



# Braiding Diversity into Justice

March 25, 2025

Agenda





# ABOUT OJEN

The Ontario Justice Education Network is a non-profit, charitable organization that brings together leading institutions and individuals from the legal and education sectors to collaborate on initiatives designed to foster public understanding of the justice system. With the commitment of hundreds of volunteers, including judges from all levels of the courts, members of the bar, the Crown Attorney's office, court staff, legal aid clinics, law schools, teachers, and community representatives, OJEN reaches thousands of youth across the province each year. For more information on OJEN's programs and resources, please visit [www.ojen.ca](http://www.ojen.ca).

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#BraidingDiversity2025

## **Braiding Diversity into Justice**

March 25, 2025

Waterloo Region Courthouse

85 Frederick St.

Kitchener, ON



# 2025 Braiding Diversity into Justice SCHEDULE

<p>8:30 - 8:55 am <i>Jury Assembly Room (second floor)</i></p>	<p><b>Registration</b> Morning snacks and refreshments – sponsored by LexisNexis</p>
<p>8:30 am - 3:30 pm <i>Jury Assembly Room (second floor)</i></p>	<p><b>Robing Photobooth</b> Participants can try on Barristers robes and take photos!</p>
<p>9:00 - 10:05 am <i>Courtroom LL01</i></p>	<p><b>Welcome, Introductions and Keynote</b>   <b>MC</b> – Mara Clarke, Family Lawyer   <b>Welcome</b> – Justice Braid, Superior Court of Justice (9:00 - 9:05 am)   <b>Opening</b> – (9:05 - 9:15 am)   <b>Introductions &amp; Brief Job Descriptions</b> of Registrar; Court Reporter; CSO; Supervisor of Court Operations; Court Security Officer; Crown Attorney; Armin Sethi to describe her Barrister’s robes and mention Robing Photobooth in Jury Assembly Room (9:15 - 9:25 am)   <b>Keynote Speech</b> - Denise Dwyer (former Crown &amp; Assistant Deputy Minister, Indigenous Education and Well-Being) (9:25 - 9:55am)   <b>Q&amp;A</b> for Denise Dwyer (Mara Clarke moderates) (9:55 - 10:05am)</p>
<p>10:05 - 10:45 am <i>Courtroom LL01</i></p>	<p><b>Chat with Justice Braid &amp; Friends</b>   <b>Panel:</b>  Justice Braid, Superior Court of Justice, Kitchener  Kerri Rice, Paralegal and Supervisor of Court Operations, Kitchener  Armin Sethi, Deputy Crown Attorney, Kitchener  Shermeen Khan, Manager of Accessible Learning at Conestoga College  Raman De Souza, Family Lawyer, Sorbara Law  <b>Chair:</b> Cynthia Davis  Participants, bring your questions about how we came to work in law!</p>
<p>10:45 - 11:30 am</p>	<p><b>Tour of the courthouse and health break</b>  <b>Tour Guides:</b> Crown Alyssa Bain; Manager of Court Operations Jessica Roes; Special Constable Elaine Nish; and U of Waterloo Students Mariana Chaves &amp; Simran Kaur Benipal  <b>Judicial Jeopardy Questions</b></p>

11:30 - 11:45 am	<b>Group photo on the stairs between first and second floor</b>
11:45 am -12:30 pm <i>Jury Assembly Room (second floor)</i>	<b>Survive &amp; Thrive in Law School</b>  <b>Panel:</b> Shirin Mollayeva (Judicial Law Clerk, Superior Court of Justice & TMU grad) Sarah Bott (Judicial Law Clerk, Superior Court of Justice & UBC grad) Sophie Chase (Judicial Law Clerk, Superior Court of Justice & UVic grad) Misha Farrukh (Articling Student, Crown's Office & Windsor law grad) Amanda Rivera (Articling Student, Crown's Office & WLU/Sussex, UK grad) <b>Chair:</b> Cassandra Dhanapala
12:30 pm -12:45 pm	<b>Health Break/Walk to Law Firms</b>
12:45 - 1:45 pm <i>Law Firms</i>	<b>Tour and Lunch at Law Firms</b> Giffen LLP and Crown's Office McLeod Green Dewar LLP Bennett Grant LLP Melville Krotz Lawyers Lerners LLP (hosted in Waterloo Region Law Library)
1:45 - 2:00 pm	<b>Health Break/Walk Back to Courthouse</b>
2:00 - 2:10 pm	<b>Justice Nazira Safi (Judge from Afghanistan)</b>
2:00 - 3:15 pm <i>Jury Assembly Room (second floor)</i>	<b>Speed Mentoring</b>  (Participants will be divided into 8 groups and will sit at table with their group) Justice Braid to introduce mentors at outset Mentors to rotate clockwise to a new table every 10 minutes  <b>Mentors:</b> Alyssa Bain, Crown Attorney, and Armin Sethi, Deputy Crown Attorney Special Constable Maheen Sherwani, Tori Harshman and Nicole Morrison, Police Officers Kerri Rice and Kimberley Adams, Paralegals Mara Clarke and Jennifer Bolduc, Family Lawyers Rebecca Currie and Keisha James, Probation Officers Cynthia Davis and Jennifer Mohomed-Indarsingh, Civil Litigation Lawyers Pia Williams and Najla Nureddin, Law Librarians Jennifer Roggemann, Immigration Lawyer
3:15 - 3:30 pm <i>Jury Assembly Room (second floor)</i>	<b>Judicial Jeopardy Prizes, Evaluations &amp; Closing</b> Mara Clarke and Justice Braid *Photo opportunities with your new mentors following closing



# 2025 SPEAKERS



**Kimberley Adams**



**Alyssa Bain**



**Jennifer Bolduc**



**Sarah Bott**



**Justice Catrina Braid**



**Sophie Chase**



**Mara Clarke**



**Rebecca Currie**



**Cynthia Davis**



Raman De Souza



Cassandra Dhanapala



Denise Dwyer — **Keynote speaker**



Misha Farrukh



Tory Harshman



**Keisha James**



**Shermeen Khan**



**Jennifer Mohomed**



**Shirin Mollayeva**



**Nicole Morrison**





**Najla Nureddin**



**Kerri Rice**



**Amanda Rivera**



**Jennifer Roggeman**



**Nazira Safi**



**Armin Sethi**



**Maheen Sherwani**



**Pia Williams**



# JUDICIAL JEOPARDY

1. What is the only Court conducting hearings outside of the Waterloo Region Consolidated Courthouse?
2. What important geographic feature of Waterloo Region inspired the architects who designed our beautiful courthouse?
3. The theme of the second floor, where we are spending most of our day, is “water.” Look out over the atrium from the second floor – what geographic feature beneath the rippling river is represented in the walls around you?
4. What annual award presented to lawyers/paralegals in Waterloo Region is displayed in a case on the first floor?
5. List two women who have won the Coulter A. Osborne Award:

6. What other award is immediately beside the Coulter A. Osborne Award in the display case?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What is date on the oldest book embedded in the Library Reception desk?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. Where are the "Robing Rooms"?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. What options do witnesses have when they are asked to demonstrate that they will testify truthfully?

**What was your score?**

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# SPONSORS



## LERNERS





# NOTES

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