

Diana Miles
Chief Executive Officer
Law Society of Ontario

FOLA Spring Plenary

May 2022



Law Society
of Ontario

Barreau
de l'Ontario

Agenda



Operational update



Key policy initiatives



Licensee resources



DHC

From pandemic response to “Working Forward”

- Distributed workforce: Onsite/remote/hybrid.
- Osgoode Hall and the Great Library opened to the public April 4.
- Vaccine policy in effect.
- Visit [LSO.ca/covid-19-response](https://www.lso.ca/covid-19-response) for more information.



Licensing updates

Optional June in-person calls to the bar

- Toronto
- London
- Ottawa

June paralegal receptions

- London
- Ottawa



Licensing updates - examinations

- In April, letters were issued to individuals who may be involved in the cheating scenario, advising that they will be subject to investigation through the regulatory process.
- Summer in-person lawyer licensing examinations are available on select dates in five cities:
 - London, Ottawa, Thunder Bay, Toronto and Windsor
 - July 5 to 8 barrister examination
 - July 19 to 22 solicitor examination.
- Summer paralegal examination will be available in Toronto, July 25 to 27.
- Visit <https://lso.ca/becoming-licensed> for FAQs and updates.

Snapshot of the professions

**as at December 31, 2021*

2,504 lawyers
licensed

1,269 paralegals
licensed

57,657 lawyer
members

10,608 paralegal
members

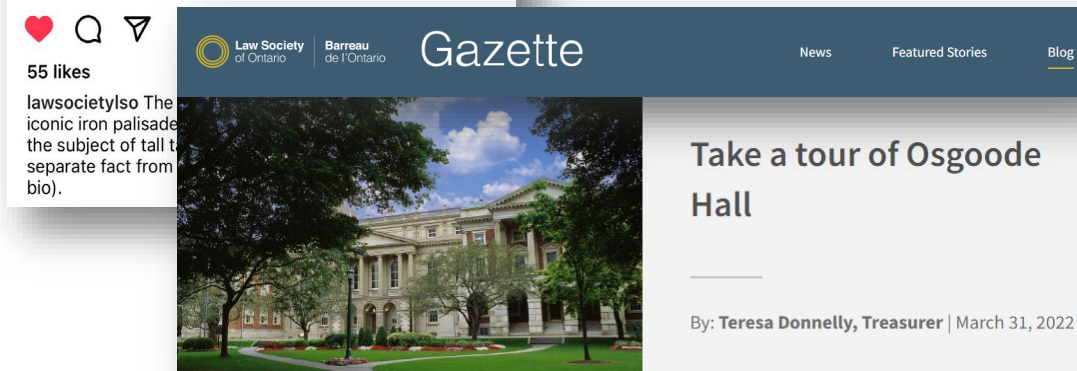
41,172 lawyers
practising law

3,873 paralegals
providing legal
services

4,238 complaints
referred to
Professional
Regulation Division

168 discipline
notices filed

Ontario Line development



- Planned construction of a new Osgoode Station will have significant impacts on the grounds of Osgoode Hall.
- As stewards of Osgoode Hall, the Law Society takes its responsibility to ensure the preservation and care of the heritage property and its grounds very seriously.
- Information about the project and consultation process is available on [metrolinx.com](https://www.metrolinx.com).
- Read the Gazette and follow the LSO on social media for stories, photos and highlights of the significance of Osgoode Hall.

Regulatory burden reduction initiatives

Harmonized filing date for Annual Report Filing, reporting CPD hours and annual fee payment.

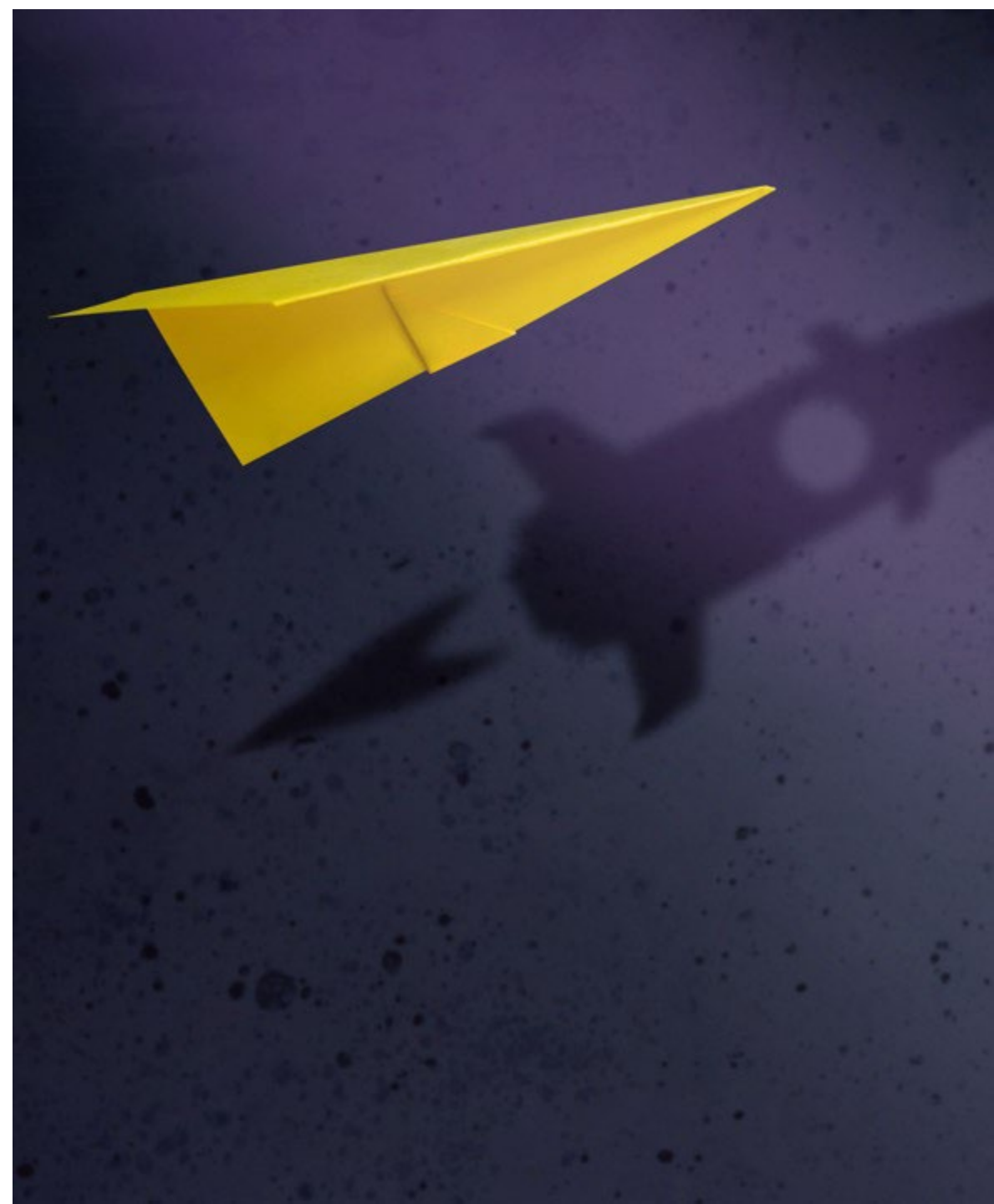
Updated Annual Report Filing:

- Reduced questions
- New logic flow
- Auto-fill technology
- Automatic tally of percentages to help ensure accuracy.

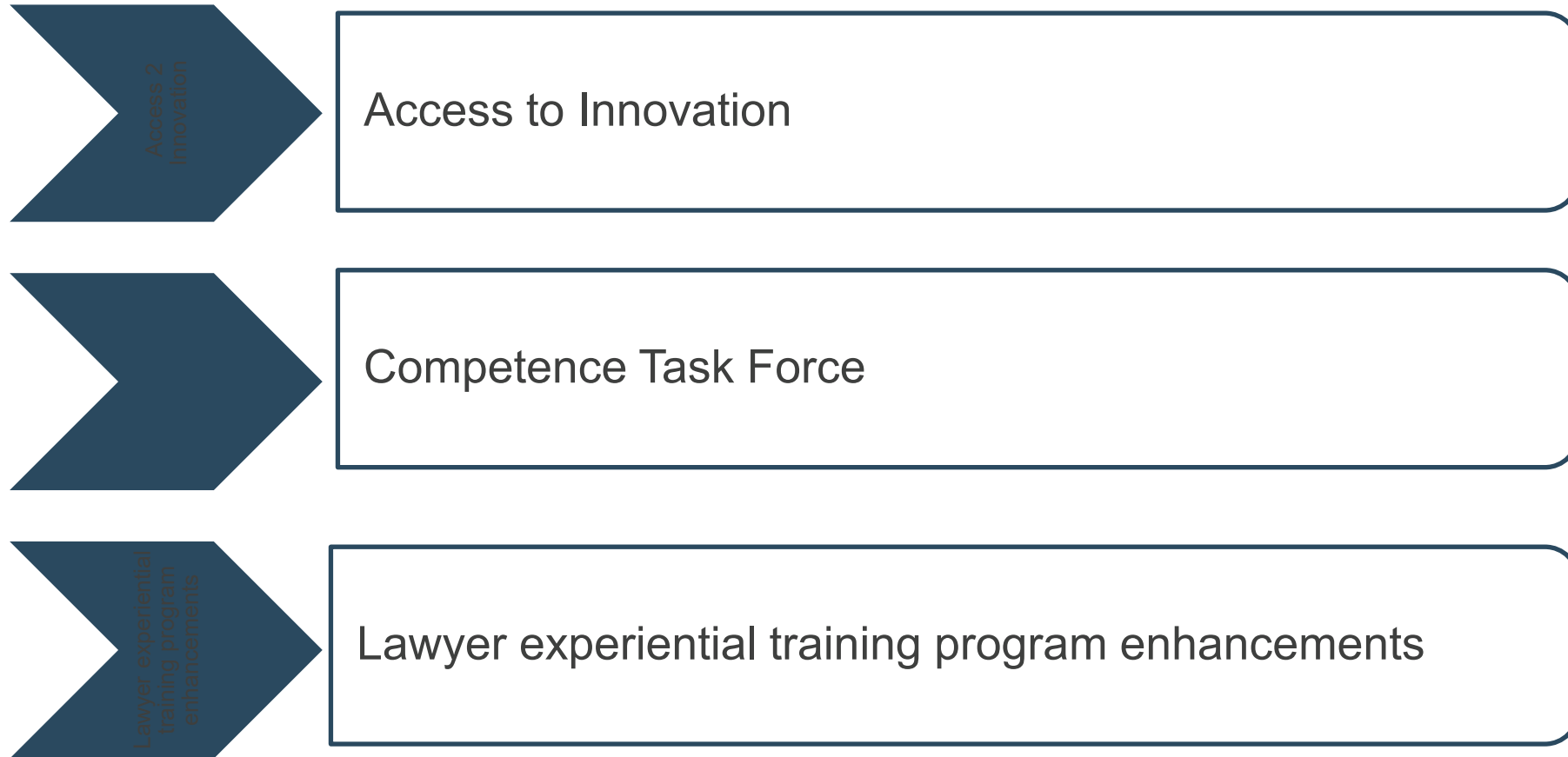


Innovate Forward

-
- 3-year business transformation project replacing current database software management systems with a new cloud-based, mobile-friendly system.
 - Enhanced self-service, customer-focused model for licensees, candidates and the public to make it easier for licensees to meet their regulatory obligations.
 - Stay tuned for more updates.



Key policy initiatives





Access to Innovation

- Five-year pilot project, launched November 2021.
- A2I is accepting applications from legal innovators who wish to offer their products or services directly to Ontario consumers.
- A provider's approval to participate in the A2I project means that they can offer their legal product or services for a limited period of time, subject to operating and reporting requirements that safeguard effective and ethical standards.
- Facilitating access to justice by helping Ontarians understand, navigate and address legal issues through technology.
- Visit LSO.ca/A2I.

Competence Task Force



- Call for Comment June 1 to November 20, 2021
- Ensure competence framework remains effective, proportionate and of assistance to lawyers and paralegals in maintaining their competence, while ensuring the public is protected.
- Next steps: Report and recommendations to be presented at May Convocation.

Lawyer experiential training program enhancements

- In April, Convocation confirmed a policy of mandatory minimum compensation for articling and other experiential training positions.
- The board sought additional feedback from the profession, following a November 2021 report to Convocation recommending a best practice approach encouraging rather than requiring mandatory minimum compensation.
- Feedback was received from 141 individuals and 24 organizations.
- Target implementation May 2023.

The Law Society of Ontario's Board of Directors (Convocation) invites all those interested to email their views about mandatory minimum compensation for experiential training.

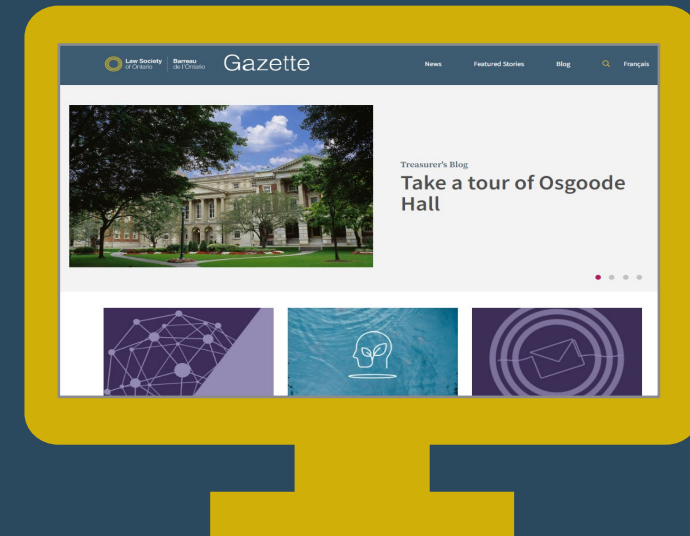
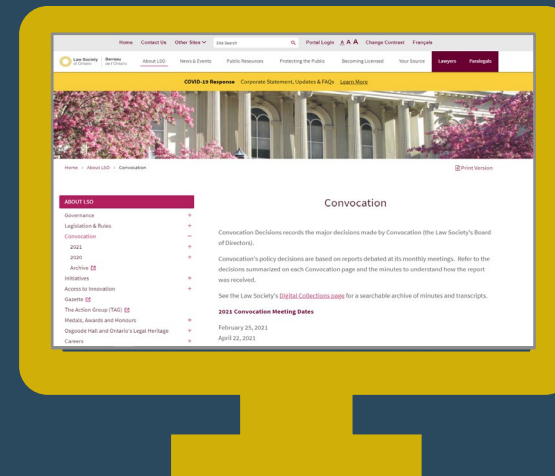
Deadline: Tuesday, March 15, 2022

For more information, visit:
[LSO.ca/LETPE](https://www.lso.ca/LETPE)

Licensee resources

www.LSO.ca

- Convocation materials
- Gazette
- A2I
- Well-being resource centre
- DHC



Licensee resources

- Personal Management Guidelines
- Coach and Advisor Network
- Practice Management Helpline
- Guide for working with Indigenous Peoples
- Equity Legal Education Series
- CPD offerings & complimentary CPD



Discrimination and Harassment Counsel program

The Discrimination and Harassment Counsel (DHC) program provides information and assistance to anyone who may have experienced or witnessed discrimination or harassment based on human rights grounds by a lawyer, paralegal, or student member of the Law Society in Ontario.

