

Vote Will McDowell for Bencher

Will is proud to be running for re-election as Bencher with the Law Society of Ontario, particularly as part of the Bencher Good Governance Coalition, a group of experienced candidates who reflect the profession's true values and diversity and are committed to returning competent good governance to the legal profession.



WILL MCDOWELL
PARTNER
LENCZNER SLAGHT

Why Will?



Will knows the way to a better future for the legal profession.

Will has 35 years of experience in the legal industry and was previously an LSO Bencher for eight years from 2011 to 2019. He has practiced with one of the largest firms in the country, served in Ottawa as Associate Deputy Minister of Justice for Canada, and is now a Partner at Lenczner Slaght, Canada's leading litigation firm. It is his breadth of experience in both the public and private sectors of the legal profession that allows him to be strategic, thoughtful, and forward-thinking when effecting positive change.



Will knows the way through difficult issues.

Will has an excellent track record of success as both a litigator and a Bencher and will advocate for the profession and the public interests as passionately as he does for his clients. His knowledge, experience, and judgment make him the strong decision maker and leader we need to deal with the difficult, and often controversial, challenges facing the legal profession today and in the future.



Will knows the way to solving complex problems.

As a former Bencher, Will has significant first-hand experience tackling some of LSO's most difficult issues, including:

- ▶ responding to the articling crisis through the creation of the innovative Law Practice Program;
- ▶ leading the Law Society's relations with the federal and provincial governments as Chair of the Government Relations Committee and working with them to ensure new investment in Legal Aid and access to justice;
- ▶ serving on the Challenges Faced by Racialized Licensees Committee to reduce barriers and ensure a level playing field for all Ontario lawyers; and
- ▶ chairing the Professional Regulation Committee as they synchronized the Code of Professional Conduct with the new National Code of the Federation of Law Societies.

About William C. McDowell

William C. McDowell is a Partner at Lenczner Slaght. With his broad experience and judgement, Will has artfully represented clients in many noteworthy public law, commercial litigation and defamation and media cases before all levels of court in Canada.

From 2005 to 2008, Will was Canada's Associate Deputy Minister of Justice, with responsibility for civil litigation, national security and issues involving federal central agencies. He has also led a Department of Justice team that addressed a complex series of issues surrounding the Aboriginal Days of Protest in 2006–2007. Upon his return to private practice in 2008, Will was appointed by the Chief Justice of Ontario to mediate issues arising from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Inquiry into Aboriginal residential schools. Since then, he has also been named Lead Commission Counsel to the Long-Term Care Homes Inquiry and to the Cunningham Inquiry regarding municipal ethics.

Will was a joint recipient of the Department of Justice National Award for his work in resolving the high-profile Maher Arar v Canada case. He has also been recognized as a leading litigator across numerous fields by Chambers Canada, Lexpert, Best Lawyers, Legal 500 and Benchmark.

Will is also a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

About the Bencher Good Governance Coalition

The Bencher Good Governance Coalition was formed to give lawyers and paralegals a clear choice in the 2023 Bencher elections. By voting for Coalition candidates, you can elect experienced, professional, and diverse leaders who will return good governance and decorum to Convocation. Coalition candidates don't agree on everything, but they do agree on the following:

Professional Values

The LSO's responsibilities are too many and too large to be side-tracked. The LSO needs Benchers who understand and will execute its important fiduciary duties and who will return good governance and decorum to Convocation.

Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion

The LSO should value diversity over division, and the experienced leaders running as Coalition candidates are as diverse as our profession and ready to fulfil the LSO's important duties to lawyers, paralegals, and the public. The Coalition supports legal and paralegal professions that are equitable, diverse, and inclusive and a Law Society that actively addresses discrimination and which includes representation from each of its many perspectives.

Maintaining Self-Regulation

This is a privilege that is at risk. We are committed to safeguarding the profession and ensuring the LSO is financially able to regulate lawyers and paralegals in the public interest.

Click [here](#) for the full slate of Bencher Good Governance Coalition candidates and click [here](#) for their vision.