A Conversation Between the Unstoppable Force and the Immovable Object - Reaching Consensus on Regulating the Delivery of Legal Services

Sponsoring Entity: Standing Committee on Professional Discipline

Globally, the rate at which online platforms for the delivery of legal services, many of which are not owned or operated by lawyers, grows unabated. They are the unstoppable force. Most are not subject to regulation or to the ethical responsibilities that lawyers owe to their clients and the public. This session will bring together providers, regulators, and lawyers for a lively conversation about those ethical responsibilities, including competency, confidentiality and independent professional judgment. Participants will explore whether and where consensus exists for bringing these entities under the profession's regulatory tent, and how lawyers can ethically participate with them to take advantage of opportunities for serving clients. By the session's end we may see if the organized bar is willing to move away from its role as the immovable object.