



Law Society  
of Ontario

Barreau  
de l'Ontario

# Results of the 2023 bencher election

Voting in the 2023 Bencher Election closed on April 28. Forty-five lawyer and paralegal benchers were elected by Law Society licensees to serve in Convocation for the next four years.

**The following candidates were elected and will take office at the May 25, 2023 Convocation:**

## **Elected benchers (lawyers)**

**Toronto****Outside Toronto**

Gerald Chan*	Kathryn Whitehead (CE) *
Sidney H. Troister	Andrew Spurgeon (CS) *
Atrisha Lewis	Jennifer Gold (CW-CO) *
Annamaria Enenajor	Mitchell Kitagawa (E) *
Jonathan Rosenthal	Joelle Malette (NE) *
John Callaghan	Cheryl C. M. Siran (NW-NO) *
Tanya Walker	Greg Monforton (SW-SO) *
Heather L. Hansen	Neha Chugh (E)
Rebecca C. Durcan	Jacqueline Horvat (SW-SO)
Julia Shin Doi	Laura L. Emmett (CS)
Margaret L. Waddell	Natalia U. Rodriguez (E)
Isfhan Merali	Jasminka Kalajdzic (SW-SO)
Peter C. Wardle	Sonia Ouellet (E)
Pam Hrick	Karen Hulan (SW-SO)
Catherine Rhineland	Quinn Ross (SW-SO)
William C. McDowell	Kevin L. Ross (SW-SO)
Megan E. Shortreed	Matthew Wilson (SW-SO)
Shalini Konanur	Cathi Mietkiewicz (CW-CO)
Stephen Rotstein	Stephanie L. Sutherland (CS)
Mark Surchin	Michael Winward (CS)

\*Regional bencher

**Elected benchers (paralegals)**

Michelle Lomazzo

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Paula Callaghan

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Demetra Dimokopoulos

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Deborah June Moriah

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Mike Radan

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**View the results showing votes cast for all candidates:**

- [Lawyer tabulation \(2023\)](#)
  - [Paralegal tabulation \(2023\)](#)
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- Voting procedures

### **Conduct of election**

The 2023 bench election will be conducted in accordance with the *Law Society Act* and By-law 3 made pursuant to the *Law Society Act*. The election will be conducted by online and telephone voting in both French and English.

The Law Society has hired Computershare, a third-party company, to conduct the election.

Voting information will be posted to each eligible voter's Law Society Portal account during the third week of April 2023. Computershare will also send voting information by email to all eligible voters at that time.

### **Voter anonymity**

Computershare will randomly assign a unique personal voter identification number, called a control number, to every eligible voter. The control number is required to access the internet voting system and the telephone voting system.

### **Eligible voters**

People who, on April 12, 2023, are lawyer and paralegal licensees of the Law Society and whose licences have not been suspended are eligible to vote in the bench election.

Lawyer licensees vote for lawyer candidates and paralegal licensees vote for paralegal candidates.

### **Candidate information**

The Law Society will publish a Voting Guide to provide voters with information about the candidates running in the bench election. The candidates prepare and provide their biographies and election statements, which reflect their views only.

Separate Voting Guides will be published for the lawyer candidates and the paralegal candidates.

### **Lawyer candidates - regional election scheme**

Forty lawyer benchers will be elected - 20 from inside Toronto and 20 from outside Toronto. Of the 40 lawyer benchers, eight will be elected as regional benchers. The regional bencher is the lawyer candidate within each region who receives the most votes from lawyer voters in that region. The business address of the regional bencher must be within that electoral region at the time of election.

For the purposes of the election of lawyer benchers, the province is divided into eight electoral regions. The eight electoral regions are as follows:

- **City of Toronto Electoral Region**

- **Northwest Electoral Region (NW)** - composed of the territorial districts of Kenora, Rainy River, and Thunder Bay.
- **Northeast Electoral Region (NE)** - composed of the territorial districts of Algoma, Cochrane, Manitoulin, Nipissing, Parry Sound, Sudbury, and Timiskaming.
- **East Electoral Region (E)** - composed of the counties of Frontenac, Hastings, Lanark, Lennox and Addington, Prince Edward and Renfrew, the united counties of Leeds and Grenville, Prescott and Russell and Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, and the City of Ottawa.
- **Central East Electoral Region (CE)** - composed of the District Municipality of Muskoka, the counties of Haliburton, Northumberland, Peterborough and Simcoe, the City of Kawartha Lakes, and the regional municipalities of Durham and York.
- **Central West Electoral Region (CW)** - composed of the counties of Bruce, Dufferin, Grey and Wellington, and the regional municipalities of Halton and Peel.
- **Central South Electoral Region (CS)** - composed of the counties of Brant, Haldimand and Norfolk, the regional municipalities of Niagara and Waterloo, and the City of Hamilton.
- **Southwest Electoral Region (SW)** - composed of the counties of Elgin, Essex, Huron, Lambton, Middlesex, Oxford and Perth, and the Municipality of Chatham-Kent.

The lawyer candidate's region is identified on the ballot for lawyer candidates by a notation after the candidate's name. A list of the lawyer candidates from each region will be provided in the Voting Guide.

### **Paralegal candidates**

Five paralegal benchers will be elected provincewide.

### **Casting votes**

During the third week of April 2023, voting instructions and the control number for each eligible voter will be posted to their Law Society Portal account. This information will also be sent by email at that time to all eligible voters by Computershare. The information will enable voters to access the election website, online internet voting system, the telephone voting system and the online Voting Guides. As noted above, the control number is required to access the election website. Voting instructions will provide detailed information on how to vote online and by telephone.

Eligible voters who do not receive their control number must contact Computershare. Lawyers should call 1-888-344-2805 or 514-982-2391 if outside Canada or the United States, Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Paralegals should call 1-866-301-2518 or 514-982-8711 if outside of Canada or the United States, Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Voters will be asked to provide their Law Society licensee number and other personal identifiers to receive their control number.

### **Voting by internet**

On the day the election opens online, voters will go to the election website through the link provided by Computershare, where they will be prompted to enter their control number to access the voting site. Once they are logged into the system, the list of candidates will be displayed and voters will be instructed on how to vote online.

There are separate ballots for lawyers and paralegals. Only lawyers can access the ballot for lawyer candidates and vote for lawyer candidates, and only paralegals can access the ballot for paralegal candidates and vote for paralegal candidates.

The ballot for lawyer voters is separated into two sections. One section lists candidates from inside Toronto. The other section lists candidates from outside Toronto. Voters can cast 40 votes in total – 20 [Back to top](#) votes for lawyer candidates inside Toronto and 20 votes for lawyer candidates outside Toronto. Voters need not cast all 40 votes but the voting system will not permit voters to vote for more than 20 candidates in the section of the ballot for inside Toronto and 20 candidates in the section of the ballot for outside of Toronto.

The ballot for paralegal voters lists paralegal candidates from all parts of Ontario. Voters can cast five votes in total. Voters need not cast all five votes but the voting system will not permit voters to vote for more than five candidates.

Voters select candidates by clicking the boxes next to the candidates' names. Voters may only vote for a candidate once. Voters can submit their votes only once.

Once voters have made their selections, voters click the "submit" button. Voters will then be prompted to review their selections and make any changes they want prior to final submission of their votes. Once the votes are submitted, voters will receive a confirmation message that their votes have been submitted.

### **Voting by telephone**

To vote by telephone, voters will call the dedicated election telephone number. Once connected, voters will be prompted to enter their control number to access the voting system. Voters will be prompted to select the candidates of their choice by entering the two-digit numeric code that appears beside each candidate's name in the Voting Guide.

For lawyer voters, the system will not permit voters to vote for more than 20 inside Toronto lawyer candidates or more than 20 outside Toronto lawyer candidates. Once voters have finished selecting both the inside and outside Toronto candidates, the system will review their selections and ask voters to confirm them before recording the votes.

For paralegal voters, the system will not permit voters to vote for more than five paralegal candidates. Once voters have finished selecting candidates, the system will review their selections and ask voters to confirm them before recording the votes.

## **Voting Deadline**

The deadline for voting is April 28, 2023 at 5 p.m. EDT. The internet voting system and telephone voting system will shut down at precisely 5 p.m. EDT on April 28, 2023.

## **Counting votes and announcement of results**

Counting of votes will be completed after 5 p.m. EDT on April 28, 2023.

Lawyer candidates from each region who receive the most votes from lawyer voters in that region will be declared regional benchers. The remaining 32 lawyer benchers will be the 13 lawyer candidates from outside Toronto who receive the most votes from all lawyer voters and the 19 lawyer candidates from inside Toronto who receive the most votes from all lawyer voters.

The paralegal benchers will be the five paralegal candidates who receive the most votes from all paralegal voters.

The election results will be announced on May 1, 2023 by news release and on the Law Society's website at [LSO.ca](http://LSO.ca) following completion of the counting and tabulation of votes.

## **Contact Us**

For more information, please contact the Law Society at 416-947-3404, 1-877-947-3404 or by e-mail at [bencherelection@lso.ca](mailto:bencherelection@lso.ca).

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## **Questions?**

**Read our FAQs** or contact the Office of the Elections Officer at (416) 947-3404, 1-877-947-3404, or by email at [bencherelection@lso.ca](mailto:bencherelection@lso.ca).