

September 8, 2025

# Practical Strategies, Solutions, and Best Practices in Family Violence Matters – The Initial Steps



**CHAIR:** **Brian Burke**, *Burke and Co. Family Law Litigation and Advocacy Group*

**CO-CHAIRS:** **The Honourable Justice Heather McGee**, *Ontario Superior Court of Justice*

**The Honourable Justice Heather Mendes**, *Ontario Court of Justice*

**Associate Professor Mary-Jo Maur**, *Faculty of Law, Queen's University*

**Archana Medhekar, C.S.**, *Archana Medhekar Professional Corporation*

**November 3, 2025**

**9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

**Total CPD Hours = 2 h 30 m Substantive + 30 m Professionalism <sup>P</sup>  
+ 30 m EDI Professionalism <sup>E</sup>**

**Webcast**

**Law Society of Ontario**

**SKU CLE25-01101**



**Agenda**

**9:00 a.m. – 9:05 a.m.**

**Welcome**

Brian Burke, *Burke and Co. Family Law Litigation and Advocacy Group*

**9:05 a.m. – 9:55 a.m.**

**How Family Violence Practice and Jurisprudence Developed, and What Are the Implications? (15 m  (15 m **)

Moderator: Brian Burke, *Burke and Co. Family Law Litigation and Advocacy Group*

Panelists: Professor Nicholas Bala, LSM, Faculty of Law, *Queen's University*

Associate Professor Mary-Jo Maur, Faculty of Law, *Queen's University*

Archana Medhekar, C.S., *Archana Medhekar Professional Corporation*

Dr. Katreena Scott, Professor - Applied Psychology, *Western University*

**9:55a.m. – 10:25 a.m.**

**Safety First and Safety Throughout: The Most Current Practices for Screening and Safety Planning**

Moderator: Associate Professor Mary-Jo Maur, Faculty of Law, *Queen's University*

Panelists: Brian Burke, *Burke and Co. Family Law Litigation and Advocacy Group*

Hilary Linton, President, *Riverdale Mediation Ltd. and mediate393 inc.*

Archana Medhekar, C.S., *Archana Medhekar Professional Corporation*

**10:25 a.m. – 10:35 a.m.**

**Question and Answer Session**

- 10:35 a.m. – 10:55 a.m. Break**
- 10:55 a.m.- 11: 45 a.m. Practical Steps and Matters (I): Initial and Temporary Measures (15 m )**
- Moderator: Archana Medhekar, C.S., *Archana Medhekar Professional Corporation*
- Panelists: The Honourable Justice Heather McGee, *Ontario Superior Court of Justice*
- The Honourable Justice Heather Mendes, *Ontario Court of Justice*
- Associate Professor Mary-Jo Maur, Faculty of Law, *Queen's University*
- 11:45 a.m. – 12:20 p.m. Practical Steps and Matters (II): Services, Supports, and Complicating Factors (15 m )**
- Moderator: Brian Burke, *Burke and Co. Family Law Litigation and Advocacy Group*
- Panelists: Lisa Bernstein, Director, External Relations, *Legal Aid Ontario*
- Dr. Kimberly Harris, Executive Director, *Navigating Onward*
- Nader R. Hasan, *Stockwoods LLP*
- Archana Medhekar, C.S., *Archana Medhekar Professional Corporation*
- Dr. Katreena Scott, Professor- Applied Psychology, *Western University*
- 12:20 p.m. – 12:30 p.m. Question and Answer**
- 12:30 p.m. Program Ends**