

Federation of Law Societies of Canada

National Family Law Conference

Final Programme



St. John's Convention Centre
Newfoundland and Labrador
July 11 – 14, 2016



THE 2016 NATIONAL FAMILY LAW PROGRAM ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

The Hon. Justice R. James Williams

Justice R. James Williams is Co-Chair of the Organising Committee of the Federation of Law Societies National Program on Family Law. He was appointed a Justice of the Family Division of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia in 1999. He has been involved in many aspects of legal education, nationally and internationally. He has been an Associate Director of the National Judicial Institute since 2001.

Trudi Brown, Q.C.

Ms. Brown co-Chairs the National Family Law Program. Ms. Brown practises family law in a 6 person family law firm in Victoria, B.C., and is a family law mediator, commercial arbitrator and parent coordinator. She is a family law mediator and arbitrator, and on the roster of the Hear the Child Society, interviewing children in custody disputes. She is a Life Bencher of the Law Society of BC, having served as the President in 1998. She is also involved in many community groups, and sits on the Board of the BC Lottery Corporation."

Stacie Glazman, LL.B., LL.M., CBV, C.S.

Stacie Glazman is the only litigation lawyer in Canada who is also qualified as a Chartered Business Valuator. She is certified as a Specialist in Family Law by the Law Society of Upper Canada. Ms. Glazman was called to the Bar in 1996, she received a Master of Laws in 1998 with a specialty in Civil Litigation and Dispute Resolution, and she obtained the designation as a Chartered Business Valuator from the CICBV in 1999. As counsel, she is a sole practitioner through Stacie R. Glazman Professional Corporation, with a focus on family law cases involving complex financial issues.

Krysta Ostwald

Krysta Ostwald has been on the organizing committee for the National Family Law Program since 2009. She earned her B.A. in 1993 and her LL.B. in 1996, both from the University of Victoria. She articulated with Fraser Milner and was called to the Alberta Bar in 1997. Since then she has practiced exclusively in the area of family law. Krysta worked with the firms of Laurie Allen & Associates, Turnbull Boyes and Soby Boyden Lenz, before creating Widdowson Kachur Ostwald Menzies LLP with her partners.

Krysta has been named by the Canadian Legal Lexpert® Directory and Woodward White Inc. as one of the Best Lawyers in Canada every year since 2006. She was selected for the Best Lawyer® Lawyer of the Year Award in Family Law 2015.

Professor Rollie Thompson, Q.C.

Professor Thompson received his law degree from Dalhousie University and a B.A. with Honours in Economics and Political Science from McGill University. Called to the bar in Nova Scotia in 1980, he has been a Professor at the Dalhousie Law School since 1982, earning full professor status in 1992. He also served as Executive Director of the Dalhousie Legal Aid Service. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2011. Rollie also teaches the Child and Spousal Support course at Osgoode Hall Law School. He is Editor of the Canadian Family Law Quarterly. With Professor Carol Rogerson, he co-directed the Spousal Support Advisory Guidelines Project for the Department of Justice (Canada).





Welcome to St. John's...

...and the 2016 National Family Law Program sponsored by the Federation of Law Societies of Canada. If you are faculty, returning as a long term attendee or if this is the first time you have attended the program we appreciate your support and contribution to the success of the program.

This booklet contains brief summaries of topics, a brief biography of our faculty members and information about other events over the coming week. The material provided this year will be available to download from the intranet until June 2018.

If you are interested in becoming involved as a faculty member there is a Call for papers included in this booklet. Please refer to the information on the form provided. There is an information session scheduled Wednesday, July 13 to answer any questions you may have about the process.

In each session room, there will be program evaluations to complete. A survey will also be distributed by email immediately after the program. Your feedback is very important when considering the planning of future programs.

We hope that you enjoy our 2016 program and your time in St. John's.

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SUNDAY, JULY 10, 2016

All sessions and events will be held in the St. John's Convention Centre unless otherwise indicated. Additional information about faculty, their presentations, and resource documents they have provided are available on our intranet until June 2018. (<http://flaw.flsc.ca/>)

REGISTRATION 1:00 – 6:30 pm

INFORMAL OPENING RECEPTION 5:00 – 6:30 pm

MONDAY, JULY 11, 2016

OPENING AND WELCOME 8:45 – 9:00 am

THE HUMAN RIGHTS TRIBUNAL AND THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION: LESSONS FOR CHILD WELFARE 9:00 – 10:15 am Session 1

In January 2016, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal found that the federal government's inequitable provision of child welfare services to 163,000 First Nations children, and failure to ensure First Nations children can access government services on the same terms as other children, was discriminatory on the grounds of race and national ethnic origin. The case was originally filed in 2007, and the government of Canada launched eight separate motions to try to get the case dismissed on jurisdictional grounds before the matter came before the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal for hearing in 2013. The final arguments were heard in 2014. This presentation describes the case's nine year procedural history, the compelling evidence of discrimination, the engagement of children in systemic cases affecting them, and the findings and implications for other areas of inequity experienced by First Nations children and other groups.

Cindy Blackstock, PhD
Executive Director, First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada

Sarah Clarke
Hensel Barristers

HEALTH BREAK 10:15 – 10:30 am

MONDAY, JULY 11, 2016

FAMILY LAW TAX PLANNING: 10:30 – 12:00 pm Session 2 SWIMMING IN SHARK INFESTED WATERS

Family lawyers often encounter a variety of tax issues in the course of matrimonial files. However, few family lawyers have a sufficient background in tax law to be able to deal with such issues in a proficient manner, which can lead to negligence claims at worst, or a serious loss of sleep due to worry at best. We will discuss, in a practical context, a number of topics to assist you in dealing with these dangers, including (1) best practices for working with tax advisors, (2) a review of selected, common matrimonial tax issues, and (3) the often-overlooked topic of tax liabilities. Our aim is to provide you with the tools to avoid the sharks!

Rhoda I. Dobler
Partner, Dunphy Best Blocksom LLP

Andrew Bateman
Partner, Felesky Flynn LLP

THE INTERSECTION OF FAMILY 10:30 – 12:00 pm Session 3 LAW AND IMMIGRATION LAW *(updated version of 2012 presentation with all new legislation)*

The purpose of this session is to provide some insights for family law practitioners in dealing with an immigration law issue. It will offer advice on when to consult with an immigration lawyer and outline applicable legislation and the jurisdiction of the various decision making bodies, including the Immigration and Refugee Board and the Federal Court. The session will also identify issues related to sponsorship of foreign nationals including spouses and dependent children, "marriages of convenience", conditional permanent resident status and international adoption and more.

Peter Golden
Barrister & Solicitor, Golden & Golden Law

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS 10:30 – 12:00 pm Session 4 – SEPARATION AND DIVORCE IN PARENTING "HOLLAND"

The session is about parenting and financial issues concerning special needs children. Lisa Pinhorn will discuss parenting plans for special needs children. Justice Sherr will be reviewing parenting case law about special needs children. Lori Savory will be reviewing financial considerations about special needs children.

The Honourable Justice Stanley Sherr
Ontario Court of Justice, Family Court

Lisa Pinhorn
Spectrum Consultants Group

Lori Savory
Newfoundland and Labrador Legal Aid Commission



MONDAY, JULY 11, 2016

THE SILVER TSUNAMI: PITFALLS AND PROBLEMS ADDRESSING LATER IN LIFE SEPARATION 10:30 – 12:00 pm Session 5

Data confirms what many family law attorneys may already be seeing in their practice. Many couples who divorced in their forties or early fifties are now facing the retirement of the spouse who is paying support. The review of three distinct cases speaks to the importance of thinking about this issue both when negotiating separation agreements and presenting our clients' needs to the Court when pleading spousal support issues at the time of divorce. It also points to the need for federal and provincial tax legislation to be modified to assist both payers and payees.

John-Paul Boyd
Executive Director, Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family

Miriam Grassby
Grassby & Associés

LUNCH BREAK 12:30 – 1:30 pm

Events scheduled during this time:

- Child Protection Discussion Group Lunch
- Preliminary Results of Survey of Participants at NFLP

VALUATION AND INCOME ISSUES INVOLVING TRUSTS 1:30 – 2:45 pm Session 6

A trust is one of the most flexible existing financial planning tools. It can handle almost any purpose. The concept is based on the separation of the legal ownership of the Trust assets (which rests with the Trustees) from the beneficial ownership (which rests with the beneficiaries). A trust can be designed to achieve the best asset protection. In this session we'll discuss the definition of value used for a trust interest, the types of trust interests (capital, income, discretionary, unvested, etc.), accessibility of trust income, and the taxation and distribution issues of trust income. We'll also look at how family trusts can be used.

Steve Z. Ranot
Partner, Marmar Penner Inc.

SPOUSAL SUPPORT ADVISORY GUIDELINES 1:30 – 2:45 pm Session 7

The just-released Revised User's Guide (RUG) is a completely revised and updated version of the User's Guide, intended to accompany the final version of the Spousal Support Advisory Guidelines (July 2008). The case law has been updated from the last version (March 2010), highlighting the leading appeal and trial decisions of the past six years. Think of this session as a "reader's guide" to the RUG, especially for the many new spousal support issues discussed there.

Rollie Thompson, Q.C.
Professor, Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University

Carol Rogerson
Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Toronto

MONDAY, JULY 11, 2016

CHILDREN RESISTING CONTACT: 1:30 – 2:45 pm Session 8 WHAT'S A LAWYER TO DO?

This session addresses the spectrum of cases involving “children resisting contact” (CRC) with a parent post-separation, ranging from those where the child is justifiably estranged due to parental abuse to those where the refusal of contact is due to the alienating behaviour of the favoured parent. These cases pose significant risks for emotional harm to children, as well as substantial challenges for judges, lawyers and other professionals, often resulting in multiple family court appearances and concurrent child welfare or criminal proceedings.

Nicholas (Nick) Bala
Professor, Faculty of Law, Queen’s University

Patricia Hebert, Q.C.
Gordon Zwaenepoel

INNOVATION IN FAMILY LAW 1:30 – 2:45 pm Session 9 PRACTICE AND PROCESS

Substantive family law has become, by and large, fair and reasonable. We have law requiring the sharing of the economic gains and costs of a marriage or of a common law relationship; custody and access decisions are made on a gender-neutral basis in the best interests of the child; and we now have principled predictable approaches to child and spousal support. This is not to suggest that the work of ensuring substantive fairness is done on these issues, but it is now time to take a close look at the presumptions that support the way we get to “fair outcomes”.

Mary-Jo Maur
Assistant Professor, Director, Faculty of Law, Queen’s University

Dan Melamed
Partner, Torkin Manes LLP

HEALTH BREAK 2:45 – 3:00 pm

VALUATION OF PROFESSIONAL 3:00 – 4:15 pm Session 10 PRACTICES

Determining the value of a business concern is difficult. When it is a closely held business, the task is complicated by several factors. When that closely held business is a professional practice, the task is complicated further. And when the professional practice is in the field of law, it becomes the most difficult task of all. What is the fair value of a lifetime of work building a law practice? This session looks at goodwill vs. a professional license, and how industry rules can apply. We’ll also discuss off balance sheet assets, and the capitalized earnings approach.

Steve Z. Ranot
Partner, Marmer Penner Inc.



MONDAY, JULY 11, 2016

PENSION DIVISION PRIMER AND HOT TOPICS ACROSS CANADA

3:00 – 4:15 pm

Session 11

Colin Galinski
Galinski Pension and Benefits Law

Rita Richardson
Barrister & Solicitor, Richardson Law

CHILDREN'S ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN FAMILY LAW & THE NEW CBA CHILD RIGHTS TOOLKIT FOR CANADIAN LAWYERS

3:00 – 4:15 pm

Session 12

It is well known that recent access to justice reports by the National Action Committee and the Canadian Bar Association have identified significant family and civil justice concerns. While the access to justice concerns raised apply with even greater force to children, the recommendations made are primarily, though not exclusively, focused on access to justice for adults. Children's access to justice issues are, for the most part, considered by looking at the ways in which children benefit from a system which operates more effectively for adults. While the steps being taken are laudable and that benefit is welcome, Canada has legal obligations to recognize the special access to justice considerations that apply to children and act on them.

(Ret.) The Honourable Donna J. Martinson, Q.C.

Suzanne S. Williams
Brown Henderson Melbye
Associate, International Institute for Child Rights and Development

MED-ARB – TWO YEARS LATER "THE DEBATE CONTINUES"

3:00 – 4:15 pm

Session 13

Two experienced Mediators/Arbitrators will discuss the Med/Arb process. They will look at the advantages and disadvantages and, in particular, the problems confronting those who engage in the process, including issues of natural justice and bias. Recent case law will also be reviewed.

Philip Epstein, Q.C.,
Senior Partner, Epstein Cole LLP

Carol Hickman, Q.C.
Executive Director, Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission

MONDAY, JULY 11, 2016

OSGOODE HALL LLM
INFORMATION SESSION

4:15 – 4:30 pm

RECEPTION AND
INFORMATION SESSION

4:30– 5:30 pm

Sponsored by the Canadian Bar Association

RECEPTION
(BY INVITATION ONLY)

6:00 – 7:00 pm

International Academy of Family Lawyers



TUESDAY, JULY 12, 2016

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENTS 8:45 – 9:00 am

MOTHERISK – A CAUTIONARY TALE 9:00 – 10:00 am Session 14

Susan Lightstone (Chair)
Counsel, Office of the Chief Justice, Ontario Court of Justice

The Honourable Justice Susan J. Lang
Court of Appeal for Ontario

HEALTH BREAK 10:00 – 10:15 am

A REASONABLE AND NECESSARY GUIDE TO SECTION 7, WITH POETRY 10:15 – 11:30 am Session 15

Every family lawyer is acquainted with Section 7 of the Child Support Guidelines. It is the mechanism in the Guidelines to provide for additional child support - in excess of the usual monthly table child support - to cover certain types of expenses for a child. It is a relatively straightforward provision used every day. As simple as the provision might appear to be, however, issues around Section 7 expenses are often the subject of conflict. Section 7s are not a simple issue to be parsed through "later". Even if not quantitatively valuable, the conflict and mistrust around this issue can make it more difficult to settle the big picture case.

Aaron Franks
Epstein Cole LLP

Sheila Gibb
Epstein Cole LLP

MANAGING A CHILD PROTECTION FILE 10:15 – 11:30 am Session 16

This is a 'must do' session for lawyers and judges who frequently or occasionally find themselves facing child welfare trials (aka 'the capital punishment cases of family law'). Fast-paced and involving skits and PowerPoints, the session meshes approach tips with case law to generate discussion and better equip you in preparing and managing a child welfare trial. The session is led by The Honourable Justice Sherr of the Ontario Superior Court, Karen Hudson QC, chair of the Association of Legal Aid Plans of Canada, James Leiper (senior agency lawyer) and Shelley Hounsell-Gray (senior counsel for parents).

The Honourable Justice Stanley Sherr
Ontario Court of Justice

Karen Hudson, Q.C.
Executive Director, Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission

James Leiper
Nova Scotia Department of Justice

Shelley Hounsell-Gray
Managing Lawyer, Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission

TUESDAY, JULY 12, 2016

MIGLIN AND SPOUSAL SUPPORT 10:15 – 11:30 am Session 17

The main focus of this session will be two-fold: a case law update on Miglin challenges to spousal support agreements under the Divorce Act and an analysis of the interaction between the SSAG and spousal support agreements. The presentation will also discuss, more generally, the pervasive doctrinal confusion about what law is applicable when you are trying to challenge a domestic contract and the tendency for Miglin to be applied inappropriately.

Carol Rogerson
Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Toronto

COMPLEXITIES, REALITIES AND THE ROLE OF FAMILY LAWYERS IN FORCED MARRIAGE, HONOUR BASED VIOLENCE AND OTHER FORMS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE (PART 1 OF 2) 10:15 – 11:30 am Session 18

The subject of forced marriage and its pervasiveness throughout all cultures and countries is one that has for many reasons escaped attention. Everyone has heard stories of a shotgun wedding and yet we are not sensitive to the fact that these kinds of marriages may be forced marriages. Further, Bill S-7, which was passed into law in Canada and which amended several existing pieces of legislation, is controversial and there is some discussion that the Act may be amended. It is really important that all lawyers, judges, and those working with victims of forced marriage be aware of the phenomenon and able to recognize it when it exists in order to assist victims and offer appropriate resources.

Deepa Mattoo
Staff Lawyer, South Asian Legal Clinic of Ontario (SALCO)

Farrah Khan, MSW
Speaker, Consultant, Author and Counsellor

Casey Carter Swegman
Forced Marriage Initiative Project Officer,
Tahirih Justice Center (Washington, DC)

Esther Lenkinski
Lenkinski Law

Shabina Begum
Dawson Cornwell

HEALTH BREAK 11:30 – 11:45 am



TUESDAY, JULY 12, 2016

CHILD SUPPORT OBLIGATIONS FOR ADULT CHILDREN

11:45 – 1:15 pm

Session 19

This presentation will discuss the provisions of the federal Divorce Act and provincial legislation like Ontario's Family Law Act that impose an obligation on separated or divorced parents to support adult children, and review leading cases interpreting this legislation. While this remains a contentious and discretionary area, there are some clear trends in the case law. Social and economic changes have resulted in "delayed adulthood;" young adults are living with their parents longer as well as looking to parents for financial support for increasing periods of post-secondary education. These changes are reflected in judicial attitudes to support of adult children whose parents have separated or divorced: compared to two decades ago, Canadian courts are recognizing a greater and longer obligation to provide support for adult children. When an adult child has a disability and continues to reside with one parent and receive care and support from that parent, the courts may extend the support obligation into the late 20's and beyond, though social assistance and disability pensions will be taken into account in setting the amount of this obligation.

Nicholas (Nick) Bala
Professor, Queen's University Faculty of Law

IF I KNEW THEN WHAT I KNOW NOW - TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY

11:45 – 1:15 pm

Session 20

This presentation focuses on various aspects of advocacy, including the evolving roles of both judges and lawyers and their professional responsibilities to help individuals access both lawyers and the courts for a just, equitable outcome. Faculty will discuss trial advocacy, including legal writing and interim hearing advocacy.

The Honourable Justice Gordon Lemon
Superior Court of Ontario

Justice Elizabeth Jollimore
Supreme Court of Nova Scotia, Family Division

Philip Epstein, Q.C.,
Senior Partner, Epstein, Cole LLP

BANKRUPTCY BASICS FOR FAMILY LAW

11:45 – 1:15 pm

Session 21

The word 'bankruptcy' strikes fear into the hearts of most family lawyers. This session will demystify the various processes of bankruptcy and how they impact your client. We will look at real world examples and outline the strategies you can use to produce the best result.

Sheila Cameron, Q.C.
Partner, Tandem Family Law

TUESDAY, JULY 12, 2016

COMPLEXITIES, REALITIES AND THE ROLE OF FAMILY LAWYERS IN FORCED MARRIAGE, HONOUR BASED VIOLENCE AND OTHER FORMS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE (PART 2 OF 2)

11:45 – 1:15 pm

Session 22

This is a continuation of Session 18 dealing with the subject of forced marriage, and its pervasiveness throughout all cultures and countries.

Deepa Mattoo

Staff Lawyer, South Asian Legal Clinic of Ontario (SALCO)

Farrah Khan, MSW

Speaker, Consultant, Author and Counsellor

Casey Carter Swegman

Forced Marriage Initiative Project Officer,
Tahirih Justice Center (Washington, DC)

Esther Lenkinski

Lenkinski Law

Shabina Begum

Dawson Cornwell

RECESS

1:15 pm – evening

The afternoon is kept free of scheduled events so you can enjoy things to see and do in the St. John's area. Please refer to our website for tourist information. (www.flsc.ca/national-family-law-program)



WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2016

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENTS

8:45 – 9:00 am

PLENARY: ADVERSARIAL ETHICS IN A PROBLEM SOLVING ENVIRONMENT

9:00 – 10:15 am

Session 23

The program will examine how and when the ethical duties of an advocate under the adversary system are modified by the problem-solving orientation of family law courts. The foundations of the adversary system are the assumptions of role. Parties are represented by attorneys and are bound by their decisions and actions in the case. Attorneys are in control of decisions regarding claims, defenses and evidence, with a duty to represent the interests of their client in competition against their opponents. The judge is to be a neutral and disinterested decision-maker, restrained from acting in an adversarial capacity.

Ethical duties owed to the client (confidentiality, communication, conflict-free representation) are balanced against duties to the tribunal (honesty) and very limited duties to opponents or third parties, which are primarily encapsulated in the rules of procedure and evidence. This system is designed to efficiently and fairly resolve disputes. For family disputes, however, it is a blunt instrument, often causing or at least permitting as much harm as good. Moreover, in many cases, the assumption of competent representation of both parties does not represent the circumstances before the court. Accordingly, family courts have turned to more problem-solving perspectives and procedures: required mediation, more active/inquisitorial judicial roles, and greater judicial responsibility for ensuring that the evidence is complete and the interests of children are considered or represented.

This presentation will compare and contrast some of the circumstances in which this problem-solving orientation has changed ethical duties for attorneys representing clients in the family courts and will consider the extent to which the adversarial ethic still has a role in family law.

Barbara Glesner-Fines

Associate Dean for Faculty Development and Rubey M. Hulen Professor of Law
University of Missouri

HEALTH BREAK

10:15 – 10:30 am

YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR CLIENT – WHO IS DRIVING THE BUS?

10:30 – 12:00 pm

Session 24

How attorneys perceive their role and relationship with their client is a critical aspect of lawyering. It guides ethical decision-making in ways that no rules can ever significantly change. The attorney's philosophy of lawyering is especially important when they are addressing issues that are not controlled by law. This interactive program will provide background on the ethical standards and common law standards that address the allocation of authority in the attorney and client relationship and will engage attorneys in examining their own personal philosophy.

Barbara Glesner-Fines

Associate Dean for Faculty Development and Rubey M. Hulen Professor of Law
University of Missouri

SCRAMBLED EGGS – FERTILITY LAW ACROSS CANADA

10:30 – 12:00 pm Session 25

Three Canadian lawyers with extensive experience in the burgeoning area of fertility law come together to discuss the hot issues. The presentation will review what fertility law looks like across the country and its implications on the practice of law. We will examine the federal legal scheme and provincial and territorial legal parentage schemes, as well as their respective strengths and weaknesses. We'll also look to jurisdictions beyond our borders to learn how they deal with surrogacy. As children born through the use of donor gametes or donor embryos grow into adulthood, many have unanswered questions about their origin or missing health information. We will consider if Canada or its provinces and territories should create a registry to offer access to such details. What would such a registry include? Who should have access and when? Finally, we will outline recent developments made by the Canadian Standards Association in determining the expenses that may be reimbursed to surrogates, gamete donors and embryo donors.

Sara R. Cohen
Fertility Law Canada at D2Law LLP

Alex MacNab
Moe Hannah LLP

Ellen Embury
Dunphy Best Blocksom LLP

WHAT TO DO WHEN IT TAKES MORE THAN TWO TO TANGO: POLYAMOROUS RELATIONSHIPS AND THE LAW

10:30 – 12:00 pm Session 26

Polyamorous relationships are becoming progressively more commonplace in Canadian society. These relationships are rarely motivated by religion, as depicted in the popular television show *Sister Wives*. By and large these relationships are entered into by consenting adults who have given a great deal of thought to the nature of the relationship they wish to have and the financial and emotional arrangements polyamorous relationships entail. Family law lawyers are increasingly required to address the legal issues involved in the formation and breakdown of polyamorous relationships and must have a clear understanding of how the law in their jurisdiction affects people in such relationships.

In British Columbia, for example, the Family Law Act allows a person to be in more than one simultaneous spousal relationship, giving each party to a polyamorous relationship potential rights with respect to the division of property, spousal support and child support. This session will begin with an overview of recent research into perceptions of polyamory conducted by the Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family, and review the extent to which polyamorous relationships are or are not covered by each province's legislation on domestic relations, and the rights and obligations devolving therefrom. The session will conclude with a discussion of the special role of relationship agreements for people engaged in polyamorous relationships, as well as their potential and recommended subject matter.

John-Paul Boyd
Executive Director, Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family



WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2016

"AFTER THE HAPPILY EVER AFTER": 10:30 – 12:00 pm Session 27 *CINDERELLA V. GLORIA STEINEM*

Prenuptial agreements are all the rage in social media. Young brides are told that they need a prenup in the same way they need a wedding planner or a veil. Yet, there's precious little critical thinking about the "need" for and impact of a prenuptial agreement. This session will explore the prenuptial agreement, including possible benefits and disadvantages. It will also discuss the role of gender in family law negotiations, the notion of contractual sanctity in family law and the legal remedies to save individuals from what appear to be unfair agreements entered into in questionable circumstances. It will offer a few ideas about modern-day Cinderella bride culture clashing with the lived reality of young women "after the happily ever after".

Marie L. Gordon, Q.C.
Gordon Zwaenepoel

LUNCH BREAK 12:00 – 1:30 pm

Events scheduled during this time:

- Arbitration Discussion Group Lunch (JAG Hotel - Steele Room)
- Legal Aid Discussion Group Lunch (Delta Hotel Restaurant)

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY 1:30 – 2:45 pm Session 28

Legal responsibility mandates what practising lawyers must do. Ethical responsibility counsels what they should do. Professional responsibility advocates what they could aspire to do. This trinity of overlapping species of responsibility needs infuse lawyers' daily ritual—propelling among multiple practise crises—to enable them deserve, serve, and be profitably reimbursed by, clientele. This session reviews how cumulatively, the three responsibility species direct, advise, and animate practising lawyers in discharge of their professional duties.

David Day, Q.C.
Partner, Lewis Day

Trudi Brown, Q.C.
Partner, Brown Henderson Melbye

HOW TO ORGANIZE A FAMILY LAW FILE – BEGINNING TO END IN PAPER AND PAPERLESS ENVIRONMENTS 1:30 – 2:45 pm Session 29

The digital office system described in this presentation is not being promoted as the only system, or the perfect system. There will be many ways to improve it for the practice of any individual lawyer and the successful implementation of a digital office system is measured by the consistent use of the system. If something works and makes life easier, implement it. However, I will discuss a summary of principles, methodology and organization to assist anyone with the organization of their digital office system and reduce the amount of paper contained in their practice.

Wendy Best, Q.C.
Partner, Dunphy Best Blocksom LLP

Warren Jennings
Jennings Family Law

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2016

PREVENTION AND RESPONSES TO CROSS-JURISDICTION REMOVAL AND RETENTION OF CHILDREN 1:30 – 2:45 pm Session 30

Through the use of a case scenario, this panel will explore considerations to respond or prevent a cross-jurisdictional (interprovincial and international) removal or retention of a child. The panel will explore risks related to a potential removal or retention and the steps that can be taken to prevent it. It will also examine issues related to interprovincial return and international return. Participants will learn how Consular Affairs at Global Affairs Canada might be able to assist and will gain insight into the role of the Judicial Committee on Inter-jurisdictional Child Protection and judicial communications.

Claire Farid
Senior Counsel and Coordinator for the Family Law and Policy Unit (FLPU),
Family Children and Youth Section, Justice Canada

Kim Newsham
Lawyer, Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice

Lawrence Pinsky
Partner, Taylor McCaffrey LLP

Madam Justice Joan MacPhail
Family Division, Court of Queen’s Bench of Manitoba

Kathleen MacLaurin
Senior Analyst
Canada’s Vulnerable Children’s Consular Unit, Global Affairs Canada

SOCIAL MEDIA AND FAMILY LAW 1:30 – 2:45 pm Session 31

Technology and communication is pervasive and intersects all aspects of family law. The digital age has changed the way family lawyers conduct their practice. A group of judges, lawyers and government personnel crafted the Sedona Principles to offer best practices for lawyers in the digital age and inform lawyers of new obligations with respect to the preservation of digital content and electronic communications. In the last five to ten years, the advent of social media has further complicated the landscape, straddling the line between public and private. Litigants are employing a variety of methods to surreptitiously monitor and record the words or actions of another, creating challenges for the judiciary in balancing an individual’s right to privacy while ensuring all available relevant evidence is before the court. This presentation aims to generate awareness and discussion of some of the key issues at the nexus of family law and technology.

Dan Melamed
Partner, Torkin Manes LLP

HEALTH BREAK 2:45 – 3:00 pm



WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2016

50 CREATIVE WAYS TO SETTLE CASES

3:00 – 4:15 pm

Session 32

Drawing on the experience of the presenters, and through the mediums of song, full contact Greco-Roman wrestling, and interpretive dance, this session with focus on dozens of creative ways to settle difficult cases as a mediator and counsel.

Philip Epstein, Q.C.,
Senior Partner, Epstein Cole LLP

Aaron Franks
Epstein Cole LLP

ECONOMICS OF PRACTICING FAMILY LAW

3:00 – 4:15 pm

Session 33

Family lawyers work hard to meet their often demanding clients' needs on a daily basis, earn a decent living, and achieve some form of work/life balance. This session explores the economics of family practice for private family law practitioners, and tries to identify some trends and challenges we face. This will be an interactive session, with feedback and observations on "the economics of family law" welcomed by the presenter. How do we think that our practices will evolve over the next 10 years? What role will family lawyers play in addressing the current crisis in "access to family law justice"? Are there new ways of practising family law that defy tradition, and allow for practitioners and clients alike to meet their needs?

Marie L. Gordon, Q.C.
Gordon Zwaenepoel

RELOCATION: A LAWYER'S CHECKLIST

3:00 – 4:15 pm

Session 34

Relocation cases drive us all crazy. In this session, we will review both the "black-letter law" of parental relocation, as laid down by appeal courts, and the "grey-letter law" where the courts have been less clear. The pure "best interests" approach of *Gordon v. Goertz* makes the outcome of individual cases inconsistent and unpredictable. British Columbia and Nova Scotia have now adopted specific statutory provisions governing relocation, including mandatory notice and presumptions. Do these laws offer a way out of the morass? Should the *Divorce Act* include relocation provisions? More broadly, do presumptions or burdens about a child's best interests offer better guidance in relocation cases? In the meantime, a "lawyer's checklist" is offered, to help organize the analysis and presentation of "best interests" in relocation cases.

Rollie Thompson, Q. C.
Professor, Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2016

**ALL IN THE FAMILY: CRIMINAL
LAW FOR FAMILY LAW LAWYERS** 3:00 – 4: 15 pm Session 35

A domestic charge can come at any stage in separation and or divorce proceedings. Sometimes proceedings are initiated at the time of charges. Other times, a charge comes when the couple has already separated, perhaps on a Friday afternoon when the client has an access visit scheduled on the weekend. Regardless of when the charge(s) come, they have the potential to complicate separation and/or divorce proceedings.

In addition to an understanding of the basic types of criminal law offences that come up in domestic assaults, the session will discuss some new offences as, well as offences that we normally do not think of when gathering evidence for use in a family law proceeding. The session is aimed at explaining the new cyber bullying legislation, as well as other criminal code offences such as the interception of private communications. Finally, hear entertaining stories from the front lines of criminal law.

Jody Berkes
Berkes Newton-Smith

**NATIONAL FAMILY LAW PROGRAM 4:15 – 4:30 pm
CALL FOR PAPERS**

Please see page 37 of this booklet or our web site for more details.

RECEPTION Sponsored by Tandem Family Law/ Droit de la famille	6:00 pm	St. John's Convention Centre
DINNER	7:00 pm	St. John's Convention Centre
"SPIRIT OF NEWFOUNDLAND"	8:30 pm	St. John's Convention Centre

Our reception (cash bar) begins the evening of dining and entertainment. The dress code is casual and comfortable. The dinner, featuring the menu pre-selected by ticket holders, begins at 7:00 pm. Our show, "The Spirit of Newfoundland" begins at 8:30 pm.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Tickets are required for these events. No refunds will be issued, and tickets must be purchased in advance of the event. Additional details and tickets for these events are available on our website (www.flsc.ca/national-family-law-program).
- To comply with Province of Newfoundland and Labrador liquor laws children cannot remain at the function after the dinner portion is completed.



THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2016

HOT TOPICS IN CUSTODY

8:30 – 9:00 am

Session 36

Based on four fact scenarios, this session will focus on some of the “hot” topics in custody, including: material change; religion; vaccinations and contempt.

Aaron Franks
Epstein Cole LLP

Wendy Best, Q.C.
Partner, Dunphy Best Blocksom LLP

HOT TOPICS IN CHILD SUPPORT

9:00 – 9:30 am

Session 37

Why is retroactive child support sooo complicated? Why put the burden on the parent seeking retroactive support? Why do we have to wallow in “blameworthy conduct”? How can we make this easier? Next is shared custody. What are appeal courts thinking when they require a “full Contino” analysis under s. 9, with all the evidence that entails? Finally, who does or doesn’t “stand in the place of a parent” continues to be unpredictable, and the case law under s. 5 of the *Child Support Guidelines* is all over the place. All will be resolved in 30 minutes or less.

Sheila Cameron, Q.C.
Partner, Tandem Family Law

Rollie Thompson, Q. C.
Professor, Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University

HOT TOPICS IN SPOUSAL SUPPORT

9:30 – 10:00 am

Session 38

Most frequently when we are asked what is a “hot topic” in a particular subject area, we think immediately of any recent or leading cases. But case law is really just the tip of the iceberg: most of the work of family law occurs below the surface in negotiations, collaborations, and mediations. In this fast-paced session, we will talk about the ways we can meet our client’s desire for spousal support solutions that provide as much certainty as possible, particularly after long-term marriages. We will provide helpful tips and practice suggestions for lawyers interested in creative solutions to meet our client’s interests.

Marie L. Gordon, Q.C.
Gordon Zwaenepoel

Jennifer Cooper, Q.C.
Cooper Family Law

HEALTH BREAK

10:00 – 10:15 pm

THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2016

FAILURE TO FLOURISH: HOW LAW UNDERMINES FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

10:15 – 11:15 am Session 39

This session will explore overarching issues facing the family law system. In her book, *Failure to Flourish: How Law Undermines Family Relationships*, Clare Huntington, Professor of Law at Fordham Law School, argues that the legal regulation of families stands fundamentally at odds with the needs of families. Strong, stable, positive relationships are essential for both individuals and society to flourish, but from transportation policy to the criminal justice system, and from divorce rules to the child welfare system, the law makes it harder for parents to provide children with these kinds of relationships. And the laws we have to “resolve” conflicts in families too often are heavy-handed and adversarial, pitting family members against each other and creating a climate of crisis at the very moment families need the greatest support. Through a discussion with Susan Lightstone, Counsel, Office of the Chief Justice, Ontario Court of Justice Professor Huntington will address these themes and more, contending that we must re-orient the legal system to help families avoid crises and, when conflicts arise, intervene in a manner that heals relationships

Susan Lightstone (Chair)
Counsel, Office of the Chief Justice, Ontario Court of Justice

Claire Huntington
Associate Dean for Research and Professor of Law, Fordham University

HEALTH BREAK 11:15 – 11:30 am

PLENARY: CROSS CANADA CHECK-UP

11:30 – 12:45 pm Session 40

Renee Konotopsky	(AB)
Eugene Raponi	(BC)
Justice Joan MacPhail	(MB)
Tracey Peters	(NB)
Lori Savory	(NL)
Jennifer Kooren	(NS)
Susan Switch	(NU)
Donald Large	(NT)
Grant Gold	(ON)
Alanna Taylor	(PE)
Miriam Grassby	(QC)
Donna Wilson	(SK)
Celia Petter	(YT)

CLOSING REMARKS

12:45 – 1:00 pm



THE 2016 NATIONAL FAMILY LAW PROGRAM FACULTY MEMBERS

Please note that additional information about faculty, their presentations, and resource documents they have provided are available on our intranet until June 2018. (<http://flaw.flsc.ca/>)

Nicholas (Nick) Bala, L.S.M., B.A.,J.D., LL.M.

PROFESSOR, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF LAW

Nicholas Bala is an internationally recognized expert on issues related to children, youth and families in the justice system, including parental separation, parental alienation and relocation; children in the family courts, including role of child's counsel and judicial interviewing of children; spousal abuse and its effects on children; young offenders; children in the criminal courts; and access to family justice. Nick has law degrees from Queen's University Canada and Harvard. Since 1980, he has been a Professor at the Faculty of Law at Queen's University, where he also served as Associate Dean. He has been a Visiting Professor at McGill, Duke and the University of Calgary. Since 2006 he has been the Academic Director for the Osgoode Hall Law School Family Law LL.M. Program in Toronto.

Andrew Bateman

PARTNER, FELESKY FLYNN LLP

Andrew practices taxation law, including planning and dispute resolution related to personal, corporate, trust and commodity taxation. He received his Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Alberta in 1998 and worked for a number of years in managerial and executive roles in the franchise industry. In 2006, Andrew graduated from University of Calgary's Faculty of Law, where he received several tax law academic awards, including the Stikeman Elliott-Carswell National Tax Award.

Shabina Begum

DAWSON CORNWELL

Shabina was called to the Bar in 2009 and admitted as a solicitor in 2013. She specialises in domestic violence, honour based violence, forced marriage, stranded spouse matters, FGM matters, children disputes, divorce and financial orders, with expertise in Shariah Law; both family law and Islamic financing. She has worked as an Independent Domestic Violence Advocate handling high risk cases and extremely vulnerable clients. In 2012 she was awarded a Winston Churchill Travel Fellowship enabling her to travel to Sri Lanka, Cambodia and India to conduct legal research on the issue of acid violence. In 2014, she was awarded a Churchill Fellow Medallion, by the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, for her research. In 2016, Shabina was a winner of an IKWRO True Honour Award in Special Recognition as a Professional Working to End "Honour" Based Violence.

Jody Berkes

BERKES NEWTON-SMITH, BARRISTERS

Jody Berkes is the Chair of the Ontario Bar Association Criminal Law Executive Committee, as well as a member of the Criminal Lawyers Association. Mr. Berkes is certified as a specialist in Criminal Law by the Law Society of Upper Canada. He appears in all levels of court in Ontario. Mr. Berkes received his B.A. from Stanford University in Palo Alto, California and his B.C.L. and LL.B. degrees from McGill University's Faculty of Law, where he was selected valedictorian by his graduating class. After articling and practicing in Vancouver, British Columbia, he moved to Toronto in 1999 and in 2012, formed a partnership with Apple Newton-Smith.

Wendy Best, Q.C.

PARTNER, DUNPHY BEST BLOCKSOM LLP

Wendy Best has a well-established family law practice and has earned ongoing recognition as a leading family law practitioner since being called to the bar in 1980. She joined DBB in 1982 and became a partner in 1986. Wendy was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1994. She acts primarily for high net worth individuals and families. While she settles most matters, Wendy's practice includes litigation. She is on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family, serving as President since 2009. She was a member of the Board of Directors of the Heritage Park Society, serving on the Audit & Risk Management Committee and the Finance Committee. Wendy also served as a member of the Alberta Securities Commission and of the Law Society of Alberta's Family Law Advisory Committee. She was on the Board of the University of Calgary's Student Legal Assistance and was a member of the Canadian Bar Association's National Council and several of its committees.

Cindy Blackstock, PhD

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
FIRST NATIONS CHILD AND FAMILY CARING SOCIETY OF CANADA

A member of the Gitksan First Nation, Cindy has 25 years of social work experience in child protection and Indigenous children's rights. Her promotion of culturally based and evidence informed solutions has been recognized by the Nobel Women's Initiative, the Aboriginal Achievement Foundation, Frontline Defenders and many others. An author of over 50 publications, Cindy has collaborated with other Indigenous leaders to assist the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child in the development and adoption of a General Comment on the Rights of Indigenous children. She is currently serving as a Commissioner for the Pan American Health Organization Study on Health Equity and Inequity.



John-Paul Boyd

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CANADIAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR LAW AND THE FAMILY

A member of the bars of British Columbia and Alberta, John-Paul practiced family law in Vancouver for 14 years before starting work at the Institute in 2013. He took his training as a mediator in 2005, as a parenting coordinator in 2007, as an arbitrator in 2011 and as a collaborative practitioner in 2012. John-Paul has particular interests in law and procedural reform, children's rights and involvement in the justice system, the conflicts of laws, heuristics and decision-making processes, and the psychology of separation and divorce.

Trudi Brown, Q.C.

PARTNER, BROWN HENDERSON MELBYE

Ms. Brown practises primarily family law and is a family law mediator, commercial arbitrator and parent coordinator. She is also a member of the BC Hear the Child Society and the Victoria Collaborative Separation Professionals. Ms. Brown was one of the first lawyers in Victoria to embrace collaborative law and is still firmly wedded to the concept of resolving family disputes out of court. She served as the President of the Law Society of BC and is a Life Bencher. Ms. Brown co-Chairs the National Family Law Program and is an editor of the British Columbia Family Law Practice published by LexisNexis. In 1997, she received the Women of Distinction Award and in 2009 was awarded the Community Leadership Award by Leadership Victoria.

Sheila Cameron, Q.C.

PARTNER, TANDEM FAMILY LAW

A founding partner of Tandem Family Law in Moncton, New Brunswick, Sheila has focussed her 23 year legal career in family law. She has certificates in mediation and collaborative law training and promotes alternative dispute resolution. She received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal and her Queen's Counsel in 2012. She also received the Pro Bono Award of the Canadian Bar Association, New Brunswick in 2009. Sheila is a tireless advocate for Access to Family Justice. She served on the national Access to Justice Committee of the Canadian Bar Association from 2011 to 2013. Sheila has also worked on various committees to advance the adoption of the recommendations contained in the New Brunswick Access to Family Justice Task Force report, of which she was a member.

Sarah Clarke

HENSEL BARRISTERS

Sarah was called to the Bar in 2009 and holds a Master of Social Work. Her practice is focused on all matters of family law, including child protection, custody and access, and adoption. Sarah is also an agent for the Office of the Children's Lawyer, representing children in the child welfare system and in secure treatment review hearings before the Child and Family Services Review Board. She is also a member of the legal team for the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society. As counsel with Hensel Barristers, Sarah serves First Nation clients and their members in matters related to Aboriginal and treaty rights, the duty to consult, election disputes, and child welfare disputes.

Sara R. Cohen

FERTILITY LAW CANADA AT D2LAW LLP

Sara Cohen is the founder of Fertility Law Canada at D2Law LLP where she practices exclusively in fertility law. She is an adjunct professor of reproductive law at Osgoode Hall Law School, the co-chair of the Ethics and Law Special Interest Group of the Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society, a Director of Family Matters Canada, a fellow of the American Academy of Assisted Reproductive Technology Attorneys and the only Canadian on the executive of the American Bar Association's ART Committee.

Jennifer Cooper, Q.C.

COOPER FAMILY LAW

Jennifer is a member of the bars of British Columbia and Manitoba with offices in Victoria and Winnipeg. As a Mediator, Arbitrator and Collaborative Lawyer, Jennifer provides "no-court" solutions to clients before, during, and after a relationship. Before establishing an independent practice, Jennifer was a partner and leader of a family law practice group at both a large and a mid-sized firm. She has served as Chairperson of the Family Law Section of the Canadian Bar Association both nationally and provincially, as a Life Bencher of the Law Society of Manitoba, as an Executive member of the Canadian Bar Insurance Association, and as an Executive Board member and then President of the Manitoba Bar Association.

David C. Day, Q.C.

PARTNER, LEWIS DAY

David Day is a private law practitioner, and a Master of Newfoundland and Labrador Supreme Court. Since 1968 he has conducted 'crisis to crisis' private law practice. His preferred practice areas are family, criminal, maritime, civil and constitutional law. He has litigated at provincial and superior courts of Newfoundland and Labrador, and five other provinces; at Federal Court, at the Supreme Court of Canada and at the European Court of Human Rights. A former University of Calgary Law Faculty advocacy chair, he lectures in bar admission, university, and continuing education law programs across Canada. He has been an editorial board member of, and contributor to The Canadian Bar Review and Reports of Family Law. He has also authored or co-authored books on family law and ethics. He is a referee for the \$10,000.00 annual Walter Owen law book award, and a director of Calgary-and Vancouver-based research institutes.

Rhoda I. Dobler

PARTNER, DUNPHY BEST BLOCKSOM LLP

Rhoda Dobler is a past Chair of the Family Practice Group at DBB, where she has practiced since 1999. She has specialized in family law since 1995 and her work also includes mediation and collaborative law. She is currently an instructor for the Legal Education Society of Alberta's Mediation course. She is past co-chair and active member of the Calgary Association of Collaborative Family Lawyers and also taught the Interviewing and Counselling program at the University of Calgary as sessional instructor for nine years.



Ellen Embury

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CANADIAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR LAW AND THE FAMILY

Ellen is Alberta's leading practitioner in surrogacy and fertility law. She is called to the Alberta and the Ontario bar. She pioneered the legal parentage process in Alberta. She is a fellow of the American Academy of Assisted Reproductive Technology Attorneys and a member of the Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society. In addition to her fertility practice, Ellen also practices extensively in commercial litigation and employment law.

Philip Epstein, Q.C., LSM, Acc. F.M., Cert. F. Arb.

SENIOR PARTNER, EPSTEIN, COLE LLP

Mr. Epstein carries on a very active practice in Mediation/Arbitration and lectures extensively throughout Canada to Continuing Education Programmes and the National Judicial Institute. Mr. Epstein is the former Head of the Family Law Section of the Bar Admissions Course and has served as a Dispute Resolution Officer of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice; and as a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. Mr. Epstein was also a member of both the Child Support Guidelines Committee and the Spousal Support Advisory Guidelines Committee of the Federal Department of Justice.

Claire Farid

SENIOR COUNSEL AND COORDINATOR FOR THE FAMILY LAW AND POLICY UNIT (FLPU), FAMILY CHILDREN AND YOUTH SECTION, JUSTICE CANADA

Justice Canada is the centre of expertise for family law in the Federal Government. FLPU has responsibility for the *Divorce Act*, and its regulations, including the *Federal Child Support Guidelines*. Claire is the federal co-chair the FPT group studying the *1996 Hague Convention on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Co-operation in Respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children*. Called to the Ontario Bar in 2000, Claire also worked as a Legal Policy Analyst with Status of Women Canada (2000-2002) and as Legal Counsel with the Cabinet Affairs Unit at Justice Canada (2009-2010).

Barbara Glesner Fines

ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR FACULTY DEVELOPMENT AND RUBEY M. HULEN PROFESSOR OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

Barbara Glesner Fines has been on the faculty of UMKC Law School since 1986 and currently serves as the Associate Dean for Faculty Development. She teaches the courses Professional Responsibility, Family Law, Ethical Issues in the Representation of Families, and the Seminar in Family Violence. Professor Glesner Fines received her Masters of law degree from Yale University in 1986 and her J.D. (cum laude) from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1983. She holds a Bachelors of Philosophy degree from Thomas Jefferson College of Grand Valley State University (1980), and was selected as that school's distinguished alumna in 1998. Prior to joining the faculty at UMKC, Professor Glesner Fines taught at the law schools of the University of Oklahoma and the University of Cincinnati.

Aaron Franks

EPSTEIN COLE LLP

Aaron has a Bachelor of Commerce in Finance from the University of British Columbia. He graduated from the Joint M.B.A./LL.B Program at Osgoode Hall Law School and the Shulich School of Business and was called to the bar in 1998. Since then, he has practised exclusively in the area of family law and in the defense of solicitor's negligence claims. He is an Adjunct Professor of Family Law at Osgoode Hall and he has been an Associate Editor of the Reports of Family Law since 2005. Aaron was also an instructor with the Family Law Section of the Bar Admission Course. He has been appointed as a Dispute Resolution Officer for the Superior Court of Justice in Toronto and practices at all levels of court in Ontario. He also engages in private mediation and arbitration of disputes.

Colin Galinski

GALINSKI PENSION AND BENEFITS LAW

With 13 years of experience working in pension, benefits and labour relations, Colin provides pension and benefits legal services to plan sponsors, administrators, labour & employment counsel, bargaining agents, and individuals. He has practiced extensively in the area of pension division on marriage breakdown, drafting and implementing pension division arrangements. He formerly practiced pension, benefits, and executive compensation law in a large international law firm and his career began in Ontario in collective bargaining and pension and benefits negotiations between faculty members and management at a top tier university. He serves as Chair of the CBA Pension and Benefits Branch (BC), mentors law students from the University of British Columbia and Thompson Rivers University and writes on pension and benefits issues. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Royal Columbian Hospital Foundation.

Sheila Gibb

PARTNER, EPSTEIN COLE LLP

Sheila focuses exclusively on family law matters, including custody, parenting plans, child support, spousal support, property division, divorce, separation agreements, cohabitation agreements, marriage contracts, adoption, and international abductions under the *Hague Convention*. Formerly a corporate lawyer at a leading New York City law firm, Sheila advises on the family law implications of complex business, trust and family wealth matters. Active in her community, Sheila authored and presented the National Association of Women and the Law's submission to the Government of Canada on pay equity law reform, and she recently completed six years of service as a Director of the Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic, a not-for-profit clinic that offers legal, counseling, and interpretive services for women who have experienced violence. She is member of the Ontario Bar Association, the Canadian Bar Association, the Advocates' Society, Collaborative Practice Toronto and is a past member of the Executive of the Family Law Section of the Ontario Bar Association.



Peter Golden

BARRISTER & SOLICITOR, GOLDEN & GOLDEN LAW

Peter holds a BCL and LLB from McGill, where he was also Executive Director of the legal aid clinic. He practices primarily in family and immigration law and is a founding member of the Collaborative Family Law Group in Victoria. Peter is also an Executive member of the Victoria Coalition for Survivors of Torture. He has served as Sessional Instructor of Immigration and Refugee Law at the University of Victoria, as a human rights observer in Guatemala and Mexico and as an election monitor in Mexico and El Salvador.

Marie L. Gordon, Q.C.

SENIOR PARTNER, EPSTEIN COLE LLP

Marie practises family law in Edmonton, and teaches two family law courses at the University of Alberta Faculty of Law. She has served as a member of the organizing committee of the National Family Law Program from 2004 – 2014. Marie is an associate editor of the Reports of Family Law and a member of the editorial board of the Canadian Family Law Quarterly. She currently is President of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family, and is a volunteer and board member of the Edmonton Community Legal Centre.

Miriam Grassby

GRASSBY & ASSOCIÉS

Miriam Grassby has maintained an active law practice in Montreal since 1975, pleading matters of custody, child support, spousal support and property. She has significant trial experience and has pleaded before the Supreme Court of Canada. She has been a chairperson and member of the "Comité permanent en droit de la famille" of the Quebec Bar Association as well as a member of the Advisory Working Group on Family Law of the Federal Department of Justice.

She was actively involved in the elaboration of the Canadian child support guidelines and was active in the development of spousal support guidelines policy. She is a member of the International Academy of Family Lawyers. She frequently lectures in family law and writes in her field.

Shelley Hounsell-Gray

MANAGING LAWYER, NOVA SCOTIA LEGAL AID

Shelley Hounsell Gray graduated on the Dean's List with a BSc (Hons) in Psychology from Dalhousie University in 1994, and from the Schulich School of Law in 1998. She was called to the Nova Scotia Bar in 1999, and became a certified collaborative family law lawyer in 2002. Upon her call to the Bar, Shelley was appointed as a per diem Crown Attorney. For the next four years she practiced family law in private practice, and acted as a per diem Crown Attorney. Shelley joined the Nova Scotia Legal Aid office in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, in the fall of 2003. In May 2013 she became the managing lawyer. With a full time practice in family law, she routinely represents clients in child protection and private family law matters. She often participates in specialized continuing education programs, and enjoys sharing ideas and learning from others.

Patricia Hebert, Q.C.

LAWYER, MEDIATOR AND REGISTERED COLLABORATIVE FAMILY LAWYER,
GORDON ZWAENEPOEL

Since her admission to the bar in 1995, Patricia has practiced solely family law with a focus on children. Prior to private practice, she worked with Alberta Justice and the Family Law Office of Legal Aid. Ms. Hebert represents children in high conflict custody cases, abductions and child protection matters. She assists parents in mediation settings and in collaborative family law. Patricia's specialty is issues relating to children's participation in family cases, children rejecting a parent and parenting disputes. She is a sessional instructor in advanced family law at the University of Alberta Faculty of Law and recently instructed at the National Judicial Institute. She is also a 2014 recipient of the Women in Law Leadership Award and in March received her Queen's Counsel appointment.

Carol Hickman, Q.C.

QUAY LAW CENTRE

Carol obtained her law degree from the University of Saskatchewan in 1987 and has practiced law in the New Westminster area for over 20 years. Carol has experience at all levels of court, including the British Columbia Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada. She has extensive experience in complex family law matters, including property division, maintenance, and custody and access disputes. Carol was appointed Queens Counsel in 2011. Carol has been a Bencher with the Law Society of British Columbia since 2004. She is currently the chair of the Family Law Task Force and the "Unbundling" Task Force for the Law Society of B.C. Carol's practice is primarily in the area of family law, and she is also a family law mediator. She has taken the advanced mediation course, as well as collaborative law training. Carol has been a member of the Vancouver Collaborative Divorce Group since January 2001 and is a pioneering member of the Collaborative Family Law Group serving the Lower Mainland.

Karen Hudson, Q.C.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NOVA SCOTIA LEGAL AID COMMISSION

In addition to her role with Nova Scotia's Legal Aid Commission, Karen is Chair of the Association of Legal Aid Plans of Canada (ALAP) and a Council Member for the Canadian Bar Association, Nova Scotia. She works with the National CBA Access to Justice Committee to promote awareness of the importance of Legal Aid. She is one of six members of Nova Scotia's Access to Justice Coordinating Committee, chaired by Chief Justice MacDonald and Minister of Justice Whalen. In her focus on the essential role of Legal Aid, Karen has presented to various national and provincial groups.



Claire Huntington

ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR RESEARCH AND PROFESSOR OF LAW, FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

Professor Huntington is an expert in the fields of family law and poverty law. Her book, *Failure to Flourish: How Law Undermines Family Relationships* (Oxford 2014), won an Honourable Mention for the Professional and Scholarly Excellence (PROSE) Award in Law and Legal Studies from the Association of American Publishers. Her publications explore the intersection of poverty and families, with a recent focus on non-marital families. Professor Huntington serves as an Associate Reporter for the American Law Institute's Restatement of the Law, Children and the Law. Prior to joining the Fordham faculty in 2011, Professor Huntington was an Associate Professor at the University of Colorado Law School. Professor Huntington earned her JD from Columbia Law School and her BA from Oberlin College.

Warren Jennings

COLLABORATIVE LAWYER AND MEDIATOR, JENNINGS FAMILY LAW

Warren is a trained Collaborative Lawyer and mediator. He also provides advice to those individuals who want to do it themselves, rather than employ a lawyer to act as their voice and agent. Warren assists his clients in determining what they need, what a realistic outcome looks like, and the best methods to advance their interests without compromising their principles. Warren graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Calgary, and then a law degree from the University of Manitoba. His experience in provincial family court and Queen's Bench litigation includes a wide array of legal issues in the field of family dispute and resolution. His interest and philosophy led him to training in mediation and Collaborative Law, where he has focused his practice today.

The Honourable Justice Elizabeth Jollimore

SUPREME COURT OF NOVA SCOTIA, FAMILY DIVISION

The Honourable Elizabeth Jollimore was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia in November 2008. Madam Justice Jollimore received a Bachelor of Arts in 1983 and a Master of Arts in 1985 from Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Madam Justice Jollimore received a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Toronto in 1987 and was admitted to the Bar of Nova Scotia in 1988. Madam Justice Jollimore was a practitioner with Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt in Toronto in 1998, an associate at Stewart, MacKeen & Covert and successor firms in Halifax, Nova Scotia, from 1988 to 1995, and a litigation partner at Stewart McKelvey in Halifax from 1996 to 2008. Madam Justice Jollimore developed an expertise in family law. In addition, she is a member of several professional associations, including the editorial advisory board of the *Canadian Family Law Guide* and "Family Law Matters."

Farrah Khan, MSW

SPEAKER, CONSULTANT, AUTHOR AND COUNSELLOR

Farrah Khan is a nationally recognized counsellor, educator and artist with over 15 years of experience addressing gender-based violence. She is the sexual violence education and support coordinator at Ryerson University, co-chair of the Ontario Roundtable on Violence Against Women and has been appointed to the Government of Canada's Federal Strategy Against Gender-based Violence Advisory Council. Farrah conducts training across North America to address violence against women, developed a safety planning tool on "honour"- related violence and forced marriage and has created innovative community-centered initiatives.

The Honourable Susan J. Lang

(RETIRED) COURT OF APPEAL FOR ONTARIO

The Honourable Susan E. Lang served as a judge of the Court of Appeal for Ontario from 2004 until 2013. She was a judge of the Superior Court from 1989 to 2004 and Toronto Regional Senior Judge from 1996 to 1999. In addition, Justice Lang served as President of both the Canadian and Ontario Superior Court Judges' Associations. From November 2014, Susan Lang conducted an Independent Review for the Province of Ontario in relation to the scientific reliability of hair testing at the Motherisk Drug Testing Laboratory at the Hospital for Sick Children for use in child protection and criminal cases. Her Report was submitted and released in December, 2015. Susan Lang continues to be active discussing her findings about the flawed science and the need for caution before acceptance of expert scientific/medical evidence. She also continues as a Senior Fellow of Massey College at the University of Toronto.

James Leiper

NOVA SCOTIA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



Justice Gordon Lemon

SUPERIOR COURT OF ONTARIO

Justice Gordon Lemon was appointed to the Superior Court of Ontario in 2007. Prior to that he was a general practice litigator and mediator in Woodstock, Ontario. Since then he has been a general practice trial judge sitting in Brampton and, more recently, in Guelph, Ontario.

Esther Lenkinski

LENKINSKI LAW

Esther L. Lenkinski has been practicing family law and estates litigation exclusively for more than 30 years. She has successfully advocated at all levels of court, in mediations and arbitrations. She also acts as mediator and arbitrator for family law disputes and offers assistance in the negotiation of marriage contracts and separation agreements. She is a Certified Specialist in family law and has been named a 'Lawyer's Lawyer' by the Canadian Lawyer. She frequently appears as a panelist and lecturer at various legal education programs in family law, and has acted as Lead Counsel in many important family law cases.

Susan Lightstone

COUNSEL, OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE, ONTARIO COURT OF JUSTICE

Ms. Lightstone is a lawyer and a writer/editor. From 1994 to 2015, she served as a lawyer member of Ontario's Consent and Capacity Board. Appointed Education Director of the National Judicial Institute in 2005, Ms. Lightstone was responsible for the oversight of the overall curriculum, the implementation of sound pedagogical principles for adult education, the maintenance of the curriculum infrastructure, and the development of education resources, including electronic and "traditional" publications. In 2011, Ms. Lightstone began working with the Ontario Court of Justice in Toronto, advising the justices of the peace and judges of that Court on the design, development and delivery of their educational programming. She recently completed researching and co-authoring an e-history of the Court. Her work appears in an array of publications. She has co-authored three best selling books, two on personal finance issues and one on health issues, and has contributed to several literary anthologies. She has also prepared educational materials on a broad range of topics, including plain-language writing techniques for lawyers. Ms. Lightstone also served as a part-time professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa, where she taught legal writing.

Kathleen MacLaurin

SENIOR ANALYST, CANADA'S VULNERABLE CHILDREN'S CONSULAR UNIT,
GLOBAL AFFAIRS CANADA

Established in 2013, the Vulnerable Children's Consular Unit equips Canada's network of embassies abroad with the policy and operational expertise required to support Canadian children facing distress outside of Canada, including young people who have been abducted, forced into marriage, detained or are facing maltreatment. Katie is responsible for recasting Canada's consular policy on responding to the child protection needs of Canadian children in regions where such assistance is not available from local authorities. With 15 years as a federal civil servant and as a director of one of Ontario's Children's Aid Societies, Katie brings a critical knowledge to the arena of Canadian federal policy on the rights and well-being of Canadian youth abroad.

Alex MacNab

MOE HANNAH LLP

With a focus on settlement and the best interests of the family, Alex helps his clients minimize conflict and avoid costly prolonged court battles. Alex has extensive training and experience in interest based negotiation, mediation and arbitration. He offers creative solutions for clients in a way that best fits their needs whether that be through lawyer-assisted negotiation, mediation or arbitration, with litigation as the method of last resort. Alex also specializes in reproductive law and is well-known for helping families with third party assisted reproductive techniques including donor egg, donor sperm, traditional and gestational surrogacy, as well as adoption. Alex's educational background includes a Law Degree from Dalhousie University Law School, and a BA from Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador. Alex volunteered as a board member with the Children's Legal and Education Resource Centre from 2004 until 2013. He currently volunteer's with Generations of Hope Fertility Assistance Fund and is a member of the executive of Canadian Bar Association, Family Section.

Madam Justice Joan MacPhail

MANITOBA COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH, FAMILY DIVISION

Justice MacPhail was appointed a Judge of the Family Division of the Court of Queen's Bench of Manitoba in 2009. Prior to her appointment Justice MacPhail was the Director of the Family Law Branch of the Manitoba Department of Justice. Her family law policy development role included a significant amount of work relating to inter-jurisdictional family law issues, including enforcement. Justice MacPhail also served as Manitoba's Central Authority pursuant to the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. She participated as a Canadian delegate in the Third, Fourth and Fifth Special Commissions to Review the Operation of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction and experts' meetings respecting transfrontier access.



The Honourable Donna J. Martinson, Q.C., LL.M

RETIRED, BRITISH COLUMBIA SUPREME COURT

A retired Justice of the British Columbia Supreme Court, Donna Martinson was also B.C.'s representative on Canada's national Network of Contact Judges, which deals with international and national child abduction cases. A judge for 21 years, she volunteers as an Adjunct Professor at Simon Fraser University School of Criminology, and is an Honourary Visitor at the UBC Faculty of Law, where she was full time faculty member. She is Chair of the Canadian Bar Association's committee on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child; and co-chairs the Children, Law and Human Rights Initiative, which she helped found in 2013. On a secondment at the National Judicial Institute, Ms. Martinson co-chaired its social context education project and developed and presented intensive judicial education programs for Canadian judges on issues of equality and violence against women and children in criminal law and family law proceedings. She also chaired the Provincial Court's Gender Equality Committee and while on the Supreme Court chaired its Family Law Committee. She remains a member of the Federal Department of Justice Advisory Committee on Family Law. Ms. Martinson was appointed Queen's Counsel in Alberta in 1986.

Deepa Mattoo

STAFF LAWYER, SOUTH ASIAN LEGAL CLINIC OF ONTARIO (SALCO)

Deepa has a long history of providing services to low-income and vulnerable populations and was called to Bar in Ontario in 2011. Deepa is an alumni of the Leader of Change program from Maytree Foundation and a recipient of Spirit of Barbara Schlifer Award. She has over 16 years of experience in providing legal services, public education, advocacy and not-for-profit governance. Deepa has been involved with various issues related to migrant rights and gender violence globally. She has worked with multiple projects related to Forced Marriages and so called "Honour Based Violence" and has become a resident expert on the issues.

Mary-Jo Maur

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AND DIRECTOR, FACULTY OF LAW, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY

Mary-Jo Maur's teaching subjects include torts, family law, civil procedure, and Alternative Dispute Resolution. A course dealing with Introduction to Lawyering Skills was introduced to the first-year class in Fall 2015. Ms. Maur served as Co-Chair of the Law Society of Upper Canada Summit, and is a frequent presenter and speaker at LSUC Continuing Legal Education conferences. She has also presented at the National Judicial Institute, the Ontario Judicial Institute and the National Family Law Conference.

Dan Melamed

PARTNER, TORKIN MANES LLP

Daniel is a partner in the Torkin Manes Family Law Group. Certified by the Law Society of Upper Canada as a Family Law Specialist, he is also fully qualified as a family law mediator and arbitrator. As a mediator and arbitrator, Daniel has assisted clients and family law lawyers to resolve matters in a sensible, efficient and private manner. In family law matters of property, spousal and child support, Daniel has been involved in the determination of income, the valuation of multinational, privately held corporations, stock options and senior executive pensions. In addition, he has provided counsel regarding the forensic investigation of hidden offshore assets. His practice includes complex custody and access issues involving jurisdictional disputes, and blended and extended families, including grandparents, aunts and uncles.

Kim Newsham

CROWN COUNSEL, SASKATCHEWAN DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

In her current role, Kim has worked primarily in the area of family law policy development, including analyzing and monitoring *The Children's Law Act*, and program development relating to custody and access services. She assists in fulfilling the duties of the Central Authority for Saskatchewan under the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. She educates callers about the Convention, develops related training materials for members of the Saskatchewan Bar, as well as trains Saskatchewan police in family law. Kim received her LLB from the University of Saskatchewan and was called to the Bar in 1997.

Lisa Pinhorn

SPECTRUM CONSULTANTS GROUP

Lisa is a believer in community and family. She is the creator of Supportive Transitions, a service offered to families and professionals who are working to improve the day-to-day lives of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). This service provides practical, evidence-based strategies to unravel the challenges brought to families and individuals with ASD. Lisa has over 20 years of non-profit community work and is an advocate for children and their families. She is a Pivotal Response Therapist, Special Needs Educator and Autism-Focused Family Mediator who knows firsthand the challenges of parenting a child on the autism spectrum.



Lawrence Pinsky

PARTNER, TAYLOR MCCAFFREY LLP

Lawrence is the Vice Chair of the CBA National Family Law Executive, past Chair of the Family Law sub-section of the MBA and sits on or chairs several committees dealing with family law related issues, and is a fellow of the International Academy of Family Lawyers. He has appeared at all level of Courts in Manitoba dealing with family law and practices mediation, arbitration, and collaborative law. He was appointed as a Human Rights Adjudicator for the Province of Manitoba. Lawrence has also volunteered on several Boards, including the Boards of the Jewish Child and Family Services and the Manitoba Crafts Council. He is a current Board member of the Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada and has coached Robson Hall's Walsh Family Law Moot Court team for the last two years.

Steve Z. Ranot

PARTNER, MARMER PENNER INC.

Mr Ranot has been a Chartered Accountant since 1987, and began his association with Marmer Penner Inc. in 1992. Prior to his current role, Steve was a commodity and income tax specialist, having successfully completed the CICA In-depth Income Tax Course. As an expert on matters related to business valuation, income determination and quantification of commercial damages, he has lectured extensively and authored articles on those topics. He also wrote about income tax issues in a major daily newspaper for 17 years. Steve obtained his designation as a Chartered Business Valuator in 1993, as a Certified Fraud Examiner in 1995 and as an Investigative and Forensic Accounting Specialist in 2000.

Rita M. Richardson

BARRISTER & SOLICITOR, RICHARDSON LAW

Rita Richardson has been working in the area of pensions and benefits and the legal requirements pertaining to the same since the early seventies. After obtaining her LLB from McGill in 1988, she practised with Borden Ladner and Macleod Dixon (now Norton Rose) as an associate. In 1997 she returned to the private sector to manage all aspects of a Pensions Services department, and act as Secretary to the Pension Committee. She then joined Mercer, a large international human resources and consulting firm, as in-house counsel and pension lawyer. In 2003 Ms. Richardson joined the law firm Dunphy Best Blocksom LLP, becoming a partner, and practicing family law and pensions law until mid-2012, when she left to start her own law firm. Throughout her legal career, she has provided legal advice, support and representation to both individuals and corporations and other plan sponsors on matters affecting a wide range of pension considerations. This includes matters of governance, plan design, statutory compliance and fiduciary duty, in addition to specific matters of administrative policy or practice. She also completed a Certificate Program in Pension Law at Osgoode Hall Law School in 2013.

Carol Rogerson

PROFESSOR, FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Carol Rogerson is a professor at the Faculty of Law, where she began teaching in 1983. She served as Associate Dean of the Faculty from 1991 to 1993. She holds degrees in law from Harvard and Toronto, a master's degree in English from Toronto, and an undergraduate degree from the University of Alberta. Professor Rogerson's teaching and research interests encompass constitutional and family law. She is editor of *Competing Visions of Constitutionalism: The Meech Lake Accord* (with K. Swinton) and one of the co-authors of *Canadian Constitutional Law*. She is also the author of numerous law review articles in both the constitutional and family law areas and has frequently worked with governments on issues of family law reform. In 1985 and 2012 she received awards to recognize her excellence in teaching. Prof. Rogerson was the co-author, with Professor Rollie Thompson of Dalhousie Law School, of the *Spousal Support Advisory Guidelines (Lignes directrices facultatives en matière de pensions alimentaires pour époux)* for the Canadian Department of Justice. In recognition of her work on this project she was awarded the University of Toronto's Carolyn Tuohy Prize for Impact on Public Policy in April 2015.

Lori Savory

SENIOR SOLICITOR, FAMILY AND CIVIL LAW,
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR LEGAL AID

Lori Savory fell in love with Family Law during Justice Williams' class in her second year at Dalhousie and has been practicing it almost exclusively during her 25 years at the bar with the Newfoundland and Labrador Legal Aid Commission. She is currently the Area Director of Legal Aids' main Conflict Office.

The Honourable Justice Stanley Sherr

ONTARIO COURT OF JUSTICE, FAMILY COURT

Justice Stanley Sherr has presided in the Ontario Court of Justice (Family Court) in Toronto since 2005. Justice Sherr graduated from the University of Windsor law school in 1979 and was called to the Bar in 1981. He was a partner in the Toronto firm of Ulrich and Sherr from 1981- 2005, primarily a family law practitioner who specialized in child protection law. Justice Sherr was a member of the Child Representation Panel for the Office of The Children's Lawyer from 1987- 2005. He was involved in many capacities with the Toronto Supervised Access Program from 1991- 2003. He frequently presents at continuing education programs for the bar and the judiciary.



Casey Carter Swegman

FORCED MARRIAGE INITIATIVE PROJECT OFFICER
TAHIRIH JUSTICE CENTER (WASHINGTON, DC)

In her current role, Casey provides direct social services to individuals facing forced marriages, fields technical assistance requests nationally, and coordinates the National Network to Prevent Forced Marriage and the Forced Marriage Working Group. Casey led the drafting and development of the Forced Marriage Initiative website and engages in extensive outreach and training. She organized and participated in a six-city national awareness-raising tour, training service providers on best practices in responding to cases of forced marriage. As a local liaison, she also assists agencies and service providers in the Washington, DC area in better responding to the issue.

Rollie Thompson, Q.C.

PROFESSOR, SCHULICH SCHOOL OF LAW, DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

Professor Rollie Thompson, Q.C. received his law degree from Dalhousie University and a B.A. with Honours in Economics and Political Science from McGill University. Called to the bar in Nova Scotia in 1980, he has been a Professor at the Dalhousie Law School since 1982, earning full professor status in 1992. He also served as Executive Director of the Dalhousie Legal Aid Service. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2011. Rollie also teaches the Child and Spousal Support course at Osgoode Hall Law School. He is Editor of the *Canadian Family Law Quarterly*. With Professor Carol Rogerson, he co-directed the Spousal Support Advisory Guidelines Project for the Department of Justice (Canada).

Suzanne S. Williams

BROWN HENDERSON MELBYE
ASSOCIATE, INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR CHILD RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT

Suzanne co-chaired a ground breaking Access to Justice for Children Conference, and is working with the Canadian Bar Association's National Children's Law Committee on a Child Rights Toolkit for Lawyers to improve child rights in Canada. For the past 20 years, Suzanne has been an advocate for children and worked as a lawyer in private practice for a national law firm, for Canada's Department of Justice, and with an international child rights and development organization based at a university. She has also worked with many local and international partners to strengthen the way professionals implement child rights, with a special focus on improving how adults hear children and consider their views in decision-making.



CALL FOR PAPERS

Planning for the National Family Law Program in 2018 is already underway. We are inviting submissions of proposals for Papers/Presentations under the following guidelines:

1. Summary of topic(s), format of presentation, possible co-presenters and estimated time for presentation or workshop.
2. Your agreement to participate in other presentations as workshop leader or panelist if needed.
3. Please include a copy of your curriculum vitae and co-presenter's as well with your submission.
4. Your agreement to provide an *original written paper* on the topic(s), short bio for each presenter and summary of topic to include in conference handbook by May 15, 2018.

Note: Presenters will only receive a contribution toward travel and accommodation expenses.

Your written proposal must be received no later than May 30, 2017

Please submit your Family Law proposal by email or mail to:

Heather Walker
Program Co-coordinator

Mail: P.O. Box 244, Woodville,, ON K0M 2T0

Email: nationalfamilylawprogram@sympatico.ca
(Due to the volume of submissions please identify the proposal as a submission for the 2018 program and topic title on the re: line of the e-mail)

Messages: 705-879-3082

Please refer to our website:

<http://flsc.ca/national-family-law-program>
for ongoing program information updates.



