

**Candidate Name / Nom du/de la candidat(e)**

Natalia U. Rodriguez

**Candidate Email / Courriel du/de la candidat(e)**

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**Candidate Biographical Information/Notice biographique**

B.Sc., B.Ed., J.D. – Partner, Conway Baxter Wilson LLP

**Practice:**

- Civil litigation with an emphasis on public/admin, commercial litigation and appellate advocacy
- Senior Counsel to the Public Order Emergency Commission
- Counsel to the Elliot Lake Commission of Inquiry
- Former law clerk - Supreme Court of Canada; Court of Appeal for Ontario

**Memberships:**

- The Advocates' Society: Member, 10+ Standing Committee; Member, Diversity and Inclusion Standing Committee; Podcast Working Group; Mentor
- Canadian Hispanic Bar Association: Board Member (Policy and Programs); Mentor

**Community:**

- Member, Equity Advisory Group, The Law Society of Ontario
- Volunteer, Pro Bono Law Ontario
- Articling principal and student mentor
- Former Board Member, The Children's Bridge

**Candidate Election Statement/Déclaration électorale**

I am delighted to be running for bench in the East Region as part of the Good Governance Coalition.

I have always strived to be an agent of positive change and my candidacy is no exception. The legal profession is at a pivotal moment: socioeconomic realities, technological advancements and a world-wide pandemic are all altering the way we deliver legal services. The Law Society must respond to these new realities so that it can continue to govern in the public interest and so that the two legal professions in Ontario can adapt successfully. I am committed to good governance and recognize that is not only in the public interest, but also in the interest of advancing our legal professions.

Convocation needs to refocus its attention on ensuring that the Law Society continues its commitment to evidence-based, proportionate, cost-efficient regulation of the legal professions in the public interest. This is why we must bring back civil and focused debate to Convocation: so that a variety of perspectives can be heard in a respectful and productive environment. Only then will positive change and progress be possible.

I have served on several Boards in legal associations and the not-for-profit sector. I have worked in a large, national firm, in the federal government, and in a boutique Ottawa-based firm. I am fortunate to have been exposed to a variety of perspectives through my work in diversity and inclusion committees, student recruitment, and as articling principal.

I am active in The Advocates' Society, as a member of the 10+ Standing Committee, the Diversity and Inclusion Standing Committee and the Podcast Working Group. I have had exposure to and have grappled with many issues before Convocation through my work in the Equity Advisory Group, The Advocates' Society, the Canadian Hispanic Bar Association and RODA (Roundtable of Diversity Associations).

I ask for your support along with support for each of my very qualified colleagues in the Good Governance Coalition. Together, we can bring about positive change to Convocation. You can learn more about all our candidates at [www.goodgovernancecoalition.ca](http://www.goodgovernancecoalition.ca)