BIENNIAL RESEARCH REPORT

Common Law Section

PREPARED BY:
Research Office
Faculty of Law
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We are pleased to bring you the 2018-2020 Common Law Biennial Research Report – a report that has been produced under conditions unlike any previous such effort. The following pages offer a glimpse of research activities and achievements at the Common Law Section covering the last two fiscal years, or more precisely, the period from April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2020. In a few cases, we’ve dipped outside of that timeline to tell a more complete story or to give an essential update.

The review process has made two things abundantly clear. First, within this Faculty, looking back is always an eye-opening and invigorating experience. The sheer amount of research-related activity undertaken and achieved by our researchers is staggering. This is true of any two-year period, but looking back from 2020, a year where knowledge has often been our only defence against chaos, one gains an even greater appreciation for the impressive amount our researchers contribute to the world.

Second, the study of law is truly the study of all things. Scanning the thematic pages of this report shows that there are very few aspects of our lives that aren’t in some way touched by law – and studied relentlessly by our researchers. Never has this been more evident than in 2020, where our researchers repeatedly brought their expertise to the frontlines of the fight against COVID-19. We saw that the pandemic had far-reaching effects, often on things we would never have considered, and we were glad that we had people ready to mobilize their knowledge in service of helping us through the crisis.

We hope you enjoy the pages that follow!

Message from the Vice-Dean

This research report shows the remarkable depth and breadth of expertise at the Faculty of Law’s Common Law Section. As a research intensive institution, we have continued to build on our many strengths as national and global leaders in a very broad range of areas of law. Over the period covered in this report (April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2020), we welcomed eight new colleagues, while deepening or adding expertise in areas such as administrative law, business and human rights, corporate malfeasance, fertility law, internet law, private law theory, public interest advocacy, taxation, and trans legal issues, among others. This incredible range of research expertise meant that when the global pandemic hit, Common Law scholars were poised to initiate and contribute to ground-breaking research projects and public debate on COVID-19.

During this period Faculty members continued to attract significant amounts research funding situating us among the top law schools in Canada for tri-council grant income. We established the Public Law Centre and added three new university research chairs in Administrative Law and Governance, Technology and Society, and Language Rights, as well as the Samuelson-Glushko Professorship in Internet Law. We have also continued to deepen our research relationships with our Civil Law colleagues with two research centres now being led by co-directors from each Faculty and the second edition of the Autumn School on the Methodology of Research Law.

The scholarship of faculty members and its impact has also continued to be recognized by a large number of awards and honours, appointments to government review and advisory panels, and to non-governmental organizations’ advisory boards. A number of Faculty members also acted as counsel for interveners in landmark cases before Canadian courts.

This period was also a time of great loss for our Faculty. One of our most beloved and respected colleagues, Professor Ian Kerr passed away in August of 2019. He was not only a visionary and giant in his field, but a generous and supportive colleague, a passionate teacher and a dedicated mentor of colleagues and students alike. We will continue to remember him with enormous affection and admiration and to mourn his untimely parting.
IN MEMORIAM

Remembering Professor Ian Kerr

Dr. Ian Kerr passed away on August 27, 2019 from complications arising from cancer. His death left an enormous hole at the heart of our law school community, but his inexhaustible passion and unwavering vision continue to inspire us daily.

Ian joined the Common Law Section in 2000 and was appointed as the Canada Research Chair in Ethics, Law and Technology in 2001. In selecting this title for his Chair, Ian demonstrated vision and leadership, identifying the importance of researching the ethical implications of technology before it emerged as a leading societal issue.

Ian's work was always at the very cutting edge of law and technology, assessing the implications of artificial intelligence and algorithms, highlighting the digital threats to privacy and security, and examining the effects of digital rights management, and human enhancing technologies. More than 15 years before the subject matter became recognized as a distinct field of legal study, Ian emphasized that e-commerce and the broader technology law field would need to accommodate novel scenarios generated by AI and robotics. In 2016, he published Robot Law with colleagues Ryan Calo and A. Michael Froomkin, providing a field-defining examination of robotics and AI law and policy. This research, combined with his early peer-reviewed work not only paved the way for a new field of legal study, but laid the foundations upon which many of today's law and policy considerations in the field are based.

Ian’s devotion to his students was legendary. He once wrote that “[t]he most enjoyable and easily the most rewarding aspect of my job is working with highly talented students.” For many students, the most rewarding part of their law school experience was the opportunity to be part of Ian Kerr's research teams. Working with Ian was not simply a project or a job or even a law school experience, it became a lifelong connection to Ian and other members of his team. Ian took enormous pride in continuing to mentor his former students who became his friends and colleagues.

The tremendous impact Ian Kerr has had on the lives of so many will live on for decades to come.
Wake-up call
Leading experts publish book on the vulnerabilities exposed by COVID-19

Common Law Professors Colleen Flood – one of Canada’s leading scholars on health care law and policy – and Vanessa MacDonnell – one of the nation’s top constitutional law experts – wasted little time in putting their crucial perspectives on COVID-19 into a concrete and shareable open access form. Together with Sophie Thériault of the Civil Law Section, Sridhar Venkatapuram of King’s College London and Jane Philpott of Queen’s University, they published Vulnerable: The Law, Policy & Ethics of COVID-19 in July 2020, one of the earliest scholarly publications on the pandemic.

Over the course of 43 short chapters grouped into six sections (federalism, accountability, civil liberties, equity, labour, and global health), the book confronts the vulnerabilities and interconnectedness exposed by the pandemic, along with our legal and policy responses. The variety of perspectives examine the vulnerabilities of people harmed by the virus directly as well as those harmed by measures taken to slow its spread. Assembling 69 authors from across Canada and beyond, the book shows how the pandemic has exposed the frailty of our institutions, governance and legal structures, as well as susceptibilities at the global level, where persistent injustices often come to harm us all.

The book concludes with the hope that the experience of dealing with COVID-19 will prompt us to deeply reflect on how we govern, and to plan our recovery and future preparedness with public health, economic security, and social equity as equal concerns.
Knowledge is power: Researchers share their expertise to guide us through the pandemic

While the challenges of adjusting to a new socially-distanced reality began setting in in March of 2020, researchers from the Faculty of Law immediately mobilized their expertise and experience to work through a broad range of media commentary efforts, offering valuable insights and perspectives on COVID-19 and its effects on our lives.

Experts on Canadian rights and freedoms quickly became a crucial source of information and caution on rapid response initiatives. Professors Teresa Scassa and Michael Geist, for example, became constant sources of insight into government efforts to collect and trace data to track the pandemic. Professors Colleen Flood and Martha Jackman commented on the government’s ability to impose restrictions on civil liberties. And Professors Errol Mendes, Carissima Mathen, Y.Y. Chen and Jamie Liew weighed in on the constitutionality of travel restrictions.

Other Canadian government responses and initiatives were scrutinized by Professors François Larocque, Amir Attaran, Yves LeBouthillier, Delphine Nakache, Paul Daly, and Stewart Elgie, who offered valuable observations and explanations on topics ranging from exposed shortcomings in Canada’s language rights laws to how to stimulate green economic recovery post-pandemic.

Still other Faculty experts looked at the pandemic from an international perspective. Professor Chidi Oguamanam, for example, examined Africa’s experience with COVID-19, the lessons to be learned from the continent’s struggles with the Ebola virus, and the legendary resilience of its overburdened peoples.

Finally, as Canadians eventually learned to cope with new restrictions and adjusted forms of social behavior, researchers offered their unique law-based approach to the new conditions. Professor Ravi Malhotra, for example, cautioned that persons with disabilities were at risk of being overlooked as businesses and services reopened amid challenging circumstances, while Professor Joseph Magnet advocated for safe ways to re-open schools as September loomed in the waning days of summer.

The Common Law Section thanks all researchers who put their knowledge to work to guide Canadians through this difficult period.

How do we respond? How do we move on? Faculty researchers lead the way

As 2020 progressed, initiatives were quickly set-up to assemble the best minds for dealing with the trickiest problems. Below are just a few of the exceptional leaders that stepped up.

The Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR) established an Expert Advisory Group on Society, Technology and Ethics in a Pandemic (STEP) in the spring of 2020. Professor Michael Geist was invited to join this group to assist in providing advice on the technical, social, legal, and ethical considerations for deploying novel technologies in response to COVID-19.

Professor Suzanne Bouclin joined an interdisciplinary team of researchers, led by Professor Joe Hermer of the University of Toronto, to examine the role of police in relation to homeless people during the pandemic, studying how the traditional crime control approach to homelessness could be modified to an approach that is more widely integrated into a public health response.

Professor Bouclin is also part of an interdisciplinary research team that is examining how COVID-19 has impacted Ottawa’s most marginalized communities. The team is comprised of researchers that have built trust with these communities over the last 10 years through community-based participatory action research.

Professor Colleen Flood joined the C.D. Howe Institute Crisis Working Group on Public Health and Emergency Measures, which early on in the pandemic addressed the need for guidance for health care institutions on directing limited supplies and their reuse.

Professor Flood was also appointed to the Royal Society of Canada’s Task Force on COVID-19, with a mandate to provide informed responses to major societal challenges in the response to and recovery from COVID-19.

Professor Heather McLeod-Kilmurray joined a multi-institutional task force dedicated to reducing inequality and advancing environmental stewardship in a post-pandemic society. The Building Back Better: Post COVID-19 Task Force was established by the Canadian Commission for UNESCO (CCUNESCO) to provide specific policy considerations on the topics of green infrastructure, regenerative food systems, and the restoration of ecosystems and biodiversity.
In an era of water scarcity and resource disputes, it is imperative that obligations and responsibilities relating to lands and waters are fully understood. In Ontario, relationships between the Crown and Indigenous Nations regarding lands and waters are tenuous. Professor Aimée Craft’s research explores the changing legal landscape of Indigenous water governance and challenges the ways in which governments address and relate to water.

Indigenous people in Ontario are disproportionally affected by water insecurity yet continue to have a sacred relationship with water that is recognized as a right in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). Professor Craft’s research will assist Indigenous and non-Indigenous governments and decision-makers in navigating their relationships with lands and waters, and amongst each other. It will allow science and policy to speak to shared priorities and Indigenous values, working together towards a healthier environment, safe drinking water for all residents of Ontario – including in First Nations communities – and more certainty about water use within the province.

Professor Craft received an Early Researcher Award (ERA) from the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade to further study and advance these relationships. In 2019, she earned a SSHRC Partnership Engage grant for a collaborative project that engages Indigenous communities on important issues of water stewardship entitled “Nibi (Water) Declaration – Grand Council Treaty #3 Regional Engagement Sessions”. More recently she earned a grant from the New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF) for a project entitled “Sacred Responsibilities to Water: Indigenous Knowledge Exchange (Canada-Colombia)”, which aims to bring together Canada and Colombia as nations that have intimate relationships with water. Historically thought of as a resource, these projects aim to contribute to the recognition of water as a legal entity with rights and obligations.

Generous donation supports Common Law’s Indigenous learners

Indigenous learners in the Common Law Section will have access to $1 M in scholarships, bursaries and emergency funding thanks to the generous support of an anonymous donor. The gift will be used to support Indigenous learners in various ways: most of the funding will be devoted towards three-year entrance scholarships, and some of the funding will be made available as bursaries for upper-year Indigenous learners.

One of the programs that the Faculty of Law created is called the All My Relations Emergency Fund, which takes its name from a common expression in many Indigenous communities. It represents a critical aspect of Indigenous worldview: that we are all interconnected and that we exist in relation to one another. The All My Relations Emergency Fund will provide emergency access to financial support for Indigenous learners in crisis.

The impact this will have on the Indigenous community of Fauteux Hall, on the whole, cannot be overstated”, said Danielle Lussier, Indigenous Learner Advocate and Citizen of the Métis Nation of Manitoba. “Indigenous Peoples face innumerable barriers to education at all levels, and the ability to offer entrance scholarships and sustained funding for upper year J.D. candidates will afford individual learners the opportunity to access legal education that would not otherwise be possible.”
New Initiatives

In 2019, Professor Angela Cameron and her colleagues received a SSHRC Connection Grant, funding an interdisciplinary, Indigenous-led symposium entitled “Indigenous Administrative Law: Mobilizing Anishnaabeg Law for Reconciliation”. The goal of the Symposium was to identify the conceptual foundations of Anishnaabeg administrative law, and explore ways to mobilize these legal frameworks both inside and outside of Indigenous communities.

Earlier, in 2018, Professor Cameron was awarded a SSHRC Partnership Engage Grant for a project entitled “A Feminist and Indigenous Examination of the National Inquiry: Lessons and Next Steps,” which engages Indigenous women and civil society organizations in a study of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.

Honours

In 2018, Professor Tracey Lindberg was elected as a new member of the Royal Society of Canada’s College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists. Professor Lindberg is one of Canada’s foremost scholars in Indigenous laws and legal orders, Indigenous governance, and Indigenous education. Widely recognized for her thorough and engaging writing on Indigenous issues, Dr. Lindberg writes with a strong sense of the implications that her work may have for legal and social policy development while simultaneously connecting with a larger audience of non-academic readers fascinated by the subject matter. The RSC College aims to address issues of particular concern to new scholars, artists and scientists, fostering an environment of interdisciplinary collaboration with the ultimate goal of advancing society.

Leadership

In 2019, Professor Larry Chartrand was named to the Court Challenges Program, which helps to clarify and assert the official language and equality rights of all Canadians guaranteed under Canada’s Constitution.

Professor Tracey Lindberg was appointed as Writer-in-Residence at the University of British Columbia’s Creative Writing Program in 2019. Her position involved giving lectures, holding class conversations with UBC students and faculty members, and mentoring students individually, as well as working on a sequel to her bestselling novel Birdie. Dr. Lindberg published Birdie in 2015. It tells the story of Bernice Meetoos, a Cree woman on a vision quest to find family, home, and a greater understanding of her life. In the words of Leanne Simpson, award-winning author of Island of Decolonial Love, Birdie is “A stunning debut novel, grounded in the sheer beauty of Cree poetics, love and a benevolence few of us are lucky enough to know”.

Danielle Lussier (LLB 2007), the Common Law Section’s Advisor in Indigenous Relations and Indigenous Learner Advocate was appointed in 2019 as the new co-chair, alongside Myeengun Henry, of the Indigenous Advisory Group of the Law Society of Ontario. This group chiefly advises the Law Society on matters impacting First Nations, Inuit and Métis lawyers and paralegals as well as Indigenous community members in the province of Ontario.
Located at the heart of Canada’s capital, the University of Ottawa’s Faculty of Law has long been renowned for its wide-ranging expertise in public law. In 2019, the University formally harnessed the power of these experts to create the uOttawa Public Law Centre. As Canada’s leading centre for public law research, debate and engagement, the new Centre brings together bilingual, multijural and interdisciplinary experts from across the University with domestic and international collaborators, visiting scholars, postdoctoral fellows and affiliated graduate students to create new opportunities for research and engagement across the spectrum of public law and public policy subjects. It also leverages its convening power to bring together government representatives and civil society organizations for high-level discussions on public policy issues.

At launch, the Centre was led by Co-Directors Vanessa MacDonnell and Peter Oliver. Professor Oliver has long been at the heart of the Faculty’s public law community, helping to establish the Public Law Group, the precursor to the Centre. In 2020, Professor Oliver stepped away, and the Centre added a new Co-Director, Professor David Robitaille of the Civil Law Section. This joint leadership across both Sections of the Faculty of Law gives the Public Law Centre a unique multijural character, and reflects its ambition to lead innovative research that touches all of Canada and beyond.

In 2019, Professor Carissima Mathen premiered her book, Courts Without Cases: The Law and Politics of Advisory Opinions, the first comprehensive legal treatment of the distinctive Canadian phenomenon of “references”. Since 1875, Canadian courts have provided “advice” at the request of the executive branch of government. The resulting opinions have addressed some of the most important issues in Canadian law and politics. In Courts Without Cases, Professor Mathen masterfully combines a discussion of dozens of advisory opinions with a structural analysis of the political and institutional dynamics that underlie them.

Professor Mathen was not alone in breaking ground on the action of the Cabinet. Over the course of 2019, cabinet secrecy became a hot topic due to controversies raised by legal cases against Quebec engineering firm SNC-Lavalin and Vice-Admiral Mark Norman. Professor Yan Campagnolo’s latest book, Le secret ministériel : théorie et pratique, is the first complete examination of the subject. It explores the inherent tension between government transparency and the need to preserve the confidential nature of cabinet proceedings. The idea for this book was born when Professor Campagnolo was working as a lawyer in the Privy Council Office during the public inquiry into the Mulroney-Schreiber Affair. Realizing that the concept of cabinet secrecy was quite vague, he set out to reconsider the concept and its framework.
Professor Vanessa MacDonnell joined the Department of Justice Canada for a six-month stay in 2019 as a Scholar-in-Residence in the Constitutional, Administrative and International Law Branch. She was invited to this prestigious position because of her research interests in how the executive meets its obligations under the Constitution, and in the role of government lawyers in advising the political executive on constitutional issues.

The Canadian Association of Legal Ethics (CALE) appointed Professor Amy Salyzyn as President in 2019. CALE is a federal not-for-profit company whose members are academics, lawyers, regulators, and judges interested in topics related to ethics and professionalism in the Canadian Legal Profession.

In 2020, Dean Adam Dodek was named one of the seven Commissioners of the new Canadian Commission on Democratic Expression. The annual Commission, established by the Public Policy Forum, will develop policy options to directly address the harmful impacts of digital technologies on Canada’s democratic institutions and public life.

Professor Suzanne Bouclin received a SSHRC Partnership Engage Grant in 2018 for a project that helps to enhance the free mobile community legal clinic she established in 2014 as a way to help homeless people charged with local regulatory offences.

In 2019, Professor Craig Forcese earned funding from the Courts Administration Service for research that will contribute to a commemorative book to mark the 50th anniversary of the Federal Courts.

Professor Vanessa MacDonnell earned a SSHRC Insight Grant in 2018 for a project exploring an overlooked area of constitutional law – the significance of quasi-constitutional statutes, which include federal and provincial human rights codes, privacy laws, official languages acts, and statutes like the Canadian Bill of Rights.

Professor Michael Pal was awarded a SSHRC Insight Development Grant in 2019 for a project supporting a book examining the constitutional law and politics of election commissions, which interpret and apply the regulations that structure elections and guide the behaviour of political parties, candidates, and other actors.

In 2019, Professor Amy Salyzyn received a Justice and Technology Research Grant from the Law Foundation of Ontario (LFO) for a two-year project examining how the public reads and understands complex court documents. Professor Salyzyn’s project examines how technology can be used to mitigate the complexity of court forms and reduce the barrier to the public effectively accessing justice.

In 2019, Professor João Velloso received a SSHRC Insight Development Grant for a project providing a critical criminology and socio-legal analysis of the kinds of cases that are processed as crimes in Canada’s immigration regime.

In 2018, Common Law’s João Velloso, Civil Law’s Marie-Eve Sylvestre, and the Faculty of Law’s Assistant Dean of Research, Dr. Cintia Quiroga, joined with other researchers from law, social sciences and arts as inaugural members of the new Interdisciplinary Research Lab on Cities and Contemporary Urban Processes.

Civil Law’s Marie-Eve Sylvestre and Common Law’s João Velloso were awarded a SSHRC Connection Grant in 2019 to fund the semi-annual conference of the Canadian Law and Society Association to discuss the state of socio-legal research in the context of current long-term, interdisciplinary and collaborative research projects.

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Leadership

Professor François Larocque was awarded the Canadian Francophonie Research Chair in Language Rights in 2018. He is using the position to advance knowledge in the field of language rights and to contribute concretely to the development of legal standards related to language in Canada.

Professor Paul Daly joined the Common Law Section on July 1, 2019, assuming the position of University Research Chair in Administrative Law and Governance, which he is leveraging to advance knowledge in the field of administrative law.

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The Faculty of Law has long been recognized as hub of expertise in legal and ethical issues linked to artificial intelligence (AI), anchored by the world-leading research of the late Ian Kerr. Looking back on the last 2 years, Professor Kerr would be proud of the advances our researchers have made and continue to make to the development of AI in Canada. Here are just some examples.

Early in 2020, the University of Ottawa and Scotiabank announced the creation of a new Initiative that will aim to define problems and identify solutions to essential issues related to ethical AI and technology development. The **AI + Society Initiative**, led by Dr. Florian Martin-Bariteau, Director of the University of Ottawa Centre for Law, Technology and Society, will support the development of a Canadian AI and Society initiative, leading to a better understanding and framing of the ethical, legal and societal implications of AI research and its uses.

In 2018, Professors Jane Bailey, Florian Martin-Bariteau and Amy Salyzyn became co-investigators on a strategic $2.5 Million Partnership Grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) for a project entitled “Autonomy through Cyberjustice Technologies.” The six-year partnership leverages artificial intelligence to prevent and resolve conflicts, to the benefit of justice stakeholders and access to justice.

In addition to these innovative projects, our researchers are also providing key leadership. In 2019, Professors Ian Kerr and Teresa Scassa were appointed to the Government of Canada’s **Advisory Council on Artificial Intelligence**, joining a prestigious group of leading Canadian AI and Society initiative, leading to a better understanding and framing of the ethical, legal and societal implications of AI research and its uses.

Leading the way as AI meets law

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A boost for public interest Internet policy advocacy

**In 2019, Professor Vivek Krishnamurthy became the inaugural Samuelson-Glushko Professor of Law and the new Director of the Samuelson-Glushko Canadian Internet Policy and Public Interest Clinic (CIPPIC). Professor Krishnamurthy’s scholarship focuses on the complex regulatory and human rights-related challenges facing businesses that operate across borders, both in cyberspace and in real space. The creation of the new Samuelson-Glushko Professorship is thanks to the generous support of Professor Pam Samuelson and Professor Robert Glushko of the University of California-Berkeley. It adds to the significant talent of counsel David Fewer and Tamir Israel whose leadership has enabled CIPPIC to become both a national and international leader.**
Professor Teresa Scassa earned a SSHRC Insight Grant in 2018 for a project entitled “Developing a Public Interest-Based Approach to Ownership, Users’ Rights and Privacy Interests in Publicly Accessible Platform Data”, which will delve into an underdeveloped area of online data ownership to examine who can control and reuse publicly accessible online data.

Often associated with cryptocurrencies, blockchain-based technologies are quickly working their way into every aspect of the Canadian legal landscape. In 2018, Dr. Florian Martin-Bariteau was awarded a grant through the Canadian Bar Association’s Law for the Future Fund for a project that will shed new light on this phenomenon, entitled “Blockchain, Smart Contracts, and the Future of Contracts under Canadian Law”.

In 2019, Professors Marina Pavlović, Amy Salyzyn and David Wiseman became co-applicants on a Justice and Technology Research grant from the Law Foundation of Ontario (LFO) for a project led by Community Legal Education Ontario (CLEO) on the regulation of technologies designed to assist the general public with legal documents.

In 2019, Dr. Florian Martin-Bariteau of the Cpmmon Law Section and Dr. Elizabeth Dubois of the Faculty of Arts became co-investigators on a $2.5 Million SSHRC Partnership Grant that will support the development of the Global Journalism Innovation Lab / Lab mondial d’innovation en journalisme which will investigate how experimental digital journalism forms can impact civic engagement and policy uptake.

In 2019, Professor Michael Geist earned a SSHRC Insight grant for a project entitled “Internet platforms and the law: toward a Canadian model for online liability and responsibility”. This research explores the responsibility borne by internet platforms for the content posted by their users, investigating new ways Canada can protect freedom of expression while addressing risks of online harm.

In 2019, Dr. Florian Martin-Bariteau received a SSHRC Insight Development Grant in 2018 for a project entitled “Les secrets et les lanceurs d’alerte dans un monde numérique” (“Secrets and Whistleblowers in a Digital World”), which will explore the tensions between protecting both confidential information, and whistleblowers who act in the public interest.

In 2018, Professor Marina Pavlović was appointed by the Government of Canada to a panel leading the review of the Telecommunications and Broadcasting Acts. The panel was tasked with engaging with the industry, creators, and Canadians—including those from Indigenous and official-language minority communities—to ensure that Canada’s communications legislation takes full advantage of the benefits that the digital age brings to our country.

In 2019, Professor Marina Pavlović appeared before the Supreme Court representing the Samuelson-Glushko Canadian Internet Policy and Public Interest Clinic (CIPPIC) as an intervener in Uber Technologies v. Heller, a landmark ruling with significant implications for the validity of online contracts and for employment relations in the gig economy.

In 2019, Dr. Teresa Scassa, who holds the Canada Research Chair in Information Law and Policy, was named chair of a new Canadian Statistics Advisory Council. The Council was created to provide the Chief Statistician of Canada with impartial and independent advice on matters concerning the overall quality of Canada’s national statistical system in line with the principles entrenched in Canada’s Digital Charter.

Dr. Florian Martin-Bariteau, who has served as the Director of the Centre for Law, Technology and Society since 2016, was awarded the University Research Chair on Technology and Society in 2020, a fitting recognition of his proven leadership and research record. Dr. Martin-Bariteau will use his new appointment to advance an ambitious research program in the law, ethics and policy of technologies related to the security, regulation and governance of artificial intelligence, blockchain and quantum technologies. More generally, the research will focus on the intersection of law and technology, with a focus on the emergence of an algorithmic law.
Preparing for rapid changes in the practice of medicine

Artificial intelligence (AI) is poised to significantly transform the practice of medicine, assisting and in some circumstances substituting for humans as medical service providers and expert decision-makers. Dr. Colleen Flood is exploring how AI can equitably and efficiently be adopted into the Canadian health care system. This research will form the basis of the second term of her University Research Chair (URC) in Health Law and Policy, which was renewed in 2019 for a period of five years.

Dr. Flood’s proposed program of research addresses strategies for the regulation of AI in medicine as well as the governance processes that should be in place to determine whether or not to publicly fund such technologies. She will lead multidisciplinary teams and use comparative methodologies to provide decision-makers with a strong evidence base from which to better understand relevant liability and privacy concerns, and to design optimal governance systems for the appropriate adoption of AI and other new technologies into our public health care system.

Dr. Flood is one of the world’s leading experts in comparative health law and policy and her work has had significant impact in Canada and internationally. Her outstanding leadership since joining the University of Ottawa in 2014 has been acknowledged by her appointment as the Inaugural Director of the multidisciplinary uOttawa Centre for Health Law, Policy and Ethics in 2015, and her induction into both the Royal Society of Canada in 2016 and the Academy of Health Sciences in 2018.

The Centre for Health Law, Policy and Ethics gets a new Interim Director

As of July 1, 2020, Professor Jennifer Chandler has assumed the role of Acting Director of the Centre for Health Law, Policy and Ethics, replacing Professor Colleen Flood, who is currently on a one-year sabbatical. Through her imaginative approaches and international collaborations, Professor Chandler has emerged as a leading Canadian scholar in the area of law and neuroscience. Her research raises important questions about the significance of neuroscientific explanations of behaviour for judgments of responsibility and capacity. She also explores the epistemological authority of techniques such as neuroimaging to provide evidence about subjective experiences at issue in civil and criminal cases.

Professor Chandler has been a core member of the CHLPE since its inception, leading its work on multidisciplinary bioethics. She holds the University’s Bertram Loeb Chair and serves on external committees like CIHR’s Institutional Advisory Board for Neuroscience, Mental Health and Addiction. She chairs the Canadian Society of Transplantation’s Ethics Committee and leads the international research and policy group Neuroethics Panamericana.
In 2019, Professor Jennifer Chandler joined two research teams that received CIHR funding. The first team, which received funding through the EU Joint Programme on Neurodegenerative Disease Research, in which CIHR participates as a Canadian partner, is developing a new model of care for Parkinson’s disease patients. The second team, whose project is entitled “The Ethics of Pain Research, Management, and Policy: A Planning and Knowledge Exchange Meeting”, received a CIHR Planning and Dissemination Grant to develop a pain neuroethics and bioethics research network.

In 2019, Professor Colleen Flood received a grant from the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR) for an event focusing on artificial intelligence as it fuses with the world of health care. The workshop assembled an international group of participants to explore the effects of artificial intelligence on the legal and regulatory structures that protect patients and caregivers in Canadian and international health care systems.

Professor Vanessa Gruben earned a CIHR Planning and Dissemination Grant in 2019 to support the activities of the Ottawa Hub for Harm Reduction, an interdisciplinary network of researchers focused on improving public health by developing harm reduction strategies related to substance abuse and addiction. Under Professor Gruben’s leadership, the Ottawa Hub for Harm Reduction is providing an important multidisciplinary forum for uOttawa researchers to organize networks of scholars from across Canada and globally in pursuit of innovative harm reduction strategies. The Hub is administered by uOttawa’s Centre for Health Law, Policy and Ethics.

Professor Colleen Flood was elected in 2018 as a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (CAHS), one of the highest honours for members of the Canadian health sciences community. The organization helps to bring together Canada’s top-ranked health and biomedical scientists and scholars with the goal of understanding and addressing the urgent health concerns of Canadians.

Professor Jennifer Chandler was appointed in 2018 to the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Institute Advisory Board for Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction. In this role, she contributes to important discussions addressing some of Canada’s most pressing problems around dementia, unmet mental health needs and addictions.

In 2019, Professor Martha Jackman received the Guardian of Public Health Care Award in the Academic Category, presented by the Canadian Health Coalition. These awards aim to recognize the tremendous work of their recipients on issues related to protecting and expanding public health care that has a national focus or national implications.
For more than a decade, Professor Nathalie Chalifour has analyzed the constitutionality of federal climate legislation. In February of 2019, the outside world came knocking, and her expertise was put to the test. Saskatchewan was challenging the constitutionality of the federal government’s new national carbon pricing legislation, which came into force on April 1, 2019 in provinces lacking their own plans to reduce carbon emissions. The Ecofiscal Commission, acting as an intervener in support of the federal carbon tax, invited Professor Chalifour and Professor Stewart Elgie to be its representatives in the case before the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal. Professor Chalifour presented arguments about the interpretation of Parliament’s constitutional authority to enact a national carbon price. The Court ultimately found that Parliament does have jurisdiction to price carbon as a matter of national concern because “climate change is a global problem” and “greenhouse gas emissions don’t respect provincial boundaries.” Later in 2019, Professor Chalifour was co-counsel to the United Chiefs and Council of the Mnidoo Mnising, a group of six Anishinabek First Nations who intervened in the Ontario Court of Appeal carbon pricing reference case.

“It’s clear that Canada’s climate policy has been influenced heavily by the division of powers between the federal government and the provinces, and that our lack of progress can be explained in part by these dynamics,” said Prof. Chalifour. She believes the way forward will involve intergovernmental cooperation and a legally binding federal plan. The Saskatchewan appeal court aptly called climate change an existential threat to Canada and the planet. Professor Chalifour’s research is helping us meet this challenge.

At the top of the food law chain

With growing concern about how Canada can transition to a sustainable food system, the study of law’s impact on food has become essential. Law firms, government agencies, and civil society groups are increasingly in need of food law expertise.

In 2019, Professors Heather McLeod-Kilmurray and Nathalie Chalifour, along with doctoral student Angela Lee, published Food Law and Policy in Canada, a groundbreaking, cross-disciplinary book, which includes contributions from a range of academics, practitioners, and activists. The book canvases many of the difficult food-related issues that our legal system must grapple with, from dealing with international trade disputes to safeguarding food security. It fills a gap in the existing literature available on the topic by providing the first comprehensive overview of food law and policy in Canada, including both descriptive overviews and critical perspectives.

Professor McLeod-Kilmurray and Ms. Lee also responded to the growing need for food law expertise by creating Canada’s first dedicated food law course in 2018. “Food is something that affects us all, and both the production and consumption of food are imbued with so many implications,” says Ms. Lee. “It is difficult not to find some aspect of it to be interested in or engaged by”.

(Parts of this article are drawn from a uOttawa Gazette article by Leah Geller)
Professor Amir Attaran represented the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation in 2019 before the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal on the constitutionality of the federal carbon tax, while Josh Ginsberg, director of uOttawa’s Ecojustice Clinic, represented the David Suzuki Foundation. They were assisted by recent uOttawa LLM graduate Danielle Gallant (now also a lawyer at Ecojustice) and Anna McIntosh, then articling at Ecojustice.

In 2019, Professor Stewart Elgie joined the federal government’s new External Advisory Committee on Regulatory Competitiveness. His aim in joining the Committee was to ensure that the regulatory competitiveness agenda includes world-class innovation and environmental performance – i.e. green growth.

Professor Nathalie Chalifour was elected as a new member of the Royal Society of Canada’s College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists in 2018. Professor Chalifour is widely recognized for her expertise in environmental law and policy, and known internationally for her pioneering work at the intersections of environmental issues, economics and social justice.

In 2018, Esteban Salcedo, a doctoral student supervised by Sophie Thériault of the Civil Law Section and Heather McLeod-Kilmurray of the Common Law Section, was awarded one of the most prestigious scholarships available to Canadian doctoral students, the Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship. Mr. Salcedo’s research examines the regulation of tidal, wave, and offshore wind energy through the lens of paradoxical harm, an emerging concept used to designate the adverse impacts of new practices developed to fight a different set of negative outcomes.

For its detailed analysis of the history of Canada-U.S. environmental relations, Professor Jamie Benidickson’s 2019 book Levelling the Lake: Transboundary Resource Management in the Lake of the Woods Watershed (UBC Press) was awarded the 2020 Albert B. Corey Prize. The book traces the environmental consequences of social, economic and legal arrangements between Canada and the United States over the Lake of the Woods and Rainy Lake watershed.
Through a 9-year partnership with the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Law, the United Nations completed its preparation of 12 studies for the Repertory of the Practice of the United Nations in 2019. The Repertory is a legal publication containing analytical studies on the decisions of the Principal Organs of the United Nations under each of the Articles of the Charter of the United Nations. During the past 9 years, dozens of studies for the Repertory have been prepared both in English and French, in collaboration with the Faculty of Law. In the spring of 2019, under the supervision of part-time Professor Saeid Mirzaei Yengejeh, 13 graduate and JD students prepared 12 studies, covering the period from 2010 to 2015. In his report to the 74th session of the General Assembly, The Secretary-General of the United Nations commended the cooperation between the United Nations and the Faculty of Law on the preparation of the Repertory studies.

Congratulations to the following students whose names have been published on the United Nations Website in appreciation of their contributions to the UN publication: Sara Romeih (Canada), Victoria Antkowiak (France), Megan-Lily McVey (United Kingdom), Mike McCarthy (Canada), Amelia Wilding (Canada), Rahul Christoffersen (Canada), Hortense Arany (Canada/France), Marie-Claude Lacroix (Canada), Halla Ahmed (Canada), Ariel Wheway (Canada), Zahra Dalal (United Kingdom), Kristina Yeretsian (Canada), and Zoé Schwever (France).

In 2016, Professor Suzanne Bouclin earned an invitation to the Global Young Academy (GYA), an international network that facilitates opportunities for emerging researchers to join together to address topics of global importance. In 2018, she and fellow GYA member Binyam Sisay Mendisu joined forces for a project that brings together the fields of human rights, new media technologies and linguistics to explore how digital storytelling can help to document vulnerable languages.

Professor Mendisu, hails from Addis Ababa Univeristy and UNESCO. His expertise in linguistics, combined with Professor Bouclin’s expertise in human rights and new media technologies, have given rise to a project that seeks to assess whether Digital Storytelling (DST) may be used as a tool for countering language endangerment in the very unique circumstances of the Arbore people in Ethiopia.

This project suggests that new media technologies are increasingly relevant in areas where access to the internet is partial or limited as they allow digital story creators to document and revitalize elements of their language and culture. The project earned a grant from the GYA North-South Interdisciplinary Grant program.
New Initiatives

In 2018, the uOttawa Refugee Hub, represented by Professors Jennifer Bond and Delphine Nakache partnered with Professor James Milner of Carleton University on a $2.3 million SSHRC Partnership Grant for a project entitled "Civil Society and the Global Refugee Regime: Understanding and Enhancing Impact through the Implementation of Global Refugee Policy", which explores how civil society can better respond to the needs of the world’s refugees.

In 2018, Professor Wolfgang Alschner joined with the Interamerican Development Bank (IDB) and UNCTAD, the UN’s main body on trade issues, to help create a new search engine to help investors, traders, negotiators and policymakers navigate the complex world of international trade agreements.

In 2018, Professor Alschner received a SSHRC Insight Development Grant for a project entitled 'Multilateralizing ‘WTO-extra’ Issues: A computational analysis of rule convergence in preferential trade agreements’. This research combines state-of-the-art computational social science techniques with legal analysis to empirically assess whether existing bilateral rules could provide a blueprint for future multilateral rulemaking.

Honours

In recognition of the impact of her work with South Asian communities, the South Asian Bar Association (SABA) awarded Professor Natasha Bakht its 2019 Legal Excellence Award. Professor Bakht has actively worked to strengthen awareness, understanding and dialogue on matters of public importance, including the place of religious minorities in Canada.

The Canadian section of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) selected Professor Penelope Simons as the recipient of the 2018 Walter S. Tarnopolsky Award, citing her “background and commitment as an individual who has made a significant contribution to human rights.” The Tarnopolsky Award annually recognizes a resident of Canada who has made an outstanding contribution to human rights, domestically or internationally.

Leadership

In 2018, Professor John Packer was appointed as the inaugural Neuberger-Jesin Professor of International Conflict Resolution. As an international conflict resolution expert, Professor Packer engages students in work to enhance their own training in resolution, mediation and arbitration of international conflicts. He also oversees a clinical course in international conflict resolution.

Professor Tony Vanduzer was announced in 2018 as the new Hyman Soloway Chair in Business and Trade Law, a position he uses to promote international law at the University of Ottawa by supporting students and faculty, as well as providing opportunities for students, professors, alumni and the international law community to engage, learn and be inspired by leading experts in the field.

Professor Debra Steger was appointed in 2018 as a Senior Fellow with the C.D. Howe Institute, one of Canada’s most influential think tanks, whose mission is to raise living standards by fostering economically sound public policies.

In 2019, Professor Joanne St. Lewis was named to the Court Challenges Program, which helps to clarify and assert the official language and equality rights of all Canadians guaranteed under Canada’s Constitution.

Professor John Packer was appointed in 2019 to the prestigious Board of Advisors of Genocide Watch, a leading international NGO based in the US, which exists to prevent, protect, stop, and punish genocide and mass murder.

Professors Penelope Simons and François Larocque represented Amnesty International Canada as Interveners before the Supreme Court of Canada in 2019 in Araya v Nevsun, a case that concluded that customary international law is part of Canadian common law.
WOMEN AND THE LAW

A risk taker dedicated to law

Professor Constance Backhouse was awarded the Canadian Law and Society Association Book Prize for her book Claire L’Heureux-Dubé: A Life (UBC Press).

The book is a judicial biography of one of Canada’s most controversial judges, Claire L’Heurux Dubé. Professor Backhouse offers a prodigious amount of research, probing beneath the surface of Justice L’Heureux-Dubé’s life and career to uncover the multiple dimensions in which one of Canada’s early women judges trod a distinct course. Explicitly designed to be a “feminist” judicial biography, the book asks new questions, analyzes historical data differently, and offers innovative interpretations that place gender, class, ethnicity, and race at the heart of the inquiry.

Professor Natasha Bakht became the sixth chairholder of the Shirley Greenberg Chair for Women and the Legal Profession on July 1, 2020, succeeding Professor Angela Cameron, who had served in the role since 2016.

Professor Bakht’s research and writing focuses on the intersecting areas of religious freedom and women’s equality, employing an intersectional feminist approach.

The Greenberg Chair serves to encourage women to enter the profession, to train legal professionals to deliver services to women, to connect women in law school with women in the legal profession, and to further law reform and research.

New Initiatives

In 2019, Professor Vanessa Gruben was awarded a SSHRC Insight Grant for a project entitled “Surrogates’ Voices: Exploring Surrogates’ Experiences and Insights”, which aims to develop the first empirical research on the perspectives of women who have acted as surrogates in Canada. Professor Angela Cameron is a co-applicant on the grant.

Professor Angela Cameron is also part of a group of five feminist scholars who were awarded a conference grant from the Oñati International Institute for the Sociology of Law in 2019 to host an international workshop entitled “What Works in Feminist Law Reform? Lessons from the Local”. The workshop was to have taken place in July 2020, but was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The workshop will eventually feature feminist scholars from around the world, with special emphasis on scholars from the global south and Indigenous women.
In September of 2019, a large interdisciplinary gathering of students and researchers took part in an interactive film screening that allowed them, as a group, to choose to virtually commit to nonviolent protests, or to be swept up in dramatic confrontations with police. Organized by Dr. Cintia Quiroga, Assistant Dean of Research at the Faculty of Law, the event welcomed professor of anthropology and filmmaker Maple Razsa, Director of Global Studies at Colby College, to guide the audience through his award-winning film The Maribor Uprisings. Making use of actual frontline footage shot by video activists at the scene of the protests, the film lets the audience follow the action, and, at specific junction points, decide which groups of protesters to follow.

Professor Jennifer Chandler launched a new research group on the regulation of neuromodulation in Buenos Aires, Argentina in November 2018. The group is working to understand, harmonize, and modernize the legal environment for the rapidly evolving field of psychiatric neuromodulation technologies, including invasive and non-invasive methods. The launch involved a one-day workshop with Canadian, Argentine and American participation, as well as a one-day public symposium.

Professor João Velloso earned funding from the Oñati International Institute for the Sociology of Law for a three-day workshop in July of 2019 in Oñati, Gipuzkoa, Spain, entitled “Social Control, Judicialization of Social Problems and Governance of Security in Comparative Perspectives”. A group of 18 international scholars gathered to discuss and learn about criminalization processes and other forms of judicialization in South American, North American and European contexts. Participants included legal scholars, political theorists, anthropologists, criminologists and sociologists coming from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, France, The Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland. The workshop was a unique opportunity to share empirical work on how different legal regimes are mobilized to deal with social problems and security projects in these jurisdictions.

From July 16-21, 2018, uOttawa welcomed 25 remarkable women peacebuilders from over two dozen countries, including Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, Myanmar, Colombia and South Sudan for an innovative new seminar and certificate course on gendered and inclusive mediation. The event was hosted by uOttawa’s Human Rights Research and Education Centre (HRREC), under the guidance of the Centre’s Director, Professor John Packer. For participants, the course was a rare chance to gather with peers engaged in similar struggles and to enrich their knowledge of a “gold standard” of peace process practice.

The Centre for Health Law, Policy and Ethics and the Centre for Law, Technology and Society hosted “Machine M.D.” on May 31 and June 1, 2019, a conference exploring real prospects for transformation in health care. Moderated by the Chief Science Advisor of Canada, Mona Nemer, the panel of leading experts from Canada and the US attempted to look past the hype of artificial intelligence and machine learning to discuss a variety of pressing topics. The panel discussed how the hope of the Fourth Industrial Revolution is intimately tied to surmounting many legal and ethical hurdles: protecting human rights, privacy, achieving adequate regulatory oversight, navigating the disruption of labour markets, and maintaining human compassion in a world of machine medicine.

In September of 2019, a large interdisciplinary gathering of students and researchers took part in an interactive film screening that allowed them, as a group, to choose to virtually commit to nonviolent protests, or to be swept up in dramatic confrontations with police. Organized by Dr. Cintia Quiroga, Assistant Dean of Research at the Faculty of Law, the event welcomed professor of anthropology and filmmaker Maple Razsa, Director of Global Studies at Colby College, to guide the audience through his award-winning film The Maribor Uprisings. Making use of actual frontline footage shot by video activists at the scene of the protests, the film lets the audience follow the action, and, at specific junction points, decide which groups of protesters to follow.
Recognizing leaders in bringing research expertise to the world

John Packer, Neuberger-Jesin Professor of International Conflict Resolution, visited Zimbabwe for two-and-a-half weeks in July-August 2018 as one of only two Canadian members of The Commonwealth Observer Group (COG) for Zimbabwe’s historic post-Mugabe general elections. Professor Packer was invited to join the observer group to share his considerable expertise in international conflict resolution.

Professor Craig Forcese, and Carleton University’s Professor Stephanie Carvin, of the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, were among the 2018 winners of the Clawbies – the Canadian Law Blog Awards. They were recognized for their podcast “A Podcast Called INTREPID” in the category of “Best Law School / Law Professor Blog” for their ability to infuse serious topics of national security law and policy with a hefty dose of personality and humour. One nominator stated: “I’ve listened to every episode at least once and assigned it to students and classes. It’s not just interesting and informative, it’s a public service.”

Professor Michael Geist was honoured in November 2018 by the Canadian Journalists for Free Expression (CJFE), which selected him as the recipient of its 2018 Vox Libera Award. The distinction is awarded to a Canadian individual or organization that has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the principles of free expression and has made an important and sustained contribution—at home or abroad—to those same principles.

Professor Carissima Mathen was awarded the University of Ottawa’s 2017-2018 Excellence in Media Relations Award for English Commentary. An expert in public law, Professor Mathen is one of the country’s most well-known and highly regarded legal commentators on issues ranging from sexual assault and physician-assisted dying, to Senate reform and the legalization of marijuana. She is renowned for her ability to make complex legislative and judicial decisions understandable to a wide and professionally untrained audience, improving the quality of public debate across the country.

Professor Teresa Scassa was awarded the University of Ottawa Library’s 2018 Open Scholarship Award, which recognizes faculty members who demonstrate excellence in supporting and practicing open scholarship. Professor Scassa has published a large amount of work in open access publications, and makes her work available through open access portals. She speaks frequently on open access issues before academic, government and civil society audiences, and publishes a blog that addresses a broad range of information law issues, including open access.

Professor Angela Cameron was one of 16 new appointees to the Order of Ottawa in 2018, recognized for her heavy involvement in both academic and community-based advocacy and research, governance of not-for-profit organizations, voluntary work, and non-academic research for women’s anti-violence organizations. She is renowned for facilitating discussions around divisive topics within feminist and LGBTQ activism, and has argued legal cases, mentored youth, and drafted legal submissions to United Nations human rights bodies in support of advancing women’s rights.
RESEARCH CHAIRS AND PROFESSORSHIPS

New Appointments

Paul Daly

*University Research Chair in Administrative Law and Governance*

Awarded a University Research Chair in 2019, Professor Paul Daly’s Research advances knowledge in the field of administrative law, developing principles to ensure that Canada’s administrative agencies work effectively and justly for the benefit of all Canadians.

Florian Martin-Bariteau

*University Research Chair on Technology and Society*

Professor Florian Martin-Bariteau was awarded a University Research Chair in 2020 to advance an ambitious research program in the law, ethics and policy of technologies related to the security, regulation and governance of artificial intelligence, blockchain and quantum technologies.

François Larocque

*Canadian Francophonie Research Chair in Language Rights*

Professor François Larocque was appointed as a Canadian Francophonie Research Chair in 2018. His research focuses on the legal protection of minority language communities and their institutions, particularly with respect to the development and interpretation of constitutional, legislative and jurisprudential statutes.

Natasha Bakht

*Shirley E. Greenberg Chair for Women and the Legal Profession*

Professor Natasha Bakht was appointed as Greenberg Chair in 2020. Her research interests are generally in the area of law, culture and minority rights and specifically in the intersecting areas of religious freedom and women’s equality.
Tony VanDuzer  
*Hyman Soloway Chair in Business and Trade Law*

Professor Tony VanDuzer was appointed as the Hyman Soloway Chair in Business and Trade Law in 2018, succeeding Professor Debra Steger. Professor VanDuzer’s main area of interest is international trade and investment law.

John Packer  
*Neuberger-Jesin Professor of International Conflict Resolution*

Professor John Packer was appointed as the inaugural Neuberger-Jesin Professor in 2018. His research and practice takes place at the intersection of human rights and security, primarily in peace mediation, and constitutional and legal reform.

Vivek Krishnamurthy  
*Samuelson-Glushko Professor of Law*

Professor Vivek Krishnamurthy was appointed as the inaugural Samuelson-Glushko Professor of Law in 2019. His teaching and scholarship focus on the complex regulatory and human rights-related challenges facing businesses that operate across borders, both in cyberspace and in real space.

**Renewals**

Colleen Flood  
*University Research Chair in Health Law and Policy*

Professor Colleen Flood’s University Research Chair, initially awarded in 2014, was renewed in 2019. Her current research explores how AI can equitably and efficiently be adopted into the Canadian health care system.

Angela Cameron  
*Shirley E. Greenberg Chair for Women and the Legal Profession*

Initially appointed from 2016-2018, Professor Angela Cameron’s tenure as the Greenberg Chair was renewed in 2018 for a further two years. Her research is generally in the area of social justice, with a particular focus on the equality interests of women.
NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

Stefanie Carsley
Assisted reproduction, Canadian fertility law

Paul Daly
Public law, norms and institutions of government, artificial intelligence in administrative law

Vivek Krishnamurthy
Cyberspace, artificial intelligence, human rights

Anne Levesque
Human rights, public interest litigation

Sylvia Rich
Criminal law, corporate malfeasance, philosophy of law, critical legal theory, sociology of law

Stéphane Sérafin
Private law theory, contract law, property law

Samuel Singer
Tax law and policy, tax dispute resolution, trans legal issues

Welcome Professor Nakache!

Professor Delphine Nakache joined the Common Law Section in 2019, having previously been a member of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the School of International Development and Global Studies.

Professor Nakache’s research focuses on issues surrounding the protection of migrant workers, asylum seekers and non-status migrants, as well as barriers to citizenship for disadvantaged immigrants.
One of Canada’s leading scholars on international trade, international arbitration and the governance of international organizations, Professor Debra Steger retired from her role as a full-time faculty member in 2019. Over the course of her highly influential career, Professor Steger led numerous national and international research initiatives, and distinguished herself as one of Canada’s foremost experts on the World Trade Organization.

Debra Steger
Professor Steger remains affiliated with the Common Law Section as a Professor Emeritus, ensuring our community will continue to benefit from her deep knowledge and expertise.

Professor Larry Chartrand was appointed to the rank of Professor Emeritus to coincide with his retirement on July 1, 2020. A leader and an innovator in the study of Aboriginal law, Professor Chartrand has been highly influential in putting Indigenous rights on the legal map. He is widely recognized for his work on Indigenous health and self-determination, and holds an impeccable reputation among First Nation, Inuit and Metis people.

Larry Chartrand
The Common Law Section is grateful for Professor Chartrand’s willingness to continue to be involved with the Faculty during his retirement.
Faculty of Law graduate student Clifford Lincoln successfully defended his Master of Laws thesis on September 14, 2018, a mere 13 days removed from his 90th birthday! Mr. Lincoln gave an oral defence of his thesis: “Sustainable Indigenous Land Management in Canada – A Model Inspired by Lessons from Barriere Lake and Haida Gwaii”. He is one of the oldest students to successfully complete his studies at the University of Ottawa.

Researchers gathered to share stories of the challenges they face, the approaches they take, and the successes they have in their experience as law researchers. They raised important questions about the role of dialogue in research, their methods for experimenting with ideas, and how the community of researchers can come together to develop and sustain a true culture of research. The discussions that took place between established researchers and emerging doctoral students helped to forge a sense of kinship and shared experience as researchers.

“One of the ideas behind this was to get back in touch with some of the big ideas and big issues that we care about but don’t often get the chance to talk to our colleagues about” said Professor Peter Oliver, former Vice-Dean of Research and one of the lead organizers of the event alongside Dr. Cintia Quiroga, Assistant Dean of Research for the Faculty of Law. “It was about ideas, of course, but it was also talking about the sort of intellectual community that helps us to generate those ideas.”

“These are opportunities to experiment with our ideas,” said Cintia Quiroga, “to test our ideas with others, with our mentors. I think it’s in these moments of exchange where we stop, where we take the time to think about research, about the issues that have preoccupied us for a long time, that we really create a research culture.” A video recapping the event is available at this link: [https://commonlaw.uottawa.ca/en/news/talking-about-research-faculty-law-researchers-are-creating-new-research-culture](https://commonlaw.uottawa.ca/en/news/talking-about-research-faculty-law-researchers-are-creating-new-research-culture)

The third Autumn School – yet another successful take on this burgeoning research methodology series – took place in November 2019. Spearheaded by Professor Margarida Garcia, Vice-Dean of Research in the the Civil Law Section, this edition explored the theme of “The function of the theoretical framework in law research”. Like the previous Autumn Schools, this meeting of researchers continued the tradition of uniting doctoral students and established scholars to explore the challenges encountered by researchers in law and to share experiences in the comfort of a unified and supportive research community.

Doctoral student Angela Lee was awarded the 2019 Graduate Student Award of Merit by the Senior Women Academic Administrators of Canada (SWAAC). Ms. Lee’s research grapples with challenging questions related to food policy and regulation in Canada, giving voice to groups, concerns and viewpoints that are otherwise marginalized in policy debates.

Age is just a number

Recognizing exceptional leadership

From Poland to the Senate of Canada

Agata Zwolankiewicz, a recent international Master’s student, undertook an internship at the Senate of Canada in 2020. Ms. Zwolankiewicz was the 2019-2020 recipient of the Edward Barry McDougall Memorial Scholarship for Graduate Studies in Law, which enables one Polish law graduate per year to travel to Canada to earn a Master of Laws degree (LLM) at uOttawa.
In the fall of 2019, the Civil Law Section’s Professor Margarida Garcia introduced a new course to graduate students of the Faculty of Law, entitled “Exercising Leadership in Law, in Research and in Life”. The course is part of a larger effort led by Professor Garcia to create a community of leaders and a culture of leadership, both within the Faculty of Law, and across the wider uOttawa campus. It makes the bold promise that any participant, regardless of their background, will come out of the experience being a leader. It is designed to teach students how to access leadership as a way of being that will have an impact on both their professional and personal lives.

“In a nutshell,” says Professor Garcia, “this leadership course reminds students that being – who they are – is as important as knowledge – what they know – as they pursue a fulfilling career and a meaningful life.” While the course offers students tools to deal with organizational and academic challenges, it is not an academic inquiry into theories, models, and case studies about leadership. The promise of this course is that participants will leave the experience with a new understanding of themselves and new approaches to dealing with the challenges of their research, their careers, and their lives.

“The Faculty of Law is extremely proud to have the opportunity to offer this new experience to our graduate students,” says Adam Dodek, Dean of the Common Law Section. “Having this adventure at our law school is an important landmark in realizing our new vision of leadership at the University of Ottawa,” adds Marie-Eve Sylvestre, Dean of the Civil Law Section. “We are grateful for the support and encouragement of the two deans,” says Professor Garcia. “This is only possible because of their commitment to offering innovative and enriching experiences to our students and faculty members.”

Prestigious funding for graduate research, 2018-2020

Four PhD candidates earned Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarships at the doctoral level from 2018 to 2020. Suzie Dunn earned the scholarship for her research examining impersonation and misrepresentation in digital spaces; Gloria Song earned funding for research exploring access to justice for Inuit women in western Nunavut; Esteban Salcedo earned the scholarship for his research on regulating marine renewable energy; and Katie Szilagyi earned funding for her research into how AI is transforming the rule of law.

PhD candidate Angela Lee earned a SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship to further her research on food production and the environment, focusing on advancing technology in the agri-food sector through improved law and governance.

Doctoral student Duff Conacher was awarded a Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship, funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) for his project entitled “The Ethical Politics Imperative: How does the Federal Canadian Political Process Ethics System Measure Up to a Best-Practice Model System?”

PhD candidates Virginie Jetté, Andrea Talarico and Katie Szilagyi all earned Ontario Graduate Scholarships, which are merit-based scholarships awarded to Ontario’s best graduate students in all disciplines of academic study.

Finally, Vincius Da Silva received an Ontario Trillium Scholarship, which allows the best doctoral students from around the world to come to Ontario to further their research. Mr. Da Silva’s research focuses on the politics behind the Brazilian judicial system.

“It has allowed me to publish a book containing the results of my master’s research. It also allows me to live in Canada while I do my research.”

- Vincius Da Silva
RESEARCH FUNDING

Funds managed by the Common Law Section, 2018-2020

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Note: Table indicates funds managed by the Common Law Section per fiscal year. N = Number of grants.

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)

**Insight Grants**

**Insight Development Grants**

**Connection Grants**
- **Teresa Scassa**, “Data Governance and AI Summer Institute”, $9,124.

**Partnership Engage Grants**
- **Suzanne Bouclin** (with Cintia Quiroga and Marie-Eve Sylvestre, Civil Law Section), “Assessing the Discrimination against Ottawa’s Homeless to Improve their Access to Justice”, $25,000.
- **Angela Cameron**, “A Feminist and Indigenous Examination of the National Inquiry: Lessons and Next Steps”, $25,000.
Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)

Planning and Dissemination Grants

Government Grants and Contracts
- Stewart Elgie, Environment and Climate Change Canada, “Women Leaders Kicking It on Climate Change Summit”, $23,000.
- Joao Velloso, Global Affairs Canada, “Faculty Mobility Program 2018-2019”, $6,466.

Foundations and Other Public Sector Funding
- Jennifer Bond, Canadian Bar Association, “Remote Connections: Building Canada’s diversity and inclusion through technology-enabled refugee sponsorship support”, $25,000.
- Jennifer Bond, Open Society Policy Center, “GRSI IV – Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative”, $528,000.
- Suzanne Bouclin, Global Young Academy North-South Interdisciplinary Grant, “Can Digital Storytelling be used as a Tool for Countering Language Endangerment?”, 10,000 Euros.
- Yan Campagnolo, Canadian Foundation for Legal Research, “Repenser et démystifier le secret ministériel”, $5,000.
- Jennifer Chandler, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, “Integrated Parkinson Care Networks: Addressing complex care in Parkinson disease in contemporary society”, $15,120.
- Yan Campagnolo, Seed Funding Opportunity, “Comment réformer l’immunité du Cabinet au niveau fédéral ?”, $9,955.
- Stewart Elgie, Ryerson University, “Job Loss and Gain”, $68,000.
- Jamie Liew, Canadian Bar Association, “Statelessness in Canada: Mapping the Legal Structures that Perpetuate, Promote or Eliminate Statelessness”, $14,171.
- Vanessa MacDonnell, Community Legal Education Ontario, “Supporting the legal information needs of incarcerated people in Ontario”, $6,600.
- David Wiseman, Community Legal Education Ontario, “Regulatory Options for Smart Legal Forms”, $9,450.

Private Sector Funding

- Stewart Elgie, Ernst and Young LLP, “Smart Prosperity Initiative”, $20,000.

University of Ottawa Funding Programs

- Yan Campagnolo, Seed Funding Opportunity, “Comment réformer l’immunité du Cabinet au niveau fédéral ?”, $9,955.
- Paul Daly, University Research Chair in Administrative Law and Governance, $125,000 (2019-2024).
- Colleen Flood, University Research Chair in Health Law and Policy, $125,000 (2019-2024).
- Kyle Kirkup, Conference/Workshop on Campus Opportunity (CWCO), “Democratic Safety Valve or Poison Pill for Charter Rights: Rethinking the Notwithstanding Clause”, $6,000.
- François Larocque, Canadian Francophonie Research Chair in Language Rights, $125,000 (2018-2023).
AWARDS & DISTINCTIONS

Constance Backhouse
• CLSA Book Prize, 2018, Canadian Law and Society Association

Natasha Bakht
• Legal Excellence Award, 2019, South Asian Bar Association

Jamie Benidickson
• Albert B. Corey Prize, 2020, Canadian Historical Association

Angela Cameron
• Order of Ottawa, 2018, City of Ottawa

Natalie Chalifour
• Member, 2018, Royal Society of Canada, College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists

Adam Dodek
• Prize for Academic Excellence, 2018, Canadian Association of Law Teachers

Colleen Flood
• Fellow, 2018, Canadian Academy of Health Sciences

Craig Forcese (with Stephanie Carvin, Carleton University)
• Best Law School / Law Professor Blog, 2018, Canadian Law Blog Awards (Clawbies)

Pierre Foucher
• Ordre du mérite, 2020, Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Ontario

Martha Jackman
• David Walter Mundell Medal, 2019, Ministry of the Attorney General of Ontario
• Guardian of Public Health Care Award in the Academic Category, 2019, Canadian Health Coalition

Elizabeth Judge
• Bertha Wilson Honour Society, 2019, Dalhousie University

François Larocque
• Ordre des francophones d'Amérique, 2019, Conseil supérieur de la langue française
• Ordre de la Pléiade, 2020, l’Assemblée parlementaire de la francophonie (APF), section ontarienne

Anne Levesque
• Ordre du mérite, 2019, Association des juristes d’expression française de l’Ontario

Tracey Lindberg
• Member, 2018, Royal Society of Canada, College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists

Vanessa MacDonnell
• Member, 2019, Global Young Academy

Carissima Mathen
• Excellence in Media Relations Award, 2018, University of Ottawa

Errol Mendes
• Senate 150th Anniversary Medal, 2018, Senate of Canada
• Fellowship, 2019, Royal Society of Canada

Marina Pavlović
• Excellence in Education Prize, 2019, University of Ottawa
• Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2019, Association of Professors of the University of Ottawa

Allan Rock
• Dr. Jean Mayer Global Citizenship Award, 2018, Tufts Institute for Global Leadership

Teresa Scassa
• Open Scholarship Award, 2018, University of Ottawa Library

Elizabeth Sheehy
• Distinguished Visitor Award, 2018, University of Auckland

Penelope Simons
• The Honourable Walter S. Tarnopolsky Award, 2018, International Commission of Jurists, Canadian Section

Professor Marina Pavlović and Danielle Lussier
Constance Backhouse
- Member, Federal Judicial Advisory Committee on the appointment of Superior Court Judges in Ontario East and North
- Member, Distinguished Professor Selection Committee, University of Manitoba
- Member, Selection Committee for the Jason A. Hannah Medal, Royal Society of Canada
- Member, Truth and Reconciliation Task Force, Royal Society of Canada
- Ottawa Representative, Council of Ontario Bar Association

Jennifer Bond
- Chair, Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative
- Member, UNHCR’s Global Reference Group on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

Suzanne Boucin
- Member, SSHRC Doctoral Awards Competition Committee

Angela Cameron
- Member, Canadian Northern Corridor Scientific Advisory Committee

Jennifer Chandler
- Chair, Ethics Committee, Canadian Society of Transplantation
- Member, Advisory Board, CIHR Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction
- Associate Editor, Neuroethics journal

Larry Chartrand
- Member, Human Rights Expert Panel, Court Challenges Program (CCP)

John Currie
- Member, Board of Directors, Canadian Council on International Law
- Member, College of Reviewers, Canada Research Chairs Program

Anthony Daimsis
- Member, Commonwealth Secretariat Task Force of International Arbitration Specialists

Paul Daly
- Member, Advisory Board, Queen’s Law Journal
- Member, Advisory Group, Law and Compliance During COVID-19

Adam Dodek
- Member, Canadian Commission on Democratic Expression
- Senior Fellow, Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights (RWCHR)

Stewart Elgie
- Member, External Advisory Committee on Regulatory Competitiveness, Treasury Board of Canada
- Member, Task Force for a Resilient Recovery

Colleen Flood
- Member, Royal Society of Canada (RSC) Task Force on COVID-19
- Member, C.D. Howe Institute Crisis Working Group on Public Health and Emergency Measures

Pierre Foucher
- Member, Management Committee, Language Rights Support Program

Michael Geist
- Member, Digital Strategy Advisory Panel, Waterfront Toronto

Vanessa Gruben
- Member, Canadian Health Coalition

Ian Kerr
- Member, Advisory Council on Artificial Intelligence, Government of Canada

Vern Krishna
- Member, Canadian Judicial Advisory Committee, Tax Court of Canada
Vivek Krishnamurthy
- Member, Expert Group on Terrorist and Violent Extremist Content Reporting, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- Member, Data Privacy Code of Conduct Drafting Committee, World Economic Forum Business-to-Business (B2B)
- Member, McCall MacBain Scholarship Selection Committee

François Larocque
- Member, Working Group on the redesign of the French Language Services Act, Assemblée de la francophonie de l’Ontario (AFO); Association des juristes d’expression française de l’Ontario (AJEFO)

Jamie Liew
- Co-Chair, Working Group on Immigration Detention, Canadian Association of Refugee Lawyers
- Member, Migration Research Collective

Tracey Lindberg
- Writer-in-Residence, University of British Columbia’s Creative Writing Program

Danielle Lussier
- Co-chair, Law Society of Ontario, Indigenous Advisory Group

Vanessa MacDonnell
- Scholar-in-Residence, Department of Justice Canada
- Member, Board of Directors, Canadian Study of Parliament Group

Errol Mendes
- Senior Fellow, Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights (RWCHR)

Chidi Oguamanam
- Member, Delegation of the Governor General of Canada, State Visits to West Africa

John Packer
- Member, Board of Advisors, Genocide Watch

Marina Pavlović
- Member, Broadcasting and Telecommunications Legislative Review Panel, Ministry of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada, and Ministry of Canadian Heritage

Amy Salyzyn
- President, Canadian Association for Legal Ethics

Elizabeth Sanderson
- Inaugural Public Service Mentor-in-Residence, University of Ottawa, Faculty of Law

Teresa Scassa
- Chair, Statistics Canada Advisory Council, Ministry of Innovation, Science and Economic Development
- Member, Advisory Council on Artificial Intelligence, Government of Canada
- Member, Advisory Panel on the AI in Civil and Administrative Justice Project, Law Commission of Ontario
- Member, Digital Strategy Advisory Panel, Waterfront Toronto
- Senior Fellow, Centre for International Governance Innovation, CIGI

Penelope Simons
- Member, Editorial Board, *Elgar Studies in Human Rights* (Edward Elgar Publishing)
- Vice-President and Member, Board, Global Business and Human Rights Scholars’ Association
- Member, Board of Directors, Canadian Council for International Law

Gabrielle St-Hilaire
- Judge, Tax Court of Canada

Debra Steger
- Senior Fellow, C.D. Howe Institute

Joanne St. Lewis
- Member, Human Rights Expert Panel, Court Challenges Program (CCP)
Constance Backhouse, Two Firsts: Bertha Wilson and Claire L’Heureux-Dubé at the Supreme Court of Canada (Second Story Press, 2019).


Denis Boivin, Le droit des assurances dans les provinces de common law, 2e édition (LexisNexis, 2020).


Van Campagnolo and Adam Dodek, La constitution canadienne (Dundurn, 2019).


Paul Daly, ed., Apex Courts and the Common Law (University of Toronto Press, 2019).

Gerard Hogan, David Gwynn Morgan, and Paul Daly, Administrative Law in Ireland, 5th Edition (Round Hall, 2019).


Bruce Feldthausen, Allen M. Linden, Margaret Isabel Hall, Erik S. Knutsen and Hilary A.N. Young, Canadian Tort Law, 11th Edition (LexisNexis, 2018).


Colleen M. Flood and Bryan Thomas, eds., Is Two-Tier Care the Future? (University of Ottawa Press, 2020).

Craig Forcés, Destroying the Caroline: The Frontier Raid That Reshaped the Right to War (Irwin Law, 2018).


Fannie Lafontaine and François Larocque, eds., Doing Peace the Rights Way: Essays in International Law and Relations in Honour of Louise Arbour (Intersentia, 2019).


Heather McLeod-Kilmurray, Angela Lee and Nathalie Chalifour, Food Law and Policy in Canada (Carswell, 2019).


Chidi Oguamanam, Opeyemi Oke: A Benchmark on the Bench (Esquire Publications, 2019).


Derek McKe, Finn Makela and Teresa Scassa, eds., Law and the “Sharing Economy”: Regulating Online Market Platforms (University of Ottawa Press, 2018).

