



Alberta Association of  
Professional Paralegals

# **2023 Legal Support Professionals Conference & Awards Gala**

**June 8-9, 2023  
Red Deer Resort & Casino**



Alberta Association of  
Professional Paralegals

# 2023 CONFERENCE PRESENTER BIOS



## D. Kim Beachum

Kim is a successful professional paralegal practicing in the area of debt recovery for over 30 years, focusing on creditor-debtor matters, litigation including builders' lien matters, Civil Enforcement and Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments from outside Alberta.

For over a decade, Kim has been managing the annual collection process of numerous Homeowner and Resident Associations throughout the Province which includes initiating foreclosure proceedings when necessary to protect the client's interests under its registered Encumbrance on land.

Kim has authored and paneled numerous presentations on Civil Claims Litigation for Provincial Court and Collection Procedures including settlement and negotiation of payment agreements, garnishee, seizure of assets and sale of lands. Kim is an innovative and successful paralegal having appeared in Provincial Court and Mediation for many clients over the years as a cost-effective means to the client to collect on the debt.



## Angie Calliou

Angie provided virtual paralegal services for nine years after starting Advantage Virtual Services, which led her to using various software programs and platforms to allow her to work remotely. Through this experience, she developed a keen interest in the evolving world of legal technology.

Angie is a Gold Certified Clio Consultant and a Certified Consultant for LEAP, CosmoLex, Soluno, dealcloser, Lawyaw, and Lealboards. She also has knowledge of various other practice management software programs, as well as programs specific for a certain area of law. She is constantly striving to expand her knowledge of new software being developed to specifically assist the legal community.



Alberta Association of  
Professional Paralegals

# 2023 CONFERENCE PRESENTER BIOS



## Robert Manolson, BA, CCDP

As the Business Owner of Powerful Play Experiences, Positive Workplace Mental Health...For Teams, Robert has travelled throughout Alberta for over 16 years now, facilitating the most amazing PlayBased Team Building & Positive Mental Health...At Work, Workshop Experiences. In Person & Online!

As an avid Mental Health Champion, Robert wants people to know that being a man, he's had to learn to get vulnerable with the simple act of talking about his depression and anxiety and reaching out for help. My business goal, post covid? To work with leaders, to work with decision makers who take action to position their workspaces - Home | Onsite | Hybrid - in support of everyone's mental wellbeing and wellness

Robert's new message to business leaders? "Step Up! Coming out of COVID, silence and in-action in today's world of work is absolutely unacceptable. Mental health and mental health at work is no longer the topic that nobody talks about. I'm here to work with you! Let's work together to customize MY 60 DAY 3 STAGE ACTION PLAN TO RE-CLAIM POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH AT WORK."



Alberta Association of  
Professional Paralegals

# 2023 CONFERENCE PRESENTER BIOS



## John McDonald

John McDonald is a retired Combat Arms Officer in the Canadian Armed Forces who started his legal journey as a Military Summary Trial Presiding Officer and which grew into his current practice as an Independent Paralegal.

John holds a Limited Licence provided by the Law Society of Saskatchewan and Letter of No Action from the Law Society of British Columbia and is the Owner of McDonald Paralegal Services Ltd, with offices in Calgary Alberta and Moose Jaw Saskatchewan.



## Ryan McDougall

Ryan began her career 20 years ago and has specialized in family law matters. Completing her mediation and dispute resolution training in 2012, Ryan started a mediation practice focusing on keeping families out of the court system. Ryan returned to school and completed a degree in Governance, Law & Management in 2015.

Ryan continues her legal work through McKenzie Legal Services where she assists victims of domestic violence needing protection orders and help navigating through the justice system. She is passionate about the wealth of knowledge and experience paralegals can bring to citizens and is active on pursuing the regulation of the paralegal profession.



Alberta Association of  
Professional Paralegals

# 2023 CONFERENCE PRESENTER BIOS



## Veronica McGuire

Veronica is the Director, Professional Conduct & Disciplinary Review Committee and a mentor with the AAPP. She is a former Provincial (Crown) Prosecutor in Ontario where she prosecuted charges and provided advice to investigators as to a reasonable prospect of conviction. She conducted hearings and trials on charges under the Criminal Code of Canada, Provincial Offences Act and Federal Statutes.

She is a licensed Paralegal, Commissioner for Oaths, Notary public and is a member in good standing of the Law Society of Ontario. She was a tutor for their licensing examinations. For the past 12 years she has been a Law Professor in the Paralegal Licensing Program at two Toronto Colleges. Having successfully completed the required York University program in Adjudication for Agencies, Boards & Tribunals, she is a member of the Society of Adjudicators and Regulators (SOAR). In 2021 she was appointed to the Accreditation Committee of the Ontario College of Teachers, evaluating teaching programs at various Ontario Universities. Veronica and her husband relocated to Alberta in 2022 to be closer to family.



## Christine Savoy

Christine has been a paralegal for 25 years and is also a recently certified legal coach. Beginning her career in law firms, she has witnessed the increasing problem of access to justice. After becoming a single mom in 2010 Christine started her own business where she was living in Calgary. After moving to Edmonton in 2018, she continued her business offering legal coaching for self-represented litigants as well as paralegal services to assist clients with document preparation in the areas of Wills and Estates, Family law and Dependent Adult Applications.

Christine has a son that is 12 and a daughter that is 14 that she raises on her own. Red Deer holds a special spot in her heart as she took her Legal Assistant course back in 1991 at Red Deer College and her work experience began at a Sole Practitioner's office in Red Deer, where she worked for 2 years.

Christine is honoured to be speaking at this conference, and loves meeting and connecting with other paralegals.



Alberta Association of  
Professional Paralegals

# 2023 CONFERENCE PRESENTER BIOS



## Katherine Quantz

After graduating from MacEwan University's Paralegal Studies diploma program in 2011, Katherine worked for many years as a Legal Assistant in Edmonton, Alberta, both within the private sector at law firms of various sizes, and in the public service for the Alberta Government. Katherine has legal experience in several diverse areas of practice but has spent the last several years specializing in litigation, collections, and recoveries. Katherine is now the Team Lead of a Paralegal Services unit within the Ministry of Treasury Board and Finance.

In 2019 Katherine joined the AAPP, and in October 2021 joined the Board of Directors as Chair of Education & Professional Development. Katherine is passionate about creating and promoting professional development opportunities within the legal community and welcomes any opportunity to connect with other paraprofessionals and industry stakeholders.



## Don Schapira

Don Schapira, Q.Med. founded Fresh Start Mediation in 2014 because he believed that there was a better way to overcome conflict in the Family Room, Board Room and the Class Room.

With his deep financial background learned through 15 years on Bay Street, Don is dedicated to ensuring the best models to ensure your Fresh Start. He will work with you to provide the information you need to make the financial decisions you want during this transition.

Sharpening his skills through Harvard, Cornell and Northwestern Universities, coupled with helping hundreds of families come to healthy solutions, Don has found a balanced, successful approach to securing your Fresh Start. Don has also pledged himself to many charitable organizations in the local community, working with Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Peer Mediation and Skills Training as well as Businesses For Calgary Kids.

Staying true to his desire to grow the world of ADR, Don also works with ADRIA, is a Board Member with Alberta Family Mediation Society and acts as Executive Director for the Alberta Arbitration and Mediation Society. Don's background, tireless commitment and knowledge will help him understand your needs, so you can achieve the agreement you want.



Alberta Association of  
Professional Paralegals

# 2023 CONFERENCE PRESENTER BIOS

## Ashley Stasiewich

Ashley Stasiewich started her career in 2006 working as a file clerk at a criminal law firm in Edmonton, AB. She quickly moved into a role working as a legal assistant throughout her undergraduate studies, before progressing into a paralegal/traffic court agent role, and then office manager. Ashley has been an office manager/paralegal for over 9 years. Ashley is also a sessional instructor for the Paralegal Studies and Office Assistant programs at MacEwan University.

Ashley is a paralegal member and mentor with the Alberta Association of Professional Paralegals and an associate member with the Edmonton Law Office Managers Association. She is currently writing a textbook with criminal lawyer, Paul Moreau, titled Criminal Law for Alberta Legal Professionals, with an expected publish date of 2024 with Emond Publishing.

## Pascal Ryffel & Aaron Singleton

Pascal has worked with Alberta Counsel for six years and has been active in Alberta politics for over two decades.

Pascal has a BA from the University of Alberta and a master's degree in Media and International Development from the University of East Anglia in the United Kingdom. Born in Switzerland, Pascal moved to rural Alberta (Millet) with his family in 1993. He and his wife Carla, along with two young daughters, reside in Edmonton.

Aaron holds a degree in Political Science from the University of Alberta with a focus on public policy development. In addition to his academic background, he brings electoral experience having worked as a campaign manager for a candidate during the 2011 federal election. Prior to joining Alberta Counsel, Aaron spent six years serving with Justice and Solicitor General as a Senior Judicial Clerk and Acting Team Lead for the Court of Appeal of Alberta.



Alberta Association of  
Professional Paralegals

# 2023 CONFERENCE BREAKOUT SESSIONS



## **D. Kim Beachum**

### **Judgment Enforcement & Debt Recovery**

This webinar is designed for all collections & debt recovery legal professionals. It will focus on process and best practices that get results, and keep you compliant and within government/court regulations.



## **Angie Calliou**

### **Legal Technology**

In this presentation, we will discuss how practice management systems can benefit law firms and enhance the client experience. We will cover the typical needs of law firms, historic firm setup, and the advantages of cloud-based applications. We will also provide an overview of practice management systems and compare some of the popular options available on the market.



## **John McDonald**

### **Practicing as an Independent Paralegal**

In this session, John will talk about his journey to becoming an independently practicing paralegal. He will discuss his experiences practicing in the three provinces he is currently providing services in, and provide insight into the challenges he has faced over the years. This will be an interactive session with plenty of opportunities for you to ask all the burning questions you have in relation to independent practice!



Alberta Association of  
Professional Paralegals

# 2023 CONFERENCE BREAKOUT SESSIONS



## Ryan McDougall

### Family Law

This breakout session will focus on implications and considerations of family violence within family law files, with and without children. The presentation will explore EPOs, KBPOs, Restraining Orders and the difference between those tools. Based on feedback from the group (i.e. experience), the session will look at the legal considerations of best interests of children, forms and court processes, disclosure, wording of Orders and why.



## Veronica McGuire

### A Career in Mediation

Alternative Dispute Resolution (Negotiation/Mediation) is the now and the future and is a critical skill in our criminal and quasi-criminal justice system. By the end of this session you will have an overview of the importance of strong negotiations skills in your role as a legal professional, as it relates to criminal, quasi criminal and tribunal proceedings. The presenter will outline the current career paths open to you, further education in ADR that is currently available in Alberta and elsewhere, and the professional organizations in place for those interested in Mediation. It's an opportunity to observe and/or participate in a mini-mock negotiation – to flex those negotiation muscles that already exist within you – and to have some fun!



Alberta Association of  
Professional Paralegals

# 2023 CONFERENCE BREAKOUT SESSIONS



## Christine Savoy

### Wills & Estates

This session will discuss the journey from assisting a lawyer in the area of Wills and Estates in a lawfirm and going on my own practicing Wills and Estates as an independent paralegal. We will discuss the challenges in this area, whether you are working in a lawfirm or as an independent paralegal and how to overcome them. As well, how to succeed in this ever changing area of law and enjoy helping clients navigate through a difficult time. The last 30 minutes will be a Q & A session.



## Katherine Quantz

### Alberta Court of Justice (Civil) Procedure

In this breakout session, we will explore (at a high level) the Alberta Court of Justice litigation process, such as pleadings, applications, alternative dispute resolution, trial preparation and judgment procedures under the Rules of Court, and Provincial Court Act, RSA 2000, c P-31 (the "PCA"). We will review a few select claim types in the "small claims" jurisdiction, such as breach of contract, property damage, and general claims, and discuss the recent legislative changes impacting this Court, such as the introduction of Bill 5: Justice Statutes Amendment Act, 2022 (No. 2), SA 2022, c-20, and how it affects application of the PCA and its regulations.



Alberta Association of  
Professional Paralegals

# 2023 CONFERENCE BREAKOUT SESSIONS



## Don Schapira

### Minding Your Own Bias

We all have biases, and their roots are complex. By understanding our own biases and how they're formed we can be proactive and prevent conflict.

Minding our bias can teach us how to welcome diverse perspectives, close the distance between perspectives, and find common ground with our neighbors and partners again. Our workshop will shed understanding of biases, clarifying when a bias may be in play and offer tangible skills that help participants move from recognition to recovery. With this understanding, you will be able to communicate with each other in a way that sheds light on the perspectives that are gained from clear communication.

Objectives for our workshop include:

- Define and recognize biases
- Learn the science behind biases
- See how biases can be recognized in an environment
- Learn strategies and communication tools to minimize the impact of biases



## Ashley Stasiewich

### Criminal Law

In this breakout session, the following topics will be covered:

- Define criminal law vs quasi-criminal law.
  - Who can do what, and where?
  - Opportunities for paralegals – administrative tribunals
- Unauthorized practice of law
  - Define what a paralegal can and cannot do
  - The slippery slope (especially junior lawyer & junior assistant)
- Mean girls “burn book” activity – how to work with difficult personalities in criminal law. Communication techniques, team-building, etc.



Alberta Association of  
Professional Paralegals

# 2023 CONFERENCE LUNCH PRESENTATION



## Pascal Ryffel & Aaron Singleton Government Relations & Paralegal Regulation

Election 2023 will go down as one of the most important in the history of Alberta politics. Regardless of which party forms the next provincial government, it is critical for organizations to understand the new political climate in order to develop sound government relations strategies.

In this session, Pascal Ryffel (VP of Corporate Development and Government Relations) and Aaron Singleton (Associate - Digital Strategy) will dive into the outcomes of Election 2023 and provide some insight into what the road ahead may look like.





Alberta Association of  
Professional Paralegals

# 2023 CONFERENCE AFTERNOON PRESENTER



## Robert Manolson, BA, CCDP

### Who Knew! We're the Best at Everything!

Join Powerful Play Experiences Creator & Facilitator Robert Manolson for a highly energizing & engaging workshop experience.

Get ready for plenty of fun, personal cheers, smiles & laughter as we celebrate OUR SUPERPOWERS & OUR AWESOMENESS.

It's really all about sharing plenty of recognition & appreciation with our fellow members in our Professional Paralegal community. And making sure that everyone applies what they learned back to their everyday work.

I have plenty of great ideas here. Let's talk about it. I'll help sort things out!



Alberta Association of  
Professional Paralegals

# 2023 AWARDS GALA

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

### Lisa Trabucco, BA, LLB, LLM, PhD

Lisa Trabucco is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Law, University of Windsor from which she graduated in 1991.

Dr. Trabucco's research focuses on non-lawyer legal service provision, professional regulation, and access to justice, and professional regulation. Her dissertation – "The Regulation of Paralegals in Ontario: Increased Access to Justice?" – explored whether paralegal regulation has increased access to justice, as the government promised it would, by conducting empirical research of paralegal representatives at the Workplace Safety and Insurance Appeals Tribunal of Ontario. Currently, she is undertaking a broader empirical study of representatives at workers' compensation appeals tribunals in other Canadian jurisdictions.

Professor Trabucco's teaching interests include tort law, the legal profession and professional ethics, access to justice, civil procedure, sport law, and intellectual property. Lisa has acted as Associate Dean (Students), Faculty Advisor for the Windsor Review of Legal and Social Issues, Tort Moot Competition coach, and Faculty Lead of the Students' Academic Success program. Prior to joining Windsor Law, Lisa was a faculty member in the paralegal program at Sheridan College for almost 10 years.

Dr. Trabucco holds both a PhD and LLM from Osgoode Hall Law School, York University; an LLB from the University of Windsor; and a Journalism degree (BJ Hons.) from Carleton University. After her call to the bar of Ontario in 1993,

Lisa practiced law for 15 years in the areas of civil litigation (negligence, personal injury, automobile insurance), intellectual property, and administrative law.





# Our Event Sponsors

Alberta Association of  
Professional Paralegals

## Platinum Sponsor:



## Silver Sponsors:



## Bronze Sponsors:

