

**APR 3** **MOCK TRIAL AT HOLLAND BLOORVIEW**  
McLeish Orlando principal partner, John McLeish, and his associate Stefanie Chimienti, hosted a mock trial at Holland Bloorview. They showed the health care providers in attendance what to expect if they are ever called to testify on behalf of their patients. This hands-on learning experience helped guide individuals through the process, and instilled confidence in those who may find themselves on the stand.

**MAY 4-5** **24TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON NEUROBEHAVIORAL REHABILITATION IN ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY**  
McLeish Orlando was a proud sponsor of the Hamilton Health Sciences 24th Annual Conference on Neurobehavioral Rehabilitation in Acquired Brain Injury. The theme this year was “From Evidence to Practice: Concussion to Catastrophic.”

**MAY 28** **JOGGIN’ FOR THE NOGGIN’ 2017**  
McLeish Orlando partner, Alison Burrison, was proud to once again sponsor the Joggin’ for the Noggin’ annual fundraiser. The event took place at Ashbridges Bay Park in Toronto. The funds raised were donated to the neurosurgery department at SickKids Hospital.

**JUNE 1** **PIA LAW’S PRACTICAL STRATEGIES WEBINAR: JUNE 1ST IN REVIEW**  
This webinar was hosted by the firms of the Personal Injury Alliance (PIA Law). Panelists discussed the effects of the changes to Ontario’s auto insurance that took place on June 1st, 2016. This webinar can still be viewed at pialaw.ca

**JUNE 2** **GTA REHAB NETWORK’S BEST PRACTICES DAY CONFERENCE**  
McLeish Orlando was a silver sponsor of the GTA Rehab Network’s Best Practices Day 2017. This year’s theme was “Making the Best Use of Rehabilitative Care Approaches Across the Continuum.”

**JUNE 3** **DODGING FOR DOLLARS**  
McLeish Orlando was pleased to sponsor Dodging For Dollars, which was organized by associate, Selina Andreello. The tournament took place at Polson Pier in support of the Paediatric Advanced Care Team (PACT) at SickKids Hospital.

**JUNE 4** **PIA LAW STRIDES FOR CHANGE – 5K RUN IN SUPPORT OF MADD CANADA**  
The firms of PIA Law were proud to support MADD Canada’s PIA Law Strides for Change 5K Run. The event is an annual walk/run in support of chapters and community leaders, who educate the public about the dangers of impaired driving and to helping victims. Strides for Change wants individuals to keep safe and drive sober through the summer months when the rates of impaired-related crashes are typically higher.

**JUNE 14** **BIST/OBIA 13TH MIX AND MINGLE 2017**  
The Brain Injury Society of Toronto and the Ontario Brain Injury Association have co-hosted the BIST/OBIA Mix and Mingle for the past 12 years. As part of PIA Law, McLeish Orlando was a proud sponsor for this event. Every year, hundreds of professionals get together for an evening of entertainment, as they all help raise awareness for brain injury and the ongoing programs that BIST and OBIA have to offer.

**JUNE 20** **BIAD’S ANNUAL BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS CONFERENCE 2017**  
McLeish Orlando was pleased to sponsor the Brain Injury Association of Durham’s Annual Brain Injury Awareness Month Conference, which featured McLeish Orlando panelists, Lindsay Charles and Alanna Strlic. Topics discussed were: raising awareness about the correlation between brain injury and poverty, practical strategies for healthcare professional under the new SABS, and health care professionals’ critical role at LAT case conferences and hearings.

**JULY 19** **LAWYERS FEED THE HUNGRY PROGRAM**  
McLeish Orlando was proud to support the Toronto Lawyers Feed the Hungry Program. The staff and lawyers always enjoy participating in this event and giving back to their community.

**JULY 26-28** **LAWYERS SUMMER BLOOD DRIVE CHALLENGE**  
Canadian Blood Services is constantly experiencing huge blood shortages. The staff and lawyers at McLeish Orlando participated in a competition between law firms across Toronto, the goal being to see which firm could donate the most pints of blood. Our lawyers and staff were proud to donate blood as they know how crucial blood donations can be for our clients.

**AUG 14** **BEACH BLAST**  
McLeish Orlando participated in the annual Beach Blast Volleyball Tournament in support of Acquired Brain Injury support groups. Our team did not win, but were recognized for their sportsmanship and fair play.

# THE fine PRINT

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## Road Safety: Kids Play Safe And Playground Safety

It is important for drivers to be extra cautious on the road, particularly around playgrounds and parks. A stray soccer ball or Frisbee could potentially cause a child to run onto a road unexpectedly, leaving drivers little time to react. Each year in Canada, approximately 2400 children are injured as pedestrians, and approximately 4700 children are injured as a result of non-motorized wheeled activities such as bicycling.

There are a number of preventative tips that parents can teach their kids to help safeguard against an unwanted accident. These tips include:

- Look left, right, and left again before crossing the road
- Always cross the street using traffic signals or crosswalks rather than jaywalking
- Keep your head up to be conscious of your surroundings when crossing a street or chasing after a ball
- Wear brightly-coloured clothing and reflective gear if kids plan on playing or biking outside later into the evening
- Ensure your children’s bikes are adjusted correctly for their height, that their tires are fully inflated, that they have a bell, and that their brakes are working properly
- Always remind children to stay on the right side of the road in the same direction as traffic and encourage them to bike single file
- Always make sure children are wearing helmets and other protective gear if riding a bicycle, scooter, or when skateboarding. This helmet requirement is codified under section 2.2 of the Highway Traffic Act, which states that no parent of a child under the age of 16 shall permit their child to ride a bicycle on the road unless they are wearing a helmet.

There are also a number of preventative measures drivers can employ to safeguard against an accident. These include:

- Eliminate all potential distractions while driving, particularly cell phones
- Be extra cautious and alert and drive slowly around school zones, playgrounds, parks, and residential neighbourhoods

Driving slowly is particularly critical for ensuring the roads are safe for children and families. A mere 5% cut in speed has been shown to reduce fatal traffic collisions by 30%. This year, Road Safety Week highlighted the importance of driving slowly, making their theme for 2017 as, “Save Lives #SlowDown”. Road Safety Week is a global campaign that takes place in May every year, and is supported by the United Nations, which spreads awareness about road safety.



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## In the Community

### Joggin’ For The Noggin’

Alison Burrison, a partner at McLeish Orlando, was a proud Gold Sponsor for Joggin’ for the Noggin’. This year’s event raised \$11,198 in support of ongoing research in the neurosurgery department at SickKids Hospital, totaling to \$35,181 from over the past three years. Every year, Alison donates swag bags to the runners which are put together by the McLeish Orlando team.

This event is held every year in honor of Jillian Jacques, who had a life threatening brain infection in May 2012. Jillian underwent a 6-hour emergency surgery at SickKids Hospital to save her life and then multiple surgeries to help her recovery. After the initial surgery, Jillian had to wear a helmet for an entire year to protect her brain since a large piece of her skull had been removed. This event has been organized by Jillian’s family as a thank you to Dr. Dirks, Dr. Taylor, Dr. Philips and their research team at SickKids.

Congratulations to our McLeish Orlando runners and everyone who participated and donated to the run this year!

### Dodging For Dollars

McLeish Orlando associate, Selina Andrello, has always wanted to give back to her community, and in 2015, she decided to start her own event. Dodging for Dollars is dodgeball tournament that raises money for the Paediatric Advanced Care Team (PACT) at Sick Kids

Hospital. The first year was such a success that Dodging for Dollars has become an annual tournament.

PACT is formed by a group of individuals who specialize in dealing with children experiencing a life-limiting illness. Their goal is to make children and their families as comfortable as possible during the palliative care process. Overall, PACT provides expertise, resources, and direct care to support the children and their families, helping them remove any unnecessary stress they may endure during this time.

This year’s event was attended by over 150 young lawyers, and other professionals, and brought in over \$12,000. This brings the accumulative total from over the last three years, to \$35,000.

### Lawyers Feed The Hungry Program

This past July, McLeish Orlando was pleased to participate in the Toronto Lawyers Feed the Hungry program. It is a great opportunity for staff and lawyers to give back to the community and provide hot, healthy meals to Toronto residents.

Toronto Lawyers Feed the Hungry Program was founded by Martin Teplitsky in 1998. Mr. Teplitsky was called to the Bar in 1966 and was known as a dedicated community leader. He and his wife, Nancy Backhouse, believed that legal communities were capable of giving back, by providing meals to people in need. That year, with the help of the Law Society’s Treasurer, they began preparing and serving meals to individuals of Toronto in the Law Society’s cafeteria at Osgoode Hall.

Since then, the program has grown and now provides over 100,000 meals per year!

## Lawyer Spotlight: Meet Bryan Sansom, Newest Associate at McLeish Orlando

Bryan Sansom is an associate on Dale Orlando’s team. Bryan joined McLeish Orlando as a summer law student in 2014, he went on to complete his articles at McLeish Orlando and was called to the bar in 2017.

Bryan received an Honours B.Sc. in Biology and Chemistry at Wilfrid Laurier University. During his time there, Bryan played varsity hockey and was heavily involved in teaching and mentorship programs both on campus and in the Waterloo community.

Bryan received a M.Sc. in Microbiology and Toxicology from the University of Waterloo. Bryan’s research focused on developing a novel testing method to measure the toxicity of oil-sands effluent using living cells, and has been

published in peer-reviewed scientific journals.

After a loved one was catastrophically injured in a motor vehicle accident, Bryan decided to pursue a career in law. He attended law school at the University of Western Ontario where he continued to be actively involved in sports and other extra-curricular activities. For example, Bryan was a Case Manager at Western’s Sport Solution, a clinic that provides assistance to Canadian Olympic and National Team athletes in resolving sport-related legal issues.

Bryan’s education and experience with personal injury allow him to understand and effectively communicate with clients and advocate on their behalf.



## Living the Best Life Possible Mike’s Story of Triumph over Tragedy

In the spring of 2012, Michael Stewart’s future looked bright. He was a dedicated teacher, a sports enthusiast, and a beloved husband. He coached his high school basketball and baseball teams. He golfed, played baseball, and was hoping to start a family with his wife, Trina.

In the early morning hours of March 15th, 2012, a life-altering event took place. Mike is in his living room watching television and Trina is upstairs reading. Someone throws a raw egg at the front window. Mike runs outside with the hopes of seeing who threw the egg at his house, only to witness a van drive away with the sounds of laughter coming from inside. Mike waits on the sidewalk, hoping the van will return, so he can obtain the licence plate number. Eventually, the van does return, and is slowly rolling down Mike’s street. Mike takes one step off the sidewalk in order to get a better view of the license plate. Suddenly, the driver of the van steps hard on the gas and steers the vehicle towards Mike. Mike scrambles back onto the sidewalk, but this does not provide safety. The van mounts the curb and strikes Mike. He flies into the air, rolls over the roof, and lands hard on the pavement behind the van. The driver flees the scene, leaving Mike laying motionless on the sidewalk; his vertebrae crushed and his spinal cord damaged.

Paramedics arrive quickly, and Mike is rushed to Sunnybrook Hospital where he remains an inpatient for over a month. The diagnosis is incomplete paraplegia. Mike is discharged from Sunnybrook to Lyndhurst Rehabilitation Hospital, where he spends nearly two months on the hard road of recovery, and learning to walk again. Thanks to the skilled team at Lyndhurst and Mike’s unwavering perseverance, Mike can now stand and walk short distances.

Back at home, Mike faces a new challenge: safely navigating his house and property. Mike cannot step into his backyard because of the uneven ground and Trina sees his frustration. Trina decides to write into the HGTV show *Holmes Makes it Right*, to ask if the host, Mike Holmes, would be interested in renovating their backyard to make it suitable for Mike’s needs. As it turns out, Holmes is eager to help. Holmes provides Mike and Trina with far more than they had dared to hope for. Holmes and his team provide Mike and Trina with a completely level front and backyard, an accessible back deck, a ramp leading up the deck, a hot tub for Mike’s therapy, and even a shoe room for Mike’s prized collection of shoes. With a house adapted to his needs, Mike no longer has to worry about his safety in his own home and can focus

on his recovery.

Together with McLeish Orlando, Mike successfully settled his case with the insurance company responsible for the damages caused by the unidentified driver of the van. Though Mike has not yet returned to teaching, he remains involved in the school community through special events and speaking at leadership camps for students. Mike has also regained his active lifestyle, trying his hand at boxing, working out regularly at the gym, and golfing daily during the summer. However, Mike’s most valued achievement since his accident has been the birth of his daughter, Mary, who is now 18 months old. His favourite part of the day is the time he gets to spend with his wife and daughter. As Mike puts it, “Trina and Mary are my world, so I keep my head down and work as hard as I can. For them, I try to live the best life possible.”

