

THE SCHULICH SCHOOL OF LAW ALUMNI MAGAZINE

HEARSAY

VOLUME 47 2026

THE EVOLUTION OF HEALTH LAW

Alumni share insights on their legal training,
professional journeys and the future of the field.

Page 28



DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY

SCHULICH
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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

On May 29, I had the pleasure of greeting every graduate of the Schulich School of Law's Class of 2026 as they crossed the stage at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium. This was not a new experience — I've done this with every graduating class since I became dean — but this class was different. I started with them in the fall of 2023 and it felt very much like we were a unit. I knew almost every student who crossed the stage: I taught them in the classroom, chatted with them in the student lounge and met with them in my office to talk about plans or concerns. We occasionally had coffee, lunch or dinner at student society gatherings or a beer at Domus. The Class of 2026 is not significantly different from those that came before them, but in many ways it feels like my class.

As I round out three years as dean, I am at a point where I feel I have a better understanding of Schulich Law students and their motivations and challenges. I also have a deeper appreciation of their promise for our country and the world. Our students are exceptional. They are actively engaged in improving the student experience, from running top-notch student societies to organizing lecture series that feature Supreme Court Justices, Federal Cabinet Ministers and business and community leaders. And they are diligently working to improve their communities and their nation through pro bono work, internships, research and legal services.

The strength of our student body is due in no small part to the continued contributions of our dedicated alumni network. Whether serving as mentors, sitting on panel discussions, teaching classes, creating new scholarships or donating to funds that support student activities, your loyalty to the law school provides the foundation for student success.

This past year was marked by the development of two new experiential learning opportunities — a tax dispute pro bono clinic and a community health justice partnerships practicum — the latter you can read about in this year's cover story on page 30. Both are the first of their kind in Canada and were made possible by support from alumni. Students also showcased their practice-ready skills by winning three national moots in 2026. That's more than a quarter of all the competitions we took part in — a stellar accomplishment for our participants and their coaches!

While the academic year was successful, I would be remiss not to mention its rocky start due to the four-week labour disruption. I am immensely grateful for the efforts of faculty and staff to embrace the rest of the school year with their usual commitment and generosity of spirit. In the pages that follow, you will see how our faculty continue to be engaged teachers, coaches, mentors, presenters and community builders, both inside and outside the law school. Although there are scars from that experience, I remain committed to building a strong Weldon community.

I look forward to completing a number of projects before the end of my five-year term, including reaching out and spending more time with alumni across the nation. I hope you enjoy this edition of *Hearsay* and feel a sense of pride when reading about some of the remarkable individuals who make up our alumni family.

With much gratitude and warmest regards,

Sarah Harding ('89)
Dean, Schulich School of Law

MESSAGE FROM DLAA PRESIDENT & DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

As another exceptional academic year comes to a close at the Schulich School of Law, we are proud to celebrate the Class of 2026. Earning your JD is no small feat — congratulations on your hard work, resilience and growth during your time at Weldon. We're excited to see what you do next. Most importantly, welcome to the Dalhousie Law Alumni Association (DLAA) family, we are delighted to have you join this incredible community!

It has been a year of celebrating excellence across our alumni network. From honouring Robbie MacKeigan ('69) with the Weldon Award for Unselfish Public Service to inducting new members into the Bertha Wilson Honour Society to recognizing an inspiring young alum with the Emerging Leader Impact Award, there have been no shortage of standout moments. We were also thrilled to see Clint Davis ('95) receive a Dalhousie Aurum Award for his leadership and impact on Indigenous communities. These accomplishments truly reflect the talent, commitment and spirit that make our alumni family so extraordinary.

In September, we welcomed alum back to campus for Reunion Weekend. It was a joy to watch classmates reunite, sharing stories, laughter and a little Halifax nostalgia. For many, the celebrations carried on at Domus Legis alongside current law students. We were also happy to see that our Toast & Tribute Champagne Brunch drew a record crowd, bringing together alumni and friends for a warm and memorable occasion.

Throughout the year, we had the pleasure of seeing many of you across the country at gatherings in Halifax, Charlottetown, Toronto, Calgary and Vancouver. Having the opportunity to reconnect, reunite and celebrate your achievements is truly the highlight of what we do.

We are especially grateful for the many ways you give back. Whether it's mentoring, guest lecturing, supporting scholarships, offering internships or engaging with students, your involvement makes a lasting difference and helps keep our community strong.

Today, our alumni network includes more than 8,000 graduates whose contributions continue to have an impact locally, nationally and around the world. We encourage you to stay in touch by nominating a fellow graduate for an alumni award, participating in Weldon Connects or sharing ideas for how we can celebrate and support one another.

Thank you for the important role you play at the Schulich School of Law. Your continued generosity is what helps make this community so special. We look forward to another year of shared success!



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

Ally Howard
Director, Alumni Relations,
Admissions and Recruitment

SCHOOL NEWS



2025 SMITH SHIELD MOOT

In November, more than 100 people gathered at the Weldon Law Building for the premiere event of the academic calendar, the Smith Shield Moot. With a tradition dating back to 1927, competitors are chosen from the top participants in the compulsory second-year moot.

Schulich Law students argued the case of *R. v. Brown* from the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal, focusing on a Mr. Big operation — a Canadian policing technique by which a suspect is drawn into a fictitious criminal organization to secure a confession. Associate Professor Adelina Iftene served as coach and drafted the problem.

Mooters Shawn Courtney and Maryjane Sexton represented the appellant, the Crown; while Sophia King Gillis and Julie Tremblay represented the respondent, Jerry Brown.

Sexton and Tremblay were named the winners and awarded the A.S. Pattillo Prize in Advocacy. The runners-up, Courtney and King Gillis, received the Leonard A. Kitz Prize in Advocacy. Lauren Marval served as the alternate.



PROFESSORS RECOGNIZED WITH TEACHING AWARDS

Exceptional teaching is central to the Schulich School of Law's mission. This year's recipients of the annual Teaching Awards delivered an outstanding learning experience while fostering a supportive and inclusive classroom environment.

Instruction & Scholarly Communications Librarian Hannah Rosborough received the Dalhousie Law Alumni Association & Law Students' Society (LSS) Award for Excellence in Teaching Law, demonstrated by enthusiasm, commitment, dedication and outstanding service to students. Nominations were made by current law students and the recipient was selected by a committee of students and alumni.

Associate Professor Adelina Iftene was awarded the Hannah and Harold Barnett Excellence in Teaching Award, given by the LSS to a professor who teaches first-year law. Each first-year section made a nomination and a winner was chosen by a committee of students. She was also recognized with this award in 2019.



STAFF RECEIVE DALHOUSIE LEGACY AWARDS

Adam Guzkowski and Elizabeth Sanford were recognized at the 8th annual Dalhousie Legacy Awards in a ceremony at the Dalhousie Arts Centre in November.

The event celebrated faculty and staff who received university-based awards for their achievements over the past year.

Guzkowski, Schulich Law's former assistant dean of Student and Academic Affairs, received an Early Career DPMG Award for Outstanding Achievement in recognition of their exemplary contributions to the Weldon and Dalhousie University communities.

Sanford, assistant to the dean, received the inaugural Schulich Law Staff Award for Excellence in Service in recognition of her longstanding dedication to building a supportive and welcoming atmosphere at the law school.



PICTOU WINS NS HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

In December, Dr. Sherry Pictou, professor of law and management at Dalhousie, was recognized with a 2025 Nova Scotia Human Rights Award at an event in Halifax.

The Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission presents the awards annually to acknowledge the courageous work of Nova Scotians who advance human rights in the province.

Pictou, from Bear River First Nation, was given the Wel-lukwen Award for her leadership in advancing Mi'kmaq rights, revitalizing traditional governance and confronting racism and sexism.

As a Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Governance (Tier 2), she has contributed to global discussions on food security, decolonial research methods and Indigenous sovereignty, reflecting her lifelong commitment to justice, resurgence and the strength of Mi'kmaq governance and knowledge.

"I am so humbly grateful to receive this award, acknowledging the ongoing work of not only myself but all Mi'kmaw," says Pictou.



MCGLOIN AWARDED SCHOLARSHIP

Congratulations to Kelti McGloin who was named the recipient of the 2025-2026 Dalhousie-Horrocks National Leadership Fund scholarship in October.

Awarded annually by the Department of Information Science, the scholarship benefits a Master of Information student who shows leadership potential in information management, specifically with libraries.

Established in 2007 in honour of Dr. Norman Horrocks, O.C., PhD, FCLIP, former director of Dalhousie's School of Information Management and dean of the Faculty of Management, for his leadership in the field of librarianship in North America, Australia and Europe, the fund also supports an annual named lecture on information management.

"The combined degree program has helped me develop a unique skill set that allows me to think about problems in both the legal and information sectors with creativity and rigour that neither degree alone would grant me," says McGloin.



FORD NAMED CANADA RESEARCH CHAIR

Associate Professor Violet Ford ('91) was named the Canada Research Chair (CRC) in Circumpolar Indigenous Marine Governance and International Law (Tier 1) in October as part of a national investment of more than \$690 million in science and research funding.

The CRC program recognizes scholars whose work has the potential to transform understanding and improve lives and whose research is shaping a more sustainable, just and resilient future. It supports thinkers and innovators whose discoveries push the boundaries of knowledge, while preparing the next generation to do the same through teaching, mentorship and collaboration.

For Arctic and subarctic Indigenous peoples, the ocean is central to their survival, their culture and their way of life. Yet, international marine legal frameworks still overlook their rights and laws.

"This CRC provides an opportunity for reconciliation by reclaiming, applying and creating ways for Inuit legal traditions to be recognized and legitimized within a global legal context," says Ford.



SCHULICH LAW EXCELS AT COMPETITIVE MOOTS

Congratulations to the Schulich Law teams who took home top honours in three competitive moots in 2026.

Jazmyne McLaughlin and Andrew Dogurga won the Julius Alexander Isaac Moot in Toronto, with Dogurga taking home the Top Oralist prize. The moot is named after the first Black judge to sit on the Federal Court of Canada.

Mikaleigh Cairns and Jaden Christopher were crowned the winners of the 28th annual Mathews, Dinsdale & Clark National Labour Arbitration Competition, which saw teams of two participate in a mock two-round grievance arbitration hearing before tripartite panels, arguing once for the employer and once for the union.

Eric Funk, Connor Knight, Sean Landry and Austin Stein had a first-place finish at the 35th annual Davies Corporate/Securities Law Moot, where students from Canadian law schools debate current legal issues in corporate and securities law.



PROFESSOR CHIRCOP RETIRES

In 2026, Professor Aldo Chircop (LLM '84, JSD '88) retired after 34 years of service at Dalhousie. He joined the faculty in 1992 with a joint appointment as Marine Affairs Program director.

Chircop served as director and associate director of the Marine & Environmental Law Institute, taught maritime law and the law of the sea, among other Marine & Environmental Law Program and core law courses, and supervised many grad students.

He also served as the Canada Research Chair in Maritime Law and Policy (Tier 1) and the Canadian Chair in Marine Environmental Protection at the IMO-World Maritime University in Sweden while on leave from Dalhousie. Leading numerous grant-funded projects, his publications include books, articles and chapters, as well as 25 co-edited volumes of the *Ocean Yearbook*. His *Maritime Law* opus won the Walter Owen Book Prize. He was a visiting professor at several overseas universities and a contributor to the work of UN agencies, NGOs and the Comité Maritime International.

2026 DAL AURUM AWARD RECIPIENT, CLINT DAVIS

BY STEPHANIE PATERSON

Clint Davis ('95) is a visionary Indigenous business leader dedicated to expanding Indigenous economic participation and self-determination. The 2026 Aurum Award winner was recognized with Dalhousie's alumni award in a ceremony in May. He reflects on his journey and what drives his work today.

Q What was your experience growing up, and how did it lead you to Dalhousie?

I grew up in Goose Bay, Labrador, and was primarily raised by my grandparents, who really valued education. Very few people in our extended family went on to higher education, but it was my cousin Charles who influenced me to go to university. He made the prospect of going to university feel achievable.

I enrolled in the Bachelor of Business Administration program at Acadia, where one of my favourite courses was business law. My professor, who was a lawyer, told me I should consider law school. Where I grew up, speaking to a lawyer usually meant trouble, but his encouragement changed my perception of the law and I decided to apply to Dalhousie.

A condition of my acceptance to Dal was participating in the Native Pre-Law Program at the University of Saskatchewan. We were taught by some of the most significant thinkers, leaders and professors in Indigenous law. That was the first time I became aware of the breadth of injustice faced by Indigenous people across Canada. I decided to focus on this area of law at Dal and use my business background to make a positive impact. Though I no longer practise law, the skills I developed during law school and training as a lawyer have been invaluable.

Q When did your interest in Indigenous banking and economic development start?

My interest grew out of the practice of Indigenous law and land claims. I was closely following the Nunatsiavut Government in their land claim negotiations. I accepted a position with the federal government to gain a better understanding of policy and law as it applied to these negotiations.

I worked for a Cabinet minister as a senior advisor and later as a northern advisor for the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut, as well as for Inuit issues. In the territories, I noticed a real intersection between law, business and government, and it



excited me to see what Indigenous-owned businesses were doing in this region. It also made me curious about opportunities for these businesses with greater access to financing and capital, and the potential impact on the economy.

Q How did you become connected with the organization Indspire?

I was the recipient of two Indspire scholarships to pursue my Masters of Public Administration at Harvard. For many Indigenous people like me, this type of financial support is incredibly meaningful and it made me want to give back to the organization. When I had the opportunity to join the board of directors, I immediately said yes. To help fundraise and advance Inuit inclusion in the organization was an absolute honour for me.

Q As the CEO of Cedar Leaf Capital, what is your vision for the organization?

Indigenous people, businesses and communities are significantly underrepresented within capital markets. We wanted to build something that would have an impact in a sector of Canada's economy that was challenging for Indigenous people to enter.

My vision for the company is to continue to educate, support and bring to light what it means for Indigenous participation in capital markets and the benefits to the Canadian economy. I see continued growth for the company, particularly in the next five years. We are, and will continue to be, committed to hiring, developing and training young Indigenous people.

Q What inspires or motivates you?

I live and breathe support for Indigenous business. I've worked in this area for a significant period of my life, and it's exciting to see that governments and companies are no longer asking "why do we have to work with Indigenous communities?" but "how can we work with Indigenous communities?" Despite some of the barriers that still exist, the pathway to economic empowerment is emerging, and I'm excited to be leading a company that is helping create that path.

EMERGING LEADER IMPACT AWARD RECIPIENT, MARISSA PROSPER

BY STEPHANIE HURLEY

The Dalhousie Law Alumni Association Emerging Leader Impact Award was established to recognize the exceptional accomplishments of an alum who has graduated from the Schulich School of Law within the past decade. The 2025 recipient is Marissa Prosper ('20), a Crown Attorney with the Nova Scotia Public Prosecution Service and the first Indigenous Crown in the Pictou office.

This award reflects the law school's commitment to fostering a community of excellence and inspiration by honouring 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.

When Prosper was growing up in Pictou Landing First Nation, a Mi'kmaq community located on Nova Scotia's Northumberland Strait, becoming a lawyer was something she could have only dreamed of.

"I have always been driven to make a meaningful difference in my community and Nation, and I saw education as a powerful tool to achieve that," she shares. "However, it wasn't until I was in my final year at StFX that I saw law school as an option. Up until then, I hadn't seen myself reflected in the legal profession, so it never felt like a space where I belonged."

Prosper says that discovering the Indigenous Blacks & Mi'kmaq (IB&M) Initiative at the Schulich School of Law changed that.

"It showed me that we belong in these spaces and our voices are needed. Before learning about the IB&M Initiative, I had never met an Indigenous lawyer." This shift in perspective allowed her to see the value she could bring to the legal profession, and that a legal education could be a powerful way to achieve her goals.

She applied to the Schulich School of Law and was accepted in 2016. As the first person from her family and her community to pursue a law degree, she recalls the culture shock she felt when she arrived at Weldon.

"Being the first to do anything isn't easy and the transition was harder than I expected," she admits. "Community is such a large part of Mi'kmaq identity and I found myself further away from home, my family and supports. I often felt isolated, had an overwhelming sense of self-doubt and questioned whether I belonged."

She was able to find her community through the IB&M Initiative and a welcoming faculty at the law school who helped her navigate the new environment.



"Earning my law degree and getting called to the Bar was more than just a personal goal — it was a way to empower and encourage others," she shares, adding that becoming a first-time mother during the Bar Admissions Program only deepened that commitment. "I want my daughter to grow up knowing that our voices matter and that she comes from strength as a Lnu'skw (Mi'kmaq woman)."

Prosper also passed on that knowledge to the next generation interested in law last year as project coordinator for the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society's (NSBS) internship program, Inspiring Future Indigenous Black & Mi'kmaq Lawyers Internship Pathways (IB&MIP). The program offers Indigenous Black and Mi'kmaq students in Grades 10-12, from across the province, the opportunity to be exposed to the legal profession through a week-long intensive program.

"Helping to create spaces to encourage others to see themselves reflected in law has always been a passion of mine, and my role with IB&MIP was another way for me to do that."

She is also an active committee member, serving on the the NSBS' Truth and Reconciliation Committee, the Public Prosecution Service's Equity and Diversity Committee and the Eastern Door, a committee of Mi'kmaq lawyers.

"Marissa's mentorship, collaborative approach to justice reform and ongoing advocacy for systemic change makes her an ideal recipient of the Emerging Leader Impact Award," says her nominator. "She is not only a rising leader in law, but within the Mi'kmaq Nation — she is a force for transformational change. Her work and spirit embody every element of the award: community impact, leadership and collaboration. She is a deep inspiration to others."

For Prosper, the work to make a difference in her community and Nation continues. "To use my legal education and my personal background to serve the public, as well as my community, is a dream come true."

ROBBIE MACKEIGAN RECEIVES 2025 WELDON AWARD FOR UNSELFISH PUBLIC SERVICE

The Schulich School of Law and the Dalhousie Law Alumni Association honour this year's recipient for his contributions to the community and the legal profession.

BY ALLISON LAWLOR

Robbie MacKeigan, K.C. ('69) is known and respected across the country for his expertise in bankruptcy, insolvency and business law, as well as for his dedication to public service.

"I always felt that one should, if able to, work towards bettering the community," he says. "I also thought it was important to encourage others to perform well in whatever position they had undertaken, whether it was on a board or in an organization."

This year's Weldon Award for Unselfish Public Service honours MacKeigan's legacy. Named for Richard Chapman Weldon, the law school's founding dean, the award recognizes law school alumni who have made outstanding contributions to the community and the legal profession. The Schulich School of Law's commitment to unselfish public service, referred to as the Weldon Tradition, is a guiding principle of the faculty.

"Robbie has provided truly superb, articulate, energetic and thoughtful leadership on behalf of the legal profession and the communities it serves," says James Musgrave, a friend and former colleague. "His curriculum vitae is a testament to a life of service to his community, his province and country, his colleagues and the general public good."

In 2025, MacKeigan stopped practising and stepped down from his volunteer commitments. Up until then, he worked long hours, evenings and weekends throughout his illustrious legal career that spanned more than five decades. Starting as an articled clerk at the Halifax law firm now known as Cox & Palmer in 1968, he went on to become a prominent lawyer, legal educator and speaker. In 2011, MacKeigan left to serve as counsel with Stewart McKelvey.

Growing up in Halifax, he didn't dream of becoming a lawyer. In junior high school he started what would become his life-long commitment to volunteerism. He got involved in his local church and in the Hi-Y group, sponsored by the YMCA. By Grade 12, he was president of the central council which was responsible for several dozen Hi-Y clubs. "I enjoyed having the opportunity to work with others," he says.

After earning an entrance scholarship to Dalhousie University, MacKeigan studied economics and quickly became involved in the university community. He took on leadership roles such as president of the Dalhousie Arts Society.

"For a time while at university, the last thing I wanted to do was practise law, partly because I did not want to follow my father," says MacKeigan, whose father Ian was a lawyer before becoming Nova Scotia's 19th Chief Justice. He considered continuing his studies in economics, with the idea of entering the banking field.

But after giving it additional thought and receiving encouragement from practising lawyers, he decided to pursue a law degree. At law school, he continued to give back to his community, as a member of the organizing committee for the National Centennial Conference of Canadian Law Students in 1967 and chapter president of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

In 1969, he graduated with prizes for highest academic standing in the graduating class and moved to England to pursue his Master of Laws degree at the University of London. After spending a year abroad with his wife Charlotte, who had studied nursing at Dalhousie, he returned to Halifax eager to begin his legal career.

"My father was my mentor, but in a quiet way," he says. "He found others who could help guide me."

Early on in his career, MacKeigan handled a wide range of legal matters, accepting any work given to him by the firm's senior lawyers. At that time, the city's young practising lawyers were also required to take legal aid clients, and this meant being at the law courts.

"I obtained experience appearing before the court and thinking on my feet," he shares. "It would be a rare week that I wasn't in court. I also did some prosecution and defence work in those early years."

“

**I always felt that one should, if able to,
work towards bettering the community.**

ROBBIE MACKEIGAN

”



Later in his career, he assumed a mentorship role and urged younger lawyers to gain experience in different areas.

“I encouraged them not to just think they could come out of law school and become a litigator. They needed to know something about the law they were going to litigate.”

In the late 1970s, he was acting for several banks, financial institutions and companies in financial transactions. They started confronting bad loans and were uncertain how to deal with them. “When I had my early cases, it was hard to find other lawyers in the city who had done a bankruptcy file.”

MacKeigan discussed the relevant issues with groups of lawyers and bankruptcy trustees in various parts of the country and in the early 1980s he attended conferences on bankruptcy, receivership and insolvency law. His knowledge grew, and soon he was willingly sharing his expertise with others. He lectured and presented papers at conferences held by the Canadian Bar Association and the Canadian Bankers Association, among others, and was recognized for enhancing the legal profession by also organizing conferences and seminars.

Known for his leadership and commitment to establishing high standards, he served as president of the local branch of the Canadian Bar Association in 1980 and was also active with the Nova Scotia Barristers’ Society, becoming its president in 1994.

At the Law Foundation of Nova Scotia, he was a key figure and helped to direct millions in grants to enhance legal access and justice administration in the province. As a member of the Canadian Law Information Council from 1978 to 1984, he worked to utilize computers to ensure legal information was more accessible to the public.

Beyond his legal achievements, he did extensive volunteer work with other charitable and non-profit organizations, including with Dalhousie University and as a founding director of the Atlantic Breast Cancer Foundation. His philanthropic contributions included acting as a volunteer lawyer for the Girl Guides of Canada, Nova Scotia Council, when his three daughters were young.

“My parents, siblings, my wife and our children always volunteered. It was important for all of us to give back and to help improve the community. The Weldon Tradition was really a continuation of what I learned from my family and the various activities I participated in.”

Grateful for his distinguished legal career and volunteer work, MacKeigan, a soft-spoken, unassuming man, now looks forward to spending more time at the family cottage in Hubbards, on Nova Scotia’s South Shore. It is a peaceful place where he and his family have spent much of each summer and a favourite place for their daughters, Jill, Lesley and Heather, who died in 2025.

In the words of his former colleague, retired Justice of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia, C. Richard Coughlan, “Robbie’s service was unselfish in that he never looked for credit or self-promotion — he just did the job. He is a person of great integrity.”

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 2025 BERTHA WILSON HONOUR SOCIETY INDUCTEES:



The Honourable William Brent Cotter, K.C. (LLB '74, LLM '79)

SASKATCHEWAN
Retired Senator



Karen Oldfield, K.C. ('85)

NOVA SCOTIA
Chief Executive Officer, Accelerate Nova Scotia



The Honourable Judy White, K.C. ('97)

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR
Retired General Counsel and Senator



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THE WELDON TRADITION IN ACTION

BY AMANDA KIRBY-SHEPPARD

Richard Chapman Weldon, founding dean of Dalhousie University's Faculty of Law, sought to provide students with a strong foundation in the practice of law and to instill a deep sense of responsibility, inspiring them to use the law as a tool for social change.

He believed that every lawyer, regardless of their area of practice, had an obligation to use their legal knowledge in service to the community and the greater good. This belief became known as the Weldon Tradition of unselfish public service.

More than 140 years later, that tradition continues to inspire Schulich Law alumni to uphold the highest standards of professionalism while making meaningful contributions to their communities and helping shape the broader social, cultural, economic and legal systems that influence everyday life.

This commitment takes many forms — three alumni who returned to their alma mater as faculty members reflect on how they have put the Weldon Tradition into practice in their careers through public legal education, media engagement, government and community advising, law reform efforts and mentorship.



Professor Robert Currie, K.C.

Professor Robert Currie ('98) has taught at the Schulich School of Law since 2002. He was appointed Viscount Bennett Professor of Law in 2024, a three-year position established in 1944 by the Right Honourable RB Bennett (LLB 1893, LLD 1919) that supports great teaching and meaningful contributions to scholarship and international affairs. He holds law degrees from Dalhousie Law School (LLB) and the University of Edinburgh (LLM), as well as an MA from the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs.

Currie's scholarly work focuses on the transnational and cross-border aspects of criminal law, and his publications are regularly cited by Canadian courts including the Supreme Court of Canada. He consults on cases involving extradition, mutual legal assistance, cross-border offences and extraterritorial jurisdiction and regularly contributes to judicial education and continuing legal education programs across Canada.

Inspired by the Weldon Tradition, Currie spent an academic sabbatical year in 2016-2017 working pro bono with the Criminal Appeals Office of the Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission. He regularly donates time to support legislative drafting efforts and advocacy for meaningful causes including, most recently, Ukraine's resistance to Russian aggression. Like many of his colleagues, he also provides informal consultation and mentorship to people and organizations seeking legal help in the community.

"As a graduate of this law school, the Weldon Tradition of unselfish public service is part of my DNA. It comports with my spiritual outlook and my firm belief that the stability of our democracy depends, in part, on voluntary public service," he says. "Many of our Schulich Law faculty, myself included, have engaged in law reform efforts — not for law's sake, but for society's sake. I'm happy to participate in these efforts alongside my academic colleagues and fellow alumni."



Associate Professor Maria Dugas

Associate Professor Maria Dugas (JD '15, LLM '18) joined the faculty of law in 2018 and is a proud graduate of the Indigenous Blacks and Mi'kmaq Initiative. She is also a recipient of the James Robinson Johnston Graduate Studies Scholarship and was the first African Nova Scotian to clerk at the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal.

Dugas' work focuses on critical race legal theory, criminal justice and intellectual property law. She is co-editor of the *Canadian Journal of Law and Technology* and author of numerous articles, including research centred around racism, sexism and misogyny in sports, and race and culture assessments in the sentencing of African Canadian offenders.

Through her work, she has engaged in public and judicial education about anti-Black racism in the Canadian criminal justice system at local, national and international levels. She was part of the United Nations fourth session of the International Independent Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in Law Enforcement in Geneva in 2025, and more recently has contributed to Canada's Black Justice Strategy.

"As an African Nova Scotian, I am committed to using my legal education and position at the law school to advocate for the recognition of, and remedial responses to, anti-Black racism that is embedded in our legal institutions," Dugas shares. "I am privileged to have received a legal education and take pride in using my position to advocate for my community."



Professor Emeritus A. Wayne MacKay, C.M., K.C.

A respected legal scholar, teacher and advocate, Professor Emeritus A. Wayne MacKay ('78) is widely recognized for his expertise in constitutional law and the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, as well as his longstanding commitment to social justice.

A graduate of Dalhousie Law School, he taught at his alma mater for more than 30 years, stepping away from the classroom only briefly to serve as executive director of the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission (1995-1998) and as president of Mount Allison University (2001-2004). He was invested as a Member of the Order of Canada in 2006 in recognition of his commitment and passion for human rights, equality and diversity in Canadian society.

MacKay has continued to write extensively on education law, constitutional law and human rights. He has advised legislative bodies, committees and agencies at all levels of government, and made policy recommendations on a host of topics, including as chair of the Nova Scotia Task Force on Bullying and Cyberbullying, authoring its final report "Respectful and Responsible Relationships: There's No App for That." He remains actively engaged in legal matters as professor emeritus at the law school, where he is frequently invited by the media to comment on legal issues and asked to speak at conferences or at other institutions.

"I had a desire to make a difference with my life and be a voice for justice and fairness for those on the margins of society; it was one of the main motivations that led me to study law, and specifically what drew me to Dalhousie Law School," MacKay says. "I am also a firm believer that universities have a responsibility to give back to their wider community. To me, that is the essence of the Weldon Tradition, and I have attempted to use the privilege of my law degree to continue to advance those ideals."

IN PURSUIT OF JUSTICE

Alumnus David Steeves is working to right the wrongful conviction and execution of Daniel Sampson.

BY ALLISON LAWLOR

David Steeves (LLB '03, LLM '09) remembers the first time he heard about Daniel P. Sampson, a First World War veteran from No. 2 Construction Battalion, who was executed in 1935. He was a second-year law student on a road trip from Sackville, N.B., to Halifax with poet George Elliott Clarke, who shared with him that he thought there was something wrong with the historic case.

Steeves had invited Clarke to speak as part of Law Hour, a lecture series at the Schulich School of Law that hosts prominent legal, academic and political minds. The poet and professor, who has since become his close friend, received the Governor General's Literary Award for Poetry in 2001 for his collection *Execution Poems: The Black Acadian Tragedy of George and Rue*. The poems deal with African Canadian crimes in the Maritimes and one is about Sampson.

Clarke was guest lecturing at Mount Allison University in Sackville and the only way the talk could work was if someone drove him to and from Dalhousie. Steeves didn't know it at the time, but that fateful drive would lead to his current work to exonerate Sampson and advance the first posthumous review of a capital case in Canadian legal history.

"You never know where life will take you," Steeves says. "You have to follow the opportunity."

He learned that Sampson, an African Nova Scotian labourer, was arrested for the murder of two white boys who were found dead along the railroad tracks on the outskirts of Halifax. Convicted, sentenced to death and hanged on March 7, 1935, Sampson was the last person executed in the city.

Over the last two years, Steeves' archival research has uncovered multiple pieces of new and significant evidence that strongly suggest that Sampson was wrongly convicted, and thereby unjustly executed. He has already clocked more than 1,800 pro bono hours on the case for his client, Sampson's great-great-grandson Lance Sampson.

On March 7, 2025, Lance, a musician who goes by the name Aquakultre, filed an application for ministerial review on the 90th anniversary of Sampson's death. The case is now before the federal justice minister and the Criminal Conviction Review Group. If successful, it will go before the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal where the conviction could be overturned.

Born in Halifax, the son of a nurse and an orthopaedic surgeon, Steeves went to Mount Allison University with the hopes of attending medical school. By his second year, it became clear that his aptitudes were in the humanities and student politics.

"I discovered that advocating for people was something I really enjoyed and I wanted to continue. That eventually led me to law school."

After earning an undergraduate degree in English literature and history, he went to Dalhousie where his passion for advocacy led him to pursue litigation. Upon graduation, he went on to article at Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP (Blakes) in Calgary. He was later called to the Bars of Alberta, Nova Scotia and Ontario.

On a visit home to Halifax, he stopped in at the law school and spoke with Philip Girard, then a professor at Dalhousie. With his encouragement, Steeves applied to Dalhousie's Master of Laws program where he was accepted and received a full scholarship.

During his graduate degree, he embraced the opportunity to further develop his research skills and revisit the Sampson case. In a paper he wrote for a Canadian legal history course, he delved into the historic case and explored the effects of Nova Scotia's *Juries Act*. His paper won him the inaugural Race and the Law Essay Prize created by the Race Relations Committee of the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society and was subsequently published in *The African Canadian Legal Odyssey: Historical Essays*, the first collection of African-Canadian legal history by the Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History.

In 2009, Steeves graduated with his master's degree and moved to Toronto where he and his wife later started a family. He found work at a boutique law firm and worked in litigation on everything from medical malpractice to a class action lawsuit with multiple long trials throughout Ontario.

Over the next decade, he remained connected to Sampson through invitations to speak about the case, including to students in Schulich Law's Advanced Legal Research Seminar. In 2022, while on a sabbatical to help raise his two sons, who are now 13 and nine, he was interviewed on a U.K. podcast about the case and his law research paper. Soon after, Lance contacted him.

"You never think something like that will happen when you write a paper as a graduate student," he admits.

With Lance's support, Steeves started digging into archival documents. Late one night in his Toronto home, he discovered Sampson's personal documents in the Nova Scotia Archives' online collection.



"I looked at his marriage register [from 1924] and my jaw hit the floor," says Steeves. "I saw his full signature on the document. The reason that was significant is that he was convicted principally based on a confession purportedly signed by an X."

Reflecting on the moment over two decades ago when he first learned of Sampson's case, he is thankful for where his legal studies and career have taken him since then.

"When I started working on the case, I knew I had to move it forward," he says. "I don't give up, and that often results in a lot of work, but it is meaningful work for me."

Through his extensive research, Steeves discovered that Sampson enlisted in the Canadian Army illiterate but learned how to read and write in France with No. 2 Construction Battalion. "RCMP officers at the time said that he didn't have sufficient education and didn't know how to read and write. But, that wasn't the case," says Steeves. "I believe he was wrongfully convicted."

As he continues his litigation practice, he remains committed to helping exonerate Sampson. He's motivated in part by one of the best compliments he received from a senior partner at Blakes during his articling year: "If you put a wall in front of Dave Steeves, he'll either find a way over it, around it, under it or through it."

AN UNEXPECTED PATH

Jess Simm found her calling at Dalhousie Legal Aid Service as an advocate for others.

BY ANNMARIE MACKINNON

When Jess Simm ('22) applied to the Schulich School of Law, she didn't know any lawyers. Growing up, no one in her family or social circles had been to law school and most of what she knew had come from fictional legal procedurals like Law and Order.

"Practising law just didn't feel like something that was me," she admits. "I saw the aggressive lawyers on TV and thought 'I don't think I could do that.'" Now, not only does she practise, she serves as an example of what a career focused on social justice can look like for the next generation of lawyers.

Simm took her undergraduate degree at the University of King's College where she did a double major in law, justice and society and international development. She played varsity basketball while she was there, which equipped her with the organization and time management skills she would eventually need to take on law school.

Two courses she took in her undergrad, Intro to Law and Legal Thinking, first planted the seed that pursuing law might be a good direction for her. "They inspired me and sparked the idea of going to law school. I had never done so well and loved courses so much," Simm says. "It kind of came naturally."

Once at law school, she started to see how she could apply the skills and ways of thinking a legal education provided toward the social justice and human rights issues she was growing more and more passionate about.

Between first and second year she completed a Schulich Academic Internship at the People's Legal Café, an access-to-justice project with the Canadian Rights and Freedoms Centre; then an internship with the Human Rights Commission between her second and third year clarified her direction further. But it was when she started working at Dalhousie Legal Aid Service (DLAS) in 2021, her trajectory shifted.

Simm recalls being asked to introduce herself on her first day at the Clinic and to talk about why she was there. "I remember being really firm on my answer that I was pretty sure I didn't want to practise law, but that it was a great opportunity to give it a try. I was sure I was going to talk myself out of it."

She went on to article at DLAS after graduation, and the more time she spent there, doing the work, enjoying it and seeing real-life examples of practising lawyers, the more she came around to the idea that a legal career was for her.

"I got a taste of how much I could do for social justice and human rights in Nova Scotia. I'd always had an international lens, and I'm still really interested in it, but it was shocking to me just how much work there is to do in the province. It was really inspiring and motivating."

As a student, her case work revolved largely around homelessness and residential tenancy issues. She says it was eye opening for her because there is often little the legal system can do to help people experiencing difficulties with housing security. But the bright spot in that realization was just how much her work was connected to advocacy — at DLAS she was inspired by her colleagues, whose legal work focused on the types of social issues she really cared about.

Simm left DLAS shortly after graduation for a clerkship with the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal, but returned to the Clinic when an opportunity unexpectedly arose, with her research skills honed and a refined appreciation for how the courts worked. "As much as I loved the clerkship, I knew legal aid was where I wanted to land. The judges at the Court of Appeal were extremely gracious and supportive of my decision."

Now she works primarily on cases for young people who have been charged with criminal offenses and on family law matters. Her days are busy, filled with client meetings, filings and court intakes. She also spends a significant amount of time teaching new lawyers. Simm loves seeing students who really understand and take the work seriously as she knows there can be a lot of anxiety and perfectionism around wanting to do a good job. She acknowledges that as a junior lawyer, there can be fear of making mistakes, but understands that mistakes are part of learning.

For her part, she takes a hands-on approach with the people she mentors, guiding them through court processes and what to say and do to advance their files step by step.

"Part of the uniqueness of DLAS is the teaching aspect. One of the reasons we have such a great culture is because everybody who is there wants to teach and see the students learn and grow. We all find a lot of meaning in it."

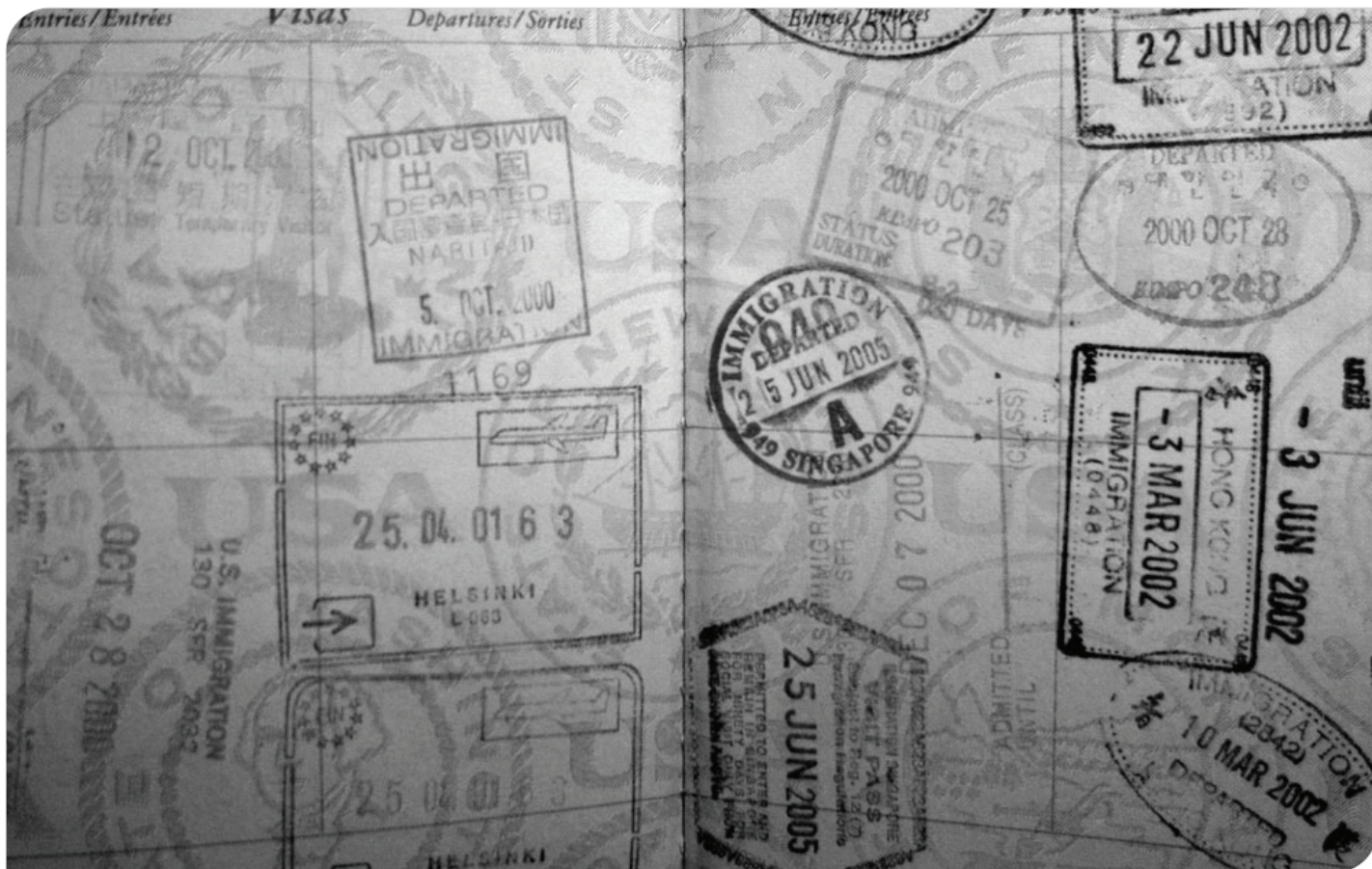
By working with students at the Clinic, she exemplifies how law and social work can be practised together.

“You’ve got to take care of yourself and make sure that you’re able to keep that passion, hunger and drive for a long time, because that’s the way that you’re going to be most effective in your role.”

Although Simm may not have had many realistic examples of lawyers growing up, her willingness to be receptive to opportunities and try new things has served her well in her career. She says she is grateful for all the opportunities she has at DLAS.

“I am confident that I have a job that I love and that motivates me,” she says. “That’s what gets me out of bed in the morning.”





FOSTERING INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

Past recipients of the J. William E. Mingo Memorial Scholarship reflect on its impact.

BY STEPHANIE HURLEY

The J. William E. Mingo Memorial Scholarship recognizes outstanding students and recent alumni of the Schulich School of Law hoping to pursue graduate studies in law outside Canada. Since 2007, this one-year scholarship has been awarded annually to students demonstrating academic excellence, leadership ability, outstanding character and a rigorous program of study.

The scholarship, valued at a minimum of \$25,000 a year, was made possible by close friends and business associates of the late William Mingo (1926-2005), honouring his career and contributions to the community and world of business.

Mingo graduated from Dalhousie Law School as the gold medalist in 1946, went on to complete a Master of Laws from Columbia University and was called to the Bar in Nova Scotia in 1950.

He practised for more than 50 years, first in litigation and later in corporate and commercial law. He was instrumental in establishing the Law Foundation of Nova Scotia and was nationally recognized as one of the founders of legal aid in Nova Scotia.

He received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Dalhousie in 1998, was appointed to the Order of Canada in 2004 and was inducted into the Nova Scotia Business Hall of Fame in 2005.

We checked in with several past recipients of the Mingo Scholarship to learn how this prestigious opportunity influenced their academic journeys and career paths.



Sarah Burton

Sarah Burton ('08), from New Glasgow, N.S., credits the Mingo Scholarship for opening doors to new opportunities. "I relied on student loans to get through law school," she shares.

"Although I wanted to continue with an LLM after graduation, that wasn't financially possible. The Mingo Scholarship changed that reality."

After graduating from the Schulich School of Law, she went on to study public law at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) in England.

In addition to having an amazing life experience overseas, her graduate studies led to her fascination with the ways that different countries evaluate common constitutional issues, and how constitutional ideas, both good and bad, migrate around the world — an area of interest that continues to play a significant role in her academic and professional life.

"I now work in law reform, and the job is honestly perfect for me. In this role, I am regularly tasked with jurisdictional scans to figure out how different places around the world respond to common societal issues. When I do this type of analysis, I am acting as one of the paths by which legal and constitutional ideas move around the world. It's fun to be on the other side of a coin that I once studied."

Burton has also continued to sow the academic seeds of interest that were planted during her time at LSE, recently completing her PhD in the law of democracy at the University of Ottawa.

"My doctoral research built on the same ideas developed during my master's, but I've adapted them to focus on contemporary patterns of democratic decline. It is a truly fascinating topic, and I am so grateful to the Mingo Scholarship for helping me on this path."

Burton, whose research interests focus on the laws that govern the democratic process, currently serves as legal research counsel at the Access to Justice and Law Reform Institute of Nova Scotia.



Ravi Amarnath

Ravi Amarnath ('13), who was born and raised in Fort Saskatchewan, Alta., looks back at his time at the Schulich School of Law with great fondness.

The Mingo Scholarship helped him afford the opportunity to attend the University of Oxford to obtain his Bachelor of Civil Law. "Without the financial support, I likely would not have gone abroad for graduate study," he admits.

"At Oxford, I had the opportunity to cross paths with brilliant legal minds from across the world who helped me shape my understanding of the law. In particular, I had the opportunity to further study constitutional rights, which is the area of law I practice today."

Over the past nine years, Amarnath has been working at the Constitutional Law Branch of the Ministry of the Attorney General in Ontario. As counsel, he has litigated constitutional cases at all levels of court, including the Supreme Court of Canada.



Teagan Markin

Teagan Markin ('17), originally from Swan River, Man., completed her Juris Doctor at the Schulich School of Law before pursuing her Master of Laws at Harvard Law School where she graduated in 2022.

Markin says that the Mingo Scholarship supported her graduate studies, building on the legal education she received at Dalhousie.

"It's exceptional for a Canadian law school to have a designated scholarship for international graduate studies and I'm grateful to have had this support. I focused on comparative constitutional law and wrote my thesis on positive constitutional rights in Canada, an issue that is currently being litigated in courts across the country and on which I've had the privilege to contribute as counsel using my Harvard studies as a foundation."

She says that an LLM degree can be a lot of different things — an opportunity to pivot into a new practice, start an academic career or simply focus in on an area of interest. “For me, studying at Harvard gave me the space to read widely and think deeply, which is sometimes hard to find in private litigation practice. Studying comparatively also gave me a new perspective on Canadian law that informs my approach to a broad range of public law issues.”

She is also grateful for the incredible friendships she formed that she says are essential to survival in a demanding career. “All of this was made possible by the Mingo Scholarship, and for that I’m most appreciative.”

Markin is currently a partner in the disputes group at Borden Ladner Gervais LLP in Toronto. Her practice focuses on public law, appellate advocacy and commercial litigation.



Caleb MacDonald

Caleb MacDonald ('24), who lives in Halifax with his wife and two sons, had a less traditional path to law school. He previously served as an officer with the Canadian Army, Special Forces and the RCMP for two

decades, then worked with the Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace, and Security, before attending the Schulich School of Law as a mature student. After graduation, he articulated with Grace Allen Immigration Law and is currently completing a Master of Science in international human rights law at the University of Oxford.

“Without the Mingo Scholarship, I would have made the pragmatic choice to work and defer my plans, putting my legal education and future career on hold. It would certainly have prevented me from volunteering for causes I care about, such as supporting civil society organizations in Ukraine to counter Russian aggression.”

MacDonald says the faculty at Oxford are world-class and, beyond being leading experts in their fields, are genuinely kind and supportive. “During my upcoming summer residency, I will have the unique opportunity to learn from current and former UN Special Rapporteurs,” he says. “The connections I have made through my program have led to my involvement in some exciting international human rights projects and to further educational opportunities.”

He shares that being chosen for the scholarship from a pool of incredibly talented students and lawyers was both humbling and the injection of confidence he needed.

“As a middle-aged veteran, switching career paths has been an adjustment, and one that has prompted much reflection. Receiving this scholarship reaffirmed my decision to transition to a career in law, and more specifically, one in human rights.”

He recalls meeting with William Mingo’s friends and learning more about his legacy which reinforced the importance of the Weldon Tradition of unselfish public service. “This program has empowered me to continue on my current trajectory. I hope to carry on the Weldon Tradition in some small way, either through continued direct action or research and advocacy.”

EMBRACING THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT

BY ALLISON LAWLOR

Three law alumni took distinct paths into entrepreneurship in the premium beverage market in Atlantic Canada: Ashley McConnell-Gordon helped to build a farm winery, Sonja Mills opened a craft brewery and Josh Judah started a boutique distillery. They share one common ingredient — a legal education from Dalhousie, which helped propel their ventures to the next level. Producing high-quality products customers enjoy is more than enough reason for them to raise a glass.



Ashley McConnell-Gordon, Benjamin Bridge

More than 17 years after temporarily stepping into her family's farm winery business in Nova Scotia's Gaspereau Valley, Ashley McConnell-Gordon ('09) can't imagine working in any other industry.

"I call the business my first born. I wake up, go to sleep and I dream it. It is something that is a part of me," shares McConnell-Gordon, executive vice president of external affairs at Benjamin Bridge.

She didn't plan to run the acclaimed wine house that produces traditional-method sparkling wines and the iconic, semi-sweet Nova 7, but a temporary move soon became a permanent life decision.

Three months into her articling at a small civil litigation boutique firm in Calgary, she got a call from her mom Dara saying she had terminal cancer. She immediately suspended her articles and went home to Nova Scotia.

During the next few months, McConnell-Gordon and her twin sister, Devon, a Master of Architecture graduate from Dalhousie, learned everything they could from their mom about running the family winery before she passed away of uterine cancer. At the time, it was a small farm-based business. Today, Benjamin Bridge employs about 50 full-time staff, with additional employees joining their team during the busy summer season.

McConnell-Gordon's parents served as successful examples of law grads who had taken non-traditional career paths. In 1987, Gerry left his Halifax law practice to follow his enterprising spirit and go into the mining business. He became president and CEO of Halifax-based Etruscan Resources Inc. Dara, who was also a lawyer, became a partner with the Halifax office of McInnes Cooper. In 1999, they started Benjamin Bridge together.

By the spring of 2010, McConnell-Gordon realized she couldn't return to articling. Instead, she and her sister understood that they would need to find a way to carry the family business forward if they were to fulfill their parents' vision.

"They were such proud Maritimers," she says. "They had a vision of contributing to the sustainable, responsible development of rural Nova Scotia in a way that would help our communities and shine a spotlight on the distinctiveness and greatness of the Maritimes."

McConnell-Gordon has since built a life that spans two provinces. She and her partner, Steven Kley ('09), senior legal counsel at ATCO, are raising their two children in Calgary, while her sister Devon lives just minutes from the winery in Nova Scotia. To stay closely connected to the business, she travels to the Gaspereau Valley each month and keeps Nova Scotia working hours from Alberta, beginning each workday at 5:15 a.m.

She credits her legal education for giving her the foundation to produce and market some of Canada's top sparkling wines.

"As law graduates, we learn how to think strategically about how the next step influences what is coming down the line. I think we are great at drawing connections and coming up with a variety of solutions," she says. "We also have a willingness to do the work that others find tedious. By that, I mean reading the fine print. Even to this day, I volunteer to read the full contract and review it with a supplier from all angles."

Recently, Benjamin Bridge embarked on a new chapter. In March 2025, Murphy Hospitality Group, which includes 15 food and beverage operations, two boutique hotels and the Prince Edward Island Brewing Company, became an equal equity partner in

the company. McConnell-Gordon continues to support business growth, manage external affairs, serve on the board of Wine Growers Nova Scotia and contribute to the development of distinct products. Currently, Benjamin Bridge is working with the National Research Council of Canada to advance proprietary biotechnology for ultra-low and alcohol-free wines.

“There are a lot of fun pieces to figure out in a winery,” she says. “The puzzling and the mapping out are part of my legal training. It sparks things for me.”



Sonja Mills, Port Rexton Brewing Co.

Long before she opened a craft brewery on Newfoundland’s East Coast, Sonja Mills (LLB/MBA ’07) had the entrepreneurial itch. She knew she couldn’t ignore it forever, but she hadn’t yet found the right outlet.

“I always wanted to be my own boss,” says Mills, co-owner of Port Rexton Brewing Co. “I have ideas and I want to execute them. I want the freedom and the flexibility to create my own opportunities.”

In July 2016, her entrepreneurial dream came true when she and her business partner, Alicia MacDonald, opened Port Rexton Brewing in the scenic coastal town, about a three-hour drive from St. John’s. Opening day was July 23rd, coinciding with Port Rexton Day. “A whole crowd of locals arrived all at once,” she recalls. “They were at other events that day, and then they came to check out this brewery that was opening. That was really cool.”

In 2024, Mills and MacDonald were named Atlantic Canadian Entrepreneur of the Year by EY. They continue to work full-time with the brewing company. At the height of the busy summer season the business, which includes a tap room, employs up to 20 people. Year-round they have about nine full-time positions.

Growing up in Clarendville, close to Port Rexton, Mills had an up-close view of what practising law entailed. Her father ran a general practice, later specializing in fisheries law. Recognizing

her own entrepreneurial spirit, she eventually chose to take the joint LLB/MBA program at Dalhousie. She continues to draw on several courses from her MBA, including managerial accounting, finance and marketing, to help manage her company. She also regularly finds herself incorporating her legal and ethics training to help with decision-making.

“In law school I learned how to look at things critically. It helped me to exercise judgment, mitigate risk and to see things in a logical manner.”

After graduating from Dalhousie, Mills went to Toronto to article with lawyer William Sharpe, who practised maritime law. She then moved to Vancouver and worked for Giaschi and Margolis, a boutique law firm that specialized in Canadian maritime law, admiralty law and marine insurance, where she worked for three years before returning to the East Coast.

In the early 2010s, she and MacDonald were living in Halifax and enjoying the emerging craft beer scene. Mills was practising law and MacDonald was working towards becoming a nurse practitioner, but both had a deep desire to own their own business.

“It was an exciting time for craft beer in Nova Scotia. All these breweries were just starting to open. I was travelling around, checking them out and having fun, but it never occurred to me that this could be a business I could run.”

MacDonald started experimenting with homebrewing and planted the idea of opening a brewery. When Mills learned that her father had amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), she wanted to be closer to her family. From there, everything quickly began to fall into place. After years of trying different things and moving around, they found a property, secured funding, purchased equipment and opened Port Rexton Brewing.

Her partner continues to work as the lead brewer, while Mills takes care of the administration and business side of things. She’s now having fun developing intricate spreadsheets in Excel to automate and create efficiencies that give her quick access to data to help with forecasting and sales. These systems also allow her to work remotely — sometimes as far away as the Faroe Islands.

“We always want to evolve, whether that is coming up with the latest beer styles or pushing boundaries. But we don’t necessarily need to be the biggest,” she says. “Right now, we are like a small family and we want to keep that culture and that feeling. Bigger is not always better. It’s about finding that balance.”



Josh Judah, Compass Distillers

Josh Judah ('98) didn't set out to be an entrepreneur. In fact, he tried to avoid private practice when he became a lawyer, choosing a career as a prosecutor for the Halifax Regional Municipality instead. But when two of his closest friends suggested opening a craft distillery, he liked the idea.

Nine years ago, Judah, along with Graham Collins and David LaGrand — best friends since junior high school — opened Compass Distillers in Halifax's North End neighbourhood as a passion project.

"We approach it with the philosophy that we can't ever let this venture get in the way of our friendship," says Judah, who is a co-owner.

It all began with a shared belief in the joy of making high-quality local products. For their spirits, they use Nova Scotian grain and locally foraged and farmed plants. Their popular Gin Royal contains local honey products, with a portion of all the proceeds donated to the Nova Scotia Beekeeping Association. "We are producing products we are proud of," he adds.

To get started, the friends, two lawyers and a mechanical engineer, transformed a former bike shop into a cylindrical-shaped tower that houses a rounded bar, tasting room and a two-storey Airbnb above the distillery. They bought a still from Kentucky and started by making vodka. Not long after, they were recognized with the 2018 Nova Scotia Distillery of the Year award.

In his current position, as team lead for the prosecution division of legal services for the Halifax Regional Municipality, Judah's primary role is to prosecute regulatory offenses, with a focus on building code, fire code and land use bylaws. His status as one of the founding owners of Compass Distillers now takes up a tiny fraction of his working hours, as they hired staff and Collins, who recently retired from his engineering job, acts as general manager.

Outside of work, Judah is one of the country's most successful debate coaches, working with students at Halifax Grammar School and managing the national team. Every year, Canada's best

high school debaters compete internationally, culminating in the World Schools Debating Championships. In recent years, Canada has won two world titles and placed second several times.

"The key to debating is clarity in what you are presenting and listening carefully to what the other side is presenting. Don't assume you know. It's a lot like trial law," he says.

Growing up in Halifax's South End neighbourhood, the son of a doctor and nurse who emigrated from India in the 1960s, Judah joined Gorsebrook Junior High School's debate club in Grade 7. He never looked back, continuing throughout high school and university.

"In debating and in law, I like analyzing arguments and trying to come up with strategies," he says.

During his undergraduate philosophy degree at the University of King's College, he and a friend volunteered to run Gorsebrook's debate club. One lunch hour a week, they coached the students and when a tournament rolled around, Judah loaded kids into his dad's car, driving sometimes as far away as Montreal.

After completing his undergraduate degree, he spent several years working for Halifax Public Libraries, where he developed a life-long commitment to adult learning and literacy, before deciding to attend law school.

"In law school, I really started to think like a lawyer. I remember in a contracts class we were asked to do a chamber application. I learned how to string ideas together to make a legal argument and to represent my position."

He articulated with the Nova Scotia Department of Justice after graduating from law school in 1998, and then worked in private practice for two years doing criminal defence and immigration cases with David J. Cook and Associates. During that time, he also started working with the Halifax Refugee Clinic, providing advice and conducting hearings for people seeking refugee status in Canada. He now serves on the board.

Judah has maintained his keen sense of social responsibility to the community where he grew up and continues to call home.

"I think people need to be given real opportunities," he says. "I've had a million terrific opportunities and a really blessed life."



“

This internship was truly invaluable, shaping the kind of advocate I aspire to be.

ADRIENNE GRAHAM

”

FROM AMBITION TO ACTION

Adrienne Graham's drive to secure an internship in criminal defence helped lay the foundation for her future.

BY STEPHANIE HURLEY

When Adrienne Graham began her search for a Schulich School of Law summer internship, she was determined to gain hands-on experience in criminal defence. Her goal was to deepen her understanding of what makes a criminal defence practice successful, while applying and further developing the legal skills and knowledge she had acquired through her studies.

With internship opportunities typically reserved for students working at not-for-profit organizations, she knew it could be challenging to find this specific type of position. As a result, she spent her second year of law school reaching out to as many lawyers as possible, including in her hometown of Kingston, Ont., in hopes of finding someone interested in hiring her.

Graham's persistence paid off when she connected with Sarah Black, founder and lead lawyer of the small, all-female team at Kingston-based Black Criminal Law. She discovered that the firm focused exclusively on criminal defence and assisted many marginalized clients trying to navigate the criminal justice system, particularly those struggling with mental health and addiction.

She quickly realized she could make a pitch to the law school for internship funding and met with Schulich Law Dean Sarah Harding ('89) to share her idea. "She was fully on board and recommended that I propose a specific project I could work on during my internship that would benefit the community. I am very grateful for Dean Harding's support and that my internship proposal was accepted."

Graham started at Black Criminal Law in late April 2025. From her very first day she was immersed in every aspect of the firm's practice. "My involvement spanned the full spectrum of criminal defence work, from client meetings to reviewing disclosure to Crown pre-trial meetings."

She also worked on a research project focused on the deteriorating conditions in provincial jails including overcrowding, excessive lockdowns due to staffing shortages and access to justice issues. Researching and writing the report helped inform her of some of the ongoing challenges that defence lawyers and clients are experiencing.

Graham shares that the most memorable moment of her internship experience was going on the record for the first time. "I sat in on many case management court proceedings where Ms. Black, and her associate Ms. Pollard, helped encourage and prepare me for this next step," she recalls. "I made a total of five

appearances and each time I felt more comfortable thinking on my feet. While they were all brief, it was an important milestone in my career!"

The internship also taught her how to approach each file with the utmost care. She watched Ms. Black tailor her meetings for each client — from the complexity of the explanation she provided to the emotional support she offered to the community partners she recommended. "I learned that clients appreciate being told the hard truths, no matter how difficult they are to hear, and it often made a difference in how they engaged with the rehabilitative steps they were taking."

Participating in Crown pre-trial meetings also taught her about the art of negotiation: how to be firm yet fair, how to advocate without compromising ethics and how to highlight the meaningful steps clients have taken to turn their lives around.

Graham also gained firsthand experience navigating the profession as a woman and managing the difficult situations and cases often prevalent in criminal law.

"I learned from two amazing female lawyers who were invested in my development and valued my contributions. They were so dedicated to their clients and to achieving the best outcome." She felt support from the criminal Bar in Kingston as well, with other lawyers making time to speak with her and inviting her to watch proceedings.

Through her experience at Black Criminal Law, she deepened her understanding of what it means to be an effective, ethical and compassionate defence advocate.

"This internship was truly invaluable, shaping the kind of advocate I aspire to be," she shares.

"I had an idea going into law school that I wanted to pursue criminal law, but this experience confirmed that it is the right fit for me. Seeing people in this field who enjoy and feel passionate about their work, even on challenging days, was truly inspiring."

Graham graduated in May 2026 and will be clerking at the Federal Court in Ottawa for a year, after which she hopes to move into a career in criminal defence.

The Schulich School of Law's Internship Program has awarded \$3.3 million in support and placed over 557 students with 295 organizations since launching in 2009, making it the largest paid summer law internship program in the country.



THE EVOLUTION OF HEALTH LAW

Alumni share insights on their legal training,
professional journeys and the future of the field.

BY ALISON DELORY

The Schulich School of Law at Dalhousie is known across the country for its rich expertise in health law. In fact, Dalhousie is the only university in Canada that offers a combined Juris Doctor/Master of Health Administration (JD/MHA) degree.

In 1999, the Dalhousie Health Justice Institute (DHJI) introduced a Health Law & Policy specialization at the law school, preparing students to excel in one of the fastest-growing areas of practice. Since its inception, there have been 184 graduates.

We spoke to alumni who work in this field about what drew them to study health law, where it has taken them and what they see on the horizon.



Mandy Woodland

It has been two decades since Mandy Woodland ('06) graduated with her Bachelor of Laws degree and a Health Law & Policy Certificate.

With a background in science and medical research, law school was not in Woodland's sights until a friend nudged her to consider it. She says that studying health law gave her the opportunity to do amazing things, including a placement at the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal and a research assistant position with Professor Michael Hadskis ('89).

One of her earliest legal assignments in 2007 was working on the Cameron Inquiry, a public judicial inquiry into missed and incorrect breast cancer diagnoses in Newfoundland and Labrador.

"Because of what I had done and experienced at law school, I had the once-in-a-career opportunity to work directly for the Inquiry's commissioner. That experience was life changing and ties into everything I do right now."

In her current job as Director of Business Development with the Nova Scotia Health Innovation Hub, Woodland is creating strategies and partnerships that close the gap between what health technology can do and what patients can access. The path forward, she says, will be found at the intersection of commercial strategy, digital health and the practical realities of health-care delivery.

"The work that Nova Scotia Health has been doing on broader ways of thinking and opportunities for delivering care, better care, more care, while also managing a very challenging physical situation and an aging and unhealthy population, has been great."

She references the [lung clinic that opened at Dalhousie](#) last year in collaboration with Nova Scotia Health, the Lung Association of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island and global biopharma company GSK, as an example. It has already reduced Nova Scotians' wait times for spirometry while more spirometrists, spirometry technicians and respiratory technicians are being trained.

Woodland borrows the phrase 'coalitions of the willing' to describe such alignments between government, philanthropic partners, post-secondary institutions and industry, and credits studying law as giving her the background to conceive of, analyze and evaluate opportunities. "Law is such good, foundational training for critical thinking. With how fast things move in innovation, the ability to think critically is going to be a massively differentiated skill in the workforce."

Living with diabetes and serving as a volunteer educator and national advocate for diabetes patients also gives her a personal reference point with respect to health equity and what is possible.

"Everyone interacts with health care in some way as a human. But having a complex chronic disease completely shifts your understanding of where the challenges and the opportunities lie," Woodland says.

She recalls noticing the absence of a sharps disposal container in staff washrooms when she began a new job, taking it upon herself to point that out to her employer. She continues to ask questions around accessibility and to explore what efforts can be made to improve systems.



Nick Hooper

It has been nine years since Nick Hooper (JD '17, LLM '18) first graduated from Schulich Law with his Juris Doctor, and eight years since earning his Master of Laws. He is now a partner at Wagners Law

Firm, where he did his articles, leading its plaintiff-side medical negligence practice group for all four Atlantic provinces.

His interest in health law was piqued when his coursework in law school touched on medical malpractice, and he saw how it would incorporate his interests in tort law and litigation while allowing him to help others. It is also an area of practice that requires constant learning, which appeals to Hooper. He shares that with medical negligence claims there is an opportunity to constantly engage with experts as well as shifting standards of care.

While the work can be heavy — with clients often having suffered catastrophic injuries — he enjoys the challenge of determining what principles to apply in any given case. "Every case is different,

and the clinical context is always different in a way that I find interesting. There really are no legal presumptions,” he explains.

Hooper has also been an assistant professor at the Schulich School of Law since 2024, teaching Advanced Negligence: Medical Malpractice. “It’s nice to go to the law school once a week and to hear perspectives from students. It reminds me why I got into it. Teaching has made me a much better lawyer,” he says.

“Many times, in my day-to-day job I’ve thought of something, or been able to raise a legal argument, that would not have been available to me without the immersion that’s required to teach the course.”

Though he has many years of practice ahead of him, Hooper believes he’ll continue working within medical malpractice, especially after honing his skills and building collegial relationships in this sub-specialty. “I don’t see myself doing anything else,” he adds. “I would encourage anyone who has an interest, the way I did as a student, to consider pursuing a career in this area.”



Heather Webster

It has been seven years since Heather Webster (JD/MHA ’19) graduated from the Schulich School of Law at Dalhousie.

“The courses I took at Dal in the JD/MHA program set me up well to practice health

law,” Webster says. “I had extra exposure to hospital operations and health-system governance issues, which has really enabled me to understand the issues our clients are facing and the context in which they are operating.”

She had barely begun her career with one of Canada’s pre-eminent health law firms, Borden Ladner Gervais (BLG) in Toronto, when the COVID-19 pandemic struck.

With no other choice but to dive right in, visitor restrictions and the credentialing of healthcare workers who were not complying with COVID-related policies were top among the issues she was tasked with helping hospitals address.

“Representing and advising hospitals on issues related to the pandemic was particularly interesting,” she says. “The pandemic presented novel issues, and clients were forced to rapidly adapt to constantly evolving circumstances. It was meaningful to be part of a team assisting healthcare organizations with navigating an incredibly difficult time.”

While COVID-related legal issues may have waned in more recent years, her interest in health law has not.

“Every day, I have the privilege of doing health law work,” says Webster, who is now a senior associate at BLG. A typical day at the office could include representing healthcare organizations in medical malpractice litigation, medical leaders in physician credentialing matters and hospitals in administrative proceedings, such as coroner’s inquests. She also gives advice to healthcare providers on a range of matters, from regulatory college proceedings to end-of-life issues, like those related to medical assistance in dying.

Questions regarding the use of AI in healthcare are also regularly on Webster’s mind. She says, as one example, hospitals are currently piloting AI software that could review triage data and anticipate next steps, like ordering blood work or tests. “We’re thinking a lot about AI in the delivery of healthcare, along with how to manage the risk issues that may arise from its use.”

Reflecting on what she values most about her education, she highlights the mentoring and networking opportunities she had in the health law community at Dalhousie, which continue to serve her today.

“I made so many connections in the healthcare sector. I have mentors I met almost 10 years ago, whom I still go to for guidance.” She makes a point to return that kindness as she’s able, sharing that she always enjoys picking up the phone if a Dal student calls. “There’s a real sense of community among people who practise health law.”

Webster shares that she has also experienced firsthand some of the issues she faces at work, both as a new parent and a child of aging parents. “Practising in this space does change your experience, as a patient and as a family member, in part because you see what’s happening behind the scenes.”

She says her deep knowledge of health law makes her more empathetic. “I think it’s fair to say I’m more understanding of the pressures individual care providers are facing, as well as the system pressures. I’ve come to see how challenging it is and how much providers, as well as the system, need to carry.”



Lauren Rogers

Only a few months have passed since Lauren Rogers (JD/MHA ’26) graduated from Dalhousie University with a combined Juris Doctor and Master of Health Administration.

Rogers chose to come to Halifax specifically for the combined degree program without ever having been and says she has zero regrets. “It’s intriguing to learn about the breadth of health law at Schulich Law,” she says. “There’s no comparator. I have had the chance to learn from so many experts in their fields, like Professor Matthew Herder.”

She was a member of the Dalhousie Health Law Students Association throughout law school and also became involved with the DHJI, whose members’ research focuses on the advancement of health law and policy and the improvement of healthcare practices and health systems.

She received the University Medal in Law upon graduation for earning the highest GPA in her class and is now articling with Lerner LLP in her hometown of London, Ont. Having recently written the Ontario Bar exam, she will rotate through various types of practice with the firm and hopes to get involved in its work representing the Canadian Medical Protective Association.

Before law school, Rogers had trained as a registered nurse, following in her mother’s footsteps, and practised with University Hospital at the London Health Sciences Centre. There, she noticed law and policy matters kept coming up. As a nurse working the frontline during COVID, she says it became obvious to her how the social determinants of health, such as income, employment and housing, impact patient outcomes. It also drove home the ways that health and justice need to work together.

“I realized I wanted to make a more upstream impact. With nursing, you’re focused on making a difference in that moment. Even something as simple as getting a warm blanket for a patient can greatly increase their comfort.” And while she found that work rewarding, she began to realize she wanted to proactively affect systemic change. “I couldn’t shift that overall trajectory as a nurse and I wanted to make a positive impact more broadly. Practising health law gives me that opportunity.”

As she’s just beginning her legal career, Rogers is staying open to what may come her way. She believes factors including AI, climate change’s impact on health, strained health-care human resources and an aging population with more chronic needs, will play into her work.

“All these combined elements of law and policy reinforce the importance of health and justice working together.”

Community Health Justice Partnerships Practicum

Going forward, that wide-angle lens will be the focus of the Schulich School of Law’s new Community Health Justice Partnerships Practicum, which will launch in September 2026. The practicum will bring together law and social work students for interprofessional engagement in the classroom and critically reflexive service learning at three partnered sites, focused on Indigenous Health Justice (at the Mi’kmaw Native Friendship Centre), Prison Health Justice (at East Coast Prison Justice/PATH Legal) and Disability Justice (at Progress Place/Prescott Group).

Through the course, community justice workers, health professionals, lawyers and students will work together to advance equitable access to the social determinants of health and to challenge denials of rights in health, justice and community services.

“The DHJI’s Community Health Justice Partnerships Practicum offers law and social work students a rare opportunity to reflect critically and holistically on the conditions of sustainable social justice lawyering,” says Professor and DHJI Director Sheila Wildeman (’99), who was a driving force behind the creation of the practicum.

“Each of the sites will build on the deep community connections DHJI faculty have developed over the years through research, teaching and service relating to health-harming injustices — such as colonialism, criminalization, institutionalization and poverty.”

A new Community Chair, Laura Blythe, joined the law school on July 1 to lead the practicum. She brings to the role both clinical social justice lawyering experience, including leading high-profile challenges to British Columbia’s psychiatric detention and adult protection systems, as well as insights on systemic advocacy acquired as co-founder and legal director of the non-profit Health Justice BC.

Growing area of practice

The Schulich School of Law provides JD and graduate students with one of the largest collections of health law and policy classes in Canada. In addition to the specialization, the DHJI offers lectures and classes to students in the faculties of medicine, dentistry and health at the undergraduate, graduate and continuing education levels.

Through its robust and ever-expanding academic, extracurricular and experiential learning offerings, Dalhousie is taking the lead when it comes to training a new generation of students in health law — one of the profession’s fastest-growing areas of practice and a field that alumni say is deeply rewarding.

CARRYING ON A LEGACY

New Harry Critchley Prison and Police Justice Fund honours a beloved alumnus by creating opportunities for future graduates.

BY AMANDA KIRBY-SHEPPARD

Some legacies are measured in years. Others are measured in lives changed.

Harry Critchley ('22), who passed away on February 21, 2025, had a profound impact on the people around him. He was a passionate advocate, community builder, husband, father and lawyer, who devoted his life to advancing justice for people often overlooked by society. Now, a new opportunity named in his memory will ensure that his commitment to prison and police justice will continue for generations to come.

Launched in October 2025, the Harry Critchley Prison and Police Justice Fund was created to support a full-time articling position for a Schulich Law graduate in a highly specialized area of public-interest law. The successful applicant will work at PATH Legal, a Halifax-based social justice law firm focused on prison law, police accountability, constitutional litigation and systemic advocacy. The role will contribute to the mandates of two other local organizations closely connected to Harry, the East Coast Prison Justice Society (ECPJS) and the Elizabeth Fry Society of Mainland Nova Scotia (EFMNS), reflecting his belief in connecting law graduates with meaningful, justice-centred articling opportunities that might not otherwise exist.

Long before becoming a lawyer, Harry was working alongside incarcerated people, where he introduced a community-based humanities curriculum at the Burnside jail while studying at the University of King's College. In 2017, before he had even enrolled at the Schulich School of Law, he was part of a group of lawyers, academics and advocates who co-founded ECPJS, which he co-chaired from 2020 on with his future Schulich Law Professor, Sheila Wildeman ('99). Together, with Wildeman and fellow alumna Hanna Garson ('17), Harry introduced the ECPJS toll-free jail line providing legal information, referrals and advocacy to provincially incarcerated people. Over the next few years, his leadership on civil oversight of jail conditions and police accountability were instrumental in shaping policy and public discourse.

"Beyond his incredible energy, Harry was an extraordinary legal analyst and strategist — equal parts creative and exact," shares Wildeman. "Most impressive to me was how he did not let his formidable intellect obscure his kind, curious, grounded sensibility, which quickly warmed people to him, even at some of the most difficult times of their lives."

His sudden passing last year was deeply felt across the legal and advocacy communities, not only because of what he had achieved but because of the promise he represented.

For the organizations he helped build, this placement is unique as it is about more than developing legal skills; it is also about building a living legacy of Schulich School of Law alumni committed to the same ethos Harry embodied: patient, principled, community-first advocacy that challenges inequality and insists on dignity for all. By creating an articling position in prison and police law — an opportunity that rarely exists for new graduates — the fund helps remove barriers for aspiring advocates to safeguard the work he cared about most.

Emma Halpern (LLB '06, LLM '24), co-founder of PATH Legal and EFMNS executive director, first met Harry at a talk she gave about prison justice in 2015. She credits his work as a volunteer and summer student for the organization's expanded services in Truro and programs addressing gender-based violence.

"Harry's incredible dedication to mentoring and supporting law students, advocating for vulnerable and marginalized people in the legal system and fighting for the human rights of all people through essential prison and policing reforms, lives on through this fund in his memory," says Halpern.



Fittingly, the first recipient of funding for the PATH Legal articling clerk position is Schulich School of Law grad Anna McAlpine ('26), whose experiences and values closely align with the work Harry championed.

Originally from Toronto, McAlpine developed a strong interest in human rights and equity while studying at Queen's University and volunteering as a crisis responder at the Kingston Sexual Assault Centre. When she arrived at Schulich Law, she quickly became involved with the organizations Harry helped create. During her first month of law school, she attended an ECPJS annual general meeting and heard him speak about prison and policing justice.

"Although I never properly met Harry, he was, and still is, a role model for me, standing as an example of what passionate law students and lawyers can do if they work hard and think creatively," she explains.

McAlpine later joined PATH Legal as a volunteer and legal intern, contributing to parole files and advocacy initiatives. She also worked at the Restorative Research, Innovation and Education Lab at the law school and conducted research related to sexual violence prevention and response. Her commitment to addressing systemic injustice, combined with her experience and dedication to community-centred advocacy, made her a natural choice as the fund's first articling student. "It is a huge honour to be selected as the first Harry Critchley Fund articulated clerk. I hope to be one of many doing my part to carry his vision forward."

At PATH, she will work directly with clients, contribute to constitutional and systemic litigation and support police accountability initiatives — work that embodies the spirit of Harry's legacy.

"Because of the generosity of Harry's large and supportive community, his tireless commitment to social change will continue through the vision and hard work of the students who follow in his footsteps and learn from his courageous and inspiring life," Halpern adds.

Cydney Kane ('22), president of the EFMNS Board of Directors, shares that she thinks Harry would have loved this initiative and the fact that it is geared towards articling students.

"Not only will this mean more legal services available to those who are incarcerated, criminalized or harmed by the justice system, but it will equip future lawyers to continue practicing police and prison law once called to the Bar," says Kane. "This initiative has the power to exponentially expand legal services to vulnerable populations in our region."

By supporting future advocates and strengthening the organizations Harry was passionate about, the Harry Critchley Prison and Police Justice Fund will ensure that one remarkable alumnus' commitment to dignity, compassion and systemic change will continue to shape the legal profession for years to come.

To learn more or to donate to the Harry Critchley Prison and Police Justice Fund, please visit the EFMNS's website

efrymns.ca

GROUNDING BY HIS ROOTS

Joseph Chedrawe's career has taken him far, but home remains close to his heart.

BY JEREMY HULL

At first glance, Joseph Chedrawe's K.C. ('05) career might appear to be ahead of schedule.

He shares that just as lawyers typically become judges a bit later in their careers, they usually become full-time international arbitrators later, often in their 60s. Chedrawe reached the milestone at 43.

"My parents still have my second grade class project where we were asked what we wanted to be when we grew up. I drew myself wearing a suit and holding a briefcase, and underneath it, I wrote l-o-y-e-r. How does a seven-year-old even know the word 'lawyer?'"

He says it started with his family. "In Lebanese families, there's a tradition of identifying strengths in children early on."

In addition to talking and reading at a young age, he loved asking questions and admits he was probably argumentative enough for his family to decide he should become a lawyer. Curiosity did the rest.

"Law is a fascinating form of structured problem solving," he says. "You work within an existing framework, which is the law, to achieve a solution to a problem."

That puzzle has taken him from Canada to the United Kingdom, South Africa, and in 2012, the United Arab Emirates, where he built an international practice at global law firms as counsel in over 50 international arbitrations across more than 50 countries. In 2024, he was appointed King's Counsel. The following year, he launched Chedrawe Arbitration.

"My Dalhousie Law School education gave me the confidence to quickly adapt, stay grounded and thrive in different professional environments, both in Canada and on the international stage. Even today, more than 20 years later, I'm still grateful for that foundation."

He has also been teaching the International Commercial Arbitration intensive at the Schulich School of Law since 2017. Travelling from Dubai to Halifax every year allows him to spend more time with family. His grandparents immigrated to Nova Scotia in 1962.

"They didn't speak English and had modest beginnings," Chedrawe says. "In 1972, they opened a convenience store in North End Dartmouth called JC's that stayed in our family for four decades. We lived in the apartment upstairs for most of it, and we all worked in the store."

He says his achievements are shared with his family because his life was built on a foundation of sacrifice by earlier generations. "Growing up in a close Lebanese Canadian community in Halifax instilled in me a strong sense of family, gratitude, ambition and responsibility from a very early age. Those are all values I carry with me today."

After graduating from law school, where he was the recipient of the faculty's premier scholarship, he became the first lawyer in his family. He later went to Oxford on a fellowship where he obtained his Master of Philosophy in Law and became a college lecturer.

Chedrawe says he found new meaning in legal practice when he worked with the late George Bizos SC, Nelson Mandela's lawyer of 50 years.

"My time in South Africa working at the constitutional litigation unit reinforced that, at its best, law is an instrument for the realization of human dignity." Working alongside one of South Africa's most celebrated legal figures confirmed that he wanted to build an international practice. He was drawn to Dubai because he speaks Arabic, knows the Middle East and was intrigued by the opportunity to work in an emerging legal frontier in international arbitration.

Chedrawe has since practised law all around the world, focusing on construction, energy and commercial disputes involving multinational corporations and state entities.

"The arbitral landscape evolves so rapidly," he says. "We have a real opportunity to help navigate and shape emerging procedural, jurisdictional and institutional questions."

After nearly two decades of practice, and with a growing demand for him to sit as an arbitrator, he decided to go independent soon after his daughter was born. "My success is now measured by the amount of meaningful time I'm able to share with my family," he says, indicating that independence allows him to structure work around life and prioritize his time intentionally.

Although he has a community among other arbitrators, his legal roots are at the Schulich School of Law. He says Dalhousie complemented his values and fed the intellectual curiosity that helped drive his career. It's part of why he returns every year.

He owes part of his teaching career to a chance encounter at Oxford with colleague and former Schulich Law Dean Camille Cameron. He sent her a congratulatory email when she became dean, and she replied inviting him to meet when he was next in Halifax.

“We chatted about my practice in international arbitration and she quickly flagged potential student interest and asked whether I’d be interested in originating and teaching an upper-year intensive.”

That conversation led to him paying forward the support he received in university.

“Teaching is one of the most meaningful privileges of my life. Students ask incisive questions, challenge assumptions and force you to revisit ideas that you might otherwise take as a given.”

He aims to teach his students to cultivate intellectual curiosity as seriously as technical competence and reminds them not to be anxious about mapping an entire career. “The smartest people I know, and the best lawyers I know, are deeply curious people.”

When reflecting on his career, he says it has gone far beyond what his grandparents could have imagined. He hopes to inspire even greater possibilities for his daughter’s generation, sharing that she has taught him to experience life with awe and wonder again.

“The ordinary things that we as adults stop noticing suddenly become extraordinary again through a child’s eyes,” he says. “Even when I’m not with my daughter, I consciously try to recover some of that awe and wonder.”

For Chedrawe, that thoughtful perspective on the world has become as important to his work as it has to his life.



LAW PROFESSOR FINDS HER PLACE AT SCHULICH LAW

BY SUZANNE BOWNESS

In starting her career as a civil litigation lawyer in Edmonton, Alta., Nayha Acharya (LLM '12, PhD '17) felt like she was in the right profession but the wrong area. Her decision to take a chance on grad school changed everything. Now she's completed two graduate degrees at the Schulich School of Law, and is a professor in the same faculty that helped shape her.

Acharya credits her former academic supervisor Ronalda Murphy ('87) as central to her success. "Ronalda was, and still is, one of the most important people in my life. She encouraged me to do a PhD and as we started focusing on research areas, she recognized a certain theoretical orientation in my thinking."

Attracted to Schulich Law for its focus on health law, she focused her LLM on expert witness testimony. "It was about how science and the law interact, particularly in the trial process. Then it went into a more theoretical direction, which got deeper when I started my PhD," she says. Her doctoral dissertation looked at the legitimacy of the legal process particularly in terms of judicial fact finding, using thinkers such as Habermas as a foundation.

"There's a lot of uncertainty in the facts that give rise to a legal claim, but the legal system demands certainty. So, the basic question was how do we legitimately move from a position of uncertainty to certainty?," she explains. Murphy's care in walking her through challenging theory made all the difference to her scholarly development. "It felt like a traditional education system where you are sitting somewhere — on a sofa or under a tree — with your teacher and they're showing you, sentence by sentence, what some of the biggest thinkers in legal philosophy are saying, and then asking you what you think about it, which was awesome."

Based on her thesis work, Acharya published her first book in March 2026, *Managing the Unknown: Why Fact-Finding Procedures Matter to Civil Justice*. "The book offers highlights of contemporary legal thinking in the Western world. So, if you're a grad student and you want to have a road map to what people say about the legal system and its legitimacy, this gives you that and then applies it in a context, fact finding, that is specific to legal practice," she says.

She transitioned to full-time faculty in 2019, where she started out teaching the civil procedure course. Then, another career-changing moment took place when Professor Diana Ginn asked her to cover her Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) course when she went on sabbatical. While she's also taken up teaching Torts, ADR has become her academic passion and new research focus.

"Alternative dispute resolution gives you this avenue for spontaneous, unique resolution that takes into account norms, emotions, feelings and realities that go far beyond just legal



norms," says Acharya. "That expansiveness in thinking is what attracted my attention and continues to do so, because it is about people, as opposed to just an application of legal norms to a person's circumstances."

In her ADR class, she grounds the learning in theory but helps students understand the application by practicing simulations followed by debriefs, working through situations like salary negotiations or workplace harassment. She also invites students to engage with their own interests with an assignment where they develop an online learning module related to dispute resolution.

"My basic philosophy for teaching is that students should have as much freedom as possible to explore a topic in a way that resonates with them personally," says Acharya, adding that sharing their learning means the whole class gets to benefit, herself included. "Sometimes I'll forget that I'm observing a student presentation or grading it. I'm just watching it and becoming informed myself."

In her research on ADR, she is developing her own theory on mediation based on Habermas. She also plans to expand her focus to incorporate Eastern philosophy, incorporating thinking from the Hindu, Sikh, Taoist and other Eastern traditions. "These are things that are missing from the Western repertoire, but exploring them is important to gain a more complete understanding of what conflict resolution can achieve."

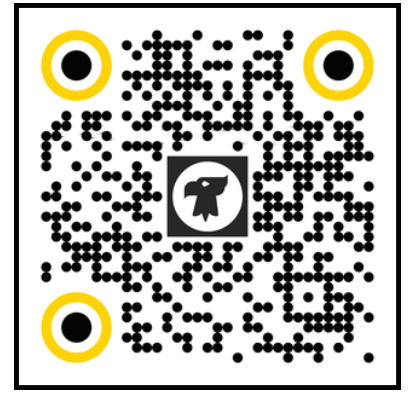
With her graduate education at Schulich Law as a foundation, Acharya says she's ready to give back.

"The Schulich School of Law has been a great place to grow up. I first came here when I was 25 and now I'm 40. I've spent my formative years here and started a family here. People have seen me go from being a kid to stepping into leadership roles and finding my footing. I feel a sense of ownership over the law school, the directions that we take and what we offer our students. As I enter a new stage of my career, I'm beginning to think more broadly about the responsibility I now hold."



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ALUMNA PLANS LEGACY WITH SCHOLARSHIP GIFT

Martha Deacon establishes meaningful funding for Indigenous and Black female students.

BY SUZANNE BOWNESS

When you make a donation, you want your gift to support causes you believe in and to reflect your values. Martha Deacon ('77) has done just that by endowing two \$250,000 scholarships in her will, boosting education for women at the Schulich School of Law.

The Dalhousie Law School grad's generous donation will fund a scholarship for an African Nova Scotian woman and one for an Indigenous Canadian woman, honouring role models from their communities.

These gifts are an extension of Deacon's ongoing efforts to help women succeed. Following a career in corporate law in Toronto, she started The Townships Project, a non-governmental organization to help women in South African township communities develop small businesses through micro-lending and community development. Nearly 30 years later, the organization is still vital.

She was inspired to found it while attending the World Council of Churches Assembly in Harare, Zimbabwe in 1998 as an observer. There she heard Nelson Mandela speak: "He came dancing up onto the stage and asked all of us, 'What are you going to do about the poverty in my country?'"

The Townships Project was her response. Deacon and her team began by extending repayable micro-loans starting at \$100 to fund woman-led businesses where participants used skills from cooking to selling used clothing to setting up daycares. Later, the organization expanded to micro-franchising and worked with the Rotary Club. Today, the operation focuses on training women for even more stable sectors.

"We have gradually shifted to training female plumbers, electricians and mechanics, in all these non-traditional trades, which allow them entry into some well-paying jobs where they can build their own businesses. That's been very exciting," she explains. "We've been focused on ways the community can build itself up," noting that the organization has always been run locally in South Africa, with a donor network in Canada.



Deacon says she saw the need firsthand when she visited South Africa on her way to Zimbabwe. At the time, the country was only four years into democracy following apartheid. "I went to Soweto outside Johannesburg, to Khayelitsha outside Cape Town and to KwaMashu outside Durban. I was stunned by the fact that there was very little industry or commerce in the township areas where the majority of the country's population live."

The inspiration for micro-lending had come from Muhammad Yunus, the Bangladeshi economist who won the Nobel Prize in 2006 for pioneering those concepts. "If you give women a small loan and the opportunity to make their own money, feed their children and send them to school, you have a much better chance of creating prosperity," she says.

Now, the same spirit that inspired The Townships Project has inspired Deacon's donation to the Schulich School of Law. "I've always strongly believed that if we can have a more equitable world, it is of great benefit to the planet and to us all," she says when explaining her drive to support equity-deserving groups.

Choosing her alma mater was an easy decision to make.

"I have wonderful memories of Dal, and friendships that I carry on to this day. We just had a heck of a lot of fun. I had great professors, and certainly an unparalleled education," she shares, recalling regularly connecting with the law school's dean, Ronald St. John McDonald, even after graduation. "He was a wonderful guy, and a great friend."

Donating through her will was also easier than she imagined.

"I was amazed by Dean Sarah Harding's reaction to this opportunity, as it didn't feel like it was a huge amount of money to me, but it makes a big difference in perpetuity," adding it is also an effective tax strategy.

Knowing her gift will have an impact is also important to Deacon. "What a fantastic opportunity to make a meaningful change in somebody's life," she says.

DONOR PROFILE

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF THE LFNS

The Law Foundation of Nova Scotia supports Schulich Law students through scholarships.

BY STEPHANIE HURLEY

As the Law Foundation of Nova Scotia (LFNS) marks their 50th anniversary this year, the Schulich School of Law would like to congratulate them on five decades of strengthening access to justice and enriching the legal landscape of the province.

Since its establishment in 1976, the LFNS has been dedicated to advancing legal education, supporting public understanding of the law and improving the administration of justice. The impact of their funded initiatives can be seen and felt throughout communities in Nova Scotia.

While the law school is fortunate to have a deep and broad pool of scholarships for Juris Doctor (JD) students, the most significant and prestigious scholarship is provided by the LFNS. Since 1992, the Law Foundation of Nova Scotia Scholarship Fund has contributed more than \$5.8 million in financial support, resulting in 475 student scholarships.

The value of these scholarships begins at the admissions and enrolment stage. As one of the most generous scholarships across all Canadian law schools, they have helped Schulich Law attract the very best applicants from across the nation.

The Law Foundation Scholarship Fund guarantees newly-admitted recipients full-tuition coverage for their entire time in law school, provided they remain in good standing. These core entry and renewable scholarships help make it affordable for many, and also free up valuable time and energy so students can focus on their studies, clinical programs, experiential opportunities and research projects, rather than searching for part-time work.

“Receiving this scholarship put me in the best position possible to enjoy my years in law school and donate my time to the community,” says Alanah Ellsworth, a 2026 scholarship recipient. “The Law Foundation of Nova Scotia’s earnest investment in my future will not be forgotten. I would like to thank them for their generous and thoughtful gift.”



Maintaining a highly-regarded law school and academic curriculum requires top-notch graduate programs alongside the core JD program. As with the Law Foundation JD scholarships, the two annual scholarships that are designated for LLM students help to build and maintain the graduate program at Schulich Law. Recent changes and cutbacks in university funding make these scholarships more important than ever.

Many graduate scholarship recipients go on to do PhD level work or return to legal practice with a newly acquired focus and expertise. The Law Foundation Scholarships help these students become the next generation of highly specialized legal professionals.

Just this past year, the fund that has supported the JD and graduate level scholarships has been extended to include need-based awards, helping eight more students.

These scholarships fundamentally impact the law school for the better, attracting some of the very best applicants from across Canada, supporting graduate programs and serving a range of law students in need of financial support.

“On behalf of the entire Schulich School of Law faculty and in my personal capacity as dean, I would like to thank the Law Foundation of Nova Scotia for many years of support. The funding provided has truly made a difference in the lives of countless law students,” says law dean Sarah Harding (’89).

“I would also like to congratulate them on reaching this impressive milestone and on 50 years of successfully sustaining access to justice in Nova Scotia.”

1953		1964		1971		1975	
Class Participation	25%	Class Participation	13%	Total Class Giving	\$6,591	Total Class Giving	\$5,350
Participating Donors:		Participating Donors:		Class Participation	7%	Class Participation	7%
Hon. Hiram Carver, K.C.		Hon. William Fitzgerald		Participating Donors:		Participating Donors:	
1954		W. Donald Goodfellow, K.C.		Hon. M. A. Cameron		David Feindel	
Class Participation	13%	1965		Donald Gibson		Gregory S. Hildebrand	
Participating Donors:		Class Participation	9%	Leroy Lenethen, K.C.		Hon. Paul J. Pearlman, K.C.	
Joel Matheson, K.C.		Participating Donors:		Roderick MacKinnon		F. T. Mark Pujolas	
1956		Arthur Donahoe, K.C.		Derry Millar		Wendell Sanford	
Class Participation	20%	Hon. Theodore E. Margeson		Douglas Moores, K.C.		Michael Schelew	
Participating Donors:		1966		1972		1976	
Sir Graham Day*		Class Participation	11%	Total Class Giving	\$11,669	Total Class Giving	\$8,350
Hon. Peter Power		Participating Donors:		Class Participation	14%	Class Participation	13%
1957		David D. Archibald		Participating Donors:		Participating Donors:	
Class Participation	10%	1967		Daniel M. Campbell, K.C.		Hon. Jean-Louis Batiot	
Participating Donors:		Class Participation	6%	Cherry G. Ferguson		James Burgess, K.C.	
Justine O'Brien		Participating Donors:		Hon. J. Vernon MacDonald		Roberta J. Clarke, K.C.	
1958		Kenneth H. Glube		Hon. George Macintosh, K.C.		David G. Fredricksen	
Class Participation	12%	David Ritcey, K.C.		Avon Mersey		Linda M. Gaudet	
Participating Donors:		1968		J. Fraser B. Mills		Gerry Goneau	
June Nudelman Karlin		Total Class Giving	\$10,864	Hon. Janet Sinclair Prowse		Peter W. Gurnham, K.C.	
1959		Class Participation	29%	Hon. Greg Warner		Mary A. Kimball	
Class Participation	4%	Participating Donors:		Hon. Jim Wilson		Andrew Love	
Participating Donors:		Patrick Furlong		1973		Hon. M. Clare MacLellan	
Shirley Rayes		James Gould, K.C.		Total Class Giving	\$4,270	Timothy Matthews, K.C.	
Justice David Riche		Heather Grant		Class Participation	9%	Hon. Linda Oland	
1960		Richard Henderson		Participating Donors:		Robert M. Purdy, K.C.	
Class Participation	11%	Hon. D. William MacDonald, K.C.		Michael Bird		Lynne Redden	
Participating Donors:		Douglas MacEachern		Larry Freeman, K.C.		Gerry Roy	
Stuart MacKinnon		William McColm		Hon. Robert B. Hyslop		John Stringer, K.C.	
		William E. Wells		John Kelly		Anthony L. Sweet	
1961		1969		John McLeish		1977	
Class Participation	15%	Total Class Giving	\$4,645	Thomas W. Patience		Total Class Giving	\$8,231
Participating Donors:		Class Participation	19%	1974		Class Participation	9%
George Caines, K.C.		Participating Donors:		Total Class Giving	\$62,874	Participating Donors:	
Hon. Paul Creaghan, K.C.		Brian D. Bruce		Class Participation	19%	Dr. Harold Barnett, M.D.	
1962		Edward Chase, K.C.		Participating Donors:		Hon. Nancy Bateman, K.C.	
Total Class Giving	\$2,600	Morris J. Haugg, K.C.		Bruce Archibald, K.C.		Steven Enman	
Class Participation	26%	Steve Konchalski		Mel F. Belich, K.C.		Hon. Justice Kenneth Haley	
Participating Donors:		Paull Leamen		John W. Chandler, K.C.		Alison Taylor Love, K.C.	
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Hon. Clyde Wells, K.C.		1970		James Gregg, K.C.		Hon. Justice Frans Slatter	
1963		Total Class Giving	\$829	Hon. M. Jill Hamilton		T. Ann Smiley	
Class Participation	20%	Class Participation	8%	Forrest Hume		Robert Stewart, K.C.	
Participating Donors:		Participating Donors:		Paul D. Jardine		Michael Sullivan	
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Harold MacKay, K.C., O.C.		Dennis Y. Perlín		Hon. Beryl MacDonald, K.C.			
		John M. White		Hon. Justice James MacPherson			
				Hon. A. Anne McLellan			
				David Meadows, K.C.			
				Connie Munro			

1978

Total Class Giving \$3,156

Class Participation 10%

Participating Donors:

Robert D. Annett
Frank Archibald
Elizabeth Callaghan
Joseph A. Cameron
Elizabeth Ellis
Anne Emery
David S. Green
Valerie Macdonald
Hon. Judge Peter Ross
Claude Samson
Hon. Margaret J. Stewart
Shirley Strutt, K.C.
Tom Strutt

1979

Total Class Giving \$67,924

Class Participation 12%

Participating Donors:

Mary Ann Burke-Matheson
Hon. Judge Marc Chisholm
John Cuthbertson, K.C.
Hon. Patrick Duncan
Keith R. Evans, K.C.
Randall Fleming
D. Suzan Frazer
Hon. M. David Gates
David J. MacDonald
Brian Maltman
Marian McGrath
Hon. Justice Rosemary Nation (LLM)
David N. Ross
Donald G. Sword
Hon. Judge Alan Tufts
Ray Wagner
Judith Wouk

1980

Total Class Giving \$7,725

Class Participation 8%

Participating Donors:

Valerie Dyer
Robert Grant, K.C.
Peter Hames
Brian G. Johnston
Stuart Koskie
J. Brian Medjuck
Anthony Pylypuk
Hon. Justice Sheila Ray (Ava Ray Memorial Foundation)
Randy Smith

1981

Total Class Giving \$130,261

Class Participation 12%

Participating Donors:

Hon. Justice Leslie J. Dellapinna, K.C.
Margaret Dickson
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Bill Nearing
John V. O'Dea
Arthur Oliphant
Curtis C. Palmer
Barry Ryan
Clifford J. Shaw, K.C.
Philip J. Star, K.C.

Paul L. Walter

Vance Wirth

1982

Total Class Giving \$8,400

Class Participation 9%

Participating Donors:

Jay Abbass
Scott P. Gray
Kerry M. Harnish
Hon. Justice Lois Hoegg
Ian MacKay
Toshimi Sembo
Prof. David VanderZwaag (LLM)
Adrian Wright

1983

Total Class Giving \$5,938

Class Participation 5%

Participating Donors:

Brian W. Derrah
Guy Desmarais
Hon. Daryl Fridhandler, K.C.
Hon. Justice Scott Norton, K.C.
Geoff Regan

1984

Total Class Giving \$48,775

Class Participation 10%

Participating Donors:

Janet Chisholm
John S. Fitzpatrick, K.C.
Andrea D. Gillis
Peter Gorgopa
Mark A. Greenberg
Shirley Lee, K.C.
William MacNeil
Hon. Chris Manning
Hon. Justice Gillian Marriott, K.C.
Douglas McLean
Maureen Reid
Phillip Saunders
Penelope Tham
Jeremy A. Thomas (LLM)
Hon. Judge Pam Williams

1985

Total Class Giving \$4,430

Class Participation 7%

Participating Donors:

Hon. Justice Mona M. Lynch
Kevin MacLean
Francine McIntyre
Hon. Valerie A. Miller
Dean Pietrantonio

1986

Total Class Giving \$2,590

Class Participation 6%

Participating Donors:

Christine Carter
Hon. Judge Michelle Christopher, K.C.
Carol Ann Foley
Clara Greco
Donald B. Jarvis
Alex MacFarlane
Ronald M. Snyder
Ian Wallace

1987

Total Class Giving \$650

Class Participation 3%

Participating Donors:

Robert A. Balcom
Charlotte Davis
John Kulik, K.C.
Mary E. Murphy

1988

Total Class Giving \$5,500

Class Participation 5%

Participating Donors:

Donald J. Dow
David MacDougall
Mark Schmidt
Ann G. Wilkie
Caroline Zayid

1989

Total Class Giving \$19,748

Class Participation 6%

Participating Donors:

R. Glen Boswall
Hon. Peter Chisholm
Hon. Judge Stephanie A. Cleary, K.C.
Hon. Chief Justice Jim Gormley, K.C.
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Sarah Harding
John R. Manning
Janice Spencer

1990

Total Class Giving \$29,873

Class Participation 7%

Participating Donors:

John Hovland
Hon. Justice Andrew Little
Donald K. MacKenzie, K.C.
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Diane L. McInnis
Hon. Justice Francis O'Brien
Philip Sheppard
David H. Taylor
Mitch Williams
James D. H. Wood

1991

Total Class Giving \$4,365

Class Participation 8%

Participating Donors:

Simon Barker
Myrna Gillis
Hon. Justice Jeffrey Hunt
Sean F. Layden, K.C.
Celine Levesque
Hon. Justice Diane MacDonald
Susan MacKay
Peter Nathanson
Barbara E. Smith
Hon. Justice Richard Southcott
Andrew C. Staples

1992

Total Class Giving \$5,812

Class Participation 10%

Participating Donors:

Mike Brady
Sheila J. Cameron, K.C.
Peter Crowther

Dale E. Ives

John T. Kalm
Geoffrey Litherland
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T. A. Pratt
Darren Stratton
Samira G. Zayid
Rodney J. Zdebiak, K.C.

1993

Total Class Giving \$9,975

Class Participation 7%

Participating Donors:

Brian Beck
Subrata Bhattacharjee
Eric Bremermann
Matthew Certosimo
Patricia E. Doyle-Bedwell
Joan Hatch
Erin Iles
Roger Lee
Peter MacKenzie
Carla Swansburg
Scott Warwick

1994

Total Class Giving \$2,865

Class Participation 6%

Participating Donors:

Timothy Costigan
Daphne C. Loukidelis
Garry A. McCay
Patricia Neild
Scott Quendack
Robert K. Smithson
Eric Taylor
Mary Ann Winterhalt

1995

Total Class Giving \$2,150

Class Participation 5%

Participating Donors:

Jennifer G. Carmichael
Anneke Driessen van der Lieck
Christopher Jones
Jay Maw
Patricia Thiel
Candace Thomas, K.C.

1996

Total Class Giving \$1,660

Class Participation 3%

Participating Donors:

R. Max Collett
Ken Dekker
Samiran P. Lakshman
Zarah E. Walpole
D. Scott Worsfold

1997

Total Class Giving \$1,560

Class Participation 4%

Participating Donors:

Cheryl Canning, K.C.
Susan E. Carruthers
Vincent C. Kazmierski
Robert F. MacDonald
Lisa C. Osoba
Duaine W. Simms

1998

Total Class Giving	\$404
Class Participation	3%
Participating Donors:	
Arnold T. Ceballos	
Paul Falvo	
Sean Foreman, K.C.	
Julienne Hills	

1999

Total Class Giving	\$3,796
Class Participation	3%
Participating Donors:	
Sunny Ho	
Harry Korosis	
Pierre-Yves Leduc	
Sheila Wildeman	

2000

Class Participation	1%
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2001

Class Participation	2%
Participating Donors:	
Erin Skinner	
Andrew Wilson	

2002

Class Participation	1%
Participating Donors:	
Level Chan, K.C.	
Darlene M. Lamey	

2003

Class Participation	2%
Participating Donors:	
Danielle MacLean	
Chris Peddigrew, K.C.	
Donald Zarow	

2005

Class Participation	1%
Participating Donors:	
Annie Kaderly	

2006

Class Participation	1%
Participating Donors:	
Michelle Kellam	
Julien Ranger	

2007

Total Class Giving	\$439
Class Participation	3%
Participating Donors:	
Rhianydd Bellis	
Peter Dostal, K.C.	
Aaron Hirschorn	
Jennifer Ko	

2008

Class Participation	1%
Participating Donors:	
Jarvis Googoo	
Mark Watton	

2010

Class Participation	1%
Participating Donors:	
Mike Bowlin	

2011

Class Participation	1%
Participating Donors:	
Teresa-Anne Martin	

2012

Class Participation	2%
Participating Donors:	
Laura Neals	
Joshua Nodelman	
Duncan Taylor	

2013

Class Participation	2%
Participating Donors:	
Cameron L. Foster	
Jalana Lewis	

2015

Class Participation	1%
Participating Donors:	
Peter Keyes	

2016

Class Participation	1%
Participating Donors:	
Lauren Mills Taylor	

2017

Class Participation	2%
Participating Donors:	
Christina Macdonald	
Regan Murphy	
Mary Rolf	

2018

Class Participation	2%
Participating Donors:	
Amanda Brousseau	
Patrick Brousseau	
Kathryn Scallion	

LEGACY SOCIETY

(formerly Heritage Society)
The Dalhousie Legacy Society was established to recognize and thank those who have remembered the faculty in their estate plans.

Mike Brady
Keith R. Evans, K.C.
Cherry G. Ferguson
Heather Grant
Dale E. Ives
Hon. George Macintosh, K.C.
Harold MacKay, K.C., O.C.
John McLeish
Hon. A. Anne McLellan
Dr. Stephen G. A. Pitel
T. Ann Smiley
Penelope Tham

ESTATES

Estate of R. B. Viscount Bennett
Estate of Reginal Cluney
Estate of Douglas Coombes
Estate of Alex Ross
Estate of Sarah Wolff
Estate of Carol Davey Young

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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



Professor **NAYHA ACHARYA** began teaching Tort Law this year, in addition to Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). She continued her work on assessing judicial mediation programs in Nova Scotia, joining an advisory panel for the ADR Institute of Canada to facilitate ADR education and practice across the country. She is planning several talks in Western Canada to share the findings of her empirical work on judicial mediation. Her new book, *Managing the Unknown: Why Fact-Finding Procedures Matter to Civil Justice*, was recently published by University of Toronto Press.



Professor Emerita **CAMILLE CAMERON, K.C.**, officially retired in September but remains active in the law school in various ways. In April 2026, a book she co-edited, *Climate Change Litigation Cases in Context*, was published. She feels privileged to have worked with many talented scholars throughout the world to bring the project to fruition. She will continue some research projects and graduate student supervision, along with other community and professional commitments including as a member of the Law Commission of Canada Advisory Council.



Professor **ALDO CHIRCOP** was a distinguished visiting professor at the National University of Singapore in April 2026 with support from the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore and the Centre for International Law's Oceans Governance Research Programme. After 34 years of service at Dalhousie, he retired as Professor Emeritus on July 1, 2026, and expects to remain active in maritime law and the law of the sea in Canada and internationally.



Professor **STEVE COUGHLAN** enjoyed teaching his usual selection of courses this year, despite the fall's shortened semester and decreased classroom time due to the lockout. He continued his judicial education work, both as editor-in-chief of the National Judicial Institute's Criminal Law eLetter and by presenting at judicial education conferences.



Professor **ROB CURRIE, K.C.**, Viscount Bennett Professor of Law, convened another instalment of "The Halifax Colloquium," an occasional series on transnational organized crime and corruption. This year's session "Money Laundering — Canada's Back Office of Organized Crime" was held in October 2025 and featured Dr. Peter German, Jeffrey Simser and



Rita Trichur, columnist for The Globe and Mail. He also enjoyed teaching the first-year Criminal Law course for the first time in several years.

Professor Emeritus **RICHARD DEVLIN** still struggles with work/life balance despite his retirement. He has spent a significant amount of the year editing the forthcoming 5th edition of *Lawyers' Ethics and Professional Regulation* with Amy Salyzyn and Pooja Parmar, as well as contributing to several judicial education programmes across the country.



Professor **MARIA DUGAS** has enjoyed a productive sabbatical year. She wrote a paper for Canada's Black Justice Strategy on considering anti-Black racism and Black social context evidence in the criminal justice system. In May, she presented her work alongside Professor Robert Wright in a virtual forum. She continues to work with the African Nova Scotian Justice Institute on a study tracing how Impact of Race and Culture Assessments are being used at sentencing.



Professor **SUZIE DUNN** taught Privacy Law, Contracts and Judicial Decision-Making, Torts and Introduction to Legal Ethics. She is currently the acting director of the Law & Technology Institute. She is a co-investigator on a SSHRC Insight Grant working with scholars from Western University and Saint Mary's University to examine the experiences of, and responses to, technology-facilitated sexual violence among Canadian youth (diydigitalsafety.ca). This team has been working on a SSHRC Partnership Engage Grant with the Canadian Centre for Child Protection on young people's exposure to authentic violence online. She co-edited a special edition of the *Canadian Journal of Law and Technology* featuring papers from the We Robot 2025 conference.



Professor **MATTHEW DYLAG** taught two sections of Civil Procedure and Legal Profession this year. In fall 2025, he was called to the Nova Scotia Bar and now sits as a trustee on Dalhousie Legal Aid Service's Board of Trustees. He continues to advance his research on access to justice and has been invited to speak at the 2026 Conference on Advancing People-Centred Justice in Canada. The highlight of his year was playing the role of Doctor Victor Frankenstein in the 15th annual Weldon Literary Moot.



Professor Emerita **DIANA GINN** and Lisa Teryl ('94) published *Common Law Rules of Procedure for Tribunals in Canada: Rules, Commentary, and Practice Tips* (LexisNexis 2026) in January, with a foreword by former Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin. The book, the first of its kind in Canada, is aimed at tribunal members, lawyers and parties to make the common law on procedural fairness accessible by distilling and explaining tribunals' procedural powers and parties' procedural entitlements.



Professor **LUCIE GUIBAULT** returned to teaching courses in Intellectual Property, Law and Technology and Public Law. She continued the work in Public Law that started the previous year to create an Open Educational Resource tailored to the needs of students. Apart from teaching, she co-organized a workshop on the protection of Indigenous Knowledge, with the hope to pursue future research and community outreach on the topic.



Professor **ADELINA IFTENE** taught Criminal Justice, Evidence and Imprisonment and Prison Policy during the last academic year, and was honoured to be the recipient of the Hannah and Harold Barnett Excellence in Teaching First Year Law award. She continued her research focused on the sentencing of older and disabled individuals and published two related pieces in the *Osgoode Hall Law Journal* and the *Ottawa Law Review*. She is also a co-author of the *Annual Review of Criminal Law* (Thomson Reuters) with colleagues Steve Coughlan and Rob Currie.



Professor **ARCHIE KAISER** continued to enjoy teaching Criminal Law, Mental Disability Law and Global Corruption for the Faculty of Law, and Legal Issues in Psychiatry for the Department of Psychiatry. His community work included serving as co-chair of the Disability Equity Committee of the Nova Scotia Bar and as a provincial advisor for People First Nova Scotia, a self-advocacy organization for people labelled with an intellectual disability. As the faculty advisor to Pro Bono Dalhousie, he has contributed to the evolution of this very successful program which involves approximately 200 student volunteers. The law school is always seeking lawyers who are willing to volunteer as student supervisors.



Professor **MICHAEL KARANICOLAS**, Palmer Chair in Public Policy and Law, had an exciting year piloting his new class, the Information Policy Lab, which gave students a chance to connect with prominent journalists, politicians and tech executives to develop a policy white paper titled "Think of the Children:

The Policy Trade-offs of Digital Age Verification" that launched this summer. He also organized the inaugural Canadian Technology Law Conference featuring the Honourable Sean Fraser ('09), Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, and is currently planning the next conference for August 2026.



Professor **KARINNE LANTZ** started a tenure-track appointment as an assistant professor in July 2025, after teaching at the law school in various roles over the past several years. This academic year, she continued teaching Tort Law and Damage Compensation and the international law module of the first-year intensive, Law in its National and International Context. She also had a rewarding experience teaching Family Law I for the first time. She published an article in the *McGill Law Journal* exploring the reception of international human rights law in *Charter* litigation, which was a fascinating research side quest stemming from her ongoing doctoral research on the international human right to health. She is currently co-authoring a chapter on the right to health in the context of armed conflicts for an edited collection on global health that will be published later this year.



MEGAN LONGLEY, K.C., continued in her role as executive director of Dalhousie Legal Aid Service, which had another busy and successful year including the launch of a new position focused on mental health and incarceration. She was part of two panels focused on the challenges and impacts of clinical legal aid at the Global Alliance for Justice Education conference in Warsaw, Poland. She also continues to serve as a board and executive member of the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice, where she was on the planning committee for its national Conference on Addiction, Mental Health and the Law.



Professor **CONSTANCE MACINTOSH** had the pleasure of joining Dean Sarah Harding as the new team of co-editors-in-chief for the *Dalhousie Law Journal*, a role which was both rewarding and challenging. Together, they successfully obtained a significant grant to support the Journal's work. In the classroom, she enjoyed another fulfilling year teaching extraordinary students the foundations of contract law, along with the more complex legal issues surrounding immigration and refugee matters. Her year also included ongoing community-based advocacy work, exciting publications and research on intersectional health governance challenges, including those related to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the United Nations

Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. She continued her work with the International Law Association's Committee on Protection of People at Sea. She is looking forward to a busy, meaningful and engaging year ahead.



Professor **SARA ROSS** was named the new Yogis and Keddy Chair in Human Rights Law in the summer of 2025. She also received a multi-year SSHRC Insight Development Grant for her legal anthropology research on Acadian language, property and cultural rights. As the elected program chair for the Association of Law, Property, and Society, she helped plan their international conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, in the summer of 2026, where she also presented her early SSHRC grant research findings. She travelled to San Francisco in May as an invited speaker for the Law & Society Association conference panel titled "History and Origins of Global Law and Society: Perspectives from Africa and the Americas" alongside a global selection of scholars, and presented separately on her Acadian research. This summer she will transition out of her role as co-editor-in-chief of the *Canadian Legal Education Annual Review*, a position she has held since 2020, while retaining her position on the Board of Directors for the Canadian Association of Law Teachers, which she has held since 2015.



Professor Emeritus **WAYNE MACKAY, C.M., K.C.**, had another busy year as a legal commentator for a variety of local, national and international media on a wide range of legal topics. He continues to serve as the legal columnist for CBC in Nova Scotia presenting on Information Morning, a role he started in 2017. He was one of two featured speakers at CBC's Stanfield Conversation lecture, which was held at the Dalhousie Arts Centre in October 2025 on the topic of "The Decline of Democracy and the Erosion of the Rule of Law in the USA and Beyond." It had the largest audience since the Stanfield event's inception, with the episode available on YouTube, and an edited version that aired in October on the CBC's radio program Ideas. He also produced a revised version of "Chapter 5: The Changing Canadian Constitutional Landscape" in the 6th edition of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* (Errol Mendes & Stephane Beaulac, 2025), completed in collaboration with Kristen Stallard ('18).



Professor **LIAM MCHUGH-RUSSELL** was appointed the inaugural Innis Christie Chair in Labour and Employment Law in July 2025. In this position, he has taken on co-authorship of the looseleaf publication, *Trade Union Law in Canada*, co-hosted a workshop on employment standards with the Halifax Workers Action Centre, hosted a roundtable with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives on student work, activism and organizing and begun work on a Canadian Labour Law Observatory that will serialize Canadian labour and employment law news. He is currently doing research addressing the shift of Canadian pension savings toward foreign investments.



Professor **ANDREW FLAVELLE MARTIN** enjoyed a fulfilling sabbatical. He gave four presentations across Canada in the fall, including at the annual meeting of the International Bar Association and at the National Judicial Institute. When he was not travelling, he continued his long-term research on legal ethics for the Attorney General and government lawyers and completed the Faculty Certificate in Teaching and Learning at Dalhousie's Centre for Learning and Teaching.



Professor **ANTHONY ROSBOROUGH** organized the 2026 Canadian Repair Convention at the Schulich School of Law in May, bringing together academics, policymakers, community repair leaders, advocates and industry participants from across Canada and creating space for thoughtful, practical conversations about the economic, social, community and national resilience aspects of repair. The Convention, which was supported by the Law & Technology Institute and the MacEachen Institute for Public Policy & Governance, reflected his interdisciplinary academic research and ongoing commitment to public engagement (canadianrepairconvention.ca).



Professor **NAIOMI METALLIC, K.C.**, would like to highlight the release of a new chapter in *Constitutional Law of Canada* by Peter Hogg and Wade Wright, "Indigenous Peoples and the Constitution of Canada." She served as lead author of the 300+ page chapter, working closely with Wright and several prominent Indigenous law scholars. The project grew out of discussions in 2023, when it became clear that the former chapter on Aboriginal Peoples was overdue for substantial revision and that the work would be more meaningful if led by those with deep expertise in the field. The new chapter updates terminology, incorporates discussions of Indigenous law and international law, identifies areas where current doctrine has been criticized and introduces new sections on history and context, constitutional sources and constitutional principles.



Professor **SARA SECK** continued in her role as director of the Marine & Environmental Law Institute this past year. She taught Environmental Law, coached an enthusiastic team for the Willms & Shier Environmental Law Moot and supervised an inspiring cohort of JD students writing Business & Environment research papers. In March, she gave a special lecture at Macquarie University's Environmental Law Research Centre, titled "Towards an Intersectional Feminist Understanding of the Human for Planetary Justice." She enjoyed teaching Graduate Seminar this year for the first time and continues to supervise many excellent graduate students and post-doctoral research fellows.



Professor Emeritus **ROLLIE THOMPSON, K.C.**, continued to travel the country, engaging in numerous family law education programs for lawyers and judges from British Columbia to Newfoundland and Labrador. The best part was seeing his former students, some of whom are now judges. A highlight for him was serving as a judge at the Walsh Family Law Moot in March, where Schulich Law's first-time team of four students had an impressive showing, earning several awards and prizes. He is also counsel at Epstein Cole LLP.



In March, Professor Emeritus **DAVID VANDERZWAAG** gave an invited talk at the South China Sea Sub-Forum of the BFA Annual Conference in Boao, China, where he emphasized state duties to cooperate in managing transboundary fisheries even in the face of jurisdictional disputes over marine waters and islands. With Professor Sara Seck and Postdoctoral Fellow Cecilia Engler, he co-authored "Oceans and climate change adaptation: tracking international law and policy developments and challenges" in Volume 12, *Frontiers in Marine Science*.



Professor **SHEILA WILDEMAN** was appointed the director of the Dalhousie Health Justice Institute, which is launching a new Community Health Justice Partnerships Practicum this year. In May 2025, she and Professor Naiomi Metallic co-hosted an outreach event, Indigenous Community-Led Disability Support on Wabanaki Lands; in June, she and arts-based research collective My Home, My Rights co-hosted a workshop in Dublin, Ireland, on monitoring disability rights and presented on arts-based methods in York, England; in December, she joined Rosemary Kayess, Chair of UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and Scott Avery, professor of Indigenous

disability and wellbeing, University of Technology Sydney, for the keynote panel "Accountability, resistance and disruption: The future of disability policy" at the inaugural Research Conference of the Disability Law Society Network in Sydney, Australia.



Professor **MICHELLE WILLIAMS** was honoured to join the panel "Righting the Wrongful Conviction and Execution of Daniel Sampson" in support of work led by David Steeves (LLB '03, LLM '09) and Lance Sampson to advance the first posthumous review of a capital case in Canada. She also participated in a consultation with the United Nations Permanent Forum on People of African Descent to highlight reparations and other issues of concern to African Nova Scotians as a distinct people. In her role as Dalhousie's African Nova Scotian Strategy co-chair, she was involved in the Community Day Health Symposium, Taking Care of Us, and the African Nova Scotian Archival Gathering, which began as a way to envision what an African Nova Scotian community archive could look like. The latter event is connected to the African Nova Scotian Research Ethics project that she co-leads.

THE GRAPEVINE

1954

KENNETH LUND, K.C., practised in Toronto from 1954 to 1995 with Daly, Thistle, Judson and Harvey and its successor firms, specializing in government financing for provinces and Crown corporations, including acting for the City of Halifax on a U.S. financing matter. He also served for a decade in municipal office in North York and Metro Toronto.

1972



GORDON D. HEBB, K.C., received the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society's 2025 Distinguished Service Award. He was recognized for his decades of service to the statutory law of Nova Scotia, including his long tenure as chief legislative counsel and his work modernizing legislative drafting and public access to legislation.

1974



THE HONOURABLE BRENT COTTER, K.C., was appointed interim chairperson of the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission for the RCMP for a six-month term effective April 15, 2026. The Commission's mandate is being expanded to include review of public complaints involving the Canada Border Services Agency.



THE HONOURABLE DEBORAH GASS was recognized by Mount Allison University with the Grace Annie Lockhart Pin, named for the first woman in the British Empire to receive a bachelor's degree. In May 2025, she also received an honorary doctorate from Saint Mary's University. Gass retired as a justice of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia in 2018 and subsequently served as a deputy judge of the Nunavut Court of Justice until 2025.

1975



D. FRASER MACFADYEN, K.C., was appointed King's Counsel. He practises with Stewart McKelvey.

1976



ANN E. JANECA was awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal. She is the outgoing chair of the Dartmouth General Hospital Foundation. This year, both the Class of 1976 and Dartmouth General Hospital are celebrating their 50th anniversaries.

1977

JAMES (JIM) O'NEIL, K.C., was appointed King's Counsel. He practises with O'Neil Law Offices.



DOUGLAS RUCK, K.C., will receive an honorary doctorate in civil law from the University of King's College at its 236th Encaenia, in recognition of his distinguished career as a lawyer, adjudicator, community leader and human rights advocate.

1978



ANNE EMERY is celebrating her 20th year as a published author. Known for her Collins-Burke mystery series, her books have won Crime Writers of Canada awards for Best Novel and Best First Novel, the Dartmouth Book Award for Fiction and an Independent Publishers Silver Medal. Her 15th novel, *Declan*, will launch in June 2026.

1979



KEITH R. EVANS, K.C., is serving as a non-executive director of Gazelle Book Services Limited, a book distribution business based in Lancaster, U.K. He took on the role after retiring as vice-president, Legal, at STEP Oiltools.



THE HONOURABLE J. MICHAEL MACDONALD, C.M., O.N.S., was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada. The former Chief Justice of Nova Scotia was recognized for his contributions to access to justice, judicial outreach and public service, including as chair of the Mass Casualty Commission.

TERRY ROANE received a Master of Arts in Theology and Religion from the Atlantic School of Theology in May 2025.

1981



THE HONOURABLE LESLIE J. DELLAPINNA retired from the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia, Family Division, after more than 24 years on the Bench.



SARA FILBEE published *Managing in Complexity: How Our Fears of Uncertainty Can Hurt Us and What to Do About It* with Taylor & Francis/Routledge in 2024. Inspired by complexity science, the book explores how people get things done in complex workplaces, offering a management perspective grounded in social theory, pragmatic philosophy, group dynamics and group sociology.



TIMOTHY LEMAY retired as deputy director of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law in Vienna.



PATRICK J. MURRAY, K.C., retired from the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia after 15 years on the Bench.



DR. BRUCE RAWDING received his doctorate in education from the University of Redlands School of Education in California. His dissertation explored student learning outcomes assessment in higher education.

1982



KERRY HARNISH published *Bench Strength: Judging a Century of Tax Avoidance in Canada* through Sutherland House Books in 2025. Backed by statistical analysis, the book examines how the Supreme Court of Canada has decided tax avoidance disputes before and after the enactment of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* in 1982. Harnish has presented his findings to tax professionals and law students.

1983



THE HONOURABLE ANN MARIE SIMMONS retired from the Provincial Court of Nova Scotia after a nearly 40-year legal career. She will continue to preside as a part-time judge.

1984



DONALD MURRAY, K.C., released *Howie Morenz: The Greatest Season in the Life of Hockey's First Legend*, a biography of the hockey player and cultural phenomenon, through Sutherland House Books.



THE HONOURABLE KIM PATE was inducted into the Comox Valley Walk of Achievement in recognition of her lifelong advocacy for marginalized women, prisoners and human rights.



RICHARD PAYNE was sworn in as the first Canadian president of the Commercial Law League of America at its 131st National Convention in Chicago on May 16, 2025.



KEN PIKE was recognized by Inclusive Education Canada as a 2026 Distinguished Leader in Inclusive Education, an honour that reflects more than four decades of advocacy on behalf of people with intellectual disabilities and their families in New Brunswick.

1985

SONYA BRANDER has retired from the World Health Organization and is now with the European Patent Office.



KAREN KINLEY, K.C., retired in June 2026 after 17 years of legislative drafting and 23 years in private practice. She is completing the 'swan song' of her drafting career on the Swan River in Perth, Australia, before returning to Lunenburg, N.S., to enjoy life as grandmother to five grandsons.



THE HONOURABLE PETER ROSINSKI retired from the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia after more than 15 years on the Bench.

1987



THE HONOURABLE DARRELL DEXTER, E.C.N.S., K.C., was appointed to the Order of Nova Scotia.



BARB HOWARD will publish her sixth book of fiction, *Doris Day and the Hammerheads*, in early 2027 with Brave and Brilliant, an imprint of University of Calgary Press.



ALEX NEVE, O.C., was selected to deliver the 2025 CBC Massey Lectures. His series titled "Universal: Renewing Human Rights in a Fractured World" explored the promise of universal human rights and the urgent need to strengthen that commitment in Canada and around the world.

1988



JACK GRAHAM, K.C., was appointed chancellor of Cape Breton University, effective May 1, 2026.



THE HONOURABLE DARLENE JAMIESON, K.C., was appointed associate chief justice of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia.



JOHN S. OSLER, K.C., has been named the 16th chancellor-elect of the University of Calgary.

1989



MICHAEL DETURBIDE, K.C., Schulich Law professor emeritus, was reappointed to the Nova Scotia Securities Commission. He spent much of April 2026 in the U.K., where his son, Stephen Deturbide ('22), is studying music at the University of Manchester.

1990



THE HONOURABLE LENA METLEGE DIAB, M.P., K.C., was appointed Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship in Prime Minister Mark Carney's federal cabinet. She represents Halifax West in the House of Commons.

1991



BRUCE PARDY was appointed a senior fellow with the Frontier Centre for Public Policy. A professor of law at Queen's University, his work focuses on environmental governance, property theory, constitutional law and civil liberties.

1992



THE HONOURABLE ANITA ANAND, M.P., was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs in Prime Minister Mark Carney's federal cabinet. She represents Oakville East in the House of Commons.



THE HONOURABLE LEE ANNE MACLEOD-ARCHER, K.C., retired from the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia, Family Division, after 11 years on the Bench.



NAZEER T. MITHA, K.C., joined Mathews Dinsdale as a partner in the firm's Vancouver office.



RODNEY J. ZDEBIAK, K.C., served as president of the Law Society of Newfoundland and Labrador for a one-year term that began on June 6, 2025.

1993



MAUREEN MCTEER, O.C., was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada. She is a lawyer and author recognized for her work on gender equality, women's health, fertility rights and end-of-life care policy.

1994



JENNIFER COX, K.C., received the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society's 2025 Award for Mi'kmaq & Indigenous Peoples Excellence in the Legal Profession. She is a Mi'kmaq lawyer recognized for her leadership, advocacy, mentorship and commitment to advancing justice for Indigenous Peoples.



ELAINE GIBNEY, K.C., was appointed King's Counsel. She practises with Elaine Gibney Law.



THE HONOURABLE JENNIFER MACLELLAN, K.C., was appointed a judge of the Provincial Court of Nova Scotia.



SHAWNA PARIS-HOYTE, O.N.S., K.C., was appointed chair of the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission. She is a lawyer, social worker and educator whose work has focused on human rights, restorative justice and the African Nova Scotian community.

1995



DEMETRI KACHAFANAS, K.C., was officially appointed chief administrative officer of the Cape Breton Regional Municipality.



CLAYTON J.D. PECKNOLD retired after 38 years of public service across all three levels of government. He completed a five-year term as British Columbia's fourth Police Complaint Commissioner in 2024, following eight years as assistant deputy minister for policing and security and a 25-year career in policing and law enforcement.

1996



THE HONOURABLE ROBERT DYSART, K.C., was appointed a judge of the Court of Appeal of New Brunswick in Fredericton. He previously served as a judge of the Court of King's Bench of New Brunswick, Trial Division, in Moncton.



DENISE MCCABE, K.C., was appointed King's Counsel in British Columbia. She is a senior partner at Fulton & Company LLP and a leading local government and privacy lawyer.

1997



TYRONE A. DUERR retired from practising law in October 2025 after 27 years, including 26 years with Boyle and Company in Penticton, B.C. Since retiring, he has embraced travel and outdoor adventure, including mountain

biking in Arizona and Utah, climbing Mt. Meru in Tanzania, going on safari in East Africa and kitesurfing along the Kenyan coast.



DAVID G. HUTT, K.C., was appointed King's Counsel. He is a managing partner with Burchell Wickwire Bryson LLP.



ALEX IKEJIANI was appointed Deputy Attorney General and Deputy Minister of Justice for Nova Scotia. A certified specialist in environmental law, he previously practised with the Department of Justice Canada in Ottawa, focusing on environmental law, regulatory prosecutions and oceans and resource management.



DANIELLE JOEL joined Miller Thomson as a partner in its estates and trusts litigation group.



JENNIFER LEITCH is executive director of the National Self-Represented Litigants Project and associate director of the Ethics, Society & Law Program at Trinity College, University of Toronto.

1998



SEAN FOREMAN, K.C., rejoined the Nova Scotia Department of Justice as senior counsel. He brings 27 years of public- and private-sector experience advising on complex legal, governance and public policy matters, including Crown and administrative law, constitutional law, class actions and Aboriginal and treaty rights litigation.



THE HONOURABLE ELISSA A.B. NEVILLE was appointed a judge of the Court of King's Bench of Manitoba in Winnipeg.



RICK WOODBURN, K.C., was appointed director of the Nova Scotia Public Prosecution Service.

1999



ANNA COOK, K.C., has been named chair of the St. John's Board of Trade.



DR. STUART KAYE, O.A.M., received the Medal of the Order of Australia in the 2024 King's Birthday Honours for service to international law and tertiary education. He is director of the Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security at the University of Wollongong.

2000

VANITA GOELA is bilingual Crown Counsel with the Public Prosecution Service of Canada and serves on its Official Languages Committee and the newly-formed working group to promote Indigenous languages.

THE HONOURABLE ROSEMARIE A.

JUGINOVIC was appointed a judge of the Superior Court of Justice of Ontario in Brampton.

2001



THE HONOURABLE ERIC M. ADAMS was appointed a justice of the Court of King's Bench of Alberta in Edmonton.



TINA PIPER was appointed dean of McGill University's Faculty of Law. A member of the faculty since 2006, she previously served as interim dean and becomes the first woman appointed to the role.



ERIN SKINNER is an executive director with Alberta Justice's Legal Services Division, where she helps provide legal and strategic services to government ministry clients. She is responsible for government retainers with outside counsel, support services teams of paralegal professionals and legal teams representing Child and Family Services.

2002



LEVEL CHAN, K.C., was appointed King's Counsel. He practises with Stewart McKelvey.



THE HONOURABLE CAMERON MACKEEEN was appointed a judge of the Provincial Court of Nova Scotia in Pictou.

2004



THE HONOURABLE SCOTT R. CAMPBELL, K.C., was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia in Sydney.



MALCOLM KEMPT is the author of *A Gift Before Dying*, a debut thriller set in Nunavut and inspired by his 17-year career as a criminal lawyer in the High Arctic. The novel, published by Crown Publishing in January 2026, has received praise from bestselling author Lee Child who called it “hypnotically good.” Now based in Newfoundland, he is working on his second thriller.

2005



LYNDSAY C. JARDINE, K.C., was appointed King’s Counsel. She practises with Wagners.



NAIOMI METALLIC, K.C., was named the 2026 Indspire Award Laureate in the Law & Justice category.



DANIEL WALLACE, K.C., was appointed King’s Counsel. He practises with McInnes Cooper and teaches Class Actions and Civil Trial Practice as a part-time faculty member at Schulich Law.

THE HONOURABLE CATHERINE V. WEILER

was appointed a judge of the Superior Court of Justice of Ontario in Toronto.

2006



LISA DELONG was named to an expert panel conducting a review of the University of Prince Edward Island’s Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Human Rights department. As director of Human Rights and Equity Services at Dalhousie University, her work focuses on university policies regarding discrimination, harassment and sexualized violence.



JENNIFER HAMILTON UPHAM, K.C., was appointed King’s Counsel. She is a co-managing partner with Patterson Law.

2007



PETER DOSTAL, K.C., was appointed King’s Counsel. He practises with the Nova Scotia Public Prosecution Service.



THE HONOURABLE BRYNA D. HATT was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia in Pictou.

THE HONOURABLE CLARISSA V. PEARCE, K.C.

was appointed a justice of the Alberta Court of Justice, Calgary Criminal Division and Calgary Region. She previously served as executive legal counsel to the Chief Justice of the Alberta Court of Justice.

2008



ROB KENNEDY, K.C., was named second vice-president of the Nova Scotia Barristers’ Society for the 2026–2027 term. He is senior Crown Counsel with the Nova Scotia Public Prosecution Service.



ANDREW KIRK joined Phillips Barristers as counsel to lead the firm’s Atlantic Canada practice from its new Charlottetown office. He will also lead the firm’s Atlantic Canada Indigenous Economic Reconciliation and Land Claims practice.



CHANTELLE RAJOTTE, K.C., was appointed King’s Counsel in British Columbia. She is senior litigation counsel with the Ministry of Attorney General’s Legal Services Branch, specializing in complex constitutional and administrative law.



DIANNA RIEVAJ marked the 10th anniversary of Highlander Law Group, which she founded in January 2016. The firm offers services in litigation, family law, real estate, probate and estates, and celebrated the milestone with a firm trip to Antigua.

2009



THE HONOURABLE EMILY BEATON was appointed a judge of the Ontario Court of Justice in Thunder Bay, Ont.



RYAN BROTHERS, K.C., was appointed King’s Counsel. He practises with the Nova Scotia Department of Justice.



THE HONOURABLE SEAN FRASER, M.P., was appointed Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and Minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. He represents Central Nova in the House of Commons.



LAURA KANAAN was named one of Atlantic Business Magazine’s Top 50 CEOs for 2025. She is CEO of MDW Law and managing partner of Tandem Family Law.



COLLIN MAY was appointed a senior fellow with the Frontier Centre for Public Policy. He is a Calgary-based lawyer and academic who contributes essays, commentary and research on issues including free expression, human rights and institutional reform.

THE HONOURABLE STACEY D. O’NEILL

was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia, Family Division, in Halifax.



ADAM PICOTTE was reappointed to the income security section of the Social Security Tribunal of Canada for a two-year term beginning February 1, 2026. This marks his seventh appointment to the Tribunal, where he continues to adjudicate Canada Pension Plan and Old Age Security appeals.

2010



MADELEINE CARTER was named Best Lawyers’ 2026 Lawyer of the Year for class action litigation in Halifax. She practises with Wagners.



YEE HTUN has dedicated her career to advancing international human rights and justice. A former government-sponsored refugee from Myanmar, she has worked in conflict and post-conflict settings around the world, taught at Harvard Law School and now serves with the Office of the Prosecutor at the

International Criminal Court in The Hague.



FRÉDÉRIC PERRON-WELCH

joined Dalhousie in February 2026 as a research fellow in infectious disease innovation governance.



BRADLEY ZANDER is associate general counsel at James Richardson & Sons, Limited in Winnipeg.

2011

THE HONOURABLE THOMAS. J. O'LEARY

was appointed a justice of the Alberta Court of Justice, Edmonton Criminal Division, effective November 26, 2025.

2012



MARY ANNE VALLIANATOS

joined the University of Victoria Faculty of Law as an assistant professor. Her research focuses on Canadian legal history, Asian Canadian history and critical race studies.

2013



MAX ROTHSCHILD was welcomed as a new partner at Stohn Hay Cafazzo Heim Finlay LLP.

2014



ALEX BRUVELS joined Miller Thomson as a partner in the firm's corporate, mergers & acquisitions and securities group.



PAUL NEVILLE joined Miller Thomson as a partner.

2017



GEORGE FRANKLIN joined the partnership at Pink Larkin, effective January 1, 2026. His practice focuses on complex appeals, public law and constitutional litigation.



NICK HOOPER became a partner with Wagners, effective January 1, 2026.



WILLIAM MCLENNAN joined Affleck Greene McMurtry LLP as an associate in its litigation group.



MARY ROLF joined the partnership at Pink Larkin, effective January 1, 2026. Her practice focuses on labour and employment matters.

2018



MATTHEW CHIPPIN successfully defended his doctoral thesis at the University of Leeds School of Law. His PhD thesis titled "The Anti-Deprivation Rule in Practice – Examples from comparative law and legal history" examines insolvency transactions avoidance laws in Canada, England and the United States.



CHEYENNE PARSONS joined Crawley MacKewn Brush LLP as an associate.



KRISTEN STALLARD will clerk at the Supreme Court of Canada in 2027–2028 as the successor to retired Justice the Honourable Sheilah L. Martin.



KENDAL STEELE joined Loopstra Nixon LLP as a partner, where he leads the firm's tax litigation and dispute resolution group.

2019



SOHAIB M. HABIB is a partner with Delex LLP, where he focuses on litigation involving digital assets, blockchain technology and cryptocurrency disputes.



NEALA J. KIELLEY is a partner with Cox & Palmer in St. John's, where she practises administrative law, human rights law and litigation.



BRENDAN PETERS is a partner with Delex LLP. His practice includes complex commercial litigation, cryptocurrency disputes and emerging technology matters.



JIMMY PETERSON joined Harper Grey as an associate in the firm's health and insurance law groups.



FABIAN SUÁREZ-AMAYA was promoted to partner with Loopstra Nixon. His practice focuses on litigation.



TAMARA WATSON was promoted to partner with Loopstra Nixon.

2020



STEPHEN DETURBIDE is a Halifax-based composer and performer. He recently completed a residency at the highSCORE New Music Festival in Belluno, Italy and a semester abroad studying composition at the University of Manchester, U.K.



PERRY YUNG joined Toronto-based Ogletree Deakins as an associate.

2021



CASSIE CHALOUX joined Lenczner Slaght as an associate.



EMILY MACDONALD is legal counsel with Mara Renewables Corporation.



ELIZABETH TAYLOR received the Canadian Association of Black Lawyers' Young Lawyer of the Year Award, recognizing her accomplishments and contributions as an emerging member of the legal profession.

2022



KASIA DONOVAN joined Tyr LLP as an associate. Her practice focuses on intellectual property litigation and complex commercial disputes.



SONJA GASHUS joined Loopstra Nixon as an associate in the firm's corporate and commercial practice group.



MORRIS ODEH joined Gowling WLG's Toronto office as an associate in the firm's advocacy department.



EMILY RAYMOND joined Mathews Dinsdale's Vancouver office as an associate.



LOVETH OVEDJE was named one of Dalhousie's 2025 OpenThinkers – PhD students selected to receive training, support and a public platform to share their research with broader audiences through blogs, social media, public speaking, media interviews, articles and op-eds.

2023



ZAINAB ADEJUMOB continues her commitment to public service through volunteer work with the Canadian Bar Association's Voice of the Profession and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion committees.



GRACE BRYSON joined Paliare Roland as an associate. Her practice focuses on public and commercial litigation.



KAELYN BURNS joined Mathews Dinsdale as an associate in the firm's Vancouver office.



DAVID LAIRD is an associate with Burrison Hudani Doris LLP.



PRIYA SZYMANSKI joined Gowling WLG's Ottawa office as an associate.



REBECCA WAXMAN joined Lax O'Sullivan Lissus Gottlieb LLP as an associate. She is developing a broad litigation practice after clerking with the Federal Court.

2024



MICHAEL CORMIER joined Cox & Palmer's Halifax office as an associate.



LAUREN HENDERSON joined Pink Larkin as an associate in 2025 after articling with the firm.



ROSE KLUG joined Cox & Palmer's Halifax office as an associate in the firm's business law group.



JAMIE L. LEARD joined Mathews Dinsdale's Vancouver office as an associate in labour and employment law.



BLAIR MILLER joined Cox & Palmer's Halifax office as an associate, practising in labour and employment, immigration, commercial litigation and insurance law.

IN MEMORIAM

SIR GRAHAM DAY ('56) died on July 31, 2025, at the age of 92. A graduate of Dalhousie Law School, he built an extraordinary career in law, business and public service, earning national and international distinction for his leadership, including a knighthood conferred by Queen Elizabeth II in 1989. Even with his many remarkable achievements, he remained deeply grateful to the mentors, colleagues and friendships that shaped his path, while continuing to encourage and uplift others. He maintained a lifelong connection to Dalhousie University, serving as chancellor from 1994 to 2001 and supporting future generations of students through scholarships. He is remembered for his professional accomplishments, generosity, sharp intellect, deep sense of duty and enduring love for Nova Scotia.

FRANK L. ELMAN, K.C. ('57) died on May 5, 2026, at the age of 90. Frank began practising law in Whitney Pier before building a long and distinguished legal career in Cape Breton. He served as president of the Cape Breton Barristers' Society, director of the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society and as a board member with the Law Foundation of Nova Scotia for more than a decade. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1973. Over the course of his career, he appeared in every court in the province, federal and provincial, served as the assistant Crown Prosecutor for Cape Breton County and the Crown Prosecutor for the County of Victoria and was widely respected for his work in labour law, arbitration and licensing matters, including serving as solicitor for the Sydney Tar Ponds cleanup. Frank was

equally committed to public and community service, with decades of involvement in the sailing community and the Rotary Club, as well as many local boards and civic initiatives across Cape Breton.

HARRY (DENNIS) MADDEN ('57) died on January 11, 2026, at the age of 93. A graduate of Dalhousie University where he earned both his commerce and law degrees, Dennis was admitted to the Bar of Nova Scotia before completing an MBA at Western University and building an illustrious international career in banking and finance. Over the years, he served with the Inter-American Development Bank, the Bank of Montreal and Royal Trust, and later founded three financial consulting firms. He also founded the local chapter of PROBUS, receiving one of the highest awards from Probus Canada, and held volunteer leadership roles with organizations including the Toronto United Way, the Society for International Development, the Nature Conservancy of Canada (BC Region) and the Victoria Symphony. He will be remembered for his passion for knowledge and impact on his community.

WILLIAM (BILL) SULLIVAN ('59) died on September 5, 2025, at the age of 91. After what he described as an "academic wandering" through his early education, Bill found his calling at Dalhousie Law School where he discovered a lifelong love of the law. Awarded a full fellowship to Southern Methodist University, he went on to complete a master's degree in comparative law before returning

to Canada to begin a legal career that spanned more than 60 years with what is now known as Guild Yule LLP. Alongside his practice he gave generously of his time, serving as a Benchler and Life Benchler of the Law Society of British Columbia as well as a member (and sometimes chair) of its ethics committee. He taught for two decades in the University of British Columbia's Faculty of Medicine, authoring several articles and book chapters on law and medical ethics. At the age of 83, he earned a master's degree in fine arts in creative nonfiction from the University of King's College, an achievement that reflected his enduring curiosity and love of learning.

ROBERT STREET ('61) died on December 30, 2025, at the age of 87. A three-time graduate of Dalhousie University (BComm '58, LLB '61, LLM '82) with an MBA from Western University, Robert combined a deep knowledge of the law with a gift for teaching and public service. After early work in industrial relations and legal practice, he joined Dalhousie University's School of Business where he taught commercial law, labour relations and negotiations, earning multiple teaching honours including Professor of the Year and an Award of Excellence in Teaching. He also remained active in legal practice and negotiation work, including serving as negotiator for the Nova Scotia School Boards Association and practising law at Crowe Dillon Robinson. Robert was a generous supporter of public legal education and access to justice, sharing his time and expertise regularly with the people who are often overlooked

and with organizations such as the Legal Information Society of Nova Scotia, EPIC (Cape Breton) and MOCEAN. He also loved spending time working in his vegetable garden. Other than being with his family, he enjoyed nothing more than operating his tractor.

KEITH JOBSON ('62) died on September 23, 2025, at the age of 95. Raised on a farm near Gronlid, Sask., Keith was known for his warmth, humility and resilience. After earning degrees in arts and education from the University of Saskatchewan, he moved to Halifax to study law at Dalhousie University. He later completed both an LLM and JSD at Columbia Law School. He returned to Dalhousie Law School to teach criminal law and criminology while also assisting the federal government by serving on the Law Reform Commission. He went on to play a foundational role in the development of the Faculty of Law at the University of Victoria. He remained committed to law reform, legal education, dispute resolution and Indigenous rights throughout his career. He is remembered as an unassuming and kind man who enjoyed walks with friends and family in nature, including Glencoe Cove-Kwatsech Park, which he helped establish.

LAURENCE (LARRY) DINGMAN HEBB ('62) died on April 4, 2026, at the age of 89. Larry earned his BA in political science and economics from the University of Toronto (Victoria College) before completing his law degree at Dalhousie Law School. He was a distinguished lawyer and respected community leader whose work reflected

a lifelong commitment to principled leadership and ethics in business. He spent much of his legal career at Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt where he became a partner in 1971 and later served as managing partner from 1986 to 1996. His practice focused on corporate and business law. In later years, he became a thoughtful voice on corporate governance, ethics and organizational responsibility, helping to advance best practices in the legal profession. He gave his time to numerous organizations, including volunteering with the United Nations Association in Canada, reflecting a longstanding interest in global affairs and public service. Larry was happiest among family, particularly out on the water at his second home in Chester Basin and Marriott's Cove, N.S., or playing croquet and apple-picking in Huron County. He is remembered for his integrity, intellect, generosity and devotion to family and community.

GORDON (BRIAN) PURDY ('63) died on April 14, 2026, at the age of 87. Brian first studied science and played varsity football at Acadia University before earning his law degree at Dalhousie Law School. He began his legal career in Calgary and moved to Yellowknife in 1966 where he built a respected practice and argued cases up to the Supreme Court of Canada, including *Regina v. Drybones*. Several of his cases continue to be cited in law programs across the country. Brian later moved to Vancouver where he served as a federal Crown Prosecutor for 17 years and was known for his integrity and professionalism. In 2016, he was inducted into the law school's Bertha Wilson Honour Society. He is

remembered as a devoted father, a thoughtful mentor and a man of quiet strength, integrity and generosity. His legacy will live on through his family, work and the lives he touched.

THE HONOURABLE DONALD OLIVER ('64) died on September 17, 2025, at the age of 86. A James Dunn Scholar at Dalhousie Law School, Don went on to have a remarkable career as a lawyer, businessman, civil rights activist, teacher and senator. As a law student, he helped draft early human rights legislation in Nova Scotia, beginning a lifelong commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion. He became the first Black man appointed to Canada's Senate, where he served from 1990 to 2013. His many honours included the Order of Nova Scotia and the Order of Canada. Even after a serious health diagnosis later in life, he continued to live with purpose, generosity and spirit. His memoir, *A Matter of Equality* (Nimbus Publishing, 2021), helped countless people gain a better understanding of his life's work. He is remembered as a trailblazing leader whose vision, courage and dedication helped shape a more just and inclusive Canada.

PETER HAYDEN, K.C. ('64) died on November 15, 2025, at the age of 87. After earning a Bachelor of Commerce from Queen's University, a Bachelor of Laws from Dalhousie Law School and a Master of International Law from Harvard, Peter built a distinguished corporate law career in Toronto spanning more than 50 years. He specialized in foreign investment in Canada and was widely respected for his expertise, entrepreneurial spirit and longstanding professional contributions. He also gave

back to his community through volunteer work with a range of charitable organizations and political campaigns, while also supporting his daughters' interests as their ringette coach and a chaperone for school camping trips.

JOHN MERRICK ('67) died on June 27, 2025, at the age of 81. John first obtained a Bachelor of Arts from Acadia University, before earning his Bachelor of Laws from Dalhousie Law School and a Certificate in Mediation from the Harvard Law School Program of Instruction for Lawyers. A prominent Nova Scotia lawyer and long-time adjunct professor at Dalhousie Law School, he was widely respected for his skill as counsel, his commitment to fairness and his devotion to the legal profession. He began his practice in Wolfville, N.S., but spent the majority of his legal career in Halifax. Over the course of his career he served in several high-profile roles, including counsel to the commissioner of the Public Inquiry into the Westray Mine Disaster and as consumer advocate in power rate hearings. He also shared his knowledge with generations of law students, teaching courses such as Torts and Judicial Remedies. A gifted orator and profound thinker with a keen intellect, his wisdom and quiet strength were evident to all who knew him.

THE HONOURABLE KENNETH PETER (PETE) RICHARD ('67) died on December 14, 2025, at the age of 93. A graduate of St. Francis Xavier University and Dalhousie Law School, Pete built a distinguished career in law and public service in Nova Scotia. Before entering the legal profession, he served as a Halifax alderman

and successfully advocated for provincial motor vehicle inspection legislation as president of the NS Gas Dealers Association. He practised law in Antigonish, with a focus on hospital law and labour arbitration before being appointed to the Trial Division of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia in 1978. He served on the Bench for 29 years and is perhaps best remembered for his role as commissioner of the Westray Mine Public Inquiry, whose landmark report "A Predictable Path to Disaster" prompted major reforms in workplace safety as well as an amendment to the *Criminal Code*, referred to as the "Westray Bill."

JOHN DAVID (DAVE) MACDONALD ('68) died on March 7, 2024, at the age of 80. Dave was a lawyer, entrepreneur, arbitrator, gifted athlete and musician. As a basketball player, he helped lead championship teams in Nova Scotia. He captained the Dalhousie Tigers, played with the Halifax Schooners and was inducted into the New Waterford Sports Hall of Fame in 2023. Music was another lifelong passion of his; some of his fondest memories included jam sessions with his older brothers and friend and father-figure, Rudy Pace. After graduating from Dalhousie Law School, he was called to the Bar at Osgoode Hall Law School before returning to Cape Breton in 1971 where he went on to build a successful legal career before he and his wife moved across the country to retire in Richmond, B.C. in 2013.

HUGH COWAN ('69) died on July 21, 2025, at the age of 80. After graduating from Dalhousie Law School, he went on to earn a Master of Laws from Southern

Methodist University in 1970. Hugh built a distinguished legal career that spanned nearly 40 years, including working with Stewart MacKeen & Covert in Halifax, the Royal Bank of Canada in Montreal and Gowlings in Ottawa, where he later served as managing partner. A passionate and accomplished sailor, he raced widely and remained connected to the water throughout his life. He shared that love with his family over many summers sailing out of the Trident Yacht Club and then later, from his cottage on Wolfe Island where he retired to in 2009, residing there until 2024.

CLEMENT YOUNG ('69) died on November 19, 2025, at the age of 80. Born in Sydney, N.S., he attended Saint Mary's University and Dalhousie Law School, before starting his legal career in Calgary. He eventually settled in Toronto, where he worked for Carling O'Keefe and later for Rothmans where he was able to indulge his love of art through his contributions to the development of the Rothmans Art Collection. He would go on to leave the legal world behind, pursuing entrepreneurial ventures, such as his companies Pacific & Western Corporation and Allegro Capital Group. What brought him the most joy was spending time with family and friends.

WILLIAM BRUCE GILLIS, K.C. ('70) died on April 21, 2026, at the age of 79. Bruce attended McGill University on a full scholarship, earning a Bachelor of Science before completing his law degree at Dalhousie Law School and a Master of Laws at the London School of Economics and Political Science. He maintained a private general law practice in Middleton, N.S.,

for 50 years. He served for more than two decades as solicitor for the Town of Middleton and the County of Annapolis. He was also an adjudicator for Small Claims Court. In 2022, he was awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal in recognition of his lifetime of exceptional community service and volunteer work. A man of many talents, accomplishments and stories, he leaves behind a legacy that his family will proudly carry forward.

DAVID CERI HUGILL ('70)

died on November 29, 2025, at the age of 81. A graduate of Trinity College School, McGill University and Dalhousie Law School, Ceri practised law in the Niagara Region for 53 years and was known for his professional leadership and community service. Over the course of his career, he served as president of the Welland County Bar Association, Big Brothers Niagara and the St. Catharines Chamber of Commerce, reflecting his commitment to the community he called home.

**THE HONOURABLE
MICHAEL (MIKE) FRANCIS
HARRINGTON, K.C. ('72)**

died on November 6, 2025, at the age of 77. A highly-respected member of Newfoundland and Labrador's legal community, Mike built a career over several decades as a partner at Stirling Ryan and then Stewart McKelvey, mentoring generations of young lawyers before his appointment to the Bench in 2007. He served with distinction as a justice of the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Court of Appeal, and was known for his fairness, integrity and compassion.

ROBERT (BOB) CARTER

HINES ('72) died on May 19, 2025, at the age of 81. A proud

graduate of St. Francis Xavier University and Dalhousie Law School, Bob practised law in Lower Sackville for many decades, helping generations of Nova Scotians with real estate matters and estate planning. He was respected by colleagues and loved by clients, many of whom valued not only his legal guidance but also his warmth and generosity of spirit. Outside the office, he loved country music, taking naps with his dogs and martial arts. His true joy was his family.

WILLIAM (BILL) LESLIE, K.C.

('72) died on August 15, 2025, at the age of 79. Bill earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Guelph before attending Dalhousie Law School. He later settled in Barrie, Ont., where he built a distinguished legal career spanning more than 50 years, with most of it spent with Stewart Esten LLP. A litigator in the truest sense, he frequently appeared before the Ontario Superior Court, the Federal Court and the Ontario Court of Appeal. He was certified as a specialist in civil litigation in 1991, appointed Queen's Counsel in 1992 and named a Fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America in 2014. He was a man of many talents, accomplishments and interests who was committed to giving back to his community. Nothing was more important to him than his family. He brought a sense of fun wherever he went and by doing so, enriched the lives of many.

FRIEDHELM (FRED) ROTH

('72) died on May 16, 2025, at the age of 80. Born in Germany, Fred immigrated to Canada with his family as a child and grew up in Ontario. After completing an Honours Bachelor of Arts in English at the University of

Toronto, he taught at Eastdale Collegiate and Vocational Institute for two years before pursuing law at Dalhousie. Following his call to the Bar through the Osgoode Hall program, he briefly practised with Greer Allore in Oshawa before establishing his own firm focusing on civil law. He was known for successfully negotiating more favourable terms and compensation with the City of Oshawa during the expropriation of his office property. He then used the proceeds of the sale of the building to buy his beloved farm east of Crooked Creek near Newtonville, until declining health and vision loss forced him to leave that chapter behind.

CLYDE A. PAUL, K.C. ('73) died on April 3, 2026, at the age of 78. Clyde earned his commerce degree before completing his Bachelor of Laws at Dalhousie University. He joined the late Premier John Buchanan's law firm and became his successor, eventually establishing Clyde A. Paul & Associates, where he would have marked 53 years in practice in June 2026. Known for his leadership, professionalism and generosity, he gave tirelessly to his community through decades of volunteer service in executive roles with the Lions Club. He was also a founder of Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides, a member of the Halifax Natal Day Committee for more than 40 years and a long-term member of the Progressive Conservative Party of Nova Scotia, in which he held many positions.

R. GARY FALOON, K.C. ('75)

died on March 24, 2026, at the age of 75. After earning his commerce and law degrees at Dalhousie University, he went

on to build a legal career in New Brunswick as a partner with Marquis and Faloon, Cox & Palmer and Gilbert McGloan Gillis. He was recognized by Best Lawyers in Canada in 2010 as a leading practitioner. Gary served in numerous leadership roles for more than a dozen organizations, from the New Brunswick Museum to the Carleton Curling Club. He was known for his warmth, humour and gift for storytelling. He loved sailing, fine food and wine and breeding Labrador retrievers under his Driftwood kennel name, a pursuit that brought him great joy and success.

DONALD CLIFFORD FRASER ('75) died on September 13, 2025, at the age of 74. He earned a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Laws from Dalhousie University. After articling with, and then working for, Nova Scotia Legal Aid in Kentville, Donald was admitted to the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society in 1976. He continued with Legal Aid until 1982, when he began a private practice that he maintained for nearly 40 years, until his retirement in January 2022. He was also a committed supporter of the New Democratic Party (NDP) and was honoured with a life membership in the Nova Scotia NDP. He was deeply rooted in the Annapolis Valley and enjoyed spending time at the family cottage on Zwicker's Lake.

LAWRENCE (LARRY) STEINBERG ('75) died on May 9, 2026, at the age of 76, in Toronto. Larry built a career in labour law, practising on the union side before serving as an arbitrator where he was committed to workplace fairness and justice. He and his family were grateful to the doctors, nurses and other health care

workers of the University Health Network who provided excellent care and compassion during his last few years of health challenges. Larry appreciated that the healthcare he received was available to all.

RONALD WILLIAM BURTON ('76) died on February 26, 2025. Ron left school at 15 after the death of his father and began working as a cabin boy on a Merchant Navy cable ship. He later served in the Air Force and then worked as a technician with the CBC. While employed full-time, he attended night school at Saint Mary's University and went on to earn his law degree from Dalhousie Law School as a mature student thanks to his exemplary LSAT score. He then co-founded his own firm which quickly grew into Burton, Lynch, Armsworthy, Ward and O'Neil, a large regional practice that operated until the early 2000s. In his 60s, Ron grew restless and pursued a new professional chapter as a licensed financial advisor. He remained active well into his 90s, continuing to manage a portfolio of residential properties in the Halifax area.

ROBERT (BOB) CLARK STEWART, K.C. ('77) died on April 16, 2026, at the age of 76. Bob attended Acadia University and then Dalhousie Law School. He spent most of his life in his home community of Berwick, N.S., where he was proud to practise law, first with Donald Hall and later with Greg Turner. He was known as a thoughtful lawyer who valued his work and the people he served, practising with kindness and care for 40 years. Committed to his community, he was a longtime member of the Berwick Curling Club, the Berwick & District Lions Club and the

Royal Canadian Legion, Ortona Branch No. 69. In retirement, he maintained a familiar presence around town, enjoying walks and conversations with friends.

ROGER B. LANGILLE, K.C. ('78) died on May 13, 2025, at the age of 69. He was a loving, honest, loyal and curious person with a brilliant mind and an unmatched sense of humour. He never lost his childhood enthusiasm. A tremendous lawyer who fought fiercely for fairness in both his work and life, he faced illness with courage and remained fully himself to the end, wishing that all who cared for him would raise a glass of rye in celebration of their many shared memories.

RONALD VICTOR PENNY ('79) died on December 21, 2025, at the age of 69. After obtaining his law degree at Dalhousie, he practised with several law firms before becoming a founding member of Casey Rodgers Chisholm Penny Duggan LLP, where he specialized in real estate law. Known for his generosity, warmth and community spirit, Ron was always ready to lend a helping hand to others. He was a longtime member of the Lions Club, volunteered with the Canadian Cancer Society for more than 30 years and donated blood more than 100 times, beginning in his teens. He also loved golf, summer games and time spent with friends and family, including badminton with his grandsons.

GARY ROBERT RANKIN ('79) died on April 8, 2026, at the age of 71. Gary earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from St. Francis Xavier University before completing his law degree at Dalhousie. He practised law for more than 40 years, starting in private practice before moving

into municipal government where he served as chief administrative officer and solicitor for the Towns of Westville and New Glasgow. For the past 19 years, he worked with the Health Association of Nova Scotia, representing clients across the province in all aspects of labour law. In 2024, he was appointed an adjudicator for the Nova Scotia Small Claims Court, a role he greatly enjoyed. A beloved father, colleague, neighbour and friend to many, he was active in his church, served with several charitable and service organizations and was awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal in recognition of his contributions.

GERALD "RED" BLANCHARD HOGANSON ('80) died on November 17, 2025, at the age of 90. Gerald built a diverse career, beginning as a machinist before expanding his education to include business administration and law. He went on to work in those fields and later retired from the University of Prince Edward Island. He was engaged in the communities around him and gave his time in support of many organizations. He loved to play hockey with the Bedford Barons, where he formed lifelong friendships with his teammates. He was an active downhill skier, curler and an avid golfer, always finding camaraderie in the sports he enjoyed.

CHERYL PAYNE ('81) died on September 20, 2025, at the age of 69. Cheryl graduated from Dalhousie Law School, a testament to her sharp intellect, determination and commitment to justice. She was known for the way she celebrated and encouraged others, especially women, and for her gift of seeing the best in everyone. Music was one of her greatest joys — she

shared her love of singing with her chosen family in The Women Next Door, a cherished lesbian choral group that brought her friendship and happiness. While those who knew her mourn her absence, they also celebrate the light she brought into every room and the joy she poured into her relationships.

GERALD KENNETH QUINN, K.C. ('85) died on January 5, 2024. He attended Dalhousie University where he earned his Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws degrees. He was a dedicated Crown Attorney based in Charlottetown for 13+ years.

SALLY HILL ('88) died on June 21, 2025, at the age of 70. Sally spent much of her childhood in Toronto and later moved to Halifax, where she worked as a flight attendant for Air Canada while pursuing her studies. She earned a commerce degree and then a law degree from Dalhousie, balancing studies with weekend flight schedules in what became a seven-year academic journey. After articling in Air Canada's law department in Toronto, she was called to the Bar and joined the firm Woolgar VanWiechen, where she practised "in association" for 16 years while continuing her career with the airline. After retiring from Air Canada with 35 years of service, she gradually reduced her legal practice.

RICHARD JAMES FREEMAN ('89) died on May 10, 2025, at the age of 60. As a lifelong learner, Richard lived with curiosity, generosity and unwavering devotion to family, friends and the community. At Dalhousie, he earned a Bachelor of Arts in history and a law degree. He later attended the London School of Economics and Political Science where

he obtained a Master of Laws focusing on corporate commercial law. He began his career with McInnes Cooper in Halifax, then practised with Ferrier Fownes on the South Shore before transitioning into his family's business, Harry Freeman & Son Limited, the Greenfield sawmill operated by the Freeman family since 1832. Well known in Nova Scotia's forest products sector, he served in numerous volunteer leadership roles, including as founding director of the Atlantic Lumber Board. He made many community contributions, including helping to create the Greenfield Community Park, the Greenfield Community Resource Centre Society and the new Greenfield Elementary School. He was awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal the day before his passing.

MOOSA JIWAJI ('90) died on April 21, 2025, at the age of 75. Moosa was born in Mombasa, Kenya, and immigrated to Canada more than 50 years ago. He earned his law degree from Dalhousie Law School and went on to clerk at the Alberta Court of Appeal for Justice Harradence and articulated with Molstad Gilbert LLP. Over the years, he built a career as a lawyer, mediator and educator, and was appointed a commissioner with the Alberta Human Rights Commission. He remained committed to learning, most recently pursuing a Master of Laws in alternative dispute resolution at Osgoode Hall Law School. He lived a life grounded in love, integrity and purpose, raising his children to speak boldly, act with compassion and stand firmly in their values — lessons they carry with them every day.

MICHELLE PAMELA MORGAN-COOLE ('90) died on August 14, 2025, at the age of 59. Michelle studied at Cape Breton University before earning her law degree at Dalhousie Law School. She went on to establish her own disability law practice, work that was deeply personal and inspired by her daughter Jessica. She was also a tireless advocate for accessibility, disability rights and inclusion, and supported awareness efforts such as Purple Day for epilepsy. She left a lasting impact on countless lives. Michelle brought light and laughter wherever she went, believed in celebrating life's journeys and encouraged her children to embrace every possibility.

AUDREY KATHRYN (KATHY) KENDALL ('92) died on December 13, 2025, at the age of 59. Kathy earned a Bachelor of Commerce from Queen's University and went on to obtain her law degree at Dalhousie Law School. After several early career roles, she found her footing at the Nuance Group, and then later discovered her professional home at Celestica in Toronto where she served as corporate counsel for more than 20 years. She was known for her quiet competence, sound judgment and strong relationships with colleagues. While Kathy faced some challenging chapters in life, she was steadily supported by her friends and son, Sam, and with clarity and renewed strength, she reclaimed pieces of her life that had long been out of reach. She found peace paddleboarding across Toronto Harbour at sunrise, the joy of new friendships and the quiet pride of healing.

GERRIT W. VERBEEK ('93) died on March 23, 2026, at the age of 62. Gerrit obtained his law degree from Dalhousie Law School and served as an assistant Crown Attorney with the Ministry of the Attorney General in Timmins, Ont. His family described him as a man of deep faith, integrity, compassion, humility and quiet strength, whose kindness and generous heart left a lasting impression on those who knew him.

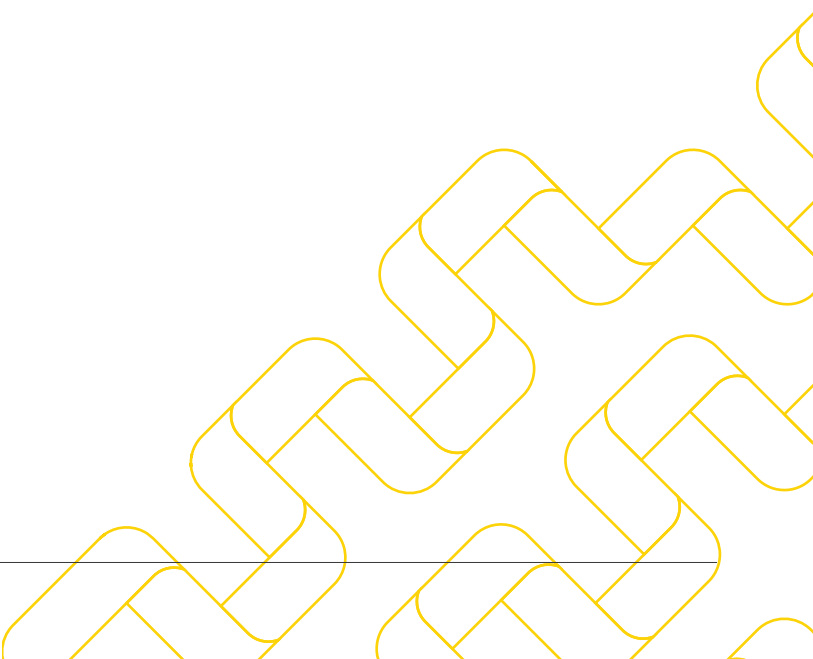
DR. AARON TETTEH AHINAKWA (LLM '97) died on April 22, 2025. Born in Accra, Ghana, Aaron pursued a bachelor's degree in health law at the University of Ghana before attending Dalhousie Law School to complete a Master of Laws in health law. His lifelong commitment to learning led him to earn an MBA in pharmaceuticals management from Rutgers University and a PhD in pharmaceuticals law and drug regulatory affairs from Northeastern University. He built an international career in pharmaceutical and regulatory affairs, working with Pfizer, GlaxoSmithKline, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Novartis, Shire Pharmaceuticals and Aspire Pharmaceuticals. His work helped guide new medicines through clinical trials and regulatory approval processes in jurisdictions around the world. He also shared his expertise as a professor at George Washington University, where he mentored future healthcare and regulatory professionals. He strongly believed that his gifts and knowledge were not for self-promotion, but for service — to bless others, to open doors for future generations and to honour God in all things.

SARAH MARIE ALMON ('12)

died on June 30, 2025, at the age of 39. Sarah earned a bachelor's degree in history and philosophy with first-class honours from St. Francis Xavier University, a master's degree in international affairs from Carleton University's Norman Paterson School of International Affairs and a law degree from the Schulich School of Law. She built her career with Stewart McKelvey in Saint John, N.B., and Halifax, where she practised as an estate and trust lawyer and found deep satisfaction in helping her clients. She was an avid reader and enthusiastic volunteer. She was also a dedicated outdoorswoman who loved being on the water in and around Mahone Bay on Laveer, the sailboat she and her sister owned. She enjoyed camping, travelling and spending time with family, friends and her dog, Angus.

VICTORIA (TORI) SKOT ('17)

died on March 4, 2026, at the age of 34. Tori grew up in Sudbury and Barrie, Ont., attending Wilfrid Laurier University for her Honours Bachelor of Business Administration before completing her Juris Doctor at the Schulich School of Law. She began her legal career at Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP in Toronto in the competition, antitrust and foreign investment group before moving back to Barrie to join Barriston LLP. She found joy in life through travel, remarkable food — both cooking it herself and discovering new dishes around the world — and most of all in the time and memories she shared with family and friends at her absolute favourite place, the “Skottage” near Parry Sound. Her resilience, sense of humour and wit were some of her most defining characteristics, traits that remained strong through her final days after a hard-fought battle with brain cancer. Her jokes and determination were a beacon to her family, friends and care team.



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JUDGE CORRINE SPARKS
(LLB'79, LLM'01)

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