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Highway Speed Limit Increase Enters Final Stage

Article by **Charles E. Gluckstein**



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Article by **Ash Mazinani**



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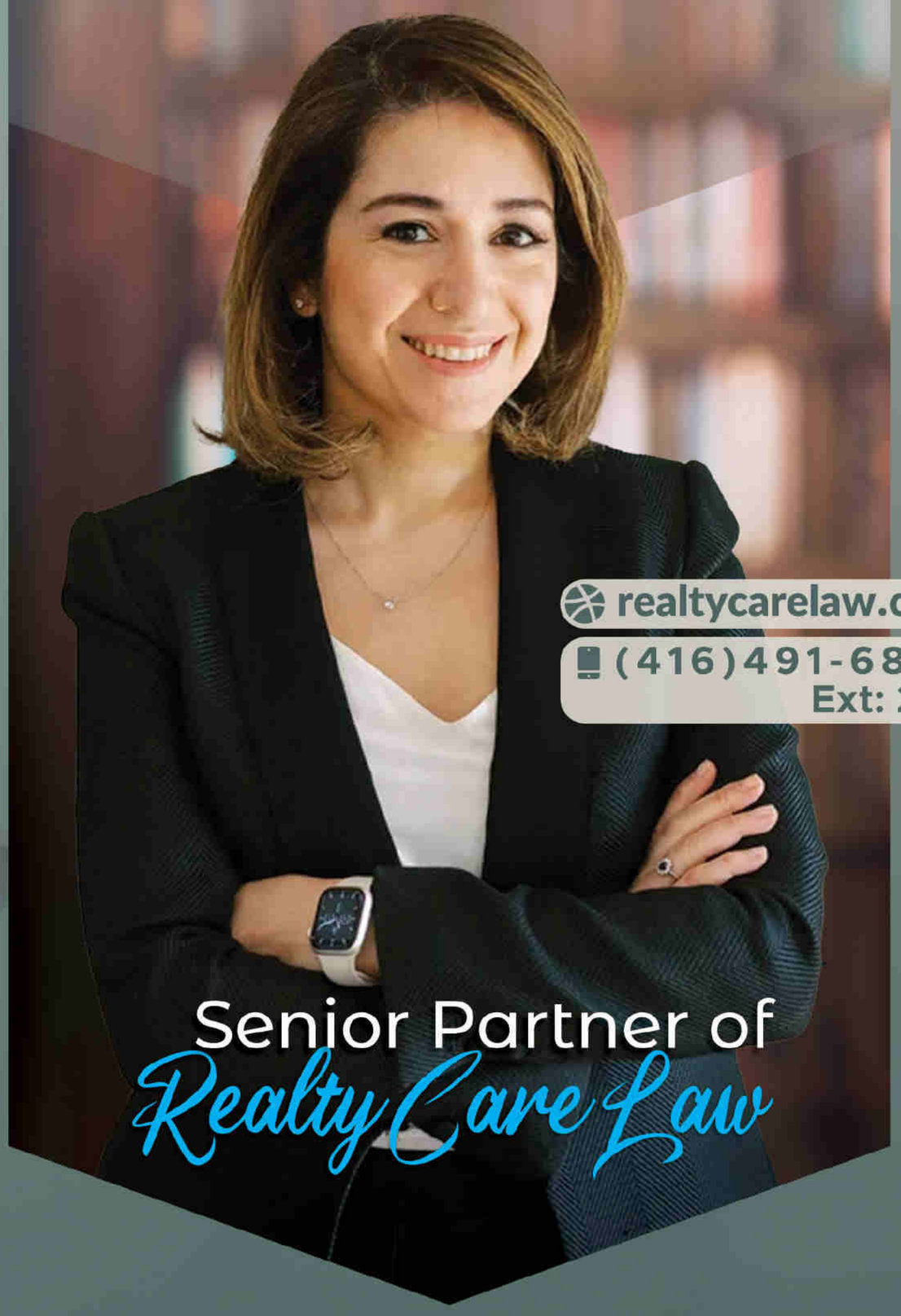
Article by **Bobby Vakili**



Probate in Ontario: Guidance During a Difficult Time

Article by **Ali Ahmari Moghaddam**

Rose Bahrami



realtycarelaw.com

(416)491-6866 Ext: 224

Senior Partner of *Realty Care Law*

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in recognition of your exceptional dedication in organizing an educational seminar on legal matters for the community.

Through your efforts, this event provided valuable insights into real estate law, family law, and personal injury law, offering support on complex topics that impact the daily lives of residents. Your commitment to making legal knowledge accessible and empowering individuals with crucial resources will have a positive impact.

Thank you for your outstanding support and for helping make this seminar an impactful event. Please accept my best wishes for continued success in all your future endeavours.

Hon. Michael Parsa, MPP
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in recognition of your contributions to the success of the Facelaw Educational Seminar.

Your expertise in digital marketing played a crucial role in bringing this event to life, ensuring community members had access to essential information on topics like real estate law, family law, and personal injury law. Your commitment to sharing these resources with the community will raise public awareness and understanding of complex legal issues, empowering individuals to make informed decisions in their lives.

Thank you for your outstanding support and for helping make this seminar an impactful event. Please accept my best wishes for continued success in all your future endeavours.

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MICHAEL PARSA, MPP
AURORA-OAK RIDGES-RICHMOND HILL

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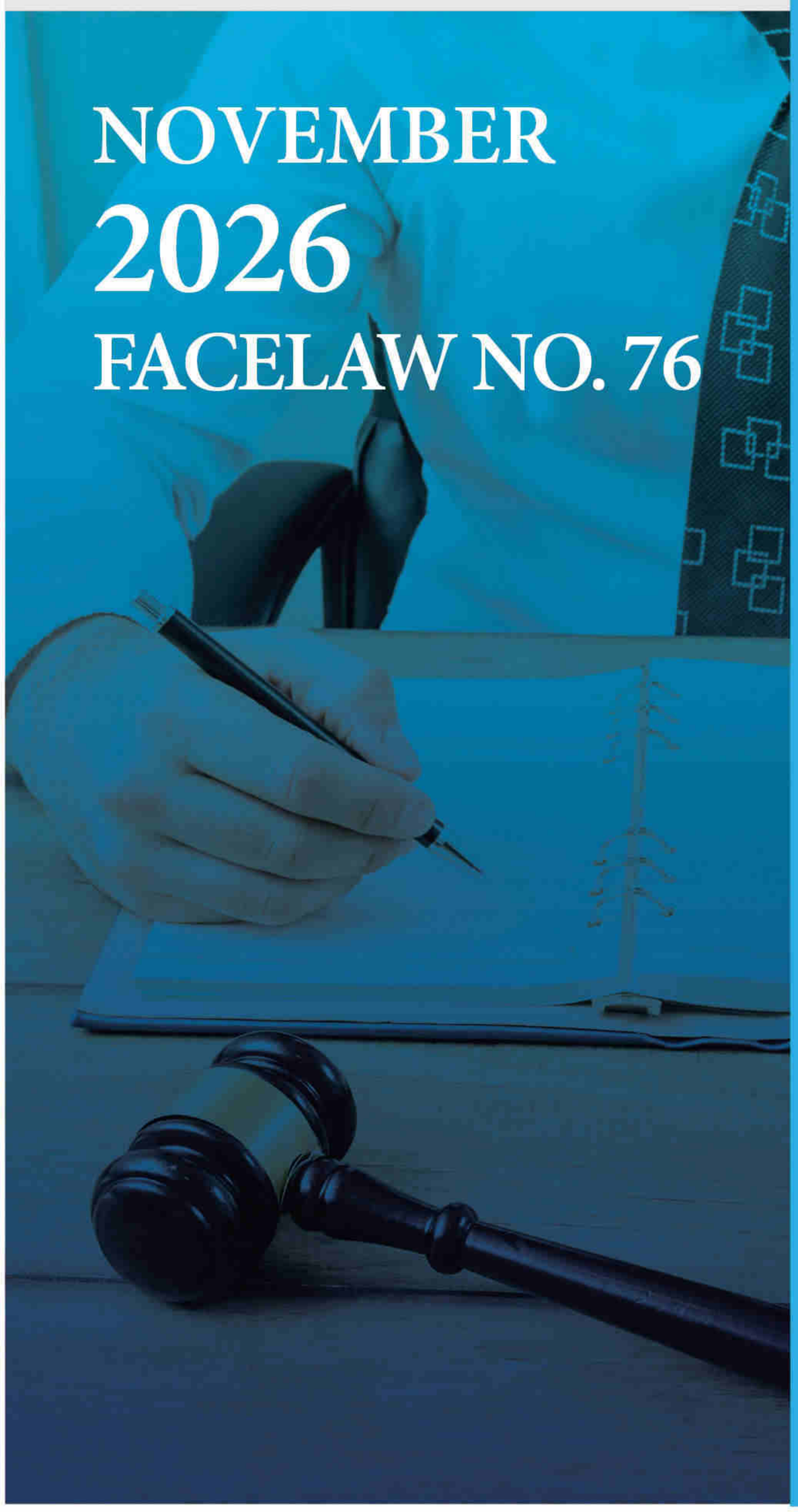
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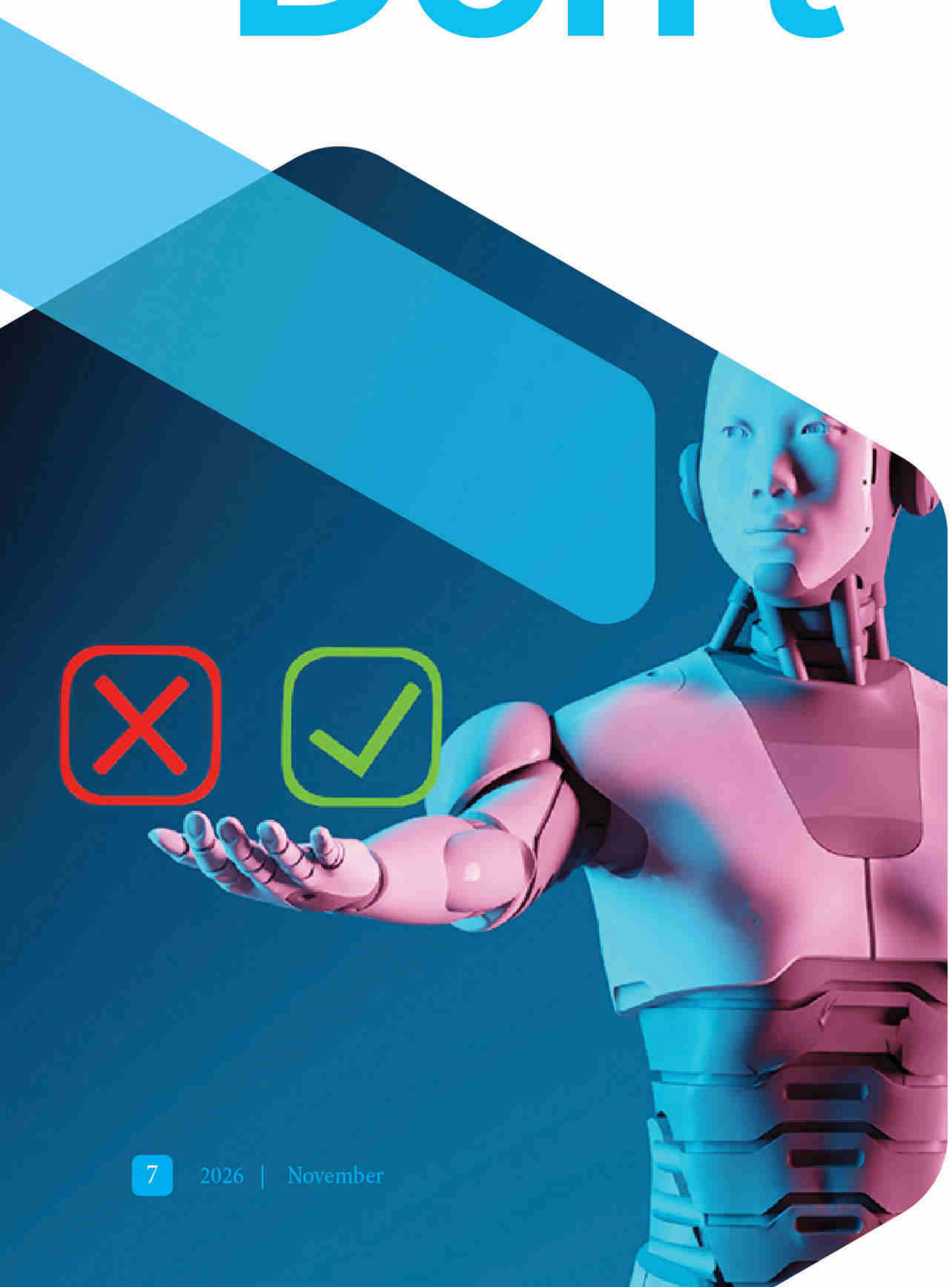
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The New Digital Divide: Businesses That Use AI Those That Don't



Artificial Intelligence is creating a new digital divide in the business world.

Competition is no longer just between large corporations and small businesses, but between organizations that effectively integrate AI into their operations and those that continue relying on traditional methods. Companies embracing AI can automate repetitive tasks, improve customer experiences, analyze data faster, and make smarter decisions while reducing operational costs and human errors.

The legal industry is a clear example of this transformation. Law firms that become more visible and discoverable through AI powered search tools such as ChatGPT can increase their opportunities to connect with potential clients and strengthen their digital credibility. Taking this transformation one step further, attorneys who integrate AI Agents into their practices can automatically respond to incoming inquiries, qualify and filter potential leads, collect essential information, and direct relevant cases to the appropriate attorney. This reduces administrative workload, minimizes the risk of missed opportunities and human errors, and allows lawyers to dedicate more time to their clients and legal expertise.



Ashkan Anvari
Doctor Of Business Administration (DBA)
Founder of the :
FACELAW PLATFORM

The future of business is not about AI replacing professionals. It is about professionals who use AI gaining a competitive advantage over those who don't.

In the legal industry, greater visibility creates opportunities, stronger digital credibility builds trust, and intelligent automation helps turn those opportunities into meaningful client relationships.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, AI Search, AI Agents, Legal Marketing, Law Firm Automation, AI Visibility, Lead Qualification, Digital Transformation, Competitive Advantage



Ahmari Law Firm

AHMARI LAW FIRM

www.ahmarilawfirm.ca

416-800-0808
289-597-6700
289-314-7693
ali@ahmarilawfirm.ca
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225 Sheppard Av. West, North York, ON M2N 1N2

Intimate Partner Violence and Divorce: A Landmark Shift in Canadian Family Law

By Ash Mazinani | Mazinani Divorce Lawyers

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is increasingly recognized as a critical issue in family law, particularly when couples separate and parenting arrangements, financial support, and property division must be resolved. While physical violence remains a serious concern, abuse can also take less visible forms, including intimidation, financial control, surveillance, isolation, and psychological manipulation.

For many survivors, separation does not necessarily end the abuse. Instead, coercive control may continue through threatening communications, the misuse of legal proceedings, or attempts to control parenting arrangements. Recognizing these patterns is essential to ensuring that family law proceedings protect the safety, dignity, and autonomy of those affected.

A Landmark Development in Canadian Law

In May 2026, the Supreme Court of Canada recognized the tort of intimate partner violence in Ahluwalia v. Ahluwalia. This landmark decision establishes a distinct civil claim for damages arising from intentional abusive conduct that, viewed in context, amounts to coercive control and undermines a person's dignity, autonomy, and equality within an intimate relationship.
Source: Supreme Court of Canada

The significance of this development is substantial. Rather than requiring survivors to fit their experiences exclusively within traditional claims such as assault or intentional infliction of emotional distress, the new tort recognizes the cumulative harm caused by patterns of abusive and controlling behaviour. However, a claim is not automatically successful simply because a relationship was unhealthy or conflictual. The legal requirements must be established through credible evidence and a careful assessment of the circumstances.

The Impact on Parenting and Separation

Family violence is also directly relevant to parenting decisions. Under Canada's Divorce Act, courts must consider family violence when determining a child's best interests, including its nature, seriousness, frequency, and impact on the child or other family members. This means that allegations of abuse should not be treated as merely another disagreement between separating spouses. Depending on the evidence, the circumstances may warrant safeguards such as supervised parenting time, supervised exchanges, restrictions on communication, or other measures designed to protect children and parents. At the same time, courts must carefully assess the evidence and the context of each case, rather than relying on assumptions or stereotypes about either party.



Evidence and Early Legal Advice Matter

Individuals experiencing intimate partner violence should consider preserving relevant text messages, emails, financial records, photographs, medical records, and contemporaneous notes of incidents. Where safe and appropriate, these materials may assist a lawyer in evaluating potential claims and determining what protective measures may be available. A family lawyer can help assess whether urgent court intervention, a restraining order, appropriate parenting arrangements, or a separate civil claim should be considered.

Moving Forward

The recognition of intimate partner violence as a distinct tort marks an important development in Canadian law. It reinforces the principle that abuse is not limited to physical injury and that coercive control can cause serious harm long after a relationship ends. For individuals navigating separation, obtaining informed legal advice early can be an important step toward protecting their safety, their children, and their legal rights.



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VAKILI LAW GROUP PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

BOBBY VAKILI, B.A. J.D.

+1 (647) 352-2245

7620 Yonge St. Suite 200, Vaughan ON. L4J 1V9

Estate Freezes and Divorce: Why Lang Newlands Changes the Rules

A plain language guide to the Ontario Court of Appeal's decision in Lang Newlands v. Newlands, 2026 ONCA 530

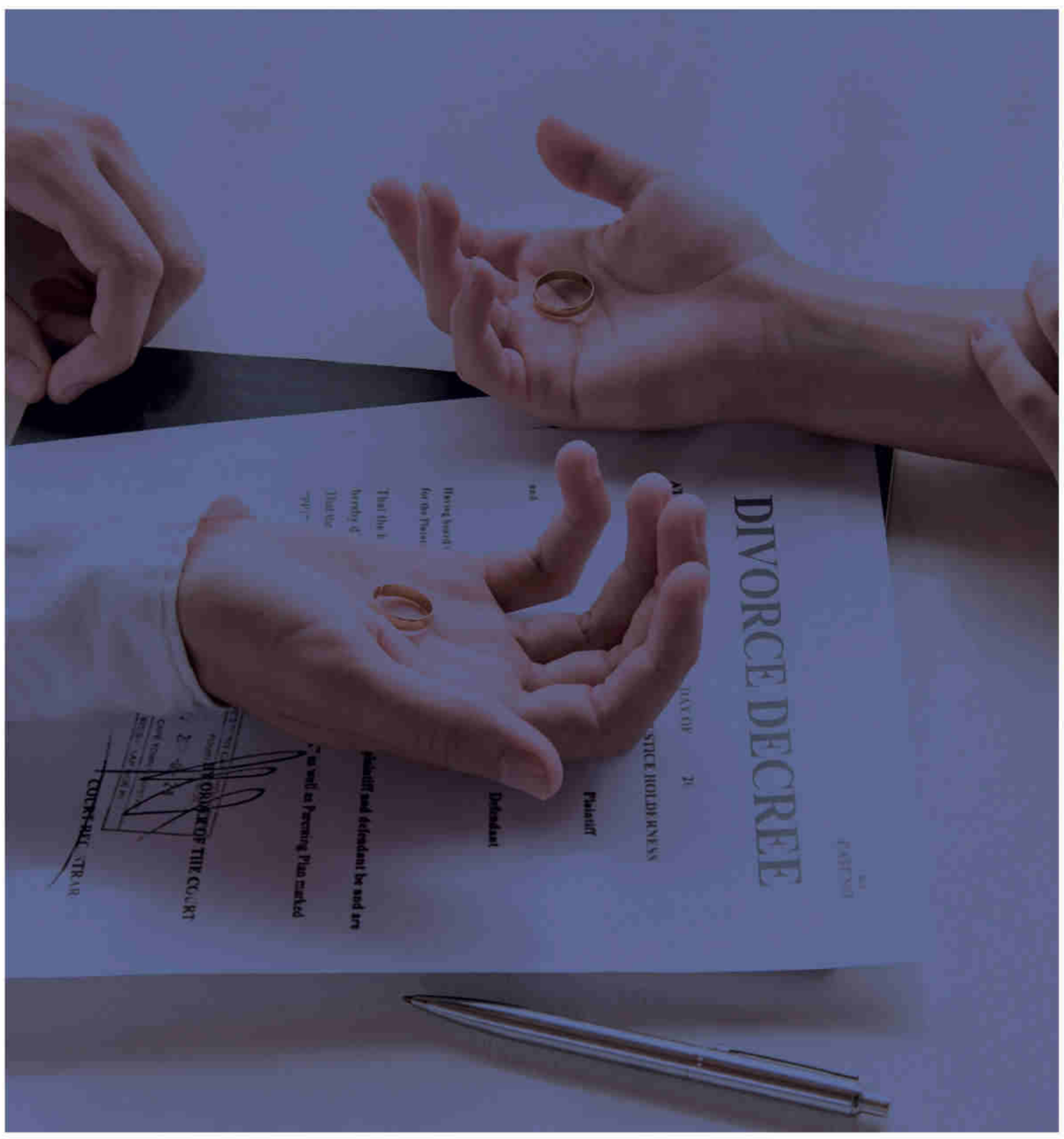
The short version

- A family trust set up during a marriage does not turn wealth that existed before the marriage into an excluded **"gift after marriage."**
- If the growth inside a trust comes from assets a spouse already owned at the date of marriage, that growth is still shared with the other spouse when the couple separates.
- The court limited the payment to $18 million because an equal division would have been unconscionable. That is a safety valve, not a planning strategy.



First, what is an estate freeze?

An estate freeze is a common tax and succession planning tool for business owners. It *"freezes"* the current value of the owner's shares and moves future growth to the next generation, often through a family trust. For years, many corporate and family lawyers assumed that if future growth was routed through a discretionary family trust created after the marriage, a spouse's interest in that trust would count as a *"gift after marriage."* Under Ontario's Family Law Act (FLA), that would exclude it from the property divided on separation. The Court of Appeal for Ontario has now said that assumption does not hold, at least where the value in the freeze came from wealth the spouse had before the marriage.



Timeline of Events

Before the marriage: Barbara's father set up a trust (the "BJL Trust") holding shares in the family business. Barbara was the only beneficiary, entitled to capital and income at age 39.

1987: Barbara Lang Newlands and Ian Newlands married. The shares were then worth about $16 million.

During the marriage: Barbara received the shares outright.

Eight years after marriage: The family carried out an estate freeze, with her father directing it. Barbara transferred her operating shares to a new holding company in exchange for fixed value preferred shares worth $24.5 million. At the same time, a new trust, the Newlands Family Trust (NFT), was set up with just $100 and acquired the holding company's common (growth) shares. Barbara held a 20% beneficial interest in the NFT.

32 years after the marriage: The couple separated. By the valuation date, Barbara's 20% interest in the NFT had grown to about $134 million.

Critical events and valuation

What	Amount
Value of the shares at the date of marriage	**About $16 million**
Preferred shares received in the freeze	**$24.5 million**
Amount used to set up the NFT	**$100**
Barbara's 20% interest in the NFT at the valuation date	**About $134 million**
Equalization payment at trial	**About $1.18 million**
Equalization payment after the Court of Appeal	**$18 million**

The legal question: gift before or after marriage?

Section 4 of the FLA contains two rules that pulled in opposite directions. Net Family Property (NFP) is the figure used to work out how much one spouse owes the other.

Rule 1 (s. 4(1)(b)): Property a spouse owned on the date of marriage is deducted from that spouse's NFP, but all growth in that property during the marriage must be shared.

Rule 2 (s. 4(2), para. 1): Property a spouse receives as a gift or inheritance from a third party after the date of marriage is excluded from NFP entirely.

So the question was: is Barbara's interest in a trust created after the marriage an excluded gift, or is it simply the growth of wealth she had before the marriage?

What the trial judge decided (2024 ONSC 6285)

The trial judge felt bound by the Court of Appeal's earlier decision in Shinder v. Shinder, 2018 ONCA 717. Because the NFT was created after the marriage, the judge treated Barbara's interest as an excluded post marriage gift. That protected the growth after the freeze from equalization and led to a modest equalization payment of about $1.18 million.The judge also said, however, that the FLA was never meant to let a spouse who receives a pre marriage gift shelter all the growth during the marriage simply by dropping that value into an estate freeze trust.

What the Court of Appeal decided

A unanimous Court of Appeal allowed the husband's appeal in part on the trust exclusion issue, for three main reasons:

01 This case is different from Shinder.

In Shinder, the family patriarch put substantial, independent capital into the post marriage trust during the marriage. In Lang Newlands, the father contributed nothing of substance after the marriage beyond the $100 used to settle the trust.

02 Substance beats form.

The court traced where the value in the NFT really came from. All of the value in the trust's common shares came from Barbara exchanging her existing, pre marriage equity. A token contribution from a third party settlor cannot turn the growth of pre marriage capital into an excluded post marriage gift.

03 The unconscionability safety valve (s. 5(6)).

Because the trust interest was treated as pre marriage property, the growth of more than $100 million during the marriage was, on its face, part of Barbara's NFP. But a strict, mechanical equalization would have required an enormous transfer of wealth for an asset that came entirely from the wife's family. The Court of Appeal upheld the trial judge's alternative finding that an equal division would be unconscionable under s. 5(6) of the FLA, and reduced the equalization payment to $18 million.



What the Court of Appeal decided

Lang Newlands closes a long standing gap between corporate tax planning and family law reality. The lesson for everyone involved is to look at family law strategy, tax planning and corporate reorganizations through the lens of economic reality, not legal fictions.

01 Estate freezes are not equalization shields.

Corporate lawyers can no longer assure high net worth clients that a standard freeze automatically protects future growth from a son in law's or daughter in law's claim. If the freeze is powered by pre marriage assets, Ontario courts will trace the economic source.

02 The "$100 settlor" approach no longer works.

Corporate lawyers can no longer assure high net worth clients that a standard freeze automatically protects future growth from a son in law's or daughter in law's claim. If the freeze is powered by pre marriage assets, Ontario courts will trace the economic source.

03 Marriage contracts are essential.

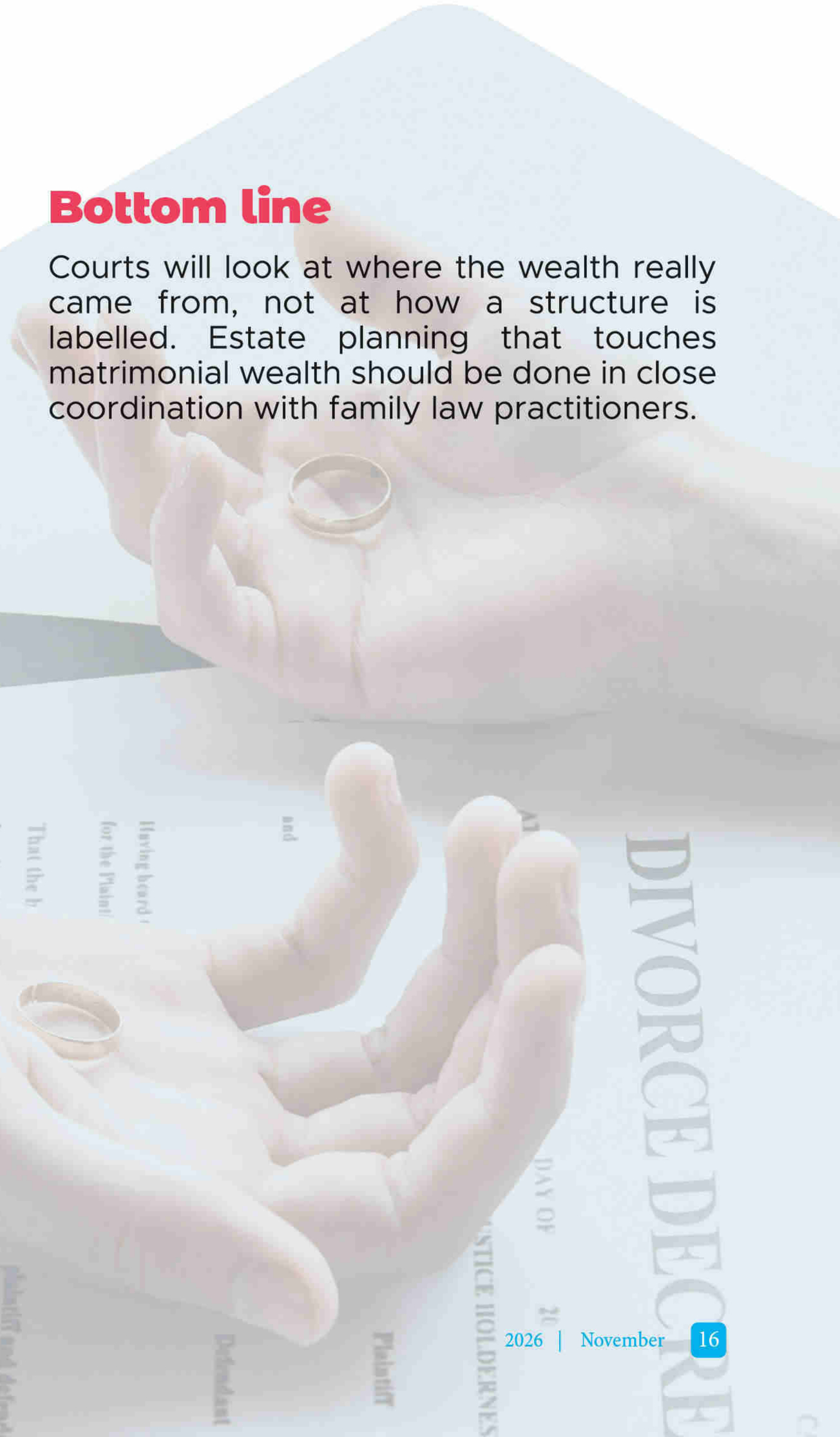
Corporate structuring cannot replace family law agreements. For clients with generational wealth, a pre nuptial or post nuptial agreement that expressly excludes freeze shares, trust interests and all of their growth is still the only fully reliable safeguard.

04 Review existing structures.

Where a married beneficiary rolled pre marriage equity into a freeze, the assumption that the growth shares are exempt from family property claims is no longer valid under Ontario law.

Bottom line

Courts will look at where the wealth really came from, not at how a structure is labelled. Estate planning that touches matrimonial wealth should be done in close coordination with family law practitioners.



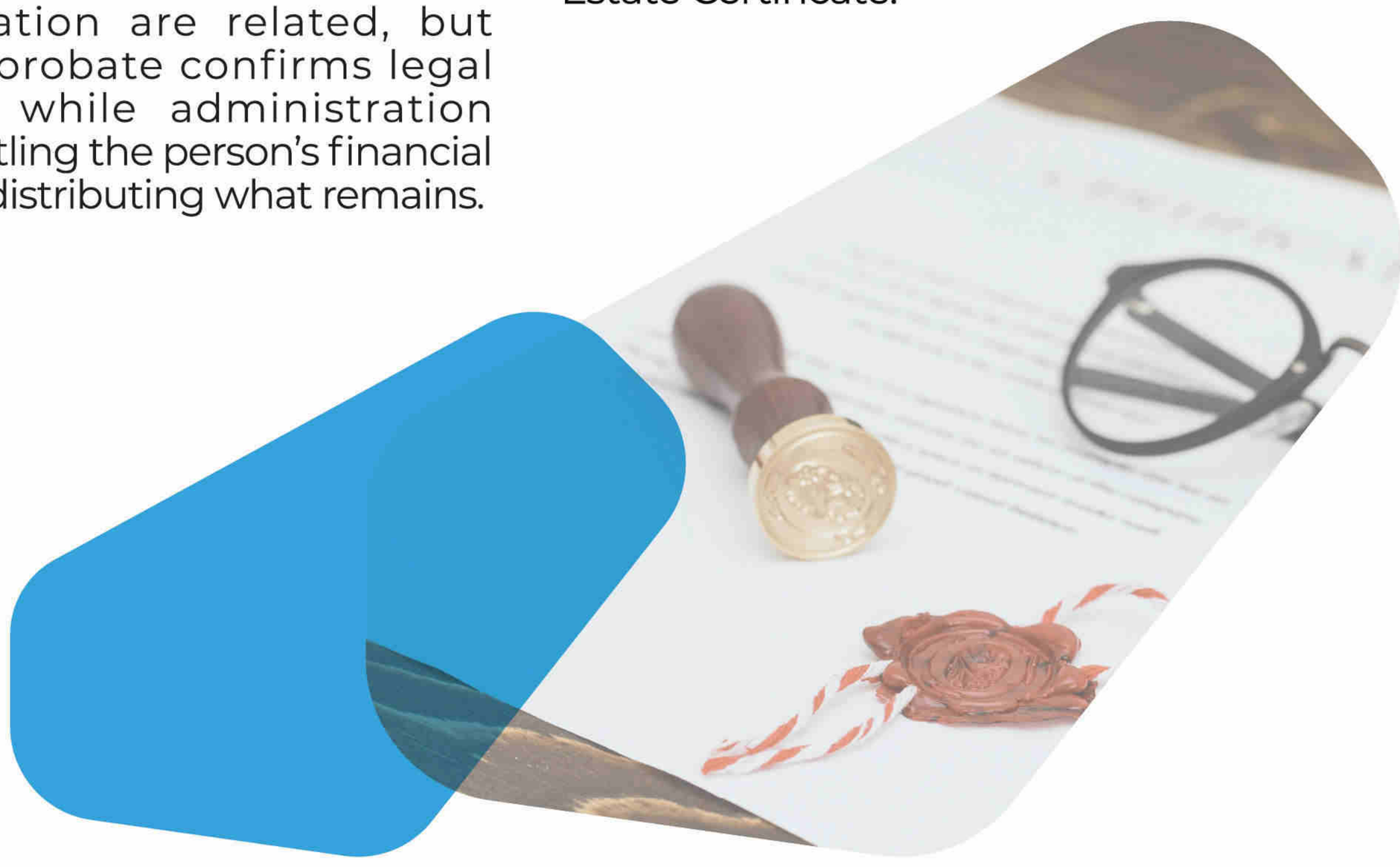


Probate in Ontario: Guidance During a Difficult Time

After a death, families often face unfamiliar paperwork while coping with grief. Probate and estate administration are related, but different: probate confirms legal authority, while administration involves settling the person's financial affairs and distributing what remains.

What is probate, and is it always necessary?

Probate is the court process for appointing or confirming an estate trustee and, where there is a will, approving it as the deceased's valid last will. It is not required for every estate. The assets, ownership arrangements and requirements of banks or other institutions determine whether a certificate is needed. In Ontario, the probate process involves applying to the Ontario Superior Court of Justice for a Certificate of Appointment of Estate Trustee or for a Small Estate Certificate.

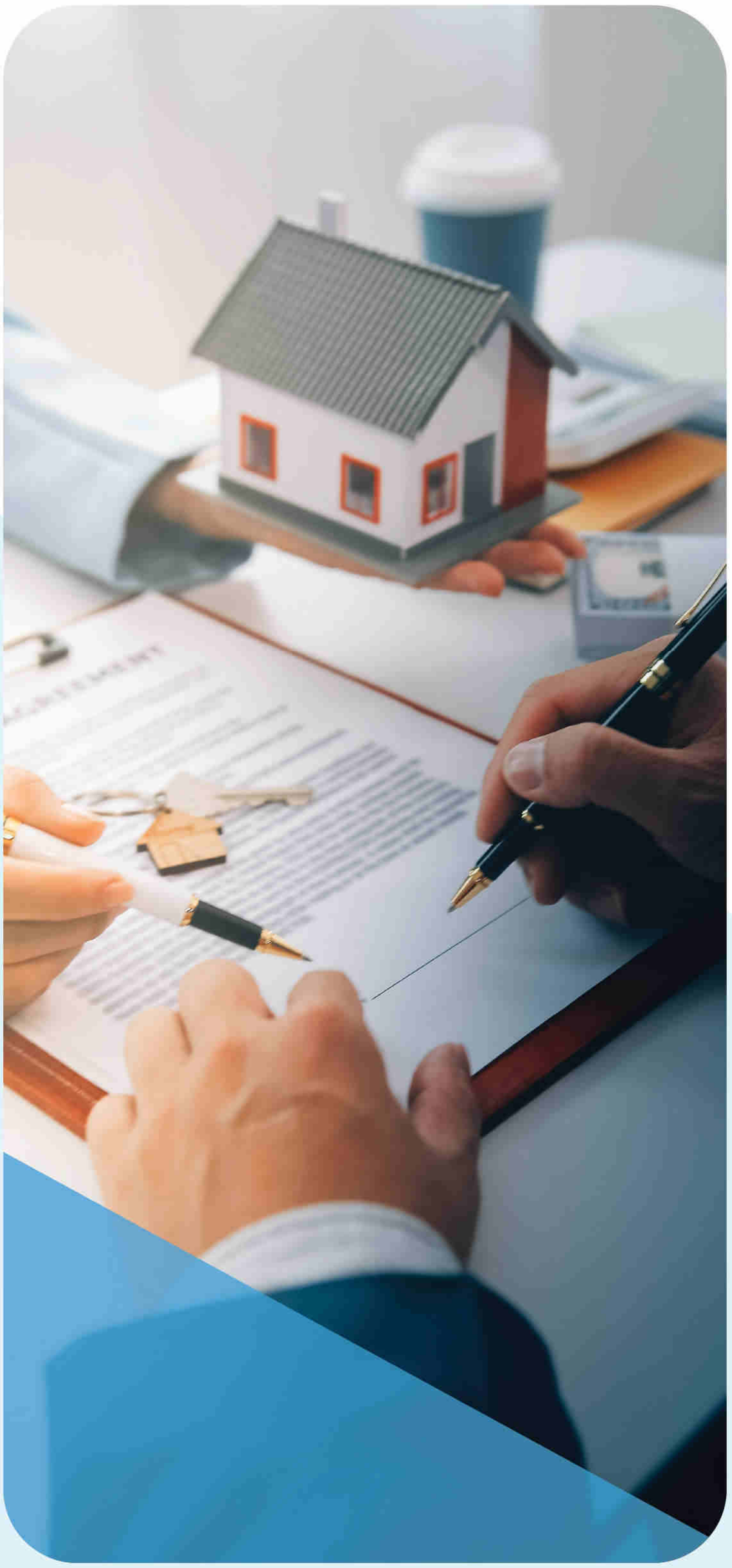


What does an estate trustee do?

An estate trustee, often called an executor, manages the estate in accordance with the will and the law. Without a will, the court appoints a trustee and Ontario law determines who inherits. The trustee does not personally own the estate or have unrestricted discretion over its distribution.

The work of an estate trustee includes locating and protecting assets, arranging valuations, collecting funds, dealing with banks, paying valid debts and expenses, and ensuring required tax returns are filed. The trustee must keep clear records of money received and paid, communicate with beneficiaries and distribute the remaining assets to those entitled to receive them. Depending on the estate, this may also involve selling property or managing a business interest.

Being named as an estate trustee in a will does not oblige someone to accept the role. Before taking on the role, they should understand the time and responsibility involved. Distributing assets too early can create personal liability, particularly where taxes remain unpaid. Obtaining probate is therefore one step in the trustee's work, rather than the end of it.



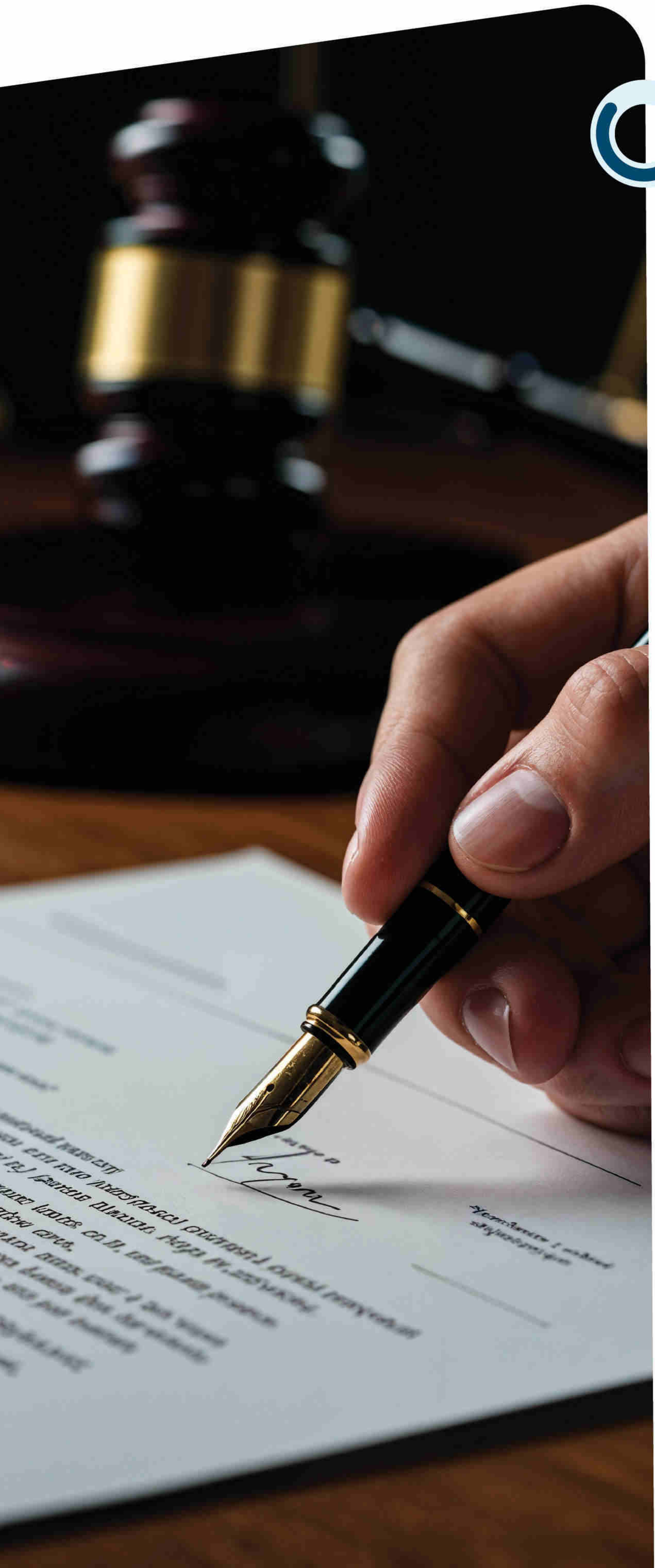
What information is needed?

Gather the original will and amendments, proof of death, the deceased's personal and family details, and information about the proposed estate trustee and beneficiaries. Financial records should cover bank accounts, investments, real estate, mortgages, insurance, business interests and debts, including asset values at the date of death. Joint ownership and beneficiary designations should also be reviewed to determine what belongs in the estate.

What is the simplified process for estates of $150,000 or less?

Ontario offers an optional small estate application route for estates valued at $150,000 or less. This process uses dedicated application forms and results in a Small Estate Certificate authorizing the trustee to manage the specific assets listed on the certificate. The regular probate process remains available for estates of any value.

The applicant must identify and value the assets, provide the will and proof of death where applicable, complete the required evidence, and deliver the signed application to beneficiaries or their representatives at least 30 days before filing. Special notice requirements apply where children or incapable adults have an interest. Simplified paperwork does not remove the trustee's duties or make an estate automatically tax free.



What taxes and reporting apply?

No Estate Administration Tax is payable on the first $50,000 of taxable estate value. Above that, the rate is $15 for each $1,000, or part thereof. For example, a taxable estate of $150,000 attracts $1,500 in tax. An Estate Information Return is generally required within 180 calendar days after the certificate is issued, including for a small estate where no tax is payable.

How can an estate lawyer help?

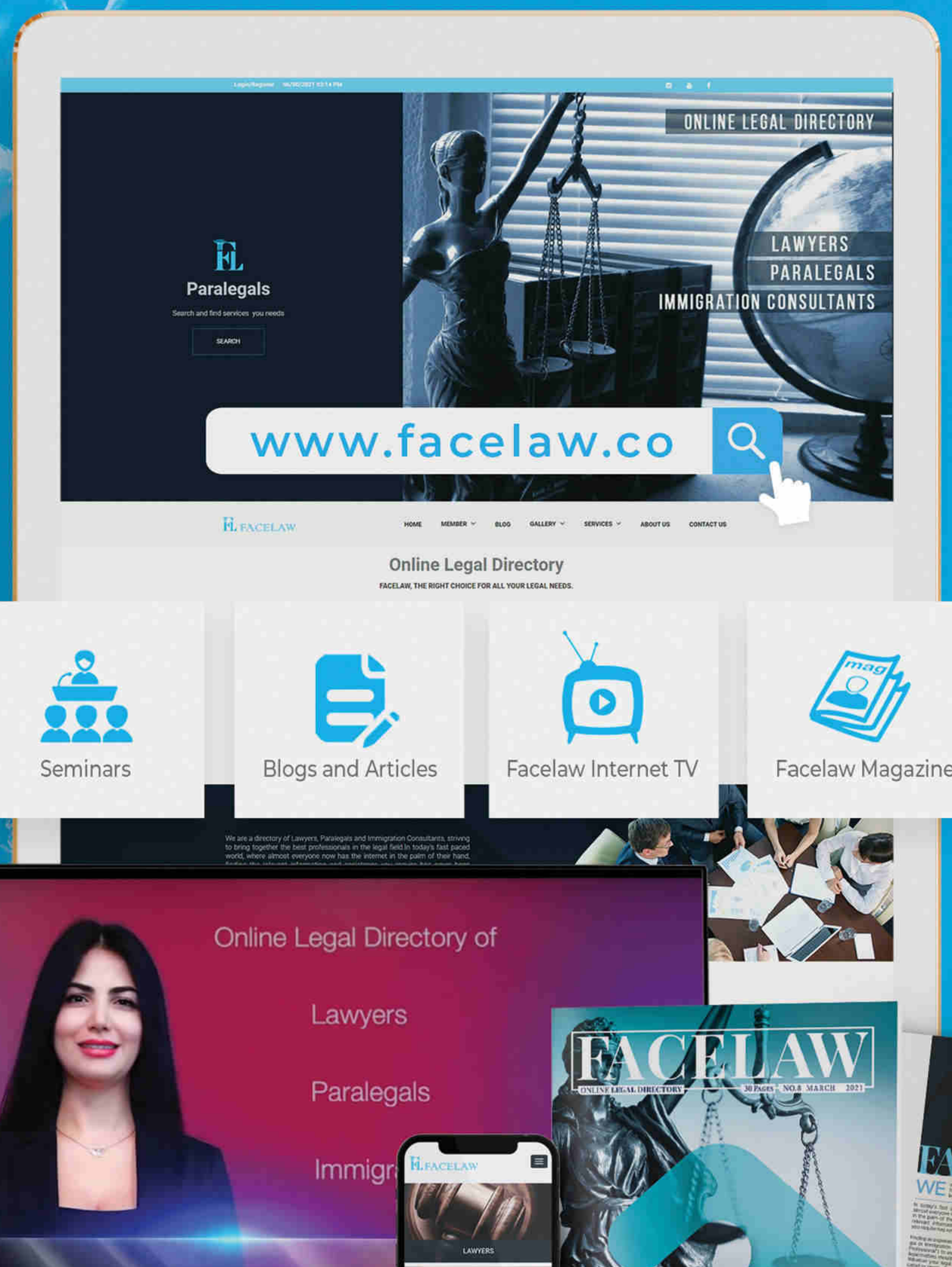
A lawyer can determine whether probate is needed, explain the trustee's responsibilities, prepare the application, arrange required notices and address court requests. The lawyer can also advise on ownership, beneficiary entitlements, debts and distribution, while coordinating tax matters with an accountant. The trustee remains responsible for administering the estate.

At Ahmari Law Firm, we assist with Ontario probate applications, with or without a will, providing clear guidance and handling the court application process during a difficult time.

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Highway Speed Limit Increase Enters Final Stage



This summer, the speed limit on sections of Highways 401 and 416 in eastern Ontario was increased to 110 km/h, followed by sections on other highways, including the QEW and Highways 400, 401, 402, 403, 416 and 417. By the end of September 2026, nearly 89 per cent of Ontario's highway network will have a posted speed limit of 110 km/hour. Ontario's Ministry of Transportation (MOT) notes that this province's roads have ranked among the safest in North America for the past 25 years, with one of the lowest fatality rates per 10,000 licensed drivers.

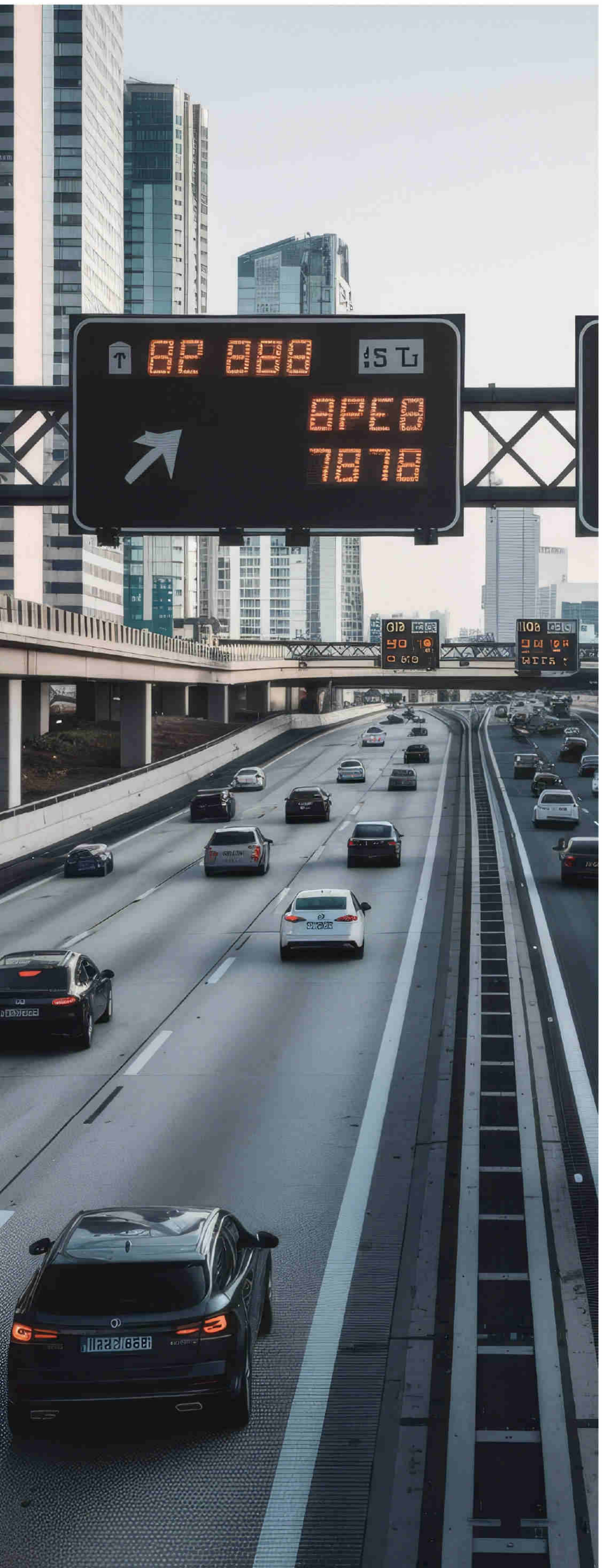


Opinions Are Split.

The government says those who responded to an online survey before the rollout were overwhelmingly in favour of change. Some believed the government didn't go far enough. Stop100.ca founder Chris Klimek, stated speed limits should be increased to 120 km/h on all metropolitan 400 series highways (with the exception of hazardous stretches, such as sharp turns) and 130 km/h on all 400 series highways outside metropolitan areas.

"We have state of the art highways. It's a travesty we're not letting people use the highways the way they have been intended to be used," he told the Ottawa Citizen. "Engineers designed these highways to be perfectly safe to drive at 120." However, some safety advocates have concerns.

Most people believe that they can drive at faster speed limits with no problems. But when you increase your speed, you are putting yourself at an elevated risk of collision. There is a famous study from the University of British Columbia in 2016 that assessed B.C.'s decision to increase the speed limit on some highways. The study showed an 11 per cent increase in fatal collisions after increasing the speed limit, after controlling for all variables.





Speeding Has Consequences.

According to a recent report by the World Health Organization (WHO), approximately 1.16 million people die each year as a result of a road traffic crashes, and 20 to 50 million suffer non fatal injuries, with many incurring a disability. WHO states that an increase in "average speed is directly related both to the likelihood of a crash occurring and to the severity of the consequences of the crash."

"For example, every one per cent increase in mean speed produces a four per cent increase in the fatal crash risk and a three per cent increase in the serious crash risk," the report noted. "In car-to-car side impacts, the fatality risk for car occupants is 85 per cent at 65 km/h."

The United States' National Highway Traffic Safety Administration notes that driving at excessive speeds can result in:

- ✔ Greater potential for loss of vehicle control.
- ✔ Reduced effectiveness of occupant protection equipment.
- ✔ Increased stopping distance after the driver perceives a danger.
- ✔ Increased degree of crash severity leading to more severe injuries.
- ✔ Economic implications of a speed related crash.

Safety advocates also note there are drivers who routinely push the envelope when it comes to posted speed limits. "The risk of fatality or serious injury is 11 times higher in collisions at 50 kilometres per hour or more over a speed limit of 100 kilometres per hour, than when vehicles are involved in a collision while driving at, or below, the posted limit.

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With over 7 years of experience in the legal segment, Rihana is proud to offer professional and reliable legal services to all clients. She speaks Farsi and English and offers services in both languages.

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ariolegalservices

Richmond Hill, Ontario ,Canada

Erick Zepeda McKinlay



Lawyer

Certified Family Mediator

Erick Zepeda McKinlay is divorce and family lawyer with a diverse academic background and a commitment to providing exceptional legal services. He holds an Honours Bachelor of Arts from the University of Toronto and Juris Doctor from the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Law.

With extensive experience in various legal arenas, Erick has appeared before multiple courts, including Ontario Court of Justice, and Superior Court of Justice. His robust understanding of the legal system, combined with his certification as a family mediator and collaborative training, equips him to handle a wide range of family law matters with professionalism and care.

Erick's commitment to the legal profession extends beyond his practice. He is an active member of the University of Toronto's Alumni Mentorship Program and the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee at Collaborative Divorce Toronto. He also serves on the Mississauga Appeals and Property Standards Committee, contributing to the betterment of his community.

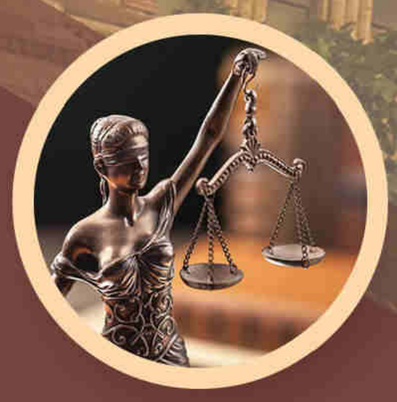
Fluent in Spanish and conversational in Italian, Erick brings a unique global perspective to his legal practice, offering clients a diverse and approachable legal experience.

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Hossein Niroomand has been practicing since 2003 and his practice mainly focus in the areas of civil litigation, personal injury, employment, and family law. He is admitted to the Ontario Bar representing private individuals and corporations.

Hossein is very well respected within the legal community for his extensive experience negotiating lump sum settlements, as well as mediation, arbitration and trials. He oversees every step in the progress of your case and you can rest assured that Hossein's experience is at work for you.

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Chris MacLeod is a founding Partner of Cambridge LLP. His practice focuses on complex business litigation including cross border dispute resolution, multi jurisdictional litigation, and private international law. He is the chair of the firm's Defamation Law Group and the Chinese Services Group.

Chris is a frequent speaker and writer on topics relevant to cross border litigation, conflict of laws and private international law. He has appeared before all levels of Court in the Province of Ontario, including the Ontario Court of Appeal. He has also appeared before the Supreme Court of Canada as co-counsel for an intervenor in Canada (Prime Minister) v. Khadr, 2010 SCC 3, [2010] 1 S.C.R. 44



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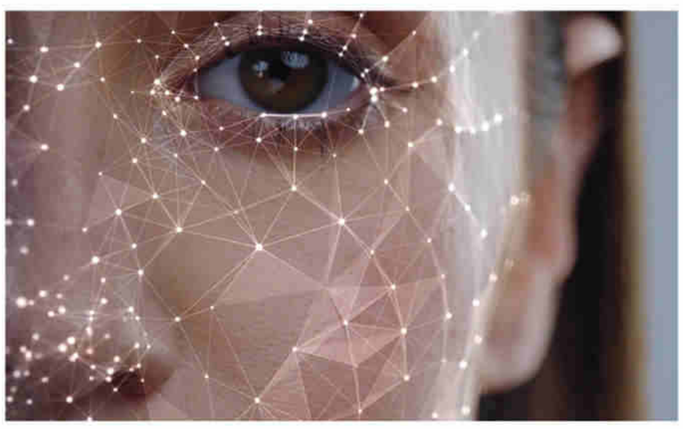
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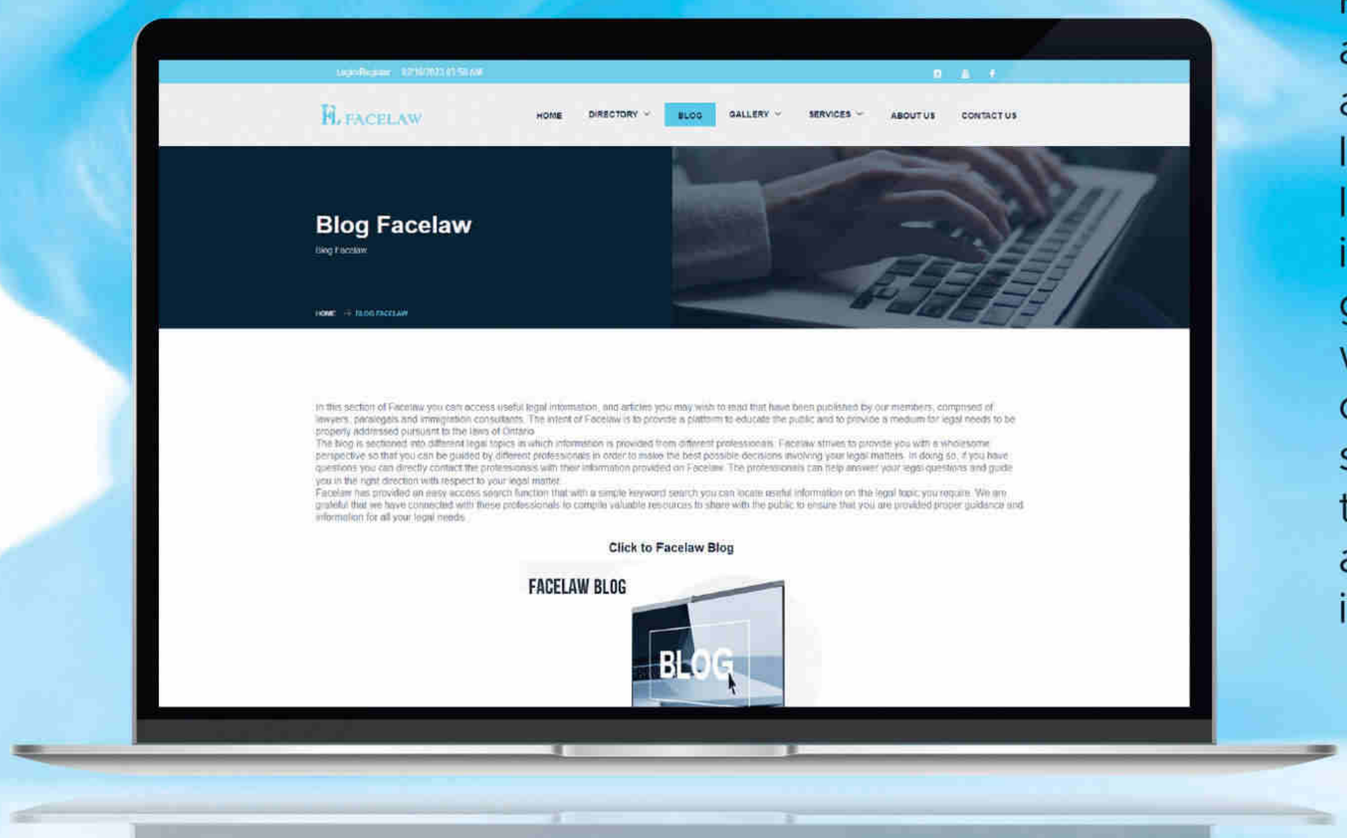


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BLOG & ARTICLE

In this section of Facelaw you can access useful legal information, and articles you may wish to read that have been published by our members, comprised of lawyers, paralegals and immigration consultants. The intent of Facelaw is to provide a platform to educate the public and to provide a medium for legal needs to be properly addressed pursuant to the laws of Ontario.

The blog is sectioned into different legal topics in which information is provided from different professionals. Facelaw strives to provide you with a wholesome perspective so that you can be guided by different professionals in order to make the best possible decisions involving your legal matters. In doing so, if you have questions you can directly contact the professionals with the information provided on Facelaw. The professionals can help answer your legal questions and guide you in the right direction with respect to your legal matter.



Facelaw has provided an easy access search function that with a simple keyword search you can locate useful information on the legal topic you require information about. We are grateful that we have connected with these professionals to compile valuable resources to share with the public to ensure that you are provided quick and accurate guidance and information.



Letter of Recognition from
Ali C. Ehsassi
Liberal MP for Willowdale (Ontario)

HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Ali Ehsassi

Member of Parliament
Willowdale



February 8, 2021

Letter of Appreciation

Dear Messrs. Ahmari-Moghadam & Anvari,

As the Member of Parliament for Willowdale, I would like to take this opportunity to salute you for your efforts in publishing the Facelaw Online Legal Directory.

By providing legal guidance in Farsi and identifying experienced legal professionals that may assist clients navigate the intricacies of the law, you are undoubtedly promoting the welfare of numerous individuals within the Iranian-Canadian community, a development that is bound to be welcome by all.

Thank you for your efforts in promoting greater legal literacy and for highlighting practical information that will enhance prudent decision-making for all of us, while also safeguarding the best interests of individuals confronted by legal challenges. By enhancing our access to legal resources, you are essentially availing all of us of the certainty of granite under our feet, thereby permitting us each to stand taller.

May you thrive in your latest worthy endeavour for many years to come. Your continued success will further the success of others.

Ali C. Ehsassi

Ottawa
Room 502, Wellington Building, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Tel.: 613-992-4964 Fax.: 613-992-1158

Constituency Office
115 Sheppard Avenue West , Toronto, Ontario, M2N 1M7
Tel.: 416-223-2858 Fax: 416-223-9715

Ali.Ehsassi@parl.gc.ca
http://aehsassi.liberal.ca



Letter of Recognition from Majid Jowhari

M.P.; Current Member of The House of Commons - Richmond Hill

HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA



Majid Jowhari
Member of Parliament
Richmond Hill

October 7, 2020

Letter of Recognition

As the Member of Parliament for Richmond Hill, I would like to thank Ali Ahmari-Moghaddam and Ashkan Anvari for their recent innovation, the Facelaw platform.

Facelaw.ca is a directory of Lawyers, Paralegals, and Immigration Consultants, striving to bring together the best professionals in the legal field in an easy-to-search database making finding the right legal professional simple and efficient. The Facelaw platform also provides access to articles, blogs, and useful information dealing with different areas of the law. There is also a Facelaw Magazine which is available in both English and Farsi and is available to download for free from the website.

I appreciate Ali Ahmari-Moghaddam and Ashkan Anvari's effort and aspiration to make their platform and access to legal professionals easily accessible to more people, and I commend their spirit of innovation and inclusiveness.

Sincerely,

Majid Jowhari, MP
Richmond Hill

Constituency Office
100 Mural St., Suite 101, Richmond Hill, ON L4B 1J3
Tel. 905-707-9701 | **Fax.** 905-707-9705 | **E-mail** Majid.Jowhari@parl.gc.ca



Certificate of Appreciation from Michael Parsa

MPP | AURORA–OAK RIDGES RICHMOND HILL

April 2nd, 2024

Certificate of Appreciation

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am very pleased to acknowledge,

Ali Ahmari-Moghaddam

& Ashkan Anvari

For the creation of

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A Legal Directory for individuals in search of a Legal Profession to assist them in their legal matters.

Your website protects people from enduring the long and stressful process of finding legal support on their own. The focus on helping people demonstrates the values of this organization in supporting all individuals in their time of need.

Thanks to the efforts of Mr. Ahmari-Moghaddan and Mr. Anvari, individuals across the province and country can secure legal representation with ease and confidence.

Hon. Michael Parsa
MPP of Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill

Lawyers Directory

ALI AHMARI MOGHADDAM
www.ahmarilawfirm.ca
+1(416)800-0808 | +1(289)597-6700
(289) 314 7693
ali@ahmarilawfirm.ca
#908,909, 7191 Yonge Street,
Thornhill, ON L3T 0C4

CHARLES E. GLUCKSTEIN
www.gluckstein.com
+1(416)788-4851
+1(416)408-4252 Ext 269
nematy@gluckstein.com
595 Bay Street, Suite 301,
Toronto, ON M5G 2C2

DOV MAIEROVITZ
www.emecorp.ca
+1(416)833-8332
Dov@emecorp.ca
123 - 5050 Dufferin Street
North Yourk, ON M3H 5T6

ERICK ZEPEDA MCKINLAY
www.MazinaniDivorceLawyers.ca
+1 (416)485 8545
225 Sheppard Av. West, Toronto
ON M2N 1N2

ROSE BAHRAMI
www.realtycarelaw.com
+1(416)491-6866 | (647) 293-7673
rose.bahrami@realtycarelaw.com
6321 Yonge Street North York
Toronto, ON M2M 3X7

Lawyers Directory

ASH MAZINANI

www.MazinaniDivorceLawyers.ca
+1 (416)485 8545
elena@mazinanilaw.ca
225 Sheppard Av. West, Toronto
ON M2N 1N2

NEGIN SHAHRAKI

www.onelegal.ca
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Negin@onelegal.ca
Unit 272, 505 Hwy 7 Thornhill
ON L3T 7T1

ESMAEIL MEHRABI

www.mehrabilawoffice.com
+1(416) 862-2502
+1(416) 862-2502
info@mehrabilawoffice.com
4950 Yonge Street, Suite #2200
Toronto, ON M2N 6K1

SARA BAHADORI

+1(647) 728-7934
lawsociety@lso.ca
1102-67 Yonge St, Toronto,
ON M5E 1J8

SHAMS VAHEDI

www.e2visa-usa.com
+1(949)601-3355
info@e2visa-usa.com
California

Lawyers Directory

KIAN RASTEGAR

+1(416) 572-5296
kian@basedpc.com
900-45 Sheppard Ave E, North York,
ON M2N 5W9

HOSSEIN NIROOMAND

www.niroomandlaw.com
+1(416)850-0094
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NADIA NAJBAEI

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Paralegals Directory

RIHANA LAJEVARDI

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