



Bencher
Election

Élection
du Conseil
2019

Claire Wilkinson

claire.wilkinson@mhalaw.ca

Election Statement



Through my work as President of the Ontario Trial Lawyers Association, I had the opportunity to work closely with the Ministry of the Attorney General and the LSO. I determined that there is a need for a continued emphasis on strong policy development that will ensure the protection of the public, along with the need to ensure access to justice for those coming before the courts with legal disputes, and continued financial support for the county law libraries. I will focus on all three areas if I am elected bencher.

Enhanced funding for county law libraries and law associations – Law libraries and associations are valuable resources that provide education, administrative support and research assistance, along with important social and networking opportunities. My 17 years serving Halton taught me the value of an active and thriving county law association, particularly to lawyers in solo and small practices. Ongoing financial support is critical.

Biographical Data

Claire is a plaintiff personal injury and sexual assault litigator at *Martin & Hillyer Associates* in Burlington. She was called to the bar in 1995.

- Endorsed by the Ontario Trial Lawyers Association.
- Immediate Past President of the Ontario Trial Lawyers Association
- Past President of the Halton County Law Association
- Superior Court One Judge Model Case Management Pilot Project Consultation Group (2018)
- Board of Directors member for Mind Forward Brain Injury Services (2013 to present)
- OTLA Distinguished Service Award (2012)
- Regular CLE presenter: OTLA, Hamilton Law Association, Canadian Defence Lawyers, Osgoode Hall Continuing Legal Education, The Advocates Society, The Canadian Institute, Halton County Law Association, Ontario Bar Association

Access to justice - The administrators of our courts are experimenting with different models to ensure greater efficiency within the court system, including the one judge model pilot project launched in February 2019. This approach may not work in every case, but it is an excellent initiative to try to tackle the backlogs facing our court system. We need to continue to explore opportunities to streamline litigation.

Changes to the Solicitors Act - The LSO working group has done an outstanding job this year working with the AG and other legal groups to draft changes to the Solicitors Act that increase transparency to the consumer and remove confusion. But the work is not yet finished. The amendments have not yet been proclaimed, and there is still work to be done with the Regulations and drafting a standard contingency fee agreement to be used province-wide. This work is fundamental to access to justice for people who are injured and can't afford representation any other way.

The LSO needs benchers who are prepared to work hard, work collaboratively, and to speak their minds. I intend to do all three.