Leaving a LEGACY
New Ways to Connect

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10 Passion for Advocacy and Art

When Austin Cooper ’53 – one of the justice system’s most passionate advocates – passed away at the age of 84, he willed his outstanding art collection of about 100 paintings, photographs and works of sculpture to Osgoode in appreciation for helping to launch his career.

14 Voices of Giants

With the silencing of the voices of James Kreppner ’89 and John Plater ’96 who fought for safe blood for Canadians, Andrew and Hillary Cumming were inspired to recognize these fallen heroes and encourage young lawyers to follow in their footsteps by funding two internships annually in perpetuity for Osgoode students wishing to pursue socially conscious law.

18 New Era of Dispute Resolution

Osgoode ushers in a new era of dispute resolution with the launch of the Winkler Institute for Dispute Resolution named after former Ontario Chief Justice Warren K. Winkler – “Canada’s Mediator” – who has been appointed a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Osgoode and Honourary Chair of the Institute.
Paying it Forward
The idea of community is at the heart of Osgoode, and nothing is more emblematic of this sense of community than our graduates and their supporters “giving back” to enhance the educational experience at the Law School. In this issue of Continuum, we feature several examples of this aspect of Osgoode at its finest.

One instance of paying it forward involves the inimitable litigator Austin Cooper ’53 who passed away in September. Wishing to recognize the pivotal role Osgoode played in helping to launch his career, he included a clause in his will donating his art collection of about 100 paintings, photographs and sculptures to the Law School. His wonderful works of art will help turn Osgoode’s freshly renovated spaces from a house into a home and will provoke thought and discussion about law, art and culture among our students, staff and faculty.

Sometimes, the idea of paying it forward comes not from a graduate or someone connected to the Osgoode community, but rather from those whose lives have been touched by our graduates. This was the case with Andrew and Hillary Cumming’s transformative gift to honour two extraordinary Osgoode alumni who fought for safe blood for Canadians: James Kreppner ’89 and John Plater ’96. The Cummings are generously funding two internships annually in perpetuity for Osgoode students wishing to pursue socially conscious law.

Finally, sometimes the Osgoode community is reflected both by a graduate and those touched by that graduate’s accomplishments. A number of leaders in the legal community wanted to honour Ontario Chief Justice Warren K. Winkler’s [’62 (LLB), ’64 (LLM), ’12 (LLD)] dedication to innovation in dispute resolution and to mark the occasion of his retirement. The result, after York University and a group of visionary donors came on board, was the launch of the Winkler Institute for Dispute Resolution at Osgoode in December. We believe this Institute will serve as both a living legacy for the former Chief Justice and as a reflection of Osgoode’s leadership role in dispute resolution.

I hope you remain a vibrant member of the Osgoode community – and that you enjoy this issue of Continuum!

For more perspectives on all things Osgoode, check out my blog at deansblog.osgoode.yorku.ca or follow me at @DeanSossin on Twitter.

Lorne Sossin ’92
Dean
Canadian-Croatian visual artist Cindy Blažević is Osgoode’s inaugural Artist in Residence for the 2013-14 academic year. During her residency she is working with a group of Osgoode students to research and create a legal and historical narrative for photographs she has taken of the vacated interior spaces of Kingston Penitentiary. Photographing the interior of Canada’s most famous prison, which closed its doors September 30, 2013 after 178 years, was “an opportunity to shine a light on the incredible erosion of civil liberties and the prison industrial complex gaining ground in the Canadian penal system,” said Blažević, who has exhibited and taught both in Canada and Europe. She was awarded grants from the Canada Council for the Arts and the Ontario Arts Council to cover the technical and logistical costs of the Osgoode project.

Under Osgoode’s Artist in Residence program, the Law School will annually bring in an artist, from any artistic discipline, to work on projects focused on interpreting legal history, examining law’s realities today, and imagining law’s future, whether in Canada or elsewhere in the world.
Osgoode is proud to welcome David Lepofsky ’79, a lawyer and community advocate; Jeffery Hewitt ’96, general counsel to Chippewas of Rama First Nation; Ronda Bessner, a former senior legal analyst at five public inquiries; and Mark Freiman, a partner with Lerners LLP and former Deputy Attorney General of Ontario, as the McMurtry Visiting Clinical Fellows for 2013-14.


The McMurtry Visiting Clinical Fellows, who were chosen by a selection committee composed of Osgoode faculty, student and staff representatives, receive an office, administrative support and a stipend while in residence at the Law School. The Fellows may teach and get involved with Osgoode’s mooting and lawyering programs, participate in research projects, deliver public and faculty lectures, and assist with institutional projects in their areas of expertise and interest.

MCMURTRY FELLOWS

David Lepofsky  
Jeffery Hewitt  
Ronda Bessner  
Mark Freiman

The Osgoode Library recently received an important donation from Fraser Laschinger ’73: a copy of the 12th edition of Sir Edward Coke’s famous commentary on Sir Thomas Littleton’s Institutes of the Laws of England, printed in London in 1739. Coke on Littleton is one of the great authorities of the English common law.

This particular copy is especially valuable for its remarkable provenance, reflective of Canadian legal history. As evidenced by an armorial bookplate on the inside front cover, the text came to Canada sometime in the late 18th century with Sir James Monk (1745-1826), who was appointed Solicitor General of Nova Scotia in 1772 and acting Attorney General in 1775. He served as Attorney General of Lower Canada from 1776 to 1789 and again from 1782 to 1794, when he was appointed Chief Justice of Lower Canada.

Laschinger’s father acquired the book upon purchase of the home of Mme Jeanne Vanier (née Tétrault, widow of Antoine Vanier) in 1950.

This book complements copies of other editions of Coke on Littleton already in the Library’s Canada Law Book Rare Book Room, the earliest being the 2nd edition, 1628. We thank Fraser Laschinger for his generosity.

A BOOK WITH A REMARKABLE PROVENANCE

Coke on Littleton, 12th ed, London, 1739

PHOTO: MICHAEL LITWACK

WINTER 2014  5
ALUMNI MARY WAHBI ‘84 AND KAREN YOLEVSKI ‘05 OF BASMAN SMITH LLP HAVE BEEN AND CONTINUE TO BE INSTRUMENTAL IN THE OPERATION OF ONE OF PRO BONO STUDENTS CANADA’S MOST SUCCESSFUL AND LONG-STANDING PROJECTS – THE PBSC WILLS PROJECT.

As the legal firm partner for the Wills Project, which is run with the support of PBSC chapters at Osgoode Hall Law School and the University of Toronto Faculty of Law, Wahbi and Yolevski develop precedent materials, run training sessions, mentor and supervise PBSC students, recruit other estate lawyers to the project, and personally take on dozens of clients on a pro bono basis.

“The Wills Project would not be possible without Mary Wahbi, who has supported it from the very start, and Karen Yolevski who has been working with Mary for several years now,” said Nikki Gershbain, National Director of PBSC, the only national student-run pro bono service organization in the world, with chapters at 21 law schools in Canada.

The PBSC Wills Project, which began at Osgoode in the 1990s, now operates in six Canadian cities. PBSC student volunteers work with pro bono lawyers to draft wills and powers of attorney for low-income clients who do not have the resources to pay for legal assistance with estate planning. Students receive client instructions and draft the documents. Students also deliver Public Legal Education workshops to larger groups of individuals who are on a wait-list for the project.

Gershbain explains that the Toronto program, originally limited to HIV-positive clients referred by the 519 Church Street Community Centre, has expanded to include referrals from Two-Spirited Peoples of the First Nations and Legal Aid Ontario. “Unfortunately, the need for the service far outweighs our capacity to take on more clients. We can’t advertise the project broadly for fear of being flooded by potential clients, and even still we are constantly turning people away.”

She says the hands-on Wills Project is a favourite of Osgoode and U of T law students, 17 of whom are involved with this year’s program. “The placement opens up their eyes to poverty and access to justice issues in a very real way, which will hopefully make them better and more sensitive lawyers as a result.”

It’s also satisfying work for pro bono lawyers such as Wahbi, managing partner at Basman Smith LLP, and Yolevski. Wahbi sums up their involvement this way: “We believe that being involved in this project has helped us stay grounded, be more well-rounded professionals, and give to the community in general and to the legal community.”
The Jay and Barbara Hennick Centre for Business and Law at Osgoode and the Schulich School of Business presented the 2013 Hennick Medal for Career Achievement to long-time Ontario Liberal politician Gregory “Greg” Sorbara on October 31.

Sorbara ’78 (BA), ’81 (LLB), ’13 (LLD) served in the Ontario Legislature for 21 years as a Liberal MPP and held a series of senior posts including Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, and Minister of Finance. He also served as the Ontario Liberal Party’s campaign chair for three successful elections in 2003, 2007 and 2011. He resigned from the Legislature in the summer of 2012.

“Greg has had an exemplary career at the intersection of business, law and public policy, and truly deserves to receive the Hennick Medal,” said Edward J. Waitzer, Jarislowsky Dimma Mooney Chair in Corporate Governance at Osgoode and Schulich, and director of the Hennick Centre. “He is a person of many accomplishments who brings passion and commitment to everything he does.”

Sorbara has also served in a number of leadership roles at York University, including as a board member of the Alumni Association and as a member of the Advisory Council of the York Circle.
The Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges & Universities announced on Oct. 4 that Osgoode will receive $92,606 in funding over two years so it can work with six other Ontario law schools to develop and implement mental health supports and resources for Ontario’s 4,100 law students and future lawyers.

Partnering with Osgoode in the Ontario Law Student Mental Health Initiative are the law faculties of the University of Toronto, University of Ottawa (Common Law Section), University of Windsor, Queen’s University, Western University and Lakehead University.

Melanie Banka Goela ’03, Osgoode’s Student Success and Wellness Counsellor who spearheaded the law school collaboration, said the seven law schools will work together to develop a website that will provide information to law students about mental health concerns and provide specific diversity-sensitive resources and referrals.

In addition, the schools will expand and improve peer support options available to Ontario law students.

GIVING STUDENTS A LEG UP
Introducing the Osgoode Opportunities Renewable Entrance Awards

It’s no secret that attending law school is expensive, but efforts continue on many fronts to enhance access to a legal education.

In 2013, Osgoode’s Financial Assistance Program provided JD students with more than $3 million in financial assistance. About 87 percent of students who applied for bursaries received funding.

When the Law School celebrates its 125th anniversary in 2014, it will do so with an exciting new award – the Osgoode Opportunities Renewable Entrance Awards – that will cover annual tuition for two entering full-time JD students with high financial need. Preference will be given to an Aboriginal student and a sole-support caregiver, and the award will be renewable in the second and third years of the JD program.

From alumni, friends, faculty, students and staff come donations that go a long way toward ensuring law school is affordable and accessible for meritorious students. Take, for example, the philanthropy behind the wonderful new student internships featured in this issue of Continuum.

Graduating JD students also benefit from acts of generosity. Every year for the past three years the student organizers of Mock Trial have donated the annual proceeds from their event – approximately $10,000 – to the Wendy Babcock Social Justice Award. Wendy, who passed away in August 2011, was a promising and talented JD student who was admired for her courageous and ambitious dream of pursuing a law degree.

The student-initiated, Mock Trial-funded award in her honour is given to a graduating JD student who has incurred significant debt while pursuing their legal education and who intends to pursue a career in social justice.

From start to finish, accessibility funding is helping to give Osgoode students a leg up and the Law School knows it must continue to find innovative ways to make legal education financially accessible.
Leaving a LEGACY

Osgoode is the grateful beneficiary as graduates and friends of the Law School pay it forward. Here are three inspiring examples of passion, commitment and engagement with the Osgoode community.
In 1950, Austin Cooper was a University of Toronto commerce grad with no grand plan for what came next when his buddy proposed an idea. “He said to me, ‘C’mon to Osgoode. I’m going to register there next week. Come with me. We’ll have fun.’”

The problem was Cooper had no idea where Osgoode was and he knew nothing about law. He declined the friend’s offer, saying he would work for his dad, a store owner in Toronto’s Cabbagetown. But the younger Cooper underestimated his friend’s persistence. “I said, ‘OK, I’ll flip a coin. Heads, I go to law school. Tails, I’ll stay with my father.’”

Heads won.
HIS WORD WAS HIS BOND

So goes the story of how the esteemed criminal defence lawyer and Osgoode graduate launched a career that spanned 60 years and included virtually every top legal honour in the country. Until his death in September at age 84, Cooper ’53 was one of the justice system’s most passionate advocates. With his trademark integrity and intensity — law partner Mark Sandler says “his word was his bond, but he could very quietly tear your throat out on cross-examination” — he defended capital murder cases pro bono, represented the accused in Ontario’s first legal aid-funded murder trial and counted some of the country’s most high-profile defendants among his clients.

After working to exonerate Toronto nurse Susan Nelles at a 1982 preliminary hearing into the deaths of four babies at The Hospital for Sick Children, Cooper famously told the media that everyone — the Crown, the defence, the judge and the police — did their job. “He saw it as a vindication of the justice system,” remembers Sandler. “His perspective was that this was a manifestation of how the system works. Austin was a strong believer in the justice system, even with all its faults.”

Such high standards of honour and professionalism didn’t come overnight. When Cooper met with Osgoode Dean Lorne Sossin this summer, he laughed at the memory of the young man who chose to study law on the flip of a coin.

“It was pretty irresponsible, immature and ridiculous, but it’s absolutely true.”

Cooper’s long-time partner Catherine Williams says the glimmer of the lawyer Cooper would become emerged toward the end of that first year at law school. “Osgoode had hired a new dean who decided to post pass or fail results. Austin rushed over and saw he had passed. He was thrilled.” A few weeks later, someone posted the actual grades. Cooper was twelfth out of the class of 200. “That’s when he turned his attention seriously to it,” Williams says.

A GIFT FROM THE HEART

In January 2012, when Cooper learned he was critically ill, he called Sossin to explore an idea he had for giving back to the School that he says made his career possible. He included a clause in his will donating his entire art collection — about 100 paintings, photographs and works of sculpture by such recognized artists as John Scott, John Hartman, Lillian Freiman and Edward Burtynsky — to Osgoode Hall Law School. The works will be displayed throughout Osgoode’s building, where they will provoke thought and discussion and become part of the learning experience.

The donation is an ideal fit with Sossin’s vision to blur the lines between artistic creativity and justice, and create a welcoming home-away-from-home for Osgoode’s students. The School introduced its first Artist-in-Residence this fall (see page 4) and a new Law.Arts. Culture Colloquium, aimed at exploring the intersection of law and the arts, is attracting speakers on topics related to images of justice, their cultural sources and the role of law in producing the stories society tells about itself.

“The best art tells a story,” explains Sossin. “It makes you think about the human condition captured in that narrative. Law does that, too — harm, loss, suffering, vindication — all the faces reflected in the justice system are captured in Austin’s collection.”

[1] John Hartman | Explosion in Midland Harbour, oil on canvas
[2] Gerald Ferguson | Fence 5 (vice versa), enamel on canvas
[4] Edward Burtynsky | Densified Oil Drums #4, Hamilton, ON, chromogenic colour print
[5] Peter Byrne | Stutter Step, oil on canvas
[6] Gerald Ferguson | 200 Foot Hose, enamel on canvas

PHOTOS OF COOPER COLLECTION: MICHAEL LITWACK
A COMMANDING PRESENCE
IN THE COURTROOM

That Cooper was an art aficionado with a soft spot for his alma mater might surprise some. In fact, there’s much to be surprised about by the man who Globe and Mail justice writer Sean Fine described as having “a core of steel.” He gave away nothing of himself to the media or the public, preferring instead to keep all eyes on his case — and off his client. His penchant for privacy attracted a long list of ‘celebrity’ clients, including Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards who was defended by Cooper in 1977 when he was charged with heroin possession for the purpose of trafficking while at a recording session in Toronto. When Ken Murray, counsellor to sex-killer Paul Bernardo, wanted to withdraw from the case and, later, when he was charged with obstructing justice, he also relied on Cooper to earn him an acquittal.

Built like a quarterback at 6’2” in a Hugo Boss suit with size 14 feet and a bald head, Cooper commanded the courtroom with what Williams called “laser intensity.” He worked hard and played hard, remembers his son Douglas Cooper (the elder Cooper also left behind sons Peter and Paul). “He was one of those guys who was driven while working and quite good at relaxing when he wasn’t. He liked the idea of stepping outside his professional self and not becoming too focused on the law.”

Sandler agrees. “Very early on he recognized that I worked too hard. He counselled me to have a life away from the law. He could put down his pen in the middle of a big case and go to the theatre, hear a symphony, travel and sail. Maybe that’s why he was one of the few who survived in the business as long as he did.”

LOVE OF THE NORTH

It was during one of Cooper’s retreats at an art gallery in 1994 that he first met Catherine Williams, an art consultant and appraiser. Following her outside, he stopped her in the middle of the street to invite her to dinner. She said yes.

[7] Victor Cicansky | Armchair Eggplant, ceramic
[8] John Hartman | Explosion in Midland Harbour, oil on canvas
[9] John Scott | X Plane, mixed media on paper
[10] Lyn Westfall | Towards the Chapel, acrylic on canvas
[12] Gerald Ferguson | Neoclassical Still Life with Empire Cabinet Door, frottage on canvas
One of Williams’ fondest memories involves sitting together on the deck at Cooper’s cabin in Algonquin Park, gazing at the stars. The cabin had no electricity or plumbing and it was accessible only by water, in a 4-horsepower tin boat Cooper nicknamed Dog. “Out of his mouth would come the line from The Merchant of Venice: ‘Sit, Jessica. Look how the floor of heaven is thick inlaid with patens of bright gold.’ I was constantly surprised by his love of simplicity, of the north in particular.”

The couple explored Canada, taking more than 40 trips in their almost 20 years together. They also frequented art galleries and museums in Montreal, Paris, Venice and New York, adding to their respective collections. The architecture and folk art of Mexico — home to Cooper’s son — held a particular appeal. Some of the pieces collected there will soon find their home at Osgoode.

A CREATIVE ROLE MODEL
Cooper’s love of art can be traced back to when he was four or five and his mother, Esther, befriended Canadian artist Lillian Freiman. “Lillian used to come to our house and I remember her drawings all over the floor in the living room,” Cooper told Sossin. Cooper bought his first painting for $75 at age 19. He added another 100 pieces over the next 65 years, including 40 works now on the walls at Cooper, Sandler, Shime & Bergman LLP. Williams describes her late partner’s tastes as “eclectic.” His collection includes such prized works as Burtnisky’s photograph of a pile of squashed oil drums (Densified Oil Drums #4, 1997, loaned previously by Cooper for an exhibition at the National Gallery of Canada) and the John Hartman painting Explosion in Midland Harbour, 1993.

Cooper responded to art at a visceral level. He didn’t much care if others shared his interest, but he did hope his pieces would stimulate and educate. “I didn’t always agree with his artistic choices, but I am going to miss the art,” admits Sandler.

In the final months before his death, Cooper shared his bequest plans with his closest friends and family. “He was very keen to do this,” says Douglas Cooper. “He always wanted to be sure his art was on display, not stored where no one would have a chance to see it.”

“He’s got everyone very excited and touched by his generosity,” adds Sossin. He hopes the gift will get students talking as much about a legendary Osgoode graduate as the art itself. “The very best lawyers have a courtroom persona and then other sides that enrich their humanity. You get a glimpse of the many textures of Austin Cooper through his art — his compassion, his playfulness, his desire to be provoked and to think hard about things.”

“I hope students take to heart that role-modelling in their own lives.”

Christine Ward is principal of Ward Development Communications based in eastern Ontario.
It was a little over three years ago while Robin Nobleman ‘15 was working as a Regional Service Coordinator for Hemophilia Ontario that she started vaguely thinking about a career in law. Over the course of many months she carefully weighed the pros and cons of going to law school. In the end, what tipped the scales for her was the example set by two extraordinary Osgoode alumni: James Kreppner ’89 and John Plater ’96.

Both men had hemophilia – a bleeding disorder in which the blood doesn’t clot normally – and both were tireless advocates and champions for human rights. Highly respected, articulate and exemplary activists, they fought for safe blood for all Canadians and justice for those with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and Hepatitis C. And both died due to HIV and Hepatitis C-related complications.

In the wake of the worst public health disaster in Canadian history, which occurred during the late 1970s and early 1980s when the national blood supply was contaminated with HIV and Hepatitis C and thousands of Canadians were infected and eventually died, Kreppner and Plater pushed to achieve government compensation for individuals infected with HIV through the blood system. That resulted in a compensation program, first from the federal government and then the Red Cross and provincial governments, which provided $30,000 a year for life for an estimated 1,250 individuals.
THE KREVER INQUIRY

Kreppner and Plater, along with others, also spent years lobbying for a public inquiry into the crisis. The result was the calling on October 4, 1993 of the Royal Commission of Inquiry on the Blood System in Canada (the Krever Inquiry). Four years later, Mr. Justice Horace Krever issued a damning report about the national tragedy, which made 50 recommendations for making Canada’s blood system safer. He also recommended a no-fault compensation scheme. Kreppner and Plater were deeply involved with submissions to the inquiry, and in the class action suit (that never went to court) and advocacy efforts that helped secure $1.1 billion in Hepatitis C compensation for the victims of tainted blood.

“James and John showed me the power of legal action as a tool for fighting injustice,” said Nobleman, now a second-year JD student at Osgoode and the inaugural recipient of the John Plater ’96 Memorial Internship, which was made possible by a generous donation from another hemophiliac, Andrew Cumming, and his wife, Hillary. “Their accomplishments in winning compensation for the bleeding disorders community were a shining example of the positive impact one could have with a law degree.”

Sadly, Nobleman never had the opportunity to work with Kreppner. He died on May 14, 2009 at the age of 47 just before she started at Hemophilia Ontario. In the course of devoting his life to securing the safety of our blood system and the blood products derived from it, he had served on numerous boards and committees including the Canadian Blood Services, Canadian Hemophilia Society and the HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario (HALCO). He was also a co-founder of the Canadian Treatment Action Council and one of the founders of the Toronto People with AIDS Foundation.

Nobleman was fortunate, however, to work with Plater and saw him regularly at the hemophilia clinic at St. Michael’s Hospital in Toronto and hemophilia-related events and meetings. Plater was chair of the hospital’s HIV/AIDS Community Advisory Panel for several years and also on the board of HALCO. At 24, he became the youngest president ever of Hemophilia Ontario, and also served as president of the Toronto and Central Ontario Regional Hemophilia Society and vice-president of the Canadian Hemophilia Society. He advised provincial and federal governments on HIV and Hepatitis C as co-chair of the Ontario Advisory Committee on HIV/AIDS, chair of the Ontario Hepatitis C Task Force, and co-chair of the Ministerial Advisory Council on the Federal Initiative on HIV/AIDS. He was 45 years old when he passed away on July 28, 2012.

WORKING FOR THE BENEFIT OF OTHERS

It was through Hemophilia Ontario – the provincial chapter of the Canadian Hemophilia Society – that Kreppner and Plater first met in 1992 and started using their advocacy skills to help others affected by the tainted blood crisis.

“They both had so much in common – the ethics, the morality, the kindness – they were gentle men ... real and sensitive,” recalls Antonia “Smudge” Swann, Kreppner’s partner of 26 years. “They were so bright ... James would not let an issue go. He’d stay on it for years, no matter what. Same with John.”

Karen Plater, who met her husband-to-be when they were both students at the University of Toronto, says his life’s purpose was “working for the benefit of others.” That was made clear to her on their very first date in November 1992 when she showed up at his place and he kept her waiting for 90 minutes while he took part in a national teleconference. “Later, I would learn the cross-Canada call was strategizing on the best way to demand an inquiry into the tainted blood scandal.”

Her husband’s decision to become a lawyer was in part influenced by his experience fighting for those infected with tainted blood, she says. “The Hemophilia Society introduced him to ARCH – a legal resource centre for persons with disabilities – where he would eventually article as a law student, and then work for the first years as a lawyer, before opening his own practice.”

It came as a shock to many, including Andrew Cumming, when Plater passed away. Cumming had retained Plater as his lawyer and had had a professional relationship with him for 10 years. “He died over the course of six to eight weeks and I didn’t even get a chance to go visit him because nobody told me he was sick. It was shocking to me that he died.”
Cumming had contracted HIV and Hepatitis C from tainted blood products in the 1980s just like Kreppner and Plater. But somehow he has managed to survive the infectious viruses as well as a dangerous form of cancer. “John’s death reminded me of my own mortality,” he says. “We have compromised immune systems and some virus got to him that he wasn’t able to deal with. We’re all susceptible to that.”

Unlike Kreppner and Plater, Cumming felt he had to hide his HIV status for the sake of his career. Cumming has a PhD in Physics from MIT. He taught physics at the University of Florida for several years then was offered a job at McMaster University in Hamilton that ultimately fell through due to lack of funding. That’s when he decided to go into banking, specifically derivatives trading. “You could not have HIV and work on Bay Street,” says the 54-year-old father of three. “There’s no way I could have had that career if one person on the planet had known about my HIV status.”

Cumming, who later struck out on his own and formed Blackheath Fund Management Inc., made millions of dollars a year at the peak of his career and was able, among other things, to buy himself a life-saving liver transplant in the United States in 2005. Kreppner and Plater had also been fighting to make organ transplants available for HIV-positive people in Canada, but it wasn’t until April 2011 that the first HIV liver transplant was performed at Toronto General Hospital.

“At the announcement of new internships honouring James Kreppner ’89 and John Plater ’96. From left, Karen Plater, Robin Nobleman ’15, Andrew Cumming, Hillary Cumming and Dean Lorne Sossin.”

“James and John showed me the power of legal action as a tool for fighting injustice,” said Nobleman.

RECOGNIZING FALLEN HEROES

With the silencing of the voices of Kreppner and Plater, Cumming and his wife were inspired to “try to do something to recognize these fallen heroes and encourage young lawyers to follow in the footsteps of these giants of pro bono publico law (law for the public good).”

And so the Cummings generously offered to fund two internships annually in perpetuity for Osgoode students wishing to pursue socially conscious law. They have given an initial gift of $50,000 for the internships that will be awarded in the summer of 2014 and 2015. Osgoode will provide a match of $15,000 each of those summers to create a total of four internships – two in honour of Kreppner and two in honour of Plater – valued at $10,000 each.

The internships will be available to students who have obtained 12 to 16 weeks of summer employment at a public interest agency, firm or organization where the focus is on advocacy, preferably in the area of health law or patient rights. As the first
intern, JD student Robin Nobleman worked last summer at HALCO in immigration and refugee law.

“The whole concept behind these internships is how do we get the next James and John?” Cumming says. “Whose voices are going to replace the voices of these giants that were silenced? It’s going to be the Robin Noblemans of this world.”

Things will go horribly wrong again if we forget the lessons learned from the tainted blood tragedy and if we stop encouraging advocates, Cumming says. He cites the consideration being given by the federal government and the Ontario government – to date without any public consultation – to setting up paid blood-plasma clinics in the province as a case in point.

If Kreppner and Plater had been alive, he maintains, they would have heard about that policy being debated in the internal wheels of the government and they would have acted swiftly. “It’s only a lawyer that can do that,” Cumming says. “It’s only a lawyer who is dedicated to public health who can be our conscience on these sorts of issues.”

Virginia Corner is Osgoode’s communications manager.

More Summer Internships

There are a number of other exciting summer internship opportunities for Osgoode students to engage in experiential learning and develop practical legal skills. In the case of these need-based financial aid programs, qualified students each receive $10,000 for a 12 to 16-week summer placement.

**The Ian Scott Public Interest Internship** is for students wishing to pursue careers in social justice work and who attain unpaid or underpaid summer opportunities with public interest organizations within or outside of Canada. Twelve internships were made available in 2013.

**The McCarthy Tétrault Business Law Internship** provides students who have an interest in business and law with exposure to the client side of legal practice. All summer placements, which are available in various sectors such as health care, finance and real estate, are in the business or legal units of either profit or not-for-profit entities. Five interns received funding in 2013.

**The Victor Internships** honour Dr. Peter Victor, an economist and former Dean of York’s Faculty of Environmental Studies (FES). Preference is given to JD/MES students who have obtained summer employment at a public interest organization such as a legal aid clinic, advocacy organization, municipal, regional or First Nations government organization, or a non-governmental organization.

CREATING A LEGACY at Osgoode

Endowed student awards are a way to create a lasting celebration or tribute that, at the same time, will support future generations of Osgoode students. Endowments may be established for as little as $25,000, which may be paid over five years or left as a bequest, and will be named in perpetuity. If you would like more information on how to create your own award at Osgoode, please contact:

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In the latter stages of his judicial career, Ontario Chief Justice Warren K. Winkler was fond of sermonizing from his self-described “bully pulpit” about the virtues of crafting new methods to settle legal disputes. In fact, Winkler became such an active instigator of reform — often wading into seemingly unresolvable corporate disputes in order to wrest settlements — that he acquired a nickname: “Canada’s Mediator.”

Recently retired, Canada’s Mediator is rolling up his sleeves again; this time to engage in a task that promises to re-draw the dispute resolution landscape in Canada. He is teaming up with Osgoode to launch an institute that will carry his name and put his passionately held beliefs into action.

The Winkler Institute for Dispute Resolution represents a groundbreaking project whose time has come — an incubator for new ideas; a laboratory for testing dispute resolution techniques; and a real-life teaching vehicle for students keen to learn about a burgeoning area of legal practice.

FOR A NEW GENERATION OF LAW STUDENTS

“This is going to be something for a new generation of law students,” Winkler said. “These students do not talk about black letter law. They are talking about how we can solve disputes.”

The Winkler Institute for Dispute Resolution represents a groundbreaking project whose time has come — an incubator for new ideas; a laboratory for testing dispute resolution techniques; and a real-life teaching vehicle for students keen to learn about a burgeoning area of legal practice.

Enter the Winkler Institute. With no axe to grind and no profit motive to potentially skew its vision, Osgoode is uniquely poised to help usher in a new era of dispute resolution. And given its history of leading legal movements, its location in the heart of corporate Canada, and its ability to mobilize donors with far-sighted vision, Osgoode was a natural home for such an Institute.

It is remarkable to me that there hasn’t been a centre dedicated to this yet in Canada,” Dean Lorne Sossin observed. “There is a fatigue people out there are feeling about how little change has been going on. People are in a state of paralysis. Access to justice — some would argue, the very credibility of an overloaded system under the strain of too many litigants and too few resources — is a real hunger for a place that isn’t dedicated to the adversarial process.”

With a legion of arbitrators, mediators and on-line dispute-brokers beginning to re-populate the legal landscape, many members of the public, policy-makers and corporate players are understandably bewildered. Which techniques work? How much time and money do they actually save? Who can be trusted to assess and evaluate them?

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So far, a donor drive has secured well over $2 million in donations for the Institute, including a $1 million matching grant from York. Moreover, news of the project is arousing excitement more broadly in the justice community. The Law Foundation of Ontario has provided a generous grant to fund the Institute’s first year of operations. Hours after attending a gala dinner in Toronto recently to honour Winkler and raise funds for the Institute, Supreme Court of Canada Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin expressed her enthusiasm. “I think the Winkler Institute shows great promise because it will provide a vehicle where different approaches to procedures that impact on access to justice can be looked at,” she said. “I’m very hopeful that it will help Canadians get access to justice more quickly.”

In the opinion of Osgoode Professor Trevor Farrow, academic director of the Institute, Winkler provides the perfect figurehead for the Institute. “He has been a very practical judge. His interest is in getting deals done, getting disputes resolved and letting people get on with their lives.”

The advent of the Institute reinforces Osgoode’s leadership position in a field that used to frighten lawyers who viewed it as a job-killer, yet now view ADR as an enticing, new source of employment opportunities. “Judges and lawyers have come to see various forms of alternative dispute resolution as part of their daily work,” Farrow said. “I think ADR has moved out of its adolescence and into adulthood.”

**BROADER THAN JUST ADR**

The Institute’s ambition is broader, however, than just ADR – and indeed is based on the principle that dispute resolution involves a broad spectrum. Rather than a norm of court-based dispute resolution and “alternative dispute resolution” models of arbitration and mediation, the Institute sees each legal problem as giving rise to a range of dispute resolution options and opportunities – whether prevention through better regulation, informal community-based dispute resolution, innovative mediation and arbitration models, or a range of simplified and more complex court-based proceedings. In some cases, the optimal solution to a problem will be a mix of two or more of these approaches.

The goal of the Institute is to explore this dispute resolution spectrum, and identify the models best suited to solve people’s problems, whether as a means to increase public access to justice, or to settle the sort of intractable disputes that can hobble the corporate sector.

The Institute is currently assessing its needs and designing a handful of signature projects. It has solicited ideas and viewpoints from a range of players in the justice system - community activists, members of indigenous communities, representatives of bar groups, courts and the Law Society of Upper Canada.

Farrow promises that the Institute will not turn into “just another academic Centre or think tank.” Rather, students and staff will be actively involved, operating in an atmosphere of innovation and academic freedom. In addition, the work and focus of the Institute will be...
safeguarded from undue corporate influence by its executive committee, drawn from Osgoode faculty and students.

“By coming to this with an open mind; with an educated mind, we can sift through the promotional, partisan pieces for something evidence-based, empirically-grounded and principled,” Sossin said.

**HOW THE INSTITUTE WAS BORN**

The story of how the Institute was born is part serendipity, and part the result of a recognition by Osgoode that a vast void in the legal system was waiting to be filled.

The serendipitous element involved an informal dinner Winkler attended in 2011 with several lawyers caught up in a protracted dispute between Shaw Communications and CanWest. One of them, a lawyer with an American firm, urged Winkler to find a way to continue his passion for alternative dispute resolution after his retirement.

“He said that he travels all over the world and does not see this kind of thing very often,” Winkler said. “As an outsider looking in, he said, what I was doing should be preserved.”

Winkler, a graduate of Osgoode – ’62 (LLB), ’64 (LLM), ’12 (LLD) – made a couple of calls and found receptive ears at his alma mater. A group of lawyers and educators who shared Winkler's vision and Osgoode's commitment came together to raise funds for the initiative. York University agreed to match the first $1 million raised, and the campaign for the Winkler Institute was underway.

On the educational side, several prominent Fellows of the Institute – drawn from the cream of the country’s dispute resolution community – will provide seminars throughout the school year. The Institute aims to be a catalyst for experiential learning in dispute resolution by developing and enhancing programs like Osgoode’s own Mediation Intensive Program.

“Over the next two to five years, we hope to see lots of JD and Graduate students getting involved,” Farrow said. “We hope to have internal and external researchers on site, doing pilot projects and research.”

Students will be exposed to mediation techniques and experiment with models of dispute resolution in areas that cry out for inspired reform, such as family law and small claims court litigation.

The only encounter a person may ever have with the court system is Small Claims Court, Winkler noted. Frequently, they navigate it without a lawyer and depart with impressions that are largely unknown. “So, let’s run pilots that involve different configurations,” he said. The point, according to Winkler, is to look at what is being done, what alternatives are available, what the costs will be, and how, in the end, we can make the public better off.

In Family Court, the toxic nature of so many disputes – coupled with their potential to devastate resources and worsen domestic acrimony – has caused an outcry for alternatives.
“When I started out as a judge, mediation was a word the judiciary wasn’t allowed to even use,” Winkler observed. “It wasn’t seen to be part of the judicial role. Judges were supposed to decide, not to negotiate.” However, judges have grown increasingly comfortable in their new role, he said.

Sossin noted that were the Institute to lead the way in reducing the high social and financial costs of family disputes, it would be a crowning achievement.

“If we get the parties to agree and are able to get quality resolutions without bankrupting families, I think we would get a significant buy-in to this type of multi-disciplined, dispute resolution hub,” he said. “What we can do here is to try new models for a few years and then say: ‘Here are the results, and here are the benefits.’”

On a broader scale, the Institute will host summits on key justice issues and act as a centre of excellence for the resolution of domestic and international disputes.

**LAWYERS AS PROBLEM SOLVERS**

Nothing could be closer to Winkler’s heart. The list of hard-won resolutions he helped engineer includes cases pitting Ontario Hydro and the Power Workers’ Union; residents of Walkerton, Ontario who were infected with Escherichia coli (E. coli) bacteria from impure water; patients who contracted Hepatitis C after being transfused with blood from Canada’s tainted blood supply; and Indian Residential Schools.

“There is a culture out there now of people doing mediation and arbitration outside the court system,” said Winkler, who has been appointed a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Osgoode and Honourary Chair of the Winkler Institute. “Enduring four or five years of litigation is really bad for a corporation. It ties up your personnel. It ties up your resources. And it distracts you from your ultimate goals.”

Sossin enthuses about the many avenues the Winkler Institute may explore. “We could showcase what makes a successful, sophisticated, commercial arbitration,” he said. “We can do it in a way that is responsive to ethical concerns; that promotes values we take to heart.”

The Institute will also play to Canadian advantages, such as our long experience in negotiating delicate disputes between mining companies and aboriginal groups, environmentalists or local communities, Sossin said. “Money is squandered on lawyers and lengthy processes that give marginal results,” he said. “They swallow resources that ought to go to schools and hospitals, or to drive more development in resource sectors.”

The Institute is not setting out to replace courts or the adversarial model of litigation; however, it is committed to playing a pivotal role in salvaging and improving a system under siege.

“Lawyers used to say: ‘My role is in the court,’” Sossin said. “But in reality, lawyers must first and foremost be problem solvers, whether as advocates or advisors, mediators or negotiators.”

The Institute’s doors officially opened in January. For further information, see the Institute’s newly launched website: winklerinstitute.ca.

*Kirk Makin is an award-winning Toronto writer and former justice reporter for The Globe and Mail.*
Not many first-year law students can claim they’ve rubbed virtual shoulders with Supreme Court judges, lawyers from as far away as Singapore and South Africa, and some of North America’s top legal scholars.

But Ben Farrow has.

Now in his final year at Osgoode, it all started for Farrow when he befriended a couple of senior students while in line for hamburgers at a student barbecue during orientation week. They told him about IP Osgoode, Osgoode’s intellectual property law and technology program. Weeks later, Farrow was contributing to and then editing IPilogue, the program’s hotly contested student blog. Since its launch in 2007, IPilogue has attracted a global following that includes some of the top echelons of the legal community.

“We give students from as far away as India, Israel, England, Germany and South Africa the opportunity to express an opinion about how a particular IP law might affect a current issue or case and then we put it out there for comment,” Farrow explains. It’s not uncommon for some blogs to attract responses from other students, professors, even judges who support or disagree with the authors’ opinions.

This is exactly what IP Osgoode is intended to do, says Professor Giuseppina D’Agostino ’99, the program’s founder and director and a recognized scholar in the field.
"We’re meant to inject a new voice in the IP debate and to do so in a space that is new for Canada.”

Building on the success of IPilogue and with the support of five law firms and two industry partners, IP Osgoode was launched in 2008 as a hub of knowledge, research and student learning opportunities involving legal governance issues at the intersection of intellectual property and technology. The program has grown over the years to also include internship opportunities, plus an intensive program and a clinic, both launched in 2011.

Third-year student Mark Bowman has coordinated and mentored more than 30 Osgoode students providing pro bono legal assistance to Greater Toronto Area inventors in the IP Osgoode Innovation Clinic. Under the supervision of patent lawyers from Torys LLP, the students help entrepreneurs and inventors navigate Canada’s copyright, patent and trademark laws.

“We reach out to inventors as soon as they’ve invented something and help them understand the landscape,” says Bowman.

D’Agostino founded the clinic as a collaboration between IP Osgoode, the Ontario Centres of Excellence and Torys. Bowman estimates his team has provided more than $100,000 in legal services to date. “Even though we’re students, we can still provide significant value.”

Bowman also participated this fall in IP Osgoode’s internship program, spending three months on a special research project at CodeX, The Stanford Center for Legal Informations in California.

“Things really are moving at a galloping pace,” D’Agostino says of both IP Osgoode and the high-tech marketplace. Companies like Facebook, Google and Apple have brought IP issues to the fore. “We’re seeing that the law hasn’t kept pace with these technologies” — which is why D’Agostino doesn’t plan on slowing down anytime soon. “IP Osgoode is helping everyone see the law as a facilitator, not a barrier to innovation.”

To learn more about IP Osgoode, visit iposgoode.ca
I thought that the tenor Jussi Björling was marvellous. Michael Mandel agreed but, unlike me, not just because Björling had a gorgeous voice. Michael pointed out that a lot of people have great voices, but Björling was special because his singing was true to the music. This thirst for truth, for integrity, characterized everything Michael did.

In his 39 years of teaching at Osgoode he conveyed, by example, that students should be serious about mastering the techniques of law as well as its details, but that which was most important was to think critically. He taught them to look for the gaps between what was said, between aspirations and what was done. Michael Mandel’s students were told to look for truth.

His acclaimed critique of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms made a powerful case that it is not what it seems to be, that, in fact, by legalizing political issues, fundamental conflicts in society would be transliterated into struggles about finding a compromise between parties who merely had different interpretations of agreed-upon values. The reform would fortify the unjust status quo, not change it. This sleight of hand offended his innate desire for integrity. The brilliance of the argument and the meticulous documentation has made his book an invaluable contribution to our legal and political debates.

The same brute sanity, tied to his passion for justice and peace, is found in his anti-war work, “How America Gets Away with Murder.” His lust for a just peace drove him. His painstaking research of international criminal law allowed him to make powerful arguments that the law, properly used, could prevent needless suffering. He lamented the way in which powerful nations bend and destroy the integrity and potential of law. He walked the walk. He participated...
in many anti-war actions, being a co-founder of Lawyers against War.

The same drive for truth and integrity dominated his personal life. He looked to traditions that had proved themselves as creators of ties that link human beings in a meaningful way. His Jewishness was important to him and, true to type, he researched Yiddish culture and Jewish traditions. He was no dilettante. He did his best to live according to the precepts he saw as true and tried. He knew that meaning and purpose could be found in beauty, in the aesthetic, in music, and here, too, he tended to look to art that had lasted, that had stood the test of time because it had the power to transcend the immediate, the cult of instant gratification.

He cared. He lived according to his beliefs. He inculcated his values and desire for lasting relationships and compassion in his family. He was devoted to his children and Karen and they to him. Theirs was a house full of warmth and a shared passion for beauty and grace. Michael Mandel was a fine teacher, scholar and man. He was a great colleague and political ally. With him I was always on the right side because he knew what side to be on. His intellect and compassion for the vulnerable led him there. I will miss him. I will continue to celebrate him.

Professor Emeritus Harry Glasbeek was one of Michael Mandel’s oldest and dearest friends, and delivered the eulogy at his funeral. Michael passed away on October 27, 2013 at the age of 65.

Osloode is establishing a summer internship in Michael’s honour, the Michael Mandel Peace Internship, with a focus on Israel and Palestine, and welcomes donations from Michael’s former students and other admirers of his commitment to social justice. To make a donation to the Michael Mandel Peace Internship, please go to our secure online donation form at: give.osgoodealumni.ca
FRANCE’S HIGHEST DECORATION

On July 14, 2013 (Bastille Day), French President François Hollande promoted Professor Emeritus Jean-Gabriel Castel to Officier de l’Ordre national de la Légion d’honneur (Officer of the National Order of the Legion of Honour).

The Order is the highest decoration in France and is divided into five degrees: Chevalier (Knight), Officier (Officer), Commandeur (Commander), Grand Officier (Grand Officer) and Grand Croix (Grand Cross).

The promotion to Officer of the National Order of the Legion of Honour recognizes Castel’s continuous support of French language and culture and the development of relations between France and Canada at all levels. Castel, who also holds several other French and Canadian decorations, was a professor of French and Canadian law at Osgoode from 1959 until his retirement in 1999.

HONORARY FELLOW

Professor Douglas Hay has been elected by the Board of Directors of the American Society for Legal History as an Honorary Fellow of the Society. It is the highest honor the Society can confer on a fellow historian, and recognizes a lifetime of scholarly distinction and leadership in the field.

Hay has been cross-appointed to Osgoode and York’s Department of History since 1981, teaching the comparative history of criminal procedure, punishment, and crime, and the history of private law in the common law world.

He has published on the history of English and Quebec criminal law; comparative history of criminal procedure; social history of crime; judicial biography; courts and their political significance; and the history of employment law.

THANK YOU

Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP (New York) for hosting the All Canadian Law School Alumni event in New York City. We look forward to the next one.
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTICE

OSGOODE HALL LAW SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Alumni are invited to attend the Osgoode Hall Law School Alumni Association Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, May 14, 2014 from 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm in the Portrait Room of Osgoode Hall, 130 Queen Street West, Toronto, Ontario.

POSITIVE RSVP APPRECIATED

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

Bench Strength

Professor James Stribopoulos ’94 was appointed in October to the Ontario Court of Justice.

A gifted teacher, respected scholar and institutional leader, Stribopoulos was the Associate Dean and an Associate Professor at Osgoode at the time of his appointment. In addition, he served as Co-Director of the Part-Time LLM Program specializing in criminal law.

Stribopoulos, who also holds a BA degree from York University and LLM and JSD degrees from Columbia Law School, joined Osgoode’s full-time faculty in 2006. Awarded the Osgoode Hall Law School Teaching Award in 2008 and the Legal and Literary Society’s Excellence in Teaching Award in 2012, he will continue to teach some courses at the Law School as an adjunct family member.

Following his appointment to the bench, Stribopoulos was also appointed an Honourary Professor at the University of Alberta Faculty of Law, in recognition of his contributions to the law as both a scholar and a lawyer, as well as his longstanding connections to that faculty. Justice Stribopoulos presides in Brampton.

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1950s

Ralph Frayne ‘51 received the 2013 Law Society Medal for outstanding service in the legal profession.

Dennis Lane ‘58 was recognized by Continental Who’s Who as a Pinnacle Professional in the field of legal services.

R. Roy McMurtry ’58, ’91 (LLD) received the 2013 Law Society Medal for significant contribution to the legal profession.

1960s

Julian Porter ’62 wrote 149 Paintings You Really Need to See in Europe: (So You Can Ignore the Others).

John Evans ‘63 was given an award of excellence by the Ontario Bar Association for his career in civil litigation.

Dennis O’Connor ’64 received the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa (LLD), from the Law Society of Upper Canada.

1970s

Edward Greenspan ’68 received the 2013 Law Society Medal for outstanding service in the legal profession.

Ernie Eves ’70 was appointed to the board of directors at Nighthawk Gold Corp.

Brian Greenspan ’71 was named one of the Top 25 most influential lawyers by Canadian Lawyer magazine.

J. David A. Jackson ’72 was appointed to the board of directors of Power Corporation of Canada.

Edward Levitt ’73 joined Dickinson Wright LLP as a Partner.

Gary Joseph ’76 co-authored Family Law Arbitration in Canada, which is the first book on this topic available in the country.

Joel Hertz ’77 was elected Vice-Chair of the York Region District School Board and is in his ninth year as public school trustee.

Delia Opekokekew ’77 received the 2013 Law Society Medal for outstanding service in the legal profession.

Alexandra Hoy ’78 was named the new Associate Chief Justice of the Court of Appeal for Ontario.

1980s

Anne Grosskurth ’80 recently took early retirement from the UK government civil service where she was a senior policy adviser (head of tobacco and smoking regulation and international tobacco control).

D. Grant Vingoe ’81 joined Norton Rose Fulbright as a Partner in its New York office.

David George ’82 became President of Monarch Corporation in Canada.

Sergio Marchionne ’83, CEO of Chrysler Group LLC and CEO of Fiat S.p.A, received the Sons of Italy Foundation Award for Excellence in Global Business.

Kathleen Taylor ’84 was named Chair of the board of the Royal Bank of Canada.

Nella Macchia ’85 opened her Vaughan practice in 1992 and specializes in family, real estate and estate law. Nella raised three children while growing her practice and loves to travel extensively with her husband, Enzo.

John Mastoras ’87, Partner at Norton Rose Fulbright LLP, was named Local Chair of the Employment and Labour Law Group in their Toronto office.

Wendy Hulton ’88 moved her product regulatory practice from Miller Thomson LLP to Dickinson Wright LLP.
Lynn McGrade ’88 was named one of the Top 100 Most Powerful Women in Canada by the Women’s Executive Network.

Marie Henein ’89 received the 2013 Laura Legge Award from the Law Society of Upper Canada in recognition of her leadership within the legal profession.

Martha McCarthy ’89 received the 2013 Law Society Medal for significant contribution to the legal profession.

Michael Tulloch ’89 was one of RBC’s Top 25 Canadian Immigrant Award winners for 2013.

Winnie Wong ’89 was one of RBC’s Top 25 Canadian Immigrant Award winners for 2013.

Grant Gardiner ’91 was appointed Senior Vice President, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary of Nordion Inc.

Kenda Gee ’91 received the University of Alberta’s Award of Excellence for his documentary, Lost Years, which has garnered national and international attention.

Lorne Sossin ’92 received the 2012 David Walter Mundell Medal for excellence in legal writing and made Canadian Lawyer magazine’s list of the Top 25 most influential lawyers.

Michael Geist ’92 was named one of Canadian Lawyer’s Top 25 most influential lawyers.

Isabelle Lafleche ’93 launched her new book, J’adore Paris.

Professor Janet Walker ’93 married Australian arbitrator Douglas Jones in ceremonies in both Toronto and Sydney in December 2013.

Stephen Freedman ’94 ’05 (LLM) is General Counsel & Chief Privacy Officer for LAWPRO.

James Stribopoulos ’94 was appointed to the Ontario Court of Justice.

Amanda Serumaga ’94 moved to South Sudan where she serves as the Deputy Country Director - Head of Programmes for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Norie Campbell ’95 ’03 (LLM) was named one of the Top 25 most influential lawyers by Canadian Lawyer magazine.

Jeffrey Miller ’95 has published a new book, The Structures of Law and Literature, resolving the vexing question of whether the two disciplines really have anything to say to one another.

Rose Pellar ’95 wrote and published, A Gift in Every Challenge. The book is part novel, part inspirational. It tells the story of her mother for whom divorce was not an option, and her story in which divorce was the only option.

Colleen Hanycz ’99 (LLM) ’03 (PhD) was reappointed to a second term as Brescia University College’s Principal.

Melanie Schweizer ’99 was promoted to the position of Assistant General Counsel at Bell Canada/BCE where she leads the advertising and brand team.

Kevin Taylor ’99 and Rachael Barritt ’00 relocated to Bermuda in 2004 where they married and had their daughters Hannah Somers (b. Sept 2007) and Avery Isla (b. May 2011). They both work for Marshall Diehl & Myers Limited where Kevin is Managing Director and maintains his civil and commercial litigation practice while Rachael, a Director, focuses on her matrimonial and family practice.
2000s

**Eric Spindel ’02** is a Partner at Yigal Arnon & Co. in Israel. He is a member of the New York and Israel bars and practises cross-border corporate finance and mergers and acquisitions.

**Naomi Zener ’02** published her debut novel, Deathbed Dimes.

**Steve Anthony Coroza ’03 (LLM)** was appointed to the Superior Court of Justice in Ontario.

**David Brown ’05 (LLM)** was listed as one of the Top 25 most influential lawyers by Canadian Lawyer magazine.

**Jagmeet Singh ’05** was named one of Toronto’s Best Dressed in 2013 by Toronto Life magazine.

**Fiona Sampson ’05 (DJur)** and her colleagues from The Equality Effect and the 160 Girls from Meru, Kenya won their constitutional claim against the Kenyan government with respect to defilement laws.

**Tanya Walker ’05** received the 2013 Young Entrepreneur, Harry Jerome Award.

**David Dinner ’06 (LLM)** is now the Managing Partner at Dinner Martin Attorneys in the Cayman Islands.

**Sarah Joyce Draper ’07** joined the partnership of Daniel & Partners LLP.

**Jack Kim ’07** is an Associate at Fragomen Del Rey Bernsen & Loewy LLP and in his spare time advocates for human rights in North Korea with HanVoice.

**Ronald Ellis ’09 (PhD)** has written Unjust By Design, an examination of the state of tribunal justice in Canada.

**Ronald Fernando ’09** was named to the Lawyers of Color Hot 100 List for this year.

**Nikolay Chsherbinin ’10 (LLM)** wrote his first legal textbook, The Law of Inducement in Canadian Employment Law.

**Gaby S. El Hakim ’11 (LLM)** is Deputy Head of the Regional Legal Department at BNP Paribas Bank in Bahrain, covering the Middle East and Africa Region. He is also the Vice Chairman of the Lawyers Committee at the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in the Kingdom of Bahrain.


**Robert Niblock ’11 (LLM)** has returned to the United Nations as a Conduct and Discipline Officer to the United Nations & African Union Mission to Darfur (UNAMID).

**Jason Sacha ’12** combines his passion for filmmaking and the law through Briefly Legal! – bite-sized YouTube videos which colourfully explore the grey areas of the law. He is also an associate at Ricketts, Harris LLP.

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**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 [www.osgoode.yorku.ca/alumni](http://www.osgoode.yorku.ca/alumni) to submit online or e-mail us at alumni@osgoode.yorku.ca.
Role Model to a Generation of Law Students

Hon. Sydney Lewis Robins ‘47, O.Ont., QC, LSM, LLM, BA, passed away on January 10, 2014 at the age of 90. A prominent figure in Ontario’s legal profession for more than 60 years, he was a special lecturer on torts at Osgoode from 1948 to 1960. A three-term Treasurer of the Law Society of Upper Canada, he was a senior partner in the Toronto firm of Robins & Robins, where he practised corporate, commercial and labour law. He was appointed to the Supreme Court of Ontario in 1976 and to the Court of Appeal for Ontario in 1981. Upon his mandatory retirement from the Bench at age 75, Robins joined Goodmans LLP as Counsel.
Elizabeth Maclennan’s life did not go as she had hoped. While she was doing graduate work in history at the University of Oxford, her father, lawyer R.J. Maclennan, called her back to Canada to fill a vacancy in the family firm, Mowat, Maclennan. The firm had been started by Sir Oliver Mowat and R.J.’s uncle, Supreme Court Justice James Maclennan. Her brother, R. Ward Maclennan, who was admitted to Osgoode in 1914 at age 21, had died in an aviation accident in the First World War on December 28, 1917, and Elizabeth was needed to take his place. She graduated from Osgoode in 1926 and went on to a long and successful career as a lawyer. In 1936, she became president of the Women’s Law Association of Ontario.

Elizabeth is remembered for her great kindness and generosity of spirit and her strong ethical and social conscience. Being earnestly concerned to help those who could little afford her services, she often worked for pennies and visited ill or aged clients who would have found the trip to her downtown office difficult or impossible.

Osgoode has many highly accomplished alumni who are or were leaders of the profession, judiciary, legal education and government. They are well known and their biographies are documented. But it’s the lesser known stories, like that of Elizabeth Maclennan, that say so much about the history of the School and the times in which they lived.

In 2014 Osgoode will ‘officially’ be 125 years old, and we want to celebrate this milestone with a unique endeavour: The Alumni Voices Project. We want to tell the stories of the alumni whose photos line our hallways. But we need your help! Please share with us your story or that of a friend or relative online at: osgoose.yorku.ca/voices.
DEAN’S
ANNUAL ALUMNI
RECEPTION
May 14, 2014

Convocation Hall, Osgoode Hall
130 Queen Street West, Toronto
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Please RSVP online by May 9, 2014:
www.osgoode.yorku.ca/events

For more information contact the Osgoode Alumni Office:
416-736-5638
alumni@osgoode.yorku.ca
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