

# OPENING REMARKS - PREFACE

*Welcome to the University of Windsor, Faculty of Law.*

In his famous essay, "Violence and the Word", the legal philosopher Robert Cover wrote that "legal interpretation takes place in the field of pain and death." Cover's comments point to the difficult but indispensable role that lawyers play in our society. Part of our role is to help resolve difficult and often painful disputes - be they public or private in nature.

The comedian, Jerry Seinfeld, described lawyers as the people within the community who have read the instructions. As it turns out, the instructions can change. What's more, there are instructions about reading and using the instructions. You never know all the rules. Mercifully lawyers do not need to.

Because we help bring the force of the law to bear on people's lives, we are expected to act ethically and to further the rule of law. As you proceed through law school and your legal career, you will no doubt face scenarios that will challenge your sense of justice and present you with ethical dilemmas. At Windsor Law, we hope to give you some of the tools and foundational skills you will need to navigate your way through the "life of law" and the 'law of life' in all its dimensions.

One learns valuable lessons in Kindergarten. "Tell the truth - Wash your hands - Play nice" can serve one well over the years. The ethical crises that lawyers are exposed to go far beyond the temptation to steal clients' trust funds. The theme of Academic Orientation is once again "Professionalism". This program will start you on the road to thinking and talking about these moral dilemmas.

The academic part of your first year orientation will consist of 3 sets of introductions:

1. an introduction to the programs and opportunities as well as the administrative, teaching and support staff that make Windsor Law unique;
2. an introduction to the standards of ethics and professionalism that are expected of you as students and that will be expected of you as lawyers;
3. an introduction to the basics of the Canadian legal system as well as to the analysis of statutes and cases.

We know that each of you has a distinctive reason for choosing to spend the next 3 years at Windsor Law. Some of you have family or friends who graduated from our Faculty and chose to be here because of their glowing recommendations. Others want the opportunity to graduate with a joint degree. We hope that all of you are committed to our Access to

Justice theme.

Whatever your reasons, we are pleased that you have chosen to spend the next three years studying law with us. We speak on behalf of the faculty and staff when we say that we are dedicated to doing what we can to make this a meaningful and memorable learning experience. We are confident that the relationships that you develop at Windsor Law will be some of the most enduring and important relationships you will have throughout your life. It all begins now!

We aim to make this week both enjoyable and educational. **Please note that attendance at all Academic Orientation sessions is mandatory.** In many cases, the material covered in these sessions will be necessary, and in fact, examinable, in your course work.

**We expect that you will have read these materials in advance of your attendance on Tuesday, September 4, 2012. You will require access to them during the all Academic Orientation sessions.**

Bonne Chance!

*2012 Orientation Committee*