

Fundamentals of Class Actions Law

Class Actions and Young Lawyers Division



Live Online



Live In Person



Date: Wednesday, August 26, 2026 | 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

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

Agenda: 9:00 am Program Commences
1:00 pm Program Concludes

This program contains:
3h 30m of Substantive content

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

As more practitioners encounter class proceedings, understanding this specialized area is increasingly important. Join our experienced faculty as they examine the class action lifecycle—from commencement and certification to resolution—while highlighting key procedures, strategies, and ethical considerations from both plaintiff and defence perspectives.

If you are a senior practitioner seeking to expand your practice, a student or new lawyer starting out who is keen to practice in this active area, or a lawyer looking to broaden your understanding of this rapidly developing field, you will benefit from this comprehensive overview of the fundamentals of class actions law.

Program Chairs:

Karine Bédard, Associate, Sotos LLP

Adrian Pel, Senior Associate, Borden Ladner Gervais LLP

9:00 am	Welcome and Opening Remarks	11:10 am	Certification Process - Part 2 (preferable procedure and appropriate representative) Golnaz Nayerahmadi , Rochon Genova Jonathan Chen , Lenczner Slaght LLP - Part 4 - Preferable procedure (pre and post-October 1, 2020 actions) - Part 5: - Representative plaintiff - Litigation plan - Class counsel conflicts and ethical issues that may arise
9:10 am	Legislative Regime and overview Suzanne Chiodo , Assistant Professor, Osgoode Hall Law School Valérie Lord , McCarthy Tétrault LLP - History and objectives of class proceedings legislation - Overview of provincial and federal legislation - Alternatives to class proceedings	11:50 am	Common and Individual issues adjudication Karine Bédard , Sotos LLP Sarah Whitmore , Torys LLP - The nature of common issues and the role of issue estoppel on subsequent individual proceedings - The availability of aggregate damages - Evidentiary issues particular to common issues trials - The <i>sui generis</i> status of class members and additional class member discovery - Managing individual issues after the common issues trial and ethical issues unique to the individual issues stage
9:40 am	National landscape and preliminary matters (e.g. funding) Chelsea Hermanson , CFM Lawyers Nathalie Gondek , Class Proceedings Fund - Overview of the class actions landscape in Canada - Commencing a class action and issues in the precertification life of a class action, including funding and carriage - Ethical considerations that arise from the relationship between class counsel, the representative plaintiff and class members, as well as those that arise from negotiating funding arrangements	12:30 pm	Settlement and Fee Approval Adrian Pel , Borden Ladner Gervais LLP Garth Myers , Kalloghlian Myers LLP - Settlement negotiations - Notice and administration - The approval hearing - Class counsel fees and honoraria - Key ethical issues at settlement and fee approval
10:10 am	Certification Process - Part 1 (Cause of action, identifiable class, common issues) Jacqueline M. Palef , Branch MacMaster LLP Ethan Z. Schiff , Bennett Jones LLP - Part 1 - Cause of Action - Part 2 - Identifiable Class - Part 3 – Common Issues - Ethical considerations that arise in assessing causes of action vs. a strategic certification position	12:50 pm	Program Concludes
10:50 am	Health Break		

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Questions? pd@oba.org