



COVID-19 & THE PRACTICE OF LAW

WEEKLY UPDATE

Fola.ca

SECTOR CHECK IN LOG #71 October 13, 2021 Summary

Invited Participants: Sector Calls

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

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

MAG - Political, Department staff, and the Recovery Secretariat

Issues discussed:

1. COURTS

- ❖ The SCJ updated their [Consolidated Notice to the Profession, Litigants, Accused Persons, Public and the Media](#). Effective October 5, 2021, new paragraph 4 in Section D was added to clarify the process for submitting to the court documents that are, or may be, subject of a sealing order.
- ❖ The SCJ updated their [Supplementary Notice to the Profession and Litigants in Civil and Family Matters Regarding the Caselines Pilot, E-Filing, and Fee Payment](#) on October 5, 2021. This notice has been amended to clarify the procedure for submitting to the court documents that are, or are proposed to be, subject to a sealing order (Part C, paragraph 8).
- ❖ The SCJ updated their [Consolidated Notice to the Profession and Public Regarding the Small Claims Court](#) on October 5, 2021. This notice reminds parties that, after they file their hearing materials, they must also email them to the Court at least 3 days before the hearing. There are a few exceptions. See section 13 (Emailing Documents for Hearing Purposes) for more information.
- ❖ The SCJ is noticing issues with uptake in CaseLines - especially in the Central West. Lawyers need to uploading files as directed.
- ❖ The SCJ is encouraging all Family Lawyers to read and abide by their [Province-wide Notice to the Profession Regarding Family Law Cases](#) - especially regarding the requirements to confer in advance of a conference (updated September 13, 2021).
- ❖ The OCJ (Criminal) updated a notice about Enhanced Designation Pilot Expanding to College Park on October 4, 2021. You can read the latest announcements re: Criminal Proceedings in the OCJ [here](#).
- ❖ **SCJ SMALL CLAIMS COURT WORKING GROUP:** Some time has passed since a call for comments on the functionality of the Small Claims Court in Covid times last went out and, while there have been lots of changes since, we continue to move forward with that process. FOLA is requesting that practitioners as well as Deputy Judges take a moment to consider and comment on what works well and also what could use improvement in our Small Claims Court so that constructive feedback can continue to flow to the Small Claims Court Working Group. As before, please send comments to Jane Robertson (FOLA Treasurer) at jajadiver@bellnet.ca.
- ❖ The Court of Appeal is planning on returning to in-person hearings on November 8th. They have done a trial run and the goal is to have Judges in person and Counsel and Self Reps can attend in-person or via Zoom. Public and media to watch virtually. More information will come - pending on continued reduced COVID caseloads.

2. MAG

- ❖ **JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS:** The Judicial Appointments Advisory Committee (JAAC) is welcoming applications for OCJ positions in North Bay and Sudbury. Deadline is today (October 13th). There is also an opening for an OCJ position in Elliot Lake (bilingual). That deadline is for October 26th. Visit [here](#) for more information.
- ❖ **VACCINES:** MAG is working on a vaccination guidance document. We hope to have that shortly.

3. RECOVERY SECRETARIAT

- ❖ **REMINDER:** Questions about Courthouse operations during COVID-19 can be directed to Samantha Poisson at MAGrecoverysecretariat@ontario.ca.

4. LSO

- ❖ **LSO COMPETENCE TASK FORCE:** FOLA will be preparing a Submission in response to the LSO's Call for Comment on the LSO's [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 20th by emailing Katie at 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 [portal](#) until Nov. 30, 2021.

5. LAWPRO

- ❖ **INSURANCE RENEWAL DEADLINE:** It's time for lawyers in private practice to renew their E&O insurance! Deadline is November 8th. You can do that [here](#).

6. LAO

- ❖ Legal Aid Ontario (LAO) is covering the cost of a lawyer for those whose matters are more than twelve months old and have had their cases adjourned to Judge-Led Intensive Case Management Court (JICMC). The JICMC was set up to address the large backlog of cases resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Learn more [here](#).
- ❖ Reminder that the Legal Aid Services Act comes into effect on October 18th, at which time, the new Rules will be effective. You can learn more about the LASA / Rules process [here](#).

7. FOLA

- ❖ **REMINDER: MENTAL HEALTH SPEAKER:** You may remember that Beth Beattie (who spoke at FOLA's May 2021 Plenary and who the LSO featured during their Mental Health for Legal Professionals Summit) has emailed FOLA to offer her services to any of our Law Associations who might like her to speak to your members. She noted that 68% of all attendees from the LSO's Mental Health Summit were from outside the GTA and many were sole practitioners or came from small firms – meaning that your members are likely interested in learning more. If you would like to invite Beth to speak to your organization, please email Katie (katie.robinette@fola.ca) with proposed times/dates and indicate the name of your Law Association and she will pass that information on to Beth.
- ❖ **JOB POSTING:** The Law Commission of Ontario is seeking a full-time Policy Counsel for a one-year contract that may be extended. Deadline to apply is October 15th. Learn more [here](#).
- ❖ **EVENT!** Develop the edge you need to drive new levels of success for your practice at the Clio Cloud Conference, happening virtually October 26-29, 2021. With over 100 learning-intensive sessions to choose from, you'll be sure to walk away with actionable strategies to level up your practice – and your career. Use the code **FOLA-BAR-MEMBER** at checkout to secure your \$79 pass today – and save \$120 off the regular price. Register [here](#).

- ❖ **SAVE THE DATE - FOLA'S FALL 2021 PLENARY!** FOLA's Fall Plenary will be held via Zoom on November 18th. Our theme is Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Legal Profession. Have a look at our Draft Agenda on our [Plenary Page](#). Updates are ongoing so be sure to keep visiting!
- ❖ **ACCESS TO JUSTICE WEEK:** Registration and the full schedule for #A2JWeek 2021 is now available. Visit [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 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.