



SCHULICH SCHOOL OF LAW

HEALTH LAW INSTITUTE

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION THAT TACKLES TOUGH ISSUES
IN HEALTH LAW, POLICY, AND ETHICS

ABOUT US

As the health care realm forges ahead with advances and discoveries, legal and ethical questions abound. The Dalhousie Health Law Institute, which is supported by and works with the Faculties of Law, Medicine, Health, and Dentistry at Dalhousie University, responds to these questions.

The Health Law Institute is the national leader in health law and policy research in Canada. We are among a small number of academic institutions with international impact in this field.

Our Institute faculty are regular policy consultants to government bodies, public interest groups, the private sector, and health care organizations.

We offer the first and only health law and policy specialization for JD students in Canada, and we welcome graduate students from across the country and around the globe.

LEADING INTERDISCIPLINARY SETTING

For over two decades, we have taken the lead in attracting and fostering a new generation of students trained in health law.

Our faculty teach at the undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education levels, and we supervise students interested in writing about topics at the intersection of law, health care, policy, and ethics. While our course offerings and mentoring activities are primarily located within the Schulich School of Law, we also supported the development and delivery of a health law curriculum for students within the Faculties of Medicine, Dentistry, and Health Professions.

RENOWNED RESEARCH ON TOUGH ISSUES

Our Institute is widely recognized for the quality and impact of our research. Our members have received numerous grants, awards, and research contracts and pursue research in challenging areas such as:

- conscientious refusals and health care
- privacy and confidentiality of health information
- food security in the Canadian north
- public health emergencies
- end of life treatment policy and practice
- commercialization of biomedical research
- emergency contraception
- neuroethics
- health care in correctional systems
- death determinations in intensive care units
- patient safety
- research involving humans
- migrant health risks and needs
- federal-Indigenous health care transfers
- foetal/maternal rights
- harm reduction and safe abortions
- mental capacity and medical decision-making
- HIV/AIDS policy
- mental health
- criminal law/sentencing and health

EXTENSIVE COURSE OFFERINGS

Our Health Law and Policy Program is the largest course offering of its kind in Canada, and leads to a JD specialization in Health Law and Policy. Our Program prepares graduates to excel in one of the fastest growing areas of practice. Some of our course offerings include:

- Advanced Negligence: Medical Malpractice
- Health Care Ethics and the Law
- Health Systems Law and Policy

- Health Law
- Health Law and Policy: Current Issues I and II
- Health Law Exchange
- Health Law Placement
- Mental Disability Law: Civil
- Mental Disability Law: Criminal
- Public Health Law

To earn the Health Law and Policy specialization, students must take Health Law and three additional elective classes in the upper years of the JD program. Students interested in registering for the Health Law and Policy Specialization should contact the Director of the program as early as possible and ideally at the start of second year.

COMMITTED PUBLIC SERVICE

As a resource for both the University and the broader community, the Institute is committed to public service. We regularly provide background information and give interviews to the media. We offer consultation services to various government agencies as well as public interest groups, the private sector, and health care institutions. We speak at a wide variety of meetings, serve on local, provincial, and national committees, and respond to requests for information from the general public. Our Health Law Students' Association is active in the student community and runs a wide range of activities connected with health law and policy.

We also host an extremely popular health law and policy seminar series that is open to the public, and attracts a broad audience from across the university and health care communities. Our eight speakers per year are all nationally or internationally recognized experts in their field, and each lecture spotlights a current area of legal and ethical controversy. Please see our website for details of this year's schedule.

FACULTY, AFFILIATE MEMBERS & RESEARCH SCHOLARS

Our revised membership policy permits faculty with posts in the Faculties of Medicine, Health Professions, Dentistry, and Law to join us. Current members are :

- Matthew Herder, BSc, LLM, JSM, Director
- Joanna Erdman, BA, LLM, Associate Director
- Crystal Dieleman, BSc (OT), MSc, PhD
- Jocelyn Downie, MLitt, SJD, FCAHS, FRSC
- Jacqueline Gahagan, MA, PhD
- Elaine Gibson, LLM
- Michael Hadskis, BSc, LLM
- Leah Hutt, BA, LLM
- Adelina Iftene, LLM, PhD
- Constance MacIntosh, MA, LLB
- Sheila Wildeman, MA, LLM
- Shawn Harmon, BA, LLM, PhD, FHEA
- Niki Kiepek, MSC (OT), PhD
- Martha Paynter, RN
- Eli Manning, MSW, PhD

CONTACT US

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ABOUT THE SCHULICH SCHOOL OF LAW

The Schulich School of Law plays an extraordinary role in Canadian legal education. What began as a "daring experiment" in two rented rooms in 1883 became the model for law schools across Canada and the British Commonwealth. Our outstanding learning environment blends the intimacy of a close-knit community with the reach of a research-driven university. We live the "Weldon Tradition" of unselfish public service, and it brings us together – past and present students, faculty, staff, and friends. We stand on the shoulders of giants and yet work to blaze a trail for others to follow.