

The voice of the practicing lawyer

FOLA PLENARY

MAY • 2019

TORONTO, ON



POST PLENARY WRAP UP – MAY 2019

FOLA's May 2019 Plenary kicked off with a bang at Toronto's Albany club with a Dinner featuring a "Behind the Scenes at the CBC Series Street Legal Q&A" with Showrunner Bruce M. Smith, Actor Steve Lund and moderated by Toronto Entertainment Lawyer & Actor, Roselyn Kelada-Sedra followed by a lively Hospitality Suite back at the hotel (which apparently went on well into the early morning!).

Following an optional yoga session before breakfast, FOLA got started with brief opening remarks by FOLA Chair, Mike Winward (including Roll Call). Saving time during his opening remarks, Mike encouraged delegates to read his full Chair's Report, which can be found [here](#). Mike was immediately followed by Margaret Waddell, President of the Toronto Lawyers Association, who welcomed guests to Toronto and took a moment to issue a critical stand up against both levels of government on access to justice through cuts to legal aid services.

Next up was Katie Robinette, FOLA's Executive Director, who presented her [Report](#) followed by a very detailed (In Camera) update about LIRN by Jaye Hooper, FOLA Past Chair, and Nathan Baker, FOLA PRC Committee Chair.

Not wasting any time, we launched into FOLA Committee Reports with Helena Birt, Senior Program Director for the Steering Committee for the Family Law Limited Scope Services Project stepping in for FOLA Family Law Chair, Valerie Brown. You can view Helena's presentation [here](#) and read Valerie's Report [here](#). Following Rene Larson's Alternative Business Structures [Report](#), we heard from Eldon Horner, FOLA's Real Estate Committee Co-Chair who presented his [report](#) and Terry Brandon who briefly reported on [Legal Aid](#). Terry was followed immediately by David Field, CEO of Legal Aid Ontario who both spoke to, and generously answered questions from, Presidents and delegates.

Following our Treasurer's Report (not available online), we heard mini-presentations from three of our sponsors: [GoAhead Tours](#), Lawyers Financial (who are also the contributors to our [Financial Solutions Blog](#)), and the Ontario Courthouse Libraries Association ([about their new Library app](#)).

Before we knew it, it was time for lunch and we all headed over to Convocation Hall at the Law Society of Ontario to hear from Guest Speaker Dr. Susan Farrell who delivered a presentation called "[Health & Mental Wellness: Insights & Considerations For The Legal Profession](#)".

Our Thursday afternoon session got started with a presentation called "[Marketing Strategies for Lawyers](#)" by the Legal A Team's Jana Schilder who highlighted the consequences of not carving out time for marketing one's law practice and offered suggestions to develop some strategies and implement an actionable marketing plan. Jana was immediately followed by an expert panel who dove a little deeper into the weeds on strategies around measuring results, prioritizing social media channels, newsletter and blog tips, and other online tricks of the trade.

After a fifteen-minute break, we launched into another set of mini-presentations from three of our sponsors: [CPDOnline](#), [Loom Analytics](#), and [Legalline](#).

To close out the day, we heard from another set of esteemed experts who joined us for a panel discussion titled "The Practice of Law and the Future of Tech" followed by an update from Bencher Jacqueline Horvat, Chair of the Law

Society's Tech Task Force, some free time, and a dinner talk by LSO Treasurer Malcolm Mercer in Convocation Hall. And, of course, a hospitality suite hosted by LawPRO.

On Friday, after another early morning (optional) yoga session and regional breakfast meetings, we heard from Rio Peterson from Clio who presented her extremely interesting findings from their annual [Legal Trends Report](#). For those who don't already know, [Clio](#) is a truly Canadian success story and was widely praised at the [National Conference Association of Bar President's](#) and National Association of Bar Executive's recent meeting in Las Vegas. They offer leading cloud-based software for legal practice management, and client intake and client relationship management and was also this plenary's Wednesday night dinner sponsor.

Then we heard from the Law Society of Ontario who took us through some of their valuable (and often overlooked) tools and resources for sole and small practicing lawyers in their ["Competence Supports Walkthrough"](#) presentation.

After a break, we heard from LSO CEO Diana Miles, who offered a presentation and held a Q&A on Law Society activities (note -this presentation will be distributed separately to attendees) followed by a very thorough [briefing by Dan Pinnington, President & CEO of LawPRO](#), that offered an overview of 2018 claims, dove into claim trends, offered warnings on fraud and hacking (along with valuable prevention tips), insight into Blockchain, and more! We should note, that LawPRO was once again our Title Sponsor – so THANK YOU LawPRO!

Closing out the May Plenary was Chris Johns, Executive Director, Innovation Office in the Ministry of the Attorney General who discussed what's new, what's coming soon, and what's being worked on in the future. His presentation is [here](#) and ongoing updates at MAG can always be found [here](#).

Stay tuned for videos of Plenary presentations and we look forward to seeing you in November!

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