

Western Law

2022 ALUMNI MAGAZINE

ANSWERING THE CALL

Charles Chang is one of seven Western Law alumni named to the Bench during 2022

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On the cover: Charles Chang (Photographed by Frank Neufeld)



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WESTERN LAW ALUMNI MAGAZINE

Editor: Pat Morden

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Photography: Frank Neufeld, Geoff Robins

Art Direction & Design: Frank Neufeld

Printer: Sportswood Printing

The Western Law Alumni Magazine is a publication of the Faculty of Law at Western University in London, Ont., Canada.

Post Publication Agreement No. 40710538

The views and opinions expressed in this magazine are those of the authors and not necessarily of Western Law.



THE TRAIL BLAZER
YOLA VENTRESCA
Story on pg. 15



MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

As in so many other sectors of society, there is renewed energy and optimism at Western Law this fall. While we have been fortunate to hold in-person classes throughout the pandemic, September 2022 saw a return of in-person special events, co-curricular activities, and student life. Western Law's unique sense of community is back in full force.

At the same time, there were some silver linings to the pandemic. For example, the 2022 Coxford Lecture, which featured the Honorable Rosalie Abella, former Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, was presented online, making it accessible to a record audience from across the country.

During 2021-2022, I continued to be impressed by the achievements of our talented students. Among the highlights:

- A record ten Western Law students secured judicial clerkships at courts across the country (see page 6).
- We had an outstanding moot season, with teams crowned champions at three moot competitions and our Jessup International Law moot team reaching the top eight in the world (see page 11).
- Our students also won the first Hague Inter-university Law Debate Tournament.
- Student researchers from our Hidden Racial Profiling Project contributed to the Toronto Star's "Unchartered" investigation, which uncovered hundreds of Charter violations by police forces across Canada.
- A team of research assistants worked as part of the interdisciplinary Khepri Asteroid Mining Mission to assess the feasibility of mining the asteroid Bennu.
- Maria Belykh (JD'21) placed first in the 2021 Insolvency Institute of Canada's law student writing competition.

As always, our faculty also shone brightly.

- Professor Valerie Oosterveld won the prestigious Ursula Franklin Award from the Royal Society of Canada (see page 34).
- Other faculty members were awarded research grants in areas including economic competition, tax history, transnational criminal law, diminished responsibility in criminal law, and reconceptualizing the corporation in light of new technologies (see page 34).
- We launched a new Intellectual Property and Innovation Legal Clinic, and our Dispute Resolution Centre expanded its services in the community and across campus (see page 10).
- Our Anti-Racism Working group completed its final report, which reviewed the status of racial diversity and inclusion at Western Law and recommended new strategies for student and faculty recruitment, curriculum, and student supports (see page 30).

You, our alumni, were also the cause for much pride and celebration in 2022. As you'll read, seven graduates were appointed to the Bench in Ontario (see page 12). Many others won major awards and made meaningful contributions to the profession and their communities.

We're fortunate that so many of you chose to give back to the law school in 2022, through gifts of time, talent, and treasure. I'm especially delighted to launch our new Young Alumni Advisory Council, chaired by Pamela Shin (LLB'08). This group of talented young lawyers will help us develop relevant programming for our current students and graduates just entering the profession (see page 28).

I am incredibly proud to be Dean of Western Law and to celebrate the achievements of our students, faculty and alumni. I will be on administrative leave between January and June 2023 to catch up on my research after the challenging pandemic years. My colleague, Professor Chris Nicholls, the W. Geoff Beattie Chair in Corporate Law, will serve as Acting Dean during that period. I look forward to my return to the dean's chair in mid-2023.

Erika Chamberlain, LLB'01

►

\$10M gift gives rise to the Ronald D. Schmeichel Building for Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Ron Schmeichel, JD'95, is lending his name to Western's new entrepreneurship and innovation building, with a \$10-million donation and a shared commitment with Western University to cultivating Canada's future entrepreneurs.

"This space will help students from all academic disciplines come together around a common belief: when you invite ideas, enthusiasm and skills to come together you create and build innovation," said Schmeichel. "This is more than a building. This is a place where tomorrow's entrepreneurs will cultivate their entrepreneurial spirit, whether they're in engineering, music, journalism, law, medicine, science, business or the arts. We need to both encourage and back the entrepreneurial culture in Canada, and this new institute is going to play a big role in doing that," said Schmeichel.

The 100,000-square-foot building is located at the heart of campus and will be named the Ronald D. Schmeichel Building for Entrepreneurship and Innovation.



Rendering of the Ronald D. Schmeichel Building

"This is a place where tomorrow's entrepreneurs will cultivate their entrepreneurial spirit, whether they're in engineering, music, journalism, law, medicine, science, business or the arts. We need to both encourage and back the entrepreneurial culture in Canada, and this new institute is going to play a big role in doing that."

Ron Schmeichel

Banner Year for judicial clerkships

A record ten Western Law students will spend the 2023–2024-year clerking at various federal and provincial courts – the highest ever number of judicial clerkships in a single year for Western.

Four students were selected to clerk at the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, two at the Federal Court of Canada, two at the Tax Court of Canada, one at the Court Martial Appeal Court of Canada,

and one at the Ontario Court of Appeal.

Rebecca Orsini will serve at the Ontario Court of Appeal. "It's an incredible honour and privilege to have the opportunity to work with some of Canada's brightest legal thinkers on novel and pressing legal issues," she said. "I'm particularly excited to be a part of the law-making process so early in my career."



Christopher Bredt



Brian Gover



Lorin MacDonald



Albert Oosterhoff



Four alumni receive Law Society Medals

Christopher Bredt (LLB '79), Brian Gover (LLB '81), Lorin MacDonald (LLB '09), and Albert Oosterhoff (LLB '64) received the Law Society Medal for "outstanding service within the profession," in May. Originally struck in 1985, the prestigious Medal has been presented to more than 100 lawyers.

Bredt was recognized for his skilled ad-

vocacy, his contributions to the Law Society and government, and his pro bono and charitable work.

Gover, one of Canada's top advocates, has contributed through public service, private practice, and service to the law profession.

Lorin MacDonald is a champion of accessibility for those with disabilities.

She helped to develop the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disability Act and advocated for the introduction of captioning at a wide range of organizations.

Albert Oosterhoff, a Professor Emeritus at Western Law, is the leading scholar of trusts and estates law in Canada.

Liss Receives Dean's Research Fellowship

Professor Ryan Liss has been awarded this year's Dean's Research Fellowship for his project entitled, "A Theory of Transnational Criminal Law". Liss's research promises to address a gap in our thinking about criminal law. His animating question is: "Can we make sense of transnational criminal law"?

Transnational criminal law concerns conduct (such as drug offences, trafficking in persons, and terrorism) that states are obligated to criminalize because of their treaty obligations with other states. According to Liss, while transnational criminal law is more pervasive and prevalent than international criminal law, it has received far less airtime in the scholarship. "The purpose of this transnational criminal law framework, and its legitimacy, are deeply under-theorized," says Liss. "This project seeks to remedy that."

"Beyond its scholarly impact, my research also aims to offer insights for lawmakers and policymakers in Canada and around the world. Having a better sense of whether our approach to transnational criminal law can or cannot be justified will help officials assess whether our existing legal framework should be reformed, should grow, or whether it ought to exist altogether."

The Dean's Fellowship, valued at \$10,000, was established by Western Law Dean Erika Chamberlain in 2018 to enhance the faculty's research program and engage students in cutting-edge research.

Western Law Provides Thought Leadership on Critical Issues

The invasion of Ukraine. The truckers' protest. Racial profiling. Over the past year, Western Law participated in the public discourse on these issues, providing leadership and expertise.

Dean Erika Chamberlain and Professor Andrew Botterell organized two forums to discuss the truckers' protest from a variety of perspectives. "Western has researchers from a range of disciplines who can make the conversation richer, more thought-provoking, more nuanced," said Chamberlain. The public forums highlighted symbolic, rhetorical, political, legal and economic issues around the protests.

Professors Valerie Oosterveld and Ryan Liss provided background based on their expertise when Ukraine asked the International Criminal Court to rule on Russia's invasion. "Russia has falsely claimed that Ukraine was engaged in acts of genocide in the Luhansk and Donetsk regions," explained Liss. "Ukraine has argued that, by abusing the Genocide Convention to justify the use of force, Russia has violated the treaty."

Adjunct professor and human rights lawyer Sunil Gurmukh partnered with Western Law to conduct the Hidden Racial Profiling project. Students helped to identify more than 150 serious Charter breach cases involving municipal police forces in Canada between 2011 and 2021. The data became part of the Toronto Star newspaper's groundbreaking "Unchartered" series published in June 2022.

McLaren releases report on Canadian Soccer Association

In July, McLaren Global Sport Solutions (MGSS) issued an independent review of the Canadian Soccer Association's handling of sexual harassment allegations made against former U-20 Women's National Team coach Bob Birarda.

"This review spells out in black and white how the CSA mishandled the 2008 harassment allegations," said Professor Richard McLaren, CEO of MGSS. "It provides a timeline of actions, details how policies were not followed, and outlines a pattern of not documenting decisions that has ultimately resulted in frustration and anger by players that continues today."

McLaren added, "We hope that our review can be a stepping stone to rebuilding trust amongst players and Canada Soccer. Canada Soccer has made notable progress in improving their Safe Sport policies. They now need to ensure they are accountable to their own internal policies to ensure that this never happens again."

Convocation Celebrates Resilience and Community

On June 24, Western Law celebrated the Class of 2022 in the first in-person Convocation and Awards Ceremony since the pandemic began. The graduating students experienced the shift to online learning in March of their first year, took second year courses remotely, and then returned for a mostly in-person third year, albeit one marked by mandatory masking and intermittent lockdowns.

"If you haven't already, find it in yourselves to see the positive in all of this," said guest speaker David Shoemaker (Class of 1996), CEO and Secretary General of the Canadian Olympic Committee. "Graduating law school during a pandemic required a level of discipline, innovation and resilience that will serve you through virtually any challenge you may face in the future."

Dean Erika Chamberlain remarked on the important societal issues that the class has confronted, including systemic racism, climate change, and challenges to democracy. "[These issues] have encouraged you to seek out and understand perspectives other than your own; to confront your own biases; to become more effective researchers and advocates; to value community service; and to use your skills and your privilege to make the world a better place."

Valedictorian Srobona Podder reflected on the sense of community that sustained her fellow students through the past three years. "It was the challenging moments that bonded us and showed us that no matter what we were going through, we weren't going through it alone."



Rahul Sapra

Western Law Grad Receives Inaugural Abella Prize

The Justice Rosalie Silberman Abella Prizes were established in honor of Justice Abella, the first Jewish woman and refugee to sit on the Supreme Court of Canada. Awarded by the Royal Society of Canada, the awards are presented to the graduating law students in Canada who are most likely to have a positive impact on equity and social justice in Canada or globally. Rahul Sapra of Western Law and 22 other law students from across Canada were recognized.

Rahul Sapra was part of a group of Western Law students who participated in the "Hidden Racial Profiling Project," launched in 2020. The project examined the prevalence of racial profiling in recent criminal cases across major police services in Canada.

Sapra said receiving the award was a "tremendous honour." "Now my job is to make sure that I can deserve this award, uphold the legacy of Justice Abella, and fulfill the responsibility that the school and the Royal Society of Canada have laid out for me."



Abella Delivers Powerful Coxford Lecture

One of Canada's leading jurists, Justice Rosalie Silberman Abella, delivered a powerful and provocative address as part of the Coxford Lecture held virtually by Western Law in February 2022. The theme of Abella's lecture was, "The Rule of Justice: The Compassionate Application of Law to Life."

Among her comments:

"I think we have to acknowledge that this is not, by any stretch, the best of all possible worlds at the moment. We're at the edge of a future unlike any I've seen in my lifetime. It's a future that's very divisive, very insensitive, and at times, very macho. It is dangerous."

"More and more I think justice is in crisis because more and more people have decided that, like the Red Queen in *Alice in Wonderland*, the law is what they say it is."

"I think it's finally time, again, to think about designing a whole new way of delivering justice to ordinary people with ordinary disputes and ordinary bank accounts. That's what real access to justice needs and that's what the public is entitled to get."

"With knowledge comes understanding. With understanding comes wisdom, and with wisdom comes the capacity to make justice happen. And to make justice happen we can never forget how the world looks to those who are vulnerable, and that's what I mean by the rule of justice – a rule that puts compassion in the service of law and law in the service of humanity. It's what I consider our profession's noble mandate and why I'm so deeply proud to be part of it."

For more on Justice Abella's address, visit <https://www.thelawyersdaily.ca/articles/33599>



Justice Rosalie Silberman Abella

"I think we have to acknowledge that this is not, by any stretch, the best of all possible worlds at the moment. We're at the edge of a future unlike any I've seen in my lifetime. It's a future that's very divisive, very insensitive, and at times, very macho. It is dangerous."

Justice Rosalie Silberman Abella



Three Join Advisory Council

Three distinguished alumni joined the Western Law Alumni Advisory Council in 2022. They are:



Michael St. Patrick Baxter, LLB '79
Senior Counsel at
Covington & Burling LLP
Washington



Prem Rawal, LLB '02
Military Lawyer
Ottawa



Yola Ventresca, LLB '05
Managing Partner, Lerner LLP
London, Ontario



Erika Chamberlain, Teresa Donnelly and Ian Holloway



Former Dean Receives Honorary Degree

In June, the Law Society presented a degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa* (LLD) to former Western Law Dean Ian Holloway, a leader in legal education and a naval veteran.

Mr. Holloway has been Dean of Law at the University of Calgary since 2011. Prior to this, he served as the Dean of Law at West-

ern from 2000 to 2011, and as Associate Dean at the Australian National University. He is currently the longest-serving law dean in Canada and the second longest-serving law dean in North America.

Over the years, he has held appointments at Cambridge and the National University of Singapore. He is a graduate of Dalhousie

University, the University of California at Berkeley, and the Australian National University. He is also an alumnus of the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University and the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He is widely published, both in Canada and around the world.

IP Clinic Launched

A new legal clinic at Western Law is responding to needs of the 21st century economy of ideas.

"Intangible assets have become the currency of economic growth," says Professor Bassem Awad, who is leading the clinic. "Several reports have identified access to legal advice on intellectual property as a key element in supporting Canada's innovation ecosystem."

Awad says the clinic will provide students with an experiential learning opportunity in this growing field while helping the innovation community around Western Law. "There is an ongoing debate about how law schools can reduce the gap between teaching the basic theory and practicing law," Awad says. "The IP clinic will provide students with hands-on activities so we can reduce that gap. It's one way for students to increase their awareness, skills, and experience."

The new clinic fits well with Western's focus on entrepreneurship

and innovation and will be housed in the Morrissette Institute for Entrepreneurship. More than 70 students applied to be part of the clinic, and ten began working in September 2021. Many of the Clinic's files come from Western students and faculty members starting businesses, from local accelerators, and from other members of the local community. In addition to working with startups, the Clinic is publishing online resources, and has other outreach activities planned.

Awad says the expertise offered by the clinic is much needed. "We're finding that companies have brilliant ideas and excellent business models, but no IP strategy. It's very risky to go to market like that." The Clinic will be part of the ecosystem supporting innovation across southwestern Ontario. Says Awad, "It will ensure that entrepreneurs and startups have meaningful access to affordable IP legal services to scale up and compete in national and global markets."

Marvelous Mooting

Western Law students participated in more than 15 regional, national and international moots, representing the school with dignity and skill.

Among the highlights:

- In the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot, the Western Law team was the only Canadian team to advance to the elimination round and placed in the top 8 of 700 teams worldwide.
- In the provincial Arnup Cup, the Western team finished second, qualifying for nationals. In the national round, team member Ben Charlebois won the individual prize for Best Direct Examination among 16 competitors.
- In the Laskin Moot, the Western Law team won best factum out of 16 schools across Canada and Australia.
- In the Harold G. Fox Intellectual Property Advocacy Competition, the Western Law team won the Gordon F. Henderson Award for best Respondent factum writers.
- In the Wilson Moot, the Western Law team placed first out of 13 universities, team member Krystin Chung was the second place oralist, and team member Anita Hojabr was the third place oralist.
- In the Hicks Morley Labour Moot Competition, the Western Law team was first among seven Ontario law schools.
- In the Gale Cup Moot, Western Law team member Shannon Reid won the Beverly McLachlin Prize for top female mooter. Reid and fellow team member Olivia Moore were named two of the top three mooters for oral performance.
- In the Donald G. Bowman National Tax Moot, the Western Law team won the prize for the appellant factum, and team member Ainsley Leguard ranked seventh out of 64 oralists.
- In the Walsh Family Negotiation Moot, Western Law teams placed second and third, and team member Isaac Papsin won second place individual.
- In the Davies Canadian Corporate Securities Moot, the Western Law team won first place and the prize for third best factum in the competition.

In addition, Western Law's team won the Hague International Law Debate competition.



Robyn Hurley



Hurley Takes on DRC

Robyn Hurley is an accredited family and child protection mediator, a panel member of the Office of the Children's lawyer, a former family lawyer, and a part-time professor at King's University College. She is now also Director of the Western Law Dispute Resolution Clinic.

It's full circle for Hurley, who worked at the DRC as a law student herself. She sees the Clinic providing two important benefits: free access to justice for community members who might otherwise have difficulty resolving conflicts; and training for law students in important soft skills. "Access to justice is a huge issue," says Hurley "A lot of people are looking to resolve conflict, they don't know how, and they don't necessarily fit within the services available through court or other community processes."

The DRC offers services in areas such as roommate, neighbour, and landlord-tenant disputes, contract and employment matters, and other areas on a case-by-case basis. Under Hurley's leadership, the Clinic is renewing its involvement with the peace bond court and broadening its services to offer conflict resolution skills coaching in the Western community and beyond. Also in the works: the development of a network of community organizations to provide wrap-around support for clients.

Each year ten interns are selected for the Clinic. They undergo a rigorous training program, including academic learning and simulations, before working with clients. "Students really value the opportunity for experiential learning," says Hurley, "and dispute resolution introduces them to a number of important skills they'll use regularly in their professional lives, directly or indirectly in navigating client and colleague relations." The most important skill, she says, is ensuring that clients feel heard, understood, and respected. "That's so foundational in helping people move forward to reach agreements." Also important is the ability to sift through everything they hear and identify what really matters to the client.

ANSWERING THE CALL

Charles Chang is one of seven Western Law alumni named to the Bench during 2022

Charles Chang knows exactly when it happened: Sunday, June 26, 2022, at 4:36 p.m.

His cellphone rang. It was a private number, which he doesn't usually answer. This time he did. It was David Lametti, Canada's Minister of Justice, calling to tell him that he had been appointed to the Ontario Superior Court of Justice.

That moment, the apotheosis of his career, was not a foregone conclusion. Chang grew up the son of Korean immigrants, living in some of what he calls the 'sketchy parts' of Toronto. English wasn't his first language, and he found his first years in school challenging. His parents worked hard to provide the basic necessities of life, but there was no coddling. "I developed self-reliance from a very young age," he says. "I had no choice."

Despite their limited means, his parents pushed Chang to take the entrance exams for St. Michael's Choir School, which he attended for one year. The following year he took the exams for Upper Canada College. He was the second Korean Canadian to attend the school, and the first to graduate. The

focus at UCC was on getting students into top-tier universities, Chang says. For him, that meant a degree in Sociology and East Asian studies at McGill, followed by Western Law.

Chang was just 11 when he saw a TV show about lawyers. He watched all the lawyer shows he could find and decided his future direction. "I saw that a lawyer's job is to help people who need help to resolve their disputes, and I thought that was pretty amazing."

After law school, instead of competing for jobs on Bay Street, Chang focused on small and mid-sized firms. "I wanted to be in court," he says. "I always knew I wanted to be a litigator and didn't want to be doing rotations in other areas." The strategy worked: he started with a firm in Mississauga on a Monday and appeared in Small Claims Court on Wednesday.

After honing his skills and building his book of business with two firms in the Toronto area, Chang started his own firm, Chang Advocacy Professional Corporation, in 2010. Far from being surprised, most of his clients simply wondered why it had taken him so long. Running his own shop, he enjoyed developing more personal relationships with clients.

IG



“This is an opportunity to let all our youth know that someone who looks like them, or with a similar experience growing up as a child of immigrants, can succeed.”

Charles Chang



Charles Chang, wife Young Mi Kim, and daughter Lia

Yet he remained a true courtroom lawyer, comfortable in the formality and structure of the setting. After one trial, one client commented, "Wow, you're a completely different person in there!" Chang took it as a compliment. "For me, the quintessential aspect of being a lawyer was being in court," he says. "It's the ultimate experience, the place where all your preparation dictates the level of success you can achieve as a counsel. And that was always my driving force -- being properly prepared so I could do the best possible job for my client."

Meanwhile Chang's desire to help people also found an outlet in community work. He has mentored law students and junior lawyers throughout his career. "I didn't have people around to guide me through the process and open doors, but I believe that those who have worked their way through the system have a duty and obligation to assist those who come after-- to help them through the system and prepare them for the challenges ahead." For a time, he also taught Tae Kwon Do, and eventually became chair of the Discipline Committee for Tae Kwon Do Ontario.

For many years, he has served as Secretary-General of Global Youth Leaders (Canada), a program designed to introduce young people in Grades 6 through 12 to leadership skills and then put those skills to work in the community. Members of GYL volunteer at two long-term care centres in Toronto, tutor elementary school children, and participate in international development trips. Chang had to relinquish his involvement when he became a judge but is confident the program participants will step up to fill any gaps.

It was during a GYL annual conference that Chang started his journey to the Bench. He had arranged for Justice Lucille Shaw to be the keynote speaker.



Also Answering the Call in 2022

Suzan Fraser, appointed to the Superior Court of Justice of Ontario, Newmarket

Jonathon C. George, Superior Court of Justice of Ontario, appointed to the Court of Appeal for Justice of Ontario

Sharon Hassan, appointed to the Superior Court of Ontario, Family Court branch, London

Karen Jensen, appointed to the Superior Court of Justice of Ontario

Patricia J. Moore, appointed the Superior Court of Justice of Ontario, London

Martha Ann Tweedie, appointed to the Superior Court of Justice of Ontario, Family Court branch, Kitchener

As she was leaving, much impressed by what she had seen of the organization, she turned to him and suggested that he apply. After much thought and several conversations, he did so. The call from Lametti came three years later.

Chang sees his position on the Bench as another way to help. "As a lawyer, you only assist your client as it relates to one specific matter. As a judge, your service to the community is very direct, and happens many files at a time. That's good enough for me."

He also recognizes his significance as a role model for other visible minorities. "This is an opportunity to let all our youth know that someone who looks like them, or with a similar experience growing up as a child of immigrants, can succeed." Beyond that, he sees diversity as an essential element of the justice system. "Justice can be done whether the adjudicator is white, yellow, brown, purple, green, or polka-dotted -- that's our job. But the optics have a role in ensuring that justice is also seen to be done, and diversity is a fundamental piece of that."

Although Chang admits he has a steep learning curve as he deals with cases involving areas of the law in which he didn't practice, he is reassured by the resources available to him, and above all, by the warm and generous assistance of his fellow jurists.

His fourteen-year-old daughter, Lia, is determined to follow in her father's august footsteps. Just before his appointment, she attended with him in court to watch her first all-day hearing and enjoyed every minute of it. Now that her father is a judge, the prospect of joining the legal profession is even more appealing. Or as her mother put it recently, "If she wanted to be a lawyer before, there's no stopping her now!"

THE TRAIL BLAZER

As managing partner at Lerner's LLP, Yola Ventresca is committed to diversity and mentorship

During university, Yola Ventresca worked as a waitress and bartender. But when she received her acceptance to Western Law, she realized that she wouldn't be able to cobble together enough money to pay tuition. She went to the school to request a deferral. The person she spoke to turned her down. Instead, she helped organize financial assistance to bridge the gap. Says Ventresca, "That 15 minutes changed my life."

Ventresca's father immigrated to Canada from Lebanon, fleeing the civil war. Her mother was born in Canada, returned to Lebanon as a child, and then settled in Canada. They both put themselves through school and became educators. "Having the immigrant experience and being the eldest of four really shaped my thinking, my character and my work ethic," says Ventresca.



"It makes me so hopeful to see that [young lawyers] are driven by their values, by a desire to respond to the injustices in the world around them. This is a generation that is focused on doing the right thing – I can only imagine the strides the law will take under their leadership."

Yola Ventresca



She was also inspired by her maternal grandmother. Widowed with a two-year-old and an infant, she lived below the poverty line for much of her life. “She was a very strong, resilient woman who did what she needed to do to pull through and raise two children on her own,” says Ventresca. “She was a big influence on me.”

Ventresca decided she wanted to be a lawyer when she was quite young. The collapse of civil society in Lebanon inspired in her a respect for the rule of law in Canada. The law was also a practical choice based on the fact she enjoyed writing and speaking in school. “I’ve always really enjoyed interacting with people, hearing their stories, finding ways to help them through difficult situations,” she says. “I saw law as a great mechanism to do that.”

Ventresca was introduced to health law in Robert Solomon’s class. Inspired and supported by Solomon, she has made health law a large part of her practice. After articling at Lerner LLP in London, she completed an LLM in Health Law and Policy at the University of Toronto in 2007. She returned to Lerner that same year as an associate.

In addition to her continued work in health law, Ventresca launched the firm’s workplace investigation practice and developed it as a significant area of her own practice. “We try to take a human-based approach to our investigations,” she says. “We must take seriously the concerns of someone who has brought a complaint forward, because it’s not an easy thing to do, and balance that with the rights of the individual responding to the complaint.” She has also developed a broad education law practice, working with various school boards, post-secondary institutions and unions.

Despite her large and growing practice, Ventresca decided to put her name forward as managing partner and was appointed in January 2022. “The practice of law is evolving, and I was very confident in my ability to transmit the values and the evolution I’m seeing in the profession into ground-level policy at my firm.”

She saw her appointment as a signal to other women lawyers that it was possible to combine a big practice and motherhood with a leadership role. She points to the fact that women occupy only eighteen percent of management spots in law firms. “I’m an anomaly as a woman and being a first generation Canadian of Arabic background puts me in an even smaller minority.”

Sure enough, when her appointment was announced, she was flooded with hundreds of

messages from women lawyers, celebrating her success. When she told the three female associates she was working with, they responded with emotion and excitement. “They told me how significant it was for them to see me step into the job,” she says. “That meant a lot.”

As managing partner, Ventresca is committed to making good on the firm’s commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI). “We are working to put EDI in every aspect of our organization. It must become the heart of everything we do, the lens through which we view everything we do.”

Equally important is her commitment to mentorship. She credits much of her own success to the strong mentorship she received at Lerner, and believes that mentoring female associates as they approach partnership is critical. The issue many encounter, she says, is that women are often nearing partnership and making decisions about having children at the same time. “Many feel this puts them in a no-win situation. I want to show them that it does not have to be an either/or proposition.”

Because she had trouble conceiving and didn’t have her daughter until she was 35, Ventresca herself was “unbound” and had the opportunity to build her practice during those critical years. She was a non-equity partner by the time she became a mother. She believes law firms must see beyond parental leave, providing flexibility during the child-rearing years. “We have to take the long view of women’s careers and show them that it is possible to have a successful law career and also a family.” She adds that associates need to understand that once they become partners, they have more autonomy and control over their practices.

Has Ventresca found the secret to maintaining balance in her life while running a large law firm, maintaining a busy practice, and being a mom to her eight-year-old daughter, Simona? Not really. She admits that she has always worked hard and doesn’t balance home and work on a daily basis. “But over a year, I do think about how I allocate my time,” she says. “I’ve never missed a recital or presentation, anything that is important to Simona.”

Ventresca is excited about the future of the law as she sees it reflected in today’s young lawyers. “It makes me so hopeful to see that they are driven by their values, by a desire to respond to the injustices in the world around them. This is a generation that is focused on doing the right thing – I can only imagine the strides the law will take under their leadership.”

“The law, my boy, puts us into everything. It’s the ultimate backstage pass. It’s the new priesthood, baby.”

That’s a quote from one of Louis Frapporti’s favorite movies, *The Devil’s Advocate*. The line is spoken by big-time New York lawyer John Milton (played by Al Pacino), who also happens to be, well, Satan.

Although Frapporti’s goals are the antithesis of devilish, he agrees that the profession can be an important community nexus. “Lawyers are at the centre of many decisions,” he says. “Whether it’s the public or private sector, we create the rules, and legal culture often determines outcomes.” He is relying on that influence as Chair of Hamilton’s bid to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games.

Frapporti grew up in Timmins, Ontario. His parents didn’t finish high school, and he wasn’t an academic star. As he was completing a degree in political science at Western, he wrote the LSAT and surprised himself by doing well. His first law school acceptance came from Western Law. “I remember opening that letter,” he says. “Going to law school was so far from my life experience that it wasn’t real until the letter was in my hand.”

A commercial litigator for over 25 years, Frapporti has practiced most of that time in Gowling WLG’s Hamilton office, an office he recently led as its managing partner for four years.

His experiences in the industry have made him question the culture of the industry as a whole. He is deeply concerned by the record rate of mental health issues among lawyers, and about issues around retention and disengagement. “The profession is structured on a short term, no retained earnings model with

every lawyer’s focus being on annual hour and fee targets” he points out. “Progression in law firms is generally a function of how fast you run that hamster wheel.” Covid has exacerbated the problems this focus has caused, as lawyers have left the profession or at least resisted calls to return to the office. Says Frapporti, “The profession’s culture, which was a challenge

in promoting engagement and work life balance prior to the pandemic, isn’t proving conducive to a return to ‘business as usual.’”

He admits that for many years he was the kind of gritty litigator who believed that winning was everything. His time in management, having focused heavily on community engagement during that period,

THE VISIONARY


Louis Frapporti is all in when it comes to making Hamilton the site of the 2030 Commonwealth Games



led him to a more balanced view. “I’ve come to prioritize what many millennials describe as purpose – the pursuit of a deeper and more holistic meaning in what we do and how we do it.” He is influenced by the work of economist Michael Porter, who developed the concept of shared value. Instead of thinking of social responsibility as charity, Porter says companies can make positive social outcomes a central part of their business. Such corporations do well by doing good, Frapporti believes. “If you’re seen as an organization that is trying to improve the lives of as many people as possible in your community, people will be more likely to want to do business with you because they share your values.” Many lawyers too could benefit from a different approach to their clients. “There’s good evidence that lawyers who prioritize relationships over transactions do much better financially over time.”

In his role as managing partner, he had the opportunity to connect more broadly with his own community, and ultimately, with a group of enthusiasts committed to bringing the Commonwealth Games to Hamilton on the centenary of the first Games, held in Hamilton in 1930. “The vision was so improbable and grand, with such an enormous potential positive impact on our community, I couldn’t resist lending a hand,” he says. “Although it has overwhelmed my life, I’ve never looked back.”

Personally, the involvement has given Frapporti the opportunity to meet people from all walks of life, in a wide variety of industries and sectors, and get a better understanding of the challenges faced by many. There are benefits for Gowlings, too. “The connectivity of a firm

A man in a dark suit and light blue shirt is jumping over a pool. He is smiling broadly and looking towards the camera. He is wearing black shoes and green socks. The background shows a pool with blue lane lines and a grey wall with a grid pattern.

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LOUIS FRAPPORTI

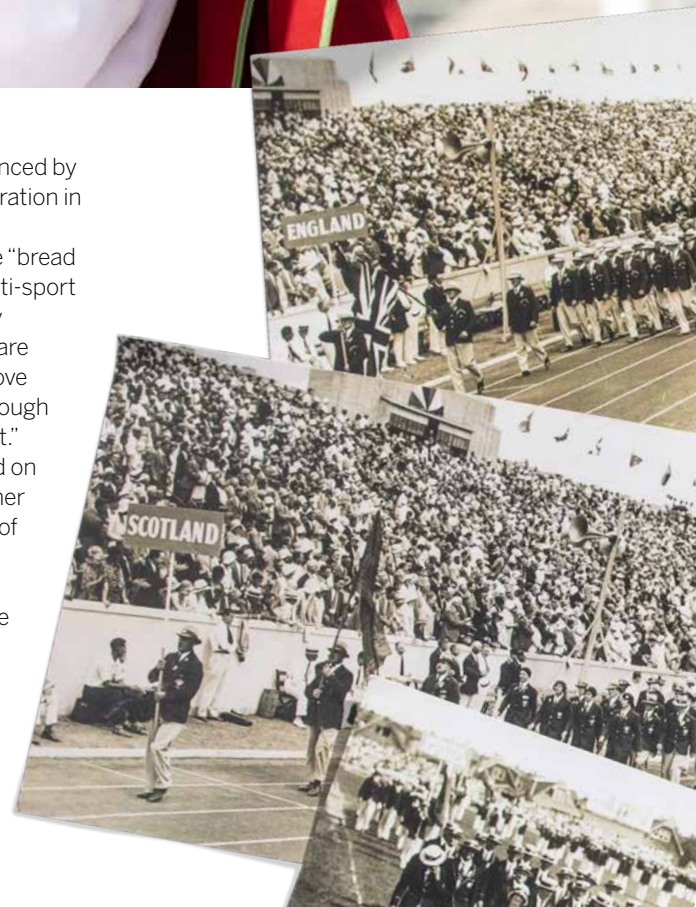


and its networks of influence are critically important. The Games is a massive single point of connectivity that can help foster relationships centred on 'doing good.'"

It is by no means an easy task to put together a bid for a 70-country multi-sport Games. As a volunteer-led initiative, the Games bid has been hampered by limited financial resources, staffing and until recently, government support. And then of course, Covid intervened. Yet thanks to the hard work of Frapporti and many other private sector leaders who have given their time, and the support of Commonwealth Sport Canada, Hamilton has succeeded in being selected as Canada's prospective host for the Games. With Australia hosting in 2026 and New Zealand likely bidding for 2034, Frapporti believes Ontario is the "sentimental favorite" for 2030. The final

decision is expected to be announced by the Commonwealth Games Federation in November 2023.

Frapporti is accustomed to the "bread and circuses" debate around multi-sport Games and believes passionately that the Commonwealth Games are different. The mission is to "improve the wellbeing of communities through the transformative power of sport." The Hamilton bid team is focused on the Games as a "movement," rather than a single event, with the goal of advancing positive social change as their primary legacy ambition. Some 20,000 volunteers will have the opportunity to be directly involved, and the economic and social impact will be felt for many years.





Frapporti holds a jacket belonging to Johnny Miles, who won the Boston marathon in 1926 and then trained in Hamilton. Miles wore the jacket for the opening ceremonies at the British Empire Games (now Commonwealth Games) in Hamilton in 1930.



Memorabilia from the first ever Commonwealth Games in Hamilton in 1930. Hamilton is the “sentimental favorite” to host the 2030 Games. Several facilities created for the 1930 games are still in use.

Unlike the Olympics, able and para-athletic competition happen in the same two-week period. The Commonwealth Games are noted for making room for those who are differently abled. For example, at the Birmingham Games which Frapporti attended in August 2022, hundreds of children with cognitive and physical challenges performed in the opening ceremonies. “As they streamed out of the stadium, they were so overwhelmed with joy,” says Frapporti. “It was unbelievably moving. And it’s a priority we are determined to champion in Canada.”

Among the innovations in Hamilton’s bid is the idea of inviting smaller countries to co-host sports popular in their cultures. The bid team is also working to innovate the Games model by recruiting the private sector to lead the way around infrastructure. For example, private developers are being approached to finance and create Games’ facilities that are immediately needed in communities as a way of building their brands. “Incenting the private sector to take a leadership role relieves the public taxpayer of having to foot the bill,” he explains. “We can use government participation and subsidization where it really makes a difference.”

Frapporti says Hamilton and the surrounding region will benefit on many

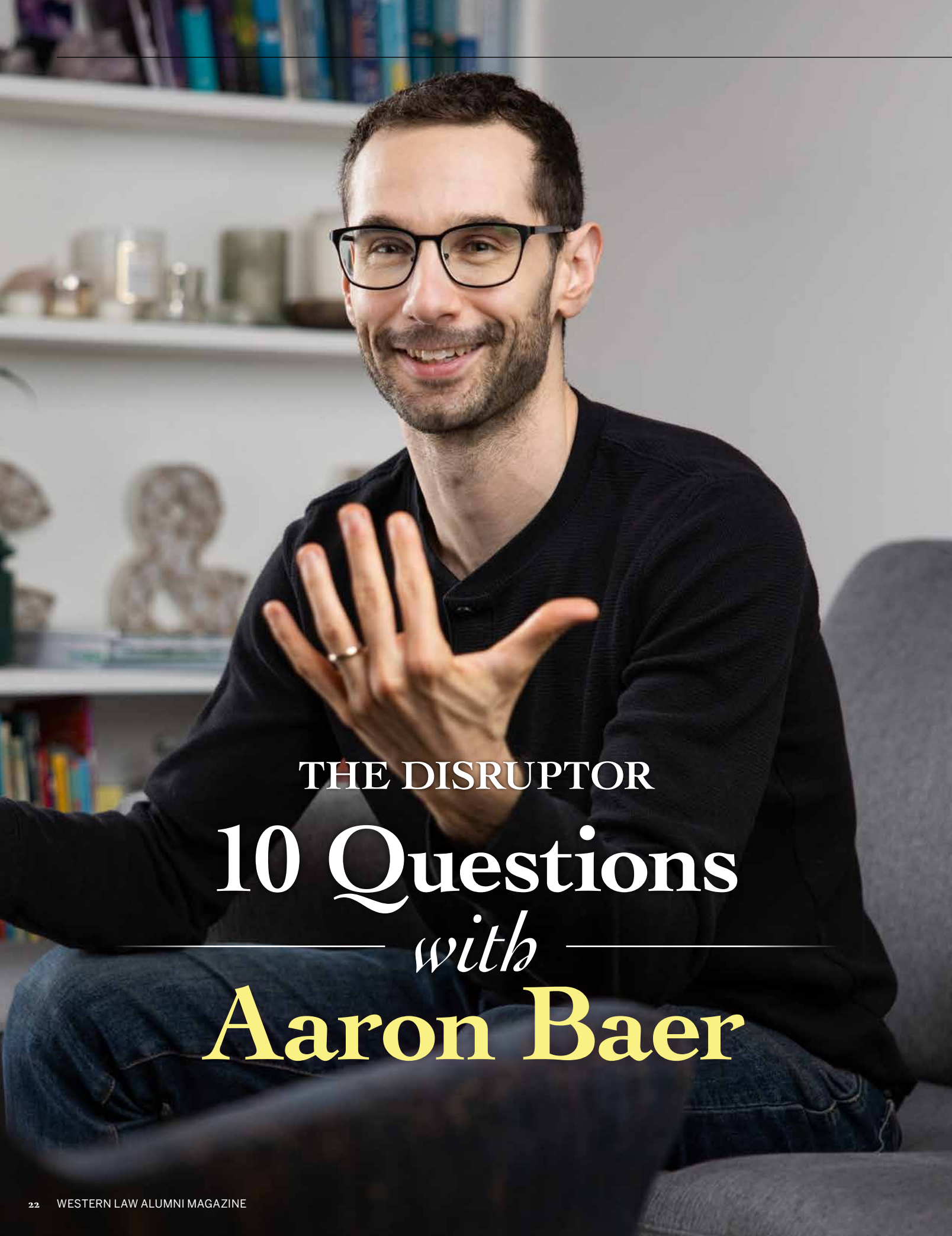
levels – by highlighting the region, building civic pride, creating jobs and affordable housing, increasing volunteerism, and much more. “For many, this is a ‘moon shot,’” he says. “We’re seeking to innovate a novel approach to multi-sport Games through the ingenuity and effort of the broadest possible cross-section of talent in our region. It’s a decade-long community building initiative.”

Hamilton Mayor Fred Eisenberg notes that Frapporti’s work, and the support of the business community has been critical to the success of the bid so far. “Louis has brought lots of energy and enthusiasm, a meticulous level of detail, and many valuable connections to the process,” he says. “A legal mind focused on the benefits of this project is a perfect marriage of talent.”

For Frapporti himself, however, the journey may end soon. Assuming the bid is successful, he believes that other skills and abilities will be needed to bring the Games to fruition. “It’s like a relay race – I’ll joyfully pass the baton and become a passionate cheerleader and ambassador for this city and its citizens.”

For more information about the 2030 Commonwealth Games Bid: <https://hamilton2030.ca> or on Facebook at Hamilton2030





THE DISRUPTOR

10 Questions

with

Aaron Baer

1. Why did you choose a career in the law?

I've always been entrepreneurial, and I've always enjoyed discussing and debating things! A dual degree with Ivey and Western Law was a good fit for me.

2. What didn't you learn at Western Law?

I didn't have a real sense of how corporate law worked. We spent a lot of time studying cases and understanding statutes, but I never looked at a contract. When I graduated, I didn't really know how to get clients and then keep them happy.

3. What did you learn during your "Big Law" experience at Aird & Berlis? What did they learn from you?

I got to see how different people practice, and then pick and choose the type of lawyer I wanted to be. I learned the value of client responsiveness and doing high quality work. Lots of people at the firm were top in the country in what they did, so when I had questions, I had resources to go to.

What the firm learned from me (or could have) is how to operate in a modern way. I spent a lot of time driving legal tech adoption and helping to modernize training. I founded the cryptocurrency group. I tried to help people to understand how the profession is changing and to see the opportunities in that change.

4. You've moved to Renno and Co., a boutique firm with a tech focus. What are you enjoying about that?

I'm involved in running the firm, which means there's no one to say, 'you can't do this.' We're able to implement best practices without having to deal with the bureaucracy that plagues other firms. People here want to use tech, are genuinely client focused, and are so open to new ideas. The other great thing about this firm is that they're okay with (and are really happy when) lawyers have side projects.

5. How did your business 4L Academy come about?

The impetus came from the feeling that my own training wasn't adequate, and that the result was a lot of anxiety and stress. Essentially, I felt that I was set up to fail. I'm a big believer that inadequate training is a big part of the mental health crisis in the profession.

I taught myself what I needed to know, but I didn't want other people to be in the same position. I started doing some training at my firm, and it went well. But the firm didn't see that as part of my role. I decided to do it externally instead.

6. What is 4L Academy?

4L Academy is about training corporate lawyers in what they need to know and why. Our goal is to build modern lawyers who are well equipped so they will be happier and more fulfilled in their work.

7. How's the business going?

We've found a pretty good niche. We've run cross-Canada training for a national firm and courses for law schools and law firms, with hundreds of people joining our courses directly. We can truly say that we are the top corporate law training program for younger lawyers, summer students, and articling students in Canada. We use advanced educational software and simulations to make our training incredibly practical and engaging. We collect detailed qualitative and quantitative data, and we use it to constantly think about how we can do better.

8. What's "Build Your Book"?

The same idea but focused on sales. At law school, we never learned about how to get clients. Lawyers don't just want clients so that they can make more money: lawyers want control over their careers, certainty of work, independence, and flexibility – and the money is nice too. What they need is a plan, based on science and psychology. I reached out to an old friend of mine who was working in tech sales, and for the last 18 months, we've been training lawyers on authentic modern sales. For some people, it's been life changing.

9. What's your prescription for how law firms need to change?

To be truly client-centred, firms need to talk to clients and listen to their opinions. If they don't, it's no wonder clients aren't happy. If clients aren't happy and the general public can barely afford lawyers, something is fundamentally broken. We need to be better for clients. We also need more people to be able to afford our services, which in turn means using better processes.

We need to switch our mindset to what our clients want and what our younger lawyers need. We need to be a little less top down and much more open minded.

10. What's next for you?

We're looking to roll out 4L Academy to the U.S. in summer 2023 – a lot of U.S. firms are interested in what we're doing. We will also be expanding our Canadian courses – the next bucket is contract drafting and contract review. We're also working on a number of mental health initiatives that will launch over the next six to 12 months. Our goal isn't to maximize profit – we're simply trying to fill the gaps, reduce anxiety, and help people enjoy being lawyers.



The Connector

Alexa Abiscott is a founding member and President of Women General Counsel Canada

“It is a whole different world, one that I was not exposed to when I was a student.” That’s Alexa Abiscott, talking about her role as General Counsel and Secretary with ApplyBoard Inc., a rapidly growing company.

The Toronto native studied anthropology at McGill University. While completing a graduate diploma in international business, she also worked for a professor who was cross-appointed in law and psychiatry. He encouraged her to go to law school, so she applied.

Not sure what she wanted to do with her training, she found herself on what she calls a ‘conveyor belt.’ “Big Law was seen as the prime opportunity,” she says. “I was motivated to seek what I saw as the premier position.” She achieved that goal and then spent seven years practicing commercial litigation with a large Bay Street firm. “I was lucky to be involved in a broad commercial and civil practice with excellent mentors and extremely interesting files – it was great training.”

Still, she began to wonder if it was the right choice for her. “Being a litigator was not totally congruent with my innate nature. I enjoy building relationships with clients and continuing to serve them repeatedly with different matters as part of business strategy supporting a mission I believe in, I like striving toward harmony, and I like problem solving.” In 2012, an acquaintance who was working with Sheridan College pointed her toward a new in-house role there, and Abiscott jumped at it. “I enjoyed being the first in the role, creating a team, and creating order where there was ambiguity,” she says. “It checked all the boxes for me.”

Soon after she started the new role, Abiscott began connecting with women in similar roles in universities and in-house roles in Ontario. Casual lunches led to organized events, and the group grew. Eventually it formalized and became a chapter of the Women’s Law Association of Ontario. The national organization, Women General Counsel of Canada (WGCC), followed in 2017.

In 2020, Abiscott joined ApplyBoard as General Counsel and Secretary of the Board, responsible for the legal, trust, privacy, and data governance teams. ApplyBoard is the world’s largest online platform for international student

recruitment. Founded in 2015, the company works with thousands of post-secondary schools, and more than 10,000 recruitment partners globally, assisting international students on their journeys to campuses across Canada, the U.S., the U.K., and Australia.

When Abiscott was appointed, the company already had 400 employees; today it has more than 1600. “It’s been a tremendous period of growth and scaling globally,” she says. “It is exciting to plot the strategic direction of the company as we continue to expand.” She appreciates the fact that the company mission is “unassailable,” and says the teams are passionate about helping students. “It fills my bucket to know I’m making a meaningful contribution to Canadian society and to our other destination countries, and ultimately to changing students’ lives.”

Meanwhile, WGCC has also been growing. “Many of our members are still the only woman

on an executive team or even in a board room,” she explains. “That isolation can create a thirst and need to connect with other women in similar positions.” A source of camaraderie and shared experiences, WGCC can also be an excellent business networking opportunity for members.

In the past two years, the organization introduced GCU, a training program for General Counsels. The intensive curriculum was based on the top twelve competencies of sought-after General Counsels as identified through research commissioned by WGCC from consulting firm Korn

Ferry. GCU launched in August 2021 and has garnered rave reviews from participants. WGCC also offers scholarships to women law students and Indigenous law students, and members provide mentoring and articling opportunities. Abiscott would like to see more General Counsels recruiting students directly through law school career services.

Abiscott is encouraged that students are no longer on the same conveyor belt she once traveled. “It did not really occur to me that there were attractive alternate careers in law outside of law firms,” she says. “I’m so pleased our profession and our law schools are evolving so that students today are aware much earlier of myriad rewarding career paths.”

“I’m so pleased our profession and our law schools are evolving so that students today are aware much earlier of myriad rewarding career paths.”

- ALEXA ABISCOTT

THE CHAIR

Pamela Shin's practice is inspired by a desire for social justice. Now she's giving back by heading up the new Western Law Young Alumni Advisory Council





Pamela Shin's parents owned a dry-cleaning shop in London, Ontario when she was growing up. She and her sister spent a lot of time in the shop. Lawyers often came by to drop off or pick up their suits. At the age of five, Shin proudly announced to customers: "I'm going to be a lawyer when I grow up."

It was a bold ambition. When her parents immigrated from South Korea with a few hundred dollars in their pockets, among their first jobs was picking worms to sell as bait. "They bought their first furniture set with the worm money," she says. "They still had it when they sold their house several years ago." For most of her childhood, her father worked the day shift at General Motors and then joined her mother at the dry-cleaning shop in the evening.

Growing up with humble means and experiencing discrimination at school, Shin developed a keen sense of social justice. "I chose law because I wanted to be part of a system that would enable more people to be included," she says. "I wanted to do good, to use what I had to have a greater impact." As a high school student, she was active in anti-poverty activities such as the World Vision 30-Hour Famine.

Charity law seemed like the

natural choice. She articulated at a well-known firm that specializes in charity and non-profit law. After exploring litigation and labour and employment law, she left private practice to work in-house for World Vision, taking a significant pay cut. Six years later, she joined the Mastercard Foundation as its first in-house counsel. Her work involved extensive travel throughout the African continent to do field visits. "Seeing the work firsthand and meeting with people who were part of the transformation in their own communities really kept me going, and still does." Since February 2022, she has been a partner with the tax group at Dentons, providing her with a platform to work with charities and non-profits at an international level.

People who work in the charity sector focus on mission and expect their service providers to do the same, Shin says. "Many charities are volunteer driven, with maybe a handful of staff. They don't have a lot of resources to hire service providers. Even for the providers, it requires passion for the causes, instead of simply a focus on financial gain." It is, she adds, a sector that cuts across many practice areas from tax and corporate law to commercial,

privacy, and intellectual property matters. Usually, a charity lawyer is a generalist who can provide "issue spotting" in a variety of areas. "It has all the legal elements a corporation needs but always with a charitable and non-profit lens."

The rewards are many. "It's definitely the causes that keep me motivated," she says. "I also enjoy the exposure to different organizations, missions and leadership styles, and to different problems that I help to solve."

As a woman of color and the daughter of immigrants, Shin recognizes that her experience entering the profession was different from that of many of her peers. "I'd hear them talking about opportunities they had through relatives and other connections, and I knew that I didn't have that kind of network," she says. "My first job in an office was as a law student. I didn't know how to be in that environment -- I didn't feel like I fit in." While grateful for the mentoring she received from male colleagues throughout her career, she hopes that her daughters will have many female mentor options. "There is something powerful about women supporting other women. When we see more of that, we'll be in a much better place in terms of equity and inclusion."

Shin recently agreed to chair Western Law's new Young Alumni Advisory Council. The decision was an easy one, she says. "I had a fantastic experience through undergrad and law school at Western, so if I can give back now, I'd love to do so." She hopes the Council will help connect the school to its alumni, providing a sounding board and helping smooth the transition from academic training to legal practice. Her goal is to create a strong infrastructure of culture, norms and practices for the new Council, helping it become "a strong voice for as many people as possible."

"There is something powerful about women supporting other women. When we see more of that, we'll be in a much better place in terms of equity and inclusion."

- PAMELA SHIN

WESTERN LAW YOUNG ALUMNI ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Council, established in 2022, is comprised of committed and knowledgeable leaders who have been in the legal profession since they graduated from Western Law up to 15 years ago. By lending their diverse perspectives and experiences to further the mission of Western Law, they will have a direct impact on our future. We thank them for their ongoing service.



CHAIR

Pamela Shin, LLB'08

Partner at Dentons LLP, Toronto

pamela.shin@dentons.com

"I had a fantastic experience through undergrad and law school at Western, so if I can give back now, I'd love to do so. The Council will be a sounding board, enabling the School to enhance its listening skills, support students and graduates in the transition from the institution to the real world, and strengthen their connection with the School.

We want to be a strong voice for as many people as possible"

Pamela Shin, Chair



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Outgoing president of the Western Law
Student Legal Society



WE MUST TAKE BOLD ACTION TO UPROOT SYSTEMIC RACISM AT WESTERN LAW

BY PROFESSOR MELANIE RANDALL, RAHUL SAPRA (JD/HBA'22),
AND SUNIL GURMUKH (LLB'08)

“WE ARE DISGUSTED. WE ARE HURT. WE ARE SHAKEN.”

BLACK LAW STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION (BLSA)

Imagine you are a first-year Black law student beginning your legal education at Western:

- You look around and don't see many students, staff or faculty who look like you.
- Your criminal law professor reads aloud a quote from an inquiry report, in which the N-word was used.
- Your professor suggests to you and a fellow Black classmate that you do not need as high grades as others to get a job because you're Black and hiring Black students is the newest trend.

These are only some of the lived experiences of Black students at Western Law. And the effects are pernicious, marginalizing and far-reaching. As was courageously noted by the Black Law Students' Association (BLSA) in their recent letter to the Western Law community: “We are disgusted. We are hurt. We are shaken.”

Black students at Western Law are not alone – there is systemic racism in society at large and in higher education across Canada. It significantly negatively impacts Black and Indigenous people. And systemic racism in legal education has consequences for the legal profession and system. When law students graduate lacking exposure to diverse and anti-racist perspectives, how can they integrate these perspectives into their practices? How can they fulfill the oath they will take to advance the rule of law and safeguard our rights and freedoms?

Western Law has made strides, but it needs to move from walking to running. Change takes bold action - a path Western Law's Anti-Racism Working Group (ARWG) has charted forward in its final report. A path that aligns with many recommendations of BLSA, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the University President's

Anti-Racism Working Group.

Change requires diversity. The ARWG recommends that Western Law establish special programs under Ontario's *Human Rights Code* to increase the representation of Black, Indigenous, and racialized professors and students, like specific categories of admission and recruitment.

Change requires difficult conversations. The ARWG recommends that Western Law provide anti-racism and anti-oppression education to all students, faculty, and staff tailored to their roles and responsibilities, including how bystanders can act as allies and call out racism.

Change requires teaching and researching differently. The ARWG recommends that Western Law:

- Expand the number of courses and research initiatives focused on the study of Black, Indigenous and racialized persons or groups, anti-racism, and critical race theory, and scholarship by Black, Indigenous and racialized persons
- Integrate Indigenous content, anti-racist and decolonization content, and critical race theory into courses

Change requires that Black, Indigenous and racialized students are supported. The ARWG recommends that Western Law hire an Indigenous-elder-in-residence, a Black-lawyer-in-residence and an Assistant Dean or Director of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Accessibility, and Decolonization.

Change requires leadership. Dean Chamberlain is an ally who is committed to change and has driven recent progress, including through:

- Scholarships that enhance diversity at Western Law
- Financial support and accreditation for incoming Indigenous law students

who complete the University of Saskatchewan Indigenous Law Centre summer program

- A free LSAT preparation course for Black, Indigenous, and low-income students or graduates who intend to apply to law school in the near future
- A compulsory course in Indigenous law for upper-year students

There must also be leadership from Western University's administration through real resources and support.

Finally, change requires champions. All members of the Western Law community – alumni, students, faculty, staff, and administration – must come together and demand action.

I'm reminded of what a Black Crown prosecutor said when we were on a panel together. They said it's because of their lived experiences that they view files differently. Their anti-racism lens has helped result in criminal charges being withdrawn against accused. Imagine the impact on the legal profession and system if all members of the Western Law community also embodied anti-racism. That would make all of us “purple and proud.”

Sunil Gurmukh is a human rights lawyer, adjunct professor, and was a member of Western Law's Anti-Racism Working Group. The views expressed are personal and do not reflect the views of the Ontario Human Rights Commission or Ontario Public Service.

Professor Randall and Rahul Sapra were co-chairs of the Western Law Anti-Racism Working Group.

Charlot Post-Doc Research Focuses on Pre-Nuptial Agreements



NICOLYN CHARLOT

Nicolyn Charlot, Western Law's first-ever post-doctoral fellow, began her two-year fellowship at Western Law in September.

Charlot holds a BA in psychology from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and an MSc and PhD in social psychology from Western University. Her research focus is on romantic relationships. "I've always been fascinated by this area, such a huge and complex part of our society we know so little about."

Her Masters' thesis explored the expectations we have of our romantic partners, and how they change over time based on experience. In her PhD, she helped identify the non-abusive behaviors early in relationships that could be predictors of future intimate

partner violence. "There is so much work on helping survivors, which is of course very important, but I was interested in exploring how to keep people safe in the first place." If replicated, her findings could be shared in public information campaigns and used in counselling therapy.

For her post-doc, Charlot wanted to continue to work on applied research. "I'm very curious about making science more applied and exploring its public policy and legal implications," she says. She connected with Professor Claire Houston, who shared her concerns about problems with the family court system. The system, Houston told her, is currently overwhelmed after delays caused by Covid, and can be expensive,

painful, time consuming, and harmful to children. Charlot wanted to be part of the solution. "It's the perfect interdisciplinary research collaboration," she says. "I'm eager to learn more about how the legal system works and where the problems are, and then apply my social psychology knowledge to help addressing those problems."

One avenue Charlot is exploring is the impact of pre-nuptial agreements or marriage contracts. In the first stages of her research, she will explore what people think about prenups and why. "Down the road we want to get a better understanding of whether these agreements work and are considered beneficial by the parties, and what implications that might have for policies and procedures."

Research Officer Recognized



KAREN KUENEMAN

Western Law's research officer, Karen Kueneman, received a Western Award of Excellence in December 2021. Kueneman, who also provides service to the Faculty of Information and Media Studies, and the Don Wright Faculty of Music, was recognized for providing support and expert advice on funding sources, and much more. Said one nominator, "She is, in short, a gem. Karen's contributions to the research culture in each of our faculties are exceptional and we simply cannot imagine doing our jobs without her advice and support."

Two New Research Groups Formed



ALAN MILLER

Research groups focusing on law and economics, and legal philosophy were launched during 2022.

The Law and Economics research group is led by Professor Alan Miller, Canada Research Chair in Law and Economics. It will focus on the use of economic ideas and tools in understanding all aspects of the law. "It's a way of thinking about law," says Miller. "Bringing a group together will help us build a strong research community. The incorporation of economic ideas into legal teaching also helps us train lawyers who understand the law not simply as a set of rules and decisions but—more importantly—as a means for solving their clients' problems."

The group will host a seminar series with speakers from across Canada and the U.S. Says Miller, "It's a chance to critique and be critiqued, and that's where a lot of the learning comes in."

Legal philosophy asks basic questions about the nature of law, exploring constitutional issues, private law theory, the relationship between law and morality, and the grounds of legal

authority. Professor Andrew Botterell, who launched the group with Professor Joanne Langille, says Western Law has a growing strength in law and philosophy. Some members of the group have PhDs in philosophy, while others are drawn to the field by what he calls, "the way their brains work and the kind of questions they find interesting and valuable."

The group will encourage collaboration through reading groups and workshops, connect Western Law faculty to leading legal philosophers through talks, workshops, and conferences, and support JD and graduate students with interests in this area. Among upcoming speakers: Professor Mark Walter, Dean of Queen's law school, Professor Jacob Weinrib also of Queen's, and Professor Leora Katz of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Botterell says JD students, though primarily focused on preparing for the profession, are often grateful for the opportunity to reflect on theoretical questions. "They do case after case, and some are quite hungry for discussion about what all these cases mean."

Faculty notes and books



Professor **David Sandomierski**, together with co-authors Professor John Bliss and Tyzia Collesso, has been awarded the CALT Scholarship of Teaching & Learning Award for their paper, "Pass for Some, Fail for Others: Law School Grading Changes in the Early Covid-19 Pandemic." This is the second time Professor Sandomierski has received the prestigious award, given to recognize contributions to the scholarship of teaching and learning by a Canadian law teacher.

The paper concluded that the Pass/Fail schemes adopted in the wake of the pandemic had minimal negative impact on law student effort, performance, and learning. Said Professor Sandomierski, "My co-authors and I believe that we should continue to adopt an experimental attitude when it comes to grading schemes, while keeping in mind that any move away from hierarchical grading may prove to be detrimental to some students from historically under-represented groups."



Professor **Valerie Oosterveld** recently appeared before the International Criminal Court in the Hague to present amicus curiae (friend of the court) arguments in a case involving sexual and gender-based violence. She appeared on behalf of a group of other feminist lawyers from around the world.

Oosterveld spoke to the case of Prosecutor v. Ongwen. Ongwen was a commander in a Ugandan rebel group, the LRA. The LRA abducted at least 100 girls and young women and assigned them as "wives" to LRA fighters. Ongwen was convicted of the crime against humanity of "other inhumane acts" for using and enforcing a system of forced marriage, the first to be accused of this crime by the ICC.

In 1998 Oosterveld served on the Canadian delegation to draft the gender provisions of the court's founding treaty, and then worked with the Department of Foreign Affairs to help make the ICC a reality.

In July, Oosterveld and two co-editors, Indira Rosenthal and Susan SáCouto, published *Gender and International Criminal Law*. The book brings together leading feminist international criminal and humanitarian law academics and practitioners to examine the place of gender in international criminal law.

In September, Professor Oosterveld received the Royal Society of Canada Ursula Franklin Award in Gender Studies.



Professor **Andrew Botterell**, together with his collaborators, received a SSHRC Insight Development Grant for their project about the justification of age restrictions and variations in policy areas such as voting and health care. The project application, "The Age Gate: Critical evaluation of the range, consistency and normative basis of age thresholds in Canadian law and policy" was ranked first in the competition.



Professor **Thomas Telfer**, together with his collaborators across Western's campus, received a grant from Western's Interdisciplinary Development Initiative to study the effects of the use of mindfulness and feedback literacy to support student wellness.



Professor **Colin Campbell**, and Robert Raizenne of McGill, received a grant from the Canadian Tax Foundation to complete the next two volumes of their history of income tax in Canada.



Professors **Andrew Botterell** and **Martin Petrin** were awarded funding as part of the Western Strategic Support for SSHRC Success Open Program. Professor Botterell's project, "Diminished Responsibility, Voluntariness, and FASD" investigated whether Canadian criminal law should recognize a general defense of diminished responsibility, including for individuals affected by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. Professor Petrin's project, "Reconceptualizing the Corporation in the Light of New Technologies" looked at the ways artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies are influencing the business models and structures of public companies.



Professors **Joanne Langille**, **Zoe Sinel** and **Jason Neyers** received a grant from SSHRC for “Obligations X: Private Law and the State,” a biennial conference focusing on current issues in private law theory and doctrine that was held in July. Participants explored the relationship

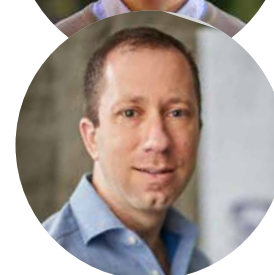
between the law of obligations and the state in relation to crucial public policy issues such as the government’s role in altering private law to account for climate change and its ability to enforce vaccine mandates.



Professor **Bassem Awad** and his collaborators received funding from E-Campus Ontario for their project, “An Advanced Intellectual Property Curriculum for Ontarians: Strategic Uses of IP Rights in the Modern Innovation Economy.” Professor Awad also received funding from the Mitacs Business Strategy Internship for his project, “Legal, Regulatory, and Ethical Framework for a Health Tech Startup.”



Professors **Stephen Pitel** and **Jason Neyers** received funding from the Canadian Foundation for Legal Research for their book projects, respectively *Conflict of Laws, Third Edition*, and *Fridman’s The Law of Contract, Sixth Edition*.



Professors **Francesco Ducci** and **Alan Miller** received a SSHRC Insight Development Grant for their project, “Economic Competition and Political Power.”

BOOKS:

International Law: Doctrine, Practice, and Theory (3rd ed)

(Irwin Law, 2022)

John H. Currie, Craig Forcese, Joanna Harrington, and **Valerie Oosterveld**

International Law: Doctrine, Practice, and Theory is an innovative and unique volume which crosses the traditional boundaries between textbook, casebook, and scholarly monograph. The book is designed primarily as an introduction to the system and substance of international law. It is also a convenient and comprehensive reference work on the most important aspects of this burgeoning field.

Gender and International Criminal Law

(OUP 2022)

Editors: Indira Rosenthal, **Valerie Oosterveld**, and Susana SáCouto

This book brings together leading feminist international criminal and humanitarian law academics and practitioners to examine the place of gender in international criminal law (ICL). The authors consider how best to implement a more nuanced understanding of gender in the practice of international criminal law by identifying possible responses, including embedding a sophisticated gender strategy into the practice of ICL, the gender-sensitive application of international human rights and humanitarian law, and encouraging a gender-competent approach to judging in ICL.

Debt and Federalism: Landmark Cases in Canadian Bankruptcy and Insolvency Law

(UBC Press, 2022)

Thomas Telfer and Virginia Torrie

Debt and Federalism traces changing conceptions of the federal bankruptcy and insolvency power through four landmark cases that together form the constitutional foundation of the Canadian bankruptcy system. The authors draw on a wide array of archival and legal sources to analyze the four decisions from a historical and doctrinal perspective, and to situate them within the appropriate social, economic, and political contexts.

Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries

We would like to thank the donors who have generously contributed to the following awards valued at \$1,000 or more. We also wish to thank those donors who have chosen to remain anonymous. Your support of student scholarships, awards and bursaries provides exceptional opportunities for students to be inspired by leading faculty while also providing recognition for their academic achievements.

A. B. Siskind Scholarship	Catalyst Capital Scholarship in Bankruptcy, Insolvency and Restructuring Law	Edna Yuet Lui Chan Memorial Award
A.T. Little Scholarship and Gold Medal	Catalyst Capital Writing Scholarship in Advanced Restructuring and Insolvency Law	Edward C. Elwood Q.C. Prizes in Wills and Trusts
Adam Fanaki Memorial Award in Competition Law	Cathy and Craig Smith Global Opportunities Award	Eric K. Gillespie Professional Corporation Writing Scholarship
Ailbe C. Flynn LLB '97 Memorial Scholarship in Intellectual Property, Information and Technology Law	CCPartners Award in Labour Law	Erika Gross Chamberlain Bursary in Law
Aird & Berlis LLP Award	Cheryl Waldrum Global Opportunities Award in Law	Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP Award in Corporate Law
Albert Abel Memorial Fund	CIT Worldwide Bursary	Fasken, Martineau DuMoulin LLP Awards
Albert Oosterhoff Award in Property	Clarke-Osborne Family Entrance Scholarship	Filion Wakely Thorup Angeletti LLP Award in Labour and Employment Law
Alex Kennedy Memorial Scholarship	Class of '97 Law Grad Pact Bursaries	Francis Marie Clark Award in Law
Badun-Gillese Entrance Scholarship	Colin D. Leitch Award	Fred J. Blackwell Bursary Fund - Law
Baker & McKenzie Award In International Business Transactions	Cynthia Westaway Award	Gillespie Family Bursary
Bereskin & Parr Award in Intellectual Property	Darlene and Brian Empey Law Award	Gowling WLG (Canada) LLP Entrance Scholarship
Bereskin & Parr LLP Scholarship	Darwin Hayward Award in Law	Grad Pact Law Bursary
Bernard and Bessie Wolf Scholarship	David C. Scott Memorial Award	Granger Award in Family Law
Beryl E. Theobald Entrance Scholarship	David L. Johnston Award in Corporate Law	Gregory Brandt Award in Constitutional Law
Blake Cassels & Graydon LLP Scholarship	David L. Johnston Prize in Securities Regulation	Gretta J. Grant Prize in Community Legal Service
Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP Entrance Scholarships	Dean Ivan C. Rand Award	Gurmukh Family Bursary in Law
Brad Hodgson Civil Litigation Award	Dean of Law Continuing Entrance Scholarships	Harold G. Fox Education Fund Bursary
Bredt/Cameron Entrance Scholarship in Law	Dean of Law Entrance Scholarships	Harte Law Award
Bruce Alexander Thomas Q.C. Bursary	Dez Windischmann Memorial Bursary	Hasham-Steele Bursary in Law
Bruce Welling Memorial Bursary	Diana Majury-Cheryl Waldrum Award	Honourable Mayer Lerner Q.C. Award
Canadian Bar Insurance Association Scholarship	Don Morrison Memorial Bursary	Huron R. Davidson Entrance Award
Carlyle Peterson Award	Douglas May Memorial Award	Insolvency Institute of Canada Prize in Insolvency Studies
Carswell Entrance Scholarship	Dr. Allison H. Johnson Award	J.G. McLeod-McSorley Scholarship in Family Law
Catalyst Capital Scholarship in Bankruptcy and Insolvency Law	Dr. Ian Randall Kerr Memorial Award in Law	J.S.D. Tory Writing Prize
	Earl Palmer, QC Entrance Scholarship	

Janet Stewart Prize in Immigration and Refugee Law	Myer and Sarah Solomon Entrance Scholarships	Stephen G.A. Pitel Award in Private International Law
Joanne Poljanowski Memorial Bursary in Law	Newton Rowell Entrance Scholarships	Student Legal Society Entrance Scholarship
John C. Drake Award in Criminal Law	Nidhi Kanika Suri Memorial Award	T.J. Laskowsky Class of 2001 Entrance Award in Law
Joyce Thomas Memorial Award	Norman Craig Brown QC Continuous Bursary in Law	The Solomon and Lent Family Entrance Scholarship
Kevin J. Comeau Continuing Scholarship	Norton Rose Fulbright Canada LLP Award	The University of Western Ontario Bursaries - Law
Law Class of 1974 Bursary	Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt Award in Legal Research, Writing and Advocacy	The University of Western Ontario Bursaries - Law MET
Law Class of 1982 Award	Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt Diverse Scholars Award	Thorsteinssons LLP Award in International Tax
Law Class of 1993 Bursary	Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt Excellence in Business Law Award	Torkin Manes LLP Award
Law Class of 2007 Tim Edgar Memorial Award	Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt Leadership Award	Torys LLP Award in Business Law
Law Society Foundation Bursaries	Patricia McVeigh Memorial Entrance Scholarship	Torys LLP Student Support Bursary
Law Society of Ontario Education Equity Award	Paul Bradley Award in Real Estate Law	Tremayne-Lloyd Family Bursary
Leonard J. Carter Bursary	Peter Barton Award in Civil Procedure	UWO Law Alumni Association Bursaries
Lorenzo Di Cecco Memorial Award in Criminal Law	Rawal Family Entrance Scholarship	UWO Law Alumni Association Entrance Scholarships
Lorna Cuthbert Bursary in Law	RBC Capital Markets 125th Anniversary Healthy Lifestyles Award	UWO Law Alumni Association Presidents' Award
Lorne & Shari Segal Bursary	Right Honourable Brian Dickson Award	Violet King Award
Lynda Usprich Memorial Bursary in Law	Robert D. Preston Entrance Award in Law	W.R. Poole, QC Criminal Law Moot Award
MacKewn, Winder, Kirwin Entrance Scholarship in Law	Robert and Anne Aziz Award	Waterloo Region Law Association - Catherine Malvern Entrance Scholarship
Margaret E. Rintoul Award in Wills	Robert M. Solomon Award	Western Alumni Global Opportunities Award in Law
Margaret H. McNulty Prize	Robert M. Solomon Scholarship in Tort Law	Western Law Entrance Scholarships
Mario Paura Award in Law	Robert Ninham Entrance Scholarship	Western Law Student Support Bursary
McArdle-MacKinnon 125th Anniversary Alumni Award	Rosen Sunshine LLP Award in Health Law	Whitten & Lublin Employment Lawyers Award
Meena and Amit Chakma Global Opportunities Award	Sandra Oosterhoff Memorial Bursary	
Michael Allen Harte Award	Shaun Finnie LLB '89 Bursary	
Mitch and Leslie Frazer Scholarship	Sonja J. Gundersen Awards	
Morris Kroll Memorial Award	Stanley C.Tessis Memorial Award	
	STEP Canada Award in Trusts	

The South Africa Connection: London firm funds labour law internship



Mikaela Cheslock

Thanks to the generosity of LeClair & Associates, a London, Ontario law firm founded by Ron LeClair, a Western Law student was able to spend 12 weeks in South Africa learning about labour law and human rights.

Nic Preston, who immigrated to Canada from South Africa in 2019 and now works in the firm, says South Africa provides an informative counterpoint to the Canadian context. "It's a third-world country with first-world cities," he says. "The disparity between rich and poor is vast, and access to justice is both physically and financially difficult. Strikes are frequent and often violent, and with unemployment rates in the realm of 40%, losing your job can be disabling."

The South African Society for Labour Law (SASLAW), an organization Preston belonged to, responded by establishing pro bono clinics across the country. Before moving to Canada, he was one of the many top lawyers who donated time to staff the clinic. "I always found it humbling," he says. "It was a way to keep myself grounded and give back."

The clinics have been hugely successful, seeing more than 25,000 clients between 2011 and 2020. The clients would otherwise have been without access to justice and often travel hours, even days, for the opportunity to get free legal advice and representation. At one time, there were people sleeping overnight in the court building to ensure their place at the front of the line the next morning.

In 2019, Chris Albertyn, a Toronto-based arbitrator who is South African by birth, established and raised funds for an exchange program that would help to support the pro bono clinics, by sending three U of T law students to spend the summer in South Africa, working at the clinics and rotating through top labour and employment law firms. Covid travel restrictions limited the program in 2020 and 2021. Then in 2022, Ron LeClair committed to funding an additional internship for a student at Western Law for the next three years, expanding the existing program.

Mikaela Cheslock of Western Law joined the internship in 2022. "It was such a

rewarding experience," she says. "It gave me the opportunity to interact with attorneys and advocates from a number of firms and to work in the pro bono office. Sometimes we could take on a case and assist clients at the labour court. Other times we had to tell them that their case would not succeed, which was something that never got easier."

Professor Valerie Oosterveld, co-director of the Western Law Internship Program, says opportunities like this one offer unique learning experiences. "Our summer internships expose students to the realities of the practice of law, taking the learning well beyond the classroom."

Preston adds, "The SASLAW pro bono clinic is a great place for any young lawyer with an interest in labour, employment and human rights. It offers real world experience at the coalface and provides the foundation for practicing law anywhere."

For more information about establishing Western Law summer internships, please contact Holly Gati, Director of Development, 519-661-3953, hgati@uwo.ca

Cynthia Westaway Funds Indigenous Law Award



Cynthia Westaway

“Governments tend to apply bandaid solutions that address aspects of the challenge. But from the beginning there hasn’t been the right respect for other nations, cultures and knowledge. It’s not Indigenous peoples who need to change: it’s our systems. We need to practice co-management, co-drafting, and co-leadership. When we do, we get great results.”

That’s Cynthia Westaway, who built and operates Westaway Law Group. She has three decades of experience providing a wide range of services to Indigenous clients across Canada. Recently, the Westaway Law Group merged with First Peoples Law, a B.C.-based firm with similar interests.

Westaway spent ten years as a ballerina in New York City, eventually becoming a representative for the dancers’ union. Developing an appreciation for rights-based law, she completed law school at Western and then spent five years working in human rights and employment law. During a year clerking for Justice L’Heureux-Dubé at the Supreme Court, she

participated in several large cases involving Indigenous issues, and was inspired to focus on the field. “It’s a fascinating area, very broad and intellectually challenging,” she

“Governments tend to apply bandaid solutions that address aspects of the challenge. But from the beginning there hasn’t been the right respect for other nations, cultures and knowledge. It’s not Indigenous peoples who need to change: it’s our systems.”

CYNTHIA WESTAWAY

says. “At the same time, you are privileged to connect to people who live on the land, and to help ensure that communities are getting what they need.”

Westaway travels widely to ensure that she meets in person with her clients as much as possible. “I spend a lot of time listening

and learning. As a result, my advice has been appreciated.” She is proud that her work has resulted in several major settlements for Indigenous communities, enabling them to begin the process of rebuilding after more than a century of loss, discrimination and the resulting poverty. Recently her firm launched a major cumulative effects litigation in Ontario and with the goal of protecting Canada’s boreal forests.

Westaway has created an award in support of undergraduate Western Law students who share her interest in Indigenous and Aboriginal law. Her goal, she says, is to encourage anyone, Indigenous or non-Indigenous, to pursue the field. “The clients with whom I work with have broad needs,” she says. “We all need each other.”

For more information about establishing Western Law scholarships, awards and bursaries, please contact Michelle Bothwell, Development Officer, 519-661-3862 michelle.bothwell@uwo.ca

CLASS NOTES

1960s



Colin McNairn, LLB '63, has published his second collection of light verse, titled *What If Jack Wasn't So Nimble? Mother Goose Characters Reimagined*. Between this book and his earlier *Signs of the Times through Reimagined Nursery Rhymes*, he has produced parodies of over 130 popular poems from the quill pen of Mother Goose.

1970s

W. Donaldson, LLB '70, was re-appointed an alternate chairperson and legal member of the Ontario Review Board until June 2024.

Randall Lalande, LLB '73, retired in June 2022, after an almost 50-year legal career. He spent the past 22 years as a judge of the Ontario Court of Justice and was in private practice for 25 years prior to that.



Christine Elliott, LLB '78, joined Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP's health law group in Toronto. She was previously the minister of health and deputy premier for Ontario.

George Sinker, LLB '73, retired from his role as a judge in Stratford, Ont. after a successful 47-year career in law, which included founding the George E. Sinker Law firm with his wife in 1990.

Elizabeth Weir, LLB '76, was inducted into the Order of New Brunswick for her exceptional service and leadership dedicated to the promotion of equality and social justice.



Christopher Brett, LLB '79, was awarded a Law Society Medal at the 2022 Law Society Awards for his exceptional contributions to the legal profession. He is known as a skilled and fearless advocate who exemplifies the profession's values of integrity, collegiality and civility.

1980s

Brian Gover, LLB'81, was awarded a Law Society Medal at the 2022 Law Society Awards. He is widely recognized as one of Canada's top advocates at the forefront of change.

Terry Cassaday, LLB'82, founder and Chief Executive Officer of ergoCentric Inc., was elected to the Business and Institutional Furniture Manufacturers Association (BIFMA) board of directors in January 2022.

Karla Gower, LLB'82, published "Betsy Ann Plank: The Making of a Public Relations Icon" in May 2022. She is currently a professor in the University of Alabama's advertising and public relations department.

John Dunlap, LLB'83, was appointed lieutenant of the grand master of the Sovereign Order of Malta by Pope Francis in June 2022.



Beverly Behan, LLB'84, was selected by The Women Leaders magazine as one of 20 Most Inspiring Women Leaders of 2022. Bev is one of the foremost global experts on board effectiveness and a #1 Amazon best-selling author in business management and leadership and corporate governance.

Michael Cooper, LLB'84, was appointed to the board of directors of Rogers Communications in October 2021.



Karen Wilford, LLB'85, was awarded the Canadian Bar Association's 2022 Legal Aid Award for making a significant contribution to providing access to justice for people in need.



Filomena Tassi, LLB'86, was appointed minister for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in August 2022.



Lionel Smith, LLB'89, was appointed Downing Professor of the Laws at the University of Cambridge in January 2022.

1990s

Bruce Caughill, LLB'90, was named Managing Director, Canada at Rush Street Interactive, a leading online casino and sports betting company based in the U.S. He was previously the Chief Legal Officer at the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO).



Sharon Hassan, LLB'91, was appointed a Judge of the Superior Court of Justice of Ontario, family court branch, in June 2022. She was previously a managing partner at Hassan Law in London, Ont.



Karen Jensen, LLB'92, who was featured in last year's Western Law Magazine in her position as pay equity commissioner at the Canadian Human Rights Commission in Ottawa, was appointed to the Superior Court of Justice of Ontario in November 2022.



Damhnait Monaghan, LLB'92, won the 2022 Rakuten Kobo Emerging Writer's Award in the Romance Category for her novel *New Girl in Little Cove* (HarperCollins Canada, March 2021).



Suzan Fraser, LLB'93, was appointed a Judge of the Superior Court of Justice of Ontario in Newmarket. She is also the founder of Fraser Advocacy, a public law practice that focuses on mental health and protecting the rights of vulnerable persons.



Martha Tweedie, LLB'93, was appointed a Judge of the Superior Court of Justice of Ontario for the Family Court branch in Kitchener. She was previously a Justice of the Peace at the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton.



Patricia Moore, LLB'95, was appointed a Judge of the Superior Court of Justice of Ontario in London. She was previously Crown Attorney at the Ministry of the Attorney General of Ontario in Kitchener.

Bruce Curran, LLB'98, was granted tenure as a professor of law at the University of Manitoba in January 2022.

Scott Goodman, LLB'98, joined TRAFFIX as its Chief People Officer in May 2022.



Jonathon George, LLB'99, of Kettle & Stony Point First Nation, was appointed a Judge of the Court of Appeal for Ontario in December 2021. He previously served as a Judge of the Ontario Court of Justice and the Ontario Superior Court of Justice.



Michael Rubinoff, LLB'01 produced the musical "Grow" which premiered at London's Grand Theatre in April 2022. Michael is an award-winning producer and is well known for his international hit musical "Come From Away."

2000s



Charles Chang, LLB'00, was appointed a Judge of the Superior Court of Justice of Ontario in Milton in June 2022.

Alexa Abiscott, LLB'03, received the General Counsel Award from the Women's Law Association of Ontario in June 2022.

Yola Ventresca, LLB'05, was appointed Managing Partner at Lerner LLP in London, Ont., in January 2022.



Matthew Langford, LLB'06, was named to Lexpert's Rising Stars 2021: Canada's Leading Lawyers Under 40.



Lorin MacDonald, JD'09, is a 2022 Inductee to the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame as a Builder, those who have distinguished themselves by making extraordinary contributions to enhancing the lives of persons with disabilities.



Melanie Baird, LLB'07, was named to Lexpert's Rising Stars 2021: Canada's Leading Lawyers Under 40.

Juma Rustin, LLB'07, was selected as a recipient of the 2022 Canadian General Counsel Award.



Maureen Littlejohn, LLB'08, was named to Lexpert's Rising Stars 2021: Canada's Leading Lawyers Under 40.



Kaysi Fagan, JD'09, was named to Lexpert's Rising Stars 2021: Canada's Leading Lawyers Under 40.



Matthew Helfand, JD'18 co-authored *Expropriation Law in Ontario*. The law governing expropriations in Ontario can make the process challenging to navigate. This new publication explains the legislation and offers useful insight on how it should be applied.



Omar Ha-Redeye, JD'10, joined the Department of Justice Canada as Counsel.



Zohaib Maladwala, JD'09, was named to Lexpert's Rising Stars 2021: Canada's Leading Lawyers Under 40.

Nancy Stokey, JD'12, won the 2021 CME Group-MSRI Innovative Quantitative Applications Prize for her work in economics and mathematics. She is currently an economics professor at the University of Chicago.

Steven Hong, JD'19, was appointed to the board of directors for Gold Lion Resources Inc.

Keep Western Law and your fellow alumni informed about your achievements and milestones.

Congratulations

to our outstanding alumni on being named to the
Canadian Lawyer Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers 2022



Rosanne Kyle, LLB '91
 Partner at Mandell Pinder LLP



Leila Rafi, LLB '05
 Partner at McMillan LLP



Quinn Martin Ross, JD '04
 Chief Executive Officer at
 The Ross Firm Professional Corporation

IN MEMORIAM

Western Law celebrates the lives and marks the passing of the following alumni.

Glen Cooper, LLB '69, died on December 24, 2021. He was a respected insolvency lawyer for more than 40 years. He was also a musician who played the piano, organ and sang in choirs. According to his obituary, "Glenn made his mark with a brilliant mix of satire and dry wit, often woven together through gifted storytelling."

Becky Dinwoodie, LLB '01, died suddenly on March 28, 2022. She served as University Secretary and Judicial Officer, Ontario Tech University. She was described as, "a shining light and a beacon of hope and optimism even in the toughest times."

David Holub, LLB '77, died on December 15, 2021. He practiced law in Sudbury and Guelph, Ontario, where he specialized in civil litigation. He ended his legal career as a Small Claims Court Deputy Judge.

His obituary notes, "His two sons gave him the nickname 'Dr. Right' for his well-known quip: 'I may not always be right but I'm never wrong.'"

Charles Lewonas, LLB '68, died on June 15, 2022. He practiced law in Woodstock, Ontario.

Edward Perfect, LLB '66, died on February 10, 2022. He enjoyed a long and distinguished law career and, according to his obituary, "a lifetime of wonderful travels around the world with his family."

Krystyna Price, LLB '97, died on January 14, 2021. She was a devoted mother who left the law to dedicate herself to her children's upbringing. She is remembered for "her quiet brilliance, razor-sharp wit, kind, caring, and supportive nature, and her eternal optimism and resolve in the face of challenges."

Gary Rubinoff, LLB '85, died on July 25, 2022. He was a graduate of Western Law and the Ivey Business School, and was managing partner of Summerhill Venture Partners.

Brian Sinclair, LLB '63, died on May 17, 2021. He practiced law in Niagara Falls for 55 years. According to his obituary, "He has undoubtedly entered the Great Beyond driving a classic car with a Golden Retriever by his side on his way to a swinging party."

Tammy Smith, LLB '01, died on August 17, 2022. She worked for the Competition Bureau of Canada and the Ontario Securities Commission. Her obituary reads, "She truly loved life to the fullest and always had a bright smile and loved to chat."

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RENEÉ RANKINE

*Law student &
Violet King Award recipient*



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