

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS SECRETARIAT

Appointments Information Form for Submission to the Standing Committee on Government Agencies

Board Name: Social Benefits Tribunal (Tribunals Ontario)

Position: Vice-Chair (Full-Time)

Part-time/Full-time: Full-Time

Candidate Name: Stephanie Zwicker Slavens

Candidate Information: Attached

Responsibilities of the Agency, Board, or Commission:

The Social Benefits Tribunal exercises jurisdiction to hear appeals under the Ontario Works Act, 1997 and the Ontario Disability Support Plan Act, 1997, regarding the refusal to grant a benefit, the suspension or cancellation of a benefit, the reduction of a benefit or the amount of a benefit. The Social Benefits Tribunal is designated as part of an adjudicative tribunal cluster by regulation made under the Adjudicative Tribunals Accountability, Governance and Appointments Act, 2009.

Public Appointment Application

Applicant

Stephanie Zwicker Slavens

Position

Vice-Chair (Full-Time)
Social Benefits Tribunal (Tribunals Ontario)
Attorney General

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Application Notes/Comment/Additional Data

My past 20 years as a Lawyer at demanding and fast paced firms, have provided me with a strong work ethic and strong organizational skills. At both firms I have taken a leadership role, and mentored/trained many junior lawyers. Impartiality and objectivity are important core values for me. I am one of few personal injury lawyers who have spent significant amounts of time advocating on both sides. That background would allow me to transition from an advocate to an effective impartial decision maker for Tribunals Ontario and the Social Benefits Tribunal. One of the key skills required of the Social Benefits Tribunal is to apply the legislation to unique fact situations. That has been my role as a lawyer for literally every day for the past 20 years. My experience of leadership and mentorship, analyzing and interpreting the statutory and regulatory framework, from both the disabled/injured person and the institutional/insurance side, would serve the Tribunal well.

Language(s)

English Proficient

Education

Institution	Credentials	Year
University of Western Ontario	LLB	1997-2000
Law Society of Upper Canada	Call to the Ontario Bar	February 2002
York University	Honours BES	1993-1997

Employment

Employer	Position/Title	Dates	Responsibilities
Diamond and Diamond Lawyers LLP	Partner, Lawyer	September 2013 to December 2020	Passionate, loyal and dedicated Lawyer with 20 years of combined experience in the representation of injured parties and insurers. Significant skills and experience interpreting and applying substantive knowledge with strong advocacy skills. Appearances before all levels of Court in Ontario, the Licensing Appeal Tribunal/Financial Services Commission of Ontario, and the Social Security Tribunal. As a leader, managed, trained and mentored numerous lawyers, articling students, paralegals and legal clerks. Well developed mediation skills with participation in hundreds of mediations and settlement meetings. Other areas of expertise include client recruitment and management, file management, drafting materials, and representation at all stages/levels of court and administrative tribunal proceedings. Strengths in working in a fast paced/demanding environment, client relations and communication, and relationships with experts, other lawyers, mediators and insurers.

Employer	Position/Title	Dates	Responsibilities
Flaherty Dow Elliott and McCarthy	Lawyer	January 2002 to August 2013	Senior Associate Lawyer at a busy Ontario Insurance Defence law firm. Represented insurance clients at the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, Financial Services Commission of Ontario, Ontario Small Claims Court and the Human Rights Tribunal. Provided recommendations to clients on complex personal injury and property damage cases. Duties included file and client management, drafting materials, consulting experts, conducting legal research, and creating budgets for the insurance client.
Iacono Brown	Articling Student	2000	Articling Student at an Insurance Defence firm. Attended and assisted in an Ontario Superior Court trial, court proceedings, research and drafting of legal material, mediations and settlement conferences.

Community

Organization	Position/Title	Dates Involved	Responsibilities
JNF Toronto	Volunteer	2010 ongoing	Hosting fundraising dinners for speakers, national and international dignitaries; creating and building relationships with community leaders.
Slavens and Associates	Volunteer	2007 ongoing	Assisted with "Slavens Gives Back" a yearly fundraiser for breast cancer research, and food bank drives
Brothers For Life	Volunteer	2017 summer ongoing	Hosting individuals with post traumatic stress disorder and physical disabilities in my home for 10 days a summer to aid with their healing.
Toronto Lawyers Feed the Hungry	Volunteer	Yearly	Provided hot and healthy community meals to Toronto residents in need.

Associations

Organization	Dates Involved
Law Society of Upper Canada	January 2002 to present
Ontario Trial Lawyers Association	September 2013 to December 2014
Advocate Society	2002 to 2013