



NOVA SCOTIA BARRISTERS' SOCIETY

## NSBS 2018 ANNUAL MEETING

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

**June 16, 2018 8:30 am – 12:30 pm**

NSBS ANNUAL MEETING – 8:30 am

KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS – 9:30 am

**1. Client panel: What do we want from our lawyers and the justice system?**

*Rodney Small, Common Good Solutions; Paul Elliott from Moose Cree First Nation; Sheree Conlon QC, Stewart McKelvey, NSBS Council member, Gender Equity Committee Co-Chair; and Alisha Brown-Fagan, Co-Chair, Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission's Equity and Racial Diversity Committee, executive member, Canadian Association of Black Lawyers, Nova Scotia chapter.*

This panel discussion includes insights from clients who will help lawyers understand what they need and want in their representation.

**2. Community Engagement and Increasing Diversity on the Bench; Two Pillars to Enhance Access to Justice**

*Chief Justice Michael MacDonald, Nova Scotia Court of Appeal*

Following recent community engagement and the Oland report on Diversity on the Bench, the court has been working toward enhancing access to justice for our marginalized communities. The Chief Justice will discuss the initiatives the court has undertaken.

**Following the keynotes, choose two 45-minute sessions from the following options:**

**10:30 am – 11:15 am | Choose one of the following 45-minute sessions**

**TRC – How to put the calls to action to work in your practice**

*Presenter: Josie McKinney, Nova Scotia Public Prosecution Service*

In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission released its report and enumerated a number of calls to action. In total there are 94 calls to action, a number of which are specifically directed towards lawyers and the legal system. This session will assist lawyers in addressing the calls to action by providing practical examples to use in their day-to-day practice.

**Protecting your client's privacy**

*Presenter: David Fraser, McInnes Cooper*

In today's technological and regulatory world, lawyers need to constantly consider how to protect their clients' information. In this session, David will talk about such things as protecting client privacy while travelling, communicating with clients via social media and other methods, and protecting information on your laptop or other devices.

**Opening a new law firm**

*Presenters: Jennifer Pink, NSBS Legal Services Support Manager; and Rosalie Francis, R. Francis Law*

A new regulation came into effect on January 2, 2018, requiring all new law firms to register with the Society before delivering legal services to clients. Society staff meet with lawyers through this process and assist them in identifying the components of an effective practice management system, as well as relevant practice standards and regulatory obligations.

This session will offer the perspective of a lawyer who has registered a new law firm. We'll discuss their considerations and approach in setting up a practice and developing appropriate management systems and processes.

11:30 am – 12:15 pm | **Choose one of the following 45-minute sessions**

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#### **NSBS Diversity Standard / Guidelines for trans\* and gender-variant clients**

*Presenters: Susanne Litke, Dalhousie Legal Aid Service; and Jane Willwerth, NSBS Officer, Equity & Access*

Standard eight of the Law Office Management Standards addresses equity and diversity both in the law office's management and the conduct of lawyers in the practice. To assist law firms with this standard in 2017, the Equity & Access Office released the Society's [Guidelines for Lawyers: Supporting Trans\\* & Gender-variant Clients, Colleagues & Employees](#). This session will address the standard and the guidelines, and offer practical advice.