

**From:** [noreply@esolutionsgroup.ca](mailto:noreply@esolutionsgroup.ca)  
**To:** [Clerks](#)  
**Subject:** Drainage Board - New Response Completed for Drainage Board Application  
**Date:** November 7, 2025 4:58:53 PM

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Hello,

Please note the following response to Drainage Board Application has been submitted at Friday November 7th 2025 4:56 PM with reference number 2025-11-07-029.

- **Last Name or Single Name**

Wiesenthal

- **First Name**

Jonathan

- **Street Number**

■

- **Street Name**

■

- **Town**

Essex

- **Postal**

■

- 

■

- **Primary Phone Number**

[REDACTED]

- **Availability (Check all that apply)**

Daytime, Evening

- **Are you comfortable with committee meetings being livestreamed for public viewing?**

Yes

- **Do you have access to electronic communication? (i.e., email)**

Yes

- **Have you read the Terms of Reference for this Committee?**

Yes

- **Are you 18 years of age or older?**

Yes

- **The Committee may either meet in person or virtually via teleconferencing technology. Would you be able to attend both in person and/or virtual meetings?**

Yes

- **What is (or was) your occupation?**

lawyer

- **Please tell us about your interest in serving on this Committee. What do you hope to contribute, and how would you support the Committee?**

am interested in serving on the Drainage Board because it represents a unique opportunity to contribute my legal, policy, and governance experience to an area that is both technically significant and foundational to the economic and environmental well-being of the Town of Essex. As a practising lawyer with extensive experience in municipal, real estate, and administrative law, I have developed a detailed understanding of the Drainage Act, its procedural requirements, and its critical role in supporting rural infrastructure, agriculture, and land use management.

My interest in this work stems from both my professional background and my deep connection to the Essex County community. Having represented municipalities, property owners, and local residents in matters involving municipal law, land drainage, and property rights, I am familiar with the need to balance fairness, statutory compliance,

and the practical realities of local development. I have appeared before the Ontario Courts and administrative tribunals, including the Drainage Referee, and have managed appeals involving drainage and infrastructure matters. This direct experience gives me a clear understanding of the processes, responsibilities, and challenges associated with municipal drainage decision-making.

What I hope to contribute:

**Technical and Legal Insight:** I can contribute an informed perspective on the application of the Drainage Act, statutory interpretation, and the principles of natural justice and procedural fairness that guide municipal decision-making.

**Policy and Governance Experience:** My work with public bodies and community organizations has equipped me to evaluate reports, interpret technical findings, and provide reasoned, transparent recommendations to Council.

**Collaboration and Communication:** Drawing from my experience as a Constituency Director for a Member of Parliament and as a Board Member with local and national organizations, I bring strong communication and stakeholder-engagement skills that help foster constructive dialogue among property owners, engineers, and Council.

How I would support the Committee:

I would support the Drainage Board by applying a disciplined, analytical approach to reviewing petitions, reports, and appeals under the Drainage Act. I would work collaboratively with other members and staff to ensure decisions are made based on evidence, fairness, and statutory requirements. I also recognize the importance of public confidence in the drainage process and would help promote transparency, accessibility, and respect in the Board's proceedings.

My combined experience in law, municipal policy, and community governance aligns closely with the Board's mandate to oversee drainage matters in a manner that protects landowners' rights while supporting responsible infrastructure development. I view this role as an opportunity to contribute meaningfully to a process that underpins both the agricultural and environmental sustainability of the Town of Essex.

- **Please tell us about your community involvement and employment background, including any skills and experience relevant to this position. What were your roles and responsibilities?**

My community involvement and employment background combine public service, legal expertise, and governance experience—each of which aligns closely with the work of the Drainage Board. I have spent my career in roles that require balancing regulatory obligations, community interests, and fair decision-making—skills that are directly relevant to the Board’s mandate under the Drainage Act.

I am currently an associate lawyer with Courey Law Professional Corporation, where I manage appeals and Divisional Court matters, including several cases under the Drainage Act. My practice focuses on municipal, real estate, and administrative law, with an emphasis on statutory interpretation, procedural fairness, and governance compliance. I regularly advise municipalities, property owners, and businesses on infrastructure-related issues, land use, and development policy. I have appeared before Ontario courts and tribunals, including the Drainage Referee, where I have advocated in matters concerning drainage assessments, boundary adjustments, and municipal authority.

My earlier professional experience includes positions with Mousseau DeLuca McPherson Prince LLP, RAR Litigation Lawyers, and Koziar Reczulski Hunter Law, where I handled files involving real property, construction disputes, planning and zoning matters, and municipal compliance. Before entering private practice, I served as a Constituency Director for a Member of Parliament, managing policy research, community outreach, and government liaison initiatives. That experience strengthened my ability to manage complex public files, engage stakeholders, and communicate effectively across levels of government—skills that are essential for fair and transparent decision-making in drainage proceedings.

Beyond my professional work, I have maintained active community involvement. I have served on several boards, including the Windsor Endowment for the Arts, Essex Law Association, and Windsor Jewish Community Centre, as well as the National Board of Jewish Federations of Canada. In these roles, I contributed to governance, policy review, and strategic planning, helping organizations balance accountability, financial stewardship, and public engagement.

Through these combined experiences, I have developed strong competencies in policy analysis, stakeholder relations, and administrative governance. I bring a disciplined approach to assessing evidence, an understanding of the legislative framework governing municipal infrastructure, and a commitment to fairness and transparency. These qualities directly support the Drainage Board’s role in ensuring that drainage projects and assessments are administered in a way that is lawful, equitable, and beneficial to the community as a whole.

- **Please describe any other training, experience, or qualifications you have that you feel would benefit the Committee:**

In addition to my legal and professional experience, I bring a range of education, training, and qualifications that would directly benefit the Drainage Board's work under the Drainage Act.

I hold a Juris Doctor from the University of Windsor Faculty of Law and a Master of Science in International Political Economics from the London School of Economics. This academic foundation has given me a deep understanding of how public policy, governance, and economic development intersect—particularly in the context of infrastructure, land use, and municipal decision-making. My graduate studies emphasized regulatory policy, public finance, and environmental management—all relevant to the planning and administration of municipal drainage systems.

As a lawyer practicing in municipal, real estate, and administrative law, I have extensive experience interpreting and applying legislation such as the Drainage Act, Municipal Act, Planning Act, and Building Code. I have represented municipalities and private landowners in drainage, boundary, and property matters before Ontario courts and administrative tribunals, including the Drainage Referee. This work has provided me with practical familiarity with engineering reports, cost assessments, and procedural fairness in drainage proceedings.

My governance and community leadership experience further complements the Board's responsibilities. Through service on boards such as the Essex Law Association, Windsor Endowment for the Arts, and Jewish Federations of Canada, I have participated in strategic planning, policy evaluation, and community engagement processes. These roles required a disciplined, transparent approach to decision-making—similar to the standards expected of members serving in a quasi-judicial capacity.

I am also fluent in English and French, an asset in communicating with landowners, residents, and stakeholders across the Town of Essex. My ability to clearly explain technical and legal information supports accessibility and public confidence in the Board's work.

Finally, my prior role as a Constituency Director for a Member of Parliament provided valuable training in intergovernmental coordination, policy research, and public communication—skills that are essential to managing the intersection between technical recommendations, community expectations, and legislative compliance.

Together, my academic background, legal expertise, and governance experience equip me to support the Drainage Board with evidence-based analysis, clear communication, and sound judgment. I would bring a balanced and informed perspective that respects both statutory obligations and the practical realities faced by landowners and municipalities alike.

- **Would you have any conflicts of interest or potential conflicts of interest if appointed?**

No.

- **Outline your knowledge of the Drainage Act and rural drainage systems.**

Through my legal practice and work with municipalities and landowners, I have developed substantial knowledge of the Drainage Act and Ontario's rural drainage systems, including their legal, procedural, and technical dimensions. My experience includes advising on, preparing, and litigating matters arising under the Drainage Act, as well as interpreting the related statutory and regulatory framework that governs the planning, construction, and maintenance of municipal drains.

As a lawyer practicing in municipal and real estate law, I have represented both municipalities and private property owners in matters concerning drain petitions, cost apportionment, appeals, and assessments under the Drainage Act. I am familiar with the statutory procedures for initiating a drainage project, appointing an engineer, conducting on-site meetings, filing engineer's reports, and administering Court of Revision and Tribunal appeals. I have appeared before the Drainage Referee in matters involving drainage disputes, jurisdictional issues, and questions of procedural fairness.

My work has also required close collaboration with municipal engineers, inspectors, and planning officials, giving me practical insight into how drainage systems are designed, funded, and maintained to support agricultural productivity, flood mitigation, and environmental protection. I understand the importance of maintaining a fair and transparent assessment process to ensure equitable cost-sharing among affected landowners while supporting necessary infrastructure renewal.

Beyond my legal experience, I bring an understanding of how rural drainage infrastructure connects to broader land use planning and environmental management policies. My graduate studies in International Political Economics at the London School of Economics emphasized the role of public infrastructure in regional development

and sustainability, which informs my appreciation for the economic and social value of effective rural drainage systems.

In reviewing drainage matters, I apply a balanced approach—grounded in the principles of statutory compliance, natural justice, and practical feasibility. I understand that decisions under the Drainage Act must not only meet legal and technical standards but also maintain public trust through fairness, consistency, and communication.

This combined legal, procedural, and policy knowledge positions me well to contribute meaningfully to the Drainage Board's oversight and decision-making. I would bring both analytical rigor and a collaborative mindset to ensuring that drainage matters are resolved efficiently, transparently, and in the long-term interest of the Town of Essex and its residents.

- **Do you have agricultural knowledge or experience?**

While I am not a farmer by trade, much of my professional legal work and community engagement has been directly connected to agricultural land use, rural infrastructure, and property management—all of which have given me meaningful insight into the realities and priorities of the agricultural sector in Essex County.

As a lawyer practicing in municipal, real estate, and drainage law, I have represented both farm owners and municipalities in matters arising under the Drainage Act and related legislation, including the Municipal Act, Planning Act, and Conservation Authorities Act. This work has involved advising on drain petitions, easements, cost assessments, and maintenance of rural drainage systems that are critical to sustaining farm operations and protecting agricultural productivity. I have worked closely with agricultural clients, engineers, and municipal officials to ensure compliance with statutory obligations while addressing practical concerns such as land grading, soil drainage, and access for maintenance.

In these roles, I have gained an appreciation for how effective drainage and land management directly influence crop yields, soil conservation, and the long-term viability of rural properties. My exposure to these files has also provided familiarity with agricultural assessment processes, farm tenancy issues, and rural property taxation, which are integral to understanding how public infrastructure decisions affect farmers and landowners.

Living and working in Essex County, I have also maintained ongoing relationships with the agricultural community through clients, local boards, and public consultation processes. I understand that farming

is both a livelihood and a stewardship responsibility, requiring fair, transparent, and technically sound decision-making—principles that align closely with the purpose of the Drainage Board.

My combined legal, policy, and community experience therefore gives me a balanced perspective on the agricultural implications of drainage and land use decisions. I would bring to the Board a strong appreciation for the economic and environmental importance of agriculture, and a commitment to ensuring that drainage administration continues to support both agricultural productivity and community sustainability.

- **Please upload a copy of your résumé**

1. 

- **Date of Signature**

11/7/2025

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