

18th Annual Class Actions Colloquium

Class Actions



In Person



Webcast

Date: November 24, 2026 | 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Reception to follow

Location: OBA Conference Centre
20 Toronto Street, 2nd Floor, Toronto

Chairs: **Valérie Lord**, McCarthy Tétrault LLP
Chelsea Smith, McKenzie Lake Lawyers LLP



This program contains:
Professionalism Hours: 1h 00m
EDI: 1h 00m
Substantive Hours: 5h 00m

The OBA has been approved as an Accredited Provider of Professionalism Content by The Law Society of Ontario.

Now in its 18th year, the Annual Class Actions Colloquium has become a leading national forum for Canada’s class actions bar. This year’s program will explore the full arc of class action practice, including the management of large-scale proceedings, evidentiary issues from certification through trial, privacy and data litigation, historical claims, trauma-informed approaches, and emerging appellate and legislative developments.

Designed for both plaintiff and defence counsel, the Colloquium offers a rare opportunity to hear practical, coast-to-coast perspectives on the issues that matter most in class action practice. Attendees will benefit from candid judicial insights in the signature “Views from the Bench” panel, timely analysis of emerging trends, and concrete takeaways to help navigate complex proceedings with confidence.

Register now to secure your spot.

8:30 am **Registration and Coffee**

12:20 pm **Lunch**

9:00 am **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

1:20 pm **Data, PIPEDA and Beyond/Privacy Panel**

9:05 am **When Process Meets People: Trauma-Informed Class Action Practice**

Moderator: Karine Bédard, Sotos LLP
Panelists: Mike DiBerardino, Deloitte LLP
Alana Robert, Rowbear Law
Jen Winstanley, CFM Lawyers LLP

Moderator: Jonathan Chen, Lenczner Slaght LLP
Panelists: Katrina Crocker, Henein Hutchison Robitaille LLP
From privacy class actions to privacy issues arising in class actions, privacy law is reshaping the class action landscape. Join leading practitioners as they discuss new legal theories, legislative developments, the advancement of artificial intelligence, and common procedural challenges, including the handling of class member information. This panel will provide a practical roadmap to current trends, recent successes and setbacks, and emerging issues for class action counsel.

9:55 am **Complexity in Practice: Managing Large-Scale Class Actions**

Moderator: Jacqueline Palef, Branch MacMaster LLP
Panelists: Justice Ward Branch, Supreme Court of British Columbia
Sarah-Dawn Norris, Department of Justice
Margaret Waddell, Sotos LLP
This panel examines how courts and counsel address manageability challenges under the *Class Proceedings Act*, focusing on strategies to advance complex, large-scale cases. Drawing on practical experience, panelists will explore how “unmanageable” actions can be restructured into workable proceedings through creative design and procedural tools.

2:10 pm **Litigating Historical Class Actions: Records, Coverage, and Evidence**

Moderator: Golnaz Nayerahmadi, Rochon Genova LLP
Panelists: Jamie Shilton, Goldblatt Partners LLP
Historical class actions present unique challenges when the events at issue occurred decades ago. This panel will explore practical strategies for locating and preserving historical records, addressing insurance and coverage issues, and building an evidentiary record when witnesses, documents, and institutional knowledge may be difficult to find or no longer exist.

10:45 am **Health Break**

3:00 pm **Health Break**

11:00 am **From Certification to Trial: Evidentiary Trends in Class Actions**

Moderator: Alicja Puchta, Torys LLP and Matthew Taylor, Sotos LLP
Panelists: Sarah Fiddes, Rochon Genova
Emily MacKinnon, Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP
Melanie Ouanounou, Goodmans LLP
This panel will dive into the latest evidentiary trends in class actions, including the latest on the one-, two-step debate, admissibility and hearsay rules at certification, evidentiary issues in common issues trials, and evidentiary standards under healthcare recovery legislation.

3:15 pm **On the Horizon: Emerging Issues in Class Proceedings**
Moderator: Vera Toppings, Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP
Panelists: Ting Yang, Goldblatt Partners LLP

This panel will provide a timely update on the latest developments in class proceedings, highlighting key recent decisions and their implications for practitioners. The panel will also look ahead to the issues, cases, and trends likely to shape class action practice in the year ahead, offering practical insights into what counsel should be watching.

11:50 am **Keynote Address**

PROGRAM REGISTRATION IS ONLINE www.oba.org/pd

Questions? pd@oba.org



4:05 pm **Views from the Bench**

Moderators: Valérie Lord, McCarthy Tétrault LLP and
Chelsea Smith McKenzie Lake Lawyers LLP

Panelists: Justice Jacqueline Horvat, Ontario Superior Court
of Justice

the Honourable William Hourigan retired from the Court of
Appeal for Ontario

Justice Catharine Moore, Federal Court

Benefit from a discussion with the Bench about a broad
range of issues in class action proceedings from coast to
coast.

4:55 pm **Closing Remarks**

5:00 pm **Program Concludes, Reception to follow**

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