

Adjudicative Tribunal Primer

Young Lawyers Division and Administrative Law Section



Live Online

Date: Monday, October 19, 2026 | 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Location: Live Online

Agenda: 1:00 pm Program Commences
5:00 pm Program Concludes



This program contains:
3h 30m of Substantive Content
0h 30m of Professionalism Content

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

Adjudicative tribunals are responsible for a significant portion of the legal decisions made in Ontario. Ensure you have the skills and insights to master your next hearing. Gather helpful techniques from our expert faculty of adjudicators and practitioners to set you up for success in your next tribunal matter and your administrative law practice.

Program Chairs: **Jillian Siskind**, Jillian Siskind Law
Miteau Brise, Norton Rose Fulbright Canada LLP

1:00 pm Welcome and Opening Remarks

1:05 pm **Know Your Tribunal**

James Gotowiec, Torys LLP

Megan Mah, WeirFoulds LLP

- Overview of the tribunal system and benefits of clustering
- Key considerations for your first tribunal appearance
- Important statutes, and rules of evidence to review
- Jurisdictional considerations
- Duties of a lawyer in a tribunal vs court
- Advantages and disadvantages of tribunal process
- Internal review explained

1:35 pm **How Principles of Procedural Fairness Play Out in Practice**

Julie Mouris, Conway Baxter Wilson LLP/s.r.l.

Jillian Siskind, Jillian Siskind Law

- How principles of procedural fairness have evolved and been clarified through recent decisions
- Applying these principles to your administrative law files, including where and how the Statutory Powers Procedure Act function

2:10 pm **Pre-hearing Conferences and Mediations**

Benjamin Ries, Executive Director, South Etobicoke Community Legal Services

Dariya Alton, Staff Lawyer, South Etobicoke Community Legal Services

- What is the purpose of pre-hearing conferences and mediations and how do they work?
- How to prepare for mediations and pre-hearing conferences

2:45 pm Networking Break

3:00 pm **Best Practices for Appearances and Hearings: Insights from the Adjudicators**

Jillian Siskind, Jillian Siskind Law (moderator)

Gerald Chan, Stockwoods LLP, Vice-Chair, Appeal Division, Law Society Tribunal

David Wright, Chair, Health Professions Discipline Tribunals

Get invaluable perspectives and useful insight from our panel of decisionmakers on what to do, and what not to do to enhance your advocacy skills before Tribunals and Boards, including:

- Navigating virtual hearings
- Handling technical difficulties during hearings
- Picking up on cues from the panel
- Unique aspects of tribunal advocacy

3:50 pm **After the Hearing: What You Need to Know about Reconsiderations, Appeals and Judicial Review**

Raj Anand, Raj Anand Professional Corporation

Sara Blake, Barrister & Solicitor

- What happens after a decision is made? What are your options after a decision?
- Distinguishing between reconsiderations, appeals, and judicial review
- How to assess whether you should pursue further steps after receiving a negative decision

4:20 pm **Building a Successful Career in Administrative Law**

Ben Kates, WeirFoulds LLP

Emma Gardiner, Rosen Sunshine LLP

Christine Muir, Norton Rose Fulbright Canada LLP

- How do you build a career in administrative law and tribunal work?
- What are the different avenues you can pursue in administrative law?

4:55 pm Questions and Closing Remarks

5:00 pm Program Concludes

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Questions? pd@oba.org