

OJEN 2023

# SUMMER LAW INSTITUTE

Tuesday, August 29 & Wednesday, August 30

Innovation Centre, 315 Front Street West, Toronto



---

## Speaker Biographies

### DAY 1:

#### Session A - Supporting “Undocumented” Students in the Classroom

##### **Gnanushan Krishnapillai:**

Gnanu joined Justice For Children and Youth (JFCY) after working in community programming for children and youth. His background is in public health and youth outreach. His work revolves around creating safer spaces for children and youth. He is inspired by his hometown of Scarborough, where he grew up watching community members engage in development, activism, and mutual aid without institutional support. Through his role as Outreach Manager for the CASA Program, Gnanu is working to develop a robust and multi-faceted support network for youth living in Ontario without immigration status.

##### **Allison P. Williams:**

Allison joined Justice for Children and Youth (JFCY) in October 2019 to provide summary legal assistance and referrals to JFCY callers; and is now in the role of Litigation Lawyer. Prior to joining JFCY, Allison spent several years practicing immigration and refugee law, administrative law, and family law.

##### **Talayeh Shomali:**

Talayeh Shomali is the Director of Borderless Access to Education, a multi-organizational, collaborative project that aims to improve access to education in Ontario for young people living with precarious immigration status. She has 15+ years of experience working in community organizations and

non-governmental institutions focusing on rights education, legal information and access to justice. She is originally from Tehran, Iran, where she studied law and worked as a lawyer before immigrating to Canada.

**Dennique Lavia:**

As the Childhood Arrivals Support and Advocacy (CASA) Program's Project Assistant, Dennique's work consists of facilitating, coordinating, and administering various CASA projects and initiatives including research on the experiences of young people without immigration status in the education system. Dennique has lived experience as a youth living with precarious status and understands the severity of need for access to resources and education for undocumented youth living in Canada.

## **Session B - Technology and Justice: Perspectives on the New Toronto Courthouse**

**Royland Moriah:**

Royland Moriah is Defence Counsel at Rusonik, O'Connor, Robbins, Ross, & Angelini LLP. Royland was called to the bar in 2005, and has worked in many roles, one of which was a policy lawyer at the African Canadian Legal Clinic. Since starting his criminal practice, he has successfully represented clients at the Ontario Court of Justice and Superior Court of Justice on cases ranging from drug possession to homicide! And he is a volunteer with OJEN, and sits on the OJEN's Toronto Committee.

**Meghan Scott:**

Meghan Scott is an Assistant Crown Attorney at the New Toronto Courthouse, prosecuting criminal offences from domestic offences to homicide. She's the former Team Lead on the Firearms Bail Team, former Embedded Crown at 51 Division Toronto Police Service and has extensive experience in the areas of sexual and domestic violence and firearms bail. She is committed to justice education with students, educators, police officers and fellow lawyers with OJEN and other organizations.

**Detective Christina Donaldson:**

Christina Donaldson is a Detective with the Toronto Police Service with a background of a broad range of criminal investigations. She is presently the Lead Instructor for the General Investigators foundational investigative course, Youth Crimes, and Financial Crimes courses at the Toronto Police College, and is presently developing a virtual body worn camera training module for officers.

**David Spence:**

David Spence is an Assistant Crown Attorney with the Ministry of the Attorney General in Toronto where he specializes in the prosecution of child abuse and internet child exploitation offences, and acts as inquest counsel in coroner's inquests.

**Dahlia Nicholson:**

Dahlia Nicholson is a Team Lead in the Victim/Witness Assistance Program within the Ministry of the Attorney General.

**Session C - Bail Reform Panel: Does it go too far or not far enough?**

**Shakir Rahim:**

Shakir directs the Criminal Justice Program at the Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA). His work includes strategic litigation management, public outreach, and engagement with policymakers. Before joining the CCLA, he practiced criminal law with Presser Barristers and Kastner Lam LLP, at both the trial and appellate level. He often works on public interest matters. He co-led the campaign to establish the Independent Civilian Review into Missing Person Investigations, acted on the legal challenge to the ban on gay and bisexual men donating blood, and sits on the steering committee of the Canadian Coalition to Reform HIV Criminalization.

**Tyler Joseph King:**

Tyler is a PhD student at the University of Toronto's Centre for Criminology and Sociolegal Studies. He is interested in theories of responsibility, guilt and remorse, particularly in relation to how these concepts are being influenced and shifted by modern "truth-seeking" technologies (such as fMRI scans). Prior to completing his undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice at Ryerson University, Tyler was an infantry reservist with the Canadian Armed Forces. He also has experience in private intelligence/investigations, and remains a licensed private investigator in the province of Ontario.

### **Dr. Jane Sprott:**

Dr. Sprott is a professor in the Department of Criminology at Toronto Metropolitan University. Her research interests include the operation of the youth and adult criminal justice systems, issues around pre-trial release, sentencing in Canada, and perceptions of crime and criminal justice policies. She is currently working on an SSHRC funded project which investigates bail conditions placed on youths. Professor Sprott has taught courses in the areas of corrections, youth justice, introduction to the criminal justice system, and research methods.

### **Danardo Jones:**

Danardo Jones joined the Faculty of Law at the University of Windsor as an Assistant Professor in January 2021. Professor Jones comes to the Faculty with years of criminal law experience, having worked as a staff lawyer at various Legal Aid organizations across Eastern Canada (Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia) and Ontario. He was also the Director of Legal Services for the African Canadian Legal Clinic. In that role, he intervened in precedent-setting cases before the Supreme Court of Canada (Tran v. Canada (Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness), 2017 SCC 50; British Columbia Human Rights Tribunal v. Schrenk, 2017 SCC 62).

Professor Jones's research interests include criminal law, criminal procedure, criminal sentencing, and race and the law. His research draws on scholarly literature from law and cognate disciplines, including penology and criminology, law and geography, philosophy of law, critical race theory, and prison abolitionist and restorative justice literature.

## **Session D - Artificial Intelligence in the Classroom**

### **Mark Daley:**

Mark Daley is Western University's first-ever chief digital officer, a new role designed to lead the university's digital transformation and fulfill its commitment towards technology innovation in the strategic plan, *Towards Western at 150*.

He previously served as Western's associate vice-president (research). Daley holds joint faculty appointments in six departments and is a member of the Brain and Mind Institute and the Rotman Institute of Philosophy, an associate scientist at the Lawson Health Research institute and a faculty

affiliate of the Vector Institute for Artificial intelligence. He has published in mathematics, computer science, musicology, astrophysics, biology and neuroscience.

In 2013, Daley was selected as one of the inaugural University of Toronto science leadership fellows. He has been active in public science policy and the management and governance of advanced research computing in Canada, including chairing the board of directors of Compute Ontario.

### **Abdi Aidid:**

Abdi Aidid researches and teaches in the areas of civil procedure, torts, and law & technology.

He received his B.A. from the University of Toronto, his J.D. from Yale Law School and his LL.M from the Faculty of Law. Professor Aidid previously practiced litigation and arbitration at Covington & Burling LLP in New York City and most recently served as the VP, Legal Research at Blue J, where he oversaw the development of machine learning-enabled research and analytics tools.

Professor Aidid is a Faculty Affiliate at the Centre for Ethics and a member of the Ethics of AI Lab. Prior to joining the Faculty of Law full-time in 2021, he served as an Adjunct Professor.

## **Session E - New Toronto Courthouse Tour**

### **DAY 2:**

## **Session F - Address and Q & A with the Attorney General of Ontario**

### **The Honourable Doug Downey**

The Honourable Doug Downey is the Attorney General of Ontario, and the MPP for Barrie - Springwater – Oro-Medonte. He has obtained his B.A. from Wilfrid Laurier University, M.A. from Brock University, a Law Degree from Dalhousie University and a Master of Laws in Municipal and Development Law at Osgoode Hall Law School.

He is a founding partner at Downey, Tornosky, Lassaline and Timpano Law Professional Corporation, and has earned professional recognition including the Lawyer of the Year award from the Simcoe County Law Association!

He has extensive experience in different roles, and continues to be an active member of his community, being involved with the Orillia and District Chamber of Commerce, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Orillia and District, and other organizations!

## **Session G - Housing as a Human Right**

### **Diana Chan McNally:**

As an education professional of the past 10 years, Diana has taught at and developed curriculum for three post-secondary institutions. She also develops curriculum and facilitates community-based workshops in the social services sector, particularly around harm reduction and homelessness. Her early career was in design and communications, including designing the brand for the University of Toronto; since then, she shifted into community work, and in particular frontline service and public policy and advocacy work around issues of homelessness.

### **Bryony Halpin:**

Bryony is a collaborator, innovator, and policy wonk with a life-long commitment to working towards kinder and more equitable communities. Her focus is on human rights, and making life better for people experiencing precarious housing/homelessness, poverty and mental health, and addiction disabilities.

She currently works as a senior policy analyst at the Ontario Human Rights Commission where she provides policy expertise and leadership on human rights and poverty, mental health and addictions, and housing.

### **Dania Majid:**

Dania Majid is a staff lawyer and director of the Tenant Duty Counsel Program at the Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario, a legal aid clinic in Ontario. She is also a member of the steering committee for the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (Ontario). Prior to joining ACTO, Dania was a legal analyst

with the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario, and a lawyer with the Human Rights Legal Support Centre and Neighbourhood Legal Services. She is also the founder and president of the Arab Canadian Lawyers Association, founder and programmer for the Toronto Palestine Film Festival and sits on the steering committee of the Hearing Palestine program at the University of Toronto. Dania is also the lead author of ACLA's 2022 report "Anti-Palestinian Racism: Naming, Framing and Manifestations.

## **Session H - Canadian Civil Liberties Education Trust: Teaching Critical Thinking Through Rights-Based Education and OJEN's New Resources**

### **Nat Paul:**

Nat Paul is the current Director of Education at the Canadian Civil Liberties Education Trust, and former Director of Educator Support at the Ontario Justice Education Network!

## **Session I - Top 5 Significant Cases of the Past Year**

### **The Honourable Justice Lorne Sossin:**

The Honourable Justice Lorne Sossin was appointed to the Ontario Court of Appeal in November 2020. Before his appointment to the Court of Appeal, Justice Sossin was a Judge of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice. And before his appointment at the Superior Court of Justice, he was the Dean at the Osgoode Hall Law School, and Associate Dean at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law, and served as the Inaugural Director of the University of Toronto Centre for the Legal Profession.