

Ontario Legal Conference and Retreat

Ontario Bar Association



In person

Date:September 13-14, 2025

Location:The Brock Niagara Falls
Tapestry by Hilton
5685 Falls Avenue
Niagara Falls, ON



This program contains **1.0 Professionalism EDI Hours**.
This program contains **2.0 Professionalism Hours**.
This program is eligible for up to **4.5 Substantive Hours**.
The OBA has been approved as an Accredited Provider of Professionalism Content by The Law Society of Ontario.

This September, grow your referral network, take part in expert-led CPD sessions and enjoy the natural beauty and man-made fun of Niagara Falls at the OBA’s fourth annual Ontario Legal Conference & Retreat.

With top-notch professional development, specifically tailored to solicitors in solo and small firm practices, you’ll be sure to walk away with practical insights and valuable advice to implement in your practice.

Bring your family or friends and get away for a weekend of networking, learning and play!

Friday, September 12, 2025		10:25 am	Networking Break
9:00 pm	Late Night Social Events: Karaoke and Games Room	10:35 am	Essentials of Joint Venture Agreements Andrew Ruzza, Barrister & Solicitor <ul style="list-style-type: none">The when, who, what and why of joint venture agreementsKey provisions and considerationsTax concerns and how to address them
Saturday, September 13, 2025		11:00 am	Declarations of Death and Absenteeism Karen Shedden, Daniel & Partners LLP and President of the Lincoln County Law Association <ul style="list-style-type: none">When is a Declaration of Death or Absenteeism necessary?Key considerations and procedural nuances
8:30am	Registration and Breakfast	11:25 am	Possessory and Prescriptive Rights in Ontario in the Aftermath of Land Titles Conversion Bob Aaron, Aaron & Aaron <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Land Titles</i> (Land Titles Conversion Qualified and Absolute) versus <i>Registry</i> propertiesImplications of the <i>Real Property Limitations Act</i>Recent decisions you need to know
9:00am	Welcome and Opening Remarks	11:50 am	Ontario Land Tribunal Essentials Sharyn Vincent, Vice-Chair, Ontario Land Tribunal <ul style="list-style-type: none">Scope of the OLT’s jurisdiction and how it differs from its predecessor tribunalsWhat to keep in mind when making an application to the OLT
9:05am	Remarks from the Chief Justice of the Ontario Court of Justice The Honourable Sharon Nicklas, Chief Justice of the Ontario Court of Justice	12:15 pm	Effective Advocacy Before the Landlord and Tenant Board Kevin Lundy, Cohen Highley LLP <ul style="list-style-type: none">“Renovictions”: What you need to know beyond the media hypeSubleases, assignments & unauthorized occupants: Pitfalls for landlords and tenantsRent reductions after an Above Guideline Increases
9:15 am	Remarks from the Attorney General of Ontario The Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General of Ontario	12:40 pm	Networking Lunch
9:25 am	OBA Presidential Mandate Katy Commisso, OBA President		
9:35 am	Civil Rules Review Update The Honourable Cary Boswell, Superior Court of Justice and Co-Chair Civil Rules Review Working Group Hear the latest on the Civil Rules Review from Co-Chair Justice Boswell.		
10:00 am	Readying Yourself for Change From career and life transitions, to constantly evolving technologies, to new Rules of Civil Procedure, change is everywhere. Certain changes are exciting, others are daunting and some are downright terrifying. Equip yourself with an understanding of our natural responses to change and how to better prepare yourself for and navigate change in your personal or professional life.		



2:00 pm	Afternoon Activities Select from our organized activities, or head out on your own to explore all that Niagara Falls has to offer. Pre-registration required*: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Wine Tour: Get a behind the scenes look at Inniskillin Winery in Niagara on the Lake with this Barrel Cellar tour. (Hotel pick-up at 1:30pm)Niagara Parks Power Station & Tailrace Tunnel Experience: Discover the historic Niagara Parks Power Station. Then travel down a glass-paneled elevator to follow the path traveled by water through the tunnel to a viewing platform over the Niagara River. (Meet at Power Station at 2:00pm)	11:00 am	My Favourite Things: AI Tools Edition How are AI tools making practice better for lawyers? Our panel will share their favourite AI tools and how they are using these tools to improve efficiencies and client service.
6:00 pm	Reception and President’s Dinner*	11:30 am	Technology Test Drives See the latest legal tech in action.
9:00 pm	Late Night Social Events: Karaoke and Games Room	12:00 pm	Neurodivergence in the Legal Profession Kate Julien, Canada Life Michelle Liu, Liu Chooti Law & Counselling Brian Studniberg, Henein Hutchison Robitaille LLP Join us to explore how neurodivergent lawyers navigate demanding legal environments, often while masking or compensating for challenges that go unrecognized. Our panel will share real-life reflections and suggest ways the legal profession can better understand and support those whose differences aren't immediately obvious.
Sunday, September 14, 2025		12:55 pm	Concluding Remarks
7:45am	Breakfast service opens	1:00 pm	Lunch To Go
8:15 am	LDD Sponsored Breakfast Session Maurizio Romanin, Barrister and Solicitor, and President, LawyerDoneDeal Corp. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Join our Premier Event Sponsor, LDD for this special breakfast session	*Additional fees apply.	
9:00 am	Strategies for Will Drafting as Part of Your Practice Bryan Carvalho, Ferreira & Bettencourt LLP <ul style="list-style-type: none">Why will drafting could be a valuable addition to your practiceAdvice for simplifying the process and helpful tools to implementHow to avoid dabbling and potential pitfalls		
9:25 am	Aborted Real Estate Transactions: The Latest from the Courts Harry Herskowitz, Delzotto, Zorzi LLP Get up-to-speed on the latest key principles and guidance from the Courts on aborted real estate transactions, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Purpose of the depositEquitable remedy of relief against forfeitureCalculating innocent vendors’ damages and mitigation obligations		
9:50 am	Common Estate Planning Challenges and Strategies to Address Them Gosha Sekhon, Sekhon Legal Services Hear about common potential traps that arise in estate planning and equip yourself with effective strategies for managing them		
10:15 am	Safe Funds Transfer: Is It Really Money? Ray Leclair, LawPro Safiyya Vankalwala, LawPro Your online bank account shows the funds, but is it actually money? Here’s what you didn’t learn in law school about Payments Canada and the rules of fund transfers. Learn about the real risks and how to protect yourself.		
10:40 am	Networking Break		