



# New Lawyers Update

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Spring has sprung and is the season of new beginnings. A time to grow and learn. As I reach 5 years at the bar, I often look back on what I have learned so far and what I'd like to improve on going forward. Each of us, regardless of our call, can share and learn from each other. The New Lawyers Subcommittee offers all articling students, new calls and new lawyers to Hamilton many mentoring, networking, and educational events throughout the year to help develop and foster new skills and relationships.

On February 2, 2017, the NLS hosted a Mentoring Night at Mills Hardware in Hamilton. This event brought together articling students, new calls and lawyers who were able to network and learn from a number of mentors within the Hamilton bar from practice areas including criminal law, civil litigation, family law, commercial/corporate law. The mentees were separated into small conversational groups with one mentor per group. After a short time, the mentors moved on to another group to allow as much interaction between all attendees as possible. Everyone had a great evening and made many new connections from which to call upon when the need arises. Keep an eye out for our mentoring event in early 2018.

The NLS committee also hosted a Social night on February 23, 2017 at Serve in Hamilton. This free event was well attended by students, new lawyers, and more seasoned lawyers.

A casual drop in and out evening of ping pong and networking without the usual day to day pressures.

On April 20, 2017, the NLS committee is hosting a roundtable called Business Development as a Young Lawyer. A great way to learn how to grow and cultivate new business relationships either as a sole practitioner, partner or within a firm. To register please contact Rebecca Lane at [rlane@hamilton-law.on.ca](mailto:rlane@hamilton-law.on.ca).

Did you know the NLS offers a mentoring program for all articling students and lawyers new to the Hamilton area? We have comprised the list of FAQs below (which are also posted on the HLA Website) and invite you to connect with us should you wish to find out more.

## 1. What is the NLS mentoring program?

- It is a program designed to connect prospective and new lawyers in the Hamilton area to members of the Hamilton bar through networking opportunities.
- We also aim to connect mentees with someone with whom they feel comfortable asking work and career-related questions.

## 2. Can the mentoring program help me get a job?

- Regrettably, no. Please refer to our mandate described above.

## 3. What can I expect of a mentor and what can they expect of me?

- All of our mentors are volunteers. Some may be able to offer a greater time commitment than others, such as meeting for coffee or a simple exchange by email or telephone.
- Mentees can expect all of our mentors to be eager to help prospective and new lawyers to the Hamilton area by answering any questions about practicing in Hamilton or providing advice and support.
- Mentees should be genuinely interested in practicing law in Hamilton or the Hamilton area. Mentees should have a desire to make connections with future or current colleagues.

## 4. How do I get a job in the Hamilton area?

- Please refer to the Hamilton Law Association Job Opportunities page at: <http://www.hamiltonlaw.on.ca/careers/career-opportunities>;
- You may also wish to refer to the Ontario Reports, published weekly at: <http://digital.ontarioreports.ca>; and
- Many law firms will post job opportunities directly on their website.

## 5. How do I secure an articling position in the Hamilton area?

- If you wish to take part in the articling recruitment process in the Hamilton area, there are deadlines for participating candidates and firms which are mandated by the Law Society of Upper Canada.
  - Review the Firms Hiring Students page at <http://www.hamiltonlaw.on.ca/careers/firms-hiring-students>, which provides a list of firms who are identified as taking part in the Hamilton process; and
  - Review the Law Society of

Upper Canada website, articling Recruitment Procedures, at <http://www.lsuc.on.ca/licensingprocess.aspx?id=2147497188> [note: the Hamilton process is at section D7 – Recruitment by firms outside of Hamilton]; and

\*Please note that each year the Hamilton Law Association invites candidates and law firms participating in the Hamilton articling recruitment process to a cocktail reception which takes place on the Thursday evening during the scheduled week of interviews. For more information about this event, please see: Articling Reception Invitation

b. If there are other firms that you are interested in applying that are not on the list of firms taking part in the Hamilton process, you may wish to contact those firms directly and send your curriculum vitae, together with school transcripts; and

c. Speak with your career office/department at your law school for additional assistance.

**6. What if I am law student outside of Canada and a candidate in the National Committee of Accreditation (“NCA”) program?**

a. If you are within the deadline for the formal recruitment program for the Hamilton area (see Question 3 above), then you are able to take part in this process.

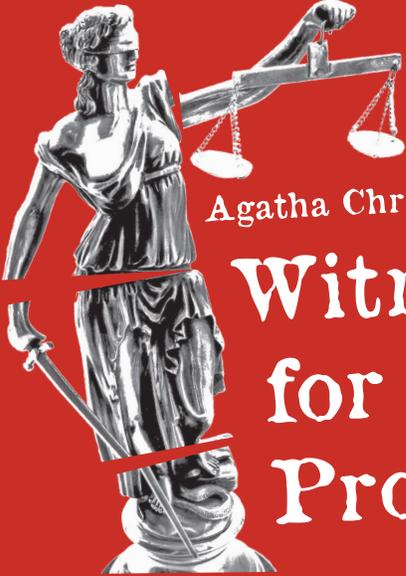
**7. How do I secure a summering position in the Hamilton area?**

a. There is no formal process for summer recruitment in Hamilton. Each firm which is hiring summer students will have its own procedures and deadlines. If you wish to know which firms are hiring for summer positions, please visit the HLA website at: <http://www.hamiltonlaw.on.ca/careers/firms-hiring-students>

Over the past 5 years, the HLA has given me many opportunities to develop professionally and personally. By asking many questions and getting involved with the HLA and our Hamilton community, I have learned from mentors within the Hamilton Legal community and will continue to do so throughout my career. Without the support of the Hamilton Bar, I would

not be entering my 6<sup>th</sup> year as a lawyer with confidence and the sense of belonging to a Bar that is supportive, positive and will be with me for the rest of my career. As a student or new call, I encourage you to come out to NLS events, reach out to a mentor, and get involved in the community. ■

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