



Canadian Association of Black Lawyers (CABL)  
20 Toronto Street, Suite 300  
Toronto, ON M5C 2B8  
info@cabl.ca

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### **CABL Endorsements: 2023 Law Society of Ontario Benchers Elections**

This year's Law Society of Ontario (LSO) benchers elections is the most consequential in recent memory. As it has for many years, the Canadian Association of Black Lawyers (CABL) will again endorse benchers candidates who are committed to supporting Black communities and Black lawyers in Canada. This is consistent with CABL's efforts to promote an equitable, accessible, inclusive and diverse legal profession.

In the April 19-28, 2023 elections, two competing and very different visions for governance of the legal profession in Ontario are being proposed. One sees the LSO as playing a role in making our profession more equitable, diverse and inclusive. The other does not. While there are many worthy candidates, CABL has decided to limit its endorsements to two groups of candidates. These are:

1. Members of the Good Governance Coalition who have demonstrated a commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion, and a commitment to act independently for the betterment of the profession; and
2. CABL members who have demonstrated a strong commitment to the promotion, protection and inclusion of Black lawyers and Black justices in the legal profession, particularly those supporting CABL and its work by serving on its Board of Directors or volunteering on CABL committees or projects. These CABL members are:

#### **i. Outside of Toronto**

1. Jacqueline Beckles (**East Region**)

#### **ii. Toronto**

1. Antoine Collins

By taking this approach, CABL hopes to prevent a small, but organized, group of lawyers from winning enough votes to frustrate the important work that the LSO ought to be doing. We encourage all CABL members who are called to the bar in Ontario to vote for the CABL-endorsed benchers candidates in the LSO benchers elections of April 19-28, 2023.

For complete election details, please visit: <https://lso.ca/about-lso/2023-benchers-election-candidate-instructions>.

#### **About the Canadian Association of Black Lawyers**

The Canadian Association of Black Lawyers is a national network of law professionals (students, lawyers and the judiciary) with an overall mandate to promote the advancement of Black lawyers within the profession by providing support systems, promoting academic and professional excellence and advancing issues of equity and diversity among the bar and judiciary.