stanchieri Family Law Dana Lue , Ricketts Harris LLP (Moderator)
10:15 am	The Future of Judicial Excellence: Why you should consider applying for a Judicial Appointment Kavita V. Bhagat , C.S., Member, Judicial Appointments Advisory Committee (Ontario)
10:30 am	Inter-Sections Networking Break

10:50am	<p>Changes to the Succession Law Reform Act and Family Law Act: Where are we now? Recent changes to Ontario’s <i>Succession Law Reform Act</i> and <i>Family Law Act</i> continue to reshape estate rights in 2026, especially for married and separated spouses. We’ll unpack the new rules on marriage, separation, and inheritance, and share their practical impact on estate planning, family-law coordination, and emerging disputes.</p> <p>Karen J. Hagman, MayLex Litigation Pia Hundal, Bales Beall LLP Mason Morningstar, Mason Morningstar Family Law PC Lisa Toner, The Ross Firm Professional Corporation (Moderator)</p>	<p>Practical Considerations in Conveyancing When navigating the conveyancing process, it is crucial to be aware of the practical considerations that can impact the success of your real estate transaction. Explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contracts: new build and pre-construction homes• Financing• Tarion Warranty: existing and new rules• Registration closing• Best practices for real estate lawyers: Risk management, due diligence and detecting fraud <p>Mark Giavedoni, Gowling WLG (Canada) LLP Joel Kadish, Kadish Law Safiyya Vankalwala, LAWPRO</p>
12:00pm	<p>Recent Estate Decisions and Legislative Updates Every Lawyer Should Know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Case law• Legislative updates• New developments and hot topics <p>Rebecca Betel, Donovan Kochman LLP Liza Saad, Saad Estate Law PC Jonah Waxman, WeirFoulds LLP (Moderator)</p>	<p>Inter-Sections Networking Lunch Available between 12:00pm and 2:00pm</p>
1:00pm	<p>Inter-Sections Networking Lunch Available between 12:00pm and 2:00pm</p>	<p>Drafting Advice for Detailed Orders and Separation Agreements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drafting orders for the sale of property in high-conflict cases• Navigating real estate closings during separation• Effectively drafting terms for the release of proceeds in orders or agreements that won’t require subsequent Directions <p>Joel Kadish, Kadish Law Maureen Edwards, McCarthy Hansen & Company LLP</p>
2:00pm	<p>Guardianship: A Spotlight on Minors This session provides a practical overview of Ontario’s legal framework for appointing guardians of minors under the <i>Children’s Law Reform Act</i>. Participants will learn the key requirements for obtaining a guardianship order, the steps involved in the court application process, and how the “best interests of the child” principle guides judicial decisions. The session will also outline the ongoing duties and responsibilities assumed by court-appointed guardians.</p> <p>Jillian Evans, Office of the Children's Lawyer - Attorney General Jordan Korn, Goddard Gamage LLP Adam Giancola, Casey & Moss LLP Brittany Miller, Goddard Gamage LLP (Moderator)</p>	<p>Preserving and Securing Real Property Learn helpful strategies for preserving and securing real property across a variety of client situations, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• When and how to use preservation orders• Key issues for clients with multiple properties• Matrimonial home designations and their protections• Considerations for preconstruction condos• What to register on title — and why <p>Eli Antel, ESA Lawyers Hilary Goodman, Barriston Law Jonah Waxman, WeirFoulds LLP Alex Carr, Lenkinski, Hooper & Carr LLP (Moderator)</p>

2:50 pm	<p>Trusts and Real Property: Ownership, Liability, and Tax Implications</p> <p>Dive into the complex world of real estate held in trusts and passed through generations. Explore how trusts affect real-property ownership, liability, and taxes. Our panel of experts will delve into succession strategies for cottages, farms, and other treasured family properties. Learn practical ways to protect these assets and pass them smoothly to the next generation.</p> <p>Emily Hubling, Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP Todd Louie, Quantum Business Law</p>	<p>Assisting Families with Disabled Children and/or Children with Different Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Navigating ODSP and child support for an adult disabled child• Navigating government benefits/credits and subsidies in orders and agreements• Parenting for adult disabled children (recent court of appeal decisions)• Parenting Schedules for minor disabled children/children with special needs (including health care management)• How to best serve families with children who have special needs <p>Fareen Jamal, Jamal Family Law PC Kathleen Broschuk, Jamal Family Law PC Laura Shaw, Jamal Family Law PC Christine Marchetti, Marchetti Family Law & Mediation (Moderator)</p>
3:50pm	Inter-Sections Networking Break	
4:10 pm	<p>Dealing with Capacity Issues: Intersection Perspectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Estates• Real Estate• Family: appropriate capacity measures <p>Kristine Anderson, Fern Law Melanie Battaglia, Battaglia Law PC Sanitha Miranda, KMB Law LLP Brittany Miller, Goddard Gamage LLP (Moderator)</p>	
5:00pm	<p>Inter-Sections Networking Reception</p> <p>Take advantage of this opportunity to engage with lawyers from across a variety of practice areas, including family, estates, real estate, litigation and criminal law. Develop your relationships, make new connections and expand your referral network.</p>	

***Additional speakers to be added.**