



# Competition & Event Guide



## Welcome Letter

My name is Fallon Burns. I am the Student Director of the Ontario Paralegal Association (an amalgamation of the Paralegal Society of Ontario and the Licensed Paralegal Association (Ontario)). The Paralegal Cup Steering Mooting Committee, a committee of the Ontario Paralegal Association, as well as a Humber College student mootings committee, is very excited to welcome you to our competition and our formal banquet dinner. We are pleased to present an all star line up of speakers and celebrate our students, volunteers and judges' success. We are happy to add to the conversation of Access to Justice and to celebrate our paralegal community's love of learning and commitment to competency.



In addition to our fantastic line up of speakers, we have invited our numerous Community Partners to exhibit their organizations and their contributions to the growing paralegal community and the Humber Community. We are thrilled to feature Chelsea McBride and her talented trio as our Humber Alumni from the School of Creative Performing Arts, as they liven our social networking in the Mooter's Lounge.

Finally, we are so proud of our team of students from School of Media Studies. Our talented art director and graphic designer, Austin Mateka, did a fantastic job designing our various graphics, in particular, our logo. We are also very grateful to our team of Public Relations students, Kashanna Milton, Ashley Shimski, Ferdinand Ngo, Frances Sesay and Fiona Pswarayi, who have volunteered countless hours organizing, executing, marketing and promoting our event. Our success as a team is largely because of these students' efforts and we are delighted to work with our peers.

The underlying message of Access to Justice is that we, as individuals, are empowered each and every day of our lives, to make a positive change within our community. Moreover, our small actions each day can amount to significant and positive changes within our community. Therefore, we, as paralegals, in our professional role or otherwise, are capable of being agents of change.

We hope that this mootings experience has been a rewarding exercise as you develop your advocacy and writing skills. We are so proud of the students who rose to the challenge of arguing constitutional law, as well as our judges, who undertook to understand an unfamiliar and complex law.

We thank you, our guests, judges, mooters, coaches and volunteers, for participating in the 2014 Paralegal Cup. Our event truly would not be the same without you.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the betterment of paralegal education and access to justice in Ontario.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fallon Burns".







**ROUND THREE**

Appellant Team:

Respondent Team:

Room:

Judge(s):

Win/Loss:

**ROUND FOUR**

Appellant Team:

Respondent Team:

Room:

Judge(s):

Win/Loss:

## Preliminary Round Competition Tracking Sheet

### ROUND ONE

Appellant Team:

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Respondent Team:

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Room:

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Judge(s):

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Win/Loss:

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### ROUND TWO

Appellant Team:

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Respondent Team:

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Room:

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Judge(s):

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Win/Loss:

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## Our History and Background

“Mooting” is a skills-based competition. Organized by Humber Paralegal Degree students, the competition is open to all of Ontario’s paralegal students. Its purpose is to connect students with senior paralegals, to develop their oral and written advocacy skills. Students gain practical training from mentors who guide them on how to become better legal advocates for Ontario’s public.

Following the competition rounds, the Paralegal Cup committee hosts a formal dinner and banquet to celebrate our students’ achievements. This evening features a number of influential keynote speakers and distinguished guests from the legal community. The 2014 Paralegal Cup banquet theme is Access to Justice, following the Law Society of Upper Canada’s Access to Justice Symposium. The goal of the banquet theme is to focus on the future of legal services within Ontario’s legal profession.

In 2013, Fallon Burns was elected to the Board of Directors of the then Paralegal Society of Ontario (PSO), now Ontario Paralegal Association (OPA), a paralegal professional association. Fallon set out to create new opportunities for paralegal students across Ontario.

As the Student Director, Fallon teamed up with her Humber College Paralegal Degree classmates, Karen Fair and Doug Taylor, to create a skills competition for paralegals. This skills competition, referred to as a “mooting competition,” allows paralegal students to network with senior paralegals and to develop their oral and written advocacy skills. Most importantly, the competition offers paralegal students practical training from mentors who would teach them to be better legal advocates for Ontario’s public.

The first Paralegal Cup was hosted at Humber College Lakeshore Campus in Toronto, Ontario in November 2013. Thirty-five (35) paralegals, five (5) lawyers and several Deputy Judges of the Small Claims Court attended the Paralegal Cup to teach

our next generation of paralegals. Humber College, Centennial College, Canadian Business College and Seneca College sent teams of students to compete in the event.

Canadian Business College students, Olivia Ho and Royce Calverley won the final competition by narrowly defeating Sabah Fatima and Derek Lai from Centennial College.

Further, students and community members were able to hear key speeches from the elite of Ontario’s legal community. Benchers of the Law Society of Upper Canada, Ontario Justice Education Network, the Federal Crown and members of the Board of Directors of Legal Aid Ontario spoke at the banquet and further enriched the experience for all. In the end, Canadian Business College won the 2013 Paralegal Cup.

The 2014 Paralegal Cup promises to be an event that far exceeds the success of last year. Speakers are attending the banquet from the upper echelon of Ontario’s legal and academic community. It is without a doubt that the student participants and the community members attending will benefit greatly from being able to participate in the weekend long event. Moreover, it is the public of Ontario, the people relying on the ease and affordability of proper access to justice that benefit from advocates who have challenged and developed their skills in advocacy.

The Paralegal Cup Steering Committee extends a thank you to all our Presenting Partners for their leadership and continued support.

## Paralegal Cup Participants

The Paralegal Cup Steering Committee extends our gratitude to all the participating Colleges for supporting their student mooted teams in this extra-curricular academic competition! Participating colleges are: Algonquin Careers Academy, Canadian Business College, Centennial, Herzing, Humber and Seneca. The Paralegal Cup is a great avenue to highlight Ontario's top paralegal student talent. This year's competition is going to be fierce!

We are proud to announce the final judging panel for the Supreme Court of the Paralegal Cup: Chief Justice, Albert Ferranti, Justice Michael Benoit, Justice Michelle Haigh, Justice Darryl Singer and Justice Nav K Singh.



### Paralegal Cup Preliminary Round Judges

Jennifer Bell . . . . .	Mediator	Susan Koprach . . . . .	Paralegal
Michael Benoit . . . . .	Paralegal	Marian Lippa . . . . .	Paralegal
Michelle Bernardi . . . . .	Paralegal	Michelle Meighoo . . . . .	Lawyer
Kristin Bisbee . . . . .	Paralegal	Nancy Miller . . . . .	Paralegal
Minda Bowman . . . . .	Paralegal	Ken Mitchell . . . . .	Paralegal
George Brown . . . . .	Paralegal	James (Jim) Moak . . . . .	Paralegal
Robert Burd . . . . .	Paralegal	Andrew Monkhouse . . . . .	Lawyer
James Cooper . . . . .	Lawyer	Elaine Page . . . . .	Paralegal
Cathy Corsetti . . . . .	Paralegal	John Pearson . . . . .	Lawyer
Albert Ferranti . . . . .	Lawyer	Richard Quon . . . . .	Lawyer
Tracey Gauley . . . . .	Paralegal	Judit Schonwald . . . . .	Paralegal
Claude Gelbard . . . . .	Paralegal	Karen Schucher . . . . .	Lawyer
Samantha Glass . . . . .	Paralegal	Andrea Sesum . . . . .	Paralegal
Michelle Haigh . . . . .	Paralegal	Darryl Singer . . . . .	Lawyer
Andrew Hyland . . . . .	Paralegal	Nav K Singh . . . . .	Lawyer
Bryan Jones . . . . .	Paralegal	Leni Yang - Paralegal	
Joe Kippax . . . . .	Paralegal		

### Steering Committee Volunteers

Fallon Burns  
Karen Fair  
Sara Liden  
Doug Taylor

DaveDSilva.com  
Community Media  
416.624.4674



### **Albert Ferranti, Supreme Court of the Paralegal Cup Chief Justice**

Albert is a Deputy Judge at the Toronto Small Claims Court and a Humber College Paralegal Studies Degree Program Instructor. He assisted with the creation of the Humber College Alternative Dispute

Resolution post-graduate certificate program. He has been teaching at Humber College since 2009.

Having been called to the Bar in 1977, Albert has had an impressive legal career working in the areas of civil and criminal litigation, International Humanitarian Law and Law of Armed Conflict. Albert has a passion for imparting his experience and legal knowledge with students.

Albert can also devoted many years to serving his community in various capacities, including serving as a Member of the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie General Hospital, a Member of the Algoma District Health Council, and the President of the Algoma Chapter of the Canadian Cancer Society.

### **Community Partner Participants**

The Paralegal Cup extends a thank you to this year's Community Partner Program participants for their generous support. Our Community Partners become an important supporter of the non-profit mission and goals of the Paralegal Cup.



## Competition Schedule

### Saturday, November 1, 2014

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Registration, Opening Ceremony & Breakfast, Mooter's Lounge
8:00 AM - 8:45 AM	Team Registration, Mooter's Lounge
8:15 AM - 9:00 AM	Judges' Brief
9:00 AM - 9:15 AM	Participants' Welcome
9:30 AM - 10:40 AM	Round 1
10:40 AM - 10:55 AM	Break
11:00 AM - 12:10 PM	Round 2
12:15 PM - 1:30 PM	Lunch, Mooter's Lounge
1:30 PM - 2:40 PM	Round 3
2:40 PM - 2:55 PM	Break
3:00 PM - 4:10 PM	Round 4
4:30 PM - 6:00 PM	Networking Hour, Mooter's Lounge
6:00 PM - 8:30 PM	Banquet Dinner - L Building, L1000 Commons

### Sunday, November 2, 2014

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Check-in & Breakfast, Mooter's Lounge, L Building - 2nd Floor
9:00 AM - 10:15 AM	Quarter-Finals
10:15 AM - 10:45 AM	Break
10:45 AM - 12:00 PM	Semi-Finals
12:00 PM - 12:45 PM	Lunch, Mooter's Lounge
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM	Finals
3:00 PM	Awards and Closing Remarks

\*Please note that all times are approximate



416.657.4057





## Formal Evening Banquet Dinner



1st Annual PSO Intercollegiate Mooting Competition (c) 2013 Dave D'Silva

Following the competition rounds, the Paralegal Cup committee hosts a formal dinner and banquet to celebrate our students' achievements. This evening features a number of influential keynote speakers and distinguished guests from the legal community. The event serves to be an invaluable opportunity to connect with industry leaders.

The 2014 Paralegal Cup banquet theme is Access to Justice, following the Law Society of Upper Canada's 'Creating a Climate for Change' Report from the Treasurer's Advisory Group on Access to Justice Symposium. The goal of the banquet theme is to focus on the future of legal services within Ontario's legal profession.

Speakers are attending the banquet from the upper echelon of Ontario's legal and academic community. It is without a doubt that the student participants and the community members attending will benefit greatly from being able to participate in the weekend long event. Moreover, it is the public of Ontario, the people relying on the ease and affordability of proper access to justice that benefit from advocates who have challenged and developed their skills in advocacy.



## Speaker Biographies



### **Michelle L. Haigh**

Michelle is an Honours graduate from the Sheridan College Paralegal Studies program. She also holds Faculty of Law Certificate(s) in ADR/Advanced ADR from the University of Windsor.

Michelle is a sole practitioner and since 1996 has focused on civil litigation – Small Claims Court. She was appointed by the AGO to the Paralegal Standing Committee at the LSUC in 2006. As a member of the PSC, she also sat as an adjudicator at good character and discipline hearings for paralegal candidates and licensees, and currently sits on the Proceedings Authorization Committee.

The Attorney General of Ontario first appointed Michelle to the Paralegal Standing Committee in 2006. Since then she has worked with the committee to establish the by-laws governing the paralegal profession and the licensing process. She feels honoured

to have been involved in this groundbreaking process. Michelle continues to sit on the Paralegal Standing Committee as an elected bench member and served(s) on several committees, including Chair of the Compensation Fund Committee, Morris Report Working Group, Government Relations, Priority Planning, and former co-chair of Access to Justice. Michelle has found her experience to be enlightening and challenging and she feels that since regulation, the paralegal profession gained respect and integrity.

Michelle is also a member of the Toronto Small Claims Court “Frequent User Committee”, Humber College Program Advisory Board, and former member of the Sheridan College Advisory Board. Michelle has also been an appointed director of the Board of Directors for Legal Aid Ontario since 2011.

Her community involvement includes Parent volunteer for City Rep Hockey Minor Atom AA, organizing teambuilding sessions and social gatherings. She also volunteered for the Burlington Rep Lacrosse Novice Team as a travel coordinator and organizer of team social events. Michelle has also dedicated many volunteer hours for to assist fellow licensees in their Continuing Professional Development, mainly structured around Ethics and Professionalism.



## ***Community Partner Participants***



### **John Pearson**

John Pearson holds a LLM and JD from York University's Osgoode Hall Law School, in addition to a BA in History and English from the University of Toronto. He is a member of the Law Society of Upper Canada, the International Association of Prosecutors and former member of the Bars of Nova Scotia and the Northwest Territories. John is also on the list maintained by The Registry of counsel qualified to appear before the International Criminal Court.

John has over 35 years of experience in the criminal justice system. Since 2009, he has been a General Counsel in the Crown Law Office Criminal at the Ministry of the Attorney General for Ontario, where he conducts complex trials and appeals.

John also supports the Deputy Minister on the National Steering Committee for Justice Efficiencies and Access to Justice. He is also a Vice Chair of the independent Death Investigation Oversight Council.

John is a member of the Steering Committee for the annual National Criminal Justice Symposium. As a consultant to the Organization for Co-Operation and Security in Europe, he has provided advice to prosecution services in Moldova and Armenia.

From 1997 to 2009, John was the Director of Crown Operations for Central West Region in Ontario. From 1990 to 1994, he served as Nova Scotia's first statutorily independent Director of Public Prosecutions.

In 2005, John was awarded the Excelsior Team Award by the Government of Ontario for his work on the Justice Delay Reduction Initiative.



## Cathy Corsetti

Cathy is president and co-founder of Corsetti Paralegal Professional Corporation and Associates. She has been specializing in Landlord and Tenant Board and Small Claims Court for over 37 years.

Cathy graduated from Humber College's Law Clerk Program in 1977.

In 2010, Cathy was elected as chair of the Paralegal Standing Committee at the Law Society of Upper Canada; a role she has held for five-years. Further, she was just elected as a benchler from 2014 to 2018.

Between 2011 and 2012, Cathy served as an appointee to numerous Law Society of Upper Canada committees, including, Access to Justice, Professional Development and Competence, Equity and Aboriginal Issues and the CPD and Costs working group.

From 2013 to current, Cathy has been appointed to several committees including, Chair of the Morris report working group, Co-chair Access to Justice, Audit and Finance, the Discipline and Appeal panel at Law Society Tribunal, Priority Planning, TAG and Exemption working group.

Cathy's work has been instrumental in forming the following policies:

- Law Society Distinguished Paralegal Award
- Paralegal Welcome Reception
- Five year review of paralegal licensing
- Law Society Referral Service, to include paralegals
- Members Assistant Program

Cathy is a regular presenter for Law Society CPD programs including, 'Opening your Paralegal Practice', 'Ethical Advocacy', 'Fundamental Components of a Retainer Agreement' and 'Amendment to Rules of Conduct'.

In addition to her work at the Law Society of Upper Canada, she serves in the community. Cathy was appointed to the Board of Directors for LibraryCo.



## Tanya De Mello

Tanya (Toni) De Mello, graduated from the University of Waterloo with a BA in Honors Economics and Political Science in 2002; she was valedictorian of her

graduating class. She then worked for two years as a Management Consultant with Ontario Power Generation and a year with Deloitte. At Deloitte, she travelled extensively, working in Mexico, Spain and all over the US.

Using her business and finance background that she acquired from the University of Waterloo and her work as a consultant, she co-founded two non-profit organizations in Toronto. One, Toronto Volunteer Bridge, sought to connect young professionals with flexible and easy volunteer opportunities. Another, the World Youth Centre, was a social entrepreneurship training programme for international students with ideas to change their communities. She realized that she wanted to work full time public service and saw herself as someone who could leverage her business background in the realm of social entrepreneurship.

Accordingly, she undertook a Masters in Public Policy at the Woodrow Wilson School in Princeton University. This experience has profoundly changed her. When she arrived at Princeton, she immediately founded the Woodrow Wilson Workers (WWW), aimed at engaging graduate students in flexible community service opportunities in New Jersey and New York. However, she was stunned at the very beginning of her first year at WWS with the tragedy left by Hurricane Katrina. The images of victims and survivors deeply troubled her and compelled her to initiate a trip with some fellow students to do relief work in New Orleans during the fall break. It was on this trip that she felt called to work in emergency relief and specifically in rebuilding of communities that have been shattered - by natural disaster, war or other catastrophes. That spring, she initiated a similar relief trip to Kashmir, in the area that was hardest hit by the earthquake. As a result, she

received the Princeton International Student Award in 2006 in honor of her efforts.

Toni then undertook a summer internship, where she worked in peace building through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva. After this internship, she spent six months in Senegal, working in Emergency Relief through the UN World Food Programme (WFP) at their regional office. There, she worked in the promotion of WFP's main programs in the region, specifically advocating for initiatives aimed at improving nutrition levels in the 18 West African countries covered by the regional office. She then spent the next six months working in a UNHCR Field Office in Colombia, South America, where she worked directly with the displaced population in the area. She led a Needs Assessment that she later used to advocate for the rights of the displaced in the region and to convince the local government to fulfill its obligations to protect and support them. While in Colombia, Toni realized that the rights of those that are displaced or flee as refugees are constrained and dictated by international law and domestic policies. She wanted to work in the field with those in need but also wanted to play a role in shaping and transforming policies and systems at higher level. She enrolled in dual law degree at McGill Law School, and became a lawyer in June 2012.

She has recently begun working as Director of Diversity and Equity at the University of Toronto (Scarborough campus). Her job entails the promotion of inclusion and accessibility within the learning, living and working environments for faculty, staff, and students. She currently deals with equity concerns and protects faculty and staff as well as students from violations of the Ontario Human Rights Code as well as protections given from the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act. Furthermore, her responsibilities include advising the Principal, coordinate educational initiatives, and make strategic recommendations to leadership on matters of policy interpretation and practice concerning diversity, accessibility, equity, inclusion, freedom of speech and freedom of expression for students, staff, faculty, and visitors.