



# Braiding Diversity into Justice

## Agenda

**March 31, 2022**

Zoom Event



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<p><b>8:15 - 8:30 a.m.</b></p>	<p>Log onto Zoom</p>
<p><b>8:30 - 8:35 a.m.</b></p>	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p>
<p><b>8:35 - 9:15 a.m.</b></p>	<p>Keynote Speech and Q&amp;A Jordana Goldlist</p>
<p><b>9:15 - 9:30 a.m.</b></p>	<p>Q&amp;A</p>
<p><b>9:30 - 9:40 a.m.</b></p>	<p>Break</p>
<p><b>9:40 - 11:10 a.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Breakout Rooms – Ask Us Anything!</b> Participants will be divided into small groups and will spend 17 minutes in each breakout room</p> <p><b>Room 1:</b> Justice Michelle O’Bonsawin (Ontario Court of Judges) Justice Catrina Braid (Superior Court of Judges)</p> <p><b>Room 2:</b> Thusha Mayuran (Insurance Defence Lawyer) Jennifer Roggemann (Immigration Lawyer)</p> <p><b>Room 3:</b> Alyssa Bain (Assistant Crown Attorney) Stephanie Fleury (Legal Assistant)</p> <p><b>Room 4:</b> Shuchanna Swaby (Family Lawyer) Mara Clarke (Family Lawyer)</p> <p><b>Room 5:</b> Jennifer Bolduc (Family, Employment &amp; Civil Litigation Lawyer) Nazma Nigar (Family and Child Protection Lawyer)</p>

<b>11:10 – 11:15 a.m.</b>	Break
<b>11:15 - 11:25 a.m.</b>	Kahoot! Quiz and magic game
<b>11:25 - 11:30 a.m.</b>	Closing and prizes

## About the Speakers

### Jordana Goldlist



Jordana H. Goldlist is a criminal defence lawyer and the principal of JHG Criminal Law, a boutique firm based in downtown Toronto that focuses on representing individuals charged with murder, drug trafficking, and firearms offences. Jordana graduated from Osgoode Hall Law School in 2007 and was called to the bar in 2008. She started her career in civil litigation, but switched to criminal defence in 2010, and opened her own practice in 2015.

In 2018, Jordana delivered a TEDx Talk called “Who Judges The Judge?” in which she spoke, publicly for the first time, about her struggles with addiction and homelessness as a teenager. Today she is a mentor for youth at Covenant House and a speaker at university and law schools across the country. Jordana also has scholarships at two law schools (Osgoode and Lincoln Alexander) called Vs. All-Odds. The scholarship provides financial assistance to law students who have overcome extreme personal adversity, including homelessness, addiction, domestic abuse, human trafficking and/or incarceration of themselves or immediate family. In other words, students who made it to law school against all odds, much like Jordana.

### Madam Justice Catrina Braid



Justice Braid graduated in 1994 with both a B.A. in psychology from Brock University and an LL.B. from Osgoode Hall Law School. She started her legal career at a litigation firm in Waterloo where she had a varied practice including criminal defence work, family law, civil litigation and standing agent work for the Federal Crown. In 2000, Justice Braid took a permanent position as a drug prosecutor. She worked as a Federal Crown in Toronto and Kitchener. Justice Braid was appointed to the Superior Court of Justice in 2014. She presides in family, civil and criminal matters in Kitchener, Ontario.

## Madam Justice Michelle O’Bonsawin



Madam Justice Michelle O’Bonsawin is an Abenaki member of the Odanak First Nation, Québec, and the first Indigenous judge named to the Ontario Superior Court of Justice in Ottawa. She is originally from Hanmer in the Sudbury region, perfectly bilingual and actively learning her Abenaki language. Prior to joining the Superior Court of Justice, Madam Justice O’Bonsawin was General Counsel at the Royal Ottawa Health Care Group and previously Counsel at the Canada Post Corporation. She practiced in the areas of mental health, labour, employment, human rights and privacy law. She has also taught the course *Les autochtones et le droit* part-time at the University of Ottawa.

Madam Justice O’Bonsawin received her LL.B. from the French Common Law Program at the University of Ottawa and her LL.M. at Osgoode Hall in 2014. In December 2021, she successfully defended her PhD thesis at the University of Ottawa. In addition, she was awarded the School of Abenaki Scholarship from the Middlebury Language School.

Madam Justice O’Bonsawin continues to be very active in the legal community. She is currently a Board member of the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice and was a member of the University of Ottawa’s Board of Governors and a Board member of the Aboriginal Legal Services of the University of Ottawa Legal Aid Clinic.

Madam Justice O’Bonsawin is an elected member of the Canadian Superior Court Judges Association’s council and the Chair of the Education Committee. She is a member of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee of the Superior Court of Justice of Ontario and a member of the organizing committees for national conferences. She also acts as a mentor to lawyers and law students. Madam Justice O’Bonsawin is a frequent guest speaker regarding issues of mental health law and Gladue principles and has many publications.

## Alyssa Bain



Alyssa is a graduate of Wilfrid Laurier University (BA – Psychology, 1997) and the University of Ottawa (LLB, 2001). She completed her Articles with the Department of Justice in Toronto, and upon being called to the Ontario Bar in 2002, took the position of Federal Prosecutor with the DOJ satellite office in Kitchener.

Alyssa has extensive criminal trial litigation experience in the Ontario and Superior Courts of Justice. After 17 years of being in the role of prosecuting drug offences within the Region, she has expanded her scope and is now an Assistant Crown Attorney with the Waterloo Office for the Ministry of the Attorney General for Ontario.

## Jennifer Bolduc



Jennifer grew up in Southwestern Ontario before obtaining her B.A. in English Literature from Kentucky State University on a full fastball scholarship in 2006 (summa cum laude), graduating from the University of Ottawa Faculty of Law in 2009, and was Called to the Bar in 2010. Her practice includes family law, employment law, civil litigation and she is a panel lawyer for the Office of the Children’s Lawyer.

In her spare time, Jennifer enjoys playing hockey and fastball and going on adventures with her wife and dogs.

## Rivannah Brown



Rivannah Brown is in her third year at Western Law. She completed her undergraduate degree in Criminology at Western University and is passionate about improving diversity and representation in the legal profession. During her time at Western Law, Rivannah has stood as the President for Western's Black Law Students' Association and has sat on the Executive team for the Western Women in Law association.

Rivannah has enjoyed working closely with Western alumni, the Dean, and Western's Black Future Lawyers chapter to implement resources and increase access to law school for BIPOC students. In her spare time, she enjoys running, working out and watching the newest Netflix series.

## Mara Clarke



Mara Clark started her legal career in the areas of securities and corporate law, upon being called to the Bar. In 2008, she returned to her social justice/public legal education roots when she joined the outreach team of Ontario Justice Education Network. In her role as Director of Outreach, Mara was responsible for managing the team that taught vulnerable youth about the law. In this role, Mara designed family law public legal education programs for some of Ontario's most vulnerable mothers. Through this challenging work, Mara found her passion: family law. Mara's settlement focused, culturally sensitive approach to family law practice prioritizes her

client's interests and the parties' relationship. This helps establish the "new normal" that will guide their interactions moving forward. At times, the assistance of the court is required to settle matters. In those cases Mara offers zealous advocacy, paired with a no-nonsense but reasonable, client focused approach. A proud product of Ontario's social welfare system, raised by her mother in a busy household with 5 siblings, Mara understands socio-economical challenges first hand. Mara is a resolution focused, zealous family lawyer who works efficiently to guide her clients through the family court system.

## Stephanie Fleury



Stephanie is of Mohawk decent, born and raised in Brantford, Ontario. Her grandfather spent nine years in the Brantford residential school known as the Mushhole. Stephanie is active in her Indigenous community including through the Kitchener organization, The Healing of the Seven Generations, which was started by her mother, Donna Dubie. Stephanie returned to school as an adult and graduated with a Law Clerk Diploma from Conestoga College. She has been working as legal assistant at the Kitchener Crown Attorney's office since 2017.

## Alisha Kapur



Alisha graduated from Western Law in 2021 and is currently completing her articling term as a judicial law clerk at the Superior Court of Justice. Prior to law school, she graduated from McGill University with a BSc in Psychology. Alisha volunteered with Pro Bono Students Canada (PBSC) throughout her time at Western Law. In 2019, she developed, implemented, and supervised a new PBSC program called Project Consent, a public legal education initiative that provides information on consent, sexual assault, and sexting to high school students in London, Ontario.

Alisha also summered as a legal intern at the World Health Organization in 2019, and worked as a research assistant and teaching assistant at Western Law. In her spare time, Alisha enjoys hiking, travelling, and trying new restaurants.



## Thusha Mayuran



Thusha Mayuran is an in-house defense lawyer at a large national insurance company. Thusha earned her law degree at the University of Windsor Ontario in 2011. Although today, she is a litigation lawyer tasked with arguing before judges, she arrived in Canada as a refugee 3 decades ago with knowledge of little to no English. As a refugee herself, Thusha is very familiar with the plight of new arrivals in a strange, western country. Thusha's pivotal experience was the Co-op program she was fortunate enough to complete with Justice Catrina Braid at the Department of Justice when she was only 17 years old. This experience and watching the fearless litigation and leadership exemplified by Justice Braid inspired Thusha to be a litigation lawyer. Today, she lives in Pickering with her husband and 6-year-old son.

## Nazma Nigar



Nazma Nigar completed her Master of Law (LL.M); Bachelor of Law (LL. B) from University of Chittagong, Bangladesh. As a foreign-trained lawyer she completed her "Certificate of Qualification" with the National Committee on Accreditation of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada.

She successfully completed Law Practice Program with Ryerson University. She has honed her advocacy skills working at Krylov Lam & Company LLP, a Personal Injury Law Firm in Toronto. She was called to the Ontario Bar in 2016.

She has been practicing primarily on family and child protection law in the Ontario Court of Justice, Superior Court of Justice and Unified Family Court in Waterloo Region. Nazma Nigar is member of the Law Society of Ontario, Waterloo Law Association and the Advocate Society.

## Jennifer Roggemann



Jennifer attended the University of Guelph where she obtained her B.A., (Psychology). Then Jennifer attended University of Victoria Law School, where she earned her law degree, graduating in 1998. As an immigrant herself, Jennifer understands her client's circumstances. When she arrived in Canada in grade 11, she didn't speak a word of English. Today, as an immigration lawyer, Jennifer has helped hundreds of immigrants start a new life in Canada. She lives in Kitchener, with her spouse and two children in their first year college.

## Shuchanna Swaby



Shuchanna Swaby was called to the Bar in 1998. She started practicing Family Law and criminal law in Toronto and the GTA. From 2008 to 2017 Shuchanna moved to Waterloo Region and refocused on Family Law working with Legal Aid Ontario as a Family Law Duty Counsel Supervisor assisting unrepresented litigants successfully achieve their Family Law goals. Shuchanna was on the Board of Directors at HopeSpring Cancer Support Centre from 2016 to 2020.

Since 2018 Shuchanna has returned to private practice where she practices Family Law exclusively and advocates for clients in all respects of their matrimonial matters. She is an Agent with the Office of the Children's Lawyer, a member the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, and the Waterloo Region Law Association. In 2021, Shuchanna was appointed to the Rules Committee for the Family Law Rules. She remains passionate about access to justice issues. She has embraced new technologies to improve her clients' experience through the justice system.

## Isabel Yoo



Isabel obtained her Bachelor of Arts (Hons.) in Political Studies and her Juris Doctor from Queen's University in Kingston. She is currently articling in Hamilton at the Ontario Superior Court of Justice as a judicial law clerk. In law school, she was involved with many extra-curriculars, including the Queen's Legal Aid Clinic. In this role, she represented low-income individuals in a range of legal matters. Isabel was born in South Korea and immigrated to Canada with her family in 1998. She grew up in St. Catharines, in a low-income household. She is a first generation Canadian. She is also in the first generation of her family to obtain a university degree. She is bilingual in Korean and English.