

Advanced Issues in Child Protection Law

OBA Family Law, and Child and Youth Law Sections



Date: Friday, May 13, 2016 | 9:00am to 1:00pm

Location: Twenty Toronto Street Conferences and Events
20 Toronto Street, 2nd Floor, Toronto

Program Chairs: **The Honourable Sheilagh O’Connell**,
Ontario Court of Justice
Charlotte Murray, Barrister and Solicitor



This program is eligible for up to 4 Substantive Hours

Take advantage of this opportunity to join judges, academics and your colleagues to discuss recent developments and important issues in child protection law. Gather expert insights to help you stay at the top of your field, and walk away with valuable strategies to implement in your practice.

8:30 am Registration and Coffee

9:00 am Welcome and Opening Remarks

9:10 am **Motherisk: The Independent Review**
The Honourable Susan E. Lang

In 2014, the Honourable Susan E. Lang (formerly of the Court of Appeal) was appointed to conduct an Independent Review on the scientific reliability of hair testing at Motherisk Drug Testing Laboratory, at Hospital for Sick Children for use in child protection and criminal cases. Join Justice Lang to explore:

- Findings and recommendations contained in her December 2015 Report
- Challenges for practitioners in grappling with the reliability of so called “forensic” and scientific evidence

10:10 am **Utilizing Expert Evidence in Child Protection Cases**
Professor Nicholas Bala, Faculty of Law, Queen’s University

- Applying the *Mohan* test in child protection matters
- Strategies for handling *CFSA* section 54 assessments
- Making sense of “hard” versus “soft” science

11:10 am Networking Break

11:25 am **Complex Openness Issues**

Elizabeth McCarty, Counsel, Office of the Children’s Lawyer

- Unraveling the interaction between access and openness orders under the *CFSA*
- How access/openness orders operate upon placement for adoption, in adoption disruptions and post finalization
- Obstacles and opportunities in addressing openness in a legal proceeding

12:10 pm **Critical Child Protection Decisions You Need to Know**
The Honourable Sheilagh O’Connell, Ontario Court of Justice

Get up to speed on the most interesting, significant and ground-breaking cases of 2015-2016.

12:40 pm **Roundtable Questions and Reflections**

Engage with your fellow practitioners in a small group discussion, as you share and gather insights on how to manage tricky child protection challenges in your practice.

1:00 pm Program Concludes

PROGRAM REGISTRATION IS ONLINE www.oba.org/pd

Questions? pd@oba.org