Visual Advocacy in the Ascendant

Osgoode sets its sights on areas where the fairness, accessibility and effectiveness of justice can be improved through visual media.
New Ways to Connect
Community engagement is not just an aspiration at Osgoode – it is embedded in the very mission and mandate of the Law School (and York University).

This year, more than ever, through its research, teaching and outreach initiatives, Osgoode is putting community first.

The global refugee crisis has galvanized many at Osgoode. Our response has been taking place in many spheres of the Law School, including a directed research course aimed at supporting the Refugee Sponsorship Support Program in collaboration with the University of Ottawa, several distinct sponsorship teams and campaigns in conjunction with the pan-GTA University Lifeline Syria Challenge, a host of volunteer initiatives mobilizing students, staff, faculty and alumni and ongoing research and advocacy, often in collaboration with others throughout the University and through York’s Centre for Refugee Studies.

At the same time, the Law School was swept up in the excitement and promise of the election campaign. Many students, staff and faculty were engaged in various issues that lay at the centre of the campaign from the missing and murdered Indigenous women inquiry to physician-assisted dying, legalizing marijuana and various initiatives on civil liberties, national security and a host of regulatory and policy spheres. Beyond the substance of the campaign (and wishing our many alumni running for office well), we also turned our focus to our own front yard in the northwest part of the GTA. Led by Visiting Professor Jamil Jivani, a group of Osgoode students took on the challenge of deepening the engagement of a community with one of the lowest electoral participation rates in the country. From knocking on doors to giving away Thanksgiving turkeys, Osgoode students participating in the Community Organizing and the Law project all have come to see law as embedded in community and community as embedded in law. I very much hope the ripple effects from this project within the Black Creek neighbourhood and throughout the Law School and the University continue to spread.

Osgoode’s commitment to community always has access to justice at its heart. To complement the many other initiatives in this regard, and with the support of visionary donor support, Osgoode launched the Fund for Innovation in Law and Media. Featuring the development of new visual and digital legal advocacy and information, this Fund will set in motion new collaborations, new student opportunities and new benefits to vulnerable participants in the justice system.

Finally, Osgoode’s impacts in and benefits to broader communities engage an ambitious research agenda. Osgoode faculty seek not only to enrich academic scholarly output, but to shape the public debate. In this issue, we profile some of Osgoode’s most influential and original scholars.

In these and many other ways, Osgoode continues to see community engagement as not only our commitment but also the mechanism by which we bring to life our motto, “Per Jus Ad Justitiam/ Through Law to Justice.”

Lorne Sossin ’92
Dean
Osgoode students and alumni are demonstrating entrepreneurial spirit in the development of new approaches to increasing access to justice, as these latest ventures show.

JUSTICEFUNDR is a donation-based crowdfunding platform for individuals and organizations to raise funds for legal proceedings that are intended to advance the public interest. Founded by Martin Hui ’14, Douglas Judson ’15, and Avnish Nanda ’14, JusticeFundr improves access to justice by reducing financial barriers to litigation, empowering parties and intervenors in public interest legal proceedings. The platform also helps identify and support legal organizations to raise funds for legal issues. Hui, Judson and Nanda founded JusticeFundr because they believe the law can be fairer, more responsive and better able to serve the public.

JUSTICETRANS is a mobile phone application and website offering free legal information about transgender rights across Canada. It was founded last spring by Benjamin Vanderpoe ’15, a 26-year-old transgender man. The transgender community faces serious barriers to access to justice, and JusticeTrans’ mission is to help alleviate some of those barriers.

STANDIN LAW was co-founded by Osgoode LLM student Andrew Johnston and Toronto lawyer Peter Carayiannis. It’s a new iPhone app that lets lawyers who can’t make it to a court appearance find other lawyers near their courthouse to “stand in” for them. The location-based app allows lawyers to quickly see the expertise, experience, availability of, and even languages spoken, by any given potential stand-in, and book the lawyer they feel best meets their client’s needs. The app is free to download. Each potential stand-in sets their own fee for an appearance. The app takes a transaction fee of $7.50 from whatever the stand-in charges. Payment happens seamlessly and virtually instantly within the app when the court appearance is complete, using Stripe to process credit card payments. The app is currently populated with courthouses in Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Detroit, Toronto, Ottawa, Hamilton, Calgary and Edmonton. standin.is

INSPIRING OSGOODE STUDENTS TO TAKE ON THE WORLD

“The world is flat and fast changing. The world is ready to take on the world and embrace change.” — Hong Kong-based alumnus Felix Fong ’78 wrote in an e-mail message to Dean Lorne Sossin.

“Even though this is the first, I can’t imagine a graduation in the future without it,” Dean Lorne Sossin said of the start of the new Law School tradition.

Osgoode held its first-ever Honour Ceremony for Indigenous graduates last June 19 as part of Spring Convocation celebrations.

“China represents a vital part of Osgoode’s future as a global law school, and we are grateful to Felix Fong for helping to open doors for more of our students and professors to experience Tsinghua University’s excellent law school,” said Sossin who has made three trips to China in the past year. Osgoode is also proud to have an exchange agreement with the University of Hong Kong Faculty of Law, where six Osgoode students spent the fall term in 2015.

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THE START OF A NEW LAW SCHOOL TRADITION

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DESIGNING THE FUTURE OF JUSTICE

Last August, the Winkler Institute for Dispute Resolution at Osgoode hosted the first ever Justice Design Project (JDP), which challenged participants to “design the courthouse of the future.”

Assistant Director Nicole Aylwin led the week-long program, which brought together 13 York University, University of Ontario Institute of Technology and University of Toronto students from various educational backgrounds including philosophy, law and society, women and gender studies, and neuroscience, to name a few.

Throughout the week, the students learned about and employed design thinking methods, such as empathy mapping and deep dive journeys, to help define the problem of access to justice from a user-perspective and to build a courthouse that was more responsive to the needs of users. The teams’ ideas were brought to life with the help of visual artists.

The students’ designs are now captured in a graphic entitled “Justice Spaces of the 21st Century” that is on display at Osgoode.

Participants’ responses to the inaugural workshop were overwhelmingly positive. “Being enrolled in the JDP has opened my mind into being a much more creative and innovative thinker,” said André Damata, a third-year York student majoring in Kinesiology and Health Science. “The JDP has showed me valuable techniques I can apply in tackling real-life issues. I will take away many skill sets that will help guide me on my path to my future somewhere in the justice system.”

This year’s Justice Design Project will be held from August 29 to September 2, 2016 at the Law School. The early-bird cost is $599 for applications received by May 31, 2016 and $699 after that date. Deadline for applications is August 8, 2016. There is significant financial aid for those who qualify.

For more information about the Justice Design Project, including how to apply and information about financial aid, please contact Nicole Salama, Program Lawyer, Office of the Dean, at: nsalama@osgoode.yorku.ca or 416-736-2100 ext. 44596. Also learn more about the Justice Design Project at winklerinstitute.ca.

OSGOODE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT’S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

The year 2015 marked the 20th anniversary of OsgoodePD.

Launched in 1995 under the leadership of then Dean Marilyn Pilkington, OsgoodePD has become the world’s leading law school lifelong learning program. Highlights of the last 20 years include:

• OsgoodePD was the first to offer a part-time Professional LLM, allowing practising lawyers to obtain deeper expertise in a range of specializations without taking a career break;
• First to offer desktop videoconferencing, enabling access to LLM programs from anywhere in the world;
• Leadership in developing ‘learn by doing’ CLE programs, such as the annual Written Advocacy program offered in partnership with The Advocates’ Society;
• The development of more programs designed for executives and non-law professionals than any other law school in North America;
• Transforming the legal landscape for internationally-trained lawyers and law graduates by offering the first fully online NCA Exam Prep Bridging Program, funded by the Province of Ontario.

In conjunction with the 20th anniversary, a special speaker series, featuring timely and controversial topics of interest to Canadians, will be presented over the winter and spring. Check the website at osgoodepd.ca/20years for more details.

IN BRIEF

It’s also the 40th anniversary of the Juris Doctor/Master of Environmental Studies (JD/MES) joint degree program at Osgoode and York’s Faculty of Environmental Studies.

Photo: New Paramount Studios Ltd.
NEW LEARNING AND LEADING SERIES

Starting this spring, Osgoode will launch a unique new Learning and Leading Series that will provide free professional development programming to the School’s JD and full-time LLM students on a first-come, first-served basis.

The first offering in May, which will be repeated in August, will be a five-day, non-credit certificate program in Business Fundamentals for Law Students taught by Beppino Pasquali, CPA, CA, an Adjunct Professor at Schulich School of Business and Osgoode Professional Development. Other programs to follow will include community organizing, innovation through technology, social innovation, French language skills and leadership skills.

“We want to prepare all of our students for success in every way we can,” said Dean Lorne Sossin.

“The Learning and Leading Series complements our academic program and enables students to develop the knowledge and skills they will need to thrive.”

BUSINESS FUNDAMENTALS FOR LAW

Students will be sponsored by the Davies Fund for Business Law, which was created in 2006 by the firm of Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg LLP to inspire interest in business law among students and build ties with the broader legal and business communities in Toronto.

AUTO INDUSTRY TITAN AWARDED HENNICK MEDAL

Sergio Marchionne ‘83, Chief Executive Officer of Fiat Chrysler Automobiles N.V. and Chairman of Ferrari N.V., was presented with the Hennick Centre Medal for Career Achievement last November 17.

The Hennick Medal is given annually to a distinguished leader who has earned international recognition in the business and legal communities.

One of the world’s top leaders in the automobile industry, Marchionne received the award prior to a talk he gave on the 21st century business leader as part of the Giambattista Vico Lecture Series.

The Vico Lecture, which was organized by York’s Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, took place before a full house in Osgoode’s Moot Court Room.

Previous recipients of the Hennick Medal are Kathleen Taylor, Chair of the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada (IIROC) in 2014. Launched in 2009, the Jay and Barbara Hennick Centre for Business and Law - a joint initiative of Osgoode Hall Law School and the Schulich School of Business – is the first Canadian centre to promote and develop joint business and law scholarship and education.

Made possible by a gift from Jay and Barbara Hennick, the Hennick Centre’s flagship is the joint JD/MBA program offered by Osgoode and Schulich. Jay Hennick is the Founder and CEO of FirstService Corporation, a global leader in the real estate services sector.

As the Career Development Officer at Osgoode, she works with outstanding students by helping them realize their professional goals. Often, she also witnesses their financial struggles. Determined to make a difference, she recently created the Nicola Martin Bursary through a small monthly payroll deduction to support students in the Juris Doctor (JD) Program who have financial need and are single parents. Here she tells her story alongside Sherry McGratten ‘15, a recipient of her bursary.

EARN, KEEP, SPEND, GIVE

Nicola Martin is the consummate York University employee – professional, caring, and dedicated.

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Nicola Martin
Career Development Officer

I’m a single mother of a six-year-old son and I’ve been working at Osgoode for 11 years. I wanted to help Osgoode students but thought I didn’t have a lot of money to give. Then I found out about the monthly payroll deduction. It’s so easy. It’s just another deduction and I don’t even think about it.

Law school is now an expensive program and I think students who return to pursue the JD degree are very courageous. I’ve been trying with the idea of going back to school myself, but it requires a lot of time and energy. Maybe when my son is older I’ll be able to do it.

I really believe that from the money you earn, you keep some, you spend some, and you give some. It’s true I could use the money, but I might have spent it on something frivolous. This way, I know my little bit can help someone a little bit – or maybe even a lot.

Sherry McGratten
Class of 2015, Osgoode

I was 17 when I got pregnant with my first daughter. She’s now 15 and my second daughter is nine years old. I’ve been a single mom since they were babies. Without Nicola’s bursary, I’d have struggled even more to finish law school. Sometimes you don’t get as much sleep as you’d like to, but you just have to keep remembering why you are doing it and the difference you are going to make.

Since I was little, I’ve wanted to be a social justice lawyer. My dad was an injured worker and we grew up on government benefits, so I saw the impact of social assistance first-hand.

I used to work in communications and public relations. I liked what I was doing, but I was not in love with it. I wanted to do something more grassroots. Thanks to Nicola’s help, I’m now articling with Legal Aid Ontario. This is exactly what I want to do.
Visual Advocacy in the Ascendant

By Virginia Corner

The Fund for Innovation in Law and Media (FILM) will create and sustain experiential education programs focused on the use of visual advocacy to address social justice issues, educate the public about the law and legal process, and enhance the practice of dispute resolution.

Kathryn Podrebarac “92 remembers attending Ontario’s first medical product liability class action trial, Anderson v. St. Jude Medical, Inc., back in 2012 and being dazzled by the defendants’ use of visual advocacy to present evidence and persuasive arguments.

“I hadn’t really seen anything like it in Canada. Not only did they use graphic presentations, photos, timelines and charts, but their closing hyperlinked all of this visually compelling evidence to the text of their argument, as well as to electronic versions of key documentary exhibits and case law,” said Podrebarac who was called to the bar in 1994 and practises in the areas of commercial litigation and class actions.

Since then, Podrebarac’s appreciation for the use of visuals in legal advocacy has rapidly grown. She has chaired the Advocates’ Society’s annual expert evidence program and had a ringside seat for the personal injury bar’s use of accident re-enactment graphics and other demonstrative evidence to educate and provide a compelling narrative for trial.

“It made me wonder how we can use visual advocacy in other practice areas,” she recalled.

In 2013, she attended an Advocates’ Society talk given by Regina Austen, Director of the University of Pennsylvania Law School’s front-running Program on Documentaries and the Law, which impressed upon her that visual advocacy is the future of advocacy.

So, when a grateful client gave Podrebarac a thank-you gift of $100,000 last year for achieving a remarkable litigation result and told her she could donate the money to whatever organization she wished, she didn’t have to think very long about where her donation would go.

The Principal of Podrebarac Barristers Professional Corporation gave the money to Osgoode for a new, ground-breaking visual advocacy initiative.

Thanks to her foresight and generosity, the Law School has established the Fund for Innovation in Law and Media (FILM), an endowed fund that will create and sustain Osgoode experiential education programs focused on the use of visual advocacy to address social justice issues, educate the public about the law and legal process, and enhance the practice of dispute resolution.

“Osgoode students are as well positioned as any in the world to bring social justice issues to light and present them in a way that might inspire,” said Podrebarac, who also made two previous donations to the Law School for a bursary in memory of her long-time mentor and business partner, Bonnie Tough ’76, and the Osgoode@125 Fund.

Needless to say, Dean Lorne Sossin is delighted that FILM is up and running. FILM is being established, he says, “to promote and develop new approaches to advocacy in the justice system, especially the potential of visual advocacy to enhance access to and the conduct of dispute resolution.” FILM will bring together experts from a variety of disciplines - from filmmakers and editors to lawyers and jurists - and will also provide key roles for Osgoode students in the development and delivery of its projects.

Initial projects under FILM include the Gladue Video Project, which involves the creation of short documentary-style videos as a supplemental aspect of Gladue Reports in the sentencing process for Indigenous offenders in the criminal justice system (see sidebar).

FILM will also enable the development of the Justice Video Information Project, which will feature supervised, student-produced videos on legal issues for public audiences, to be developed in partnership with other non-governmental organizations and justice sector providers such as Community Legal Education Ontario (CLEO).

“Our goal is to focus on areas where the fairness, accessibility and effectiveness of justice can be improved through visual media, and our hope is that the FILM initiative will open students’ minds to new ways of thinking about the justice system,” Sossin said.

One of the Justice Video Information Project’s first assignments will involve the Community and Legal Aid Services Program (CLASP) at Osgoode, a free legal clinic for people with legal problems who cannot afford a lawyer.

FILM will bring together expertise on visual media (likely from Osgoode’s Artist in Residence program and York’s School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design), with expertise in access to justice and public legal education (likely CLEO), and Osgoode students (CLASP) to create a series of short videos that will provide the public with simple, easy-to-understand legal information on a variety of topics.
Jackson puts it – showing who they are in sentencing an Aboriginal offender. "The ideal outcome would be that these videos are a valuable tool and receive to assist them in determining options for bail and sentencing. (Section 718.2 (e) of the Criminal Code, which was reaffirmed by the Supreme Court of Canada in R. v. Gladue, says the court must take special cultural considerations into account in sentencing an Aboriginal offender. This is aimed at addressing the fact that Aboriginal people in Canada are severely over-represented in the prison system. In looking for alternatives to incarceration, the judge must consider the background of the accused as there may be mitigating factors.)

"The ideal outcome would be that these videos are a valuable tool and they are replicated in the future," said Jackson who is receiving a fellowship from Osgoode to serve as the Director of the Gladue Video Project, a visual advocacy pilot project that Osgoode is undertaking in conjunction with the recent establishment of its Fund for the Gladue Video Project and the Justice Video Information Project will be the first of many initiatives involving new media in the legal process, and that these projects will evolve into a program that students can take for credit as part of the School’s experiential education offerings.

"We would very much want to see this grow into the kind of visual advocacy clinic and Documentaries and the Law Project that Penn Law, for example, has pioneered."

Although our justice system (based around oral advocacy, written factums, briefs and judgments) has been slow to change, Sossin thinks it’s inevitable that visual advocacy will be used more and more. In instances, it offers a better way to communicate legal information and ideas.

“When you add in a visual, you open up brand new horizons for conveying and generating legal knowledge, and for conveying and generating the ideas and advocacy that shape our systems of dispute resolution.”

Images are everywhere, Sossin said. Visuality has permeated our culture – thanks to television, the internet and social media – and it will come to influence how we interact with the law.

“‘That’s always my question about visual advocacy,’” Sossin said.

“Would you practice law with the Gladue Video Project?”

A former President of the Law Society of British Columbia, Vertlieb has built a distinguished career on a passion for advocacy and has appeared before all four levels of court on criminal and civil matters. “Courts need to embrace technology and not be overburdened by tradition and conservatism.” Believing that there is an opportunity to put technology to better use in advocacy, Vertlieb has made a donation of $50,000 to Osgoode for the establishment of the Art Vertlieb Q.C. Fund. The endowed fund will provide support to the Law School for the use of creative media and visual arts advocacy to address social justice issues, educate the public about the law and the legal process, or as part of dispute resolution.

Vertlieb, who works at MacKenzie Fujisawa LLP specializing in personal injury law, administrative law and professional disputes, served as Commission Counsel to two high profile inquiries. One was the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry (2010-2012), which looked into the mass murder of vulnerable women from Vancouver’s downtown eastside (the Pickton victims). The other was the Braidedwood Inquiry (2007-2010), which examined the safety of conducted energy weapons and the death of Robert Dziekanski.

“In those two inquiries we took important evidence off of Skype and it worked,” says Vertlieb, noting that there is an opportunity for today’s tech-savvy lawyers to take advantage of the adversarial contest through the effective use of technology. The Art Vertlieb Q.C. Fund will enhance Osgoode’s ambitious plans to develop student visual advocacy initiatives.

“The young lawyers will know how to do this and they’ll take the older judges through it,” Vertlieb predicts.

A court is a very traditional place, says Vertlieb, so much so that you’d be hard pressed to find many differences between a court 100 years ago and a court today. “The court is just not as progressive as it needs to be,” says the Vancouver-based lawyer who has built a distinguished career on a passion for advocacy and has appeared before all four levels of court on criminal and civil matters. “Courts need to embrace technology and not be overburdened by tradition and conservatism.”
Jamil Jivan's name is getting around. Articles about the 28-year-old lawyer and community activist's initiatives have appeared everywhere from the Toronto Star to the Metro commuter newspaper. He's equally been a contributor to the Huffington Post, CBC's The Current, and the National Post, where he wrote a thoughtful and frequently-cited editorial on working with the police.

And yet while his name may be on the posters of the many events and talks he organizes, on topics from police carding to voter turnout, watching Jivan in action makes you realize he's more interested in getting things done than grabbing the spotlight. At an October event on police carding at a Toronto high school, Jivan seems constantly in motion, moving back and forth across the cafeteria setting as he gets things done. In a room, his style may be informal, the subjects at the heart of his course, and indeed his working life, couldn't be more important. Focused on how to engage communities around law and policy issues, the seminars are organized around three real-world projects: mobilizing voter turnout in the Jane and Finch neighborhood, organizing community consultations on the new Ontario regulations around police carding, and analyzing pre-charge diversion (a system that offers an alternative to incarceration for youth accused of minor crimes). For second-year JD student Hannah Ordman, who switched in late without knowing much about it, the class was a true practicality, "It's the best course I've ever taken—it was an incredible experience," she says.

Students were also inspired by how the class helped them connect with the community. Working on the project, Ordman says she and her colleagues were out on the street almost nightly before the federal election, canvassing voters and connecting them with information on campaign issues. She's also thrilled with the results: voter turnout in Jane-Finch (which stood at 48 percent in 2011) increased by 11 percent that night, ten times higher than their original goal and three percent higher than the national average increase.

For Holder, the opportunity offered by Jivan's class was personal. "As someone who has experienced carding before, it's something that has always been on my radar," she says. Taking the lead on a consultation at community organization East Scarborough Storefront, Holder says she appreciated the chance to work alongside community members. "It's so important from a legal standpoint when you're doing social justice work. It's not sitting up in this high and mighty 'I'm a lawyer' chair, but actually being concerned about issues affecting people and working with them in a way that's meaningful," she says. She plans to stay involved even after the class project ends.

The atmosphere is similar in the second-year practicum course called "Community Organizing and the Law" that Jivani teaches as an Osgoode Visiting Professor. Taking a place at the seminar table rather than at the podium, he makes sure that each student gets a chance to speak to the week's reading and share progress on their projects. Lindsay Holder, a second-year Juris Doctor (JD) student interested in working with abused women, says this approach is typical of Jivani's style. "He's very casual. Right from the get-go. Some professors are very formal, intimidating almost. He's not like that at all. He could be, but he's not," says Holder.

While his style may be informal, the subjects at the heart of his course, and indeed his working life, couldn't be more important. Focused on how to engage communities around law and policy issues, the seminar is organized around three real-world projects: mobilizing voter turnout in the Jane and Finch neighborhood, organizing community consultations on the new Ontario regulations around police carding, and analyzing pre-charge diversion (a system that offers an alternative to incarceration for youth accused of minor crimes). For second-year JD student Hannah Ordman, who switched in late without knowing much about it, the class was a true practicality, "It's the best course I've ever taken—it was an incredible experience," she says.

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The second-year Osgoode student had no way of knowing that her host city would soon become a physical and emotional waypoint for thousands of Syrians attempting to flee their country’s bloody civil war for Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and the European Union.

Several weeks into the fall semester, during a visit to the downtown market, the magnitude of the crisis hit her full on. Crowding the motorway as far as the eye could see were hundreds of people, mainly Syrian refugees and migrants who had spent days camping at Budapest’s Keleti train station only to find the border blocked to train travel by Hungarian authorities. With seemingly no other option, they decided to take fate in their hands and walk the 170 kilometres to the Austrian border.

As Danch watched, the streets filled, first with men and then families. “The entire back third of the huge march was just moms and dads with diaper bags and kids on their backs, trying to keep up.”

“Oh no, I thought, this is a desperate move that’s going to end badly. I can’t talk about it even now without crying.”

In that moment, Danch decided to take action. In so doing, she became another of the growing number of Osgoode students, alumni, faculty and staff striving to make a difference in what many say is the greatest refugee crisis the world has ever known.

In September, York University (including Osgoode), Ryerson University, the University of Toronto and OCAD University announced a groundbreaking partnership with Lifeline Syria to assist the Syrian refugees preparing for new beginnings in Canada. In an unprecedented move of collaboration, the four university presidents established the Lifeline Syria Challenge to facilitate private sponsorships, raise funds and engage volunteers in a coordinated, pan-university response to the global refugee crisis.

Since then, Osgoode has formed two sponsorship teams, each committed to raising $27,000 and to helping a Syrian family settle in the Toronto area over the next 12 months. A third team led by Osgoode alumnus Bill Kaplan ’83 and a group of local labour arbitrators has already raised more than $100,000 to fund refugee families and resettlement efforts through Osgoode (see sidebar).

Late in December 2015, a fourth team lead by Brian Greenspan of Greenspan Humphrey Lavine, donated a further $27,000.

All told, more than 50 Osgoode faculty, staff and students have signed up to be on call when the families arrive, and countless more alumni - including Farzin Yousefin ’13, who cancelled his big Toronto wedding to raise thousands of dollars for a Syrian family - are stepping forward with creative solutions as well.

“This is what Osgoode is known for,” says Dean Lorne Sossin.

“We have a long history of social justice initiatives, and clinical and pro bono work, including an activist role during the Southeast Asia refugee migration of the 1970s. It’s very much reflective of Osgoode’s spirit to ask how can we help?”

The Law School has also joined the Refugee Sponsorship Support Program (RSSP), a national program matching immigration and refugee lawyers with asylum seekers and private sponsors in

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**OSGOODE’S HELPING HAND**

Law School students, faculty, staff and alumni go above and beyond to support Syria’s refugees at home and abroad

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By Christine Ward

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The second-year Osgoode student had no way of knowing that her host city would soon become a physical and emotional waypoint for thousands of Syrians attempting to flee their country’s bloody civil war for Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and the European Union.

Several weeks into the fall semester, during a visit to the downtown market, the magnitude of the crisis hit her full on. Crowding the motorway as far as the eye could see were hundreds of people, mainly Syrian refugees and migrants who had spent days camping at Budapest’s Keleti train station only to find the border blocked to train travel by Hungarian authorities. With seemingly no other option, they decided to take fate in their hands and walk the 170 kilometres to the Austrian border.

As Danch watched, the streets filled, first with men and then families. “The entire back third of the huge march was just moms and dads with diaper bags and kids on their backs, trying to keep up.”

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Across campus and with the support of York's Centre for Refugee Studies, faculty, staff and students are marshalling their resources, expertise and connections to support Syrian refugees. Osgoode has contributed to this campus-wide response by supporting two York Project Leads for the Syria and Refugee Awareness Initiative (John Carlaw and Pierre-André Thériault) and a Syrian and Refugee Awareness Initiative Student Liaison and Project Associate (Mariam Hamouli), who work out of offices at the Centre for Refugee Studies.

York’s student chapter of the World University Service of Canada (WUSC) receives a levy from current students to help one student a year study at the Keele campus and one student every three years attend Glendon College. In January, York expanded the program to include five-year tuition waivers for WUSC-sponsored refugee students, and plans are underway to raise additional funds for refugee student bursaries.

York’s students are also engaged in the University’s response through organizations like RefupeeAd, which is galvanizing students to raise awareness, funds and support. The Office of Student Community & Leadership Development has also partnered with student leaders to coordinate a clothing drive for newcomers to campus.

For more information on York’s contributions to the global refugee crisis and how you can help, visit www.ryerson.ca/lifelinesyria/york/index.html

need of pro bono legal assistance. Following the lead of the University of Ottawa, Osgoode launched this January a directed research course that pairs the volunteer lawyers with students and puts them to work at weekly refugee clinics run by Lifeline Syria across the GTA. It is led by Professor Craig Scott, who returned to Osgoode in January after serving for four years as Member of Parliament for Toronto-Danforth, and as the New Democratic Party’s Official Opposition Critic for Democratic and Parliamentary Reform. The course qualifies for the School’s “practicum” graduation requirement that obliques every JD student beginning with the Class of 2015 to experience law in action.

Sixteen Osgoode students - 15 JD and one LLM - attended a training session in November and then hit the ground running in the New Year with in-class lessons on the substantive issues of refugee law, and the ethical and professional challenges involved in dealing with clients from different cultural backgrounds and with potential trauma issues. They met with their first Syrian families shortly thereafter.

“The work mostly involves helping Syrian families already in the GTA fill out the refugee forms required to sponsor additional family members currently seeking refuge in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan,” explains Pierre-André Thériault, Osgoode’s RSSP coordinator, a PhD candidate specializing in refugee settlement and a practising lawyer who is also helping to coordinate the Lifeline Syria Challenge at York. The students are also helping Osgoode and other York University private sponsorship teams complete the necessary paperwork to bring more than 10 refugee families to Toronto.

“They're going to walk away with a great experience,” Thériault adds. “Students want to make a difference and they will for people in a very vulnerable and oftentimes desperate situation.”

That’s exactly what Elise Mercier is hoping for. The second-year Osgoode student applied to the directed research course after spending the previous eight months in the immigration and refugee division at Parkdale Community Legal Services as part of Osgoode’s intensive poverty law program. “At Parkdale, resettlement is often a very slow process,” she says. “It’s been disheartening to see families apart for so long. I think the most exciting part of this program will be the much quicker turnaround - knowing that families will be reuniting with loved ones, arriving in the country and integrating into new communities relatively quickly.”

“This isn’t just about Syria,” insists Sossin. “There is a global refugee crisis and we see its impact across Toronto, Ontario and Canada. As a Law School, we’re reaching across the boundaries between the profession and the academy. We’re all pulling together and finding a uniquely Osgoode approach that allows for everyone’s concerns and compassion, and ensures those who desire to make a positive difference can do so.”

Two days after watching the refugees’ emotional march through the streets of Budapest, Jen Danch and her student colleagues at Central European University took to Facebook to appeal for help. The Hungarian authorities had temporarily reopened the entrances to the city’s central train station and thousands of Syrians were flooding in in the hope of gaining passage to western Europe.

“I posted a note asking my friends to send money, so I could buy train tickets from Budapest to Austria for as many refugees as possible,” she says.

More than 100 people, many of them part of the Osgoode community, replied. Seven twenty-hours later, Danch was back at the Keleti train station with $10,000 and a makeshift Arabic sign that read,

“I have free tickets to Austria.”

Working in shifts over the next few days with three other volunteer lawyers from Malta, Argentina and Turkey, she purchased 440 train tickets, along with much-needed tents, blankets and food. After Hungary closed its southernmost border with Serbia on September 12, Danch continued to help fund emergency packages, which were driven across the border and distributed to refugees camped in Croatia.

“The entire experience is etched in my mind – especially the young kids and pregnant women, so many who had already lost a child in the conflict. I was overwhelmed by the emotion of it and by the power of young people who just show up and help while others are humming and hawing about why it can’t be done.”

Now back in Canada, she is proud to count the Osgoode community among those who aren’t just taking action, but helping to lead it. “That’s the cool thing about this School and why students like me come here. A law degree that’s not rooted in social justice is a dangerous tool. There’s nothing inherently great about having a law degree; you have to have a commitment to doing something decent with it.”

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

Osgoode alumnus leads a whirlwind effort to support resettlement

It began with a November 1 Toronto Star article that reported Canadians could sponsor a Syrian refugee family for $27,000. “I remember thinking, wow,” says Bill Kaplan ’83. “You can sponsor a whole family for one year for $27,000. Why wouldn’t you?”

A Toronto arbitrator, Kaplan fired off a quick e-mail to his colleagues on a labour arbitration listserve. Twenty-four hours later, he had reached his goal. Another day and he had doubled it. One week after making his request, Kaplan had just over $100,000 in hand from some 50 colleagues to help Canada’s Syrian resettlement efforts.

“Like all Canadians,” he says of his labour arbitration colleagues, some of whom are also Osgoode grads, “we were moved by the plight of the Syrian refugees and we wanted to do something to help.”

In considering how best to manage the funds, Kaplan was referred to Osgoode Dean Lorne Sossin, who was already spearheading the School’s sponsorship efforts through the Lifeline Syria Challenge. After consulting with the group, and considering a number of different options, there was an overwhelming consensus to partner with the Law School and funnel the money through Osgoode. “We chose the Law School for a number of reasons,” he explains, “including Lorne’s initiative and leadership, the opportunity for faculty-student collaboration and because our money will be wisely and responsibly spent.” Kaplan and his donor colleagues are also pleased that any member of their group who wishes to become more directly involved with one of the sponsored families will have an opportunity to do so.

“Canadians are the most generous people in the whole world, and if reading about our modest contributions makes people think of ways they can help, well, that’s great.”
By Kaitlin Normandin

Osgoode alumni who overcame barriers in the legal community and whose risk-taking, perseverance and propensity to aim high paved the way for others are the inspiration for our Osgoode Catalysts Project.

Here you will read about five exceptional individuals – Margaret Hyndman, Helen A. Kinnear, David A. Croll, Judy LaMarsh and Leonard Braithwaite – who were recently added to our growing list of Osgoode Catalysts. For a complete list of alumni who have blazed a trail, please visit: digitalcommons.osgoode.yorku.ca/catalysts/

HELEN A. KINNEAR ’20
1894–1970
Described as generous and self-effacing, Port Colborne native Helen Kinnear was the first federally appointed woman judge in Canada. Before attending Osgoode Hall Law School, she received a BA from the University of Toronto in English and History. She set up practice with her father and participated in numerous Liberal political associations. She was even nominated to run as a federal candidate but declined. Kinnear was the first woman to plead a case in the Supreme Court of Ontario, the first woman to be appointed a King’s Counsel in the British Commonwealth (1934), until finally she became the county court judge for Haldimand.

She also served on the Council of the Canadian Bar Association, was the Honorary President of the Women’s Law Association of Ontario, and was appointed by the Province of Ontario as a member of the Minister’s Advisory Council on the Treatment of the Offender. In 1965, she became the first woman to receive a medal from the John Howard Society of Ontario in recognition of her contributions to the profession and concern for the rights of the offender.

DAVID A. CROLL ’24
1902–1991
David Croll was born in Moscow and immigrated with his family to Canada when he was a young boy. An early advocate of welfare and other types of social assistance, Croll first worked as a lawyer then moved into politics. He served as the Mayor of Windsor from 1931 to 1934 during the height of the Great Depression. Croll insisted the city go into deficit in order to provide relief programs for the unemployed and destitute. He became Canada’s first Jewish cabinet minister when he was appointed the Minister of Public Welfare under Mitchell Hepburn’s Liberal government. While serving as Minister of Labour, Croll resigned from Hepburn’s Cabinet, after the Premier sided with General Motors during the 1937 United Auto Workers Strike in Oshawa. He wrote: “I would rather walk with the workers than ride with General Motors.”

After another term as Mayor of Windsor, and service with the Canadian Army during WWII, he was elected as an MP for Toronto-Spadina riding. Croll became Canada’s first Jewish Senator in 1955. He was the author of an influential report on poverty, which moved the Trudeau government to triple family allowances and institute the Child Tax Credit in 1978. Croll was also responsible for several Senate reports on aging. In 1990, he was sworn into the Queen’s Privy Council, an honour usually given only to federal cabinet ministers.

MARGARET HYNDMAN ’25
1902–1991
Upon Margaret Hyndman’s call to the bar, the quest of honour remarked that he regretted that her parents had spent so much money to educate her for a profession in which there was no room for women. Undeterred, Hyndman went on to establish a successful career in company law and litigation. In 1945, she became the first woman director of a Canadian trust company. She was also the first Canadian woman to appear before the Privy Council in London. During WWII, Hyndman organized the voluntary registration of Canadian women for war work and pushed to provide free legal aid to members of the Armed Forces and their families. For her services to the Free France Movement she was awarded a citation from Charles DeGaulle and received a silver medal from the City of Paris.

A passionate advocate of women’s rights, Hyndman served on many legal and women’s organizations, such as the National and International Federation of Business and Professional Women. In her role as President, she helped shape Ontario’s legislation on equal pay for equal work. Hyndman also participated in the Kaufmann birth control case, the Lavelle case involving native women’s loss of status after marrying non-native men, as well as the Bell Canada equal pay case. In recognition of her accomplishments, she was appointed the second female King’s Counsel in 1938, a member of the Order of Canada in 1973, and received the Law Society Medal in 1986.

LEONARD BRAITHWAITE ’58
1923–2012
The son of West Indian immigrants, Leonard Braithwaite grew up in the Kensington Market area of Toronto during the Great Depression. He enlisted with the Royal Canadian Air Force during WWII, and served with No. 6 Bomber Command in England. Upon leaving the Armed Forces, he earned a degree in commerce from the University of Toronto, and a Master of Business Administration from Harvard Business School, and a law degree from Osgoode Hall Law School. He was the editor of the Obiter Dicta, the elected student body President, and won the Gold Key Award upon graduation. In 1960, Braithwaite embarked on a successful political career in Etobicoke.

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JUDY LAMARTH ’50
1924–1980
Judy LaMarsh was born in Chatham, Ontario, and grew up in Niagara Falls. Talented and outspoken, she was a true original. LaMarsh enlisted in the Canadian Women’s Army Corps during WWII, serving as a translator in Intelligence with Japanese-Canadian soldiers. After the war, she attended the University of Toronto and Osgoode Hall Law School. LaMarsh was called to the Bar in 1950 and joined her father’s law practice. She would eventually leave the practice to become a Liberal MP in 1960. In 1963, she became the first Ontario female lawyer and the second woman to ever serve in the federal Cabinet.

As the Minister of Health and Welfare, LaMarsh pushed for the adoption of the Canada Pension Plan and Medicare. She also served as the Secretary of State during Canada’s Centennial in 1967. LaMarsh left politics in 1968, to become a journalist for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and a lecturer at Osgoode Hall Law School. She helped to establish the Royal Commission on the Status of Women in Canada and advocated for women’s rights for the rest of her life. She was once quoted as saying: “There are hundreds of women, from every walk of life, who would go into politics with some party encouragement.” The Liberal Party created a fund in LaMarsh’s name to provide financial support to female liberal candidates.

Kaitlin Normandin, who holds a Master of Information from the University of Toronto, was the Archival Student Assistant for Osgoode’s 125th anniversary in the 2014-15 academic year. She now lives and works in Ottawa.
DON’T MIND THE GAP: FROM SCHOLARSHIP TO ADVOCACY

Osgoode professors’ research has substantive impact on public policies

By Bev Cline

What impact does research by Osgoode professors have on public policy initiatives? Is there a risk of criticism when one’s ideas go beyond the traditional confines of the academy? And, looking forward, will Canadian legal academics follow a growing trend among their U.S. colleagues in advancing their ideas more forcefully to effect meaningful change?

To consider these questions, Continuum spoke with Osgoode Professors Aaron Dhir and Dayna Scott; their research and publications are garnering significant interest among media, public policy makers, other academics, and advocacy groups in Canada and beyond.

Gender diversity on corporate boards

Globally, there’s rapidly intensifying debate focusing on the lack of gender parity in the governance of business corporations. In 2016, these discussions are expected to form the backbone of new laws and initiatives aimed at increasing gender diversity. For example, as recently as January 2016, the influential U.S. Government Accountability Office released a report entitled “Corporate Boards: Strategies to Add Women’s Representation – Women Include Federal Disclosure Requirements.”

At the heart of the report are direct references to research findings contained in Osgoode Professor Aaron Dhir’s book Challenging Boardroom Homogeneity: Corporate Law, Governance, and Diversity, published by Cambridge University Press in 2015.

“The corporate world is in the midst of a really fascinating and important transition as countries across the globe are now confronting gender imbalances on corporate boards of directors. In doing so, they are resorting to the force of law and the two main forms of legal regulation being discussed – quotas and disclosure – are both empirically investigated in my book,” he says.

Moreover, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, the Ranking Member of the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Capital Markets, who requested the report, is urging the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission to update its existing diversity disclosure requirements in a manner consistent with Dhir’s recommendations.

Chemical exposure

Osgoode Professor Dayna Scott is the editor of Our Chemical Selves: Gender, Toxics and Environmental Health, published by UBC Press in 2015. During the time she was editing the book, Professor Scott was also Director of the National Network on Environments and Women’s Health.

As such, the research she and others conducted into chemical exposures affecting women in the workplace was tied into the advocacy work being undertaken by the Network. For example, a project undertaken in partnership with a group of women plastics workers in the auto sector in Windsor generated a lot of media coverage and policy interest, as well as greater understanding by labour unions of the need to address the link between chemical exposures and workplace cancers.

Currently, Scott is focusing on grassroots research with communities affected by chemical exposure. “To gain the full picture, we have to think not only about workplace exposure,” she says, “but also the exposure to people living in the communities that surround the facilities that are producing these chemicals.”

Her research is hands-on and empowering for the communities involved; as an example, in working with youth and environmental justice activists from the Aamjiwnaang First Nation, near Sarnia’s Chemical Valley, “we’re influencing people on the ground in their organizing, we were able to use the research to help people understand how their exposures and the health effects they were feeling were connected more broadly to the extraction in the tar sands, to the pipeline debates, and the production of petroleum and chemicals more broadly.”

Grounded, honest research

Scott is aware there’s always the risk that people will dismiss your results because they think you’re being driven by a political agenda,

“If you align yourself with activists, it may be that you threaten to undermine the more conventional sense of a detached academic.”

Yet in response to potential criticism of this approach to research, Scott, who is cross-awarded with the Faculty of Environmental Studies, says being upfront in discussing your approach is what’s required.

“There’s really nobody without a standpoint, we’re all coming from a particular place in our research and that informs everything that we do, so be explicit about it in your publications. I think that makes the research more grounded, more honest.”

To really get engaged in policy work, you have to be comfortable going outside the strict confines of your own discipline, as well. So, in the case of Our Chemical Selves: Gender, Toxics and Environmental Health, to ally concerns that Scott might be outside of her realm, or making claims that she doesn’t have the expertise to make, the book went through an extra round of detailed peer review by an epidemiologist.

“And that’s okay,” says Scott.

Engaged scholarship

One of the most satisfying impacts you can have as an academic is to deepen and enrich the discourse says Dhir, who believes in putting research to work. He’s presented his findings in the U.S. at many leading universities, including Harvard, Stanford, Yale, Berkeley, and Michigan. He has also written an opinion piece in The Atlantic and has been featured in venues ranging from Forbes and the New York Times to National Public Radio.

In Canada, Dhir has published commentaries in the Globe and Mail and the Toronto Star. And he was not only honoured to participate as an expert panelist at a recent Ontario Securities Commission (OSC) policy roundtable, but “very flattered” when former OSC Chair Howard Wetston quoted from his research in Wetston’s introductory remarks.

Looking forward, Dhir says that he foresees academics in Canada and elsewhere showing even further interest in publicizing their research, and, as a consequence, seeing their work turned into actionable initiatives.

“After spending some time in the U.S., I was very struck by the fact that some academics have agents, and others even have publishers. You wouldn’t have seen that until relatively recently. While I had neither (laughs), I think it’s certainly rooted in a desire to mobilize research and to facilitate an impact outside of the academic world as well.”

Bev Cline is a Toronto-based freelance writer, editor, and book author.
NEW FACES
Osgoode welcomed three new full-time faculty members this academic year: Margaret Boittin, Lisa Dufraimont and Deborah McGregor.

“‘The hiring of these outstanding new faculty will strengthen Osgoode for the future by ensuring visionary scholarship, research and teaching in priority areas,’” Dean Lorne Sossin said. “We are delighted to welcome Margaret, Lisa and Deborah to the Osgoode community.”

MARGARET BOITTIN
Assistant Professor Margaret Boittin joins Osgoode with teaching interest in the areas of property law, Chinese law and research methods.

Her research lies at the intersection of criminal law, local government law, international and comparative law and Chinese law with a focus on the regulation of prostitution, human trafficking, law enforcement and civil servants.

Using empirical research methods, Boittin examines how marginalized individuals perceive their relationships to the laws and institutions that govern their behaviour.

Boittin is currently working on a book manuscript entitled The Whore, the Hostess and the Honey: Policing, Health, Business and the Regulation of Prostitution in China, based on two years of field research in China. She also conducts research on human trafficking vulnerability and public opinion around human trafficking policies in Nepal and China, which is being funded with grants of $1.5 million from the U.S. Department of Labor, USAID, Humanity United, Terre des Hommes, Stanford University and Vanderbilt University.

She is an investigator with The Governance Project, led by Francis Fukuyama at Stanford University’s Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law, doing research on the Chinese bureaucracy and civil servants. Boittin has been working and conducting research in China since 2003. Her work has been published in Law & Society Review.

LISA DUFRAIMONT
Associate Professor Lisa Dufraimont teaches and conducts research in the areas of criminal law and procedure and evidence.

She brings with her several years of teaching experience, having held a faculty position at Queen’s University Faculty of Law from 2006. She also served as Acting Associate Dean (Academic) at Queen’s for the first half of 2015. She earned her JD from the University of Toronto, and also holds an LLM and JSD from Yale University.

Dufraimont has published extensively on subjects related to criminal law and evidence, with a particular focus on the jury system and the psychological aspect of procedural and evidentiary rules. Her work has appeared in edited collections and in leading law journals, and she was co-investigator on a SSHRC-funded psycho-legal research project investigating the effects of Canadian jury pattern jury instructions on the criminal standard of proof beyond a reasonable doubt.

She is also associate editor of the Criminal Reports and a regular contributor to the National Judicial Institute’s Criminal Essentials e-letter, which is distributed monthly to about 1,000 Canadian judges.

DEBORAH MCGREGOR
Joining York University as a cross-appointee with the Faculty of Environmental Studies, Associate Professor Deborah McGregor is Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Environmental Justice (Tier 2).

She is working to advance the theory and practice of environmental justice scholarship by engaging with Indigenous intellectual traditions. Her research program will provide a much deeper understanding of environmental injustices facing Indigenous peoples, and even more importantly, lead to viable approaches to addressing such challenges. Her work has been published in an array of national and international journals, and she has delivered numerous public and academic presentations relating to traditional knowledge and governance. She co-edited Indigenous Peoples and Autonomy: Insights for a Global Age with Mario Blaser, Ravi De Costa and William Coleman (2010).

Prior to joining York, McGregor was an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Toronto, where she also served as Director of the Centre for Aboriginal Initiatives and the Aboriginal Studies program. She recently completed a SSHRC-funded research project (“Traditional Knowledge, Water and First Nations in Ontario”), and is currently undertaking three more. She earned her PhD from the University of Toronto.

NADINE VALCIN
is an award-winning bilingual producer, writer and director. She has an architecture degree from McGill University and is an alumna of Doc Lab, the Women in the Director’s Chair, the National Screen Institute and l’Institut national de l’image et du son. Her factual and documentary work has been shown on radio and television in Canada and the United States. She has directed four documentary projects for the National Film Board of Canada, including the critically-acclaimed Black, Bold and Beautiful (1999) and Une école sans frontières (A School without Borders, 2008). She is currently developing two feature films, Trajectoires (in French) and My Own Angel (in English) as well as the dramatic television series Deep Shadows. During her tenure at Osgoode, Valcin will be producing a video installation entitled Whiwhaah that examines slavery in Canada and its omission from the national narrative.
A SNAPSHOT OF OUR MCMURTRY FELLOWS

The McMurtry Visiting Clinical Fellowship - which honours Osgoode alumnus R. Roy McMurtry LLB ’58, LLD ’91, former Attorney General and Chief Justice of Ontario, and former Chancellor of York University - brings leading lawyers and related practitioners to Osgoode for a term or part of a term to provide mentorship to students and lawyers engaged in experiential education initiatives.

Osgoode welcomes three exceptional individuals as McMurtry Visiting Fellows for the 2015-16 academic year. What follows is a snapshot of each Fellow that admittedly does not do justice to their impressive CVs.

MARY EBERTS
Education
LLM ’72, Harvard Law School; LLB ’71 Western University; BA ’68 (English) Western University.

Occupation
Practised litigation in a large firm setting as well as a boutique civil, constitutional/human rights and Aboriginal practice. Law Office of Mary Eberts since 2006. Counsel and legal advisor to the Native Women’s Association of Canada since 1991.

Appointments
Senior Fellow, Massey College, University of Toronto; Gordon Henderson Chair in Human Rights at the Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa; Ariel Sailors Chair in Human Rights at the College of Law, University of Saskatchewan; Constitutional Litigator in Residence at the Asper Centre, Faculty of Law, University of Toronto.

Awards
Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, Law Society Medal from the Law Society of Upper Canada, President's Award of the Women’s Law Association of Ontario, Governor General’s Award in Honour of the Person’s Case, Distinguished Service Award of the CBA-OBA and several honorary degrees.

Interesting Fact
Co-founded the Women’s Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF).

JOANNA RADBORD
Education
LLB ’97, Osgoode Hall Law School; BA, Highest Honours (Philosophy and Women’s Studies), Carleton University; BA (Psychology), Carleton University.

Occupation
Partner, Martha McCarthy & Company LLP in Toronto specializing in family and equality rights litigation. Has been involved in the leading cases expanding legal recognition for LGBTQ families.

Appointments
Member of the Legal Aid Ontario Family Law Advisory Committee; Advisory Board member of the Motherhood Initiative for Research and Community Involvement (MIRCI) and its journal.

Awards
Canadian Bar Association Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Conference “Hero Award” in 2008 for her contributions to LGBTQ communities.

Interesting Fact
Worked on M. v. H., a decision which sparked the recognition of same-sex relationships in dozens of federal and provincial statutes.

ROGER ROWE
Education
LLB ’87, Osgoode Hall Law School; BA ’82 (Sociology), York University.

Occupation
Staff lawyer at Jane & Finch Community Legal Services Clinic for five years before entering private practice in 1993 specializing in criminal, family, and immigration law.

Appointments
One of the founding members of the Canadian Association of Black Lawyers (CABL) and a past President of CABL. Past President of PEACH (Promoting Economic Action and Community Health). Past lawyer member of the Consent and Capacity Board 2005-2014.

Awards
Pro Bono Law Ontario for community service; CABL Award of Excellence for Advancement of the Profession; Law Society of Upper Canada’s Lincoln Alexander Award; Harry Jerome Award; Osgoode’s Dianne Martin Medal for Social Justice Through Law.

Interesting Fact
Successfully represented the appellant Mavis Baker in the Supreme Court of Canada in the landmark case of Baker v. Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, which established a new standard for the duty of procedural fairness in administrative law.
He continued in these dual roles until his Division of the Family Court of Australia. was appointed to the permanent Appeal of Western Australia and the following year appointed Chief Judge of the Family Court of Australia. In 1996 Michael was Australia and a Justice of the Family Court of Australia in 1971. In 1991 he was appointed was admitted as a practitioner in Western Canada. He received the Frontenac Law Association’s Johnson Diversity and Equity Lawyer as the recipient of the Emil Gumpert Award for providing exemplary leadership and setting new standards for the legal profession. He was appointed to Ontario’s Climate Change Policy Advisor in the public service. He was appointed Chair of the University of Waterloo’s Board of Governors. He was appointed to the Hydro One Inc. Board of Directors. He was appointed to the Order of Canada.
Arline Brock ‘88 was inducted as a Fellow of Bermuda College.

Daniel Daviau ‘89 was appointed Chief Executive Officer of Canaccord Genuity.

‘89 MARIE HENEIN was named one of the Top 25 most influential lawyers by Canadian Lawyer magazine.

Joseph Peschisolido ‘89 was elected as Member of Parliament for the Staverton-Richmond East riding.

Paul Sweeney ‘89 was appointed to the Ontario Superior Court of Justice.

1990s

David Cohen ‘90 was elected President of TMA Global.

Paul Cooper ‘90 was elected Bench of the Law Society of Upper Canada.

Janet Miner ‘90 (LLM) was elected Treasurer of the Law Society of Upper Canada.

Patrick McGrade ‘90 was appointed Senior Vice-President of Corporate Affairs of Restaurant Brands Inc.

‘90 RACHEL NOTLEY was elected Premier of Alberta.

James O’Sullivan ‘90 was appointed as Group Head of Canadian Banking at Scotiabank.

Mark Warner ‘91 was inducted as a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation.

Sanjeev Anand ‘93 (J.D.), ‘99 (PhD) was appointed to the Provincial Court of Saskatchewan. Prior to being appointed to the bench, he served as Dean of Law at the University of Alberta for three years and as a Professor of law at the University of Alberta for 10 years.

‘93 KIMBERLY MURRAY received the Law Society of Upper Canada’s 2015 Laura Leitch Award.


Andrew Spurgeon ‘93 was elected Bench of the Law Society of Upper Canada.

Adam Szwaras ‘94 was appointed to Aurora Cannabis Inc.’s Board of Directors.

David Carinci ‘95 ‘00 (LLM) is Senior Legal Counsel at OMG Spatial Inc., a Neopost Company and in 2014 he was honoured with the Distinguished Alumni Award from the York Catholic District School Board. David and his wife, Rosalia, welcomed the birth of their daughter, Ava Rose, and their son Dominic is very happy.

Lisa De Marco ‘95 was appointed to Ontario’s Climate Change Action Group.

Nancie Latulippe ‘95 joined Heidrick & Struggles as Partner in their Toronto office.

Kevin Baker ‘96 rode his motorcycle from Deadhorse, Alaska to Key West, Florida as part of the Ride for Inclusion, which raised awareness and funds to support students with disabilities in post-secondary education.

Lisa Raitt ‘96 was elected as Member of Parliament for the Milton riding.

Sven Spengemann ‘98 was elected as Member of Parliament for the Mississauga–Lakeshore riding.

Ali Ehsassi ‘99 was elected as Member of Parliament for the Willowdale riding.

Colleen Hanycz ‘99 (LLM) ‘03 (PhD) was the first female appointed President in the 152-year history of La Salle University in Pennsylvania. She had previously served as Principal of Brescia College and had been a faculty member at Osgoode for a number of years.

Avvy Yee-Yee Go ‘99 (LLM) was elected Bench of the Law Society of Upper Canada.

2000s

Dawn Deveo ‘01 was named one of the Top 25 most influential lawyers by Canadian Lawyer magazine.

Paul Hong ‘06 serves as the Deputy Chief of Staff for the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party.

‘06 EVA MELAMED was the first Jewish woman inducted into the McGill University Sports Hall of Fame.

Gina Papageorgiou ‘06 (LLM) was elected Bench of the Law Society of Upper Canada.

Steven Del Duca ‘07 is Ontario’s Transportation Minister and Member of Provincial Parliament for Vaughan where he and his family currently reside.

‘07 PAUL JONATHAN SAGUIL received the 2015 Precedent Setter Award.

Jagmeet Singh ‘07 (LLM) was appointed Director of Legal Services/ City Solicitor for the City of Cambridge.

Kelly Yerxa ‘09 (LLM) was appointed Director of Legal Services/ City Solicitor for the City of Cambridge.

‘09 BERNADETTE MAHENDIRAN along with the other members of The Justice and Corporate Accountability Project travelled to Kenya to provide workshops on oil and gas to approximately 100 subsistence agriculturalists.

Rajvinder Grewal ‘13 was elected as Member of Parliament for the Brampton East riding.

Stephen Hsia ‘13 was a finalist in the Royal Canadian Mint coin design challenge. The Mint will change the design of Canada’s coins in 2017 in time for Canada’s 150th birthday.

Liane Fang, Roni Hoffman, Heather Huit-Litwin, Joy Mathews and Marc Rodrigue, alumni from the Class of 2011, helped develop the Toronto Public Library’s Law at the Library Series, which focused on helping Torontonians solve common legal problems (torontolibrary.ca/ programs-and-classes/featured/law-at-the-library.jsp).

‘14 AVNISH NANDA opened Nanda & Company, a boutique litigation firm that represents clients from Alberta and British Columbia.
IN MEMORIAM
January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015

1946
Walter J. Rapson
1947
David G. Menzel
1948
Bruce A. Finkler
Duncan C. McKillop
Roy H. Saffrey
Silas A. Ward
1949
Larry D. Clarke
1950
C. John Cannon
Victor L. Paskaleff
1951
J. Joseph Kelly
Joseph D. Sheard
1953
Ernest Dicker
1954
Walter E. Bell
Gordon M. Farquharson
Benjamin Lamb
Michael R. Sahany
Edward F. Wren
1955
John A. Geller
Joseph M. McBride
Robert C. Thomas
Hugh E. Zimmerman
1956
Gordon C. Saunders
1957
Martin E. Offman
John G. O’Reilly
Melvin P. Rubinoff
1958
Augustine M. Arrigo
A. Alan Borovoy
Donald J. Catalano
David E. Hill
Bernard W. Papernick
Nicholas Pasic
Arthur Tupwood
1959
Arnold S. Goldberg
Paul R. Jewell
Douglas H. Lissaman
Garry J. Sullivan
1960
W. O. August
Daniel W. Burton
John H. Kenney
Ronald E. Williams
1962
Milton J. Bernstein
E. Lyle Brown
Gordon D. Goldman
1963
Arthur H. Clairman
S. Joshua Langer
1965
Terrance A. Sweeney

1966
Joel H. Selsey
1970
Lionel C. Larry
1971
William R. Rauenbusch
1974
Marc Rosenberg
Irwin Schwartz
John R. Varley
Geraldine P. Waldman
1976
William E. Tennyson
1978
Daphne A. Intrator
Richard G. Leighton
1980
J. Anna Fraser
1982
Howard M. Hacker
1991
Rollin M. Matsui
1993
Susan H. Davidson
LLM
2001
Craig A. Shaw

Professor Emeritus Terence G. Ison
who taught at Osgoode in the 1980s passed away on September 2, 2015 at the age of 80.

OSGOODE HALL LAW SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTICE
Alumni are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting on:

Wednesday, May 18, 2016
5:30pm to 6:00pm
Portrait Room of Osgoode Hall
130 Queen Street West, Toronto, Ontario

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

Positive RSVPs Appreciated
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