



## Upcoming Continuing Professional Development Opportunities

The Law Society is pleased to present three substantive CPD opportunities this March addressing **sentencing law**, **immigration practice**, and **real estate conveyancing**. All three seminars will be available for in-person attendance at the Law Society Building and via Zoom. Recordings will also be made available for later viewing. The Law Society strongly encourages in-person attendance where possible. Continual learning opportunities are not only about content delivery, but also engagement. Attending in person fosters meaningful dialogue between presenters and participants, allows for spontaneous questions and discussion, enhances the overall learning environment, and strengthens collegial connections within the profession.



### **Mental Health in Sentencing: Beyond Mitigation**

**Date:** 10 March 2026

**Time:** 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

**CPD Credit:** 1.5 hours

**Registration Fee:** \$57.50 (HST included)

We are pleased to welcome [Professor Benjamin L. Berger](#), York Research Chair in Pluralism and Public Law at Osgoode Hall Law School. Professor Berger is a nationally recognized scholar in criminal and constitutional law whose work has been widely cited by Canadian courts, including the Supreme Court of Canada. A former clerk to the Chief Justice of Canada, he is an award-winning teacher and one of Canada's leading voices in sentencing theory.

### **Seminar Overview**

The law of sentencing in Canada has undergone a significant conceptual shift in recent years. Most clearly reflected in the Supreme Court of Canada's 2023 decision in *R v Hills*, Canadian sentencing law has embraced as its lodestar an approach best described as individualized proportionality. This approach elevates the individual offender's experience of punishment as the animating concern in arriving at a fit sentence. Though acceptance of this approach is clear in the doctrine, its implications are still being explored.

In this session, Professor Berger will bring together this new sentencing paradigm with a perennially difficult issue for sentencing courts - how to address the mental illness of the offender. He will argue that, under this modern framework, mental health should be

relevant to sentencing in ways that are far more common and fundamental than in the past. It should no longer be approached solely as a question of responsibility at the time of the offence, but as a factor relevant to sentencing beyond mitigation. Doing so, however, has the potential to reshape sentencing practice in important and consequential ways.

*Snacks and refreshments will be provided.*

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### Current Trends and Emerging Challenges in Immigration Law

**Date:** 18 March 2026

**Time:** 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**CPD Credit:** 2 hours

**Registration Fee:** \$57.50 (HST included)

Join [Lorne Waldman](#), one of Canada's most recognized immigration and refugee lawyers, and [Meghan Felt](#), Partner at McInnes Cooper, a respected Newfoundland and Labrador immigration practitioner with extensive experience advising individuals and employers on federal immigration programs.

#### **Seminar Overview**

Immigration law in Canada continues to evolve at a rapid pace. This seminar will provide a timely overview of recent policy and program changes introduced by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada and examine their practical implications for applicants, employers, and legal practitioners.

The session will explore adjustments to processing priorities, program eligibility criteria, caps and quotas, compliance measures, and administrative practices. Particular attention will be given to increasing processing delays, shifting intake targets, and the operational realities facing applicants and sponsoring businesses.

The presenters will also discuss emerging litigation trends, judicial review activity, and other legal challenges mounted in response to recent policy shifts. The program is designed for lawyers who advise individuals, families, and businesses on immigration matters, as well as those seeking to better understand the broader regulatory and policy landscape shaping immigration practice in Canada.

*Snacks and refreshments will be provided.*

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## Real Estate: What is Good Title (Revisited)?

**Date:** 27 March 2026

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**CPD Credit:** 6 hours

**Registration Fee:** \$230.00 (HST included)

This full-day program is presented by the Ad Hoc Land Titles Committee, struck by the Law Society to review and clarify contemporary standards in land title certification and conveyancing practice. The Committee has prepared a detailed report examining recurring areas of uncertainty and divergence in real estate practice in Newfoundland and Labrador. The presenters will be joined by Herb Edwards of Crown Lands, who will offer practical insight into the Crown's approach to title and land administration matters.

### **Seminar Overview**

In the long-awaited follow-up to the seminal 1990 "What is Good Title?" seminar, this program builds on the Law Society's 2024 Report of the Ad Hoc Land Titles Committee, which examined present-day standards and recurring areas of uncertainty in real estate practice.

The morning portion of the program will focus on how practitioners establish a root of title, with particular attention to possessory title, Crown grants, and other established sources of title. Discussion will include practical guidance on evaluating possessory title, drafting affidavits of possession, understanding Crown Lands' approach to title issues, and advancing applications pursuant to the Quieting of Titles Act.

The afternoon will turn to what happens once the root of title has been identified. This segment will explore conveyancing standards, areas where practice approaches diverge, and strategies for improving consistency across the bar. Topics are expected to include co-ownership and family land considerations, municipal issues, easements, and other recurring sources of complexity in title review.

The seminar will conclude with a plenary discussion drawing together key themes and providing attendees with an opportunity to engage directly with presenters on practical questions and emerging issues.

*Lunch will be provided for in-person attendees*

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