



Bridging the Justice Gap  
**PRO BONO ONTARIO**  
Comblent les écarts en justice

## **ACSD Appeals Project - Continuing Professional Development Event**

December 18, 2019 from 12:00 to 1:30 pm, lunch provided

The Advocates' Society – 2700-250 Yonge Street, Toronto

### **Overview**

This training will empower lawyers seeking to participate in PBO's ACSD Appeals Project by providing an overview of the applicable law and lessons learned from cases PBO has already handled. Attendees will learn how to help vulnerable parents of disabled children who have had their Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities (ACSD) benefit cancelled appeal the decision to the Social Benefits Tribunal for a hearing based on the totality of the family's circumstances.

### **Agenda & Presenters**

<b>12:00 – 12:15</b>	<b>Welcome and Introduction to the Problem</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The significance of ACSD to families</li><li>• The conflict between the ACSD Regulations and the Ministry's income guidelines</li><li>• Gowlings' success in addressing these cases to date</li></ul>	<b>Jennifer Marston, PBO Erin Farrell, Gowling WLG Kavi Sivasothy, Gowling WLG</b>
<b>12:15 – 12:45</b>	<b>Looking at the "Totality of the Circumstances"</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What does it mean to consider "the totality of the circumstances"?</li><li>• Factors that should be brought to the tribunal's attention</li></ul>	<b>Tanya Rocca, OPG Elie Laskin, Gowling WLG Maha Mansoor, Gowling WLG</b>
<b>12:45 – 1:00</b>	<b>Steps in an ACSD Appeal</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Internal Review</li><li>• Hearing before the Social Benefits Tribunal<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Filing Notice of Appeal</li><li>• Pre-Hearing/Settlement Conference</li><li>• Hearing</li></ul></li></ul>	<b>Josh Hanet, Gowling WLG Emily Hayes, Gowling WLG Izabella Chamberland, Gowling WLG</b>
<b>1:00 – 1:15</b>	<b>Preparing the Notice of Appeal</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review and discussion of a precedent notice of appeal</li></ul>	<b>Irina Samborski, Gowling WLG Heyla Vettyvel, Gowling WLG</b>
<b>1:15 – 1:30</b>	<b>Questions/discussion</b>	