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# THE 2011 ACCOMMODATION LAW CONFERENCE

New legal breakthroughs in the duty to accommodate and their impact on union and employer representatives in Canada



Ottawa

March 9 & 10, 2011 Fairmont Chateau Laurier



**ATTENTION LAWYERS:** This program consists of 10.75 hours of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and can be applied towards 9 of the 12 hours of annual CPD required by the Law Society of Upper Canada (not the New Member Requirement).

# THE 2011 ACCOMMODATION LAW CONFERENCE

New legal breakthroughs in the duty to accommodate and their impact on union and employer representatives in Canada

#### Learn what it takes to make informed accommodation decisions based on the latest

**developments in the law.** Attend this state-of-the-law conference—for union representatives, employer representatives and lawyers—and stay on top of the latest legal breakthroughs in the duty to accommodate and their impact on unionized workplaces in Canada.

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9 Registration: 8:30 - 9:00 a.m.

MORNING SESSION - 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Paul Champ and Charles Hurdon

#### Accommodation Update

A review of the newest and most important accommodation cases in Canada in areas ranging from drugs and alcohol, non-culpable theft and mental disability to medical privacy.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION - 1:15 to 4:30 p.m. Dan Palayew and Julie Skinner

#### Using standard medical forms: The good, the bad and the invasive

Standard medical forms may be popular, but there are pitfalls associated with them when they demand too much medical information. Arbitrators offer clear guidelines as to when using a standard medical form can violate medical privacy.

#### Proving discrimination: The arbitral test

Ottawa

Proving the existence of discrimination is a legal requirement in every acccommodation case. Understand the test for discrimination used by arbitrators: Is there a protected ground? Is there an adverse effect? Is there interference with a workplace right? Is the interference substantial?

#### From shoulder injury to stress: The evolving definition of disability

Defining "disability" under human rights legislation is not always easy. With emphasis on factors considered by arbitrators, we examine recent arbitration awards that help the parties understand what is and is not considered a disability.

#### Accommodating pregnant employees: Avoiding common mistakes

A rarely discussed topic, the accommodation of pregnant employees touches most workplaces. Yet mistakes in accommodating them are common. Learn the proactive steps to take early in the pregnancy to ensure a smooth and productive accommodation of pregnant employees.





# **THURSDAY, MARCH 10**

#### MORNING SESSION - 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Sean McGee and JD Sharp

#### When accommodation affects coworkers: The rights and duties of affected employees

Accommodation inevitably affects other employees in the workplace. An exploration of the wide range of "side effects" of accommodation on coworkers, including safety, bumping rights, job postings, the saturation effect and displacement of co-workers.

#### Accommodating family status: Where arbitrators draw the line

Where do arbitrators draw the line between work and family obligations? What family obligations need to be accommodated? New cases shed light on where the law is headed.

#### Religious accommodation:

#### The evolving balance between work and faith

The duty to accommodate creed and religion continues to be challenging as employers are required to recognize a broad range of spiritual and religious beliefs. An examination of important cases that set out key guidelines for unions and employers.

#### Ongoing accommodation: How long does the duty continue?

When does the duty to accommodate end? Does it need to change over time as circumstances change? Can it resurface years after it appears to have been satisfied? Recent cases address the long-term implications of the duty. AFTERNOON SESSION - 1:15 to 3:00 p.m. Sydney Baxter (Chair), Peter Engelmann and Mary Gleason

#### Accommodation Q&A

A labour arbitrator, union counsel and management counsel answer your questions on the duty to accommodate.

### PRESENTERS

**Sydney Baxter** Labour Arbitrator and Mediator *Ottawa* 

**Paul Champ** Union Counsel Champ & Associates *Ottawa* 

#### Peter Engelmann

Union Counsel Sack Goldblatt Mitchell *Ottawa* 

#### Mary Gleason

Employer Counsel Ogilvy Renault *Ottawa* 

**Charles Hurdon** Employer Counsel Ogilvy Renault *Ottawa*  **Sean McGee** Union Counsel Nelligan O'Brien Payne *Ottawa* 

**Dan Palayew** Employer Counsel Heenan Blaikie *Ottawa* 

**JD Sharp** Employer Counsel Emond Harnden *Ottawa* 

**Julie Skinner** Union Counsel Nelligan O'Brien Payne *Ottawa* 

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