

OSGOODE HALL LAW SCHOOL OF YORK UNIVERSITY

| ALUMNI MAGAZINE

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WINTER 2018



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## CONTINUUM

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# Message from the Dean

Between what is new, what is well established, and what is to come, there are many reasons to value our connections to Osgoode.



PHOTO: NEW PARAMOUNT STUDIOS

**This fall** has been a remarkable time at Osgoode, with much that is new, much that builds on established success, and still more that will pave the way to a brighter future for the Law School.

First, what's new? Osgoode welcomed its two newest experiential programs with the launch of the Investor Protection Clinic in collaboration with the Canadian Foundation for the Advancement of Investor Rights (FAIR Canada), and Feminist Advocacy: Ending Violence Against Women Clinical Program, in collaboration with the Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic. These two bring Osgoode's complement of experiential and clinical programs to 19, as Osgoode continues to demonstrate leadership in experiential education and access to justice.

This fall we also launched a new partnership with DUKE Heights BIA as part of our Community Osgoode initiative. This two-year pilot will see the Law School work with social enterprises, start-ups and small businesses in the community surrounding the University's Keele campus to enhance social and economic opportunities.

Osgoode and York University also ushered in the new year with the long-awaited and much anticipated opening of two new subway stations serving York University. For our students, our staff, our faculty (and especially our adjunct faculty), the arrival of the subway represents far more than more convenient transit - it reflects a reunification with the urban fabric of Toronto, and of course a new thread weaving together Osgoode's main building on the York campus with Osgoode Professional Development (OsgoodePD) downtown.

Second, we continue to build on areas of important commitments to innovation in legal education. For example, following a successful Artists in Residence Program (now entering its fifth year), the Law School launched a new Journalist in Residence Program in the fall. We welcomed two extraordinary journalists, Gail Cohen and Roxana Olivera, who are pursuing compelling projects and engaging with law students over this academic year.

As we implement the Access Osgoode 2017-2020 Strategic Plan, Osgoode has been investing in our shared priorities in bold ways. Last summer, the

Law School launched the Reconciliation Fund, a three-year \$300,000 commitment to Osgoode's support for and engagement with Indigenous communities, Indigenous students, staff and faculty, and Indigenous legal knowledge. A significant new investment of over \$500,000 also has been made in the Accessibility Fund, including an expansion of Osgoode's Income Contingent Loan Program.

Third, renewal has been a recurring theme at Osgoode this fall. York University has just marked the installation of Rhonda Lenton as President and Vice Chancellor in October, 2017. With the end of my term as Dean, the Law School is embarking on a decanal search process in 2018. In addition, Osgoode's Chief Law Librarian, Louis Mirando, ended his term just as this academic year began, and a search for new leadership in Osgoode's Law Library will take place in 2018 as well.

Renewal involves not just people but spaces. Osgoode Professional Development will undergo a full re-imagining of its striking space on the 26th floor of 1 Dundas Street West this coming summer, and we look forward to unveiling a state-of-the-art lifelong-learning hub in September 2018.

Between what is new, what is well established, and what is to come, there are many reasons to value our connections to Osgoode. For myself, Osgoode has been a wellspring. I owe a huge debt to this community, and in particular to all those with whom I have had the privilege to work over these last eight years as Dean. I have more confidence than ever that Osgoode's best days lie ahead, and I hope that is a sentiment shared widely among those reading this and future issues of Continuum.

**LORNE SOSSIN '92**  
Dean



## MEET THE CLERKS

Judicial clerkships are a prestigious and invaluable opportunity for recent law graduates to deepen their knowledge and skills in the law, and gain insight into the judicial process, while assisting one or more judges in the work of a court. Osgoode is proud that 13 students secured clerkships for the 2018-2019 term. Four Osgoode graduates will be clerking with the Supreme Court of Canada, four with the Court of Appeal for Ontario, three with the Ontario Superior Court, one with the Federal Court of Appeal, and one with the Federal Court.

**Seated**, from left, are Sebastian Beck-Watt (FC), Siobhain Wetscher (OSC), Samantha Brown (OSC), Abdalla Barqawi (SCC), Alexandra Allison (OCA), and Alana Rodrigo (OSC). **Standing**, from left, are Kirandeep Mahal (OCA), Stephen Dalby (FCA), John Mastrangelo (SCC), Parmbir Gill (OCA), and Sarah Weinberger (SCC). **Missing** from the photo are Lillianne Cadieux-Shaw (SCC) and Tanner Stanley (OCA).

## AI, Robots and the Legal System

A group of 18 graduate students from the David R. Cheriton School of Computer Science at the University of Waterloo and 15 Osgoode JD students participated this fall in a first-of-its-kind seminar (via videoconference at both locations) that explored the legal, ethical, policy, and technical challenges associated with the rise of artificial intelligence (“AI”), robotics, automation, and big data.

The students studied applications as diverse as autonomous vehicles, predictive policing and the use of automated risk assessments in the criminal justice system, sex robots, and lethal autonomous weapons, to learn about what is technically feasible today—and will likely be possible tomorrow.

“There are significant challenges that individuals and society are likely to face as a result of emerging technologies,” said Maura Grossman, a Research Professor at the School of Computer Science who taught the

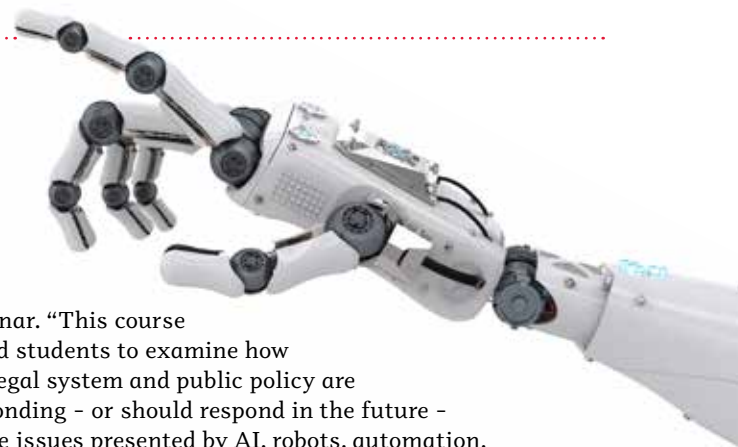


Maura Grossman

seminar. “This course asked students to examine how the legal system and public policy are responding – or should respond in the future – to the issues presented by AI, robots, automation, and big data.”

Topics addressed in the seminar included: defining what AI and robots are, and what they can do or can be expected to do in the reasonably foreseeable future; whether AI agents and robots should have rights; relationships between AI agents or robots and their human counterparts; who is liable when “good AI/robots go bad”; military uses of AI; issues of algorithm aversion, algorithmic bias, and transparency; regulation of AI and robots, including privacy issues; and the impact of automation and technological unemployment as a result of the explosion of AI.

Course material was drawn from scholarly work both in the scientific and legal domains, as well as from popular media. Assisting Grossman with the seminar were Alex Williams, a computer science PhD candidate at the David R. Cheriton School of Computer Science, and Aviv Gaon, an Osgoode PhD candidate.



## Growing Community Partnerships

In keeping with Osgoode’s commitment to cultivate law graduates who will serve and strengthen the communities in which they live and work, the Law School is devoting substantial resources over the next few years to support ongoing and new student-led projects that partner with community groups.

The newest of these community collaborations – the DUKE Heights/Osgoode Hall Law School Community Impact Project – was officially launched on October 6, 2017. The two-year pilot program will see DUKE Heights, which is located in North York and is the second largest Business Improvement Area (BIA) in North America, working with Osgoode to create a Virtual Employment Hub and, in particular, an online legal information service. The Virtual Employment Hub will offer one source through the DUKE Heights website where employers, entrepreneurs and job seekers can find resources to help them succeed and grow.

To ensure the success of the collaboration, DUKE Heights has hired a Community Impact Coordinator to work as a liaison for Osgoode and DUKE Heights BIA between members, employment organizations and potential employees.

“Greater community engagement is one of the key priorities to which we have committed in our Access Osgoode strategic plan,” said Dean Lorne Sossin. “We are investing energy and resources in creating and supporting opportunities for students to make community engagement a central and positive part of their experience at Osgoode.”

As well, the Law School began implementing a social procurement strategy in 2017 (as part of the AnchorTO ‘buy local’ initiative) with a goal of significantly increasing its



Symone Walters, Community Impact Coordinator, DUKE Heights BIA

support for independent businesses in the vicinity of York University, social enterprises and businesses supporting equity-seeking communities.

The School also intends to grow the number of public interest summer internships that it supports (including those funded by donors), and is advancing its engagement in the community in a number of other ways including through the Law in Action Within Schools program, hosting of the Success Beyond Limits youth leadership camp, and new partnerships with Indigenous communities.

*The DUKE Heights/Osgoode Hall Law School Community Impact Project was officially launched on October 6, 2017*



From left to right: Kerith Paul, Ghuna Bdiwi, Deiaa Bacha, Saleh Baset, Deyaa Katranji, Tamim Katranji, Pierre-André Thériault, Sedrah Katranji, Mukhles Katranji, Nora Khallof, Farah Katranji, Julia Simone, Chance Finegan, Asma Atique, John Carlaw.

Osgoode's refugee sponsorship initiative, which combines refugee sponsorship with experiential learning opportunities for students, is entering its third year.

By Pierre-André Thériault

The first Syrian refugees sponsored by the Osgoode sponsor team arrived in Toronto last March 2. Tamim and Nora Katranji and their four children, Mukhles, 18, Deyaa, 15, Sedrah, 11, and Farah, 6, are now settled in Mississauga where the children attend school and the parents are enrolled full-time in language training.

A second family is currently awaiting the processing of their application. Both sponsorships were made possible through the financial contributions of a group of Ontario labour arbitrators, the law firm Greenspan Humphrey Weinstein, and donations from members of the Osgoode community.

According to Dean Lorne Sossin, "one of the real points of both pride and purpose as we look at this initiative, especially in the realm of community engagement that's bound up in our academic mission, is that the Syrian refugee sponsorship initiative saw Osgoode students providing pro bono

legal assistance, Osgoode alumni donating significant sums of money to provide that support, and volunteer contributions by staff and students who are getting involved on the ground to help the Katranji family settle."

Osgoode's refugee sponsorship efforts are part of Lifeline Syria Challenge, an innovative initiative that brings together York University, Ryerson University, the University of Toronto and OCAD University.

In addition, Osgoode has partnered with the Refugee Sponsorship Support Program to create a course and volunteer opportunities where Osgoode students are matched with lawyers to provide pro bono legal services to refugees abroad and their Canadian sponsors. So far, over 250 refugees have been assisted by Osgoode students.

For more information, visit the Syria Response and Refugee Initiative website at: [osgoode.yorku.ca/refugees](http://osgoode.yorku.ca/refugees)

*Pierre-André Thériault is a lawyer and Osgoode PhD student who has been helping to coordinate the Law School's refugee sponsorship efforts as well as York's broader sponsorship program.*

## Fifty Years and Still Going Strong

On March 17, 1967, Jack Walker was called to the Bar. Fifty years later to the day on March 17, 2017, his firm, Walker West Longo LLP, marked the half-century anniversary of that special occasion with a reception and the establishment of an Osgoode award in his honour.

The Jack Walker QC Award for Excellence in Legal Ethics and Professionalism will be given annually to up to two graduating students who have achieved academic excellence and who, throughout their time at Osgoode, have demonstrated Jack Walker's dedication to professionalism through their courtesy, honesty and integrity, both in and outside the classroom.

Jack Walker graduated from Osgoode in 1965 and, after teaching at the Law School for 10 years, he went on to become one of the most highly respected property tax lawyers in Canada. In addition to acting on many high-profile cases, he co-founded the International Property Tax Institute and was the founder of the Ontario Property Tax Lawyers Association.



He has written extensively on the topics of assessment and property taxation. He is the co-author of the Ontario Property Tax Assessment Handbook, which is widely regarded as an essential publication for property tax and assessment practitioners. Mr. Walker became a member of Her Majesty's Counsel (QC) in 1981.

## Aboriginal Youth Meet to Discuss a More Reflective, Responsive Justice System

More than 25 Aboriginal youth from across Ontario gathered in Thunder Bay last August for a 2 1/2-day design thinking workshop that explored how technology can be used to improve police-youth relations.

Funded by the Law Foundation of Ontario, and organized and designed by Osgoode's Winkler Institute for Dispute Resolution, the youth-directed workshop was meant to help accelerate the implementation of the recommendations found in Feathers of Hope - Justice & Juries: A First Nations Youth Action Plan for Justice.

Winkler Institute's Academic Co-Director Nicole Aylwin said the workshop, which culminated in "a listening table" of justice stakeholders and community members and leaders who were presented with the youth's ideas and prototypes, was a way to showcase youth voices and highlight their desire to improve the justice system.

"The youth were the experts at this workshop," Aylwin said. "They know the problems their communities face and they used their expertise and knowledge to create solutions that will improve access to justice and create change in their communities." The prototypes of the solutions designed by the youth participants are available on the Winkler Institute website.

As one youth participant in the workshop remarked, "It was a great experience working together as a team. I loved it. Everyone had their own ideas that made everything come together. It was a real example of the saying, 'If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.'"

# Welcoming our JOURNALISTS IN RESIDENCE

Osgoode's inaugural Journalist in Residence Program kicked off this fall with the arrival of two award-winning journalists for the 2017-18 academic year.



Gail J. Cohen

Gail J. Cohen, former Editor-in-Chief of Thomson Reuters-owned Canadian Lawyer magazine and its family of publications, and Roxana Olivera, an investigative journalist whose reporting has appeared in digital, broadcast and print media, are each spending time pursuing journalistic projects that engage the Osgoode community, involve law students, and enrich understanding of law and its impact.

Cohen, with the assistance of several JD students from all three years, is examining the impact of landmark rights and equality cases and legislation involving the LGBTQ community, from the litigant's perspective as well as on the legal landscape in Canada.

"The Journalist in Residence Program is a unique opportunity to bring together and examine from many angles storytelling and the law," Cohen said. "Journalism and the practice of law have much in common, but also have a symbiotic relationship that requires both sides to understand how the other functions. This program is a wonderful step to bring about that better understanding for the players, but also the public."

Olivera is exploring the boundaries of the law with respect to child victimization and internet-related

exploitation. What piqued her interest in this subject was the disturbing case, nearly eight decades ago, of a five-year-old girl in Latin America who was pregnant. Journalists turned the little girl's tragic circumstance into a sensational news story, invading her privacy, robbing her of her childhood, and stripping her of her human dignity, Olivera noted.

"Today, the child's story, name and photographs circulate widely on the internet. Images of her naked body when she was seven months pregnant - taken, without her prior and informed consent, in an era in which there was no internet - currently appear on Wikipedia, Facebook, YouTube and a long list of online publications."

In an effort to find ways to have those images destroyed and permanently removed from public display, Olivera has brought together a group of Osgoode faculty and students to help her research the various legal and ethical issues related to this topic.

"I hope that my fervent commitment to promoting human rights and social justice through storytelling will be contagious to students," Olivera said. "It is my sincere belief that the plight of this five-year-old girl will exert a lasting impact on their future legal careers."



Roxana Olivera

## New program brings international interns to Osgoode

The Law School hosted four visitors March 6 to 17, 2017 through the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA) Judicial Internship Program.

The new program, made possible by a Government of Canada grant, provided the interns (established professionals in their fields) with an opportunity to study overseas, in an effort to foster judicial reform and increase access to justice in the Americas region.

This year's interns came from Argentina, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago to conduct research on topics ranging from Aboriginal rights to small claims litigation, alternative dispute resolution and access to information.



Pictured, from left: Professor Carys Craig, then Associate Dean (Research and Institutional Relations); Shoshanna V. Lall (Trinidad and Tobago); Carolina Ahumada (Argentina); Fernando Kosovsky (Argentina); Kamla Jo Braithwaite (Trinidad and Tobago); Professor Benjamin Berger, Associate Dean (Students).

## A CATALYST FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING



Syrian-born Professor Jamil Ammar is the Osgoode Catalyst Fellow for the 2017-18 academic year. He joined Osgoode from Rutgers Law School in Newark, New Jersey where he spent a two-year fellowship funded by the Institute of International Education and Rutgers Chancellor's Office. Before that, Ammar served as a postdoctoral research fellow at Edinburgh Law School. Previously, he worked as an Assistant Professor at Damascus University, Faculty of Law, and he was the Head of Management Department at the Arab International University.

Due to the ongoing calamity, Ammar and his family left Syria to settle in Canada. His next goal is "to forge a new path in the Canadian, quite competitive, academic community and thus to find a permanent job," once his one-year term as Catalyst Fellow has ended.

"The Osgoode Catalyst Fellowship provides a unique, rich and indispensable professional interaction without which forging an effective and cutting-edge academic path in Canada would have been much harder," he said.

Ammar's interaction with distinguished colleagues and scientists at Osgoode and York at large has so far enabled him to advance his "beyond the edge"

research at the cybersecurity and 3D bio-printing frontiers.

The author of two books as well as numerous articles, reports and reviews, he has a PhD in law (Edinburgh University), a Master's in international commercial law (University of Wales Swansea), a Master's in commercial law (Damascus University), and an LLB (Damascus University).

His research and teaching focus is on the interface between intellectual property, products liability, cybersecurity and emerging technologies, examining the impact that those technologies have on the way that the law is perceived and used by the relevant stakeholders. He is currently engaged in two research projects: one examines the impact of 3D bio-printing technologies on software-based medical devices and products liability law; the other assesses the viability of machine learning and network analysis methods in curbing extreme speech on social media platforms.

The Osgoode Catalyst Fellowship is designed to bring emerging scholars to the Law School who have a demonstrated interest in a career in law teaching, and to provide support and mentorship to scholars who will enhance the diversity of the profession.

# NEW DIRECTORS OF CLASP AND PCLS

**As of November, two of Osgoode's busiest and longest-running community clinics have new directors who are both strong social justice advocates.**

Suzanne Johnson, who holds Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Social Work degrees from York University and an LLB from Osgoode (2003), has been appointed Director of the Community and Legal Aid Services Program (CLASP). Johanna Macdonald, who obtained an LLB from the University of British Columbia followed by an LLM in 2014 from Osgoode, is Clinic Director of Parkdale Community Legal Services (PCLS).

Johnson began her career in 2003 with a criminal defence firm. Two years later, she went on to start her own practice, focusing on criminal and immigration law, and in particular youth criminal justice. She successfully ran her practice until 2012. Her passion for education and social justice led to her decision to join CLASP as Review counsel in 2006 where she supervised and instructed students in the areas of criminal and immigration law. She served as Acting Director of CLASP for 18 months before being appointed as Director on November 1.

A resident of the Parkdale neighbourhood, Macdonald has dedicated roots in the community legal clinic system and a depth of experience in clinical legal education. She was the first Program Lawyer for the Health Justice Initiative partnering St. Michael's Hospital with legal clinics ARCH Disability Law Centre, Aboriginal Legal Services Toronto, HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario, and Neighbourhood Legal Services. Prior to the Health Justice Initiative, she was the Street Youth Legal Services Lawyer at Justice for Children and Youth. She also worked internationally at the Khmer Institute of Democracy in Cambodia, with student legal clinics, and in the non-profit sector.



Suzanne Johnson



Johanna Macdonald

# The Eagle Feather Gift

BY VIRGINIA CORNER

*An eagle feather*, signifying the virtues of honesty, integrity and respect, has found a new home at York University, thanks to the generosity of Ontario Court of Appeal Justice Harry LaForme '77, '08 (LLD).

During the course of his illustrious career, LaForme, who is Ojibwa and a member of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation, has been presented with a total of nine eagle feathers in recognition of his dedicated leadership within the legal profession and within the Indigenous community.

This particular eagle feather that he gave to Osgoode this fall had gone everywhere with him, from sweat lodges and meetings to his chambers and home, since 1991 when the late Elder Alex Skead presented it to him for the important work he had done on behalf of Indigenous people as Commissioner of the Indian Commission of Ontario.

Working in that role from 1989 to 1991 and against all odds, LaForme was instrumental in bringing together six different bands in northern Ontario, the provincial government and the federal government, and getting land turned over to the bands so that they could have their own reserve.

When Elder Skead presented him with the eagle feather, LaForme was utterly astonished. "I think I probably cried. I said thank you over a thousand times, I'm sure. It's one of the most honourable things that we can do in our community when you present somebody with an eagle feather. You're saying, 'We honour you. We trust you. We respect you.' That's what the eagle feather is all about: honesty, integrity, respect."

In his work with Dare to Dream, a program that mentors and inspires young Aboriginal students through justice education and outreach activities by Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal lawyers, LaForme has told the story of the eagle feather many times, and let the children stroke it.

"They learn something about the meaning of the eagle feather and something about their customs and traditions," said LaForme, whose appointment in 2004 to the Court of Appeal for Ontario marked the first time an Indigenous person was appointed to a Canadian appellate court.

LaForme has also brought the eagle feather to Osgoode's Honour Ceremony for Indigenous graduating students every year for the past three years. On the last two occasions, however, he left the eagle feather behind. Once he made it to his car in the parking lot before realizing he'd forgotten the eagle feather. The next time, he was all the way home before noticing it was missing.

He took it as a sign that the eagle feather was meant to reside on the York campus. When the cabin behind the Law School was renamed Skennen'kó:wa Gamig ("The House of Great Peace") in June 2017 and dedicated as a space where Indigenous

students, staff and faculty can 'come home' to their teachings as they move through the University, LaForme made the decision to give the eagle feather to the York community.

"I knew in my heart that that's where the feather was meant to be," he said. "Those Indigenous students who make Skennen'kó:wa Gamig their place of refuge and find comfort in that place, I wanted the spirit of that eagle feather - and it seemed to want it itself - to be there for them."



Justice Harry LaForme with Michael Johnston '17

Virginia Corner is Osgoode's Communications Manager.

# FROM LAW TO POLITICS:



# JAGMEET SINGH

## EMBRACES HIS OPPORTUNITY

By Suzanne Bowness



**T**he life of a politician is not one that Jagmeet Singh '05 saw coming as a law student at Osgoode, let alone a position as head of Canada's federal New Democratic Party. Yet in the wake of his surge from dark horse candidate to leader in October 2017, today he finds himself criss-crossing the country, as politicians do, meeting supporters, sharing his vision, participating in media scrums. Today it's a life he fully embraces, given its potential to drive change at a higher level.

Even law school was a bit of a fluke for Singh. He'd always thought he would follow in his father's footsteps to become a doctor. But then a professor in his undergraduate Philosophy of Law course at Western University saw a talent. "He said, 'You seem to be really interested and good at it. Maybe you want to consider law as a career,'" recalls Singh. He also wanted to start earning an income as quickly as possible to help support his family as his father was ill at the time. Weighing the options, law seemed to fit.

But the application deadline was looming. "I remember it was Halloween night at Western, which was a school known for having great festivities. I didn't go to the Halloween party that I was planning to go to, and instead worked on my law school application," he says. In an era when electronic applications were just starting, he chose the hard-copy option and drove in to drop it off on deadline day. At midnight.

‘Love and courage’ to me is not just a slogan, it’s a way of life and it’s the way I approach challenges, the way I approach life in general.



### Criminal law practice

The decision to focus on criminal law was also random to start, as he had been thinking about immigration or real estate, or, because of his science undergraduate degree, patent. So, he started going to courthouses and listening to trials. He recalls a case in particular where a lawyer was cross-examining a police officer who had stopped a young black man for no reason. “He was grilling the police officer and it looked like a lot of fun because I remembered being stopped unfairly and I remember how that feels. I found that really interesting and it was at that moment I thought, ‘Maybe that’s going to be the law I want to practice,’” says Singh.

From there, he researched the names of some criminal lawyers on the Law Society website and started calling them up to take them out for coffee. One who responded ended up hiring him for an articling position. He started his career working for Toronto criminal defence firm Pinkofskys, then opened a practice with his brother, Gurratan, who also attended Osgoode and graduated in 2010.

Of course, from there his career took its turn into politics, when after an unsuccessful federal run Singh ran for the Ontario New Democratic Party and secured a seat as MPP for Bramalea-Gore-Malton in 2011. He became deputy leader in 2015 before leaving to run for the federal leadership in 2017. In entering politics, Singh follows in the footsteps of several other Osgoode graduates, including former Ontario Premier Ernie Eves ’70, the late Jim Flaherty ’73 (one of Canada’s longest-serving finance ministers) and Alberta Premier Rachel Notley ’90.

### More activist than politician in law school days

Back to campus. Singh says he remembers his Osgoode experience fondly, especially the diversity of students with interests in many types of law. He lived in residence at Assiniboine, so he was able to immerse himself in campus life and still has many friends from the program, particularly in criminal law.

Campus was also the origins of his political life, although again, not exactly. Singh was more activist than politician back then, a community advocate on poverty, immigration, refugee rights, accessible education. He credits fellow activists with convincing him to get involved in politics. “People around me just really, really wanted me to do it—my colleagues, friends, folks that I worked with, my brother was really active. He’s probably one of the biggest reasons I did it,” says Singh.

Singh becomes thoughtful when asked about the different appeals of politics and law. “The thing that I was drawn to was, in law, I really appreciated the discrete nature of it. You get one case or a bunch of cases, a certain issue, research, prepare, fight for that issue on that one, fight for that client and then work towards justice and hopefully get a result. You fix or you advance justice case by case,” he says. By contrast, he says, you’re able to touch more people in politics. “There’s also something really cool about having the platform to talk about issues that impact a lot of people at once,” he says.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE OFFICE OF THE LEADER OF THE NDP

He credits his team with boosting him to the NDP leadership. He also thinks the win stemmed from the philosophy that defined his campaign. “‘Love and courage’ to me is not just a slogan, it’s a way of life and it’s the way I approach challenges, the way I approach life in general. I think there’s something about that message, which was really timely, during a period of time where there’s a lot of divisive politics,” he says. In terms of next steps, it’s now prime minister or bust. More specifically, Singh says some of his top issues include universal pharmacare, reconciliation, climate change, electoral reform, and decriminalization.

### Advice for current students

Singh brightens when asked about advice he would have for current Osgoode students. “Oh, my goodness, so much advice,” he says. He does recommend sitting in at court and informational interviews as a route to finding a compatible focus in law, and not settling until you find an area that grabs you. “If you like a certain area of law, speak to people in that area of law, ask them what their life is like. See if you can shadow them. You will definitely find an area that you’re interested in, but it’s a matter of finding it,” he says.

But his biggest suggestion is to be open to opportunities, something he says took him a long time. “I came in with a certain mentality and I was resistant to being open,” he says. His one regret at Osgoode was not taking advantage of the exchange programs, something he recommended to his brother afterwards. “I think you really need to try out everything, take chances, get out of your comfort zone, really just be open to the opportunities presented to you.”

He adds that he was also closed to politics for a long time. “I initially said no, I don’t want to do it, I don’t want to get into it. It took a lot of persuading—if my friends and my brother hadn’t persuaded me so much, I maybe wouldn’t have pursued it and I would’ve missed out on this opportunity to do so much good, but also to have such a fulfilling career.”

*Suzanne Bowness is a Toronto-based writer and editor, and Principal of Codeword Communications.*

By Christine Ward

# THEORY, *meet* PRACTICE

## Introducing Osgoode's two newest clinical programs

Osgoode has a rich history in experiential education, beginning almost 50 years ago with the Criminal Law Intensive and the Intensive Program in Poverty Law at Parkdale Community Legal Services. Today there are 19 ways for aspiring clinical education students to experience law in action – including two brand new programs launched last fall. The Investor Protection Clinic and the Feminist Advocacy: Ending Violence Against Women Clinical Program are each the first of their kind in Canada and an innovative way for Osgoode JD students to deepen their knowledge and skills, and gain the mix of theory, practice and reflection they require for graduation.

## WORTH INVESTING IN

*Investor Protection Clinic fills the bill for investors with nowhere else to turn*

Kevin remembers saying to himself, “It’s too good to be true.” But the friend of a friend who pitched the investment opportunity assured him it was short-term — just three to six months — and very secure. What’s more, the person heading up the venture was well known in the community.

So, Kevin ignored the warning bells and pressed transfer to the tune of \$60,000.

Nearly five years later, he’s berating himself for his rapid-fire decision. “I kept thinking everything would fall into place, but the truth is I was in the dark the whole time.” His repeated emails and phone calls, even a one-on-one with the company CEO, led to more promises, but never any investment returns or a return of capital. Kevin’s frustration turned to anger and then to resignation. He agreed to share his story with Continuum Magazine, but not to use his real name.

“This was my life, this was my money, but I kind of gave up.”

And then he ran into a buddy, an Osgoode graduate who told him about a new clinical program offered by the school in partnership with the Canadian Foundation for Advancement of Investor Rights (FAIR Canada). The Investor Protection Clinic pairs students with practising lawyers to provide free legal advice to people who believe their investments were mishandled and who cannot afford a lawyer to help them sort out the problem.

Second-year student Gabrielle Wright is one of 12 students assigned to the Investor Protection Clinic. Prior to beginning law school, Wright spent five years as a psychiatric hospital forensic nurse caring for accused offenders during court-ordered evaluations. Still, nothing could have prepared her for her first ever client interview.

“I was really, really nervous,” she admits.

Functioning as an intake committee, she and three peers spent hours pouring over the notes from Kevin’s initial client telephone briefing. They mapped out a plan of action based on a sample script and a list of precedents provided during the program’s month-long training session in September.

Thirty seconds into the meeting, it all went out the window.

“I learned nothing can truly prepare you for what a client might do or say,” Wright laughs.

Investor Protection Clinic director, Professor Poonam Puri, nods: “The students thought they were prepared and they were. But things often take an unexpected turn with a client in the room. That’s the beauty of experiential education — seeing how theory and policy interact with practice, and learning how to tackle the challenges and realities of practising law.”

Kevin’s story and all those shared with the clinic are anything but predictable.

Puri founded the Investor Protection Clinic with Marian Passmore, the Director of Policy and COO at FAIR Canada, and FAIR’s then legal counsel Kate Swanson after they co-hosted an investor recovery conference, which pointed to significant gaps in the system. Recent changes in many pension plan models mean future pensioners are often faced with making their own investment decisions. When they do set out to navigate the market, their decisions are complicated by the increasing number and complexity of available investment products.

“Many people are relying on brokers, financial advisors or other people they trust and think are qualified,” Puri explains. Those relationships can sometimes



Poonam Puri

open the door to inappropriate advice, misrepresented risk, unexplained fees or even outright fraud. Puri says there is a gap in the system for people needing support when something goes wrong.

“For those without the financial means to hire a lawyer, it can feel like there’s nowhere to turn.”

Puri, Passmore and Swanson were debating potential solutions when the Law Foundation of Ontario Access to Justice Fund issued a call for proposals focused on securities law. Their joint proposal — to bridge the gap with a clinic run by Osgoode professors, volunteer lawyers and students — was awarded nearly \$100,000 in start-up funding. The trio spent a year creating the framework for the program leading up to its launch last September.

The response was “amazing,” says Puri. More than 60 outstanding Osgoode students competed for 12 first-year spots, and leading business lawyers from Bennett Jones LLP, Siskinds LLP, Koskie Minsky LLP, Groia & Company, Crawley MacKewn Brush LLP and MBC Law Professional Corporation stepped forward as pro bono supervisors.

In addition to intake interviews to tease out the case facts and identify eligible cases, the students are responsible for pinpointing the legal issues present in each file and the potential remedies. Ultimately, they may assist the supervising lawyers with everything from writing a complaint letter, to mediation, arbitration or even litigation in the courts. The goal, says Puri, is to have students “gain a unique perspective on the challenges faced by the retail investor — ordinary Canadian investors investing their hard-earned money.”

Wright calls it the intersection between business and social justice. “We’re helping average people who have suffered a loss.”

People like Kevin, who is continuing to work with the clinic team and says he is now “cautiously optimistic” about the outcome of his case supported by students he describes as “savvy and having something to prove.”

“When I first met with them, I felt like a weight was lifted from my shoulders. The last few years have been such an emotional roller coaster. If it works out, it works out, but I’m quietly confident something will give.”

For more information about the Investor Protection Clinic, call 416-736-5538 or email [IPC@osgoode.yorku.ca](mailto:IPC@osgoode.yorku.ca)

## “THE TIME IS NOW”

*Osgoode and the Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic join forces to provide knowledgeable, effective legal representation for women*

The Harvey Weinstein sexual harassment scandal had yet to rock the world when Samantha Brown was invited to participate in an Osgoode clinical pilot program on feminist advocacy and ending violence against women. The then second-year student and 15-year police veteran jumped at the opportunity.

“Coming from a traditionally male-dominated workforce and dealing with the patriarchy that still exists, I was searching for some way to help mend the system.” She’s pretty sure she’s found it.

Brown was a Peel beat officer in the early 2000s when she and her partner responded to a domestic violence call. “When I arrived,” she recalls, “my male partner told me he had it covered and basically wanted me to leave.” Brown stayed on the scene, spoke to the woman who was involved and lobbied for charges to be laid against the woman’s ex-boyfriend — against the wishes of her colleague.

“I had to force the issue,” she says.

This kind of marginalization and sexual harassment within the policing profession is ultimately why Brown decided to attend law school and why she was so quick to say yes to Osgoode’s new Feminist Advocacy: Ending Violence Against Women Clinical Program. After a two-year pilot, the nine-credit program was officially launched in September as a partnership between Osgoode and the Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic, a Toronto legal, counseling and interpretation clinic for women who have experienced abuse. The Schlifer Clinic honours the memory of Osgoode graduate Barbra Schlifer, who was murdered on the day of her call to the bar in 1980.

“The [Feminist Advocacy] program’s genesis goes back a long way,” explains Professor Janet Mosher, Co-Director of the program with Joanna Birenbaum, an adjunct faculty member and equality and human rights litigator at Ursel Phillips Fellows Hopkinson LLP. (During Mosher’s sabbatical this year, the program is being co-led by Birenbaum and Schlifer Clinic legal director Deepa Mattoo.) “We’re seeing now a lot of attention to years of failings by the justice system in terms of its response to violence against women.”

While steps are being taken to reform the system — in family law, for example, violence perpetrated against a spouse is now a factor that needs to be considered when deciding the best interests of a child — Mosher and Birenbaum agree a great deal more work is still required.

Janet Mosher



Like Brown, they want to see more knowledgeable, effective representation for women who have experienced abuse.

The Feminist Advocacy Clinical Program is delivering. Since last September, 12 Osgoode students have devoted one full day a week to aiding women in need of legal support at the Schlifer clinic. They offer legal intake services, work on family law and immigration law files and law reform initiatives, and assist with an early advice program for sexual assault survivors, all under the supervision of the clinic’s staff lawyers and paralegals. To better connect theory and practice, the clinical program also includes court observations and the opportunity for students to meet the case lawyers and presiding judge or justice of the peace. Feminist legal practitioners are also regularly invited to join the class in discussions about what it means to be a feminist lawyer and how the students might mirror those values in their work in the clinic and in their future legal practice.

While the current class is comprised solely of female students, Mosher emphasizes that the program is open to both men and women. Male students participated in each of the first two pilot years, assisting female clients who agreed in advance to male representation.

All told, more than 30 students have been involved in the Feminist Advocacy Clinical Program to date, and interest in the program is growing quickly — there are consistently more applicants than spots.

“Not all these students will end up in legal practices where gendered violence is directly an issue, but every one will see their practice impacted by their experiences,” says Mosher. She envisions the program graduates becoming compassionate and passionate advocates for women in all situations and more aware of the complex connections between the many areas of law — family, child welfare, immigration and criminal among them — that women often navigate. Graduates also gain a rich understanding of the relationships between law and social structures.

The Schlifer Clinic’s Deepa Mattoo agrees. “They might be running the country or corporations, making policy or practising as lawyers in big firms or small — at any level, a year with us will definitely leave its mark on the way they analyze things.”

Brown, for one, is surprised at how the program has broadened her perspective. She cites one especially memorable case involving a female client who was charged and removed from caring for her children for several weeks.

“When you lay a criminal charge as a police officer, that’s the end of it. I never gave much thought to the ripple effect.” Working with this client, she saw the consequences of criminal charges in an entirely different light. “We need a system in which we work together to prevent this kind of thing from happening, that supports women at risk and makes them feel valued and honoured without judgment. They need to know we hear them.”

Now completing her final year at Osgoode, she is considering a career in criminal law or as a police services lawyer helping to educate police officers and support women who choose to disclose a sexual assault.

“The time is now to do this. We have an obligation as law students and lawyers to be a part of the movement.”

For more information about the program, contact Professor Janet Mosher at [jmosher@osgoode.yorku.ca](mailto:jmosher@osgoode.yorku.ca)

Christine Ward is Principal of Ward Development Communications based in eastern Ontario.



# Celebrating

## 8 Outstanding Years

Since 2010, Dean Lorne Sossin has provided inspiring leadership to Osgoode Hall Law School and York University.

He has focused on the positive, on listening, on sharing information, on appreciating people and their contributions, on giving our students, faculty, staff, alumni, donors and community partners a sense of belonging and clear direction. His outwardly oriented view of the role of legal education, his inclusiveness, and his openness to change have fostered creativity, collaboration and innovation.

As York President & Vice-Chancellor Rhonda Lenton noted in her announcement about Sossin

stepping down as Dean on April 30, “he has worked with colleagues to develop and implement strategic plans in support of York’s priorities around student engagement and research intensification, including expansion of experiential education opportunities, the introduction of teaching innovations, and the launch of a ‘Digital Commons’ for research dissemination. Other significant contributions have included access initiatives such as new debt-relief bursaries, an innovative income contingent student loan program,

a flex-time JD model, and initiatives to promote diversity and inclusion, reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, mental health, and innovation in legal education.”

*To mark the end of Sossin’s deanship (2010-2018), we thought we would explore some of the standout milestones that he and the members of the Osgoode community have achieved by working closely together. (And yes, after a year-long sabbatical, Sossin will be back teaching at the Law School.)*

# EXPLORING THE MILESTONES

## ● Going Local

Osgoode's partnership with Law in Action within Schools (2011- ); hosting Success Beyond Limit's summer youth leadership program (2013- ); partnership with DUKE Heights BIA (2017- )

## ● GOING GLOBAL

Travels to establish or deepen Osgoode's global partnerships covering every province and territory and 22 countries including Australia (2), Austria, China (4), Chile (2), Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Ireland (2), Israel (3), Japan, New Zealand, Nigeria, Tunisia, United Kingdom (3), United States (3), logging over 350,000 km and signing a number of new Osgoode partnership agreements

## ● Building Celebration

to mark the opening of our new, state-of-the-art facilities (October 2011)

## ● Creation of the Winkler Institute for Dispute Resolution and the Winkler Chair in Dispute Resolution at Osgoode (June 2012)

## ● Establishment of the Catalyst Fellowship for one-year visits to enhance the diversity of the legal academy (2012)

## ● Introduction of the "praxicum" into the JD curriculum and opening of the Office of Experiential Education (September 2012)

## ● Creation of eight new clinical programs: the first-of-its-kind Anti-Discrimination Intensive Program (2012); Intellectual Property Law & Technology Intensive Program (2012); first-of-its-kind Disability Law Intensive Program (2013); Test Case Litigation Project (2014); Environmental Justice and Sustainability Clinical Program (2016); International and Transnational Law Intensive Program (2016); Feminist Advocacy: Ending Violence Against Women Clinical Program (2017); Investor Protection Clinic (2017)

## ● Announcement of the Artist in Residence Program as well as the McMurtry Visiting Clinical Fellows (June 2013)

## ● Income Contingent Loan Program five-year pilot announced that provides a minimum of five JD students a year with admission to the Law School on an income contingent loan basis (September 2014); Wendy Babcock Social Justice Award established offering debt relief oriented awards for graduating students in need who wish to pursue public interest legal practice (2012- )

## ● JustBalance.ca website and Canada's first Student Success and Wellness Office established at Osgoode (September 2014)

## ● Commemoration of the 125th anniversary of the Law School's founding in 1889 and the start of a year-long Osgoode@125 Celebration (October 2014)

## ● Unveiling of a pair of commissioned art pieces by celebrated Gitksan First Nations artist and master carver Ya'Ya (Charles) Heit as part of the 125th anniversary celebration (October 2014)

## ● Official launch of the Osgoode Digital Commons, the Law School's digital research repository and archive that now has more than 1.5 million full-text downloads (October 2014)

## ● With the appointment of three new professors, the Osgoode faculty achieves gender parity for the first time in its 125-year history (June 2015)

## ● Announcement of a further \$1 million investment in financial accessibility – with half of the funding going to create 100 new \$5,000 bursaries (disbursed over two years) to mark the 50th anniversary of Osgoode's affiliation with York University in 1965, and the balance going to the Income Contingent Loan Program (August 2015)

## ● Learning and Leading Series launched offering free professional development programming to Osgoode students (October 2015)

## ● Fund for Innovation in Law and Media (FILM) established to assist in developing and delivering new visual advocacy approaches in the justice system (October 2015)

## ● Osgoode Professional Development celebrates its 20th anniversary year as Canada's leading legal educator for professionals (2016)

## ● Excellence of our Graduate Program is highlighted with the awarding of two of the most prestigious external awards for graduate study to Osgoode students: Vanier (2016) and Trudeau Fellowship (2016). In recent years, our graduate students have also picked up 19 Joseph Armand Bombardier CGS Doctoral Scholarships, 20 Ontario Graduate Scholarships, and one Ontario Trillium Scholarship. (2014)

## ● Journalist in Residence Program launched and announcement of the appointments of journalists Gail J. Cohen and Roxana Olivera for the 2017-18 academic year (May 2017)

## ● Reconciliation Fund established with an initial investment of \$300,000 over three years for Indigenous initiatives including the Anishinaabe Law Camp, Osgoode's first Office of Indigenous and Reconciliation Initiatives, Indigenous programming in Skennen'kó:wa Gamig (formerly Hart House), and Indigenization of Osgoode's curriculum (June 2017)

## ● Further investment of \$200,000 made to expand the Income Contingent Loan Program from five to seven students annually and extend the duration of the pilot program from five to seven years until 2022. In addition, \$500,000 is allocated to the School's Accessibility Fund for a range of bursaries, particularly awards for students graduating with high debt and intent on pursuing public interest career opportunities. (September 2017)

## INTERIM DEAN APPOINTED

**Professor Mary Condon** will take on the role of Interim Dean of Osgoode from May 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 while a search for the next Dean is underway.

Condon, who has been an Osgoode faculty member for 25 years, has served as the School's Associate Dean (Academic) since 2016. In this capacity she is responsible for curriculum planning and chairs the School's Tenure and Promotions, Grades Review, and Faculty Appointments Committees.

Condon holds a law degree from Trinity College, Dublin, and MA, LL.M and SJD degrees from the University of Toronto, and is a member of the Bar of Ontario. The author of numerous publications, her research and teaching interests are in the securities law area.

From 2005 to 2014, she was a member of the Board of Trustees of the York University Pension Fund. Beyond York, she was appointed by the Ontario government as a Commissioner and Board Member of the Ontario Securities Commission (2008-2016), serving as a full-time Vice-Chair from 2011 to 2014.



*"Lorne's contributions to administrative justice as an adjudicator, an accountability officer, a teacher, a colleague and a mentor have been of such great benefit to us, and to our Society as a whole, that it is hard to think of anyone who deserves this medal more."*

Society of Ontario Adjudicators and Regulators (SOAR) 2010 medal presentation

*"Lorne is a connector extraordinaire, always open to supporting the goals and initiatives of others with his time, knowledge and position. He has a broad and open vision for Osgoode and its potential impact. He is kind, thoughtful, funny and inspiring. We'll miss him."*

Victoria Watkins, Assistant Dean & Executive Director, Osgoode Professional Development

*"Lorne Sossin's contributions as Dean of Osgoode have been unparalleled, acting as an advocate for access to justice, a leader in academic innovation, a liaison for student-faculty relations, and a teacher of the next generation of lawyers."*

Alexander Evangelista '18, President, Osgoode Legal & Literary Society

*"Lorne has been an incredible mentor and friend whose vision and inspiration is matched only by his generosity."*

Adam Dodek, Dean and Professor, University of Ottawa Faculty of Law, Common Law Section

*"Lorne is a relentless changemaker who earned my respect quickly."*

Njeri Damali Sojourner-Campbell '14, Associate, Hicks Morley Hamilton Stewart Storie LLP

*"Lorne was collaborative and inclusionary in his approach to leadership, visionary in his thinking, unflappable under pressure, humble, good natured, and extremely funny (especially when the joke was at his own expense)."*

The Honourable James Stribopoulos, Associate Dean and Associate Professor at Osgoode in 2013 when he was appointed to the Ontario Court of Justice

# INDIGENOUS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROJECT

## *offers unparalleled resource*

By Megan Mueller

What does environmental justice mean to Indigenous peoples? How can it be addressed? These are two of the foundational questions raised by the Indigenous Environmental Justice Project, a five-year initiative funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. The York University-based project is the brainchild of Osgoode Professor Deborah McGregor, Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Environmental Justice, cross-appointed to the Faculty of Environmental Studies. "We hope that this project – specifically, our well-developed website – will be a key resource for community members, students, activists and scholars,"

McGregor explains. "The website provides support to communities currently fighting an environmental injustice, resources to teachers or schools interested in educating students about environmental justice; and it creates a place for inclusive dialogue on how to move toward greater justice," she adds.



Deborah  
McGregor

### What is environmental justice?

Environmental justice refers to the inequitable distribution of costs and benefits of environmental degradation, according to the project's website, such that people of colour, marginalized and the poor tend to bear a significantly greater portion of the costs, while receiving relatively little in terms of any benefits. "In Canada, environmental (in) justice is a constant undercurrent for arguably most (if not all) environmental challenges that Indigenous peoples face," McGregor explains. "The field of environmental justice studies therefore forms a critical theoretical and applied framework for addressing key environmental issues of concern to Indigenous peoples in Canada," she adds.

### McGregor brought wealth of expertise to York in 2015

McGregor is ideally situated to embark upon such an ambitious venture as the Indigenous Environmental Justice Project. She came to York three years ago, in 2015, and brought with her vast research expertise in Indigenous knowledge systems and their various applications in diverse contexts. With one foot in law and the other in environmental studies, she brings a multidimensional kind of scholarship that ranges from water and environmental governance, environmental justice, forest policy and management and sustainable development.

McGregor explains the profound interconnectedness of law, the environment and Indigeneity: "Anishinaabe philosophies, principles and values are the foundation of the ethical conduct required to ensure appropriate relationships with all of creation, and thus a just world." Her work has been published in numerous national and international journals. A highly engaging speaker, she has delivered numerous public and academic presentations relating to traditional knowledge and governance. She remains actively involved in a variety of Indigenous communities, serving as an advisor and continuing to engage in community-based research and initiatives.

### Project creates unique forum to share ideas, knowledge and experiences

The Indigenous Environmental Justice Project – a venture greatly bolstered by collaborators Osgoode Professor Dayna Scott and Environmental Studies Professor Martha Stiegman – provides a variety of opportunities for dialogue, learning and exchange. It organizes well-attended special events and symposia, and in doing so, creates a forum to share ideas, knowledge and experiences to help participants and visitors to the website understand what environmental justice means. For example, in May 2016 the project team organized a knowledge-sharing symposium to advance the theory and practice of environmental justice scholarship.



Symposium participants engaged with Indigenous peoples to more fully develop the concept of justice, and the policies and law necessary to enable just relations. At its core, the symposium posed these two questions:

- What does environmental justice mean in Canada, in an Indigenous context and from an Indigenous perspective?
- What is currently known about Indigenous environmental justice in Canada?

"By bringing together activists, youth, women, artists, Elders, scholars, leaders, environmental practitioners, advocates and community members, the symposium was intended to initiate and invite dialogue," McGregor explains.

Additionally, in 2016-2017, the project team members hosted a five-part speaker series that highlighted Indigenous women and youth perspectives on environmental justice. In the spirit of social justice, four of the five events were live streamed via the project's social media channels (Facebook and Twitter) to ensure that those who were interested but unable to travel for various reasons could still participate. Videos of these events are posted on the website.

### Project provides fulsome range of resources

To augment the videos and photographs from various events, the website also offers a reading list and hyperlinked research resources, including:

- General, including the Assembly of Nations, the David Suzuki Foundation and the Hopi Message to the United Nations;
- Energy justice, shining a spotlight on a joint statement to US President Obama produced by Honor the Earth, the Intertribal Council on Utility Policy, the International Indian Treaty Council and the Indigenous Environmental Network;
- Climate change justice; and
- Water justice, including materials related to First Nations and Inuit Health drinking water and wastewater.

For more information about the Indigenous Environmental Justice Project and upcoming events for 2018, visit [iejproject.info.yorku.ca](http://iejproject.info.yorku.ca) and follow the project on Twitter: @theIEJproject.

Megan Mueller is Manager, Research Communications, Office of the Vice-President Research & Innovation, at York University.

# Climate Change



## NEEDS TO BE TOP OF MIND FOR CORPORATE DIRECTORS

By Bev Cline

What kinds of physical and economic risks does climate change pose for Canadian corporations? What are boards of directors doing in their strategy development to take account of those risks and to disclose them to their investors? Further, if officers and directors fail to take corrective measures in relation to negative effects their company's activities may have on the climate, in Canada or abroad, what liabilities will board members face?

According to Osgoode Professor Cynthia Williams, Osler Chair in Business Law, these questions are much more than theoretical. She believes they are imperatives for officers and directors, who, increasingly, are facing scrutiny from a wide range of stakeholders, including regulators, investors and environmental groups.

That's why these timely and important corporate law questions are at the heart of research being undertaken by the Commonwealth Climate and Law Initiative (CCLI). Williams, who is also Co-Academic Director of the Jay and Barbara Hennick Centre for Business and Law at Osgoode and the Schulich School of Business, is lead of the Canadian component of the CCLI together with Professor Janis Sarra at the Peter A. Allard School of Law at the University of British Columbia.

A research, education and outreach initiative started at the Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment at the University of Oxford, CCLI draws on expertise from institutions in four Commonwealth countries: Australia, South Africa, the UK and Canada. As a group, they are studying obligations of boards of directors to develop transition strategies towards a low-carbon economy.



Cynthia Williams

### Act now or suffer the consequences

"Climate change litigation against companies for actions perceived to have contributed to climate change is exploding, with more than 800 climate change cases around the world," explains Williams. Over 650 of those cases are in the United States, "so at the very least, Canada is in the cross hairs for potential litigation from some of the lawyers who have been participating in the US litigation." In addition, 15 percent of Canada's GDP is tied to the oil, gas, coal and minerals sectors. "Therefore, the entire Canadian economy - and the boards of a wide range of companies - are at risk."

Williams expects the risks to increase. "Not only the physical risks, but regulatory changes and new agreements, such as the Paris Agreement and the Pan-Canadian Framework, are putting pressure on directors and officers and compelling them to act now or suffer the consequences."

### Williams brings unparalleled expertise to CCLI

Since joining Osgoode in 2013 as Osler Chair in Business Law (a position she also held from 2007-2009), and

throughout her more than 20 years as a professor, Williams' work has focused on several main themes. These themes are expanded sustainability disclosure and corporate responsibility.

In addition to her academic research, Williams takes a hands-on approach to finding ways to finance the transition to a low-carbon economy. As such, she is a member of the board of directors of the Climate Bond Initiative (CBI), for which she was also a co-founder. This UK-based investor-focused NGO is developing a new financial asset class, known as climate bonds or green bonds.

A sought-after speaker and author, Williams' work has been published in numerous national and international publications; she is co-editor of *The Embedded Firm: Corporate Governance, Labor, And Finance Capitalism* (with Osgoode Professor Peer Zumbansen), published by Cambridge University Press, and co-author with Gordon Smith of a widely used corporate law textbook in the United States now going into its fourth edition.

### Unprecedented conferences examine obligations and liabilities

As organizers of the CCLI in Canada, Williams and Sarra headed up a team, with significant input from students in Osgoode's public interest Environmental Justice and Sustainability Clinic, that has produced several white papers and held roundtables to discuss the findings of that research; met with numerous members of interested corporate stakeholders, including corporations in Alberta's oil and gas community; and this past year, organized parallel conferences in Vancouver and Toronto.

The well-attended conferences, "Climate Change: Directors at Risk," which Williams moderated, featured panels that included well-respected and highly knowledgeable academics, lawyers, accountants, asset managers, securities regulators, representatives from environmental groups and corporate governance experts from a number of countries.

#### The panels considered:

- What are the fiduciary obligations of officers and directors of operating company and banks to consider climate change in their strategy development?
- What are the fiduciary obligations of institutional investors to consider climate change in their portfolio construction?
- What disclosure obligations do companies have today under existing frameworks in Canada? and;
- What are leading Canadian companies doing to transition to a low-carbon economy?

### Project aims to raise visibility of risks

In its next phase, CCLI will work in Canada together with provincial bar associations, CPA-Canada, and the Institute for Corporate Directors to raise the visibility of this issue in all industries. So far, says Williams, officers and directors in Canada are not asking questions about climate change insurance cover for their own potential liability and there seems to be a view that litigation, which is exploding elsewhere, won't come here.

"Companies in the oil patch understand that climate change is real and that a transition is underway," she says, an understanding that needs to be more broadly shared across Canada. "With forestry, agriculture, including carbon farming, and fishing resources, many opportunities exist in Canada to shape a transition economy."

Bev Cline is a Toronto-based freelance writer, editor, and book author.

# New Faces

We were delighted to welcome seven new faculty members to the Osgoode community in 2017: Saptarishi Bandopadhyay, Karen Drake, Paul Maharg, Heidi Matthews, Jennifer Nadler, Martha Simmons and Estair Van Wagner.



Karen Drake



Paul Maharg



Heidi Matthews



Jennifer Nadler



Martha Simmons



Estair Van Wagner



Saptarishi Bandopadhyay

*“We know that they will enrich the quality of teaching and scholarship in our academic programs and that our students will benefit tremendously from their intelligence, knowledge and thought leadership,” said Dean Lorne Sossin.*

Assistant Professor **Saptarishi Bandopadhyay**, BA LLB (National University of Juridical Sciences in India), LL.Ms (Harvard & American University), SJD (Harvard). Research and teaching interests: Intellectual property (particularly copyright), disaster management, environmental law and politics, as well as issues related to risk, technology and society.

Associate Professor **Karen Drake**, BA (Hons) (Philosophy) (Lakehead), MA (Philosophy) (Queen’s), JD and LL.M (Toronto). Research and teaching interests: Canadian law as it affects Indigenous peoples, Anishinaabe law, Métis law, property law, and legal process.

Distinguished Professor of Practice **Paul Maharg** (hosted by OsgoodePD), PhD (Literature, Aesthetics and Philosophy) (Edinburgh), LL.B, Dip Ed and MA (English Literature and Language) (Glasgow), PGCE (Jordanihill College of Education). Research and teaching interests: Legal education focused on interdisciplinary educational innovation, the design of regulation in legal education, and the use of technology-enhanced learning.

Assistant Professor **Heidi Matthews**, BA (Mount Allison), BCL/LLB (McGill), SJD (Harvard). Research and teaching interests: International criminal law, the law of war, international legal history and political theory, feminist legal theory, law and the arts.

Assistant Professor **Jennifer Nadler**, BA, JD, SJD (Toronto), LL.M (New York). Research and teaching interests: Contract law, property law, private law, theoretical jurisprudence, and law and literature.

Winkler Professor in Dispute Resolution **Martha Simmons**, JD, LL.M, PhD (Osgoode). Research and teaching interests: Dispute resolution, legal education, innovation and access to justice. She is also Academic Co-Director of the Winkler Institute and Director of Osgoode’s Mediation Intensive Program and Mediation Clinic.

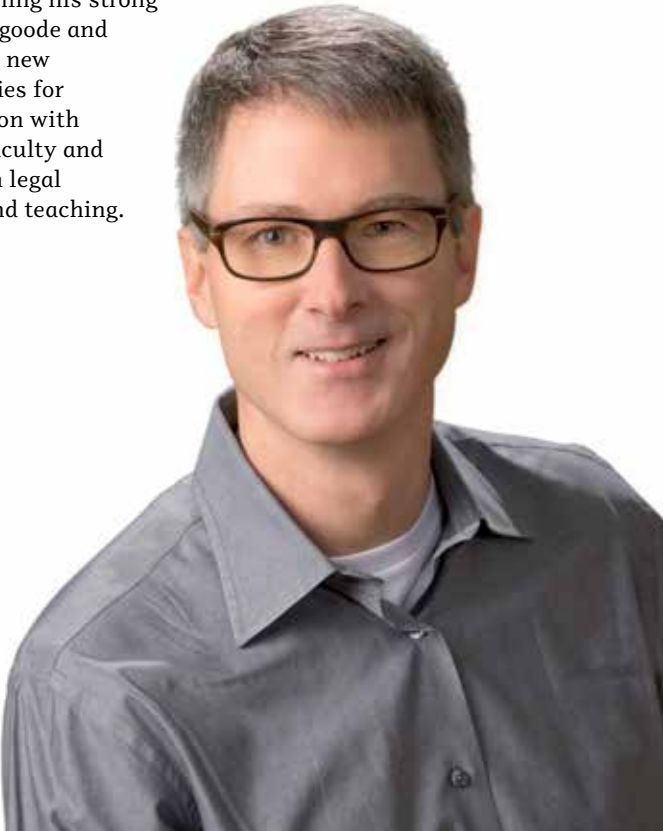
Assistant Professor **Estair Van Wagner**, BA (Victoria), MES/JD (York/Osgoode), PhD (Osgoode). Research and teaching interests: Land use planning, natural resource and property law. She is also Co-Director of Osgoode’s Environmental Justice and Sustainability Clinic.

# STEPAN WOOD HEADS WEST

We were sorry to say goodbye to Professor Stepan Wood on July 1. Wood, who was a member of the Osgoode faculty for 20 years, is now at the Peter A. Allard School of Law at the University of British Columbia as a Professor and Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Law, Society and Sustainability. His focus is on corporate social responsibility, sustainability, transnational governance and climate change.

Wood was an invaluable member of the Osgoode community, serving in many key capacities including as Editor in Chief of the Osgoode Hall Law Journal, Coordinator of the JD/Master in Environmental Studies joint program, Acting Director of the Institute for Research and Innovation in Sustainability, founding Academic Co-Director of the Osgoode Environmental Justice and Sustainability Clinic, and founding Co-Chair of the Willms & Shier Environmental Law Moot. In recognition of his scholarly achievements, Wood was appointed York Research Chair in Environmental Law and Justice in Spring 2016 and held the Chair for one year.

Wood says he looks forward to maintaining his strong links to Osgoode and cultivating new opportunities for collaboration with Osgoode faculty and students in legal research and teaching.



# HAPPY RETIREMENT

Professors **Shin Imai**, **Mary Jane Mossman** and **Brian Slattery** recently retired. We thank them for their outstanding contributions to legal education and scholarship, and wish them all the best. We'll miss them!

## Mary Jane Mossman

Professor Mary Jane Mossman is a distinguished law teacher and scholar in Canada. She was the first woman appointed to the full-time Osgoode faculty, after four years as a member of the Faculty of Law at the University of New South Wales. At Osgoode, she served as Associate Dean, Assistant Dean, and Director of the Institute for Feminist Legal Studies.

A strong advocate for women in law and a passionate voice on gender equality issues, Mossman is the author of numerous scholarly articles, reports and books, including *The First Women Lawyers: A Comparative Study of Gender, Law and the Legal Professions* (2006), and casebooks on Family Law and Property Law. Her ongoing research focuses on early women lawyers in Ontario and family property reform. In addition, her role as the first articling student at Parkdale Community Legal Services resulted in her longstanding commitment to activism and scholarship concerning access to justice and community legal clinics.

Mossman was a long-time instructor in the Civil Law/Common Law Exchange Program, Co-Director (with Brian Bucknall) of the LLM in Real Property Law at Osgoode Professional Development, and supervisor for many students in the research stream Graduate Program at Osgoode; and she presented countless seminars for the legal profession on gender equality principles.

She received several awards for her exemplary teaching, legal scholarship, and community initiatives, including an honorary doctorate of the Law Society of Ontario, the Law Society Medal, the Award of Excellence of the Canadian Association of Law Teachers, the Bora Laskin Fellowship in Human Rights, the Ontario government's Leadership in Faculty Teaching Award, and appointment as a University Professor at York.



## Shin Imai

Professor Shin Imai joined the Osgoode faculty in 1996 after having worked in a legal services clinic, his own law practice, and with the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General. He served as a Director of Osgoode's Justice and Corporate Accountability Project, Academic Director of Parkdale Community Legal Services (PCLS), Co-Founder and Director of the Intensive Program on Aboriginal Lands, Resources and Governments, Director of Clinical Education, and Co-Director of the Latin American Network on Research and Education in Human Rights (RedLEIDH). He was the recipient of the Osgoode JD Teaching Award in 2004 and 2007, and the York University-wide Teaching Award in 2010.



Last May, alumni of the Aboriginal Lands, Resources and Governments Intensive Program organized a surprise party in his honour at the law firm Olthuis Kleer Townshend LLP. More than 50 alumni, colleagues and collaborators were present to thank Imai for the deep impact his work had on their lives and career paths.



Professor Sean Rehaag presents Shin Imai with a sketch of PCLS

In his retirement, through his work with the Justice and Corporate Accountability Project, he plans to keep providing pro bono legal support to Indigenous and campesino communities who are in conflict with extractive companies. He is active in advocating for greater corporate accountability for human rights abuses associated with Canadian mining companies.

## Brian Slattery

Known for his foundational work in Aboriginal rights and constitutional theory, Professor Brian Slattery joined Osgoode in 1981, having previously held positions at the University of Saskatchewan, the University of Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), and McGill University.

He has devoted much of his scholarship to overhauling the standard conception of the Canadian Constitution in a way that takes account of the distinctive rights and historical contributions of Indigenous peoples. He has also written on various aspects of the Canadian Constitution and explored the philosophical foundations of human rights.

In the 1990s, Slattery served as a senior advisor to the Federal Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. He was elected to the Royal Society of Canada in 1995 and was named a York University Distinguished Research Professor in 2009.

At Slattery's retirement reception, Dean Lorne Sossin recalled being in Slattery's first-year Criminal Law class in 1989. "So much of his deep passion for legal education and respect for students, for ideas and for engagement was on display in that experience," Sossin said. "Brian's commitment never ended in the classroom - his openness and intellectual curiosity were infectious and have had a profound and positive impact on my own development as a teacher and as a colleague at Osgoode."



With Dean Lorne Sossin

# Alumni Moves

Check out the latest achievements and the comings and goings of fellow alumni.

## 1950s



**Rudolph Bratty '57** received an honorary doctorate from York University's Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies.

## 1960s



**Thomas Heintzman '66** received the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa (LLD) from the Law Society of Ontario.

## 1970s

**Linda Silver Dranoff '72** has a new book, *Fairly Equal: Lawyering the Feminist Revolution* (Second Story Press), an eyewitness account of the revolution in women's rights under the law.

**Samuel Schwartz '72** received an honorary doctorate from York University's Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies in 2015.



**Harry LaForme '77, '08 (LLD)** received the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa (LLD) from the Law Society of Ontario.

**Patricia Olasker '77** was named one of the Top 25 most influential lawyers by Canadian Lawyer magazine.

**Lorne Waldman '77** was appointed to the Order of Canada.

## 1980s



**Patrick Monahan '80** was appointed a judge of the Superior Court of Justice in Toronto.



**Dale Lastman '82** was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada. He is the Chair of Goodmans LLP.

**Gary Cohn '84** was appointed an independent director of Lithium America.

**David Loukidelis '84** was appointed to inspect the Whitehorse Correctional Centre and provide a final inspection report to the Government of Yukon.

**Michael McArthur '84** was appointed a judge of the Superior Court of Justice in London, Ontario.

**David E. Harris '85** was appointed a judge of the Superior Court of Justice in Brampton, Ontario.

**Craig Zawada '85** was elected President of the Law Society of Saskatchewan for 2018.

**Timothy E. Breen '86** was appointed a judge of the Ontario Court of Justice in Toronto.

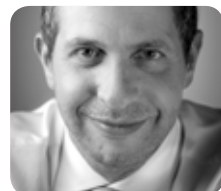


**Patrick Case '86, '04 (LLM)** received the Law Society of Ontario's 2017 Law Society Medal and became Assistant Deputy Minister, Education Equity Secretariat for Ontario.

**Ava G. Yaskiel '86** was appointed Associate Deputy Minister of Finance for Canada.

**Martha Hall Findlay '87** was elected chairperson of Alpine Canada.

**Maria Scarfo '87** received a Lexpert Zenith Award for advancing the position of women in the profession and society.



**Jonathan Rosenthal '87** was inducted as a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

**Sandra Chaytor '88** was appointed a judge of the Trial Division of the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador in Grand Bank.

**George MacPherson '88** was appointed a judge of the Superior Court of Justice and a member of the Family Court in Newmarket, Ontario.



**Gary Yee '88 (LLM)** received the Law Society of Ontario's 2017 Law Society Medal.



**Larry Chartrand '89** received the Law Society of Ontario's 2017 Law Society Medal.



**Marie Henein '89** received the Law Society of Ontario's 2017 Law Society Medal.



**Michael Tulloch '89** received The Vice Chancellor's Award from The University of the West Indies and was named one of the Top 25 most influential lawyers by Canadian Lawyer magazine.

## 1990s

**Paul Boniferro '91** was appointed Deputy Attorney General of Ontario.



**Jinyan Li '91 (DJur)** received the Canadian Tax Foundation's Lifetime Contribution Award.



**Grace Alcaide Janicas '92** received the Law Society of Ontario's 2017 J. Shirley Denison Award.

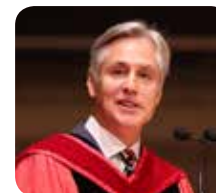


**Julia Shin Doi '92, '07 (LLM)** was named one of the Top 25 most influential lawyers by Canadian Lawyer magazine.

**Lauren Cohen '93** recently published her book *Finding Your Silver Lining in the Business Immigration Process: An Insightful Guide to Immigrant and Non-Immigrant Business Visas*.

**G. Paul Renwick '93, '09 (LLM)** was appointed to the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton.

**Kristin Taylor '93** received a Lexpert Zenith Award for advancing the position of women in the profession and society.



**John Borrows '94 (DJur)** received the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa (LLD) from the Law Society of Ontario.

# SUBMIT YOUR OWN CLASS NOTE

*What's happened in your life since you graduated from Osgoode?*

We want to hear about it! Share news of your career, family life and personal accomplishments with your fellow alumni by submitting a Class Note.

Visit [osgoode.yorku.ca/alumni](http://osgoode.yorku.ca/alumni) to submit online or e-mail us at [alumni@osgoode.yorku.ca](mailto:alumni@osgoode.yorku.ca)

**Arturo Brion '94 (LLM)** was elected as a Director of the Manila Hotel and was also appointed Dean of the College of Law of San Sebastian College-Recoletos in Manila.

**Lauren Scully '94** was appointed Regional Senior Justice of the Peace to the Ontario Court of Justice.

**Bryan Skolnik '94** was appointed Managing Partner of Gardiner Roberts LLP in January 2017.

**Miriam Henry '95** received a Lexpert Zenith Award for advancing the position of women in the profession and society.

**Vincenzo Rondinelli '95, '03 (LLM)** was appointed a judge of the Ontario Court of Justice in Toronto.

**Anne London-Weinstein '96, '11 (LLM)** was appointed a judge of the Superior Court of Justice in Toronto.

**Sheryl Johnson '97** wrote Sexual Harassment in Canada: A Guide for Understanding and Prevention.



**Joanna Radbord '97** received the Law Society of Ontario's 2017 Law Society Medal and a Lexpert Zenith Award for advancing the position of women in the profession and society.

**Shalini Konanur '98** received a Lexpert Zenith Award for advancing the position of women in the profession and society.

**R. Sonya Jain '99, '17 (LLM)** was appointed as the Family Law Chair on the Federation of Ontario Law Associations in 2016.

**Monique LaFontaine '99 (LLM)** was appointed Commissioner for Ontario of the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission.

2000s

**Jennifer Gold '00** received a Lexpert Zenith Award for advancing the position of women in the profession and society.

**Vanessa Christie '01** was sworn in as the sitting judge of Gore Bay in Manitoulin Island, Ontario.

**John Kleefeld '02 (LLM)** was appointed Dean of law at the University of New Brunswick.

**Barbara Norell '03 (LLM)** received a Lexpert Zenith Award for advancing the position of women in the profession and society.



**Cara Zwibel '04** is now Acting General Counsel at the Canadian Civil Liberties Association.



**Ryan Dzierniejko '05** was made partner at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP and Affiliates.

**David Goldstein '05** recently published Alley-Oop to Aliyah: African American Hoopsters in the Holy Land.

**Daniel Im '06** was appointed Chief Financial Officer of RIWI Corp.

**Cynthia Kuehl '06 (LLM)** received a Lexpert Zenith Award for advancing the position of women in the profession and society.

**Christopher Cooper '07 (LLM)** leads the City of Guelph's Legal, Realty and Risk Services division as City Solicitor/General Manager Legal, Realty and Risk Services.

**Emily Lam '07** won the 2017 Precedent Setter Award.

**Sarah Mason-Case '07** received the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation doctoral scholarship in the social sciences and humanities.

**Muneeza Sheikh '07** received a Lexpert Zenith Award for advancing the position of women in the profession and society.

**Lisa Skakun '07 (LLM)** received a Lexpert Zenith Award for advancing the position of women in the profession and society.



**Paul Jonathan Saguil '07** received the Ontario Bar Association's Heather McArthur Memorial Young Lawyers Award.



**Jonathan Davey '08** was appointed as an Aide de Camp to the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and is now Special Advisor and Counsel to the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Aboriginal Affairs Portfolio (Department of Justice Canada).



**Konata Lake '08** won the 2017 Precedent Setter Award.

**Vincent Clifford '09 (LLM)** was appointed as a judge of the Ontario Court of Justice in Ottawa.

**Kristy Balkwill '09 (LLM)** joined Miller Thomson's tax group in Toronto as a partner.

**Ronald Fernando '09** and his firm, Fernando & Partners LLP, was acquired by Squire Patton Boggs, an international firm with offices in 21 countries. Fernando joins Squire Patton as partner.

2010s

**Lianna Yeung '10** received the Lerner's LLP/ Women's Law Association of Ontario's Elizabeth Grace Emerging Leaders Award.

**Shaneka Taylor '10** won the 2017 Precedent Setter Award.

**Julie Audet '11 (LLM)** was appointed a judge of the Superior Court of Justice and a member of the Family Court in Ottawa.

**Jacqueline De Gagné '11 (LLM)** received a Lexpert Zenith Award for advancing the position of women in the profession and society.

**Daniel Del Gobbo '11** received the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation doctoral scholarship in the social sciences and humanities.

**Shimshon Posen '11** was appointed EnerSpar Corp.'s Corporate Secretary.

**Eduardo Baer '12 (LLM)** was appointed Chief Executive Officer and Director of BCGold.

**Navdeep Gill '12 (LLM)** received a Lexpert Zenith Award for advancing the position of women in the profession and society.

**Celeste Haldane '13 (LLM)** was appointed Chief Commissioner of the BC Treaty Commission.

**Lara Kinkartz '13** was chosen to serve on secondment as Associate Counsel to the Public Inquiry into the Safety and Security of Residents in the Long-Term Care Homes System.

**Michelle O'Bonsawin '14 (LLM)** was appointed a judge of the Superior Court of Justice in Ottawa.

**Aleksandra Zivanovic '14 (LLM)** received a Lexpert Zenith Award for advancing the position of women in the profession and society.



**Shani Ocquaye-Prempeh '17** received the Avril A. Farlam/ Women's Law Association of Ontario's Advocacy Award, which recognizes outstanding participation in the legal clinic program of any one of the Ontario law schools.

Osgoode Hall  
Law School Alumni  
Association

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTICE

*Alumni are invited to  
attend the Annual  
General Meeting on:*

Wednesday, May 16, 2018  
5:30 pm to 6:00 pm  
Portrait Room of Osgoode Hall  
130 Queen Street West,  
Toronto, Ontario

Please contact the  
Osgoode Alumni Office  
at 416-736-5638 or  
[alumni@osgoode.yorku.ca](mailto:alumni@osgoode.yorku.ca)  
to obtain a copy of the agenda.

**Positive RSVPs  
Appreciated**

## IN MEMORIAM

January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017

### 1945

Jean C. Carrie  
Dorothy J. Reilly

### 1948

Thomas A. Plant

### 1949

Gordon R. Carton

### 1950

William M. Bryden  
Allan C. Rose  
R. Bredin Stapells  
William E. Ward

### 1951

Maurice Fagan  
Gerald P. Scully

### 1952

John B. Clements  
Robert G. Price

### 1953

Gordon Atlin  
Raymond A. Hughes  
John M. Lowndes  
Douglas S. Scott

### 1954

Kazuo G. Oiye

### 1955

Marvin S. Arnold  
1977 (LLM)  
Roy N. Clarke  
Robert D. Stanbury  
John M. Wing

### 1956

Henry A. Hubbard  
John G. Kerr  
William J. Malcolm

### 1957

William Liber  
Hugh G. Morris  
Rudolph C. Peres

### 1958

Gordon Hachborn

### 1959

Saul Nosanchuk  
Morton M. Smith

### 1960

Allen M. Linden

### 1961

N. David Starkman

### 1964

Robert E. Jarvis  
A. D. G. Purdy

### 1965

Gary S. Kay  
Burton B. Tait

### 1966

Blenus Wright 1989 (LLM)

### 1968

E. Bruce Leonard  
Alexander Schneider

### 1970

Robert Tripodi

### 1971

Andres Olvet  
Stan H. Raphael

### 1976

Albert J. Bickerton  
Mary J. Braun

### 1979

Terence G. Sullivan

### 1980

Mark H. Fromkin

### 1982

Frederick P. Dobbs

### 1987

Ani M. Abdalyan  
1997 (LLM), 2004 (LLM)  
Gordon J. Whicher

### 2000

Carrie Lynn Sheppard

### 2016

Geoffrey Richard Goodson

### LLM

### 2005

Lorenzo E. Di Cecco

### 2007

Eric Michael Wolfman

### 2015

Kyle Stuart Pohanka



## Dean's Alumni Reception

Join fellow alumni, faculty and friends in honouring  
our alumni for their contributions to the profession,  
Law School and legal community.

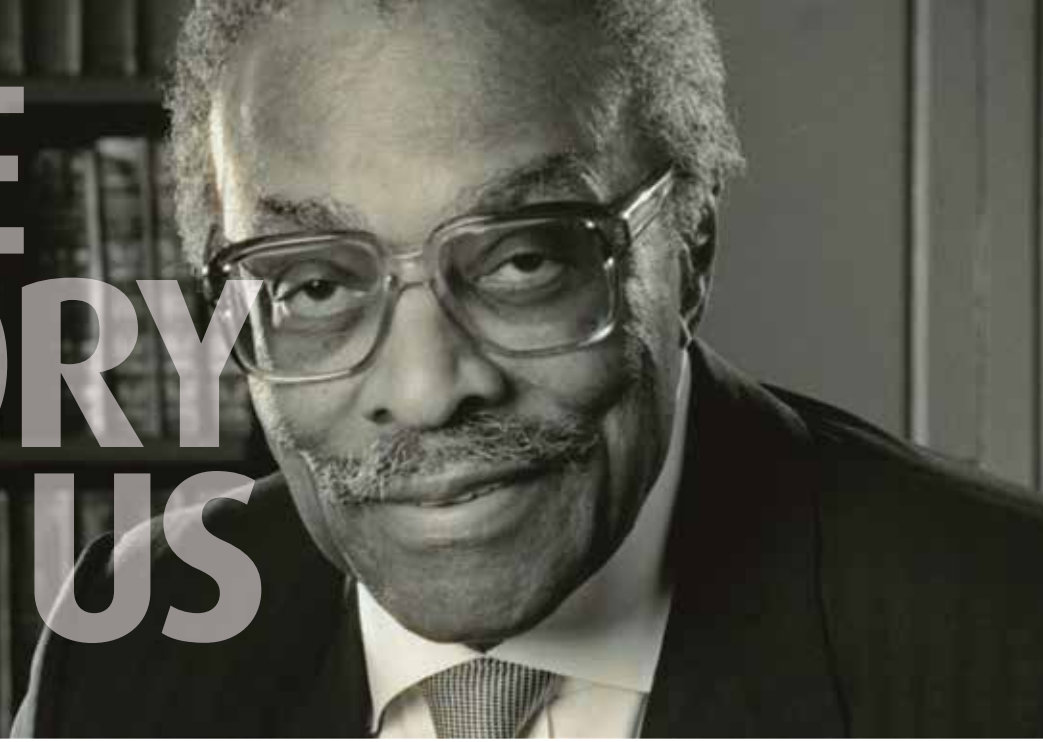
**May 16, 2018**

Convocation Hall, Osgoode Hall  
130 Queen Street West, Toronto  
6:00pm - 7:30pm  
Free

Please RSVP online by May 11, 2018:  
[www.osgoode.yorku.ca/events](http://www.osgoode.yorku.ca/events)

Immigration Act of 1923, the only Chinese exclusion law in effect in North America at that time. **Lincoln Alexander '53**, became Canada's first black Member of Parliament and the first black person to serve in a viceregal position when he was appointed as Lieutenant Governor of Ontario in 1985.

# MAKE HISTORY WITH US



## Shaping the future of legal education since 1889.

At Osgoode Hall Law School, we develop tomorrow's lawyers and thought leaders — like **Lincoln Alexander '53** — through a commitment to new ideas and the very best of experiential education. Find out more about our programs, our people and our passion for legal education.

[osgoode.yorku.ca/makehistory](https://osgoode.yorku.ca/makehistory)

