



Speaker Biographies



**ISRCL International
Conference 2026**

Thinking Beyond the Bars: Reimagining Bail,
Sentencing, and Imprisonment

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Meritxell Abellan-Almenara, University of Montreal



Meritxell Abellan-Almenara is a doctoral candidate in criminology at the University of Montreal and a recipient of a Vanier Scholarship from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, as well as doctoral funding from the Maison des affaires publiques et internationales. Her research explores the intersections between criminal law and immigration law, with a focus on judicial discretion and deportation for criminal offenses. A former defence lawyer, Meritxell holds an LLM in international criminal justice from the University of Nottingham and a Bachelor of Laws from Pompeu Fabra University. In her spare time, Meritxell collaborates with community organizations that advocate for the rights of immigrants.

Dr. Natalia Antolak-Saper, Monash University



Dr Natalia Antolak-Saper is a Senior Lecturer in Law at Monash University, specialising in comparative criminal law and procedure. Her research adopts a socio-legal and empirical lens, focusing on sentencing, gender-based violence, and unrepresented accused. She holds BA and LLB (Hons) degrees from Monash and a PhD on media influence in sentencing policy. A Churchill Fellow and former Visiting Scholar at William and Mary Law School, she has published on media, penal populism, and self-representation in court. Her work informs law reform and public policy, and she teaches criminal law in Monash's LLB and JD programs.

Thomas Arbogast KC, TA Law



Thomas Arbogast KC is a trial and appellate lawyer from Vancouver, defending persons across the criminal law spectrum. He is counsel for the UBC Innocence Project and teaches advocacy and criminal law topics at UBC. He is a founding member of the BC Criminal Defence Advocacy Society - CDAS and is the Board Chair of Legal Aid BC, a Crown Corporation. Tom appears regularly before all BC courts and the Supreme Court of Canada and has extensive international experience. He also appears regularly as amicus curiae counsel on complex matters before the courts.

Prof. Lorana Bartels, Australian National University



Lorana Bartels (BA LLB LLM PhD GDLP GCTE) is a Professor of Criminology and former Criminology Program Leader and Deputy Director of POLIS: The Centre for Social Policy Research at the Australian National University. She is also Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Canberra and University of Tasmania, and Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law. Her publications include five books, 145 peer-reviewed book chapters, journal articles and reports and numerous consultancy reports for governments. Her research focuses on the courts, corrections, and justice responses to Indigenous people, people with disability, women and young people.

Dr. Megan Beatrice, Deakin Law School



Dr Megan Beatrice is a Lecturer in Law at Deakin Law School in Melbourne, Australia. Her research focuses on gendered issues in criminal justice, applying critical lenses, including post-structural feminism, to reimagine enduring problems in criminal law and justice. Her first book, *Incarcerating First Nations Women: An Intersectional Approach* (Springer, 2026), combined Critical Race Theory, Post-Colonial Theory, and Feminist Legal Theory to inform an adapted intersectional lens suitable to the Australian context. Megan is co-Managing Editor of the *Australian Feminist Law Journal* and an International Advisor to the *International Journal for the Semiotics of Law – Revue internationale de Sémiotique juridique*.

Prof. Neil Boyd, International Centre for Criminal Law Reform



Neil Boyd is a professor in the School of Criminology at Simon Fraser University, educated in psychology at the University of Western Ontario and in law at Osgoode Hall Law School. He is a previous director of the School of Criminology and the author of six books. His latest, *A Thousand Dreams: Vancouver's Downtown Eastside and the Fight for Its Future*, is co-authored with Senator Larry Campbell and journalist Lori Culbert. He is a frequent media commentator on subjects related to criminology: specifically, drug law and policy and issues of criminal violence and homicide. He has written articles about drug markets, heroin treatment initiatives, injectable drug use, responding to the threats posed by homicide offenders, and the linkage between drug use and homicide.

Hon. Justice Craig A. Brannagan, Ontario Court of Justice



Justice Craig A. Brannagan is a Judge of the Ontario Court of Justice in Canada. He was appointed in 2025 and currently presides in Barrie, Ontario. Prior to his appointment, he practised criminal law for fourteen years as both a defence attorney and an Assistant Crown Attorney in Toronto, including with the Ministry of the Attorney General's Guns & Gangs Unit. His professional experience includes complex criminal litigation involving criminal organizations, wiretaps, firearms and bail law, and the law of search and seizure. Justice Brannagan has worked with international institutions, including the United Nations and the American Bar Association, and has held leadership roles with the Canadian Red Cross. He currently serves as Co Chair of the Canadian Association of Provincial Court Judges (CAPCJ) Access to Justice Committee.

Dr. Frances E Chapman, PhD, LLM, JD, BA, Lakehead University



Dr. Chapman obtained her JD and LLM degrees from The University of Western Ontario in 2002 and 2006, respectively, and her PhD from Osgoode Hall law school at York University in 2009. Her graduate work focused on criminal law defences including automatism, duress, and necessity. Dr. Chapman began teaching full time at St. Jerome's University at the University of Waterloo in 2007. After six years at UW, in 2013 Dr. Chapman left Southwestern Ontario to become a founding professor at the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law, Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario, where she is currently a full Professor of Law. Dr. Chapman teaches tort and criminal law, and she researches criminal law defences, wrongful convictions, psychological coercion, violence against women, and domestic violence.

Hon. Justice Michelle Christopher KC, Alberta Court of Justice



The Honourable Justice Christopher KC, a Harvard trained mediator and former law professor, holds degrees from the University of Calgary, Dalhousie University and York University. Since her 2018 appointment as the first female judge in Medicine Hat, in Alberta's Southern Judicial District, she has returned to her hometown of Calgary where she sits in the Criminal Division of the Alberta Court of Justice. Justice Christopher has maintained her commitment to legal education, both as an educator and a speaker. She is also active in judicial education committees and on boards, in her court, nationally and internationally through her work with the Alberta Provincial Justices' Association, the Canadian Association of Provincial Court Judges, the American Judges' Association and the Canadian Chapter of the International Association of Women Judges. In her spare time, Justice Christopher is enjoying the onset of her grandparent era, with three lovely grandchildren under age 3 reminding her on a daily basis that making time to play is always a good idea.

Prof. Jonathan Clough, Monash University



Professor Jonathan Clough is Associate Dean (International) in the Faculty of Law, Monash University. He has developed nationally and internationally recognised expertise in three key areas; cybercrime, juries and corporate criminal liability. He has particular expertise in the laws relating to the online exploitation of children and is currently a Chief Investigator on an Australian Research Council Linkage Project 'Understanding and Responding to Online Child Sexual Exploitation Offenders', and Principal Chief Investigator on an ARC Discovery 'Improving Legal Frameworks to Support Online Child Sex Abuse Prosecutions'. He has provided advice to government and has been invited to present his research in national and international forums, including as an expert contributor to the Commonwealth and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime.

Sheriff Adrian Cottam, The Judicial Institute for Scotland



Adrian joined the prosecution service in 1996 and worked over 20 years in various roles including 6 and a half years in the High Court and Appeal Court. He was appointed as a Summary Sheriff in Edinburgh in 2017, dealing primarily with criminal cases. He became a Sheriff principally based at Lanark, a moderately sized county town, in 2021 where he carried out a full range of shrieval duties. He became Deputy Director of the Judicial Institute for Scotland in September 2022 and, together with the Director, is responsible for the training and professional development of all tiers of judiciary.

Paige Darby, Monash University



Paige Darby is a Sessional Academic and PhD Candidate in the Faculty of Law at Monash University, Australia. Her research focuses on sentencing law and mechanisms to build community confidence in sentencing. Paige has extensive experience in criminal law and public policy, having spent nearly two decades in public service, including senior roles leading sentencing and criminal law reform projects for the Victorian Department of Justice and Community Safety. She holds an MPhil in Criminology from the University of Cambridge, a Juris Doctor (LLM) from Monash University, and undergraduate degrees in journalism and criminology.

Prof. Dr. habil. Ágnes Czine, Constitutional Court of Hungary



Since 14 November 2014, she has been serving as a Justice of the Constitutional Court of Hungary, in addition to her role as Professor and Head of the Criminal Procedure Department at Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church (KRE). She completed her education at Eötvös Loránd University in 1981, subsequently embarking on a career as a judge from 1984 to 2014. In 2012, she was awarded a PhD with summa cum laude honours, and in 2020, she successfully completed her habilitation. Her academic specialisations include criminal procedure law and substantive criminal law, which she teaches at KRE and Pázmány Péter Catholic University.

She has authored over four hundred articles and several books. Her research areas are organised crime, international criminal cooperation, coercive measures, human rights and due process in criminal proceedings.

Lady Drummond, Chair of the Judicial Institute for Scotland and member of the Scottish Sentencing Council



Lady Drummond was installed as a Senator of the College of Justice in May 2022 after serving as an appeal sheriff and a temporary High Court judge since 2020. She was appointed as the Senator member of the Scottish Sentencing Council in January 2026.

Educated at Glasgow and Cambridge Universities, Lady Drummond was appointed assistant parliamentary counsel before calling to the Bar in 1998. She became a QC in 2011 after acting as standing junior to the Advocate General and Scottish Ministers. She sat as a part-time sheriff from 2009 and took up the role as resident sheriff in Dundee in 2014 and commercial sheriff in 2017. She is Honorary Professor of St Andrews University and Justice of the St Helena Court of Appeal. She is also the Chair of the Judicial Institute for Scotland, the body responsible for providing education and training for Scottish judges.

Deputy Chief Justice Joanne Durant, Alberta Court of Justice

Deputy Chief Justice Joanne Durant obtained her undergraduate degree from York University and attended Osgoode Hall Law School. After 2 years as a defence counsel in Toronto, she joined the Crown Prosecution Service. After moving to Calgary, she joined the Alberta Prosecution Service where she remained as an Assistant Chief Crown Prosecutor until her appointment to the bench in 2011. She has been a sessional instructor at Mount Royal University, the University of Lethbridge and the University of Calgary law school. She was appointed as an Assistant Chief of the Calgary and Region Criminal Division in 2017 and Deputy Chief Justice of the Alberta Court of Justice in 2021.

Deputy Chief Durant has oversight of all specialized and Indigenous Courts for the Court of Justice. She is the mentoring justice in the Drug Treatment Court and presides there frequently. She is also Chair of the Court's Education and Criminal Caseflow committees.

Maria Falcone, Bocconi University



Maria Falcone is a PhD candidate in Criminal Law at the “Cesare Beccaria” Department of Legal Sciences of the University of Milan, where she conducts research and teaching assistance activities. Her research focuses on criminal law, with particular attention to recidivism and the enforcement of penalties. As part of her doctoral studies, she has been a visiting scholar at Cornell Law School and at the Faculty of Law of the University of Coimbra. She also collaborates with the Chair of Criminal Law at Bocconi University and with the Bocconi Legal Clinic project, working at the Legal Counselling Desk of Bollate prison.

Dr. Peter German KC, President & Executive Director of ICCLR



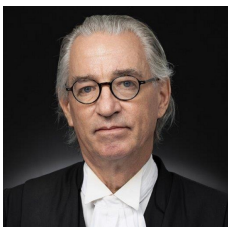
Peter German KC, PhD, is President and Executive Director of the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy. A lawyer and member of the Ontario and British Columbia bars, he was previously a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, serving as its Director General of Financial Crime and as Deputy Commissioner for Western and Northern Canada. He was also Regional Deputy Commissioner Pacific for Correctional Service Canada and served as the initial team commander in the 2008 search for kidnapped Canadian diplomats in West Africa. He holds various degrees including a Doctorate in Law from the University of London.

Terry Hancock, Parole Board of Canada



Terry Hancock is a member of the Appeal Division of the Parole Board of Canada and a bilingual lawyer with more than three decades of experience in public law, judicial education, litigation, and legal scholarship. Prior to her appointment to the PBC, she served as Senior Legal Counsel to the Federal Court of Appeal and the Court Martial Appeal Court of Canada. An accomplished writer, educator, and speaker, Terry has taught law at Queen's University and the University of Windsor. Away from her professional duties, Terry is the proud mother of four young adults, two large dogs and two rescued cats.

Hon. Justice Patrick Healy, Quebec Court of Appeal



Patrick Healy was appointed to the Quebec Court of Appeal in 2016 after nine years as a judge of the Criminal and Penal Division of the Cour du Québec in Montréal. Before his appointment to that court in 2007 Patrick Healy was a professor of law for almost twenty years at McGill University. There he specialised in matters of criminal law, including substantive law, procedure, evidence, sentencing, comparative criminal law and international criminal law. He taught these subjects and has published extensively in all of them. He has lectured widely in Canada and abroad. For many years Patrick Healy was involved in issues of law reform. He advised governments and various non-governmental organisations and testified on several occasions before Parliament on issues concerning pending legislation.

Matthew Hinshaw, Alberta Crown Prosecution Service (ACPS)



Matthew Hinshaw is Senior Counsel with the Alberta Crown Prosecution Service (ACPS), bringing more than 20 years of experience in criminal prosecutions, policy development, and national law reform. He has held several senior leadership roles with the ACPS, including Deputy Chief Prosecutor/Director of the Policy Unit and Acting Chief Prosecutor of the Operations and Strategic Support Office. Matthew represents Alberta in national criminal law reform initiatives and has held multiple leadership positions with the Uniform Law Conference of Canada. He was an active participant in development of the Honourable Beverly Browne – Wiyasôw Iskweêw - Restorative Justice Committee Project and is a passionate advocate for expanding the use of restorative justice processes within the criminal justice system.

Kate Kennedy, the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology



Kate Kennedy works at RMIT University in Australia as an Inside-Out Facilitator. Inside-Out takes university students into prison each week to learn alongside incarcerated people. She is Associate Director of Research and Publications at Beyond the Stone Walls Advisory Collective (BSWAC), a Think Tank that advises on criminal justice policies and practices by platforming lived and living experiences in stakeholder-led consultations. Kate has a firm belief that mutually beneficial outcomes can be achieved for all justice stakeholders through open dialogue and collaboration. In Texas, Kate is a Board Member for the Exorior Reintegration Initiative; an organization that provides post-release housing and support.

Jerome Kennedy, Innocence Canada

Jerome Kennedy is a criminal lawyer in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador. He was admitted to the NL Bar in 1985 and appointed Queen's Counsel in 2005.

Mr. Kennedy was elected to the NL legislature in 2007 and held various Cabinet posts between 2007-2013, including Minister of Justice and Attorney General. In 2016 he completed his LLM in criminal law at Osgoode Hall in Toronto.

Mr. Kennedy is a director of Innocence Canada and has been the Chairman of the Case Review Committee since 2014. Innocence Canada has been successful in overturning 9 wrongful murder convictions across Canada since 2022 and Mr. Kennedy has been involved as counsel in all of these cases. Mr. Kennedy has also been counsel in 5 applications for bail pending the decision of the Minister of Justice on Ministerial Review Applications. Overall, Innocence Canada has assisted in overturning 35 wrongful convictions since its inception in 1994.

Arshana Lalani, Department of Justice Canada



Arshana Lalani began her career as Crown Counsel in Alberta and British Columbia where she prosecuted criminal offences at all levels of court. In 2020, She joined the Department of Justice Canada where she now practices national security law including criminal and quasi-criminal law. She is currently on assignment advising the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (Global Affairs Canada) on public law issues. She also teaches Criminal Trial Advocacy at the University of Ottawa Faculty of Law.

Tamara Levy, KC, UBC Innocence Project



Tamara Levy, KC is the co-founder and Director of the UBC Innocence Project at the Allard School of Law where she has taught as an Adjunct Professor and Lecturer since 2004. She graduated from Osgoode Hall Law school in 1996, articulated with the Ontario Ministry of Attorney General and then Peck and Tammen (now Peck and Company) in Vancouver. After she was called to the British Columbia bar in 1998, Ms. Levy practised as both defence and crown counsel until she began as Director of the UBC Innocence Project in 2007. Since then, she has worked on post-conviction review cases and lectured on the topics of wrongful conviction and forensic science for lawyers, judges, students and the general public. She is also a co-founder and a current Director of the Criminal Defence Advocacy Society in British Columbia and she is an Alternate Chair with the BC Review Board.

Judge Carol Ling, Attorney-General's Chambers, Singapore



Carol began her legal career as a Deputy Public Prosecutor at the Attorney-General's Chambers, Singapore, before joining the Judiciary as a Magistrate in the Subordinate Courts at the close of 1999. Over the years in the courts, she gained experience across different fields of the law, including civil, family, probate and succession matters, as well as mediation, all whilst maintaining a strong connection to criminal law. It was during this period that she found herself drawn most strongly to criminal law, an area she believes touches lives in the most direct and meaningful ways.

For the past four years, Carol has served as a District Judge in the Community Court of the State Courts of Singapore, where she presides over criminal cases involving young offenders, vulnerable individuals, and those with mental health challenges. She is a firm believer in second chances, and in the enduring possibility of mercy within justice.

John Logue, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS)



John Logue is the Crown Agent and Chief Executive of the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS). He was appointed in September 2022 on an interim basis and permanently in December 2023.

John Logue has been a prosecutor in Scotland for 30 years.

The Crown Agent is the head of COPFS which is the public prosecution and death investigation service in Scotland. He is the principal legal advisor to the Lord Advocate on prosecution matters and the Chief Executive of COPFS.

Hon. Justice Anna Loparco, Court of King's Bench of Alberta



Justice Loparco was appointed in March 2019 as a Justice of the Court of King's Bench of Alberta. She graduated from McGill Law School in the bilingual and bilingual program, earning degrees in Common Law and Civil Law as well as an MBA. She was admitted to the Quebec, New York, and Alberta Bars.

She was a partner at Dentons LLP, and practiced in various litigation areas, including constitutional, language rights, education, professional liability, and Intellectual Property. She served as counsel to the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate and established a new framework for child representation. She represented many children in sexual and physical abuse cases, acted as a liaison to the courts in the province, provided advice on the process for investigations of deaths and serious injuries of children in care, and recommended changes to improve children's services in Alberta.

Justice Loparco is the co-founder and co-chair of Restorative Justice Committee, which is currently focused on criminal matters, but the project aims to expand restorative practices to family and civil contexts in the future. Justice Loparco has chaired the French Language and Interpretation Steering Committee of the Court of King's Bench since 2020 and assisted in developing a French policy to improve access to justice in French. She regularly presides over French matters. She also serves as co-chair of the Family Law Steering Committee.

Prof. Marie Manikis, McGill University



Marie Manikis is an Associate Professor and William Dawson Scholar at McGill University's Faculty of Law. She is also a Research Associate at the Centre for Criminology, University of Oxford and the International Centre for Comparative Criminology. Her interdisciplinary, comparative research examines prosecutorial discretion, state accountability, victims' roles, and community participation in criminal justice, including bail, sentencing, and punishment. She is the author of *Victims as Agents of State Accountability* (OUP, 2026) and has published in leading journals. Her award-winning scholarship has been cited by several courts, and she regularly advises government bodies in Canada and the United Kingdom.

Sheriff Joanna McDonald, Sheriff at Glasgow and member of the Scottish Sentencing Council



Summary Sheriff McDonald was appointed as a floating summary sheriff in October 2021, becoming a resident summary sheriff in Glasgow in April 2024. She was appointed as a judicial member of the Scottish Sentencing Council in July 2025.

Prior to becoming a summary sheriff, Summary Sheriff McDonald was a criminal defence solicitor for 19 years, obtaining her criminal Rights of Audience in 2007. In 2013, she joined the Crown Office as an advocate depute and was appointed a senior advocate depute in 2016. She has appeared in criminal courts in both summary and solemn proceedings as a practitioner and now presides over a variety of courts as a summary sheriff.

Prof. André Mendes, FGV Rio Law School



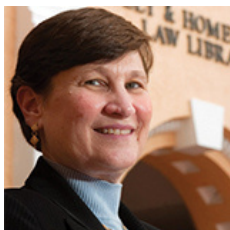
PhD in Law from the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio). Academic Visitor at the Faculty of Law and the Centre for Criminology, University of Oxford (2017–2018). Currently, Professor of Criminal Law and Researcher at the Center for Justice and Society (CJUS) at FGV Rio Law. Member of the Brazilian Institute of Criminal Sciences (IBCCRIM). Former Head of the Legal Practice Center (2011–2026), where he led the Legal Clinics Program at FGV Rio Law for 15 years.

Prof. Nicole M. Myers, Queen's University



Nicole Myers is a criminologist and Associate Professor in the Sociology Department at Queen's University. Her work focuses on the pre-trial detention and bail process. Prof Myers has conducted extensive bail court observations and in-depth interviews with criminal justice professionals and accused people. Professor Myers is a recognized expert having appeared before the Senate of Canada Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs and the House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights. Her work has been cited by the Supreme Court of Canada in *R. v. Zora*, 2020, *R. v. Myers*, 2019, *R. v. Penunsi*, 2019 and *R. v. Antic* 2017.

Prof. Ellen Podgor, Stetson University College of Law



Professor Ellen S. Podgor is the Gary R. Trombley Family White-Collar Crime Research Professor at Stetson University College of Law where she teaches courses in white collar crime, criminal law, criminal procedure adjudication, and white collar advocacy. She is the co-author of numerous books including the Hornbook on White Collar Crime and White Collar Crime in a Nutshell. She is a past president of the Southeastern Association of Law Schools (SEALS) and a life member of the American Law Institute (ALI). She holds degrees from: Syracuse University (B.S.), Indiana McKinney Law (J.D.), Temple Law (LL.M), and University of Chicago (M.B.A.).

Magistrate Tina Previtera, Magistrates Court of Queensland

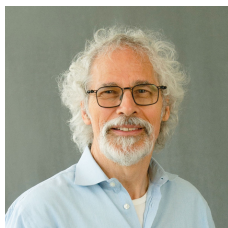
Magistrate Previtera is a magistrate of 28 years of experience on the bench, currently presiding in Brisbane Queensland. She has had experience in the remote Cape York and Gulf aboriginal communities, as well as courts in regional communities. Magistrate Previtera has also presided in the specialist Drug, Children's and Coroners Courts. She is currently the presiding Magistrate in the Brisbane Murri Court and has a special interest in mental health issues and cognitive disabilities amongst defendants coming before the Court.

Prof. Julian Roberts, KC, University of Oxford



Julian V. Roberts is Emeritus Professor of Criminology in the Faculty of Law at the University of Oxford. He was appointed Kings Counsel (Honoris causa) for contributions to sentencing internationally and was the 2021 recipient of the American Society of Criminology Sellin-Glueck Award for International and Comparative scholarship. Julian was a member of the Sentencing Council of England and Wales, an advisor to the American Law Institute Model Penal Code Sentencing project, and a member of the Canadian Sentencing Commission. His latest book *Sentencing Guidelines and Commissions: Comparative Perspectives* was published by Oxford University Press in 2025.

Jonathan Rudin, Aboriginal Legal Services



Jonathan Rudin holds LL.B. and LL.M. degrees from Osgoode Hall Law School. Since founding Aboriginal Legal Services in 1990, he has served in several roles and is now Special Projects Director. He helped create Canada's first urban Indigenous justice program and Gladue Court in Toronto. Rudin has appeared before all court levels, including more than 10 Supreme Court of Canada cases. An authority on Indigenous justice, he authored *Indigenous People and the Criminal Justice System*, winner of the 2019 Walter Owen Book Prize; its third edition is due in 2026. He also teaches at Osgoode and performs music with Gordon's Acoustic Living Room.

Hon. Justice Simon Ruel, Court of Appeal of Quebec



The Honourable Simon Ruel was elevated to the Court of Appeal of Quebec on June 21, 2017, after having sat on the Quebec Superior Court from 2014 to 2017. Justice Ruel studied law at the Université de Montréal's Faculty of Law. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and has completed a certificate in Russian studies at Université Laval's Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. As a lawyer, Justice Ruel practised mainly in public and administrative law and in government affairs. He was a member of the Quebec Bar (1995) and of the Law Society of Ontario (2007). After beginning his career with the firm of Grey Casgrain in Montreal, he subsequently became a litigator and counsel to the federal Department of Justice, the Privy Council Office, and the federal Department of Finance in Ottawa. Before his appointment to the Superior Court, he was a partner at the firm of BCF Business Law in Quebec City and, prior to that, at the national Canadian firm Heenan Blaikie.

Howard Sapers, Canadian Civil Liberties Association



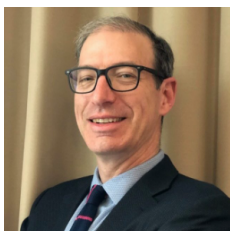
Howard Sapers is the Executive Director of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association. His experience includes work in public safety operations and policy, with a focus on access to justice, corrections, ombudsmanship, and accountability. He has consulted domestically and internationally on human rights and criminal justice, correctional policy and practice, the prevention of deaths in custody, and the intersection between mental health and criminal justice. Engagements have included work for provincial, territorial, and national governments and agencies, human rights organizations, NGOS and private counsel.

Prof. Cara Shaffer, South Texas College of Law Houston



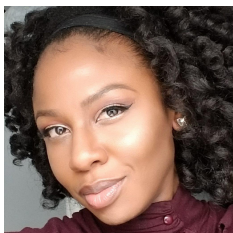
Cara Shaffer is an Assistant Professor of Law at South Texas College of Law Houston, where she teaches Legal Writing and Research. Her scholarship and teaching focus on legal writing, appellate advocacy, and the institutional structures that shape access to justice. She previously served as Director of the Legal Writing Center at South Texas College of Law Houston and as an Associate Teaching Professor of Legal Writing at the University of Colorado Law School. Before entering academia, Professor Shaffer practiced law, focusing on civil litigation and criminal appeals. Her current project examines juvenile transfer, appellate review, and the legal architecture that determines when children are exposed to adult criminal punishment.

Trevor Shaw, British Columbia Prosecution Service



Trevor Shaw is the Director of Criminal Appeals and Special Prosecutions, BC Prosecution Service, British Columbia Ministry of Attorney General. He is a graduate of Queen's University (Kingston) and the University of Paris Panthéon-Assas. He was a law clerk at the Supreme Court of Canada before becoming a prosecutor in 1995 with Crown Law Office-Criminal in Toronto. He moved to British Columbia in 2006. In 2011, he worked as a consultant for the Office of Legal Affairs, at INTERPOL headquarters in Lyon, France. His practice has involved economic crime, constitutional litigation, and cases with international and comparative law components such as extradition, mutual legal assistance and extraterritoriality. He has appeared as counsel in ten cases before the Supreme Court of Canada and his article "The Law on the Use of Police Dogs in Canada" was cited in another.

Dr. Camisha Sibblis, University of Windsor



Dr. Camisha Sibblis is an Assistant Professor of Sociology and Criminology and the Director of the Black Scholars Institute at the University of Windsor. Dr. Sibblis has extensive experience working with marginalized children, youth and their families as a school social worker, as a child welfare worker, a clinical agent for the Office of the Children's Lawyer, and as a clinician assessing the effects of anti-Black racism on the lives of the defenders for sentencing hearings. She is an experienced mental health practitioner, Justice, Equity, and Belonging consultant, Anti-Oppressive Practice and Anti-Black Racism trainer, and a court designated expert on systemic racism. Dr. Sibblis authored the Morris Report (R. v. Morris) and is the co-founder of the Viola Desmond Justice Institute, a non-profit organization providing Impact of Race and Culture Assessments across Canada. Among her recognitions, she is a 2024 honouree of 100 Accomplished Black Canadian Women.

Jeffrey Simser, The Vancouver Anti-Corruption Institute



Jeffrey Simser served as a lawyer and legal director at the Ministry of the Attorney General in Toronto, Canada for over thirty years. He is one of Canada's leading experts on asset forfeiture and money laundering law. He holds law degrees from Queens University at Kingston and Osgoode Hall Law School. Mr. Simser is the author of two published books, *Civil Asset Forfeiture in Canada* (loose-leaf) and *Canadian Anti-Money laundering Law: the Gaming Sector*. He is currently working with co-authors on another book, *Money Laundering in Canada*. He has published dozens of articles. Mr. Simser was twice qualified as an expert witness at the Commission of Inquiry into Money Laundering in British Columbia (the Cullen Commission).

Nicholas St-Jacques, American College of Trial Lawyers



Nicholas St-Jacques practices in criminal and penal law. He is an emeritus lawyer (Ad. E.) and a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. He regularly appears before all trial and appeal courts, and has acted in nine cases at the Supreme Court of Canada.

He is also the director of Project Innocence Quebec, an organization helping victims of miscarriages of justice. As such, he participated in the exoneration of Claude Paquin, acquitted 41 years after his conviction for two first-degree murders, Patrick Ritter for his conviction of sexual assault in the 1990s and Marc Racicot for his conviction of sexual assault in the 2000s. In 2025, he secured bail for Daniel Jolivet, found guilty of four murders.

Megan Stephens, Megan Stephens Law, Toronto



Megan Stephens is a sole practitioner specializing in constitutional and criminal litigation. She regularly represents complainants in sexual assault proceedings and appellants seeking to appeal their convictions and/or sentences. Megan teaches a course she developed for Osgoode Law School (Osgoode Professional Development - LLM in Criminal Law & Procedure), which focuses on gendered experiences in the criminal justice system, from victimization through criminalization.

Before opening her own practice in January 2021, Megan was the Executive Director & General Counsel at the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF) and, before that, spent more than a decade working as crown counsel at the Crown Law Office – Criminal (Ministry of the Attorney General of Ontario). In both roles, she developed an expertise in constitutional issues, and appeals involving gender-based violence, such as sexual assault and human trafficking.

Megan began her legal career as a law clerk: first at the Court of Appeal for Ontario for Justices Labrosse, Goudge, Laskin and Sharpe and then as the law clerk to Chief Justice McLachlin at the Supreme Court of Canada. After clerking, Megan completed her LL.M at Columbia Law School in New York City, where she was Associate in Law and Fulbright Scholar. Her LL.M. thesis focused on the use of restorative justice by Canadian judges at sentencing.

Tommaso Trinchera, Bocconi University



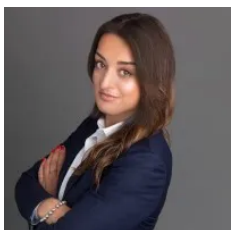
Tommaso Trinchera is Assistant Professor of Criminal Law at Bocconi University in Milan, where he has taught at the Law School since 2018. Before joining Bocconi, he was a lecturer in criminal law at the University of Turin and held a junior research fellowship at the University of Milan. He has held visiting appointments at Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, the University of Barcelona, the University of Pennsylvania Law School, and Universidad Austral de Chile. His research focuses on criminal law, with publications on legal theory, confiscation, and extraterritorial jurisdiction. He regularly speaks at conferences and teaches in graduate programs.

Shauna Trowers, Ministry of National Security and Peace, Jamaica



Miss Shauna Trowers is a policy development specialist with over 24 years' experience in cross cutting policy areas – namely sustainable development policy, international taxation, fiscal management and crime prevention. She is a Proscii Certified Change Management practitioner, adept at leading cross functional teams and managing change. She is currently the Chief Technical Director at the Ministry of National Security and Peace, with portfolio responsibility for Crime Prevention, Rehabilitation, Security & Standards, Inspection and Correctional Investigation. She also provides direct oversight for the Department of Correctional Services, as a part of her portfolio. She holds both B.Sc. (Honours) and M.Sc. (Hons) in International Relations.

Lee Vandergust, British Columbia Prosecution Service



Lee Vandergust is Crown Counsel with the British Columbia Prosecution Service. In 2020, she earned her Juris Doctor from the University of British Columbia, where she distinguished herself in advocacy and completed the Judicial Internship Program with the Provincial Court. She practiced as criminal defence counsel at Peck & Company Barristers, before joining the Prosecution Service in 2023.

Lee serves as a Director on the Research and Ethics Board at Capilano University, and a Director for SportAbility BC. Lee was a contributing author for the CanLII Criminal Law eBook. A 2023 Ironman World Championship qualifier, she is also an avid athlete. She currently volunteers coaching a youth Parahockey team and will be coaching adapted alpine skiing athletes this winter. Lee is passionate about advocacy, fairness, and complex legal problem-solving. She plans to further these interests by pursuing an international LLM degree.

Prof. Jo-Anne Wemmers, Université de Montréal



Jo-Anne Wemmers (PhD) is a full Professor at the School of Criminology, Université de Montréal, principal researcher at the International Centre for Comparative Criminology, and co-director of the Centre for Justice for Victims (www.cjvac.ca), which offers socio-legal assistance to victims of crime. Currently Vice-President of the World Society of Victimology and Editor of the International Review of Victimology, she has been a visiting professional at the International Criminal Court (The Hague). Professor Wemmers has published widely in the areas of victimology, transitional justice, and restorative justice. Her books include *Victimology: A Canadian Perspective*, 2nd Edition (University of Toronto Press 2025).

Nicole Wright, Legal Reform Department



Nicole Wright is a graduate of the University of the West Indies, Jamaica where she was awarded a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1998, a Bachelor of Laws in 2002 and a Certificate of Legal Education in 2004 from the Norman Manley Law School, Jamaica. She has been a practicing Attorney-at-Law for the past 20 years with experience as an Associate in a law firm, a Parish Court Prosecutor, a Senior Legal/Policy Officer in the Office of the Children's Advocate and lastly, she has been working in the Legal Reform Department for the past 10 years as an Assistant Director of Legal Reform and a Senior Assistant Director in 2018. Over the years, she has done research on various areas of the law to include Child Diversion, Youth Criminal Justice Legislation, Drug Treatment Courts for Children and various topics under Family Law Legislation.