



## News & Updates

1 April 2026



The rule of law upholds our shared values - and it is *ours to protect*. Learn more [here](#).

---

The Law Society of Newfoundland and Labrador website has an [events section](#) with updated CPD opportunities, events, conferences, and more. A list of recordings is available [here](#).

### SAVE THE DATE

**30 APRIL**

Dealing with Conflict in Legal Practice: A Communications Framework for Challenging Interactions

REGISTER

**20 MAY**

Rules, Standards, and Strategy: Using AI to Map the Evolution of Judicial Reasoning - *with Professor Norman Siebrasse, University of New Brunswick*

REGISTER

**22 SEPTEMBER**

An Afternoon with The Right Honourable Richard Wagner, P.C., Chief Justice of Canada

REGISTER

### OTHER DATES OF INTEREST



8 April 2026: Circle of Change Restorative Justice Program Webinar  
30 April 2026: Susan LeDrew, KC - Disciplinary Hearing

[VIEW ALL EVENTS HERE](#)

---

## Meeting



## Upcoming Benchers' Meeting

Please note that the next Benchers' meeting will take place on 13 April 2026, at 9:30 a.m. Anyone wishing to attend a Benchers' meeting:

1. is required to provide notice of attendance to the Law Society by emailing [erowe@lsnl.ca](mailto:erowe@lsnl.ca);
2. will not be permitted to use audio or video recording devices or communication devices during the meeting;
3. shall not speak, unless invited to do so by the President;
4. must observe and obey all rulings of the President; and
5. shall leave if the meeting is declared closed to the public or if asked to do so by the President.

At this time, attendance shall be via Zoom. An invite will be provided upon receipt of an attendance notice. Agendas will be posted on the [Law Society website](#) in advance of each meeting, and the Minutes for the Public portion of each meeting will also be posted on the website.

Please RSVP by noon on 10 April 2026 to Erin Rowe at [erowe@lsnl.ca](mailto:erowe@lsnl.ca) if you plan to attend the Benchers' Meeting.

---

**FINAL REMINDER**



Deadline for Nominations: 6 April 2026

The Law Society is seeking nominations for the vacancies created by the expiry of terms as follows:

### **Eastern District**

- Valerie Hynes, KC
- Gladys Dunne, KC
- Alexander Templeton\*

### **Labrador District**

- Jonathan Regan\*

\* Alexander Templeton and Jonathan Regan are eligible to seek election.

In accordance with s. 11 of the *Law Society Act, 1999*, interested members of the Law Society who are in good standing, practising, and are resident in either the Eastern or Labrador Districts, should file completed nomination papers in [form 4.01A](#) with the Executive Director at the Law Society offices no later than **5:00 p.m., 6 April 2026**.

When reflecting on whether to send an expression of interest, please take into account if you have some, if not all, of the skills and attributes identified in the [Skills Matrix](#). We also ask that you review the following key traits that contribute to effective decision-making:

- The ability to think strategically and analytically and to effectively communicate thoughts and the reasons for them;
- Possession of earned respect of key stakeholder group members, including, but not limited to, the public and the members;
- The ability to work well with others as a member of a collaborative group with decision-making authority and an understanding of the duty to act with due care, diligence, and skill, honestly, in good faith, and in the best interests of the Law Society;
- Demonstrated understanding of the differences between “oversight” and “supervision”;
- Earned reputation for emotional maturity, personal integrity, and honesty; and
- A demonstrated familiarity with the body of knowledge related to both the Law Society’s mandate, governing legislation, policies, and procedures.

The remaining Elective Benchers are:

### **Eastern District**

- Lauren Chafe, KC
- Johnathan Earle
- Carey Majid, KC
- Sheilagh Murphy, KC
- Steve Scruton
- David Williams
- John Whelan
- Doug Wright
- Rodney Zdebiak, KC

## Central District

- Gregory French
- Derek Ford

## Western District

- Mark Mills
- Lorilee Sharpe

*The election results will be announced at the Law Society Annual General Meeting on 5 June 2026.*

---

## Law Society Rules: Amendments to Rule 6

In February 2026, Benchers approved a series of amendments to Rule 6 of the Law Society Rules respecting admission and the articling process. The changes are primarily housekeeping and modernization in nature, but include several targeted updates that members should be aware of.

Key amendments include:

- Clarification of Articles of Clerkship (Rule 6.01(1)) - The definition has been revised to confirm that only agreements executed in the Law Society's required form are recognized.
- Removal of redundant filing reference (Rule 6.06(1)(c)) - The requirement to file Articles of Clerkship has been removed as it is already captured within the required application form.
- Articling start dates codified (Rule 6.08(2)) - The Rules now expressly provide that the articling term must commence on January 30 or June 1, formalizing existing practice.
- Expanded reporting and oversight authority (Rule 6.09(5) and (6)) - Students and principals are now expressly required to file reports, forms, and other documentation as directed, and to respond promptly to requests for information. The Education Committee is also empowered to direct remedial steps where concerns arise.
- Streamlining of reporting provisions (Rule 6.09(6) and repeal of Rule 6.09(7)) - References to specific reports have been removed in favour of a more flexible, framework-based approach, and a redundant provision has been repealed.
- Examination review clarification (Rule 6.11(8)) - The Rules now clarify that examinations which have undergone automatic review are not eligible for a further discretionary review.
- Minor clarity and readability updates (Rule 6.12) - Non-substantive drafting changes have been made to improve comprehension and consistency.
- Improved procedural flexibility (Rules 6.18(1)–(4) and 6.19(4), (5), (7) and (8)) - Amendments provide greater flexibility in panel composition, including allowing smaller appeal panels and enabling Benchers to appoint panel members where needed. The Rules also clarify that the Law Society appears on appeals, and permit appellants to waive appeal timelines where appropriate.

In addition, a number of minor drafting changes were made to improve clarity, eliminate redundancy, and align the Rules with current forms and practices.

Overall, these amendments do not reflect a change in policy direction, but rather a refinement of the existing framework to ensure it operates clearly, efficiently, and in a manner consistent with current practice.

Questions regarding these amendments may be directed to Christian Hurley, Director of Admissions and Education, at [churley@lsnl.ca](mailto:churley@lsnl.ca).

---

### Notice to Principals - Changes to the Articling Reporting Framework

The Law Society has implemented a revised articling reporting framework aligned with the Competency Framework for Entry to Practice. These changes represent a shift from a checklist-based approach to a more structured, competency-based model focused on the development of entry-level professional competence.

Principals should be aware of the following key changes:

- Competency-based assessment - Reporting is now organized around defined competencies expected of entry-level lawyers. Principals are asked to assess the student's development using a standardized rating scale, rather than confirming completion of prescribed tasks.
- Greater emphasis on professional judgment - The framework requires principals to provide evaluative feedback on a student's progress, including strengths, areas for improvement, and overall readiness for practice.
- Structured reporting at defined intervals - Mid-Term and Final Reports are required at specified points in the articling term. These reports are intended to reflect the student's development over time, not simply a snapshot of recent work.
- Education Plan requirement - Principals are responsible for completing the Education Plan in advance of the articling term. The Education Plan must be submitted prior to the commencement of articles, and preferably filed together with the student's application for admission. Principals are encouraged to review and discuss the plan with their student before submission, as it is intended to support thoughtful planning and ensure exposure to a range of competencies.
- Reflective practice requirements - Students are required to complete a reflective practice assignment as part of the Mid-Term reporting process. Principals are expected to engage with this process and provide feedback where appropriate.
- Optional Competency Reflection Log - A reflection log has been introduced as a tool to assist students in tracking their experiences and progress throughout the articling term. While optional, its use is encouraged as it supports meaningful reporting and discussion.
- Enhanced focus on ongoing feedback - The revised framework emphasizes regular check-ins between principals and students throughout the articling term, rather than relying solely on formal reporting points.

For those intending to act as principal for a student commencing articles on 1 June, please note that the deadline for applications for admission is 11 May 2026. Principals

should begin reviewing the [Competency Framework](#) and working on the [Education Plan](#) with their student well in advance of this deadline.

These changes are intended to better support the development of competent, ethical, and practice-ready lawyers, while also providing principals with a clearer and more flexible structure for supervision and assessment.

Questions regarding the articling reporting framework may be directed to Christian Hurley, Director of Admissions and Education, at [churley@lsnl.ca](mailto:churley@lsnl.ca).

---

### Gladue Reports - Information for Counsel

Members are advised of a resource from the [Native Women's Association of Canada \(NWAC\)](#) providing practical guidance on Gladue reports for counsel.

Gladue reports are specialized pre-sentence, and in some cases bail, reports that assist courts in applying the principles established in *R v Gladue*. They provide important context regarding the systemic and background factors affecting Indigenous persons, including the impacts of colonization and intergenerational trauma, and may identify culturally appropriate sentencing options or supports.

The information sheet outlines the purpose of Gladue reports, when they may be appropriate, and the role of counsel in identifying eligible clients and facilitating their preparation. Familiarity with these processes is important for practitioners engaged in criminal matters.

Members are encouraged to review the resource here: [NWAC Gladue Report Info Sheet for Counsel](#).

---



### CLIA Not So Risky Business Blog

The [Canadian Lawyers Insurance Association \(CLIA\) Not So Risky Business Blog](#) aims to assist legal professionals in practice management, error avoidance, and gaining a deeper insight into insurance coverage requirements. Every Wednesday, CLIA's blog will cover informative topics such as loss prevention tips, fraud alerts, cyber awareness, wellness, and more. You can also [subscribe to receive notifications of new posts directly to your inbox](#).

### Recent Articles

- [Bite Size CPD March Showcase - Limitations, Delegation, and](#)

# RESOURCES

Our [practice resources](#) offer valuable insights regarding the complexities of law practice management. Created to help lawyers navigate the requirements and obligations outlined in the *Law Society Act, 1999*, Law Society Rules, and Code of Professional Conduct, they serve as supportive tools. While not exhaustive, they provide valuable insights.

Please remember that every practice management question should be considered within your unique context, and professional judgment is very important.

## Reading Suggestions for Practice Management

### COMMUNICATION

---

A graphic for the Wellness Toolbox. It consists of a teal square with a darker teal horizontal bar at the bottom. The words "WELLNESS" and "TOOLBOX" are written in white, stacked vertically in the dark bar.

## WELLNESS TOOLBOX

### Wellness Toolbox: Weekly Resources for Your Well-Being

Your wellness toolbox includes resources to support your health and resilience. As a lawyer, prioritizing your well-being is essential for yourself, and those you serve.

Here's a list of resources from the Law Society's [Wellness Toolbox](#) for consideration. Stay tuned for new recommendations each week.

- [Al-Anon Family Groups](#)
- [IMALive Online Crisis Helpline](#)
- [Law Society of Ontario Well-being Resource Centre](#)

---

## Disciplinary Matters

Through the disciplinary process, the Law Society of Newfoundland and Labrador reviews and assesses the professional conduct of its members. These assessments are made based on ethical standards outlined in the [Law Society Act, 1999](#), along with the [Law Society Rules](#) and the [Code of Professional Conduct](#).

DISCIPLINARY DECISIONS

HEARINGS

COUNSELS & CAUTIONS



Did you know that the Law Society of Newfoundland and Labrador website has a News section with updated information on job opportunities, professional development, notices, and more? Visit our website today to check out some of the great online resources available.

### Current Opportunities

- Director - Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21
- Summer Student Position - Public Legal Information Association of NL
- Associate Lawyer - O'Keefe & Sullivan
- Crown Prosecutor (multiple positions) - Public Prosecutions of Saskatchewan
- Board Member - Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada
- Crown Attorney - Government of Nova Scotia
- Adjudicator, Human Rights Commission Panel - Justice and Public Safety Department
- Board Member - United Way Newfoundland and Labrador
- Board Member - Income and Employment Support Appeal Board
- Parliamentary Counsel - Office of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island
- Oil and Gas Corporation of Newfoundland and Labrador Board of Directors - Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
- Mineral Rights Adjudication Board - Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
- Muskrat Falls Project Land Use and Expropriation Arbitration Panel - Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
- Board Member - Provincial Health Authority Board of Trustees

[VIEW ALL OPPORTUNITIES](#)

[Search for a Will](#)

Members are reminded that they may only disclose the contents of a will where authorized to do so. By sending this search for a will, the Law Society is not in any way authorizing disclosure to the individual initiating the request. Members must assess whether that individual is entitled to review or know the contents of the will.

---

Brian William Silver

Born 3 June 1946; died 23 January 2026.

Last place of residence was CBS.

Any member with information regarding the Last Will and Testament is asked to contact Sarah Boshart at silver.26@live.ca.

James Allan Vail Sparks

Born 5 September 1944; died 19 March 2026.

Last place of residence was St. John's.

Any member with information regarding the Last Will and Testament is asked to contact Dana Sparks Breckon at daneyland@gmail.com.

William James Shea

Born 17 April 1944; died 26 March 2026.

Last place of residence was Wabana.

Any member with information regarding the Last Will and Testament is asked to contact Tina Fowler at kfow123@hotmail.com.

Daphne Saunders

Born 3 December 1932; died 12 October 2025.

Last place of residence was Leading Tickle.

Any member with information regarding the Last Will and Testament is asked to contact Judy Saunders Al-Hani at alhanijudy@gmail.com.

---

## CONNECT WITH US



You are receiving this communication in accordance with your membership with the Law Society of Newfoundland and Labrador.

This is a mandatory communication.