

LAW PRACTICE PROGRAM

TRAINING 2025 PORTFOLIO

(Note: the training is followed by a 4-month work experience with a lawyer, during which Candidates have the same status as with an articling position)

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- Training ran from August 25th to December 12th, 2025; 16 weeks of training in a simulated work environment; interactive online simulation of a law practice, using technologies including Zoom and Clio.
- Candidates are organized in “law firms” of 4 – 6, each with a practicing lawyer as a Mentor (2 Mentors over the 4 months).
- Case files were developed by practicing lawyers. Files and related work were delivered to the law firms over time, and simultaneously – candidates juggled priorities.
- The training was work, not school. Candidates came ready for work and were expected to conduct themselves as though they were working, throughout the training.

GENERAL – COMPLETED DELIVERABLES

General File Work

- ✓ Open new files; conduct conflict checks; receive and review instructions from Senior partners, law clerks and others; receive and review correspondence; review resources, including video “meetings” with Senior Partners (i.e. our “Subject Matter Experts” – SMEs); prepare memos to file; docket time (all matters, billable and non-billable).
- ✓ Firms engage with the Clio file management system, Google Drives for file creation/management/ collaboration and sharing and Zoom Video Conferencing.
- ✓ Prepare for and attend weekly web conference Firm Meetings with Partner/Mentor, including discussions on Professionalism and Ethics, Client Management and Practice Management issues.
- ✓ File discussions among Firm and with Mentor to review work.
- ✓ Participate in weekly Monday morning web conference meetings with Managing Partners.
- ✓ Participate in “live” Case File SME webinars including with:
 - Administrative Law: [Jacqueline Swaisland](#)
 - Business Law: [Arlene O’Neill](#)
 - Civil Law: [Patrick Brown](#) and [Jim Davidson](#)
 - Criminal Law: [Robin Flumerfelt](#) and [Paula Seymour](#)
 - Family Law: [Sheri Hirschberg](#)
 - Real Estate Law: [Raquel Levine](#)
 - Wills & Estates: [Ian Hull](#)

Intensive Trial Advocacy

Intensive Trial Advocacy Program (with advance prep-work and draft Case Brief for the Dolan File), led by [Sheila Block](#) and [Prof. Jim Seckinger](#) and a team of litigation expert Advisors. The three individual workshops culminated in a final trial in which Candidates conducted direct and cross examinations, acted as witnesses, and did an opening or a closing. This was the largest simulated set of simultaneous Zoom trials.

Candidates completed the following:

- ✓ Prepare a case analysis for both the plaintiff and defendant
- ✓ Prepare for trial
- ✓ Draft Questions for Examination-in-Chief and Cross-Examination
- ✓ Prepare an opening and closing statement
- ✓ Prepare for and play witness for their own side
- ✓ Conduct trial/examination-in-chief and cross-examination
- ✓ Practice objections
- ✓ Conduct an opening or closing statement at the trial

Best Practices in AI & Technology Use

Candidates learned from a variety of speakers using artificial intelligence and specialized legal technology in their practice, in a 4-part series. Candidates had the opportunity to learn how to evaluate software efficacy for practice; use and test the technology in a sandbox; and receive feedback. Candidates explored due diligence, ethics and professionalism in AI and technology use.

- ✓ Clio and AI Technology in Legal Practice with [Erin Walker](#) and [Jeremy Fernandes](#) (Clio)
- ✓ Artificial Intelligence (AI), Professionalism, and Best Practices with [Gayle Wadden](#) (2 webinars)
- ✓ Business of Law and Innovating with [Darlene Tonelli](#)
- ✓ Introduction to LawPro with [Safiyva Vankalwala](#)
- ✓ Business of Law and Innovating with AllInnovation with [Paolo Tonelli](#)
- ✓ AI, Tech and Legal Practice with [Safiyva Vankalwala](#) (LawPro)

Additional Non-Specific File Work

- ✓ Complete the [Stitt Feld Handy Negotiation Program](#), including live workshops and an Online Negotiation Course resulting in Certification
- ✓ Participate in Legal Research Workshops with Experts [Jonathan Khan](#), [Husein Panju](#), and [Jolene Hansell](#), as well as complete 4 individual varied Legal Research matters and written Memoranda; 8 Urgent Research Memoranda; and a Case Comment
- ✓ Legal Research training for LexisNexis Canada and Westlaw Canada
- ✓ Participate in live Drafting Webinars with [Inga Andriessen](#) and complete additional drafting deliverables (e.g. commercial contracts, employment contracts, reporting letters, etc.) using [Practical Law](#) precedents
- ✓ Engage in Client Interview and Communication Workshops with [Ian Hull](#), [Stephanie Mitchell](#) and Client Simulators through [TMU's Live Action Simulation Program](#)
- ✓ Engage in Teamwork Presentations, Workshops and Deliverables with [Dr. Pat Sniderman](#)
- ✓ Intensive In-house Counsel Webinars, Panels and Workshops, and submission of deliverables, with experts Anne Feehely (BMO), Jennifer Hall (MAG, Ontario), Lynn Korbak (Toromont), Judy Naiberg (Rogers), Thomas Santram (Cineplex)
- ✓ Monthly Professionalism Quizzes reviewing all professionalism themes covered throughout the Training
- ✓ Docketing all file and non-file, billable and non-billable time using Clio
- ✓ 9 Professional Development Sessions designed for career success, with [André Bacchus](#) including: Securing a Work Experience Position; Interviewing Networking & More; The Practice of Law, Networking & More; Preparing For & Succeeding in Your Work Experience; and additional Professional Development sessions in the winter on best practices to prepare for success while working, including strong file management, managing workloads, and excellence in practice
- ✓ Participate in additional presentations and workshops, including:
 - Mental Wellness in the Legal Profession with [Doron Gold](#), [Malini Vijaykumar](#), and [Celine Gadhadar](#)
 - Emotional Intelligence with [Gina Alexandris](#)
 - Resilience Webinars - Wellness in the Legal Profession with [Marla Warner](#)
 - Intellectual Property webinars with [Reshika Dhir](#) and [Tamara Winegust](#)
 - National Truth and Reconciliation Day Webinar with [Candice Telfer](#) and [Fallon Benson](#)
 - Seven Elements of Principled Negotiation with [Jason Stitt](#)

SIMULATED CASE FILES – COMPLETED DELIVERABLES

Administrative Law File (Immigration/Refugee Matter)

- ✓ Conduct client interview and make meeting notes
- ✓ Draft Basis of Claim and Review Documentary Disclosure
- ✓ Draft email to client regarding document requirements
- ✓ Research on documents, personal, & country conditions
- ✓ Review and Respond to Urgent Client Message
- ✓ Research and Research Memo
- ✓ Review Transcript of Hearing
- ✓ Prepare for and Present Oral Submissions at Hearing

Business Law Files (Incorporation and Business Acquisition)

- ✓ Conduct legal research and draft a memorandum on the modernization of corporate transactions and legal services in Ontario (creating a more welcoming province for business in Ontario, the use of electronic signatures – when and what makes it valid, and resolving vexatious registrations without going to court)
- ✓ Conduct legal research and draft Options memo re Business Structure Options
- ✓ Conduct Client Interview and make meeting notes
- ✓ Review and Analyse Incorporation Documents
- ✓ Review pre-search Name Analysis Report
- ✓ Prepare voicemail to client about conflict of similar names
- ✓ Review Corporate Profile Reports
- ✓ Review privacy policy for retainers
- ✓ Draft Letter of Intent
- ✓ Review Articles of Incorporation, Form 1 Initial Return, and Organizational Documents
- ✓ Draft Share Purchase Agreement and create the disclosure schedules Draft Closing Agenda
- ✓ Prepare single draft closing agenda
- ✓ Draft Third Party Consents
- ✓ Draft a Non-Competition Agreement
- ✓ Research and Draft Legal Memorandum on Non-Competition Agreements
- ✓ Consider and develop strategy/options for Client
- ✓ Draft Promissory Note
- ✓ Review and assess Corporate Minute Book
- ✓ Draft a Corporate Ratifying Resolution
- ✓ Review an Initial Due Diligence Request List

 Civil Litigation Files (Personal Injury File - half of the Cohort represented the Plaintiff; half the Defendant):

- ✓ Conduct a Client Intake Meeting
- ✓ Draft Retainer Agreement and Additional Emails/Letters to the Client
- ✓ Review Notice Letter from Other Side
- ✓ Review Correspondence from Other Side
- ✓ Research and prepare legal memoranda about legal developments on claims for mental distress in Ontario
- ✓ Subsequent Client Meetings
- ✓ Create Client Interview Notes
- ✓ Consider and develop strategy/options for Client
- ✓ Draft Statement of Claim or Statement of Defence
- ✓ Review a Jury Notice
- ✓ Review Pleadings of other side
- ✓ Review Affidavit of Documents
- ✓ Review email correspondence or phone message from client and prepare an email response
- ✓ Prepare for and Conduct Examinations for Discovery with Client/Witness

 Criminal Law File (half the cohort represented the Crown, half the Accused)

- ✓ Research and Prepare Memo on the test at Bail Hearings
- ✓ Review and consider Disclosure Material (eg Information, Criminal Record, Witness Statements)
- ✓ Prepare a negotiation strategy with an outline to the approach
- ✓ Conduct a Pre-Trial Conference (practice negotiation skills)
- ✓ Document the result of the negotiation
- ✓ Prepare for and conduct a Guilty Plea and Sentencing

 Family File (half the cohort represented the Applicant, half the Respondent)

- ✓ Conduct Client Interviews and complete/submit notes of meetings
- ✓ Review intimate partner violence videos, articles and screening tools
- ✓ Draft Family Pleadings (half drafted an Application; the other half a Response); and review other side's Pleadings
- ✓ Conduct Research on relocating or moving a child after separation or divorce and draft a memo
- ✓ Draft a reflection memo on the theme of intimate partner violence
- ✓ Review both side's affidavits in support of a motion to reinstate parenting time
- ✓ Prepare for and argue the motion

Real Estate File

- ✓ Review video meetings about Title Searching in Ontario
- ✓ Review video meetings by Lawyer Done Deal about drafting and Agreement of Purchase and Sale using OREA forms and RealiWeb
- ✓ Review the Annotated Residential Agreement of Purchase and Sale
- ✓ Review the Agreement of Purchase & Sale and prepare a memo about its contents
- ✓ Conduct Search of Title through Teraview
- ✓ Review Final Search, Requisition letter, Title Letters
- ✓ Review Closing Documents
- ✓ Prepare Real Estate Purchase Agreement Memo
- ✓ Prepare a Vendors Closing Certificate Review
- ✓ Draft Statement of Funds
- ✓ Review other side's answers to requisitions Draft Statement of Funds
- ✓ Draft Statement of Adjustments
- ✓ Professionalism Research on Negligence issues in Real Estate Law
- ✓ Review Draft Reporting Letter
- ✓ Prepare Draft Final Invoice
- ✓ Review the Statement of Account
- ✓ Prepare for and Conduct Senior Partner Meeting re Closing Documents

Wills and Estates File

- ✓ New Client Interview, confirming Representation and Capacity
- ✓ Draft Client Meeting Notes
- ✓ Draft email to client
- ✓ Respond to Telephone Message from Beneficiary
- ✓ Draft Power of Attorney for Property
- ✓ Draft Power of Attorney for Personal
- ✓ Draft Will
- ✓ Draft Summary of Steps When Executing the Will
- ✓ Draft Affidavit of Execution
- ✓ Draft Reporting Letter
- ✓ Review Accounts and Draft Final Invoice
- ✓ Respond to Client Concern re Invoice