

The *Simcoe Trusts and Estates Lawyers' Association*, STELA, meets every third Tuesday of the month at 1:00 pm following its participation in the monthly noon hour OBA Trusts and Estates Brown Bag Lunch. The meetings are held in the Scotia Private Client Group boardroom on the second floor of Scotiabank on Collier Street in Barrie.

Each month, questions and issues to be discussed at upcoming meetings are forwarded to lawyers who may be interested in attending. The topics cover practice management, substantive legal issues, precedent content, ethical standards and emerging developments in case law and legislation in both estate law and other areas of law that relate to it. We have been welcoming an increasing number of family lawyers joining our group and their perspectives and contributions have been invaluable. Our group includes lawyers who, in addition to practicing estate law, have many years experience in both real estate and corporate law and their knowledge and experience enrich our discussions greatly.

We often arrange for special guest speakers who generously share their expertise as it relates to our practice area. For example, Dr. Carol McMaster, an experienced clinical psychologist and capacity assessor in Barrie, delivered an excellent presentation on capacity assessments to our group. We are currently looking forward to Mr. Brian Galbraith joining us in June to speak about collaborative practice in the estates context. In the fall, we hope to explore features of estate planning and administration that relate to people with disabilities. In particular, we hope to invite a speaker to address some of the issues that arise in the context of disability trusts and the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP).

Finally, the OBA Trusts and Estates Brown Bag Lunch and the STELA meeting following it are each recognized as one substantive hour of CPD.

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!