

NEWSLETTER

TO: H&PELA LAW ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

FROM: JUDITH DALE

DATE: DECEMBER 2025

**RE: ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS & UPCOMING
EVENTS**

1. WHAT'S NEW?

NEW! BROWN BAG WEBINARS

Straight from the Bench: Using AI in Court Responsibly

Date: January 21, 2026
Time: 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm
Location: Quinte Courthouse, 2nd floor, law library
Cost: \$40.00



Details: Insight from The Honourable E. Ria Tzimas on using AI in court responsibly, avoiding evidentiary traps, and meeting professional obligations. She outlines core AI concepts (generative, assistive, agentic), how models are trained and updated, and why black box opacity, bias, hallucinations, and deepfakes

demand early diligence, proper expert selection, and authentication strategies.

The program reviews recent Ontario examples involving fabricated citations and misused authorities, stresses hyperlinking and pagination requirements, and reiterates duties to verify sources, supervise work, protect privilege, and avoid misleading the court.

Lawyers can receive clear guidance on pretrial vetting, targeted voir dres, and conservative admissibility decisions where AI-affected evidence risks undue prejudice.

Overall, the session focuses on developing AI literacy and rigorous evidentiary discipline so counsel can deploy AI tools without compromising fairness, accuracy, or professional responsibility.

Handouts included

55 minutes (0.917 hour) Professionalism

2. NEW ACQUISITIONS AT THE LAW LIBRARY

Books available for REFERENCE only – short-term loans

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| • Chow | <i>Taxation of Trusts & Estates: A Practitioner's Guide</i> |
| • Greenspan | <i>Detention, Arrest and the Right to Counsel</i> |
| • Karimjee | <i>Issues in Criminal Trials & Summary Appeal Law</i> |
| • Libman | <i>Handling Summar Conviction Offences 2025-2026</i> |
| • Richetti | <i>Construction Law in Canada</i> |

3. LIBRARY TEXT DISCARDS

Please note: due to the demand for the books, requests must be limited to **one item per individual**. Thank you.

The following books are being withdrawn from circulation. If you are interested in any of these titles, please phone or fax the library and the book(s) will be held for you.

If the text is of a size that can fit into the mailbox, you may pick it up at QCC from your mailbox on the first floor on request. If it is a larger text, it can be held in the law library for you to pick up at your convenience.

Allen & Libman	<i>Handling Summary Conviction Offences</i>	2024
Blake	<i>Administrative Law in Canada</i>	6 th edition
David & Smith	<i>Prosecuting & Defending Fraud Cases</i>	2 nd edition
Watt	<i>Watt's Manual of Criminal Evidence</i>	2024

4. INFORMATION UPDATES:

REMINDER: UPDATES FOR THE PROFESSION

Notice: Amendments to the Rules of Civil Procedure (O. Reg. 226/25), Rules of the Small Claims Court (O. Reg. 227/25), and Family Law Rules (O. Reg. 228/25)

On October 1, 2025, Ontario Regulations 226/25, 227/25, and 228/25 were filed to respectively amend the Rules of Civil Procedure, Rules of the Small Claims Court, and Family Law Rules (collectively, the “rules”) to authorize the Ontario Courts Public Portal (OCPD) for filing and issuance in Toronto and other operational features and processes. Specifically, the Regulations amend the rules to:

- Indicate that Justices Services Online (JSO) portals will no longer be available in Toronto, effective October 3, 2025 at 5 p.m.
- Introduce rules to allow paperless processes for civil and small claims matters in Toronto (i.e., court staff will be permitted to convert paper documents into an electronic copy in the court file and return the paper copy to the filer).
- Introduce rules to authorize electronic filing and issuance through the OCPD in Toronto.
- Introduce rules to indicate that in Toronto, court staff, instead of parties, will directly upload
 - documents from the electronic court file into Case Center through the new digital solution.
 - A summary of O. Reg. 226/25, O. Reg. 227/25, and O. Reg. 228/25 is available on Ontario’s Regulatory Registry at 25-MAG015
- The amendments with regard to JSO availability for Toronto civil, small claims and family matters, and paperless processes in Toronto for civil and small claims matters

will come into force on October 4, 2025. The amendments regarding electronic filing and issuance through the OCPP and uploading into Case Center will come into force on October 14, 2025.

AI PROCUREMENT GUIDE

A working guide to AI procurement protocols

LiRN Board Member Annette Demers has been one of the driving forces behind the development of CALL's new guide to the procurement of AI products. Read all about it in this University of Windsor feature article and click below to access the guide!

GET THE GUIDE

5. WESTLAW TRAINING MODULES

With up-to-date content and essential tools, Westlaw Canada enables effective, accurate online legal research through their Legal Learning Hub.

You can find the Thomson Reuters *Westlaw* training modules with sessions on *Getting Started*, *Finding Expert Commentary*, *Case Law Research Finding Tools*, *Case Law Research Keyword Searching*, *Legislative Research*, *Regulatory Research*, *Secondary Sources*, *Public Records*, *Litigation* and more, at

<https://training.thomsonreuters.com/legal-westlaw-edge>

FREE DATABASES AT THE LAW LIBRARY

Free access to subscription databases at your Ontario courthouse library!
e-LiRN is a suite of subscription electronic resources available in all courthouse libraries across Ontario.

You can find these time-saving, comprehensive and case-winning resources for FREE at your local courthouse library! Courthouse library staff are also ready to assist you with all your research needs to efficiently help you answer your pressing questions!

NOTE: All lawyers in Ontario are entitled to use courthouse libraries' resources for free.

6. Member Rewards!

A reminder to all association members that they have access to the rewards program here:

<https://www.fola.ca/resource/member-rewards>

Discounts are available for a number of services and products. The FOLA partnership member reward letter is available from your law library at hcla@on.aibn.com

NOTE: Regarding Via Rail: unfortunately, the members' use of the VIA code did not hit the revenue benchmark with VIA, and FOLA no longer has a discount code. However, they were advised that if anyone is a CAA member then a discount is available.

FOLA will be keeping track of revenue from plenary sessions to see if they hit the benchmark this year.

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