



Law Society
of Ontario

Barreau
de l'Ontario



March 20, 2026

Symposium in Honour of The Honourable Bertha Wilson

Hosted by the Court of Appeal for Ontario and the Law Society of Ontario

The Honourable Bertha Wilson was appointed to the Court of Appeal for Ontario, effective January 2, 1976. She was the first woman appointed as a Canadian appellate judge and first woman appointed to sit as a judge on the Supreme Court of Canada.



Please join the Court of Appeal for Ontario on March 27, 2026, when we will be hosting a tribute to this extraordinary jurist, with a legacy that endures to this day.

CO-CHAIRS: **The Honourable J. Michal Fairburn**
Associate Chief Justice of Ontario, and the *Court of Appeal for Ontario*

The Honourable Lise G. Favreau
Court of Appeal for Ontario

Committee:


The Honourable Lorne Sossin, *Court of Appeal for Ontario*
The Honourable Karen Weiler, *Court of Appeal for Ontario* (retired)
The Honourable Kathryn N. Feldman, *Court of Appeal for Ontario* (retired)
The Honourable Robert Sharpe, *Court of Appeal for Ontario* (retired)
Professor Constance Backhouse, Faculty of Law, *University of Ottawa*
Lauralee Bielert, *Court of Appeal for Ontario*, Special Counsel
Laila Azizi, Judicial Law Clerk, *Supreme Court of Canada*

March 27, 2026
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Total CPD Hours = 3 h Professionalism  + 1 h EDI Professionalism 

Donald Lamont Learning Centre
Law Society of Ontario
130 Queen St W
Toronto

SKU CLE26-0030901

Agenda

- 1:00 p.m. – 1:05 p.m.** **Introductory Remarks**
- Peter Wardle, Treasurer, *Law Society of Ontario*
- The Honourable J. Michal Fairburn, Associate Chief Justice of Ontario, and the *Court of Appeal for Ontario*
- The Honourable Lise G. Favreau
Court of Appeal for Ontario
- 1:05 p.m. – 1:25 p.m.** **The Honourable Bertha Wilson: A Trailblazing Life and Legacy**
- Professor Constance Backhouse, CM, OOnt, FRSC,
University Research Chair, Faculty of Law, *University of Ottawa*
- 1:25 p.m. – 2:25 p.m.** **From Appointment to Present: The Ongoing Impact of The Honourable Bertha Wilson (1 h EDI )**
- Moderator:** The Honourable Lise G. Favreau
Court of Appeal for Ontario
- Panelists:** The Honourable Patricia Hennessy
Ontario Superior Court of Justice

Dr. Kim Brooks, President and Vice-Chancellor
Dalhousie University

Marie Henein, *Henein Hutchison Robitaille LLP*

2:25 p.m. – 2:35 p.m.

Bertha Wilson Moot

Nicole Henderson, *Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP*

2:35 p.m. – 2:55 p.m.

Health Break

2:55 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.

Keynote Address

The Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin, PC, CC, Chief Justice, *Supreme Court of Canada* (retired)

3:20 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Essay Contest Winner

The Honourable Lorne Sossin, *Court of Appeal for Ontario*

The Honourable Sally Gomery, *Court of Appeal for Ontario*

Lauralee Bielert, Special Counsel, *Court of Appeal for Ontario*

Winner of Essay Contest: Avin Persad-Ford, LLM candidate, Osgoode Hall Law School, *York University*

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Fireside Chat: 50 Years Later- What would Bertha Wilson Think?

Moderator:

The Honourable Kathryn N. Feldman, *Court of Appeal for Ontario* (retired)

Panelists:

The Honourable David Stratas, *Federal Court of Appeal*

The Honourable Eleanore Cronk, *Court of Appeal for Ontario* (retired)

Professor Lisa Dufraimont, Osgoode Hall Law School, *York University*

Professor Kent Roach, Faculty of Law, *University of Toronto*

4:30 p.m. – 4:55 p.m. **Video Honouring the Life and Legacy of Bertha Wilson**

4:55 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Concluding Remarks**

The Honourable Michael H. Tulloch, Chief Justice of Ontario, and the *Court of Appeal for Ontario*

The Honourable J. Michal Fairburn, Associate Chief Justice of Ontario, and the *Court of Appeal for Ontario*

5:00 p.m. **Program Ends**

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. **Reception in Convocation Hall**