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For their invaluable support, we thank:

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada

Canadian Institutes of Health Research
Instituts de recherche en santé du Canada

The Law Foundation of Ontario

uOttawa
This biennial Research Report for the years 2016-2018 describes the Common Law Section’s research activities at a time of important transition. At the University level, Dr. Sylvain Charbonneau succeeded Dr. Mona Nemer (now Canada’s Chief Science Advisor) at the key position of Vice-President, Research. In the Common Law Section, Dean Adam Dodek took over from Interim Dean François Larocque, who had succeeded Dean Nathalie Des Rosiers (now a Member of the Ontario Legislature). Our close collaborators in Droit civil saw Professor Margarida Garcia replace Professor Marie-Eve Sylvestre as Vice-Dean, Research and Communications. And here in the Common Law Section I took over from Professor Elizabeth Sheehy as Vice-Dean, Research.

Along with much change, there is also important continuity. The Vice-Dean of Research continues to benefit from the input and advice of former holders of the position who remain great supporters of the Research Office and highly committed contributors to the Common Law Section: Professors Jamie Benidickson, Anthony VanDuzer, Teresa Scassa, Adam Dodek, and Elizabeth Sheehy. As before, the team at the Office of the Vice-Dean provided distinctive, vital, and expert contributions to research activities throughout the period of this report. The knowledge, wisdom, and experience of Assistant Dean Cintia Quiroga, Research Communications Strategist Andrew Kuntze, and Administrative Assistant Natalie Carter is invaluable.

All this to say that the foundations for the success we now see were put down over many preceding years, and the structures that now exist provide every reason to expect that success to continue and grow.

A detailed account of that success appears in the pages that follow, but I would like to highlight a few key features. Firstly, our research is consistently recognized by the peers who make up granting agency selection committees. We receive an impressive amount of research funding, especially when compared to other law schools in Canada. Secondly, research at the Common Law Section frequently has a direct impact on federal and provincial legislation and Canadian civil society. Thirdly, the Common Law Section colleagues’ reputation for nationally impactful work increasingly transcends our borders and is recognized, cited, and applied globally. Finally, and one might say inevitably, colleagues’ efforts have been acknowledged through grants, prizes, and honours, nationally and internationally, from the Law Society of Ontario to the Royal Society of Canada to the Global Young Academy.

The depth of expertise of our researchers across a wide variety of research interests also gives us the capacity to address cross-cutting legal issues. Through our bilingual, multi-jurisdictional faculty and programs, and our deep international linkages and research ties, the Common Law Section is ideally situated to address law and legal research in an era of globalization. Moreover, we have successfully leveraged our location for research links to government, courts, international and national organizations, civil society, and business. As a result of these strengths, the Common Law Section has consistently ranked among the top law schools in Canada in terms of our number of Tier 1 Canada Research Chairs and our exceptional record of SSHRC and CIHR funding.

Mindful of these strengths and successes, the Strategic Plan outlines opportunities for the continued growth and improvement of our law school as the Common Law Section strives to continue to play its important role in Canadian legal research and education. Below are some specific highlights from the Strategic Plan, emphasizing our research priorities.

The Research Office

Our Team

Peter Oliver
Vice-Dean, Research
Peter.Oliver@uOttawa.ca

Andrew Kuntze
Research Communications Strategist
Andrew.Kuntze@uOttawa.ca

Cintia Quiroga
Assistant Dean, Research
Cintia.Quiroga@uOttawa.ca

Natalie Carter
Administrative Assistant, Research
Natalie.Carter@uOttawa.ca

Our Research Priorities

In October of 2016, the Research Office produced the Common Law Section’s first Strategic Plan for the Office of the Vice-Dean, Research 2017-2020. The Strategic Plan highlights some of the Common Law Section’s key research strengths, noting, for example, our rich, collegial, and intellectual environment, which also provides a crucible for innovative pedagogy and student engagement in research.

The depth of expertise of our researchers across a wide variety of research interests also gives us the capacity to address cross-cutting legal issues. Through our bilingual, multi-jurisdictional faculty and programs, and our deep international linkages and research ties, the Common Law Section is ideally situated to advance law and legal research in an era of globalization. Moreover, we have successfully leveraged our location for research links to government, courts, international and national organizations, civil society, and business. As a result of these strengths, the Common Law Section has consistently ranked among the top law schools in Canada in terms of our number of Tier 1 Canada Research Chairs and our exceptional record of SSHRC and CIHR funding.

To get a better idea of what is happening in this dynamic research environment, please do read on!

Peter Oliver
Vice-Dean, Research
Our Mission

Our mission is to advance the rule of law and social justice through research and education. We aim to foster an engaged research environment with a strong public-interest orientation that generates high impact scholarship in both official languages and excellent training opportunities for students.

Our Values

- Engaged, rigorous and ethical research
- Innovation
- Access to justice and service to the community
- Promoting la Francophonie
- Reconciliation
- Diversity and equality

The Strategic Objectives of the Research Office

The report that follows has been organized around the four strategic objectives of the Research Office, as displayed in the graphic below. These categories are fluid and interact with one another to create the unique research culture at the Common Law Section. The topics covered within each section often apply to more than one objective, but we have chosen to present them as follows:

1. Enhance our research culture

Through new faculty appointments, a variety of research centres, and a vast array of funding opportunities, our Faculty engages with brave new ideas.

Our illustrious group of research chairs, our many international collaborations, and our long list of award winners help ensure the Faculty is known nationally and internationally.

Research training at the Common Law Section benefits from the varied experiences offered at the law school, leading to major success and recognition for students.

Our researchers collaborate with many different communities, leading to important legal and social impact through diverse means of knowledge mobilization and substantial legal publications.

2. Boost the Faculty’s international reputation and ranking

An impressive group of legal experts joined the Common Law Section in 2016-2018, covering a wide variety of research areas. “Our law school continues to grow in meaningful ways, expanding the scope of our research expertise while increasing our already considerable capacity to probe the depths of the most important areas of legal research,” says Dean Adam Dodek. “In the past two years, our Faculty has added leading young experts in Aboriginal Law, Technology Law, Health Law, and Public Law. Their work brings new international connections and brave new ideas about some of our country’s most pressing legal issues.”

Here are the new members of the Common Law Section:

Dr. Alschner is a permanent faculty member of the Common Law Section with a cross-appointment to the Faculty of Engineering’s School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. He is an empirical legal scholar specializing in international economic law and the computational analysis of law.

A lawyer and social worker by training, Professor Chen’s research program examines laws and policies that contribute to health inequities and marginalization, particularly among noncitizens and racialized minorities. His published work touches on topics such as health rights litigation, refugee health care, social determinants of health, health care solidarity, and medical tourism.

Here are the new members of the Common Law Section:

Wolfgang Alschner
Assistant Professor

Yin-Yuan Chen
Assistant Professor

New Faculty Appointments 2016-2018
In 2017, the University of Ottawa appointed Elder Claudette Commanda, an Algonquin Anishinaabe from Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg First Nation, as the Faculty of Law’s first Elder-in-Residence.

A graduate of the Common Law Section (1997), Ms. Commanda has dedicated her career to promoting First Nations rights, history, and culture. As Elder-in-Residence, Ms. Commanda provides knowledge and guidance to students, professors, and staff. She leads the Faculty in cultural protocols and ceremonial blessings, and her perspective contributes to the Faculty’s ongoing efforts on the path to reconciliation.

Our First Elder-in-Residence: Claudette Commanda

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The Common Law Section is home to numerous research centres that bring together researchers, postdoctoral fellows, graduate and undergraduate students, and community partners. These collaborative environments foster innovation while offering a common space where students and researchers can test and develop their work, creating new ideas and advancing the University’s vibrant research culture.

The Centre for Law, Technology and Society
Director: Florian Martin-Bariteau
Website: techlaw.uottawa.ca
- A new Director, Professor Florian Martin-Bariteau, joined the Centre and the Common Law Section in September 2016. He has succeeded in bringing a new energy to the Centre in addition to his own expertise in Intellectual Property Law, Blockchain, and Whistleblowers.
- The Centre joined with government partners to deliver special events on important topics, including: a forum on artificial intelligence, co-organized with the Department of Defence; a workshop on autonomous weapons systems with the Ministry of Defence.
- Support from the Centre helped several members earn Queen Elizabeth II Scholarships (2017) and aided two others in earning Ontario Early Researcher Awards.

The Centre for Environmental Law and Global Sustainability
Director: Nathalie Chalifour
Website: commonlaw.uottawa.ca/centre-environmental-law-global-sustainability
- The Centre held three major national conferences, notably (1) Formalizing the Right to a Healthy Environment (Feb. 15, 2018, in partnership with David Suzuki Foundation); (2) Taking Stock - Second Annual Food Law in Canada Conference (Nov. 2-4, 2017); and (3) The First Century of the International Joint Commission (Sept. 25-26, 2017, in collaboration with the federal government).
- The "Research-O-Thon: Civil Liability for Climate Change" and the "Easy Context in Environmental Law" helped to encourage collaboration between students and faculty members.
- The Centre continued to organize the Environmental Rights Lecture Series, which allows exchanges between environmental law experts including professors, students, and prominent members of the legal and political community.

The University of Ottawa Refugee Assistance Program
- The University of Ottawa Refugee Assistance Program
- The Refugee Sponsorship Support Program
- The Refugee Hub
- The Refugee Sponsorship Support Program
- The University of Ottawa Refugee Assistance Program

In addition to the Research Centres, our researchers also take part in a broad range of networks, programs, research groups, and legal clinics:

**Networks and Programs**
- The #Quality Project
- The Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative
- Open AIR: the Open African Innovation Research network
- The Refugee Hub
- The Refugee Sponsorship Support Program
- Ticket Defence Program
- The University of Ottawa Refugee Assistance Program

**Research Groups and Laboratories**
- International Law Group
- Law and Social Justice Group
- Public Law Group
- The uOttawa Blockchain Legal Lab

**Legal Clinics**
- Human Rights Clinic (administered by the HRREC)
- Samuelson-Glushko Canadian Internet Policy and Public Interest Clinic (CIPPIC)
- University of Ottawa Community Legal Clinic
- uOttawa-Ecojustice Environmental Law Clinic
- University of Ottawa and Queen’s University Joint International Economic Law Clinic TradeLab
Our researchers make an impact on our legal environment by grappling with tough questions and seeking to solve problems that harm, threaten, or sometimes puzzle society. Here are just a few examples of funding earned in the interest of solving these challenges.

In 2016, Professor Natasha Bakht earned an Insight Grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) for a project studying the growing trend in western liberal democracies to prohibit Muslim women who cover their faces with a veil from participating in certain aspects of public life.

Professor Colleen Flood earned a Partnerships for Health System Improvement (PHSI) Grant from CIHR in 2016 to lead a large interdisciplinary research team investigating Canada's options for financing long-term care services for its aging population. The research team consists of legal scholars, political scientists, health service researchers and statisticians, all partnering with senior government decision makers from Health Canada, as well as the Ministries of Health in Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and Alberta.

Professor Ian Kerr was awarded a SSHRC Insight Grant in 2016 for a project that aims to develop ethical and legal frameworks for the governance of machines with artificial intelligence, focusing specifically on near-term technologies such as autonomous military robots, driverless vehicles, and social robots. Joining Professor Kerr on this project is co-applicant Jacquelyn Burkill of Western University and collaborator Sherry Turkle of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

In 2017, Professor Heather McLeod-Kilmurray, with support from SSHRC, joined with experts on food law in Canada to host an innovative conference that investigated and reflected on the current state of food laws and policies in Canada, providing a venue for strategizing about how to improve such laws.

Dean Adam Dodek earned a SSHRC Insight Grant in 2017 for a 5-year project studying the rise and fall of Heenan Blaikie LLP. The once-iconic national law firm underwent a sudden and very public collapse in 2014, sending shockwaves through the Canadian legal profession. Professor Dodek’s project studies the collapse in the broader context of changes in the legal profession, with the goal of understanding how the changing landscape may affect the future of businesses and law in general.

Professor Vanessa MacDonnell received a SSHRC Insight Grant in 2018 for a project studying quasi-constitutional statutes in Canada, including federal and provincial human rights codes, privacy laws, and official languages acts, among others. Professor MacDonnell’s project is one of the first in-depth studies of this important area of constitutional law.

Professor Teresa Scassa received a SSHRC Insight Grant in 2018 for her project studying the legal aspects of ownership, control, and reuse of online publicly accessible data. Her research will provide a detailed legal and interdisciplinary analysis of competing claims for how publicly accessible data can be used and controlled.
Our Emerging Researchers Are Making Their Marks!

In 2016, Professor Jennifer Bond received an Early Researcher Award (ERA) from the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade for a five-year project entitled “Access to Justice in Canada’s Refugee System.” The Early Researcher Award program helps promising, recently appointed Ontario researchers build research teams. The goal of the program is to improve Ontario’s ability to attract and retain the best and brightest research talent.

Professor Suzanne Bouscin received an ERA in 2015, and two more Common Law researchers, Wolfgang Alschner and Amy Salyzyn, who submitted their ERA applications in 2017, joined the list of Early Researcher Award winners in 2018.

Add to this an impressive list of successes achieved by other emerging researchers. Florian Martin-Bariteau earned a SSHRC Knowledge Synthesis Grant for his project “L’état de la protection des lanceurs d’alerte au Canada et dans le monde global et numérique,” Y.Y. Chen earned a CIHR Planning and Dissemination Grant for his project “Non-Citizens’ National Belonging and Health,” Michael Pal earned funding from the Ontario Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs for his project “Reconciliation and Representation: Indigenous Peoples’ Political Participation in Canadian Elections,” and Natasha Bakht earned a CIHR Planning and Dissemination Grant for her project “Therapeutic and Enhancement Uses of Neuroscientific Knowledge: A question of Individual Autonomy,” among others.


Y.Y. Brandon Chen, Planning and Dissemination Grant, Non-Citizens’ National Belonging and Health, $20,000.

Colleen Flood, Partnerships for Health System Improvement Grant, Long Term Worries: Testing New Policy Options for Financing Long Term Care, $400,000.

Foundations and Other External Funding

- Jane Bailey (principal investigator) and Carissima Mathen (co-investigator), Foundation for Legal Research, Technologically-Facilitated Violence Against Women: Can Canadian Criminal Law Respond, $5,600.
- Jennifer Chandler, Bertram Loeb Organ-Tissue Donation Institute, Public and professional attitudes to pre-mortem interventions in donation after cardio-circulatory death, $20,000.
- Adam Dodek, Foundation for Legal Research, Reasonable Apprehension of Bias in the 21st Century, $5,600.
- Stewart Elgie, Jarislowsky Foundation, Global Senior Fellows and Research Program, $500,000.
- Marel Katsiveli, Canadian Bar Association, Le manquement à la norme de diligence et la faute dans le cadre du délit de négligence (common law) et de la responsabilité extracontractuelle du fait personnel (droit civil) au Canada: une étude en droit comparé, $5,000.
- Florian Martin-Bariteau, Fondation du Barreau du Québec, La protection des secrets et des lanceurs d’alerte au Québec, $5,000.
- Florian Martin-Bariteau, Foundation for Legal Research, La protection des secrets dans la vie des affaires au Canada, $5,000.
- Marina Pavlovic (co-principal investigator with Mary Cavanagh, Faculty of Arts), Law Foundation of Ontario, Mapping the Front End: Legal Information Seeking Practices in an Access-To-Justice Framework, $65,000.
- Allan Rock, Centre for International Governance Innovation, Access to Frozen Assets to Assist Refuges, $20,000.
- Alain Roussy, Ontario Bar Association Foundation, Le Code de déontologie et le bilinguisme, $15,000.
- Amy Salyzyn, Foundation for Legal Research, Whistle-Blowing and Lawyers: Balancing professional responsibilities and the public interest, $5,600.
- David Wiseman, ACORN Canada, Access to Justice: Consumer Rights & Fringe Financial Institutions: Preventative and Reactive Public Legal Education Workshops, $7,000.

Innovating through Partnerships

Professor Stewart Elgie received a prestigious $2.5 million Partnership Grant from SSHRC for a 7-year project entitled “Growing Growth Partnerships: Connecting Research with Policy for an Innovative, Sustainable Economy”. As Project Director, Professor Elgie is teaming with 33 co-applicants (including Nathalie Chalifour and Jeremy de Beer), 14 collaborators, and 46 partner organizations to undertake the project. Between 2016-2018, Professor Elgie received over $3.9 million in additional funding related to the partnership or to initiatives connected to uOttawa’s Institute of the Environment, of which he is the director. Professor Elgie joins Jeremy de Beer and Jane Bailey as the newest holder of a partnership grant at the Common Law Section.

Other Canadian law researchers are also taking part in impressive partnership initiatives. For example, a partnership of leading Canadian academics and non-governmental actors, led by Université Laval’s Fannie Lafontaine, was awarded $2.5 million by SSHRC in 2016 to strengthen justice for victims of international crimes such as war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. The Common Law Section and the Human Rights Research and Education Centre (HRREC) are among the partner organizations, and several faculty members are among the project’s co-investigators and collaborators, including Jennifer Bond, François Larocque, João Velloso, John Packer, and Penelope Simons.

Jane Bailey and her frequent collaborator Valerie Steeves (Faculty of Social Sciences) are serving as co-investigators on a SSHRC Partnership Grant, led by Shabbeen Shariff of McGill University, which aims to investigate and develop policy and practice models to dismantle rape culture in universities. João Velloso, meanwhile, is a co-investigator on a SSHRC Partnership Grant led by Université de Montréal’s Pierre Noreau on access to justice issues. Finally, Angela Cameron is a co-investigator on a SSHRC Partnership Development Grant led by Barbara Cameron of York University that aims to strengthen and extend partnerships among civil society organizations and academics, with a view to bringing the voices of a wide range of constituencies into a public conversation about the status of women in Canada today and the public policy challenges in the decades ahead.

By fostering mutual cooperation and sharing of intellectual leadership, these important grants allow partners to innovate, build institutional capacity, and mobilize research knowledge in a variety of ways.

University of Ottawa Funding Programs

Seed Funding and Bridge Funding Opportunity


- Y.Y. Brandon Chen, Seed Funding Opportunity, Protecting Refugees’ Health: How is the Reestablished Interim Federal Health Program Working?, $16,000.
- Elizabeth Judge, Bridge Funding Opportunity, Big Data Politics: The Democratic Implications for Privacy and Election Law, $10,000.
- Kyle Kirkup, Seed Funding Opportunity, ‘Gender expression’ under construction: How school boards are shaping Ontario’s newest human rights law category, $10,000.
- Jamie Liew, Seed Funding Opportunity, Legal Barriers to Eliminating Statelessness: The Doctrine of the Exhaustion of Remedies and the Denial of Citizenship in Canada & Malaysia, $10,000.
- Florian Martin-Bariteau, Seed Funding Opportunity, Le statut juridique du bitcoin en droit canadien, $10,000.
- João Velloso, Seed Funding Opportunity, Mapping alleged gang members in the immigration regime, $10,000.

Office of the Vice-President Research

- Jane Bailey, Visiting Researcher Program, Professor Chloé S. Guears, University of Puerto Rico, $2,790.
- Jennifer Bond, Office of the Vice-President Research, Global Refugee Sponsorship Research Initiative, $150,000.
- Jennifer Chandler, Ottawa–Argentina Partnership Program, Regulating emerging psychiatric neuro-modulation therapies, $11,250.
- Vanessa MacDonell, Visiting Researcher Program, Professor Se-shauna Wheatle, Durham University, $5,000.
- Florian Martin-Bariteau, Visiting Researcher Program, Professor Carlos Affonso Souza, Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, $6,000.
- João Velloso, Visiting Researcher Program, Professor Rodrigo Ghiringhelli de Azevedo, Pontificia Universidad Católica do Rio Grande do Sul, $6,000.
Research Chairs and Professorships

The Common Law Section’s Research Chairs are leaders in their fields whose expertise is recognized nationally and internationally. Research Chairs are supported institutionally so that they can continue to engage in groundbreaking research and lead major projects that contribute to the education of our students while also training and mentoring future researchers and generating opportunities for collaboration with other researchers.

Canada Research Chairs

Teresa Scassa
Canada Research Chair in Information Law and Policy
Tier 1
- Published research on the following topics (among others): “Law Enforcement in the Age of Big Data and Surveillance Intermediaries”, “Sharing Data in the Platform Economy”, and “Balancing Transparency and Accountability with Privacy in Improving the Police Handling of Sexual Assaults.”
- Earned a 4-year SSHRC Insight grant for a project entitled “Developing a Public Interest-Based Approach to Ownership, Users’ Rights and Privacy Interests in Publicly Accessible Platform Data.”
- Appointed as Senior Policy Fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation, and to the Digital Strategy Advisory Panel for Waterfront Toronto (Sidewalk Toronto Smart Cities Development).

Michael Geist
Canada Research Chair in Internet and E-commerce Law
Tier 1
- Published research on the implications of website blocking for freedom of expression, net neutrality, and privacy. He appeared frequently before Parliamentary committees on these issues, and his work was cited by many contributors to public policy processes and the mainstream media.
- Advised the Government of Sri Lanka in its efforts to modernize its e-commerce and privacy laws. Working with the United Nations, he developed a road map for reform, facilitated workshops for government departments and private sector stakeholders, and identified key reforms to enhance the national digital economy.
- Was appointed to the Order of Ontario, the province’s highest honour, for championing the public interest and popularizing the field of law and technology in Canada.

Tracey Lindberg
University Research Chair in Indigenous Laws and Legal Orders
- Developed a detailed teaching guide for her debut novel, Birdie, which is now taught in law schools and in fields such as women’s studies, Indigenous studies, Canadian studies, and English literature programs across North America.
- Appointed Distinguished Visiting Indigenous Faculty Fellow at the Jackman Humanities Institute, University of Toronto (2018).
- Elected as a 2018 Member of the Royal Society of Canada’s College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists.

Constance Backhouse
University Research Chair on Sexual Assault Legislation in Canada
- Published a biography of one of Canada’s most celebrated and controversial women judges: Claire L’Heureux-Dubé: A Life (University of British Columbia Press, 2017), which was awarded the 2018 Canadian Law and Society Association Book Prize.
- Completed the final two years of funding for her SSHRC Insight Grant ($191,004) and her University Research Chair ($100,000). She also received an $8,000 publishing stipend from the Scholarly Publications Program.
- Elected to the Executive Committee of the American Council of Learned Societies in 2017.

University Research Chairs

Ian Kerr
Canada Research Chair in Ethics, Law and Technology
Tier 1
- Recently authored groundbreaking research on robots and privacy that will be published in 2019 in Theoretical Inquiries in Law.
- Currently completing a $100,000 research contract with Transport Canada on ethical, legal, and policy issues for Autonomous and Connected Vehicles.
- Was appointed as Chair of the AI and Society Advisory Board for the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research.

New Chair

New Chair

New Chair

New Chair
Jennifer Chandler
Bertram Loeb Chair in Organ and Tissue Donation
- Appointed to the Expert Panel on Medical Assistance in Dying, Council of Canadian Academies. The CCA is tasked with undertaking independent reviews related to medical assistance in dying, specifically for complex types of requests that were identified for further review and study in the legislation passed by Parliament in 2016.
- Appointed Interim Associate Vice-President of Research at the University of Ottawa (2017-2018).

John Packer
Neuberger-Jesin Professor of International Conflict Resolution
- In April 2018, Professor John Packer was appointed the inaugural Neuberger-Jesin Professor of International Conflict Resolution.
- The Professorship was established by a generous gift from spouses Edie Neuberger and Norm Jesin (LLBs 1981).
- The Professorship will deliver a clinical course for JD students together with engagements in practice drawing on Professor Packer’s thirty years of international experience.

Colleen Flood
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Endowed Research Chairs and Professorships

Angela Cameron
Shirley Greenberg Chair for Women and the Legal Profession
- Hosted Dubravka Šimonović, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, Its Causes and Consequences, and her team at the Faculty of Law and organized a roundtable of legal experts to brief the Special Rapporteur on various aspects of Canadian law.
- The Chair, in collaboration with Professor Vanessa Gruben and Professor Alana Cattapan of the University of Saskatchewan, was awarded a SSHRC Connection Grant for a national roundtable of feminist scholars studying surrogacy, featuring leading experts from Canada and abroad.
- The Chair hosted Chloe Georas, a feminist scholar from the University of Puerto Rico Law School, who researches and writes in the area of law and technology.

Debra Steger
Hyman Soloway Chair in Business and Trade Law
- Helped to facilitate a uOttawa student clerkship at the International Court of Justice, The Hague, Netherlands.
- Oversaw the Hyman Soloway Chair Annual Lecture series and initiated sponsorship of the 2017 Canadian Council on International Law Annual Conference, which held its opening event at uOttawa (in collaboration with HRREC).
- In 2018, as Professor Steger’s term expired, Professor Anthony VanDuzer assumed the role of Chair.

Colleen Flood
University Research Chair in Health Law and Policy
- Elected as a 2018 Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (CAHS), one of the highest honours for members of the Canadian health sciences community.
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New Research Chairs

The past two years have seen an impressive number of new research chairs awarded to Common Law researchers. And the future looks equally bright!

Professor Tracey Lindberg was awarded the University Research Chair in Indigenous Laws, Legal Orders and Traditions in 2017. Her research program explores and advances inherent Indigenous laws, Indigenous citizenship laws and standards, Indigenous governmental authority, and comparative Indigenous law research. Bolstered by her international stature as a researcher and writer, the program represents a unique opportunity for academic comparative analysis of Indigenous laws of governance and citizenship.

Also in 2017, Professor Teresa Scassa was awarded a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Information Law and Policy. Dr. Scassa held a Tier 2 CRC from 2007-2017. Her advancement to a Tier 1 CRC allows her to continue her innovative research advancing knowledge and informing public policy-making on issues of the ownership, control, and transparency of information and data within the evolving context of the e-Society.

In addition to those new Chairs, several existing research chairs were taken up by new Common Law Faculty members. In 2016, Professor Jennifer Chandler was awarded the Bertram Loeb Chair in Organ and Tissue Donation for a five-year period. Also that year, Professor Angela Cameron assumed the Shirley Greenberg Chair for Women and the Legal Profession from her colleague Elizabeth Sheehy. And finally, Professor Debra Steger took over the Hyman Soloway Chair in Business and Trade Law (her second stint as the chairholder) from Professor Donald McRae. With her two-year term over in 2018, Professor Steger passes the reins of the Hyman Soloway Chair to Professor Anthony VanDuzer.

2018 also witnessed two other exciting new appointments. 2018-2019 will be the first year for John Packer as the inaugural Neuberger-Jesin Professor of International Conflict Resolution, leveraging his considerable international experience and network of contacts. Professor François Larocque, meanwhile, assumed the Canadian Francophonie Research Chair in Language Rights in 2018, a fitting recognition of his proven leadership in this field, and a meaningful example of the University of Ottawa’s commitment to its status as a bilingual institution.
Our Researchers Are Bringing Innovative Ideas to the World

Professor Amir Attaran joined a team of uOttawa researchers in 2016 on a project to combat the proliferation of falsified and substandard medicines in developing countries. The team is funded by a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation as part of its “Grand Challenges” program, which seeks solutions to health and development challenges on a global scale.

Professor Chidi Oguamanam visited Geneva for the 30th session of the World Intellectual Property Organization’s (WIPO) Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources in Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) in 2016 as part of the African Expert Delegation. He was instrumental in facilitating strategic collaboration between Indigenous Peoples from around the world and their local community counterparts in Africa. He also helped advance ongoing negotiations to create international legal instruments for the effective protection of genetic resources, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

Members of the Ottawa Centre for Health Law, Policy and Ethics, the Global Strategy Lab, and the Faculty of Arts at the University of Alberta co-led an evidence-based art exhibition in 2017 at UNAIDS in Geneva to highlight the complexities surrounding global vaccination.

In 2017, the Open African Innovation Research (Open AIR) Network, under the guidance of Professors Jeremy de Beer and Chidi Oguamanam, received funding from the Queen Elizabeth II Scholars Program (QES) to create new opportunities for emerging scholars to explore African innovation through the lens of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. The fellowship provides deeper training experiences that create capacity for both African and Canadian institutions across the disciplines of law, economics, management, political science, and more.

In 2017, former Dean Nathalie Des Rosiers and Interim Dean François Larocque marked the 150th anniversary of Confederation by co-convening a series of three thematic conferences at the University of Ottawa, Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM), and the Central University of Chile to address Canada’s role in the protection of human rights in the Americas. Stanford University in California was also a partner on the project. The first event in Chile dealt with Indigenous peoples and the extractive mining industry. The next event in Montreal focused on women’s rights. The final symposium, held at uOttawa, addressed the larger question of Canada’s role in the Organization of American States.

Professor Penelope Simons teamed up with researchers in Canada and Peru in 2018 to explore how and why women and girls tend to suffer the greatest disadvantages and harm from natural resource extraction. Their project assesses the role of Canada’s institutional and normative frameworks in closing the gender equality gap in the extractive sector, both domestically and internationally.

In 2018, Professor Jennifer Chandler helped initiate an International Research Cooperation Agreement between the University of Ottawa and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation of Argentina. She has assembled a six-person team for a project studying “Ethics and regulation of emerging psychiatric neuro-modulation therapies.” The main objective of the project is to respond to the ethical and regulatory challenges posed by the rapid development in the field of psychiatric neuro-modulation therapies.

Awards and Distinctions

Elizabeth Sheehy receives the Governor General’s Award in Commemoration of the Persons Case from Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor General of Canada.

Dedication, Passion, and Commitment: Elizabeth Sheehy Honoured by the Governor General

Professor Elizabeth Sheehy was among the six recipients of the Governor General’s Awards in Commemoration of the Persons Case for 2017. The awards honour outstanding Canadian women who have made exceptional contributions to gender equality and quality of life for women in Canada. For over three decades, Elizabeth Sheehy has been a prominent Canadian voice on legal responses to violence against women. Her pioneering research into the law’s treatment of women has helped to transform the criminal justice system, creating more effective protection for victims of sexual and domestic violence.

“In order to claim their place in history, this year’s recipients of the Governor General’s Awards in Commemoration of the Persons Case have repeatedly demonstrated ambition, defied stereotypes, and challenged conventions,” said the Honourable Maryam Monsef, Minister of Status of Women. “I congratulate these women for their constant dedication, passion, and commitment in making a difference in the lives of women and girls in Canada. These amazing women are reminders that together, we can make gender equality a reality.”

Elizabeth Sheehy receives the Governor General’s Award in Commemoration of the Persons Case from Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor General of Canada.

Photo credit: Sgt Johanie Maheu, Rideau Hall © OSGG, 2017
Every year, faculty members from the Common Law Section are recognized for their expertise, leadership, and innovation with a broad range of awards, prizes, and distinctions. These awards are an integral part of our research agenda: they profile our scholarship to the larger community; they assist our researchers in gaining access to funding and other opportunities to advance legal and social change; and they foster a research community that instills pride and celebrates excellence.

The Common Law Section is immensely proud of the excellence of all of its researchers and congratulates each of the following award, prize, and distinction recipients for their impressive contributions.

National Awards

- **Jane Bailey**  
  - Member, Royal Society of Canada, College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists, 2016

- **Jamie Benidickson**  
  - Fellow, Royal Society of Canada, 2016

- **Jennifer Bond**  
  - Walter S. Tarnopolosky Human Rights Award, International Commission of Jurists, Canadian Section, 2016

- **Jeremy de Beer**  
  - CALT Prize for Academic Excellence, Canadian Association of Law Teachers, 2016

- **Adam Dodek**  

- **Colleen Flood**  
  - Fellow, Royal Society of Canada, 2016

- **Craig Forcese** (with Kent Roach, University of Toronto)  
  - Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers, Canadian Lawyer Magazine, 2016

- **Martha Jackman**  
  - Fellow, Royal Society of Canada, 2017

- **John Mark Keyes**  
  - President’s Award, Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice, 2016

- **Vern Krishna**  

- **Chidi Oguamanam**  
  - Member, Royal Society of Canada, College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists, 2016

- **Rakhi Ruparelia**  
  - CALT Award for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, Canadian Association of Law Teachers, 2016

- **Elizabeth Sheehy**  
  - Governor General’s Award in Commemoration of the Persons Case, Governor General of Canada, 2017

International Awards

- **Jeremy de Beer**  
  - Charles B. Seton Award, Copyright Society of the USA, 2017

- **Sarah Morales**  
  - Member, Global Young Academy, 2018

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

- **Elizabeth Sheehy**  
  - Distinguished Visitor Award, University of Auckland, New Zealand, 2018

Provincial Awards

- **Denis Boivin**  
  - Ordre du mérite, L’Association des juristes d’expression française de l’Ontario (AJEFO), 2017

- **Jennifer Bond**  
  - Member, Order of Ontario, 2017

- **Larry Chartrand**  
  - Law Society Medal, Law Society of Upper Canada, 2017

- **Adam Dodek**  
  - David Walter Mandell Medal, Ministry of the Attorney General of Ontario, 2018

- **Pierre Foucher**  
  - Ordre des francophones d’Amérique, Conseil supérieur de la langue française, 2017

Regional Awards

- **Constance Backhouse**  
  - Alumni Gold Key Award, Osgoode Hall Law School, 2016

- **Natasha Bakht**  
  - Femmy Award, “Thought Leader” Category, International Women’s Day Ottawa, 2017

University of Ottawa Awards

- **Michael Geist**  
  - Open Scholarship Award, University of Ottawa Library, 2016

- **Ian Kerr**  
  - Excellence in Education Prize, University of Ottawa, 2017

Michael Geist receives the annual Open Scholarship Award from Jeanette Hatherill and Sarah Simpkin of the University of Ottawa Library.
New Appointments

- Yvonne Boyer, Senate of Canada, 2018
- Jennifer Chandler and Colleen Flood, Expert Panel on Medical Assistance in Dying, Council of Canadian Academies, 2017
- Jennifer Chandler, Board of Directors of the International Neuroethics Society, 2016
- Larry Chartrand, Director of the Native Law Centre, University of Saskatchewan, 2017
- Claudette Commanda, Elder in Residence, University of Ottawa, Faculty of Law, 2017
- Jeremy de Beer, Michael Geist, Chidi Oguamanam, and Teresa Scassa, Senior Fellows, Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), International Law Research Program, 2017-2018
- Nathalie Des Rosiers, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, Government of Ontario, 2018
- Adam Dodek, Dean of the Common Law Section, Faculty of Law, 2018
- Colleen Flood, Associate Vice-President, Research (Interim), 2017
- Craig Forcée, President of Canadian Association of Law Teachers (CALT), 2016
- Michael Geist, Board of Trustees, Canada Science and Technology Museum, 2018
- Vern Krishna, Judicial Advisory Committee for the Tax Court of Canada, 2017
- François Larocque, Moderator, Question and Answer Session for Nomination of the Honourable Sheilah L. Martin to the Supreme Court of Canada, 2017
- François Larocque, Editorial Board of Recueil de jurisprudence de l’Ontario (RJO), 2017
- François Larocque, Interim Dean of the Common Law Section, Faculty of Law, 2016-2017
- Tracey Lindberg, Distinguished Visiting Indigenous Faculty Fellow, Jackman Humanities Institute, University of Toronto, 2018
- Kim Pate, Senate of Canada, 2016
- David Wiseman, President of Canadian Association of Law Teachers (CALT), 2017

Major Scholarships and Fellowships

Two Faculty of Law doctoral students, Sophie de Saussure and Pierre Cloutier de Repentigny, were among the 2017 recipients of the most highly coveted funding opportunity for doctoral students in the humanities and social sciences, the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation Doctoral Scholarships. Trudeau Foundation Scholarships have an unmatched stature and scope across Canada, with only 15 scholarships awarded every year. Ms. de Saussure, who is supervised by Civil Law’s Margarida Garcia, is undertaking research that delves into the legal framework for criminal sentencing in Canada, while Mr. Cloutier de Repentigny, who is supervised by Common Law’s Heather McLeod-Kilmurray, is undertaking a critical analysis of the marine life protection provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Both Sophie de Saussure and Pierre Cloutier de Repentigny are also recipients of doctoral scholarships from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council’s prestigious Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarships Program. Ms. de Saussure earned the honour in 2016, while Mr. Cloutier de Repentigny earned his scholarship in 2017. Joining them with this prestigious honour is another doctoral student, Sarit Mizrahi—supervised by Common Law’s Michael Geist and Jeremy de Beer—who earned the scholarship in 2016. Ms. de Saussure is also the recipient of a special honour associated with her scholarship. As part of the Canada Graduate Scholarships to Honour Nelson Mandela Program, she has been awarded an honorific title “in Honour of Nelson Mandela” to be associated with her scholarship. The honour recognizes graduate students conducting research in a variety of areas championed by Nelson Mandela. Ms. de Saussure’s project was chosen for its focus on human rights, children’s participation in society, and children’s health.

Master’s student René Lemieux, supervised by Common Law’s Darren O’Toole, earned a Joseph-Armand Bombardier Scholarship at the Master’s level for a research program entitled “Traduire la tradition orale autochtone dans le droit canadien : une étude de l’arrêt Delgamuukw.”

Doctoral student Robin Whitehead, supervised by Common Law’s Jennifer Chandler, earned a SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship in 2017 for a project entitled “Policing mental health disabilities: barriers to liability for excessive or unjustified force.”
Graduate students also had significant success in the Ontario Graduate Scholarships (OGS) Program. In 2016, PhD students Ghazaleh Jerban, supervised by Common Law’s Elizabeth Judge, and Melisa Handl, supervised by Common Law’s Angela Cameron and Civil Law’s Marie-Eve Sylvestre, earned OGS scholarships. Two more doctoral students, Jessica Dufresne, supervised by Civil Law’s David Robitaille, and Vicki Trester, supervised by Common Law’s Angela Cameron and Graham Mayeda, earned the honour in 2017.

Numerous graduate students were also rewarded for their international research. In 2016, four students from the Faculty of Law, Irene Ekeowooh, supervised by Common Law’s P.M. Vasudev), Sileshi Bedasie Hirko (supervised by Common Law’s Jeremy de Beer and Chidi Ogugama), Zhannah Voukitchevitch (supervised by Common Law’s Donald McRae), and Uchenna Ugwu (supervised by Chidi Ogugama), each received scholarships from the Centre for International Governance Innovation’s (CIGI) International Law Research Program. Ghazaleh Jerban joined their ranks in 2017.

Also on the international scene, two doctoral students, Chen Wang (supervised by Angela Cameron) and Kun Hui (supervised by Common Law’s Anthony VanDuzer), earned prestigious scholarships from the China Scholarship Council (CSC) for projects that study legal issues connected to China. Doctoral student Siobhán Airey, supervised by Common Law’s Penelope Simons, earned the prestigious Marie-Curie Fellowship, co-funded by the Irish Research Council (IRC) and the European Union.

Finally, PhD student Esteban Salcedo, supervised by Common Law’s Heather McLeod-Kilmurray and Civil Law’s Sophie Thériault, was awarded the Canadian Energy Law Foundation Graduate Law Scholarship for 2017-2018. The scholarship provides graduate students with funding to support research that has the potential to make a significant contribution to the Canadian energy legal practice.

Recognition for Research Excellence

PhD candidate Uchenna Ijoma, supervised by Common Law’s Heather McLeod-Kilmurray and Lynda Collins, received the award for Best Paper at the 4th Annual International Conference on Sustainable Development in New York City in 2016. The conference was organized by the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Solution Network. Ms. Ijoma’s paper is entitled “First Thing First, Arguing the Case for the Inclusion of Women in Energy Decision Making Process towards Achieving Sustainable Rural Development in Practice: The Nigerian Case”.

Former doctoral student Erika Azeb, who was supervised by Common Law’s Peter Oliver while at uOttawa, and who is currently a postdoctoral research fellow at Melbourne Law School and a lecturer at the University of Antwerp, was the runner-up for the 2017 Baxter Federalism Essay Prize. The prize was part of the inaugural Baxter Family Competition on Federalism (hosted at McGill University), a competition that aims to foster research and informed debate on federalism by young jurists from around the world.

HRREC member Tenille E. Brown, a PhD Candidate under the supervision of Common Law’s Elizabeth Judge and a Part-time Professor at the Faculty of Law, was selected as a Visiting Scholar at Kent Law School in the UK in 2017. Ms. Brown’s research is in the area of legal geography and property law, and she teaches a course in Law and Geography in the Common Law Section, the first of its kind in Canada.

Teaming Up with Established Researchers

Fifteen undergraduate Common Law students received grants from the University of Ottawa’s Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) in 2016 and 2017. The UROP provides undergraduate students with unique and exciting opportunities to explore cutting-edge research at the University of Ottawa while they define their professional goals. By participating in UROP, a student receives a $1,000 award and devotes at least 50 hours to a research project conducted by the faculty sponsor he or she has chosen. Each faculty sponsor receives $500 in research funds to support his or her involvement in the program.

Congratulations to these student-professor teams:

- Roxanne Alam and Professor Florian Martin-Bariteau
- Lara Dagher, Zain Dar and Professor João Velloso
- Esther De Vos and Professor João Velloso
- Annik Dugas and Professor Marek Katsivela
- Uttra Gautam and Professor Wolfgang Alschner
- Sean Grassie and Professor Marina Pavlovic
- Alyssa Hall and Professor Florian Martin-Bariteau
- Tara Hristov and Professor Marina Pavlovic
- Sarah Mack and Professor Suzanne Bouclin
- Sarah Mitchell and Professor Ellen Zweibel
- Sarah Quayyam and Professor Y.Y. Chen
- Thomas Witteveen and Professor P.M. Vasudev
- Melissa Yang and Professor Ellen Zweibel
- Hubie Yu and Professor Vanessa Gruben

Success After uOttawa

In 2016, doctoral graduate Yacouba Cissé was elected as a member of the prestigious International Law Commission (ILC) of the United Nations at the 71st session of the UN General Assembly.

In 2017, doctoral graduate Kristen Thomasen joined the University of Windsor’s Faculty of Law as an Assistant Professor in Law, Robotics and Society. This position is the first of its kind in North America, responding to the growing impact of robotics, automation, and artificial intelligence on the law.

Alumnus Olabisi Akinkugbe, who earned his PhD at the Faculty of Law in 2017, was appointed to a tenure-track position at Dalhousie University’s Schulich School of Law in 2018. Professor Akinkugbe originally joined Schulich as a Visiting Assistant Professor for the 2017-2018 academic year.
A Postdoctoral Research Environment Geared Towards the 21st Century

Postdoctoral fellows at the uOttawa Faculty of Law are offered a wide array of opportunities to broaden their specialized research or explore avenues complementary to their training. Our dynamic and inclusive research environment invites postdocs to take part in invigorating activities such as the new Autumn School on the Methodology of Research in Law and the Faculty of Law Writing Group. Postdoctoral fellows also find plenty of opportunities to be invited to speak in regular conference series or to participate in work-in-progress workshops. They can also access the services of the Research Office and benefit from our communications support to disseminate their research and accomplishments.

For example, Dr. Jason Millar, a postdoctoral fellow working under the supervision of Dr. Ian Kerr, teamed up with Dr. Kerr on a $25,000 grant from the Department of National Defence (DND) for a project entitled “Developing Trust in the Automation of Military Systems”. Specifically, the project addresses the increasing automation of weapon systems with a focus on the importance of maintaining “meaningful human control” (MHC) over these systems. Dr. Millar also serves as the chief ethics analyst at the Open Roboethics initiative (ORI) and has become a go-to expert for media commentary on driverless cars. His comments are featured in a 2016 article from Mashable.com on the complicated ethical dilemmas posed by the imminent arrival of driverless cars. Most recently, he joined the University of Ottawa’s School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science as an Assistant Professor. He is also an Affiliate Researcher at Stanford University’s Center for Automotive Research.

Another postdoctoral fellow, Dr. Lindsey McKay, working under the supervision of Professor Jennifer Chandler, undertook important research on deceased organ donation. Her research examines the potential and the limitations of “pre-mortem” interventions for deceased organ donation. This set of medical interventions have the potential to expand opportunities for organ donation but are not practiced in many settings due to medical, legal, social, and ethical issues. Dr. McKay’s research brings much needed attention to this important area of medical research. She began a faculty position at Thompson Rivers University on July 1st, 2018.

Visit our new Postdoctoral Studies web page (commonlaw.uottawa.ca/en/postdoctoral-fellowships) to learn more about postdoctoral fellowships at the Faculty of Law.

Building Research Skills

Autumn School on the Methodology of Research in Law

In the fall of 2017, Professor Margarida Garcia, Vice-Dean of Research and Communications for the Faculty of Law’s Civil Law Section, joined with the Common Law Section to convene a seminar to discuss the methodology of research in law. Acknowledging that the relationship between research and legal institutions is changing, the first Autumn School on the Methodology of Research in Law was created to allow students and seasoned researchers to come together to ask fundamental questions about the nature of law research. For three days, Dan Kaminski, Professor in the Faculty of Law and Criminology at the Université catholique de Louvain and an expert on research methodology, orchestrated a conversation focusing on the “being” of research rather than the “doing” of it. The seminar was an unmitigated success and provided a time and a space for a deep conversation on the experience of being a researcher and meeting the challenges of law research in the 21st Century.

The Common Law Section hosted the second edition of the Autumn School on the Methodology of Research in Law, under the guidance of Vice-Dean of Research Peter Oliver in October of 2018.

Faculty of Law Writing Group

Inspired by the desire to write more and the need to create a space for collective discussion about the challenges that surround research and writing, the Assistant Dean of Research organized three sessions in the fall of 2017 for faculty, researchers, and postdoctoral fellows to come together to write and to talk about their research projects. The Human Rights Research and Education Centre graciously provided space for the sessions.

Our Researchers Are Making Lawmakers Take Notice

In 2016, the Supreme Court of Canada released a unanimous decision in Daniels v. Canada, ruling that Non-Status Indians and Métis are considered “Indians” under Section 91(24) of the 1867 Constitutional Act. Professor Joseph Magnet acted as Counsel to the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples with responsibility for all constitutional, treaty, and Aboriginal rights litigation. He also served as Chief Negotiator and Lead Counsel for First Nations in land claims processes.

Professor Jennifer Bond helped establish the Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative (GRSI) to assist other countries interested in adopting a refugee sponsorship
program. She networked with like-minded partners, including the Government of Canada, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), and the Open Society Foundations, who quickly rallied to form the GRSI at the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants in September 2016.

Professor Lynda Collins, recognized as one of Canada's foremost authorities on the subject of toxic torts, presented her findings before the Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development in 2016, which adopted a number of her recommendations.

In 2017, the Supreme Court of Canada issued a landmark decision in Donce v. Facebook, ruling that non-negotiated take-it-or-leave it contracts should not always be enforced by the courts, particularly where important rights, such as privacy rights, might be lost by doing so. The decision – a victory for all Canadians – was made possible through contributions to the Centre for Law, Technology and Society and members Marina Pavlović, Jeremy de Beer and Michael Geist, as well as CIPPIC’s Michael Geist, David Fewer and several students who contributed to each step of the process.

Four students from the Faculty of Law’s Global Health Law Clinic, Megan Fultz, Lisa Page, Alysha Panu and Matthew Quirk, published a path-breaking report in 2017 on the legalization of cannabis in Canada. The report, entitled Reconciling Canada’s Legalization of Non-Medical Cannabis with the UN Drug Control Treaties, identified international legal barriers the government faced in its effort to regulate the substance and proposed innovative solutions. Following the federal government’s introduction of new marijuana legislation, the report was cited by The New York Times.

In 2017 and 2018, Professor Marina Pavlović appeared before the House of Commons’ Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities (TRAN), the Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications (TRCM), and the Canadian Transportation Agency to discuss air passenger rights.

Professor Ian Kerr leveraged his research on the legality and ethics of automation in weapon systems in 2017 to join with members of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) research community to author an open letter to the Prime Minister, calling on the government to make Canada the 20th country in the world to take a global stand against weaponizing AI.

Professor Jennifer Chandler joined Professor Jocelyn Downie of Dalhousie University to release a 2018 report addressing ambiguities in the Canadian medical aid-in-dying legislation, the result of an intensive consultative process with medical aid-in-dying providers.

In 2018, at the request of the Parliament of Canada’s All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Prevention of Genocide and other Crimes against Humanity, Professor John Pacier shared his expert views on the situations in Yemen and of the Rohingya (Myanmar).

In 2016, Professor Ian Kerr joined a project with researchers from Western University and MIT aimed at producing ethical and legal frameworks for the governance of machines with artificial intelligence, such as autonomous military robots, driverless vehicles, and social robots.

Professor Jane Bailey and Professor Valerie Stevens of the Department of Criminology undertook a study in 2016 of young people’s experiences with and perceptions of online defamation to produce empirical data on the relationship between online behavioural targeting of youth and “cyberbullying”. This study complements their ongoing partnership leading the eQuality Project.

In 2016, as part of the Premier of Ontario’s Action Plan to Stop Sexual Violence and Harassment, Professor Elizabeth Sheehy joined a committee to develop professional legal education guidelines for members of the bar regarding sexual violence and its impact on survivors.

In 2017, Professors Amy Salyzyn, Suzanne Bouclin, Jena McGill, and Teresa Scassa undertook a research project seeking to protect the privacy interests of users and developers of mobile and web-based legal apps. Their project proposes to create a Privacy Code of Practice for Legal Apps.

Professor Wolfgang Alschner was part of a group of researchers that launched a new database of annotated Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) texts at The Graduate Institute in Geneva, in 2017. PTAs play an increasingly important role in international economic governance, and this database modernizes and increases the availability of relevant international trade information.

Professor Florian Martin-Bariteau initiated a project in 2017 observing that whistleblowers have played an important role in the evolution of our modern democratic societies. This research brings to light the Canadian legal framework surrounding whistleblowers, identifying the risks involved for whistleblowers and for the public while proposing solutions to inform policy-makers.

The Canadian Internet Policy and Public Interest Clinic (CIPPIC) and the BC Civil Liberties Association (BCLA) undertook a project in 2017 to produce a guidebook and online resource to help people protect their privacy and personal data when crossing the Canada–US border.

Our Researchers Are Bringing People Together

2017 marked the 150th anniversary of the Canadian Constitution. “Constitution 150” was a year-long national collaboration between the University of Ottawa’s Public Law Group, the Université de Montréal, and the University of Alberta’s Faculty of Law, celebrating the Canadian Constitution. In March of 2017, with the support of a SSHRC Connection Grant, Professor Adam Dodek brought together leading constitutional scholars to celebrate the Charter, the patrition of the constitution, and to look forward to emerging issues related to constitutional rights and freedoms.

In another celebration of Canada’s 150th birthday, Professor Errol Mendes launched his edited collection, Canada’s Constitutional Democracy: The 150th Anniversary Celebration, alongside Senator Martinez McPhedran at a special book launch event in the Centre Block of Parliament Hill, drawing together a host of legislators and local legal minds.

In 2017, Professors Teresa Scassa and Florian Martin-Bariteau brought together an audience of academics, students, practicing lawyers, and government officials to explore the impact and implications of recent amendments to the Trademarks Act and to identify and assess challenges and new directions for trademark law. The conference was supported by a SSHRC Connection Grant.

Professor Jamie Benidickson convened a symposium in 2017, supported by a SSHRC Connection Grant, to examine Canada-US transboundary water governance and environmental management, particularly issues around the International Joint Commission’s achievements and limitations.

The Centre for Environmental Law and Global Sustainability joined with the Human Rights Research and Education Centre, EcoJustice, and the David Suzuki Foundation to co-host the first symposium on environmental rights in Canada in early 2018.
Professor Vanessa Gruben joined with Professor Vanessa MacDonnell in 2018 to host a two-day conference that brought together a national and international group of interdisciplinary scholars, students, lawyers, members of the public, and judges to examine the legal contributions of the Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin, former Chief Justice of Canada. The conference was supported by a SSHRC Connection Grant.

Professor Ravi Malhotra launched a new book, Disability Politics in a Global Economy: Essays in Honour of Marta Russell, at the California Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco in 2016. The event was sponsored by the local Office of Diversity and Inclusion and the Community Housing Coalition, and brought together numerous leading academics on disability issues.

Publications

The Common Law Section’s faculty is composed of a wide range of experts, many of whom are renowned as leaders in their respective fields. Through their scholarship, our professors have contributed to the exploration and transformation of Canadian laws, practices, and legal systems.

The Common Law Section website now lists all published books produced by faculty members dating back to 2014. It also lists journal articles and book chapters from 2017 onward. Each publication entry includes details on the research itself, details on the author, and links to where the published material can be found. Visit the Professors’ Publications section at commonlaw.uottawa.ca/en/research/professors-publications.

Books published between April 1, 2016 and March 31, 2018

- Sébastien Grammond, Anne-Françoise Debruche and Yan Campagnolo, Quebec Contract Law, 2nd Edition (Wilson & Lafleur, August 2016).


