

Taking a Will Challenge to Trial: Senior Faculty Demonstrate Skills & Procedure from A to Z

Trusts and Estates Law



In person



Live Online

Date: Monday, May 11, 2026 | 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

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

Program Chairs: **Noah Kochman**, Donovan Kochman LLP
Sheila Morris, Miller Thomson LLP



Substantive Hours: This program contains up to **5 hours and 30 minutes**.

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

Join us to explore will challenges from initial intake through trial, with a focus on litigation skills and cases that proceed beyond mediation. Experienced estates and trusts faculty will provide practical guidance on pleadings, evidence, witness preparation, and advocacy at examinations and trial.

Through demonstrations by top litigators, you will observe strategies for handling difficult witnesses, drafting solicitors, and complex evidentiary issues. Walk away with practical tools and greater confidence to manage a will challenge through to trial.

<p>9:00 am Welcome and Opening Remarks</p> <p>9:05 am Setting Up for Success: Grounds, Gathering Information, the Application, and Affidavit Evidence Brendan Donovan, Donovan Kochman LLP David N Delagran, Beard Winter LLP Jonathan M. Friedman, Friedman Estate Litigation Andrea McEwan, WeirFoulds LLP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checklists and advice for interviewing clients to ensure the right witnesses and documents are identified early • Walk through of the Notice of Application and supporting affidavit, including common errors to avoid • Best evidence and admissibility <p>10:15 am Networking Break</p> <p>10:30 am Best Practices for Early Advocacy: Orders Giving Directions, Threshold Motions, and Mediation Natalia Angelini, Hull and Hull LLP Daniel J. Dochylo, Borden Ladner Gervais LLP David Mills, Mills & Mills LLP Bradley Phillips, Wagner Sidlofsky LLP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical advice for making the most of initial scheduling appointments • Seeking and responding to proposed orders giving directions • Key considerations for bringing/defending a threshold motion • All about experts: selection, communication, and reports • When to mediate, and how to avoid the pitfalls <p>12:00 pm Networking Lunch</p>	<p>1:00 pm Examinations: Demonstrations and Advice Kelly A. Charlebois, Miller Thomson LLP Justin de Vries, de Vries Litigation LLP Sean Lawler, Lawler Advocacy PC Debra Stephens, Tupman & Bloom LLP Melanie A. Yach, Aird & Berlis LLP</p> <p>Gather practical insights on and watch senior practitioners demonstrate examination essentials, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examinations on affidavits vs. examinations for discovery: differences in preparation and how evidence will be used • Examining non-parties including the drafting solicitor • Examining parties • Preparing your client for cross <p>2:15 pm Networking Break</p> <p>2:30 pm Getting to Trial John Adair, Adair Goldblatt Bieber LLP Ewa Krajewska, Henein Hutchison Robitaille LLP Justin Nasseri, Ross Nasseri LLP Anne Posno, Lax O'Sullivan Lisus Gottlieb LLP</p> <p>Senior trial counsel will guide you through bringing a file from failed mediation to day 1 of trial, sharing best practices and tips and tricks honed over years of experience. We'll unpack:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essential steps to prepare for pre-trial: converting to an action, estimating time, requests to admit, witness lists, hybrid trials • Preparing your file for trial, including reviewing all evidence (good, bad, ugly), creating your trial binder, preparing crosses, <i>Evidence Act</i> notices, Books of Documents and more
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Choose an item. www.oba.org/pd
Questions? pd@oba.org

- Trial do's and don'ts and other key elements of trial procedure 4:00 pm Program Concludes

***Looking to continue your learning with more essential trial advocacy skills? Join us at the OBA's [Anatomy of a Trial](#) from May 28-29, 2026.**