



# JUSTICE AT WORK

Windsor Law's Annual  
Public Interest Career Conference

## Programme

January 19 & 21, 2022



Windsor Law  
University of Windsor



University of Windsor  
Faculty of Law  
Windsor, ON

## SPONSORS

The Justice at Work Conference is brought to you by the Career Services Office of Windsor Law and coordinated by Kathleen “Katie” Behan, our Social Justice Career Coordinator. Additional funding is provided by the Law Foundation of Ontario.



## Justice at Work Student Committee 2021-2022

Michelle Gomes, Co-Head Chair  
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## LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We would like to respectfully acknowledge that the University of Windsor sits on the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations, comprised of the Ojibway, the Odawa, and the Potawatomie.

## WELCOME

The University of Windsor, Faculty of Law is proud to be hosting its fourteenth annual Justice at Work: Public Interest Career Conference. This conference is designed to raise awareness and generate discussion about public interest issues by providing an opportunity for law students to engage with leaders in the public interest arena, and to illustrate pathways for law students to pursue legal careers that advance social justice.

The student body at Windsor Law is composed of many individuals who have demonstrated a strong interest in advancing social justice and public interest issues. We hope this conference will provide students with guidance and inspiration toward fulfilling their career goals.

The Justice at Work Conference was made possible through the collaboration of our sponsors, faculty, administration, staff and student groups. We want to thank our keynote, panelists, and career fair participants for dedicating their time to assist Windsor Law students in their transition into the legal profession.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Behan, *Social Justice Career Coordinator*

Michelle Gomes & Ramesha Javed, *Head Chairs of the Justice at Work Student Committee*

# AGENDA

January 19, 2022

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

PANEL: Law Careers Advancing Racial Justice

- Mariam Moktar (Goldblatt Partners)
- Piera Savage (Black Legal Action Centre)
- Joshua Sealy-Harrington (Power Law & Lincoln Alexander School of Law)

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Chief Commissioner Patricia DeGuire of the Ontario Human Rights Commission

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

PANEL: Social Justice Careers at a Glance

- Amneet Singh Bali (New Democratic Party)
- Aida Pasha (Pasha Law)
- Krystal-Anne Roussel (Canadian Environmental Law Association)
- Leisha Senko (Centre for Addiction and Mental Health)

January 21, 2022

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

CAREER FAIR

- Calgary Legal Guidance
- Canadian Civil Liberties Association
- Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation

- Chinese and Southeast Asian Legal Clinic
- Community Legal Aid
- Community Law School (Sarnia-Lambton) Inc.
- Edward H. Royle & Partners
- Legal Assistance of Windsor
- Windsor Law's LLM Program

## KEYNOTE: Chief Commissioner Patricia DeGuire



Patricia DeGuire is a Woman-of-colour who pushes boundaries to ensure access to justice, equality and equity. She has a passion for the rule of law, and a commitment to public service, mentoring, coaching and legal education.

A member of the Ontario bar since February 1993, she is a professional adjudicator/arbitrator/mediator/coach, and was a Deputy Judge with the Ontario Superior Court of Justice – SCC Division. For over 25 years, she has served on provincial and federal tribunals, including Vice-Chair at the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario, the Immigration Appeal Division/IRB, and the OLRB/Pay Equity Hearings Tribunal. She has also held senior leadership roles with JusticeNet, Legal Aid Ontario, the Ontario and Canadian Bar Associations, and the WLAO. Patricia was a member of the CABL, OBA, LSUC and WLAO mentorship programs and is an avid mentor and coach for many youths and adults in the legal and other professions. She is a constitutional law scholar; holds a Fellow of Chartered Insurance Professionals of Canada – Claims Major; and is co-author and co-editor of the first Canadian Insurance Dictionary.

Patricia served in leading roles with Black North Initiative and is a founder of the Canadian Association of Black Lawyers and the Black Law Student Association Canada. She also was a frequent lecturer at the Organization of Commonwealth Caribbean Bars Association International

Law Forum, and with the Faculty of Society of Ontario Adjudicators and Regulators. She is the founder of the Forum for Education for At-Risk Youths, and speaks often to students at all levels of schools. Patricia's many career honours include the BLSA-C 2021 Impact Award, Canadian Bar Association 2020 Touchstone Award, CBA Rare-Find in April 2012, and the OBA's Distinguished Service Award in 2020. She also received Legal Aid Ontario's 2007 GEM Award for outstanding public service for providing access to justice access for low-income individuals and communities, the 2006 Law Society of Upper Canada Lincoln Alexander Award, and the BLSAC named the cup for the Julius Alexander Diversity Moot in her honour – the Patricia DeGuire Diversity Moot Cup.

Appointment: August 19, 2021 – August 18, 2023

## PANEL: Law Careers Advancing Racial Justice

### MARIAM MOKTAR



Mariam Mokhtar is currently a civil litigator at Goldblatt Partners. Her practice includes employment law, human rights law, professional liability and regulation, public interest litigation, civil litigation, and class actions. She has assisted a breadth of clients from various backgrounds and appeared at all levels of court in Ontario, the Federal Court as well as various administrative boards and tribunals.

Prior to joining the firm, Mariam honed her litigation skills at one of Canada's top litigation boutiques in Toronto. She also clerked for various judges of the Superior Court of Justice in the Central West Region, and served judges of the Divisional Court. Mariam has been recognized by her peers for her work and contributions. In 2018, she received a Precedent Setter Award for showing excellence and leadership in her practice and in the community. That same year, Mariam received the Windsor Law "Emerging Leader in Law" award for her accomplishments and contributions. Prior to that, Mariam was named "Nation's Best Advocates: 40 Lawyers Under 40" by the National Bar Association.

When Mariam is not dedicating her time to her work, she is using it to volunteer. She co-founded the Canadian Association of Somali Lawyers ("CASL"), a national organization working to promote equity, justice, and access

to legal services. She is currently the Vice-Chair of the [Ontario Bar Association Equality Committee](#) and sits on the Canadian Bar Association Equality Liaison Group, the Roundtable of Diversity Associations (“RODA”), and the Canadian Muslim Lawyers Association’s Legal Advocacy Committee.

During her personal time, Mariam enjoys extreme sports in faraway places. She’s been skydiving in Namibia and bungee jumping in Nepal and Zimbabwe. Locally, she can be seen jogging or biking around the waterfront.

## **PIERA SAVAGE**



Piera Savage is a staff lawyer at Black Legal Action Centre (BLAC). Piera is committed to working towards racial equity by advocating for clients and breaking down systemic barriers to equality. She began working in the clinic system prior to her call to the bar in 2016, starting at Parkdale Community Legal Services in the Social Assistance Violence and Health division, and then expanding her practice to housing, immigration and employment law as an articling student. Piera then worked at West Scarborough Community Legal Services for four years with a focus on Housing, Social Assistance, and Immigration law.

At BLAC, Piera continues her work by representing individuals at the Landlord and Tenant Board, Human Rights Tribunal, and Social Benefits Tribunal. She approaches her work from an anti-racist, anti-oppressive, and trauma-informed lens.

Piera is a graduate of Concordia University and Osgoode Hall Law School. Outside of work, Piera loves to sing, cook, and write.

## **JOSHUA SEALY-HARRINGTON**



Joshua Sealy-Harrington is a passionate teacher, scholar, and advocate. As an [Assistant Professor](#) at the Lincoln Alexander School of Law at X University, Professor Sealy-Harrington teaches about legal theory and social change. He is the faculty liaison for the Black

Law Students' Association and the annual moot problem drafter for the Julius Alexander Isaac Moot, Canada's critical race theory mooted competition. He received an excellence in teaching award from the University of Ottawa, where he previously taught "Race, Racism and the Law". As a [doctoral candidate](#) at Columbia Law School, Professor Sealy-Harrington draws on critical race theory to explore the ways in which law mediates social hierarchy, with a particular focus on the promise and limitations of "identity" rhetoric in legal discourse and advocacy concerning race, gender, sexuality, disability, and class. And as a [lawyer](#) at Power Law, Professor Sealy-Harrington strategically mobilizes criminal and constitutional law to advance the interests of marginalized communities. He has litigation experience before all levels of court, including as lead counsel before the Supreme Court of Canada. And a majority of his practice involves pro and low bono work for non-profit organizations promoting human rights and social justice, both in Canada and abroad.

Professor Sealy-Harrington's writing has been published in various law journals, *The Globe and Mail*, *Newsweek*, and *The Walrus*. And his legal scholarship has been cited by various tribunals, including the Federal Court, the Federal Court of Appeal, and the Supreme Court of Canada, where he clerked for two years. He is also a frequent media commentator, whose analysis has been featured on *CBC News* and *CTV News*. And he often presents to government, academic, and private institutions on critical race theory and racial justice, including the Department of Justice, the National Judicial Institute, the Ministry of the Attorney General, the Criminal Lawyers' Association, and The Advocates' Society. He is most passionate, though, about speaking with equity-seeking groups, including the Black Law Students Association of Canada, the Indigenous Bar Association, the Federation of Asian Canadian Lawyers, and the Canadian Hispanic Bar Association.

## PANEL: Social Justice Careers at a Glance

### AMNEET SINGH BALI



Amneet Singh Bali is a legal researcher, community activist and political strategist. He has earned his reputation challenging impunity for Indian state actors involved in the 1984 Sikh Genocide. He holds a BA Honours Specialization in Social Justice and Peace Studies from Western University, an MA in Conflict Studies from the University of Ottawa, a JD from the University of Windsor's Faculty of Law, where he also served as a Social Justice Fellow in Global Governance and Democracy, and an LLM at Western University's Faculty of Law.

As an articling student, Amneet was mentored by Alisa Lombard who is the lead counsel on a proposed class action pertaining to the forced sterilization of Indigenous women.

Currently, Amneet is working as the Digital Director for Jagmeet Singh and Canada's NDP. In the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, he is featured as a distinguished activist for his advocacy on the 1984 Sikh Genocide and reconciliation in the Sikh Diaspora. He has a passion for bringing power to those in our society who are underprivileged, underrepresented or marginalized, and does so through his copious amounts of professional experience in both legal and political practices.

## **AIDA PASHA**



Aida Pasha began her legal journey at the University of Windsor in 2006. While obtaining her law degree, Aida was actively involved at the Mediation Clinic where she supervised clinic students and acted as lead mediator. After being called to the bar in 2010, Aida worked in personal injury law and as a general litigation practitioner before finding her niche as an advocate working with clients in alternate dispute resolution.

Since 2013, Aida has been the principal barrister at Pasha Law where she provides services in the areas of family and child protection law, and real estate law. Aida is a skilled litigator and legal writer and has been renowned by her colleagues and clients for her empathy and collaborative advocacy.

## **KRYSTAL-ANNE ROUSSEL**



Krystal-Anne Roussel is the Water Policy Coordinator for the Healthy Great Lakes program at the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA). Prior to this, Krystal was CELA's articling student for 2020-2021 and part-time counsel until November 2021.

Krystal-Anne has a Bachelor of Arts from St. Thomas University and received her JD from the University of Ottawa, Faculty of Law in June 2020. While completing her studies, Krystal-Anne took part in the uOttawa-Ecojustice

Environmental Law Clinic and pursued her research interests in environmental law, animal law, and Indigenous laws and legal traditions.

Prior to joining CELA, she worked as a legal intern with East Coast Environmental Law, Animal Justice and the Wolastoqey Nation in New Brunswick.

## **LEISHA SENKO**



From 2009-2013 Leisha Senko attended Laurier Brantford University (in her hometown) where she received an undergraduate degree in journalism. She worked for various local publications including the Sputnik, the Expositor, the Advocate and the Blueprint. She wrote about homelessness, addiction, gentrification, and mental health. From 2013-2017 she attended Osgoode Hall Law School where she became interested in Criminal Law. In 2018 she articulated in the Barrie Crown Attorney's Office and worked in the same office until 2019 where she predominately prosecuted sexual assault, child sexual assault, and domestic violence trials. From 2019 onward she has worked at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. Her work consists of litigating before the Ontario Review Board, representing the hospital at the Court of Appeal, and teaching.

## Career Networking and Information Session: Participating Organizations

While some organizations hire for summer and articling, or take on volunteer Social Justice Fellows, all participating organizations can offer helpful insights into your public interest and social justice career options. We encourage you to talk to any employer that interests you, even if there are no current opportunities to get involved. Networking with lawyers whose work interests you is always a good idea. Please find descriptions for each of these organizations below:

- Calgary Legal Guidance
- Canadian Civil Liberties Association
- Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation
- Chinese and Southeast Asian Legal Clinic
- Community Legal Aid
- Community Law School (Sarnia-Lambton) Inc.
- Edward H. Royle & Partners
- Legal Assistance of Windsor
- Windsor Law's LLM Program

### **Calgary Legal Guidance**

Calgary Legal Guidance (CLG) is non-profit legal clinic helping provide legal assistance, information, and support to vulnerable and marginalized people in Calgary, Alberta, and area. In 1970, a handful of students-at-law attending the University of Alberta recognized the need for free legal services for low-income people and began a project to extend access to justice. By 1972, Calgary Community Legal Services (as it once was named) hired the first full time employee and had 35 volunteer lawyers. In that year, over 800 legal matters were handled. In 1977, Calgary Community Legal Services changed to CLG, but the mandate to provide equal access to justice to financially disadvantaged Calgarians has remained constant to this day.

*Opportunities to get involved:* CLG hires summer students, usually posting the position in February. CLG also hires articling students each year. You can usually expect to see their posting during your 2L summer. CLG has also offered an articling student position as part of their sahwoo mohkaak tsi ma taas program (Blackfoot for: “Before Being Judged”), working with the program lawyer and Indigenous liaison to promote Indigenous access to justice.

## **Canadian Civil Liberties Association**

The Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA) fights for the civil liberties, human rights, and democratic freedoms of all people across Canada. Founded in 1964, we are an independent, national, nongovernmental organization, working in the courts, before legislative committees, in the classrooms, and in the streets, protecting the dignity and rights of people in Canada.

*Opportunities to get involved:* CCLA takes on summer legal volunteers. CCLA’s ability to take articling students is funding-dependent and can vary from year to year. See <https://ccla.org/calling-all-activists/>.

## **Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation**

The Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation (CERA) is one of Canada’s oldest not-for-profit charities working to advance the right to adequate housing. Founded in 1987 by a small group of Ontarians who were deeply concerned about discrimination in housing, CERA has worked tirelessly for over thirty years at the intersection of human rights and housing and is one of Canada’s leading NGOs working in the area of social and economic rights. CERA works to advance the right to adequate housing by: serving renters to help them stay housed, providing education and training about housing rights, as well as advancing rights based housing policy.

*Opportunities to get involved:* CERA often hires summer and articling students, and is currently seeking volunteers. Watch for postings on Symplicity.

### **Chinese and Southeast Asian Legal Clinic**

The Chinese and Southeast Asian Legal Clinic (CSALC) is a community based legal clinic, which provides free legal services to low income, non-English speaking clients from the Chinese, Vietnamese, Laotian and Cambodian communities in Ontario. CSALC provides legal advice and referrals primarily in the areas of: immigration, tenant's rights, employment standards, human rights, employment insurance, Canada Pension Plan, old age security and social assistance (Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program).

In addition to providing direct legal services, CSALC empowers the communities they serve through public legal education. Advocating for law reform is another priority of CSALC. The Clinic has been involved in test case litigation, organizing grassroots campaigns, and making numerous submissions to all levels of government and to international human rights bodies to advance the rights of their clients and the broader communities of disadvantaged groups.

*Opportunities to get involved:* CSALC often hires for articling. Watch Symplicity for a job posting during your 2L summer.

### **Community Law School**

The Community Law School (Sarnia-Lambton) Inc. (CLSSL), a Registered Charitable Organization, was envisioned by a small group of persons interested and active in the public legal education mandate of the community legal clinic system. With limited resources and burgeoning caseloads, the ability of clinic staff to fulfill that mandate is often limited and unable to meet the broad community need. The goal is to provide frontline workers and local volunteers with up-to-date and reliable information about

legal issues most often encountered by their clients, so that they can help bridge the gap in available legal education, intervention options, and resources in the community. We also help people to better understand and navigate a wide variety of social service and assistance programs so that they can locate more comprehensive information and services with regards to the law.

## **Community Legal Aid Windsor**

Community Legal Aid (CLA) provides competent and professional legal services including summary legal advice, full legal representation, and community legal education. CLA offers legal services to low income and vulnerable people to avoid, prepare for and overcome poverty law problems, achieved through a combination of community development and action.

*Opportunities to get involved:* CLA offers several volunteer, credit and paid placements for law students wishing to gain practical legal skills and serve the community. Under the supervision of Review Counsel, law students take carriage of files from initial intake to the resolution of the matter. Articling students also work closely with the Review Counsel and gain an invaluable and comprehensive articling experience. See <https://www.communitylegalaidwindsor.com/opportunities>.

## **Edward H. Royle & Partners**

Edward H. Royle & Partners LLP is a Toronto based law firm that focuses exclusively on criminal trials and appeals. Founded by senior practitioner, Edward (“Ted”) H. Royle, a lawyer with over 30 years of experience, the members of the criminal defence firm have appeared at all levels of criminal court in Canada, including the Ontario Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada. Edward H. Royle & Partners LLP is dedicated to vigorously defend the rights and interests of clients at trial or on appeal. The firm boasts a diverse team of criminal defence lawyers and articling students who offer services in multiple languages such as Spanish, French, and Arabic.

*Opportunities to get involved:* Edward H. Royle & Partners typically hired two articling students per year. You can usually expect to see their posting during your 2L summer.

### **Legal Assistance of Windsor (LAW)**

Legal Assistance of Windsor (LAW) was founded in 1974 as a clinical learning project of the University of Windsor, Faculty of Law. its goal was to provide an environment in which students could experience issues relating to access to justice in the context of a “storefront clinic” in downtown Windsor by examining the law and legal profession in context, while helping to provide legal services to those who were unable to pay a private lawyer and were unable to obtain a legal aid certification.

*Opportunities to get involved:* LAW is hires summer students. Following completion of their employment, summer students spend an academic term at the Clinic. Students may also spend an academic term at the Clinic independently of summer employment.

### **Windsor Law’s LLM Program**

Windsor Law’s Master of Laws (LLM) program has two distinctly unique characteristics. First, an emphasis on rigorous scholarship centred on our institutional themes of Access to Justice and Transnational Law. Second, an innovative experiential learning component that allows students in the LLM with Certificate in University Teaching and Learning stream to complete a certificate in university teaching, and to engage in law teaching during the course of their study. The Windsor Law LLM Program is happy to accept applications until March 15. See <https://www.uwindsor.ca/law/583/apply-graduate-llm-program>.

**Thank you to all our participants!**