

If I Knew Then What I Know Now: Perceptions from Three Recently-Appointed Judges

June 10, 2021

This successful program is back with 3 new judges and 3 fresh takes on the age old question... What are judges really thinking?

As litigators, you spend your entire career seeing the courtroom from the counsel podium, watching the often-inscrutable face of a judge looking back. You have probably wondered: What is the judge thinking? Is my argument making sense? How can I do better? Unfortunately, there is no rule of procedure that allows us to call a timeout and ask, "how am I doing so far?"

This unique program will address these common concerns through a distinguished panel that consists of three recently-appointed Ontario judges, one from each of the Court of Appeal, the Superior Court of Justice and the Ontario Court of Justice (criminal). Our speakers will share what they have observed from the bench that they wish they knew when they were counsel. They will reflect on what they would have told their former lawyer selves if they could turn back time. Drawing on their recent and long-term experience as lawyers, our speakers will tell you what they frequently see (and do not see, but should). What advocacy skills work? What traits annoy them? How can you as an advocate be more effective?

Speakers:

Justice Lorne Sossin

Justice Catriona Verner

Justice David Porter

Moderators:

Robin K. McKechney

This program contains 80 mins of Professionalism Content