

Dear RODA members,

My name is Shawn Richard, and I am the Past President of CABL.

I am writing to request that you advertise the Advocacy Skills Training Series for Members of the Roundtable of Diversity Associations amongst your members. The program has been organized in collaboration with the Court of Appeal for Ontario and the Advocates' Society. We held this series in 2020 and despite the pandemic it was a resounding success. Participants received not only valuable trial advocacy skills training but also mentoring from members of the bar and judiciary.

Over the last few years, several members of RODA organizations, including CABL, CMLA, FACL, SABA and the IBA have been working with justices of the Court of Appeal for Ontario to address issues of equity diversity and inclusion through a working group (the "Bench and Bar Diversity & Inclusion Committee"). The Bench and Bar Diversity & Inclusion Committee is behind several initiatives, including a conference on EDI at the Lincoln Alexander School of Law that first took place in 2019 and was recently repeated on November 13, 2021—the LegalVoices Conference—and the Advocacy Skills Training Series for Members of the Roundtable of Diversity Associations.

The purpose of this initiative is to build capacity amongst our communities, particularly amongst those who have had inadequate opportunities for trial advocacy skills training and mentoring. The three-part series is designed to provide skills training and mentoring to advocates represented in RODA and to educate faculty about the unique issues facing advocates from our communities.

The goals are twofold:

1. To foster an environment for continued, meaningful dialogue between communities represented in RODA, the bench, and other members of the bar.
2. To provide our communities with a unique training and mentoring opportunity that will enhance our advocacy skills and provide us with practical advocacy tips and strategies that can be incorporated into our practices.

Members of the Bench and Bar Diversity & Inclusion Committee and the Advocates' Society have worked very hard to put together this program for our benefit. Given the nature of the program, the program is limited to 32 participants. Given the limited number of spots, anyone who is interested in

participating must complete an application form, which is attached. Members of the working group will select the 32 participants. Again, the 2020 program was quite a success, and we are confident that 2021 will be even better.

To qualify for the program, one must:

- ✓ Be a member of a RODA organization;
- ✓ Commit to attending all three parts of the program; and
- ✓ If selected, pay \$175 + HST.

Membership in the Advocates' Society is not required. Preference will be given to advocates in their third to tenth year of practice and who would most benefit from participating in the program.

Attached is a description of the program, including details of the accreditation for professionalism hours.

Please circulate the program description and application amongst your members. Applications must be submitted by 5:00 pm on Wednesday, December 22, 2021, to my email address [shawn@lcrlaw.ca](mailto:shawn@lcrlaw.ca).

If you have any questions about the program, please let me know.

Best regards,



Shawn Richard  
[shawn@lcrlaw.ca](mailto:shawn@lcrlaw.ca)