

Toronto Lawyers' Association Report

Since the November 2020 Plenary, the Toronto Lawyers' Association (TLA) has been hard at work supporting our members in their practices during these unusual times due to the pandemic.

On the advocacy front, the TLA made submissions on important issues that affect our members' practices, including submissions to:

- the Law Society of Ontario regarding the proposed Family Legal Services Provider licence;
- the Attorney General on the proposal to expand the definition of "child";
- the Attorney General regarding the 2007 Hague Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and other forms of Family Maintenance;
- together with FOLA, to the Law Society of Ontario's Competence Task Force and Audit & Finance Committee concerning the funding cut announced in late 2020.

On the education front, the TLA provided a number of CPD programs in the last six months, expanding our focus to include programs specifically for newly called lawyers and law students while maintaining the offering for more experienced lawyers. Our program on unconscious bias in litigation, featuring Louise Arbour and Marie Henein, drew an impressive virtual crowd. Of the more than 20 programs offered in that time, a sampling includes:

- Supreme Court of Canada 2020: Recent Cases, Latest Trends;
- Top Practice Tips for the Commercial List;
- Parole, Temporary Release and Covid-19;
- Serious Illness Planning;
- Embracing LinkedIn – Make Your Profile Work for You;
- Remote Preparation of Witnesses and Clients for Pending Litigation.

We had our Annual General Meeting via Zoom on April 26, 2021, and welcomed three new members to our Board of Directors.

We are in the process of piloting a family and estates mentoring program, which will match senior family and estate lawyers with TLA members practising in these areas who are looking for guidance, mentorship and support.

The TLA Library continues to provide essential research services to members to support their practices. Without the print collection at their fingertips, the library staff find it actually takes longer and is sometimes more challenging to find the information they are looking for.