

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/more-lawyers-more-litigation/>

This video describes a study conducted at Toronto Metropolitan University regarding the establishment of a new law school and the political opposition it faced. Those opposing the initiative expressed concerns that adding more lawyers would lead to negative societal consequences, such as increased litigation and disputes, echoing similar fears from past decades in the United States. However, the researchers noted a shift in perspective, with some acknowledging the potential benefits of more lawyers in improving access to justice for underrepresented individuals.

To analyze these assumptions, the study utilized three data sets: Statistics Canada's national litigation data, Ontario's specific litigation database, and the Law Society of Ontario's information on lawyers. The findings revealed that while the number of lawyers in Ontario increased significantly, the overall number of litigation cases remained relatively stable, leading to a decrease in the lawyer-to-population ratio. This video suggests that more lawyers do not necessarily result in more litigation, and may even correlate with less.

The researchers speculated on possible reasons for this unexpected trend, including the rise of alternative dispute resolution methods, economic downturns affecting litigation rates, and societal changes regarding trust in legal institutions. Ultimately, the study concluded that while the addition of lawyers did not exacerbate litigation concerns, it also did not improve access to justice as intended. The researchers emphasized the importance of understanding the outcomes and integration of new lawyers in the profession to genuinely enhance access to legal services.