



## **Clinics have cause to celebrate!**

**\$200K gift from Bogoroch & Associates LLP to Queen's Legal Aid supports students serving Kingston-area clients ([see page 26](#))**

**5th anniversary of downtown Kingston co-location ([see page 28](#))**



#### Queen's Law Reports Online

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#### ON THE COVER

A student caseworker welcomes a client to the Queen's Law Clinics in downtown Kingston, where the school's five clinics co-located five years ago. Inset: Richard Bogoroch, founder and managing partner of Bogoroch & Associates LLP, which donated \$200,000 to Queen's Legal Aid. (Photos by Greg Black and Eric Forget)

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Justice  
Superior Court of Justice

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Kathleen Wynne, Liberal MPP and former Premier of Ontario, dropped by the school to talk politics and leadership with students.



# How to catch a global financial criminal

Canada and most other countries have a hard time convicting people involved in offshore tax evasion and international money laundering. **Professor Art Cockfield, Law'93**, of Queen's Law and Professor Christian Leuprecht of RMC and Queen's Political Science are working to change that. Armed with a \$153,000 research grant and assisted by students and an innovative tool, they're digging into the hidden financial underworld.

"We're compiling facts from case law involving global financial crimes," says Cockfield. "Then we'll discern patterns for these crimes, which will help governments detect, investigate and arrest criminals."

Cockfield first got involved in this area of research in 2012, when the CBC hired him as a consultant to examine the world's first tax haven data leak called Offshore Secrets (he also looked through the Panama Papers, which were revealed to the public in 2016). "This changed the arc of my research career," he says. "For the first time, I got a sense that there was a lot of crime happening in the offshore world. As I sifted through the leak, I had a better sense of what crooks were doing: engaging in global financial crimes like offshore tax evasion and international money laundering."

"Tax haven data leaks like the Panama Papers suggest such criminal practices by high net-worth individuals and families are actually quite widespread all around the world," he adds.

How does someone get away with offshore tax evasion?

"Let's say there's a Canadian billionaire who has a family fortune of \$1 billion and hides \$400 million in a tax haven (an offshore country that doesn't charge foreigners any tax)," says Cockfield, giving an example. "The money could have been an inheritance or earned legally. The billionaire could have filled suitcases with cash, flown to the Bahamas, put the cash in a Royal Bank account in Nassau, and then invested the money in Eurobonds. The money just accumulates there, but the billionaire doesn't report the interest income on his tax return to the Canada Revenue Agency, so Canada doesn't receive any tax revenue for it."

How can one get away with international money laundering?

Cockfield explains how it works using Canada's fentanyl crisis as an example. "Over 90 per cent of the illegal fentanyl sold to Canadians is produced in Chinese labs, so the original illicit narcotic gets manufactured in a foreign country, is sold over the Internet to dealers (like Chinese mob members) or users in Canada, and all that 'dirty money' ends up in our country," he says.

But all the money collected from the sale of these illicit drugs must get back to the country that produced them. To do that, the dirty money must first be 'cleaned.' "A drug dealer could use the dirty money to buy a \$20-million mansion in Vancouver," he explains. "Suddenly the dealer has invested money in a 'clean asset,' which can then be sold. Another common tactic to clean up the money is to buy casino chips with the dirty money, gamble a little bit, and then cash out your casino chips at the end of the night."

Terrorist financing, yet another crime Cockfield has been researching, was the subject of a paper he and Leuprecht presented at the University of Hawaii Fulbright Conference five years ago.

"Since then, we've worked together on different global financial crime projects, and we thought we could come up with a new approach to help understand these pressing social problems," says Cockfield.

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada is providing funding for them to do just that. They were awarded a five-year SSHRC Insight Development Grant for their new project, "Invisible Underworld: Inhibiting Global Financial Crime."

In addition to communicating their forthcoming research results with their scholarly peers and advancing knowledge about these crimes, another purpose for this work, Cockfield says, "is to devise optimal laws and policies that will allow law enforcement to investigate and arrest financial criminals and terrorist financiers."



Professor Art Cockfield, Law'93, and his RMC and Queen's political science colleague, Christian Leuprecht, have received a \$150K+ grant to investigate the hidden financial underworld that enables global financial crimes like offshore tax evasion and international money laundering. One purpose for this work, Cockfield says, "is to devise optimal laws and policies that will allow law enforcement to investigate and arrest financial criminals and terrorist financiers."

To get started, Cockfield and Leuprecht hired research assistants, including Kasia MacNaughton, one of Cockfield's PhD students, and JD students. The research assistants are gathering facts from case law involving offshore tax evasion, international money laundering and terrorist financing.

"Part of our research involves sifting through all the world's existing judicial decisions surrounding global financial crime that we can access in English," says Cockfield. "Then we are coding data like the plaintiff's name, the bank they are using, the country the bank is located in, and so on. From there, we apply Social Network Analysis (SNA), a social science tool that uses computer analysis of data to discern patterns. We're trying to figure out patterns surrounding global financial crime."

SNA was developed by Leuprecht, with colleagues at Queen's and elsewhere a few years ago. It's so new that it's been rarely applied in any context. But Cockfield

and Leuprecht have already used it for an article, "Tracking Transnational Terrorist Resourcing Nodes and Networks," published in the Winter 2019 issue of the *Florida State University Law Review*. For their work in that area, they had received two grants from the Canadian Network for Research on Terrorism, Security and Society.

For their new project, Cockfield and Leuprecht are working on a paper and organizing a conference to take place next June in Ottawa, where the world's leading experts will gather to study and exchange information. The two collaborators will also be writing at least one book.

Once the Canadian and other governments are armed with the results of Cockfield's and Leuprecht's latest research project, they'll also be able to make it more difficult for people to get away with global financial crimes.

— LISA GRAHAM



# UN appoints Queen's international law scholar to Yemen commission of inquiry

"The worst humanitarian crisis in the world" is how the United Nations characterizes life in Yemen.

In September 2019, the Human Rights Council renewed the mandate of the Group of Eminent Experts, leading to the appointment of [Professor Ardi Imseis](#). He joins re-appointed GEE Chairperson Kamel Jendoubi of Tunisia and Member Melissa Parke of Australia.

One of the Arab world's poorest countries, Yemen has been embroiled in a multi-party civil war since 2014. Claims have been made that all parties to the conflict have violated and continue to violate international human rights law, international humanitarian law and other areas of international law.

To carry out a comprehensive investigation of all allegations and to monitor and report on the situation, in September 2017, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, established a commission of inquiry known as the Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts on Yemen (GEE). In the GEE's latest report, published in September 2019, the commission detailed, among other things, numerous possible war crimes apparently committed by the parties to the conflict over the past five years. The alleged crimes took place through airstrikes, indiscriminate shelling, snipers and landmines, as well as through arbitrary killings and detention, torture, sexual and gender-based violence, and the impeding of access to humanitarian aid.

The humanitarian and accountability issues presented by Yemen are dire. According to the GEE's September 2019 report, "[t]he UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs [has] estimated that 24.1 million people (almost 80 per cent of the population) were in need of assistance to survive." Last March, the World Food Program

declared Yemen had the "the world's largest food crisis," but many organizations referred to it as being "entirely man-made." Then in June, "the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator publicly confirmed findings of pockets of famine-like conditions in dozens of places across Yemen."

***"In the face of this protracted war, documenting violations of human rights and humanitarian law with a view to ensuring accountability for victims is a moral imperative of the highest order."***

The report also stated that the humanitarian crisis continued to have a disproportionate impact on women and children. While social and economic vulnerabilities predate the conflict, the war has contributed to the deterioration of virtually every aspect of life in the country. It also continued to have a significant impact on vulnerable groups that make up a large part of Yemen's complex social strata, including social minorities, persons with disabilities, the elderly and religious minorities.

"The destruction and damage the conflict has caused to Yemen's infrastructure and access to such basic services as medical care, education and justice – all of which were already limited before the war – have significantly affected the resilience of vulnerable communities," says the GEE. "Large waves of displacement have also pushed many to seek new coping mechanisms, exacerbating their vulnerabilities and increasing exposure to human rights violations."

It was the GEE's 2018 report that first found reasonable grounds to believe that airstrikes, shelling and other means by which the warring parties conducted hostilities have had an extreme impact on civilians and may amount to serious violations of international humanitarian law. More specific findings were noted in the 2019 report.

"It is my hope that I can help shed light on the plight and tragic situation enveloping all of the

people of Yemen as a result of the ongoing armed conflict," says Imseis. "In the face of this protracted war, documenting violations of human rights and humanitarian law with a view to ensuring accountability for victims is a moral imperative of the highest order."

Professor Imseis and his colleagues on the Group of Eminent Experts will present the next report to the Human Rights Council in September.

— LISA GRAHAM



Appointed to the UN's Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts on Yemen, Professor Ardi Imseis will be investigating and reporting on alleged violations involving parties to the country's civil war that after five years continues to rage.



# Queen's launches two must-read criminal law books

In an age of drones, cyberattacks, insurgents and autocrats, leadership responsibility for illegal war is more crucial than ever. Behind bars in federal prisons is an aging population with increasing health issues, a situation crying for reform to protect their rights. These two issues, both important in the criminal law field, are also the subjects of books written by Queen's Law scholars. On each of the two Mondays last November, students and faculty delved deep into these topics with the authors and commentators.

Professor Noah Weisbord was up first with his latest book, *The Crime of Aggression: The Quest for Justice in an Age of Drones, Cyberattacks, Insurgents, and Autocrats* (Princeton University Press). As of July 17, 2018, starting an unjust war is a prosecutable international crime alongside genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. Individual leaders are now personally subject to indictment for crimes of aggression – from invasions and preemptions to drone strikes and cyberattacks.

"The power to try leaders for unjust war holds untold promise for the international order, but also great risk," he said. He provided a behind-the-scenes account of the dramatic legal fight to hold leaders personally responsible for aggressive war. "I want to shed light on the motivations of the prosecutors, diplomats, and military strategists who championed the fledgling prohibition on unjust war – and those who tried to sink it."

Professors Darryl Robinson and Ardi Imseis provided commentary and discussed the book with Weisbord. Audience members also had the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments, which Donald M. Ferencz, a law professor with Middlesex University and the University of Oxford, has called "a highly informative, beautifully written, compelling account of what the activation of the

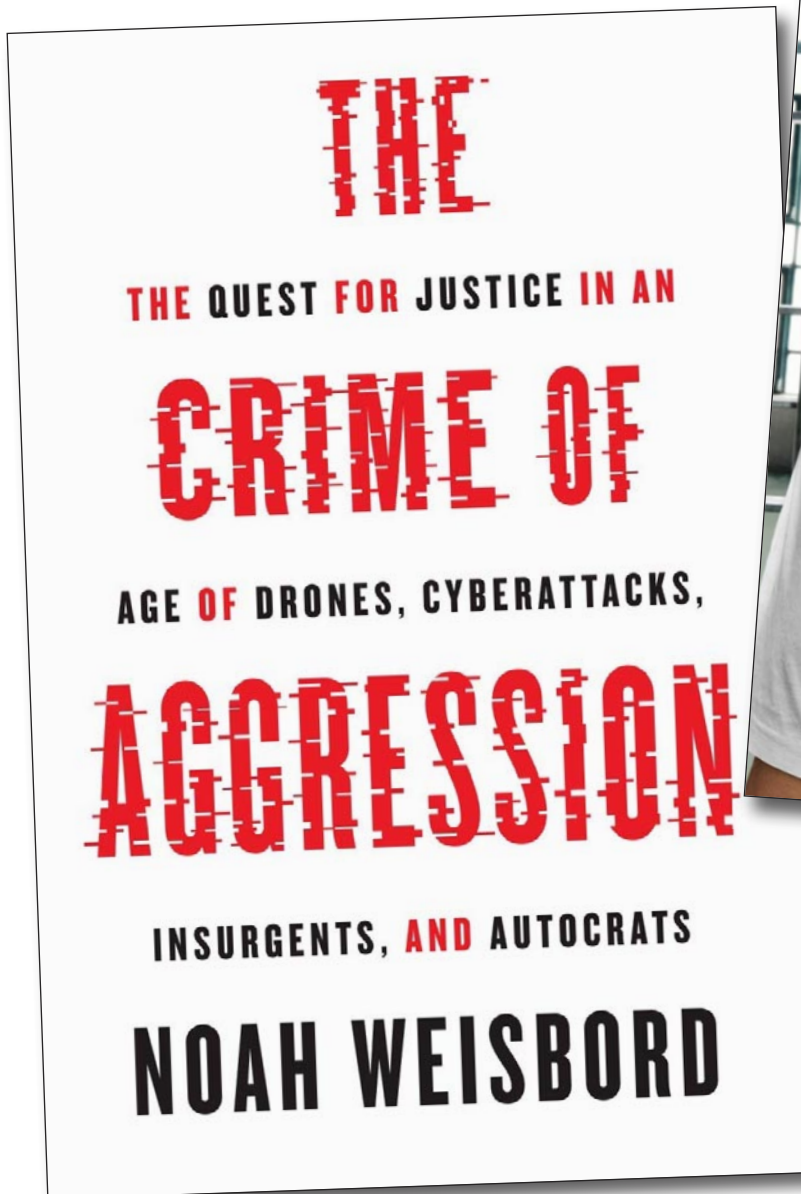
International Criminal Court's jurisdiction over the crime of aggression means in a world of evolving technologies and new paradigms of war making."

Taking centre stage the following week with her book, *Punished for Aging: Vulnerability, Rights, and Access to Justice in Canadian Penitentiaries* (University of Toronto), was Adelina Iftene, LL.M'11, PhD'15. Iftene, now an Assistant Professor at Dalhousie's Schulich School of Law, brought forward the experiences of federally incarcerated people living their "golden years" behind bars through first-hand accounts and quantitative data drawn from extensive interviews.

Illustrating the prison system's limited ability to respond to intensified needs, she explored the shortcomings of institutional processes, prison-monitoring mechanisms, and legal remedies available in courts and tribunals that leave prisoners vulnerable to rights abuses.

Kim Pate, an Independent Senator for Ontario, has said, "Adelina Iftene presents a comprehensive and compelling case for the invigoration and amplification of compassion and common sense when it comes to addressing the myriad issues related to the increasing numbers of aging prisoners in Canada ... *Punished for Aging* should be in the 'must read' category for all those who work in, teach, or legislate about criminal law, sentencing and prisons."

Professor Lisa Kerr, who organized the book launch and provided commentary, said, "This beautifully crafted book explores a distressing reality: the prison system is increasingly preoccupied not with punishment but with managing the chronic health needs of aging inmates. Adelina Iftene skillfully shows us a world that is rarely seen, and the results are as mobilizing as they are illuminating."



Leadership responsibility for illegal war and an increasing number of older incarcerated people with health issues are the subjects of books written by Queen's Law scholars.



# New Assistant Dean set to enhance educational experience for law students

Phillip Drew, Law'00, LLM'12, knows quite a bit about legal education, and he knows it from different perspectives.

Twenty-three years ago, then-Captain Drew with the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) was learning all the fundamentals as a first-year student. Ten years after his graduation, he was back at Queen's Law to complete his master's degree. Next, he earned a doctorate in international law from the University of Frankfurt (Oder).

Having started as an Intelligence Officer in what would become a 31-year career with the CAF, he served as a lawyer in the Office of the Judge Advocate General from the time he completed his articles with Gowlings (Ottawa) in 2001 until his release from the military in 2013. For the past eight years, he has been teaching International Humanitarian Law for Queen's International Law Programs at Herstmonceux Castle. Since 2016, he has been an Associate Professor with Australian National University College of Law.

Returning to his alma mater once again, he is now the Assistant Dean of JD and Graduate Legal Studies.

Assistant Dean Drew speaks about his Queen's Law and work experiences and his priorities for his new job.

## **What motivated you to switch from a career in military intelligence to one in law?**

I thoroughly enjoyed my career as an Intelligence Officer. I had the opportunity to travel the world and do some really fascinating work, particularly during the missions I did in the First Gulf War, Rwanda, and several other places people don't think of as holiday destinations. Although the jobs I did were very interesting, the reality of being an Intelligence Officer in the early 1990s meant that I was constantly away from home and my family. After I returned from my seven-month deployment to Rwanda, my wife and I discussed our future and decided that it was time for a change. I applied for and was accepted into the Military Legal Officer Training Plan, and we

both started law school at Queen's in the autumn of 1997.

## **What encouraged you to return to Queen's Law as an Assistant Dean?**

I have a strong sense of loyalty for Queen's Law. My wife and I consider ourselves very fortunate to have received an exceptionally good legal education during our three years at the law school. We thoroughly enjoyed Queen's and have many fond memories of the time we spent here as students. Now it is time to give back.

## **What are you responsible for in this position?**

I am responsible for virtually everything that has to do with legal education in the JD, LLM and PhD programs; from admissions to program design, through to ensuring that our curriculum meets the accreditation requirements imposed by the Law Society, Queen's University and the Ministry of Education. From the student perspective, I am the person who gets involved when our incredibly talented and dedicated staff in student services or student wellness need assistance.

## **How does your previous work experience relate to your new role?**

In each of my previous jobs, I received very specialized training and was exposed to unique and sometimes fascinating situations. I am finding that this job requires me to draw on all of the experience, training and education that I have been so fortunate to have received during my professional life.

Prior to leaving the military, I was stationed at the Canadian Forces Military Law Centre, which is located on the grounds of RMC. My primary role there was to create and standardize legal training for the Canadian Forces and to develop professional training and education for military lawyers. As part of that job I was able to take specialized training in curriculum development and educational techniques.

While I was at the Australian National University, I joined the Higher Education Academy, which is a



Assistant Dean Phil Drew, Law'00, LLM'12, brings a wealth of experience to his new administrative role overseeing JD and Graduate Studies at Queen's Law.

program directed at helping academics improve their teaching and assessment techniques.

I hope to draw on those experiences as we develop new programs and approaches in Queen's Law over the next several years.

## **What are your top priorities for the JD and graduate program at Queen's Law?**

My priorities for the programs are the same: to work with Dean Mark Walters (Law'89) and all members of the faculty and staff to provide our students with the best legal education experience in the country.

Queen's Law is a unique school. Unlike most others, it is not a regional law school, but rather one that draws students from across the country, and from around the world. Insofar as the vast majority of our students are living away from their home communities, the law school becomes a new community for them. This sense of community is one of the things that first attracted me to Queen's. I would like to foster this environment and help Queen's Law continue its reputation for being not just an excellent law school, but a place where all students feel welcome.



# Learning Indigenous law firsthand

It may only be one day, but it is an eye-opening highlight of the academic year.

On October 25, 40 Queen's Law community members boarded a bus and travelled two hours north-east to the Mohawk community of Akwesasne to visit the first court by and for Indigenous Peoples in Canada. The day's agenda included sessions on traditional dispute resolution, a community justice program panel Q&A, and – new this year – a case study on Akwesasne law.

“The annual Akwesasne trip is very important as it allows us to continue building on our relationship with the community,” says Hugo Choquette, Law’05, LLM’10, PhD’17, Aboriginal Law instructor. “We have a lot to learn from Akwesasne, and in turn we can provide some help and support to the community where it is needed.”



Elder Rick Oakes, Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs Community Helper, holds up a Six Nations confederacy belt as he explains the origins of confederacy to Queen's Law community members at the “Understanding Through Learning” roundtable held in Akwesasne Mohawk Territory.



Kyrie Ransom, Justice Coordinator of the Akwesasne Justice Department, shares with attendees a prime example of a challenge the new Akwesasne court faces.

The morning session was intended to ground the visitors in the Haudenosaunee culture, helping them to understand the worldview which has established the Indigenous legal traditions they were learning about. As they moved through the agenda, the teachings became more practical and culminated in a case study looking at a decision of the Akwesasne court in which an individual was subject to restorative justice after failing to live up to their community responsibilities.

One of the day's most poignant moments were the remarks of Jonel Beauvais, a Mohawk woman who spoke about her incarceration experience and her efforts to help others as they are released from prison.

“She has turned her experience as someone convicted and imprisoned for a serious crime into such good, and she is able to translate that experience into such a passionate message about justice and humanity,” says Dean Mark Walters, Law’89. “We may

*“We may have gone to Akwesasne to learn about Indigenous law and justice, and we did learn so much, but we came away learning about the non-Indigenous system of law and justice too – and what we learned should trouble us and motivate us.”*

— DEAN MARK WALTERS, LAW’89

have gone to Akwesasne to learn about Indigenous law and justice, and we did learn so much, but we came away learning about the non-Indigenous system of law and justice too – and what we learned should trouble us and motivate us.”

Near the end of the day, Akwesasne facilitator Kyrie Ransom showed the attendees a prime example of a challenge this new court faces. Many of their laws were born from the community’s goal to act as an independent self-determining nation in a

“two-row wampum” relationship with Canada, rather than federal authority. This aspiration for self-determination makes the community a prime research location for PhD candidate Sarojini Persaud.

“Akwesasne is an excellent example of a First Nation that has not adopted Canada’s tax system,” says Persaud, who is studying that issue. “Learning about their governance and community laws was very informative. I plan to use Akwesasne to make my argument that First Nations should not enter into Tax Administration Agreements with the Canada Revenue Agency.”

Noting other, more subtle learnings besides the community’s legal workings, Persaud particularly appreciated the practice of always commencing events by giving thanks.

The annual trip was co-organized by representatives of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and Ann Deer, Indigenous Recruitment and Support Coordinator at Queen's Law.

— PHIL GAUDREAU



Queen's Law students, faculty and staff spent a day on Akwesasne Mohawk Territory. There, they learned about the traditional dispute resolution system and justice program used in the first court by and for Indigenous Peoples in Canada and reviewed a real court decision.



# Students meet former Ontario premier

During a visit to Kingston on January 28, Liberal MPP Kathleen Wynne (Artsci'76), the only woman ever to have served as the Premier of Ontario, dropped by Queen's Law. There, she talked politics and leadership with students.

For young women wanting to start a political career, she emphasized the importance of teamwork in running for office. "You need to be able to bring together people who know what you stand for and who are going to work with you doing all the things that need to be done," she advised.

"Listen to the naysayers, but don't take it all to heart," she continued. "Be willing to take a risk and find people who will mentor you and be your champion."

She encouraged young women to take a chance on being able to help individuals in their constituency offices. "What we know is that once women get their name on the ballot, if they're in a winnable riding, they have as much chance at winning as men do," she said. "But it's from the point where you think about it to going through a nomination process to actually getting your name on the ballot that is the challenging part for women."



A student asked Wynne about collaborative policy making. "Within my caucus and cabinet, I tried to create an environment where people would say their piece and then we would have very lively discussions about policy," she said. "That reinforced for me the importance that as local MPPs, we all bring our constituencies to the table. We need to hear our constituents and we need to develop policy based on the evidence, based on what we hear from our constituents, and then based on our own lived experience."



Kathleen Wynne (far right), Liberal MPP for Don Valley West and former Premier of Ontario, talks about getting into politics, being a political leader and her private member's bill with Sophie Kiwala, former Liberal MPP for Kingston and the Islands, Queen's Law Dean Mark Walters, Maitland Shaheen, Law'22, and Darian Doblej, Law'21.

Expressing optimism for today's university students, she said, "Your generation has a whole different life experience than baby boomers and the generation after us. You understand technology differently. You understand the working world differently. You have different social relationships. You will change the way society works."

Following the Q & A session, Wynne toured the Lederman Law Library and Learning Commons in the Queen's Law building and stopped to chat with students along the way.

Wynne was in Kingston to raise awareness and get stakeholder feedback for a private member's bill she will be tabling at Queen's Park next month. Expanding on a bill regarding fetal alcohol spectrum disorder previously put forward in 2018 by then-Kingston and the Islands MPP Sophie Kiwala, the new bill calls for amendment to the *Early Childhood Educators Act* and the *Ontario College of Teachers Act*.

— LISA GRAHAM





# Judge modernizing jury instructions is ready to mentor students

Medical malpractice, personal injury, defamation, sexual assault. These are among the types of cases decided in civil courts. Justice Darla Wilson, Law'84 (Artsci'81), has heard many such cases argued before her at the Superior Court of Justice in Toronto over the past 12 years. Wilson, previously a civil litigator, is visiting Queen's Law this academic year to draft instructions for Ontario judges to prepare their jurors for civil trials, and to interact with students and faculty.

The project she is working on will help both judges and juries in the province.

"In a civil case, jurors decide on very serious issues involving negligent, unreasonable or substandard conduct," she explains. "These decisions affect people's lives. But jurors are non-law people who have no experience with trials. It's the judge's job to 'charge' (instruct) the jury on the process and on the law that applies to the individual case. However, Ontario's civil jury charges are outdated and not easily accessible to the bench."

The idea of drafting updated model instructions for judges to give to their civil jurors came about at a

judges' educational conference in Vancouver two years ago, when Wilson caught up with Associate Dean (Academic) Erik Knutsen, an expert in tort law and civil procedure. "I explained to Erik that I had done a great deal of work as a judge in jury trials on medical malpractice – one of the most complicated areas – but the charges are from the 1990s and not online. There are also a lot of judges who've never had a jury trial (only Judge-alone) and contact me to help with the charge. Justice David Watt (Law'70) of the Ontario Court of Appeal updated the criminal jury charges and they're all online. Erik suggested I might do the same thing for civil jury charges."

A judicial colleague suggested that she apply for a study leave to get the time for such an onerous job. She did just that, sending her proposal to then-Chief Justice Heather Forster-Smith, Law'71 (who retired on June 30, 2019), who "heartily recommended" it to the Canadian Judicial Council.

By updating the civil jury charges, Wilson hopes to make the content, as well as the process, easier for jury members to understand.

"The critical part from a judge's perspective is the instruction on the law," she says. "Some cases are very difficult in terms of what the law is and it's important that jurors understand the law. I want to make the language concise and simple. In most significant cases, jurors are listening to evidence presented in technical terms by such experts as doctors, engineers and accountants. I feel very strongly that there's enough complex work that juries do in trying to understand the evidence and legal concepts like the burden of proof and onus, so that as judges, we really have to work hard to make that as easy for them as possible. We're asking people to give up time in their lives to come to court for hours every day to listen to evidence. The jury members are the fact-finders but to do that properly,

they must understand the process and the law."

In a civil jury trial, Wilson says it's often the judge's charge that forms the basis for an appeal, so "if your charges are wrong on the law, then the trial and the jury's work is all for naught." Appeals are costly to the parties in terms of time and money.

Wilson is hopeful that with a standard set of civil jury charges that can be adapted to a particular case, the likelihood of a successful appeal will be less.

"I want everyone to have electronic access to the updated civil jury charges online, which means I have to make sure that the law is right," says Wilson. In order to do that, she will be seeking input from Knutsen, judicial colleagues and leading counsel who've conducted many jury trials.

While at Queen's Law, Wilson is also eager to participate in whatever way she can – whether it's guest lecturing, assisting with moots and advocacy practices or helping with students' forays into learning advocacy. She has also kindly offered to speak with students individually or in groups about careers in the law, women's experiences in practice and on the bench, including work-life balance issues.

"I'm available to chat with students about different issues or concerns," she says. "If people can benefit at all from my experience or views, I'm happy to share them." She is on campus every Monday and Tuesday in Sutherland Hall, room 543.

"I received a wonderful legal education here and having the quality of professors in a smaller environment was very helpful to my career," says Justice Wilson. "I loved my time at Queen's Law; I have many fond memories and great friendships. That experience is one of the reasons I was so excited to come back. Kingston is a wonderful place to live and to go to school."

— LISA GRAHAM



While updating instructions for Ontario judges to give juries on cases involving important issues like medical malpractice and defamation, Justice Darla Wilson, Law'84, is spending two days a week on campus this academic year, during which she is happy to engage with students.



# Connecting links to articling placement in third-year law

For three years running, 95 per cent of students have secured their post-JD position by September of their graduating year. But each year, a number of students continue to search for their next career step during their third year of law school. To help these students with their search, the Career Development Office (CDO) offers 3Link, a program that connects “3L” students with alumni mentors.

“We have found that students have better success with their job search if they have an experienced mentor who has been tapped into the legal community for at least five years,” says Mike Molas, Career Counsellor. “The aim of 3Link is to facilitate a meaningful mentorship experience, and to help build and strengthen a student’s contact base as a young professional.”

3Link mentors can provide guidance on establishing careers in specific locations or legal areas. They may also provide feedback on resumes and cover letters, share tips from their own job search experience, and recommend additional contacts for informational interviews. And, of course, they encourage and support their mentees.

During the January to June program, mentors may engage with their mentees in a variety of ways, from phone or Skype conversations to meeting with the student at their workplace.

Following a successful pilot program last year,

3Link has now become a fixture in the CDO’s offerings. “An overwhelming majority of alumni who participated expressed a desire to be mentors again,” says Molas, “and we had more alumni sign up than students to match them with. We now have a ‘mentor pool’ we can draw from in the coming years.” In addition, every student respondent in a post-pilot survey would recommend 3Link to their peers.

So how does the CDO match students with mentors? Once students let the CDO know in the fall that they are actively seeking articles, staff invite them to participate in 3Link, which starts by completing a survey. They indicate their preferences for practising law by city/region, area of law, employer type (private sector, government, in-house, NGO, etc.), and firm size (sole practitioner, small, mid-size, large).

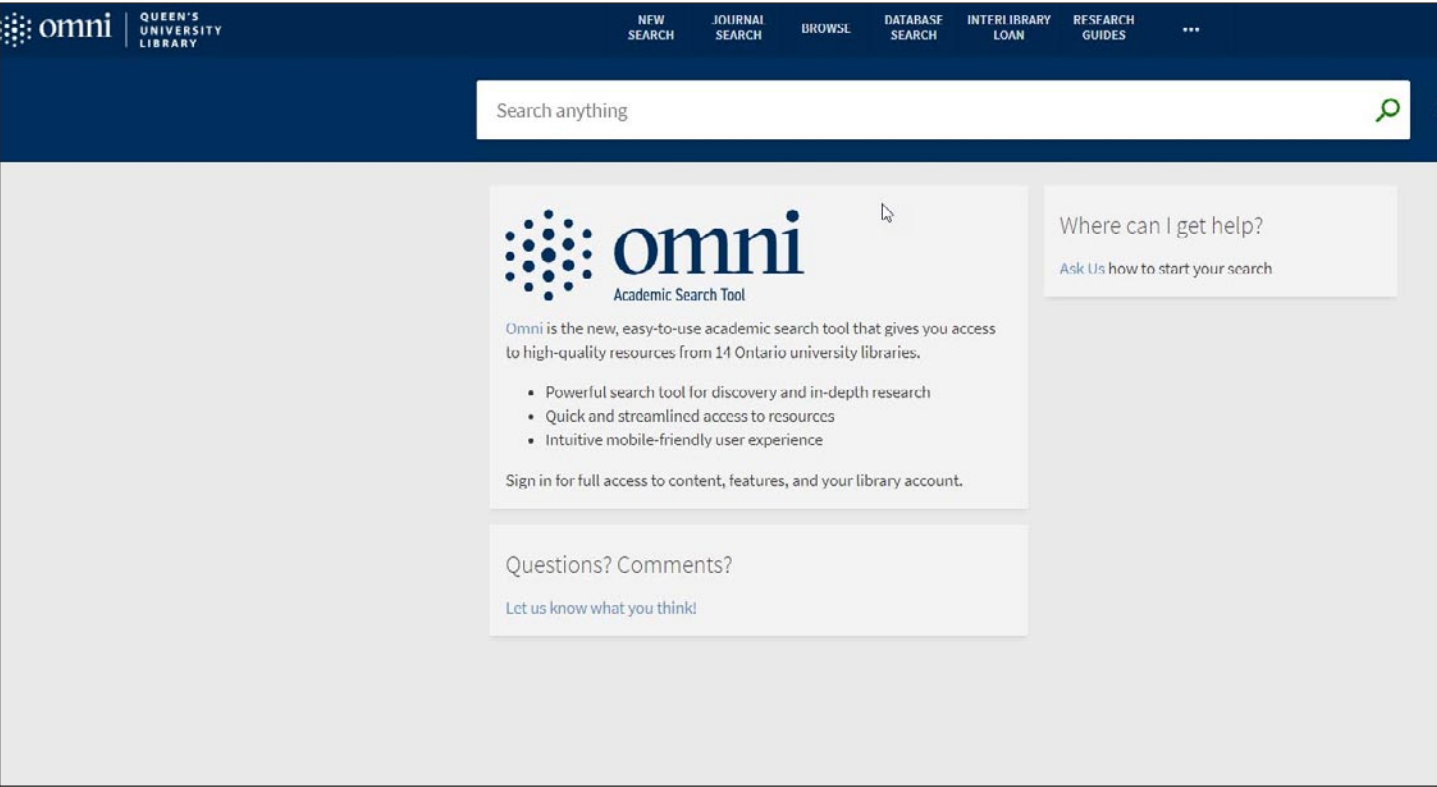
“Using this data, we look through existing CDO contacts, our ProNet resource, LinkedIn, and also work with Alumni Relations staff,” says Molas. “If we were still unable to find a match that best aligned with a student’s preferences, our office will do focused outreach to establish new relationships. The matching is all done manually, to ensure as many student preferences are being considered, as possible.

“3Link,” he adds, “becomes another tool in their job-search toolbox.”



The Career Development Office has found that students have better success with their job search if they have an experienced mentor who is already tapped into the legal community.

# Queen’s launches expanded, fast and easy-to-use research tool



If you’ve tried to find a book or a journal through the Queen’s library system recently, you’ve met Omni. This new search tool gives students, faculty, and everyone else looking for academic materials, access to more information resources and specialized content than ever before. And, users are now able to move seamlessly between different types of content – from electronic and print, books and journals and more.

“Now, when researchers search the physical and electronic holdings of the Queen’s University Library, at the same time they can search a vast collection of academic resources from 13 other Ontario university libraries and from additional sources,” says Leslie Taylor, Reference/Technical Services Librarian at the William R. Lederman Law Library.

Omni has replaced both QCAT and Summon with a single tool that streamlines the process. “Omni offers a modern, intuitive search interface that I think people will find easy to use,” adds

Taylor. “It also contains some useful advanced features such as the ability to create search alerts and to store and organize your saved search results into folders.”

All these benefits mean users will experience fast and easy access to a vast collection of diverse, high-quality academic research resources, enabling them to broaden the scope of their research projects and reach their research goals with ease and confidence.

Omni, the product of a partnership among 14 university libraries in Ontario, involved two years of careful planning and work.

All Queen’s community members have to do is sign in with their Queen’s ID and password. Then they’ll be able to access all the new system has to offer.

“The word ‘omni’ means ‘of all things,’” concludes Taylor. “I think it’s a particularly apt name for this new search tool.”



# Former faculty member a new MP and cabinet minister



Anita Anand, a Queen's Law professor from 1999 to 2005, is now the federal Minister of Public Services and Procurement. Her former colleague Dean Mark Walters, Law'89, says, "She was and remains an intellectual force to be reckoned with."

First-time Member of Parliament Anita Anand, a Queen's Law professor from 1999 to 2005, has been named Minister of Public Services and Procurement.

Anand, elected Liberal MP of Oakville on October 19, was sworn in to her new post in Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's reshuffled cabinet on November 20. She is Canada's first-ever Hindu cabinet minister.

A legal academic for 20 years, she is an expert on the regulation of capital markets with a specific focus on corporate governance, enforcement, capital-raising techniques and systemic risk. She joined the Queen's Law faculty in the same year as Dean Mark Walters, Law'89.

"I am thrilled that our former colleague at Queen's Law, Anita Anand, has been appointed to the federal cabinet," says Walters. "She was and remains an intellectual force to be reckoned with. Although she later moved to another law school, her legacy at Queen's is still felt."

Most recently at the University of Toronto – where she was cross-appointed to the Rotman School of Management and the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy – she has held the J.R. Kimber Chair in Investor Protection and Corporate Governance; served as Director of Policy and Research with the Capital Markets Institute; and worked as a Senior Fellow with Massey College.

Her public service has included appointments to a number of expert committees, such as one in Ontario to consider financial advisory and financial planning policy alternatives. She has conducted research for Ontario's Five-Year Review Committee, the federal Wise Person's Committee, the Task Force to Modernize Securities Legislation in Canada, and the Commission of Inquiry into the Investigation of the Bombing of Air India Flight 182. Earlier this year, the Royal Society of Canada awarded her the Yvan Allaire medal for her outstanding contributions in governance relating to private and public organizations.

Anand holds BA degrees from Queen's and Oxford, an LLB from Dalhousie and an LLM from U of T. Over her six years at Queen's Law, she taught Contracts, Business Associations, Advanced Securities, Applied Business Law Seminar, Securities Regulations, and Law & Economics. The Law Students' Society awarded her its 2006 Teaching Excellence Award.

Her ties with Queen's Law have remained strong. Dean Walters notes, "I recently learned from Ann Tierney (Law'89), now the Vice-Provost and Dean of Student Affairs at Queen's, that she and Kim Brooks, who overlapped with Anita as a member of the Queen's Law faculty and who later became Dean of Law at Dalhousie, decided during the election to travel to Oakville to campaign with their friend, Anita, for a day. Their plan obviously worked! We wish Anita well in her devotion to public service in Canada."

— LISA GRAHAM

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## Internationally known human rights lawyer offers research opportunities for students

Queen's Law students and faculty members alike are benefiting this term from their interactions with one of Canada's leading human rights lawyers. Visiting Scholar Pearl Eliadis will be resident at Robert Sutherland Hall until the end of April and is looking forward to engaging further with the school's community members.

The Montreal-born lawyer and scholar serves as an adjunct professor at McGill University's Faculty of Law and is a member of the teaching faculty at the Max Bell School of Public Policy. With a *curriculum vitae* that includes more than two decades of working with the United Nations, governments and NGOs around the world, Eliadis is internationally known for her expertise in the fields of national institutions, human rights and democratic development.

"But in recent years, I've been reorienting my practice," she says. "These days, I'm spending more time in Canada and more time teaching and writing."

During her four-month stay on campus, Eliadis will be working on a book about modernizing our approach to civil liberties and reconciling those liberties and equality rights. For this book, she is critically examining the standard narratives about individual rights and negative rights, and their role in liberal democracies. She will also be undertaking research for a government study with a focus on administrative law and public administration.

Eliadis is planning to involve Queen's Law graduate students in both initiatives and will be advertising the jobs shortly. "I hope students will enjoy working on these current and important issues," she says.

"We live at a time when there are many reasons to be pessimistic; however, I find that students often have a different, optimistic outlook. They give me reasons to hope and I find that hugely energizing. That's just one of the reasons I'm so looking forward to my time at Queen's Law."

— KEN CUTHBERTSON



LISA GRAHAM

Pearl Eliadis, an expert in national institutions, human rights and democratic development, is working on two projects Queen's Law graduate students can help with.

## IN MEMORIAM

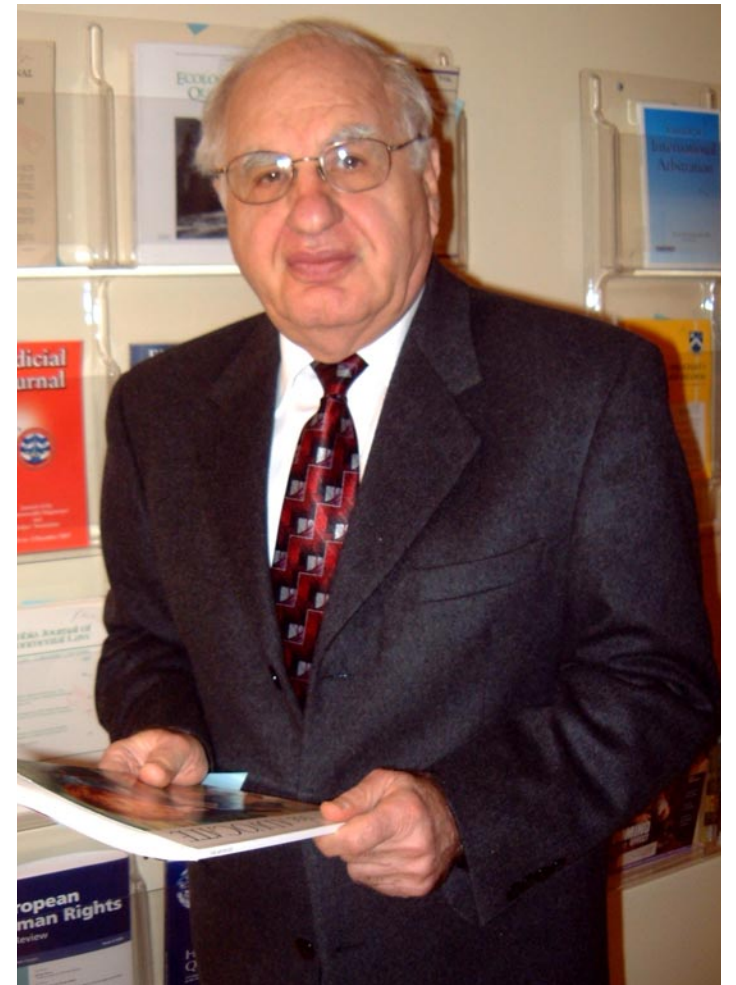
# Remembering Professor George Alexandrowicz

"George Alexandrowicz was at the heart of the Queen's Law community for 52 years and made an invaluable contribution to our school," says Dean Mark Walters, Law'89. "We have lost a kind, thoughtful, and generous friend, colleague and teacher." Alexandrowicz passed away at Kingston General Hospital on December 4 following a brief illness. He was 77.

Born in 1942 as a war refugee in Tehran, Iran, his family struggled but eventually found their way to Canada, where he grew up, served in the Royal Canadian Air Force (summers of 1962-1964) and earned an MA and an LLB from the University of Toronto. After receiving an LLM from Harvard Law and being called to the Ontario Bar in 1966, he joined Queen's Law in 1967, among the first wave of scholars attracted by then-Dean Bill Lederman.

Alexandrowicz was a teacher, practitioner and scholar of property law, wills and trusts – and even more notably – international law. Joining him on the faculty in that area in the early 1970s was John Claydon, Law'70, who recalls, "That decade was the most critical for the development of international law in this country's history, and George was at the centre of it all. His specialties of international environmental law and the law of the sea were the main focus of Canadian and global policy-makers. He advised the Canadian government on these issues, participated in international scholarly projects dealing with them and delighted in passing on to colleagues and students his wisdom in this area."

Indeed, Alexandrowicz was at the forefront of the early environmental law movement. He was involved with the federal Department of Environment's preparations for the UN's first major conference on international environmental issues (1971), the Stockholm Conference (1972), and the first



Professor George Alexandrowicz, shown at a 2005 conference, a faculty member at Queen's Law for 45 years, is remembered by scores of alumni and colleagues for his brilliant intellect, kindness and generosity, keen sense of humour, and influence on international law.

preparations for the Law of the Sea Convention negotiations (1973-1982). Later, he was involved in developing a dispute resolution regime within the context of a cooperative project of the American, Canadian and Mexican Bar Associations. ►



“Even with all this activity going on,” says longtime collaborator Claydon who is now a professional legal education consultant in Toronto, “George still had time up to the early 2000s to compile, with me and other colleagues, a set of teaching materials (*International Law: A Canadian Dimension*) and to mentor students participating in international moot court competitions.”

Under his guidance, *Queen's* won the Niagara International Moot Cup in 1998 and 1999, and his students won a number of team and individual awards for that moot, as well as for the Jessup and Fasken Martineau competitions.

Alexandrowicz, who retired in 2012, was known by *Queen's* Law community members for his dedication to his wife Toni and sons John-Paul and Thomas, for his commitment to ensuring the vitality of the Polish community in Canada – and, as Professor Art Cockfield, Law’93, puts it – for being “a kind and generous teacher and colleague. He always went the extra mile to help graduate law students, especially those from foreign countries, including hosting dinners for them with his wife Toni.”

One of those students was Evis Alimehmeti, LLM’01, an Eastern European native. “All of us non-Canadian students made it through the program because of the father-like support of Professor

Alexandrowicz,” she recalls. “Every week, he would stop by our grad room (located at that time in the basement of the Law Library), to ask how we were doing and how he could be of help. It was amazing how he could understand our worries and obstacles with no words being spoken. He and his dearest wife Toni opened the doors of their home to us. I chose to conduct more of my research at *Queen's* because it had people like him.”

Alexandrowicz also went the extra mile for his LLB and JD students and mooters like Sunita Doobay, Law’92, now a partner with Blaney McMurtry LLP. “At Thanksgiving in each of my three years at *Queen's*, he would dash into the library insisting that I join him and his family for dinner,” she recalls. “It was Professor Alexandrowicz who fueled my love for moot courts so much so that 27 years after graduating, I still participate as a judge in law school moots. This winter when I am once more a Canadian Bowman Tax Moot judge, as usual, I will thank him in my thoughts.”

Doobay also has a special memory regarding her former professor lecturing on international law at universities in the U.S., England, France, Poland, India – and China. “During my time at *Queen's*, there were many LLM students from China. They came here because of him.”



Professor George Alexandrowicz, who was known for his dedication to competitive moot teams that won several awards, in the Moot Court Room before his retirement in 2012.

Another former student Alexandrowicz encouraged and inspired was former LSS President Bob Fenton, Law’92, now legal counsel with the Calgary Police Service’s Office of the Chief Division. “Professor Alexandrowicz was a major contributor to my positive experience at *Queen's* Law,” says Fenton. “When I was missing a prerequisite course needed to take a class he offered, he provided me with the reading materials for the other course and made ample time available to me to answer my questions. I enjoyed his contributions on the Faculty Board, where he asked important questions, no matter how unpopular they may have been. I found him to be kind, patient and wise.”

As a professor, he was also well known for regaling students with funny stories in class and at social events. As recalled by former student Brandon Hodge, Law’01, now a partner and business advisor with MNP’s Tax Services group in Markham: “Professor Alexandrowicz had a deep sense of humour and it was reflected in how he taught and how he connected with students. George would always have an amusing anecdote based on his experience as a lawyer to go along with the lesson he was teaching. These stories connected the abstract idea of the law with the real-life law practice that awaited students. His jokes and stories were the best parts of his class, and are remembered even 20 years later.”

Students weren’t the only ones who saw that side of Alexandrowicz. “George was a lively colleague with a keen sense of humour,” says Professor Don Stuart. “He also always showed concern for, and wanted to help, anyone in trouble. For many years he gave his all to hours of moot court supervision. He is sorely missed.”

Professor Emeritus and former Dean Don Carter, Law’66, says, “George was a longtime colleague and



Professor Emeritus George Alexandrowicz (shown with wife Toni and communications manager Lisa Graham), attended his last *Queen's* Law event on June 19, a Kingston alumni reception at the University Club.

good friend who combined a brilliant intellect with a warm sense of humour.”

“George was a beloved teacher with a sly sense “ of humour and an always-inquisitive mind,” says Dean Walters. “He was brimming with ideas and arguments – just as his office was brimming (indeed overflowing) with books, papers, and notes.”

Professor Martha Bailey, LLM’88, agrees. “A kind and generous colleague, George never failed to amaze me by his astonishing ability to find any document needed among the impressive array of papers in his office.

“In his steady encouragement and support of students and staff,” adds Bailey, “George provided a role model to us all.”

A Mass of Christian Burial, with many *Queen's* Law community members in attendance, was held for Professor Emeritus George Alexandrowicz at St. Mary’s Cathedral on December 7.

— LISA GRAHAM



# Queen's experts give legal perspectives on killing of General Soleimani

Was the U.S. targeted killing of Iran's Major General Qasem Soleimani legal? Was it lawful self-defense? Was it a crime of aggression? A panel of international criminal law and military experts tackled these questions and more before a standing room only crowd at Queen's Law on January 13.

Sharing insights from different perspectives, on a panel moderated by Professor Nicolas Lamp and organized by the International Law Club, were:

- **Professor Noah Weisbord**, a specialist in law and war, and author of *The Crime of Aggression*;
- Brigadier-General (Retired) Ken Watkin, Law'80, LLM'90, former Judge Advocate General for Canadian Forces, and author of *Fighting at the Legal Boundaries*; and
- **Assistant Dean Phillip Drew, Law'00, LLM'12**, a 31-year officer in the Canadian Military who is also an Associate Professor at the Australian National University and an instructor of International Humanitarian Law at Herstmonceux Castle.

"Soleimani was without doubt involved in the killing of American troops and Iraqi civilians," said Weisbord, as he began laying out the framework. "There's strong evidence supporting a long list of claims against him that count as illegal international violence. The question we face now is what is the international law regulating the use of force against him?"

He spoke about the blanket prohibition on the use of force between states that was signed after World War II and enshrined in the United Nations Charter, which has become customary international law binding on all states. There are two exceptions: a state may use force if it obtains collective legal authorization through the United Nations Security Council or in self-defence.

"Self-defence is the justification that the United States has been using," says Weisbord. "It has invoked specific rules under the UN Charter that say the state can use proportionate and necessary force in response to an armed attack that has occurred. So, basically under the strict wording of the UN Charter, there is no such thing as the right to respond to an imminent threat that has not yet occurred."

But there are some grey areas, Weisbord said, where the law is unsettled.

Watkin explained how the U.S. government, in its letter to the UN Security Council, is saying it acted in self-defence in response to what was, in effect, an accumulation of events and did so in order to deter Iran from supporting and carrying out further attacks. He gave a brief history of such events between the two countries and addressed other concepts.

Traditionally, "in order to have a lawful self-defence, the necessity of self-defense requires an instant, overwhelming incident leaving no choice of means or moment for deliberation," he said.

However, there are different ways of looking at when a state can respond in self-defence. "One is reactive; the missiles are in the air and almost about to hit you," he said. "Another is interceptive; you hit them at the point the missiles are being launched. The third one is anticipatory, and it is an important notion." Anticipatory self-defence has been suggested to be pre-emptive or preventative, he explained. Preventive self-defence, or the Bush doctrine, has been discredited.

However, questions remain as to the degree to which self-defence can be anticipatory. But when is a response considered pre-emptive? The day before the strike on Soleimani, the U.S. Secretary of



Assistant Dean Phillip Drew, Law'00, LLM'12, BGEN (Retired) Ken Watkin, Law'80, LLM'90, and Professor Noah Weisbord, on a panel moderated by Professor Nicolas Lamp, discuss whether the U.S. military's targeted killing of General Soleimani was an act of war, aggression or self-defence.

Defence said in an interview, "We are prepared to take pre-emptive action."

"A state can act to defend its embassies in other countries, which raises the issue of where the Iraqi government was in all this," Watkin explained. "With all these attacks going on, the first responsibility is with the Iraqi government to stop this happening. Instead, Iraq had a major Iranian military figure arriving to meet a member of the militia forces who is nominally part of the Iraqi government carrying out attacks on U.S. and coalition assets."

How imminent was an attack on U.S. embassies and how quickly did the U.S. have to respond? These are among the complex issues that international law is struggling with, he said.

Drew presented an opposing argument, one that considered the targeted killing within the framework of the law of armed conflict. Explaining how the conflict between Iran and the U.S. has been going on since 1979, he said, "When we look at the events over the years, there's been a continuation of hostilities at some level between the two countries and they have never gotten together to sign any type of diplomatic accord saying, 'let's bring this to an

end.' Rather, there are continuing threats and continuing actions that are aggressive between the two parties."

Under this framework, the targeted killing wasn't an act of banditry; it was another incident in the long-standing conflict. "When Soleimani showed up in Iraq in the morning of the third of January, at that point the only thing that matters is he was a military officer (an enemy combatant) in a geographic area of armed conflict," said Drew. "His killing by another state (the U.S.), which is in armed conflict with Iran, was completely lawful."

Following a question and answer session, Weisbord defined the crime of aggression: a specific instance of illegality, where an individual is held accountable for using the state as a weapon against another state. The crime of aggression is the planning, preparation, initiation or waging of a war that's a manifest violation of the UN Charter.

"There are now specific laws related to whether the targeted killing of General Soleimani is an act of aggression," Weisbord concluded. "We just need an impartial tribunal to assess them."

— LISA GRAHAM





*Richard Bogoroch is the founder and Managing Partner of Bogoroch & Associates LLP, a Toronto law firm that has donated \$200,000 to Queen's Legal Aid. By working with the pro bono clinic, a prime experiential learning opportunity, students acquire valuable practice skills as they serve the most vulnerable citizens in the greater Kingston area.*

# Prominent law firm's major gift supports Queen's Legal Aid at critical time

Bogoroch & Associates LLP has donated \$200,000 to Queen's Legal Aid (QLA), providing much-needed support to assist the highly sought-after clinic maintain its current level of service. By working with QLA, a prime experiential learning opportunity, students acquire valuable practice skills as they serve the most vulnerable citizens in the greater Kingston area.

Each year, QLA provides free legal assistance to approximately 900 clients and makes appropriate referrals for over 1,400 individuals.

"Queen's Legal Aid, along with our other Queen's Law Clinics, is central to our sense of what legal education is all about and to serving the community," says Dean Mark Walters, Law'89. "This generous donation from Bogoroch & Associates LLP will support the great success of our clinical legal education program to the benefit of our students as well as vulnerable members of the Kingston community."

"I am grateful to have the opportunity to make this gift, especially at a time when recent cutbacks to legal aid have left the clinic with a funding shortfall," says Richard Bogoroch, founder and Managing Partner of Bogoroch & Associates LLP. "This gift exemplifies our abiding interest in legal education and access to justice."

"Lack of access to justice is not an abstraction, it is reality for so many people who cannot afford a lawyer," he continues. "By this gift, those in need of assistance will obtain it and Queen's Law students will learn valuable skills; skills that should serve them well as they embark on their legal careers."

Karla McGrath, LLM'13, Executive Director of the Queen's Law Clinics, certainly knows how clinical education shapes a student's career. "Students working in Queen's Legal Aid – and in our other clinics in business, elder, family and prison law – are placed in a dynamic work environment, under the close supervision of clinic review counsel," she says. "The environment and stakes are real: clinic directors and review counsel pride themselves on not only giving the

students an education in law, but a genuine sense of what it means to be a legal professional and to litigate."

"We've heard a great deal of positive feedback from law firms about the benefits of recruiting students with clinical experience," says Blair Crew, Director of Queen's Legal Aid, which is the largest of five Queen's Law Clinics operating in downtown Kingston. "Each year, QLA offers experiential learning opportunities – on a volunteer, for-credit and paid summer employment basis – to more than 80 students who meet demanding standards and compete for the coveted positions."

QLA students provide a wide range of pro bono legal services to low-income residents of Kingston, Napanee and surrounding areas, and to Queen's University students. These are critical services that Bogoroch & Associates LLP wanted to support.

"Legal education is of paramount importance because a strong and vigorous bar is an essential component of a healthy and vibrant democracy," says Bogoroch. "Where there's no access to justice, there's increasing inequality and despair. This is not healthy for the functioning of our society. For that reason, our firm felt it important to make this gift so that Queen's Legal Aid could continue training future lawyers, lawyers we're confident will make a significant contribution to society."

Bogoroch & Associates LLP, a Toronto-based law firm, represents injured individuals and their families in all aspects of personal injury and medical malpractice litigation. In 2019, *Canadian Lawyer* magazine selected Bogoroch & Associates LLP as one of the Top 10 personal injury boutique law firms in Canada. Richard Bogoroch, a certified specialist in civil litigation by the Law Society of Ontario, is recognized as a leading personal injury lawyer by the *Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory* and *Best Lawyers in Canada*.

"I am very proud to be associated with Queen's Law, long known as one of Canada's premier law schools," says Bogoroch.



# Queen's Law Clinics continue to thrive at five

BY LISA GRAHAM

Expand experiential learning opportunities for students. Improve services to clients. Generate synergies through collaboration. These three goals were the driving force behind Queen's Law converging its five clinics – including a brand new one in family law – in one central location back in January 2015. This month marks the fifth anniversary of the [Queen's Law Clinics](#) in downtown Kingston, and there are many reasons to celebrate.

Today, there are more than 200 students (a 50 per cent increase) and nine full-time lawyers who work in a professional office that takes up the top floor of the LaSalle Mews, a prominent downtown office building. By sharing resources for a half-decade now, the clinics serve a greater number of clients and do it better. Students have regular and easy access to each other – as do their supervising lawyers – so they share ideas, help one another problem-solve and assist clients with issues involving more than one clinic.

“With this move, we went from being five smaller, individual operations that were mainly located in the Queen's Law building to being one of the largest and busiest law offices in Kingston,” says Karla McGrath, LLM’13, Executive Director of the Queen's Law Clinics. “The value of bringing the five clinics together here is truly beyond measure.”

Each clinic, through its directors, students and alumni, has its own story to tell. ▶

*The Queen's Law Clinics gratefully acknowledge the support of Legal Aid Ontario, the Law Foundation of Ontario, Pro Bono Students Canada, the Class of Law’81, the United Way of KFL&A, and alumni and industry sponsors.*





# Preparing students to be confident and capable family lawyers

In the summer of 2014, Karla McGrath, an LLM'13 grad and a 15-year Kingston-based family law practitioner, returned to Queen's Law to develop and lead its new Family Law Clinic. She had her work cut out for her. "We had a handful of intrepid students with lots of great ideas, but for the first couple of months we were borrowing available space on campus and, for the most part, working out of my black wheelie briefcase," she recalls.

When the new office space was still under construction but "habitable" in mid-November 2014, she and her team of student caseworkers became the first to move into the Lasalle Mews. "Our only source of Internet was my cell phone, but we made it work," she says.

Once the renovations were completed, and the lawyers, staff and students of the other four clinics moved into the office in January 2015, "the true impact of the co-location effort became apparent," she says. "We had a modern and efficient professional legal operation that clearly expressed to the clients and to the students something that the lawyers already knew – that they we are here to do important work and we are here to do it well."

Brittany Chaput, Law'15, a member of the initial cadre of QFLC student caseworkers, remembers "feeling excited and a sense of relief" because of the huge demand for services and limited resources. "We were really able to expand the number of clients that we could assist and the level of services that we were able to provide to our clients with the move to downtown Kingston. Having that access to resources was so important to serving the Kingston community."

Now the Supervisory Duty Counsel at Legal Aid Ontario in North Bay, Chaput assists unrepresented individuals with family law issues and manages a panel of per diem duty counsel who assist clients in court and at Family Law Information Centres. She credits the QFLC for providing her with "invaluable hands-on experience" to kickstart her career.

"Karla guided me in every step of the family law process from the initial client interview, to preparation

of the retainer agreement, to the drafting of court materials, guiding the client with serving and filing materials, and all the other steps in between (including, and arguably most importantly, managing the client's expectations)," she says. "I have become a confident and capable family lawyer as a direct result of my experience at the QFLC, which has also prepared me specifically for the unique challenges that are associated with being a full-time family law duty counsel."

Working alongside QFLC Director McGrath is what Chaput considers the highlight of her experience. "Karla is one of the most proficient, knowledgeable and client-focused family lawyers that I have met," says Chaput. "Every day, I continue to draw on my experiences from working with her. Being able to assist a client through what may be one of the most challenging experiences in his or her life was very rewarding as a QFLC student caseworker and it still is as a family law professional."

Over the past five years, the QFLC has increased the number of caseworker positions for which students earn academic credit from 8 to 12, developed a volunteer program and established an important year-round presence within the family justice community. Some students who have already participated in the clinic programs are invited back to mentor incoming students thereby giving the incoming students additional resources and the returning students the opportunity to engage the work in a new capacity. A manual started by 2014-15 students and contributed to by credit and summer students that have followed, has become "a valuable and growing resource," says McGrath. "Each year's students leave behind some of the knowledge they have learned for the benefit of the students who come after them."

QFLC students make public legal education presentations throughout the community, including at conferences and through Legal Aid Ontario's online continuing legal education programs for lawyers. "All this and more happened and continues to happen while we have worked on nearly 1,000 matters serving clients who otherwise would have limited or no access to legal assistance and therefore would be denied access to family



Karla McGrath, LLM'13, Queen's Family Law Clinic Director and Queen's Law Clinics Executive Director, reviews a case file with student caseworkers in one of four interview rooms in the downtown Queen's Law Clinics. "We have a modern and efficient professional legal operation that clearly expresses to clients and students that we are here to do important work and we are here to do it well," she says.

justice," says McGrath. "It's really quite breathtaking."

Richard Glennie, Law'19, is among the most recent Queen's Law grads who've participated in the QFLC. This year he is articling with Martha McCarthy & Company LLP, a family litigation firm in Toronto. "The QFLC prepared me in every way for my articling position," he says. "From drafting pleadings and initiating process to client management, Karla and Linda (Smith, Law'92, a 20-plus year Kingston lawyer who joined the Clinics as Review Counsel for both the QFLC and Queen's Legal Aid in 2017) gave me the tools that have allowed me to excel."

It was the client interaction at the QFLC that he says taught him how to support people during their incredibly difficult times. "Karla and Linda taught me that being a good family lawyer does not mean divorcing yourself from emotion. The empathy that they imparted has been something that I've carried with me."

Current QFLC caseworker Courtney Edwards, Law'21, finds the practice skills she is developing will put her in good stead for her future legal career. She regularly corresponds with clients, lawyers and

government agencies, which hones her writing skills. Working directly with her clients is another experience she appreciates for teaching her "the skills necessary for working with people and advocating for marginalized and disadvantaged individuals." And that's not all.

"Working in a clinic provides students with hands-on experience navigating the court system," she says. "That will be immensely helpful as I join the workforce. I already feel comfortable going to court for my client, and I understand the family law system outside a purely academic perspective."

Seeing the impact that the QFLC's work has on Kingston community members is what Edwards finds most rewarding so far. "Our clients are economically disadvantaged and often vulnerable individuals, so being able to help them is an amazing feeling," she says, noting a client she has worked with since she was a volunteer in first year. The client, who has cognitive impairments and struggles with communication, recently wrote her a poem to thank her for the work she had done for him. "To see that level of appreciation has been the best part of law school thus far for me."



# Practical experience for law students grows with elderly population

As the number of people becoming senior citizens and living longer increases rapidly, so does the need for free legal services for those who would otherwise be unable to afford a lawyer. That's a gap Queen's Elder Law Clinic (QELC) students are filling – and they're honing lots of practical skills along the way.

"The biggest challenge has been keeping up with the demand, both from the community and from the students wanting a turn at this experience," says Blair Hicks, QELC Director, who joined the clinic in 2016. By doubling the number of student caseworkers to 16 in September 2018, "we've addressed the student demand to some extent. But there's still lots more work to go around."

In addition to providing seniors with such legal services as drafting wills, powers of attorney, court applications and helping with elder abuse issues,

QELC students present public legal education seminars to community and professional groups on issues related to aging. The QELC opened 272 new files in 2019, over five times the 55 new files opened in 2015.

The QELC's co-location to downtown Kingston with the four other Queen's Law Clinics five years ago certainly helped both the students and the clients they serve. Prior to the move, eight students worked in the basement of Queen's Law building in one and a half rooms with a couple of desks and phones.

One of those students was Robert Maratta, Law'15. "I recall the excitement we all felt to have our own space established," he says. "After moving into one consolidated space, it finally felt like we were a law firm rather than separate groups of student organizations."

Highlights from his time at the QELC involve experiencing several firsts – like drafting his first will

– under the guidance and supervision of clinic lawyers. "It was then I first experienced the process of learning my clients' goals and objectives and establishing them as a legal reality."

Maratta, now a lawyer and trademark agent with Cunningham, Swan, Carty, Little & Bonham LLP in Kingston, notes how essential law school courses are for students to develop an understanding of legal principles and for learning problem-solving skills. "However," he adds, "experience applying those skills is crucial to becoming an effective lawyer and establishing a successful practice. The Queen's Law Clinics gave me my first experience building client relationships and working towards solving real world legal issues. I consider my time at the clinics as foundational to my ongoing practice as a solicitor."

These days, Hicks says, "students manage between six and 10 client files at any one time, and our community partners – federal institutions, and the Cobourg and Belleville Community Legal Aid Clinics – each carry ongoing waitlists for our services."

Current caseworker Tearney Johnston-Jones, Law'20, has travelled to those satellite offices several times. "No matter which of these clinics a client has sought our services from, being able to give someone the peace of mind in knowing that their affairs are in order and that our legal services will be there to support them in the future has been the most rewarding part of this position," she says.

Nurturing positive relationships with clients is a soft skill she has developed. "My QELC experience has taught me to understand the responsibilities that lawyers have to their clients as two-fold: to assist clients with navigating the legal environment in ways that best suit their needs and to respect the personal nature of the issues clients are faced with when estate planning."

Johnston-Jones, who will be articling with Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP in Toronto, credits the QELC with broadening her perspective on essential



As part of the Queen's Elder Law Clinic's legal education initiative and to reinforce community partnerships, caseworkers Alexander McPherson and Tearney Johnston-Jones, both Law'20, presented to the Knightsbridge Retirement Community on January 13.

interpersonal skills to be successful in legal practice. "The casework students are exposed to provides us the opportunity to gain practical experience with client interaction, as well as a chance to develop our own unique styles of practice well before articling." Case management, client rapport and professionalism are other skills she says have given her a more comprehensive understanding of what it means to practice law.

What has been the best part of Johnston-Jones' QELC experience so far? "The highlight," she responds, "has been receiving feedback from clients on the positive impact we have had on their lives by providing them with legal services they may not have otherwise received."



A Kingston-area senior receives free legal advice from Queen's Elder Law Clinic student caseworkers in the downtown Queen's Law Clinics office. Students gain practical experience in serving and interacting with clients, as well as a chance to develop their own style of practice before articling.

GREG BLACK



# Business law students provide ‘top-notch’ legal services

Contributing to the economic growth and the social well-being of your community while in law school may seem an ambitious goal. But it's a reality for student caseworkers in the Queen's Business Law Clinic (QBLC) who help southeastern Ontario entrepreneurs, small businesses, charities, social enterprises and not-for-profit organizations with their legal issues.

"I am impressed with the enthusiasm, diligence, professionalism and commitment displayed by the student caseworkers in their interactions with clinic clients," says QBLC Director Tomi Adebisi, who joined the clinic in January 2019. "Over the past year, I have received appreciative emails from clients who have been recipients of the top-notch legal services rendered by the student caseworkers."

"It has become clear to me that the QBLC student caseworkers come into the clinic with a burning desire to learn as much as they can about business law practice while rendering a valuable service to the Kingston business community," she adds.

As in each of the previous two years, 24 QBLC students are gaining hands-on experience working on a caseload of about 150 files for clients who would otherwise have difficulty affording legal counsel.

Five years ago, before co-locating with the other four Queen's Law Clinics in downtown Kingston, there were only 16 students working in a small space in the law school.

Brody Appotive, Law'17, was one of those students. "The move to the downtown office shifted the clinic towards having a true law firm vibe," he recalls. "No longer were we all cramped into one basement office, but we now had a reception area, client offices, boardrooms, a coffee machine... it was great! Walking into the downtown clinic every day gave us a real perspective on how our careers would look and working in that type of environment motivated us to be professional, to take our work seriously, and to deliver exceptional service to our clients."

At the time, Christian Hurley had just taken over as Director of both the QBLC and Queen's Elder Law Clinics. "To me, the office at 303 Bagot Street was a

physical manifestation of Queen's Law's commitment to experiential learning," says Hurley, who went on to become the Director of Legal Education with the Law Society of Newfoundland and Labrador. "The new office was something that both staff and students could be very proud of and enhanced our ability to provide a high-quality educational experience to students and top-level legal services to the clinics' clients."

It's Hurley and Review Counsel Bob Milnes, Law'69, who Appotive credits for playing large mentorship roles. "They encouraged me to take on more challenging assignments while serving as a back-bone if I came across any difficulties or needed a second opinion," says Appotive, now an associate with Torys in Toronto.

"The clinic exposed me to the foundational aspects of corporate law – incorporation and corporate governance, legal drafting, and file management – skills I still use today in the early days of my 'real' legal career," he says.

His QBLC highlight was working with the Land O'Lakes Rescue Animal Petting Farm, a non-profit in Cloyne, Ontario, seeking to provide permanent homes and rehabilitation for animals and to teach children about them. "Our mandate was to obtain charitable status for the farm as it faced trying financial times," he recalls. "The story caught on and my work with the farm was featured in an article in the Ottawa Citizen."

Appotive was also impressed by many of the student entrepreneurs who received assistance by the QBLC as they tried to launch their new business ideas. "Some companies we incorporated and got off the ground are still in operations today," he says.

Under the leadership of Morgan Jarvis, Law'10, QBLC Director, 2017-2019, the clinic became more involved with intellectual property issues and serving innovators.

By working on files involving such issues as trademarks, copyright and privacy, Serin Cho, Law'19, says, "the QBLC helped me realize that I enjoy researching cutting-edge regulatory law, which played a large factor in my decision to article with the Department of Justice."



Queen's Business Law Clinic students interview a client at the Queen's Law Clinics in downtown Kingston, where they help entrepreneurs, small businesses, charities, social enterprises and not-for-profit organizations with their legal issues.

She also credits the QBLC for teaching essential intangible skills outside of the classroom. "The QBLC introduces caseworkers to the importance of professional responsibility; maintaining a high ethical standard in all client communications and interactions. Since caseworkers manage several clients and files at once, we were encouraged to take initiative and be independent. We also learned to recognize when to ask for help and to reciprocate when someone else needs it. The QBLC's collaborative atmosphere teaches students to be team players."

For Cho, the best part of working with the clinic was the unique opportunity to work on business law files in the name of public interest. "As a pro bono clinic, you help not-for-profits and small businesses take their first steps," she says. "Many QBLC clients are passionate about improving the local community. It's rewarding to see their various projects grow, knowing that the QBLC was a part of their success."

Current caseworker Mary Alfredsson, Law'21,

appreciates how learning the business of law will be helpful in her future career. "This experience has given me a head start on climbing the steep learning curve that I will face when I begin to work in a law firm," she says. "I have been practising managing client relationships, dealing with a task when I am unfamiliar with the area of law, docketing my time and keeping client file notes up to date, balancing and prioritizing my clients, and more. I still have so much to learn, but the clinic has been extremely helpful in allowing me to start learning before I even set foot in a law firm."

What does Alfredsson find most rewarding about the QBLC experience? "I find it fulfilling to go through the whole process of learning what your client needs help with, researching that and putting it into legal terms, creating a review-counsel-approved document – whether a memo or the actual final agreement – and finally sending out a finished product that is going to help my client."



# Students help resolve inmates' challenges in prison system

"My Queen's Prison Law Clinic experience exposed me to the wide variety of daily struggles of people living in custody," says Michelle Soucy, Law'19. "After working 'on the ground' for incarcerated clients, I was motivated to pursue larger-scale advocacy and policy reform. It also affirmed for me the importance of public interest law and supporting the work that needs to be done to build a more humane and effective criminal justice system."

Now articling with the John Howard Society of Canada, Soucy is off to a good start to meet her career goals. It all began in law school, where she worked in a clinical program that is a first in Canada. At the Queen's Prison Law Clinic (QPLC), students work under the supervision of lawyers to provide legal advice, assistance and representation in matters relating to prison and parole in Kingston-area penitentiaries and Warkworth Institution.

With the QPLC, Soucy has been one of 18 student caseworkers earning academic credit, one of four paid summer caseworkers, and in 2018-19, one of the first cohort of four students receiving degree credits under Advanced Prison Law, managing complex files and being involved in the clinic's test-case litigation practice.

Soucy, along with all other QPLC students over the past five years, has also enjoyed all the benefits of working alongside students and lawyers in the other four Queen's Law Clinics. Prior to the co-location of all five Queen's Law Clinics to the top floor of the LaSalle Mews building in downtown Kingston in January 2015, the QPLC operated in its own small satellite space.

At the time, current QPLC Director Kathy Ferreira, Law'01, was one of two staff lawyers working with then-Director Elizabeth Thomas. Recalling the new office as "fresh, modern and inviting," Ferreira

appreciated how their QPLC offices remained close together but gave them the opportunity to engage with the other Queen's Law Clinics.

"The proximity encouraged dialogue with colleagues, between students across clinics, and it also fostered legal assistance for QPLC clients in other need areas like wills thanks to the Elder Law Clinic, support advice thanks to the Family Law Clinic and small claims court matters thanks to Queen's Legal Aid," says Ferreira. "The QPLC is a not-for-profit corporation, so the Business Law Clinic has been incredibly helpful in assisting us with Board of Directors matters."

What other major changes has the QPLC seen over the past five years?

"We have been actively engaged in litigation since 2016 to safeguard the rights of our clients, with one of our three lawyers, Paul Quick (Law'09), dedicated to this important work," says Ferreira. "This piece is an essential complement to our tribunal advocacy."

Two much-needed staff positions have been added: an articling student, starting in 2016 with Nancy Brar, Law'16, who is now a staff lawyer; and part-time Indigenous Justice Co-ordinator Rick Sauve, hired in 2019 to work with the clinic's over-represented Indigenous clients and many others.

"The QPLC is busier than ever," says Ferreira, "but our staff members work really well together, and we manage to successfully handle the demand."

Megan Dawson, Law'21, is one of this year's caseworkers. "In just a few months, I've learned how to effectively interview clients, conduct legal research, draft submissions, craft persuasive arguments, and facilitate trials in Disciplinary Court," she says. "In addition, by hearing the perspectives of guest speakers, our staff lawyers and our clients, I've learned about the many challenges inmates face within the prison system, as well as ways we can work to resolve these issues."

The highlight of Dawson's QPLC experience so far has been assisting a client at his parole hearing. "I was able to witness firsthand our client's progression

throughout our preparation and finally see his hard work pay off when he was granted parole," she says. "Not only was I able to gain experience advocating before the Parole Board of Canada, I also came to understand just how vital organizations such as the QPLC are in assisting inmates successfully regain their liberty and re-enter society."

Everything QPLC students learn – from managing the solicitor/client relationship to representing clients at hearings while juggling competing commitments – will help graduates become successful lawyers, Dawson says. It can instill a strong sense of professional responsibility, as well. "My experience working with a vulnerable population has shaped how I will practise law in the future; no matter what area of law I work in, I will always strive to promote access to justice."

Former caseworker Anastasia Toma, Law'17, now an associate with Nathens, Siegel LLP in Mississauga, Ontario, considers the QPLC her most enriching Queen's Law experience. "The QPLC prepared me for my legal career by exposing me to real clients with pressing legal issues," she says. "I learned how to interview clients, spot issues and ask the right questions to get the information needed to assist them. All clients come with complex narratives and learning how to extract that narrative is a key legal skill that I learned."

Toma's QPLC highlight was helping clients obtain parole and release, allowing them a fresh start at life. "One of my first clients was the same age as me at the time," she recalls. "Being able to assist him was very gratifying."

Soucy felt the same way about serving clients. "As a caseworker, you get invested in doing the best you can possibly do – not for a grade or for a professor's recognition – but because your work matters to the life of someone who is depending on you to do a good job," she says. "Working with the QPLC made me reflect on the privileges associated with going to law school and getting the skills that have put me in a position where I can help someone. It's a rewarding and humbling experience."



Through our Queen's Prison Law Clinic, Director Kathy Ferreira, Law'01, and student caseworkers help ensure prisoners are treated fairly while serving their sentences, working with the most vulnerable inmates through disciplinary and Parole Board hearings.

GREG BLACK



# Confidence, drive and teamwork get legal aid students noticed by clients – and employers

“Working as a lawyer is just as much about law as it is dealing with people, from managing clients and their expectations to negotiating with opposing parties,” says Mike Adamek, Law’17. “Handling my own client files at Queen’s Legal Aid (QLA) gave me the confidence to hit the ground running as a practising lawyer.”

Now a lawyer with the Ottawa personal injury firm Badre Law, Adamek spent all three of his law school years helping real clients with real legal problems as he worked in “fantastic tight-knit teams.”

At QLA, he was a student caseworker, a group leader, and the resource and outreach coordinator. Under the supervision of clinic review counsel throughout that time, he and his student colleagues provided a broad range of free legal services to low-income residents of Kingston, Napanee and surrounding areas, and to Queen’s University students.

QLA students represent clients before a wide variety of decision-makers from criminal court to Small Claims Court, and from hearings before the Social Benefits, Social Security and Human Rights Tribunals to the Landlord and Tenant or Criminal Injuries Compensation Boards.

During the first half of his first year, Adamek did his work from the Queen’s Law building. Then, in January 2015, Queen’s Legal Aid co-located with the other four Queen’s Law Clinics to a central location in downtown Kingston.

“The new location bolstered the image of the clinics as a truly professional environment that matched the high-quality service clients were already receiving from staff and caseworkers,” recalls Adamek, who went on to split his articles between QLA and the Queen’s Business Law Clinic.

At the time, long-time Senior Review Counsel Sue Charlesworth, Law’81, was on leave to work in Iqaluit as defence counsel for the Legal Services Board of Nunavut. “When I left in mid-September 2013, QLA was ensconced on the fourth level of the

Queen’s Law building. The Business Law Clinic and the Elder Law Clinic had small rooms in the basement of the law school, and the Correctional Law Project (now Prison Law Clinic) was in an office downtown,” she recalls.

“When I returned in 2015, it was to a huge space on the top floor of the LaSalle Mews building in the heart of downtown Kingston at the corner of Princess and Bagot Streets. Instead of two lawyers for QLA, there were eight clinic supervisors and six staff co-located, because of the addition of the Family Law Clinic.

“There was a whole new energy from the students, staff and even the attractive space itself,” continues Charlesworth, who was appointed to the Nunavut Court of Justice in 2018. “Being able to associate closely with other teacher-lawyers, think about different ways to supervise law students, and work creatively with a new expansive database for client work and supervision made the bumps and grinds of getting used to new co-workers very worthwhile.”

In 2015, the person who would become her successor, Blair Crew, then a review counsel with another law school clinic, first saw the Queen’s Law Clinics office while visiting a former student serving as a QLA Review Counsel. “Far from the image of a student legal aid clinic being in a cramped space in the back of a law school or in a converted old house, I was immediately struck by how much the QLA offices had the design and feel of a mid-sized law firm,” he recalls. “Now that I have come to Queen’s, this image corresponds for me to the kind of work the students do at Queen’s Legal Aid. I feel the QLA space presents a very professional image for clients.”

For Anu Lalith Kumar, Law’19, the greatest advantage of the co-location was being exposed to even more areas of law. “Each clinic caters to a different demographic in the community,” she says. “The co-location of the five clinics ensured students had a minimal level of exposure to some aspect of all the other clinics. Whether this exposure was



Queen’s Legal Aid students, shown discussing a case in 2018 with Review Counsel Jana Mills, Law’92, serve approximately 900 low-income clients annually, developing skills to hit the ground running as lawyers.

through seeing other clinic’s clients in the waiting area, hearing students discuss their visits to a penitentiary or aspects of their files, such exposure is incredibly helpful to law students who are exploring the various types of law and trying to determine what types of legal jobs they wish to pursue.”

Lalith Kumar, who is now articling with the Ombudsman of Ontario, adds that the co-location also opened her eyes to the importance of having and maintaining relationships with peers who practise in different areas. “There would be times a client of one clinic would also have need for the legal services offered by a different clinic, or clinics,” she explains. “Being able to work in an environment where five distinct clinics shared once space taught me the importance and value of maintaining collegial relationships in the legal field and local bar.”

Not surprisingly, the highlight of Lalith Kumar’s QLA experience was the people she collaborated

with extensively. “The opportunity to develop meaningful relationships with review counsel and our fellow caseworkers was invaluable,” she says. “Although we had independent carriage of files, through frequent interaction and consultation on our files, we all had the opportunity to learn from each other’s experiences.

“QLA also provides a fantastic opportunity to get first-hand experience with the local bar in Kingston,” she adds. “Student caseworkers were able to interact with lawyers, justices of the peace and adjudicators on a regular basis to develop working relationships with them and expand our professional network.”

Her Law’19 classmate, Isabella Mira, came to an important realization through working at the clinic: “You don’t have to have all the answers; you just need to have the dedication to your clients and the drive to seek out those answers,” she says. “This makes the day to day practice much less intimidating, ▶



regardless of what comes through the door.”

She also discovered that the “positive, balanced and team-oriented work environment,” fosters success. “This was an invaluable asset when applying for articling positions, and ultimately choosing the law firm I work and thrive at,” says Mira, now a student-at-law with a full-service business law firm Wilson Vukelich LLP in Markham, Ontario.

The practical skills she developed made her feel more poised, she says. “The experience gave me the immense confidence and reassurance that, after making the substantial investment that is a law career, I could make a successful transition from law student to lawyer.”

Jordan Bond, Law’21, is on that journey now. After volunteering with QLA in first year and working there full-time last summer, he learned how to conduct legal research and draft legal submissions, how to effectively communicate with clients, and how to advocate for her clients through written and oral submissions.

This experience proved helpful in the fall when he went through the on-campus interview process for jobs in Toronto firms next summer. “My experience at Queen’s Legal Aid was not only an excellent talking point throughout my interviews, but it also

displayed to potential employers my ability to balance a caseload of files on top of my schoolwork,” says Bond, who is currently a group leader enrolled in Clinical Litigation Practice for academic credit. “Everything I learned at QLA provides me with confidence entering my career, as I will have already had years of experience working with clients and doing different legal work by the time I graduate.”

Bond’s QLA highlight so far has been assisting a client who had been denied benefits under the Ontario Disability Support Program and was appealing that decision. “I was able to conduct this client’s initial intake interview, collect supporting documentation, draft written submissions, and appear for the client at a hearing in front of the Social Benefits Tribunal,” he says. “After several months of hard work, this appeal was granted, and I was able to see firsthand how the work QLA does can make a difference in people’s lives.”

Of the five Queen’s Law Clinics, Queen’s Legal Aid is the largest with more than 80 students serving approximately 900 clients annually. It’s also the oldest clinic. As it approaches its 50th anniversary in 2021, Director Blair Crew makes the same observation as his predecessors: “QLA students display tremendous dedication to obtaining positive results for our clients.”

## Flashback to Fall 2014

What did the four directors of the five Queen’s Law Clinics and student caseworkers have to say about their upcoming co-location to the LaSalle Mews building in downtown Kingston?

Step back in time by checking out [Queen’s Law Reports 2014](#).



## QUEEN'S LAW CLINICS NEWS

# Clinic Briefs

## Queen's Business Law Clinic

The demand for legal advice by budding entrepreneurs, charities and non-profits in the Kingston area continues to increase as the QBLC entered the new year with 166 open files. In 2019, enthusiastic QBLC student caseworkers successfully closed 185 files while a total of 149 new files were opened. By working and advising their clients on different business law issues, QBLC student caseworkers are developing valuable legal skills while imbibing pro bono values. The QBLC looks forward to providing exceptional legal support for the local start-up community in 2020.

## Queen's Elder Law Clinic

The demand for QELC services increases each year, and with 16 student caseworkers in house the clinic is maintaining a healthy and ongoing client waitlist. During the busy fall term, QELC caseworkers Taryn Begin, Alexander McPherson, and Tearney Johnston-Jones, all Law'20, and David Bannerman, Leo Rebello and Ben Westerterp, all Law'21, led the clinic's legal education initiative, reinforcing community partnerships by presenting to Limestone Community Education's class of Newcomers to Canada, the Knightsbridge Retirement Community, and the Oasis Program for Seniors. Public legal education is an essential the clinic experience element, and more great opportunities are ahead.

## Queen's Family Law Clinic

The 5th anniversary of the QFLC is also the 5th anniversary of the QFLC volunteer program co-sponsored by Pro Bono Students Canada. Each year, six students, most in first year, add to their already challenging workload to lend a hand at the QFLC by taking responsibility for preparing all of the clinic's uncontested divorces. These students provide an important service while also having much of the experience of clinic work, including one-on-one interaction with clients, meetings with counsel, preparing court documents and navigating the often complex court process.

*The Queen's Law Clinics gratefully acknowledge the support of Legal Aid Ontario, the Law Foundation of Ontario, Pro Bono Students Canada, the Class of Law'81, the United Way of KFL&A, and alumni and industry sponsors.*



## Queen's Legal Aid

QLA applauds the Divisional Court of Ontario's unanimous ruling last November in favour of the Canadian Federation of Students–Ontario and the York Federation of Students in a legal challenge that repealed the provincial government's Student Choice Initiative. It required Ontario universities to make student interest fees, including those supporting QLA, optional. Although the vast majority of Queen's students chose to pay this levy last September, the Court's decision removes uncertainty about what amounts to over 10 per cent of QLA's annual budget and keeps all Queen's students automatically eligible for high-quality legal services.

## Queen's Prison Law Clinic

In December, the Supreme Court of Canada released its decision in Vavilov, which fundamentally reset the law of judicial review in Canada. The QPLC intervened in this case in favour of an approach that would better protect the interests of individuals (say, prisoners) who are particularly vulnerable to abuse by frontline decision-makers. In this new leading case, the Court set out an approach that is responsive to specific concerns raised in the QPLC's submissions, and which will hold state decision-makers (particularly penal authorities) to a more rigorous standard of justification, rationality and legality.



# New clinic director to cultivate business law partnerships

After only 10 months of supervising students who serve start-ups and entrepreneurs, Tomi Adebisi took the helm at the Queen's Business Law Clinic. Born in Lagos, Nigeria, Adebisi practised with one of her home country's leading business law firms for about three years before completing an LLM in corporate/commercial law at McGill. After her 2015 graduation, she worked in different capacities with Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission and then joined the QBLC in January 2019.

Promoted from Staff Lawyer to Director of the QBLC, Tomi Adebisi speaks about her interests in business law, clinic experience and her plans for the future.

## What interests you most about business law and in providing legal services to small businesses, non-profit organizations and other QBLC clients?

I have always been intrigued by business law. I was curious to understand the intersection of law and business as a law student and this influenced my decision to pursue a business law practice. I also have a strong background in pro bono service, having worked as a staff member, articling student and volunteer lawyer at a pro bono organization in Saskatchewan. Being able to assist clients who would otherwise be unable to afford legal services has been quite a fulfilling experience for me. For many of our clients, the QBLC provides them with an invaluable opportunity to obtain excellent legal advice thereby avoiding potential mistakes that could cost their business a lot going forward.

## What did you like best about being a staff lawyer with the QBLC?

The best part of my job as a staff lawyer was supervising the student caseworkers. When I resumed last January, the student caseworkers were halfway through their time at the clinic and, at that

stage, were producing substantial work for review. I thoroughly enjoyed reviewing their work and advising the student caseworkers on their client files.

Last summer, I worked closely with the three QBLC summer caseworkers to provide our clients with top-quality and timely legal services. We had a great time working with clients from the Queen's Innovation Centre Summer Initiative (QICSI) Program run by the Dunin-Despande Queen's Innovation Centre (DDQIC). We helped clients incorporate businesses, prepared Shareholders Agreements and advised them on their intellectual property rights. It was satisfying to watch some of our clients as they presented their ideas, and won seed funding, at the Dunin-Deshpande Summer Pitch Competition.

## What surprised you about working with the QBLC?

The enthusiasm and dedication of the student caseworkers, as well as the versatility of files at the clinic, was a pleasant surprise. Working with startup companies and budding entrepreneurs presents a unique opportunity for students to experience hands on some of the issues that they are unlikely to find in bigger companies. It was a pleasure to watch students wear the adviser hat as they transferred the theoretical knowledge learnt at the law school into practical advice for the benefit of their clients.

## What do you like best about your new role as QBLC Director?

In addition to supervising the 24 student caseworkers at the clinic, I instruct the Queen's Business Law Clinic course. Over the summer, I worked with Morgan Jarvis (Law'10), the previous Clinic Director, to develop an intellectually stimulating syllabus for the 2019-20 school year. As part of my supervisory role, I meet with each student caseworker monthly to discuss file work and give feedback to the student

on their file work. I am also working in collaboration with our partners, the Office of Partnerships & Innovation and the DDQIC on various projects, including the Women Entrepreneurship Strategy (WES) Ecosystem Fund, which is a \$3.2 million fund provided by FedDev Ontario for Queen's University.

## What are your plans for the Clinic?

The QBLC is known for the provision of exceptional legal services to the Kingston area's growing innovation ecosystem, start-ups, social enterprises, not-for-profits and charitable corporations. I look forward to continuing to build up and enhance this reputation. I also look forward to enhancing the student experience at the QBLC by providing them with hands-on experiential learning opportunities throughout their year at the QBLC. We currently have a strong partnership with the DDQIC and the Office of Partnerships & Innovation and I look forward to renewing, strengthening and cultivating partnerships with other community organizations with similar goals and objectives, particularly groups focused on newcomers in Canada, budding entrepreneurs and innovators in the Kingston area.



Recently promoted QBLC Director Tomi Adebisi, looks forward to enhancing experiential learning opportunities for students and to building relationships with more community organizations that will help budding entrepreneurs and innovators in the Kingston area.



# Law'88 alumna promoted to Ontario's highest court

Following a distinguished 13-year judicial career on the province's Superior Court, Justice Julie Thorburn, Law'88, has been appointed to the Court of Appeal for Ontario. Among her many career highlights, she has been a partner with a Bay Street firm; served terms as Chair of the Ontario Bar Association's media and communications law section, and as Director of the International Association of Women Judges and President of its Canadian Chapter; and co-authored the Report to the Attorney General of Ontario *Enhancing Access to Justice in French*.

She discusses her experiences on the two courts and at Queen's Law, and shares advice for students and lawyers interested in pursuing careers in the judiciary.

## What do you find most rewarding as a justice of the Court of Appeal for Ontario?

The teamwork. At the Superior Court, while I had the assistance of law clerks and staff, I was essentially deciding cases on my own. What I find really interesting is that on the Court of Appeal, there are three of us hearing an issue together, that we then have the opportunity to discuss and (for the most part) decide together. It is fascinating to learn from one another and see how different people view issues, styles of advocacy and arrive at decisions.

## What did you like best about serving on the Superior Court of Ontario?

Just as we were focusing more and more on specialization in the profession, I had the opportunity to broaden my horizons. I heard cases in the areas of commercial law, criminal law, family

law and civil litigation before becoming the administrative judge of the Divisional Court, which deals with appeals of interlocutory decisions of the Superior Court.

The Superior Court was also an opportunity for me to see the people and hear the stories that provide the context for our legal questions, that give meaning to the law, and what we do as judges.

## What are you most proud of in your career?

Relationships. I have loved the problem-solving and the strategic planning involved in building a case or developing my reasons for decision. But what I have loved most is the people I have met, the stories I heard and the things I have learned with and from them: from my law clerks, to my junior lawyers, to those whose cases I have heard and to the mentors I was lucky to have met and who helped me along the way.

## What advice would you give law students and lawyers interested in judicial careers?

1. Be resilient. We don't always talk about it, but we have all faced setbacks. There are people and experiences that disappoint, but never give up if this is something you really want.
2. Find a mentor. There are people out there willing, able and interested to help you. Seek them out, ask for help and tell them how much you appreciate their assistance.
3. Be flexible and think of the long game. Law firms, what they do and how they do it are changing rapidly. Take the time to think about what the opportunities of tomorrow will be and prepare yourself for them.

## How did Queen's Law prepare you for your career?

When I came to Queen's Law, I was the only opera singer in my class. I was very lucky to have had professors like David Mullan, John Whyte and Dan Soberman who noticed people like me who didn't quite fit the mould. I have a clear recollection of feeling like I just wouldn't be able to make this work and John Whyte took me aside and told me that I could. I remember Dan Soberman telling me that I should put my name out there and pursue mooting as I spoke English and French and could argue in both – which I have done many times since! And David Mullan was a great mentor and moot coach, and has become a great friend over the years. He is not just a terrific scholar but a warm person.

Queen's offers a very personal environment with a real concern about students and their well-being.

— LISA GRAHAM



Justice Julie Thorburn, Law'88, a former Superior Court judge and Divisional Court team leader, is the latest Queen's Law grad appointed to the top court in the province.



## Influential Law'91 alumna among Canada's Most Powerful Women

2019 was a stellar professional year for Patrice Walch-Watson, Law'91, and that's great news for Queen's Law, where she is one of the dean's strategic advisors. In September, global law-ranking firm Chambers & Partners recognized her as one of the most influential General Counsel in Canada, presenting her with an inaugural Canadian GC Influencer Award. Two months later, the Women's Executive Network (WXN) named her to its Top 100 list of Canada's Most Powerful Women.

As an Intact Professional Award winner, WXN salutes the leadership role she plays within her organization. Walch-Watson, an established executive and corporate lawyer, is Senior Managing Director, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary with Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB). There, in a position she has held since 2015, she leads the global legal, compliance and corporate secretarial functions. In addition, she is a champion in cultivating a psychologically healthy and safe workplace.



Dean's Council member Patrice Walch-Watson, Law'91, has been recognized as one of the most influential General Counsel in Canada and as one of Canada's Most Powerful Women.

"I am truly honoured to be joining this list of incredible women named as WXN's Top 100 female leaders for 2019," says Walch-Watson. "Queen's Law, including my class of Law'91, has had an impressive number of women recognized over the years by WXN as powerful women leaders in Canada. This year's award theme of 'Powerfully Empowered' sums up what all of us try to do – we show our power not through our standing, but through our actions in the way we aim to inspire and champion others, including the next generation of leaders coming from Queen's.

"Success is being comfortable with who you are and being proud of the life you have lived (so far)," she told WXN. "Don't be afraid to ask for help," is her early, lasting lesson. To her younger self, she would give the following advice: "It's important to carve out space to think about yourself, what you want to accomplish and where you're going."

In a roundtable with 12 classmates at their 25th anniversary reunion in 2016, she talked about how to achieve work-life balance. "Be open to opportunities," she told current students. "If you need a year or two of not working full time or not doing law, think about the long game and don't be afraid to ask for help."

Before joining CPPIB, Walch-Watson was a business lawyer at Torys LLP for more than two decades, including 16 years as a partner, playing a leading role in advising some of Canada's largest public, private and government businesses in a wide array of transactions.

She is a member of Legal Leaders for Diversity and Inclusion, a group of Canadian General Counsel who have declared their support and commitment for creating a more inclusive legal profession, as well as supporting diversity initiatives within organizations.

At Queen's Law, for the past four years, she has been a member of the Dean's Council. Looking back to her law school days, she says she knew she wanted to work in private practice, but eventually would change paths. "Queen's Law, through its professors, guest speakers, programs and my classmates, really opened my eyes up to all the opportunities a law degree can give you."

— LISA GRAHAM

## Improving mental health in the legal profession is Law'84 alumna's goal

It was near the end of Law'84 alumna Anne-Marie Hourigan's 30-year legal career when the gaps in Canada's mental health system were summed up and laid bare in her courtroom.

In 2013, then-Justice Hourigan presided over a case in which a man had pleaded guilty to attempted murder. The Crown was seeking a dangerous offender status and proposing to incarcerate him for an indeterminate length of time.

"I heard extensive psychiatric and psychological testimony concerning the accused and the evidence was shocking," she says. "We dissected his life from age six to 36 and found mental health issues that were never diagnosed and learning issues that were never treated. These issues led to addictions, which led to anger problems and criminal offences."

The accused had accumulated an extensive criminal record. Ultimately, Hourigan ruled that he was a dangerous offender, and he remains behind bars to this day.

"That was when I knew I needed to step back and help in a broader way," she says. "Not only are the victims paying the price for the gaps in our system, but individuals like this man are paying with their freedom."

Over her years as a defense counsel, Crown prosecutor, and finally as a judge, Hourigan saw many who might have avoided the legal system if only they had received the support they needed. That's why, when she retired from the bench in 2014, she was compelled to help those struggling with mental health issues, learning disabilities and addictions.

She volunteered on several boards across the country until a chance encounter with the late Hon. Michael Wilson, then-chair of the Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC) Board.

"I was so inspired by his passion, and in particular his commitment to reducing stigma," she says.

A short while later, an opening came up on the Commission's board seeking someone with legal expertise and Hourigan successfully applied. She is now Vice-Chair of the MHCC and chairs its governance and nominating committee.

In these roles, Hourigan contributes to the organization's strategy and policy development. Of particular interest to her is the mental health of those in the legal profession and inmates.



Anne-Marie Hourigan, Law'84, the Mental Health Commission of Canada's Vice-Chair, is particularly interested in the mental health of legal professionals and inmates.

Alongside the MHCC and the National Judicial Institute, she is currently hoping to bring "The Working Mind," a mental health education and awareness program provided by the Commission, to federally appointed judges and lawyers across Canada.

"Law is a high-pressure, highly adversarial environment that features significant competition and compassion fatigue," she explains. "Lawyers suffer from depression at higher rates than any other profession yet, unlike other professions, the higher up you go in a large firm the greater the rates of depression you see."

Still, Hourigan sees the increasing awareness of mental health issues and the willingness to discuss them as evidence that the Commission's work is on track.

With one of its founding objectives of reducing stigma well underway, the Commission is now turning its attention to ensuring mental health services are timely, available and culturally relevant throughout the country. For instance, the Commission will be publishing the "Post-Secondary Student National Standard for Psychological Health and Safety" later this year.

"Mental health issues are pervasive with as many as one in five Canadians, and for those over the age of 40 it is one in two," she says. "That's why the Commission's hashtag this year is #fiveinfive because, even if you do not have a mental health issue, we all know someone, and we are all affected."

— PHIL GAUDREAU



# Alumni Return to Queen's

## Learning from the Commissioner

Manitoba's Treaty Commissioner Loretta Ross, Law'89, presented "The Treaties and Reconciliation" to students and faculty on November 15.



LISA GRAHAM



LISA GRAHAM

## Law'80-funded panel discusses the role of General Counsel

Sharing with students what it's like to be in-house counsel with a large corporation were three prominent grads (l-r above):

- Deirdre MacLeod, Law'04, General Counsel, PwC Canada;
- Hugh Kerr, Law'88, VP and Associate General Counsel, SunLife Financial; and

- Betty DelBianco, Law'84, Chief Legal and Administrative Officer, Celestica;

They participated in the fourth annual Careers in Business Law series on January 20. The panel is a collaboration between the Queen's Corporate Law Club and the Queen's Business Law program directed by Professor Mohamed Khimji.



LISA GRAHAM



Indigenous course attracts visitors



Look who showed up on January 28 in the First Nations Negotiation class taught by David Sharpe, Law'95 (middle), CEO of Bridging Finance Inc.: Mark Dockstator, Indigenous scholar and former president of First Nations University of Canada; Ann Deer,

Indigenous Recruitment and Support Coordinator, David Allgood, Law'74, former Past Chair of the Queen's Law Dean's Council; and young Mr. Sharpe of Queen's Law'35...

LISA GRAHAM

From equality rights student to lecturer

James McCarthy, LLM'17, presented "The Right to Be 'Out'?" to JD and graduate students in Professor Bev Baines' Equality Rights and the Charter class on January 13. The paper is one he originally wrote for the course three years ago and has continued to update. He now practises with Ryder-Burbidge Hurley Foster in Kingston.



LISA GRAHAM



LISA GRAHAM



# Tax tips from Law'92 alum

On January 29, Sunita Doobay, Law'92, guest-lectured in the Corporate Tax class taught by fellow grad Professor Art Cockfield, Law'93, and then shared advice with the Bowman National Tax Moot team he is coaching. Doobay is now a partner with Blaney McMurtry LLP in Toronto.



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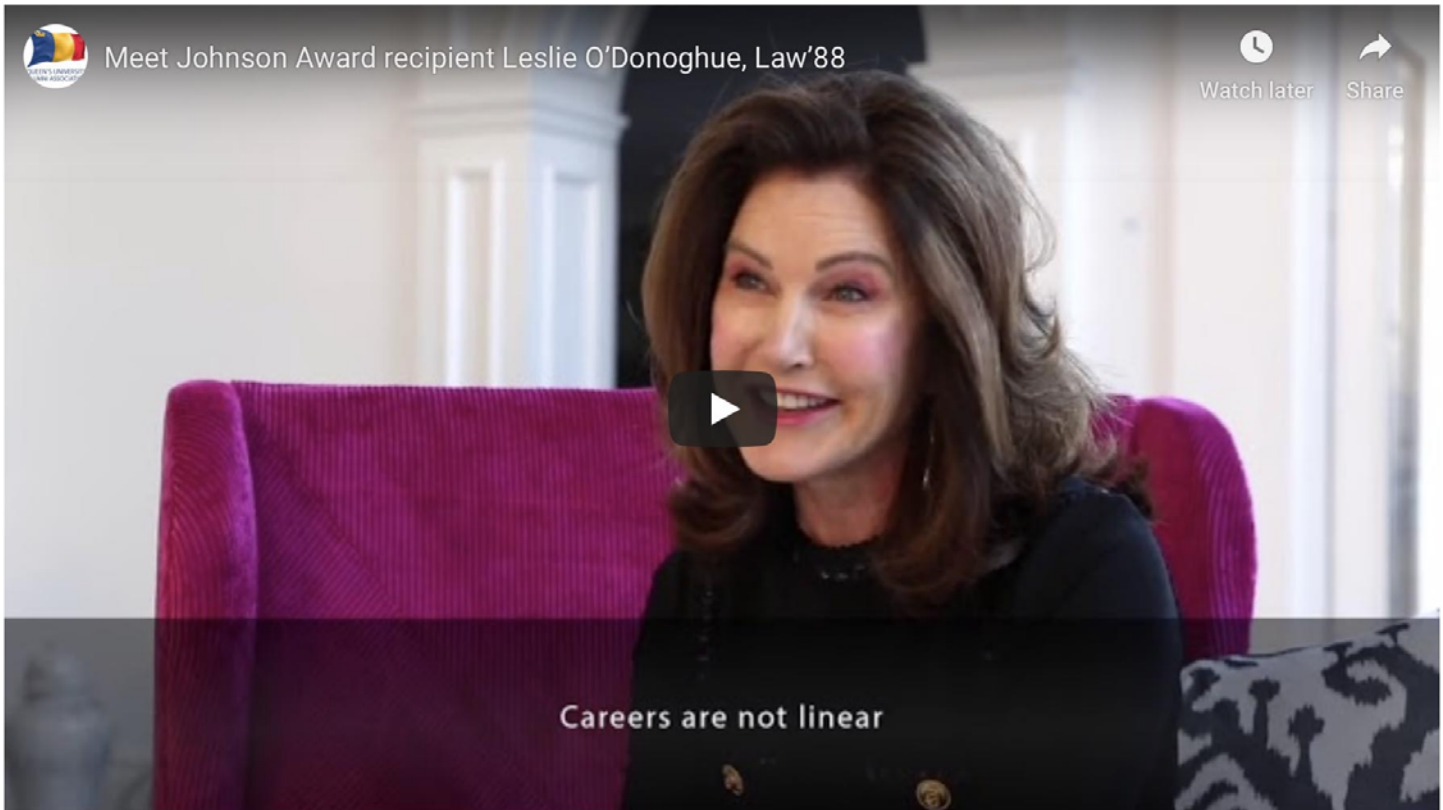
# Law'88 business leader makes lasting impact on Calgary community

Leslie O'Donoghue, QC, Law'88, has been saluted for her distinguished career advocating for workplace diversity and inspiring future leaders. The Calgary Alumni Branch of the Queen's University Alumni Association presented her with the Johnson Award at a celebration on November 7. O'Donoghue, the former Executive VP and Advisor to the CEO of Nutrien, says giving back makes her happy.

Listen to what she has to say about the massive impact Queen's Law had on her, her career advice, and the value of paying it forward.



LISA GRAHAM



LISA GRAHAM





Dean Mark Walters, Law'89 (5th left), poses with faculty, staff and some new law grads outside Grant Hall on November 14.

BERNARD CLARK

# A Convocation week to remember

Convocation is a key date in the Queen's Law calendar every year but Fall 2019 saw a number of exceptional moments throughout the week of November 11 to 14, including in the university's recognition of Indigenous leadership.

Dean Mark Walters, Law'89, celebrated two prominent Indigenous changemakers as they were awarded honorary Doctor of Laws degrees.

He also hooded two PhDs, six LLMs, and four JDs, and acknowledged 40 undergraduates receiving their [Certificate in Law](#) at the Law convocation.

"It was a true honour for me to hood Canada's leading Indigenous legal scholar, John Borrows, and to host Senator Murray Sinclair as they received honorary degrees from Queen's University," said Walters.

"Both Professor Borrows and Senator Sinclair made time to meet with Indigenous law students, and Senator Sinclair was especially pleased to see the quotation of his passage on reconciliation on the wall of our atrium. It was a privilege to be on the stage and in their company at the convocation

ceremonies at which their contributions to Canadian society were honoured."

LLD honoree Senator Murray Sinclair is the former Chief Commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). Sinclair served the justice system in Manitoba for over 25 years. He was the first Aboriginal judge appointed in Manitoba and Canada's second. He served as Co-Chair of the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry in Manitoba. As head of the TRC, he participated in hundreds of hearings across Canada, culminating in the issuance of the TRC's report in 2015. He also oversaw an active multi-million-dollar fundraising program to support various TRC events and activities, and to allow survivors to travel to attend TRC events. He served as an adjunct professor of law at the University of Manitoba. Senator Sinclair has received honorary doctorates from a dozen Canadian universities. He was appointed to the Senate on April 2, 2016.

The Queen's Law atrium now features a short but powerful [quote by Senator Sinclair](#) thanks to a class gift by Law'18. His words provide a daily reminder to law

students that the journey of reconciliation is far from over, and that they have an important role to play in maintaining its momentum.

Also bestowed with an honorary LLD was John Joseph Borrows, the Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Law at the University of Victoria Law School in British Columbia. He is the 2017 Killam Prize winner in Social Sciences; 2019 Molson Prize from the Canada Council for the Arts. John is Anishinaabe/ Ojibway and a member of the Chippewa of the Nawash First Nation in Ontario, Canada. His publications include, *Recovering Canada*; *The Resurgence of Indigenous Law* (Donald Smiley Award for the best book in Canadian Political Science, 2002), *Canada's Indigenous Constitution* (Canadian Law and Society Best Book Award 2011), *Drawing Out Law: A Spirit's Guide* (2010), *Freedom and Indigenous Constitutionalism* (Donald Smiley Award for the best book in Canadian Political Science, 2016), *The Right Relationship* (with Michael Coyle, ed.), *Resurgence and Reconciliation* (with Michael Asch, Jim Tully, eds.), *Law's Indigenous Ethics* (forthcoming) all from the University of Toronto Press.



New honorary LLD graduate Senator Murray Sinclair and Dean Walters after the ceremony.

Professor Nick Bala, Law'77, was also on centre stage at Convocation. Having been [designated the William R. Lederman Distinguished University Professor in May](#), he received his official certificate, which he now displays proudly in his office.

[For more photos, visit the Fall Convocation 2019 gallery!](#)



Dean Walters watches as honorary degree recipient John Joseph Borrows, the Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Law, receives a Creation Turtle Pendleton Blanket.



# Mohawk law student set to empower Indigenous peoples internationally

While growing up on the Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory and then in Thunder Bay, Ontario, Kanyen'keha:ka woman Stacia Loft saw the impacts of colonization on her people. She experienced her own loss of culture, the inability to speak her language, the silencing of women's voices, and the loss of solidarity in her community. When she was raising a child on her own, she struggled with finding housing, accessing food, obtaining childcare and making ends meet. It's through all these experiences that she learned focus, drive and determination can lead to positive impacts. She then set out on her own path to make a difference, which would include earning a law degree from Queen's.

Over the past 15 years, Loft has dedicated her work to empowering Indigenous peoples to access cultural, language, educational and employment opportunities and to achieve financial independence. She served at federal and provincial levels to support community-based Indigenous programs, dealing with such issues as addictions, mental health, justice, homelessness. In 2015, she was elected a Band Councillor of the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte for what would become her first of two consecutive two-year terms. Last fall, she campaigned to be Chief, coming in second to none other than the long-time incumbent Chief R. Donald Maracle.

Since September 2017, she has been balancing all this work with her legal studies and heavy extra-curricular involvement. How does she do it? Stacia Loft, Law'20, discusses her academic and community service experiences, her exciting new endeavours and her plans to take her work global.

## Tell us about your work to empower your fellow members of the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte.

My work on Council was focused on creating increased opportunities by ensuring fair and equal access for our membership. This was done by raising and addressing underlying systemic practices of bias and conflict of interest, stemming from hundreds of

years of colonization and intergenerational trauma. It was also a priority for me to ensure that more opportunities were available for the community to hear about the work underway or voice their concerns. During my tenure, this included holding consultation meetings to draft our own cannabis laws, presenting financial audits and implementing mediation tables to address concerns of community members.

During my time on Council, I felt it was my responsibility to advocate for change to policies to achieve fairness. This included not only the two portfolios I held over the four years (Community Well-being and Housing), but all areas including education, infrastructure, policing, policy and human resources. The highlights that I found most rewarding were meeting with community members to hear their concerns and identify avenues for change.

What I found in many situations is that the solution came back to policy considerations. Advocating for changes to policy to address gaps or capture new priorities, was definitely one of the first steps to identifying potential solutions. In instances where solutions could not be found in policy, the gears shifted to advocacy at the provincial or federal level. These cases included emergency housing, triaging rental housing applications based on need, engaging with legal counsel on band business, and land claim negotiation processes. All matters were not necessarily resolved through advocacy or resulted in a change to policy, but at least areas of need were flagged for future and further discussion on how to address gaps.

The work was also focused on identifying opportunities for our own source of revenue in order to realize our independence and sovereignty as a Territory, and not at the behest of outside governments.

## What did you learn while running for Chief of the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte?

I learned that we still have a lot of healing to do as a community. Lateral violence (directed against one's peers) is an everyday challenge to overcome for many



Stacia Loft, Law'20, has long been dedicated to helping fellow members of the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte improve the quality of their lives and community. Now she is prepared to extend her support to help "global Indigenous communities grow and become more prosperous on their own terms."

people, but we are still at a stage when people do not realize that they are engaging in this kind of behaviour. It is damaging not only at an individual level but also at a familial level. I also learned that we are not yet at a place where open, honest and kind conversations can be had. There is so much trauma that many have not healed from and this impacts the ways in which we engage or fail to engage with each other.

## During your time at Queen's Law, what student activities have you been involved in?

With the Indigenous Law Students' Alliance since 1L, I assisted with planning, coordinating and participation in

activities such as Orange Shirt Day (raising awareness of children who attended Residential Schools), and the "Reconciliation on Bay Street" conference. I was a 1L representative of Level: Changing Lives Through Law and in 2L was Co-President of the club. We planned fundraising activities, movie nights and a panel discussion on "Access to Safe Drinking Water in Indigenous Communities."

## Tell us about your soon-to-be published paper "Tax Liberty as Law: Beyond the Confines of an Imposed Taxation System on First Nations Peoples."

This month, I am editing my paper for the *Western* ►





GARRETT ELLIOTT

Stacia Loft, Law'20, in discussion with fellow members of the Indigenous Law Students' Alliance, a Queen's Law club committed to building relationships in order to increase members' understanding and ability to identify issues and concerns of First Nation, Métis and Inuit communities.

*Journal of Legal Studies* to be ready for publication this spring. I wrote the paper as part of my Independent Supervised Project under the supervision of Professor Arthur Cockfield (Law'93). I initially submitted the paper for the Canadian Tax Foundation Student Writing Award and thought that if the paper was not chosen, it would be good to submit it to another source to ensure that the history and legal facts of taxation on First Nation peoples be understood by as many Canadians as possible.

As an Indigenous person who has grown up and has lived both on- and off-Territory, I continue to experience interactions involving taxation almost every single day. I wrote this paper to educate non-Indigenous people on taxation from both an Indigenous and a legal perspective. I have woven in a discussion on treaties that speak to taxation and trade pre- and post-contact, focused on the legal history of taxation on Indigenous peoples, and have crafted a new legal test that determines whether or not a tax liberty is in play.

### How have you juggled law school with serving as an MBQ Councillor, running for Chief and raising a child?

I am a planner by nature and have always been good at prioritizing; I take my time and others' time

seriously. I actually don't believe I had to juggle my priorities but what I found is that everything fell into place by planning effectively. I scheduled my law school courses as best as I could to ensure that I would be able to meet my work commitments of Council while also having time to meet with community members and attend events. I did experience some overlap with community work, school and family commitments and there were things that I had to say "no" to, but I believe that this is part of balance.

I triaged each priority by identifying areas/spaces that were either negative, ineffective or lacking value, against those that I believed to be results-oriented and focused, and adjusted my schedule accordingly. I believe that our experiences make us richer human beings and that in order to stoke our creative and problem-solving fires, we need to experience different spaces in order to ensure that we are actually fulsome and wholistic contributors to a cause.

### Congratulations on being selected to participate in the Governor General's Leadership Conference this June! Tell us about the process and what you will be doing at it.

I found out about the Governor General's Canadian Leadership Conference (GGCLC) through an alumna

of the program who reached out to contacts at the school and shared an invitation to apply. The process involved completing an application and a 45 minute in-person interview with other candidates. I was excited and honoured to find out that I was one of 250 successful applicants selected to participate as a member of the GGCLC 2020. The GGCLC is a 15-day program that involves an opening plenary in Huntsville, and a study tour where members are divided into 16 groups and travel to a different place in Canada. At each "learning site," the study group meets with senior management, grassroots activists and local governments. Every evening, members identify and discuss issues. At the end of the tour, each study group prepares a report on the concerns of the communities visited and presents its findings to the Governor General and other members of the Conference.

### I understand you will be articling with Amnesty International in Ottawa starting in July. What interested you in working with this organization?

I have been interested in and have followed the work of Amnesty International for a number of years. After completing the Public International Law Program at the Castle (Bader International Study Centre in the U.K.) in Spring 2018 – getting exposure to international human rights law and visiting the International Court of Justice and the United Nations – I knew that the work of a traditional law firm was not for me. I relate to organizations that challenge the status quo and that make us think about our impact on people and the environment from a cultural and rights-based lens.

Amnesty has also focused on domestic human rights abuses against Indigenous communities. In 2018, Amnesty called for an independent probe into the treatment of Mohawk demonstrators in Tyendinaga at the hands of the OPP in 2007 and 2008 on the Culbertson Tract, which is land that has been under a land claim for more than 20 years.

### What are you most proud of?

I am proud and feel a great sense of privilege by being able to go back to school. It is difficult for single mothers to be able to complete post-secondary

studies (I know this because I completed my undergraduate degree as a single mom) and even more difficult for single mothers to leave a career to go back to school. I had always wanted to go to law school and waited for the right time to make my move. I am proud of my daughter who has grown into an amazing human being; always kind, loving and determined. She has taught me my most important life lessons. I am also proud to be have been able to finish law school a semester early (in Fall 2019, which was possible by completing Castle credits and a higher course load in three upper-year terms).

### Why did you choose Queen's Law for your JD degree?

I chose Queen's Law not only because of its reputation as being a stellar law school but also because it was close to my home in Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory. I was able to commute from the Territory to Kingston for class, and then head back home directly after. The peace of being at home and fulfilling my responsibilities here, as well as a having an opportunity to learn on Haudenosaunee Territory, was definitely the best choice for me.

### How has Queen's Law prepared you for a career in law?

Queen's Law has prepared me to think pragmatically and logically about issue identification while remaining solution focused. I am grateful to have learned from some amazing professors during my time at Queen's Law.

### What is your career goal?

My goal is to be able to support and contribute to the needs of my community, and the broader global Indigenous community on identifying solutions that will address long-standing and unresolved challenges to land claims and inherent and treaty rights. I want to see communities grow and become more prosperous on their own terms without outside interference.



# Indigenous student receives rare invitation

A second-year Queen's Law student has earned an unprecedented distinction that in the words of Ann Deer, the Faculty's Indigenous Recruitment and Support Coordinator, has spotlighted her going forward as "a student to watch."

Rachel Hay, Law'21, is one of the youngest people ever to receive an invitation to be a featured panel speaker at a Law and Society Association (LSA) conference. The 56th iteration of that annual event will be held in Denver, Colorado, May 28-31.

Hay, a 28-year-old resident of Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory, 60 kilometres west of Kingston, will present a 35-page research paper that she wrote in the autumn term for a Law & Injustice course taught by Professor Ashwini Vasanthakumar.

"I use Canada's notorious historical and institutional injustices, a liberal theory of justice, as well as Canadian common law, to argue that this country has a moral, liberal and legal responsibility to acknowledge Indigenous sovereignty as an inherent right belonging to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities," Hay explains.

"In my review of Canada's historical and institutional injustices, I explain that these have been implemented by Britain and Canada strategically and systemically. I argue that this really amounts to a form of genocide. Then, by using arguments under sections 25 and 35 of the Constitution (Existing Aboriginal and Treaty Rights) that commit Canada to recognizing and supporting sovereign-nations status for First Nations and Métis peoples, I try to put the Canadian government into a corner and force it to do the right thing."

LSA conference organizers clearly were impressed by the quality of Hay's scholarship, by the precision of the arguments she presents, and by the fact she framed her argument in such a way that it can be applied both in Canada and globally.

That latter point is especially relevant to the LSA, which is a prestigious interdisciplinary scholarly organization that's committed to social scientific, interpretive, and historical analyses of law across multiple social contexts.

"When I first visited the LSA website and saw that it works to make the world a better place using the law on behalf of marginalized groups, I was excited," says Hay. That's exactly what I'm interested in doing."

She grew up in a family in which the law, social justice, and the fight for First Nations rights are top of mind. Both her mother and her father, who's a retired RCMP officer and the former chief on the Tyendinaga police force, are activists. "I am, too," says Hay.

She knew she faced long odds when she submitted her paper for consideration in the LSA's "Junior Scholars potential panel-speakers" category. But Hay was undaunted, and her initiative has paid off.

"The LSA has a mentoring program but even then, the largest number of those students presenting from JD programs either already have graduate degrees from prior educational programs, or tend to be in Law 3," says Professor Kathleen Lahey, who is non-arms length co-director of the LSA-affiliated International Socio-Legal Feminisms Collaborative Research network. Hay's paper was assigned to Lahey because of its international and Indigenous focus. "At first, I didn't notice who wrote it," she says, "but after reviewing and accepting the proposal for presentation in Denver, I went back and realized that it was our own Rachel Hay!"

While she was surprised and delighted to have received her invitation take part in the 2020 LSA conference, Hay has a mission firmly in mind for when she travels west to Denver, a city she's keen to visit for the first time. "First and foremost, I hope people at the conference will think about the points I'll be making in my arguments," she says.



Rachel Hay, Law'21, will be one of the youngest panelists ever at a Law and Society Association conference, where she will speak about how "it's impossible and unviable for colonial countries to continue to ignore and reject Indigenous rights to sovereignty."

"Colonial governments in Canada and elsewhere really don't have a choice when it comes to recognizing and supporting Indigenous sovereignty.

In my view, it's impossible and unviable for colonial countries to continue to ignore and reject Indigenous rights to sovereignty."

— KEN CUTHBERTSON



## Indigenous student's work to protect children recognized nationally

"My principal reason for going into law is due to the influence of my mom, grandma, and great-grandmother – all strong Anishinaabe women who have endured so much injustice, and still do their part to bring community together." Darian Doblej, Law'21 (Artsci'18), said these words earlier today as he accepted a scholarship from the Indigenous Bar Association. "They, together, constantly remind me of my place in public service."

"When I was just but a young boy, the eldest of four children, my great-grandmother made me promise... to protect my sisters," he continued. "How I would realize the promise remained a question until I grew to understand sources of our communities' pain: colonialism, paternalism, intolerance, and, perhaps most importantly, injustice."

Doblej and his siblings, members of Whitesand First Nation, grew up on a reserve. He credits his approach to public service as a lesson given by his community. "Finding a way to give back to Whitesand for their collective upbringing of me became a necessary goal in life to show how grateful I am for being brought up by the love of an entire community," he says. "I am now committed to helping communities and nations assert control and jurisdiction over their children; to keep kids in our communities, where they are safest; and to prioritize how our nations have raised our children since time immemorial."

After becoming his community's delegate to discussions on child welfare almost a decade ago, he has served as a commissioner of a province-wide Sexual Violence and Harassment on First Nations Communities inquiry and as an advisor to then-Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne and her cabinet ministers. One of them was the Minister of Children and Youth Services who revamped the centrepiece for all child welfare legislation in Ontario with the Children, Youth, and Family Services Act. Among other things, the new legislation recognized and affirmed First Nations' ability to govern themselves and take care of their children, and mandated societies to take into account cultural preservation and connection to community when determining the best interests of the child.

On November 1, 2019, he stood before jurists and advocates at the Indigenous Bar Association's 31st



*Darian Doblej, Law'21, who has worked to improve child welfare within his First Nation community and with the federal and provincial governments, has won the Indigenous Law Student Scholarship for serving and advancing the interests of Indigenous Peoples.*

Annual Fall Conference in Ottawa. There, he was presented the Indigenous Law Student Scholarship for serving and advancing the interests of Indigenous Peoples with honour and integrity.

"The work I've done is about the commitment I've made to my matriarchs, elders, children, and youth to work away at unshackling the chains of our colonial master and asserting sovereignty and inherent jurisdiction over our ways of being, doing, and knowing, no matter the instance," he told the crowd. "It is about improving conditions for future generations and doing my part to help all children grow up with better supports and laws than what I had."

"There is much more work to be done," Doblej continued. "Work that with your help, each and every one of you, could be realizable for children and families of today, nations tomorrow, and generations to come."

## Black Law Students' Association advances representation beyond the law

Some clubs focus on building community. Others are aimed at advocacy and volunteerism. And others are concentrated on skill and knowledge development.

Black Law Students' Association-Queen's (BLSA-Queen's) is one of those clubs that checks all the boxes.

Founded in 1991, BLSA-Queen's is part of a national organization – BLSA Canada – which aims to support and enhance academic and professional opportunities for current and future black law students, as well as graduates, in both official languages.

"The Queen's chapter is looking to take those core BLSA goals a step further," says Nigel Masenda, Law'20, the president of BLSA-Queen's. "We are looking to expand the scope of our support to include students in programs and professions outside of law – from medical students to elementary students. Our mandate is rooted in academic excellence through which we can ameliorate the lack of racial representation in the legal, and other, professions."

While the group already engages about 150 community members a year, Masenda's team is hard at work scaling BLSA-Queen's to reach these new disciplines. He believes the unique and privileged position his group enjoys as law students affords them the opportunity to help address the lack of representation in some other professions, and BLSA-Queen's has a few ideas on how to do that.

"Our website, launching this term, will feature a mentorship program that will allow students to connect with black alumni, black law students, or current

lawyers," he says. "We are also partnering with STEM educator Curtis Carmichael (Artsci'16) to expand our reach into the science, technology, engineering, and math fields and thereby increase representation and advance academic and social excellence."

Part of BLSA-Queen's website launch involves organizing online workshops that will coincide with Black History Month in February 2020. The workshops will focus on both law and business and will be designed to educate students on conduct in the corporate and professional world. The association chose to focus their efforts online to help them reach a larger audience throughout their existing footprint in Kingston and the greater Toronto area, as well as nationally and internationally.

Masenda says his group has received overwhelming support for their efforts to build on BLSA-Queen's mission and vision, particularly thanks to some key connections and partnerships.

"One of the key reasons I chose to come to Queen's for my JD is the widespread collegiality, both among your peers and Queen's alumni," he says. "Alumni have an eagerness to impart their wisdom and support in any way they can – from something as small as chatting about our events to building connections that can help us further achieve our goals. The support is not limited to black faculty, and I think that truly shows the beauty of Queen's."

To learn more about BLSA-Queen's, [send the chapter an email](#) and watch for their new website.

— PHIL GAUDREAU



*BLSA-Queen's President Nigel Masenda, Law'20 (middle), speaks with David Oteng Pabi (Artsci'21), and Rasheed Tucker (Com'21), about ways the Black Law Students' Association can help address the lack of representation in some other professions in addition to law.*



## Student club cultivates conversation on wellness

Whether you want to have a serious conversation about wellness in the legal profession, learn about courses and jobs relating to health law, or just cuddle puppies and enjoy tasty treats, the **Disability and Mental Health Club** (DAMH) has something for you.

Sarah MacDonald, Law'20 (ArtSci'17), has been involved in the rapidly growing club for the past



*"Having friendships gets you through anything and everything" is one of many responses Queen's Law students say to the question, "What does mental health mean to you?" The Disability and Mental Health Club promotes wellness and mental well-being among law students and brings attention to mental illness and disability within the legal profession.*

three years, taking on the role of president last year.

"We promote wellness and mental well-being among law students and bring attention to the prevalence of mental illness (stress, anxiety, depression) and disability within the profession," she says.

The club achieves these goals through an annual program of events, which are organized and promoted by its 17 members, and supported by the Queen's Law Students' Society, the school's Manager of Education & Equity Services, and donations from sponsors.

Their most popular and visible event is Puppy Therapy Day, where registered therapy dogs lend a paw and cheer up Queen's Law students just prior to exam time.

The club also hosts an annual Wellness Day, this year on March 6. On this day, DAMH Club members will be handing out healthy snacks, coffee and tea cards, and other prizes while also leading yoga sessions, and gathering positive and encouraging sticky note messages for a public display.

Throughout the year, the club occasionally hosts career panels and helps promote courses related to well-being and the legal profession, such as the mental health law course.

Finally, they mark significant health and wellness days, such as Bell Let's Talk Day in January and World Mental Health Day in October, on their social media channels.

The regular exposure to the topic of mental well-being, coupled with the personal experiences of some of her friends and colleagues, has certainly made an impact on MacDonald and her future career choices.

"I plan on seeking an employer that promotes well-being and has programs to help those struggling with mental illness," MacDonald says. "My involvement with the club has also inspired me to work in the field of health law after graduation."

To join the club or learn more, contact **Sarah MacDonald** or **Breanna Goss**.

— PHIL GAUDREAU

# Defining legal borders in the Central Arctic Ocean

Beneath the North Pole's icy surface lies a hotbed for coastal states to claim political power. Setting limits for each nation's sovereign rights is the topic of Ekaterina Antsygina's doctoral thesis.

Now in the third year of her PhD in Law studies, she has received a fellowship and several scholarships to conduct her research on delimiting extended continental shelves in the Central Arctic Ocean.

Canada, Russia and Denmark (Greenland) each have natural prolongations of their territories into the Arctic Ocean. Legally, each continental shelf extends out to a distance of 200 nautical miles from its country's baselines or further if the shelf naturally extends beyond that limit.

Ekaterina Antsygina discusses her research and her motivation for studies involving international law and geopolitics.



*The goal of PhD candidate Ekaterina Antsygina's research is to define maritime boundaries of countries that border on the North Pole that will reflect an equitable solution for Canada, Russia and Denmark. How these boundaries are defined will have an impact how these Arctic states cooperate on environmental issues, science and infrastructure projects.*

GARRETT ELLIOTT



## Why is it important to define the boundary of limits of extended continental shelves in the Arctic Ocean?

The establishment of maritime borders in the Arctic is very important for the region as it affects geopolitics, science, and business. Sovereign rights for continental shelves include exploration and exploitation of natural resources such as oil, gas, metals, snow crabs, the possibility to construct artificial islands, installations and structures, and scientific research. Currently, the Arctic littoral states (countries known as “coastal states” situated on the ocean’s shore) are in the process of delineating their extended continental shelves. Delineation is the establishment of the extended continental shelf’s outer limits, and the obligation to delineate arises only if a state intends to claim sovereign rights over a continental shelf that extends beyond 200 nautical miles.

The procedure of delineation was introduced by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the first submission on the outer limits of the extended shelf to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) was made in 2001. So, the practice of states on delineation and delimitation of the extended shelves is very recent and is not well established.

The submissions of Russia, Denmark, and Canada to the CLCS in respect to the outer limits of their extended continental shelves in the Arctic Ocean reveal an overlap of claims, so the need for the establishment of maritime borders between continental shelves (i.e. delimitation) is imminent. Most likely, soon Russia, Canada, and Denmark will start discussing the delimitation scenarios for the Central Arctic Ocean. I analyze existing law and practice and suggest delimitation scenarios that might be useful for the Arctic states. Daniela Iribe Gonzalez, an MASc student from the Department of Geological Sciences and Geological Engineering at Queen’s, prepares maps with those scenarios.

## Tell us about your research.

The main issues I address are which state (or states) should get the sovereign rights for continental

shelves in the area of the North Pole and what delimitation methods can be used for the delimitation scenario optimal for Canada, Russia, and Denmark. The delimitation of the extended continental shelves in the Arctic is necessary in order to divide continental shelves of these states. It will impact how the Arctic states cooperate on environmental issues, scientific collaboration, infrastructure projects. International law does not impose any obligatory method of delimitation for continental shelves. The only requirement is to achieve an equitable solution. Hence, the Arctic states are free to use any delimitation method they consider suitable to achieve equity in the delimitation of the Central Arctic Ocean.

Some methods might be more beneficial for Denmark and less beneficial for Canada and Russia. For example, the equidistance method is more beneficial to Denmark. Canada and Russia might prefer to establish the delimitation lines based on meridians. Both Canada and Russia used the Sectoral method before for the territorial claims in the Arctic Ocean (i.e. all the islands in the sector would belong to a state administering the sector).

I am trying to define delimitation lines which, in my opinion, reflect the equitable solution for all three states. I am also providing legal arguments about why this or another method (or combination of both) should be applied. It should be noted that rights for continental shelves belong to coastal states ipso facto and ab initio, so at this moment any of the mentioned states can exercise sovereign rights in the area of overlap. Though the exploitation of natural resources and construction of artificial islands are not feasible in a near future, the Arctic states might wish to decide on the delimitation lines before they start the active exploration of the extended shelves in the Arctic.

## How did you become interested in this area of international law?

While working as an assistant professor at the Catholic University of Colombia (2016-2017), I researched public international law. At that time,

the International Court of Justice delivered a judgment on preliminary objections on the Question of the Delimitation of the Continental Shelf between Nicaragua and Colombia beyond 200 Nautical Miles from the Nicaraguan Coast (*Nicaragua v. Colombia*). Together with my colleague Bernardo Perez-Salazar, we decided to write an article on the delimitation of continental shelves between Nicaragua and Colombia beyond 200 nautical miles from the Nicaraguan coast. The result of this study will be published in the *International Journal of Marine and Coastal Law*. I think the law of the sea on the delimitation of continental shelves will be developing because the practice on the delineation and delimitation is emerging and many coastal states have overlapping entitlements for the extended continental shelves. There are several cases on maritime delimitation pending before the international courts and tribunals, some of them include the delimitation of extended shelves.

I did an internship at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) and this experience influenced my views on the process of delimitation. I was able to talk to several judges of the ITLOS who had experience in delimitation and asked their opinion on some aspects of the establishment of maritime borders. I am also passionate about the Arctic. Before starting my PhD, I took “A Changing Arctic” course at the International Summer School of the University of Oslo. The holistic approach to the Arctic implemented by the course professors helped me to see from this unique area from a different perspective. Conducting a study on the Arctic Ocean allows me to combine my passion for the law of the sea and interest in Arctic affairs.

## What are your plans after graduation?

I still have 1.5 years till graduation and time to think about the next step. I liked working in academia and it might be one of the options. In order to strengthen my research skills and establish connections, I worked as a visiting researcher at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis and the Scandinavian Institute of Maritime Law. I am

also going for a three-month stay at the Max Planck Institute Luxembourg for International, European and Regulatory Procedural Law. I am thankful to Queen’s Law for launching the law teaching initiative that aims to help Queen’s-affiliated candidates prepare for law teaching jobs in Canada and other English-speaking markets. I will certainly use their help while preparing my job applications for academic positions.

Another option is to work for an international organization dealing with the law of the sea issues. I absolutely loved my experience at the ITLOS and would like to work in a similar environment.

Another exciting alternative is to seek employment with the Canadian government. It would be amazing to participate in the negotiations on maritime delimitation and get practical experience.

## What do you like best about your Queen’s Law studies in Kingston?

I like that I have a lot of opportunities here at Queen’s. First, there are courses on Public International law and the Law of the Sea taught by Canadian diplomats. I was able to talk to experts in my field and get advice from people who are applying international law to practice. Second, Professor Nicolas Lamp, my supervisor, provides me with good advice on the direction of my research and at the same time gives me a lot of freedom in deciding on the way I structure my work. Third, there are many opportunities for those who want to do research abroad. My research stay at the Scandinavian Institute of Maritime Law was sponsored by the Graduate Dean’s Doctoral Field Travel Grant, Mitacs Global Research Award, and Queen’s Graduate Award. Also, Associate Dean (Graduate Studies and Research) Josh Karton and Dianne Flint, our Graduate Program Coordinator, disseminate a lot of information on various scholarships and programs.



# 2019 McCarthy Tétrault scholarship recipients put legal ethics principles to work

For excelling in their legal ethics and professionalism courses last academic year, Law'19 classmates Jennifer Clay and Ryan Mullins were awarded McCarthy Tétrault scholarships. This year, while Clay is working at a law firm and Mullins is clerking at a court, both are putting that education into action.

Clay is completing her articles at Weaver, Simmons LLP's Labour and Employment Department in Sudbury, Ontario. The full-service firm serves clients throughout Northern Ontario and boasts the largest team of management-side labour lawyers in the region.

"Since starting my articles, it has been fascinating to see how our legal ethics education applies in real practice," she says. "When attending various hearings, I see the ethical principles related to speaking to witnesses throughout the proceedings in action. The conflict of interest principles are always top of mind when dealing with new clients. In the labour and employment context, determining who your client is can be particularly important when dealing with institutional clients."

At Weaver, Simmons, her work includes drafting pleadings, reviewing policies and procedures for compliance with employment legislation, responding to client inquiries about various workplace issues, participating in workplace investigations and drafting workplace investigation reports, preparing witnesses for hearings, researching case law and observing all kinds of hearings with her mentors.

"The legal ethics education provided at Queen's Law truly prepares grads for these types of situations that arise daily during articling, which require putting legal ethics principles to work," she says. "In my last year at Queen's Law, I was humbled to receive the McCarthy Tétrault LLP Scholarship in Legal Ethics and Professionalism. The sponsorship of this award communicates to law students the importance of ethics in the profession."

"We are very lucky at Weaver, Simmons LLP," she continues. "We have mentors who support students during our learning process and will take the time to discuss and reflect on how to approach ethical issues that arise."

Mullins, a Judicial Law Clerk at the Superior Court of Justice in Toronto, asserts the underlying importance of legal ethics and professionalism: "It is a lawyer's duty to perform their role ethically. An ethical lawyer serves their client, their profession, and the greater community."

During his clerkship so far, he has seen and is learning from, many examples of how ethical issues arise in practice. "For example, I have conducted research on when counsel may withdraw as counsel of record for 'ethical reasons' in a family law matter. I then saw the motion to withdraw argued."

"I have also observed, in the in-court conduct of various counsel, differing levels of adherence to the rule that a lawyer must treat opposing counsel with civility," he adds. "I have seen counsel treat each other with the utmost respect, but I have also seen examples of what could be characterized as disrespectful facial expressions or body language directed at opposing counsel's submissions to the court. While passions can often run high in legal proceedings, a lawyer must treat others with civility nonetheless, most especially in the public eye of an open courtroom. Such behaviour contributes, through example, toward respect for the administration of justice."

While conducting his research, Mullins indeed has a front row seat to witness and analyze what he learned about ethics and professionalism at Queen's Law. He is also making good use of this knowledge for his future career.

"As an aspiring Crown Attorney, and a firm



2018-19 McCarthy Tétrault LLP Scholarship in Legal Ethics and Professionalism recipients – Jennifer Clay, an articling student at Weaver, Simmons LLP in Sudbury; and Ryan Mullins, a Judicial Law Clerk at the Superior Court of Justice in Toronto – are applying their knowledge in a subject area of utmost importance.

believer in the ethical practice of law, I was honoured to receive the McCarthy Tétrault LLP Scholarship in Legal Ethics and Professionalism," says Mullins. "I sincerely thank McCarthy Tétrault LLP for their commitment to ethics education at Queen's Law."

Funding an annual scholarship for two students is just one part of the McCarthy Tétrault LLP Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility Program at Queen's Law. The firm also funds

- an annual lecture presented by leading legal community members – including Federal Court of Appeal Justice David Stratas, Law'84 – who share their professional insights and experiences with students and members of the local bar;

- visits to the Legal Ethics and Professionalism class by prominent Canadian lawyers such as securities litigator Joe Groia who discussed the famous *Groia v. Law Society of Upper Canada* case for which the Supreme Court of Canada ruled in his favour in 2018;
- a subsidy for each student registered in the mandatory course for the required text: *Introduction to Legal Ethics, 2nd Edition* (LexisNexis Canada), written by Professor Arthur Cockfield, Law'93, who has extensive teaching experience in legal ethics; and
- a panel of prominent lawyers and judges who discuss challenging issues to all first-year students during Orientation each September.

— LISA GRAHAM



# Learning international law by doing

After studying public international law at the Castle last May and June, Maria Reisdorf, Law'21, spent the rest of her summer applying her new knowledge at the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in Jerusalem.

Working in the Department of Legal Affairs at UNRWA, which provides services to assist and protect over five million registered Palestine refugees, she contributed to international law research projects and to cases before the Agency's internal dispute tribunal, among other things. And she did it with only one year of legal studies under her belt.

"What I really loved about UNRWA was the ability to put in practice the skills I had learnt in 1L and at the Castle immediately," she says. "I got to work on projects dealing with both international and domestic law, allowing for a nice mix of opportunities to learn."

Reisdorf worked on assignments involving international treaties, researching the domestic laws of UNRWA's five host states and how they apply to the unique UN framework, as well as UNRWA's legal obligations regarding sexual misconduct and violence against children.

"My internship allowed me to engage my interests in social justice, public service, and international law," she says. "One of my favourite experiences was assisting on projects in French, such as translating labour laws of Jordan and Syria, and helping ensure the terms of a €2.6 million donation were compatible with the Agency's regulatory framework. This experience has been an incredible learning opportunity."

It also gave her the chance to hone critical practice skills. "I improved my legal research and written advocacy skills by working with both the general and international law teams to ensure the provision of services to Palestine refugees, immersing myself in a variety of legal areas at once," she says. "I learnt more of the variety and breadth of work lawyers can do."

It's her experiences in researching cases, drafting motions to the UN Tribunals on behalf of the Agency and analyzing Tribunal judgements that she feels "will be most valuable to the positions I've applied to for my 2L summer."

Another thing she "loved" about her internship was the people – the lawyers, support staff and other interns. "I found it inspiring to work every day alongside people who truly cared about me as a person, my work and interests, and my career development," she says. "I am so happy that I was able to build lifelong mentorships and friendships

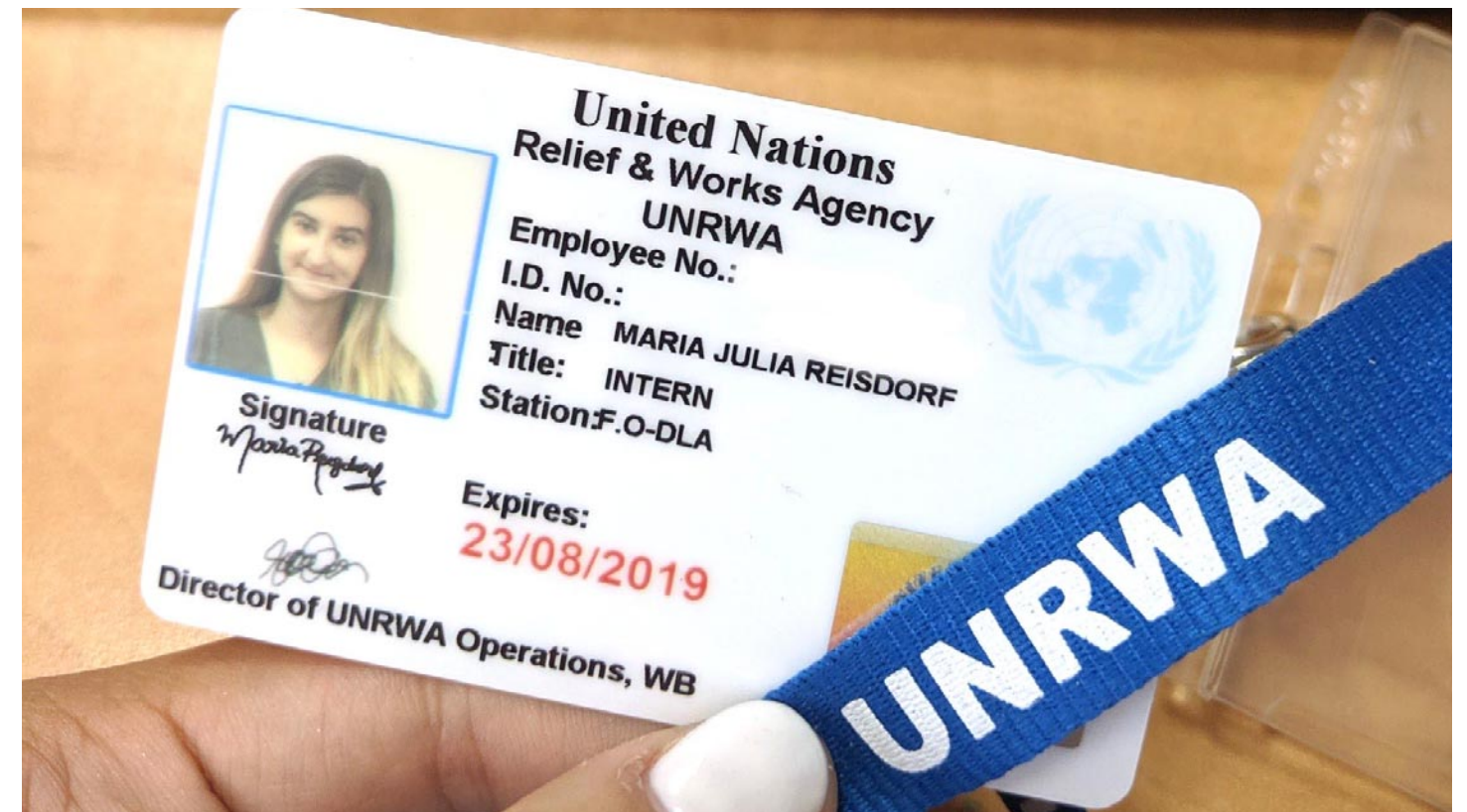
*"I was able to apply the knowledge  
I absorbed at the Castle.  
It was incredible to see what  
I had learned move from  
abstract concepts to real life work."*

with the others in our office. I am thankful to them for making my first experience in law so incredible."

Before this summer, Reisdorf found it difficult to imagine how international law plays out in practice. But now for the first time, she says, "I truly understand how international law can be used to provide services and protect vulnerable people. Despite working in the legal field for the first time, I knew that I was able to handle my projects because of my training from the Castle.

"I was able to apply the knowledge I absorbed at the Castle," she emphasizes, "and it was incredible to see what I had learnt move from abstract concepts to real life work. This internship cemented my desire to pursue a career in international law."

So, what made her consider spending a summer immersed in the study and practice of international law?



Maria Reisdorf, Law'21, put her public international law training from the Castle into action during her summer internship with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency in Jerusalem. It was incredible to see what I had learnt move from abstract concepts to real life work," she says. "I truly understand how international law can be used to provide services and protect vulnerable people."

"I met Professor Ardi Imseis (Associate Academic Director of the International Law Programs at the Bader International Study Centre, Herstmonceux Castle, East Sussex, U.K.) in September of 1L and told him that I wanted to practice international human rights," she says. "He immediately told me to consider the Castle and an internship afterward, but most importantly, he never doubted that this was a viable career option for me. I got in touch with some previous internship students and became very interested in working in refugee protection."

Reisdorf, who received financial support from the Dean's Excellence Fund made possible by contributions of alumni and friends, was one of nine

2019 Castle students who earned academic credit interning abroad at a public interest organization during the summer.

Professor Nicolas Lamp, Academic Director of the [International Law Programs at the Castle](#), arranges for internship partners in the Canadian government, international organizations and non-governmental organizations.

"We approach partners who work on international legal issues from a public interest perspective," says Lamp. "The broad introduction to international law that the students receive at the Castle makes them very attractive for our internship partners."

— LISA GRAHAM



# Clinics–Kingston connection on display at holiday reception



Queen's Law Clinics Executive Director Karla McGrath, LLM'13, Dean Mark Walters, Law'89, and Andrea Risk, Law'99, Managing Partner of Cunningham Swan, in the Clinics' main lobby, where a plaque is displayed to recognize the firm's \$125,000 gift.

"Our Queen's Law Clinics are a wonderful example of a way the university can engage productively with the local community," Dean Mark Walters, Law'89, said to a crowd on December 11. "This engagement is important for our students who gain an insight into the practice of law they can't get in the classroom and for the local community because this place serves that community, including some of its very vulnerable members."

With those words, Walters began his opening remarks to more than 80 alumni, faculty, staff and new Queen's Principal Patrick Deane at the Clinics' home in the heart of downtown Kingston on December 10. The crowd gathered there not only to celebrate the holidays, but also to watch the

unveiling of a plaque in the main reception area to recognize a \$125,000 gift from the city's largest firm, Cunningham, Swan, Carty, Little & Bonham LLP.

Karla McGrath, LLM'13, Executive Director of the Clinics, also addressed the audience, which included several partners and associates from the donor firm. "The experience our students have here and the support we receive from our faculty, alumni and community is amazing," she said.

"Cunningham Swan has a long tradition of providing excellent legal services in Kingston and also giving back to the community," said the firm's managing partner, Andrea Risk, Law'99. "We have done that through our lawyers volunteering their time, as well as giving financially. We thought that

on our firm's 125th anniversary it would be really nice to donate \$125,000 to the Queen's Law Clinics because access to justice is important for our community. We live in this community, our friends and neighbours live in this community, our clients live in this community, and the clinics allow individuals to receive legal support when they need it. The other thing that these clinics do really well is train new lawyers. All of the law students who go through the clinic programs come out with lots of good practical skills, and that is also really fantastic for our community."

Following a round of applause as Walters and Risk unveiled the plaque, guests returned to enjoying even more good company and holiday cheer.

[Check out more photos on our website](#)

*The Queen's Law Clinics gratefully acknowledge the support of Legal Aid Ontario, the Law Foundation of Ontario, Pro Bono Students Canada, the Class of Law'81, the United Way of KFL&A, and alumni and industry sponsors.*

— LISA GRAHAM



Alumni, faculty and staff gathered at the Queen's Law Clinics in downtown Kingston to celebrate the holidays and local firm Cunningham Swan's \$125,000 gift to the clinics.



# Alumni deck the halls in Alberta

While Jack Frost was nipping at the noses of Albertans in the first week of December, Queen's Law alumni at Calgary and Edmonton receptions were filled with warm cheer.

"It was wonderful to catch up with some classmates, as well as other graduates, swap stories about our careers and lives, and update each other about people we've kept in touch with since we graduated," says Peter Goode, Law'96, CEO of Mertex Canada Ltd. in Calgary.

He was at the second of two holiday events for Queen's Law grads in Alberta.

For the first one on December 4, alumni gathered in the office of Dentons Canada LLP in the central business district of the province's capital. Hosting the event were Alberta Council member Leanne Krawchuk, Law'97, and managing partner Fausto Franceschi.

The next evening, grads got together in the office of TriWest Capital Partners – where Alberta Council member Dino DeLuca, Law'87, is COO – overlooking the bustling downtown area of the province's largest city. This reception was hosted by



Calgary

Alberta Council co-chair Peter Johnson, Law'89, Executive VP, Chief Legal and Regulatory Officer for Shaw Communications Inc.

At both events, Dean Mark Walters, Law'89, presented a brief update on Queen's Law, including: its **increasingly diverse student body**; a **95 per cent placement rate of JD students** for three running, the ever-popular undergraduate **Certificate in Law** program; the **new Graduate Diploma in Immigration and Citizenship**; and the **Graduate Diploma in Legal Services Management** for law students and junior lawyers.

"I really enjoyed meeting with Dean Walters and hearing his speech about the value of a contemporary legal education," says Goode. "His speech was interesting to me as I've moved on to a business role, but I continue to draw from my education at the law school and from private practice.

"The Queen's Law reception was terrific," he adds. "Looking forward to the next get together here!"

[Check out more photos on our website!](#)



Edmonton



## Upcoming Events

Celebrate  
Queen's Law  
in Toronto

Save the date!

Thursday, May 21





# Send your news for *Queen's Law Reports* 2020!



You told us that Alumni Notes is one of the sections you read most in *Queen's Law Reports*.

With a new issue to be mailed and posted to the Queen's Law website this spring, you have a chance to tell your classmates your personal or professional news.

Have you recently married, become a parent,

relocated, been promoted or honoured? Are you starting a new job, a new position, or perhaps retiring?

Then please send your news and high-resolution digital photo to editor **Lisa Graham** by **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17** for publication in the 2020 issue of *Queen's Law Reports*.



**@queensulaw**





# Homecoming 2020 **October 16-18**

We are thrilled to be welcoming back  
**Law '60, '65, '70, '75, '80, '85, '90, '95, '00, '05, '10, and '15!**

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Check your email for more information about our planned activities!



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