

OSGOODE HALL LAW SCHOOL

Alumni Magazine

# Continuum

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## WHAT'S NEXT?

From research to the classroom, Osgoode delivers

WINTER 2023

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Two professors probe the pros  
and cons of AI

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Students make their mark at the  
Supreme Court of Canada

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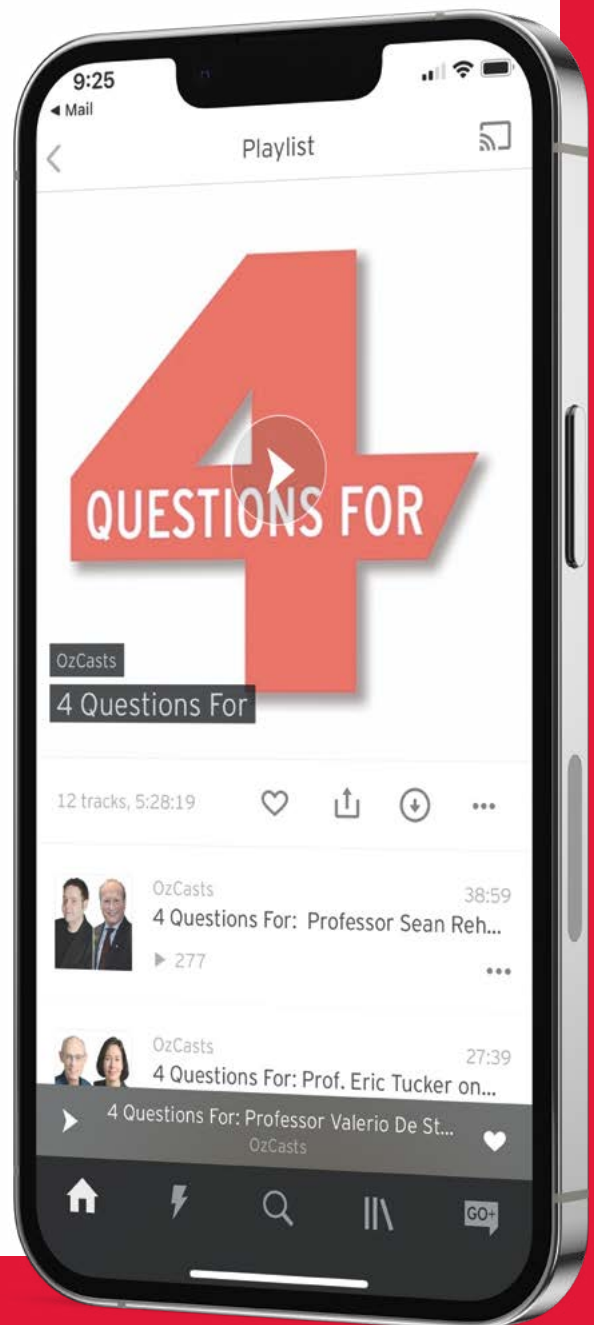
15 years of holistic admissions

# The Osgoode Hall Law School Podcast

Great conversations  
about legal education, the  
profession and the law

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Winter 2023

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## Continuum

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# DEAN'S MESSAGE



## DO WE REALLY UNDERSTAND THE POWER OF LAW TO SHAPE THE FUTURE? OR HOW THE FUTURE IS SHAPING THE PRACTICE OF LAW?

At Osgoode, those questions are at the forefront of our thinking. We have brilliant minds who think deeply about how to do law better – and how enlightened laws could help create a better world. Humankind needs that kind of thinking – now more than ever. And we’re showcasing some of it in this issue of *Continuum*.

As the global community contends with COVID, the climate crisis, wars and economic uncertainty, these are tumultuous times – and it’s natural to wonder what’s next?

In our research and teaching, Osgoode is delivering the knowledge and skills students need to practice law in the 21st century.

In 2020, during the unsettling early months of the pandemic, world events weighed heavily on us as we considered Osgoode’s new strategic plan. And they helped determine the first of our six areas of focus: anticipating society-level crisis.

In that spirit, our cover story in this issue examines the work of three Osgoode professors whose research is focused on the future of justice in a warming world: Saptarishi Bandopadhyay, Dayna

Scott and Trevor Farrow. Bandopadhyay’s and Scott’s scholarship centres on environmental justice (particularly, for Scott, with respect to Canada’s Indigenous peoples), while Farrow is concerned with access to justice in the coming decades.

No story about the future could ignore the role technology will play – and that’s the topic of our second feature story. At Osgoode, we’re keenly aware that the success of our students will depend, in part, on their understanding of how technology shapes both law practice and legal decision-making. That’s why we’re expanding our range of law and technology courses in our Juris Doctor (JD) curriculum to ensure Osgoode graduates will excel amid the technological changes revolutionizing society and the practice of law.

Faculty teaching many “standard law” courses are increasingly integrating legal issues raised by new technologies, notes Associate Dean (Academic) Craig Scott in the article. When it comes to technology’s influence on the actual practice of law, there’s a “massive opportunity now for new lawyers to reshape the industry by thinking outside the box,” says adjunct professor Al Hounsell.

It will take a lot of outside-the-box thinking from a variety of perspectives and experiences to bring our world back from the brink of disaster. And we’ll need all hands on deck to brainstorm innovative solutions to our most pressing problems.

It is this reality that has given immediacy to another strategic goal at Osgoode: student access and success. The legal profession must reflect the society it serves. And a more open, inclusive and diverse law school is simply a smarter law school. Osgoode is a leader in this regard, but we have further to go. That’s why I’m so grateful for the amazing support our alumni have given to our No Barriers initiative, which will see your generous donations matched by Osgoode to help reduce systemic barriers to law school for students from all equity-deserving groups, who will then change the face of the legal profession.

Your support is ensuring that Osgoode will continue to attract great students who will be future leaders. And even amid the gloom of current events, that gives us hope for a better tomorrow.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Condon". The script is fluid and cursive.

**Mary Condon**  
Dean



# IN BRIEF



Students (L-R) Owain Guinn, Hafsa Memon and Nathan Reeves.

## CLASP students play a role in Supreme Court of Canada case

**IT'S A RARE EXPERIENCE** – even for seasoned lawyers. But a select group of JD students can now add the Supreme Court of Canada to their resumes through their work on a case that was heard last November.

The eight students involved were working with the Community & Legal Aid Services Program (CLASP), which was granted intervenor status in *Earl Mason, et al v Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, et al* (SCC Case No. 39855). The significant case deals with the application of the reasonableness review to questions of statutory interpretation.

“In their entire legal career, they may never be involved in a Supreme Court of Canada case, so this is a phenomenal opportunity for our students,” said Scarlet Smith, the acting director of CLASP.

Subodh Bharati, CLASP’s supervising lawyer for the Immigration Law Division,

said the students worked overtime researching the argument and preparing materials. “There was a substantive amount of work,” he said. Among other things, they had to first successfully bring a motion seeking intervenor status and then prepare a concise factum.

“It’s really important for our students to be involved in such high-level cases,” he added. “They were pretty excited about this opportunity.”

As a lasting memento of the experience, Owain Guinn, a 2L student at Osgoode from Atlanta, Ga., who was involved in writing the 10-page factum, said he framed the first page and is keeping it above his desk.

“I thought it was the coolest thing ever that we could say that we worked at the Supreme Court level,” he said. “I really enjoyed the process. It just felt important and it was very much a team effort.”

## Celebrating 15 years of holistic admissions

**YOU CAN TELL A LOT ABOUT A LAW SCHOOL** by its admissions policy, says Professor Ben Berger, chair of the admissions committee. Osgoode stands out in that regard because 15 years ago it broke new ground by implementing its holistic admissions policy (HAP), which goes beyond LSAT scores and grades to more fully assess an applicant’s potential to excel.

“Many law schools have now followed suit,” says Berger, “but Osgoode was a trailblazer in doing that.”

HAP laid the groundwork for one of Osgoode’s fundamental and defining goals: to open the doors of the legal profession to traditionally under-represented groups.

Osgoode receives more applications every year than any other Canadian law school, said Berger – perhaps, in part, because of the HAP. The result is an incoming class of unparalleled quality. But making the policy a vibrant, day-to-day reality requires a sustained commitment from the Osgoode community, he added.

While the work is far from done, says Berger, the impact of the policy is clearly reflected in the diversity of today’s incoming class. “Osgoode is a national leader,” he notes, “in bringing into law school experiences and perspectives that have traditionally been excluded from the legal profession.”





Barbara Brown '21 (left) and Jennah Khaled '21



## Osgoode grads serving Canada's top courts

**BARBARA BROWN THOUGHT SHE HAD BLOWN IT.** Sitting face to face over Zoom with two judges of the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) in February 2022, the 2021 graduate suddenly found herself stumbling and stammering. The interview lasted less than 20 minutes and, afterwards, it felt like her chances of being hired as a 2023 Supreme Court law clerk were fading fast.

"The interviews feel like quite a blur," she recalled. "I wasn't feeling super confident about how it went."

But the second interview with two more justices seemed to go much better. And last February, when she was articling with the Court of Appeal for Ontario, she noticed a call coming in from an unknown number. It turned out to be the Supreme Court of Canada with a job offer.

"I was kind of shaking and very overwhelmed," she remembered.

Brown and her Osgoode classmate and friend Jennah Khaled will both be serving as law clerks for the Supreme Court of Canada beginning in August 2023. Khaled will be clerking for Justice Malcolm Rowe, while Brown learned in October that she will clerk for Justice Michelle O'Bonsawin, the Supreme Court's first Indigenous judge.

Brown and Khaled are among a bumper crop of Osgoode graduates who are currently clerking for top Canadian courts or who are slated to serve in 2023-24. Clerkships typically run for a one-year term, with an option to extend

them to two years.

Law clerks assist judges with all aspects of their work, including researching, drafting and editing judgments. It's an invaluable experience for any young lawyer.

Osgoode graduates who are currently serving as clerks at other courts for the 2022-23 term include Akshay Aurora (Court of Appeal for Ontario), Adam Donaldson (Ontario Superior Court of Justice), Joshua Hearn (Ontario Superior Court of Justice), Alison Imrie (Court of Appeal for Ontario), Matthew Kay (Ontario Superior Court of Justice), and Erin Sobat (Court of Appeal for Ontario).

Osgoode students or graduates who will be serving as clerks for the 2023-24 term include Annika Butler (Ontario Superior Court of Justice), Emily Yin Kot (Federal Court), Frank (Francis) Nasca (Court of Appeal for Ontario), Priyanka Sharma (Federal Court), Matthew Traister (Federal Court) and Emily Wuschnakowski (Ontario Superior Court of Justice Divisional Court).

"I am tremendously proud of and inspired by all our students who successfully obtained clerkship positions," said Associate Dean (Students) Karen Drake.

"They will have a rare opportunity to gain insight into the inner workings of our judicial system and to hone their legal analysis and research skills," she added. "I look forward to following their careers and future accomplishments with great interest."

## Meet York University's newest chancellor

**FOR YORK UNIVERSITY'S** newest chancellor, a legal education at Osgoode helped open doors she never would have dreamed of.

Kathleen Taylor '84 (JD/MBA) went on to break down barriers at Canada's largest bank, becoming the first woman to serve as chair of the board of the Royal Bank (or any major Canadian bank). Today, she is chair of Atlas Partners, a Toronto-based private equity firm, and is the former president and chief executive officer of Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts, where she enjoyed a 24-year career.

Her three-year term as York University's 14th chancellor began Jan. 1, 2023.

"It's a wonderful honour," she said, "and a great opportunity to give back to students and give back to my alma mater and have fun along the way."

Growing up in Oshawa, Ont., in the 1960s, she recalled, the career options for women were limited, ranging from nurse to nun, teacher and not many more. When she discovered the empowering influence of higher education, she vowed to pursue professional studies.

"I was very fortunate to be selected," she said. "Not only did I get a world-class law degree, but law school gave me access to a wonderful community of Osgoode graduates around the world. It was definitely an added transformational experience for me."

Taylor will replace another Osgoode alum, Gregory Sorbara '81, who served as York chancellor from 2014 to 2022.



Kathleen Taylor

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# REIMAGINING THE FUTURE

Three Osgoode professors are envisioning  
the legal path to a more equitable,  
inclusive and resilient society

*by Christine Ward*







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**PROFESSOR SAPTARISHI BANDOPADHYAY** had completed his first year of law school in 2001 when he moved to central India for a summer internship in the offices of the Narmada Bachao Andolan (Save the Narmada Movement). For more than two decades, the Andolan had worked to halt the construction of more than 3,000 dams over the Narmada River. Conceived to supply hydroelectric power and water to drought-affected regions of the country, the government-funded infrastructure projects threatened to submerge thousands of hectares of forests and displace hundreds of thousands of people.

“Disasters are governance problems. They don’t just happen; they happen for a reason.”

—Saptarishi Bandopadhyay

In 2000, the Indian Supreme Court found in favour of the government’s plans to increase the height of the largest dam, even as much of the surrounding, populated areas were irreversibly flooded.

Bandopadhyay remembers attending a news conference after a protest involving his Andolan colleagues had turned alarmingly violent. For an hour, he listened as government representatives denied any knowledge of the incident and, instead, talked about the regions likely to be flooded during the upcoming monsoons.

“The dam was never mentioned,” Bandopadhyay writes in his 2022 book *All is Well: Catastrophe and the Making of the Normal State*. According to the government, “it was the monsoon that would devastate the valley,” not the dam overflow or the court’s decision or the government’s failure to anticipate or prepare for such a catastrophe.

### Disasters happen for a reason

Bandopadhyay points to the experience as the catalyst for much of his research,

which focuses on areas such as international environmental law and politics, law and disaster risk management, and climate degradation and human displacement.

For him, the Narmada River dams were a lightbulb moment when he realized that the pathways to and around any kind of catastrophe – COVID-19, Hurricane Fiona, the Pakistan floods and endemic poverty and homelessness included – are shaped by the law.

“Disasters are governance problems. They don’t just happen; they happen for a reason,” Bandopadhyay says. “If you see a society where a disaster occurs as being already vulnerable to a natural hazard, then you have to ask the question – why was that society vulnerable? The law has everything to do with how normal life in society is governed, so vulnerability is shaped by law and the ways out of it are often through law.”

As he sees it, the Indian government had put in place laws and policies that led to the flooding and even made it inevitable.

They were “in the business of

producing catastrophes,” he declares.

When his research into historical and modern-day disasters revealed the same story playing out again and again, mostly to the detriment of marginalized members of society, Bandopadhyay realized something had to change.

“We assume a linear trajectory toward progress: disasters happen, we learn and things get better, but that’s not true,” he says. “Disasters happen, we learn and life gets better for some in some parts of the world. It demands a complete rethinking of how society is structured ... and the law has everything to do with that.”

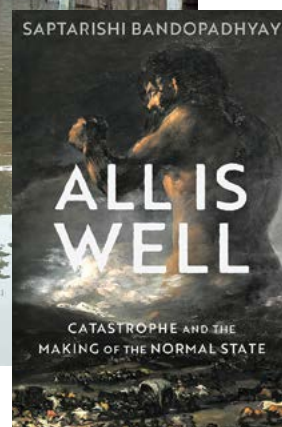


Saptarishi Bandopadhyay





The Sardar Sarovar Dam (above) is the largest on India's Narmada River. Dams along the river have been blamed for making flooding worse in nearby communities like Vadodara, right.





Dayna Scott

### Imagining an equitable, inclusive and resilient future

Bandopadhyay isn't alone in imagining a new kind of future – one that is more equitable, inclusive and resilient to crisis.

In May 2022, Professor Dayna Scott and University of Victoria political science Professor Heidi Kiiwetinepinesiik Stark were awarded a six-year, \$2.5-million grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) to envision what Canada might look like under a different constitutional order.

“For 150 years, the constitutional order was considered divided between a federal parliament and the provincial legislatures. We're thinking about what it would mean to reintroduce Indigenous governing orders into that institutional structure and imagine some ways that we could bring that into being,” explains Scott, who also serves as the York University Research Chair in Environmental Law and Justice in the Green Economy.

At the heart of the matter, she says, is whether or not Canada is ready to give up some of the governing authority assigned to the nation and its provinces.

“We need lawyers in there thinking this through,” she insists.

### Rethinking Canada's constitutional order

For Scott and Stark, the first step is to help fund community-based infrastructure projects that strengthen Indigenous jurisdiction. In the Neskantaga First Nation along the Attawapiskat River northeast

“We're thinking about what it would mean to reintroduce Indigenous governing orders into that institutional structure and imagine some ways that we could bring that into being.”

—Dayna Scott



Dayna Scott (right) speaking with an elder from Neskantaga First Nation, August 2022, at the Beteau Lake camp, Attawapiskat River.

of Thunder Bay, for example, community members are piloting a Lake Sturgeon stewardship program to protect the fish from proposed development.

“They're trying to revitalize that work through youth training programs and habitat transformation,” Scott says – work that, in theory, has been done by the DFO (Fisheries and Oceans Canada) in the past and for which Neskantaga would like to take responsibility because, under their law, it's their job to protect the Attawapiskat watershed.”

As they watch projects like this unfold across the north, Scott and Stark are taking note of what's working, what's not and the barriers to the reinstatement of Indigenous governing authority. They hope to use those insights to achieve a new relationship between settler law and Indigenous law, ultimately leading to a complete revamping of Canada's constitutional framework.

The Neskantaga's early successes have left Scott feeling optimistic: “This is a project borne out of hope for change and a vision of a different way,” she says.





Access to justice for all is part of the UN's 16th sustainable development goal.

## A global justice crisis

Professor Trevor Farrow also has reason to think the future is bright – despite what he and others say is a crisis in the global justice sector.

Osgoode's associate dean (research and institutional relations) and the chair of the Osgoode-based Canadian Forum on Civil Justice (CFCJ) is building the empirical case for improved access to justice in Canada and around the world. According to Farrow, about two-thirds of the world's population – five billion people – lack meaningful access to justice. In Canada, although most adults will experience a legal problem over the course of their lives, less than 20 per cent access lawyers and legal services to address their legal problems and fewer than seven per cent bring their cases to courts and tribunals.

Research also indicates that access to justice is not experienced equally across society. "Marginalized communities, people living in vulnerable circumstances, have more legal problems and more serious legal problems than others," explains Farrow.

The issue has attracted the attention of the United Nations, which, for the first time, has included access to justice as one of its 17 sustainable development goals to be achieved by 2030.

Still, Farrow believes more research is required to drive evidence-based decision-making at all levels of the justice sector, including governments.

"I feel like the current project of my generation is to get justice taken seriously by governments and the public in the same way that I see people's attention has really expanded around education, healthcare, diet and personal well-being."

## Building the case for access to justice

He recently co-wrote a study for the CFCJ that showed spending money on justice services and programs results in financial returns that far outweigh the costs of the investments. The 2019 *Investing in Justice* report concluded that every dollar spent on improving access to justice delivers an approximate return of between \$9 and \$16.

While there is no measurable way to confirm the report's impact on policy and practice, its widespread release was followed by an Ontario government announcement cancelling the next year's legal aid funding cuts totalling \$31 million.

"I certainly cannot claim that it was our report that stopped the further cuts," Farrow says. "Many people, including a number of our Osgoode colleagues, were directly involved in making a strong case against further cuts. But I know at the time that the report was talked about and cited quite a bit and people were calling me about it as an example of why it doesn't make sense to cut legal aid; in fact, as the research shows, the opposite is true."

Farrow was recently asked to participate in a project involving the World Bank and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) exploring how best to support governments in making the case for accessible, effective, accountable and inclusive justice systems.

## A future built on hope

Reflecting on his more than decade-long research about catastrophe and legal system shortcomings, Bandopadhyay is surprisingly hopeful for the future. He believes that lawyers and law schools like Osgoode have what it takes to help build a healthier, more equitable and resilient society.



Trevor Farrow

"Lawyers tend to think their work is neutral, objective and reliant on science, but that's an idealized representation of what society should look like," he says. "The reality is incredibly messy and infused with history, culture, desire and fear."

He urges the bar to embrace centuries of big-picture thinking about politics, economics, sociology, philosophy and the ethics of social governance.

"Law schools need to be thought of as a place that teaches people to not just apply the law," he says, "but to see the rule of law as the thing that moves the world, that creates dramatic shifts in society."

Scott and Farrow also hope that their research leads to more open-mindedness and awareness about the roles that lawyers and the law play in social governance and how people think about the world.

Looking to the future, "we have to be honest about the state of the world, about the gap between those on the inside and those who are left out," Farrow says, while at the same time feeling "excited and optimistic about the role of researchers and law schools in providing the tools and understanding to shift our gaze to the search for equitable and inclusive solutions."

Scott agrees, adding that at least some of those changes for the good are even closer than we think.

"I think it's inevitable," she says. "The ideas are going to be thrust upon us."



**READY**

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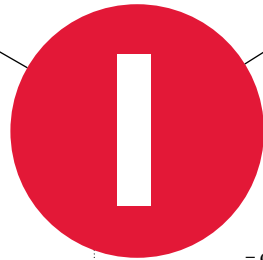
**LEGAL**

**NEW**

**LANDSCAPE**

Osgoode is expanding its curriculum to ensure students are ready to tackle the technological changes transforming legal practice today

*by John Schofield*



**IMAGINE, IF YOU WILL**, an app that helps lawyers automatically review a corporate prospectus – or a software application that automates common legal research tasks on SEDAR, Canada’s electronic securities filing system. How about a computer platform that connects law firms with not-for-profit legal organizations seeking sponsorship?

They’re not scenes from a legal sci-fi show: Osgoode students are already busy brainstorming potentially transformative technologies in a new weekly class called Engineering the Law: Technology and Innovation in Legal Service Delivery.

It’s one of several new courses the law school is offering as it expands its range of law and technology courses in its Juris Doctor (JD) curriculum to ensure Osgoode graduates will excel amid the technological changes affecting legal practice today.

The legal profession is not

traditionally known for its eagerness to embrace technology – unlike some industries. That needs to change, says Dean Mary Condon – and Osgoode wants to lead the way.

“Succeeding as a lawyer in the 21st century requires an ability to understand, embrace and capitalize on the multi-faceted ways that technology is impacting both our own practice, our clients and the wider world,” she says. “As a Canadian leader in experiential and career-oriented legal education, our goal has always been to equip our students with everything they need to excel in their careers from day 1.”

For lawyers practicing today, there is an emerging duty of technological competence, says Osgoode Adjunct Professor Al Hounsell, who teaches the Engineering the Law course and who serves as the Toronto-based Director, Strategic Innovation and Legal Design, for the multi-national law firm Norton Rose Fulbright LLP.

“Things are complex and they’re





“The legal industry has not been traditionally well known for innovation and creativity.”

—Al Hounsell

moving fast, so you need to be able to see things from new angles to meet client demands and to be user friendly,” he says.

“Banks now, for example, are basically tech companies,” he adds. “So legal is behind the curve in general, and the fact Osgoode has a course like this is very forward looking.”

In the 2022-23 academic year alone, says Associate Dean (Academic) Craig Scott, 16 courses are being taught in the law and technology area, with six making their debut: Engineering the Law, Disability, Technology and Law, Derivatives Law and Crypto-Contracts, Documentary Film as/and Visual Legal Advocacy, Cybercrime, and Current Issues in Law and Technology.

Scott says the offerings fall into two categories: “law on tech” and “tech in law.”

“Law on tech relates to the many substantive new issues that law now has

to conceptualize, regulate and adjust itself to,” he explains, “while tech in law courses concern technology’s impact on how law is practiced, how legal services are delivered, how legal documents or instruments are drafted and so on.”

One of two pillar offerings, titled Emerging Technologies: Law, Policy and Governance, is being taught by Associate Professor Jonathon Penney, who also serves as a research affiliate at Harvard University’s Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society and a longtime research fellow with the Citizen Lab based at the University of Toronto’s Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy.

“Established technologies like the Internet and social media and emerging ones like artificial intelligence, machine learning and robotics are transforming how we live, work and interact,” says the course description.

“These changes raise a host of complex law, policy, ethical and governance challenges in a range of domestic and global contexts, including Internet censorship, the role and regulation of social media platforms, disinformation and online abuse, legal automation, algorithmic discrimination, privacy, surveillance, fintech and cyber-warfare,” adds the description.

The course aims to introduce and provide a foundation in law and technology issues in order to help students identify them, understand and think critically about them, and manage them in practice.

“While the course was offered in 2021 for the first time, COVID restrictions and remote delivery imposed limits,” says Penney. “There’s been a new focus and approach this year, as we’re meeting in person, including more group work but



“These changes raise a host of complex law, policy, ethical and governance challenges in a range of domestic and global contexts.”

—*Calendar description for Jonathon Penney course*

also a greater emphasis on concrete law relating to emerging tech.”

Hounsell’s Engineering the Law: Technology and Innovation in Legal Service Delivery is the second pillar course, introducing students to how client needs have pushed the boundaries of legal service delivery to include elements of data, computer technology and artificial intelligence, according to the course description.

It is also giving students the practical skills to break down contracts and legislation into decision trees, to develop markups and workflows for contract development and negotiations, to attain basic experience with common legal technology applications, and to apply design thinking methodology to legal problems. Finally, the course is giving students an opportunity to reflect on the theoretical and practical implications of these changes to the practice of law.

Students have benefited from some “amazing” guest speakers, says Hounsell, and will come away better equipped to capitalize on the tectonic technological shift now transforming the legal industry.

“The legal industry has not been traditionally well known for innovation and creativity,” he says. “This story is slowly changing. As such, there is a massive opportunity now for new lawyers to reshape the industry by thinking outside the box, using creative design methods and building innovative tools that disrupt current models and delight clients. That’s what this course is about.”

Along with being a licensed lawyer, Hounsell is an entrepreneur and seasoned coder with an extensive background in full-stack software development, having built innovative technologies for a number of tech startups prior to and during his studies at Osgoode and the Schulich School of Business. In 2019 and 2020, he was the recipient of the Chicago-based International Legal Technology Association’s Distinguished Peer Award

for Young Professionals to Watch.

The theme of law and technology has long been central to Osgoode’s multiple offerings in the area of intellectual property law, says Scott, including the technology-heavy patents course and the Intellectual Property and Technology Intensive Program, taught by Professors Ikechi Mgbefo and Pina D’Agostino, respectively. Instructors in many “standard law” courses are increasingly integrating legal issues raised by new technologies or even re-orienting courses around such issues, he adds.

One example for 2022-23 is the Labour and Employment Law Colloquium, which

is being taught by Professor Valerio De Stefano. The colloquium's course description states that "artificial intelligence and management-by-algorithms are reshaping the modern world of work in industrialized and developing countries." The seminar promises to examine these challenges through an international and Canadian legal lens.

De Stefano, the co-author of the recent book *Your Boss is an Algorithm* (Hart Publishing 2022) holds the inaugural Canada Research Chair in Innovation, Law and Society. He previously served as BOF-ZAP Research Professor of Labour Law at the Institute for Labour Law and the Faculty of Law at KU Leuven University in Belgium.



Victoria Watkins

## Osgoode's technology trailblazer

**LONG BEFORE THE RISE OF ZOOM**, Osgoode Professional Development (OPD) was already making its mark at the cutting edge of technology and the law.

In the competitive market for continuing professional development, the lifelong-learning division of Osgoode Hall Law School has worked hard to secure its status as the go-to source for lawyers who need to know about the latest technological trends impacting their areas of practice. But OPD has also been a leader when it comes to using technology to reach a wider audience and to teach more effectively.

In a pioneering initiative, OPD launched its first foray into distance learning for its degree programs in 2007 with a desktop videoconferencing technology called Vidyo, a forerunner to Zoom. For non-degree courses, it initially turned to webcasting and later Zoom – and has built a large library of on-demand courses that are available as single courses or with an annual subscription. It has also created asynchronous online courses that are designed to be self-paced on topics such as finance and accounting for lawyers.

Just before the pandemic, OPD completed a major renovation of its downtown Toronto location that included a significant investment in technology. It features a studio for creating multi-media online content and specially designed

classrooms with large TV screens for hybrid courses.

The COVID-19 pandemic only accelerated the online trend, as OPD revamped both traditional classes and skills programs for online delivery.

One of its crowning achievements was redesigning its popular, annual Intensive Trial Advocacy Workshop (ITAW) – first as a fully remote offering in 2020, then as a uniquely “hybrid” course in 2021 with two parallel programs running at the same time – one in person and one fully online. They intersected at some points with conventional hybrid sessions.

Osgoode Assistant Dean and OPD Executive Director Victoria Watkins says taking ITAW online was all the more challenging because, as a skills program, it features performance and feedback from expert practitioners. Through some technical wizardry, Paul Wye, OPD's manager of information technology and innovation, modified Zoom so that Zoom recordings of student performances could be immediately replayed to facilitate instructor feedback. OPD also created two separate support teams for in-person and online students.

The dual format has made the program more accessible, opening it up to lawyers from across Canada. The course was so well received that Watkins was invited to give a presentation on it at a major Ontario e-learning conference in October 2022.

Whether in person or online, OPD's tech-related law courses will continue to be among its most popular. Some current offerings include Blockchain Law, Tech Crime and Electronic Evidence, and Data Breaches and Cybersecurity Incidents: The Legal Guide to Preparedness and Response.

Until 2020, OPD also had a role in delivering education on the modernization of legal services as part of the Indiana-based Institute for the Future of Law Practice (IFLP). Although IFLP the institute is no longer operating, Watkins says that OPD is working on taking forward some of that curriculum in a different format.

# LEADING RESEARCH



Valerio De Stefano

## Labour's new digital dilemma

—by John Schofield

As an officer with the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva in 2014, Valerio De Stefano's goal was to make working conditions better for precarious workers. In academic and policy circles, leading researchers and institutions were decrying the evils of job-killing automation. But during the course of his three-year term at the ILO, De Stefano came to the conclusion that the path to progress lay in a different direction: tackling the emergence of employee monitoring and so-called algorithmic management of workers in the digital economy.

With the rapid rise of software platform-based employers like Uber, Door Dash and Instacart, the so-called gig economy was booming and job security was eroding even more.

"The use of technology to manage precarious workers in the gig-economy struck me as something novel and, at the same time, perpetuating old schemes of casualization of work relations," recalls De Stefano, who joined Osgoode as a professor of labour law in January of 2022 from the Faculty of Law at KU Leuven University in Belgium.

"As a lawyer," he adds, "I thought it would be more interesting to ensure that technology did not make our existing jobs more precarious, hazardous and fatiguing, as seems to be the case too often."

It was the beginning of a fascinating and accomplished research journey for the Italian-born scholar, who is recognized today as a widely quoted expert on algorithmic management.

"Technological changes have always impacted working people," says De Stefano. "This time, however, is different because tech is magnifying employers' powers over workers in

ways that are more intensive and revolutionary than anything that has occurred so far.

"Tech allows employers to monitor people 24/7, something no human supervisor could do in the past," he adds. "This creates enormous challenges for workers, unions and systems of labour regulation in general."

It's an issue as fresh as today's headlines – and the rise in remote work during the COVID-19 pandemic has made it even more controversial. In 2022, Ontario passed legislation that makes it the first province to legally require companies with 25 or more employees to inform workers how and why they're being monitored. But De Stefano has argued that the Ontario law does not go far enough to protect workers.

In June 2022, his research received a major boost when the federal government awarded him the Canada Research Chair (CRC) in Innovation, Law and Society. The Tier 2 CRC is valued at \$600,000 over five years.

Only days after the announcement last June, De Stefano was celebrating the release of a new book on the subject with co-author Antonio Aloisi, an assistant professor of European and comparative labour law at IE Law School in Madrid, Spain.

Titled *Your Boss is an Algorithm* (Hart Publishing), the book draws on examples from the United Kingdom, the European Union and the United States to examine how the world of work has been transformed by the growing prevalence of robots, algorithms and online platforms like Uber.

In December 2022, he released yet another book, this time as a co-editor. Released by U.K.-based Edward Elgar Publishing, *A Research Agenda for the Gig Economy and Society* offers a comprehensive, interdisciplinary overview of the gig economy from both a labour and employment perspective.

De Stefano is not content to philosophize from his ivory tower – he wants to influence the legislative agenda. Last year, he and law researcher Mathias Wouters of KU Leuven University published a report for the European Parliament assessing the European Union's proposed legal framework for regulating algorithmic management technologies.

"Regulation is essential for this technology to be used for the benefit of society," he says. "Only regulation can allow us to harvest the fruits of technology without trampling on people's fundamental rights."



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# Leveraging artificial intelligence for the law

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Giuseppina D'Agostino

IP expert Giuseppina D'Agostino studies the operational benefits and ethical dimensions of AI innovations for legal practice

— by Sharon Aschaiek

**A**s artificial intelligence (AI) applications make it possible to work smarter and faster in the law, Osgoode Professor Giuseppina (Pina) D'Agostino says it's essential for legal professionals to understand the complex range of opportunities and obstacles presented by these powerful technologies.

With their immense capability to automate various tasks, synthesize information and make inferences from robust data sets, AI-driven legal tech tools are increasingly being used by law firms to conduct research, review contracts, draft legal documents, summarize cases, organize and manage files, predict a lawsuit's outcome and provide customer service. D'Agostino says that lawyers who make good use of these technologies can significantly improve their productivity and deliver better results to their clients.

"All leading law firms are looking to scale their legal services through the efficiencies that AI can bring to their work," says the expert on technology and innovation law and policy. "AI will be transforming the way we deliver legal services. More repetitive work will be automated and made more efficient – and there is great potential to free up more of our time as lawyers to think more creatively."

At the same time, D'Agostino says, using intelligent machines to help make decisions and solve problems raises profound and pressing questions for society and the legal profession: How do we ensure AI systems capture meaningful, high-quality data? When it comes to data ownership, access and use, how do we deal with security, privacy, bias and human error issues? How do we use AI to support greater access to justice, especially for members of socio-economically disadvantaged groups?

"So many people do not have access to resources to afford a lawyer or receive adequate representation," says D'Agostino, the co-editor of *Leading Legal Disruption: Artificial Intelligence and a Toolkit for Lawyers and the Law* (Thomson Reuters, 2021).

"AI-enabled cost savings can be passed on to clients. AI can and should make the legal profession more accessible."

A member of Osgoode's faculty since 2006, D'Agostino is the founding director of IP Osgoode, a centre for research, education and service focused on the legal and technological dimensions of intellectual property (IP), including AI. In 2010, she also founded Osgoode's IP Innovation Clinic, where law students supervised by local law firms have provided more than 4,000 hours of pro bono legal service to hundreds of inventors, including many with AI-focused startups. Last year, she launched an AI-powered chatbot that automatically responds to common IP queries by using data from previously asked questions and leading IP information databases. D'Agostino is currently optimizing the chatbot to be more responsive to Indigenous and female entrepreneurs, who are underrepresented among patent-holders.

As AI continues to evolve in the legal sector, D'Agostino believes legal practitioners should engage with technical experts, researchers or students to understand its functions and possibilities. She also recommends pursuing professional development classes and events, such as the Bracing for Impact conference she established five years ago, which examines AI's effects on the law and society.

In the coming years, knowledge of AI will be enhanced even more by one of York University's newest organized research units, the Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Society. As the inaugural co-director, D'Agostino will join AI researchers from different faculties at the university to examine intelligent systems in relation to law, governance and public policy, health care and smart cities. The idea for the centre emerged from an extensive analysis of AI-related teaching and research at York co-led by D'Agostino, which resulted in the 2021 report, *Fostering the Future of Artificial Intelligence*.

With AI applications continuing to proliferate and increasingly impacting the legal sector, D'Agostino says law firms that proactively adopt and incorporate these technologies will not only win at efficiency and service but will bolster their status as employers of choice.

# FACULTY FOCUS

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## Meet our new faculty

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### Suzanne Chiodo, Assistant Professor

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**Suzanne Chiodo's** teaching and research focus on civil procedure, class actions and access to justice. From 2020 to 2022, she was a visiting professor at Western University Faculty of Law. She previously taught tort and criminal law as a stipendiary lecturer at the University of Oxford and legal process as an adjunct faculty member at Osgoode. She earned her doctorate in law as a SSHRC Doctoral Fellow at the University of Oxford, her LLM from Osgoode in 2017, and a juris doctor with distinction from Western Law in 2011. At Western, she helped to establish the *Western Journal of Legal Studies*. Before entering academia, she practiced as a class actions lawyer and an insurance defence lawyer and served as a judicial clerk to Justice James A. O'Reilly with the Federal Court of Canada. Professor Chiodo has published widely in her field. Her book *The Class Actions Controversy: The Origins and Development of the Ontario Class Proceedings Act* was based on her LLM thesis and was published in 2018 by Irwin Law and the Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History. It won the Peter Oliver Prize in Canadian Legal History and was shortlisted for the 2019 Legislative Assembly of Ontario Speaker's Book Award. Her work on class action reform has influenced policy thinking in both Canada and the U.K.



### Patricia McMahon, Assistant Professor

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**In her teaching and research,** Patricia McMahon specializes in civil procedure, law and equity, and legal history broadly defined. She also serves as co-academic director of the Winkler Institute for Dispute Resolution and is director and lead interviewer for the Oral History Program at the Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History, the world's largest oral history program dedicated to legal history. She holds a BA in history from Huron University College at Western University, an MA in history from the University of Toronto, a PhD in Canadian diplomatic and political history from the University of Toronto, and an LLB (with honours) from the University of Toronto. After graduating with her LLB, she clerked for Justice Ian Binnie of the Supreme Court of Canada. She later attended Yale University as a Fulbright Fellow, earning her LLM and JSD degrees. Prior to joining Osgoode, she worked in private practice, focusing on complex litigation. Professor McMahon has published widely in her fields of study, including two books. *The Persons Case: The Origins and Legacy of the Fight for Legal Personhood* (with Robert J. Sharpe) was published jointly by the University of Toronto Press and the Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History in 2007. *Essence of Indecision: Diefenbaker's Nuclear Policy 1957-1963* was published by McGill-Queen's University Press in 2009.



Barnali Choudhury



Ben Berger

## Legal leadership on the world stage

**Professors Barnali Choudhury and Ben Berger** have taken new leadership roles in the international legal community.

Choudhury, who also serves as director of Osgoode's Jack & Mae Nathanson Centre on Transnational Human Rights, Crime and Security, has been selected by the European Union's executive arm, the European Commission, as one of only 11 international lawyers and academics to potentially chair expert panels on trade and sustainable development (TSD) – convened to help resolve bilateral trade disputes between EU and non-EU countries.

Berger has been elected vice-president of the Chile-based Justice Studies Centre of the Americas (JSCA), an independent agency of the Organization of American States (OAS) that supports justice system reform and modernization processes in countries belonging to the OAS. Berger was elected by the General Assembly of the OAS two years ago, after having been nominated by the Government of Canada.

"It's exciting work," he says. "It's research based but it has an immediate outcome in terms of policy and justice system reform."

In addition to his duties as professor, Berger also serves as York Research Chair

in Pluralism and Public Law. He served as associate dean (students) from 2015-2018 and in 2020 was elected as a member of the College of the Royal Society of Canada. He was elected to college council in 2022. Berger has published widely in his areas of research and teaching expertise, including law and religion, criminal and constitutional law and theory and the law of evidence.

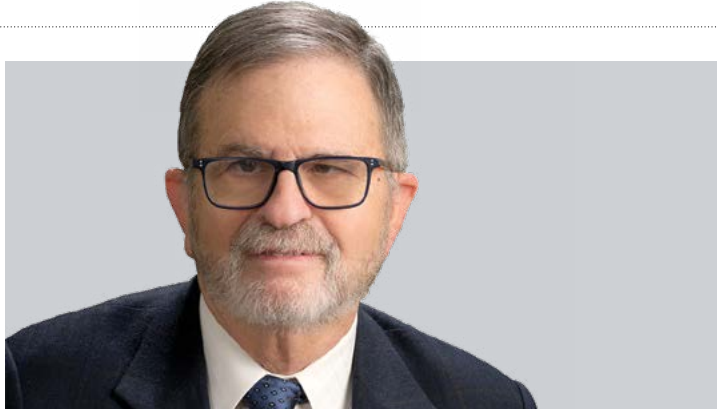
Choudhury is an internationally recognized expert on business and international economic issues, particularly as they relate to human rights. She has published numerous books, including a forthcoming commentary on the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

The European Commission created a pool of TSD experts and arbitrators as part of a larger effort to strengthen the implementation and enforcement of trade and sustainable development sections in EU trade agreements. All of the EU's more recent trade agreements include such chapters. Pool members were chosen by an independent panel of experienced international judges and academics nominated by the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union, EU countries and the European Commission.

“It’s research based but it has an immediate outcome in terms of policy and justice system reform.”

—Ben Berger

## FACULTY FOCUS



### A crowning achievement from colleagues for Benjamin Geva

**IT'S NOT A WORD YOU HEAR EVERY DAY.** But for scholars, a festschrift is a very special honour – and Professor **Benjamin Geva** is a recent recipient.

A festschrift is a volume of articles by various authors presented as a tribute – especially to an academic. In Geva's case, a special issue of the respected Canadian journal *Banking & Finance Law Review* (BFLR) was published to celebrate his significant contributions to the areas of commercial, financial and banking law.

"We are proud to announce the publication of a very special volume of the BFLR honouring Professor Benjamin Geva, one of the world's leading commercial law scholars," wrote the journal's editors in introducing the issue.

"We would like to thank all the authors who contributed to this special issue," they added, "and wish Professor Geva many more years of remarkable contributions to the field."

The special collection contains 20 articles by 26 contributors in the areas of payment systems and consumer protection, secured transactions and trade finance, and the legal nature of money and banking law. Contributors

are prominent scholars and lawyers in various stages of their careers. They come from 13 countries on five continents, including from top universities in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Italy, Germany, Luxembourg, Austria, Greece, Uganda and Israel.

"I am touched by and proud of the support and the affection bestowed on me," Geva said in an email.

"I am grateful to all who contributed," he added, "as the volume demonstrates recognition by senior colleagues from whom I have drawn inspiration, an acknowledgment of my mentorship by past and present junior colleagues, and validation from everybody – junior, lateral and senior colleagues, both in Canada and elsewhere, not only of my own contribution, but also of the importance of mutual support, collaboration and fruitful exchange of ideas among scholars."

Professor Geva has been a faculty member at Osgoode since 1977. He also serves as part-time counsel with Torys, where he is a member of the Payments and Cards Practice Group.



### Rabiat Akande leads African legal history study

**TWO OSGOODE PROFESSORS** are involved in a trail-blazing research initiative that promises to shed new light on pre-colonial African legal history.

Professor **Rabiat Akande** will lead a distinguished group of African legal scholars for the Tanzania-based African Institute of International Law. The research team will also include Professor **Obiora Okafor**, who also serves as the York University Research Chair in International and Transnational Legal Studies. He was also appointed in June 2017 as the United Nations Human Rights Council's Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity.

"I'm incredibly thrilled at this great opportunity and look forward to embarking on the project, which will bring together global scholars working on precolonial and colonial international law in Africa," says Akande.

The initiative recently received a grant worth more than \$180,000 from the Germany-based Gerda Henkel



Foundation, which was established in 1976 to provide financial support for the historical humanities. The research project will also be supported by the African Union and the Nathanson Centre for Transnational Human Rights, Crime and Security at Osgoode Hall Law School, which will fund a graduate student to work as a research assistant during the first year of the initiative.

The research initiative is based on the notion that influential critical narratives about the impact of colonialism on African legal history are, in fact, based on “scant secondary literature rather than being informed by a systematic and primary-source-driven research into the legal and institutional design of international relations in the years proceeding European colonialism in Africa.”

“The African Institute of International Law’s African Precolonial International Legal History Project seeks to fill this vacuum,” reads a description of the project, “by conducting and stimulating the conduct of systematic and source-informed research into African precolonial international legal history.”

The African Institute of International Law (<https://aiil-iadi.org/>) was founded by a group of leading African jurists of international law, including the past president of the International Court of Justice and a current sitting member of the court, Abdulqawi Yusuf.

“It is a hub for scholars and jurists researching and practising in the field of international law on the continent,” notes Akande, who graduated from Harvard Law School in 2019 and works in the fields of legal history, law and religion, constitutional and comparative constitutional law, Islamic law, international law and (post)colonial African law and society.



## A new chapter for Philip Girard

**As a leading expert** on Canadian legal history, Professor **Philip Girard** decided he’d made enough of his own. So after a distinguished career spanning more than 40 years, he’s officially retiring effective June 2023.

“It just sort of hit me,” he told *Continuum*. “I’m in my 43rd year of teaching. It just seemed like it was long enough and time to call it a day.”

The announcement came days before the official, in-person launch of *A History of Law in Canada Volume II: Law for the New Dominion, 1867-1914*, co-authored by Girard, Jim Phillips of the University of Toronto Faculty of Law and St. Mary’s University history professor R. Blake Brown. The book is published by the Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History and University of Toronto Press.

Dean Mary Condon paid tribute to Professor Girard’s significant contributions to the Osgoode community and Canadian legal scholarship.

“Legal history has always been an area of strength at Osgoode, and Philip is an outstanding and collaborative scholar in this field,” she said. “He has also been a remarkable teacher of property law for many cohorts of Osgoode students and has been very generous as a mentor to younger colleagues.”

Sebastian Becker ’21, one of Girard’s

former students and research assistants, described him as an “exceptional professor” who was “always the very definition of class and competence.”

“I think Professor Girard was an exceptional teacher because he never forgot the incredible stories behind difficult concepts in the law,” Becker said in an email. “(He) made the driest parts of the law palatable by sharing the human interest behind them, including anecdotes from his own life.”

In retirement, Girard said he plans to continue with some research and writing. But it will also give him more time to spend with his grandson, who was born in 2021, and will allow for longer stays at the family cottage on Lake Huron.

He and his wife also plan to travel more often to Nova Scotia, where he was a professor at Dalhousie Law School (later renamed the Schulich School of Law) from 1984 to 2013. He joined the Osgoode faculty in 2013 after two earlier stints as a visiting professor.

In 2011, Girard became the first Canadian to be made an honorary fellow of the American Society for Legal History and in 2021 he was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. In 2021, he was also awarded the David Walter Mundell Medal for excellence in legal writing by the attorney general of Ontario.

# IN MEMORIAM

— January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022



R.J. Gray

**He was loved.** And for a remarkable 42 years, Professor R.J. Gray's warmth and humanity permeated the Osgoode community. Throughout his career, he served students with dedication and humour and built lifelong friendships. With profound sadness, his family announced his death on Jan. 12, 2023, at the age of 93. A celebration of R.J.'s life was held at Osgoode on Feb. 11, 2023.

"He was a real friend of the students – that was his focus," recalled his son Rob Gray '84. "He respected everybody, he listened and he tried to help people."

"I take a lot of comfort in knowing that he affected so many people positively, which will last forever," he added.

Gray was remembered as an engaging teacher, a dedicated assistant dean, (students) and, even more vividly, as the passionate coach of the Osgoode Owls basketball team – including from 1959 to 1969, when it competed in the former Ontario University Athletics

Association.

"R.J. was a force of nature around the law school who was deeply connected to its history and its development into a leading location for legal education," said Dean Mary Condon. "He always put students first."

His enormous contribution to the law school was celebrated in grand fashion at a retirement party at Toronto's Royal York Hotel in 2000 that brought together more than 700 people. The event marked the creation of the R.J. Gray Award, which is presented annually to a student in financial need who demonstrates outstanding academic performance and participation in extracurricular activities.

Former students posted touching tributes on a Kudoboard. "As a teacher, assistant dean, coach, mentor, reunion junkie and, above all, friend he gave his all to the school and all of its constituencies," wrote Winn Oughtred '67. Daniel J. Arbess '84 said, "Osgoode is terrific, but R.J. Gray was an institution of his own

– an immense personality of warmth, wit and wisdom." Paula Knopf '75 added, "He had a way of bringing out the best in students and helping them overcome any hurdles they may be facing." And Eric Grossman '87 noted, "R.J. has left a great legacy and his memory will live on literally in the thousands of lawyers he has mentored in their formative years."

In one of his last acts as a professor emeritus, Gray hooded his grandson Stephen Gray during his convocation from Osgoode in 2016.

In a beautifully written obituary, the Gray family described their patriarch as "a man of integrity, humour, thoughtfulness, compassion, strength, loyalty, honour and intelligence."

Donations in Professor Gray's memory can be made using Osgoode's secure online giving site at [osgoode.yorku.ca/rj](https://osgoode.yorku.ca/rj).

**1949**

Joan W. Hodgson

**1951**

William Vorvis

**1952**

Alfred H. Herman

**1953**

J. Lachlan Cattnach  
Harry W. Edmondstone  
Joseph C. Lyons

**1954**

Harold Sonny Bocknek  
James M. Donnelly  
Joan B. Neiman  
Robert P. Riggan

**1955**

James R. Mahoney  
Victor M. Seabrook  
Harold J. Wine  
George Yates

**1956**

John R. Casey

**1957**

Peter Petropoulos  
Keith R. Shadlock  
Wendell S. Wagle  
George A. Wootten

**1958**

William Ash  
Arthur A. Binnington  
David B. Black  
Charles B. Cohen  
Edward J. Conroy  
Frederick G. Hamilton  
Gordon Teskey

**1959**

Leonard M. Eades  
Edward C. Hill  
Bruce A. Owen

**1960**

H.J. Michael Croghan  
Thomas G. Deacon  
Herbert Jack Greenstein  
Wayne G. Holt  
James H. Little  
Charles F. MacKewn  
David H. Milman  
Linton W. Scott  
Gerald M. Taub

**1961**

Robert G. Church  
G. Hayes Murphy

**1962**

Barry D. Brown  
Wayne L. Hooey  
John D. Humphreys  
John R. Jennings  
Douglas R. McDermid  
Ross W. McFarlane  
Willson A. McTavish  
Donald A. Riou  
Ronald N. Rudan  
Joel W. Winch

**1963**

L. Thomas Forbes

**1964**

Michael H. Appleton

**1965**

Paul A. Carroll  
Robert B. McGee  
William F. Phipps

**1966**

William G. Mahaffy

**1968**

Joseph S. Brinkos  
Stephen M. Malach  
George D. Olah

**1969**

Robert E. Costello  
Michael H. Holden

**1970**

Francis W. Cole  
Jan Poot  
Alan W. Pope

**1971**

Terrence J. O'Sullivan

**1972**

Michael E. Shea

**1973**

James R. Cade  
Gamini C. Wanigasekera

**1975**

Michael W. Caroline  
Mary G. Critelli  
M. Elizabeth Greville

**1976**

D. Ross Elver  
Orville R. Endicott  
James J. McDermott  
Stephanie L. Thomas

**1977**

Douglas G. Benson  
Wladislaw C. Wieckowski

**1978**

Peter S. Ascherl  
Michael L. Young

**1979**

Margaret A. Fischer

**1981**

J. Mark Stinson

**1982**

Janet A. Ross

**1983**

Doreen M. Dewart  
Rufus H. Ho

**1985**

Raymond W. Kuszelewski  
Valerie A. Lawson

**1988**

Clark B. Ledingham

**1993**

Roger J. Pead

**2016**

Dylan Eric Augruso

**LLM****1999**

Paula M. McPherson

**2018**

Jean Cumming

# CLASS NOTES

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

## ➔ 1970s

**Audrey Loeb '71** received an honorary degree of doctor of laws, honoris causa, from the Law Society of Ontario.



**Gregory Mulligan '73** recently retired as a judge of the Ontario Superior Court but continues to sit in the Yukon and Nunavut territories as a deputy judge. His most recent one-week assignment was in the hamlet of Pangnirtung Nunavut, on Baffin Island.

**Dianne Saxe '74, '91 (LLM), '91 (PhD)** was elected a Toronto city councillor.

**Marjorie Hiley '76** had a street in Toronto named after her in recognition of her lifetime achievements and contributions to the community.

**Harry LaForme '77, '08 (LLD)** was appointed an officer of the Order of Canada.

**Patricia Olasker '77** was appointed to the Ontario Securities Commission's advisory council to the chief executive officer.

**Yvonne Hamlin '78** was elected mayor of Collingwood, Ont.

**Marsha Faubert '79** ended her career in the administrative justice system in Ontario and turned to writing nonfiction. Her book, *Wanda's War* (Goose Lane, 2023) is a story of war, displacement and exile based on the lives of two Polish immigrants – parents of her husband, George Surdykowski '80.

**Michelle Fuerst '79** received an honorary degree of doctor of laws, honoris causa, from the Law Society of Ontario.

**David Lepofsky '79** received an honorary doctorate from Brock University and the first-ever Daniel G. Hill Human Rights Lifetime Achievement Award from the Ontario Human Rights Commission in recognition of his significant contributions in the advancement of human rights.

## ➔ 1980s

**Roger Greenberg '80** received a doctor of laws, honoris causa, from Carleton University in recognition of his outstanding contributions as a community champion.

**Andromache Karakatsanis '80** received an honorary degree of doctor of laws, honoris causa, from the Law Society of Ontario.

**Gary Mooney '80** was appointed to the King's Counsel for his exceptional merit and contribution to the legal profession in Newfoundland and Labrador.

**Neil Gross '81** was appointed to the Ontario Securities Commission's advisory council to the chief executive officer.

**Bill Hastings '81** received an LLM in judicial studies from Duke University in 2020, in 2021 was appointed a judge of the Court Martial of New Zealand and was appointed chief justice of Kiribati. In 2022, he was appointed president of the Court of Appeal of Kiribati.

**Gregory Sorbara '81** received the 2022 Outstanding Contribution Award from York University.

**Darlene Madott '83** recently published her ninth work of fiction *Winners and Losers*, which grows directly out of her legal background. For more about Darlene visit: [darlenemadott.com](http://darlenemadott.com).

**Mark Dockstator '83, '94 (DJur)** was appointed chair of the Nature Foundation.

**Paul McDonald '83** was appointed to the King's Counsel for his exceptional merit and contribution to the legal profession in Newfoundland and Labrador.

**Doris Stamml '83** was recognized with the 2022 BLG Stephen Sigurdson Lifetime Achievement Award at the Canadian General Counsel Awards for her 35-plus year career as a trailblazer in the legal profession and as a champion for the next generation of female leaders.

**Paul Rouleau '84 (LLM)** received an honorary degree of doctor of laws, honoris causa, from the Law Society of Ontario.



**Loretta Merritt '85, '90 (LLM)** was appointed a judge of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice.

**Kevan Cowan '86** was named the new chair of the Ontario Securities Commission.

**David Eisen '87** practices and teaches family medicine with obstetrics in North York, Ont. He serves North York General Hospital as chief and program medical director of the Department of Family and Community Medicine. David is an associate professor in the Temerty Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto.



**Bruce Munro Wright '87** was appointed to the Order of British Columbia in August 2022, the highest form of recognition that the province extends to its residents. Bruce was recognized for his contribution to the arts and his non-profit work.

**Geoffrey Budden '88** was named one of Canada's Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers by Canadian Lawyer Magazine.

**M. Anne Bunting '88** received the 2022 Ronald Pipkin Service Award from the Law and Society Association.

**Linda McKenzie '88** was appointed a judge of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, Family Court Branch.

**Ellen-Anne O'Donnell '88** was named Integrity Commissioner for Calgary.

**Daniel Daviau '89** was appointed to the Ontario Securities Commission's advisory council to the chief executive officer.

**Daniel Ingersoll '89** was appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia.

**Michael Tulloch '89** received an honorary degree of doctor of laws, honoris causa, from the Law Society of Ontario, the 2022 Tentanda Via Alumni Award from York University and was appointed chief justice of Ontario and president of the Court of Appeal for Ontario.

## ➔ 1990s

**Peter Osborne '90** was appointed a judge of the Ontario Superior Court.



**Gina Alexandris '91** started a private coaching practice after years of leadership roles in legal education (including over a decade at Osgoode). Her practice focuses on career, leadership and professional development, and supporting diverse, mature professionals to understand and meet their career goals. Gina's practice includes one-on-one coaching,

workshop design and facilitation. For more information visit: [ginaalexandris.com](http://ginaalexandris.com).

**Jeffrey Morrison '92** was appointed a judge of the Alberta Provincial Court.

**Brandon Boone '93** is the new co-owner of the Niagara Falls junior-B hockey franchise, the Canucks.

**Kimberly Murray '93, '23 (LLM)** was appointed special interlocutor to co-ordinate the government's response to the unmarked graves that have been identified at a number of former residential school sites.

**John Borrows '94 (DJur), '18 (LLD)** was named the inaugural Loveland Chair in Indigenous Law at the University of Toronto.

**Enrico Forlini '94** was appointed a judge of the Superior Court of Quebec.

**Louise Arbour '95 (LLD)** was named one of Canada's Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers by Canadian Lawyer Magazine.



**Audrea Golding '95** was recently elected to the executive committee of Fragomen Global. She is based in the firm's Silicon Valley office and also serves as co-chair of Fragomen's global diversity, equity & inclusion committee. Fragomen is the world's leading single-focus

provider of immigration services and an AmLaw 100 firm.

**Kate Broer '96** was appointed Dentons' first global inclusion and diversity officer.

**Benjamin Na '96** was named one of Canada's Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers by Canadian Lawyer Magazine.

**Mohammed Rahman '96** was appointed a judge of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice.

**Michael Crinson '97** was appointed an associate judge of the Federal Court.

**Lisa Stead '97** was appointed to the King's Counsel for her exceptional merit and contribution to the legal profession in Newfoundland and Labrador.

**Meghan McCreary '98** was appointed a judge of the Court of Appeal for Saskatchewan.

**Giuseppina D'Agostino '99** was named one of Canada's Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers by Canadian Lawyer Magazine.

**Jeffrey Mandell '99** was appointed Arbitration Place's chief executive officer.

## ➔ 2000s

**Faisal Mirza '01** was appointed a judge of the Ontario Superior Court.

**Tanya Monestier '02** wrote *Sh\*t No One Tells You About Law School*, which offers law students a compilation of advice culled from Tanya's 15 years of teaching experience.

**Scott Bergman '03** was appointed a judge of the Ontario Court of Justice.

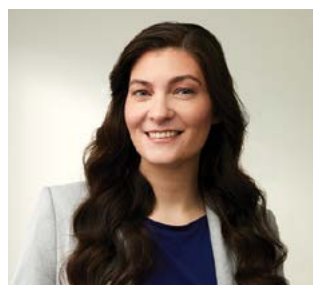
**Jacob Kojfman '03** joined the Co-operators Group Ltd. as senior legal counsel, assisting the organization with its digital transformation and other technology law matters.

**Amelia Daurio '04** was appointed a judge of the Ontario Superior Court, Family Court Branch.

**Brent Arnold '05** joined the International Association of Defense Counsel, the preeminent invitation-only global legal organization for lawyers who represent corporate and insurance interests.

**Lindsay Daviau '05** was appointed a judge of the Ontario Court of Justice.

**Marian Jacko '05 (LLM)** received the 2022 Laura Legge Award from the Law Society of Ontario.



**Emily Lawrence '05** was named managing partner of Paliare Roland Rosenberg Rothstein LLP.

**Ava-Gaye Colquhoun '06** was appointed a justice of the peace to the Ontario Court of Justice.

**Steven Del Duca '07** was elected mayor of Vaughan, Ont.

**Sherri Lavine '07** was recognized as 2022 Lexpert Rising Stars: Leading Lawyers Under 40.

**Michelle Maniago '07** was recognized as 2022 Lexpert Rising Stars: Leading Lawyers Under 40.

**Evaristus Oshionebo '07 (PhD)** was named the new acting chief of the Alberta Human Rights Commission.

**Lauren Tomasich '07** was recognized as 2022 Lexpert Rising Stars: Leading Lawyers Under 40.

**Christopher Bulkan '08 (PhD)** was appointed a judge of the Court of Appeal in Belize.

**Jessica Catton Rinaldi '08** was recognized as 2022 Lexpert Rising Stars: Leading Lawyers Under 40.

**Sara Gottlieb '08** was appointed general counsel for Ontario Tech University.

**Auriol Marasco '08** was recognized as 2022 Lexpert Rising Stars: Leading Lawyers Under 40.

**Josée Turcotte '08 (LLM)** was named chief legal officer for the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario.

**Jamie Greenberg '09** was recognized as 2022 Lexpert Rising Stars: Leading Lawyers Under 40.

**Jonathan Tong '09** was recognized as 2022 Lexpert Rising Stars: Leading Lawyers Under 40.

## 2010S

**Chantelle Cseh '10** was recognized as 2022 Lexpert Rising Stars: Leading Lawyers Under 40.

**Sandra Zhao '10** was recognized as 2022 Lexpert Rising Stars: Leading Lawyers Under 40.



**Pierre Gagnon '11 (LLM)** authored a chapter on language policies in *La terminologie, une approche linguistique* (Terminology, A Linguistic Approach), published by Éditions JFD. Chapter 15 explains the vast topic of language rights and policies.

**Ranjan Agarwal '11 (LLM)** was appointed a judge of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice.

**Larissa Vermeersch '11** was recognized as 2022 Lexpert Rising Stars: Leading Lawyers Under 40.

**Fahad Siddiqui '13** was recognized as 2022 Lexpert Rising Stars: Leading Lawyers Under 40.



**Deanne Sowter '13** was named a 2022 recipient of the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship.

**Michelle O'Bonsawin '14 (LLM)** was appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada.



**Richard Gasparini '15 (LLM)** was awarded a PhD in sociology from Manchester Metropolitan University in February 2022 and co-authored *Canadian Law and Business Studies* (published by Canadian Scholars/Women's Studies) which was released in the spring of 2022. Both are significant accomplishments since he recently turned 76.

**Lance Williams '16 (LLM)** was recognized as 2022 Lexpert Rising Stars: Leading Lawyers Under 40.

**Phillip Peters '17 (LLM)** was appointed to the King's Counsel in Alberta.

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTICE

Alumni are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting on:

**Wednesday, May 17, 2023**  
**5:30pm to 6:00pm**

**Osgoode Professional Development**  
**2602-1 Dundas Street West,**  
**Toronto, ON M5G 1Z3**

Please contact the Osgoode Alumni Office at  
**416-736-5638** or [alumni@osgoode.yorku.ca](mailto:alumni@osgoode.yorku.ca)  
to obtain a copy of the agenda and to register.

**Positive RSVPs appreciated**

**Alana Robert '19** was named one of Canada's Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers by Canadian Lawyer Magazine.

**Matthew Shoemaker '19 (LLM)** was elected mayor of Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

## ➔ 2020S



**Sayjon Ariyaratnam '20** was named one of York University's Top 30 Alumni Under 30.

**Andrea Menard '20 (LLM)** was named one of Canada's Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers by Canadian Lawyer Magazine.

**Julie Richard '20 (LLM)** was appointed a judge of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice.



**Patrick Gauch '21 (LLM)** was appointed chief financial officer for YMCA Canada. YMCA is one of Canada's oldest charities that has been helping Canadians improve their lives since 1851.

**Tricia Alcendor '22 (LLM)** was recognized as one of the 100 Accomplished Black Canadian Women of 2022.

**Chantelle Hospedales '22** received the 2022 Aird & Berlis LLP Equality Award from the Women's Law Association of Ontario.

**Naomi Stuleanu '22** received the 2022 Torkin Manes LLP Trailblazer Award from the Women's Law Association of Ontario.

## 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/](https://osgoode.yorku.ca/alumni/) to submit online or e-mail us at [alumni@osgoode.yorku.ca](mailto:alumni@osgoode.yorku.ca)

## Keep in Touch

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](https://osgoode.yorku.ca/alumni/address)

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# REPORT

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# ON

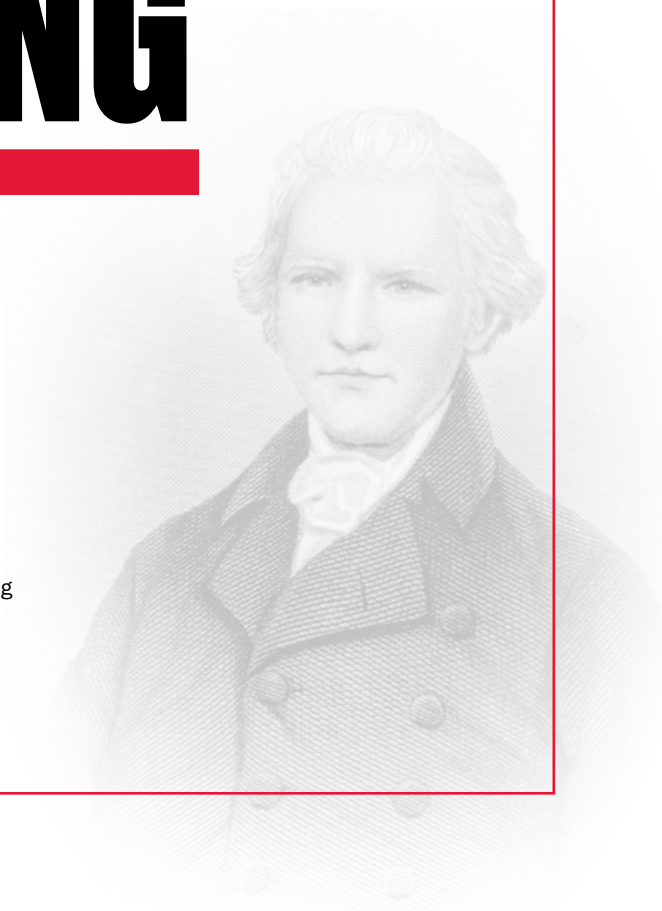
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The William Osgoode Society was established to honour Osgoode's most generous donors. Named after the first Chief Justice of Upper Canada, the Society reflects the School's long history and important influence on legal education. Members in the society include individuals, law firms, foundations, and associations whose cumulative paid gifts to Osgoode Hall law school total more than \$25,000.





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Osgoode Hall Law School is one of this country's finest law schools as a result of the vision, wisdom and resolve of those charged with its leadership. Our gift societies are named in honour of the five first deans for their contribution to building an institution that is internationally recognized for its excellence in legal education.

The societies recognize the contributions of donors who are committed to upholding our tradition of academic excellence by supporting the law school's mission. Membership in a society is based on paid gifts to Osgoode Hall Law School during the university's last fiscal year.

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# THE THOMAS BROWN PHILLIPS STEWART SOCIETY

Thomas Brown Phillips Stewart (1865–1892) was admitted to Osgoode Hall as a student-at-law in Michaelmas Term in 1888. Sadly, he became ill and died at the early age of 27 before he could graduate. He left a portion of his estate to establish a student library at Osgoode Hall, which later became the largest law library in Canada.

The Thomas Brown Phillips Stewart Society was created to commemorate Osgoode's first benefactor and to honour all those who, like this generous young man, made Osgoode Hall Law School a part of their legacy through a planned gift.

Membership in the society is offered to those alumni and friends who wish to donate to Osgoode by means of a planned gift including charitable bequests, life insurance or other future arrangements. All members will be recognized annually in the Osgoode Hall Law School Report on Giving.

We would be pleased to discuss with donors and their advisors, the many areas within the law school where bequests can be directed. We do appreciate the opportunity to review the terms of a will (especially for specific bequests) before they are finalized, so we can confirm our ability to accept and fulfill the gift's intent.

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# LAST LOOK

## Constance Backhouse



Constance Backhouse '75 (centre) flanked by former York University chancellor Greg Sorbara '81 and York University President Rhonda Lenton.

**In June 2022, Osgoode alumna and University of Ottawa law professor Constance Backhouse, returned to York University to receive an honorary doctor of laws degree during the Osgoode convocation ceremony. In her address to graduates, she celebrated trailblazing Canadian lawyers – some of them Osgoode grads – who defied the odds to overcome racial and gender barriers in the legal profession. Professor Backhouse has built a national reputation as an advocate for gender and racial equity. She is the author of several books on feminist and race-related legal rights.**

**For a complete version of her speech, go to [osgoode.yorku.ca/backhouse/](https://osgoode.yorku.ca/backhouse/)**

### An excerpt:

My work focuses on Canadian legal history and sex and race discrimination in law. Today, I want to remind us of the struggles for entry of groups long excluded from the legal profession. The first outsiders to pierce the profession's white male bubble faced enormous barriers and enduring hostility.

Robert Sutherland, now considered the “first Black lawyer,” was called to the Ontario bar more than a century and a half ago, in 1855. The son of a free Black woman and Scottish father, he came from Jamaica to study law at Queen's University.

Clara Brett Martin broke the gender barrier in 1897, when she was called to the bar in Toronto, the first woman in the entire British Commonwealth. The 23-year-old woman successfully navigated a six-year battle of initial rejection.

It took another half-century before Canada's first Asian-Canadian lawyer, Kew Dock Yip,

was called to the Ontario bar in 1945. It took him three tries just to get admitted to Osgoode Hall Law School.

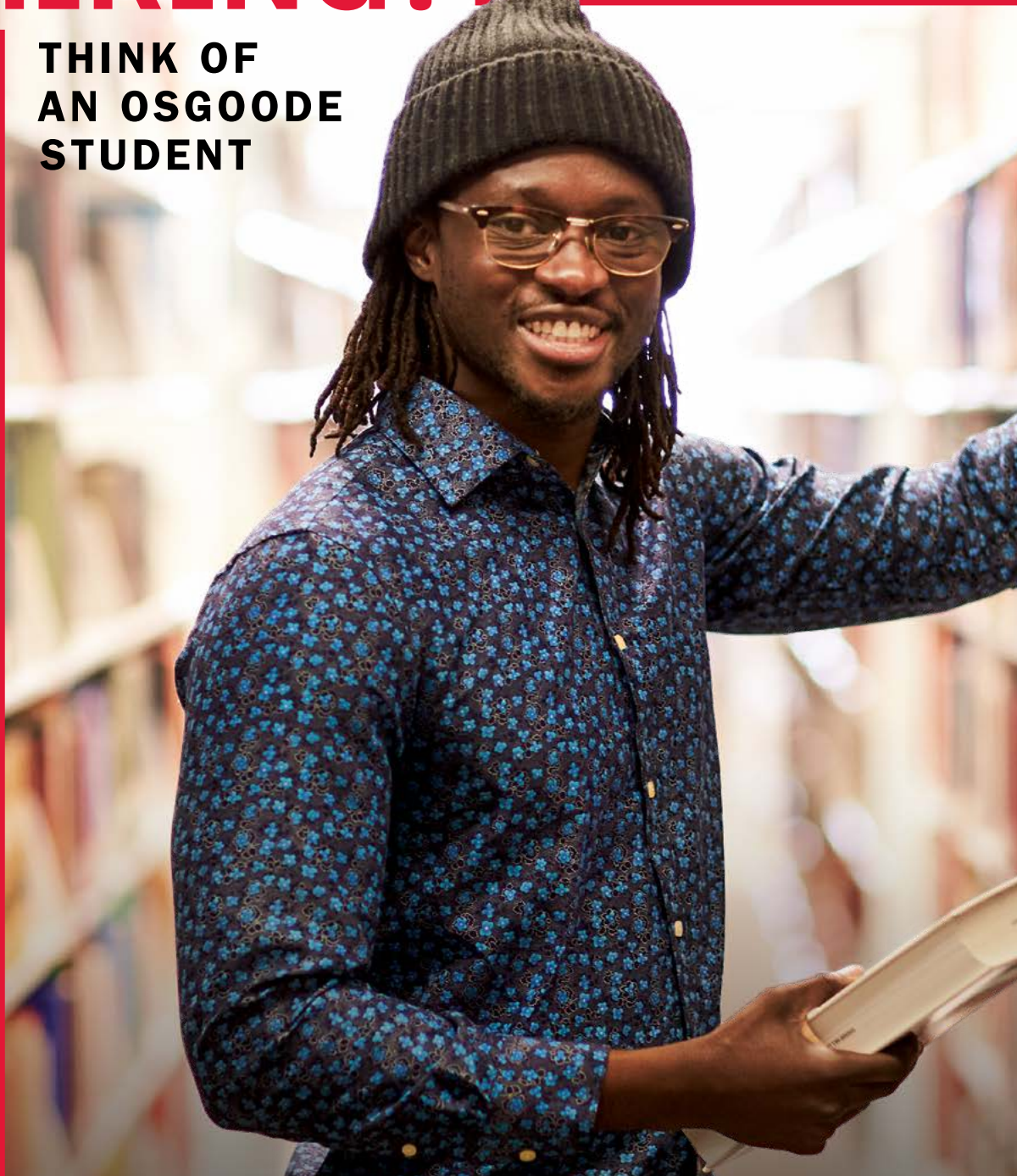
The barriers facing the first Indigenous lawyers were, if anything, even more impenetrable. Twenty-five-year-old Andrew Paull, a member of the Squamish Nation, began working in a law office in 1917, but was denied admission to the B.C. bar four years later. He went on to become one of Canada's most significant advocates for Indigenous rights, without a law degree.

Issues of gender, race, class, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation and gender-identity pose overwhelming challenges within our society and within the legal profession. As you consider your graduation from this wonderful Osgoode Hall, we would do well to reflect on how historians will look back upon our own contributions 50 years from now.



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