



# COVID-19 & THE PRACTICE OF LAW

## WEEKLY UPDATE

Fola.ca

### SECTOR CHECK IN LOG #67 August 11, 2021 Summary

#### Invited Participants: Sector Calls

OBA, FOLA, LSO, LAO, the Advocates' Society, & OTLA

Superior Court of Justice in Ontario, Court of Appeal for Ontario, & Ontario Court of Justice

MAG - Political, Department staff, and the Recovery Secretariat

#### Issues discussed:

##### 1. COURTS

- ❖ On July 30, 2021, the OCJ issued the following Update: Enhanced Designation Pilot Expanding to Toronto East (1911 Eglinton Ave. E.) on August 9, 2021 and to Oshawa on August 16, 2021. You can learn more [here](#).
- ❖ On July 30, 2021, the OCJ issued a Notice re: Scheduling of Family Matters in the Ontario Court of Justice. You can read that [here](#).
- ❖ On July 23, 2021, the SCJ updated their [Consolidated Notice to the Profession and Public Regarding the Small Claims Court](#). The Update:
  - Provides for scheduling terms of payment hearings and new trials;
  - Adds a reminder to file all documents that a claim is based on;
  - Explains that the Court is not dismissing actions for delay until further notice;
  - Clarifies and shortens various sections.
- ❖ **SMALL CLAIMS LIVE WEBINAR:** The recording of the Small Claims Court Working Group webinar that took place on June 23, 2021 is now available! Due to unforeseen technical difficulties, the sound unfortunately cuts out during the 6:54-7:21 and 9:54-10:54 time slots. In both time slots, the speaker was introducing an upcoming topic. The slide presentations used in this webinar are available on the Superior Court of Justice website. Small Claims Court Administrative Judge Laura Ntoukas' slides and Court Services Division's slides are available on the video page [here](#).
- ❖ **OPENING OF THE COURTS:** The Opening of the Courts is scheduled for September 14<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm. It will be a virtual event and you can watch [here](#).

##### 2. MAG

- ❖ **JUSTICE SERVICES ONLINE (PLATFORM ENHANCEMENTS):** MAG has made the following changes to the JSO:
  - Court documents that have been reviewed and accepted by court staff will be digitally date stamped and electronically issued.
  - New document types will be eligible for submission through Civil Submissions Online. These include: A Statement of Claim where a motion was filed before commencement of an action; and an Order of a Court, Board, Tribunal, Municipality or ministry for Enforcement.
  - A new process to schedule and generate Mandatory Information Program (MIP) notices for family court proceedings.
  - The ability to provide a fee waiver certificate to a client using the court case tracking system's email functionality (for fee waiver requests that have been filed through JSO).

- Additional contact information from representatives (i.e. lawyers, paralegals) and self-represented parties will be required when new cases are created for all business lines.

The Ministry will continue to enhance its online services based on user feedback. If you have any questions or would like to share your insights, please contact Vaia Pappas, Director, Operational Support Branch, Ministry of Attorney General at 416-326-2514 or [Vaia.Pappas@ontario.ca](mailto:Vaia.Pappas@ontario.ca).

- ❖ **JUDICIAL VACANCY:** The Judicial Appointments Advisory Committee (JAAC) is welcoming applications for a judicial position (Criminal) in Windsor. The deadline to apply is September 3<sup>rd</sup>. You can learn more [here](#).

### 3. MAG RECOVERY SECRETARIAT

- ❖ **HVAC REPORTING:** There is a new way to track Courthouse HVAC reporting. To learn more, visit [here](#).
- ❖ **REMINDER:** Questions about Courthouse operations during COVID-19 can be directed to Samantha Poisson at [MAGrecoverysecretariat@ontario.ca](mailto:MAGrecoverysecretariat@ontario.ca).

### 4. LSO

- ❖ The Law Society has extended the deadline for their "first-of-its-kind" National Study on the Well-being of legal professionals to August 30<sup>th</sup>! If you haven't already done so, please complete that now! [Here's the link](#).
- ❖ The LSO is currently seeking applications from qualified lawyers and paralegals for the [Justices of the Peace Appointments Advisory Committee](#) for the following regions:
  - Central West region: Application deadline September 15
  - East region: Application deadline September 15
  - Northwest region: Application deadline October 1
  - West region: Application deadline October 1The link to the application can be found [here](#).

### 5. LAO

- ❖ **REMINDER: LAO SURVEY FOR ROSTER MEMBERS:** Legal Aid Ontario has an ongoing survey for panel lawyers regarding tariff billing. The survey is available through the billing portal and LAO is also accepting written submissions. The survey is open until August 12<sup>th</sup> (tomorrow!). You can learn more [here](#).

### 6. FOLA

- ❖ **SUBMISSIONS & CONSULTATIONS:**

**1. LSO COMPETENCE TASK FORCE:** FOLA will be preparing a Submission in response to the LSO's Call for Comment on the [Competence Task Force's Report: Renewing the Law Society's Continuing Competence Framework](#). If you would like to provide FOLA with comments for consideration for inclusion in our Submission, please do so **prior to October 20<sup>th</sup>** by emailing Katie at [katie.robinette@fola.ca](mailto:katie.robinette@fola.ca). If you would like to respond directly to the LSO, you may respond to some or all of the questions through their [Call for Comment](#) portal until Nov. 30, 2021.

- ❖ **REMINDER:** September 30<sup>th</sup> was announced as a new federal holiday: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Day. As such **banks will be closed on September 30<sup>th</sup>**.
- ❖ **VOLUNTEER POSTING:** FOLA has an opening for a non-paid intern to serve as our Social Media Manager. Learn more [here](#).

### QUESTIONS/CONCERNS?

Law Association members are welcome to send any issues/concerns related to the practice of law caused by the COVID-19 epidemic to FOLA at [katie.robinette@fola.ca](mailto:katie.robinette@fola.ca) and we will continue to address them in as timely a manner as possible. Please also note that FOLA cannot assist in issues related to a specific case and the Courts will NOT provide clarification on any Notice to the Profession.