2014-15 Report on Activities

Hennick Centre for Business and Law at York University

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The Hennick Centre for Business and Law had a busy and eventful year in 2014-15. The Centre deepened its connection with students through our innovative business and law programming, developed and strengthened our relationships with key stakeholders, and contributed to informed debate at the intersection of business, law and public policy. Through our activities and initiatives, the Centre continues to raise its profile and advance our overall mission to promote and develop interdisciplinary business and law scholarship and education.

www.hennickcentre.ca
The Hennick Centre initiated, co-sponsored or participated in several events this year. Our events serve to raise the Centre’s brand awareness while contributing to the dialogue on topical issues at the intersection of business, law and public policy. We extend our appreciation to the sponsors, funders, and collaborators whose support of and involvement in our events played an important role in advancing the Centre’s mission. Events in the last year included the following:

**JD/MBA Alumni Association Wine & Cheese Reception**
May 14, 2014
The Hennick Centre and the Osgoode-Schulich JD/MBA Alumni Association sponsored the fifth annual wine and cheese reception for all graduates of the JD/MBA program at Osgoode Hall in downtown Toronto. The Osgoode-Schulich JD/MBA Alumni Association is committed to fostering a community where alumni can jointly pursue mutually shared interests and issues. This annual event serves an important role in building a formal JD/MBA alumni network and promoting York University’s JD/MBA program.

**Understanding and Taming Public and Private Corruption**
November 6-7, 2014
The Hennick Centre’s co-director Professor Cynthia Williams helped to organize this two-day conference at Osgoode Hall Law School. The conference examined corruption in business, finance, government and enforcement. The conference attracted national and international experts who reflected on their experiences and their attempts at solutions.

**OsgoodePD: The Corporate Counsel’s Guide to Managing a Corporate Legal Crisis**
November 14, 2014
The Hennick Centre co-sponsored this CPD program offered by Osgoode Professional Development. The course focused on an audience of General Counsel or in-house counsel, providing information, insights and guidance on how to develop proactive corporate policies as well as practical strategies for managing a corporate crisis with potential criminal or regulatory consequences.

**The Stock Market We Can’t See: The Exempt Market and its Regulation**
November 17, 2014
The Hennick Centre’s director Professor Ed Waitzer was a featured speaker at a luncheon panel discussion sponsored by the University of Calgary School of Public Policy. Thought leaders in law, business and public policy discussed the largely unregulated exempt market and what the regulators are promising to do to impose stricter controls and smaller investing limits.

**OBA Institute’s 2015 Conference: Corporate Social Responsibility and the Critical Role of the Lawyer**
February 5, 2015
The Ontario Bar Association organized this one day program on risk management and compliance issues related to corporate social responsibility. Leading practitioners and academics at the forefront of this developing area of law discussed issues ranging from supply chain compliance strategies, corporate governance, labour issues, bribery and whistleblowing. The Hennick Centre’s director was an invited speaker.
The Hennick Centre had another strong year supporting interdisciplinary education and professional development for law and business students through our curricular and co-curricular programming. The Centre’s student programming demonstrated our commitment to making a positive difference in the education and professional development of young professionals.
Mentorship Program
The Centre’s JD/MBA-focused mentorship program provided joint degree students with one-on-one access to graduates of the Osgoode-Schulich program. The mentorship program aims to support the academic and career development of JD/MBA students by fostering a meaningful connection between students and graduates with combined legal and business training. JD/MBA alumni mentors with diverse backgrounds prepared second year students for summer student law firm interviews and assisted all students with general business and law career advice.

JD/MBA Students’ Association Annual Conference
The Centre worked closely with the JD/MBA Students’ Association on programs and initiatives to help students connect their classroom learning with the real world experiences of seasoned business and legal professionals. The Centre provided planning, logistical and promotional support for the 18th annual JD/MBA Conference – Higher Ground: How Technology and Innovation are Driving Change in Business, Law and Media. John Stackhouse, Senior Vice President, Office of the CEO at the Royal Bank of Canada, was the keynote speaker. Through panel sessions led by prominent industry leaders, legal practitioners, entrepreneurs and academics, the 2015 conference highlighted the disruptive influences shaping the business, legal and high-tech sectors. The conference had over 80 attendees and another strong year of sponsorship support.

“Lunch With” Series
The Hennick Centre also sponsored the popular JD/MBA “Lunch With” Series again this year. In winter 2015, JD/MBA students attended informal lunch and learn talks with Noel Biderman (Osgoode alumnus and President and CEO of Avid Life Media Inc.) and Susan Wolburgh Jenah (Osgoode alumnus, Corporate Director and Osgoode’s 2014-15 McMurtry Fellow). In addition to the “Lunch With” series, the Centre organized a corporate governance and career talk with Kathleen Taylor, Osgoode-Schulich JD/MBA alumna and Chair of the Royal Bank of Canada. The talks serve to provide students with insight into the business and legal issues faced by industry leaders on the job, as well as the range of career opportunities available to joint graduates.

Other Student Events
Professors Tom Johnson and Peter Macdonald, Faculty co-directors of the JD/MBA program, moderated the Business and Law Career Panel organized by the JD/MBA Students’ Association. This year’s panel was hosted at Torys LLP and included Osgoode-Schulich alumni working in-house, in private practice and in investment banking.

Staff Award
In recognition of the Centre’s contribution to student life at Osgoode, Osgoode’s student government presented the Centre’s associate director Tanya Bowes with the 2015 Legal and Literary Society Staff Award.
The Hennick Centre remains committed to supporting the growth and development of the Osgoode-Schulich JD/MBA Alumni Association. The establishment and growth of the alumni network is an important step in promoting the JD/MBA program. As part of its commitment to expanding and engaging this network of former JD/MBA students, the Hennick Centre sponsored the fifth annual Alumni Association wine and cheese reception on May 14, 2014 and provided support for the annual JD/MBA alumni welcome breakfast for new graduates on September 23, 2014 and the annual Alumni Association dinner on October 21, 2014.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP AND PUBLIC POLICY

The Hennick Centre’s directors were involved in a wide range of research projects and provided scholarly thought leadership on topics of importance to the business and legal communities.

Professor Ed Waitzer was actively involved in thought leadership conferences and sessions at home and abroad covering a range of topics including pension fund management, capital markets, innovation, and corporate governance. He is continuing with his research on fiduciary standards for pension fund trustees under a grant received from the Rotman School of Management’s International Centre for Pension Fund Management. Professor Waitzer was a regular contributor to the op/ed pages of leading national publications such as the Globe and Mail and the Financial Post.

Professor Cynthia Williams was invited to lead an interdisciplinary research team to study the Dutch Central Bank’s innovative program to observe and evaluate the corporate culture within Dutch banks. In addition, Professor Williams has been invited by the Ontario Ministry of Government and Consumer Services to participate in a panel to advise government on priorities to reform Ontario’s corporate and commercial statutes.

Professor James Darroch remains on the Board of Directors of the Toronto Financial Services Alliance, a public/private initiative that promotes Toronto as a global financial center. Professor Darroch also provides leadership to the Financial Services Leadership Program at CIBC and serves as a senior education advisor with the Global Risk Institute.
OTHER INITIATIVES

Hennick Medals
The Hennick Centre presented the 2014 Hennick Medal for Career Achievement to Marianne Harris (JD/MBA ’83), Chair of the Board of Directors of the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada (“IIROC”). The Career Achievement Medal is awarded to a business and law graduate who has earned international recognition in the business and legal communities. The Hennick Centre arranged for Marianne to deliver a private talk to law and business students where she shared her wealth of experience in navigating her career in corporate and investment banking. In addition, students and faculty were also invited to join over 70 business, legal and public sector leaders at IIROC’s offices for a presentation and reception in honour of Marianne’s achievements at the intersection of business, law and public policy. The event was hosted by IIROC.

Amber Lam (JD/MBA ‘14) was presented with the Hennick Medal for Academic Excellence at the 2015 JD/MBA Conference. The Medal for Academic Excellence is presented to the JD/MBA student with the top cumulative grade point average of his or her graduating class.

ON THE HORIZON

Since its inception, the Centre has remained focused on its mission of promoting joint business and legal scholarship and education for students, practitioners and scholars at York University and beyond. This brief report of the Centre’s activities over the past year presents a snapshot of our commitment to advancing the Centre’s mission.

Looking ahead to the future, the Centre will build on its progress in promoting interdisciplinary education and professional development for law and business students. The Centre is currently part of a working group examining innovation in law initiatives at Osgoode, including how to coordinate existing curricular and co-curricular activities in this area while exploring new initiatives to better prepare students for the legal market of the future. We are also working with partners at the law and business faculties to develop a law and business boot camp to provide JD students with an introduction to important business skills and concepts. Beginning in 2015-16, Professor Ed Waitzer will take on the role of Faculty co-director of the JD/MBA program, further strengthening the Centre’s connection to the joint degree program. The Centre will seek out new partnerships and strengthen our current relationships in order to scale up our current business and law-related experiential education programs.

The Centre will continue to collaborate with partners at York University and within the business and legal communities to develop innovative and relevant programming for students, scholars, practitioners and policy makers. In addition to promoting the Centre’s interdisciplinary vision, our initiatives will support our goal of strengthening our profile on campus and with our target audience.

We wish to thank the Centre’s co-director Professor Cynthia Williams for her leadership and contribution to the Centre for the past two years. Professor Williams’ commitment to and enthusiasm for our programmes and activities was invaluable to the Centre’s success. Professor Williams will be taking a sabbatical in 2015-16. We look forward to welcoming Professor Mary Condon as the new co-director at the Centre.

One of the Centre’s greatest strengths continues to lie in the quality of our supporters, including our Advisory Council, whose comments and suggestions have played an important role in the Centre achieving our objectives. In particular, we express sincere appreciation to Jay and Barbara Hennick and Mickey Cohen for their continuous support of the Centre.
OUR PEOPLE

Executive Committee
James L. Darroch, Co-Director, Hennick Centre
Dezső J. Horváth, Dean, Schulich School of Business
Tom Johnson, Faculty Co-Director, JD/MBA Program (Osgoode)
Peter Macdonald, Faculty Co-Director, JD/MBA Program (Schulich)
Lorne Sossin, Dean, Osgoode Hall Law School
Edward J. Waitzer, Director, Hennick Centre
Cynthia Williams, Co-Director, Hennick Centre

Directors
James L. Darroch, Co-Director, Hennick Centre
Tom Johnson, Faculty Co-Director, JD/MBA Program (Osgoode)
Peter Macdonald, Faculty Co-Director, JD/MBA Program (Schulich)
Edward J. Waitzer, Director, Hennick Centre
Cynthia Williams, Co-Director, Hennick Centre

Faculty
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Wesley Cragg
Andrew Crane
Douglas Cumming
James L. Darroch
Burkard Eberlein
Cameron Graham
Jim Gillies
Bryan Husted
Mathias Kipping
Ian MacDonald
Peter Macdonald
Dirk Matten
H. Thomas Wilson

Osgoode Faculty
Stephanie Ben-Ishai
Neil Brooks
Mary G. Condon
Carys J. Craig
Giuseppina D’Agostino
Aaron A. Dhir
Benjamin Geva
Allan C. Hutchinson
G. Thomas Johnson
Jinyan Li
Ikechi Mgbeoji
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Poonam Puri
David Vaver
Edward J. Waitzer
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Mark Young, Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP

The Hennick Centre for Business and Law looks forward to working with you
to make next year a success.
Please visit www.hennickcentre.ca for more information.