

Bench and Bar- North York January 9 2017 report

The following is a summary of the significant matters that occurred at the B and B - North York on January 9 2017

- the next B and b is **April 10 at 830am**
- the court wants all lawyers to be made aware that if you are setting any kind of date (specifically sjm dates, but applicable to any other court date) that is not before your case management judge **YOU WILL NOT BE TOLD WHO THE JUDGE IS** until at least the date has been set and as Justice Spence said "maybe not even then". This specifically refers to obtaining dates through the Trial Coordinators office
- we were given the dates of the North Toronto Family Court Education Committee's (note new name and new logo) education programs for 2017- they are as follows
January 17 Topics in Evidence
March 28- Litigants with mental health issues
May 29- When Lives Change
Sept 19- Rule 1 focused hearings
Nov 7- Trials and Appeals
- court orders- domestic orders are very behind due to staffing issues which should be corrected by March with some hiring- domestic orders are running end of October- CFSA orders are up to date
if you have an order that is urgent and this would include APCO orders remind or tell the judge and it will be expedited
- CAS- best wishes and thoughts were to be passed along to Kristina Reitmeier during her medical leave

discussion re disclosure timing concerns- CAST and CCAS spoke about this- they have not been provided with any additional funding and it remains an ongoing concern for all- the bench is very concerned about this per Justice Zisman- Charter arguments were mentioned as were bringing options to have the society worker attend with the file (none of these actually solve the problem, as more funding is needed so that societies can hire staff to process the disclosure requests

CAST spoke about the plan which will happen soon to go to a centralized intake for all three (possibly four- it was unclear for sure if NCFST was part of this) at the first phone call stage- this will operate from 30 Isabella

- I spoke on our behalf around the exciting programs we have planned- education/pub nights; bursaries huge success; LAO submissions, Advocacy committee, and possible two socials this year
- OCL- bench expressed serious concerns that CL's taking files and not showing up on first date- and how long it is taking to get CL appointed- not unheard of for no CL to be appointed by the adjournment date- this is to be looked into
- AFCC- Save the date- **October 19**, Education- Advice from the bench session 1pm to 230pm, then Addictions in Parents and Children 245pm-5pm- then a social
October 20 all day Breaking Down the Barriers to Meet Families' Needs- including Cadillac vs Chevy- How Do We Balance the push and pull of limited resources"
This past October 2016 they had about 320 people attend their annual session

- Mediation/ADR- now taken over completely by Mediate 47 - they offer short (a couple hours) on site mediation- free; then off site at a subsidized geared to income price- usually up to another 6 hours. They report being busy and can mediate all issues of any kind. The mediation service previously offered by LAO was terminated by LAO in December 2016.