

NEWSLETTER

TO: H&PELA LAW ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

FROM: JUDITH DALE

DATE: JULY 2025

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

1. WHAT'S NEW?

LUNCH & LEARN 2025 CPD #7



Two's Company, Three's a Legal Precedent: Multi-Parent Issues Panel 2025

Date **Wednesday, August 20**, 2025
Time: 1:00 pm to 1:30 pm
Location: Quinte Courthouse 2nd floor, lawyers' lounge

Chair(s) Jenny Johnston Erin Lepine

Cost: \$55.00

Details:

Jenny Johnston and Erin Lapin explore the complex landscape of multi-parent issues in Ontario family law. They examine how different people, such as grandparents, stepparents, donors and intended parents, can seek court orders under the CLRA and the Divorce Act, each carrying its own legal test and lasting effects. Recent case law clarifies the threshold for grandparent contact, the settled intention test for stepparents and the tension between parental autonomy and best interests in parenting and contact orders.

Legal parentage reforms introduced by the All Families Are Equal Act are central to the discussion. Rebuttable presumptions, preconception agreements and declarations of parentage or non-parentage now define who can become a legal parent, regardless of the number of parties involved. Adoption orders remain limited to two spouses, which leaves declarations of parentage as the path for multi-parent families formed through assisted reproduction or polyamorous relationships. Practical case studies expose planning pitfalls, Jurisdictional constraints and the need for careful legal advice for clients with diverse family structures.

A light lunch will be served

30 minutes Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

2. NEW ACQUISITIONS AT THE LAW LIBRARY

Law Society of Ontario – Dept. of Professional Development

- *Annotated Powers of Attorney for Property & Personal Care*
- *Anatomy of a Trial: Keeping Your Cool in the Heat of a Trial*
- *Your Comprehensive Guide to Residential Real Estate Transactions: Loans and Mortgage Enforcement*

Books available for REFERENCE only – short-term loans

Krushelnicki	<i>Practical Guide to the Ontario Land Tribunal</i> 3 rd ed.
Millar	<i>Ontario Annual Practice 2025-26</i>
Zuker	<i>Ontario Small Claims Court Practice</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The following books are being withdrawn from circulation.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.

Babe	<i>Sale & Operation of a Business</i>	2022
Castel	<i>Practical Guide to Canadian Legal Research</i>	1 st edition
Millar	<i>Ontario Annual Practice</i>	2024-2025
Segal	<i>Annotated Ontario Provincial Offences Act</i>	2024
Zuker	<i>Ontario Small Claims Court Practice</i>	2025

4. INFORMATION UPDATES:

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

[Preamble]

I am a law student working with Pro Bono Students Canada's (PBSC) Family Justice Centre (FJC). With the assistance of law students and volunteer lawyers, the FJC offers free unbundled family law service to low-income people in Ontario. I am reaching out to request that you circulate the opportunity to volunteer with the FJC to your members. The FJC program is growing, and we have a need for new volunteer lawyers to start right away.

On a high level, family lawyers volunteering with the FJC provide summary legal advice during virtual legal clinics and in some cases, supervise law students in limited scope document drafting. As the clinic operates entirely virtually, there are no restrictions on where volunteer lawyers can be located in Ontario. It is a unique opportunity for your members to mentor law students and meaningfully provide access to justice for low-income Ontarians.

I have included a one-page informational sheet which highlights what our program does, why it would be an attractive volunteer opportunity to your members, and how to sign up in the attached document. Please include this attachment when communicating with your members.

I have also included some communication options, including a draft email and social media post you can elect to use to share the volunteer opportunity with your members.

To the attention of the Hastings & Prince Edward Law Association:

I am writing to inform you about a volunteer opportunity with Pro Bono Students Canada's Family Justice Centre. The Family Justice Centre is a virtual legal clinic that offers free

unbundled family law services to low-income people in Ontario. Family lawyers volunteering with the FJC provide summary legal advice during virtual legal clinics and in some cases, supervise law students in limited scope document drafting. As the clinic operates entirely virtually, there are no restrictions on where volunteer lawyers can be located and the FJC is able to provide services to anywhere in Ontario, including historically under-served locations. It is a unique opportunity to mentor law students and meaningfully provide access to justice to low-income people in Ontario. Volunteer lawyers can begin volunteering for the FJC right away for our summer clinic dates. For more information, please visit their [website](#). To join the roster of volunteer lawyers, please fill out this [online survey](#).

Please reach out to me, or PBSC's Acting Director, Family Justice, Stephanie Giannandrea, at sgiannandrea@familyjusticecentre.ca with any questions. Thank you for taking the time to read about the FJC.

Kind regards,

Naheed Nero

Student Caseworker

Pro Bono Students Canada's Family Justice Centre

USING GENERATIVE AI

This paper was created by the Saskatchewan Law Society's Access to Legal Information, primarily for the public, however it merits a review as it outlines risks of GenAI tools and outlines differences between curated research tools and uncurated datasets.

You can review the document at

https://www.lawsociety.sk.ca/wp-content/uploads/SALI_GenAIGuide.pdf

5. Lexis Training Opportunities for Ontario Lawyers:

- August 25 at 11AM: <https://relx.zoom.us/j/99518635219>
 - September 18 at 12PM: <https://relx.zoom.us/j/91943300479>
-

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

Follow us on **twitter** @HastingsCty_Law
Find us online @ <http://www.hastingscountylaw.com/>