

**TRUTH, RECONCILIATION AND LAW:
PRACTICE ISSUES FOR LAWYERS REPRESENTING ABORIGINAL
CLIENTS**

THURS., MAY 31, 2012 - 1 PM to 4 PM

**In-person: Donald Lamont Learning Centre, Main Level
The Law Society of Upper Canada
130 Queen Street West
Also available by live webcast.**

1:00 – 1:15 - Greetings and Opening

- Elder's prayer – Elder Andrew Wesley
- Greetings from the Law Society Upper Canada – Bencher Susan Hare
- Opening remarks from the Chair – Delia Opekokew (*Delia is a Cree lawyer from Canoe Lake Saskatchewan. She was the first Aboriginal woman admitted to the bar in Ontario and Saskatchewan*)

1:15 – 2:45 - PANEL 1: BEYOND RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS? Emerging Issues and Concerns for Lawyers Representing Aboriginal Clients

Content: Many Canadians assume that residential schools are “history” and Aboriginal communities should “move on”. However, issues continue to emerge from this period of history. These issues, including the continuing loss of Aboriginal language, culture and identity, are directly tied to the legacy of the residential school experience. These factors are intrinsically linked to the fabric of Aboriginal communities and, if not addressed, will adversely affect the recovery and reconciliation process. There are unique ethical practice issues for lawyers representing Aboriginal clients generally, and residential schools survivors specifically. How can lawyers represent Aboriginal clients more effectively in dealing with both historic and emerging issues?

- Moderator: Renee Pelletier, Olthuis Kleer Townshend (*Renee is a Maliseet lawyer from Nova Scotia, and is the Managing Partner at OKT*)
- Christa Big Canoe, Aboriginal Legal Services of Toronto - **Moving from Incarceration to Reconciliation: How to Respond Strategically to the New Criminal Code Amendments and Their Unique Impacts on Aboriginal People** (*Christa is an Anishinabe lawyer and is from Georgina Island First Nation*)

- Katherine Hensel, Hensel Barristers and Solicitors – **Aboriginal Kids in Care: The New Residential Schools Experience?** (*Katherine is a Sewecpemic lawyer from British Columbia*)
- Kathleen Lickers - *Representing Aboriginal Clients Effectively: The Unique Practice Issues and Ethics of Representing Aboriginal Clients* (*Kathleen is a Seneca lawyer from Six Nations*).
- Question and Answer

2:45 - 3:00 - Break

3:00 – 3:45 PANEL 2: LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD: From Inquiries to Action on Aboriginal Issues

Content: There have been many inquiries on Aboriginal issues, but there is often a sense that the recommendations of these inquiries do not translate into implementation and action. This panel will look at strategies and opportunities for increasing the likelihood that panels on Aboriginal issues will result in real political and social change. The panellists will also address some of the strategic issues in advising Aboriginal clients on the merits of pursuing public inquiry opportunities versus other types of legal recourse such as human rights or ombudsman complaints or litigation.

- Moderator: Maggie Wenté, Olthuis Kleer Townshend (*Maggie is a member of Serpent River First Nation*).
- Kim Stanton - The Ipperwash Inquiry Experience (*Kim is a lawyer and consultant in Toronto*)
- Marlene Brant Castellano - Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (*Marlene is Mohawk from Tyendinaga. She was the head of research for RCAP*)
- Murray Klippenstein – The Ipperwash Inquiry Experience (*Murray is the principal of the Toronto litigation firm, Klippensteins*)

**3:45 – 4:00 CLOSING REMARKS: CHIEF JONATHON SOLOMON,
KASHECHEWAN FIRST NATION AND JUSTICE MURRAY SINCLAIR,
COMMISSIONER OF THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION**

Introduction by Robert Lapper – CEO, Law Society of Upper Canada

Space is Limited. To RSVP for **in-person and webcast attendance**, email equityevents@lsuc.on.ca. For more information, contact Marisha Roman at mroman@lsuc.on.ca

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0.5 hours, Substantive 2.5 hours.