

THE SCHULICH SCHOOL OF LAW ALUMNI MAGAZINE

HEARSAY

VOLUME 45 2024

ANCHOR OF THE REGION, DRIVER OF THE NATION

How Schulich Law alum are changing the legal
landscape across the country

Page 30



DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY

SCHULICH
SCHOOL OF LAW

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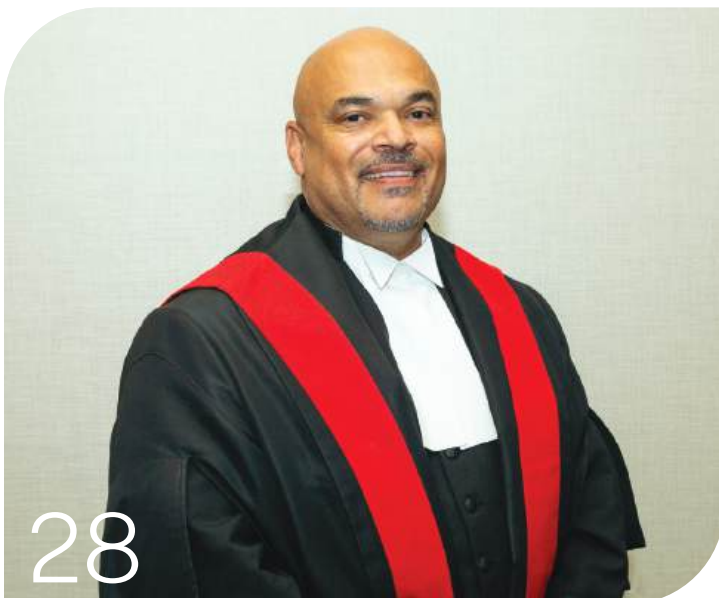
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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

In late August 2023, I arrived on campus as the new dean of the Schulich School of Law. Walking through the doors of the Weldon Law Building, I felt the same excitement and optimism that I did as a first-year Dalhousie law student more than 35 years ago.

Back then, I remember being immediately struck by the law school's rare and wonderful combination of a supportive community and a commitment to excellence. What I discovered this past year is that this combination is still going strong.

The heart of the law school community is its people. And I focused much of the past year on getting to know these remarkable individuals. I set aside time weekly to meet with students at the law school, hosted dinners in my home to hear about faculty visions for the future, spent countless evenings enjoying meals and drinks with local leaders of the legal community and met many of you on my travels to Toronto and out West. I look forward to connecting with more of our alumni family in the fall when I head to Ottawa and Newfoundland. I've come away from every meeting, coffee, lunch, dinner, glass of wine or pint of beer, with a sense of awe at the sheer brilliance of our extended community.

Our commitment to excellence drives everything we do at Schulich Law. Many of you may not know that the "Weldon Tradition" as articulated by Dean Weldon wasn't solely about "unselfish public service." It also stressed the expectations of high academic standards, or as he stated, "delights of intellectual mastery." You might wonder how this translates to classrooms today. It means that students are challenged to understand not only what the law is but what it could and should be; what influences have

shaped and defined our legal system and what perspectives have been absent from that process. The range of experiences and viewpoints students bring into the classroom, and the intelligence that our faculty bring to their teaching, encourage a vision of law and justice that is both more inclusive and forward thinking. In 2024, "intellectual mastery" is as much about intellectual curiosity and critical thinking as learning the law.

Outside our core educational mission you won't have to look far to find numerous examples of our "excellence" from this past year. Whether it's faculty achievements, students' award-winning papers or alumni stories scattered throughout this edition of *Hearsay*, it's our people who are shining examples of the brilliance of our law school family. The individuals chosen for our cover story highlight the strength of our leadership in all aspects of the national legal system, showcasing our influence from coast to coast and reinforcing our reputation as a top national law school.

As my first year as Dean rolls over into another, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to lead this great law school. I am humbled by the support of our entire community which has made that task even more rewarding. This is a great place to live and learn and I feel blessed to find myself back here. Thank you.

Warmest regards,

Sarah Harding
Dean, Schulich School of Law

MESSAGE FROM DLAA PRESIDENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS

Dear alumni family,

We would like to begin this message by congratulating the Schulich School of Law's graduating class of 2024! Completing your Juris Doctor is an extraordinary achievement. You have accomplished so much in your time here and we are incredibly proud of your hard work, commitment and resilience. As you embark on this exciting new chapter, remember that your journey has only just begun. We look forward to seeing the positive impact you will make in the legal profession and beyond. Welcome to the Dalhousie Law Alumni Association (DLAA) family!

It has been another remarkable year for us filled with engaging moments and cherished connections. A few of our highlights include recognizing Don Oliver (LLB '64, LLD '03) as the recipient of the prestigious Weldon Award for Unselfish Public Service, inducting six outstanding alumni into the Bertha Wilson Honour Society and introducing the new Emerging Leader Impact Award for recent graduates.

We also had the pleasure of hosting some unforgettable events, including this year's Law Alumni Reunion Weekend. It was an incredible gathering, especially given the diverse representation across the decades of graduating classes from the more than 250 alumni in attendance. The weekend was filled with laughter, camaraderie, delicious food and a photo booth to capture lasting memories.

But the festivities didn't end there. From coast to coast, we embarked on a journey to connect with our alumni through a series of receptions and meet and greets. It was an absolute delight to speak with many of you, reminiscing about our shared experiences and celebrating the milestones that have shaped us into the community we are today.

We have been fortunate to witness the dedication of our esteemed alumni to the Weldon Tradition as you generously give back by sharing your time, insights and expertise with fellow alumni and current students. Your involvement in initiatives such as the Weldon Mentorship Program, Orientation Week, Weldon Welcome Days, alumni internships, recruitment events, interviews and more, truly make a profound difference in the lives of our students. Your contributions are invaluable, and our students consistently express deep gratitude for the opportunity to learn from you as they prepare to embark on their legal careers.



We remain committed to engaging our network of over 8,000 alumni and encourage you to uphold the Weldon Tradition by joining our mentorship program or nominating an outstanding alum for a DLAA award. If you have ideas for celebrating and supporting each other, please share them with us.

As we reflect on these moments, we are reminded of the incredible strength and spirit of our alumni network. Thank you to all who attended and contributed to making these gatherings a resounding success!

Tony Amoud ('09)
President, Dalhousie Law
Alumni Association

Ally Howard
Director, Alumni Relations,
Admissions and Recruitment

SCHOOL NEWS



STUDENTS WRITE WINNING PAPERS

Third-year student Amelia Eaton was the winner of the 2023 Canadian Bar Association Women Lawyers Forum Writing Them In essay contest, for her paper “Beyond System Solutions: Indigenous Motherhoods and Canadian Prison Abolition.” The contest helps promote interest in women’s legal history in Canada.

Second-year student Eni Oguntona’s paper “Rated PG for Parental Guidance: A Legal Analysis of Nova Scotia’s Breach of Fiduciary Duty to African Nova Scotian Students” was selected to be presented at the Canadian Law Student Conference at the University of Windsor. Students were invited to submit original academic work for the opportunity to present and receive feedback.

Second-year student Lorenze Cromwell’s paper “Under the Eyes of the Oppressors: The Use of Space as a Legal Tool of Oppression Against African Nova Scotians” was selected for the 2024 JSD Tory Research and Writing Award, given to reward legal research and writing excellence, encourage legal scholarship and provide financial support for research.

PROFESSOR METALLIC INTRODUCES NEW WEBSITE

In September 2023 Naomi Metallic (’05), associate professor and Chancellor’s Chair in Aboriginal Law and Policy, launched a website highlighting the work of Schulich Law students, faculty and staff in the areas of Aboriginal and Indigenous law. The website called Abajignmuen, which means “giving back” in Miqmaq, currently features more than 50 student projects that will continue to grow every year.

Metallic says the inspiration for Abajignmuen came from recognizing the hard work of students on papers and assignments in Aboriginal and Indigenous law courses. The website will allow those working and studying in this area to give back to the broader community by sharing what they are learning in an accessible way.

The values and principles behind this project are in line with the Weldon Tradition — a belief that the law school’s students and graduates have an obligation to use their knowledge to serve the community for the greater good.

STUDENT ATTENDS INTERNATIONAL LAW SUMMIT IN UKRAINE

In December 2023, third-year student Caleb MacDonald attended the ‘Stand Tall for the Rule of Law’ Summit in Ukraine, organized by the Ukrainian Association of International Law and the American Society of International Law.

The summit brought together 75 international law experts and 75 of their Ukrainian counterparts in the city of Lviv. The event was focused on reaffirming a commitment to the fundamental principles of international law, responding to the call of the Ukrainian legal community for partnership and reflecting on the role of international law at this historic inflection point. It coincided with the 75th anniversaries of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

MacDonald, who prior to law school spent 20 years with the Canadian Armed Forces and the RCMP, was the only law student selected to attend from hundreds of applications.

KIM BROOKS NAMED DALHOUSIE’S 13TH PRESIDENT

In July 2023, the Dalhousie Board of Governors announced the appointment of Dr. Kim Brooks for a five-year term as president and vice-chancellor of the university.

Brooks, Dalhousie’s 13th president, has the rare distinction of having served as dean of two Dalhousie faculties: the Schulich School of Law and the Faculty of Management. She is a 3M Teaching Fellow and an accomplished tax scholar and lawyer who has held research chairs at multiple top Canadian universities. Her extensive leadership and service reaches into the public sector and the local community with organizations such as Halifax Public Libraries, where she is the current board chair.

“I’m looking forward to connecting and re-connecting with all who support our vital work as we hold tight to our sense of purpose and possibility; grow a culture of inclusive excellence, curiosity and exploration; and strengthen Dalhousie’s engagement with communities across Nova Scotia and around the world.”



PHD STUDENT BECOMES DAL OPENTHINKER

PhD student Mohamad Alikhani was named one of Dalhousie's 2024 OpenThinkers. He will share his research, which focuses on how Canadian laws and policies can be improved to ensure an ecologically sustainable future for offshore wind energy, through monthly blog posts.

The OpenThink Initiative, offered by the Faculty of Graduate Studies, provides PhD students from across the university with the communications skills and platform needed to share their research more widely, to inform public discourse and to influence policy. Guided by communications experts from Dalhousie, the University of King's College and NATIONAL Public Relations, OpenThinkers receive training in how to reach public audiences and share their knowledge.

In turn, they become ambassadors for graduate studies at Dal, as well as for their own work, by sharing their research and ideas via social media, blogs, public speaking opportunities, media interviews, articles and op-eds.



PROFESSORS RECOGNIZED WITH TEACHING AWARDS

The winners of this year's Schulich Law Teaching Awards made students feel supported, encouraged and challenged in the classroom.

Professor Alayna Kolodziechuk ('12), director and supervising lawyer of the *initio* Technology & Innovation Law Clinic, received the DLAA & LSS Award for Excellence in Teaching Law. It is given in recognition and appreciation of excellence in teaching demonstrated by enthusiasm, commitment, dedication and outstanding service to students. Nominations were made by current law students and a recipient was selected by a committee comprised of students and alumni.

Professor Olabisi Akinkugbe, former Viscount Bennett Professor of Law and newly appointed Purdy Crawford Chair, was awarded the Hannah and Harold Barnett Excellence in Teaching Award given by the Law Students' Society to a professor who teaches first-year law. Each first-year section collectively put forward a nomination, and a winner was chosen by a committee of students.



STUDENT ATTENDS Q&A WITH SUPREME COURT APPOINTEE

Maggie MacInnis, a first-year law student, travelled to Ottawa in November 2023 to witness a question-and-answer (Q&A) session in the House of Commons with new Supreme Court appointee, the Honourable Justice Mary Moreau.

In 2016, the Trudeau government instituted a process where new justices participate in a Q&A session before a panel of members of Parliament and senators. This year, law students from across Canada were able to enter a lottery for the chance to claim one of the limited in-person seats.

Justice Moreau's appointment made the Supreme Court majority female for the first time in its 134-year history. MacInnis entered the ticket lottery and was selected to represent Schulich Law. She then embarked on a 30-hour whirlwind trip to the nation's capital to join the audience, which included MPs, Senators, clerks, members of the legal community and fellow law students, to witness Canadian legal history being made.



PROFESSOR WILDEMAN RECEIVES NOVA SCOTIA HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

In December 2023, Professor Sheila Wildeman ('99), was recognized with an Individual Nova Scotia Human Rights Award for her advocacy for the human rights of incarcerated people and people with disabilities.

The Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission presents the awards annually on or around International Human Rights Day. The Individual Award is presented to a person, nominated by their peers, who demonstrates leadership and whose work has contributed to change in their community by advancing equity, inclusion and the value in promoting and protecting human rights.

Wildeman's research and publications, like her community work, explore how law may be used to advance the justice aspirations of persons marginalized by legal as well as health and social service systems. She also serves as the associate director of the Dalhousie Health Justice Institute and co-chair of East Coast Prison Justice Society.

WRITING THEIR NEXT CHAPTERS

Farewell and best wishes to Schulich Law's long-serving faculty and staff members retiring this year. They will be fondly remembered for their significant contributions to the legal profession and the law school community.

BY AMANDA KIRBY-SHEPPARD



Michael Deturbide

Professor Michael Deturbide K.C. (LLB '89, LL.M. '97), former Purdy Crawford Chair in Business Law, retired after 30 years at the Schulich School of Law.

Deturbide, who joined the faculty in 1994, taught Business Associations, Commercial Law and Taxation Law, and developed and taught the Corporate Transactions course. His research interests include corporate law, media law and the impact of technology on the law.

He helped establish Dalhousie University's Master of Electronic Commerce Program and its Law & Technology Institute, was the law school's longest-serving associate dean and received the Law Students' Society (LSS) and Dalhousie Law Alumni Association (DLAA) Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2001.

Deturbide is co-editor-in-chief and co-founder of the *Canadian Journal of Law and Technology* and is the author and co-author of several texts and case books on business and/or technology law, including the Walter Owen Book Prize winning *Electronic Commerce and Internet Law in Canada*.

His post-retirement plans include travel and family time at his cottage, as well as continuing his appointment as a commissioner of the Nova Scotia Securities Commission.



Jocelyn Downie

Professor Jocelyn Downie, C.M., FRSC, FCAHS, SJD, retired after teaching for 27 years with Dalhousie University's Faculties of Law and Medicine.

Downie was a member of the Dalhousie Health Justice Institute with a focus on end-of-life law and policy, particularly on assisted dying. She taught Health Care Ethics and the Law, Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility and various law and public policy courses. She also supervised graduate

students and postdoctoral fellows on different aspects of health law and policy.

She was the principal investigator on numerous research projects in health law and policy, has published dozens of books and articles on health law and policy topics and has spoken at conferences across Canada and around the world.

Downie also served on expert panels advising governments and engaged in advocacy, including as part of the legal team in *Carter v. Canada* which made assisted dying legal in Canada.

Following her retirement, she will continue to engage in research and advocacy on assisted dying and also plans to take up woodturning.



Elaine Gibson

Associate Professor Elaine Gibson retired after 32 years of teaching and research at Dalhousie University, 13 years of which she spent as the associate director of the Dalhousie Health Justice Institute.

Her areas of expertise include tort law, public health law, medical malpractice and privacy law. She participated in several research projects concerning the privacy and confidentiality of electronic health information, focusing on the uses of information in health research and public health.

Gibson has frequently testified before House of Commons and Senate committees on issues relating to public health. She has served national and provincial organizations in relation to health research and the ethical use of data.

Following retirement, she plans to devote more time to travelling and is considering writing a book on an area that combines her research interests in mental health and tort law.



Diana Ginn

Professor Diana Ginn began teaching at the law school in the fall of 1992 and was a member of the Faculty of Law for more than 30 years.

She received the LSS & DLAA Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1997, was presented with the class ring from the 2005 graduating class and won the Hanna and Harold Barnett Award in Law for Excellence in Teaching First-Year Law four times (2005, 2012, 2014 and 2020).

Ginn's research and writing interests cover a variety of topics including religion and the law, administrative law, aboriginal title and property law, health care issues and gender issues.

She has developed and taught courses in law at Hue University in Vietnam and the Atlantic School of Theology in Halifax. She has acted as a coach and examiner in the Negotiations and Conflict Management Programme at Dalhousie and facilitated a variety of seminars on conflict resolution. In 2016-2017, while on sabbatical, she held the Simon Visiting Fellowship at the University of Manchester, England.

Post-retirement, she will continue working on several writing projects but her focus will be family, including her five grandchildren.



Claire McNeil

Claire McNeil ('85), retired after joining Dalhousie Legal Aid Service in 1991 as a staff lawyer.

McNeil was first introduced to the Clinic as a Dalhousie law student when she attended an open house during her second year. She says it's where she discovered the reason why she went to law school and what being a lawyer was all about.

She accomplished a great deal in terms of student impact and systemic change during her more than 30-year career, including recently completing work on a ground-breaking disability rights case against the province of Nova Scotia, as a lawyer for the Disability Rights Coalition of Nova Scotia. She also successfully appeared before the Supreme Court of Canada in 2005, for the case *Nova Scotia (Minister of Health) v. J.J.*, another historic legal win for disability rights.



Phillip Saunders

Professor Phillip Saunders K.C. (BA '76, MA '82, LLB '84) retired after teaching for more than 30 years in the Faculty of Law.

He joined the law school in 1992, teaching Public International Law, Law of the Sea,

Environmental Law, Torts, Judicial Remedies and Oral Advocacy and was cross-appointed for several years to the School for Resource and Environmental Studies.

Saunders was an adjunct professor at China's National Institute for South China Seas Studies. He participated in joint research, training and conflict-resolution projects in Southern and Southeast Asia, Southern and East Africa, the Caribbean, the South Pacific and the European Union, focusing on maritime boundary issues and international law of the sea.

He was also Dalhousie's dean of law from 2005-2010, helping secure the transformational Schulich Grant, thus becoming the first dean of the renamed Schulich School of Law.

In retirement, he will continue writing and training projects, including co-editing the 10th ed. of *Kindred's International Law, Chiefly as Interpreted and Applied in Canada*, but mainly plans to enjoy time with family, especially his new grandchild.



David VanderZwaag

Professor David VanderZwaag ('82), Canada Research Chair in Ocean Law and Governance and former director of the Marine & Environmental Law Institute, retired after 38 years of researching and teaching

international environmental law.

VanderZwaag initiated the granting of Schulich Law's Marine and Environmental Law Program certificates and was a co-founder and first co-director of Dalhousie's interdisciplinary Marine Affairs Program.

He is a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature's World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL), was co-chair of WCEL's Specialist Group on Oceans, Coasts and Coral Reefs and was a co-founder of the Australian-Canadian Oceans Research Network.

His research spans topics including polar law, principled ocean governance, fisheries and aquaculture management, species at risk protection and transboundary conflicts and cooperation.

Upon retirement, he will remain active on many research fronts, including serving as one of the lead authors in the North American Biodiversity and Climate Change Assessment, led by the United States Geological Survey in collaboration with Environment and Climate Change Canada and the National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity in Mexico.

DR. ELAINE CRAIG WINS PRESTIGIOUS KILLAM FELLOWSHIP

BY ANDREW RILEY

In March of 2024, Dalhousie legal scholar Dr. Elaine Craig (LLB '04, JSD '10) was named one of eight Canadian researchers to receive the Dorothy Killam Fellowship, one of the most esteemed academic awards in the country.

Craig joins the ranks of just nine Dalhousie researchers to have received the award since 1969 and is the first from the Schulich School of Law. Dorothy Killam Fellowships grant \$160,000 over two years to researchers pursuing projects of broad significance so they can focus on and accelerate the pace of their work.

The award is particularly significant as it will support her study aimed at understanding why so many sexual assault cases fail to progress to trial, how we can improve their investigation and prosecution and why reforms to this area of law have failed to achieve many of their objectives.

To pursue her work, Craig will study hundreds of closed sexual offence files produced in Nova Scotia over a three-year period ending in 2022. The cases include both complaints that did and did not go to trial. Pursued in collaboration with the Nova Scotia Public Prosecution Services (NSPPS), she is the first legal scholar in Canada to conduct a study that relies on closed files to gain this kind of empirical knowledge.

She says the project will provide detailed knowledge regarding virtually every stage of the legal process, from the time a sexual assault complainant reports until the point at which their case is over, noting that this is knowledge currently unavailable to the public in any jurisdiction in Canada.

"There is so much we do not know and as researchers, we have very few avenues to access many aspects of the legal process. Even when cases reach the courts, the vast majority of sexual offence prosecutions, more than 80 percent, do not result in reported decisions," says Craig. "We don't even know they're happening unless they are reported by media sitting in the courtroom."

In addition to case files, she will interview Crown prosecutors and study trial transcripts. She acknowledges the value of the partnership which offers the foundation for the study, saying, "This project was designed in collaboration with the NSPPS and is only possible due to a shared interest in better understanding the legal process regarding sexual offences."

Craig notes that there have been decades of law reforms in Canada aimed at eliminating discriminatory stereotypes and practices from Canadian sexual assault law.



But she says that the reforms have produced little in terms of increasing rates of reporting and reducing attrition and that complainants continue to experience the criminal justice system as traumatic.

Craig says that to understand what is causing the 'justice gap' we need to bridge the knowledge gap. "Among other things, we need to better understand the factors that lead to a drop-off in the progression of sexual assault cases through the legal system. We also need to understand how frequently complainants are provided testimonial aids, such as screens to shield them from the accused, and the frequency with which defence counsels gain permission to introduce evidence of a complainant's sexual activity or private records."

She also notes that while it's well known that Indigenous women are sexually assaulted at disproportionately higher rates, we are unaware of their rates of representation as complainants in sexual assault trials.

Craig says the period of focus of her study — between 2019 and 2022 — is particularly important as it follows substantial changes to sexual assault law to reduce the negative impact on complainants during sexual assault proceedings. One change included increasing the involvement of complainants in deciding if their sexual activity is admissible as evidence.

"This study will be able to look at whether those changes are helping to make the legal process more humane and less harmful for sexual assault survivors," she says.

Ultimately, she hopes her findings, which she expects to begin publishing within a year or two, will help improve the process and treatment for victims of sexual assault.

"My goal is to make a difference for people going through the process of reporting sexual violations in Nova Scotia, and indirectly in other provinces in Canada. I fully expect the research will yield insights and knowledge that will improve the investigative stage, the prosecution stage and the adjudicative stage of the sexual offence legal process in Canada, and that will be of use to legal actors across the country."

HEARSAY IS GOING DIGITAL!

We are thrilled to announce a significant transition for our beloved alumni magazine, *Hearsay*. Next year, we will be moving to a completely digital format to better reflect our commitment to environmental sustainability, accessibility and fiscal responsibility. Alumni will have convenient and immediate access to the latest news from anywhere, on any device.



WHY THE CHANGE?

Environmental Sustainability

Eliminating the use of paper will decrease air and water pollution, lower overall waste and reduce the law school's carbon footprint.

Accessibility

Moving to a digital format that is accessible for all alumni, including those with disabilities, impairments and limitations, will improve the user experience for everyone.

Fiscal Responsibility

Funds previously allocated to print and distribute the magazine will be invested in other student and alumni events and initiatives.

STAY CONNECTED

Don't miss *Hearsay*'s digital launch! Please take a moment to update your contact information with the Alumni Office on our website or by scanning the QR code.



law.dal.ca

INTRODUCING THE EMERGING LEADER IMPACT AWARD

The Emerging Leader Impact Award was established in 2024 to recognize the exceptional accomplishments of alumni who have graduated from the Schulich School of Law within the past 10 years.

Reflecting the law school's commitment to fostering a community of excellence and inspiration, the award honours a remarkable graduate who embodies the esteemed values of the Weldon Tradition, seamlessly merging outstanding professional achievements with a significant commitment to the community.

The law school's alumni serve as beacons of inspiration, illustrating that success transcends personal accomplishments and is fundamentally measured by the positive influence one imparts on the broader community.

The Criteria

Nominees must demonstrate excellence in the legal profession and in at least one of the following areas:

- **Community Impact:** Significant positive impact through volunteerism and service
- **Commitment to Social Justice:** Strong dedication to social justice, equity and fairness
- **Leadership and Mentorship:** Encourages others to contribute to their communities
- **Demonstrated Advocacy:** Advocates for legal and social issues, driving positive change
- **Collaboration and Partnership:** Works effectively with diverse groups to address societal challenges
- **Inspiration to Others:** Inspires students to engage in community service and ethical leadership

To Nominate

Do you know a recent alumnus who excels in their professional career and makes a meaningful impact on the broader community? Help us celebrate their exceptional contributions by nominating them for a 2025 Emerging Leader Impact Award. Eligibility criteria and nomination deadlines are listed online.

EMBODYING THE VALUES OF THE WELDON TRADITION

Emilie Coyle is the inaugural recipient of the DLAA Emerging Leader Impact Award.

BY AMANDA KIRBY-SHEPPARD

The Dalhousie Law Alumni Association (DLAA) Emerging Leader Impact Award was established this year to recognize the exceptional accomplishments of an alum who has graduated from the Schulich School of Law within the past decade. The inaugural recipient, Emilie Coyle ('14), is described by her former classmates as "warm and welcoming, open and non-judgemental, a calm in the turbulent waters of legal education."

Reflecting the law school's commitment to fostering a community of excellence and inspiration, the new award honours a remarkable graduate who embodies the esteemed values of the Weldon Tradition of unselfish public service, seamlessly merging outstanding professional achievements with a significant commitment to the community.

Aaron Dewitt ('14), James Foy ('14), Caitlin Urquhart ('14) and Amanda Whitehead ('14), classmates of Coyle, nominated her. They believe she truly embodies the Weldon Tradition through her commitment to social justice and by living those values through her work, volunteerism and advocacy.

Coming to Schulich Law later in life with years of work experience and a young family, Coyle knew why she was at law school and what she was hoping to gain.

"Her leadership style is welcoming, open, caring and full of compassion," they share. "In class, she was practical and never afraid to challenge conventional wisdom or the status quo, especially when she saw that it did not align with her moral compass or would further oppress or marginalize vulnerable communities."

Her community building at Schulich Law resulted in her selection as valedictorian in 2014, where she delivered, in her nominators' words, "a spoken word masterpiece we will never forget," that can still be viewed on the law school's YouTube channel today.

"Community involvement and community building are at the core of all of the work and volunteerism that I have been involved with over the years," says Coyle. "What appeals to me about that work is the collective drive to create a world where everyone has what they need, and everyone can find their place."



After graduating, Coyle articulated and worked in private practice in Dartmouth, before moving to Ottawa with her family to join the YMCA-YWCA as senior director of newcomer services. Eventually, she moved on to the role of director of national programs at the Refugee Hub while also teaching refugee law at the University of Ottawa.

In addition to supporting refugees and newcomers, she has been a long-time ally and advocate of the 2SLGBTQ+ community. In her volunteer work, she has supported several Rainbow Refugees, those fleeing persecution due to their sexual orientation or gender expression, and has spoken out against protests at drag story time in her neighbourhood.

"Emilie has a great skill for hard conversations, for holding people and institutions accountable with grace and for holding space for conflict and disagreement without ever losing sight of her values," say her former classmates.

Her passion to give back led her to run for Ottawa City Council in 2018 and while she did not unseat the incumbent candidate, she raised awareness about many issues impacting vulnerable members of her community and inspired and energized new voters and volunteers.

Two years later she was selected as the executive director of the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies (CAEFS), replacing now-Senator Kim Pate ('84). In this role she demonstrated her skills as an advocate with numerous appearances before parliamentary committees, authoring articles in a variety of publications and sitting on many panel discussions on issues such as solitary confinement, bail reform, housing and the overrepresentation of Indigenous women in federal prisons.

"Emilie has proven that a law degree is not solely a gateway to the practice of law but can lead to the pursuit of a better world," say her nominators. "She's an inspiration to all who come to know her."

Coyle is grateful to her classmates for the recognition. "This award is shared with them and with everyone who leads in their own big or small ways, as this world requires us all to work together."

DON OLIVER RECEIVES 2023 WELDON AWARD FOR UNSELFISH PUBLIC SERVICE

The Schulich School of Law and the Dalhousie Law Alumni Association honour this year's recipient for his commitment to equity and justice.

BY ALLISON LAWLOR

Public service is at the core of Don Oliver's (LLB '64, LLD '03) family DNA. "I got the need and the desire to give back from my parents and my grandparents," he says. "They taught me that no matter how poor you were, you always gave back to the church or to somebody else in need."

Following his family's example, the trailblazing lawyer, businessman and senator has devoted his life to helping others less fortunate than himself by confronting racial injustice and breaking down systemic barriers to make Canada a more tolerant place. Raised on a farm in Nova Scotia's fertile Annapolis Valley, as part of the only Black family in the town of Wolfville, Oliver learned that with a higher education he could better serve his community.

He graduated from Acadia University in 1960 with an honours degree in history, and then attended law school at Dalhousie University where he received several awards including the Sir James Dunn Scholarship in Law. At Dalhousie, Oliver, the grandson of families enslaved on plantations in Virginia and Maryland, got to work using his new knowledge to advocate for the province's Black community.

"He has always adhered to the unselfish model of 'lifting as you climb,'" says Michelle Williams, Schulich School of Law associate professor and Dalhousie African Nova Scotian Strategy lead.

The 2023 Weldon Award for Unselfish Public Service honours Oliver's inspiring legacy. Named for Richard Chapman Weldon, the law school's founding dean, this award recognizes law school alumni who have made outstanding contributions to the community and the legal profession. His commitment to altruistic public service is known as the Weldon Tradition.

Oliver used the Weldon Tradition as another guidepost in his life. While at law school, he started his life-long commitment to pro bono work. As chair of the Halifax Neighbourhood Centre Project, he educated and empowered the Black community in the city's North End to speak up for their rights, and even provided cooking classes to help foster pride in the home.

As a student, Oliver also helped to shape the law in Nova Scotia. One afternoon in 1962, while taking a break from his legal studies, he went to a Halifax pool hall with a friend. He wasn't there long before he was confronted by a man and told to leave. He was told there was a no Blacks allowed policy.

Oliver left and later called the province's Department of Justice to complain that his human rights had been violated on racial grounds. He was told that legislation was being drafted to address the racism he experienced. A copy of the draft bill was sent to him to review. Applying the writing and editing skills he gained while working one summer as a cub reporter at The Chronicle Herald newspaper and the knowledge he had gathered in law school, he made several changes to the draft bill and sent it back. The bill became the *Fair Accommodation Practices Act* and made it the law in the province that no one could be kept out of a place "to which the public was customarily admitted" based on skin colour.

"I hope that students don't go to law school just to make a lot of money. Making money, legal fees, charging and billing should really be secondary to the Weldon Tradition," says Oliver. "Pro bono work and doing other things to help improve your communities is the paramount thing that should be taught and what students should be doing."

Oliver's advice is to start giving back early. "It will soon become part of your life and something you will always want to do."

After law school, Oliver built a successful civil litigation practice at Stewart McKelvey in Halifax, taught law, ran a variety of businesses from real estate to farming Christmas trees and became active in the Progressive Conservative Party; he served on the party executive both provincially and nationally.

“

I've had an incredible life. I've been blessed," he says. "I want to give back and make it possible for others to have similar opportunities.

DON OLIVER

”

In 1990, at age 52, he received a life-changing phone call from Brian Mulroney. The prime minister wanted to make him the first Black man to serve in the upper house. As a senator, he committed himself to championing diversity and inclusiveness. “When I first walked onto Parliament Hill in Ottawa, I saw little or no Black presence of significance,” he wrote in his 2021 autobiography *A Matter of Equality: The Life's Work of Senator Don Oliver*.

His 2004 seminal work on systemic barriers to the advancement of minorities in Canada's public and private sectors helped to change that. After raising \$500,000 to privately fund a research project he designed with the Conference Board of Canada, the project's final report helped to build the business case for diversity in the workplace globally. “It was a study that influenced the world,” he says.

Throughout his career, Oliver has offered his expertise to more than 30 charitable organizations and boards and donated or helped to raise money for several Canadian universities to fund bursaries, scholarships and prizes. Most recently, he established the Oliver-Craig Black Writers' Retreat through the Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia and the Senator Don Oliver Young Black Voices Book Prize for emerging Black Nova Scotian writers.

“I've had an incredible life. I've been blessed,” he says. “I want to give back and make it possible for others to have similar opportunities.”

In 2013, at age 75, Oliver retired from the Senate. Having earned a reputation as one of the hardest-working senators, he had served as deputy speaker, chaired six standing committees and received several honorary degrees and awards, including the Order of Canada.

“To truly comprehend the depth and breadth of Dr. Oliver's unselfish public service is an exercise in humility,” says Quenta Adams, Dalhousie's assistant vice-provost for student engagement and success. “To have contributed a fraction of what he has, would be a life well served.”

Shortly after his retirement from the Senate, Oliver received a rare, debilitating heart disease diagnosis. Given six months to live, he sought experimental treatment by participating in a clinical trial for a new drug at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. He later developed peripheral neuropathy in his feet, legs and hands, making mobility possible only with the aid of a cane or a walker. But neither his diagnosis nor his disability has prevented him from continuing to give back to the community. He hasn't stopped, knowing there is still more work to do.

“To be recognized by the law school with this award is really enormous in my life,” says Oliver. “I wish my mother and father were alive to see me win such a special award.”

BERTHA WILSON HONOUR SOCIETY

The Bertha Wilson Honour Society was established in 2012 to recognize extraordinary alumni and showcase their geographic reach and contributions to law and society. The award is named for the Honourable Madam Justice Bertha Wilson ('57) – the first woman appointed to the Ontario Court of Appeal and the first female Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada.

INTRODUCING THE 2023 BERTHA WILSON HONOUR SOCIETY INDUCTEES:



Robbie MacKeigan, K.C. ('69)
NOVA SCOTIA
Counsel, Stewart McKelvey



Madeleine Schwartz ('94)
NOVA SCOTIA
Judicial Officer at United Nations Team
of Experts: Rule of Law/Sexual Violence
in Conflict



The Honourable Lena Metlege Diab,
MP, K.C. ('90)
NOVA SCOTIA
Member of Parliament, Halifax West
(BDP) LLP



Drew White, K.C. ('88)
BRITISH COLUMBIA
International Prosecutor



The Honourable Linda Oland ('76)
NOVA SCOTIA
Retired Judiciary



Peter Zed, K.C. ('80)
NEW BRUNSWICK
Partner, Cox & Palmer

FINDING A BETTER WAY

2024 Aurum Award winner, Doug Ruck, learned the importance of building community and striving for equality from an early age.

BY EMILY MACKINNON

When Doug Ruck ('77) was a child in the 1950s, his family moved to a white suburb in Dartmouth. The residents petitioned to keep them out, saying a Black family moving in would reduce the value of the neighbourhood's properties.

Ruck remembers his parents, Calvin and Joyce, explaining to Ruck and his siblings that they could not be “free-wheeling or loosey-goosey” in their attitudes, even in their own backyard. Ruck learned at a young age that the necessity of being courteous and introspective was even more important for Black people. “We were being watched and judged very closely,” Ruck says. “How we behaved, how we spoke, how we dressed, it was all significant.”

You could be forgiven for assuming that moving into a neighbourhood with such outright disdain for his family would make Ruck bitter and jaded. In fact, the opposite is true. Under the tutelage of his father, the late Senator Calvin Ruck (LLD '94), he learned the importance of building community.

Revered for his social and civil rights work, Ruck says his father “the Senator” and his father “the man” were one and the same. Striving for equality was baked into his personality, home life and work — and he instilled those same values in his children.

He remembers his father building a skating rink in their backyard each winter. “We had a place to play, but also, it meant other children in the neighbourhood would come to our yard,” Ruck explains. Over the years, the rink became a wintertime tradition the families in the neighbourhood looked forward to, and Calvin would decorate it with lights and seating.

“He knew there were people who didn’t want us there, but his belief was we shouldn’t walk around with a look of hatred on our faces or a sense of anger,” Ruck says. “We will speak out if the need arises and do so forthrightly, but we will be courteous and work to become an integral part of this community.”

Ruck says the notion of community-building was integral to his father’s work and was a lesson he absorbed early on. For instance, Calvin organized a drycleaning service for the families of neighbouring Preston, N.S., a primarily African Nova Scotian community. He would pick up and drop off items, while Ruck waited in the car reading books, sometimes for hours. He would discuss water and electricity services, schools, landscaping — you name it, Calvin wanted to hear about it. As Ruck grew older, he was invited into these conversations about injustice and inequality. Eventually, he found his input was being sought.



By the time Ruck entered law school at Dalhousie in 1973, having completed his undergraduate degree at the University of King’s College, where today he serves as chair of the Board of Governors, he was well on his way to becoming a respected civil rights activist. But as one of three Black students in his class, he says his primary feeling at that time was isolation. And not because people weren’t around to talk to, but because he just didn’t know who was safe.

Instead, he dedicated himself to his studies, graduating and opening his own private legal practice. Ruck worked for years in labour relations and human rights law, applying his father’s lessons to his work and becoming a sought-after voice in matters of equity, diversity and inclusion. In 2021, Ruck was inducted into the Schulich School of Law’s Bertha Wilson Honour Society.

For a time he was Nova Scotia’s ombudsman, investigating complaints from people who felt they had been treated unfairly when accessing government services. In 2020, he led a team to identify systemic anti-Black racism at the Nova Scotia College of Physicians and Surgeons. In 2021, he undertook a review of systemic discrimination in the Nova Scotia Barristers’ Society.

That work led to Ruck being regularly contacted to deliver talks and workshops about identifying and mitigating workplace discrimination. A good starting point, he says, but it’s not a one-and-done conversation; not an exercise that merely ticks a “diversity education” box.

“What you hear in an hour is just scraping the surface,” Ruck says. “Afterwards is the time to start getting deeper into the issues and exposing the trauma, because it’s not a comfortable conversation.”

While Calvin dreamt of a society in which discussions of race-based equity and inclusion were no longer necessary, Ruck knows that likely won’t happen in his own lifetime.

“I am encouraged that we continue to have meaningful conversations on the streets and in boardrooms. All of these factors help to foster equitable and inclusive workplaces,” he says. “Such initiatives provide me with hope and a sense of well-being, as I see that the work of my parents and the efforts of so many others who have also walked this path were not in vain.”

IB&M INITIATIVE CELEBRATES 35 YEARS OF IMPACT ON THE LEGAL PROFESSION

The Initiative acknowledges the valuable contributions of former Director Michelle Williams.

BY STEPHANIE HURLEY

The Schulich School of Law's Indigenous Blacks & Mi'kmaq (IB&M) Initiative is proudly celebrating 35 years as a model for access to legal education. Established in 1989 to reduce structural and systemic discrimination by increasing the representation of Indigenous Blacks & Mi'kmaq in the legal profession, it was the first program of its kind in Canada.

Over the years, the IB&M Initiative has been consistently and nationally recognized as a leader for diversity in legal education with 258 graduates to date. Many have gone on to pursue legal careers in private law firms, the judiciary, community organizations and government. They have also taken up a range of leadership roles across Canada and beyond.

There will be a celebratory event in October 2024 to commemorate the anniversary and to bring students, alumni and special guests together to reflect on the accomplishments of the past 35 years. It will also provide an opportunity to acknowledge the significant contributions of community members, faculty and staff who have dedicated their time and efforts to the Initiative's success.

One of those key contributors is Schulich Law Professor Michelle Williams, co-chair of Dalhousie's African Nova Scotian Strategy and the Initiative's longest-serving director.

Kelsey Jones ('14), IB&M director, and Valerie Armstrong, IB&M program manager, say Williams 16-year legacy with the Initiative has had an immeasurable impact on students, alumni and the profession. "Her passion and dedication to student success has been a beacon for many, as she has forged paths for the advancement of equity and justice within the legal landscape," they share. "She has truly exemplified the spirit of excellence. We are grateful for her unwavering commitment, guiding us through challenges and successes while inspiring us to reach higher."

The Initiative experienced many achievements under Williams' leadership, including facilitating peer-led supports, coordinating a yearly retreat and organizing annual networking events for students. She helped to recognize Mi'kmaw, Indigenous Black and African Nova Scotian contributions at the law school, including the student-led development of two Discretionary Awards — the Judge Corrine Sparks Award (2007) and the Donald Marshall Jr. Award (2010). She was also instrumental in commissioning the portraits of Dr. Burnley Allan 'Rocky' Jones, ONS (BA '74, LLB '92) and Donald Marshall Jr. that hang in the Weldon Law Building.



She helped enhance the law school curriculum, offering the first course in African Nova Scotians and the Law, and supported the faculty in expanding the Aboriginal and Indigenous law course offerings. Today, four IB&M alumna are her academic colleagues: Professors Naomi Metallic ('05), Maria Dugas (JD '15, LLM '18) and Melisa Marsman ('05) and IB&M Director Jones. They have expanded the curriculum in the areas of Indigenous and Aboriginal law, African Nova Scotian law and critical race theory, respectively, and continue to make other extraordinary contributions, including student support and mentoring.

While the Initiative received numerous awards during Williams' tenure, including the Lexpert Zenith Award for Diversity and Inclusion (2016), Canadian Bar Association-NS Branch Law Day Award (2015), Canadian Race Relations Foundation Award of Excellence-Education (2014) and the Canadian Bar Association Touchstone Award (2010), it's not the accolades that she values most.

"I am most proud of the more than 100 law graduates who I had the privilege of working with as students and who have gone on to become leaders in their communities, the legal profession and beyond," Williams shares. "It has been a blessing to know them. The accomplishments and contributions of our students and alumni are profoundly transformative."

In 2020, she moved into a tenure-track position to do further research, teaching and community-based work on African Nova Scotians and the law and critical race theory. She continues to serve the Initiative as called upon by their current leadership.

As the IB&M Initiative looks to the future, it remains committed to expanding its impact within Mi'kmaw and African Nova Scotian communities. Its goals include increasing outreach to recruit talented students across Atlantic Canada, while providing them with support throughout their academic journey.

"We are dedicated to collaborating with our community to forge enduring partnerships," says Jones. "Together, we seek to empower future generations of aspiring Black and Indigenous legal professionals, ensuring they have opportunities to thrive by pursuing a career in law."



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JUNO JOY

Schulich Law alum Chip Sutherland recognized by music industry for outstanding career.

BY SUZANNE BOWNESS

How does it feel to win Canada's top music award? For Lyle 'Chip' Sutherland ('88), his Juno win was a moment to celebrate his hard work behind the scenes in an industry he has loved since he was a young rocker himself.

A Halifax entertainment lawyer and band manager, Sutherland has supported the careers of many famous Canadian musicians, including Sloan, the Rankins and Feist, to name a few. His role has gone beyond legal advice — as a manager, he has provided the support that has allowed his artists to shine.

Originally from Belleville, Ont., Sutherland completed his undergraduate degree in philosophy at Trent University in 1985, and applied to the Schulich School of Law on the advice of a former classmate. "He told me, 'you will love it there — it's fantastic,'" he recalls, adding that he was equally unfamiliar with the law profession. Both choices were a match.

"I liked Halifax instantly. To me, Nova Scotia was like a giant Algonquin Park, where I had spent a lot of time canoe tripping," recalls Sutherland. At Dal, he liked the small campus vibe combined with the national reputation. "You had a great blend of people and a whole whack of Maritimers," he says, naming many classmates and professors he has kept up with, including best friend Rory Rogers ('88), who he sat beside in first year (now at Stewart McKelvey in Halifax), and Professor Emeritus Wayne MacKay ('78), with whom he wrote a textbook called *Teachers and the Law: A Practical Guide for Educators*, now in its fifth edition.

After law school Sutherland took a year off to continue to play in his band Black Pool, which won an East Coast Music Award in 1991. Then he was recruited to article at Halifax firm Patterson Kitz (now merged with McInnes Cooper) and became a litigator.

But after two hectic years, his Black Pool bandmate Chris Murphy, now in a band called Sloan, needed help. "Sloan had an offer from Geffen Records in Los Angeles, which seemed crazy. So, we flew there and then I came back to Halifax to quit my job to manage the band."

His law firm mentors countered with another offer — what if he could manage the band, but stay at the practice? "They gave me an office that had two doors, one into my little management company and then one into the law firm," says Sutherland, noting that he maintained a firm affiliation until very recently. However, he decided to move to corporate law since it was easier to balance than litigation which was a good strategy, because then the Rankins approached him. "They were just taking off. I started managing them, and continued to manage them their whole career," shares Sutherland.

As he was building a reputation in the music industry, Sutherland was also deepening his legal expertise working for other clients at the firm. He was counsel to the Halifax Regional School Board and helped local hospitals build their legal department as they merged into big health authorities. He was known as the guy who could give informal advice on music contracts. By this time he had seen so many, both domestic and international, that he knew what points would be important to fight for.

"When you're negotiating a record contract, people on the other side know I'm more than a lawyer reading a piece of paper," says Sutherland. "I know what matters and what doesn't."



So his legal career grew in step with his musical involvement. He took on new East Coast bands including Great Big Sea and Ashley MacIsaac. Yet the tension of the two worlds did wear at times: with two young children at home, he decided to stop touring. He took over the client load from a lawyer leaving the practice. With lots to keep him busy, he hired someone to continue managing Sloan.

But just as it seemed his career might be finally leaning towards the law, singer Leslie Feist asked Sutherland to be her manager. In fact, it was Grammy-nominated Feist who presented Sutherland with the Walt Grealis Special Achievement Award at the Junos in Halifax in March 2024. The recognition is given to individuals whose work has helped develop the Canadian music industry.

“I think those of us who have had a chance to sit across the table from Chip Sutherland would have this in common: that whenever the power of his singular attention is pointed in your direction, it can’t help but empower you to feel that your career is in fact yours. A thing that can happen when you have any amount of success is that there will likely be many people willing to plan for that success. But not many would be able to plan with you at the centre of that success, and with your stability and happiness as the metric for that success,” she said at the award presentation.

While managing a band and all it entails — organizing gigs, developing marketing strategies, handling finances — is very different from law, Sutherland says the common collaborative aspects kept him interested in both. He has also brought his legal knowledge to every job, whether helping a hospital build a legal team or a band negotiate a record contract.

Sutherland was also instrumental in creating the industry’s Radio Starmaker Fund, which distributes marketing and promotional money to emerging Canadian artists. In early 2000, he was hired as the industry expert to design and operate the fund which has awarded over \$170 million since 2001.

Now an industry veteran, Sutherland is still sought after as a lawyer. His up-and-coming clients include the artist TALK, who won this year’s Juno for Breakthrough Artist of the Year, as well as Mustafa Ahmed, who won the same honour in 2021.

When he’s not on the road with clients, he divides his time between Halifax and Antigonish. Outside of music, he’s an avid fly fisherman and conservationist and on occasion, he picks up an award on his home turf like he did this past year.

The recognition was especially rewarding since so much of his work over the years has happened behind the scenes. “It’s a big honour,” says Sutherland. “The feedback I got was heart warming, that I’m getting the award because I was helping people in the industry, quietly, from Halifax.”

Sutherland’s own success in an industry he is passionate about also informs his advice to up-and-coming lawyers. “Get involved in the subject matter of that thing you’re interested in. There’s legal work everywhere so find something you like to do and bring your legal training to it.”

CELEBRATING A PAIR OF MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

2024 marks 50 years of the Marine & Environmental Law Program and 20 years of the Marine & Environmental Law Institute.

BY AMANDA KIRBY-SHEPPARD

The Schulich School of Law, internationally recognized for excellence in marine and environmental law teaching and research, is celebrating a pair of milestone anniversaries this year — 50 years of the Marine & Environmental Law Program (MELP) and 20 years of the Marine & Environmental Law Institute (MELAW).

Schulich Law Dean Sarah Harding ('89) is often reminded of the far-reaching work being done by marine and environmental law faculty, students and alumni. "In my travels, I have met many legal professionals and fellow academics who share that they are familiar with our law school thanks to the stellar international reputation of MELP and MELAW."

The law school is marking this occasion with events during the year, beginning with a workshop on environmental impact assessment to honour the late Professor Meinhard Doelle's immense contribution to legal development in that area. The celebrations will culminate with a hybrid-format conference in the spring of 2025, where faculty, alumni, students and legal professionals will share how MELP and MELAW have contributed to defining the landscape of marine and environmental law.

Building a legacy

Fifty years ago in the spring of 1974, Dalhousie's law school designated marine and environmental law as an area of special interest.

Five years later, under the leadership of Professor Douglas M. Johnston, MELP launched its curriculum, providing undergraduate law students, and then later graduate students, with one of the most extensive academic course offerings in these two fields in the world.

In the mid-1990s the law school began to offer certificates of specialization in marine and/or environmental law in combination with its Bachelor of Laws (now Juris Doctor) degree.

As MELP's teaching and research contributions continued to flourish, it became clear that the program could be strengthened with a new structure that would foster more local, national and international partnerships. In the spring of 2004, the Institute was established by Dalhousie's Board of Governors as a centre of excellence with a focus on Canadian and international oceans and environmental governance, law and policy.

Twenty years later, the Institute still carries out scholarly research projects, delivers independent advisory services to agencies of the United Nations and provides policy advice to government departments and non-governmental organizations in Canada and internationally. MELAW also continues to direct the MELP academic specialization, which has remained a distinguishing facet of the law school's curriculum.

Professor Sara Seck, director of MELAW and Yogis and Keddy Chair in Human Rights Law, says Schulich Law's contributions to marine and environmental law are grounded in its commitment to exceptional education, research and collaboration.

Internationally renowned education

The courses required for the environmental law and marine law certificates often give students the opportunity to further explore their interests. "The level of specialization that the certificates provide frequently leads students to careers they are truly passionate about, as well as down career paths they may not have initially envisioned but discovered while completing their coursework," shares Associate Professor Sara Ross, MELAW's associate director.

Professor Emerita Moira L. McConnell ('84) served as MELAW's inaugural director in 2004 and remains involved with the Institute today as an Honorary Fellow. "It is important to realize that the fields of marine and environmental law are much wider now than when this all began," she says. "They include topics such as human rights at sea, labour standards, Indigenous peoples' rights and perspectives and many other contemporary governance issues. Our faculty and graduate students are actively engaged and making an impact advancing knowledge on all of these issues."

One of those students is PhD candidate Devdatta Mukherjee, who moved to Halifax from India to continue her education. "While working at an intergovernmental organization headquartered in New Delhi, I was selected for a Nippon Foundation Fellowship in Hamburg, Germany, at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. It was there that I was introduced to MELAW through the International Ocean Institute's (IOI) *Ocean Yearbook* and its work with its late founder Elisabeth Mann Borgese," she says. "MELAW's internationally recognized excellence in marine and environmental law motivated me to move to Canada to pursue my doctoral studies at Schulich Law."

When JD student Lucas Barsi drove cross-country from Barrhead, Alta., for law school, his decision had also been influenced by MELP and MELAW's esteemed reputations. "While working toward my marine law certificate, I've had the opportunity to learn from faculty like Professor Aldo Chircop, who is an expert in his field and an exceptional professor," he says. The law school's geographical location was another deciding factor for Barsi, given his chosen specialization. "Being so close to the Atlantic Ocean, I was attracted to the concept of connecting with the subject matter in more than just the classroom."



FROM LEFT: DAVID VANDERZWAAG, PHILLIP SAUNDERS, ALDO CHIRCOP, MOIRA MCCONNELL AND MEINHARD DOELLE, FOUNDING FACULTY MEMBERS OF MELAW, COMMEMORATE ITS 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY IN 2014.

Impactful research

As many of MELAW's faculty educate and train the next generation of lawyers, they are also striving to make a difference in the world through their academic and research contributions and by collaborating with visiting scholars and researchers from other institutions and organizations.

"It's hard to believe that the Institute has only been around for 20 years," says David VanderZwaag ('82), Professor Emeritus, Canada Research Chair in Ocean Law and Governance and former MELAW director. "Faculty and students have produced a century's worth of remarkable publications in the fields of marine and environmental law."

He says the Institute's research stands out for its practical outcomes, both nationally and internationally, citing examples such as helping to guide the drafting of *Canada's Oceans Act* and ensuring the inclusion of the precautionary principle in the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*.

Most recently, Schulich Law announced MELAW's participation in the Qanittaq Clean Arctic Shipping Initiative, which will help advance the governance of Arctic shipping in Canada. The Initiative will support engagement between Inuit, academia, industry, regulatory bodies and government such as the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Transport Canada and the Canadian Coast Guard.

Professor Aldo Chircop (LLM '84, JSD '88), former MELAW director and the governance theme leader for the Qanittaq project, says, "MELAW and MELP have been longtime leaders in marine and environmental law research and education, shaping successive generations of practitioners and teachers and producing ocean and environmental leaders across Canada and around the world."

Influential collaborations

The Institute has fostered countless collaborations with national and international marine and environmental law organizations and initiatives; one in particular is the aforementioned *Ocean Yearbook*, the international multi-disciplinary publication of the IOI. The Yearbook publishes leading-edge articles, reports and reference materials devoted to the issues and concerns affecting the world's oceans. It is currently edited by IOI Senior Research Fellow Scott Coffen-Smout, Seck, McConnell and MELAW Associate and Schulich Law Professor Patrícia Galvão Ferreira.

Faculty representing the Institute are also frequently invited to provide advisory services to agencies of the United Nations, such as the International Maritime Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as international non-governmental organizations and regional organizations such as the Commission for Environmental Cooperation and the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency.

What the future holds

"As awareness of marine environmental challenges like climate change and plastic pollution is increasing, MELAW is well-positioned to play a leadership role in the quest for solutions, including those that centre human rights and Indigenous rights," says Seck.

Looking ahead to the next fifty years, she is confident MELAW will continue to contribute to legal developments designed to protect, conserve and restore the marine environment for the benefit of present and future generations.



REIMAGINING JUSTICE

Emma Halpern has dedicated her career to building, and fighting for, a more equitable and inclusive society.

BY ALLISON LAWLOR

Emma Halpern (LLB '06, LLM '24) is known as a builder — of relationships, community and a more equitable society. However, she is also a dismantler — working towards eliminating a system that dehumanizes and penalizes prisoners.

Halpern is the executive director of the Elizabeth Fry Society of Mainland Nova Scotia (EFSNS), a non-profit organization devoted to improving the lives of marginalized groups of women, girls, non-binary and gender diverse individuals, who have been let down by a broken justice system that perpetuates inequality.

“An ethic of prison abolition should inform our decisions. It isn’t about waking up tomorrow with chaos in the streets. Being a prison abolitionist means that you are working towards a world where we don’t use isolation and torture as a way to deal with society’s problems.”

Through her academic research, her non-profit law firm and her work with the EFSNS, Halpern advocates for restorative alternatives to incarceration and seeks to address what she sees as systemic gender discrimination in federal and provincial correctional facilities across Nova Scotia.

“Restorative justice is not just about putting people in a circle and talking about their feelings, but rather about a different way of thinking about justice. It is about a human-centred concept of justice and not system-centred justice,” she says.

Wanting to put that approach into action, the EFSNS recently joined forces with the Restorative Research, Innovation and Education Lab (Restorative Lab) at the Schulich School of Law to undertake a trailblazing initiative to strengthen the response to gender-based violence in Nova Scotia.

“We need a different system to address family violence. It is not working,” says Halpern, mother of three. “We are helping to identify a solution that works with the family, instead of punishing them.”

The research initiative, “Restorative Approach to Multiple Proceedings (RAMP): A Human-Centred Response to Gender-Based Domestic Violence,” is bringing together stakeholders in the province to work collaboratively in response to the needs of people impacted by multiple proceedings related to gender-based domestic violence. Halpern says she couldn’t do her work in prison abolition and restorative justice without the guidance of Schulich Law professors Sheila Wildeman ('99), an expert in administrative law and co-chair of the East Coast Prison Justice Society, and Jennifer Llewellyn, director of the Restorative Lab.

While completing her Master of Laws recently at the Schulich School of Law, Halpern was the inaugural graduate fellow at the Restorative Lab. Interested in decarceration and relational justice, she focused her research on the transformative opportunities born out of the pandemic’s impact on criminal justice in Nova Scotia.

“The pandemic hit, and we started doing some things I had envisioned outside of turning to incarceration as a punitive way of dealing with crime; we started to work collaboratively and across silos. We started to better fund community organizations to help people live in community,” she says.

Working in the community with young people in Montreal and New York City is what led Halpern to law school after initially studying international development and English at McGill University. She remembered thinking she wanted to be a youth justice lawyer.

“I went to law school to make change, but I realized that what mattered to me was being a part of a network of people who were making change. I wasn’t making change all alone — I was part of a movement.”

“

I went to law school to make change, but I realized that what mattered to me was being a part of a network of people who were making change. I wasn't making change all alone — I was part of a movement.

EMMA HALPERN

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Halpern's law school experience was transformative and sowed the seeds for future partnerships and key relationships. Early on, she was drawn to the Dalhousie Legal Aid Clinic knowing it would give her real, hands-on learning. After graduating, she articulated with Nova Scotia Legal Aid in Yarmouth and worked with youth and vulnerable populations. Two years later, she was called to the Nova Scotia Bar.

Her interest in restorative justice was also sparked in law school after she took a course on the subject with Llewellyn, as was her belief in the benefits of pro bono work. While still a law student, Halpern ran Pro Bono Dalhousie which launched in 2000 and was among the first student programs of its kind in Canadian law schools.

She continued her relationship with Pro Bono Dalhousie, and while working as the equity and access officer at the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society, she engaged law students in several projects. Since joining the EFSNS in 2017, she has worked with as many as 20 pro bono law students a year and credits them for helping the organization grow. The society now has an annual budget of close to \$5 million, up from \$250,000 seven years ago. Halpern oversees a staff of 42, who run four housing development complexes providing transitional and supportive housing for women and gender-diverse people coming out of prison and jail.

"I could not have done this without the connections I made at law school and the people there," she says.

In addition to her work with the EFSNS, Halpern is building PATH, the non-profit law firm she co-founded less than two years ago with lawyer Mike Dull (BSc '03, LLB '06). Focused on social justice, gender equity and survivors of violence and wrongful deaths, she is currently representing the family of Sarah Denny, a young Mi'kmaw woman who died in 2023 of pneumonia in hospital after being held in the Central Nova Scotia Women's Facility in Dartmouth.

"She was a beautiful, vibrant young woman," Halpern says. "It was an avoidable death. The fact that she died in such a tragic way fuels me to keep going."

Deeply connected to the people she works with, Halpern remains committed to building, and fighting for, a more inclusive and equitable society.

"I absolutely love what I do," she says. "I feel so supported in my work and in my community."



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This experience was especially valuable because it reminded me that as a lawyer, I will provide clients with advice and options, but ultimately the decisions are theirs to make. And then I have to make whatever they decide, work.”

ALESSANDRA FELDSTEIN

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ADVOCATING FOR PATIENTS' END-OF-LIFE RIGHTS

Alessandra Feldstein's summer internship challenged and pushed her beyond her comfort zone.

BY STEPHANIE HURLEY

When Alessandra Feldstein ('24) sought out a summer internship opportunity, she hoped to gain hands-on experience in an area of law she was passionate about while simultaneously being challenged and pushed beyond her comfort zone. Her internship experience achieved both objectives.

In 2023, Feldstein was selected for a Schulich Academic Excellence Internship which funds paid summer internships in non-governmental organizations in Canada and around the world, including not-for-profit, public sector, public interests, social justice and charities.

She spent her summer working with Dying With Dignity Canada (DWDC), an organization that supports and advocates on behalf of patients across the country in the context of medical assistance in dying (MAiD). While the organization assists patients and concerned citizens with navigating the existing MAiD legislation, frameworks, providers and programs, it also actively plays a role in policy advocacy, working tirelessly to advance the interests of patients and others who wish to access MAiD.

As a legal intern focused on this policy advocacy work, Feldstein's primary project involved researching and compiling arguments in support of legalizing advance requests for MAiD at the federal level, following Quebec's passing of Bill 11 which unconstitutionally overrides the federal prohibition of advance requests for MAiD. She was tasked with creating a comprehensive guidance document in support of DWDC's position on advance requests for members of Parliament to review, as well as a supporting presentation and research appendices.

She also provided ongoing legal support and research when matters arose, including lawsuits in which DWDC acted as an intervenor.

"The work I did felt meaningful at every turn. In the office, I overheard calls from concerned patients asking the support staff if they could write advance requests for MAiD almost daily," she says. "My efforts contributed towards forwarding their interests and hopefully making advance requests for MAiD a reality in Canada soon."

Feldstein acknowledges that the nature of the work was heavy, especially given that advance requests often apply to individuals suffering from neurodegenerative conditions, chief among which tends to be dementia.

Like far too many Canadians, she has first-hand experience with the disease and had to develop trauma-informed skills to be able to continue working on this subject matter. She admits that early in the summer, she questioned whether she would even be able to complete her internship.

"Prior to law school, I had researched advanced requests for MAiD as part of my master's degree in philosophy. At that time, my grandmother had been diagnosed with dementia and it was progressing slowly. By the time I started with DWDC, her dementia was much further along and it became difficult for me to cope with the heavy subject matter. It started to affect my mood and sleep. It scared me because I worried I wouldn't be able to emotionally handle the weight of the work with DWDC, or in my future health law career."

At the time, Feldstein had been listening to the Trauma-Informed Lawyer Podcast by Myrna McCallum, which had been recommended during a Law Hour she'd attended. One particular podcast episode titled "Small Doses at High Frequency" discussed how legal professionals take on vicarious trauma through their work for clients and organizations, and offered strategies on how to take care of your emotional and mental health to avoid harm and burnout.

"I did my best to apply some of the tactics I learned about while being mindful of my needs on any given day, and it helped a lot," she shares. "I was able to complete the internship, enjoy my job and prove to myself that I could work in my area of interest while taking care of my mental health."

One of the most rewarding aspects of her experience was hearing from a supervisor months after her internship ended. "He told me that the work I'd done on the guidance document had been read and well-received by several members of Parliament. This meant a lot to me because it indicated that the policy advocacy work I'd done was more than an academic exercise. I felt that I contributed to advocating for patient rights in Canada on this issue."

The internship also further developed her passion for mental health law. "It affirmed my existing interest in health law more broadly and provided opportunities to develop my skills in public and administrative law," she says. "I am very grateful for this experience and have no doubt that I will carry the many lessons learned from my time there into my future career in law."

She adds, "This experience was especially valuable because it reminded me that as a lawyer, I will provide clients with advice and options, but ultimately the decisions are theirs to make. And then I have to make whatever they decide, work."

Feldstein graduated in May and is articling with the legal services team at a hospital for addiction and mental health.



FAIR BUT FORMIDABLE

Perry Borden, Chief Judge of the Provincial Court of Nova Scotia,
has a history of standing up for his beliefs.

BY ALLISON LAWLOR

In law school, Perry Borden ('02) dreamed of becoming Halifax's own Johnnie Cochran — the American attorney best known for his role defending football player O.J. Simpson in a murder trial. Being the chief judge of the Provincial Court of Nova Scotia and the first African Nova Scotian to achieve that position was the furthest thing from his mind.

“For a kid from North End Halifax and Newfoundland to become chief judge shows if I can do it, truly anyone can,” says Borden, who began his five-year appointment in August 2023. “I want to inspire those coming behind me.”

Borden started his criminology degree at Saint Mary's University at age 21. He was the first person in his family to not only enter university but to graduate from high school, with the goal of becoming a corrections officer. While at Saint Mary's, he worked full time at the Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children. One day, a colleague at the former orphanage asked him about his future plans. At the time, Burnley Allan 'Rocky' Jones, ONS (BA '74, LLB '92), who would become a legend in the province's legal system, was graduating from the Schulich School of Law. “You're as smart as Rocky,” his colleague said, encouraging him to aim high.

Borden applied to the law school's Indigenous Blacks and Mi'kmaq Initiative, a program providing scholarships and mentorship to help students like him pursue careers in law. He was accepted and at age 27, he started classes. “I knew if I studied law, I could make a colossal difference in my community versus being a corrections officer,” he says.

But getting through the program wasn't easy or enjoyable. Although he felt like quitting at times, Professor Emeritus Rollie Thompson ('78) and mentor Doug Sparks encouraged him not to. “Just get your law degree and see what happens,” Sparks told him.

Eventually, Borden enjoyed the collegiality he shared with some law students and served as vice president of the Dalhousie Black Law Students' Association.

“There are always challenges and opportunities, it's what you do with those challenges and opportunities that makes the difference,” he shares.

While at law school, he met Halifax litigator Mary Jane McGinty through his involvement in a legal case centered on access to clean drinking water in the historic Black community of Upper Hammonds Plains. When he graduated, he took a job as an associate at McGinty McCleave law firm.

As a lawyer, he worked to improve access to justice and legal services for historically marginalized groups, serving on the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society's racial equity committee.

In 2007, he joined the Public Prosecution Service motivated to work on more criminal cases. Within four months of becoming a Crown attorney, he was assigned a high-profile aggravated sexual assault and dangerous offender file. During the last five years of his prosecutorial career he worked in the special prosecutions service, focusing on cybercrime, child pornography and sexual assault offences. He became senior Crown attorney and held that position until he was appointed to the Bench in 2020, the same year he received the Queen's Counsel designation.

“Through my work in the Crown's office I made a reputation for being fair but formidable,” he says. “I was known for prosecuting sexual offences. I knew I was making a difference for victims.”

Borden served as president of the Nova Scotia Crown Attorneys Association and in 2019, he led the Association in an acrimonious battle with the government over wages. He mentored numerous law students and initiated an articling program in the Public Prosecution Service. “That is probably one of the proudest things I did as a Crown prosecutor,” he adds.

Born in Halifax’s North End neighbourhood, Borden’s father worked for the city driving dump trucks in the summer and plows in the winter. After his parents separated when he was five years old, he moved with his mother to Corner Brook, Nfld. For much of the time he lived there, he and his sister were the only Black people in the area. “I was different; I stood out,” he says. “I can remember somebody calling my sister the N-word walking home from lunch.”

Despite facing racism in Newfoundland, it was more overt when he moved back to Nova Scotia when he was 16. Borden had his first encounter with the law at age 18. Following a fight between young Black and white men in Halifax, he was charged with aggravated assault for a crime he didn’t commit. “Police didn’t ask me my side of the story,” he says. “It was an eye-opening experience. Just because the police say somebody did something doesn’t mean that they did what they are alleged to have done.”

Borden went to court facing the accusations of four white people. “I took the stand and I gave my side of the story and told them who did it.” The hearing adjourned; the person Borden identified came forward and took responsibility for the crime.

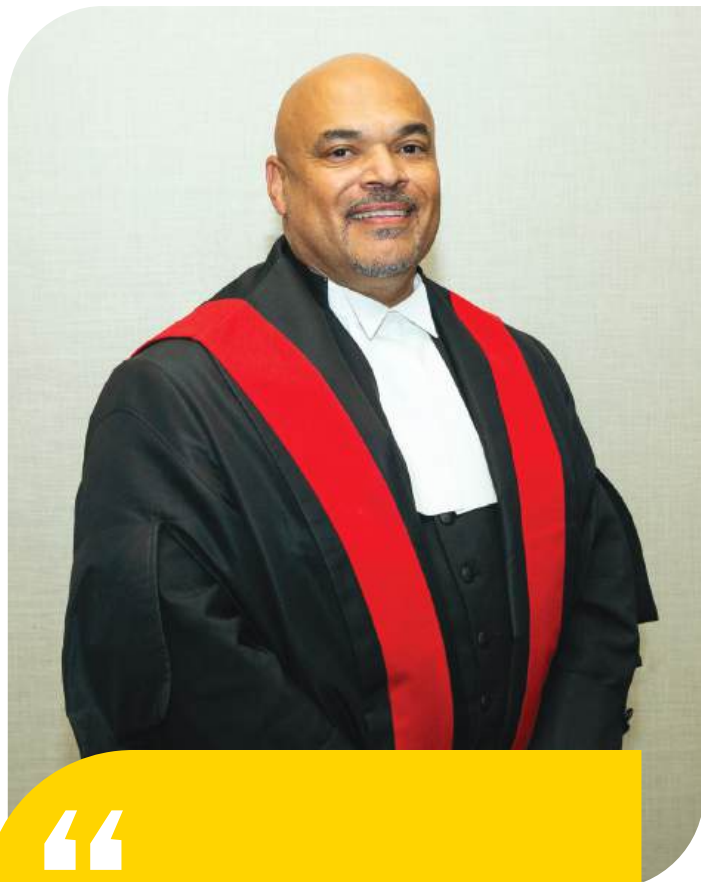
Throughout his life, Borden has fostered his gift for bringing different groups of people together. He hasn’t changed his approach since becoming chief judge. “I look for collaborative ways to make the system more efficient,” he says. “That involves engaging various stakeholders.”

Currently, he is helping to establish the province’s first bail court in Halifax that will hear cases from across the province virtually. “Nova Scotia is long overdue for a bail court. It is not uncommon to have dozens of accused individuals in custody every day,” he says. “Having dedicated resources for bail hearings is a more efficient and effective approach that will have a positive impact on all areas of the criminal justice system.”

In his cherished time outside the courthouse, Borden cooks dishes like curry chicken and stewed beef for his wife and their teenage son. On most Sundays, they attend the Emmanuel Baptist Church in Upper Hammonds Plains and whenever he can, he turns off his phone and heads to the river by his home in Middle Sackville to fish.

Borden’s appointment brings with it a new title, a new office and countless new responsibilities, but what is essential to him hasn’t changed — standing up for his beliefs.

“My entire life, I’ve been the guy rallying behind people, fighting for justice.”



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There are always challenges and opportunities, it’s what you do with those challenges and opportunities that makes the difference.

PERRY BORDEN

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ANCHOR OF THE REGION, DRIVER OF THE NATION

How Schulich Law alum are changing the legal landscape across the country.

BY MARK CAMPBELL



The Schulich School of Law is known as a national law school –with students coming from coast to coast to pursue their studies in Halifax. Our graduates have taken their education in many directions, becoming leaders across the country in every area of the legal profession.

We spoke to five alumni who exemplify this standard of excellence in their respective careers: a Nova Scotia public servant who is working towards equity and justice; a Toronto tax litigator who is representing clients on precedent-setting cases; a Saskatoon federal judge who is advancing Indigenous issues; a Calgary dean who trained a generation of legal professionals; and a Vancouver lawyer who reframed the way businesses view compliance.

While each of their paths is unique, they are all anchored by their law school education and driven by their passion to make a difference.



Candace Thomas, Halifax

When Candace Thomas, K.C. (’95) was first approached about becoming Nova Scotia deputy minister of justice and deputy attorney general in March 2020, she initially hesitated. However, the more she reflected on the offer, the more it appealed to her.

“I saw it as an opportunity to learn while drawing on my experience and values to drive decision-making and work with people in a way that better society,” Thomas says.

Over the next four years, she helped make the justice system more equitable and fairer for Nova Scotians, specifically those underserved by governments and overrepresented in the criminal justice system.

She also contributed to safer Nova Scotian communities by helping to establish and launch the joint public inquiry on the mass casualty that occurred in Portapique and surrounding areas in April 2020. The final report of the independent Mass Casualty Commission made vital recommendations for preventing and responding to gun violence and the epidemic of intimate partner violence. “All Canadians have a role to play to effect the societal changes necessary to combat these issues,” she says.

Some of the other initiatives Thomas oversaw will take longer to be fully realized — however, she remains optimistic. “Being patient is the hardest thing,” she says. “We need to stay the course and push back at times. Regardless of what political party is in power, we have to get better at how we do things to improve the lives of the people we serve.”

Thomas has committed herself to doing just that. She served on the Board of Governors at Dalhousie University from 2011-2020, has held committee roles with the Nova Scotia Barristers’ Society and is a past director and vice-chair of the Black Business Initiative Society. She is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Africadian Empowerment Academy Society and the Dartmouth General Hospital Foundation and a member of the International Women’s Forum-Atlantic Chapter. In 2017, she received the Community Service Award from the Canadian Bar Association-Nova Scotia Branch.

Growing up in East Preston, N.S., her first role model was her mother. “She worked really hard and wanted more for her kids,” Thomas says. “Just seeing her strength made me want to do something worthwhile.”

She originally applied to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police but pivoted to study law. Her decision was inspired by her sister Cynthia (BSc ’82, BA ’86, LLB ’90), retired Senator Don Oliver (LLB ’64, LLD ’03), retired Judge Corrine Sparks (LLB ’79, LLM ’01) and the late activist Burnley Allan ‘Rocky’ Jones, ONS (BA ’74, LLB ’92).

During law school, she found friendships and support through the Dalhousie Black Law Students’ Association and Schulich Law’s Indigenous Blacks and Mi’kmaq Initiative.

“I graduated aware that the law is a tool to achieve, or at least work toward, equity, fairness and justice and how it plays a role in every aspect of our society,” says Thomas.

She is poised and ready to advance these values as top lawyer in her current position of vice president, legal, general counsel and corporate secretary of Nova Scotia Health. “I have always analyzed and seized challenging opportunities when they are presented. And that’s what I plan to do in this new role in public service.”



Al Meghji, Toronto

Al Meghji ('88) had just made the shift to the private sector after six years as a tax litigator with the Department of Justice when a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity came his way to represent Shell Canada in a 1998 tax avoidance case.

"I was just a kid," recalls Meghji, partner and head of the tax controversy practice at Osler. "Although I'd had some previous success, I was relatively unknown in the sector. We initially lost in the lower court and in the court of appeals, but ultimately won at the Supreme Court of Canada."

That precedent-setting case was the catalyst for Meghji, who subsequently argued many landmark tax cases in his clients' favour, including the first general anti-tax avoidance rule case litigated before the Supreme Court (Canada Trustco) and the first and only transfer pricing case (GlaxoSmithKline) heard by the Supreme Court to date.

Such outcomes have earned Meghji a reputation as the nation's preeminent tax litigation council, one reinforced by the fact he has appeared before the Supreme Court more frequently than any other Canadian tax litigator. He helped build Osler's prestigious tax practice in this area and is the only Canadian recipient to earn the "Star Individual" rating from legal ranking directories Chambers Canada and Chambers Global. He was also the first Canadian lawyer in decades to appear before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in the UK in a significant tax treaty case.

Even with this extensive experience, Meghji doesn't consider himself a tax lawyer. "I'm a litigator," he explains. "I'm a trial lawyer, an appeal lawyer and a courtroom lawyer. I just happen to be dealing with a particular subject."

Meghji knows this subject matter from all angles, having begun his career as a chartered accountant. He spent several years with a Calgary accounting firm, working with their tax lawyers on complicated transactions and disputes. That experience lit a spark in him to study law, leading him to Dalhousie based on its reputation and the recommendation of colleagues. He found the experience as rewarding as it was demanding.

"I learned that law is fundamentally an exercise where you have compelling perspectives on difficult problems," Meghji says. "You have to be able to show empathy for both sides and, through that, you get to the right result."

He is humble when reflecting on the role he has played in shaping tax laws in Canada. "I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to argue the direction that Canadian tax law should take," he says. "Although I am not responsible for what it became, I am honoured I was able to influence the law."

Meghji is also inspiring the next generation of lawyers. He has taught at Dalhousie, the University of Ottawa and the University of Toronto and established the Al Meghji and Diana Belevsky Scholarship in Law at the Schulich School of Law in 2014.

"I think great lawyers bring skepticism to everything they do. I am trying to teach my students to get comfortable with uncertainty and ambiguity because that quality is central to great advocacy."



Paul Favel, Saskatoon

Growing up on Poundmaker Cree Nation in Saskatchewan, Federal Court Justice, the Honourable Paul Favel ('95), always knew he wanted to make a difference in his community. That is why, after practicing corporate and commercial law for several years, he agreed to be the Assembly of First Nations' representative on the Oversight Committee for the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement.

"I was honoured to contribute, having many family members, including my grandfather and father, who attended those schools," Favel says. "I also attended a residential school for two years, so our combined experience provided greater insight into the impacts of this school system on individuals, families and communities. It was a full-circle experience for me."

Favel's desire to give back almost led him down a different path. From an early age, he envisioned being a teacher, inspired by influential teachers and sports coaches, but a cousin who studied law convinced him to change course.

"He shared what his learning experience was like and I was intrigued by the possibilities of how I could have an impact on the Indigenous community through the practice of law."

Impressed by Dalhousie University's legacy of educating prominent Canadians, Favel says the choice of where to study law was an easy one. "Through the education I received, I not only saw what I could achieve, but also that I could use my experience to help advance Indigenous issues."

During his 15 years in private practice at McKercher LLP, Favel did that. Being one of a few Indigenous lawyers in Saskatchewan with expertise in commercial law at the time, he became a trusted advisor to clients across the province. By helping them navigate the complexities of land designations, on-reserve commercial and residential developments, urban reserves, law-making and governance development, he contributed to stronger, more prosperous self-governing Indigenous communities.

"It was an honour and a privilege to work beside visionary leaders, in my home province, in the realization of their communities' plans."

Favel is guided by both his law school experience and the strong foundation his parents gave him in nehiyaw (Cree) values. "I was taught to be a good listener, to approach everything with an open mind, to talk only when it contributes to the matter at hand and to have empathy," he explains. "With that in mind, every step in my journey became easier."

Over the course of that journey, Favel has applied those values as the deputy chief commissioner with the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission and as an advisor to a former national chief of the Assembly of First Nations. He continues to make a difference as a federal court judge, addressing federal jurisdictional issues including Indigenous legal issues, adjudicating claims regarding treaty rights and reviewing decisions by federal bodies and tribunals affecting First Nations and Inuit peoples. He is always looking for ways to help, including mentoring Indigenous youth. He hopes his experiences and successes will inspire young people in the same way that his family motivated him.

"I would feel very proud if the next generation looks at my story and sees all they can achieve, and that they too can enjoy fulfilling lives in whatever they may do, personally and professionally."

Ian Holloway, Calgary

Dr. Ian Holloway, PhD, K.C. (BSc '81, LLB '85), three-term dean of the University of Calgary's law school, recalls his colleagues' skepticism when he announced plans in 2013 for a new curriculum that would dramatically increase the amount of skills training in the classroom.



Their resistance was understandable. He was suggesting a major change to the dichotomy between theory and skills that had defined legal education for generations — one that he knew was necessary. "I saw the importance of embracing practicality in legal education, which makes for a richer, more useful experience for students."

Fast-forward to today, when Holloway's ambitions have been realized. By incorporating the instruction of skills such as leadership, project management, marketing and business into the new law curriculum, he created an approach to legal education that positioned the university as an innovator. Law schools across North America are increasingly looking to the 'Calgary curriculum,' as it is commonly known, to update their own course offerings.

Meanwhile, the University of Calgary now draws more than 30 percent of its law students from outside the region — a statistic surpassed only by the Schulich School of Law. Located in the second largest legal market in Canada after Toronto, UCalgary has also achieved one of the highest placement rates in the country — between 99 and 100 percent each year.

Holloway never planned on entering the legal field. In fact, he enrolled at Dalhousie to study science, specifically biology — his first passion. While earning his degree, he realized that the subject no longer resonated with him as a potential career path. Inspired by friends who were taking the LSAT, he shifted to law.

"There were three things I really came to value at law school," Holloway says. "There was diversity in my classmates, geographically and experientially; there were outstanding professors; and I felt connected to the legal community in downtown Halifax. I attribute almost everything professionally that has come since to those first steps I took at Dalhousie."

He has written extensively on legal issues, including a long-running column for Canadian Lawyer magazine. He is a fellow at the College of Law Practice Management — the first Canadian legal academic to receive this honour — and is one of only a few Canadians who have been elected to the American Law Institute.

He holds the rank of King's Counsel in two provinces — Nova Scotia and Alberta — which is a distinction held by only a handful of other lawyers. He also served as dean at the University of Western Ontario and was the associate dean at the Australian National University. When he concluded his deanship at UCalgary at the end of June 2024, he was the longest-serving law dean in North America, with an academic leadership career spanning nearly 25 consecutive years.

As he considers what is next for him, beyond writing and teaching, he reflects on his innovative curriculum, which he hopes will one day become the norm at law schools around the world.

"I often say that our mission is to prepare students for the profession they are joining, not the one we joined. By bringing the business of the legal world into the classroom, we're giving law students a better understanding of what it means to be in practice."



Penny Tham, Vancouver

When Penny Tham ('84) heard that the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a World Bank Group member that invests in developing markets, was looking to hire a head of compliance, she was intrigued that they decided to add this role to their team.

"The IFC is owned by governments, so it is not subject to local regulations," she explains. "However, the IFC was committed to ensuring that it ran its business in accordance with best practices. The challenge was how to introduce something that was not required — in this case, compliance — to adhere to best practices."

For the average lawyer, such a challenge might prove overwhelming; but Tham isn't the average lawyer. She demonstrated that early in her career when she traded work as a corporate securities lawyer in Vancouver for senior compliance positions with multinational banks and financial firms around the world. In Singapore and Hong Kong, she worked with Bankers Trust, Barclays Capital and ABN AMRO Bank before moving to London, where she added Deutsche Bank and the Royal Bank of Scotland to her resume.

Tham's accumulated expertise proved invaluable in building out IFC's compliance function but there was one undertaking that expanded her scope of experience — leading the team that redrafted IFC's investment policy for board approval. This was no easy feat; its investments were often structured with offshore components, which some board members believed wealthy countries used to hide profits.

"We were able to develop a policy that earned board approval by recognizing the vital role offshore centres play in structuring investments for some of the world's most impoverished nations, while addressing legitimate concerns about their use," Tham says. "In doing so, we helped contribute to the World Bank's mission of a world without poverty."

Originally from Calcutta, Tham immigrated to British Columbia with her family at the age of seven. She initially wanted to be a teacher and took an English honours program that, coincidentally, many students used as a springboard to study law. The program did not appeal to Tham, who went on to earn a degree in commerce; however, the idea of becoming a lawyer did. Based on the recommendation of a colleague, she applied to Dalhousie, where the small classes suited her learning style and provided the fundamentals for her to thrive.

"I don't think law school teaches you all the answers," Tham says. "What it does teach you is to ask the right questions, identify the risks and work your way to the right answer. That has served me in good stead throughout my career."

Now retired, she is still influenced by the Weldon Tradition of unselfish public service. She volunteers with the Dalhousie Advisory Council, is president of the Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre and is ensuring a new generation of Schulich Law graduates are equipped to succeed through the Penelope Tham Summer Business Internship. She hopes it encourages them to reshape the profession in their own way.

"Compliance is often considered a necessary evil," she says. "If I accomplished anything through my work, it was reframing the way people view it, so they recognize that it's a profit retention centre for businesses, not a cost centre."

MICHAEL KARANICOLAS NAMED JAMES S. PALMER CHAIR IN PUBLIC POLICY AND LAW

Professor Karanicolos returns to Schulich Law from UCLA and Yale to deliver research and programming that impacts the regulation of new technologies.

BY STEPHANIE HURLEY

The Schulich School of Law is pleased to welcome Michael Karanicolos ('11) as the new James S. Palmer Chair in Public Policy and Law. He will be joining the faculty in January of 2025 as a tenured associate professor.

Professor Karanicolos previously served as the inaugural executive director of the UCLA Institute for Technology, Law & Policy. In that capacity, he regularly engaged with California regulators including delivering testimony to the California State Senate on the impact of online platforms on journalism and the regulation of artificial intelligence. Prior to his time at UCLA, he led the Wikimedia Initiative for Intermediaries and Information at the Yale Information Society Project, where he remains an affiliated fellow.

The Chair is named after James S. Palmer, Q.C. ('52), who was passionate about fostering informed public policy and advancing education that contributes to good governance. Through his and his family's generous support, and that of other donors, the James S. Palmer Chair in Public Policy and Law was established in 2015 to provide intellectual leadership and to participate in projects that have an impact on public policy and law. Building on the depth of research expertise at Schulich Law, the Palmer Chair brings together scholars, students, policymakers and advocates to engage with current policy issues.

"I am enormously excited to return to Schulich Law in this role, and to apply the teaching, research and advocacy portfolio that I developed over a decade-plus career of policy work in service to my alma mater," says Karanicolos.

Prior to his academic career, he spent 10 years as a human rights advocate working on projects connected to freedom of expression, transparency and digital rights. The bulk of this time was spent with the Centre for Law and Democracy, a Halifax-based NGO, though he also carried out consultancies for the Open Government Partnership, UNESCO and the Administrative Conference of the United States. In this capacity, he led law reform campaigns to promote foundational rights for democracy in more than 20 countries and was a regular presence in Canadian Parliament where issues connected to the regulation of new technologies were under discussion.



"Technology law is, by definition, a rapidly evolving and dynamic area of scholarship. One of the things that makes it unique is that there are so many diverse hubs for shaping policy, including governments, regulators, large tech companies and multi-stakeholder bodies," says Karanicolos. "This Chair has the potential to have a transformative impact on both the technology law and public policy landscape at Dalhousie. I look forward to connecting with my faculty colleagues, students, alumni and other stakeholders as we embark on this exciting new chapter."

His scholarly research generally revolves around the application of human rights standards in an online context, including content moderation, privacy and surveillance, digital contracts, internet governance, open government and the right to information, intellectual property law and the regulation of political speech. He has a BA from Queen's University, an LLB from the Schulich School of Law and an LLM from the University of Toronto.

"Michael is a perfect choice for the Palmer Chair in Public Policy and Law. His experience at both the UCLA Institute for Technology, Law & Policy and the Yale Information Society Project provides a strong foundation for the public policy work of the chair," says Schulich Law Dean Sarah Harding. "He will also add depth to our Law & Technology Institute at a crucial time when innovations are quickly altering the shape of legal practice. I'm very optimistic about the energy and new directions he will bring to our community."

MARINE AUTHORITY

Schulich Law doctoral grad Jay Batongbacal embraces role as a leading expert in marine law.

BY SUZANNE BOWNESS

When Schulich School of Law PhD grad turned professor and media commentator Dr. Jay Batongbacal (MMM '97, JSD '10) was tasked with establishing a new campus focused on Archipelagic and Oceanic Studies at the University of the Philippines, he knew exactly where to draw curriculum inspiration from. He immediately reflected on the courses he took at Dalhousie while completing his Master of Marine Management, as well as his later doctoral work at Schulich Law.

Batongbacal was fascinated by marine law long before his studies brought him to Halifax. He traces his inspiration back to his legal training in the Philippines, where a professor suggested that he identify an unconventional area of focus for his major research paper. Given that most law was still very land-based, he decided to write on the practical topic of coastal zone management, opening the door to a career in a new, in-demand specialty.

"On the policy side, most lawyers working in anything related to the maritime field were in shipping-related practice. We needed people who could research policy issues on the oceans," he says. "I was one of the first to make it my area of focus."

After completing his law degree, Batongbacal started working in human rights, first doing pro bono work in a legal education clinic and then as executive director of the National Amnesty Commission. It was at this time that he met a group of professors from Dalhousie who suggested he might be a good fit for its Marine Affairs graduate program. He took their advice and moved to Nova Scotia. The experience was transformative.

"I've always looked at my first year at Dalhousie as one of the best years of my life. My class was made up of a multinational group of people who I developed long-lasting friendships with," he shares. "The program approach was multidisciplinary and took advantage of a lot of skill sets and perspectives."

Batongbacal also wrote his program papers on the pressing policy issues that the Philippine government was facing with respect to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, from archipelagic sea lanes to high seas tuna management.

When he returned home to the Philippines, his research was in demand. He was called on for advice in many areas from community-based fisheries management to shipping to marine boundary negotiations and became involved in various working groups with the government. He also held symposia and



workshops on the Law of the Sea for the Institute for International Legal Studies at the University of the Philippines College of Law and organized a conference about archipelagic studies for the University's Center for Integrative Development Studies. "That brought exposure to our maritime industries and attracted the attention of academics to how we manage our oceans," says Batongbacal, adding that it also planted the seeds for the new program he's now establishing.

By 2003, he was ready to return to academia. He applied to Schulich Law's doctoral program and secured one of the first Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation scholarships to support his graduate research. This time, he focused on a social impact assessment of two new ocean energy projects in the Philippines, a natural gas platform and a wind farm. "That gave me two case study areas to research, one renewable and the other non-renewable," he adds. His supervisor was Professor David VanderZwaag ('82), who he had already worked with as a colleague on projects in Southeast Asia.

In 2008, following his doctoral work, he secured a permanent position at the University of the Philippines College of Law. He is now a full professor, the director of the Institute for Maritime Affairs and Law of the Sea and the executive director of its Master of Laws program. He speaks at conferences around the world on issues such as the South China Sea disputes, is called on to train and educate others on the Law of the Sea and maritime law and assists in practical aspects of marine management. He has recently been relied upon by government and media to shed light on major maritime challenges facing the Philippines.

"Although I attribute much of my success to my legal expertise, I credit my ability to see the big picture to my Dalhousie education," he says. "It was a place where I was supported in my studies and was given the leeway to chart my own course."



The Legacy Effect

JUDGE CORRINE SPARKS

“ Law school opened doors for me and gave me the opportunity to build a successful career. With my legacy gift, I hope to provide support to deserving students and inspire them to reach their goals in life. ”

JUDGE CORRINE SPARKS

(LLB'79, LLM'01)

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DONOR PROFILE

ACCESS TO JUSTICE



Dinyar Marzban's time at Dalhousie Legal Aid Service as a student made a lasting impact.

BY EMILY COLL

Though Dinyar Marzban, K.C. (81) has spent most of his professional life in Vancouver, he didn't get his start there. Born to Iranian parents living in India, his family moved multiple times during his youth: back to Iran, then to Europe, before immigrating to Canada in 1967. Although sometimes tough to appreciate as a child, the broad exposure to different cultures served him well. He graduated high school in Quebec, then returned home to attend the University of British Columbia for his undergraduate degree.

Although Marzban had an interest in debate and politics during high school, a career in law wasn't on his radar. After he finished his degree, he alternated between travel and work while he figured out his next move. During his travels he read the novel *QB VII* by Leon Uris, a gripping courtroom drama about a fictionalized defamation trial, leaving him certain that he wanted to be a trial lawyer.

"It was probably a bit of a romantic notion, but it actually stuck," he says. Before long he was moving across the country once again, this time to attend the Schulich School of Law.

After settling into his legal studies, Marzban was eager to start using his new knowledge to help people. He began volunteering at Dalhousie Legal Aid Service (fondly known as "the Clinic") for credit, which seemed like a natural choice. It was there that he witnessed the critical need from the community for access to criminal and family law. The hands-on, immersive experience left a lasting impact on him, leading to a lifelong interest in access to justice issues and pro bono work. He continued to be inspired by the work of fellow alumni including Lee Cohen (80) and Anne Derrick (80).

Marzban recalls a meaningful encounter early in his career in family court. While hurrying out of the courthouse for another commitment, he noticed an unrepresented litigant in some distress. Pressed for time, he was unable to represent the woman himself but still approached her to ask about the case. Feeling that it had some merit, he took ten minutes to jot down some advice for her submissions, wished her good luck and left it at that. A few days later, the woman sent a note thanking him.

"She said, 'You were like an angel that came down from heaven to rescue me,'" he shares. "It felt like it was the least effort I'd put into anything that whole day but to her, it was transformative. She felt like I'd saved her life."

Experiences like this one motivated him to focus his giving on the Clinic, ensuring future law students are able to witness the positive impact they can have on the lives of community members, particularly for underserved or vulnerable populations. Specifically, he recognizes an increasing demand for legal aid in family law, complementing the Clinic's extensive involvement in housing and tenancy matters.

After relocating to Vancouver, he began dropping by the Clinic when he'd travel to Halifax for work, asking then Executive Director Donna Franey (86) what projects they had, big or small, that were in need of extra support. Touching base with her became a yearly tradition and when she retired, he kept up the connection with current Executive Director Megan Longley, K.C. (94).

Marzban's involvement helps ensure the Clinic can direct funds toward its areas of greatest need, which results in a deeper educational experience for students and enhanced assistance for its clients. Through opportunities enabled by his giving, he hopes that more students are empowered to create positive change in society.

DONOR PROFILE

A SHARED COMMITMENT

Patrick and Amanda Brousseau bonded over their studies and a desire to help others.

BY EMILY COLL

Growing up in the small community of Colby Village in Dartmouth, N.S., it would be safe to assume that Patrick Brousseau's ('18) and Amanda Toulany's ('18) paths would have crossed at some point. But instead, they went in separate directions as Amanda ventured into real estate while Patrick went to McGill University. In a twist of fate, they would finally meet years later when their mutual ambitions — to study law while remaining close to home in Nova Scotia — led them to the Schulich School of Law at the same time.

During their first year of studies, Patrick and Amanda made an immediate connection and their relationship quickly developed while they bonded over their shared fascination with the law and desire to help others. "I remember when we were in our second year, we were sitting in the big classrooms looking at the named plaques on the backs of the auditorium chairs and said, 'We're going to put the Brousseaus on there one day,'" says Amanda. "We still need to figure out how to get our names on those chairs," Patrick jokingly reminds her.

A generous entrance scholarship helped Patrick manage the costs of law school, fueling his determination to give back. He served on the Scholarship Committee for three years, an experience which showed him the vast scope of students' needs. "I have been in the room making those decisions and I know how much some students are going into debt. Every little bit can help, whether it's money to buy books or help with the cost of living."

They graduated in 2018 and married in 2019, but despite being busy with new careers and a young family, they didn't hesitate to give back to the next generation of law students. Patrick explains they focused on finding a way to give that was financially attainable for them.



"When I think of all the little things that I spend money on in my daily life, just cutting out one of those a week quickly adds up to enough to be able to contribute in some way," he says. "We felt that it was a small sacrifice for us to make to support students," Amanda adds.

They chose to establish a bursary for students with whom they have a shared heritage. Supporting students of Middle Eastern descent was a priority driven by Amanda's personal experiences as a second-generation Lebanese Canadian and the first in her family to become a lawyer. She recognized that members of her community are underrepresented in the legal profession and wanted to change that.

They were also inspired by their experiences growing up in Nova Scotia in French-speaking households. Aiming the bursary at French-speaking students from the Maritimes, Nova Scotia in particular, was a clear choice for the couple as they felt strongly about encouraging members of their local community to pursue legal careers.

Patrick knows from his time on the scholarship committee that many students gain a sense of validation and belonging from receiving scholarships or bursaries. "It always feels nice to be singled out and receive a scholarship or award and be able to put that on a resume. There's often more to it than just the money."

Over the years, the Brousseaus have maintained a strong connection to Dalhousie, recently attending their five-year reunion. Amanda, who practices real estate law, and Patrick, who is in-house counsel at Nova Scotia Power, already have an eye on expanding their giving in the future as their capacity to do so increases.

Reflecting on the life they have built together since graduating, the couple share a strong sense of gratitude.

"Dal has a special spot in our hearts. We owe our lovely life to the law school," shares Amanda. "We felt that we wanted to give back to the place that has given so much to us."

DONOR PROFILE

UNWAVERING SUPPORT

Consistency and reliability have been hallmarks of Ernest Reid's history of giving to the law school.

BY EMILY COLL

When Ernest 'Ernie' Reid ('67) finished his undergraduate degree at Memorial University in St. John's, Nfld., in 1964, he considered applying to three law schools: Dalhousie University, the University of New Brunswick and Queen's University. The decision to ultimately choose Dalhousie came down to his familiarity with Halifax, from his time in the Naval Reserve.

What Reid found at Dalhousie was more than an education — he found a community of peers. He has fond memories of his classes in the Forrest Building where he and his fellow law students crammed into a room they called 'the bowling alley' for its narrow profile. Between classes, they met in the Sir James Dunn Law Library where they spent hours studying case reports and doing assignments.

Despite the hard work, the camaraderie and community spirit fostered during those periods helped motivate him to complete his studies. "I found the library to be a very nice place to spend time, because you were with your fellow students and as a result, you always had someone to talk to," shares Reid.

His second year brought some unexpected health challenges, putting the successful completion of his year at risk. Worried he may have to repeat it, he approached Law Dean Andrew MacKay who offered him an opportunity to make up his missed work over the summer. Dean MacKay's understanding and support made all the difference. Reid passed his exams in time to graduate with the rest of his class. "It wasn't a dead end and no one said, 'I'm sorry, you'll have to start all over again.' I never forgot that."



Upon graduation, he accepted a job with Stirling, Ryan, Goodridge, Caule, Gushue and Goodridge, and began practicing with the firm in 1968. It was a busy time for lawyers in Newfoundland as divorce had been legalized in the province that year with the passing of the federal *Divorce Act*. Reid says, "After a while of navigating divorces for people who'd been waiting, I was ready for something new." When offered the chance to take over a solicitor's practice, he eagerly accepted. The change suited Reid well. His focus became commercial law, leading to gentle jibes from colleagues that he didn't even know his way to the courthouse.

Even after settling into a successful career, memories of the financial pressures of student life remained. The financial aid he had received helped him stay in law school, as did the school's willingness to work with him during his health challenges. "A student coming out of law school doesn't have many jingles in their pocket," he remembers. "I've never lost that belief that I owe something to the law school."

Consistency and reliability have been hallmarks of Reid's giving to the Schulich School of Law. His unwavering support was highlighted by his induction into the MacLennan Society at the Silver level marking 25 years of philanthropy. In addition to his annual support for a variety of areas of the law school, the law library has been a recent beneficiary of his generosity, helping to fund much-needed upgrades so students can benefit from this vital community space, much like he and his classmates did.

Reid's contributions and commitment to giving back truly exemplify the Weldon Tradition of unselfish public service. It is because of his support, and the support of other generous donors like him, that the Schulich School of Law continues to shape promising legal minds, propelling them towards impactful careers.

DONOR PROFILE

PRESERVING A LEGACY

Sandra Oxner established the Yogis and Keddy Chair in Human Rights Law in memory of two exceptional people.

BY EMILY COLL

Retired Judge Sandra E. Oxner (BA '62, LLB '65, LLM '01) believes the law is a profession that comes with responsibility, including a duty for lawyers to pursue change through social justice.

That belief has followed Oxner throughout her long and impactful career as a lawyer, judge, changemaker and philanthropist. After starting her career as a solicitor for the City of Halifax, she made history in 1972 when she became the first female judge in the province of Nova Scotia.

However, her work improving the justice system extends beyond the province. Oxner has served as the education chairperson and president of the Canadian Association of Provincial Court Judges, and as president of both the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice and the Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges Association. All of these organizations offer educational programs that improve the application of justice. Their programming also connects the judiciary with members of the Bar and the public, enhancing communication and contributing to improved outcomes within the legal system. She also acted as a consultant on justice to the Canadian Law Reform Commission and the World Bank.

Her dedication to legal education resulted in the creation of the Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute (CJEI), located within the Schulich School of Law. The CJEI helps support judicial education across Commonwealth nations, providing teaching tools, study tours and research, as well as convening meetings to discuss contemporary judicial education matters.



In 2008, Oxner established the Yogis and Keddy Chair in Human Rights Law. Named for her late husband Donald Keddy, and late friend and Dalhousie classmate John Yogis, this Chair supports research and teaching in the field of human rights and inspires students and researchers to further the work of social justice.

John Yogis (LLB '64, LLM '67), who was a beloved law professor at Dalhousie for more than 40 years and eventual associate dean of law, was also one of the first 2SLGBTQ+ faculty members at Dalhousie. Recalling Yogis' commitment to justice and education, Oxner says, "His life and professional work exemplified concern about equality for all. He was the best dean we never had."

It was also important for Oxner to honour her husband's memory. Though Keddy didn't have a formal education in the law — he was an entrepreneur and businessman — he had an intrinsic sense of justice. "Donald lived his life unconsciously applying modern principles of equality," she remembers proudly. "He naturally thought that people should be treated equally. I wanted to celebrate that, innately, he applied the rules of justice."

Oxner's lifelong commitment to social justice harkens back to the Weldon Tradition of unselfish public service. Her decision to endow the Yogis and Keddy Chair secures its future, enabling it to continue the advancement of social justice for future generations and preserving the legacy of these two exceptional individuals. "Donald and John impressed and influenced me," she reflects. "They amazed me with their approach to life."

When asked what she feels is most important for the next generation of legal professionals, her answer is simple yet profound: "Teach them to be ethical, compassionate and fair."

Through the creation of the Yogis and Keddy Chair, Oxner honours these values and the example set by her dear friend and departed husband. Her generosity ensures that the names of John Yogis and Donald Keddy will forever be associated with the pursuit of a more just world.

DONOR REPORT

This report is a recognition of gifts received between April 1, 2023 and March 31, 2024.

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Class Participation 3%
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Janette M. MacDonald
Hon. George Macintosh, K.C.
Harold MacKay, K.C., O.C.
John McLeish
Hon. A. Anne McLellan
Dr. Stephen G. A. Pitel
Robbie Shaw
T. Ann Smiley
Penelope Tham

ESTATES

Estate of R. B. Viscount Bennett
Estate of Patricia Fordham
Estate of Alex Ross
Estate of Sarah Wolff
Estate of Carol Davey Young

FRIENDS OF THE LAW SCHOOL

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Rosalind Belitsky
Hon. Justice Keith Boswell
W. Kent Brown
Dr. George Clarke, O.C., ONS
Hon. Patrick Curran
Daniel Daly
Maxine Demmings
Darren Dick
Peter Duck
Elaine Dwyer
Gordon S. Earle
Jo-Anne Embree
Dick Evans
Jeanne Fay
Jane Fraser-Deveau
Dr. Philip Girard
Hans Gosine
Dr. Sylvia D. Hamilton
Joanne Hussey
Scott Hyman
Qadira Jackson
Robert Jaffray
Wendy Jardine
Alicia Kirk
K. Lawal
Sarah B. MacDonald
Lauri MacDougall
Christine MacInnes
Audrey Macklin
John MacLatchy
Anne Matthewman
Olu Olojede
Joan A. Pugsley
Gillian Pullen
Claudine (Pothier) Renault
Carrie Ricker
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John Sherwood
Joan Simpson
Bill Smith
Sonia Ulan Hohol
Eve Wickwire
Michelle Williams
Mitch Williams
William Wong

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Nova Scotia Provincial Judges Association
Patterson Law
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United Way of the Lower Mainland

While every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of this report, we apologize if your name has been misspelled, omitted or incorrectly listed. Please let us know so that we can correct our records.

Total Class Giving amounts are excluded for those classes with three or fewer donations, to protect confidentiality. The names of those who wish to be anonymous are also excluded.

*Deceased

WELDON PROFESSORS



As the Viscount Bennett Professor of Law, **OLABISI AKINKUGBE** organized his third Roundtable on International Economic Law. In addition to his work with the editorial boards of the *American Journal of International Law* and the *Canadian Yearbook of International Law*, he serves as the international decision section editor for the *American Journal of International Law*. He sits on the Executive Council of the American Society of International Law and the Canadian Council of International Law, and recently joined the Editorial Board of the *Journal of World Investment and Trade*. He continues to balance his publications while teaching Contracts and Judicial Decision-Making, International Trade Law and International Investment Law.



instructors and mentors in her course, Responding to Sexualized Violence: Clinical Advocacy Law and Practice.

Professor **ROB CURRIE** was honoured to receive the Charles D. Gonthier Research Fellowship for 2023, which saw him present at the annual conference of the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice. He wrote op-eds and reports on the confiscation and re-purposing of Russian sovereign assets to aid Ukraine's war effort, appearing at events held at the Rideau Club in Ottawa and Massey College in Toronto. He is currently chairing the Assets Subcommittee of the committee drafting a founding treaty for an International Anti-Corruption Court. Teaching keeps him young!



Professor **CAMILLE CAMERON** co-authored an article and a blog on climate change litigation, with Riley Weyman ('19) and Claire Nicholson ('24), and is co-editing a book on that subject with Professor Patricia Galvão Ferreira and Weyman. She accepted an invitation to contribute to a report on third-party litigation funding in Canada as part of a European Commission study and received a grant from the Canadian Foundation for Legal Research to support that work. In 2024, she was pleased to accept an invitation to join the Law Commission of Canada Advisory Council.



Professor **MICHAEL DETURBIDE** continued his appointment as Purdy Crawford Chair in Business Law, which included advising students, teaching Business Associations, supervising a graduate student, peer reviewing submissions to national journals, assessing a SSHRC grant and organizing the business law specialization weekend for students completing the certificate. He also served as a commissioner and co-authored decisions of the Nova Scotia Securities Commission. He chaired the Schulich Law Appointments Committee, which included the assessment of candidates for the Palmer Chair in Public Policy and Law, and served on the Tenure and Promotions Committee.



Professor **ALDO CHIRCOP** had a productive open-access publishing year. He and Kristin Bartenstein, Université Laval, completed the major deliverable of a SSHRC project with the co-edited book *Shipping in Inuit Nunangat: Governance Challenges and Approaches in Canadian Arctic Waters* (Brill, 2023). He also completed an Ocean Frontier Institute-funded project with the co-edited publication of *Area-Based Management in Shipping: Canadian and Comparative Perspectives* with Floris Goerlandt, Ronald Pelot, Claudio Aporta (Springer Publishing, 2024).



Professor **RICHARD DEVLIN** taught Contracts and Judicial Decision-Making, Aboriginal and Indigenous Law in Context and Introduction to Legal Ethics & the Regulation of the Legal Profession. He also taught the Graduate Seminar with 15 LLM and PhD students. His research highlights included delivering the keynote address to the annual conference of the European Judicial Training Network in Sicily and presenting on behalf of the Canadian Association for Legal Ethics to the House of Commons and Senate Committees on the new legislative regime for complaints against, and the discipline of, federally appointed judges. Both projects will appear in publications in the near future.



Professor **STEVE COUGHLAN** published the third edition of his book *Detention and Arrest*, having been reminded of the need to update it after the second edition was cited approvingly by the Supreme Court of Canada several times in the past few years. With his co-authors, he also produced the 16th edition of *Learning Canadian Criminal Law* as well as the *Annual Review of Criminal Law 2023*. He very much enjoyed helping design and teach a component of the new first-year intensive course, Law in its National and International Context.



Professor **MARIA DUGAS** teaches African Nova Scotian Legal History, Issues and Critical Race Theory, Copyright Law, Special Topics in African Nova Scotians and the Law and Torts. She co-coaches the Julius Alexander Isaac Moot team and presents to various legal audiences on anti-Black racism in the criminal justice system. Her research is rooted in critical race theory, with her current research project focusing on addressing anti-Black racism in child welfare and sentencing. She has upcoming articles in the *Dalhousie Law Journal*, *Canadian Bar Review*, and the *Journal of Law and Social Policy*.



Professor **ELAINE CRAIG** had the privilege of teaching classes for another year that were filled with enthusiastic and insightful students! She enjoyed educating Constitutional Law students about the division of powers and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. She also worked with her Law of Sexual Assault students, and her clinic students, Nova Scotia Public Prosecution Service Crown



Professor **SUZIE DUNN** taught Law and Technology, Contracts and Judicial Decision-Making and Introduction to Legal Ethics. She published a report, *Supporting Safer Digital Spaces*, that assessed 18,000 people's experiences with technology-facilitated violence and she is currently a co-investigator on a SSHRC Insight Grant where she is working with scholars from Western University, Concordia University and Saint Mary's University to examine the experiences of and responses to technology-facilitated sexual violence among Canadian youth.



Professor **PATRICIA GALVÃO FERREIRA** taught Fundamentals of Public Law, Climate Change Law and Policy, Energy Law and Introduction to Environmental Law. She contributed a chapter for the upcoming *Cambridge Handbook on Climate Litigation*, and co-authored two other chapters, one on food loss and waste (*Comparative Environmental Law Handbook*, Edward Elgar), and one on insurance finance for the most climate-vulnerable developing countries (*Law in a Changing World*, University of Toronto Press). She delivered the J.B. and Maurice C. Shapiro Distinguished Lecture on Global Climate Change and Energy Law at George Washington University Law School, on the principle of CBDR in domestic climate litigation. She joined two Marine & Environmental Law Institute long-term research projects: the Qanittaq Clean Arctic Shipping Initiative and Transforming Climate Action, was appointed co-editor of the International Ocean Institute's *Ocean Yearbook* and joined the board of East Coast Environmental Law. In May, she intervened in the Inter-American Court of Human Rights hearings related to the advisory opinion on the scope of state obligations for responding to the climate emergency in Manaus, Brazil. She is currently co-editing a book on climate litigation.



Professor **DIANA GINN** retired from the Faculty of Law in June of this year. In 2022-2023, she taught two sections of Alternative Dispute Resolution and worked on a variety of writing projects in administrative law, property law and law and religion. She also assisted with the organization of the 2023 annual Crown Law Symposium.



Professor **LUCIE GUIBAULT** is taking a full year leave in 2024-2025, after serving as associate dean, academic, for three and a half years. She looks forward to resourcing herself and re-engaging with research and teaching in the area of intellectual property. She plans to finish an Open Education Resource on Canadian Intellectual Property Law and publish articles on various topics including machine learning, copyright and freedom of expression as well as on the farmer's privilege under the *Canadian Plant Breeders' Rights Act*.



Professor **MATTHEW HERDER** continued his research as a Chair in Applied Public Health in the area of infectious disease innovation. Travelling to Cape Town, South Africa and Bangkok, Thailand to study the World Health Organization's mRNA Technology Transfer Programme, his project traces efforts to improve access to vaccines and

other technologies in low- and middle-income countries. After serving as a member of Canada's drug pricing regulator for several years, he resigned from the Patented Medicine Prices Review Board in February 2023 following the government's interference with the regulator's policy-making process.



Professor **ADELINA IFTENE** taught Criminal Justice: The Individual and the State, Evidence and Imprisonment Penal Policy (with Professor Wildeman) this year. She coordinated the work of the Criminal Justice Coalition, which brought together students, alumni and faculty for more than 10 events. She continued her research and writing in the area of sentencing and imprisonment and published two articles and a book chapter in these fields. She also co-edited *Sentencing and Penal Policy in Canada: Cases, Materials and Commentary* (Emond Publishing, 2023, 4th ed) with Allan Manson, Julian Roberts, Patrick Healey, Gary Trotter and Dale Ives, and co-authored the *Annual Review of Criminal Law 2023* (Thomson Reuters) with Schulich Law professors Steve Coughlan and Rob Currie.



Professor **COLIN JACKSON** learned a lot in his first full year as the law faculty's associate dean of graduate studies and was delighted to see and play a small part in so much graduate student success. He also continued to teach Taxation I, Taxation of Corporations and Secured Transactions and to research and write about the drafting and interpretation of tax statutes and the collection of tax debts.



Professor **ARCHIE KAISER** had a busy teaching year, offering Criminal Justice, Criminal Procedure, Mental Disability Law: Criminal and his new course Global Corruption, as well as Legal Issues in Psychiatry for Dalhousie's Faculty of Medicine. He continued as a provincial advisor for People First of Nova Scotia, a self-advocacy group for people with intellectual disabilities. He presented at the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Medical Assistance in Dying, opposing its extension to persons whose sole underlying condition is mental illness, and also presented at People First Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia College of Social Work.



Professor **JENNIFER LLEWELLYN** has continued to lead the work and growth of the Restorative Research, Innovation and Education Lab. This past year, the Restorative Lab received funding from Women And Gender Equality Canada to support the implementation of the Restorative Approach to Multiple Proceedings (RAMP) initiative, in partnership with the Elizabeth Fry Society of Mainland Nova Scotia, which is focused on addressing the impacts of multiple proceedings in situations of domestic violence. With funding from the MITACS Innovation Internship program, she is working with Sport Nova Scotia on a restorative approach to maltreatment. She continues to research and work on justice transformation through a restorative approach with the World Bank's Accountability Mechanism, the Canadian Armed Forces, the United States

Institute for Peace and the Colombian government in collaboration with the International Center for Transitional Justice. She is currently a global editor for the six-volume *International Encyclopedia of Restorative Justice*.



MEGAN LONGLEY and her team at Dalhousie Legal Aid Service (DLAS) continue to work with law and social work students to serve clients in need of legal assistance. In addition to representing individual clients, DLAS has expanded outreach services over the past year including partnering with Bryony House and the North Grove, and developing a Youth Justice Court rotation allowing students to assist unrepresented youth with arraignments.



Professor **CONSTANCE MACINTOSH** had the pleasure of being an invited visiting scholar at the University of Hawaii, Manoa, where she collaborated with colleagues on asylum law work, bordering processes and advanced projects on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. She also immersed herself in Native Hawaiian law workshops and celebrations, as well as community-led projects on food sustainability. She is returning to Schulich Law refreshed and excited to be back in the classroom!



Professor Emeritus **WAYNE MACKAY** is an active legal commentator at local and national levels on a wide range of topics and is entering his seventh year as CBC Radio's legal columnist on Information Morning. He is serving as a managing board member in the final year of the IMPACTS project, an eight-year exploration of sexual violence on Canadian university campuses led by McGill University and funded by SSHRC. He is a board member with the Canadian Civil Liberties Association and the International Commission of Jurists and has been working on revisions to the 5th edition of his *Teachers and the Law* book. He was the featured speaker at the Athenaeum Society of Nova Scotia with his talk "The Charter of Rights: Canada Revolutionized." He is enjoying having more free time to rediscover good literature and read more broadly outside the sometimes-confining world of law.



Professor **ANDREW FLAVELLE MARTIN** taught Fundamentals of Public Law, Introduction to Legal Ethics and Advanced Legal Research in the winter term. He continues his long-term project on legal ethics for government lawyers and the Attorney General, this year focusing on patterns and themes in law society discipline of government lawyers and Crown prosecutors.



Professor **SARA ROSS** served as the program chair of the Association for Law, Property, and Society, leading the organization of their international conference at Pepperdine Caruso School of Law. At Schulich Law, she served both as the acting associate dean, research, during the fall semester and the associate director of the Marine & Environmental Law Institute. She was a finalist for Female Trailblazer of the Year at the annual Canadian Law Awards.



Professor **SARA SECK** contributed to research and education at the intersection of human rights and the environment both within Canada and internationally as the Yogis & Keddy Chair in Human Rights Law. In July 2023, she assumed the role of director of the Marine & Environmental Law Institute. She co-leads the Qanittaq Clean Arctic Shipping Initiative for Dalhousie and enthusiastically supervises JD and graduate student researchers on diverse projects.



Professor Emeritus **ROLLIE THOMPSON** delivered the Ivan C. Rand Memorial Lecture at the University of New Brunswick's Faculty of Law in February, titled "Rules, Discretion and Reform in Canadian Family Law." He continues as counsel at Epstein Cole LLP in Toronto, maintains a steady schedule of speaking engagements at judicial and lawyer education programs across Canada and also edits the *Canadian Family Law Quarterly* and the *Nova Scotia Civil Procedure Rules*.



Professor **DAVID VANDERZWAAG** taught International Environmental Law. His research focused on ocean governance and climate change with three co-authored papers including "Canada and Ocean Climate Adaptation: Tracking Law and Policy Responses, Charting Future Directions" (*Frontiers in Marine Science*, 2023). In collaboration with researchers at Duke Law School, he co-edited a report called "Transboundary Marine Species at Risk & Their Recovery in a Changing Climate". He is a contributing author to the Arctic Council's "Synthesis Report on Ecosystem Status, Human Impact and Management Measures in the Central Arctic Ocean".



Professor **SHEILA WILDEMAN** taught Administrative Law, Poverty Law and Human Rights and Imprisonment Penal Policy (with Professor Iftene) and coordinated the Dalhousie Health Justice Institute Seminar Series. She continues as co-chair of the East Coast Prison Justice Society and coordinator of arts-based disability justice collective My Home, My Rights. In December, she travelled to Belgium to share their multi-media exhibit "My Home, My Rights: Exploring Disability Rights, Imagining Disability Justice" and reflections on inclusive action research at a conference marking the 75th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. She received a Nova Scotia Human Rights award in late 2023.



Professor **MICHELLE WILLIAMS** continues to co-lead Dalhousie's African Nova Scotian Strategy and received the Dalhousie University President's Award for the Advancement of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility. She enjoyed teaching courses involving African Nova Scotian legal issues and critical race theory, and received a grant from Dalhousie's Global Research Seed Fund to support a collaboration on African Nova Scotian research ethics and rural land issues with Professor Merle Bowen, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and Schulich Law Professor Melisa Marsman.

THE GRAPEVINE

1966

DON GREEN channelled what he learned through six decades of playing golf, a seniors' championship and a stint as a PGA of Canada teaching pro to write *Golf for Fun, Golf for Life*. He is donating a portion of proceeds from every book sold to Dalhousie University.

1972



DENNIS PATTERSON retired as senator of Nunavut after 14 years in the role.

1973



JOHN MCLEISH was named the 2024 Personal Injury Litigation Lawyer of the Year in Toronto by Best Lawyers®. He is the founding partner of McLeish Orlando Lawyers LLP, a firm that represents individuals who have been injured or who have lost a loved one through the negligence of others. He has authored or co-authored five books on personal injury, wrongful death and trial advocacy. He remains an Atlantic Canadian at heart!

1975

LAWRENCE (LAURIE) PASCOE wrote a book titled *Innovative Legal Service Applications: A Guide to Improved Client Services* published by the American Bar Association's Solo, Small Firm, and General Practice Division. The book provides lawyers in all stages of their careers with his theories and numerous applications to improve client services in all practices.

1979



J. MICHAEL MACDONALD received an honorary degree from Mount Allison University.



RAYMOND WAGNER was the recipient of the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society 2023 Distinguished Service Award.

1981



SARA FILBEE published a book with Taylor & Francis, Routledge on management titled *Managing in Complexity: How our fear of uncertainty hurts us and what to do about it*. Challenging traditional ways of thinking, leading and managing based on cutting-edge research and real-world examples, this book provides an

insightful and accessible perspective for leaders and managers who seek to become more effective in an increasingly uncertain and complex world.

1982

MARY MCGINTY-UNDERWOOD was appointed King's Counsel.



SHAUNA SULLIVAN CURLEY recently retired as ethics and integrity commissioner for the Government of Prince Edward Island.

1985



MONA LYNCH was a recipient of a 2023 Dalhousie University Arium Award.

1987

DAVID MAHONEY was appointed King's Counsel.

1988



CHIP SUTHERLAND was honoured at the 2024 Juno Awards with the Walt Grealis Special Achievement Award that recognizes individuals whose work has helped develop the Canadian music industry.

1990



BRUCE MACGREGOR returned home to St. Margaret's Bay, N.S., for new adventures after serving in the Canadian Armed Forces since 1997, most recently as the director of military prosecutions.

DONALD MACKENZIE was appointed to the Board of Governors of the University of Prince Edward Island.

1991



JOHN DUGGAN was appointed King's Counsel.

1992



ANGELA CASELEY was appointed a judge of the Provincial Court of Nova Scotia.



JAMES MICHAEL was appointed King's Counsel.



KAREN ROSE was appointed King's Counsel. She is the prothonotary of the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island.



RODNEY ZDEBIAK was appointed King's Counsel. He is a partner with Stewart McKelvey's St. John's office.

1994



ELAINE GIBNEY opened a new boutique family law firm, Elaine Gibney Law. She will be representing clients from across Nova Scotia, with home bases in both Sydney and Halifax.



ROBIN GOGAN was appointed a justice of the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal.



LLOYD MACNEIL joined Troutman Pepper Hamilton Sanders LLP as partner in its Los Angeles, CA, office.



SHAWNA PARIS-HOYTE was appointed executive director of the African Nova Scotian Justice Institute.



PAUL PROSPER was appointed as an independent senator representing Nova Scotia.



ALONZO WRIGHT was appointed a judge of the Provincial Court of Nova Scotia.

1996



LESTER JESUDASON was appointed an associate chief justice of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia's Family Division.



RONDA VAN DER HOEK was appointed an associate chief judge of the Provincial Court of Nova Scotia.



NATALIE WOODBURY was appointed King's Counsel.

1997



PATRICK FITZGERALD was appointed chair of the Board of Directors of Cox & Palmer.



DAVID SWAYZE was appointed King's Counsel. He has been a partner with Meighen Haddad LLP since 2002 in Brandon, Man.



JUDY WHITE was appointed as an independent senator representing Newfoundland and Labrador.

1998



DANA MACKENZIE was appointed King's Counsel.



TERRANCE G. SHEPPARD was appointed a justice of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia's Family Division.



SANDRA SUKSTORF was appointed to the Supreme Court of British Columbia, transitioning from her role as a military judge. She has presided over court martials across Canada and was a key figure in managing the investigations, monitoring and enforcement department at the Law Society of British Columbia. Her expertise in military, maritime and international criminal law has been pivotal as an inaugural legal adviser for the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia. Her exceptional service has earned her an officer induction into the Order of Military Merit and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.

1999

KAREN ANTHONY was appointed King's Counsel.



ANNA COOK was appointed King's Counsel. She is a partner with Cox & Palmer's St. John's office.

2000



MARC KAZIMIRSKI was appointed King's Counsel. He is the founding and managing partner at KazLaw in Vancouver.



KATE O'NEILL was appointed King's Counsel. She is a partner with Cox & Palmer's St. John's office.



JAMISON STEEVE is the new president and CEO of the Metcalf Foundation.

2001



CHRISTINE DOUCET was appointed a justice of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia's Family Division.

2003



MAEGAN GILTROW was appointed a justice of the Supreme Court of British Columbia. Her legal career has focused on working for First Nations, primarily in Aboriginal and treaty rights litigation and Indigenous child welfare matters. She has acted as counsel in Aboriginal and treaty rights trials, appeals and judicial reviews.

2004



MARK WISEMAN is general counsel with J.D. Irving Limited.

2005



JOSEPH CHEDRAWE was appointed King's Counsel.



MARK HEERMA was appointed a judge of the Provincial Court of Nova Scotia.

2006



CARLA BALL was appointed King's Counsel.

2007



BURTLEY FRANCIS was appointed King's Counsel.

2011



JAMES BISHOP is counsel with High Liner Foods Inc.

BRIAN MUNN was appointed the executive director of the Public Prosecution Service of New Brunswick.

2012



DUNCAN TAYLOR joined the partnership of Brownlee LLP in Calgary.

2014



ASHLEY HAMP-GONSALVES is a partner with Burchell Wickwire Bryson LLP.

2015



BRITTANY KEATING is a partner with McInnes Cooper.

2016



JULIAN DICKINSON is an associate with Mathews Dinsdale's Halifax office.

2017



JOHN BOUDREAU is a partner with McInnes Cooper.

2018



SARA GILLETT joined Burchell MacDougall LLP's Elmsdale, N.S., office and is practicing family law.

2019



FENESSA WILLIAMS is an associate with MDW Law in Halifax.

2020



PERRY YUNG is an associate with BOYNECLARKE LLP.

2021



CHRISTINA CLEROUX is practicing with Patterson Law's New Glasgow, N.S., office.



ALICE XU has joined MLT Aikins as an associate in their Vancouver office.



ADAM MCQUARRIE is practicing with C3 Legal.

2022



HANEEN AL-NOMAN is a judicial law clerk with the Court of Appeal for Toronto.



EMMA ARNOLD is practicing with PATH Legal.



KYLE BARRIE is a labour standards officer with the Government of Nova Scotia.

ANNALISE BENOIT is an associate and law librarian with Pink Larkin.



MICHELLE BERUBE is an associate with Lister Beaupré Lawyers LLP.



CHELSEY BRUSSARD is an associate with Actus Law.



MICHAEL BYRNE is an associate with Mike Murphy Law Group.



ALISTAIR CHAUHAN is an associate with Cox & Palmer's Halifax office.



KRISTIN CLARKE is a policy analyst with the Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists.



ROBYN CLIFFORD is practicing with Shackleton Taylor Law.



JAHVON DELANEY is an associate with Stewart McKelvey.



KASIA DONOVAN is an associate with Goodmans LLP in Toronto.



EMMA DOUGLAS is an associate with Stewart McKelvey.



JAMES DOWNIE is an associate with Cox & Palmer's Halifax office.



ELIZABETH DREISE is an associate with BOYNECLARKE LLP.



STERLING EDMONDS is an associate with Cox & Palmer.



JAKE FREEZE is the managing partner at Sussex Ice Cream.



PATIENCE FAUBERT is an associate with Bland & Associates.



OLIVIA FESCHUK is practicing with McInnes Cooper.



ELIANE FRANCIS is an associate with BOYNECLARKE LLP.



ALYSSA GAGNE is deputy judge advocate with the Department of National Defence.



MIMOZA GJELAJ is an associate with Belmore Neidrauer in Toronto.



LAURA GRAHAM is an associate with Burchell Wickwire Bryson LLP in Halifax.



SAMANTHA GRAY is an associate with BOYNECLARKE LLP.

ALLISON HEARNS is practicing with Nova Scotia Legal Aid.

KATERINA HIRSCHFELD is practicing with Anderson Sinclair.



CHARLOTTE HOBSON is an associate with Landings LLP in Toronto.



THERESA JBEILI is practicing with Nova Injury Law.



PATRICK KAHN is practicing with McInnes Cooper.



MATTHEW KLOHN is an associate with Stewart McKelvey.

ADEBAYO MAJEKOLAGBE is an assistant professor at the University of Alberta's Faculty of Law.



ROBBIE MASON is practicing with Carver Estate Law & Litigation.



HALEY MACISAAC is an associate with McInnes Cooper.



SHAELYN MASTERS is an associate with Kennedy Schofield Lutz Lawyers.



MAXWELL MCBRIDE is a policy and research analyst with the Government of Nova Scotia.



MAEVE MCCABE is practicing with Conrad Dillon Robinson Law.



MAMIE MCGINN is practicing with Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP.



BROCK MORRISON is practicing with McInnes Cooper.



BEN MOSHER is practicing with McInnes Cooper.



LAURA MURPHY is an associate with Poole Althouse.



LEVI PARSCHE is an associate with Stewart McKelvey.



ELIZA RICHARDSON is practicing with Burchell Wickwire Bryson LLP.



SARAH RUSSELL is practicing with Burchell MacDougall LLP.



AMRA SELIMOVIC is an associate with Burchell MacDougall LLP.



SUHAYLAH SEQUEIRA is an associate with McCarthy Tétrault LLP.



JONATHAN SHENDRUK is an associate with McDougall Gauley LLP.



JESSICA SIMM is a law clerk with the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal.



JANE SOUCY is practicing with McInnes Cooper.



ALEXANDRA STRANG is an associate with Burchell Wickwire Bryson LLP in Halifax.



ALEX WALKER is an associate with Lenehan Musgrave LLP.



KELSEY WARR is practicing with Ritch Williams & Richards.



CLAIRE WAYNE is practicing with Patterson Law.

2023

LILY BENDER is practicing with Bland & Associates in Halifax.



WAYNE DESMOND is a member of the CBC Nova Scotia community advisory board which is made up of 25 members who are African Nova Scotians and persons of African descent living in Nova Scotia. Their perspectives and lived experiences will be integral to telling the complete story of the Black experience in the province and will provide an opportunity to share valuable insight for consideration by CBC Nova Scotia's editorial team. He is an articulated clerk with MacGillivray Injury and Insurance Law.



RACHEL NAGY is an associate with MDW Law in Halifax.



KALI ROBERTSON is an associate with Stewart McKelvey.



DANIELLE WIERENGA is articling with Farris LLP in Vancouver.

IN MEMORIAM

WILLIAM HILLMAN ('50) died on August 12, 2023, at the age of 98.

JOHN (JACK) COMMERFORD ('51) died on February 5, 2023, at the age of 98. Jack was born in Halifax and spent his early years in Newfoundland. He enlisted as a boy soldier with the Royal Canadian Artillery, 2nd HAA Regiment, from Charlottetown. Serving four and a half years in WWII, his Royal Canadian Regiment was on the coast of England until landing on Juno Beach. Advancing through France, Belgium and the Netherlands, he ended the war in Northern Germany with the Armistice. Following the war, he received his law degree from Dalhousie University and re-enlisted for Korea. He was a lieutenant with the Royal Canadian Regiment 3rd Battalion before joining the office of Judge Advocate General (JAG). He served with JAG in Ottawa, Kingston, Germany, the Gaza Strip and Cyprus. After retiring from the Armed Forces, he was a pension advocate with Veterans Affairs in Ottawa and Kingston.

MOYRA NICHOLSON ('52) died on March 13, 2024, at the age of 92. She was born in Richmond Hill, Ont., and spent her childhood in England, eventually moving to Toronto and then Halifax where she went to Dalhousie Law School. Moyra graduated in 1952 at the age of 20, and she remains the youngest law school graduate in Canadian history. She was a lawyer for the federal government and worked full time until the age of 82.

JACK PRINCE ('54) died on March 8, 2024, at the age of 96. Arriving in Halifax from Poland in 1939, he escaped the onset of World War II at age 11. Despite the

loss of his family in the Holocaust, he built a remarkable life in Canada, becoming a pillar of the Halifax Jewish community and a respected lawyer. He earned science and law degrees from Dalhousie University, achieved the K.C. designation and was well known for his professional excellence in estate planning. As a community leader, he held significant roles in Jewish organizations in Halifax and made substantial philanthropic donations.

REGINALD CLUNEY ('55) died on March 8, 2024, at the age of 92. A standout athlete, he played many sports but excelled in tennis and football. Notably, he led the Tigers to the Purdy Cup football league championship in 1951 and 1954, earning the Duffus Trophy as league MVP in 1951 and the Purdy Cup Championship MVP in 1954. He ranked third all-time for the Tigers in scoring, and in 1955 he received the Climo Trophy as Dalhousie's athlete of the year. Reg was inducted into the Dalhousie Sports Hall of Fame in 2012. After graduating from Dalhousie with Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws degrees, he started out at McInnes Cooper & Robertson, where he spent his entire career until his retirement in 2007. Reg was an accomplished litigator, having argued cases at the trial and appellate level, including several times before the Supreme Court of Canada. He was also involved in restoring the Dalhousie football program to competition in the Atlantic Football League in 2010. He took pride in watching the Black & Gold compete on the gridiron once again.

J. DOANE HALLETT, K.C. ('55) died March 12, 2024, at the age of 91. Justice Hallett obtained his Bachelor of Laws from Dalhousie University in 1955 and received an honorary Doctor of Laws from Saint Mary's University in 1999. He was admitted to the Nova Scotia Bar in 1956 and practiced his entire career as a lawyer with the firm of MacInnes, Wilson and Hallett. He was named Queen's Counsel in 1971 and was appointed a justice of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia in 1977. Thirteen years later, he was appointed to the Supreme Court Appeal Division and became a justice of the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal upon its creation in 1993. A keen fisherman and an avid golfer, Justice Hallett has been referred to as one of the most highly respected jurists in Nova Scotia. During his 25-year judicial career, he was involved with many provincial and national committees, including serving on the National Ethics Advisory Committee and the Judicial Independence Committee. He was also an advocate of judicial education, regularly lecturing at National Judicial Institute conferences and was extremely active in the development of the Appellate Courts seminar.

IAN MACLEOD, K.C. ('55) died in Charlottetown, P.E.I., on June 2, 2023, at the age of 92.

ARTHUR STONE ('55) died on November 13, 2023, at the age of 94. He graduated from St. Francis Xavier University in 1952, then served as an assistant librarian while studying law at Dalhousie University before graduating in 1955. He graduated from Harvard Law School with a Master of Laws degree in 1956, was called to the Bar of Nova

Scotia in 1956 and of Ontario in 1958, and was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1971. Arthur practiced law in Toronto with Wright and McTaggart and successor firms until 1983 and was a lecturer in the Faculty of Law at the University of Toronto for five years. In July 1983, he was named to the Federal Court of Appeal, where he served until his retirement in 2004. He took pleasure in mentoring aspiring law students, law clerks and junior lawyers. Upon his appointment to the court, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario bestowed the honorary designation of Counsel Emeritus in recognition of his many years as its general counsel. Arthur served several charitable organizations as an officer and director, including L'Arche Daybreak during its formative years, and the Canadian Bar Association, the Canadian Tax Foundation and the Canadian Maritime Law Association, and was a titular member of the Comité Maritime International of Brussels. He was the recipient of the 125th Anniversary of Confederation of Canada Medal in 1992, and the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002.

JAMES GARRY WATSON ('57) died April 6, 2023, in Whistler, B.C., at the age of 89. He studied law at Dalhousie University and, postwar, spent time as an officer of the Canadian Forces Intelligence Corps. After graduating, Garry returned to British Columbia and settled into life as a lawyer in West Vancouver. But it was his first visit to the Whistler area in 1961, when there were no ski lifts and not much of a road linking it to Vancouver, that his destiny revealed itself to him. He soon became involved with a

group of dreamers who envisioned building a ski resort close to Vancouver and bidding for the 1968 Olympics. In 1975, a near-death encounter with a logging truck on an icy road left him with a concussion and a new perspective on life. The experience convinced him to leave his law practice and move to Whistler full time. Shortly thereafter, he was elected as an alderman to the newly-formed Resort Municipality of Whistler. He served for five years and played a guiding role in almost every decision that shaped Whistler into Canada's preeminent mountain resort. He helped create employee housing so those who worked in the community could afford to live there and helped set aside land zoned for 'cultural purposes' which became home to the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre, a major legacy of the 2010 Olympic Games. He was given a lifetime ski pass and was named a Freeman of the Municipality, Citizen of the Year and received a community achievement award. When he left the municipal council in 1980, the road leading to his cabin was renamed Watson Way.

JOHN MEREN ('59) died on November 16, 2023, at the age of 92. John took pride in his Italian heritage and was a respected lawyer in the city of London, Ont., for over six decades. A journey to Italy in 1991 allowed him to connect with his roots. His lifetime of interactions with London's Italian community began during days spent working in Meren's Fruit Store and continued long after he obtained his law degree from Dalhousie University and opened a law practice. John's commitment to community was evident in his role establishing the Alice Saddy Association in 1973, which supports the independent living of individuals with developmental disabilities.

His retirement in 2022 marked one of the city's longest-serving legal careers.

THOMAS ROBERT (BOB) PARKER, K.C. ('59) died on July 26, 2023, at the age of 89 in New Glasgow, N.S. He moved there in 1966 and worked in private practice until 1973 when he was appointed Crown prosecutor. In 1976, he was appointed Queen's Counsel and served in this capacity until his retirement in 1994. The great outdoors was Bob's favourite place to be; canoeing, camping and fishing were activities he enjoyed from an early age and in later years, he enjoyed sailing and gardening. Every summer he couldn't wait to enjoy cottage life at Black Point. He also enjoyed volunteering with the Pictou County Prostate Cancer Support Group and being one of the 'wharf rats' helping the Women-Alike Society's ABreastARiver Dragon Boat Team.

STANLEY DAVID CAMPBELL ('64) died on September 23, 2023, at the age of 83. Stan graduated from St. Francis Xavier University and then went on to Dalhousie Law School. He practiced law with the firm of Burchell, Sullivan, Smith and Campbell until being appointed Crown prosecutor in 1974, and became a judge of the Provincial Court of Nova Scotia in 1979.

THOMAS WINTON TOWARD ('64) was born in Newcastle Upon Tyne, England, in 1936 and moved to Canada in 1945. Winton was a member of the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society for more than 50 years and at his time of death, was a retired life member. In addition, he was at various times a practicing member of the Barristers' Society of New Brunswick, and also of the Barreau du Québec as a non-practicing solicitor. During

most of his legal career up until the time of his retirement, he was a member of the Canadian National Railway Company's law department and practiced at several locations in Canada, but mainly at the company's headquarters in Montreal.

JOHN COOPER ('67) died on March 22, 2024, at the age of 80. He practiced law, first at McInnes Cooper and later at Crowe Dillon Robinson until his retirement in December 2019. He was a natural mediator and always approached a problem with reason and empathy. John devoted his time to many organizations including the Cathedral Church of All Saints, the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, Feed Nova Scotia, Diabetes Canada, the Nova Scotia Housing Authority and the board of the Halifax Grammar School.

EDWARD NOONAN, K.C. ('69) died on August 22, 2023, at the age of 82. The oldest son in a Catholic family, he thought it was only right that he entered the seminary at St. Paul's in Ottawa. However, he had a change of heart and traded in his collar for tabs, heading to Dalhousie Law School. Ed spent nights and weekends in the garden, ultimately winning the prized 'Tidy Town' gardening award in Torbay, Nfld. Ed was called to the Newfoundland Bar in 1970, received his Queen's Counsel designation in 1993, retired in 2018 and was granted a life membership in the Law Society in 2019.

BRUCE PREEPER, K.C. ('69) died on March 15, 2024, at the age of 79. Bruce received Queen's Counsel in 1986 and was a member of the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society from 1970-2015. He practiced law in Dartmouth, Halifax, Western

Shore and Marriott's Cove, all in Nova Scotia. Bruce was a life member and past president of the Royal Canadian Legion, Western Shore Branch #144.

ROBERT STROUD, K.C. ('69) died on February 17, 2024, at the age of 85. He was known as a star hockey and rugby player. Bob went to Mount Allison University where he obtained his commerce degree and played on the varsity football team. After graduation, he went to work for the Bank of Nova Scotia while completing his Certified General Accountant designation. He then attended Dalhousie University where he earned his law degree. Bob was a member of the Queen's Counsel and later appointed judge of the Provincial Court in 1986. Always one to value education, after being appointed to the Bench he went on to earn his Master of Laws from Dalhousie University in 2014. He was committed to his Stellarton community where he served as a town councillor, was a member of the Lions Club and was both a coach and president with Stellarton Minor Hockey.

JOHN WADE, K.C. ('69) died on June 10, 2023, at the age of 77. He graduated from Saint Mary's University and Dalhousie Law School. He articulated with the Department of the Attorney General, served as a Crown prosecutor and was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1985.

DELMAR ALTHOUSE, K.C. ('70) died on May 13, 2023, at the age of 77. Throughout his youth, he excelled at hockey, baseball and debating, ultimately discovering his talent in both sport and speech. His hockey abilities led him to Cornell University where his team won the NCAA championship in 1967. Following his undergraduate studies, he attended law school at Dalhousie

University. He articulated in St. John's, Nfld., before moving to Corner Brook where he practiced law for 36 years and was appointed Queen's Counsel. As a partner at Poole Althouse, his career was built on loyalty and camaraderie as well as business. He was known for creating relationships grounded in mutual respect with colleagues, clients and opposing counsel alike. Volunteering was a large part of Paul's life. He was vice-chair of the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Youth Serving Agencies, chancellor of the Anglican Diocese of Western Newfoundland, a member of the Rotary Club, a hockey player with the Corner Brook Royals and held various roles with the Corner Brook Hockey Association.

MARY DAWSON, K.C. ('70)

died in Ottawa on December 24, 2023, at the age of 81. She earned philosophy and civil law degrees from McGill University, a Bachelor of Laws from Dalhousie University, and a Diplôme d'études supérieures en droit public from the University of Ottawa. In 1970, Mary joined the Legislation Section of the Department of Justice. She was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1978 and became associate chief legislative counsel in the early '80s. Mary served as associate deputy minister of justice for nearly two decades. She shared her vast expertise beyond Canada's borders. She consulted on the South African Constitution and was active with the International Bar Association. She was named a member of the Order of Canada for her contributions to public policy in our nation. In 2007, Mary was named Canada's first conflict of interest and ethics commissioner, a post she helped define and held for 10 years. After her retirement, she turned her attention to volunteer and

non-profit work. She enjoyed her time on the boards of the Ottawa Hospital, the Perley Rideau, the National Arts Centre Friends of English Theatre and Help Lesotho.

GEORGE MACDONALD ('70)

died on September 17, 2023, at the age of 84. After graduating from engineering and law school, he started his brilliant legal career in Halifax. A practicing member of the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society until the day he died, he truly possessed all of the characteristics of the ideal lawyer: honesty, integrity, ambition and an incredible work ethic. He was also a dedicated mentor and teacher to young lawyers just starting out in their careers.

WALTER MCEWEN, K.C. ('71)

died in 2023, at the age of 83. He attended Saint Dunstan's University in Charlottetown where he received his Bachelor of Science, followed by his law degree at Dalhousie University. After being admitted to the Ontario Bar Association and residing for a brief time in Toronto, he returned to Prince Edward Island in 1973 and practiced law with Campbell McEwen Taylor McLellan in Summerside. He was later appointed Queen's Counsel in 1986. Always interested in politics, Walter served in the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island from 1989-1996, at times on the province's Executive Council as minister of provincial affairs, attorney general and minister of health and social services. After he retired from politics, he returned to the practice of law and also served as a member of the National Parole Board of Canada. In addition to his long professional career, Walter could often be found donating his time working to serve his community.

JOHN CHIPMAN ('72) died on November 21, 2023, at the age of 82. He was educated at the University of Toronto, earning his Bachelor of Arts in History and English (Trinity College 1964), and MSC (PL) Faculty of Architecture. He moved to Halifax to work for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and then to study law at Dalhousie. He practiced law in Toronto until 2006, when he returned to school to earn a Master of Laws and Doctor of Juridical Science from the University of Toronto's law school. His doctoral thesis became a book, *A Law Unto Itself*, on the Ontario Municipal Board. After retirement, John volunteered at the Churches on-the-Hill Food Bank and was part of an intrepid team at the Trinity College book sale until 2022. He loved reading, theatre, travel and great conversations.

RANDOLPH MAZZA ('72) died on October 25, 2023, at the age of 78. He retired as a Superior Court of Ontario Family Court judge where he was admired and respected by so many. In his years as a lawyer, he dedicated his career to advocating for equality in both the public and private sector. He was an avid and gifted athlete, playing multiple sports (and winning) against doubting opponents. He was an actor with McMaster University Theatre Club and co-founded the Hamilton Lawyers' Show, raising money for children's charities with fellow lawyers and judges. Randolph had a wide circle of friends and had the best sense of humour. He was a great dancer, an inspiring writer, a film fanatic, a lover of sweets and dogs and truly a role model for so many during his life. His motto was 'no label, no limits' and he lived his life that way. His legacy of perseverance, determination, maintaining a

sense of humour and giving people a chance will continue!

J. BRIAN CHARLTON ('73)

died on September 27, 2023. A graduate of Acadia University and Dalhousie Law School, Brian ran his law practice in Halifax for 39 years. A master BBQ grill, he cherished family gatherings, hosting friends, neighbours and kids at home, the cottage or Celia's studio. He was an outgoing and friendly individual and valued his friendships, ATV buddies and Masonic connections. Brian's happy place was the cottage on Sherbrooke Lake, where he enjoyed boating, ATV rides and friendly chats with neighbours.

JEANNE DALE ARCHIBALD

LEDERMAN, K.C. ('74) died April 8, 2024, at the age of 75. Jeanne obtained her Bachelor of Science in Biology at Acadia University and then went on to study law at Dalhousie. She and her husband Peter Lederman had operated their own law firm together in Truro since 1980. Their office occupied a historic property on the corner of Queen and Walker Streets, which was restored by them in 1984. Her practice was focused on elder law, wills and estates and real estate. She received her Queen's Counsel designation in 1992 and was the first Small Claims Court judge of Nova Scotia for Colchester County.

BRIAN SMITH, K.C. ('74) died on March 10, 2024, at the age of 80. Brian was known to many as a brilliant criminal lawyer, a talented musician and a good friend. In the 1960s he made his living as a professional musician, playing guitar, writing songs and recording an album with a band called the Kingfishers. In 1971, he was president of the Dalhousie Student Union and valedictorian at his Convocation. He graduated

from Dalhousie University with a Bachelor of Commerce and received a gold 'D' award. Brian continued his studies and in 1974 he graduated from Dalhousie Law School which led to his long successful career. One of his proudest moments was receiving the Queen's Counsel designation. For many years he was a volunteer and actively engaged with the ALS Society and the Canadian Ski Patrol.

JOHN HIGGINBOTHAM ('75)

died on July 6, 2023, at the age of 78. John had a number of interesting careers in his life. He was a high school teacher in Smithers and later Cranbrook, B.C. After he graduated with his law degree from Dalhousie University, he practiced in Nanaimo from 1975-1978, then he left to become a prosecutor in juvenile court in Victoria. He retired in 1982, when the muscular dystrophy he was diagnosed with in 1970 started to make his life as a lawyer difficult. At that point he decided to travel as he wasn't sure how long he'd remain mobile, so in 1982 he moved to the Comox Valley and in 1997 bought his last home, thus beginning his travelling adventures. Muscular dystrophy set a high bar that made John's life special. Because of all the physical challenges, he became extremely creative. He had to create his own specialized kitchen utensils and countertops, lift systems, all-weather clothing and a three-wheeler. He became a most enabled person with an otherwise disabling illness. His will to live and driving force centered around the three big issues that meant so much to him: electoral reform, accessibility and community. In 1996, John was the first to sign up when the Comox Valley Accessibility Committee was formed and became the committee's longest-serving and most passionate member. Over

the years he became famous for introducing newly elected city councillors to the realities of accessibility. Following every municipal election, he would arrange scooter tours for all the recently elected municipal mayors and councillors. His tours helped councillors understand the needs of mobility challenges. John's input around the design of public facilities enabled a much more inclusive community. Accessibility at the Comox Spit, the Sid Williams Theatre and Comox Valley Art Gallery all benefited from John's persistent 'advice'.

DONALD RANKIN ('78) died on July 12, 2023, at the age of 79. Born in Cape Breton, Donald was a seeker and he carried a childlike curiosity with him until the very end. He held a Bachelor of Science from the Nova Scotia Agricultural College and McGill University, an education degree from St. Francis Xavier University and a law degree from Dalhousie University. He practiced law in Port Aux Choix, Nfld., and remained engaged in civic life, instilling that duty in his children. Donald's passion for the arts never waned. He loved books and poetry. In Cape Breton, he reconnected with many of the simple joys of his youth including the thrill of live fiddle music and horse racing at the Inverness Raceway.

GLORIA HARDING ('79) died on October 18, 2023, at the age of 81. After a 53-year career, she retired in 2012, at the age of 70. She was a mentor, advisor, legal secretary, lawyer and judge. Gloria started her legal career as a legal secretary in 1959 at the tender age of 17. She moved to Nova Scotia at 34 to attend law school at Dalhousie University. She had an esteemed career in private practice with Legal Aid and was appointed a judge in

1998 in Gander, Nfld., eventually moving back to St. John's to finish her career. One of her favorite things to do as a judge was to marry people. Gloria had many professional achievements including her election in June of 1997 as the treasurer of the Law Society of Newfoundland and Labrador, its highest-ranking position. She was the first woman to hold this role since the Law Society was created in 1826. She also served as the director of the Legal Profession Assistance Program from 1989-1998 and was involved in establishing the Provincial Assistance Program in Newfoundland and Labrador, which assists lawyers, doctors, dentists and pharmacists. Gloria served as the director of the St. John's Board of Trade where she promoted initiatives for women in business. She also served as a member of the Association for Co-operative Community Living, Education and Support Services and the Steering Committee on Co-operative Education with the Department of Education for the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. She was known to be respectful, fair and a fantastic co-worker.

STANLEY MIRCHEFF ('80)

died on January 24, 2024, at the age of 71. A criminal lawyer by profession, he was passionate about law, history, art, politics, music and the environment. Stanley was an exceptional human being with an insatiable passion for life. Despite his health challenges, he had many achievements throughout his life. All the while maintaining a positive attitude and encouraging others to do the same. He would always offer words of wisdom, guidance and kindness.

PETER LARGE ('81) died on June 22, 2023, at the age of 93. He was educated at Upper Canada

College, the University of Toronto and Dalhousie Law School. He practiced as a lawyer in Toronto with professionalism and empathy until his retirement in 2020. He was a past chair, honorary life chair and honorary solicitor of the Toronto Branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society which announced the Peter K. Large Commonwealth Scholarship to mark the coronation of King Charles III. Peter was also past chair and a founding member of the Churchill Society, honorary solicitor for the Toronto branch of the Monarchist League of Canada, a director of the Alliance Canadienne and served as honorary consul for Burkina Faso for which he was awarded a knighthood in the National Order of Burkina Faso. He was also an active volunteer for various community causes, receiving an Ontario Volunteer Service Award 25-year pin in honour of his commitment. An avid skier and sailor, Peter took great joy and pride from his memberships in the Royal Canadian Yacht Club, Royal Canadian Military Institute, Board of Trade and the Arts & Letters Club of Toronto.

PETER SHOWLER ('83) died on October 30, 2023, at the age of 79. Peter spent his early years in Europe, then in British Columbia on the west coast of Vancouver Island and the Kootenay Mountains. He was eventually led back to civilization by Tibetan Buddhism, finding Dalhousie Law School. He embarked on a career of social justice advocacy in Ottawa and soon found himself among a group of brilliant, idealistic lawyers, legal workers, community workers and academics. Peter worked as a co-director of Community Legal Services of Ottawa. He became a member of the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada in 1993 and the chair of the

board in 1999. He also taught immigration and refugee law at the University of Ottawa Faculty of Law. In 2003, he was appointed the Gordon Henderson Chair in Human Rights and from 2006-2013, he was director of Refugee Forum, a research and education project housed in the university's Human Rights Research and Education Centre. With the UN Refugee Agency, he undertook training and development projects in Malawi, Ireland, Lebanon, Tanzania, Japan, South Africa, Switzerland and Mexico. In recognition of his contributions to refugee law and for his mentorship of the next generation of refugee lawyers, Peter was awarded the Order of Canada. He is the author of *Refugee Sandwich: Stories of Exile and Asylum* and co-author of *Flight to Freedom: Stories of Escape to Canada*, as well as numerous reports, plays and policy briefs.

LAURA HOWARTH ('84) died November 22, 2023, at the age of 66. Laura was raised in a conventional North Toronto setting and from early on stood up to 'normal' wherever she saw it as unjust. At 13, she was challenged by the public library for checking out the *Communist Manifesto*. While working as a letter carrier, Laura refused to wear the supplied hat, asking why she couldn't wear the same hat as a mailman. After law school at Dalhousie, she became a legal aid attorney in Moosonee, Ont., where she developed her passion for the rights of Indigenous people. She then completed her Master of Public Administration at Queen's University to enter the world of policy working for Indigenous Affairs in Ottawa where she felt she could make a greater difference. She always stuck up for those who were in need.

TIMOTHY HILL ('85) died on May 8, 2023. Serving in the Queen's Own Hussars of the British Army, Tim later became a bookmaker after selling cars. Immigrating to Nova Scotia in 1979 with minimal funds, he worked his way through university, eventually graduating from Dalhousie Law School. Tim was recognized in the Best Lawyers in Canada editions and received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Canadian Bar Association. Committed to community service, he volunteered extensively, contributing to organizations like the Summer Opera Festival and TASA Minor and Junior Hockey. His leadership as the chair of the St. Margaret's Centre Board for 20 years transformed the facility into a premier recreation centre. With a passion for travel, golf and history, he was also known for his love of opera. His kind and humble nature, paired with a dry wit, endeared him to many.

CRAIG BERRYMAN ('86) died on October 2, 2023, at the age of 66. Craig attended Dalhousie University, graduating first with an Honours in Psychology, followed by a law degree. He served clients in Halifax and Sheet Harbour during his 35 years of practice. He was passionate about property law and taught the real-estate licensing course for 20 years. His life revolved around the things that were most important to him: family, church and community. Craig was a man of deep faith and church was important to him. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Diocesan Finance Committee, St. Joseph and Saint Mother Teresa parish councils and led the amalgamation of the North End Halifax Parishes. He gave to his community in many ways and was a long-time supporter of the Lawyers' Assistance Program. He passed his love of soccer on to his

children and much of his free time was spent cheering them on from the side of a pitch. Craig could be found most weekends watching the Premier League on television with his brother, Clark. He coached soccer for 10 years, often with the help of his children, and he was a mentor to his players on and off the field.

KAREN KNOP ('86) died on September 26, 2022, at the age of 62. She earned a Bachelor of Science and then a law degree from Dalhousie University, a Master of Laws from Columbia University and a Doctor of Juridical Science from the University of Toronto. Karen joined the Faculty of Law at UofT as a special lecturer in 1990 and a full-time faculty member in 1993, where she held the Cecil A. Wright Chair. She quickly established herself as a beloved teacher and colleague, as well as a leading voice in international law scholarship. Early in her career she won an undergraduate teaching award, and over the years her mentoring of graduate students helped launch many careers. Her monograph *Diversity and Self-Determination in International Law* was published by Cambridge University Press in 2002 and was recognized by the American Society of International Law with its prestigious Certificate of Merit in 2003. From her early success to her 2020 Hague Lectures – the ultimate honour for an international lawyer – she had a remarkable academic career. She was recognized internationally as a leading cutting-edge scholar of public international law. In 1988-1989, Karen spent a year as a Canada/USSR academic exchange junior scholar at Moscow State University. Long before scholars began to explore 'Russian perspectives' on

international law, she understood that Western academics should be both knowledgeable of Russian intellectual postures and willing to engage with colleagues in Russia. In 2022, she was named one of the inaugural Max Planck Law Fellows, the highest honour that the network can confer on scholars working outside Germany's Max Planck Society. In 2020-2021, she was the Aatos Erkkö Visiting Professor in Studies on Contemporary Society at the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies. As a further testimony to her standing in the field, she had been selected to give the prestigious 2025 Hersch Lauterpacht Memorial Lectures at Cambridge University, which will now be dedicated to her memory. At the Faculty of Law she served as the editor of the *University of Toronto Law Journal* (2007-2012), and associate dean, research (2016-2018).

JOHN BRUCE MCMEEKIN ('87) died on March 24, 2024, at the age of 67. Following his undergraduate degree at Wilfred Laurier University and master's degree at Queen's University, he spent a brief period working in England with Imperial Life, before backpacking in Europe and later attending law school. Upon being called to the Bar, Bruce joined Miller Thompson LLP. Among his proudest career moments were his involvement in the Walkerton Inquiry and appearing before the Supreme Court of Canada in 2013. After many fulfilling years at Miller Thompson, he went on to found J. Bruce McMeekin Law where he continued as a sole practitioner for 10 years. He cared deeply about his community and neighbours and he dedicated years of service to the Rotary Club of Markham Sunrise, Markham Board of Trade and had recently joined the

YMCA Northumberland Board of Directors.

FRANCOIS DUCHESNEAU

(’89) died on November 7, 2022, at the age of 58. After obtaining his law degree at Dalhousie University, he graduated from George Washington University Law School in 1994. Francois was a partner with the Norton Rose Group since November 2009. Prior to that, he was an associate/partner with Fasken Martineau DuMoulin and in-house counsel with Aeterna Laboratories (Aeterna Zentaris).

CHRISTOPHER ENGLISH

(’90) died on August 11, 2023, at the age of 84. Christopher was educated at Trinity College School in Port Hope and at the University of Toronto, where he studied honours history. After graduation, he had a brief career in journalism at the Barrie Examiner but he left the paper to pursue a PhD with a dissertation on nineteenth-century French history. He was hired in the history department of Memorial University, where he remained a tenured professor until his retirement. He published numerous historical articles, his last when he was editor of *Essays in the History of Canadian Law*. In 1987, in mid-career, Christopher obtained his Bachelor of Laws from Dalhousie University and subsequently used his training to set up a legal history programme at Memorial University. It remains popular today, as many candidates take this course before attending law school.

TODD PARKIN (’90) died on October 6, 2023, at the age of 63. Todd was a kind, gentle, caring man. He used his profession as a lawyer to serve those in need as a public defender in New York City.

RANDY PELLETIER (’90) died on July 12, 2023, at the age of 61.

JOSEPH B. MARSHALL (’93)

died on January 19, 2024, at the age of 83. Joe B.’s heart belonged to Unama’ki. Raised on Maillard Street (Lazytown) in Membertou First Nation, he built his love for being Mi’kmaq and the Mi’kmaq language over his lifetime. He was a Shubenacadie Indian Residential School survivor. He was a talented athlete and excelled in many sports. He was a proud veteran of the Royal Canadian Airforce (1957-1960). The incredible work he did with the Union of Nova Scotia Mi’kmaq would inspire him to further his educational pursuits by obtaining his law degree from Dalhousie University. What followed was an incredible experience, articling at the Sydney law firm of Khattar and Khattar. Joe B. also was an associate professor at Cape Breton University where he taught and inspired many students. He considered himself to have scored a hat trick in life: running and completing the Blue Nose Marathon, co-writing the book *Secular Ulnapskuk* and acting in the movie series Mi’kmaq. However, what touched his heart the most was being selected as the 2013 Allison Bernard Memorial High School Role Model of the Year. If you ask anyone about Joe B., the first thing that often comes up is Mi’kmaq Treaty Rights. It was his passion for treaty rights that would result in the founding of the Union of Nova Scotia Indians (Mi’kmaq). His best friend in Membertou, the late Wallace Bernard, would inspire him to have many conversations about the tremendous potential in hockey among Mi’kmaq youth, resulting in the formation of the Wallace Bernard Indian Youth Hockey Invitational which they co-founded in 1974. ‘The Wally’s’

still run today and have provided opportunities for thousands of Mi’kmaq youth over the years and is currently hosted in the community of Membertou. He was inducted into the Nova Scotia Mi’kmaq Sport Hall of Fame and his lifelong work resulted in many awards and honours including the Order of Nova Scotia, the Order of Canada and being inducted to the Schulich School of Law’s Bertha Wilson Honour Society.

ANDREA REDWAY (’93)

died on April 21, 2024, at the age of 56. Andrea completed her honours degree in economics at the University of Western Ontario and then obtained her law degree from Dalhousie University. She was called to the Bar in Ontario and California and practiced with Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP. From 1997-2000, she lived in China, establishing one of the first Canadian law firm offices there. From 2001-2015, Andrea worked with the Canadian Bar Association, including serving as its director of international initiatives. In this role, she recruited select Canadian lawyers and judges to work with partners in Asia and Africa to strengthen and reform local justice systems. She worked as a tireless advocate for patient-centred medicine, research, early screening and faster adoption of emergent therapies with Lung Cancer Canada, the Canadian Cancer Survivors’ Network and the Ottawa Hospital. She received great solace through co-founding the Ottawa region Lung Cancer Survivors’ Group. In addition, Andrea served as a patient representative on the board of the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research, and as a board member for the non-profit RETpositive, funding medical research for RET-driven cancers.

HEATHER CRAIG (’95) died on April 13, 2023, at the age of 52 in Vancouver. She dedicated her career to Boughton Law Corporation, becoming a shareholder in 2002. Known for her quick and creative problem-solving, Heather was a favourite among colleagues and clients, building lifelong friendships. Beyond her legal career, she was a former ballet dancer who was passionate about dance education and served as the board chair of the Dance Foundation.

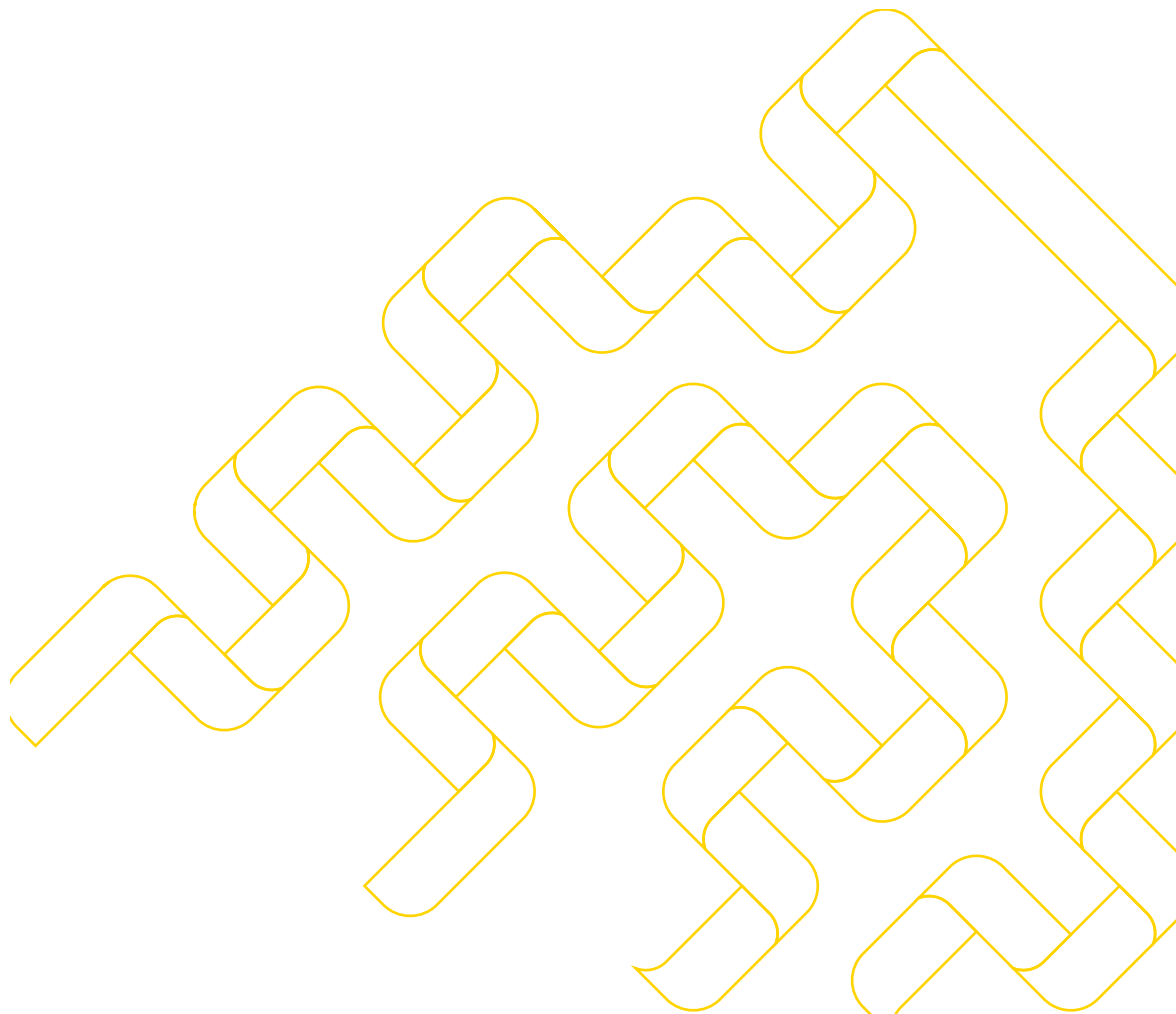
JOHN UNDERHILL, K.C. (’95)

died on May 1, 2024, at the age of 60. John spent his teen years in Sea Cadets with RCSCC Rainbow (Victoria), RCSCC Admiral Budge (Sidney) and four summers at HMCS Quadra in Comox. He joined the Naval Reserve to ‘see the world’ and was promptly rewarded with summer training at the Canadian Forces School of Music in nearby Esquimalt. Transferring to the Regular Officer Training Plan, he graduated from the University of Victoria, completed naval officer training and was appointed to HMCS Margaree based in Halifax. John’s later naval appointments included air control officer and communications officer in HMCS Athabaskan (Canada’s flagship for Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm), honorary aide-de-camp to two Lieutenant Governors and executive officer of HMC Ships Glace Bay and Moncton. After obtaining his law degree, his second career spanned three decades, all in public service, with the Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission and the Nova Scotia Department of Justice. He was an active volunteer with both the Nova Scotia Barristers’ Society and the Canadian Bar Association and served several years on the board of the Legal Information Society of Nova Scotia. John’s

hard work and contributions to the legal profession were recognized in 2020 with his Queen's Counsel appointment.

NATALIE CLIFFORD ('12) died on May 13, 2024.

BILLY JOE SPARKS ('16) died March 20, 2023, at the age of 52. After obtaining his law degree he went on to complete a graduate program in Mental Health and Addiction in September 2017 and achieved a Master of Social Work in October 2023. Billy dedicated his life to helping people. He was involved in various volunteer organizations and activities. As a lawyer, he focused on serving members of the community who were marginalized, at risk or had few other options.





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