



Law Society
of Ontario

Barreau
de l'Ontario

Your Real Estate Practice And The COVID-19 Pandemic: What You Need To Know Right Now

Presenter Biographical Summaries

(In Alphabetical Order)

March 27, 2020



MARK DURWARD

Counsel – Practice Management Review Professional Development and Competence Department – Law Society of Ontario

Mark Durward was one of the original three Practice Management Review Counsel employed by the Law Society of Ontario when the Practice Management Review Program began in February 2007.

Mark has met with and discussed all aspects of practice management with over 600 lawyers since joining the Law Society.

Mark practiced in Hamilton, first in a small firm environment for 8 years and then as a sole practitioner for another 15 years, prior to joining the Law Society. His practice included real estate, wills, estates, corporate commercial and family law.

While in private practice Mark was an active member of the Hamilton Law Association Real Estate Committee. Mark also served as a member of the LSUC/OBA Joint-Committee on Electronic Registration of Title Documents which facilitated the introduction of the electronic registration system.

Kadish Law Professional Corporation
Joel Kadish, Barrister & Solicitor
5255 Yonge Street Suite 800
Toronto On M2N 6P4
416 636 5565
Joel@kadishlaw.com

Joel was called to the bar in 1990, much to the relief of his parents. He spends most days full of anxiety wondering if the phone will ring with new business and hoping he has not made some inane mistake which will render someone's title null and void.

He is a proud father of two boys who are simply good people and husband to a wonderful wife who tells him not to work so much and forces him on wonderful adventures.

He has taught for the Law Society of Ontario extensively on topics related to real estate and running a law practice, has been a virtual mentor for the Law Practice Program at Ryerson University and tries to be a give back to an amazing profession that has given him so much.

He does most things to do with residential real estate. The usual fare of purchases, sale and refinances. He also does some leasing and commercial transactions although he always wonders if he has done enough "off title" searches.

He rides a 2009 BMW F650GS and hangs out with a gang. I mean the gang volunteers their time at such notorious events as the OneWalk in support of Princess Margaret Hospital, the Sick Children's Camp Walk and the Ride to Conquer Cancer. You can't answer emails when you ride. It really feels great.

Charley Kozdas, CPA, CGA, CFF, CFE, BAccS

Bio

Charley Kozdas is a Spot Auditor with the Law Society of Ontario. He first worked for the Law Society in 2002, but he left and later returned - this time to stay - in 2008. Charley originally worked as a police officer, having spent 18 years with the Toronto Police, where he developed an interest in the areas of fraud and financial crime. After leaving the police, Charley worked in the areas of forensic accounting and investigations, before he finally settled down as a Spot Auditor. Charley is a Chartered Professional Accountant, a Certified General Accountant, Certified in Financial Forensics, a Certified Fraud Examiner and he has a Bachelor of Accounting Science. If his background seems a little intimidating, Charley wants you to know that it shouldn't be. These days, Charley prefers to draw on his past experience to educate and inform, and he hopes that he will be able to do that for you.

Raymond G. Leclair, LL.B.



Ray Leclair joined Lawyers' Professional Indemnity Company (LAWPRO) in June of 2008 in the role of Vice President, TitlePLUS, and as of May, 2012 became Vice President, Public Affairs, responsible for government relations efforts at LAWPRO.

Formerly General Counsel for the Kanata Research Park Corporation, a development company and major commercial landlord in Ottawa, Ray has practised in both major national law firms and as a sole practitioner, and was a part-time professor at the University of Ottawa Law School and Cité Collégiale instructing the French language portion of the real estate law course. He also served for 15 years as the Ottawa senior instructor for the French and English Real Estate Sections of the Bar Admission Course and member of the Law Society of Upper Canada's Solicitor Advisory Group, Licensing Process.

Called to the bar in 1984, Ray is Past-Chair and remains an active participant of both the National Real Property Section of the Canadian Bar Association and of the Real Property Section of the Ontario Bar Association, past Co-Chair and remains a member of the Working Group on Lawyers & Real Estate, and President of the Ontario Real Estate Lawyers Association (ORELA). Former member of the Ontario Bar Association Council, past executive member of CBA's National Sections Council, past member of its budget committee and formerly Vice President of the North American Bar-related® Title Insurers, past President of the Advisory Committee for the Cité Collégiale Legal Assistants Program. Ray volunteered as Manager of the fundraiser TOM* MensFashion4Hope and a VIP & Sponsor Relations Officer for semi-annual Toronto Men's Fashion Week (TOM*). Ray is and has been a frequent speaker/presenter, in French or English, in numerous programs on various real estate and other law related topics in Canada and the United States.



JEFFREY W. LEM

Director of Titles for the Province of Ontario
Ministry of Government and Consumer Services
20 Dundas Street West, 4th Floor
Toronto, ON M5G 2C2
Email: Jeffrey.Lem@ontario.ca

Jeffrey W. Lem is the Director of Titles for the Province of Ontario. In that capacity, he has responsibility for the *Land Titles Act*, the *Registry Act*, the *Boundaries Act*, the *Land Registration Reform Act*, as well as portions of other legislation relating to over six million parcels of land in the Province.

Jeffrey also serves the broader legal community as a bencher of the Law Society of Ontario, where he sits on the Proceedings Authorization Committee and the Alternative Business Structures Task Force.

Jeffrey is certified as a Specialist in Real Estate Law by the Law Society of Ontario and is the proud recipient of the Ontario Bar Association's Award for Excellence in Real Estate, the Federation of Asian Canadian Lawyer's Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Toronto Lawyers Association's Honsberger Award for Dedication to the Profession. He has also received Martindale-Hubbell's highest rating (AV[®]), and has been recognized in the real estate field in *The Canadian Legal LEXPERT Directory*, *The Lexpert/American Lawyer Guide to the Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada*, *The Best Lawyers in Canada*, *Chambers Global Guide*, and *The International Who's Who of Real Estate Lawyers*.

Jeffrey is currently an editor-in-chief of the *Real Property Reports* (and, before that, an associate editor of the *Digest of Real Property Law*). He is also the author of the real estate law volume of *Halsbury's Laws of Canada*, the legal editor for *Building Magazine*, and the real estate law columnist for *Law Times*. He was the first Canadian member ever elected to the American College of Mortgage Attorneys, and is a former long-standing member of the Executive Committee of the Real Property Section of the Ontario Bar Association. Jeffrey and has written widely for various journals and magazines, including the *Real Property Reports*, *Municipal World*, *Building Magazine*, *Toronto Real Estate News*, *Digest of Real Property Law* and *Digest of Municipal and Planning Law*. Jeffrey was an instructor in the real property section of the Bar Admission Course for Ontario and the Director of the LL.M. Program for Real Estate Law at Osgoode Hall Law School. Jeffrey is also a past president of the Association of Chinese Canadian Lawyers of Ontario, and speaks regularly for various continuing legal education organizations.

Jeffrey has a B.Comm, UofT (1984), a J.D., Osgoode Hall (1987), and an LL.M. Osgoode Hall (2002). He was called to the bar in Ontario in 1989 and has been a solicitor on the rolls in England and Wales since 2000. Before joining the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services, Jeffrey was a partner in several prominent Toronto law firms.



Merredith A. MacLennan, B.A., LL.B., LL.M.

Stewart Title Guaranty Company Senior Counsel – Commercial Underwriting

Merredith MacLennan joined Stewart Title as Senior Counsel – Commercial Underwriting in June 2017 and is responsible for underwriting large commercial transactions across the country. Prior to joining Stewart Title, Merredith was a partner at a law firm in Ottawa with an extensive real estate and land development practice.

Merredith is a problem solver, often coming up with creative solutions for unique issues. She has extensive experience in shared property matters, including condominiums, joint use/common element agreements, co-tenancy agreements and easement. Throughout her practice, she was often retained to provide summaries, opinions, and resolutions for her clients and other lawyers on complex title matters.

During her LL.M., Merredith specialized in the electronic registration of Land Titles documents. She has lectured on real estate matters at events organized by various local law associations, FOLA, the OBA, the Law Society and Stewart Title. Merredith is the Real Estate Co-Chair for the Federation of Ontario Law Associations (FOLA - formerly CDLPA). She is a long-time member of the CCLA Solicitor's Conference Planning Committee and was an active member of the CCLA Real Estate Lawyer's Committee from 2001-2014. She is a member of the Provincial Working Group on Lawyers and Real Estate as well the Law Society's Real Estate Liaison Group.

Merredith holds a B.A. from Dalhousie University, an LL.B. from the University of New Brunswick and an LL.M. from Osgoode Hall. She was called to the Bar in 1999.



Sidney H. Troister, LSM

Tel: 416 777 5432 Fax: 1 888 312 0072

Email: stroister@torkinmanes.com

A senior partner in our Commercial Real Estate Group, Sidney has a very broad business and commercial law practice.

In addition to his traditional real estate law practice involving the purchase, sale and financing of commercial property, he is consulted regularly by industry, title insurers and lawyers for his expertise and his practical and creative approach to real estate problem solving, trouble shooting, and getting deals done. He also serves as counsel to the Lawyers' Professional Indemnity Company and title insurers, providing opinions, strategy and litigation support regarding the standard of practice of real estate lawyers in Ontario. He is also an arbitrator and mediator of real estate and commercial leasing disputes.

He is considered one of the leading members of the Ontario real estate bar. From 1990 to 2000, he was the co-head of the Real Estate Law section of the Ontario Bar Admission Course. He continues to chair the Law Society of Ontario's annual Real Estate Law Summit which he founded in 2004. A noted teacher, he is a frequent speaker at continuing legal education programmes for the Law Society, the Ontario Bar Association, and many local Ontario law associations on a wide range of real estate law-related topics.

In 2008, he was awarded the Law Society Medal for his contribution to the practice of law in Ontario.

Sidney is the author of "The Law of Subdivision Control in Ontario", a text on Section 50 of the *Planning Act* and is generally considered by Ontario lawyers as the leading expert on subdivision control in the province. He has lectured and taught Section 50 of the *Planning Act* to lawyers, students, law clerks and planners for over 30 years. He co-authored "Real Estate Conveyancing in Ontario: A Nineties Perspective", for the Lawyers' Professional Indemnity Company, which analyzed the role of lawyers in real estate transactions in Ontario. He is a contributing author to "Agreements of Purchase and Sale" and to the 5th edition of "Falconbridge on the Law of Mortgages".

Sidney has authored special bulletins for the legal profession on mortgage fraud in real estate transactions, published annotations on leading judicial decisions and issued cautions to the profession on the standard of real estate practice. He is a past member of the Executive of the Real Property Section of the Ontario Bar Association and was the co-chair of the 2002 Special Lectures of The Law Society of Ontario. He chairs The Law Society of Ontario's Annual Real Estate Law Summit. In 2015, he was elected a Bencher (governor) of the Law Society of Upper Canada. Much in demand as a speaker, Sidney has been a leader and educator in continuing education programmes for lawyers in Ontario.