

THE HONOURABLE SHARON NICKLAS
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L'HONORABLE SHARON NICKLAS
JUGE EN CHEF
COUR DE JUSTICE DE L'ONTARIO

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March 6, 2026

Participants - Braiding Diversity into Justice
C/o Justice Catrina D. Braid
Ontario Superior Court of Justice
85 Frederick Street
Kitchener, ON N2H 0A7

Dear Braiding Diversity into Justice Participants:

On behalf of the Ontario Court of Justice, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 8th annual Braiding Diversity into Justice event. As someone who served for many years in the Waterloo Region – as a Crown attorney, judge, and regional senior judge – this community and this initiative hold special significance for me.

The goal of today's program is to help you "see yourselves in law". Our justice system is at its best when it reflects the diversity of the communities it serves. For many young women and youth, particularly those from marginalized or racialized backgrounds, a career in law can sometimes feel out of reach. We are here today to show you that there is a place for everyone in the legal profession, regardless of background, ethnicity, or gender identity.

I encourage you to engage fully with the diverse group of legal professionals here today, including the keynote speaker, Justice Nazira Safi. Their stories of overcoming obstacles and their varied paths to success are a testament to the fact that there is no single "right" way to build a career in justice.

The Ontario Justice Education Network (OJEN) and the Waterloo Region Committee have worked tirelessly to organize a day filled with inspiration, from courthouse tours to speed mentoring. I hope you find this experience empowering and that it motivates you to bring your unique perspectives to our justice system in the future.

I wish you an inspiring and productive day of learning.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Nicklas".

SHARON NICKLAS
Chief Justice / Juge en chef
Ontario Court of Justice / Cour de justice de l'Ontario