

OSGOODE HALL LAW SCHOOL

Alumni Magazine

Continuum

FINDING THEIR VOICES AND VIEWS

ETHICAL LAWYERING IN A
GLOBAL COMMUNITY



WINTER 2021

How are Things Going?

A Champion of International
Human Rights and Social Justice

Faculty Focus

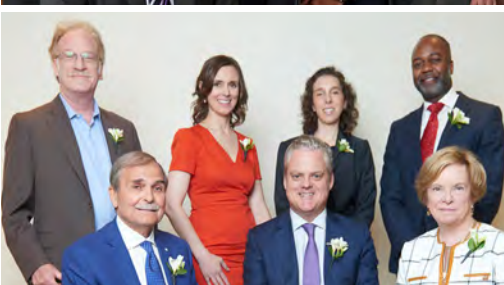
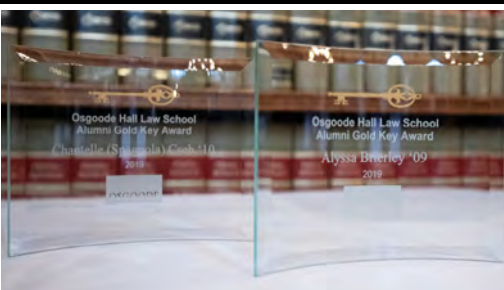


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Alumni Magazine – Volume 45

EDITOR

Anita Herrmann
Director, Office of External Relations
& Communications
416-736-5364
aherrmann@osgoode.yorku.ca

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Virginia Corner
Communications Manager

WRITERS

Meghan Carrington
Bev Cline
Mary Condon
Virginia Corner
Anita Herrmann
Christine Ward

PHOTOGRAPHY

New Paramount Studios

ILLUSTRATION

Mike Ellis

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CONTINUUM

Office of External Relations
& Communications

Ignat Kaneff Building
Osgoode Hall Law School
York University
4700 Keele Street
Toronto, ON M3J 1P3
Telephone: 416-736-5638
Fax: 416-736-5629
E-mail: alumni@osgoode.yorku.ca
Website: osgoode.yorku.ca/alumni



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DEAN'S MESSAGE



 **IN MY MESSAGE TO GRADUATING STUDENTS THIS PAST JUNE, I** said that lawyers will always be needed to make a better world. The rule of law is a core organizing principle of many societies, which is why the legal profession has survived for centuries, through wars, plagues and wholesale societal transformation. We lawyers will survive this current pandemic, too. I suspect, though, that we will see increased demands for change, both within the legal profession and within law schools, given the inequalities and inadequacies the pandemic has revealed in our society.

We are all aware of concerns around diversity in the legal profession and the issue of lack of access to justice for low-income and marginalized individuals. We at Osgoode want lawyers and the legal profession to be part of the solution to these issues, not part of the problem, and we want to do our part to make that happen in the way we educate our students. As you will read in this issue, our commitment to an Ethical Lawyering in a Global Community course is a concrete manifestation of our desire to focus on doing what is right, as is our renewed emphasis on addressing anti-Black racism through

the introduction of a new anti-Black racism module and the dedicated hiring of a self-identified Black professor, expected to teach in our first-year curriculum.

Accessibility – along with equity, diversity and inclusion – are key tenets of the Law School. Over the past several years, we have developed an ambitious program of financial aid initiatives to help offset the cost of tuition and ensure access to our robust and innovative academic program. We distributed more than \$5 million in student financial assistance in the 2019-20 academic year alone. I am pleased that the Law School was also able to ease some mental and economic strain during the pandemic by creating a \$250,000 fund to assist returning JD students this past September who had lost income or had unexpected expenses since March 15, 2020 that were directly attributable to COVID-19.

We are immensely grateful to all our generous supporters – the most recent are Scotiabank and Torkin Manes LLP who are each providing awards to assist self-identified Black or Indigenous law students – for helping to make an Osgoode education more available to applicants from marginalized communities.

We are proud of the superior legal education we provide, as well as the diversity of our student body. Our annual Admissions Survey (available on our website) of the entering class affirms that we are a strong, dynamic and diverse law school.

It is central to the mission of Osgoode to educate talented, engaged, innovative and justice-seeking graduates and post-graduates who will carry forward those same values into all the venues and halls of justice in which they find themselves.

What they learn here – the importance of critical thinking about law, of not settling for easy answers, and of carrying with them the ethical principles at the core of being a lawyer, including integrity and public service – will prepare them well to thrive in a changing legal profession and to make significant contributions to shaping its future direction. We thank all our alumni and supporters for their help in achieving these objectives.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Condon".

Mary Condon
Dean

IN BRIEF

Hip! Hip! Hurrah! for the Class of 2020

WHILE WE COULDN'T HOLD IN-PERSON CONVOCATION CEREMONIES IN JUNE AND OCTOBER OF LAST YEAR DUE TO THE PANDEMIC,

we did manage to mark these important milestones with great virtual fanfare.

Members of the JD graduating class each received an e-newsletter in June containing a message from Dean Mary Condon; a fun video with personal best wishes from their professors; another video welcoming the graduates to the Osgoode Hall Law School Alumni Association; a digital Convocation program; and a sneak peek at Class of 2020 congratulatory ads planned for the *Globe and Mail*.

All of this followed on the heels of a package each graduate was sent from York University containing their diploma, cap and tassel, and other celebratory items.

For the October Convocation, Osgoode Professional Development (OsgoodePD)

had 205 graduating students from its various Professional LLM specializations.

Following the virtual Convocation ceremony, OsgoodePD hosted an online reception attended by graduates and their invited guests, instructors, and Osgoode staff.

During the reception, keynote speaker Ranjan Agarwal '11 (LLM), Partner and Co-Head of the Class Actions Practice at Bennett Jones in Toronto, shared words of inspiration about his experience since completing his Osgoode LLM in Constitutional Law. A toast was offered to the graduates by Professor Jinyan Li, Co-Director of the Professional LLM in Tax Law.

In addition, OsgoodePD produced a video of congratulations to graduating LLM students featuring program instructors and OsgoodePD staff, which was shared with graduates the day after the ceremony.



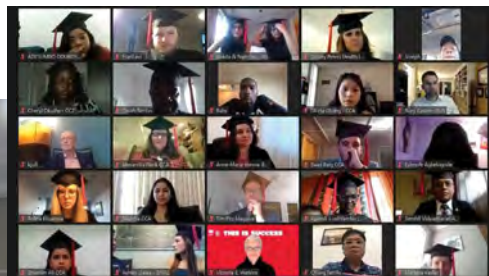
New Blog Provides Forum for Conversation and Commentary on Tax Law

THE "TAX AT OSGOODE HALL LAW SCHOOL" blog features regular contributions from Osgoode faculty members particularly those in the Law School's robust tax program, academics from other institutions, practitioners of various kinds, and others who are established in the field. In addition, the blog actively encourages contributions from students, especially those in the Professional LLM in Tax Law program.

Principal curator of the blog is J. Scott Wilkie, Distinguished Professor of Practice at Osgoode and a high-profile tax practitioner in Canada. The blog was first conceived a few years ago by Osgoode tax law Professors Jinyan Li, now Co-Director with Wilkie of the Professional LLM in Tax Law, and Lisa Philipps, now Provost and Vice-President Academic of York University.

The "Tax at Osgoode Hall Law School" blog can be found here: tax.osgoode.yorku.ca

Professor Jinyan Li



Ranjan Agarwal '11 (LLM)



Osgoode Investor Protection Clinic Helping Retail Investors

THESE ARE BUSY TIMES INDEED FOR THE OSGOODE INVESTOR PROTECTION CLINIC (IPC).

The five-year-old clinic, the first of its kind in Canada, recently entered into a partnership with the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada (IIROC) in a joint effort to meet a critical need in the community for free legal services for vulnerable, harmed retail investors. IIROC, the pan-Canadian self-regulatory organization that oversees all investment dealers and their trading activity in Canada's debt and equity markets, will provide the IPC with major funding annually for five years.

The IPC has also released four information videos to help educate and protect retail investors who may be vulnerable to financial mismanagement. Addressing topics such as the securities regulation system in Canada, red flags

for investment fraud and ways to recover lost funds, the *Points of Interest* video series was produced by Osgoode students in consultation with IPC's supervising lawyers and representatives from the Ontario Securities Commission and the Ombudsman for Banking Services and Investments. The video series, funded through a Law Foundation of Ontario grant, can be found here: www.osgoode.yorku.ca/ipc/videos

In addition, the IPC received a *cy-près* award of \$157,750 last year from a class action settlement approved by the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, which will assist with the development of investor education, the recruitment of Osgoode students as summer interns, and with the clinic's research activities. It is the second time in as many years that the IPC has been named in a class action settlement.

Former LSO Treasurer Joins CFCJ as Senior Research Fellow

MALCOLM MERCER, FORMER TREASURER OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF ONTARIO and now Chair of the Law Society Tribunal, has joined the Canadian Forum on Civil Justice (CFCJ) at Osgoode as a Senior Research Fellow.

A retired partner with McCarthy Tétrault (Toronto) who has practised law for more than 30 years, Mercer is no stranger to Osgoode, having taught as an adjunct professor for a number of years in the areas of legal ethics and professionalism.

He has a wealth of first-hand experience looking at the challenging issues facing the profession today, including professional education, regulatory reform, diversity and inclusion, access to justice and innovation.

The CFCJ is a national non-profit organization that has been dedicated to advancing civil justice reform through research and advocacy since 1998.



Osgoode Student Invited to Serve on World Economic Forum Council

PHD CANDIDATE AND VANIER SCHOLAR JAKE OKECHUKWU EFFODUH has been selected as

a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Frontier Risks. The Council will identify key future shocks for the next generation and propose policy opportunities that will build resiliency today in the face of these risks.

Effoduh will be serving on the Council with, among others, Professor Ngaire Woods, founding Dean of the Blavatnik School of Government at Oxford University; Eric Herrera, Chief Economist at Inter-American Development Bank; Professor Nita Farahany, Founding Director of Duke University's Initiative for Science and Society; and Khalfan Belhoul, Chief Executive Officer of the Dubai Future Foundation.

As part of his PhD program at Osgoode, Effoduh is conducting research on the legitimization of artificial intelligence in Africa. He is also a Queen Elizabeth Scholar and Advanced Scholars Fellow with the Centre for Law, Technology and Society at the University of Ottawa. A human rights lawyer since 2011, Effoduh is a Partner at Praxis & Gnosis law firm in Nigeria. He founded Law2Go in 2018, a digital library of human rights laws and legal services for Nigeria. He holds two master's degrees in law from the University of Oxford and Osgoode.

FINDING THEIR VOICES AND VIEWS



**Osgoode's Ethical Lawyering in a Global Community
course challenges students to become reflective and
engaged legal professionals**

by Christine Ward

A

ALIZA KWINTER THOUGHT SHE KNEW EXACTLY THE KIND OF LAWYER SHE WANTED TO BE.

And she had a straightforward plan to get there.

“I figured I would learn the rules of law and then go out and help people who might not be able to afford to hire a lawyer,” she says.

Much of that strategy was called into question on her first day at Osgoode Hall Law School last September when Kwinter and 308 fellow students began a compulsory course on Ethical Lawyering in a Global Community (ELGC).

“I thought we’d talk about why the law is important,” Kwinter remembers. “Instead, we were confronted with intense questions about ethics, our role within the legal profession and how we should react if, for example, we’re asked to represent someone who doesn’t share our values.

“It shook me up a bit.”



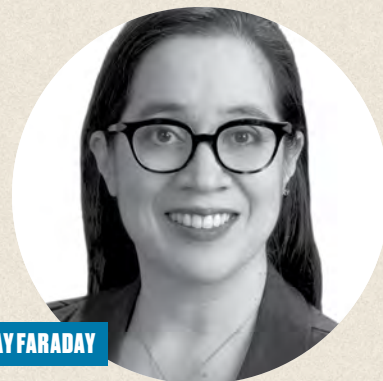
ALIZA KWINTER



ALLAN HUTCHINSON



TREVOR FARROW



FAY FARADAY

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE AN ETHICAL LAWYER?

That's precisely the kind of reaction **Trevor Farrow, Allan Hutchinson** and **Fay Faraday** were hoping for.

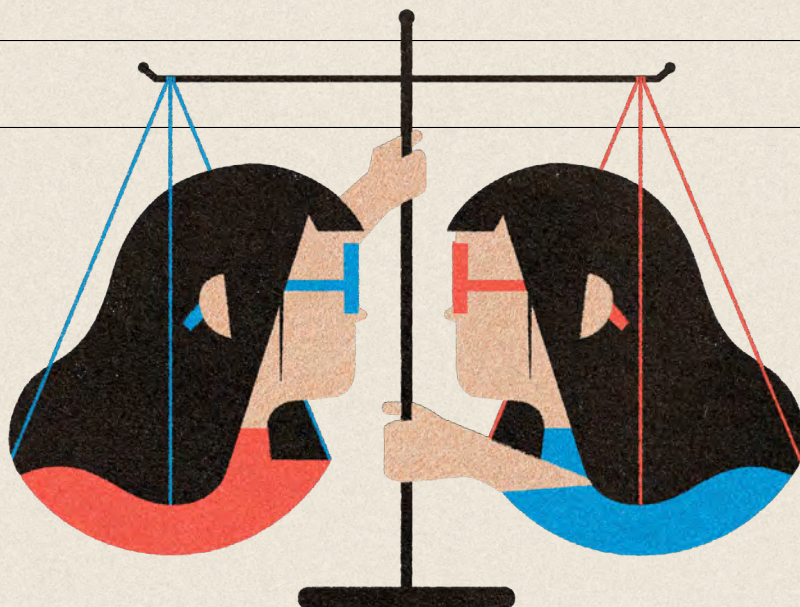
The three Osgoode professors have a long history of leading the ELGC course, along with a handful of other academics who have been involved over the years. Hutchinson and Farrow developed the course in 2007, and Farrow is the current course director, having taken over from Faraday, who managed ELGC from 2015 to 2019.

Reflecting on his years in the ELGC classroom, Hutchinson says many students arrive at law school with idealistic and sometimes TV-inspired romantic notions of what it means to be a lawyer. While world-changing attitudes like Kwinter's are good, he says, preparing to do that requires understanding first who you are as a person and then how that connects to who you might want to be as a lawyer.

"They're not entirely clear at this point who they are as students. I want them to think about that and contemplate the professional role they're preparing to assume and how big a gap they're willing to accept between their professional and personal lives." It's not an issue of what's right or wrong, or good or bad, Hutchinson explains. "I'm asking students to think seriously about what it means to be an ethical lawyer and then to put that context under a microscope and into play as something that is debatable."

Kwinter admits it's not easy contemplating a future that isn't as clearly defined as the one she imagined, where she might have to defend someone she doesn't believe in or prosecute someone in a potentially unjust situation.

"I thought I would have full autonomy about my practice and get to choose which side of the battle I want to fight, but it became clear to me that's not always possible," she says.



While tackling these kinds of thorny questions wasn't exactly how she expected to spend her first day of law school, she admits several months later that it was a critical seed to plant.

"I learned how important it is to reflect," she says.

CREATING REFLECTIVE AND ENGAGED PROFESSIONALS

The idea for a first-year course on ethics and globalization was first proposed by Osgoode's curriculum review committee some 15 years ago. Hutchinson and Farrow remember ELGC being in part a response to trends and issues in legal practice across Canada and around the world, in particular the principle of access to justice, which many Canadian jurists at the highest levels argue is a societal imperative.

"We saw at the time the need to reimagine a law curriculum in Canada that challenged the dominant model of lawyering under which client interests and the bottom line were more and more present," recalls Farrow. "We realized that we needed to start looking again at the commitment of the bar to the public

interest, and to the notions of the rule of law and access to justice."

Above all else, they wanted to create a safe place for conversations that help students from diverse backgrounds become engaged thinkers, professionals and citizens — and imagine ways of being a lawyer that include everything from Bay Street corporate practice to legal aid.

While not currently teaching the course, Faraday spent 10 years in the ELGC classroom. She is also an Osgoode grad who remembers the challenges of speaking her mind as one of only two racialized students in her class section in the early 1990s.

"This is the most important course that students can take at law school," she says, adding that learning how to understand yourself, have compassion for others with different experiences and communicate effectively across those divides are among the most important skills a lawyer can possess.

To get students thinking about these concepts early so they become the foundation for what they'll learn in their substantive law courses, Osgoode chose to make ELGC compulsory for all entering students, and to feature it in an intensive format before the launch of any other academic course. ELGC is offered over four days at the start of the fall semester and then again as a two-week intensive in early January.

"It's a fascinating journey to take students on and watch the connections spark," says Faraday of her experience.

“This is learning by confronting situations and developing sensibilities about what it means to behave ethically when there’s tremendous pressure on you to take the easy way out. I want to challenge my students, get them to take a stand, engage, take me on and say they disagree. I don’t care what views they have as long they’re ready to put them on the table for scrutiny.”

—Professor Allan Hutchinson

ASKING THE TOUGH QUESTIONS

Each of the ELGC professors has adopted their own approach to teaching legal ethics, but they agree that case studies, both real and hypothetical and spanning the legal disciplines, are key.

Hutchinson’s opening salvo, however, has nothing to do with the rule of law. He describes seeing a man and a woman cuddling on the subway platform only to recognize the woman as his best friend’s girlfriend. “What should I do?” he prods. Although he knows there’s no pat answer, he says it’s an important way to engage the students out of the gate because many can see themselves in that situation.

“This is learning by confronting situations and developing sensibilities

about what it means to behave ethically when there’s tremendous pressure on you to take the easy way out. I want to challenge my students, get them to take a stand, engage, take me on and say they disagree. I don’t care what views they have as long they’re ready to put them on the table for scrutiny.”

Farrow aspires to a similar outcome by diving head-first into real-world legal cases like the dispute between Sipekne’katik First Nation members of the Mi’kmaq and non-Indigenous lobster fishers in Nova Scotia, and a local development project that pits developers against residents and threatens to displace marginalized communities. Like Hutchinson, he asks students to have an open-ended conversation about how they feel personally about the situation before he segues into questions like — what might the law or lawyers do here? What might the code of

conduct require? Do you agree, and, if not, how might it look differently?

“I don’t expect students to have a detailed understanding of the law surrounding these cases,” Farrow says, “but I do expect them to have a sense of what it might mean to be an engaged community citizen. And within that, I hope they will then explore what it might mean to be an engaged lawyer.”

When the second half of the course opens in January, students bring to the class a deeper understanding of the law, including criminal and contract law studied during the first semester.

But many also return with a less aspirational view of the world and assumptions about the law and how the legal profession should operate. An Osgoode research project led by Farrow and a former student documented the attitudinal shift from first year when

many students focus on the law as a way to achieve broader social good, to third year when many see the law as a business intended to serve individual client interests.

“This course is designed to challenge and potentially destabilize that trend,” Farrow states. “We want to push boundaries and challenge dogmas.”

PERSPECTIVE MATTERS

One way the professors seek to do that is through open-ended discussions about issues of equality and access to justice framed through the lens of social movements such as Black Lives Matter, #MeToo and Idle No More.

“It requires having conversations about how power operates in law, how systemic discrimination is embedded in Canadian law and how law is both an enabler to discrimination and a potential tool for dismantling it,” points out Faraday.

Respecting that these conversations are often difficult to have, the instructors encourage their students to listen, to recognize that they’ll hear things that are different from their own experience, and to enter into the conversation without judgment or fear.

Leah Horzempa ’18, who is from the Georgian Bay Métis community and the founder of Sister Circle Consulting, remembers ELGC as a place where she could explore different perspectives of law at a time when she was also reconnecting to her Indigenous culture, rights, values and identity.

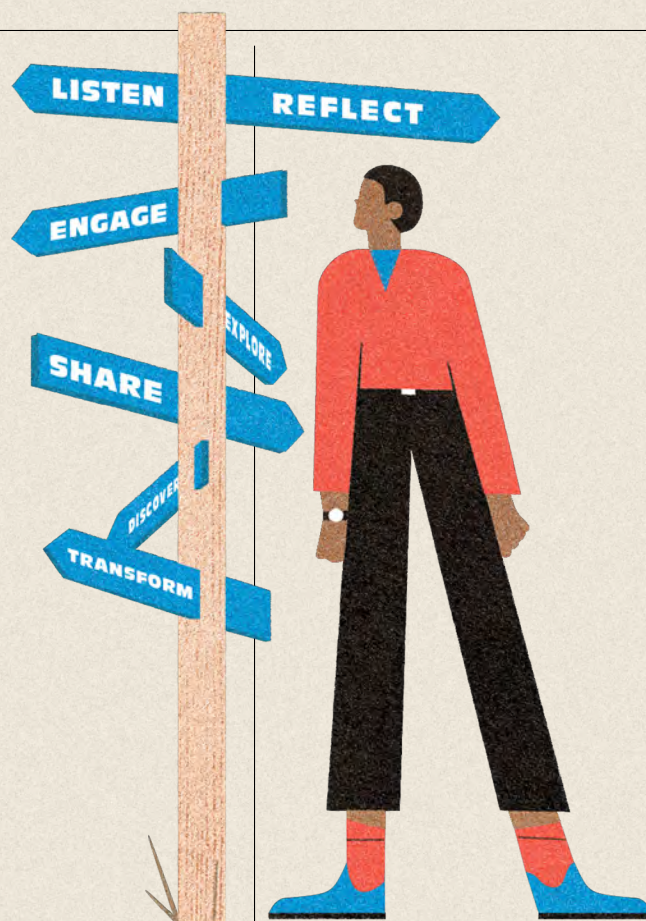
“Soon after arriving at law school, I started to feel that I was supposed to behave and perform a certain way and exhibit certain values,” she remembers. “This course gave me permission to think outside of that. It reminded me that there are multiple perspectives and I should trust my gut.”

That instinct served her well during a classroom lesson that asked whether it’s ever appropriate for a lawyer to hug their client.

The overarching consensus, Horzempa recalls, was that it wasn’t professional to have those kinds of relationships with clients. Her gut said differently, however. “For me, it’s never absolutely inappropriate because lawyers and clients are human beings who sometimes have gone through something life-changing together.”

Horzempa was reminded of this moment a few years later when she worked at Osgoode’s Parkdale Community Legal Services and a grateful client reached out to embrace her.

“I was okay with it in that moment,” she says. “I understood that professionalism is culturally defined and that I could still be a lawyer and hug a client. I get to define what being a lawyer means to me.”



LEAH HORZEMPA

NEW ANTI-BLACK RACISM MODULE

Faraday wishes that Osgoode and society-at-large had been open to these kinds of conversations 30 years ago when she was a student. To help make issues of race and power imbalance feel real for today's JD candidates, she often sends them on a walk to look at the class photos lining Osgoode's hallways. "The first 90 classes are almost exclusively white men," she notes. "You might then see the odd female student and then a small group and then a brown face." What her students don't see is Faraday's own class photo; she opted out of having her picture taken because "there were virtually no other brown faces and I didn't feel comfortable putting my face on the wall."

She uses her story to encourage the class to make the connection between who they see on the walls and the content of a common law system based on precedent.

Although issues of racism and discrimination are nothing new, Faraday acknowledges that the willingness to talk about them is — and the ELGC course is the ideal place for that to start.

This fall, in fact, Osgoode piloted a mandatory requirement for ELGC: a two-hour seminar on anti-Black racism led by visiting professor **Tomee Sojourner-Campbell** (see sidebar).

"We're living in a moment in time that I never thought was possible," Sojourner-Campbell says, pointing to the worldwide protests calling for an end to anti-Black racism happening at the same time as a global pandemic that is having a disproportionate impact on marginalized communities.

By speaking to issues of privilege, power and justice and what it means to be an ally and by building on other related topics and discussions throughout the ELGC curriculum, she hopes to help foster a generation of lawyers who are self-aware and willing to challenge their ingrained beliefs and assumptions.

"The significance and timing of the work we do here could be transformative. These are the lawyers who will lead us into the second quarter of the century."

OSGOODE'S FIRST ANTI-BLACK RACISM SEMINAR

Before George Floyd was killed during a Minneapolis police arrest, and anti-Black racism and police brutality protests erupted around the world, Osgoode's Black Law Students' Association (BLSA) published a report on anti-Black racism. Among 10 recommendations, the BLSA called for a mandatory session for first-year Osgoode students on anti-Black racism.

Osgoode made good on this commitment earlier this year, hiring **Tomee Sojourner-Campbell** as a 2020-21 visiting professor, and launching a pilot module on anti-Black racism within the Ethical Lawyering in a Global Community course.

Sojourner-Campbell brings to her role more than 20 years of experience in learning and professional development, human rights, diversity and inclusion. She designed, developed and delivered the two-hour *Understanding Anti-Black Racism: An Introduction* seminar to all first-year law students in the Fall 2020 semester.

Continuum spoke to Sojourner-Campbell about her experience.

Q: Why did you agree to take on this challenge?

A: I wanted an opportunity to engage first-year law students in a process of thinking critically about the complexities of anti-Black racism, to understand the diversity within Black communities, to

consider intersectionality in their analysis of anti-Black racism and to offer some insights in the ways law students can address anti-Black racism.

I also recognize that we're living in a moment in time that I never thought was possible. Seeing now in 2020 a resurgence in racial justice in a global context, I know that this is the time to influence critical conversations about anti-Black racism with a large group of law students. The significance and timing of the work we do here could be transformative. These are the lawyers who will lead us into the second quarter of the century.

Q: Is the need for this kind of conversation even greater now than when the module was first proposed?

A: It's always been important to have a space for learning about anti-Black racism in a legal context, but I do think we're in a climate where this module lands differently than it would have previously. Law schools are responding to what employers are looking for in future hires. Lawyers should have the ability to critically analyze issues based on intersectionality, race, gender and other social factors. And clients are expecting their lawyers to come from diverse communities and backgrounds.

Q: Describe some of the techniques you used to critically engage your students

READY TO CHANGE THE WORLD

Hutchinson, Farrow and Faraday are hopeful that transformation has already begun, thanks in part to the discussions underway in ELGC.

"We're in the midst of a huge access to justice crisis in this country and a course like this is helping our next-generation leaders have the hard conversations that I hope will lead to a more engaged and responsive legal profession," says Farrow.

Four years after she attended ELGC, **Amanda Byrd '19** agrees that the course has what it takes to change the way students — and lawyers — think.

"The class helped me to think about how much space I'm taking up — when it's my turn to talk and when I should shut up and let other people speak." She worked hard to be conscious of her identity as a white woman and mature student from a working class family, and to think about how those dynamics influenced her choices as a law student and now as a practising lawyer.

She also credits ELGC with giving her the self-awareness and confidence to do

TAKING ACTION

Osgoode joined other Canadian law schools in issuing a statement this past summer committing to combat anti-Black racism in legal education and in the legal profession.

The Law School also later issued its own statement providing an update on its progress in acting on a 2018 report prepared by the Osgoode Black Law Students' Association (BLSA) that made 10 recommendations for addressing anti-Black racism. The statement, entitled "Osgoode Hall Law School is Committed to Combatting Anti-Black Racism," can be found at: www.osgoode.yorku.ca/about/plans-reports

Among the actions undertaken so far by the Law School, in addition to the introduction of a new module for first-year students on anti-Black racism, is a dedicated search for a self-identified Black tenure-track faculty member who is expected to teach in the first-year curriculum.



TOMEE SOJOURNER-CAMPBELL



AMANDA BYRD

and spark conversation. How did you overcome the challenge of teaching 140 students at a time via Zoom?

A: Well, we were creative! I shared real case examples and explained how anti-Black racism may impact a client engaged in contract negotiations, for example. I asked students to share during class and by email examples of how they had seen anti-Black racism manifest in different sectors, including retail and health care.

The curriculum also included a critical reflection assignment where students were challenged to situate their social identities in the social issues and legal matters discussed during the seminar and in the readings.

Finally, I created a wiki, an online page focused on mapping the contributions of Black legal professionals and community members to the development of the legal profession. Students were encouraged to add examples of Black people they feel contributed to the legal community — people like Violet King, Canada's first Black woman lawyer. I think of the wiki page as a living archive that the first-year students are helping to build for future generations of JD students.

Q: This module is a pilot project. How are you gauging its success?

A: The personal reflections are a good indicator. They are thoughtful and indicative of the fact that the students are thinking deeply about the impact of anti-Black racism and how they can take steps to address it in ways that matter to them. Students are thinking about what kind of lawyer they want to be, what kind of lawyer their clients expect them to be and what kind of lawyer they need to be in 2025 to address anti-Black racism and racial justice.

Q: What happens next?

A: For the students, the next step is to put their reflections into action. I hope they walked away from this pilot module with a deeper understanding of the ways that anti-Black racism occurs and its impact on members of Black communities. I also hope that they continue to engage with the process of critical self-reflection and commit to ongoing dialogue about these issues as part of the larger transformation that is happening within legal education and the legal profession.

The other way they can engage is by participating in the evaluation process for this course. Each generation of law students has a chance to impact the next and shape the future of how we address anti-Black racism in legal education at Osgoode.

what she thinks is right, even when it's not the easiest path to follow. While a third-year law student, Byrd was subjected to gender discrimination at an international moot competition. She chose to go public with her complaint to help spark an important conversation within the legal profession.

"We talked about discrimination in class, but then to experience it first-hand, I felt a professional and ethical obligation to disclose, to say this is not okay."

That experience and the lessons learned in Osgoode's ELGC classroom had a profound impact on Byrd's career path. She recently founded her own practice specializing in legal research, human

rights, civil litigation and administrative/public law, and says she now knows herself to be the kind of lawyer who is committed to leading positive change, even when the legal profession isn't ready for it.

"When I think about the difficult decisions I'm likely to face in the future, I say to myself, 'What do I have to lose?' It sometimes sucks and it's not always going to make you friends, but that's my obligation to myself and to the profession."

"I know I'm staying true to my values."

Christine Ward is Principal of Ward Development Communications based in eastern Ontario.

HOW ARE THI

As the pandemic continues and we adapt to the ‘new normal,’

Virginia Corner asks four members of the Osgoode community

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vanish Nanda '14 has been keeping busy during the pandemic, to put it mildly.

His firm, Nanda & Company, with offices in Edmonton and Vancouver, handles all types of litigation with an emphasis on public law disputes.

Lately, the sole practitioner has represented a growing number of people who are having difficulty making mortgage payments during the pandemic or have been evicted by their commercial landlord for inability to make monthly rent.

He has also been working with vulnerable individuals who are either street-involved or homeless.

“It has been particularly challenging dealing with and representing those individuals because of how the pandemic has impacted their lives,” says Nanda who has been in practice since 2015.

“Many are no longer in the spots where they used to congregate or the shelters

they used to access because everything’s shut down. The supports are no longer there for them. It has created complications, especially if I need them to participate in some sort of evidence vetting process or some sort of court procedure.”

Nanda, whose office is steps away from his apartment in Edmonton in a building he and another lawyer bought during the pandemic, had to temporarily close his office doors in the fall because of the rising COVID-19 rates in Alberta. That, too, caused difficulties for a lot of his clients, he says.

In addition, he has twice had to self-isolate – once for three weeks in March when he had a serious cold and again in November for 10 days when he thought (thankfully mistakenly) that he had been exposed to someone who was COVID-19 positive.

Nanda says the pandemic has made him much more reflective. “I’m

especially reflective of what I’ve got to do and how I’m going to do it. If I can’t meet a client to review a document or if I have to go to court, I ask myself if this is something I will go in person to do or can I just do it online.”

One thing’s for sure: There has been no shortage of work for Nanda during the pandemic. Indeed, he took on the biggest case of his six-year career in the fall, representing *pro bono* 11 Albertans struggling with opioid use disorder who have filed a lawsuit against the provincial government for discontinuing injectable opioid agonist treatment (iOAT) in the province.

Clinics in Edmonton and Calgary offering the treatment are set to close this spring after provincial funding ends on March 31. The statement of claim, filed Sept. 30, 2020 in the Edmonton Court of Queen’s Bench, alleges that closing the clinics infringes on patients’ charter rights and is discriminatory, and calls on the court to halt the closures and maintain service for current and future patients.

The work that Nanda has done on the case has been extremely challenging. “I had to find the plaintiffs, get their information, get experts from Alberta and British Columbia to email affidavits, martial a lawsuit that is significant and detailed and thorough, and push through the courts to get a resolution on an expedited basis with all the challenges we have in the pandemic.”

He has come to realize, though, that his work – pandemic or no pandemic – is truly serving a need. “Without people like me and without the type of legal practice that I have, a lot of the issues that I tend to deal with would not be raised in the legal setting. That’s really what gets me up in the morning each day. And keeps me awake into the night.”



NGS GOING?

– a sole practitioner, a student, a staffer and a professor –

“How are things going?” Their stories make for interesting reading.



K

arin Kazakevich, President of the Legal & Literary Society, describes herself as “a perpetually positive person” who is optimistic that, despite the ongoing pandemic and the move to online teaching and learning, students can still feel part of the Osgoode community.

Kazakevich, 23, has wonderful memories of her first two years at Osgoode. Not just attending classes, but being involved with things like student clubs, competitive mooting, and organizing Thursday social nights for the student body. However, translating those experiences into the virtual world, particularly for incoming first-year students, hasn’t been easy.

“That’s been the hardest part of this whole thing from L&L’s perspective,” says the third-year JD student. “I was pretty optimistic at the beginning of the year

that the Osgoode community I know and love would transition easily to an online environment, but practically making that happen is difficult. I don’t think anyone’s really figured out the ultimate solution to building online communities.”

Kazakevich and the rest of the Legal & Lit team strive to engage students with the Osgoode community, and that has been a big challenge particularly at the beginning of the school year.

“It’s difficult to hear 1Ls talk about not knowing what it’s like to be a real Osgoode student or worrying that they are missing out on the experiences they hear upper-years talk about,” says Kazakevich, one of three Legal & Lit representatives sitting on Osgoode Faculty Council. “They would ask upper-years at Orientation Week ‘What are your favourite Osgoode memories?’ and the replies would be hanging out in

the JCR or Law Games, things that won’t happen this year.”

“There’s a sad sentiment amongst the student body right now,” says Kazakevich, who will be articling at Dentons Canada LLP after she graduates in June. “Students are overwhelmed, facing all kinds of different pressures, and for many, grieving the in-person experience they thought they would be enjoying by now.”

Online education is not what people signed up for and trying to navigate this new environment has been tough, she notes. “Zoom lectures are different. Staying engaged and staying focused when you know you can kind of do whatever you want if your camera is off, that is a challenge for a lot of students. It’s not the same as being in the classroom and being really immersed in that environment.”

Still, she has seen how the pandemic has also brought out the best in her fellow students. Clubs have continued to plan virtual events, peer mentorship programs have stepped up to provide support, and even Osgoode classics like Mock Trial, the annual Osgoode variety show of which Kazakevich is a producer, will be taking the virtual stage in March.

“Importantly, the students’ commitment to supporting and uplifting each other has not been lost in the pandemic,” Kazakevich notes. When start-up Ryerson Law was looking for upper-year mentors for their first-year students, they asked Osgoode mentors if they could step in. Legal & Lit shared Ryerson’s request and within a few hours all the mentor spots had been filled.

“The response was so warm,” Kazakevich says. “It was just great to see everyone so willing to help. There’s a sense that we’re not doing this alone, we’re all in this together.”

HOW ARE THINGS GOING?



Lisa Del Col '08 starts her day with a long walk with her dog, Tucker, a Treeing Walker Coonhound mix she refers to as “an everything beagle” when asked what his breed is. “It’s nice,” says the Manager of Experiential Education & Career Development, “to get my steps in, give Tucker some exercise, and start the day with some fresh air. It kind of clears my head. I listen to a podcast while I’m walking.”

A short time later, Del Col and her husband, Nicholas Boisjoli, are both working from the kitchen table of their midtown Toronto home. “He’s an engineer in training. He has to take his calls at his computer, so we have a little system that we’ve worked out,” Del Col explains. “If he has a call and I don’t have a call, I’ll just sit at the table and continue to work. Whenever I have a call, I’ll go to the downstairs office or wherever.”

If there is one thing that 41-year-old Del Col has learned about herself during the pandemic, it’s just how much she craves structure and routine in her life. It was difficult for her and Boisjoli to establish a new routine in the early days of working from home.

“When you’re working from home, everything sort of blends together. Just making sure that Nicholas and I were setting out a routine, that was a challenge at first,” Del Col recalls. “We’ve since overcome that. We have a pretty set routine now that separates work and personal life, and we are making sure we are taking care of our physical and mental health.”

One of their favourite activities that they enjoy together is Olympic weightlifting. The couple works out five days a week, two of those times with a trainer (now coming to them virtually). Del Col can lift 70 pounds in an overhead snatch and has a goal to reach 100 pounds by the end of this year.

“Olympic weightlifting is very technique driven, so it’s as much mind work as it is strength work. Learning these new skills while challenging my body has kept me motivated during the pandemic,” she says.

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so it’s as much mind work as it is strength work.
Learning these new skills while challenging my
body has kept me motivated during the pandemic.”

Del Col only started working full-time at Osgoode in November although she was in the same role that she is in now in 2015 on a one-year contract, covering a parental leave. She has had a variety of jobs over the years supporting both law students and Indigenous youth. Most recently, she held the position of Counsel, Licensing Process with the Law Society of Ontario.

“I wasn’t actively looking for a job,” Del Col says. “I was enjoying my time at the Law Society. It was good and challenging work, and it was really busy because we were all pivoting to this online world that we’re living in now.” When she saw the Osgoode job posting, however, “it just felt like an opportunity that I couldn’t pass up.”

She has spent the past four months getting back into the swing of things with

her experiential education and career development role, refamiliarizing herself with the different clinics, the different clinical leaders, and the opportunities available to students. She meets virtually with her team of six and everyone else including the students.

Since rejoining Osgoode, she has only been in the Law School building three days for commissioning of Law Society applications for third-year students. With new lockdown measures, the School had to shift after three days to offering virtual commissioning through a notary company. “It was really nice to be back on campus. It sort of made the role feel real again although it is a little eerie in the Law School itself because it’s just so quiet and empty.”





K

aren Drake took up the role of Associate Dean (Students) on July 1, 2020 and immediately faced not only having to learn a new job, but also having to deal with pandemic challenges.

“I didn’t have any background in this role pre-pandemic,” she says. “The biggest challenge has been trying to learn the role at the same time as learning how to address all of the issues that come up due to the pandemic.”

If she had been in the role previously, ideally for at least a year but even for six months, she would have already known how things work and how the role itself works, says Drake who spoke with *Continuum* in early December for this article. “It would have been so much easier to then envision and foresee what the solutions are to the pandemic challenges.”

Nevertheless, Drake has remained calm and professional, carrying out her duties by providing students (virtually for the time being) with individual academic counselling and skills development sessions as well as addressing a variety of non-academic student concerns.

One significant issue for students during the pandemic has been a lack of access to distraction-free study spaces, says Drake, an Associate Professor who joined the Osgoode faculty in 2017. She is a member of the Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation who researches and teaches in the areas of Canadian law as it affects Indigenous peoples.

“Students are just like the rest of us trying to make this work from home. They’re living in sometimes crowded spaces. Some of our students have children and it’s very difficult to create actual distraction-free spaces where they can study and do their work.”

Foreseeing that this could be an issue for students writing their exams last December, Drake put together a proposal that was submitted to the York University Emergency Operations Committee requesting that eligible students be able to write their exams in the shuttered Osgoode building.

“I was very grateful for the help of colleagues in Student Services, the Executive Office, and the Associate Dean (Academic) in writing that memo,” Drake says. “We got the approval for it.”

She was also happy to see study spaces in the Law Library reopen in October from Monday through Friday. “I was just so glad to see things like that taking place for the students.”

Drake was on sabbatical last year and worked from home, so she has a well-established work routine. “I usually start working pretty early in the morning and that way I can take a break at midday to go for a jog or do something else active. Then it’s back to work for the rest of the afternoon.”

She lives in a house in midtown Toronto with her husband, Ryan Drake, a former Registrar of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, and Penelope, a nine-year-old cat that the couple rescued from the streets of Thunder Bay where they used to live. Her husband is a writer and musician who also cooks. “He is taking good care of me, and our cat as well, and supporting me that way,” Drake says.

Despite the demands of her job, Drake has found time to take an Anishinaabemowin (the Anishinaabe language) course on weekends via Zoom through the Native Canadian Centre in Toronto. “That’s been very satisfying. I’ve really enjoyed that. The instructor does a great job and I’ve actually learned a lot about pedagogy from this course.”

The experience of going through the pandemic has also made her realize how much of an introvert she is. “People are reflecting on their experiences during the pandemic and how difficult it is to feel isolated. Sometimes I find it a relief to be alone, to be perfectly honest,” she says with a laugh.

Virginia Corner is Osgoode’s Communications Manager.

“I usually start working pretty early in the morning and that way I can take a break at midday to go for a jog or do something else active. Then it’s back to work for the rest of the afternoon.”

LEADING RESEARCH

A Champion of International Human Rights and Social Justice

—by *Bev Cline*

Bev Cline is a Toronto-based freelance writer, editor and book author.



Professor Obiora Chinedu

When Professor Obiora Chinedu Okafor presents his research outputs, his voice resonates with the veracity of his on-the-ground, fact-finding missions and meticulous, in-depth research.

As such, his focus on groundbreaking research to advance social justice in the international order, including through the study of human rights, has gained him worldwide recognition.

His work has had an influence in the formulation of new international legal texts (including treaties, declarations, resolutions, guidelines and action plans); in the envisioning and creation of new international mechanisms/procedures; in the strengthening of domestic bodies such as parliaments and national human rights institutions; and in the creation and launching of innovative human rights cases.

“It is not always the main goal of fundamental research, but I am happy when my research feeds into policy and action,” says Okafor. He joined Osgoode in 2000 (after terms at Carleton University and the University of Nigeria) and is the inaugural York Research Chair in International and Transnational Legal Studies.

Respect for his work carries across the United Nations, governments, human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations and academia. He is well-known for his collaborations with other researchers and his influence on younger scholars, the JD and graduate students he is training to carry on this important work. Okafor has served, since 2017, as the United Nations Independent Expert on Human Rights and International Solidarity. He is also a former Chairperson and Member of the UN Human Rights Council Advisory Committee.

Admiration for his work also explains why so much of Okafor’s research has been taken into account by international organizations, states and other actors in the development of their policies and/or policy adaptations. Although, as an international lawyer, Okafor’s research focus is global, he has often paid particular attention to the African continent. His research has – and will continue to have – profound and beneficial effects on the human rights work of the African Union, and on human rights of African and other peoples.

“It is not always the main goal of fundamental research, but I am happy when my research feeds into policy and action.”

LIVED COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL JUSTICE

Okafor was born in Nigeria during a war of self-determination fought by his Igbo people (who live mainly in the south-east of the country) to defend themselves from repeated attacks and pogroms, and from a military campaign launched by the then central government to suppress their declaration of independence. His family was displaced and forced to constantly flee to safety during that more than two-year long civil war in the late 1960s.

“Growing up in the aftermath of that war – among a people whose lives had been deeply and indelibly scarred by the atrocities committed against them – shaped my strong interest in human rights and social justice,” says Okafor.

During his childhood he went to school in other parts of the country with children from every background. He says this exposure to other cultures “infused in me a deep concern for everyone’s well-being, no matter their ethnicity or religion, and a commitment to multiculturalism, even well before I knew that word.”

Okafor was raised by a mother who worked as a teacher and a father who was a practising lawyer, both of whom took education very seriously. They also, through their actions,

demonstrated their lived commitment to social justice. It is no wonder that Okafor chose to train and qualify as both a lawyer and a law teacher.

He is deeply committed to his role as a teacher. He has won Osgoode’s Teaching Excellence Award twice, in 2002 and 2007. In addition, he received the 2010 Award of Excellence from the Canadian Association of Law Teachers and, in 2013, was awarded the Gold Medal for Exceptional Research and Major Contributions to Jurisprudence of the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies.

Okafor believes strongly in collaboration between scholars and between scholars and students. He is regularly invited to present keynotes and other papers at prestigious universities and law associations, including in Europe, North America, Africa and Australia.

Similarly, at Osgoode, he is active in organizing events and seminars that bring together international law scholars with younger researchers and students. Okafor is the founder and organizer of the International Law in the Global South Research Seminar Series, now in its sixth year, and the founder of the Oputa Lecture on Governance in Africa, in its fifteenth year.

LEADING RESEARCH

CURRENT RESEARCH

Okafor's current research continues to demonstrate his commitment to human rights and social justice.

It was announced last October that Okafor and Professor Sylvia Bawa of York's Sociology Department will co-lead a three-year study looking into Canada's human rights role in

five African countries – Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa.

The project, which is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), involves nine partner academic institutions and NGOs, and more than 23 scholars and practitioners.



“The main goal of the project is to investigate and assess the nature, problems, achievements and prospects of Canada’s human rights engagements with each of the five sample African countries,” Okafor says.

Another research project currently under way is a SSHRC Insight Grant-funded study on how activists effectively mobilize the Court of Justice of the Economic Community of West African States (an international court that mostly deals with human rights cases).

“Its main goal is to investigate innovative ways in which local activists in Nigeria deploy this international court as one of their resources to increase their chances of mounting enough pressure on the government to act in pro-human rights ways in regard to issues such as women’s rights, the right to liberty and basic education rights,” Okafor says.

Over the last four years or so, Okafor has led a team of five scholars and graduate students to execute this project and the research team has now authored six major scholarly papers from the data collected and analyzed.

RESEARCH AMID THE PANDEMIC

Okafor’s ability to travel since March 2020 for both his academic research and work as the United Nation’s Independent Expert on Human Rights and International Solidarity has been curtailed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, he continues to conduct desk research, organize research workshops via Zoom, write, publish, and deliver leading research reports for the United Nations.

For example, in 2020 Okafor researched and remotely presented two major reports to the United Nations.

Populism and the threat to international solidarity:

This report, presented remotely to the UN General Assembly, analyzed the ways in which a specific form of populism, which Okafor referred to as “reactionary populism,” has exerted a strongly negative influence, not just within states but also on international solidarity and cooperation. This is exemplified by the threat to multilateral international cooperation, and thus to peoples’ health, even during a global pandemic.

International solidarity and climate change: This report was presented remotely to the UN Human Rights Council. It focuses on the ways national and international inaction or inappropriate action with regard to the very serious (even existential) threat posed by climate change in our time undermines the principle of international solidarity, and therefore hobbles our ability as a world to effectively tackle that issue, often in violation of already established international treaties.

LOOKING AHEAD

In his role as the United Nation’s Independent Expert on Human Rights and International Solidarity, Okafor has made “UN Official Country Fact-Finding Visits” to Sweden, the Netherlands and Qatar. He hopes, as part of his six-year remit in this capacity, to make similar fact-finding trips to Bolivia, Costa Rica, Malawi and other countries when it is safe to travel in terms of the pandemic.

In the near future, Okafor will, among other initiatives, continue to discharge his obligations to the United Nations, conclude the research project into Canada’s human rights role in Sub-Saharan Africa, and expand the latter into a much larger project covering more partners and countries.

Okafor also intends to expand his research on activist mobilization of the Court of Justice of the Economic Community of West African States to include other countries, continue to undertake his other research on advancing social justice in the global order, and continue teaching and mentoring his JD and graduate students.

TRANSLATING RESEARCH INTO ACTION

While it is not always possible to turn research into action, it is very gratifying when it does happen, says Okafor.

He points to one recent project in which he provided research and analysis to the Pan African Lawyers Union (PALU) in its work of researching, conceptualizing and drafting the African Union’s *African Human Rights Action Plan*. Using his training and long experience in the human rights and African studies field, Okafor, along with invaluable input from a number of his JD students, “was able to provide the PALU and African Union with some of the knowledge it needed to strengthen the content and orientation of this critically important pan-continental human rights action plan.”

At a grassroots level, Okafor is now helping to “popularize” the *African Human Rights Action Plan* (although the plan is yet to be formally launched by the African Union). He is using funds awarded for this purpose by the SSHRC under its Connection Grants (Outreach) Program. He and his collaborators, including one of his PhD students who is helping him to coordinate the project, are working with an award-winning producer, writer and director from the Nigerian film industry and local artists hired by him.

“We are producing 10-minute videos and street dramas, which will educate people at the grassroots level in Africa about the African Union’s continental human rights action plan and help popularize it.”

FACULTY FOCUS



Meet Kate Glover Berger

Last July 1*, the Law School welcomed new faculty member, Assistant Professor **Kate Glover Berger**, whose scholarly and teaching expertise lies in administrative and constitutional law. She researches and publishes widely in these areas, with an emphasis on administrative law and its relationship to the constitution; the nature of the administrative state; the design of institutions and fair process; judicial review of administrative action; and constitutional principles, architecture and amendment. In 2017, her research was awarded the Prix d'Excellence de L'Association des Doyens des Études Supérieures au Québec.

Glover Berger earned her doctorate in law from McGill University as a Vanier Scholar and held the O'Brien Fellowship in Human Rights and Legal Pluralism. She earned her masters in law from the University of Cambridge, where she was

the Rt. Hon. Paul Martin Senior Scholar. In 2009-10, she served as law clerk to Justice Rosalie Abella of the Supreme Court of Canada. From 2015 to 2020, she was an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law at Western University.

A recipient of multiple teaching awards, Glover Berger teaches JD courses and seminars in administrative law, constitutional law, and advanced public law. She is also active in graduate legal education, and lectures on specialized topics of public law in professional development programs. She is the Academic Chair of the Annual National Forum on Administrative Law and Chair of the Advisory Board of the Canadian Association of Law Teachers.

**Another new professor, Jonathon Penney, also joined the faculty on July 1, 2020 and was featured in the Winter 2020 issue of Continuum.*

“She is also active in graduate legal education, and lectures on specialized topics of public law in professional development programs.”



A Global Research Strategy for Post-Pandemic Socio-Economic Recovery

Professor **Steven Hoffman** – in his role as Scientific Director of the Institute of Population & Public Health at the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), which is hosted by York University – was invited by UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed in June 2020 to lead the UN effort to rapidly develop a global research strategy for the post-pandemic socio-economic recovery.

Building on the work of the UN COVID-19 economic and social recovery plan, Hoffman, supported by his CIHR team, developed the *UN Research Roadmap for the COVID-19 Recovery*, which is intended to ensure national and international strategies are informed by

rigorous evidence generated in anticipation of, and during, the COVID-19 recovery period.

“We live in a world where people, systems and generations are all interdependent, which means the actions we take today during COVID-19 must simultaneously work towards a more equitable, resilient and sustainable future. Science represents the world’s best chance for guiding the attainment of that better future,” Hoffman said.

Hoffman is also the Director of the Global Strategy Lab and the Dahdaleh Distinguished Chair in Global Governance & Legal Epidemiology in York’s Faculty of Health and Osgoode Hall Law School.



Former Osgoode Dean on the Move

The Honourable **Lorne Sossin** ’92 has been appointed a Justice of the Court of Appeal for Ontario. Sossin had been a Judge of the Superior Court of Justice of Ontario since 2018 and, prior to that, served for eight years as Dean of Osgoode.



FACULTY FOCUS



Three Honours in One Year

Professor **Signa Daum Shanks**, who is Director of Indigenous Outreach at Osgoode, was appointed a Senior Fellow at Massey College for 2020-21. In 2020, she also received the Women's Law Association of Ontario (WLAO) President's Award for making a substantial contribution to the legal community as well as an Alumni of Influence Award from the University of Saskatchewan's College of Arts and Science.

A Métis who was born and raised in Saskatchewan, Daum Shanks joined Osgoode's full-time faculty in 2014. Three years later, she received a York University Research Leaders Award and

an Initiatives in the Classroom Grant for her efforts in introducing Indigenous methods and content to various circles within the broader York community. She also organized Project Fact(a), a think tank of legal researchers from across Canada analyzing various topics that caught international attention during the 2018 *R. v. Stanley* trial.

Active within the legal profession, she is an elected member of the Ontario Bar Association's Provincial Council, the elected Toronto representative on the OBA's Board of Directors for 2020-21, and a participant in the United Nations' annual Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Law Professor to Evaluate Canadian Government Support Programs

Professor **Jinyan Li** and her co-applicants (Prof. **Scott Wilkie** and Prof. **Thaddeus Hwong**) are among a number of York University researchers who will undertake 10 new projects related to COVID-19 over the next year with special funding of more than \$250,000 from the University. These researchers will study the human and public health impacts of the pandemic with a broad goal to find unique responses to the challenges of COVID-19.

The Li, Wilkie and Hwong project, which received \$14,792 in funding to pay

for research assistants, will take a preliminary look at the Canadian government's economic relief programs and their short-term and permanent impact on the financial health of Canada. The project will draw lessons from the COVID experience that will assist in developing a fiscal antibody for future emergency responses.

The Li, Wilkie and Hwong project is expected to lead to a major Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) grant application and a preliminary research paper in the spring of 2021.





Making an Impact

Professor **Janet Walker** has been appointed Distinguished Research Professor at York University. The Distinguished Research Professor title is awarded for sustained and outstanding scholarly, professional, or artistic achievement, where a significant portion of that work has been accomplished at York.

An Osgoode faculty member since 1996, Associate Dean from 2003 to 2005, and Director of the LLM in Civil Litigation and Dispute Resolution at Osgoode Professional Development for 13 years, Walker has earned an international reputation for the excellence and high quality of her scholarly leadership in private international law, procedural law, comparative law, and international commercial arbitration.

Her strong publication record – particularly her authorship of the main text on private international law in Canada, *Canadian Conflict of Laws*, which is the most-cited private law work in Canadian courts – her pedagogy and law reform initiatives, as well as her service within and outside the University, are testaments to the major impact she has had – and continues to have – in the field of international dispute resolution in Canada and around the world.

“her pedagogy and law reform initiatives, as well as her service within and outside the University, are testaments to the major impact she has had – and continues to have.”



Kent McNeil



Brian Slattery

Book Awards for Professors Emeriti

Professor Emeritus **Kent McNeil's** book, *Flawed Precedent: The St. Catherine's Case and Aboriginal Title*, has won the Osgoode Society's 2020 John T. Saywell Prize for Canadian Constitutional Legal History. Professor Emeritus **Brian Slattery's** novel, *Escape*, written for children aged 10 to 14, has won first prize in the Canadian Writing for Children Competition, 2020, in the “Middle Grade” category.

FACULTY FOCUS



Cynthia Williams



Edward J. Waitzer

A Heartfelt Adieu

The Law School bids a fond farewell to two retiring faculty members:

Cynthia Williams and **Edward J. Waitzer**.

Cynthia Williams, who joined Osgoode on July 1, 2013 as the Osler Chair in Business Law, a position she also held from 2007 to 2009, departs this July 1. Her areas of expertise are securities law, corporate law, corporate responsibility, comparative corporate governance and regulatory theory. She is the co-editor of *The Embedded Firm: Corporate Governance, Labor, and Finance Capitalism*, and the co-author of a U.S. Business Associations casebook now in its fourth edition.

She also engages in policy work through active participation in bodies such as the Canada Climate Law Initiative (CCLI), a cross-disciplinary research initiative developing strategies to encourage governance action by directors and other fiduciaries in the transition to a low-carbon economy, and through her board membership in the Climate Bonds Initiative, a London, U.K. charity establishing a new asset class, climate bonds, to fund that transition.

Williams plans to move back to her home country, the United States, and continue her academic writing and policy work, addressed to U.S.

corporations and law, as well as pursue her interests in photography, skiing, hiking, and international travel, which she is sure will one day again be possible.

Ed Waitzer — who started as an Adjunct Professor in 1990 and was the Falconbridge Professor of Commercial Law (2005-2006), the Jarislowsky Dimma Mooney Chair in Corporate Governance at Osgoode and York's Schulich School of Business (2007-2020) and the Director of the Jay and Barbara Hennick Centre for Business and Law (2008-2020) — retired last July 1.

Acclaimed for his corporate/M&A expertise, he has served as a director of numerous corporations and organizations including Chair of the Ontario Securities Commission from 1993 to 1997. From 2003 to 2004, he lived in Santiago, Chile and was special advisor to the Chilean Superintendent of Insurance and Securities. He is the recipient of the 2018 Corporate Knights Award of Distinction, and the 2019 Who's Who Legal Global Corporate Governance Award.

He will continue his association with Stikeman Elliott LLP (where he is a former Chair and Partner) and intends to pursue other policy-related initiatives.

High Achiever

Benjamin Berger, Osgoode Professor and York Research Chair in Pluralism and Public Law, has been elected a Member of the Royal Society of Canada's (RSC) College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists. It is one of the highest honours a Canadian scholar can receive for intellectual leadership.

The College, one of four entities within the RSC, recognizes individuals who have begun demonstrating leading scholarly, research or artistic excellence within 15 years of having completed their post-doctoral program or its equivalent. Members of the College are elected for a period of seven years, and 50 new Members were elected in 2020.

In other news, the Organization of American States (OAS) General Assembly has elected Berger to the Board of Directors of the Justice Studies Centre of the Americas (JSCA). Berger joined the Board in January of this year and will serve through 2023. The mission of the JSCA, which is headquartered in Santiago, Chile, is to provide technical support to OAS member states in their justice system reform processes.



IN MEMORIAM

— January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020

1948

Vernon E. Purcell

1950

Peter Cory

1951

John B. Gillespie
Bernard J. Smith

1953

Terence R. Doidge
Fraser M. Fell
David C. Ross
James A. Taylor

1954

R. Warden McKimm
Joseph H. Seguin
J. A. William Whiteacre

1955

Douglas H. Carruthers
Stanley J. Knight
Joseph W. McKenna

1956

James W. Craig
John E. Murphy
Daniel J. Murphy
William S. Sharpe
Robert A. F. Sutherland

1957

David L. Beard
Thomas R. Comery
Roland E. Henderson
Andre Lacroix
James D. Ross
Kenneth W. Scott
Robert D. Stupart

1958

Donald A. Crosbie
James C. Fleming
Weldon F. Green
Dennis G. Lane

1959

Norman D. Dyson
Norman D. Griesdorf
George W. Hatley
Bernard M. Kelly
William P. Magee
W. Ross Murray

1960

Robert D. Anderson
Jack Bloom
Joseph L. Bloomenfeld
W. Peter Butler
Anthony G. Lennon
Arthur D. Silver
John D. Smith
C. Edward Walden
John F. Weatherill

1961

Avenincio J. Mascarin
Michael J. McDonald
Charles J. Rosart

1962

P. John Brunner
Victor L. Drevnig
Alan F. Poole
Vernol I. Rogers
David J. Sims
Arnold Somers
Ronald G. Thomas

1963

Peter White

1964

Robert G. Lush

1965

Duncan J. McRae
Arthur R. Scace
John D. Wright

1966

Alphonse T. Lacavera
Douglas E. Pezzack
Mitchell L. Wasik

1967

Thomas S. Barton
Gordon J. Ciglen
Patricia F. Foran

Donald E. Franks
James L. Newman

1968

Richard M. Goldman

1969

V. R. P. Bersenas
William A. Raisbeck

1974

Michael P. O'Hara
Brigitte L. Raney

1975

Walter G. Rilkoff
Charles Wagman

1976

Kingsley D. Graham

1981

J. Joseph Morris

1987

Sheila S. Cuthbertson
David A. Petrsek

1988

Robert A. Muir
Marylynn F. Strong

1995

Hayden Allen Solomons

1998

Karen M. Shaver

LLM

2013

Michael W. Posluns



Ontario's first Filipina lawyer

Cornelia Soberano '87, died of cancer on November 30, 2020, at the age of 68, leaving

her husband Lucas Bruno and her siblings. As an Osgoode student, Soberano assisted domestic workers and refugees who struggled under Canada's restrictive Foreign Domestic Program. Her classmates, Yola Grant '87 and Mary Ross Hendriks '87, '13 (LLM), wrote to say that Soberano was "a perennial advocate" who "always strove

to assist others." Soberano recruited the pair to join her on the Executive Committee of the Toronto Organization for Domestic Workers Rights (also known as INTERCEDE) and they transformed it into an activist platform that promoted domestic workers' health and legal rights education and lobbied for changes to employment and

immigration laws. Later, in private practice, Soberano offered *pro bono* advice to domestic workers while broadening her fundraising efforts to assist street children in the Philippines. In the mid-1990s, she moved to Hawaii, serving as a social worker in corrections, and continuing the fight for human rights until retirement.

CLASS NOTES

Check out the latest achievements and the comings and goings of fellow alumni.

➔ 1960s

John Valeriote '66 received the 2020 Lincoln Alexander Award from the Law Society of Ontario.

Herbert Wisebrod '66, '78 (LLM) moved his practice after 50 years from Brattys LLP to Harris, Sheaffer LLP.



Karen Weiler '67, '74 (LLM) was named a Member of the 2020 Order of Ontario.

Peter Forbes '69 retired and resides in Port Dover. Forbes has deer hunted for 51 consecutive years at Loon Lake Hunting Club of which he is an honorary life member.

Michael Holden '69 travelled to Australia for an anticipated three-month visit after being admitted to the Ontario bar, and ended up staying. After a successful

career, he was appointed a judge of the Family Court of Western Australia and shortly after a justice of the Family Court of Australia. In 2007, Holden retired as Chief Judge of the Family Court of Western Australia and as a member of the permanent appeal division of the Family Court of Australia. In 2014, Holden was appointed to the Order of Australia for services to law and in particular the appeal division.

➔ 1970s

Ernest Eves '70 was named a Member of the 2020 Order of Ontario.

Audrey Loeb '71 was named a Member of the 2019 Order of Ontario.

Donald Thomson '71 received a 2020 Law Society Medal from the Law Society of Ontario.

Glenn Sigurdson '72 was named a Member of the Order of Canada for his dexterous relationship-building skills and for his contributions to alternative dispute resolution across Canada and beyond.

Linda Silver Dranoff '72 was named a Member of the 2019 Order of Ontario.



Dianne Saxe '74, '91 (LLM), '91 (PhD) received a 2020 Law Society Medal from the Law Society of Ontario. She has announced that she will be running for the Ontario Green Party in University-Rosedale riding in the 2022 election.



John Hoyle '75 practised law for 13 years, ran a Crown corporation for six years and then the Canadian

Bar Association for 20 years. However, he is not hanging up his skates any time soon. Hoyle now works as the Executive Director of Community Navigation of Eastern Ontario that provides 211 service in his area. "Who would of thunk in 1975, 45 years ago, that this is what I would be doing at 70 years old!"



Robert Rotenberg '79 writes for television (including episodes for Murdoch Mysteries), teaches writing at Humber College, and gives writing seminars at various law firms in Toronto. He is the author of the national best-selling legal thrillers Old City Hall, The Guilty Plea, Stray Bullets, Stranglehold, Heart of the City, and his latest novel Downfall (publishing February 2021).

➔ 1980s



Dale Lastman '82 was named a Member of the

2020 Order of Ontario. He recently stepped down as an Adjunct Professor at Osgoode after more than 30 years of lecturing in securities law. During his tenure, he was recognized for his contributions with the Adjunct Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence as well as the Alumni Gold Key Award for outstanding professional achievement and contribution to the legal community.

Lorne MacLean '82 was named one of Canadian Lawyer's Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers of 2020.



Robert Falconi '83 was appointed chair of the Technical Standards and Safety Authority Board, as a director to the Taron Warrant Corporation Board, and a commissioner to Ontario Northland's Board of Commissioners.

John Struthers '83 was named one of Canadian Lawyer's Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers of 2020.

Georgette Gagnon '84 was appointed Assistant Secretary-General, Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator for Libya by the United Nations.

Susan Vella '86 was appointed a justice of the Ontario Superior Court.

Edwin Cass '87 was appointed chief investment officer of the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board.

Vihar Joshi '88 received a 2020 Law Society Medal from the Law Society of Ontario.

Paul Sweeny '89 was appointed a regional senior judge of the Ontario Superior Court.

➔ 1990s

Julia Deans '90 was named president and chief executive officer for Habitat for Humanity Canada.

Scott Howson '90 was appointed president and chief executive officer of the American Hockey League.

Marc Lipman '90 was named president of Lloyd's Canada.

Patricia DeGuire '91, '99 (LLM) received the Touchstone Award from the Canadian Bar Association.

Suzanne Stevenson '91 was appointed senior judge of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, Family Court branch.

Kathy-Ann Brown '92 (DJur) was appointed a judge of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.

Hualing Fu '93 (DJur) was appointed the Dean of Law at the University of Hong Kong.



John Borrows '94 (DJur), '18 (LLD) was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada for his scholarly work on Indigenous rights and legal traditions, which have had a significant impact across Canada and abroad.

Kathryn Gregory '94 was appointed a judge of the Trial Division of the Court of Queen's Bench of New Brunswick.

Melanie Kraft '94 was appointed a judge of the Ontario Superior Court.

Jessica Clogg '97 was named one of Canadian Lawyer's Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers of 2020.

Godwin Chan '98 is serving his fourth term as a Richmond Hill city councillor and chair of the Economic Development Committee. Chan will enroll in Harvard University to pursue the Master of Public Administration degree at the Kennedy School of Government.

Jennifer Strasberg '98 was appointed a justice of the Ontario Court.

Colleen Hanycz '99 (LLM), '03 (PhD) was selected as Xavier University's president. She is the first woman and the first layperson to assume the school's highest-ranking position.

Byrdena MacNeil '99 (LLM) was appointed a judge of the Ontario Superior Court.

➔ 2000s

Jeff Ruby '00 was appointed to Newtopia Inc.'s board of directors.

Suzanne Duncan '01 (LLM) was appointed as Yukon's first-ever female chief justice of the Supreme Court.

Cidalia Faria '01 (LLM) was appointed a justice of the Ontario Court.



Sue-Lynn Noel '01 was named one of Canadian Lawyer's Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers of 2020.

Karen Wenckebach '02 was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of Yukon.

Steve Coroza '03 (LLM) was appointed to the Ontario Court of Appeal.

Kathleen Flynn '03 (LLM) was appointed to Habitat for Humanity Canada's national board of directors.

Sangeetha Punniyamoorthy '03 was named chair of the Canadian Intellectual Property and Technology Group.

Louis Sévéno '03

was recognized as a 2020 Lexpert Rising Stars: Leading Lawyers Under 40.

Etienne Esquega '04

joined the Law Foundation of Ontario's board of trustees.



Albert Ballantyne, Jr. '05 (LLM) wrote and published *The Case of the Golden Helmet*.

Peter Sankoff '05 (LLM)

was named one of Canadian Lawyer's Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers of 2020.

Christine Dobby '06

joined the Toronto Star as a business reporter.

Peter Fraser '06

was appointed a justice of the Ontario Court.



Angela Salvatore '06, '17 (LLM) was appointed chair of the Ontario Bar Association's Taxation Law Section.

Daniel Cole '07

was recognized as a 2020 Lexpert Rising Stars: Leading Lawyers Under 40.

Gina Papageorgiou '07 (LLM)

was appointed a justice of the Ontario Superior Court.

Vera Toppings '07

was recognized as a 2020 Lexpert Rising Stars: Leading Lawyers Under 40.

Ena Chadha '08 (LLM)

was named interim chief commissioner of the Ontario Human Rights Commission.



Jonathan Davey '08

joined the board of directors of the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business.

Pamela Krause '08 (LLM)

was appointed a justice of the Ontario Superior Court, Family Court Branch.

Molly Reynolds '08

was recognized as a 2020 Lexpert Rising Stars: Leading Lawyers Under 40.

Lori Anne Thomas '08

was appointed a justice of the Ontario Court.

W. Vincent Clifford '09 (LLM)

was appointed as the regional senior justice for the east region of the Ontario Court of Justice.

Ron Ellis '09 (PhD)

received a 2020 Law Society Medal from the Law Society of Ontario.

Barbara Johnston '09 (LLM)

was appointed a justice of the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta.



Ashley Smith '09 (LLM)

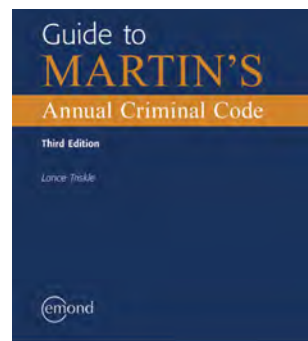
was honoured with an International Association of Chiefs of Police 40 Under 40 award. This award recognizes 40 law enforcement professionals under the age of 40 from around the world who demonstrate leadership and exemplify commitment to their profession.

Narissa Somji '09 (LLM)

was appointed a justice of the Ontario Superior Court.

Vanisha Sukdeo '09 (LLM)

published her third book with LexisNexis in July 2020. The book is entitled *Business Ethics and Legal Ethics: The Connections and Disconnections Between the Two Disciplines*.



Lance Triskle '09 (LLM)

authored the *Guide to Martin's Annual Criminal Code* (3rd Edition). The Guide assists students and professionals to successfully navigate Martin's Annual Criminal Code.

Muneeb Yusuf '09

was recognized as a 2020 Lexpert Rising Stars: Leading Lawyers Under 40.

➔ 2010S

Ren Bucholz '10

was recognized as a 2020 Lexpert Rising Stars: Leading Lawyers Under 40.

Nadia Chiesa '10

was recognized as a 2020 Lexpert Rising Stars: Leading Lawyers Under 40.

Lisa Cirillo '10 (LLM)

was named chief executive officer of the Law Foundation of Ontario.

Kobi Bessin '12 (LLM)

was recognized as a 2020 Lexpert Rising Stars: Leading Lawyers Under 40.

**Martin Hui '14**

started CareHero Podcast in December 2020 to educate, motivate, and inspire nurses and other healthcare professionals, careheropodcast.com.

Andrey Shamis '14

was appointed interim chief executive officer of Angus Ventures.

Jennifer Brun '15 (LLM)

was elected president of the Canadian Bar Association's British Columbia branch.

Melissa George '16

joined the Office of the Prime Minister of Canada as a human resources advisor.

**Ben Fulton '18**

has been busy this year establishing a solo practice. Once the courts shut down due to Covid-19, Fulton focused during the summer on getting the notary public certificate and seal, and setting up his web page benlaw.ca. By October, momentum was

starting to increase and Fulton has had a number of remote appearances while continuing to work from home. "2020 was certainly an interesting time to start a business."

Sheldon Weekes '18 (LLM)

was appointed a justice of the peace of the Ontario Court.

Submit Your Own Class Note

What's happened in your life since you graduated from Osgoode? We want to hear about it! Share news of your career, family life and personal accomplishments with your fellow alumni by submitting a Class Note. Visit osgoode.yorku.ca/alumni to submit online or e-mail us at alumni@osgoode.yorku.ca

To be sure you stay up-to-date with all the latest Osgoode news and reunions, update your contact information with us: osgoode.yorku.ca/alumni/address

Osgoode Hall Law School
Alumni Association

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTICE

Alumni are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting on:

**Wednesday, May 19, 2021
5:30pm to 6:00pm**

**The meeting will
take place online.**

Please contact the Osgoode Alumni Office at
416-736-5638 or alumni@osgoode.yorku.ca
to obtain a copy of the agenda and to register.

Positive RSVPs appreciated

LAST LOOK

The Smalley-Baker Room



It started as a smoking room, then when smoking was banned on the York campus in the 1980s, it became a reading room. But soon thereafter it became the hotbed of new technology and was renamed the Smalley-Baker Computer Lab. Honouring Charles E. Smalley-Baker, who served as Dean from 1949 to 1958, the room was located on the ground floor of the Osgoode library. The ceiling tiles were imbued with the cigarette smoke from an earlier decade and the walls were painted a dingy, institutional gray. But for a time, it offered students a new way to write a summary or paper.

Today, students all carry their own laptops, have classes on Zoom and write exams online. But it seems appropriate, especially at this time, to take a moment to look back and think of how far we have come.



THE OSGOODE HALL LAW SCHOOL PODCAST

Great conversations about legal education, the profession and the law

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Professors Eric Tucker & Sara Slinn
- **Environmental Racism**
Professor Dayna Scott & Priyanka Vittal,
Counsel at Greenpeace
- **The Role of Charities**
Professor Adam Parachin & Bob Wyatt,
Executive Director, Muttart Foundation

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- Omar Ha-Redeye, LLM in Health Law ('15)

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- Constitutional Law
- Dispute Resolution
- Energy and Infrastructure Law
- Securities Law
- Tax Law

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experienced professionals

