



Windsor Law
University of Windsor

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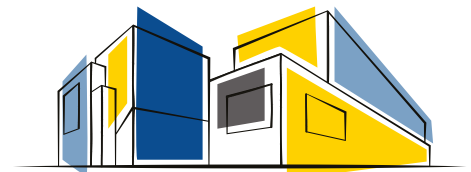
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READY FOR THE FUTURE

BY SHAWN MICALLEF

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TRANSFORMING WINDSOR LAW A MESSAGE FROM DEAN CHRISTOPHER WATERS



TRANSFORMING WINDSOR LAW



Just over a year ago, as a law school community of students, alumni, faculty and staff, we gathered to celebrate 50 years of teaching, research, service and advocacy as a people-centred and dynamic law school. Building on that

legacy, this year we are now launching the campaign to transform our law school home on campus. With your help, we are going to take what's good about our building and make it more warm, welcoming and suitable for law teaching today. The building –proudly rooted on a renewed University of Windsor campus– will enhance our reputation and make us all proud. Please consider a personal contribution or class gift to the Transforming Windsor Law building campaign and encourage your firm or company to consider a naming opportunity in the building. The \$30 million dollar project is slated to commence in the summer of 2020. Contributions will be gratefully acknowledged in print and on social media, as well as through a donor wall. ■



#TRANSFORMINGWINDSORLAW

uwindsor.ca/law/TWL

ALUMNI AWARDS AND CAMPAIGN LAUNCH



From left to right: The Honourable Mary Jo Nolan, Heather Hansen, Jamie Johnson, Allan Stitt, Evan Kubes, Joshua Marcus

On Wednesday, November 27 nearly 200 alumni enjoyed Windsor Law's annual Toronto Alumni Dinner & Awards at the Omni King Edward Hotel.

Congratulations to the award recipients:

- **Allan Stitt '88** - Distinguished Alumni Award
- **Jamie Johnson '87** - Extraordinary Contribution to Windsor Law in Memory of **John Mountain '86**
- The Honourable **Mary Jo Nolan '81** - Extraordinary Contribution to Windsor Law in Memory of **John Mountain '86**
- **Heather Hansen '06** - Distinguished Alumni Award
- **Nils Engelstad '07** - Distinguished Alumni Award
- **Mary Gold** - Builder of Windsor Law Award
- **Neil Gold** - Builder of Windsor Law Award

- **Nancy Merrill '88** - Access to Justice Award
- **Suhuyini Abudalai '08** - Access to Justice Award
- **Evan Kubes '16** - Emerging Leader in the Law Award
- **Joshua Marcus '16** - Emerging Leader in the Law Award

In addition to the alumni awards portion of the evening, University of Windsor President **Robert Gordon**, Chancellor **Mary Jo Haddad**, and Windsor Law Dean **Christopher Waters** had the pleasure of officially launching the Transforming Windsor Law campaign.

In an incredible show of support, in addition to his existing pledge, Windsor Law alum **Jamie Johnson**, of Signal Hill Equity Partners, generously challenged our alumni through a dollar-for-dollar matching campaign, matching up to \$100,000 in pledges, which resulted in our alumni raising over \$200,000 in funds! ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

YOUNG ALUMNI DINNER

February 13, 2020
Toronto, ON

OTTAWA ALUMNI RECEPTION

February 19, 2020
Ottawa, ON

GIVING DAY

February 25, 2020
Windsor, ON

Visit uwindsor.ca/law for details and to register.

WINDSOR LAW IS READY FOR THE FUTURE



BY SHAWN MICALLEF

One of the soundest, sustainable and greenest building practices is to renovate older buildings rather than build from scratch. At the same time, when a building reaches a half-century, it's time for a refresh and there is often an urge to build something new. In thinking about the future of the Ron W. Ianni building, the Faculty of Law has found the right balance. The school has stood at University and Sunset Avenues since 1970, anchoring this corner of the University of Windsor campus. Its imminent renovation isn't going to change that, as it remains a building with "good bones," but the transformation will open the school up to the rest of campus and the city itself.

Originally designed as a different kind of law school, one that facilitated a people-centred approach to law which considered law as a social process, the renovation will allow that tradition to continue for the next fifty years as the building will become more flexible and adaptable to modern teaching techniques. Finding the right architects who can work with an existing building is no small task. After a competitive bidding competition, the firm selected is Toronto-based Diamond Schmitt Architects. Apart from creating landmarks like the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts in Toronto and New York's Lincoln Center, the firm has been working on updates of projects of similar vintage and style to the Ianni building, including the University of

Toronto's Robarts Library and the National Arts Centre in Ottawa.

Both of these latter projects updated mid-century, public buildings designed in the brutalist style, an architecture movement that is being rediscovered and admired and, ideally, brought up to contemporary standards with sympathetic renovations. In 1970, the Ianni building was opened just a year after the school was created, and with its exposed expanses of concrete, solid walls and lofty interior spaces it seemed to match the institutional weight and gravitas that was being aspired to at the time. Brutalism, though, is sometimes criticized today for being too dark and heavy, and Windsor Law no longer has to worry about such early aspirations, so it's an ideal time to open the building up a bit.

To this end, the architects consulted with students, faculty and staff to understand what is needed today and have come up with a plan that brings natural light into the building and makes it much more accessible. Most dramatic is the moot court, an already impressive place that was ahead of its time with modular walls that created smaller rooms when needed and chalkboards that could be summoned mechanically from the floor. Parts of exterior walls will be removed, allowing for panoramic views through large windows on the north and west sides that look out onto the parklike campus and to the Ambassador Bridge beyond, reminding those inside of the school's unique international position and relationship with the United States. Passersby, whether in a car or on foot, could always get a glimpse of a student studying in a carrel by a library window, but now they'll be able to see advocacy, teaching and learning at work too.

The fashion for brutalist windows in 1970 was often to provide oblique, reflected light and encourage users to focus within and not distract from serious study with views of the outside world. While the form of the building

will remain intact and its "footprint" will not expand, window incisions, framed in copper, will be made into a number of currently blank walls that will allow light into parts of the school that heretofore were somewhat dark. New entrances will also make the building much more porous and welcoming. Some areas that are currently outdoors but underused, like the ground floor patio space on the southwest corner facing the Leddy Library, will be enclosed in glass, further expanding interior spaces and allowing them to be used during all four seasons. New approaches to the entrances will be landscaped in, further connecting the school with the rest of campus.

One of the most unique parts of the original design was the central communal area known formally as the "lower agora" but colloquially as the "lower pit". Lower it was as it was sunken, requiring a flight of steps to access. While dramatic, the space was hardly accessible by today's standards and over the years acquired strips of yellow warning tape to alert people of the change in elevation. The new agora will be on a level floor, allowing everyone to gather in it, staying true to Windsor Law's commitment to being a people-centred and inclusive law school. The walls of the room above the agora will be removed as well, creating a clinical and experiential learning zone, a multi-floor experience where students and faculty can see other parts of school activity, creating a sense of being in a hive of activity rather than a place where things only happen in enclosed rooms, though there will still be some of those. With further wall punctures, even more light will penetrate the agora than does now, turning it into the bright centre of the school.

This transformation will make an old building feel brand new again while retaining enough of its original style and gravitas to remind everyone that Windsor Law has been around for a half-century and is ready for what comes next. ■

FACULTY RESEARCH IN ACTION THIS FALL

COMMERCIAL LAW SYMPOSIUM



Windsor Law professors **Shanthi Senthe** and **Muharem Kianieff** co-convoked the fourth annual Commercial Law Symposium in Windsor on Oct. 18 and 19. The symposium took place at the Art Gallery of Windsor and featured presentations and discussions with leading commercial lawyers from across North America.

The Windsor Law professors brought a new cross-border perspective to the program this year.

"This is an important moment for Windsor Law as this is the first time this national conference is being held in Ontario," says Professor Senthe, an expert in the areas of business associations, secured transactions, and sports law. "This conference serves as an opportunity to highlight contemporary issues in commercial law."

Professor Kianieff, a fintech and banking law expert, adds: "We were delighted to welcome a number of distinguished scholars from around the world to discuss emerging issues in commercial law. The event emphasized cross-border issues which is particularly timely given our geographic location at the heart of North American trade and commerce."

In addition to the keynote presentations, the event held five panel discussions featuring 20 expert contributors, and a private outing to the Detroit Institute of Arts. ■

CANADA & SAUDI ARABIA: LEGAL FRAMEWORKS AND POLICY OPTIONS



On Thursday, September 19, Windsor Law Professor **Reem Bahdi**, Dean **Christopher Waters**, and the Transnational Law and Justice Network hosted a panel discussion about Canada and Saudi Arabia. The goal was to identify

the legal regimes and policy options available to Canadians as they navigate an increasingly complicated relationship with Saudi Arabia.

"Saudi Arabia's human rights record is abysmal. Its involvement in Yemen has received sharp international criticism," says Bahdi. "Saudi Arabia is accused of a range of wrongs, from suppressing women's rights to abusing migrant workers, and torturing human rights activists. Our panel explored how and why Canada should respond to such realities."

Panellists included **Peggy Mason**, former Canadian ambassador for disarmament to the United Nations and president of the Rideau Institute; and **Jackie Hansen**, Amnesty International Canada's gender rights campaigner. Dean Christopher Waters served as the session's moderator.

The event took place after a September 17 press conference on Parliament Hill drawing attention to the latest report of the UN Expert Panel on Yemen, which documents and denounces continuing war crimes by all sides of the conflict. ■

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR LEGAL ETHICS



On October 25 and 26, Windsor Law hosted jurists for discussion of issues relevant to the ethical provision of legal services and the proper regulation of the profession during the

annual Canadian Association for Legal Ethics Conference.

Windsor Law professor **Jasminka Kalajdzic** says the topic is critical for a self-regulated profession.

"It is important that we—whether we are in private practice, in government agencies, or academics—regularly discuss and learn about ethics," she says.

"It is one way to reassure the public that we take seriously our duty to act with integrity."

This is the first time Windsor has hosted the conference, which featured three research panels, a teaching panel, and a panel on regulatory issues, well as the keynote address:

"Prosecutorial Independence during the Trump Administration" by professor **Rebecca Roiphe** of New York Law School. ■

MEDIA & SPACE SYMPOSIUM



On October 25, a day-long conference, co-organized by professor **Pascale Chapdelaine**, reflected on the challenges posed by the regulation of digital media platforms as spaces that undermine clear

distinctions between public and private.

“Media & Space: The Regulation of Digital Platforms, New Media & Technologies” brought together scholars from disparate disciplines, including but not limited to law, communication, media, the arts, geography, and political science.

The program ran in the Multimedia Studio in the Alan Wildeman Centre for Creative Arts, followed by a reception where artist **Alex McKay** presented Treaty Canoe, his performance/sculpture/installation piece that incorporates treaties penned onto handmade linen paper. ■

TWAIL REVIEW



Windsor Law professor **Sujith Xavier** is part of a team of scholars launching a new journal concerned with issues in international law related to the “Global South” in its broad conception.

Professor Xavier serves on the editorial collective of the Third World Approaches to International Law Review. Its inaugural issue is slated for publication in spring 2020, but it will post content on its website year-round:

- shorter reflective essays on intellectual currents and current affairs;
- interviews with scholars and practitioners; and
- pieces in non-traditional forms, such as fiction and art.

Dr. Xavier notes some of the content already online, including pieces on refugees, labour and migration, Islamophobia, the environment, and an introduction to a project to rethink legal education in Latin America.

Learn more at twailr.com. ■

MYRA TAWFIK RESEARCHER OF THE YEAR AWARD



Windsor Law professor **Myra Tawfik** was named Tech Researcher of the Year at an awards reception October 26, organized by the WEtech Alliance. Professor Tawfik, has led a number of

projects designed to provide start-ups and innovators with access to legal services to protect their inventions.

“Professor Tawfik is a nationally recognized leader in intellectual property law and intellectual property strategy. It is great to see her leadership and research heralded by our local tech community as well,” says Dean **Christopher Waters**.

Yvonne Pilon, president of the WEtech Alliance, says the awards recognize work by leaders in Windsor-Essex and Chatham-Kent.

“We’re incredibly proud of all that has been accomplished and are honoured to celebrate the individuals and companies who are helping make the region a global hub for technology and innovation,” she says. The third annual YQG Tech Awards drew on a panel of judges as well as more than 5,000 votes by members of the public. ■



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EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS AT WINDSOR LAW

INDIGENOUS LEGAL ORDERS INSTITUTE



From left to right: Dean Christopher Waters, Professor Valarie Waboose, Research Assistant Lyann Ordenes, Indigenous Legal Studies Coordinator Michelle Nahdee, Research Assistant Meghan Chant, Professor Beverly Jacobs, and Chief Miskokomon (Walpole Island First Nation)

On Friday, November 1st, 2019 Windsor Law launched the Indigenous Legal Orders Institute. The institute aims to promote and assist Indigenous peoples with the revitalization and dissemination of their respective Indigenous legal orders through relationship building, collaboration, and re-development using Indigenous and other creative research methods.

The institute is directed by professor **Valarie Waboose**; team members include professors **Beverly Jacobs** and **Sylvia McAdam**, Indigenous legal studies co-ordinator **Michelle Nahdee**, and student research assistants **Meghan Chant** and **Lyann Ordenes**. The institute's logo, designed by Mohawk artist **Patrick Sandy**, is representative of the medicine wheel, the Two Row Wampum, Turtle Island, and the water.

"The Indigenous Legal Orders Institute began as a long-term goal of the Indigenous faculty at Windsor Law. November 1, 2019 marks the realisation of this vision," says institute director and law professor **Valarie Waboose**. "When the TRC of Canada released its Final Report in 2015 the law school formed a TRC Steering Committee to implement the Calls to Action that were directed at law schools and the legal profession. The Institute will broaden its focus and begin building relationships with First Nation communities in the surrounding area by assisting them, upon request, to research and re-develop the laws that existed in their respective communities before colonization. By supporting the growth of First Nations we see this as a small step towards reconciling relationships and movement forward."

"Windsor Law has strived to respond meaningfully to the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in recent years," says Dean **Christopher Waters**. "Among other things, we have placed Indigenous Legal Orders at the heart of what we do in our first-year program and we have instituted an elder-in-residence program. Under the leadership of Dr. Waboose, the ILOI will take our programming to the next level. It will showcase the incredible research and teaching going on in the Faculty, the University and in our partner First Nations."

The launch event began in the Ron W. Ianni Faculty of Law Building's Moot Court with a film screening of *Nipawistamâsowin: We Will Stand Up*, **Tasha Hubbard's** film about **Colten Bushie** and his family's pursuit of justice. A guest lecture featuring **Elanore Sunchild**, a Cree lawyer from Thunderchild First Nation, and **Jade Tootoosis**, cousin of the late Colten Boushie, directly followed the screening. The afternoon concluded with a reception. ■

LAWSUITS: BUSINESS ATTIRE CLOTHING POP-UP



In October, the Fashion Law Society partnered with the Student Services Office to offer Windsor Law's first LawSuits: Business Attire Clothing Pop-Up. The Lower Commons was transformed into a Pop-Up Shop, where all clothing and items were free and suitable for OCI's, articling interviews or just for fun. Clothing items and accessories included suits, separates, ties, belts, shoes and even some casual Friday wear, all generously donated by the local bench, bar and Windsor Law faculty and staff.

When asked why she decided to contribute to the clothing drive, Windsor Law alum **Melanie Gardin '00**, Partner at Velocity Injury Law LLP, said: "First impressions matter! We all know this. For law students heading into interviews that first impression can be crucial. Looking good and feeling confident are half the battle. I chose to donate women and men's business wear to give students one more piece of the puzzle on their professional journey."

The remaining clothing was donated to local non-profit organizations. ■

CITIES & CLIMATE ACTION FORUM



On November 8 professors **Anneke Smit** and **Patrícia Galvão Ferreira** and a team of students from Windsor Law launched a new project to support meaningful municipal climate action across Canada and beyond. The Windsor Law Cities and Climate Action

Forum launch took place at the Capitol Theatre, in partnership with the Windsor International Film Festival (WIFF).

“The Cities and Climate Action Forum is an interactive platform aimed at empowering youth, community builders, and municipal institutions across Canada to collaborate for meaningful climate change responses at the local level,” says Galvão Ferreira. “The forum also contributes to existing global initiatives to support local actors to address the climate challenge, under the Paris Climate Agreement. With cities responsible for 60 per cent or more of global carbon emissions, they have to be part of the solution to the climate crisis.”

The forum is based at Windsor Hall downtown and is part of the new Windsor Law Centre for Cities. Students are at the core of its work. In addition to a grant from the Government of Canada, the forum has received financial support from the University of Windsor’s Research Innovation Fund, Windsor Law, and the School of Creative Arts. It aims to create new spaces for training, research, and public engagement via conferences, workshops, webinars, social media, and open access

resources, with the ultimate goal of building institutional and community capacity to combat climate change at the local level.

“As a community-facing project, we were delighted to partner with WIFF for our official launch,” says Smit.

The launch reception directly followed a screening of *There’s Something in the Water*, a film by actor and director **Ellen Page** and director and producer **Ian Daniel**. The film is based on Dalhousie University professor Ingrid Waldron’s incendiary study. It follows Page as she travels to primarily Indigenous and Black communities of Nova Scotia that are plagued by toxic fallout from industrial development.

Following the film, 22-year-old Indigenous water activist **Makaśa Looking Horse** and film co-director Daniel participated in a short panel discussion on climate change, environmental racism, and the power of local action.

“Indigenous and other marginalized communities are often most affected by climate change and in many cases have been doing work to combat it for a long time with little recognition,” explains Smit. “They must be at the centre of climate action moving forward.”

Additional events for the Cities and Climate Action Forum include co-organizing a national law student research-a-thon on Municipalities and Climate Change on November 18 and conferences in February and March 2020 aimed at providing high school and university students and other community builders the tools to work effectively for local climate action.

The forum can also be followed on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook at [@CityClimateAct](#). ■

CLASS ACTION CLINIC



Windsor Law professor **Jasminka Kalajdzic** wrote the book on class actions. Now she is heading up a law clinic — the first of its kind in North America — dedicated one of the most high-profile and far-reaching legal procedures in the Canadian justice system.

The Class Action Clinic at Windsor Law, launched in October 2019, focuses on class members: people who are part of a large civil lawsuit launched on their behalf by representative plaintiffs and class counsel. With start-up funding from The Law Foundation of Ontario, it is staffed by Kalajdzic as the clinic director overseeing a team of students who will provide summary advice, assistance with filing claims in settlement

distribution processes, and representation in court proceedings.

“The ultimate objective of the clinic is to provide substantive access to justice to class members and in doing so, better fulfill the access to justice promise of the class action regime,” says Kalajdzic. “Class counsel do not have a traditional lawyer-client relationship with class members, as a matter of law and practicality. The Class Action Clinic will provide legal support to this unique group of litigants.”

For more information, visit the clinic website: www.classactionclinic.com ■

EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS AT WINDSOR LAW (CONTINUED)

SPORTS LAW LECTURE SERIES

With at least three Lancer student-athletes attending law school this year, the timing has never been better for Professor **Shanthi Senthe** to make an impact in the area of sports law.

Now in its second year, the stand-alone course addresses regulatory and legal challenges in professional and intercollegiate sports, placing an emphasis on commercial issues.

“The professional sports industry is valued at more than \$73 billion,” says Senthe. “This class uses innovative pedagogical tools and collaborative networks to enhance the learning experience.”

In an effort to share her passion with like-minded law students, Senthe has designed a lecture series as a component of the course curriculum.

“The goal is to create a dynamic learning space for students by hosting guest speakers throughout the year, such as high-profile athletes, lawyers, legal academics, agents, physicians, and journalists from Canada and the United States,” she says.

The Sports Law Lecture Series launched on September 25 with a presentation by Detroit Tigers representatives **Alan Avila**, associate counsel, and **Sam Menzin**, director of baseball operations, at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law.

For a few Windsor Law students, the course is something they can undoubtedly relate to.

First-year student **Chris Osei-Kusi** joined the Lancer football team on the field in September, while first-year **Laura DeMarco** and second-year **Jamie Oleksiew**, both of the Dual JD program, both play for the Lancers women’s golf team this season. ■



From left to right: Alan Avila (Detroit Tigers), Professor Shanthi Senthe, Sam Menzin (Detroit Tigers), Associate Dean Richard Broughton (UDM)

ANISHINAABE LAW CAMP



In addition to learning about Indigenous culture and legal traditions in the classroom, students, faculty and staff are invited to participate in the annual Anishinaabe Law Camp hosted on Walpole Island First Nation. The title this year was *Pii ki giiigidod, N bizendaami: When Earth Speaks, We Listen*.

The camp was held over a four-day period in October and provided the students with an opportunity to learn about and participate in various legal traditions in a hands-on, holistic experience to gain a better understanding of law from Indigenous Teachers, Knowledge Keepers, local Elders and Residential School Survivors.

Throughout the year, Windsor Law students can also participate in Indigenous Moots and join the Shkawbewisag Student Law Society: a student group that organizes activities including Indigenous panels, pow wows, round dances and walk-outs. In November, Windsor Law launched the Indigenous Legal Orders Institute through an Indigenous guest lecture, film screening, and reception. Indigenous scholars are also invited to visit the law school through the Indigenous Scholars Lecture Series, Elder-in-Residence program, conferences, orientation and convocation events. ■