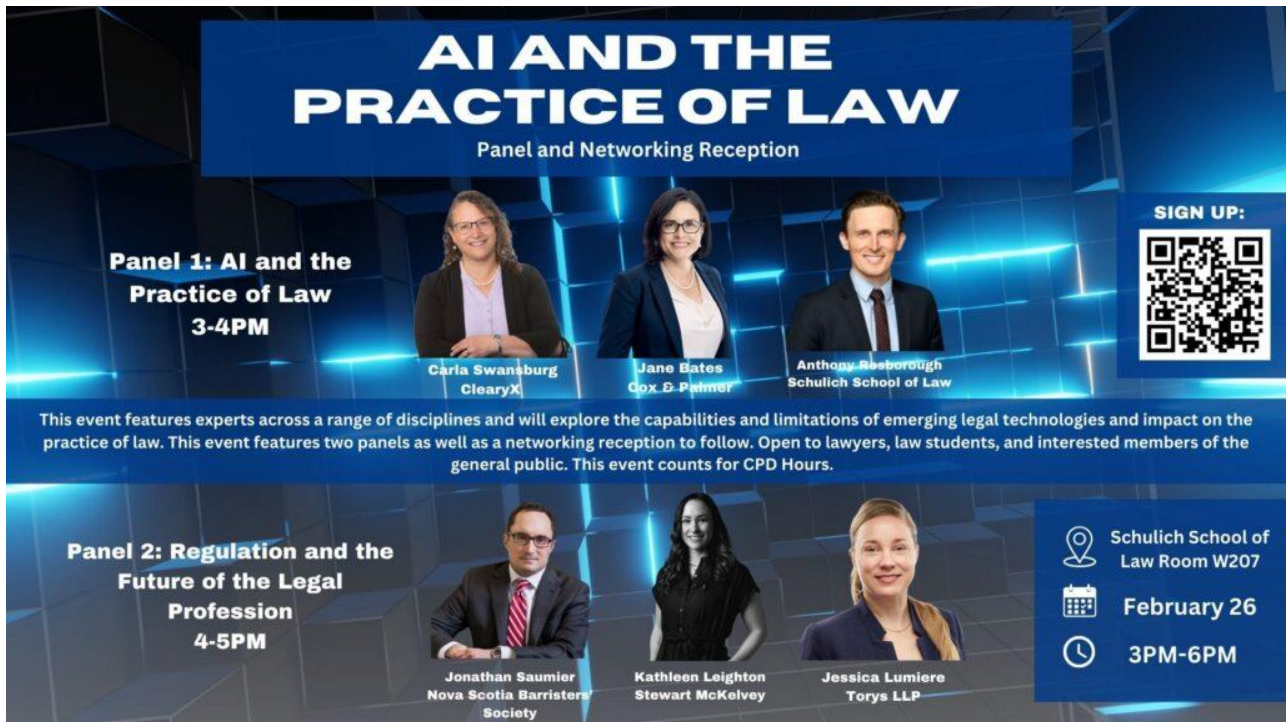




NSBS Member Update: February 7, 2025

AI and the Law; King's Counsel; Distinguished Service Award; African Heritage Month; IWD Event; PATH Reminder; Council Elections; Community Contributions

AI and the Practice of Law



AI AND THE PRACTICE OF LAW
Panel and Networking Reception

Panel 1: AI and the Practice of Law
3-4PM

Carla Swansburg
ClearyX

Jane Bates
Cox & Palmer

Anthony Seaborough
Schulich School of Law

Panel 2: Regulation and the Future of the Legal Profession
4-5PM

Jonathan Saumier
Nova Scotia Barristers' Society

Kathleen Leighton
Stewart McKelvey

Jessica Lumiere
Torys LLP

SIGN UP:



This event features experts across a range of disciplines and will explore the capabilities and limitations of emerging legal technologies and impact on the practice of law. This event features two panels as well as a networking reception to follow. Open to lawyers, law students, and interested members of the general public. This event counts for CPD Hours.

Schulich School of Law Room W207
February 26
3PM-6PM

Join us for a panel discussion and networking event on artificial intelligence in the practice of law.

February 26, 2025 from 3 pm - 6 pm at the **Schulich School of Law**, Room W207.

The event features two robust panels representing expertise in various aspects of artificial intelligence and practising law.

PANEL 1: AI and the Practice of Law 3 - 4 pm



PANEL 2: Regulation and the Future of the Legal Profession 4 - 5 pm

NETWORKING: Reception 5 - 6 pm

Panelists will explore the capabilities and limitations of emerging legal technologies and their impact on the practice of law. Open to lawyers, law students, and interested members of the public. Counts for CPD Hours.

Registration link available via [eventbrite](#).

Presented by the [Dalhousie Law and Technology Institute](#).

Congratulations to Lawyers Who Received the King's Counsel Designation 2025



Congratulations to 13 accomplished Nova Scotian lawyers being recognized with the King's Counsel designation this year.

The King's Counsel designation is awarded annually to members of the legal profession to recognize exceptional merit and outstanding contributions to the legal community.

[Government of Nova Scotia](#)

Criteria include a minimum of 15 years as a member of the Nova Scotia bar, demonstrated professional integrity and good character.

Nova Scotia Attorney General and Justice Minister Becky Druhan announced the appointments on February 5, 2025.



Congratulations to the following 13 lawyers who received the King's Counsel designation in 2025:

- Nadine Smillie, Nova Scotia Department of Justice
- Gregory Hardy, C3 Legal
- Shawn O'Hara, Nova Scotia Department of Justice
- Colleen Keyes, Stewart McKelvey
- Jennifer Glennie, Nova Scotia Department of Justice
- Kim McOnie, Nova Scotia Public Prosecution Service
- Shelley Wood, Stewart McKelvey
- Derek Land, Blackburn English
- Michael Dull, Valent Law
- Scott Campbell, Stewart McKelvey
- Naomi Metallic, Burchell Wickwire Bryson / Dalhousie University's Schulich School of Law
- Robert Kennedy, Nova Scotia Public Prosecution Service
- Heidi Walsh-Sampson, National Research Council.

"On behalf of the Society, I offer heartfelt congratulations to all lawyers newly recognized with the prestigious King's Counsel designation. You are well deserving of this recognition, not only for contributions to your communities, but also for the integrity you have demonstrated in the practice of law. Thank you."

NSBS Chief Executive Officer, Cheryl Hodder KC

A formal ceremony to honour the appointees will be held in the spring.

Attention New KC's: Some of our members have KC gowns, vests, and other items for sale. If you're interested, feel free to reach out to info@nsbs.org, and we'll be happy to connect buyers and sellers without publicizing personal details.



Congratulations Erin O'Brien Edmonds — Our 2024 Distinguished Service Award Recipient!



We are delighted to announce that **Erin O'Brien Edmonds KC, TEP** is the recipient of the Society's 2024 **Distinguished Service Award (DSA)**.

Established in 1999, the DSA is presented to a member who has made significant contributions to their community, the legal profession, and the Society.

The DSA Committee reviews nominations based on nominees' commitment to integrity, professional achievement, service to the profession, and commitment to reform.

Congratulations, Erin!

"The most important part of the work I do is the time I spend with clients to make sure they have a full understanding of what is being done, so they can feel confident as we move forward together." - Erin O'Brien Edmonds

About Erin O'Brien Edmonds KC, TEP

Having practised for nearly 42 years, Erin is an experienced real estate and estate planning lawyer. She maintains a robust practice in both real estate and estate planning—applying her combined knowledge to deal with methods of real estate ownership that precisely meet her clients' estate planning needs.

Erin also advises the executors of estates on how to manage and transfer real estate from the estate to the beneficiary, or to sell real property held by an estate. She works extensively in the Land Registration system, completing land migrations, subdivisions of land, and creating easements and restrictive covenants.



Erin's experience as a Trust and Estate Practitioner (TEP) enables her to provide advice to clients who hold assets inside their companies and family trusts, and to craft estate plans with tax savings in mind. She is able to prepare tax planned estates with lasting relevance.

Erin has been recognized by Best Lawyers® in Canada every year since 2010 and was named as Halifax Real Estate Lawyer of the Year four times, in 2016, 2018, 2019, and 2021. Having written and lectured on the topics of real estate and estate planning for many years, several of her papers are cited broadly as seminal materials in their subject areas.

When not working in her law practice, Erin enjoys exercise including yoga and swimming and enjoying time with friends and family. Erin is proud to have her son Matthew practising law with her at [Arcus Legal](#) and is working to transfer her longstanding law practice on to Matthew over the next few years.

[Learn more about the Distinguished Service Award.](#)

African Heritage Month 2025: Sharing the History and Culture of African Nova Scotians



This year's African Heritage Month provincial theme is ***“Legacy in Action: Celebrating Black Brilliance.”*** This theme highlights the living legacy of Black Nova Scotians, honouring the impact and perseverance of the long-standing community. It highlights the greatness we hold, the paths we lead through our deep connection with our elders, storytelling, the rhythms of change, and the ability to look back to move forward.



The theme also aligns with a reflection of Empowerment and Leadership over the past decade of the United Nations' International Decade for People of African Descent (DPAD) 2015-2024. The goal of DPAD was to strengthen global cooperation in support of people of African descent, increase awareness, and progress towards presence in all aspects of society.

Nova Scotia has 52 historic African Nova Scotian communities with a long, deep, and complex history dating back over 200 years. African Heritage Month allows us to celebrate our culture, legacy, achievements, and contributions of our people – past and present.

More information and resources are available at [Nova Scotia African Heritage Month](#).

African Heritage Month Gala 2025: A Celebration of Black Arts & Culture

The Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia is hosting a gala event presented by RBC to celebrate and honour the *Black Presence in Arts & Culture in Nova Scotia and Canada*.

The 2025 African Heritage Month Gala Dinner will take place on **Saturday, February 22, 2025 at 5:00 pm** at the **Halifax Convention Centre**.

The Society has purchased a table for this event and will be attending with three Council members, including our President, Morgan Manzer.

More details available at the [Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia](#).

Inspiring Future Indigenous Black & Mi'kmaq Lawyers Internship Pathways

Our Equity & Access team members are counting down the days until our March break IB&M high school internship program. For the week of March 10 - 14, 2025, students will participate in field trips to the law courts, law firms, and the African Nova Scotian Justice Institute. They will meet judges, lawyers, law professionals, law students, and career mentors.

We received an overwhelming response to this amazing opportunity, all made possible through generous funding from the [Law Foundation of Nova Scotia](#).

Check out the details on the [IB&M initiative](#).



International Women's Day Event: March 7, 2025



Join us for our second annual Women's Day Tea—a special International Women's Day (IWD) Networking Event!

Date: Friday, March 7, 2025

Time: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm (AST)

Venue: The Halifax Club, 1982 Hollis St., Halifax

Hosted by the Society together with the **Canadian Bar Association Nova Scotia Branch** (CBA-NS) Women Lawyers' Forum, and the **Canadian Association of Black Lawyers Nova Scotia Chapter** (CABL-NS).

The United Nation's theme for IWD this year is "For ALL women and girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment". By our gathering, we hope to foster a sense of empowerment and belonging and encourage action as we advocate for equity and inclusion for all women.

We look forward to coming together so we can celebrate IWD, build connections, exchange ideas, and support the incredible women who make up our diverse legal community.

Space is limited so advance registration is required. For more details and to register, visit **CBAPD**.



PATH Indigenous Cultural Competence Training Reminder

This is a friendly reminder that all members are required to **complete** the PATH course by **March 31, 2025**.



Lots of details about the course are available via [The PATH Indigenous Cultural Competence Training](#).

If you have any questions or believe you are entitled to an exemption, please reach out to Jaqueline Mullenger at jmullenger@nsbs.org

2025 Council Elections: Key Dates and Forms



DISTRICT ELECTIONS:

Nominations for the District Elections are open from **Monday, January 27, 2025 to Monday, February 17, 2025**. If an election is required, it will take place from Monday, March 3, 2025 until Monday, March 17, 2025. Lawyers practising in each district may be nominated by submitting a [DISTRICT Nomination Form](#).

AT LARGE ELECTIONS:

Nominations are open from **Monday, March 17, 2025 to Monday, April 7, 2025** with the election running from Thursday, April 17, 2025 until Tuesday, April 22, 2025, if required. All lawyers and non-practising members in the province are eligible and may be nominated by submitting an [AT LARGE Nomination Form](#).



CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES:

A nomination package consists of a completed nomination form and a candidate biography, which is available at [2025 CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHY](#).

CURRENT COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Current Council members wishing to return to Council for the 2025–2027 term must submit a nomination package to indicate that intention, during the respective nomination period noted above.

More information at [NSBS Council Elections](#).

Community Highlights

Frequently, members of legal and academic communities ask us to share posts such as Board vacancies and research studies. This is where we will share their details and links.

NS Regulated Health Professions Network Seeking Public Representatives

The [Nova Scotia Regulated Health Professions Network](#) (the Network) is recruiting individuals to serve as public representatives on health regulatory bodies' statutory committees. The link to the posting and application form is below.

https://nsrhpn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Public-Rep-Recruitment_Posting_FINAL.pdf Questions? Contact office@nsrhpn.ca

Canadian Partnership Against Cancer Seeking Director at Large

The [Canadian Partnership Against Cancer](#) (“the Partnership” or “CPAC”) has an exciting Board of Directors opportunity available. The Partnership is currently seeking a **Director at Large** with proven private sector leadership experience and a strong background in business strategy. The Director at Large can be from anywhere in Canada and will join our Board of Directors for a three-year term (renewable to a maximum of nine years) starting in June 2025. Qualified individuals interested in submitting their expression of interest are invited to email a cover letter and resume to peopleandculture@partnershipagainstcancer.ca by March 9, 2025.



2025 National Family Law Survey

Justice Canada would like to hear from you regarding your experience with the amendments to the *Divorce Act* that came into force on March 1, 2021, concerning the best interests of the child, relocation, family violence, children's views and preferences, family dispute resolution, as well as the public legal education and information materials that were developed or updated to support these amendments. The 2025 National Family Law survey is being distributed to judges, legal advisers and other family justice professionals. Additional information on the surveys can be found in the attached document.

The survey will take approximately 15 to 20 minutes to complete. It is open now and will **close on March 10**, 2025. Note, if you are both a family law legal adviser and a family justice professional, please choose one survey to complete and base your responses on your experiences in the chosen profession.

[Survey of legal advisers](#)

[Survey of family justice professionals](#)

Survey on the use of AI and other technologies in the legal field in Canada

Is your work related to the justice system or legal language professions in Canada? Whether you are a legal professional (lawyer, notary, judge, etc.), a legal language professional (interpreter, editor, translator, etc.), or hold another position within the justice system (public servant, court clerk, bailiff, stenographer, etc.), we want to know what you think.

Purpose of the survey: This survey is part of a research study on the role and impact of artificial intelligence in the production (drafting, revision, translation, popularization, etc.) of legal texts in Canada. It aims to collect evidence-based data on the realities, practices, and challenges associated with the use of AI and other technologies in the legal field in Canada.

Duration: The survey takes about 20 minutes to complete.

Survey Links:

English: <https://surveys.mcgill.ca/ls3/671123?lang=en>

French: <https://surveys.mcgill.ca/ls3/671123?lang=fr>



FLSC National Criminal Law Program

The Federation of Law Societies is excited to offer the National Criminal Law Program. This year's NCLP will be held in Vancouver from July 7 - 11, 2025. This year's theme is Criminal Procedure, Ethics and the *Charter*.

The 2025 NCLP will be marking the 50th anniversary of the program and will feature special guests, soon to be announced. [Registration for the program is now open](#)

Ronald McDonald House Charities Atlantic Seeking Board Member

Ronald McDonald House Charities® ([RMHC®](#)) Atlantic is seeking a new Board member with legal and governance expertise. Contact info@nsbs.org for a copy of the Opportunity Brief. Interested candidates are asked to submit their applications by February 28th, 2025 to apply@rmhcatlantic.ca

Reviewer Opportunities

<https://pcogic.njoyn.com/cl3/xweb/xweb.asp?NTKN=c&clid=52106&Page=JobDetails&Jobid=J1224-0794&BRID=301106&lang=1>

Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada Part-time Reviewer Positions

Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada has launched a selection process to fill two part-time Reviewer positions in preparation for the coming into force of the regulations in 2025. Ideal candidates will have experience in decision-making on complex, sensitive issues and demonstrate proficiency in interpreting and applying legislation, regulations, policies and directives. This is a virtual position open to candidates across Canada. Details at Reviewer [Notice of Appointment Opportunity](#).

Your Communications Preferences

We want to ensure the information contained here is helpful. Tell us what types of information you want to receive, and how you want to receive it.

Contact us at communications@nsbs.org.