

SHALOM TORONTO

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The Lamborghinis of the Law World

ELAD BENARI

A seminar for professionals to be held in Toronto by B'nai Brith Canada Lawyer's Division at the end of this month will feature some of Toronto's top professionals presenting on issues of trusts and estates.

Co-sponsored by B'nai Brith Canada and the Scotia Private Client Group, the seminar will feature presentations on issues relating to owning properties both in Ontario and outside. A central topic of discussion will be the similarities and differences of the law in Ontario and in Israel, when it comes to owning assets in both jurisdictions.

"As part of the professional obligation of every lawyer and every accountant they have to attend seminars that educate them on differ-

ent aspects of the law," explained Charles Wagner, a Toronto lawyer dealing with estate litigation and Chair of the Trust & Estates Group of B'nai Brith's Lawyer's Division in a conversation with Shalom Toronto. "Every year we put out a seminar for lawyers and accountants on issues of interest to the profession. Those people who come to the seminar are Jewish lawyers and Jewish accountants and non-Jewish lawyers and non-Jewish accountants who serve the Jewish community."

Wagner will be speaking at the seminar on the topic of "Forum Shopping between Israel and Ontario – differences in Formalities of Execution", and will be presenting with Michael Gruda, a lawyer from Jerusalem.

"My paper that I'm going to de-

liver will speak of the example where someone has assets in Ontario, they have assets in Israel, they do a will in Israel but they only have one signature," he explained. "A will in Ontario that only has one signature will not be considered a kosher will (it needs two signatures) but a will in Israel would be considered kosher with one signature. So if you're a lawyer in Toronto and you have a client that says, 'My father died. He did a will in Israel but he has assets in Ontario. Can I use that will?' and you take a look at that will and it only has one signature – what do you do? It's a very complicated legal question because of the laws of private international law and the different statutes both in Israel and in Ontario. We deal with subjects like that at this seminar."

In addition to Wagner and Gruda, the following will speak: Jordan Atin of Hull and Hull LLP will speak on the issues of costs in estate litigation and how the choice of where to litigate may be impacted due to costs; Rachel Blumenfeld, editor of B'nai Brith Estates and Trust Journal will be addressing tax planning issues for clients who own properties in both Israel and Ontario; Ian Hull, senior partner of Hull and Hull LLP will be dealing with issues arising when a foreign litigant sues over estate assets located in Ontario; Archie Rabinowitz of Fraser Milner Casgrain LLP will be addressing the legal options open to beneficiaries when a will that was signed does not accurately represent the testator's true intention; and Dr. Ken Shulman of Sunnybrook Hospital

will speak of his work to establish guidelines for testamentary capacity in different jurisdictions.

"The lawyers who are speaking at this conference are the Lamborghinis of the law world," concluded Wagner.

The seminar will take place on Wednesday, June 30 at Beth Shalom Synagogue located at 1445 Eglinton Avenue West, Toronto. Registration and breakfast will be at 7:30am and the program will take place between 8:00am and 10:00am. Attendance is restricted to those professionals and students practicing in this area.

For further information please contact Hyla Reichmann at B'nai Brith at 416-633-6224 ext. 128 or by e-mail at hreichmann@bnai-brith.ca