

Litigating Family Law Matters: Navigating the File from Start to Finish

Family Law



In person



Live Online

Date: Tuesday, November 17, 2026 | 9:00 am to 4:30 pm

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

Program Chairs: **Shelly Kalra**, Kalra Family Law
Ilana Arje-Goldenthal, Frodis Family Law



Substantive Hours: This program contains up to **6 hours and 00 minutes**.

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

Family law files rarely move in a straight line — but this valuable program will. Designed for practitioners at every stage of their career, we'll follow a family law matter from the first client meeting through to final resolution, giving you a practical, start-to-finish roadmap for effective file management. We'll cover:

- initial client intake and retainer considerations,
- financial disclosure and property issues,
- parenting arrangements and support calculations,
- negotiation and alternative dispute resolution strategies,
- the litigation process from pleadings to trial, and
- enforcement and post-order considerations.

Experienced family law counsel and members of the judiciary will combine practical strategy with real-world case examples to help you walk away ready to manage files more efficiently, avoid common pitfalls, and better serve clients through every stage of a family law proceeding.

9:00 am	Welcome and Opening Remarks	1:25 pm	Alternative Dispute Resolution: When and How to Use It Steve Benmor , Benmor Family Law Group Knowing when ADR can resolve your file faster — and how to make it work.
9:10 am	Initial Consultations and Drafting Pleadings Hugh Fisher , Bales Beall LLP Vanessa Lam , Lam Family Law PC Tim Lee , Walker Head Lawyers Setting your file up for success from the very first meeting and practical advice for crafting clear, effective pleadings that hold up as your file evolves.	1:50 pm	Trial Management Conference and Trial Prep Heather L. Hansen , McCarthy Hansen & Company LLP Fadwa Yehia , Jamal Family Law PC Getting your file truly trial-ready, from conference to courtroom.
10:25 am	Networking Break		
10:40 am	Conferences and Motions Ilana Zylberman Dembo , Epstein Cole LLP Richard Niman , Niman Mamo LLP Navigating the procedural steps that shape the course of litigation.	2:50 pm	Networking Break
		3:05 pm	Enforcement of Orders Carina Chan , Burrison Hudani Doris LLP Michael H. Tweyman , Modern Family Law LLP Turning a favourable order into an actual result for your client.
11:40 am	Questioning and Undertakings Gary Joseph , MacDonald & Partners LLP Lorna Yates , Laurel Family Law LLP Strategies for effective questioning and managing undertakings along the way.	3:45 pm	Fireside Chat: Tips and Tricks from the Bench Justice Ranjan Agarwal , Ontario Superior Court of Justice Candid, practical advice straight from the judges who see it all.
12:25 pm	Lunch Break		
		4:30 pm	Program Concludes

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Questions? pd@oba.org