

NEWSLETTER

TO: H&PELA LAW ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

FROM: JUDITH DALE

DATE: FEBRUARY 2026

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

1. WHAT'S NEW? THE COURTHOUSE CAFÉ IS BACK!



COURT CAFE NEWS

YOU ASKED — WE LISTENED!

To better serve our courthouse community,
the Court Café has updated its operating schedule.

Effective **MONDAY FEBRUARY 23RD 2026**

**Mondays | Wednesdays | Thursdays
8:30 AM – 2:00 PM**

Join us for delicious soups, sandwiches, fresh salads,
baked goods, soft drinks — and REALLY good coffee.

2026 BROWN BAG WEBINARS CPD #2

Running Your Law Practice Efficiently

Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2026
Time: 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm
Location: Quinte Courthouse, 2nd floor, law library
Cost: **\$40.00**



Details: Learn from experienced practitioners across various areas of law and gain practical insights into the business of law firm management.

This session will cover topics like using independent contractors, effectively managing staff without burnout, and dealing with unexpected expenses related to payroll and remittances. Learn how to keep things running smoothly.

Bring your brown bag lunch with you (or alternatively, the QCC café is open Wednesdays)

1.5 (1 ½) hours Professionalism

2. NEW ACQUISITIONS AT THE LAW LIBRARY

Books available for REFERENCE only – short-term loans

- Desloges *Canadian Refugee Protection Law Guide*
 - Isaac *Aboriginal Law*
 - Kaplinsky *Ziff's Principles of Property Law*
 - McLeod *Annual Review of Family Law 2025*
 - Wolf *Ontario Residential Real Estate for Practitioners*
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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The following books are being withdrawn from circulation.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.

Fryer	<i>McLeod's Ontario Family Law Rules annotated</i>	2024-25
Lavender	<i>Annotated Ontario Human Rights Code</i>	2025
MacDonald	<i>Annotated Family Law Act</i>	2025
McCormack	<i>Dictionary of Canadian Law</i>	5 th edition
Rintoul	<i>Wills and Estates (looseleaf)</i>	2022
Wileman	<i>Tribunal Practice and Procedure</i>	2 nd edition

4. INFORMATION UPDATES:

FOLA REAL ESTATE UPDATE

Fola has been advised that the Province of Ontario is delaying the implementation of the 10-day rescission (cooling-off period) for construction of new homes, which was intended to be January 1, 2026. It will now be implemented as of January 1, 2027. Please note this correction in the advert that you are advising your clients of the same.

WARNING: MALWARE SCAM

If you receive an event invitation via email, verify it's legit before you RSVP, as you may not actually be invited to anything. Malwarebytes Labs has identified a **new scam** in which threat actors are using party invites to trick users into installing a remote access tool (RAT) that gives them full control over infected devices.

These malicious invites contain a ScreenConnect installer. The scam starts with an innocuous-looking email invitation with an informal "Save the Date" vibe that may appear to come from a friend or acquaintance. The message contains a link to "View Invitation" for event details. If you click

through, you'll end up on a landing page with a bold "You're Invited" header and a button to download your invitation, but you don't actually need to take any further action—your browser automatically triggers the download of a .msi file, which is not actually a party invitation or RSVP form but an installer.

The MSI silently installs ScreenConnect Client, a legitimate IT support tool that allows remote access into the user's machine. Once this connection is established, attackers have the ability to see your screen, control your mouse and keyboard, and upload or download files—even if you restart your computer. All of this happens in the background with no obvious indicators that a remote access tool has been installed and is now running, so victims are unlikely to have cause for concern.

You should always be alert to unsolicited invites sent via regular email with a link to an external site as well as any communication that prompts you to download or install software. These days, invitations are commonly delivered through apps and digital services like Evite, Paperless Post, or Apple Invites, which are generally more trustworthy than random emails with hyperlinked text. If you're unsure whether the invite is real, verify with the sender through another channel before clicking or downloading anything.

If you've already downloaded ScreenConnect from a malicious invite, Malwarebytes recommends disconnecting from the internet and uninstalling the program immediately. Run a security scan to check your device for malware, and change important passwords from a separate device.

https://lifehacker.com/tech/scammers-are-sending-fake-invites-with-malware?utm_source=firefox-newtab-en-us

REMINDER: GENERAL LEGAL INFORMATION

[Canadian Law Blogs List](#)

A comprehensive list of Canadian law blogs.

[Slaw.ca](#)

Slaw focuses on legal research, legal information and legal technology

[Law Society of Ontario – Great Library – E-resources Page](#)

[HeinOnline Libguides](#)

Law Society of Ontario licensees have free remote access to HeinOnline through the Great Library. Email refstaff@lsuc.on.ca with your name, affiliation, and Law Society number to

obtain your login. HeinOnline contains English Reports (Reprint), Provincial Statutes, Law Journals, & more...

REMINDER ENHANCED LICENSEE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: EFFECTIVE MARCH 31,2026

At its September 2025 meeting, Convocation approved a recommendation from the Professional Regulation Committee aimed at increasing transparency in respect of the information that the Law Society discloses about licensees in our public register, made available on the Lawyer and Paralegal Directory by:

- Amending [By-law 8](#) to require that the Law Society's register include an indication that a licensee has been *found guilty of any offence* that the licensee is required to report to the Law Society under By-law 8.
- Amending By-law 8 to require that the Law Society's register include an indication if a licensee is authorized to practice any other regulated profession in Canada and a link to that profession's public register.

These increased transparency measures follow the amendments approved by [Convocation in May 2025](#) and follow extensive consultation with the professions and the public.

For more information, [read the report](#).

Please continue to follow the Licensee Update and visit this page <https://lso.ca/about-lso/initiatives/increased-transparency> for more information on increasing transparency on the Lawyer and Paralegal Directory.

5. Member Rewards!

A reminder to all association members that they have access to the rewards program here for Bell, Hilton Hotels, Alexi AI generated research memos, Canadian Collaborative for Engagement and Conflict Management, Clio Technology Solutions and more :

<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.

H&PELA will not be posting on Musk's "X" and has joined "the great X-odus"
<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cqx9e0y17ww0>

Find us online @ <http://www.hastingscountylaw.com/>