



# Canada Court Watch Report



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## Madame Justice Lydia Olah - Barrie's Judicial Tyrant

**Children and families suffer as a result of this judge's  
oppressive and arbitrary decisions**

**By Mike March, Justice Reporter**

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The Collins Concise Dictionary defines a tyrant as a person who governs oppressively or exercises authority in an arbitrary and unreasonable manner.

By this definition, the actions of one Ontario Judge, Madame Justice Lydia Olah of the Barrie Ontario court, put her in the category of a judicial tyrant.

According to some children, their families and even some well respected lawyers in the Barrie, Ontario area who have contacted Court Watch, Madame Justice Olah has inflicted some totally unnecessary pain and suffering on children and families with oppressive, arbitrary and highly questionable family court decisions.

In what appears to be an attempt to hide possible judicial misconduct, Justice Olah has unlawfully blocked members of the media from her court contrary to the long standing tradition of freedom of the press.

In one of the cases, a teenage girl from Barrie, who was the subject of one of the court hearings, had specifically requested that members of media attend the court in order to help ensure that she and her family were treated fairly by the court.

The teen had been harassed, threatened, unlawfully confined and her rights and freedoms violated by overzealous children aid society (CAS) workers who were not even registered as social workers with the Province.

The teen simply wanted the media present and a couple of family supporters to be with her in court.

One of the supporters who the teen had requested be with her in court, the Archbishop Dorian A. Baxter was threatened with arrest if he attempted to support the girl in court. The girl's older brothers were kicked out as well.

Even though the teenage girl reported being abused and threatened while in care of the CAS, Justice Olah ordered that the girl's father would be jailed and fined \$1000 per day if his teenage daughter did not turn herself

into the CAS and submit herself to further detention and harassment by CAS and its workers.

As a result of Justice Olah's unjust and abusive order, the girl and her family were subjected to further abuse by CAS after that court.

One CAS supervisor who was involved with this girl and her family was later arrested by police in June of 2006 after being caught stealing candy and money at Easter from a child in care of the York Region CAS.

Madame Justice Olah ordered the media out of her court in contravention of the law and without making a written judgement as to why she was ordering the media out of her court, as she should have done.

Madame Justice Olah did not even give the media representatives the opportunity to fairly and honourable argue the issue in her court.

Her actions in ordering the media out were arbitrary and without any reasonable foundation in law.

In another abuse of judicial authority at the Collingwood, Ontario court, Madame Justice Olah had armed officers from the Collingwood O.P.P. stand outside the courtroom door and padlock the court doors with lock and key.

Again, media representatives were told that they would be jailed and arrested if they attempted to go within five feet of the outside of the courtroom doors.

It was clearly an abuse of the law and an abuse of the police authority, all at taxpayer expense.

According to the armed police officers it was Justice Olah who had ordered the courtroom doors locked, the media kept out and the family's personal support persons kept out.

Police are supposed to uphold the law on behalf of the citizens of Ontario, not to act on the instructions of a renegade judge which were intended to obstruct justice.

Not once did Justice Olah give the media a fair opportunity to speak or to make arguments before her.

Justice Olah's behaviour on those incidents flew

right in the face of promises made by Ontario's Attorney General, Michael Bryant, who had stated publicly that the Province of Ontario wants the courts to be more open and transparent.

In a statement to Canadian Press, Ontario's Attorney General stated, "My chief concern would be to ensure that the justice system is as transparent and as accessible as possible"

It seems that Justice Olah does not give a damn about the public's interest in the administration of justice.

A representative of a local student radio station was one media person who Justice Olah ordered out of her court.

High school kids in the area had taken an interest in the case because it was one of their fellow students who was being abused by the CAS and the family court system and the students wanted to know more about the case was being handled by the court.

Needless to say, ordering the student media out of her court alienated many high school students when they learned of Justice Olah's cowardly actions in court.

Certainly on that day, the actions of Madame Justice Olah fostered much disrespect for the administration of justice amongst young people in the Barrie Region.

On both occasions Justice Olah behaved like a judicial tyrant, violating the law with blatant disregard to the citizens of Ontario who pay her salary.

She violated both the word and spirit of the law by ignoring the long standing tradition of the freedom of the press.

Her actions helped foster disrespect for the law and for our system of justice, especially amongst the many young Canadians who heard about her actions.

In another case, Justice Olah told an Ontario father that he could not be supervised by members of his own family because they could not be considered as being neutral while in a more recent case, Justice Olah decided that it was OK for a Barrie, Ontario mother who had been charged by police for the death of one of her babies to be supervised by her mother while she cared for her other baby.

In the one case involving a reputable father in the community Justice Justice Olah said no and then in another case involving an unfit and mentally unstable mother turned around and said yes.

Clearly a double standard of justice which has put a young baby in the care of an unfit mother who has already appeared to have caused the death of one child.

Just as the judges in our courts serve a valuable purpose to our society, the media also serves a valuable role in society as watchdog to the courts.

The right of the media to attend court is one of the principle safeguards protecting the public's interest in the

administration of justice in Canada.

The media is for the public good and judges must respect the role of the media in attending courts, including Madame Justice Olah.

Hopefully, Madame Justice Olah will rethink her position and hopefully come to the realization that just because she does not like the media watching her, she cannot continue to unilaterally suppress rights and freedom of the media and the rights of Canadians to know what is going on in our courts of Law.

By suppressing the media and depriving children and families from having fellow family members in court to support them, Justice Olah is suppressing the rights and freedoms of Canadians and thus eroding the very principles upon which Canada was founded.

The actions of Justice Olah are an insult to those who gave their lives in order to ensure freedom and democracy for Canadians. Her actions are a black mark and a disgrace to our justice system.

Madame Justice Olah should realise that her role as judge is to help protect our democracy by protecting the rights and freedoms of the citizens, not muzzling them at her whim.

If freedom of the media is not respected and protected by our judges, then democracy, freedom and justice in Canada as we presently know it is clearly at risk.

Former Prime Minister John Diefenbaker once stated:

***"We must vigilantly stand on guard within our own borders for human rights and fundamental freedoms which are our proud heritage.....we cannot take for granted the continuance and maintenance of those rights and freedoms."***

Will Justice Olah heed the words from one of Canada's most famous and respected Prime Ministers and begin respecting Canada's laws and traditions?

Will Justice Olah begin to respect the wishes of the Ontario's Attorney General to make the courts more open and transparent for the citizens of Ontario?

Will Justice Olah allow children and their families to be supported in court by their friends and family?

Or will Justice Olah continue to be Barrie's judicial tyrant and take Canada, its freedoms and its democracy down the path of self-destruction as she has already demonstrated her willingness to do?

The actions of Justice Olah have clearly moved Canada one step away from the Rule of Law by Parliamentary democracy into the realm where Canada is being ruled by judicial tyranny in which unaccountable and unelected judges make their own laws behind closed doors to suit their own purposes as they go along.

All Canadians, especially our federal elected politicians, had better wake up to the problem of judicial tyranny and do something before it is too late for us all.