

## 17th Annual Class Actions Colloquium

### Class Actions



In Person



Webcast

**Date:** November 25, 2025 | 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Reception to follow

**Location:** **COLLOQUIUM:**  
**OBA Conference Centre**  
20 Toronto Street, 2nd Floor  
Toronto, ON M5C 2B8

**POST-EVENT RECEPTION:**  
**Deloitte | The Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund**  
Legacy Space  
Bay Adelaide East, 6th floor  
8 Adelaide Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 0A9

**Chairs:** **Jacqueline Palef**, Branch MacMaster LLP  
**Vera Toppings**, Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP



This program contains:  
**Professionalism Hours\***: 1 hour 0 minutes  
**EDI\***: 1 hour 0 minutes  
**Substantive Hours**: This program is eligible for up to 5 hours and 0 minutes

\*Professionalism and EDI hours are still being assessed

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

The Annual Class Actions Colloquium is back for its 17<sup>th</sup> year! Join our outstanding faculty of speakers as they provide critical insights on emerging issues. Hear perspectives from judges in our popular “Views from the Bench” panel and receive practical tips to help you confidently navigate the issues arising in your practice.

Whether you represent plaintiffs or defendants, you won’t want to miss this unique opportunity to benefit from the knowledge of our experienced faculty.

Register now to secure your spot.

8:30 am **Registration and Coffee**

9:00 am **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

9:05 am **Litigating Social Justice Issues in the Context of Class Actions**  
**Moderator: Karine Bédard**, Sotos LLP  
**Matthew Chung**, Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General, Crown Law Office – Civil  
**Valérie Lord**, McCarthy Tétrault LLP  
**Jonathan Foreman**, Foreman & Company  
This panel will explore how class actions are used to address issues such as Charter violations, institutional abuse, and discrimination and will consider the strategic and ethical challenges that arise when litigating social justice class actions. The panelists will examine how evolving legal frameworks and recent case law are shaping the landscape of social justice class actions today.

10:00 am **Procedural Challenges and Creative Solutions**  
**Moderator: Jonathan Chen**, Lenczner Slaght LLP  
**Paul-Erik Veel**, Lenczner Slaght LLP  
**Leah Donaldson**, Public Guardian and Trustee of British Columbia  
**Guillaume Vadeboncoeur**, Deloitte Forensic  
Our panel of experts will discuss recent procedural complexities with litigation management and settlement administration including AI use, fraud detection and management, and fees.

10:45 am **Health Break**

11:00 am **Living with Change: The 2020 CPA and 2026 Proposed Rules**

**Moderator: Adrian Pel**, Borden Ladner Gervais LLP  
**Professor Suzanne Chiodo**, Osgoode Hall Law School  
**Jeremy Martin**, Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP  
**Golnaz Nayerahmadi**, Rochon Genova  
Just as the 2020 CPA amendments turn five, the *Rules of Civil Procedure* are set to undergo a seismic shift. Join our expert panel for a critical retrospective of the 2020 amendments and a discussion of how the proposed 2026 *Rules* amendments will affect class action practice.

11:45 am **Fireside Chat**  
**Moderator: Jacqueline Palef**, Branch MacMaster LLP  
**Moderator: Vera Toppings**, Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP  
**The Honourable Paul Crampton**, Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Canada

12:15 pm **Networking Lunch**

1:15 pm **What’s Next in Class Actions? New Developments and Hot Topics**  
**Moderator: Ethan Schiff**, Bennett Jones LLP  
**The Honourable Ranjan K. Agarwal**, Ontario Superior Court of Justice  
**Rahool Agarwal**, Lax O’Sullivan Lisus Gottlieb  
**Sarah Whitmore**, Torys LLP  
Join our expert panel for an in-depth discussion on the latest trends, legislative updates, and judicial decisions shaping the future of class actions in Ontario and across Canada.

**PROGRAM REGISTRATION IS ONLINE** [www.oba.org/pd](http://www.oba.org/pd)  
**Questions?** [pd@oba.org](mailto:pd@oba.org)



2:15 pm **Product Liability and the Changing Landscape of Consumer Protection**

**Moderator:** [Garth Myers](#), Kalloghlian Myers LLP

[Sabrina Lombardi](#), Hammerco Lawyers LLP

[Peter Pliszka](#), Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP

[Cheryl Woodin](#), Bennett Jones LLP

The product liability class action landscape is undergoing a major shift. Join our expert panelists for a discussion about pleading, certifying, proving and defending product liability claims in this changing environment.

3:00 pm **Health Break**

3:15 pm **What You Need to Know about Financing**

**Moderator:** [Chelsea Smith](#), McKenzie Lake Lawyers LLP

[Remissa Hirji](#), The Law Foundation of Ontario

[Naomi Loewith](#), Omni Bridgeway

[Tina Yang](#), Goldblatt Partners LLP

Join our expert panel for insights on financing class actions, including public and private third-party funding, the strategic use of litigation insurance as an alternative to third-party funding, and how law firms manage the financial demands of individual issues stages.

4:00 pm **Views from the Bench**

**Moderator:** [Jacqueline Palef](#), Branch MacMaster LLP

**Moderator:** [Vera Toppings](#), Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP

[The Honourable Mandy Aylen](#), Federal Court of Canada

[The Honourable Ward K. Branch](#), Supreme Court of British Columbia

[The Honourable Shaun E. Finn](#), Superior Court of Quebec

[The Honourable Janet Leiper](#), Ontario Superior Court of Justice

Benefit from a discussion with the Bench about a broad range of issues in class action proceedings from coast to coast.

4:50 pm **Closing Remarks**

5:00 pm **Program Concludes, Reception to follow**

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**Questions?** [pd@oba.org](mailto:pd@oba.org)