



Ontario Legal Conference: Insurance Law

Hot Topics in Insurance Law

Friday, February 6, 2026 | 9:00 am – 12:50 pm

Join us to get up to speed on current trends, recent developments, and essential best practices in the insurance sector. Our expert faculty will share valuable insights to ensure you are equipped to best represent your clients.

Program Chairs:
Katherine Di Tomaso, Stieber Berlach LLP
Tracey L. Hamilton, Beneva Litigation Department
Siobhan McClelland, The Co-operators Group Limited

9:00 am	Welcome & Opening Remarks
9:05 am	<p>SABS Update: Upcoming Changes and Recent Developments in Accident Benefits Effective July 1, 2026, changes are coming to the Statutory Accident Benefits Schedule (SABS). Ensure you are up-to-speed on the impending changes and their expected impacts, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• how the move to optional benefits will reshape coverage disputes, affect priority and entitlement challenges, and push more claimants toward tort; and• what these changes mean for client counselling, policy interpretation, LAT litigation, and broker liability. <p>Prepare your practice for the new AB landscape. Plus get the latest developments in case law, emerging trends, and valuable guidance for handling LAT hearings with confidence.</p> <p>Sophia Chaudri, Flaherty McCarthy LLP Rosalind Eastmond, Dutton Brock LLP Rose Leto, Neinstein LLP Olga Zemlinsky, Beneva Litigation Department Tracey L. Hamilton, Beneva Litigation Department (Moderator)</p>
10:30 am	<p>Top ONCA Cases You Need to Know Review the most impactful Ontario Court of Appeal decisions on insurance law as we unravel key rulings, their practical implications, and strategies for applying these cases in advising clients and managing risk.</p> <p>William Jesseau, Smockum Zarnett LLP</p>
11:00 am	Inter-Sections Networking Break
11:20 am	<p>AI Evidence in Personal Injury Cases Explore how AI is shaping evidence in personal injury cases, and the use of AI-generated data, predictive analytics, and digital tools to support claims, assess damages, and strengthen litigation strategies.</p> <p>Jennifer Hoffman, Hoffman Law</p>

11:50 am	<p>Coverage Update: PFAS “Forever Chemicals” and the Next Wave of Coverage Claims</p> <p>PFAS “forever chemicals” are shaping the next generation of long-tail coverage disputes and creating a significant underwriting hazard. Explore the emerging PFAS litigation and regulatory landscape and what it means for CGL, environmental, employers’ liability and D&O policies, with a focus on occurrence triggers, pollution exclusions and the duty to defend.</p> <p>Akash Brijpaul, Clyde & Co.</p>
12:20 pm	Concluding Remarks
12:20 pm	Inter-Sections Networking Lunch