



This paper would fall within the theme of the panel entitled “Parliamentary Procedure and Practice: Clerks-at-the-Table”.

THE ROLE OF A PARLIAMENTARY CLERK IN THE 21ST CENTURY

What is required of a Parliamentary Clerk in the 21st Century ? Far beyond simply wielding a quill and a thick, dusty but well used copy of the Standing Orders or a procedural authority, Clerks are now expected to be experts on modern management techniques, emerging information technology, parliamentary diplomacy and a host of other subjects. As the role of Parliament and parliamentarians evolves, so too has the role of the non-partisan officers that support them. This paper will explore the challenges facing today’s Clerks, especially as they continue to walk the fine line between supporting their respective institutions without being overly proactive and encroaching on the roles and responsibilities of the politicians they serve.

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