

Western Law

2023 ALUMNI MAGAZINE

FINDING HARMONY

Mark and Randy McAuley create balance with a mix of music and law

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

Ritu Bhasin on cultivating belonging

Suzanne Dajczak unbottles success

Kristina Milbourn leads by example



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On the cover: Mark and Randy McAuley (Photographed by Frank Neufeld)



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10 QUESTIONS WITH
RITU BHASIN
Story on pg. 16

WESTERN LAW
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“As Dean of Western Law, I’m incredibly proud of the ways that our alumni distinguish themselves in private practice, public service, business and diplomacy. I’m equally proud of the way that our alumni shine in other areas of their lives and contribute to the vibrant social fabric of society.”

DEAN’S MESSAGE

As Dean of Western Law, I’m incredibly proud of the ways that our alumni distinguish themselves in private practice, public service, business and diplomacy. I’m equally proud of the way that our alumni shine in other areas of their lives and contribute to the vibrant social fabric of society.

This year’s magazine features alumni who are pursuing artistic, social and entrepreneurial activities in addition to their practice of law. Randy (JD ’15) and Mark (JD ’18) McAuley, who began a musical career with their brothers in the R&B quartet, the McAuley Boys, prior to studying at Western Law, have continued to make music to find balance in their lives and maintain a sense of personal identity. Third-year student Renée Rankine has also found meaning through art, using painting to honor the life of her brother and to help other families who have lost loved ones in acts of violence.

Beyond the law, EDI consultant Ritu Bhasin (LL.B. ’00) has written a new book exploring the concept of belonging and how to cultivate it for ourselves and among those we lead. In that vein, Kristina Milbourn (LL.B. ’08), head of litigation at Rogers, is spearheading equity, diversity and inclusion initiatives and helping

to lift and mentor BIPOC lawyers.

And Suzanne Dajczak (LL.B. ’87) balances her law practice with ownership of North 42 Degrees Estate Winery and Serenity Lavender Farm, pursuing the passions she developed as the daughter of farmers.

These and other stories highlight the importance of encouraging students to be well-rounded persons who can make a range of contributions to society, while also finding personal fulfilment in activities beyond the law. To this end, Professor David Sandomierski, who recently received a research grant to study the architecture of law schools, describes how we can educate students to become more engaged citizens and contribute to the myriad issues facing modern society.

This year’s magazine also features stories on Western Law’s distinguished speakers, faculty research, clerkship success, and the recent international Conference on the Law of Obligations. Both inside the classroom and through our many co-curricular opportunities, we strive to provide a learning environment that enables professional exploration in a variety of areas.

That’s one of the many reasons why we’re excited to launch our Summer After

1L (SA1L) program for the entering class of 2023-24. Through this program, we’re offering all Western Law students at least 10 weeks of paid legal experience in the summer after their first year. There will be a variety of placements, including research assistantships, clinical positions, and internships with local and international agencies, which will help students to explore their interests and expose them to the range of career options available to law graduates. The SA1L program will help ensure that Western Law graduates continue to become leaders in not only the legal profession, but also in other aspects of their professional and public lives.

Finally, I’d like to take this opportunity to thank Holly Gati, who was our director of development from 2018-2022 and recently took up a position at the Canadian Olympic Foundation, and to welcome our new director, Shawna Ferguson. I’d also like to thank Kaleigh Rodgers, who joined Western Law as communications officer in January, for leading the development of this magazine.

Erika Chamberlain (LL.B. ’01)



LTR: Sunil Gurmukh with Rachel Mendleson, Steve Buist and David Bruser at the Canadian Hillman Prize for Journalism awards



Unchartered series supported by the Hidden Racial Profiling Project receives nods for outstanding public interest journalism

Two *Torstar* reporters have received multiple public interest journalism awards for their work on the investigative series *Unchartered*, which was supported by research from Western Law's Hidden Racial Profiling Project (HRPP). The groundbreaking series revealed over 600 court decisions in which Canadian police violated the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms in public

“Unchartered is an unprecedented investigation into police misconduct and abuse that, until now, has operated largely out of the public eye. Left unchecked, it will continue to undermine the rule of law and Canadians’ faith in their justice system.”

Sidney Hillman Foundation

dealings including through excessive force and unreasonable searches.

As noted by the Sidney Hillman Foundation, “*Unchartered* is an unprecedented investigation into police misconduct and abuse that, until now, has operated largely out of the public eye. Left unchecked, it will continue to undermine the rule of law and Canadians’ faith in their justice system.”

The 2022 series by Toronto Star’s Rachel Mendleson and the Hamilton Spectator’s Steve Buist received the 2023 Canadian Hillman Prize, and the John Honderich Award for Project of the Year at the Canadian Newspaper Awards. The pair was

also nominated for the Digital Publishing Awards and was named a finalist for the Michener awards.

The HRPP, led by Sunil Gurmukh, a visiting lecturer at Western Law, includes a team of law student research assistants. The HRPP worked with Mendleson and Buist providing case law research on Charter violations by the largest city police forces in Canada from 2015 - 2019. HRPP researchers are now working to identify the race of victims in Charter violations and summarize trends for a report which the team hopes will lead to further positive change. Western Law is proud of the HRPP, which speaks to the power of experiential learning for the public good.



SA1L program to help 1L students chart their professional courses

Beginning in the 2023-24 academic year, Western Law will launch the Summer After 1L Program (SA1L), connecting all incoming JD students with work placements after their first year of studies. Through this optional program, all interested students will be eligible for a minimum of 10 weeks of meaningful legal employment starting in summer 2024.

“The SA1L Program will give our students a head start in the legal employment world, expose them to different types of legal work, and provide them with financial support.

We hope to remove the uncertainty many new law students may feel towards gaining employment,” said Dean of Western Law, Erika Chamberlain.

“Connecting students to law-related work early in their studies will deepen their academic experience through research and experiential learning, and will also benefit the work of our faculty, clinics, and other important community agencies,” she said.

Placements through SA1L will include faculty research assistants, positions at Western Law’s legal clinics, and through the

Western Law Internship Program (WLIP), as well as with other local agencies, non-profits, and offices on campus. Students may also be eligible for self-proposed internships.

Western Law consistently has among the top placement rates in Canada, with over 90 per cent of students securing articles after graduation. The SA1L Program extends our commitment to helping students succeed in today’s competitive job market, while exposing them to a range of career opportunities both locally and globally.

Western Law students, graduates and community volunteers launch Legal Information for Sexual Assault (LISA)

Western University students who have experienced sexual assault or abuse can now access free, confidential legal information thanks to the launch of the Legal Information for Sexual Assault (LISA) program.

Through LISA, any Western student can meet with a trained law student to discuss their legal options, understand various legal processes, and receive information and referrals to legal and non-legal resources. The team of volunteers work under the supervision of sexual assault lawyer, Anju Fujioka (JD’20).

The idea for the program emerged after reports of sexual assault on campus in 2021. Two former Western Law students, Chanèle Rioux-McCormick (JD ’22) and Alexandra Strickland (JD ’22),

wanted to help and realized that legal information for survivors can be hard to find. In response, the pair co-authored a frequently asked questions guide for survivors of sexual violence to help survivors better understand their legal rights and options.

The next step was bringing this guide to life. Rioux-McCormick, with the assistance of Professor Mandi Gray, Ph.D., developed a proposal for a pilot program to provide legal information to survivors. With the support and approval of Community Legal Services and Western Law, and the collaboration of three other founding members – Delaney Gilmore, Fujioka, and Gray (program evaluator), the pilot program launched in February 2023 and will continue into fall 2023.



Michael Baxter shares his journey from Windsor to Washington

Along with Western's Office of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion, Western Law was pleased to welcome Michael St. Patrick Baxter (LL.B. '79) back to campus as part of Western's Black History Month programming celebrating Black excellence. Baxter is senior counsel at Covington & Burling LLP, an international law firm based in Washington, D.C., where he has practiced law for 40 years, specializing in corporate restructuring and bankruptcy reorganization. He is also an adjunct professor of law at The George Washington University Law School and a member of Western Law's Advisory Council.

Baxter addressed Western Law students, faculty and staff sharing a moving and motivating speech that detailed his journey from LaSalle, Essex County to a coveted position at one of the top law firms in the United States. He shared personal

experiences from the stops on his journey including Western Law, articling on Bay Street, a clerkship for the Chief Justice of Ontario at the Ontario Court of Appeal, graduating with an LL.M. from Harvard and ultimately earning partnership at Covington & Burling.

With candor, Baxter outlined the challenges he experienced on the road to establishing his career, particularly when trying to secure employment on Bay Street. He shared his inner struggle to reappraise his belief that race should not be a factor in his career, and outlined the ways in which racial discrimination can manifest during the Big Law application process. He also touched upon the current state and challenges of equity, diversity and inclusion initiatives in the legal field and the importance of mentorship for Black lawyers, by Black lawyers.



Michael Baxter

Baxter concluded his speech with advice, based on lessons he has learned, to Black students, post-secondary administrators, law firms, and all who wish to act as allies. His words of wisdom for students included to find community and mentorship, and to learn from feedback and adversity. His advice to law schools and firms included diversifying your gatekeepers, taking an interest in your students and associates, and never underestimating the power of kindness.

Student researchers propose policy framework for asteroid mining on project Khepri

The cislunar economy, or the economy between earth and space, is a burgeoning field with a major driver being the prospect of space mining. Take the Bennu asteroid; researchers have estimated that \$330 trillion worth of water could be extracted from this one source alone.

Aside from the economic impact, mining asteroids could have other significant benefits like reducing the environmental burden of terrestrial mining and the ability to extend space exploration by fueling spacecraft in situ. Prior to launching any mission to mine Bennu, there are a host of engineering, business and legal concerns requiring much research and development.

In the summer of 2022, Western Law students Aaron Groh and Brianna Miklaucic, under the supervision of Professors Valerie Oosterveld and Elizabeth Steyn, joined the effort to help address the policy and legal components of asteroid mining as part of a team of researchers on a multi-stakeholder, multi-university project titled Khepri.

This project, which assessed the feasibility of mining Bennu, was spearheaded and coordinated by Cameron Dickinson of MDA – the company most well known for creating the Canadarm. Groh and Miklaucic joined fellow Western students and professors from the faculties of Engineering, Earth Sciences, and Science along with

contributors from the University of Alberta, University of Arizona, University of Toronto Institute for Aerospace Studies (UTIAS), Waterloo University, and UBC's Outer Space Institute.

The project consisted of 3 streams of student research: engineering, business and law. The engineering components examined the technical feasibility of how to mine asteroid Bennu for water and the business components focused on building the business case for mining Bennu. Western Law students led the study of the policy and legal components required.

Groh and Miklaucic published their findings in August 2022 paper Project Khepri: Asteroid Mining Project Final Policy Report. Their paper focused on looking at the current international, US and Canadian legal frameworks for mining Bennu and providing suggestions to enable and improve those frameworks.

Going forward, Groh and Miklaucic's research may just influence Canada's regulatory framework for space. The pair have submitted their paper to the Canadian Space Agency's open consultation to help the agency ensure "Canada's space-related regulations are keeping pace with the changes in the global space sector so that we enable innovative space companies to prosper here in Canada while respecting national security considerations and international obligations."



Justice Jonathon George

Justice Jonathon George joins Western Law Advisory Council

Justice Jonathon George (LL.B. '99) is the newest member of Western Law's Advisory Council, a group of senior legal and industry professionals who lend their time and perspectives to further our mission.

Justice George was appointed to the Ontario Court of Justice in 2012, to the Superior Court of Justice in 2016, and to the Court of Appeal for Ontario in December 2021. At the Ontario Court, he was the West Region's Education Co-Chair and at the Superior Court was a member of the Chief Justice's Indigenous Advisory Committee.

Earlier in his career, he worked at Robbins, Henderson & Davis where he developed a criminal defence practice. On behalf of the Office of the Children's Lawyer he represented children in family law and child protection cases. He represented the Chippewas of Kettle & Stony Point in employment and child protection matters and chaired its Constitutional Development Committee. He was also the First Nation's co-counsel in its negotiations with the Federal Government concerning the return of the Stoney Point Reserve and represented its interests at the Ipperwash Public Inquiry.



Right Honourable Lord Sales

Lord Sales lectures on pure economic loss in the law of tort

On September 26, 2022, the Right Honourable Lord Sales of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom delivered the first Tort Law Research Group Public Lecture of the 2022/2023 academic year to an audience of students, faculty, and members of the bar and bench. It was a tremendous honour to welcome Lord Sales to the Faculty of Law. His visit marks only the second time that a senior member of the English judiciary has lectured at the law school, the other being the visit of the celebrated Lord Denning in 1987.

Lord Sales was called to the Bar of England and Wales at Lincoln's Inn in 1985. He became a Queen's Counsel in 2006 and was appointed as a Lord Justice of Appeal in 2014. He became a Justice of the Supreme Court in

January 2019. He has also published extensively in leading domestic and international journals, including the *Law Quarterly Review*, *American Journal of Jurisprudence*, *Cambridge Law Journal*, and *Australian Law Review*.

Lord Sales' talk, "Pure Economic Loss in the Law of Tort: The History and Theory of Assumption of Responsibility," offered a historically grounded and conceptually coherent picture of the law of assumption of responsibility in England. Lord Sales argued that, while assumption of responsibility cannot explain every instance in which pure economic loss is awarded for the tort of negligence, there is a core category of cases for which assumption of responsibility is the unifying principle.



Christine Elliott



Former Ontario deputy premier is Western Law's Distinguished Leader in Residence

BY WESTERN COMMUNICATIONS

Christine Elliott, former Ontario deputy premier and Western alum, is joining the university as Distinguished Leader in Residence at Western Law.

Elliott (LL.B. '78) was a lawyer and a founding partner of Flaherty, Dow, Elliott & McCarthy, along with her husband, the late James Flaherty. During her tenure as Ontario's minister of health and deputy premier from 2018 to 2022, she played an integral part in overseeing the province's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I am delighted that such a distinguished graduate is returning to Western Law in the capacity of Distinguished Leader in Residence. Christine will provide valuable mentorship to our students as they find their place as leaders in our modern democracy," said Erika Chamberlain, dean of Western Law.

During her tenure in the provincial government, Elliott sponsored and enacted legislation, and she also served as Ontario's first Patient Ombudsman from 2016 to 2018.

Elliott and Flaherty co-founded Abilities Centre in Whitby, Ont., which supports and celebrates the abilities of all people. She has held positions on a range of boards

in the health care sector since becoming involved as a volunteer with several charities including the Lakeridge Health Whitby Foundation, Durham Mental Health Services and Grandview Children's Centre.

"I am honoured to be once again associated with Western University, this time as Distinguished Leader in Residence. My undergraduate years, as well as my years at Western's Faculty of Law, prepared me well for my future," Elliott said, in conversation with Western News.

"I look forward to speaking with potential Western students about the high quality of education and life at Western University and connecting with current students about their studies and their opportunities for the future," she said.

Elliott will work with the faculty to provide guidance and professional mentorship to law students in areas including health care law and policy, advocacy, leadership and public service.

"I'm thrilled to welcome Christine back to campus in this new and exciting role," said Alan Shepard, president of Western. "As a Distinguished Leader in Residence, she will contribute to the intellectual life of the university while offering our students an incredible opportunity to benefit from her

wide-ranging legal expertise and dedication to public service."

Through her formal activities and interactions with students and alumni, Elliott will promote the versatility of a legal education to prepare students for a wide range of careers.

"I will be speaking to the students about aspects of their studies as well as future opportunities in legal careers. I have worked in various capacities in my career, and my experience as a lawyer set me up for work in public life. I look forward to sharing my experience and insights," Elliott said.

Part of these interactions with students will be in the form of impromptu conversations, fireside chats and guest lectures, on themes to be chosen by the Leader in Residence. Elliott will also be available for guest lectures and seminars on health care, public service, social justice and related topics. She will also be attending events at the faculty and university, meetings of senior leadership, and with notable alumni and friends of the university.

In addition to this role within the law school, Elliott will serve as an advisor to President Shepard on Western's mental health and wellness strategy.

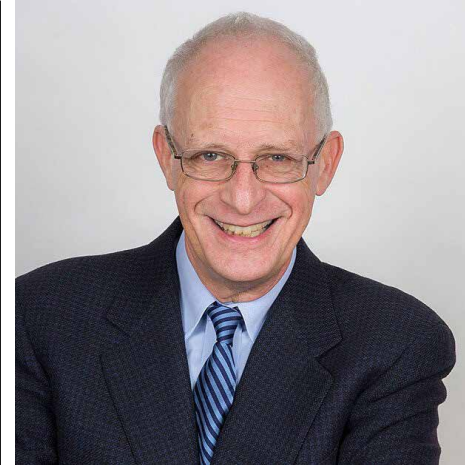
➤ Trends and theories in business law explored at Western Law Business Law Symposium

On November 10 and 11, 2022, Western Law hosted some of the world's most influential business and law scholars at the inaugural Western University Business Law Symposium: "Charting the Path for Law, Governance and Regulation of Corporations and Financial Markets." This exciting symposium, convened at the Intercontinental Hotel in Toronto, was made possible thanks to the generous sponsorship of Western Law graduate Geoff Beattie.

Papers at the symposium explored the law and regulation of markets and institutions from a variety of perspectives. The symposium, chaired by Professor Christopher Nicholls, W. Geoff Beattie Chair in Corporate Law, featured scholars from universities around the world including Yale Law School, Pennsylvania Carey Law School,

NYU Law, FGV Law School, and the University College of London Faculty of Laws.

The symposium's keynote address was delivered by Oliver Hart, Lewis P. and Linda L. Geysler University Professor at Harvard University and co-recipient of the 2016 Nobel Prize in Economics. Professor Hart presented work he had undertaken with Luigi Zingales of the University of Chicago Booth School of Business on "The New Corporate Governance." Noting that the recent rise of shareholder engagement on environmental and social issues was difficult to square with the shareholder wealth maximization norm in corporate governance, he proposed replacing "shareholder wealth maximization" with a concept of "shareholder welfare maximization" and explained how such a



Oliver Hart

principle might work in practice.

"Western Law's inaugural Business Law Symposium was a spectacular success," Professor Nicholls said. "The calibre of the speakers, the quality of discussion and the importance of the topics covered were outstanding. This event was a wonderful way to launch what we hope to become an annual symposium at Western Law."

Tenth biennial Obligations conference explores private law and the state

Leading legal scholars, judges and practitioners from around the world gathered at the picturesque Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity in July 2023 for the tenth biennial Conference on the Law of Obligations (Obligations X). The conference was hosted by Western Law and co-convened by Professors Joanna Langille, Jason Neyers and Zoë Sinel along with Obligations founder Professor Andrew Robertson of Melbourne Law School.

Obligations is the premiere private law conference in the world. The tenth edition focused on the theme of *Private Law and the State*, enabling participants to explore numerous questions concerning the relationship between private law obligations and the state as a public institution. Plenary session topics included public nuisance, property and licensing, the liability of public authorities for torts, and human rights and private law.

The event was a global affair with a total of 150 attendees, including professors from the universities of Harvard, Oxford, Cambridge, Melbourne, Singapore, and Hong Kong. Justice Kós of the New Zealand Supreme Court, Justice Edelman of the High Court of Australia, and Justice Newbury of the British Columbia Court of Appeal also attended to moderate the conference's plenary sessions.

"The conference was, by all accounts, a tremendous success. The quality of the academic program was exceptional, the scenery was stunning, and attendees were delighted to gather in person," said Dean Erika Chamberlain. "Many congratulations to the conference conveners, who directed all aspects of the conference and represented Western Law with professionalism and hospitality."

The conference was generously supported by Borden Ladner Gervais LLP, Hart Publishing, The Marcel A. Desautels Centre for Private Enterprise and the Law, Miller Thomson LLP, Polley Faith LLP, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

The Obligations Conference series originated at Melbourne Law School, where the first conference was held in 2002. Western Law was the first North American university to have hosted the conference (in 2012).

The eleventh Obligations conference *Private Law: Inside and Out* will be hosted at Harvard Law School in 2025. In the meantime, a collection of Obligations X conference papers will be published by Hart Publishing in a forthcoming book edited by Professors Neyers and Robertson.



Aileen Kavanagh



Aileen Kavanagh examines “Underuse of the Override” at 2023 Coxford Lecture

Professor Aileen Kavanagh – chair of constitutional governance at Trinity College Dublin and director of TriCON, the Trinity Centre for Constitutional Governance – joined Western Law to present the 2023 Coxford Lecture on March 27.

Kavanagh explored the ability of legislatures to override court decisions on rights as a defining feature of the New Commonwealth Model of Constitutionalism in the United Kingdom and Canada. She explained that while section 33 of the Charter in Canada and section 19 of the UK Human Rights Act grant legislatures similar override powers under “strictly confined conditions,” the provisions have been rarely used.

In her lecture, Kavanagh provided an overview of Canadian scholarship on why the override has been so rarely used. While Kavanagh’s lecture was entitled “Underuse of the Override,” she did not argue that legislatures in Canada and the UK should override rights with more regularity. She believes that, while rulings contrary to rights may be necessary in extenuating circumstances, their sparing use is critical to protecting the rule of law and true to the original intent of the mechanism.

“The power of override, I argue, was and must be coupled with a duty to act with care and comity,” said Kavanagh. “That was what was intended by the original drafters of these mechanisms, that is what has happened in practice. Through my eyes, that is an achievement of constitutional democracy, not one we should lament and decry.”

Ten students secure prestigious judicial clerkships

Keeping pace with a new record set last year, 10 Western Law students have been selected for judicial clerkships. After graduating, Western Law students will be working with judges at the top courts in the country, including the Supreme Court of Canada, the Ontario Court of Appeal, the Alberta Court of Appeal, the Federal Court of Appeal and the Tax Court.

“We are so incredibly proud of our students’ success in obtaining clerkships this academic year,” said Professor Joanna Langille, co-director of Western Law’s clerkship program.

“We are really excited about the wonderful intellectual and professional experiences these students will have in helping courts with their work,” added Professor Manish Oza, co-director of the program.

Clerkships are among the most competitive and prestigious positions available to graduating law students. Clerks work closely with judges, helping them to review case files, prepare memorandums, conduct legal research, edit judgments and attend oral hearings.

Emily Vaillancourt, who will be working at the Ontario Court of Appeal, believes clerking will be an incredible way to see a wide range of legal issues in action before she begins practising. With a strong interest in constitutional, human rights, labour and family law, she hopes to pursue a career in litigation after her time at the Court.

“I am most looking forward to playing a role in the resolution of complex legal problems and learning from my fellow clerks and the judges of the court,” said Vaillancourt. “I have a strong desire to work in the public service and serve the interests of my community, which I believe I can accomplish through this important role in the administration of justice.”

Mark Penner is confident his clerkships at the Superior Court of Justice and the Supreme Court of Canada will help build a strong foundation for a career in regulatory litigation.

“Clerking is a great opportunity to learn more about effective and persuasive advocacy,” said Penner. “I look forward to seeing up close the process by which a case moves through the justice system, both at the trial and then appellate level.”

Penner adds he is proud to see Western represented at so many different levels of courts, within Ontario, at the Federal level, and across Canada.

“Placing clerks at all levels of courts shows that Western Law produces graduates who have a firm grasp of the fundamentals, are effective legal writers and are well-rounded future lawyers,” Penner said.

Ainsley Leguard will be articling at Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP before starting her clerkship at the Federal Court of Appeal. As a summer student at the same firm, she enjoyed legal research writing and advocacy and feels that clerking will allow her to further develop these skills, rounding out her professional experience.

“I am grateful to have the opportunity to support the important work of the Court while working closely with a judge on novel and complex legal issues,” said Leguard. “I’m interested in litigation, so I am also tremendously excited to have the opportunity to observe appellate advocacy during my clerkship.”

The full list of Western Law students who were hired as clerks are: Mark Penner (Supreme Court of Canada and Superior Court of Justice), Emily Vaillancourt (Ontario Court of Appeal), Rheanna Geisel (Alberta Court of Appeal), Ainsley Leguard (Federal Court of Appeal), Andrea Strathdee (Federal Court of Appeal), Justyna Zukowski (Tax Court of Canada), Nadia Yehia (Tax Court of Canada), Roula Khairalla (Federal Court), Nicole Dotson (Ontario Superior Court) and Raza Husnain (Ontario Superior Court).

FLANDIA

HARMO



MG

MARK AND RANDY MCAULEY CREATE BALANCE WITH A MIX OF MUSIC AND LAW

BY KALEIGH RODGERS

ONLY

For Mark (JD '18) and Randy (JD '15) McAuley, one half of the London, Ontario-based pop, R&B vocal quartet The McAuley Boys, the group's recent induction into the London Music Hall of Fame was a full circle moment.

In the nearly three decades since the group's inception, the band of brothers (from eldest to youngest — Gary, George, Mark and Randy) have each pursued independent professional paths. While Mark and Randy now spend more time comparing notes on their careers in business law, music has remained a unifying force in their family and an integral part of their identities.

"You do something in your life for a long time, and it means a lot to you, and you hitch your identity to it for a long time. Then you move on to different careers and different life choices. All of a sudden, you get reminded that you're a musician, and you're an artist, and that you've created and influenced people," said Randy on the significance of the induction.

The London Music Hall of Fame celebrates the legacy of musicians with local ties who "demonstrate an outstanding career in music and have made a significant impact on the local, national, and/or international community." Looking back at the quartet's accomplishments, it's a befitting honour.

Music was in the blood for Randy, Mark and their brothers. Their parents, Rita and Winston McAuley, were both performing musicians in Grenada, and Winston in New York, prior to settling in London and attending Western. The McAuleys instilled a love of music in their children, encouraging them to learn piano and participate in choirs, orchestras, recitals and festivals. Between piano practice and impromptu singalongs, their boisterous home was always filled with music.

After a few years of performing local gigs and songwriting in the early 1990s, the group took their first step into professional musicianship as The McAuley Boys with a self-released Christmas cassette in 1994. In 1996, they signed their first record deal and released *In Another Lifetime* featuring the Much Music top 10 hit *Down, Down, Down* and the hit remake of the Andy Gibb classic, *I Just Wanna Be Your Everything*.

They were on an upward trajectory, but their parents were clear that music was no



excuse to let academics slip, even if it meant driving all night after a gig so Mark could write a first period calculus test. Mark and Randy credit their parents' great expectations, and the support of their whole family, for helping them to reach their dreams. This strong work ethic has remained a constant for the siblings, driving them to achieve success in music and beyond.

"I think a lot of our success is owed to our family. Our parents were very clear on making sure that we continued to have as well rounded an experience growing up as possible," reflected Mark. "There was only one way to do what we were doing and also try to get good marks in school. That was to fill as many hours of the day as you could with things that pushed forward your progress."

At the height of their recording and touring career from 1995 to 2000, the McAuley Boys released three studio albums. *In Another Lifetime*, was recognized with a 1997 Juno nomination for Best R&B/Soul Recording. The follow up, *Wonderful Christmas Time*, was the highest selling seasonal album in the region in its year of release. Then came 2000's *My Heaven* with hit singles *My Heaven* and *By The Way*.

**"A LOT OF TIMES
IN OUR CAREERS,
THE REWARD IS
EXTERNAL. IF YOU'RE
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BE A TOUGH LIFE.
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THINGS OUT THERE
THAT JUST IN AND OF
THEMSELVES ARE
A REWARD TO YOU,
AND NO ONE ELSE
HAS TO CARE ABOUT!"**

Randy McAuley

Their talent and hard work propelled them to stages worldwide including notable performances in 1997 at the Junos and singing the national anthem at the MLB All-Star Game. During the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games, they were tapped for multiple appearances in Australia. They've even been the opening act for music legends James Brown, Aretha Franklin, Gladys Knight, and the Temptations, among others.

While rubbing shoulders with the greats, performing live for tens of thousands and on broadcasts to millions were certainly memorable moments for Mark and Randy, that wasn't the best part of their touring days. They most appreciate the time spent with family and the lessons they've translated into their legal careers.

"I think one of the most important things...was we got to spend way more time together than other families would have. We got a lot of great time in with our brothers and our dad," said Mark. "It just felt like home, we got to take home all over the place. A lot of fond memories and a lot of peak experiences that you got to share with your closest friends who happen to also be your brothers."

As the brothers established independent lives and families, the demands of life on the road became harder to coordinate, leading them to different careers. Randy and Mark always had a vision for completing a professional degree but explored varying interests along the way, each amassing a list of laudable accomplishments. Ultimately, they were both drawn to pursuing a JD believing it would open doors to opportunities in business and law.

For Mark, the journey toward law involved completing a degree in Psychology and Media, Information and Technoculture at Western (BA '02), followed by another foray into music, this time as solo act, Mac Graham. From 2006 to 2010, he released two albums, *7 Grahams* and *Midnight*, which had tracks in rotation on radio and TV video stations worldwide. He also continued to write and produce music for his brother Gary's production company *YEL Entertainment* and tried his hand at business ownership prior to returning to Western for his JD, where he was named class valedictorian. He's now an associate in the business law group at Lerner's LLP in London.

He serves as a member of Western Law's Young Alumni Advisory Council.

Randy studied both Philosophy (BA '08) and Health Sciences at Western (BHSc '12) prior to completing his JD. During his studies, he dove headfirst into another passion, athletics. Randy was an accomplished athlete in both football and track and field. On the track, he was named a seven-time all Canadian. As an all-star running back, his career touchdown tally sits fifth all time in the history of Canadian university football. His athletic excellence led to an invitation to the Toronto Argonauts training camp. When his time there ended, he had a stint as a stockbroker before landing in law. Today, he's a partner at Goodman's LLP in Toronto, also in business law.

While professional musicianship and lawyering may seem worlds apart, it turns out showbiz is ripe with lessons for the practice of law. The brothers agree their background helped them build confidence and learn to navigate relationships with diverse groups of people, which is critical for client service. They credit an interaction with living legend Gladys Knight, who modelled a "no airs and no ego" attitude, for helping them feel at ease in any crowd.

"Because of some of the social circles that we've been able to hang around we learned that no one's too important to talk to. You can be in front of anybody and feel comfortable socializing," said Randy. "That's a big benefit because that doesn't come

naturally to a lot of people."

Building strong relationships with clients is now the part of their careers they enjoy most. Though they've had to sacrifice the time they used to spend making music together for late nights in the office, they find satisfaction in developing strategies that help clients to build and grow their ventures.

Work and family life now comes first for Mark and Randy, but music is still a sustaining passion and source of intrinsic joy.

"It is so important to have hobbies because sometimes you get lost in your job. You have to have things that are only for you," said Randy. "A lot of times in our careers, the reward is external. If you're dependent on that external reward, this is going to be a tough life. There has to be things out there that just in and of themselves are a reward to you, and no one else has to care about."

Randy and Mark see their relationship to their music and legal careers as a choose your own adventure rather than an either-or proposition. They believe the parts of your identity can and should co-exist in harmony. These days, the music side of the equation tends to look like singalongs at family gatherings, introducing their kids to their favourite music, rare stolen moments for songwriting, and occasional public performances.

In September 2022, the quartet came together again to release the single *I Can't Wait to See You Smile*. The track, penned by Mark and Randy, is a moving covid-era reflection on the importance of family, friends and connection and the power of kindness to sustain us through challenges.

Returning to the studio encouraged the brothers to see that releasing music doesn't have to be as precious as they once thought. It has inspired them to dream up plans to release a large back catalogue of unreleased songs when the time is right. For now, they're grateful for the recognition that the music they've created as a means of fulfillment continues to resonate with listeners.

"If you're making music to end up in a hall of fame, or to even win awards, I think you're doing it for the wrong reason," said Mark. "We just actually loved creating in those early days, and then we just kept creating. To have what you created have an impact with people years later, it's very hard to put into words."

❖ A COLLECTION OF PRESS CLIPPINGS AND MEMORABILIA FROM THE MCAULEY BOYS, AND RANDY'S ATHLETIC CAREER, INCLUDING A VEST AND BOW TIE HANDMADE BY RITA MCAULEY FOR THE GROUP'S FIRST PROFESSIONAL PHOTOSHOOT.



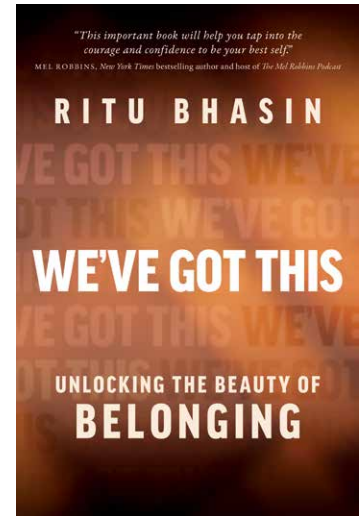
Questions
with

**RITU
BHASIN**



Ritu Bhasin (LL.B. '00) is an award-winning speaker, author, and expert in belonging, equity, leadership, and empowerment, and the CEO of bhasin consulting inc., a renowned diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) consulting firm. Once a Bay Street lawyer, she left the legal profession to embark on a journey to help organizations become more inclusive, embrace her authentic self and empower others to step into their own authenticity.

In June 2023, she released her second book *We've Got This: Unlocking the Beauty of Belonging*, which has already risen to the top of international best seller lists. Through this book, she helps readers learn to claim belonging and create it for others. We recently sat down with Bhasin who shared her expertise on all things belonging, equity, diversity, inclusion and how we can work to cultivate these values in our lives and work.



1. Who was the reader you had in mind for *We've Got This* and what do you hope they learn from the book?

I wrote the book for anyone who has struggled to belong, or who has struggled to feel accepted for who they are. And based on my work, I can tell you that this could be just about anyone because, as humans, we're all wired to long for belonging. In reading my book, I want people to feel inspired and know that they can create a life they love that's rooted in authenticity and belonging.

2. What inspired you to write the book and why is it timely right now?

I was called to write *We've Got This* based on my own experiences with struggling to belong for decades, but then finally crossing over to learning how to claim belonging for myself. And in doing DEI and leadership work with organizations around the world, I've come to see that so many people out there are also struggling with the same journey. This is what compelled me to write a book about how to claim and create belonging. I think my message is particularly timely given that we know that, as a society, we're grappling with increased loneliness, isolation, social injustice, mental health issues and so much more. I hope my book provides readers with the tools and practices to address these challenges and live a life rooted in belonging.

3. Your first book *The Authenticity Principle* focuses on how we can show up authentically in our lives and work. How is authenticity related to belonging?

Authenticity and belonging go hand in hand. Belonging is the profound feeling of being honored and accepted for who you are. Belonging is about being authentic – it's about showing up as your authentic self as much as possible. When you do this – when you consistently show up as who you really are – this is what unlocks belonging for you. In a nutshell, belonging is the outcome of being authentic.

4. There has recently been much public dialogue around the loneliness epidemic and negative impacts on health. How can claiming belonging help?

Belonging is about being accepted by your own self but also by the people you choose to be bonded with. It's about being deeply connected to a few people or feeling deep fellowship as part of communities. When you feel like you belong to yourself, or you sense belonging in the presence of others, you're less likely to experience loneliness. When we feel lonely, what's really happening is we feel like we don't belong. But when we do our work to claim belonging for ourselves *with ourselves*, we're able to heal our woundedness, interrupt loneliness and feel more whole.

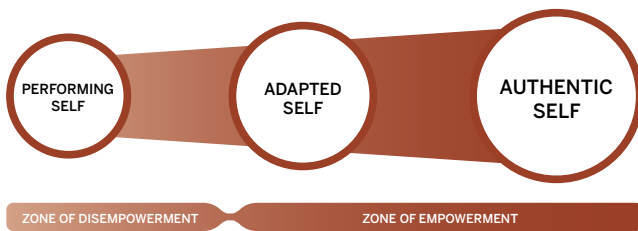
5. What are the benefits of building a workplace culture of belonging?

Cultures rooted in belonging enable people to speak more freely, share their opinions, ask questions, engage more openly and, ultimately, be more of their authentic selves. And all of this is what drives innovation and creativity and enhances decision making. We end up building more meaningful relationships with our team members, we better serve our customers/clients and stakeholders, and we produce stronger results because of greater engagement. At the end of the day, belonging is critical for organizational success.

6. What would you say to people who struggle with the balance between authenticity, vulnerability and professional boundaries?

I have a model called the Three Selves Framework that is very helpful in addressing this very challenge (which I talk more about in-depth in my blog). In the workplace, you may find that you don't feel safe to reveal your Authentic Self, which is the most important of the Three Selves, but you still feel safe to show up as your Adapted Self. Your Adapted Self is the self that willingly and happily chooses to adjust your behaviors to meet

your needs and the needs of others. (The Performing Self is the final self – who you show up as when you feel you don't have a choice but to conform, change, or hide aspects of your identities – especially because of the judgments coming your way. It's like you're an actor on a stage – you're performing you rather than being you.) For many of us, it feels safer to be more adaptive in how we're showing up, which is perfectly fine because our Adapted Self is still a manifestation of our authenticity. In leveraging the Three Selves, you'll come to see that the Adapted Self is a safe place to stay in moments when you feel like it doesn't feel right or safe to be your Authentic Self.



of belonging are not – many people feel like they can't bring their authentic selves to work because of the inequities they continue to experience. Legal employers must do more to address individual and systemic inequities, biases and barriers that prevent equitable access to career development and satisfaction for all.

9. What advice do you have for current and future lawyers about how to help foster professional environments where people feel they belong?

The tone at the top cascades down. Team members constantly watch what leaders are doing – how they're behaving, reacting and responding. Given this, leaders will want to focus on interrupting their own biases because bias is what strikes at people's ability to belong. Second, leaders want to show up authentically themselves when at work. The more vulnerable leaders are in revealing their authentic selves, the more their team members will feel safe to be who they are, thereby experiencing greater belonging.

7. In a world with many hybrid and remote workplaces, how can employers foster belonging virtually?

We know from research that many people would rather virtually – especially equity-seeking professionals. And this makes sense. For example, for caregivers, it's easier to help your beloveds when you're working from home. For people who have health issues, it's easier to manage your health challenges from home. For people from across equity-seeking communities, in many respects it's easier to shield from biases when you're working virtually.

But we also know from research that there are several benefits to working more in person, including that it helps to foster social connections and gives rise to the recency-primacy effect.

Given this, as a leader, it's important you ensure you're focusing on heightened communication, interactions and feedback delivery for people who spend more time working virtually. You want to be proactive in signaling that they still belong and are part of the team.

8. As a former lawyer and someone who consults for law firms on diversity, equity and inclusion, what changes have you seen and what still needs to evolve?

Over the last several years, we've seen a massive shift in the talent pipeline in the legal profession in terms of diversity. There are more People of Colour, women, people from the 2SLGBTQIA+ communities and people from across other cultural identity groups in the legal profession now more than ever. The challenge is that, despite the growing diversity, we're lagging behind in how we're cultivating inclusion and equity in our profession. The numbers are growing, but the feelings

10. Young lawyers often struggle with impostor syndrome when entering the workforce. What advice would you give to combat this self-doubt?

In my view, impostor syndrome is directly connected to experiencing a lack of belonging. When we feel like there's something wrong with us – that we're unworthy and we're not good enough – it can cause us to question our abilities. We'll feel like impostors. But there's a way out of this! In *We've Got This*, I talk about a concept called our Core Wisdom. When we have heightened Core Wisdom, it enables us to heal our woundedness and let go of feelings of unworthiness and self-doubt. We start to feel more regulated, grounded and rooted in who we are, which helps us to sense greater confidence and self-assurance. Essentially, Core Wisdom will help you to address the impostor syndrome – and help you to create a life you love that's rooted in belonging.

+ Where can people find you if they would like to know more about your work?

I have a range of (free!) empowerment resources at ritubhasin.com – sign up for my mailing list to get them right to your inbox. I have extensive (again free!) resources related to leadership and DEI at my consulting firm's site, bhasinconsulting.com (sign up for our mailing list there too). Finally, you can connect with me on LinkedIn and Instagram. I love receiving messages, so please reach out!



Unbottling success

Suzanne Dajczak
parlays disability
practice into
thriving vineyard

By Drew Hasselback

Suzanne Dajczak's story is not unlike the puzzles she loves to tackle. It starts with a jumble of pieces — farming, wine, easements for fibre optic cable, a cash register at Woolco, lavender soap, cooking, gardening, and a fascination with reading medical reports — and these diffuse elements eventually snap together into a single picture that makes sense. What we ultimately see is a thriving practice in disability law that is run by a third-generation farmer who with her husband also operates the North 42 Degrees Estate Winery in Colchester, Ontario.

"I love puzzles," she says. "The devil is in the details."

The legal angle to the story begins decades ago in the office of an estate lawyer. A lot of lawyers find their way to law school through TV courtroom dramas. Who doesn't want to be the next Perry Mason, Mark McCoy or Alicia Florrick? But for Dajczak, the dream came as a small child following the death of her grandparents, who owned a farm near Windsor, Ontario.

"My grandparents passed away when I was quite young. So I got dragged to lawyers' offices to help settle the estate," she recalls. "I guess I was impressed, because I decided that was what I wanted to do." Her grandfather had a will and a succession plan for the farm, and she was struck by how the lawyer was able to help the family put everything in motion.

"I saw a way that words could help," she says. "That really appealed to me. So I ended up doing that."

A deeper introduction to the law came through a high school internship program. While working as a cashier at Woolco, she chatted up a customer who ran a law firm. She secured a placement with the firm as part of that high school opportunity. She did her stint, and she was hooked.

Dajczak took economics courses at the University of Windsor for two years, then got accepted to Western Law. The school's emphasis on corporate matters appealed to her, since she thought that would tie in with her grounding in economics.

Dajczak, who had arrived at Western Law after only two years of undergrad,



credits her older, more mature classmates with taking her under their wing and helping ground her — something that she says wouldn't have happened had she remained at home and pursued her law degree at nearby Windsor.

After she was called to the bar in 1989, she would work as an in-house lawyer for an engineering consulting firm in London, Ontario that among other things helped install a fibre optic cable link between Ottawa and Oshawa, with a spur off to Montreal. Much of that project involved real estate work, such as cleaning up issues with title and securing easement agreements.

Eventually, however, she missed home — particularly living close to the water and her family. She also missed living on a farm.

So she left London for a job in Leamington, where she did some litigation and real estate law for about six months. She wasn't super happy, so she switched to a legal aid clinic, where she found herself helping clients with social assistance matters, Canada Pension Plan applications, and disability litigation. It was there that the light went

off. Disability cases, she says, always come down to the medical reports. Workplace injuries involve far more than just the immediate result of an accident, she explains. You have to look at the "minutiae" of the person's entire medical history to understand how the client's pre-existing medical conditions will shape how they respond to the injury.

And the puzzle doesn't stop there, she continues. She needs to understand how the person will be able to handle a change in working conditions — whether they have learning disabilities or mental health issues that might make it difficult for them to develop new skills. "The answers usually lie in those medical reports."

Her fascination with the field drew her in deeper, leading to her receiving a law society designation as a certified specialist in workplace safety and insurance law in 2001.

There's a line between her disability practice and the vineyard. Dajczak attended a conference on disability law in the Niagara Peninsula. She saw the wineries there, and it reminded her of her love for farming. When she returned home, she mentioned this to her husband, who is also from a farming family. It turns out he had been thinking the same thing; in fact, he'd even, unbeknownst to her, developed a business plan for how a vineyard and winery could work. North 42 Degrees Estate Winery was born.

The couple's first grape crop was planted in 2007 and first harvested in 2012. Today, they have two vineyards, one 17 acres and the other six, and they operate a hospitality and tasting centre. The operation employs about 45 people.

The farming doesn't stop there. The couple also grows lavender, which they use to make soap. Beyond the business, Dajczak has a two-acre garden on the couple's four-acre residential property. "It's a stress reliever," she says. "There's instant gratification in pulling those weeds."

"I'm still a farm girl at heart," she says. "Put me in a farm field. I'm happy."

For Dajczak, disability lawyer and farmer, that means the picture is complete.

Drew Hasselback is supervisor of the copy desk at Global News. He received his LL.B. from Western Law in 1996 and was called to the bar in 1998.



"I'm still a farm girl at heart. Put me in a farm field. I'm happy."

Suzanne Dajczak

Breaking the mould

Kristina Milbourn leads by example as head of litigation at Rogers Communications

By Amrita V. Singh

What do you think of when you hear “head of litigation” at one of Canada’s largest telecommunications companies? Do you think of an intelligent, capable, personable lawyer with excellent people and time-management skills? Yes? Now, what does that lawyer look like? Thankfully, in 2023 that lawyer looks like a tall, striking woman of colour who revels in the complexities of the law, admits to being a “pretty nerdy adolescent,” and thought she would be a doctor or psychologist when she grew up.

Meet Kristina Milbourn (LL.B. '08). While her father prosecuted polluters as a lawyer for the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, she dreamed of science. She studied psychology, biology and chemistry in her undergraduate degree, and discovered her aptitude for the law in her last year of university. “I knew I would excel in a profession that prized book smarts and intellect. My father began nudging me toward a career in law and helped me see how my STEM background could easily be applied to intellectual property law as a speciality.”

With that in mind, Kristina attended Western Law, then articulated and began her career as an associate at a full-service Bay Street law firm. She litigated pharmaceutical and agricultural patents and then shifted to a practice focused on copyright, internet and technology law. “I got really great experience early on,” she says, “but looking back, I would say the early years were stressful, and I found the politics of firm life challenging. I knew I wanted to give myself the best possible start for my legal career, so I pushed myself to persist.”

Practicing on Bay Street as a female lawyer of colour was not easy though. “As proud as I was to be practicing on Bay Street, I always felt a bit conspicuous and vulnerable as a visible minority. Finding good mentors and allies helped manage some of those challenges.” When asked about the importance of those mentors and allies, Kristina says understanding is helpful, but representation is key. “Now that I have progressed in my career, I make a point to offer mentorship to others, including BIPOC lawyers, as a way to impart my limited wisdom and let them know I understand the struggle.”

Kristina leads by example,

“As proud as I was to be practicing on Bay Street, I always felt a bit conspicuous and vulnerable as a visible minority. Finding good mentors and allies helped manage some of those challenges.”

Kristina Milbourn

spearheading many of her company’s equity, diversity and inclusion efforts. “The social justice movements we saw in 2020 really impacted me – and though reluctant, I felt like I could lead in some way on these issues locally.” She notes that, given her position, she is uniquely placed to not only be the change she wishes she had seen, but also to help others see the changes they can help make too. She advocated at her company for the creation of a formal student program to support Law Practice Program participants, with a view “to giving learning opportunities to Black and Indigenous licensees, and licensees of colour, who we know face more challenges in landing articling roles.” The focus is on strong training and fostering connections to more senior lawyers in different areas of practice that interest the students. “We’re in our third year offering the program now, and I’m really proud of it.”

For Kristina, being in-house at a major telecom company, which impacts the lives of Canadians across the country and from every walk of life, feels like an important and worthy pursuit. “Working for a large conglomerate, you encounter as many legal issues as you would in private practice,” she notes. “The variety is incredible!” She feels lucky to work with her colleagues too. “Our legal department is not unlike working in a law firm – there are so many centres of excellence, and practitioners with specific expertise. I’m always in good company.” And of course, she exclaims with joy, “there’s no docketing! That’s the single best thing in my view!”

As part of her in-house role, she notes that every day is different, and that there, too, she has found good sponsors and strong teams. Kristina observes, “I really feel invested

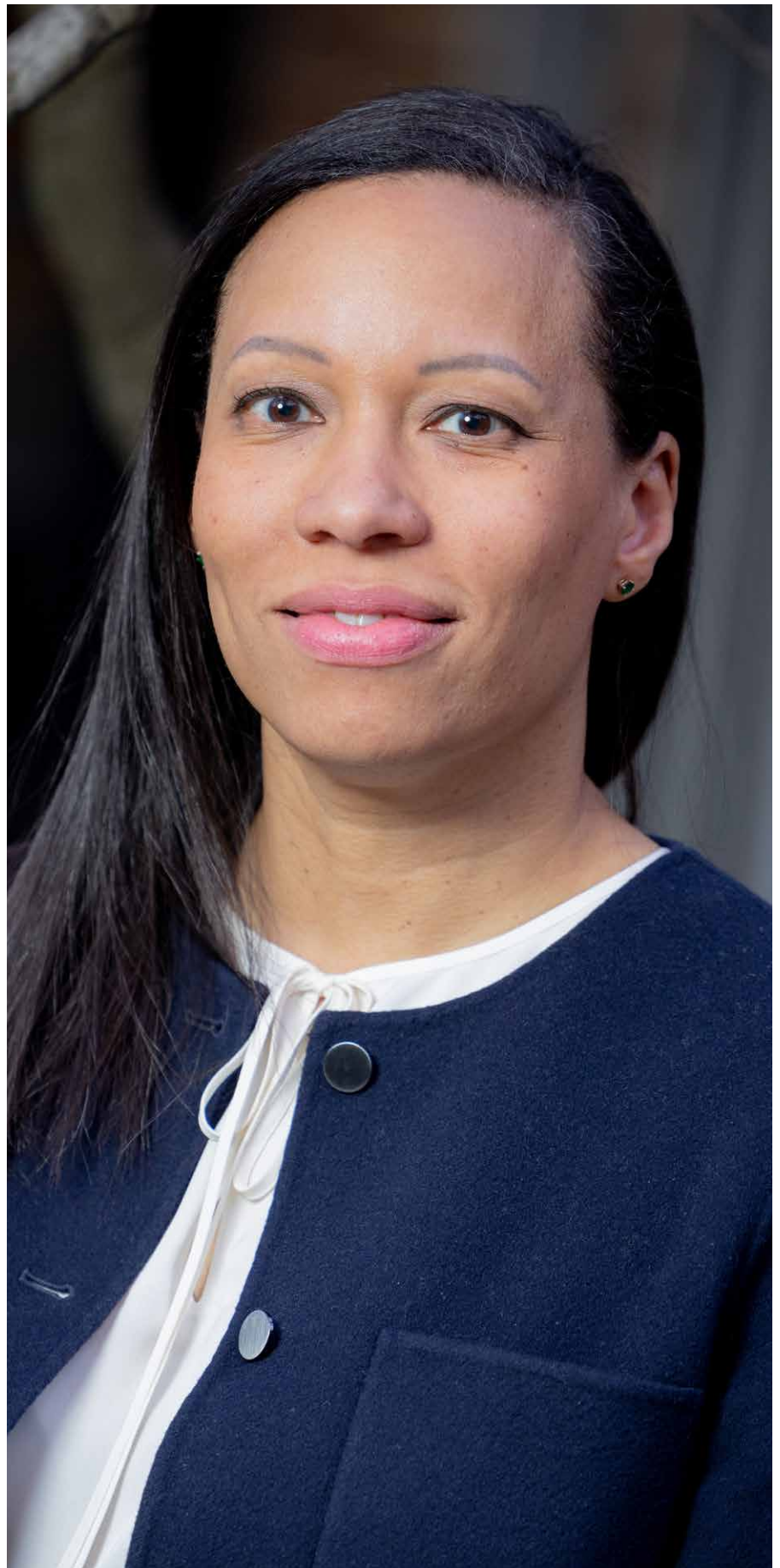
in the outcomes of my projects and take full ownership of my files.” And she has the room to innovate even within her corporate environment. “I created a Piracy Lab space within the company to easily demonstrate new infringing technologies to external and internal stakeholders.” Because she is in it for the long run, and because there is always something to learn, “I try not to delegate work I’m being asked to do for the first time because I recognize the learning opportunity inherent in being asked to do the work.”

And if her day job was not busy enough, Kristina still finds time to give back – to Western Law’s Young Alumni Advisory Council (which she helped found), Toronto Metropolitan University’s law and business advisory council, and the Intellectual Property Institute of Canada committees. “Volunteering with these organizations is how I express my gratitude for being a contributing member of the profession.” She notes that the student-facing work is particularly energizing, because “when I interface with students, I remember how far I’ve come, and how fortuitous my journey has been.”

Recently, Kristina completed her LLM at Columbia Law School, where she was in the top of her class. She followed that by being asked to take over a larger portfolio at work, in part because she had managed several successful litigation proceedings. “I think the company thought I could be effective in defending against our commercial claims, based on how successfully I enforced our intellectual property rights through litigation. It’s been great to work with a larger team and manage more people.” She notes that she would give her younger self and young lawyers entering the profession the same advice. “Keep going. There is a place for you in this profession. Your career may not look exactly like those who came before you or those around you, and the first few years are tough. But it will get easier, and you will write your own story.” After all, if you do not quite fit the mould, you can always build your own. And that’s what she’s done.

This article originally appeared in JUST. Magazine, a publication of the Ontario Bar Association.

PHOTO BY WESTEND STUDIO



For as long as she can remember, third-year law student and visual artist Renée Rankine has been fascinated by two topics — criminal law and art.

After the tragic loss of her brother, Rankine found a deeper call to these passions as a means to transform grief into positive action.

Growing up, Rankine recalls a strong desire to pursue a career that would allow her to help uphold justice. She dreamt of becoming a judge or a prosecutor and started her journey towards this goal pursuing an undergraduate degree in Criminology.

“I think criminal law was the only [area of law] I ever really had an interest in. In the context of criminal law, especially working for the Crown, you’re pursuing a charge in the interest of justice, on behalf of the public interest,” said Rankine. “I always knew going into criminal law that working for the Crown would give me that opportunity to uphold those principles and give back to the community.”

Her other great passion, art, was also sparked at a young age. Inspired by her mother’s own paintings, Rankine embraced drawing as a point of connection with her mom and her own creative outlet.

During high school, she discovered painting in a studio art class and was hooked on the “warm feeling of fulfillment” found in the creative process. Around the same time, she also experienced the transformative power of art through a volunteer project painting a mural at a local Milton hospital.

“We got to create a mural in the wing of the hospital where there were elderly patients suffering from long-term health effects. Interacting with them and seeing how interested they were in our art and the conversations you would have, it was really cool,” she explained. “I [thought] if I can merge [art and volunteerism] and still be happy, that’s all I can ask for.”

A close-up portrait of Renée Rankine, a Black woman with her hair styled in a bun, wearing a dark pinstriped blazer. She is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a thoughtful expression.

FROM PAIN TO PURPOSE

Renée Rankine blends
her passions to give back

By Kaleigh Rodgers

In 2018, tragedy struck Rankine's family when her brother Aaron Rankine-Wright was killed on his way to work. While the grief will remain for Rankine and her family, she has found ways to celebrate her brother and channel her pain into acts of good.

"It's sad in homicide cases where the loved one passes away, and then in two to three years people just expect you to get over it, or to be able to move on," said Rankine. "You still have to deal with that

pain and the hurt that you carry, but it's the way that you translate it and find other areas of life to put that energy into something positive."

Rankine experienced another poignant moment of connecting art and social good after the death of Ahmaud Arbery and the subsequent racial reckoning. The experience that followed deepened her commitment to finding a way to use art to help heal herself and support others.

"When I heard about what happened [with Arbery], I felt really inspired to paint him because I thought, 'What if this was my family member?' The realities that racialized people face, and the risks that they face every day hit close to

home," reflected Rankine. "It was nice to have that outlet and I was so shocked at the amount of people that were engaging with it. That was the moment I [decided] I do like sharing my art, and I want to share it with more people."

Rankine launched Project Aaron in 2021. Through the project, she began offering portraits of homicide victims for their families at no charge. In 2022 the Rankine family also launched a scholarship fund for at-risk athletes connected to her brother's former wrestling club, Central Toronto Wrestling.

"The best part of starting Project Aaron was meeting some of the other

family members and hearing the stories of their loved ones, and just how strong they are," she said. "Aaron was an amazing kid and had an amazing legacy. At his funeral, it was so evident how much he impacted his community for the better. Being able to do this made me feel like, okay this is what it's about. It's finding positive ways to keep his memory alive."

The experience of losing her brother also strengthened Rankine's resolve to study law. Mentorship from an unexpected source helped bring her closer to her professional goals. The Crown attorneys on her brother's case became a strong support system on her journey to law school and throughout the process.

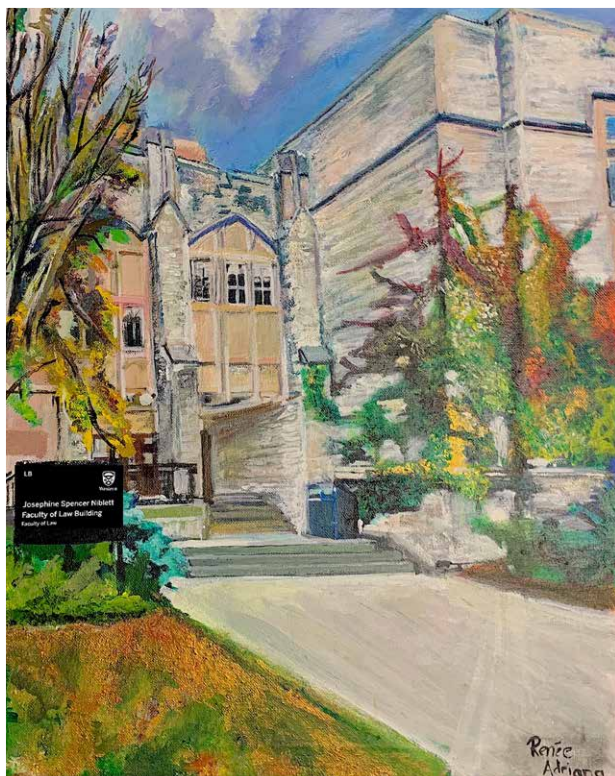
"They really took me under their wing and supported me throughout these past years," said Rankine. "They've been so supportive and have gone above and beyond for my family. They've been such a blessing in my life."

Now in her third year at Western Law, like most law students, Rankine's time is devoted primarily to her studies. She looks forward to future initiatives with Project Aaron and finding more opportunities to use art for good, but for now, she's embracing the season of law school and the hard work required to succeed.

So far, it's paying off. Rankine just completed her second summer working for the criminal law division at the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General and will return to the Toronto office for the 2023–2024 articling term. The opportunity to work alongside her mentors has made the experience all the more meaningful.

After what she has been through, Rankine knows better than to try to predict what the future will hold. She's keeping her career options open but trusts that just like her own works of art, her future will come together layer by layer.

"I've definitely learned the past couple of years that you really can't control life. I think I have an idea of what a future career pathway would look like, but I'm trying not to overly focus on those aspects," she said. "I think where I end up in life is where I'm meant to be. So far, I'm happy and I feel like I'm on the right path."



Rankine's painting of the Josephine Spencer Niblett Law Building will hang in the law school for future generations of students to enjoy.

A man with glasses and a dark blue shirt stands on a wooden staircase with his arms crossed. The background shows a blurred staircase with other people moving up and down. The lighting is warm and indoor.

The problem becomes the path

Professor David Sandomierski aims to maximize the potential of legal education

By Kaleigh Rodgers



When Professor David Sandomierski graduated from law school, he felt limited by the expected career trajectory before him. He loved the intellectual exploration

law school offered, but felt the experience lacked exposure to the diverse range of professional options for future lawyers.

“Coming out of law school, there seemed like one or two doors that were really big and obvious to enter, and all the other possibilities faded into the background,” reflected Sandomierski. “To me, that had a lot to do with what was implicitly being prioritized in the hidden curriculum and the implicit norms of the law school.”

Sandomierski wasn't alone in his assessment. He watched talented friends and peers struggle through multiple stops on their career journeys before finding the right fit. Instead of taking the same path, he's dedicated his career to helping solve the problem.

As an assistant professor at Western Law, Sandomierski guides students through the intricacies of Contracts, and teaches an upper-year seminar on Legal Theory and Professional Practice. His research aims to enhance the capacity of legal education to cultivate versatile professionals and critical, engaged citizens. Through his research agenda, he examines the elements of law school and the levers the institution holds to educate students and inspire a vision of the myriad ways they can serve society.



“I think if law schools can help cultivate an ability to reflect on who you are as a lawyer early on, we’ll end up with a legal profession that’s much more efficient in the social sense.”

David Sandomierski

His latest project, *The Architecture of Law Schools*, brings legal education and architecture scholars together with practicing architects to uncover what the built form of law schools implies about their role in society. With the support of a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Insight Grant, Sandomierski (as the principal investigator) and fellow researchers will explore what law school buildings communicate about the law, legal professionalism and legal education.

“An example we give is that every law school has a moot court. No law school I’ve ever come across has a mock parliament,” Sandomierski explained. “That’s an example of a vision of law that’s communicated just by the physical building. The presence

of a moot court shows a preference for adjudication and judge-made law. The absence of a mock parliament shows an underemphasis of the legislative process.”

The team will also examine how the buildings influence teaching and learning and what groups are excluded from the space. Members of the team will visit approximately 20 North American and six international law schools to observe and analyze the buildings and conduct interviews and focus groups with students, faculty and staff. The project aims to be a resource to inform the construction of future law schools that facilitate enhanced learning and teaching innovation.

“If we can start to think about how to match the ideals we have for the law school,

with how we build the school, we’re going to end up with more creative, evocative and precedent-setting architecture,” said Sandomierski. “Many other features of the law school, like our curriculum and case method of teaching...are very hard to change. Architecture could be the one place where a school could make a dramatic departure... [that could] push us into a new paradigm.”

The Architecture of Law Schools will extend Sandomierski’s previous work analyzing the messages implicit in other features of law school, including teaching, curriculum design and grading. Across his research, he blends interests in contracts, comparative legal thought, legal history, and the empirical study of legal education and the legal profession. He contributes this unique perspective to his current role as a teaching fellow with Western’s Centre for Teaching and Learning.

As a teaching fellow, he’s focused on actionable educational leadership and innovation projects. He supports educational excellence in the Faculty of Law through convening the Legal Education Seminar Series. In the classroom, he’s implemented co-teaching between academics and practitioners. He hopes the project will effectively integrate theory and practice and help students reflect on their professional identity and future career paths.

“The goal is that by having an academic and a practitioner focused on one class, you’re helping the students see the interrelationship of theory and practice,” Sandomierski explained. “We want to help students develop a rich and deep ability to reflect on who they want to be as a legal professional.”

Sandomierski acknowledges that many inherited traditions of a law school have been deeply entrenched for over 150 years, but that doesn’t detract his focus from finding new ways forward. Across projects, he’s driven to help future generations of lawyers understand how they can best align their unique skills and interests to make a positive contribution.

“I would like to see our profession... get to that point where we’re thriving and contributing as much as we can earlier on in our career,” said Sandomierski. “I think if law schools can help cultivate an ability to reflect on who you are as a lawyer early on, we’ll end up with a legal profession that’s much more efficient in the social sense. I think we’ll see a lot less of the burnout and some of the other negative elements we see in our profession.”



Welcoming mining governance scholar Sara Ghebremusse

Sara Ghebremusse has been appointed as associate professor and the new Cassels Chair in Mining Law and Finance.

Ghebremusse brings extensive experience in scholarly research and teaching in the areas of mining law and governance, law and development, transnational law and human rights. She has published in all these fields and has presented her research at conferences around the world.

"We're delighted to welcome Sara to Western Law as the holder of the Cassels Chair in Mining Law and Finance," said Erika Chamberlain, dean, Faculty of Law. "Sara is both an outstanding scholar and an excellent teacher, and I know she will be a wonderful addition to Western Law's scholarly community."

Ghebremusse was previously an assistant professor at the Peter A. Allard School of Law at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, B.C., where she supported the development of the school's first-ever executive learning program in mining law and sustainability. She holds degrees from the University of Alberta, Carleton University,

the University of Ottawa, the University of Toronto and York University.

Ghebremusse is the principal investigator of a project funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, (SSHRC) examining how conflicts related to Canadian mining projects in Tanzania and Zambia have contributed to institutional transformation in the two countries.

Her interest in mining law was sparked while completing her juris doctor at the University of Ottawa where she worked on two research projects related to mining in Africa. Soon after, two notable litigations in mining — *Choc v Hudbay Minerals Inc* in Ontario, and *Araya v Nevsun Resources Ltd.* in British Columbia — cemented her decision to pursue an academic career with mining as a key research interest.

"These exciting developments in mining made it evident that this area of law — domestically, internationally and transnationally — is contested and ripe for additional voices to add to the scholarship and advocacy already undertaken by numerous scholars and activists," said Ghebremusse.

"Since mining impacts the environment, human rights and the economies of countries

across the world, it's critical that mining law especially accounts for the disparate effects on Indigenous peoples, local communities and other vulnerable populations."

Ghebremusse is currently engaged in a research project examining two conflicts involving Canadian mining companies in southern Africa: Barrick Gold Corporation in Tanzania and First Quantum Minerals Ltd. in Zambia.

Her project explores how these multi-faceted disputes have produced conflicting outcomes, from the resolution of tax disagreements and creation of the first company-driven dispute settlement mechanism in Africa to ongoing community grievances in both countries. She will consider how these different, intersecting elements have transformed state institutions and mining governance in Tanzania and Zambia.

"The environmental and human rights impacts of mining should not be overlooked during this rush for the critical minerals needed in the transformation to a greener economy," said Ghebremusse. "I am excited Western Law is not shying away from these much-needed conversations."

A portrait of Professor Michael Coyle, a middle-aged man with wavy, grey hair, smiling slightly. He is wearing a dark blazer over a light-colored collared shirt. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting.

Professor Michael Coyle earns Dean's Research Fellowship

Professor Michael Coyle has been selected as the recipient of the 2023 Dean's Research Fellowship for his project entitled "The Recognition of Indigenous Laws and its Implications for Canadian Federalism: Mapping the Options for Respectful Co-existence".

The project will build upon his recent research on legal pluralism and the recognition of Indigenous laws. Grounded in the belief that formal recognition of Indigenous legal orders is crucial to reconciliation, Coyle's research will propose a menu of possible models for the co-existence of Indigenous and state laws.

"I think we've learned in Canada, that passing laws to regulate every aspect of Indigenous people's lives hasn't worked," said Coyle. "The issue of inherent Indigenous jurisdiction has arisen repeatedly in conflicts on the ground about decision-making about proposed developments on Indigenous lands. There is...an academic, legal and political imperative to begin to reconcile competing claims of jurisdiction between the state and Indigenous peoples."

Coyle explains that his approach recognizes the diversity of Indigenous cultures and laws and the right of Indigenous peoples to determine which laws they want to be governed by. He adds that his work is

not to record or interpret Indigenous laws or advise Indigenous communities on their own self-governance but to instead be a bridge between the two systems.

"In my own research, I situate myself as a representative of the settler treaty peoples who seeks to offer and to analyze pathways for reconciliation consistent with the principles of treaty partnership," said Coyle, adding that he views his work as "finding ways that we can step back and leave space for Indigenous communities to make decisions for themselves."

Coyle's research interests in Indigenous rights and dispute resolution theory were born during the decade he spent working for the former Indian Commission of Ontario beginning in the late 1980s. His first project was writing about Indigenous traditions in criminal law and whether they could be used to reduce the over incarceration of Indigenous people. There, Coyle went on to become director of mediation where he mediated many land claim disputes between the federal and provincial governments and First Nations in Ontario.

"I've had this continuing involvement with trying to find fair ways of sorting out disputes between Indigenous peoples and non-Indigenous governments in Canada," said Coyle. "As a mediator, I was asked to try

to help them find creative ways to address a past injustice without creating new injustice. I became passionate about [finding ways to] correct some of the injustices that were done [to Indigenous peoples]."

Coyle hopes this project will be a useful framework for developing new approaches to the recognition and implementation of Indigenous laws in Canada. He believes this work could open the doors to new areas of study and hopes it "will have a significant scholarly impact on a legal, political and sociological field that lies at the heart of the decolonization challenges facing Canada today."

Later in the research process, Coyle will seek out Indigenous communities, and Indigenous legal scholars and lawyers for input on his analysis. In future, he hopes to produce a collaborative, edited publication involving Indigenous and non-Indigenous scholars that presents a range of possible approaches to the recognition of Indigenous legal orders in Canada.

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. Previous winners include Professors Ryan Liss, Jacob Shelley, Wade Wright and Claire Houston.



Professor Oosterveld and CPIJ team honored with Governor General's Award for Innovation

The Canadian Partnership for International Justice (CPIJ), which includes Western Law Professor Valerie Oosterveld as a founding member, was named a recipient of the eighth annual Governor General's Innovation Awards (GGIA). These awards recognize and celebrate exceptional and transformational Canadian innovations that create a positive impact in Canada and inspire the next generation of innovators.

The CPIJ is a Canada-wide partnership of 25 researchers from eight universities, four university-based legal clinics and four non-governmental organizations led by Professor Fannie Lafontaine of Laval University's Faculty of Law. The group aims to promote access to justice for victims of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and international human rights violations through research and knowledge mobilization activities including workshops, experiential learning and strategic litigation.

CPIJ members have carried out groundbreaking research focused on the prevention of atrocities, holding perpetrators accountable for serious international crimes, assisting victims and identifying the root causes of crises to achieve a stable peace. CPIJ members have published more than 200 scholarly texts as well as civil

society reports, media articles and blogs. The team's numerous interventions on conflict-related sexual violence, the situation in Ukraine, colonial genocide, and ecocide as a potential crime have been influential.

CPIJ members have appeared before international courts as *amicus curiae* (friends of the court) and as counsel. In February 2022, Oosterveld appeared as a friend of the court at the International Criminal Court (ICC) in the Hague, Netherlands to present submissions in the case of *Prosecutor v. Ongwen*. Ongwen was a commander in Northern Uganda's Lord's Resistance Army who was found guilty of 61 charges of crimes against humanity and war crimes, including sexual and gender-based violence, between 2002 and 2005. Oosterveld presented to the judges on the charges of forced marriage.

The CPIJ has trained more than 600 students through hands-on experiences, including in legal clinics, fieldwork and projects in partnership with non-governmental and international organizations. For example, the CPIJ organized student delegations to attend the International Criminal Court's annual meeting of countries that have ratified that court's treaty. Western Law students took part in this unique opportunity, which included meeting ICC judges and diplomats from

around the world.

Over 30 Western Law students have engaged in the partnership, including by completing research for UN Women, the United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality. The students analyzed UN Commission of Inquiry reports on conflicts in Syria, Yemen, Burundi, and South Sudan applying a gender-sensitive lens. This research helped UN Women investigators improve gender analysis in reporting and has informed two UN Security Council discussions. They also researched gender-sensitive law reform in post-conflict countries.

"It has been a privilege to serve as a leader in the Canadian Partnership for International Justice over the past seven years, working with colleagues from across Canada on challenging international justice issues," said Oosterveld. "I have been particularly pleased to see Western Law students gain direct experience in the practice of international law, helping to develop the next generation of international human rights advocates."

The Rideau Hall Foundation was presented the award at Ottawa's National Arts Centre during a special ceremony on May 18, 2023. The award will enable CPIJ to continue and promote its research and training activities to support the fight against impunity for international crimes.

A portrait of Professor Wade Wright, a man with short brown hair and glasses, wearing a dark suit, light blue shirt, and patterned tie. He is standing in front of a wooden door with a decorative panel.

Professor Wade Wright named 2023-2025 Faculty Scholar

Professor Wade Wright, a leading scholar of Canadian constitutional law, has been named a Western University Faculty Scholar for 2023 to 2025. The Faculty Scholar Award recognizes significant recent scholarly achievements in teaching or research. The recipients have an international presence in their discipline and are considered all-round scholars.

Wright joined the Faculty of Law at Western University in July 2016 and teaches courses in constitutional law and administrative law. His primary areas of research interest are Canadian and comparative constitutional law.

Wright is the co-author of two leading legal treatises – *Liability of the Crown and Constitutional Law of Canada*. His colleagues and peers highlighted his co-authorship of these important treatises, among other things, in nominating and recommending him for the Faculty Scholar Award. He was invited to assume authorship of the *Constitutional Law of Canada* treatise in 2020, following the death of eminent

professor and founding author Peter Hogg.

“That Professor Wright was selected to take over this monumental work is a testament to his esteem in the field,” said Erika Chamberlain, dean and professor at Western Law. “It has also made Professor Wright one of the most influential scholars in the country, as the treatise is the primary authority on constitutional law for law and political science students and professors, constitutional litigators, and particularly, the appellate courts.”

Wright’s work has been cited regularly by the courts. His work has been cited upwards of 20 times by the Supreme Court of Canada alone in the past decade. Given the role that he has taken on with *Constitutional Law of Canada*, this trend will undoubtedly continue, as the treatise has been the most frequently cited source by the Supreme Court of Canada for many years.

“Professor Wright’s interpretation and analysis of constitutional law will be among the most important in our nation over the coming decades, with the real potential to

help shape our democratic institutions,” added Chamberlain.

Beyond significant contributions to constitutional law scholarship, Wright has also been recognized for his teaching. In 2021, he won Western Law’s Award for Teaching Excellence. As a mentor, Wright enjoys getting students involved with his research projects, including the *Constitutional Law of Canada* treatise, and he also served as co-director of Western Law’s judicial clerkship program from 2016 to 2022, encouraging and supporting students through the application process.

Student nominators for the Award for Teaching Excellence were impressed with his ability to transform his administrative law course to the remote learning format, using a combination of creative synchronous and asynchronous teaching methods. Students also expressed deep appreciation for the empathy he showed during the challenges brought about by the pandemic.

Faculty notes



Professor **Francesco Ducci** has been nominated by Concurrences for the 2023 Antitrust Writing Awards for his work on “Randomization as an Antitrust Remedy”.

Professor **Akis Psygkas** was named Professor of the Year by the Student Legal Society.



Professor **Ryan Liss** was awarded Western Law’s 2023 Teaching Award of Excellence. The Award for Teaching Excellence acknowledges the outstanding efforts of full-time faculty in fostering the academic and professional development of students. The criteria for selection include course design, classroom teaching, innovative course delivery and assessment methods, student mentorship and educational leadership.



Professor **Joanna Langille** took home Western’s top teaching honours as the 2023 recipient of Western’s Marilyn Robinson Award for Excellence in Teaching. The Award for Excellence in Teaching is presented for outstanding contributions in classroom, laboratory or clinical instruction. The award was later named after physiology professor and educational development office coordinator Marilyn Robinson, who prized the idea of students’ active learning and problem-solving.



Professor **Thomas Telfer** was admitted as member of the International Academy of Commercial and Consumer Law (IACCL) at their 21st Meeting at Bar Ilan University in Tel Aviv, Israel held in July 2023. The IACCL is focused on the global exchange of ideas and is composed of more than one hundred specially selected leading scholars from throughout the world. The academy recognizes persons in various countries who have achieved renown in their fields through research, writing of books, major articles, teaching and law reform. Membership is accorded to these persons who have excelled and gained recognition nationally or even internationally.



Professor **Claire Houston** is co-applicant on a SSHRC Insight Grant, “Responding to Challenging Times: An Inflection Point for Family Justice in Ontario?”. This research program will study how Ontario’s family justice system will respond to the seismic changes and profound stresses that Canada’s family justice system experienced in 2020-22, including the amended Divorce Act. The project will provide empirical information to policy makers and professionals to improve those responses. The study will include an intersectional analysis of the effects of gender, income, race, sexual orientation and immigration status, representation by counsel, and family violence victimization on engagement with the family justice process and outcomes.



Professor **Rory Gillis** was awarded a Western SSHRC Exchange Grant to share the results of his research, "Two Conceptions of the Retrospectivity Problem in Tax Law". The project examines whether retrospective tax measures comply with the "rule of law", a set of procedural and substantive principles designed to ensure the fairness of law. With SSHRC Exchange funding, he presented this research at the 5th biennial Tax Policy Conference, Centre for Tax Law at University of Cambridge in July 2023.

Professor **Alan Miller** and a group of interdisciplinary researchers from Western will explore ethical and trusted data governance technologies that maximize human benefits in the era of human-machine coexistence with the support of New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF)'s Exploration award. By focusing on EDI-oriented training, this NFRF project will unify all critical multi-disciplinary expertise for ground-breaking research innovation on trusted data governance.



Professor **David Sandomierski**, along with Christopher Watling, Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry, and Kori LaDonna, University of Ottawa, Faculty of Medicine have received support from Western's Interdisciplinary Development Initiative to inform a better understanding of the role of public advocacy in medicine and law. The team will conduct exploratory research with doctors and lawyers who are engaging in public advocacy to better understand the foundational skills required and the challenges faced. They will use this research to inform the development of educational resources that can more effectively train doctors and lawyers together for roles in public advocacy.



Professor **Jacob Shelley** will lead a cross-disciplinary project on weight stigma, obesity and eating disorders with the support of a Rotman Catalyst Grant. The study will bring together individuals adopting different perspectives on the crisis surrounding weight stigma, obesity, and eating disorders (EDs). The researchers aim to establish lines of communication between the various camps and help them develop a shared framework for thinking about the connections between weight and health.

Professor Shelley was also a co-applicant on a successful SSHRC Partnership Development Grant application titled "Equity at Every Size: Developing a National Weight Stigma Strategy". This research aims to develop a national weight stigma strategy to support the reduction of weight-based inequities in Canada. To achieve this, the researchers will document the lived experiences of diverse Canadians with higher body weights, summarize relevant policy and case law, and will consult with both the general public as well as weight stigma experts and other Canadian stakeholders.

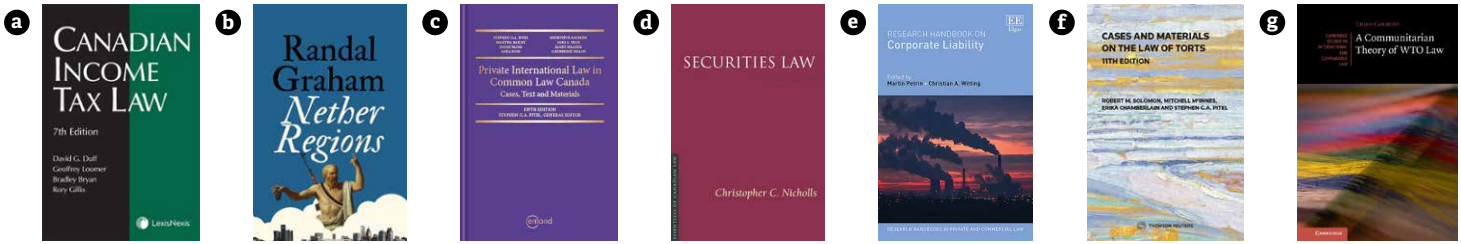


Professor **Valerie Oosterveld** was awarded the Royal Society of Canada's Ursula Franklin Award in Gender Studies in September 2022 for her scholarly work in gender-focused research and her translational efforts to instigate change and further the understanding and formation of international criminal law.

In fall 2022, The Canadian Partnership for International Justice (CPIJ), which included Professor Valerie Oosterveld and 31 students from Western, was honoured with the 2022 Partnership Award by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC).

Oosterveld was also recognized with the Canadian Association of Law Teachers 2023 Prize for Academic Excellence. This award honours exceptional contribution to research and law teaching by a Canadian law teacher in mid-career.

Faculty books



a *Canadian Income Tax Law, 7th ed*

(LexisNexis, 2023)

David G Duff, Geoffrey Loomer, Bradley Bryan and **Rory Gillis**

Canadian Income Tax Law combines the best features of a textbook and a casebook by providing an overview of the foundations of tax law and the critical cases which have shaped each component of the tax regime. Reviewing the basic structure of the income tax, the interpretation of tax legislation, judicial and statutory approaches to tax avoidance, and the statutory rules and judicial decisions governing the computation of a taxpayer's income, the authors provide expert commentary and analysis, making this book — cited by the Supreme Court of Canada — a unique resource for students and lawyers alike.

b *Nether Regions*
(ECW press, 2022)

Randal Graham

This is the third book in Randal Graham's "Beforelife" series, a satirical trilogy set in an afterlife where no one can remember the mortal world. Graham uses the novels as a platform to discuss issues pertaining to his ongoing research, specifically relating to microeconomics, legislative policy, legal philosophy, and current political problems.

c *Private International Law in Common Law Canada: Cases, Text and Materials, 5th Edition*
(Emond Publishing, 2022)

Stephen G.A. Pitel, Martha Bailey, Joost Blom, Geneviève Saumier, Sara Seck, Janet Walker, Catherine Walsh, Sara Ross

Private international law, also known as conflict of laws, refers to the intersections of law between private citizens of different countries and the recognition, regulation, and enforcement of legal rights in cases involving foreign entities. Commonplace in modern commerce and increasingly prevalent in areas such as family law, private international law presents challenging legal issues for Canadian courts.

d *Securities Law 3rd ed*
(Irwin Law Inc., 2023)

Christopher C. Nicholls

Canadian securities law consists of an enduring core of fundamental principles that are refined, and sometimes shrouded, by a complex and constantly evolving body of technical details. This third edition, written by Christopher Nicholls — one of Canada's foremost corporate and securities law experts — provides a solid grounding in the core securities law principles and helps the reader navigate the complex labyrinth of modern securities regulation.

e *Research Handbook on Corporate Liability*
(Edward Elgar Publishing, 2023)

Edited by **Martin Petrin** and Christian A. Witting

This Research Handbook considers many aspects of corporate liability, beginning with a fundamental explanation of what the company is, through depictions of corporate liability in theory, and on to the key areas of liability in practice. While including a timeless distillation of the guiding principles, each contribution explores the emerging boundaries of corporate liability issues so as to bring understanding to new levels.

f *Cases and Materials of the Law of Torts in Canada, 11th ed*
(Thomson Reuters, 2023)

Robert Solomon, Mitchell McInnes, **Erika Chamberlain**, and **Stephen Pitel**

Cases and Materials on the Law of Torts, 11th Edition provides a detailed examination of every major area of Canadian tort law. This highly regarded casebook provides a detailed examination of every major area of Canadian tort law. For each topic there are clear explanatory introductions, concise extracts of key judicial decisions and statutes, editorial discussions, detailed notes, questions and references to the literature, and review problems.

g *A Communitarian Theory of WTO Law*
(Cambridge University Press, 2023)

Chios Carmody

Since 1995 there has been intense debate about whether the WTO Agreement is just. Many observers point to the association of the treaty with intensive interdependence and the disruptive effects of globalization to assert that it is unjust. Nevertheless, justice in sovereign terms is different from justice in human terms. This book puts forward a theory of WTO law to explain the difference and its implications for the international trading system. It details how economic interdependence gives rise to an interdependent view of the relationship between different forms of justice and to interdependent obligations in WTO law.

Message from the Director of Development



Warm greetings to the distinguished graduates of Western Law! I hope this message finds you all well. My name is Shawna Ferguson, and I am incredibly honored and thrilled to have recently assumed the role of director of development at Western Law.

As the incoming director of development, my primary goal is to help Western Law build upon our legacy of excellence. Our alumni network has enormous potential to help us achieve this. The bond between our esteemed alumni and Western Law goes beyond the years spent within these halls. It is my goal to cultivate and strengthen this valuable bond, recognizing your role in shaping the futures of our students.

You, our esteemed graduates, are one of our most valuable assets. Western Law relies on our alumni to get involved in various alumni relations activities as volunteers, mentors and donors. Through donations, Western Law can offer financial aid by providing scholarships, awards, and bursaries, improve its learning facilities, offer innovative programming and provide cutting-edge research opportunities. Your involvement enables Western Law to stay at the forefront in so many wonderful ways.

Working with Dean Erika Chamberlain, we have many exciting initiatives on the horizon, including the first of its kind in Ontario, the

Summer After 1L program (SA1L). This program will connect all incoming JD students with law-related placements after their first year of studies. Investing in programs like SA1L fosters experiential learning and innovation, which enhances our students' competitiveness. Together, we continue to make a difference in the lives of our students.

As we look to the future, I invite you to embark on a renewed journey with Western Law. Your continued support means so much to us all. Let us come together to foster a thriving community that encourages collaboration, mentorship and advancement.

I wholeheartedly extend my hand to welcome your suggestions, feedback and ideas. Please reach out to Michelle Bothwell and me, we would really enjoy hearing from you.

Until then, I hope to meet many of you at alumni events in London and Toronto in the coming year.

With appreciation,
Shawna

“The bond between our esteemed alumni and Western Law goes beyond the years spent within these halls. It is my goal to cultivate and strengthen this valuable bond, recognizing your role in shaping the futures of our students.”

Hewat Family establishes continuing award for Indigenous law students

Indigenous law students who have demonstrated a contribution to their community, and an interest in continuing to support Indigenous communities in future, will be eligible to receive a new continuing award established by two Western Law alumni.

The Hewat Family Continuing Award for Indigenous Law Students was created by husband and wife Chris Hewat (LL.B./MBA 1985), partner at Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP, and Dale Hewat (LL.B. 1986), labour arbitrator & mediator, Hewat Workplace Solutions.

“With this award, we wanted to help build on Western Law’s initiatives to develop and promote diversity by attracting Indigenous students to the study of Law at Western,” the Hewats stated. “We hope that the award will assist the student in achieving success in their legal education and in turn, in their career and personal life, and allow them to serve as a role model to their communities.”

This \$30,000 award will be granted to a full-time student entering their first year of the JD program. The recipient will receive \$10,000 for each year of their JD studies. Preference will be given to candidates who are Indigenous (First Nations, Inuit or Metis) and have shown a commitment to supporting Indigenous communities through their work or volunteer initiatives.

“We’re grateful to the Hewat family for helping us on our continued journey to reduce barriers for Indigenous students, and other equity-deserving communities, to study at Western Law,” said Christopher C. Nicholls, past acting dean of Western Law. “Increasing Indigenous representation within our faculty, and within the field of law, is critical to advancing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action.”

Memorial bursary celebrates the life of Scott Burrows JD/MBA '02



The friends and family of Scott Burrows (JD/MBA '02) have established an endowed bursary fund in his memory. The bursary was spearheaded by his wife Susanne and classmate Alex Colangelo (LL.B. '01) and received generous contributions from his classmates, family and colleagues.

Scott held the position of managing director, Debt Capital Markets at CIBC upon his passing of cancer at age 46 in 2020. Scott was a devoted family man with three young children. He cherished his Winnipeg upbringing, his family and friends from out west, his lifelong friends from Western Law, the family he created in Oakville Ontario and anything sports related – especially the Winnipeg Jets.

His closest classmates recall him as friendly, inclusive and generous, and appreciate the enduring nicknames he gave them, by which they still refer to each other. He is remembered for always participating in events and encouraging others to join in, whether it was the squash ladder, basketball tournaments, Lord Denning nights or trying out for moots.

The fund will support undergraduate students in the combined JD/MBA program based upon financial need. Scott’s family and friends hope the award will help a student with as much potential and enthusiasm as Scott had when he entered his first year at Western.

“Scott was a person of character and integrity, who always tried to do the right thing even when it wasn’t the easiest thing,” said classmate Mark Smyth (LL.B. '01). “He had a lasting impact on those he met and, in particular, on those who were privileged to call him a friend. The award in Scott’s memory is one way of ensuring his memory lives on and positively contributes to the lives of others.”

Class of 2023

called to “leave tracks”: Celebrating our newest alumni

The late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg once compelled law graduates to “leave tracks” and “repair the tears in their communities.”

Keynote speaker at the 2023 Western Law Convocation Awards Ceremony, Yola S. Ventresca, LL.B. '05, managing partner at Lerner LLP, urged our newest JDs to heed this call as they head into their next chapter.

“As you take your leave of Western Law, my wish for you is that you’ll use the education you’ve received here as a tool to repair the tears in your community, and to move us one step closer to a truly just and inclusive world,” said Ventresca.

Ventresca’s inspiring and uplifting speech to the class of 2023 shared reflections on how her family’s history shaped her desire to practice law, lessons learned at Western Law, and how her educational experience catalyzed the trajectory of her career.

The daughter of Lebanese immigrants, Ventresca shared how her parents came in Canada in search of security in the midst of political, social and economic crisis, and ultimately civil war, in 1970’s Lebanon. Her parents’ experience highlighted the deadly consequences of collapsing laws and ethical norms.

“Growing up in an immigrant household, and hearing about my family’s experiences with political conflict, social violence and structural inequities really shaped and sharpened my appreciation of the law as an essential tool for mediating relations between people and groups,” she said reflecting on her impetus for choosing to practice law.

Ventresca also reflected on the generosity of the Western Law community, including opportunities for financial aid and the incredible support of Professors Rande Kostal and Robert Soloman whose attentive mentorship enabled her to become an exceptional writer.

Valedictorian Rheanna Geisel also addressed her classmates sharing three key takeaways summarizing her experience at Western Law.

She began with the lesson that success takes a village, reflecting on the importance of both family support and the bonds developed between classmates during the unprecedented challenges brought about by the pandemic.

“The class of 2023 has had three very different years of law school...although we spent most of the first year six feet apart, we knew that we were never alone. We have grown together, supported one another, and as cliché as it is, we are leaving here with more than just a law degree,” Geisel said.

Geisel reflected on the immense potential of the class of 2023 providing an overview of their already lengthy list of accomplishments and their underlying commitment to justice.

“It is not only the academic achievements of this class that are worth celebrating,” she said. “Our class has shown a passion for justice, commitment to upholding the rule of law, and the belief that a fair and equitable society is within our reach.”

She concluded her remarks with a third lesson that her law school experience has imparted.

“Nearly every legal question we encounter in our careers can be answered with two simple words: it depends,” Geisel said.

A common thread acknowledged by all speakers was the critical importance of a support network to the current and future success of our graduates. Professor Christopher Nicholls, in his then capacity as acting dean, closed the event with a touching family story, encouraging the class of 2023, and their families, to never miss an opportunity to share sentiments of pride, love and appreciation with their loved ones.



AILBE C. FLYNN LL.B. '97 MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AWARD RECIPIENT DANIEL DERKACH WITH KATIE DERKACH (CENTER) AND THE FAMILY OF AILBE FLYNN (LTR) DEIRDRE FLYNN, KEVIN FLYNN (SR.), KEVIN FLYNN (JR.), AND KATE DUNN



VALEDICTORIAN RHEANNA GEISEL



KEYNOTE SPEAKER YOLA VENTRESCA



WESTERN LAW SPRING RECEPTION

Toronto-based Western Law alumni gathered at Goodman's LLP on May 16, 2023 for a lively networking reception. This first post-pandemic alumni gathering was well attended with over 100 guests including Mitch Frazer, LL.B. '99, Chair, Alumni Advisory Council, and Pamela Shin, LL.B. '08, Chair, Young Alumni Advisory Council, who provided remarks on behalf of their councils.

1. Pamela Shin (LL.B. '08),
Chair Young Alumni Advisory Council
2. Nadia Pronych (JD '17, LLM '20)
and William Goacher (JD '17)
3. Randy McAuley (JD '15) and Mark McAuley (JD '18),
Member, Young Alumni Advisory Council
4. Joshua Suttner (JD '17), Joshua Lerner (JD '17),
and Jared Rosenbaum (JD '17)
5. Mark Schumacher (JD '22) and Max Borins (JD '22)
6. Alan Harris (JD '22), Kathleen McGarrell,
and Srobona Podder (JD '22)
7. Adrienne DiPaolo (LL.B. '08), Adam Banack (LL.B. '08),
Mitch Frazer (LL.B. '99), Chair, Alumni Advisory Council,
and Professor Christopher Nicholls



PHOTOS BY NIKKI LAMB TUDICO



6



7



5



3



4



2

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	Cheryl Waldrum Global Opportunities Award in Law	Writing Scholarship
A.T. Little Scholarship and Gold Medal	CIT Worldwide Bursary	Erika Gross Chamberlain Bursary in Law
Adam Fanaki Memorial Award in Competition Law	Clarke-Osborne Family Entrance Scholarship	Filion Wakely Thorup Angeletti LLP Award in Labour and Employment Law
Ailbe C. Flynn LLB '97 Memorial Scholarship in Intellectual Property, Information and Technology Law	Class of '97 Law Grad Pact Bursaries	Francis Marie Clark Award in Law
Aird & Berlis LLP Award	Colin D. Leitch Award	Fred J. Blackwell Bursary Fund - Law
Albert Abel Memorial Fund	Cynthia Westaway Award	Gillespie Family Bursary
Albert Oosterhoff Award in Property	Dale Ponder, LLB'80, Osler Entrance Scholarship	Gowling WLG (Canada) LLP Entrance Scholarship
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Blake Cassels & Graydon LLP Scholarship	Dean of Law Continuing Entrance Scholarships	Harte Law Award
Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP Entrance Scholarships	Dean of Law Entrance Scholarships	Hasham-Steele Bursary in Law
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Bredt/Cameron Entrance Scholarship in Law	Diana Majury-Cheryl Waldrum Award	Honourable Mayer Lerner Q.C. Award
Bruce Alexander Thomas Q.C. Bursary	Don Morrison Memorial Bursary	Huron R. Davidson Entrance Award
Bruce Welling Memorial Bursary	Douglas May Memorial Award	Insolvency Institute of Canada Prize in Insolvency Studies
Canadian Bar Insurance Association Scholarship	Dr. Allison H. Johnson Award	J.G. McLeod-McSorley Scholarship in Family Law
Carlyle Peterson Award	Dr. Ian Randall Kerr Memorial Award in Law	J.S.D. Tory Writing Prize
Carswell Entrance Scholarship	Earl Palmer, QC Entrance Scholarship	Janet Stewart Prize in Immigration and Refugee Law
Cathy and Craig Smith Global Opportunities Award	Edna Yuet Lui Chan Memorial Award	Joanne Poljanowski Memorial Bursary in Law
CCPartners Award in Labour Law	Edward C. Elwood Q.C. Prizes in Wills and Trusts	John C. Drake Award in Criminal Law
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When I learned that I was to receive the Law Class of 1982 Award, I felt elated and relieved. Putting yourself through law school is a very difficult feat financially, so this award truly means a lot to me and my future. After graduation, I hope to practice law and give back to the community. No matter what area of law I pursue, I am hoping to be financially stable enough to provide pro bono resources and maybe even set up an award like the one I received for future students at Western Law.”

SARAH CVETKOVSKI, JD Law, Third Year

Joyce Thomas Memorial Award	Nidhi Kanika Suri Memorial Award	STEP Canada Award in Trusts
Kevin J. Comeau Continuing Scholarship	Norman Craig Brown QC Continuous Bursary in Law	Stephen G.A. Pitel Award in Private International Law
Law Class of 1974 Bursary	Norton Rose Fulbright Canada LLP Award	Student Legal Society Entrance Scholarship
Law Class of 1982 Award	Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt Award in Legal Research, Writing and Advocacy	T.J. Laskowsky Class of 2001 Entrance Award in Law
Law Class of 1993 Bursary	Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt Diverse Scholars Award	The Solomon and Lent Family Entrance Scholarship
Law Class of 2007 Tim Edgar Memorial Award	Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt Excellence in Business Law Award	The University of Western Ontario Bursaries - Law
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Law Society of Ontario Education Equity Award	Patricia McVeigh Memorial Entrance Scholarship	Thorsteinssons LLP Award
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Lorenzo Di Cecco Memorial Award in Criminal Law	Peter Barton Award in Civil Procedure	Torys LLP Award in Business Law
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MacKewn, Winder, Kirwin Entrance Scholarship in Law	Robert D. Preston Entrance Award in Law	UWO Law Alumni Association Entrance Scholarships
Margaret E. Rintoul Award in Wills	Robert and Anne Aziz Award	UWO Law Alumni Association Presidents' Award
Margaret H. McNulty Prize	Robert M. Solomon Award	Violet King Award
Mario Paura Award in Law	Robert M. Solomon Scholarship in Tort Law	W.R. Poole, QC Criminal Law Moot Award
McArdle-MacKinnon 125th Anniversary Alumni Award	Rosen Sunshine LLP Award in Health Law	Waterloo Region Law Association - Catherine Malvern Entrance Scholarship
Meena and Amit Chakma Global Opportunities Award	Sandra Oosterhoff Memorial Bursary	Western Alumni Global Opportunities Award in Law
Michael Allen Harte Award	Scott Burrows JD/MBA '02 Memorial Bursary	Western Law Student Support Bursary
Mitch and Leslie Frazer Scholarship	Shaun Finnie LLB '89 Bursary	Whitten & Lublin Employment Lawyers Award
Morris Kroll Memorial Award	Sherrard Kuzz LLP Labour & Employment Law Achievement Award	Wildeboer Dellelce LLP Award in Corporate Law
Myer and Sarah Solomon Entrance Scholarships	Sonja J. Gundersen Awards	
Newton Rowell Entrance Scholarships	Stanley C.Tessie Memorial Award	

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CLASS NOTES

1970s

Daniel Peterson, LL.B. '71, celebrated practicing law for 50 years as of March 23, 2023, and is still practicing in Calgary at DD West LLP.

George Sinker, LL.B.'73, retired from practice with Lerner LLP in December 2021 after a successful 47-year career in law in Strathroy, Ontario, which included founding the George E. Sinker Law firm with his wife Sydney Pearson, LL.B. '74, in 1990.

Allan Freedman, LL.B. '74, finished 47 years of practice and continues to act as general counsel to a private educational college and has been reappointed to the Council of the College of Occupational Therapists of Ontario.



Christine Elliott, LL.B. '78, received an honorary Doctorate of Laws from Trent University Durham for her service to Ontario, including serving as deputy premier and minister of health from 2018 to 2022.

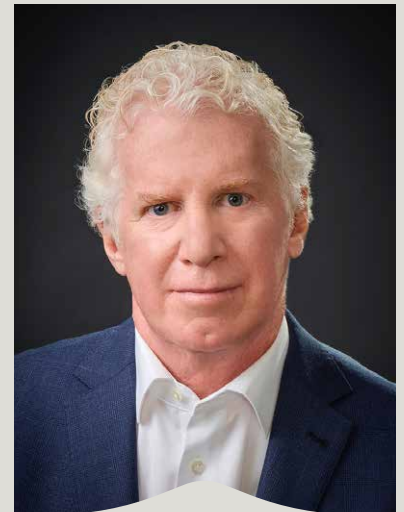


Barbara Legate, LL.B. '79, senior trial lawyer at Legate Injury Lawyers has been awarded the prestigious "2023 OBA Award of Excellence in Insurance Law." This lifetime achievement award recognizes her contributions to the law, and celebrates a lifelong career devoted to obtaining justice for her clients.



Gary Segal, LL.B. '79, was appointed as a Member of the Order of Canada for his enduring commitment to humanitarian work, philanthropy and service to the community.

1980s



Michael Winward, LL.B. '83, was elected as a bencher for the Law Society of Ontario.



Maura Lendon, LL.B. '88, was promoted to chief legal officer at Greenlane Renewables Inc. She also serves a director on the boards of Kuya Silver Corporation and Revival Gold Inc.

1990s



Jeff Zweig, LL.B. '93, was appointed to the role of partner, vice chair, and head of natural capital at Fiera Comox Partners, an affiliate of Fiera Capital Corporation.



Jody Becker, BA (Hons) '96, LL.B. '99, was named one of Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100 2022 Award Winners by Women's Executive Network.



MICHAEL BURNS PHOTO

Michael Copeland, LL.B. '93, was appointed as chief executive officer of Woodbine Entertainment.



Barbara Hoover, LL.B. '99, has retired after a 17 year career in teaching and nearly 20 years of practice as a family law lawyer. She looks forward to spending more time with her husband (Eric Hoar, B. A. '69) and all that life has to offer them.

Arman Kuyumjian, LL.B. '99, has joined Baker Botts L.L.P. in their New York office as a partner and co-head of the firm's cross-border mergers and acquisitions practice.

Mitch Frazer, LL.B. '99, has joined the new Mintz Toronto office as managing partner.

2000s



Eric Foster, LL.B. '06, has joined the new Mintz Toronto office as a founding partner.



Matthew Atkey, LL.B. '07, has joined the new Mintz Toronto office as a partner.



Adrienne DiPaolo, LL.B. '08, was named as a 2022 Lexpert Rising Star.



Lorin MacDonald, JD '09, continues her advocacy for greater accessibility and inclusion for Canadians with disabilities. Over the past year, her honours include the Women in Law Leadership Stronger Together Award (2022) and in 2023, the D-30 Disability Impact List (as the only Canadian among 30 disability impact leaders from 12 countries), the Government of Ontario's David C. Onley Award for Leadership in Accessibility, and the Women Empowerment Award for Diversity, Equality & Inclusivity.



William Buchner, LL.B. '08, was named as a 2022 Lexpert Rising Star.



Maciek Piekosz, JD '09, was named one of Business London's Top 20 Under 40 Class of 2023.

2010s



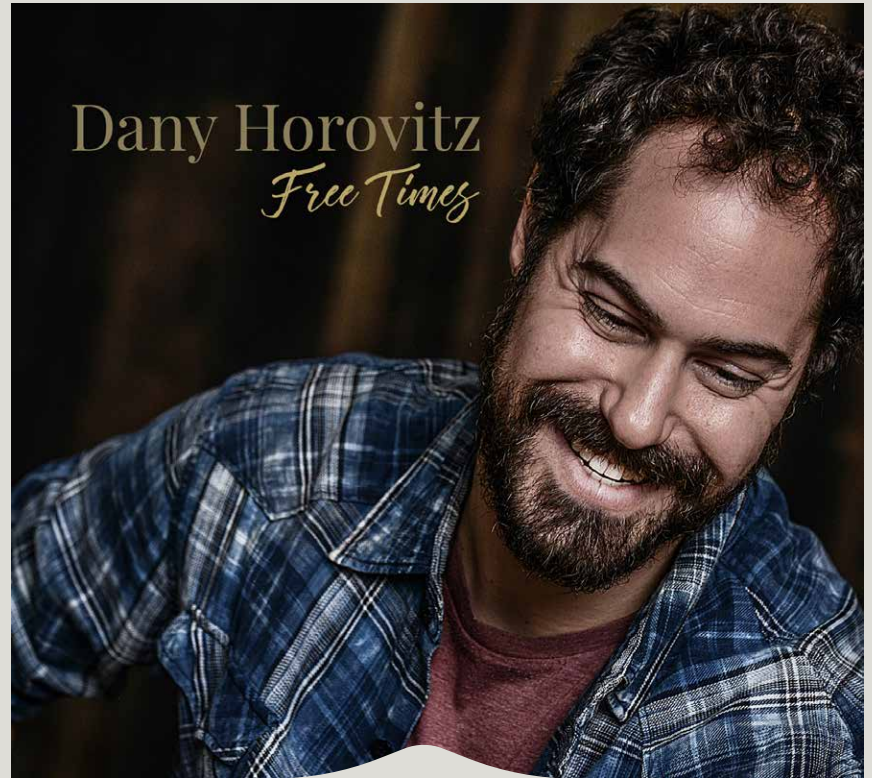
Nawaz Tahir, LL.B. '01, was named to the London Ontario Mayor's Honour List for 2023 for humanitarianism and in June of 2023 was appointed as chair of the board of St. Joseph's Health Care London.



Matthew Wilson, LL.B. '10, was elected as a bencher for the Law Society of Ontario and was elected chair of the board of London Health Sciences Centre.



Aaron Baer, JD '13, was named as a 2022 Lexpert Rising Star.



Daniel (Dany) Horovitz, JD '10, released an album of original folk-rock music, *Free Times*, in 2022. It can be found on all major streaming services.



Dasha Peregoudova, JD '16, was named a recipient of the Precedent Setter Awards 2023.

Andrew Nutbrown, JD '17, practiced law in Southwest Ontario for 3 years following graduation and has now moved to Pasadena, California with his wife, Nivin Nystrom, PhD '20, also a Western grad, where Andrew joined KJMLAW Partners PLC. practicing international estate planning.



Chris Lazaris, JD '18, joined Thomson Rogers as an associate.

Jordan Wajs, JD'18, had his first research and opinion article "Common law in a pandemic: Spanish flu of 1918" published by the Lawyers Daily.

2020s



Justin Choy, JD '21, joined the Hicks Morley Toronto office as an associate.



Diane Harbin, JD '21, joined the Hicks Morley Toronto office as an associate.



Desiree Smith, JD '19, published a children's book titled *Mischa the Busy Bee*.



Brooklyn Hallam, JD '21, joined the Hicks Morley Waterloo office as an associate.



Sarah Maude, JD '21, joined the Hicks Morley Toronto office as an associate.



Nyrie Israelian, JD '21, joined the Bereskin & Parr Toronto office as an associate.



Ardita Sinojmeri, JD '21, joined Affleck Greene McMurtry as an associate.

Nadim Mansour, JD '21, joined Levitt Sheikh LLP as an associate.

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