

Sedona comes to Canada

BY ROBERT TODD
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Canadian lawyers recently had a rare chance to gain insight into best practices for e-discovery at the 1st Annual Sedona Canada Program on Getting Ahead of the e-Discovery Curve.

“I was very pleased and surprised” with the turnout, says Ken Withers, director of judicial education and content for the U.S.-based think tank, who also was a faculty member at the two-day event at the Boulevard Club in Toronto. Withers says the group expected only 75 attendees, but had to make special accommodation when 125 showed up.

“I had to apologize to some of the people who arrived late without prior registration,” he says. “We ran out of materials and seats, so it was standing room only.”

Members of the Sedona Conference Canadian Working Group on Electronic Document Retention & Production — the group that developed the Sedona Canada Principles

Addressing Electronic Discovery — presented the conference. Ogilvy Renault LLP lawyer Kelly Friedman and Susan Wortzman of Wortzman Nickle Professional Corporation were the co-chairwomen of the event.

Panel discussions focused on issues such as the Sedona Canada Principles, management of electronic information, and new roles and teams to manage e-discovery successfully, to name a few.

Withers says what set this conference apart was the high level of audience participation.

“A lot of people brought their own problems, and we were able to have quite a bit of dialogue,” he says. “It was not a traditional continuing legal education conference with a series of talking heads who lectured the audience.”

Withers says it became clear as the conference wrapped up that there is a need for similar conferences in the future. While no concrete plans have been made, it looks like the Sedona Conference Institute will hold one next year in Vancouver, he says. **LT**