TO BE OR NOT TO BE?
AN EXISTENTIAL QUESTION BECOMES A LEGAL ISSUE

CREATING CONNECTIONS

MOBILISER LA FORCE DE LA DIVERSITÉ
Over the course of her long career, artist Marian Dale Scott’s style evolved from realism to abstraction as she worked to develop her own response to the changes she witnessed in the world of art. It is appropriate for the Faculty of Law to celebrate her work as her husband, poet F.R. Scott, was also Professor and Dean of Law at McGill. Together, they hosted gatherings in their home for many of the most important Canadians in art, literature, politics, and science. Seven works by Marian Dale Scott were recently given to the McGill Visual Arts Collection: two from Professor Margaret Somerville and five from Julian Armstrong O’Brien, whose husband Robert S. O’Brien (BCL’53), father-in-law John L. O’Brien (BCL’23), brother-in-law David P. O’Brien (BCL’65), son Charles O’Brien (BCL’90, LLB’90), and sister-in-law’s daughter Janet Ferrier (BCL’95, LLB’95) all graduated from McGill Law.


KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING
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The McGill campus and Montreal have been full of bulldozers and orange cones. It’s also been a year of construction for your Faculty of Law. All renovation projects bring short-term inconveniences, and a hard hat is advisable. What’s exciting is sensing how much your law Faculty is moving forward. As I write, a construction crew is transforming two classrooms and the lobby on the ground floor of New Chancellor Day Hall. The renovations are possible thanks to generous support from our alumni. The transformed spaces will provide suitable homes for the first-rank legal education of the future. They’ll also help us to honour our past, notably with the naming of the Roderick Macdonald Lobby and the John W. Durnford Classroom (sponsored by the Classes of ’74, ’75, and ’76 as well as the Durnford family). The other renewed teaching space is named after donor Don Meehan, LLB’75.

Un autre chantier est celui de la mise en place du renouvellement du programme. Les étudiants et étudiantes qui nous sont arrivés en 2016 ont été les passagers de son voyage inaugural. Entre autres, ils ont participé aux semaines intensives d’intégration et aux ateliers d’intégration, et ils ont suivi le nouveau cours de justice pénale. Cette année, ils explorent un nouveau cours de droit des biens qui intègre le droit civil, la common law et des traditions autochtones, ainsi qu’un cours renouvelé de déontologie et professionnalisme. Tant à l’automne qu’à l’hiver, les étudiants et étudiantes des années supérieures auront l’option d’enrichir leur parcours d’un cours intensif d’une semaine grâce au McCarthy Tétrault Fund for Innovative Legal Education.

In response to your feedback, we are overhauling our programming to enhance the value for you of membership in our alumni community. We’ve revamped the Faculty Advisory Board — Norman Steinberg, BCL’75, Ad. E., passed the chair’s gavel to Greg David, BCL’93, LLB’93 — relaunched the Young Advisory Board, increased our profile in New York and Toronto with high-value panels, and focused Homecoming activities on an intensive Saturday. For more information, check out the expanded coverage in this magazine.

I’m amazed every day by the accomplishments of our extraordinary professors, our bright, energetic students, and our inspiring, engaged alumni. As you read about your fellow members of the McGill Law community, they’ll impress you too. Thank you for continuing to support our work. Come back and see us soon!
On June 1, during a bright and sunny afternoon, McGill University bestowed an honorary doctorate of law upon Stephen Toope, BCL’83, LLB’83 (pictured above). During his convocation address, the former Dean of Law spoke on how we are all interdependent: “How does the world join up? How is multiplicity made coherent? That question is at the heart of everything you have done. Do the common law and the civil law join up? How about Indigenous law, property law and human-rights law? How do classmates from such diverse backgrounds ever join up?” Dr. Stephen Toope asked. “But they do. And I don’t think there’s a better place on Earth to explore those questions than the McGill Law Faculty.”

On 1 juin, McGill University a également remis à Helena Lamed, BCL’82, le prix John W. Durnford d’excellence en enseignement. Lors de la cérémonie, la principale Suzanne Fortier a par ailleurs souligné la retraite de Stuart (Kip) Cobbett, BCL’72, en tant que président du Conseil des gouverneurs de McGill. Finalement, le discours d’adieu a été prononcé par Justine Blair, BCL/LLB’17.

Après la cérémonie, la promotion de 2017 a été reçue par la promotion de 1967 lors d’une élégante soirée cocktail au Cercle universitaire (voir album photo, pages 4-5).


Speaking on how we should embrace doubt and delight in complexity, even within ourselves, Dr. Stephen Toope quoted poet Amit Majmudar:* 

Richer than mother’s milk
is half-and-half.
Friends of two minds,
redouble your craft.
[...] 
Oneness? Pure chimera.
Splendor is spliced.
Make your halves into something twice your size

your tongue a hyphen joining
nation to nation.
Recombine, become a thing
of your own creation,

a many-minded mongrel,
the line’s renewal,
soul and dual.

On Convocation Day, members of the class of 1967 joined the graduating class on the occasion of their 50th class anniversary. À la suite de la cérémonie, la promotion de 2017 fut reçue par la promotion de 1967 dans le cadre d’une élégante soirée cocktail au Cercle universitaire. We thank the Class of 1967 for their generosity and for their commitment to continuing a most meaningful tradition established at the Faculty of Law.
Dean Robert Leckey with alumni from the class of 1967: Richard Pound, Michael Worsoff, Ben Bierbrier, Vincent Prager, and Colin Gravenor
Marie Manikis was among the expert witnesses consulted by the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs during its study on matters pertaining to delays in Canada’s Criminal Justice system. The committee’s report, Delaying Justice is Denying Justice: An Urgent Need to Address Lengthy Court Delays, was released in June.

Vrinda Narain, who is Associate Dean (Academic) at the Faculty, is the recipient of the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice’s 2017 Charles D. Gonthier Research Fellowship. She presented the results of her research project “Difference and Inclusion: Reframing Multiculturalism and Reasonable Accommodation” at CIAJ’s Annual Conference on diversity in fall 2017.

Hoi Kong (1) a reçu le prix d’excellence universitaire de l’Association canadienne des professeurs de droit en juin 2017. Ce prix souligne la qualité exceptionnelle du travail du professeur Kong comme enseignant et comme chercheur influent.

From Sept. 13 to Oct. 4, Payam Akhavan travelled Canada to deliver the renowned Massey Lectures. Titled In Search of a Better World: A Human Rights Odyssey, his lectures were “part memoir, part history and part call to action.” The lectures were also broadcast on CBC’s Ideas, and published by House of Anansi Press. Akhavan becomes the second faculty member tapped to give the Massey Lectures, after Margaret Somerville’s series in 2006.

Angela Campbell, Allison Christians et Evan Fox-Decent ont été promus au rang de professeurs titulaires, tandis qu’Alana Klein (2) et Vincent Forray (3) ont été nommés professeurs agrégés.

Brian F. Havel s’est joint à la Faculté à titre de professeur et directeur de l’Institut de droit aérien et spatial alors qu’Omar Farahat a été recruté comme professeur adjoint (voir articles en page 8 et en page 9). Mme Cristina Toteda s’est jointe à la Faculté à titre de chargée de cours en éthique et professionnalisme en mai 2017. Aaron Mills a été nommé professeur adjoint et intégrera les rangs de la Faculté en août 2018.

L’honorable Frédéric Bachand a été nommé juge à la Cour supérieure du Québec en mai 2017, tandis que Paul Miller a quitté la Faculté cet été pour prendre le chemin de l’Université de Notre Dame aux États-Unis et qu’Helena Lamed a pris sa retraite en beauté après avoir remporté le prix John W. Durnford d’excellence en enseignement en juin 2017.

In December, Adelle Blackett was named Canada Research Chair in Transnational Labour Law and Development. Blackett’s work, which addresses labour regulation in an era of neoliberal global governance, explores the intimate relationship between social and economic policy.

Allison Christians (4) took over as Associate Dean of Research from Lara Khoury, who finished her two-year term this summer. In addition, for a second year in a row, Christians was among those named by the International Tax Reviews to its Global Tax 50 2016 list for her impact on global tax law and research.
Richard Janda was appointed a member of the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse in June. The Hon. Louise Otis, Ad. E., who is an adjunct professor at the Faculty, was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Ottawa in recognition of her work in introducing one of the world’s first judicial mediation programs. The program has been adopted by all courts and tribunals in Quebec.

L’Association du Barreau canadien, division Québec, a remis la médaille Paul-André-Crépeau à Geneviève Saumier (5) en novembre 2016 pour sa contribution à l’avancement des aspects internationaux du droit de la consommation, du règlement international des différends et des recours collectifs transfrontaliers. La Conférence de La Haye de droit international privé a nommé Geneviève Saumier co-rapporteure d’une commission spéciale en charge de l’élaboration d’un projet de convention sur la reconnaissance et l’application de jugements.

Shauna Van Praagh organized the To Be Frank colloquium in June, in honour of retired Supreme Court Justice Frank Iacobucci’s 80th birthday. The justice and his wife listened as guests reflected on how their work was influenced by Iacobucci’s life, career, and contributions to law.

Ali Martin-Mayer a quitté son poste de doyenne adjointe (admissions et recrutement) pour une affectation de perfectionnement d’un an au service du contentieux de l’Université.

In April, Daniel Weinstock was awarded the Charles Taylor Prize for Excellence in Policy Research by the Broadbent Institute for his contributions to national policy debates and his commitment to a more socially just Canada.

Professor Emeritus Armand de Mestral, BCL’66, will receive the 2017 John E. Read Medal from the Canadian Council on International Law (CCIL) during its annual conference in November for the distinguished contributions he has made — and continues to make — to international law and organizations.

Ram Jakhu (6) received the Leonardo da Vinci Life-long Achievement Award from the International Association for the Advancement of Space Safety. In addition, he joined the “space-nation” private project Asgardia, as a legal expert.

Daniel Jutras, Ad. E., was appointed to the Independent Advisory Board for Senate Appointments by the Honourable Maryam Monsef, Minister of Democratic Institutions.

Richard Gold advised the Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario on policy aspects of a landmark gene patent agreement. Through the CIPP, Gold also contributed to an Amicus brief for Supreme Court Case AstraZeneca Canada Inc. v. Apotex Inc., 2017 SCC 36.

How did you decide you wanted to become a law professor?
From very early on in my legal studies, I was fond of delving into complex theoretical questions. I thought I was going to go straight to graduate studies, obtain my doctorate, and teach either in France or in Egypt. But things rarely work out exactly in the way you plan. Because of compulsory military service in Egypt and the lack of funding, I couldn’t start graduate studies right away, and so I went into corporate practice. When I arrived at Harvard as an LLM student, I thought of myself as a dedicated practitioner. But my experiences that year opened my eyes to a whole new intellectual universe that I found fascinating. I became interested in American legal theory, Continental philosophy, especially ethics, Islamic philosophy, theology, and law. That was the time when I knew I was going to be an academic. I did an MA at New York University to attempt to sort out those various intellectual trajectories, and found that Islamic legal theory was the field that combined all my different interests, and that is what I focused on in my PhD at Columbia.

What excites you most about moving to Montreal?
My wife and I have been fond of Montreal for nearly a decade. When we met back in 2008, she was doing her Master’s in Economics at Queen’s University, and I was about to start a job at a law firm in Paris. In the year that followed, Montreal became our preferred meeting place. We experienced and loved the city as visitors, and now we are excited to make it our home. We are a multicultural family, and Montreal is as multicultural as a city can get. We have two young children who are exposed to English, Russian, and Arabic at home, and soon French will probably be their main language. We think it is a perfect place for them to grow up, and for us to settle down and grow in our respective careers.

Why did you choose McGill Law?
I feel my diverse background, which combines research and practice in French, American, Middle Eastern, and Islamic laws, fits very nicely with McGill’s emphasis on the comparative study of various legal systems. To me, an important part of legal education is to learn to understand the phenomenon of law as one among many human attempts to negotiate their life in a community. This approach makes it clear that the study of law evokes a wide range of deep questions about the world we live in and the human condition. In some legal cultures, these questions are dismissed as irrelevant to the practice of law. Not at McGill. I find the divide between theory and practice to often be artificial and unhelpful, and McGill is a great place to be if you are interested in questioning and crossing those boundaries.

What is the best piece of advice you ever received regarding your career?
My doctoral adviser always reminded me that “the world is one; everything is interconnected.” Everything we do and say, even the most technical question of law, is part of a larger social and economic reality that has real implications on large numbers of people, and on our planet. We are often blinded by ambition and the pressures of life, which can make us desensitized and self-centred. You should continuously assess your career choices in relation to your community and the kind of impact you would like to have.
How did you become interested in aviation law?
I am not a pilot and I am actually a bit of a nervous flier. My interest was purely academic. I was in search of a topic for my Columbia Law doctoral dissertation and was at an antitrust conference in New York City, where I happened to meet an EU air transport official from my home country of Ireland. He suggested that I take a look at the dramatic legal and policy measures that the EU was adopting in the 1990s to liberalize government controls over air transport. My compatriot urged me to do comparative work on EU and U.S. airline deregulation. And that’s what I did.

Why did you choose McGill Law?
I will be heading the IASL, a remarkably long-lived academic institute — 65 years old in 2016. I directed an aviation law institute in Chicago and, along with my peers working worldwide in the fields of aviation and space law, I always looked to McGill as the premier setting where the future of these twin disciplines (and of aviation and space lawyers) is being imagined and realized. Moreover, the Institute is housed in a great law school that commands the universal esteem of the U.S. law professoriate. So this was not a difficult professional choice.

What is your fondest memory of your time as a law student?
I have been a law student in several countries, beginning in Ireland. My favourite memory is of winning the Irish national law student debate competition. My prize was a sponsored debate tour of colleges across the United States. That experience opened my horizons — after all, those were pre-Internet times and we knew little about higher education in other countries or continents — and led me to consider graduate work in North America. In fact, after one contentious debate in New York (I was supporting the reintroduction of compulsory military service in the U.S., a rather cheeky argument from someone living in a small neutral country), a lawyer in the audience offered me a summer associateship at his Manhattan mega-firm. So I came back the next summer to take the position, then signed up for graduate legal studies at Columbia, and never went back to live in Ireland.

What is the best piece of advice you ever received regarding your legal career?
The advice I received from that EU air transport official, literally as a “sidebar” discussion at a big legal conference, led to my whole career as an aviation and space law academic. Law students should always embrace opportunities for professional engagement and networking, no matter how it seems to drain your time or even when it doesn’t involve your preferred areas of professional interest. It is remarkable how many legal careers are spurred almost magically by personal contacts or encounters (recall the job offer I received at that debate!). This is an extremely social profession, so you should always allow space in your law student career for serendipity.
LE FÉDÉRALISME CANADIEN ET SON AVENIR : ACTEURS ET INSTITUTIONS

Les 150 ans de la Confédération ont également incité le Groupe de recherche sur les sociétés plurinationales à organiser un événement international qui s’est tenu à Montréal, à Québec... et en mouvement entre les deux! Planifié de concert par l’Université McGill, l’UQÀM et l’Université Laval, le colloque Le fédéralisme canadien et son avenir : Acteurs et institutions a rassemblé une cinquantaine de spécialistes de divers horizons pour explorer dans quelle mesure les institutions-phares du fédéralisme canadien tiennent compte des acteurs-clés de la fédération, y compris les nations internes, les peuples autochtones et les minorités linguistiques.

À la fin d’une première journée de discussions à McGill, le groupe a pris la direction de la Vieille Capitale dans un wagon spécialement nolisé, transformant ainsi le trajet en un « séminaire en mouvement ». Sous le thème « Les voies de la réconciliation », le voyage était prétexte à une conversation sur les perspectives autochtones sur le fédéralisme, à laquelle ont notamment pris part Ghislain Picard, Chef de l’Assemblée des Premières Nations du Québec et du Labrador, et Ry Moran, Directeur du Center for Truth and Reconciliation de l’Université du Manitoba. Leur discussion a été ponctuée d’interventions permettant de reconnaître les territoires traditionnels successifs que le train traverse, notamment ceux des Mohawk, Abenakis et Huron-Wendat — une attention d’une grande puissance évocatrice, nous dit Johanne Poirier. Pour finir, après une deuxième journée de débats au Musée de la civilisation de Québec, la conférence s’est conclue par une table ronde au cours de laquelle des spécialistes internationaux en aménagements institutionnels dans des sociétés plurielles ont jeté un regard comparatif et prospectif sur l’avenir du fédéralisme canadien.

CONCOURS DE LA FAMILLE BAXTER SUR LE FÉDÉRALISME

Le 22 mars dernier, Asha Kaushal, Erika Arban et Eleonore Gauthier ont eu le privilège de rencontrer la quasi-totalité des membres du jury international du Concours Baxter sur le fédéralisme lors du symposium organisé pour célébrer la clôture de la première édition du concours. Devant une salle comble, les trois lauréates ont présenté leurs textes, qui avaient été retenus parmi près de 40 travaux de haute qualité soumis par des auteurs issus de neuf pays différents. Rendu possible grâce au généreux soutien de Rachel Baxter, BCL’88, et Colin Baxter, BCL’90, LLB’90, ce prestigieux concours de rédaction bisannuel a pour fin de promouvoir la recherche et de favoriser un débat éclairé sur le fédéralisme chez les jeunes juristes, tant pendant leurs études en droit qu’en début de carrière.

PALMARES DES TEXTES GAGNANTS

• PREMIÈRE PLACE : ASHA KAUSHAL
  (Professeure adjointe, University of British Columbia) : Constitutional Jurisdictions

• DEUXIÈME PLACE : ERIKA ARBAN
  (Chargée de cours, Université d’Anvers, et postdoctorante, Université de Melbourne) :
  Exploring the Principle of (Federal) Solidarity

• TROISIÈME PLACE : ELEONORE GAUTHIER
  (Stagiaire en droit, Toronto) : Spending Power, Social Policy, and the Principle of Subsidiarity

Les textes primés paraîtront sous peu dans la Revue d’études constitutionnelles.
Peut-on réécrire 150 ans d’histoire? C’est le défi que Johanne Poirier et Daniel Turp, professeur de droit à l’Université de Montréal, ont lancé à la communauté étudiante à l’occasion d’un cours inédit offert en co-enseignement par les Facultés de droit de l’Université McGill et de l’Université de Montréal.


Au terme de débats animés, la classe a notamment remplacé la monarchie constitutionnelle du Canada par une fonction de « Modérateur », institué une république plurinationale, encadré le fédéralisme coopératif et envisagé l’émergence de gouvernements autochtones autonomes. Pour la professeure Poirier, le succès pédagogique de l’expérience ne fait aucun doute : « Aujourd’hui, une nouvelle constitution ne serait sans doute pas rédigée par une tablée de spécialistes, mais constituerait plutôt un exercice participatif avec le public, nous dit-elle. Il n’en demeure pas moins qu’en quelques mois à peine, les équipes ont su produire une constitution moderne, lisible et accessible, qui répond à de nombreux défis auxquels la société canadienne est confrontée, des enjeux allant de la réconciliation au statut du Québec, en passant par les questions d’immigration. » Voilà une démonstration des plus probantes de la fertilité des « conversations constitutionnelles » que Johanne Poirier ne cesse d’encourager.


« LA CONSTITUTION DU CANADA DE 2017 »

EN QUELQUES MOIS À PEINE, LES ÉQUIPES ONT SU PRODUIRE UNE CONSTITUTION MODERNE, LISIBLE ET ACCESSIBLE, QUI RÉPOND À DE NOMBREUX DÉFIS AUXQUELS LA SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE EST CONFRONTÉE. »
Les représentations de la compagnie de théâtre étudiante de la Faculté, Actus Reus, ont ponctué le calendrier universitaire 2016-2017. Cette année, la troupe a monté trois courtes pièces – deux en français, une en anglais – pour présenter un spectacle d’une durée de deux heures trente. Les interprètes ont été dirigés par les metteurs en scène Valentina Cean et Jeelan Syed. Il peut sembler inusité que ces membres de la communauté étudiante ajoutent à leur horaire plus que chargé l’imposante entreprise de monter une pièce de théâtre. Y aurait-il des vases communicants entre la dramaturgie, l’interprétation et la pratique juridique? À en croire Syed, l’art de conquérir une audience s’apparente de près à celui de convaincre des juges ou des jurys : « Pour transmettre une émotion authentique au théâtre, il faut se faire croire non pas que l’on joue un personnage, mais que l’on vit une expérience, explique-t-il. De même, pour prononcer un plaidoyer convaincant, il faut pouvoir se mettre dans la peau du client afin de comprendre sa perspective et ainsi mieux défendre ses intérêts. Dans les deux cas, on mesure le poids des mots et la réaction qu’ils peuvent engendrer dans le public. »

Le théâtre n’est pas la seule forme d’art scénique qui semble intéresser la communauté étudiante en droit. Il faut aussi mentionner les activités du chœur de la Faculté, les Transsymphoniques, qui s’est produit cette année encore durant Skit Night. D’ailleurs, ce spectacle de variétés caritatif annuel de la Faculté illustre bien la propension du corps étudiant à prendre la scène, que ce soit en dansant, en chantant, en animant, en jouant de la musique ou en faisant la comédie... Les apprentis juristes sont à l’évidence bourrés de talent et n’hésitent pas à mettre à profit leurs multiples habiletés.


MCGILL LAW NEGOTIATION CLUB :
LES ÉTUDIANTS SE DISTINGUENT

Les membres du McGill Law Negotiation Club se sont distingués en octobre 2016 lors de la seconde participation de l’association mcgilloise au concours de négociation organisé par Dentons dans leur bureau de la Place Ville-Marie. L’équipe de Michal Luba et Alexander Godlewski s’est emparée de la première place, tandis que Bruno Savoie et Pierre-Luc Purtell ont terminé au deuxième rang. Les règles de la compétition étaient fort simples : tous ceux qui y participaient recevaient un même énoncé des faits justifiant la négociation, soit une description de la situation contentieuse, puis chaque équipe recevait également des instructions confidentielles, par exemple les objectifs et limites de son client. Les tandems s’affrontaient ensuite lors d’une ronde de négociations et tâchaient de représenter le mieux possible les intérêts de leur client fictif. La doyenne adjointe Véronique Bélanger et les professeures Kun Fan et Andrea Bjorklund de la Faculté de droit de McGill ont fait partie des juges qui eurent la tâche d’évaluer la prestation de chaque duo.

Le McGill Law Negotiation Club a été fondé dans le but d’offrir à la communauté étudiante une opportunité de développer des habiletés en négociation et en résolution de conflits. Le Club permet à la fois d’acquérir de l’expérience professionnelle et de développer ses connaissances grâce à des événements, des publications et des activités de réseautage. Le Club fait œuvre utile à une époque où la résolution de conflits est un secteur d’emploi florissant.
Le regroupement Law Needs Feminism Because a connu une année brillante, et continue son ascension. Une nouvelle série de portraits de membres de l’effectif étudiant et du corps professoral, accompagnés d’une phrase personnalisée décrivant l’importance de l’analyse féministe du droit, a été produite et diffusée cette année. Toutefois, on notait une nouveauté pour la mouture 2017 : les universitaires de partout au Canada ont inscrit sur leurs portraits leur propre raison de s’engager en faveur de la pensée critique féministe en droit. La campagne de sensibilisation a pris de l’ampleur sur les réseaux sociaux et a attiré l’attention de plusieurs médias. Au-delà de la diffusion sur le Web, Law Needs Feminism Because est passé aux actes cette année en organisant son premier forum national, qui a eu lieu au mois de mars 2017, à Montréal. Les 175 personnes participantes – provenant des milieux étudiant, professionnel et professoral – se sont rassemblées au centre-ville de Montréal pour échanger, débattre et apprendre. L’esprit de l’événement était à la remise en question des courants juridiques dominants : comment faire pour que le droit devienne un outil pour résorber les inégalités qui persistent entre la gent masculine et féminine (et entre les femmes elles-mêmes), plutôt qu’un instrument pour reconduire les rapports de domination et d’exclusion?

La genèse de Law Needs Feminism Because remonte à 2014, quand la première campagne photo a été produite par le Collectif des féministes en droit de McGill, une organisation non hiérarchique qui vise une société libérée du patriarcat, du sexisme, de la violence, de l’oppression et de la dévalorisation des femmes. Cette année, les activités de Law Needs Feminism Because ont rejoint la population étudiante de 11 facultés de droit à travers le Canada.
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CARING, PRAGMATIC, TRANSSYSTEMIC
HOW MCGILL LEADERS ARE SHAPING BLSA CANADA

Have you noticed the Black Law Student Association of Canada seems to have taken on a McGill accent lately? In the past eight years, three different McGill students held the position of national president. Under their leadership, the 26-years-strong BLSA Canada is proving that it has every intention of staying relevant and continuing to provide a home to its community.

/ by KARELL MICHAUD /

BLSA Canada’s longevity alone is no small accomplishment. Led by a student body that is inevitably transient, the nationwide institution is taken over year after year by new law students dedicated to promoting increased representation of Black students in law schools and facilitating their success. Established in 1991, BLSA Canada and its 11 chapters operate and oversee a host of initiatives that span the country.

STÉPHANIE DÉBORAH JULES
PRACTICAL TOOLS TO SUCCEED

When I ran for the presidency, I was acutely aware of the lack of initiatives that focused on providing racialized law students with resources, support, mentorship and information,” recalls Stéphanie Déborah Jules, BCL/LLB’17. This is why during her two terms as President from 2015 to 2017, Jules made it her focus to offer BLSA Canada members practical tools to succeed, beyond networking. At the organization’s 25th Annual Conference in 2016, BLSA Canada launched a career fair to help students explore their options. Invited to the fair were more than 25 legal organizations encompassing Big Law, the Ministry of the Attorney General, boutique firms and NGOs. A year later, the career fair was enhanced by a workshop where students could have their resumes and cover letters reviewed by lawyers. They were also invited to intimate, gender-specific panels called “Brothas-in-Law” and “Sistahs-in-Law,” where students could discuss personal issues with seasoned lawyers.

“It is the first time in recent memory that a community member contributed more than one year as President of the organization,” according to Marvin Coleby. He says Jules’s team provided BLSA Canada with much-needed continuity.
During his term in 2009-2010, Anthony Morgan, BCL/LLB'12, put the emphasis on encouraging the Black community's linguistic and jurisdictional diversity.

“My main objective was facilitating the development of an enhanced sense of unity among all Black law students regardless of school, home province, mother tongue, professional interest, or social identity,” Morgan says. “Black students and lawyers in Quebec were losing the opportunity to be supported by Black law students and lawyers across the country who were experiencing the same challenges.”

Under the central theme “Partnering for Progress and Unprecedented Possibilities,” the bilingual 2010 conference exposed attendees to the issues surrounding the intersection of Common Law and Civil Law in Canada and abroad. In the years following Morgan’s term, BLSA Canada has extended its reach into francophone communities and has three chapters in Quebec.

ANTHONY MORGAN
THE TRANSSYSTEMIC ANGLE

When he was elected President for 2013-2014, Marvin H. Coleby, BCL/LLB’16, committed to nothing short of “reinventing” BLSA Canada. He says the organization was doing incredible work in the community until then, but most its efforts were going to the annual conference.

“We wanted to change that,” Coleby says. “We created numerous programs and initiatives to make BLSA Canada a more active organization throughout the year.” Coleby’s team achieved their objective by expanding the mentorship and community building initiatives of BLSA Canada through BLSACares, a charitable branch geared toward mentoring pre-law students through high-school programs and orientation events. That year, while half the BLSA team focused on the annual conference, the other half was dedicated to growing BLSACares. During its initial years, BLSACares’ main event was the “Knowledge is Power” Youth Summit, organized in collaboration with Montreal Community Cares Foundation. Almost 100 youth participated in interactive and practical workshops to develop the skills needed to meet the application criteria for post-secondary education.

MARVIN H. COLEBY
BLSACares

LSA Canada’s McGill Faculty Adviser, Professor Adelle Blackett, is no stranger to the success of the three generations of presidents. During each of their terms, Blackett provided guidance, encouragement and support throughout the conference planning, the organization of the Julius Alexander Isaac Diversity Moot competition, and the development of BLSACares activities. Moreover, thanks to Blackett, BLSA Canada can rely on the support of a Faculty Advisory Council. Composed of 10 professors nationwide who remain informed of and engaged with BLSA Canada, the Faculty Advisory Council allows the Association to build a stronger institutional memory and helps ensure its longevity and vitality.

FACULTY SUPPORT
Every June, a hush falls over the hallways of the Faculty as students are off to tend to their summer plans, taking the hustle and bustle of academic life with them. Except this year, when jackhammers came to fill the void.
Vous serez ravis d’apprendre que la moquette brune qui ornait les murs du rez-de-chaussée du nouveau pavillon Chancellor-Day est disparue à jamais. Cet automne, le rez-de-chaussée entièrement redessiné a été baptisé Foyer Roderick Macdonald, en hommage au défunt professeur et ancien doyen de la Faculté.

Le succès retentissant de la campagne de collecte de fonds pour ce projet à l’aide de Seeds of Change, la plateforme de financement communautaire de McGill, témoigne de la trace indélébile qu’a laissée le professeur Macdonald dans les esprits de la Faculté et de la communauté juridique. Les fonds nécessaires au projet ont été récoltés en un temps record, grâce à la contribution du corps professoral de la Faculté, de ses étudiantes et étudiants, et de plus d’une centaine de personnes ayant voulu signifier une dernière fois leur reconnaissance envers le professeur Macdonald.

« Le choix de nommer en son honneur le foyer du rez-de-chaussée – un endroit public très passant – est particulièrement judicieux, car Rod croyait de tout cœur que l’apprentissage du droit ne se faisait pas uniquement dans les salles de classe », affirme la professeure Rosalie Jukier, membre du comité du projet.

Proposé un an après le décès du professeur Macdonald, ce projet a été unanimement accueilli comme un hommage fidèle à l’importante contribution du professeur pour faire du programme de droit de McGill ce qu’il est devenu aujourd’hui. « À partir de maintenant, on saura que chaque entrée dans notre Faculté se fait avec l’élan de Rod », conclut le professeur Richard Janda.
As the Faculty continues to engage with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s calls to action, a number of new initiatives are being implemented in response to those calls.

/ by Mark Witten /
Professor Kirsten Anker is teaching a new Property course this fall, required for second-year McGill law students, that aims to integrate Indigenous legal traditions and perspectives. “Land law is a natural place to give Indigenous legal traditions a big space. We’re launching a Property course in which the transsystemic method is being applied threefold to the civil law, common law and Indigenous legal traditions, which is both challenging and exciting,” says Anker, whose specialties include teaching and research in the areas of Indigenous peoples and the law.

Anker developed the course with professors Tina Piper and Yaëll Emerich, who are teaching it this year as well. To anchor students in the real-world experience of property from an Indigenous perspective, Anker plans to take students on a walking tour of Mount Royal. With a Kanienkehaka (Mohawk) elder or community member leading the tour, the Indigenous claim to territory will be embodied by a person in front of the students who lives the fact of this being their traditional territory.

“From the Belvedere on the mountain you can see south over the lands long occupied by Haudenosaunee. To my mind, you can even see the curve of the Earth as the turtle’s back, part of the creation story. Students might get a sense of the historical and continued importance of the mountain to the local Mohawk peoples by hearing in person the emotion and significance that doesn’t come across on the page,” she says.

The course will include a guest lecture by several members of the Atikamekw Nation, who live north of Shawinigan and have a strong hunting and trapping tradition. A second lecture will be given by members of the Mohawk Nation at Akwesasne, whose reserve lands straddle the Quebec, Ontario and New York state borders, and introduced the first independent Indigenous court in Canada, outside a federal framework.

“The Akwesasne are at the forefront in pushing the self-government envelope. They’re interested in talking about the inherit jurisdiction of the court, and issues such as what happens to property when someone dies because there is a clash between the ministerial version of property and local customs and norms,” Anker says.

The Property course is one example of Indigenous law initiatives that the Faculty has implemented and will continue to introduce in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s Calls to Action.

KERRY SLOAN, a PhD graduate from the University of Victoria Faculty of Law, joined the Faculty on Sept. 1 for one year as a Boulton Postdoctoral Fellow. At McGill, Sloan will instruct one of the small groups for the Integration Workshops and will co-teach a class on Indigenous law for Integration Week. She’ll also organize guest talks related to Indigenous legal issues for the Patricia Allen Memorial Lecture and the Alan Aylesworth Macnaughton Lecture, and is planning with the Faculty’s Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism a half-day event on Feb. 16, “Non-state laws in a modern state context: Indigenous and Islamic perspectives.”

As a visiting scholar, Sloan will be writing about Metis legal theory and researching sources of Metis law. She will also work on an SSHRC Post-doctoral fellowship research project to examine and compare how Metis laws are used in Metis legal institutions in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia.

Sloan views her year at McGill as an opportunity to learn more about applying the transsystemic lens to Metis laws and legal traditions. “I’m excited about the interest at McGill in Indigenous legal traditions and this is a good place for me to be because of the transsystemic approach. My larger research goals are to create more awareness and build more knowledge about Metis law, which I hope will eventually be taught in all Canadian law schools,” says Sloan, a member of the Metis Nation of Greater Victoria.
“Candidates appreciated being given an opportunity to reflect on their identity and tell us about the work they had been doing and the contributions they hoped to make in their communities,” says Ali Martin-Mayer, BCL/LLB’02, then Assistant Dean, Admissions and Recruitment. The Faculty also modified its admissions policy to indicate it will financially support Indigenous candidates and students who need language training in French or English. The Faculty has created an Indigenous and Equity Student Adviser position to provide support for incoming Indigenous law students and those in the upper years. Charlotte Burns, BCL/LLB’12, the first incumbent, joined the Faculty at the end of September.

A FOCUS ON INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES
For the 2016-17 year, Integration Week for the winter term offered all first-year students an intensive course on Indigenous legal traditions. Guided by guest professors Hadley Friedland (U of Alberta) and Val Napoleon (U of Victoria), and McGill professors, students learned about Indigenous peoples’ legal traditions, and applied them to case studies based on real issues affecting Indigenous communities.

FIELD WORKSHOP WITH JOHN BORROWS
Professor John Borrows, Canada Research Chair in Indigenous law at the University of Victoria Faculty of Law, is joining the Faculty this year as a Distinguished Tomlinson Visiting Professor. Borrows is a global leader in Indigenous law, and was awarded the 2017 Killam Prize in Social Sciences by the Canada Council for the Arts for his extensive and pioneering research since the early 1990s on Indigenous legal traditions in Canada and internationally.

To kick off the fall term, Borrows led the field course “Anishinaabe Law Class: Outdoor Legal Education Experience,” from Aug. 31 through Sept. 3. Students heard and worked with sources of Anishinaabe law found in traditional stories, the environment, treaties, declarations, and customs. They spent three days on land and water, in First Nation community buildings and territory, at the Chippewas of the Nawash First Nation on Georgian Bay in Ontario.
COMMUNITY JUSTICE AND CREE LEGAL TRADITIONS

A new, full-year course on Criminal Justice, required for first-year law students, was launched in the 2016-17 year. It was developed and taught by professors Alana Klein, Marie Manikis, and Frédéric Mégret. The course examined its subject matter in a broader, more interdisciplinary context than the criminal law course it replaced and incorporated an Indigenous law perspective.

The Cree Legal Traditions Report, produced by The Accessing Justice and Reconciliation Project with Aseniwuche Winewak Nation as a community partner, was a key source material. Through published stories and conversations with elders and other community members, the report drew out themes and legal principles from specific examples of harms and conflicts between individuals within a group. “The students appreciated that we engaged with and chose legal principles from specific examples of the Cree legal traditions rather than just looking at Indigenous legal traditions with a broad brush,” Klein says.

The Justice portions of the TRC Report and Calls to Action were also used as source materials, and starting points from critical engagement with policing, trial processes, and basic principles of criminal law.

“One highlight was to see how students engaged with these materials in their reports on a visit to bail court. Another was to see how much we can learn from Indigenous legal traditions about choosing appropriate decision-makers and why community involvement is of critical importance in criminal justice,” concludes Klein.

ON-GOING CONVERSATIONS

In the words of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, or TRC, it will take “the commitment of multiple generations” to achieve the goal of reconciliation.* “Our new initiatives spring from on-going conversations at the Faculty about what reconciliation means, and how we can work towards it,” says Assistant Dean Véronique Bélanger, who chaired the TRC Task Force constituted by the Faculty. “Many new initiatives are to be expected in the years to come, as we continue to engage in an open, meaningful dialogue with our Indigenous students, graduates, and Indigenous communities all over Canada, and work toward giving Indigenous legal traditions their just place in our Faculty.”


AARON MILLS will join the Faculty as assistant professor in Aug. 2018 and his teaching will include an introduction to Indigenous constitutionalism. He is completing his doctorate at the University of Victoria’s Faculty of Law, developing a theory of Anishinaabe constitutionalism and law under the supervision of professors John Borrows and Jim Tully. Mills completed his JD at the University of Toronto, serving as editor in chief of the Indigenous Law Journal, and in 2012, he earned an LLM from Yale Law School as a Fulbright Scholar. “I feel like I’m coming to McGill at a time when there is a special kind of energy for the issues I care about,” says Mills, who is an Anishinaabe from Couchiching First Nation, Treaty #3 Territory, and from North Bay, Robinson-Huron Treaty Territory.

In his research, Mills explores and articulates the legal order of one Indigenous people, the Anishinaabeg, as part of a larger goal of empowering Indigenous peoples to revitalize their traditions of law. In legal education, Mills highlights the importance of articulating the lifeworld beneath any system of law. He argues that Canadian liberal and Indigenous rooted constitutionalisms are not only different, but different in kind. The lifeworlds underlying Indigenous bodies of law reflect creation stories rooted in earth and the relationship of Indigenous peoples to the Earth. He contrasts this with unrooted Canadian constitutionalism, in which the iconic constitutional image is that of a free-standing (albeit living) tree.

In teaching at McGill, Mills plans to use approaches he developed for courses on Anishinaabe constitutionalism at Lakehead University’s Bora Laskin Faculty of Law. His courses drew heavily on Indigenous stories and readings, and the class met in a space that allowed for ceremony and for students to sit in a circle. “The method works very well and represents Anishinaabe pedagogy. The circle is highly interactive. It levels authority and (hopefully) changes the class into a community. Everyone shares in the success or failure of the class,” he says.
offered an amazing transsystemic program. I liked that their legal education considered diverse perspectives, and the many legal traditions that create legal systems.

What led you to tax law?
In the summer following my first year, I started working for the Centre for Community Organizations, which provides resources to English and ethnocultural non-profits. In that work, I realized how underserved community organizations were in non-profit and charity law. Many groups needed information about their non-profit obligations and the benefits and rules of charitable status. I became interested in charity law, without realizing it was actually tax law. I truly tipped over the edge when I took Kim Brooks’ Tax Policy class. She helped me understand that tax law and policy were key components of many social justice and socio-economic issues. From who and what we tax to fund public goods and social programs, to the spending programs through our tax system that incentivize behaviour or support target populations, and even charities’ ability to engage in political activities — these are all examples of tax policy matters.

Samuel Singer has always had multiple burners on at the same time. During his studies, his typical day could involve working at the CACTUS needle exchange until 4 a.m., or giving a midday training session on charitable status. His early career included articling, clerkship, and private practice, with two master’s degrees in Law. He is a member of both the Quebec and Ontario bars. After juggling his private practice and supervising a free trans legal clinic for a few years, Singer was recently appointed Assistant Professor at Thompson Rivers University’s Faculty of Law in Kamloops, and his plans for the future include anything but slowing down.

When did decide you were going to study law?
When I applied to law school, I was working for an organization called ASTT(e)Q, a project of CACTUS Montréal. We offered advocacy and support to trans people to improve their general health and well-being. I saw how the law could be a powerful tool to improve the lives of marginalized people. I was very lucky to have a wonderful law school right in my backyard, knowing that I would have to continue to work to support myself through my legal studies. McGill
After articling at the National Judicial Institute and clerking at the Tax Court of Canada, you went on to become a tax lawyer at Stikeman Elliott. What gave you the impetus to start the trans legal clinic?

As a trans person, and coming from an advocacy background, I always felt that I needed to continue to be useful to trans communities in any way that I could. I saw that there were on-going legal needs in the trans community in Quebec around changing identity papers, at the same time as laws around identity papers were in the process of changing. I thought “let’s do it, we can put something simple together and still make a difference for a number of people.” I called a friend, Cee Strauss (BCL/LLB’16), who was a student at McGill Law, and asked them to gather some students for a legal clinic. We held regular clinics, and then when the major law change finally did go through — removing the medical and surgical requirements for changing sex designations — we held large info sessions. These were very powerful events. People who had not been able to change their ID papers for years could finally change their gender designation to match their gender identity and expression. It was a privilege to be a part of it.

You were recently appointed Assistant Professor at Thompson Rivers University’s Faculty of Law. What made you decide to move from private practice to academia?

Teaching and research have always called to me. Through my work at the National Judicial Institute, the Tax Court of Canada, and in private practice, I was able to learn about our court system, and see the law in action and how people navigate Canada’s legal and regulatory frameworks. But I also always kept one foot in legal education and scholarship, pursued graduate studies, and continued to learn and write. I am thrilled by the opportunity to join Thompson Rivers University. As a young and dynamic law school, they are really well placed to do exciting work. I love the idea of teaching tax — of law students becoming more enthusiastic about tax practice and realizing tax policy’s role as a potential tool for carrying out the type of policy change they believe in.

What are your views on the recent adoption of Bill C-16 and LGBTTQ* rights today?

We are seeing a number of positive changes for trans people at a rapid pace — some I could not even have dreamed of 10 years ago — but some are left behind, often the most marginalized people. For example, despite recent law reforms, trans migrants and refugees without Canadian citizenship still cannot change their name and gender designation through the Quebec government. This can be quite devastating in action. It makes it that much harder to find a job, or even a place to live. Trans people continue to face significant discrimination, and racialized trans women experience particularly high levels of violence. Both in the United States and Canada, there has been a serious backlash against trans rights, including around Bill C-16. There is still so much that remains to be done.

How do you view the role of law faculties in this regard?

One of the first things I learned through law school was that the law was not the solution for everything, but that lawyers are often on the front line advocating for social change in our society. The training law students get can be fundamental in helping them imagine ways that the law can be used as a vehicle to change people’s lives. Law faculties have a big role to play in preparing law students to become lawyers with the skills to address the access to justice and social justice issues that are at the forefront of conversations in our society right now.

* Professor Kim Brooks held the H. Heward Stikeman Chair in the Law of Taxation at McGill’s Faculty of Law from 2007 to 2010.
Several times a year, a diverse, international group of distinguished alumni volunteers gather to help shape the Faculty of Law’s long-term future. Confidential advisers to the Dean, FAB members are all leaders in their communities, allowing them to provide the Faculty strategic guidance on the rapidly changing legal world. A crucial part of the FAB’s contribution to the development of the Faculty is achieved by helping raise funds, promoting the Faculty and its students, and identifying meaningful opportunities for involvement. They also bring incredible value to McGill Law by helping assess the preparedness of graduates as they enter the job market, and report on the Faculty’s reputation in the legal world.

During his six years as Chair of the Board, Steinberg acted as an invaluable sounding board to the Dean in years of great change, as the Faculty was undertaking its most recent curricular renewal. A few years ago, as Chairman of Norton Rose Fulbright (then Ogilvy Renault), Steinberg led a successful campaign wherein the firm partnered with its lawyers, agents, and retired partners to collectively raise a $1-million gift for the Faculty, once again proving his outstanding commitment to the Faculty. More recently, Steinberg spearheaded a fundraising campaign to mark his graduating class’s 40th anniversary which, along with other generous donations, has allowed the Faculty to modernize some of its classrooms (see page 18). Saluting Steinberg’s leadership and vision in making the FAB a truly international board, Dean Leckey thanked him for having been an extraordinary ambassador for the Faculty since 2011.

Gregory David, who is taking over as chair of the FAB, was honoured by the Faculty last year with a Crystal Roddick Gates Award in recognition of his incredible commitment to McGill. His leadership was most recently exemplified by his superb service as Chair of the Faculty’s $5.8-million Campaign for Innovation in Teaching and Learning. Under his chairmanship, the FAB will work with the newly reconstituted Young Alumni Board to continue to foster the McGill Alumni community, and keep our Faculty a world-class leader in legal education.
New Board in Town

The young alumni board (YAB) aims to foster a vibrant community among the ranks of our most recent graduates.

On the evening of May 4, more than 85 young alumni rubbed shoulders in the Atrium of the Faculty as the YAB held its first coffeehouse event. A networking cocktail party held in Toronto a month later attracted as many attendees. YAB Chair Tanya De Mello, BCL/LLB’11, could hardly have hoped for a more successful first season.

Resurrected by the Faculty in November, the YAB complements the existing Faculty Advisory Board (FAB), a group of distinguished alumni who volunteer for the Faculty as strategic advisers.

“The legal profession and what people do with a law degree is evolving every year,” De Mello says. “Young alumni are in a uniquely privileged position to witness these changes and provide advice on how we can improve both the education and experience of students at the Faculty.”

Composed of recent graduates, the YAB helps keep young alumni connected, engaged and involved during the 10 years after graduation. Part of the YAB’s purpose is to create a culture of philanthropy by helping young graduates realize how they constantly benefited from alumni support throughout their own studies. More vital even than fundraising, however, is the YAB’s mandate to foster an active community of graduates by developing programs and events tailored to their needs and interests. The goal is to develop mutually beneficial relationships between the Faculty and its young alumni community.

Plans for the future include other large events like the coffeehouses, but also more diverse, smaller events, covering various interests in different places. De Mello would love to see alumni visible in panels, mentoring, or events that reflect issues in individuals’ communities.

In her opinion, young graduates can, and should, help drive how the Faculty engages and supports students. “We received one of the best legal educations in the world for a very low cost,” De Mello says. “This is the way we can give back and keep the degree at the top of the world!”

Meet the FAB

MARC BARBEAU, BCL’84, LLB’84
RANDAL BARKER, BCL’93, LLB’93
RACHEL BAXTER, BCL’89
CAROLINE BERUBE, BCL’99, LLB’99
GREGORY J. DAVID, BCL’93, LLB’93
TANYA DE MELLO, BCL/LLB’11

ARIEL DECKELBAUM, BCL’98, LLB’98
TONY FATA, BCL’90, LLB’90
MARK GODSY, LLB’82
JILL HUGESSEN, BCL’85, LLB’85
HILLEL W. ROSEN, BCL’85, LLB’85
PATRICK M. SHEA, BCL’99, LLB’99

ELIZABETH L. THOMSON, BCL’75, LLB ’74
TANIA TRETIAK, BCL’97, LLB’97
JORDAN H. WAXMAN, LLB’92, BCL’92
SUSAN WELLS-TUNNELL, BCL’96, LLB’96
ANNA YANG, BCL’87, LLB’87
CÉLÉBRATIONS ET REMISES DE PRIX


En mai 2017, la Faculté a aussi tenu à souligner le travail et l’appui indéfectible de trois membres de sa communauté dans le cadre d’une chaleureuse réception dans le foyer du pavillon Chancellor-Day.

Tanya de Mello (3), BCL/LLB’11, a reçu le prix Charles D. Gonthier pour jeune diplômé exceptionnel pour son leadership, son service à la collectivité et sa participation au sein de la Faculté de droit.

Mary Stikeman (4), BSc(PE)’58, a reçu le prix James Robb, célébrant ses efforts soutenus pour appuyer la Faculté, notamment dans l’établissement de la Chaire H. Heward Stikeman de droit fiscal.

Norman Steinberg (5), Ad. E., BCL’75, président sortant du Comité consultatif de la Faculté, a reçu le prix F. R. Scott pour service exemplaire, en reconnaissance de ses contributions significatives au droit et à la vie de la Faculté, ainsi que son service et son leadership dans la communauté.
21 MARS 2017 ▶ Thank you to our generous donors and deserving student recipients for making our annual scholarship reception a resounding success. Your significant contributions toward enhancing the life of our great Faculty make us all very proud to be part of this wonderful community. Merci à toutes et à tous pour votre présence chaleureuse lors de cette soirée franchement réussie.
### DONATIONS TO THE FACULTY OF LAW

Through the lifelong generosity of its alumni, the Faculty of Law continues to excel in legal research and teaching.

Thank you!

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<tr>
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**METHODOLOGY**

(1) The participation rate represents the highest participation rate that the class has achieved in any of the last 5 fiscal years.

(2) The participation rate only represents giving to the McGill Fund - special/major gifts are not included. Data only represents giving from individuals who are still alive and for whom we have address information.
DECEMBER 8, 2016  ▶ Toronto-based alumni and friends from McGill University’s Faculty of Law were reunited at Thomson Reuters’ downtown offices to catch up and meet the Faculty’s new Dean, Robert Leckey. With more than 180 people in attendance, it was the Faculty’s largest alumni event outside Montreal. Very special thanks to our generous hosts, Thomson Reuters Ltd., and Neil Sternthal, LLB’95, Managing Director, for welcoming our Toronto alumni to a spectacular event.
Dean Robert Leckey, David Binet, LLB’85, host Neil Sternthal, LLB’95, and Faculty Advisory Board chair Greg David, BCL’93, LLB’93
Le 6 octobre 2016, plus de 25 diplômés et diplômées de la Faculté de droit ont chaleureusement accueilli Robert Leckey dans les locaux de Gide Loyrette Nouel, à Paris, lors de sa première visite en Europe en tant que doyen de la Faculté. Occasion pour le nouveau doyen de partager sa vision et ses priorités pour la Faculté, l’événement a connu un franc succès. Quel plaisir de voir réuni un aussi vaste éventail de diplômés et diplômées de la Faculté, des promotions de 1950 à 2016!
More than 50 people turned up for the annual coffeehouse in Ottawa September 27, 2016, held at the Metropolitain Brasserie. Recent grads, friends of the Faculty, and parents in the Capital Region – including graduates elected to the House of Commons and otherwise serving on Parliament Hill and the Supreme Court of Canada – shared memories of their time at McGill and renewed connections over cocktails.
Faculty Advisory Board member Jordan H. Waxman, LLB’91, BCL’92, a managing partner at HighTower HSW Advisors LLC, graciously hosted a coffeehouse get-together for New York City-area law alumni November 29, 2016. Guests were able to meet Dean Robert Leckey, who sported a Movember mustache, and reconnect with fellow alums.
IN MEMORIAM

CHARLES S. ALEXANDER, BCL’59
WARREN ALLMAND, OC, QC, BCL’57
JAK ALMALEH, BCL’73
MARIE-JOSÉE BEAUDRY, BCL’84
MARTIN A. BRADLEY, LLM’62
JACQUES BÉLAND, BCL’72
LAWRENCE CAPELOVITCH, BCL’56
JÉRÔME CHOQUETTE, BCL’48
COL. HAMILTON DESAUSSURE, LLM’53
DANIEL DOHENY, QC, BCL’47
BRUCE ENGLISH, BCL’57
PIERRE A. FOURNIER, BCL’67
NANCY GRANT (NÉE GIGOT), BCL’48
ISIDORE GREENBAUM, BCL’51
MAX M. HABERKORN, BCL’71
IAN EDSEL HARRIS, BCL’85
ROY LACAUD HEENAN, QC, Ad. E., BCL’60, LLD’08
WILLIAM P. KEATING, BCL’51
JO ANNE LAGENDYK, BCL/LLB’04
JOHN E. M. LAWRENCE, QC, BCL’56
JEAN LOUIS LEFEVRE, BCL’51
WILLIAM LEVITT, BCL’56
JACQUES V. MARCHESSAULT, QC, BCL’51
THE HON. J. FRASER MARTIN, BCL’64
J. FRANK McGUIGAN, BCL’54
GERALD MCGURHILL, BCL’80
RUSSELL GEORGE MERIFIELD, BCL’70
JEAN R. MIQUELON, BCL’52
ANN MITCHELL, BCL’92
JAMES A. MOFFAT, BCL’80
JOHN A. PENHALE, BCL’64
DONALD W. SEAL, QC, BCL’54
TOR OSCAR STANGELAND, BCL’53
VINCENT VOYER, BCL’73

1950s

David Franklin, Ad.E., BCL’59, has recently published his fourth book on debt collection, *Statute of limitations for international commercial claims*, with Thomson Reuters. He recently retired as Honorary Consul of Iceland in Montreal, a position he had held since 2001. Franklin continues to practice law with the firm of Franklin & Franklin in Montreal.

1960s

The Hon. Morris Fish, CC, QC, BCL’62, LLD’01, was appointed Companion of the Order of Canada in early January in recognition of his remarkable contributions to the legal community and the cause of justice. Justice Fish served on the Quebec Court of Appeal from 1989 to 2003 and on the Supreme Court of Canada from 2003 to 2013. He is a jurist in residence at Davies in Montreal, where he draws on his litigation experience and knowledge of appellate practice to mentor lawyers on appeal matters.

1970s

The Hon. Ken Dryden, OC, BCL’73, is a co-creator and co-executive producer of “We Are Canada,” a six-part television series narrated by actress Sarah Polley that debuted in April on CBC. Dryden, who sat as a Liberal Member of Parliament from 2004 to 2011, and worked as an executive for the Toronto Maple Leafs, has been a special adviser to the Institute for the Study of Canada since 2012, which is where the germ of the series was planted.

Ian M. Solloway, BCL’73, a Montreal lawyer with over 40 years of experience in family law who is the immediate past Chair of the English-Speaking Section of the Bar of Montreal, was named to the Board of Directors of La Fondation du Barreau du Québec.
1980s

- **GERRY APOSTOLATOS**, BCL’88, LLB’88 was appointed in January 2016 as Chairman of the Board of Directors of Langlois Lawyers LLP, a major Quebec-based law firm. Apostolatos has 25 years of trial and appellate experience, regularly appearing before a range of tribunals, arbitral bodies and courts in complex high-stakes disputes, including in the context of class action proceedings.

- **DAVID BIGIO**, QC, BCL’88, LLB’88, was appointed Queen’s Counsel in New Zealand in June 2016. Bigio has spent the whole of his legal career in New Zealand, becoming a partner in the firm of Ellis Gould in 1994. In 2003, he joined the New Zealand Independent Bar and has practised as sole barrister since then. Bigio has a wide-ranging practice in civil and commercial litigation, including the fields of real estate and property, building and construction, trusts and company disputes.

- **JOHN COLEMAN**, BCL’80, LLB’80, a été nommé délégué général du Québec à Londres en août. M. Coleman était avocat associé principal au sein de la firme Norton Rose Fulbright Canada.

- A former Law Dean, the Hon. **NICHOLAS KASIRER**, BCL’85, LLB’85, who sits on the Quebec Court of Appeal, was named to the Federal Judicial Advisory Committee for Quebec — West in January. Independent judicial advisory committees constitute the heart of the appointments process: they are responsible for assessing the qualifications for appointment of the lawyers who apply.

- **STUART RUSSELL**, BCL’81, LLB’82, is a member of the Monitoring Committee on Attacks on Lawyers of the International Association of People’s Lawyers, and manages their blog covering attacks against lawyers around the world (defendlawyers.wordpress.com). Russell has published reports on attacks against lawyers for a number of years and spoke at a roundtable at the Maison du Barreau de Paris during the Day of the Endangered Lawyer conference in January. He recently retired and is living in Bordeaux.

1990s

- **ANN SODEN**, Ad. E., BCL’81, LLB’82, a mediator and elder law specialist, was presented with the inaugural “Prix du Ministre de la justice du Québec — Association de droit Lord Reading” by Quebec’s Minister of Justice, the Honourable Stéphanie Vallée on the occasion of the Lord Reading Law Society’s annual Steinberg Memorial Lecture in March.

- **LOUIS CHARETTE**, BCL’94, LLB’94, was named to the Federal Judicial Advisory Committee for Quebec — West in January. Louis Charette is a partner at Lavery, where he practises in civil and professional liability litigation, product liability, transportation law and infrastructure, and aviation law. Charette defends manufacturers, distributors, and vendors. He also advises manufacturers in the implementation and management of recalls and on strategic and risk management issues.

- En juin 2017, **MARNI S. DICKER**, BCL’95, LLB’95, directrice commerciale et chef du service juridique à Infrastructure Ontario, a reçu le prix Accomploimement stratégie d’affaires du gala ZSA, qui récompense les meilleurs conseillers juridiques au Canada. Le prix salue la transition entre les fonctions d’avocat et de membre de la direction. Elle figure également au palmarès des 25 avocats canadiens les plus influents publié par Canadian Lawyer en août 2017.

- The Hon. **WARREN MILMAN**, BCL’92, LLB’92, who was a partner at McCarthy Tétrault LLP for 24 years, was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia in Vancouver in June 2017. Milman has served as chair of Pro Bono Law of British Columbia, was appointed as a governor of the Law Foundation of British Columbia in 2010, and has served as chair of its board of governors in 2015 and 2016.


- **SARAH QADEER**, BCL’96, is Home Depot Canada’s General Counsel and a member of the company’s senior leadership team. Qadeer sits on the executive committee and board of the Home Depot Canada Foundation and is active in the charitable and professional sectors. She also sits on the executive committee of Legal Leaders for Diversity, a group of prominent Canadian lawyers who advocate for diversity and integration in business and the law. In 2016, she was listed in WXN Canada’s Top 100 Most Powerful Women. She has been recognized as one of...
Canada’s leading counsels in the GC Powerlist for Canada (2016), was a finalist for the 2016 Canadian General Counsel of the Year (Business Achievement), and was awarded the First Chair GC award in 2013.

- **MARTIN SHEEHAN**, BCL’90, LLB’90, has been inducted as a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, an invitation-only fellowship of exceptional trial lawyers of diverse backgrounds from the U.S. and Canada. The College selects only those who have demonstrated the very highest standards of trial advocacy, ethical conduct, integrity, professionalism and collegiality. Sheehan is a partner at Fasken Martineau DuMoulin’s Montreal branch.

- **MARK WEINSTEIN**, BCL’91, LLB’91, who leads University Advancement at McGill University, was presented with the Outstanding Achievement Award by the Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education (CCAE) at their National Conference in Hamilton, Ont., in June. This prominent award recognizes Weinstein’s visionary leadership, his outstanding accomplishments as a fundraiser, and his many contributions to the advancement of higher education philanthropy in Canada.

### 2000s

- **DELBIE DESHARNAIS**, BCL’00, LLB’00, qui est conseillère générale associée au contentieux chez Telus, était finaliste pour le prix Gestion des litiges au gala ZSA, qui récompensait les meilleurs conseillers juridiques au Canada en juin 2017.

- **FRÉDÉRIC DESMAR AIS**, BCL/LLB’08, avocat en droit du travail et de l’emploi au sein du cabinet Therrien Couture, a reçu le prix Exemplum usitata du Jeune Barreau de Laval en septembre 2016 pour son apport à la littérature juridique, l’exemple qu’il donne à ses pairs et ses contributions à l’avancement de la justice.

- **FERNANDO GARCIA**, BCL/LLB’04, who works as general counsel, government affairs and corporate secretary, at Nissan Canada in Mississauga, was named to Canadian Lawyer’s Top 25 Most Influential lawyers of 2017, In-House Counsel category, in August 2017.

- **MARCO LUDWIG**, LLM’07, currently senior counsel at leading Brazilian law firm Veirano Advogados, based in Rio de Janeiro, was recently nominated Chair of the newly created Commercial Law and Practice Commission of the Brazilian chapter of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC Brazil).

- **CHARMAINE LYN**, BCL/LLB’03, was named a member of the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse in June. Lyn is Senior Director, Office of Community Engagement, and a special adviser to the Provost on Indigenous directions at Concordia University.

- **JEAN-FRÉDÉRIC MÉNARD**, BCL/LLB’05, was Assistant Director at the Faculty’s Crépeau Centre in 2009-11, after having clerked at the Supreme Court of Canada and practised law in Montreal. He went on to complete a BCL at Oxford in 2012. Currently a PhD candidate at University College London, Ménard has been appointed at the Faculty of Law of Sherbrooke University, where he will take up his position in December 2017. Ménard is also an Ethics Adviser for the McGill University Health Centre and RI-MUHC.

- **LORNE NEUDORF**, LLM’09, recently relocated to Australia, having accepted a tenured position as Associate Professor at Adelaide Law School at the University of Adelaide, the country’s second-oldest law school and member of the prestigious “Group of Eight” leading Australian research universities. Previously, Neudorf was a founding faculty member at Thompson Rivers University’s Faculty of Law, in British Columbia.

- **EMILIA OR Dolis**, BCL/LLB’08, and ANDRÉS DREW, BCL/LLB’07, welcomed their second child, Benjamin, in December 2016. Drew works as counsel at Transport Canada, and Ordolis is a Senior Policy Analyst at Health Canada.

- **BENJAMIN PERRIN**, LLM’07, was awarded a Law for the Future Fund grant from the Canadian Bar Association for a research project called “Social Media Crime: Enhancing Canada’s Response to Criminal Activity on Facebook, Twitter and Snapchat.” Perrin’s project will investigate how criminal law and the criminal justice system are responding to crime committed on, or facilitated by, social media networks, focusing on sexual offences, threats/criminal harassment, and terrorism-related offences.

### BENCHMARK LITIGATION 2017 UNDER 40 HOTLIST

- **DAMIEN NYER**, LLM’04, BCL/LLB’07 – White & Case, NY
- **ATAR MILLER**, BCL’02, LLB’02 – Milbank Tweed Hadley & McCloy, NY
- **AUDREY DOCTOR**, BCL/LLB’05 – Irving Mitchell Kalichman, Montreal
- **MARIE-LOUISE DESLISLE**, LLM’02 – Woods, Montreal
- **SCOTT SMITH**, BCL/LLB’09 – Gowling WLG, Vancouver
En mai 2017, ERIC MOSES GASHIRABAKE, BCL/LLB’17, a reçu le prix du Citoyen politiquement engagé de la 10e édition du Gala Vision & Inspiration, organisé par le Réseau des entrepreneurs et professionnels africains (REPAF). M. Gashirabake, coprésident et co-fondateur de l’organisme International Rwanda Youth for Development (IRYD), termine actuellement son stage chez Fasken Martineau DuMoulin à Montréal.

AMANDA GHARREMANI, BCL/LLB’15, was named Legal Director of the Canadian Centre for International Justice (CCIJ) in June. Ghahremani had been serving as CCIJ’s interim Managing Director and the Director of the Philippe Kirsch Institute, CCIJ’s educational division. During that time, she oversaw the expansion of the Kirsch Institute’s international criminal law certificate program and has guided CCIJ’s management, fundraising, and communications. As Legal Director, she will focus on CCIJ’s casework while continuing to oversee the Kirsch Institute’s programming.

ALUMNOTES


After clerking at the Supreme Court of Canada and then doing a stint practicing litigation on Wall St., ANNAMARIA ENENAJOR, BCL/LLB’12, has returned to Toronto to practice criminal and civil liberties litigation at Ruby & Shiller. She was co-counsel in the high-profile case of Rev. Brent Hawkes in 2017, R. v. Hawkes. She recently coauthored the 9th edition of Sentencing (Lexis Nexis). She was also nominated in Canadian Lawyer’s Top 25 Most Influential in the Human Rights, Advocacy and Criminal Law category.

AMÉLIE T. GOuin, BCL/LLB’12 – Associate, Borden Ladner Gervais LLP, QC
Telus Future Leaders Award

TASHA KHEIRIDDIN, BCL’93, LLB’93 – Host, AM640, Corus Entertainment, ON
BMO Arts & Communications Award

ISABELLE MARCOUX, BCL’95 – Chair of the Board, Transcontinental Inc., QC
Accenture Corporate Directors Award

SARAH QADEER, BCL’96 – General Counsel, Home Depot of Canada Inc., ON
KPMG Professionals Award

SHANNON ROGERS, BCL’96, LLB’96 – President & General Counsel, Global Relay Communications, BC
CIBC Entrepreneurs Award

IN WXN CANADA’S TOP 100 MOST POWERFUL WOMEN OF 2016
KATE GLOVER, DCL’17, was thrilled to learn that her doctoral dissertation, The Stories We Tell: the Supreme Court of Canada and the Constitution, which was written under the supervision of Hoi Kong and the late Rod Macdonald, has been awarded the 2017 Prix d’Excellence de l’Association des doyens des études supérieures au Québec.

En mars 2017, SABAA KHAN, DCL’16, a été nommée, par la ministre de l’Environnement et du Changement climatique, au Comité consultatif public mixte (CCPM) de la Commission de coopération environnementale (CCE) pour un mandat de trois ans. Depuis 2015, Mme Khan est chercheuse principale et enseignante au Center for Climate Change, Energy and Environmental Law (Finlande). Elle servira au CCPM pour une période de trois ans.

JHYUN ROSEI KIM, BCL/LLB’15, who is an associate lawyer at Goodmans, was selected by Toronto’s CivicAction as one of its 2017-2018 DiverseCity Fellows. The Fellows program recognizes emerging leaders from diverse backgrounds in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton community, and provides opportunities to build their leadership potential and pipelines through workshops and networking sessions throughout the year. Kim is also heavily involved in diversity initiatives and is part of the Korean Canadian Lawyers’ Association, where she advocates for a Korean-language legal aid clinic.

Our doctoral candidate JODI LAZARE, LLM’13, recently joined the Schulich School of Law at Dalhousie University as a full-time faculty member. She had been a part-time member since 2015 and was a 2014–2015 Schulich Fellow. Holder of a Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship, Lazare is researching the practice of judicial reliance on the Spousal Support Advisory Guidelines for her thesis.

JACYNTHE LEDOUX, LLM’16, a remporté le prix de la meilleure thèse de maîtrise 2017 décerné par l’Association des professeurs et professeurs de droit du Québec pour son mémoire Sur les traces des wampums devant les tribunaux canadiens: Réflexion sur l’état du dialogue internormatif entre traditions juridiques autochtones et étatique. Mme Ledoux a rédigé sa thèse sous la supervision de la professeure Kirsten Anker.

JOSEPH MURDOCH-FLOWERS, BCL/LLB’12, has joined Canada’s National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. He has been practicing as a criminal defence lawyer for the Legal Services Board of Nunavut in Iqaluit.

SARA ROSS, BCL/LLB’12, received the Austin Sarat Award at Stanford University’s School of Law in March 2017, for her article “Buen Vivir and Subaltern Cosmopolitan Legality in Urban Cultural Governance and Redevelopment Frameworks: The Equitable Right to Diverse Iterations of Culture in the City and a New Urban Legal Anthropological Approach.” Published by the City University of Hong Kong Law Review in December, the article was a part of her PhD dissertation at Osgoode Hall Law School, where she was a Bombardier SSHRC Scholar and a president of the graduate students association.

JOËL ROY, BCL/LLB’16, a intégré le cabinet montréalais Chenette en décembre 2016, où il exerce le droit disciplinaire. Il avait auparavant effectué son stage chez Irving Mitchell Kalichman, cabinet spécialisé en litige civil et commercial, et il a travaillé au sein du contentieux de la CSST. M. Roy est également chanteur et compositeur, ayant sorti deux albums sous le nom de scène Joel Adam.

JOHN SIMPSON, BCL/LLB’16, s’est joint au groupe du droit des sociétés et des affaires du cabinet Stikeman Elliott à Montréal en mars 2017, après y avoir fait son stage professionnel.


ERIC VAN EYKEN, BCL/LLB’09, received an honourable mention from the Paris Very Young Arbitration Practitioners (PVYAP) association in the 2016 Young Arbitrators Match competition for a second-place finish in the drafting of an arbitral award. Van Eyken practices exclusively in international arbitration, where he is involved in both private commercial and international public law investment arbitration disputes as an associate at Hanotiau & van den Berg in Brussels. In 2014, van Eyken obtained an LLM from the University of Miami’s School of Law through a full scholarship from the International Council of Commercial Arbitration (ICCA).
HOMECOMING 2018: VOLUNTEER TO ORGANIZE YOUR CLASS REUNION!

In 2018, classes whose graduating year ends with 3 or 8 will be marking graduation milestones. Whether it’s your class’s 5th or 50th anniversary, don’t miss out on the celebration!

Pour avoir davantage d’informations sur les conventums et sur les Retrouvailles, ou encore pour organiser votre propre conventum, contactez alumnioffice.law@mcgill.ca.

For information on how you can join your classmates in creating a lasting legacy at the Law Faculty or in participating in existing Class Gifts, please contact julie.brown2@mcgill.ca.
# Upcoming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>October 14, 2017</td>
<td>Montreal</td>
<td>Homecoming</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 24, 2017</td>
<td>Montreal</td>
<td>Peter M. Laing Inaugural Chair Lecture</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 8, 2017</td>
<td>New York</td>
<td>Coffeehouse at Hightower</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 14, 2017</td>
<td>Toronto</td>
<td>Alumni Cocktail at Thomson Reuters</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 17, 2017</td>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>Reception with Dean Robert Leckey</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 23, 2018</td>
<td>Toronto</td>
<td>Alumni Awards Reception</td>
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<td>March 21, 2018</td>
<td>Montreal</td>
<td>Wainwright Lecture</td>
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<td>March 27, 2018</td>
<td>Montreal</td>
<td>Student Awards Reception</td>
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<td>April 24, 2018</td>
<td>Montreal</td>
<td>Open Forum with Dean Robert Leckey</td>
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<td>TBD, April 2018</td>
<td>New York</td>
<td>Deans of the Canadian Law Schools Reception</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 8, 2018</td>
<td>Montreal</td>
<td>Alumni Awards Reception</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 31, 2018</td>
<td>Montreal</td>
<td>Convocation</td>
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For more information, please feel free to contact Julie Brown in the Development office at julie.brown2@mcgill.ca

Watch for events coming to London and Paris in 2018!
Gardez le contact avec votre Faculté!

Did you know the Faculty of Law is on social media?
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@DeanLeckey

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FOLLOW US AT
@LawMcGill

Connectez-vous à nos profils pour les dernières nouvelles de notre communauté diplômée et de la vie à la Faculté. We always keep an eye open for news from our alumni; make sure to tag us next time you have big news to share, win an award, organize an event, or have a great story to tell!