

Courtrooms & Classrooms



OJEN | ROEJ

ONTARIO JUSTICE EDUCATION NETWORK
RÉSEAU ONTARIEN D'ÉDUCATION JURIDIQUE

A civil society through education and dialogue.

Legal Aid Ontario: Access to Justice and Legal Education

A fair, accessible justice system is a fundamental value in Canada. It is critical for low income Ontarians to receive a timely trial and fair treatment under the law, to have access to income and housing and get help with family law disputes. Yet, without public knowledge and community-based routes for information about the justice system, this is not enough.

Legal Aid Ontario is a non-profit government agency that provides legal services to people who cannot afford to hire a lawyer. They often face many obstacles in their lives – for example, they are women and children facing family breakdown, people seeking refugee status on humanitarian grounds and people with disabilities. A range of legal aid services are available for family, criminal and refugee issues, as well as landlord-tenant problems and social income programs.

Legal Aid Ontario is proud to be one of the founding members of the Ontario Justice Education Network, and to participate on its board of directors. In keeping with OJEN's mission to promote education and dialogue about the justice system, Legal Aid

Ontario works to educate the public, students, lawyers and policy makers at the federal and provincial level.

Legal Aid's role as an educator includes working in partnership with other organizations and as a direct provider of legal education and information. Members of the public with questions about their legal rights can find answers and information quickly and easily at either a community legal clinic or



2005 LAO Law Day 1st Place Poster, by Kristen Lee Sauerzopf, Sault Ste. Marie.

the CLEO website (www.cleo.on.ca). CLEO (Community Legal Education of Ontario) is one of 79 community legal clinics funded by Legal Aid Ontario. Materials available through this community legal clinic include pamphlets such as "Living Together: Opposite and Same-Sex Common Law Relationships"; "Getting Divorced"; "Employment Insurance" and "Power of Attorney for Personal Care".

The community legal clinic commitment to education extends to active community outreach. In communities across the province, you will see community legal

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Welcome from OJEN's Executive Director, Sarah McCoubrey



Sarah McCoubrey, OJEN's Executive Director.

As OJEN's new Executive Director, I am pleased to welcome you all to another busy year of justice education across the province. Over the past months, I have had the chance to meet more and more volunteers and Committees around the province, and hear about the impact OJEN is having on students, teachers and volunteers alike.

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workers, lawyers and law students participating in seminars for new Canadians about women's rights, talking to young Aboriginal people attending university about their rights as tenants, or visiting seniors in a residential care facility to explain living wills. These examples are but a few of the hundreds of hours of public legal education offered throughout Ontario annually.

An active partner in Law Week, Legal Aid Ontario works with OJEN, the Ontario Bar Association and others to take part in various outreach activities throughout Ontario. Last year, staff from a community legal clinic and from Legal Aid Ontario participated in an information fair at a local mall to help educate the public about the justice system. Elsewhere, duty counsel lawyers took part in mock trials and answered student's questions during courthouse tours. As part of Law Week, Legal Aid Ontario also runs a province-wide poster contest for grade five students every year. The contest is designed to help students learn about and consider the meaning of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and how it impacts their daily lives.

Legal Aid Ontario's education practices are not confined to the broader public. For over 30 years, Legal Aid Ontario has participated in the education of aspiring lawyers, and

In this issue of our *Courtrooms & Classrooms* newsletter, you will see highlights of just a few of the many justice education activities underway across the province, such as mock trial tournaments and diverse Law Day events. The OJEN staff and Board know that these activities depend heavily on the efforts and commitment of hundreds of local volunteers. As a way to honour the commitment of these volunteers, you will find a new section in the newsletter entitled "Volunteer Profiles".

This issue of the newsletter also highlights the important work done by Legal Aid Ontario in bringing access to justice to Ontarians living in low income communities. Public legal education is an important component of the work done by Legal Aid lawyers.

I also draw your attention to the exciting initiatives taking place between post-secondary institutions and Ontario's high schools. This work is addressed on page 11. New discussions are underway to identify the ways in which law schools can help support at-risk youth.

As you read through this newsletter, keep in mind OJEN's offer of ideas, resources or support for new projects initiated locally and our commitment to recognizing your events provincially. If you would like to follow up on something you read about in these pages, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sarah McCoubrey
OJEN's Executive Director



assisted with the continuing legal education of practicing lawyers. Six Ontario law schools have a student legal aid services society (SLASS). This program, which introduces law students to legal aid practice, attracts close to 30 per cent of Ontario's law school students. Legal Aid Ontario funds the student legal aid program in conjunction with each of the universities, and hopes that getting a hands-on feel for legal aid work will encourage the students to include legal aid work as part of their future practice.

Last summer, one of the students working at Downtown Legal Services, the student legal aid program at the University of Toronto, remarked on her experiences. "It opened my eyes even further to the reality of life for people living in poverty in this city," said Erin Murray. "Perhaps what struck me most was the complexity of each of their lives, and the ways in which legal issues are almost always interwoven with other issues such as homelessness, drug and alcohol abuse, mental health issues and domestic abuse. I was constantly surprised by how often when addressing a criminal or family law matter, it was also necessary to explore



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Janet Leiper, Chair, Legal Aid Ontario.

Welcome from Ontario's Chief Justices, featuring the Chief Justice of the Ontario Court of Justice

On behalf of Ontario's Chief Justices, I welcome you to the fifth issue of the Ontario Justice Education Network's *Courtrooms & Classrooms* newsletter.

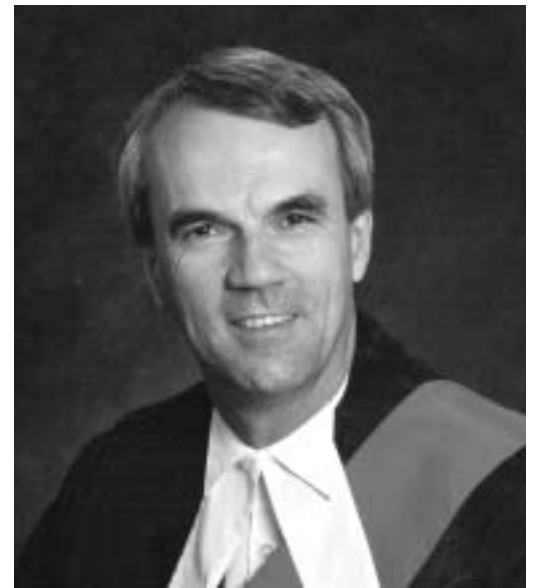
OJEN's successful flagship program, *Courtrooms & Classrooms*, continues to grow and improve with each academic year. More students than ever before are learning about the justice system through courthouse visits, presentations by and dialogues with judges, lawyers and other members of the justice community. Based on statistics and local estimates, OJEN estimates that approximately 50,000 students visited a courthouse in Ontario in 2005, an increase of more than 20% over last year's visits.

OJEN's curriculum support continues to thrive. This January, a revised version of *Values of the Justice System: Curriculum Resource for Grade 10 Civics* was distributed to all Ontario French and English high schools. Initial feedback from teachers has

been very positive. One teacher noted that: "... *the judgments and the case studies are very current. I would not hesitate to use it to enrich my Civics course.*"

Online case summaries are available to Law and Civics teachers, dealing with specific issues or landmark cases. These resources, developed by OJEN educator and lawyer volunteers, can be found on the website at www.ojen.ca.

This edition of the newsletter arrives just before national Law Day celebrations. Law Day, marking the anniversary of the 1982 signing of Canada's *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, is commemorated through activities for students and adults alike. Law Day activities are expanding each year with more outreach to francophone communities. This year's theme: *Democracy, Diversity, Freedom* focuses attention on how our justice system can work to cultivate a better



Chief Justice Brian Lennox, Ontario Court of Justice

understanding and appreciation of the delicate balance between rights and responsibilities in contemporary Canadian society.

As part of OJEN's work to link the education and justice sectors, I encourage each of you in your efforts to foster justice education for all students in Ontario.

**The Honourable Brian W. Lennox,
Chief Justice of the Ontario Court of Justice**

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other issues in their lives resulting from their struggles with social marginalization and poverty."

For lawyers who decide to make legal aid work part of their law practice, Legal Aid Ontario has developed a number of unique educational seminars and materials. Last year, all refugee lawyers were invited to take part in a full-day education seminar. Next year, lawyers will have an opportunity to take part in a specialized training session on domestic violence. A variety of learning materials, including videotaped training sessions are available online.

Finally, Legal Aid Ontario is taking its education role to the next level. Starting in 2005, the organization put together a campaign designed to educate government – both politicians and civil servants – and the public in general about the important role that Legal Aid Ontario plays in

the justice system and how it contributes to healthy communities.

It is widely acknowledged that the health of the individual and of society is determined in large part by socio-economic status. Those who are poor lack access to sufficient housing, nutrition, and face social dislocation. Legal aid services act as a buffer between individuals and the harsh effects of poverty, by providing direct service and by referring people to the most appropriate social and community services. Legal Aid Ontario is proud to combine education with its mandate to provide high quality legal services to low income Ontarians.

For more information about LAO, visit the website at www.legalaid.on.ca.

**Janet Leiper
Chair, Legal Aid Ontario**

Crowns Reach Out to Ontario Students

For many years Crowns across the province of Ontario have generously donated their time and energy to create greater awareness about the justice system by speaking to schools, organizing courtroom visits, mentoring students and conducting community legal education initiatives. Since the creation of OJEN's more formalized *Courtrooms & Classrooms* Program in 2000, tens of thousands of youth across the province have had the opportunity to meet with Crowns and pose questions about the criminal justice system during organized exchanges at schools and local courthouses.

Senior Crown attorney Paul Culver, based in Toronto, has been actively involved in introducing high school students to the various aspects of the criminal justice system for over 25 years. Mr. Culver worked diligently with local justice volunteers to lay the foundation for the Toronto area *Courtrooms & Classrooms* program and he continues to work with Crown and judiciary to make sure that the program continues to grow. When asked why he feels that Crown interaction with youth is important, he recently explained:

"I have always been engaged and worked in this system, but there is a whole legal world which is new to many of these kids to explore. Beyond what they see on TV shows, many kids don't get the chance to be exposed to the nitty gritty of the legal system. Teenagers are at a fun stage to be able to interact with and communicate these important ideas to."

In his discussions with students, he uses recent examples such as the trial in the Holly Jones case and the trial of Karla Homolka to explain the intricacies of how police collect evidence and the role of the Crown in prosecuting criminal offences.

The Ottawa Region *Courtrooms & Classrooms* program has also grown substantially over the years as a result of the leadership and commitment of senior Crown attorney Hilary McCormack. Despite her hectic schedule, she still manages to get out to visit high schools and make connections with students on a regular basis. Ms. McCormack emphasizes the importance of Crown community outreach:

"Public engagement is a part of the job of Crowns and other members of the Justice sector. Through public outreach we are challenged to make the system understandable to the people we serve."

She finds the exchange with students rewarding and notes that:

"Since students are different constituents than what we normally work with they bring new perspectives, and energy and enthusiasm to talking about the law. High school students in particular seem to have a natural fascination with the law based on what they see on TV. Bringing them to the courtroom is a good fit at a time in their lives where it is easy to foster and stimulate interest in their understanding of the law."

Assistant Crown attorney Maggie Rogers, currently coordinates student tours of the Superior Court of Justice as part of the *Courtrooms & Classrooms* Program at 361 University Ave in Toronto. She has been involved in youth outreach in her role as Crown for over 6 years. During court tours, Crowns give students an introduction to the court system and the role of court officials. Students participate in discussions about key concepts such as the presumption of innocence and Crowns give them a brief overview of cases on the docket. They are also able to ask judges questions about the criminal justice system,

before breaking into smaller groups and sitting in on actual trials being heard in the courthouse that day.

Ms. Rogers sees youth outreach as an important part of her job. She notes that: *"Crowns have a duty to try and educate the public about the justice system. We want people to be interested in the justice system, and make it seem like a positive experience."*

In addition to the fact that she enjoys meeting with youth, she also emphasizes that:

"It is important that kids be introduced to the justice system at this time and stage of their lives. In turn many of them may end up being jurors, witnesses or police officers so it is good to demystify the court process early on."

Approximately 50,000 students visited Ontario courthouses in 2005. Crowns across the province volunteered to make these visits possible. In this way, Crown attorneys, working with defence counsel, judges, court administrators and others, play an important role in making students' first exposure to the justice system a positive one.

For more information on OJEN's *Courtrooms & Classrooms* Program, to invite a Crown to visit your classroom, or to arrange a class visit to your local courthouse, visit the OJEN website at www.ojen.ca.



Crown attorney Maggie Rogers in courtroom 7-6 of the Superior Court of Justice, 361 University Avenue, Toronto.

Volunteer Profile: Kristen Bucci



Kristin Bucci, OJEN volunteer in Thunder Bay.

Kristen Bucci, a Family Law practitioner at the firm of Buset & Partners in Thunder Bay, has been the driving force behind Thunder Bay's annual Law Day activities and the expansion of justice education programs in that area over the past few years. In 2003, when she was elected President of the Thunder Bay Law Association

(TBLA), Kristen decided that over the course of her term, she would introduce Law Day activities in order to increase local involvement of the legal profession in the community.

Building on her enthusiasm, a local Committee began to work with OJEN's Regional Judicial Contacts to set up a mock trial competition. In its first year, one school participated in this event. This initial success caught the interest of educators and lawyers alike. By the second year, the tournament included mock trials in French and English. Now in its third year, there are six teams registered in the 2006 competition, including two teams that will moot in French. Local lawyers, recruited from the TBLA membership, coach mock trial teams, helping them to prepare for this event. The local cable station has invited Kristen to appear on one of its programs to promote the event and to talk about the importance of justice education.

While Law Day events were Kristen's initial impetus for getting involved with OJEN, the range of local activities that now take place as a result of her efforts have expanded. Thanks to her outreach efforts, every school in the Thunder Bay area is currently matched with a lawyer through OJEN's Adopt-a-School program, which complements classroom activities through guest lectures and other curriculum-based support.

Kristen manages to fit her justice education involvement into a very busy practice, as well as other professional and community commitments.

Commenting on the range of activities that keep her busy, she mentioned that she likes *"the justice education work as much as regular practice."* Her enthusiasm has been contagious, resulting in a very active Committee of judges and lawyers ensuring that students in Thunder Bay have the opportunity to gain experience and direct knowledge of our justice system.

LSUC Joins OJEN's Criminal Code Donations Program

The Law Society of Upper Canada's Continuing Legal Education (CLE) program has recently partnered with OJEN's Criminal Code Donations Program. Under this joint initiative, OJEN collects recent copies of the Criminal Code from lawyers and judges and other legal community members, and redistributes them to schools throughout Ontario. The Law Society supports the program by serving as a drop off point for used Criminal Codes. This partnership with CLE was the brainchild of Terry Hawtin, past President of the York Region Law Association, who suggested that attendees at a recent LSUC CLE session bring along their spare Criminal Codes for donation.

The donated Criminal Codes are a valuable resource for students learning about the justice system. Teachers and students make good use of copies in their classrooms and school libraries. Thanks to the legal community's past donations, well over 100 schools have benefited from the program.

There are over 850 high schools across the province and OJEN hopes to supply as many as possible with a donated Criminal Code that would otherwise not be available to students.

If you have any recent editions of the Criminal Code (no older than 2003) consider sending them off for a new life as a classroom-teaching tool:

Enhance a Student's Classroom Experience – Donate Your Used Criminal Codes

OJEN's Criminal Code Donation program recycles copies of the Canadian Criminal Code donated by members of the judiciary and bar by sending them to Ontario teachers and school libraries.

If you have a 2003 or more recent Criminal Code to donate, please contact OJEN's Nadine Demoe at 416-947-5273 or at ndemoe@lsuc.on.ca.

- Contact your local school about donating Criminal Codes directly
- Bring them along to any Law Society CLE session
- Drop them off at the Law Society's reception, marked attention: OJEN
- Mail them to:
Ontario Justice Education Network
Osgoode Hall, 130 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N6

Restorative Justice Initiatives with *Peacebuilders International*

Toronto youth suspended or expelled under the provisions of the *Safe Schools Act*, as well as pre-charge, post-charge, and pre-sentence youth who are being dealt with under the provisions of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA), are being referred to a promising new restorative justice diversion project in St. James Town and Regent Park. The Peacemaking Circles Pilot Project is one of three Toronto-based projects initiated by Peacebuilders International, an Ontario not-for-profit and a project of the Agora Foundation. All three programs of Peacebuilders International work to build community capacity for systemic conflict resolution and restorative justice practices.

The mission of Peacebuilders International is to create cross-cultural partnerships among youth and adults for peaceful and sustainable communities.

With the support of the Law Foundation of Ontario, the Peacemaking Circles Pilot Project has established a model of a restorative justice diversion project for at risk youth between the ages of 13 and 25. An individualized support group is set up for each youth who is willing to participate honestly in the program and take responsibility for his/her actions. Peacemaking circles are used in meetings with the youth, their families, their schools, victims and others, to explore the issues involved and to help the youth establish appropriate action plans. Properly facilitated circles can create a safe space for the youth and other participants to listen, to tell their own stories and to brainstorm about solutions.

The Project Director, Zahra Dhanani, has received one of the 2005 Vital People Awards from the Toronto Community Foundation. One of the Police officers working with the project has received the 2005 National Youth Justice Policing Award. The Circles Project has had a huge impact on individual youth. Upon completing the program, one youth, who had dropped out of school a year earlier, returned to school, resumed playing basketball, graduated from Grade 11 and continued on to Grade 12. In another case, four youths who had violently assaulted a young man, participated in a very intense and constructive circle with the victim. Many community members were present during this meeting including friends and parents. The circle examined the violent incident itself and canvassed violent and non-violent practices. At the end of the circle, the victim and offenders asked if they could all walk home together. In yet another case, a company that had been the target of a crime offered a job to the offending youth as a result of their joint participation in a circle. This Pilot Project has now worked with over 35 youth.

The Circles Project also involves an intensive campaign of community outreach and training of community members.

It has an engaged community steering committee which meets monthly and is comprised of representatives from local police, courts, community organizations, schools and community members.

Peacebuilders' second model project is based in Jamestown and Rexdale/Kipling and includes the Rexdale Community Health Center, the Somali Immigrant Women's Association and the Etobicoke Conflict Mediation Team working in partnership with Peacebuilders. It involves the development of a pilot for community-based dialogues within and between victimized communities in North Etobicoke. This Project is funded by the Ministry of the Attorney General.

The third Peacebuilders Pilot Project is being conducted in partnership with the Toronto District School Board and will develop and expand the use of restorative practices in schools. The project will use circle processes to address safe school issues, teach staff and students a community approach to decision-making and group conflict resolution and encourage and foster the development of safe school classrooms and school communities.

For more information about Peacebuilders International and about how to become trained to work with Peacemaking Circles, visit www.peacebuildersinternational.com or phone 416-960-0105.

**Eva Marszewski,
Founder and Executive Director
Peacebuilders International**

Help Bring Art into Your Local Courthouse

OJEN is seeking sponsorship of its *Art in the Courts* posters. *Art in the Courts* is a program which was initiated through the collaborative efforts of OJEN, Legal Aid Ontario, the Ministry of the Attorney General and the Law Foundation of Ontario. It is designed to bring a more welcoming atmosphere to Ontario's courthouses through the display of a collection of elementary school student artwork which illustrates annual Law Day themes. As a result of the generous support of the York Region Law Association this year, an *Art in the Courts* poster is now hanging in the Newmarket courthouse.

If your local law association or law firm would like to sponsor the cost of a poster by an artist from your community, please contact the OJEN office at 416-947-5273 to discuss the range of possible sponsorship options.

“LAWS” Engages Youth

There are significant law-related changes underway in two of Toronto’s high schools. Since September 2005, Central Technical School and Harbord Collegiate Institute have been the pilot sites for Canada’s first law and justice-themed secondary school program.

Modeled after programs in two law-themed high schools in New York City, the LAWS program – Law in Action Within Schools – is an initiative of the University of Toronto Faculty of Law and the Toronto District School Board. The program targets students who have academic potential, but who may face barriers to succeeding in school.

The program has multiple aims. It is primarily geared at providing students with the skills, knowledge and confidence required to succeed in high school and to meaningfully consider pursuing post-secondary education. The program achieves these goals by using legal themes and issues to keep students engaged with the curriculum, by building connections between high school and law school students in the form of a weekly mentoring and tutoring program, and by introducing students to law-related professions and post-secondary institutions by organizing field trips and career panels.

The two pilot schools have taken quite different approaches to the LAWS program. At Harbord Collegiate, all grade ten students enjoy a full year of

law and justice themes which are integrated into their Civics/ Careers classes. This approach gives all 250 Grade 10 students at Harbord a taste of law through this mandatory course.

In contrast, at Central Technical School, a cohort of 55 students travel together from Grade 10 through 12 in a specialized program that integrates law and justice themes into core classes. The Central Tech approach identifies students who have academic potential but who may face barriers to succeeding. Many of the participating students are from diverse backgrounds including those from low income families, immigrant families and families with no history of post-secondary education.

Thus far, students from both programs have participated in visits to Toronto’s Old City Hall and the University of Toronto’s Faculty of Law. They have also taken part in a career panel, as well as workshops on the Youth Criminal Justice Act, Sharia Law, music downloading and intellectual property law, and racial profiling.

Faculty of Law students take an active role in the program. They volunteer in bi-weekly tutoring sessions at the two high schools, and provide interactive workshops. Faculty alumni are also involved, participating in career panels and acting in supportive roles throughout the academic year.

According to the Faculty of Law, the LAWS program is not just for high school students interested in pursuing a legal career. The program is working on building important life-skills that translate into all facets of



Her Worship Karin Drescher addresses Central Technical School students about becoming a Justice of the Peace during a career panel.

social and professional life, such as advocacy, as well as writing and critical thinking skills. “These tools will help them on the road to graduation from high school, and will help them succeed in whatever employment they choose,” says Nikki Gershain, Director of Special Projects at the Faculty of Law.

Alexis Archbold, the LAWS Program Coordinator, notes that the teachers the Faculty has been working with to develop and deliver the LAWS program have been extremely enthusiastic. They are happy to have an opportunity to work more closely with the law, and they believe that the program will make a difference in the lives of their students.

Excitement about the program is catching on in law schools and school boards across the province. The program’s success has allowed LAWS to secure funding from the Law Foundation of Ontario to develop a LAWS model that will be used by others to create unique partnerships that benefit high school students working with law school students in particular, and the legal profession and society more broadly. The Faculty is already working with OJEN to expand the program by sharing best practices with other post-secondary institutions.

For more information about the LAWS program, contact the Program Coordinator, Alexis Archbold, who can be reached at laws.law@utoronto.ca, or at 416-978-5841.



Volunteer tutor, Evan Schiller, a first year law student at the University of Toronto, provides academic support and mentorship to Arsalan Mughal, a Grade 10 student at Harbord Collegiate.

Law Day Activities *for* Students, Community

Law Day is a national event celebrating the signing of Canada's *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and is aimed at educating and informing the public about the role and importance of the law and the justice system. Law Day programs are scheduled to take place across Ontario; these programs are organized in partnership with OJEN, the Ontario Bar Association, Legal Aid Ontario, the Law Society of Upper Canada and the Education Network of Ontario. Celebrate Law Day, which will take place on April 6, 2006, by participating in local Law Week events which will run from April 3 to 7 across Ontario. Members of the Bar and Bench are encouraged to volunteer with local Law Day programs. Activities for 2006 focus on the theme, **Democracy, Diversity, Freedom.**

French-Language Programs

L'Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Ontario (AJEFO) is hosting a French language Law Day program in Ottawa (April 6), Toronto (April 5), Thunder Bay and Sudbury. The program consists of a mock trial with lawyers, judges, police officers and witnesses. The event will be facilitated with the assistance of "animators" from FESFO who will act out a young offender's trial for a drug possession charge. The mock trial will be followed by three workshops for the participants, including a career panel, a game show addressing the *Charter* and jury deliberations. There will be an additional workshop for teachers on how to integrate law, mock trials and other justice material into the curriculum. TFO will also offer Law Day related programming through three television shows: Megállo, Volt and Panorama. **Contact** dleitch@fscogov.on.ca or bureau@ajefo.ca for registration.

Province-wide Programs

Elementary School Mock Trials

Upper grade elementary school teachers are encouraged to register for this two-day program hosted by the Ontario Bar Association. On the first day, a lawyer or law student provides students with an overview of the Canadian Criminal justice system, introduces a fact scenario for the mock trial and introduces the roles of lawyers and witnesses. The following week the lawyer or law student returns and presides over the mock trial. Lawyers interested in volunteering for the program are also encouraged to sign up. **Contact:** atarantino@pallettvalo.com

Ontario Bar Association Secondary School Mock Trial Tournament

The Ontario Bar Association invites all Ontario secondary school law teachers to register their students for this exciting tournament which is based on an alleged criminal offence. Students get to act out the roles of Crown attorney, defence lawyer, witness and accused. **Contact:** crevoy@oba.org

Grade 5 Poster Contest

Legal Aid Ontario sponsors this annual contest for Grade 5 students across Ontario. Students are invited to submit a poster in French or English on the Law Day theme. **Contact:** farial@lao.on.ca

The Charter Challenge

This activity brings secondary school students together to work collaboratively on decision-making about a real-world situation related to the *Charter*. This is an online simulation tied directly to the provincial curricula. **Contact:** sheirhod@enoreo.on.ca

The Great Debate

This live debate between academics and legal professionals is designed for secondary school Law and Civics teachers. It is conducted before an audience of educators on a featured legal issue and is traditionally held in the Ontario Court of Appeal. This year's debate looks at the role of faith in family law arbitration. **Contact:** ndemoe@lsuc.on.ca

Photography Contest

Students between the ages of 12 and 18 are encouraged to submit a photograph that captures this year's theme: "Democracy, Diversity, Freedom". **Contact:** dnewman@cametoid.com

Phone-a-Lawyer

Receive pro bono legal information from local lawyers! During this program, scheduled from 2-5 p.m., Thursday, April 6, lawyers throughout Ontario will volunteer their time and expertise for a half-day by opening up their phone lines to provide pro bono legal information to the public.

Check your local community newspaper closer to April 6 for more details. Lawyers are encouraged to volunteer. **Contact:** npopovic@ida.ca

Local Law Day Programs Taking Place in Spring 2006

Halton

Secondary School Mock Trial Tournament
May 3rd in the Halton Courthouse.

Kitchener-Waterloo-Cambridge

Mock Trial and Great Hall Social

This event will take place Saturday, April 22nd in the Kitchener Superior Courthouse with local secondary school



Members and Lawyers in Your Neighbourhood

students acting as jurors. It will be followed by a question and answer period with legal professionals. The Great Hall Social is an opportunity for students, teachers, members of the public and legal professionals to meet one on one following the mock trial.

Manitoulin Island

Mock Sentencing Law Symposium

Oshawa

Kelly Moot Cup

The finals of this mock trial tournament take place April 5. The courthouse will also be open for tours for the public and students. Students will also be acting in a mock small claims hearing that will be open to the public in the evening.

Ottawa

Fun Run

The 11th annual Law Day Fun Run/Walk will take place Friday, April 21st. Proceeds from this year's event will go to Christie Lake Kids Summer Camp & STAR program.

Secondary School Mock Trial Tournament

This tournament includes trials in both official languages and features a re-enactment of the offence performed by secondary school drama students.

Career Panel

Join hundreds of students participating in career panels addressing jobs in the justice community. Panels will take place in both English and French and will include

lawyers, judges, Crown attorneys, defence counsel, as well as police, probation and correction officers.

Court Tours

Join Law Day court tours of the Supreme Court of Canada and the Ottawa Courthouse.

Peel Region

Mock Trial Tournament

The 4th annual "Let Justice Prevail" Peel Mock Trial Tournament took place March 2 & 10 at the Brampton courthouse.

Simcoe-Muskoka

Simcoe-Muskoka Mock Trial Tournament

This tournament for secondary school students will take place at the Barrie Courthouse, May 18.

Sudbury

4th Annual Sudbury Mock Trial Tournament

This year's event included a fully bilingual trial. The event took place on January 16th.

Thunder Bay

Mock Trial Tournament

Open to Thunder Bay area secondary school students, the tournament will take place April 20th and 21st. **Contact: kbucci@Buset-Partners.com**

Courthouse Tours

Participate in guided tours of the Thunder Bay Courthouse.

Contact: kbucci@Buset-Partners.com

Essay Contest

The essay contest is open to Thunder Bay area secondary school students. **Contact: kbucci@Buset-Partners.com**

Toronto

Court Tours

In Toronto, grade seven and eight classes have the opportunity to visit Osgoode Hall to meet with judges and lawyers and to ask questions. **Contact: jmaclean@torys.com**

Citizenship Ceremony

The Ontario Bar Association welcomes 80 new citizens in a special citizenship ceremony on April 6. The aim is to introduce new Canadians to the justice system in a welcoming environment and to aid in their understanding of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. A copy of the *Charter* is given to all of the new citizens.

Toronto Catholic District School Board Inter-Board Mock Trial Tournament

Join other Catholic school teams from the GTA in this inter-board tournament. Preliminary rounds take place at Osgoode Hall, York University, and finals are scheduled for May 18th at the Courthouse at 361 University Ave.

Elementary School Mock Trial and Sentencing

January 27 and 31, Grade 6 students at Montcrest School participated in a mock trial and mock sentencing at Old City Hall.

Windsor-Essex

Law and Civics teachers throughout Essex County are invited to register for interactive classroom visits with lawyers and judges on April 7. **Contact Jim Branoff** to register at **519-254-4958**.

York Region

3rd Annual Judges' Cup Mock Trial Tournament

This event will take place February 27th in the York Region Council Chambers and will also include a job fair.

If you have information on more local activities, please send us the details.



Day e du droit

Reflections on the Wrongful Conviction Law Symposium

by Piroshin Moodley

My name is Piroshin Moodley and I am a Rotary Exchange Student from Johannesburg, South Africa. Spending just a year in Canada, my objective is to immerse myself into the culture and life of your average Canadian citizen. I am always looking for insights into Canadian society and the Wrongful Conviction Law Symposium, held at The Humberview School in Bolton, afforded me a view into the Canadian justice system. I attended the Conference with an open mind, eager to learn about a small, but important part of the Canadian justice system: wrongful convictions.

Each student was given the opportunity to attend two of the fifteen workshops on offer. Choosing these workshops proved quite difficult because of the huge range of topics and guest speakers available. After much consideration I chose to sit in on the Coroner's Lab and Crime Scene Investigation workshops.

We joined Detective Sergeant Sadler and Detective Bryan, of the York Regional Homicide Department, to see what it takes to crack the mysteries of murder. Eager and interested teachers and pupils were first assured that real crime scene investigation is nothing like what we see in popular T.V. shows! With that out of the way, we went on to investigate the tools used and steps involved in approaching a crime scene. These included scientific methods, research and enquiry, and of course, pure logic! I'm sure that every person left the room with a renewed respect for the extremely challenging and time consuming work conducted by our police force.

After a hearty lunch in the gym, where excited students discussed and swapped information about their chosen

workshops, we were off to Session B. My second session was The Coroners Lab with Dr. James Cairns – Ontario's Deputy Chief Coroner. Once again we were informed that Dr. Cairns' job is nothing like what we see on T.V. shows



Law students at The Humberview School in Bolton were key organizers of the Law Symposium on Wrongful Convictions.

and in Hollywood movies. We were kept enthralled by his multimedia presentation and macabre sense of humour, and for the next forty-five minutes he spoke of astonishing facts about deaths and murders in Ontario. We took an in depth look at how

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Coroners make conclusions about the deaths they deal with every day including information on forensic and medical technology which form such an important part of the modernized justice system.

Some of the other workshops included The Legal Process, with representatives from the judiciary, the Peel Regional Police, the Ontario Provincial Police and the Department of Justice Ottawa. These individuals investigated trial processes and the measures taken to

prevent wrongful convictions. John Tory led a seminar from the perspective of the lawmaker, while Professor Christopher Sherrin spoke of the Innocence Project of Osgoode Hall Law School. Paula Osmok gave us some insight into the work done by the John Howard Society, and Professor Kent Roach showed students an academic approach to criminology. Senator Marjory LeBreton (who spearheads the Conservative Party's support for Mr. Truscott) held a panel discussion which suggested possible actions that could be taken when wrongful convictions occur. Other workshops included The Media's Role in Wrongful Convictions, with investigative journalists Tracey Tyler and

Harold Levy from the Toronto Star and Kirk Makin from the Globe and Mail; The Role of the Private Investigator in the Criminal Justice System; The Work of The Association In Defense of The Wrongly Convicted; and "Learn...Act...Motivate", a most inspirational workshop where students showed us the role and responsibility of the youth and how we, as students, can make a difference – whether it be through petitions, mock trials and even by creating your own website.

The most popular workshops were of course the ones that included the guest of honour himself, Steven Truscott. Students heard from Mr. Truscott, his family, friends and all those closely linked to his case. These workshops covered most of the aspects of the case, from Isabel LeBourdais' book, to an examination of the Trial, the impact on the Truscott family and the view of his defence lawyers. After our workshops were over, students, teachers and guests

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gathered in the main hall for what I consider to be the highlight of the Symposium. Distinguished journalist and media personality Linden Macintyre of the CBC show “The Fifth Estate” presented the documentary feature “The Steven Truscott Story”, which first aired in March of 2000 and was updated in 2004.

Mr. Truscott, his family and friends gave the Law Symposium their full support and we were extremely excited to hear from the man himself. To be honest, I thought that someone who had been through the pain and suffering experienced by Steven Truscott would

be bitter and resentful. In fact, he was exactly the opposite. Soft spoken and most humble, Steven Truscott personally thanked all students for their concern and help. He is an excellent role model for all students, leaving us with life lessons in hope and perseverance through adversity. We were given an insight into the enormous amount of time, energy and hard work put into the continuing efforts to get his conviction overturned.

The Wrongful Convictions Law Symposium was an amazing experience. It cleared up many misconceptions for me and other students. We had the opportunity

to absorb, grow, learn and reflect and I believe that I speak on behalf of all those who attended when I say that, most importantly, it left us with a great admiration and respect for the Canadian justice system!



Steven Truscott, his family, and his lawyer were all supportive of the public legal education aspect of the recent Peel Law Symposium. All were in attendance.

Best Practices Post-Secondary Forum

When Julia Haningsberg began her secondment at the Osgoode Hall Faculty of Law she heard about different projects that linked the Faculty’s students with local high school students. However, it quickly became apparent that even within this institution, people weren’t aware of these important projects. Looking beyond the halls of the Faculty, she realized that the problem was not unique to Osgoode.

Inspired to address this problem, Julia approached OJEN to find out what other post-secondary institutions were doing to promote justice education. It quickly became clear that there was no method for disseminating ideas or sharing resources. In response, and thanks to the hard work of Julia’s research assistant, Carla Gonçalves

Gouveia, a teacher now attending law school, the “Law in Action: Post-Secondary Forum on Best Practices” was quickly organized and held on November 23rd, 2005.

Representatives from universities and colleges across the province were invited to attend the forum, along with legal and educational institutions involved in justice education delivery. Over 35 participants attended the half day event. Chief Justice Roy McMurtry opened the event calling on participants to meet the challenge of connecting directly with youth-at-risk. Julia and Carla presented on Osgoode’s T.O.P.P.S. high school tutoring program. Alexis Archbold provided an overview of the University of Toronto’s LAWS program (see page 7 for program details). Sarah McCoubrey highlighted OJEN’s programs including the Adopt-a-School pilot with the Ministry of the Attorney General and the partnership with the Toronto Community Housing Corporation to deliver justice education in local neighbourhoods.

Following the presentations, participants engaged in a lively discussion of the need to provide audience appropriate programs for at-risk students. Representatives from colleges highlighted the important role that paralegal and

legal studies programs play in exposing students to careers in law. Issues of access and tuition costs were raised as significant barriers for youth. Many participants endorsed the value of programs that link professionals with youth in a mentoring relationship, encouraging students to finish school and set ambitious goals for themselves.

At the end of the Forum enthusiasm was high, with ideas for new programs and partnerships being discussed. A number of lawyers stood up to volunteer to help with these programs.

In order to build on this enthusiasm, a listserv of postsecondary institutions has been established through the OJEN website. Subscribers to the listserv will be invited to submit a summary of local programs, which will be distributed to the entire list, creating opportunities for post secondary institutions to share best practices and develop new programs linking the resources and energy of faculty and students in law-related programs with students in public schools.

Anyone wanting to join the Post-secondary listserv, please visit http://www.ojen.ca/eng/main/sign_up_newsletter.htm to subscribe. Information about any of the programs mentioned above can be obtained by contacting the OJEN office at ojen@lsuc.on.ca.



Participants offered suggestions and shared ideas at the Post-Secondary Best Practices Forum.

Network Partner Profiles

The ESL/ELD Resource Group of Ontario (ERGO)

The ESL/ELD Resource Group of Ontario (ERGO) is an organization of English as a Second Language and English Literacy Development coordinators, consultants, and designated representatives of boards of education, colleges and universities across Ontario dedicated to the improvement of educational opportunities and practices for ESL/ELD students.

ERGO actively advocates on behalf of ESL/ELD students to ensure that they have equitable access to quality education programs from elementary to post secondary levels. As part of this role, ERGO provides leadership in the development of Ministry of Education policy and resource documents related to ESL/ELD learners, in addition to responding to provincial and federal issues which affect this group of students.



ERGO also maintains a provincial network which is a forum for discussion of key issues, research, professional development and capacity building, and the development and sharing of new elementary and secondary school resources by other organizations working in this field.

Some of ERGO's more recent initiatives have been: to conduct programs in teacher training to address the changing cultural and linguistic diversity of Ontario; to lobby to ensure that new provincial report cards reflect ESL/ELD learners; to lobby in support of the Auditor General's Report and its subsequent recommendations for accountability for Legislative Grants funding for ESL/ELD; and to develop teacher resources so that new courses can be more easily adapted to reflect the needs of this group of learners.

To access online resources on ESL/ELD and for more information about ERGO, visit their website at:
<http://www.ergo-on.ca>

The Office of the Ombudsman

The Office of the Ombudsman was created by the Ontario Legislature in 1975. The Ombudsman is an independent officer who investigates complaints about the administration of Provincial government organizations and fairness in government delivery of services to the public. The Ombudsman currently oversees about 500 provincial government organizations including ministries, agencies, boards, commissions and tribunals.



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The Ombudsman responds to approximately 23,000 complaints per year. Following an investigation, the Ombudsman can make recommendations that a government policy or practice should be changed when warranted, to address unfair treatment issues.

The Special Ombudsman Response Team (SORT), is a new team created in April 2005, which looks into serious, high profile, and systemic issues that affect a large number of Ontarians. SORT investigations can result in recommendations that impact directly on an individual and lead to changes in government programs, policies and services. For example, recent SORT investigations have resulted in parents of children with severe disabilities no longer being required to give up custody in order to receive necessary residential care. As the result of another SORT recommendation, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has agreed to pay for a miracle life-sustaining drug for a Barrie teenager and to review drug funding policies. Another SORT investigation has led to an increase from 2 to 27 in the number of genetic tests performed on newborns in Ontario, potentially saving the lives of up to 25 children a year.

Access to justice continues to be a guiding principle in all of the activities of Ombudsman Ontario as it works to ensure that the rights of all Ontarians are vigorously upheld, and that the Ontario government is accountable to its citizens. All inquiries and investigations carried out by the Ombudsman are conducted free of charge.

Ombudsman Ontario has a communication and outreach program that targets identified groups and stakeholders. It distributes information materials to interest groups and organizations and also provides presentations on ensuring transparency and accountability in the provision of government services.

For more information on Ombudsman Ontario visit their website at: <http://www.ombudsman.on.ca>

Legal Community Volunteers Lend a Hand at Osgoode's Doors Open Event

A dozen lawyers from the Ministry of the Attorney General were among the many volunteers who stepped in to lend a hand at Osgoode Hall's busy Doors Open event in 2005. By bringing their legal and historical knowledge of Osgoode Hall to the thousands of visitors who participated in the weekend-long open house, these lawyers enhanced the dialogue between the public and the justice community catalyzed by the Doors Open event.

As the 2006 Doors Open event fast approaches, program organizers at Osgoode Hall are looking for volunteers to help guide the public through the site of some of Ontario's most important legal and judicial history on May 27th and 28th.

In 2000, Toronto became the first North American city to join the "Doors Open" movement, which provides free access to heritage buildings. Started in 1984, the concept has met with great success overseas and in North America.

As a national historic site, Osgoode Hall – home to Ontario's Court of Appeal and the Law Society of Upper Canada – was an obvious choice for the Toronto event, which is held on the last weekend of May each year. While the building is open to the public, the Hall can be intimidating and few casual visitors come on their own to have a look. However, volunteers were overwhelmed by the unexpected demand for tours the first year of this event, and since then, Osgoode Hall has been one of the main draws of Doors Open Toronto, welcoming as many as 9500 visitors in one weekend.

A great part of the appeal of Osgoode Hall, besides its architectural and historical value, is its connection to the justice system. Visitors welcome the opportunity to enter

the courts and to learn about the legal process. It is also clear that the general public's understanding of its workings can be vague. On their self-guided tour visitors can refer to an explanatory sheet and can ask questions of numerous volunteers stationed throughout the building. In 2005 there were close to 50 volunteers representing the various roles within the justice sector. Amongst the staff this year were Court of Appeal and Law Society staff, law professors from Seneca College and lawyers from the Ministry of the Attorney General.

Ministry counsel, Feroza Bhabha, volunteered at the event last May because of her love for the building. Having worked at Osgoode Hall on a regular basis as counsel since 1991, she feels that in some ways it is a second home and the event was a great opportunity to show off that home. But her work with Doors Open was also a way for Ms. Bhabha to learn more about the building herself, *"I saw some parts of the building for the first time myself, so I was a tourist as much as anyone."*

Ms. Bhabha notes that while stationed in Courtroom 4, she fielded several questions from visitors about the physical space, such as the dais and the windows, as well as questions about the type of cases that are heard in that courtroom. She was able to draw on her experience as a lawyer in answering some questions, such as whether or not lawyers are gowned and where various representatives of the justice sector sit while court is in session. Ms. Bhabha noted that the presence of a number of Ministry of the Attorney General counsel brought a *"passion for what actually goes on inside the building"* to the event. Their participation complemented the architectural and historical passion of the other volunteers.

The Doors Open event may be a celebration of architectural heritage but it is also an opportunity for the public to learn about legal institutions in an informal, friendly context outside of the confrontational climate that often marks encounters within the courts. This is an important outcome, one that could not be achieved on an annual basis without the time and effort that all of the volunteers donate at Osgoode Hall.

For more information about Doors Open Toronto, visit the website at www.doorsopen.org. To inquire about volunteer opportunities for the Osgoode Hall portion of the event, contact Law Society of Upper Canada Curator, Elise Brunet, at ebrunet@lsuc.on.ca.



Members of the public tour Osgoode Hall during the Doors Open Toronto event held every May.

Sudbury Mock Trial 2006

On January 16, 2006, the Sudbury Courthouse hosted approximately 100 Grade 12 Law students in its 4th annual Mock Trial Competition. This year's competition involved 13 teams from seven area high schools representing three local school boards: the Rainbow District School Board; the Sudbury Catholic District School Board; and Le Conseil scolaire catholique du Nouvel-Ontario.

For the first time this year, Sudbury's Mock Trial Competition featured a bilingual trial, which provided students with an opportunity to appreciate and experience the mechanics involved in the simultaneous translation of the court process. Students were provided with headsets, and court translator, Aline Belzile, provided official translation services.

Madam Justice Patricia C. Hennessy, Mock Trial Project Leader, applauded the efforts of both the students and the legal community:

"The local bar and judiciary have embraced this project and put a lot of time into it because they believe they have an obligation to do public education. They believe that the Mock Trial project has an enormous impact on the participants. We see students who have integrated the fundamental principles of

criminal law that are important to being a well-informed Canadian citizen."



The Edward J. Conroy QC Civility Award was presented to the students of St. Charles College.

The winners of the Hennessy Cup were Monica Bansal, Jack Drysdale, John Hawkins, Anton Tchajkov, Alex Booth, and Patrick Fleming from Lockerby Composite School. This team will go on to represent the North in Toronto at the Provincial Mock Trial Competition in April 2006.



The Winners of the 2006 Sudbury Mock Trial Tournament were Monica Bansal, Jack Drysdale, John Hawkins, Anton Tchajkov, Alex Booth, and Patrick Fleming from Lockerby Composite School.

Following the Mock Trial, the Edward J. Conroy QC Civility Award was presented to Robert McCarthy, Robert Bailey, Steven Grimard, Bill Sears, James Rand and Derek Desjardins from St. Charles College in recognition of the students' courteous demeanour towards the Court, staff, witnesses and counsel.

Local law firms also sponsored individual awards. The Lacroix Forest Best Advocate Crown Award was presented to Alain Dupuis, from Collège Notre-Dame. Kyle Boucher, from Confederation Secondary School, won the Weaver Simmons Best Advocate Defence Award, and the Miller Maki Best Witness Award was presented to Alex Booth, from Lockerby Composite School.

Participants and organizers of the Sudbury Mock Trial Competition would also like to acknowledge the generous support of the Ontario Justice Education Network (OJEN), l'Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Ontario (AJEFO), and la Fédération des caisses populaires de l'Ontario. This support, in addition to the collaboration among teachers, lawyers, and the judiciary, continues to be key to the Mock Trial program's success.

Teachers – Have you registered for the Upcoming Summer Law Institutes?

Registration is open for the always engaging, always informative, annual OJEN Summer Law Institutes for Secondary School Teachers. This is what teachers have to say about OJEN's past Summer Law Institutes:

"An invaluable experience for a new teacher of law. I look forward to coming back year after year."

"You provided us with many valuable resources, insights and information that can immediately be applied in the classroom."

Two Summer Law Institutes will take place in 2006, including the first ever bilingual SLI. The Ottawa SLI will be held in French and English on August 23. The Toronto SLI will take place August 29 & 30. Visit the OJEN website to register for either event www.ojen.ca, or call the OJEN office at 416-947-5273.

Courtrooms & Classrooms Notice Board

OJEN welcomes three new Board members! **Sherry Cameron-Stobie**, Director, Quality Services Office, Legal Aid Ontario, replaces **Susan Scott**. **Justice Nancy Kastner** replaces **Justice Ted Ormston** as the Ontario Court of Justice representative. **Ginette Plourde**, Director (Bilingual), French Language Education Policy & Programs Branch of the Ministry of Education replaces **Kit Rankin**. Warmest thanks to Susan, Ted and Kit for all their work helping to establish OJEN.

Mary Marrone, OJEN's Program Director, developed the strategic framework for OJEN's program work with Aboriginal, Francophone and immigrant communities, and began to develop local initiatives with youth at risk. More recently, Mary has been working as Program Director on a part-time basis while pursuing international development work in legal aid, as well as national poverty law research and policy work. She will be leaving OJEN to return to the Policy Department of Legal Aid Ontario in April 2006. Her impact on OJEN programming has been significant and she will be greatly missed.

New resources posted to the OJEN website (www.ojen.ca) include a revised edition of the Grade 10 Civics resource **Values of the Justice System**, an updated version of **Law and the Ontario Curriculum**, as well as two new **Landmark Cases**, posters from the 2005 **Art in the Courts** poster series, as well as a link to the conference proceedings of the **Section 15 Charter Conference** held at the University of Toronto.

Recent & Upcoming Events

OJEN's **Summer Law Institutes for Secondary School Teachers** will take place in Ottawa, **August 23** and Toronto, **August 29 & 30**. Plans are underway to develop OJEN's first ever **bilingual SLI**. Visit the OJEN website to register: www.ojen.ca.

Events celebrating **Law Day 2006** will take place **April 3-7** across the province. Visit page 8 for details on events near you.

OJEN's **Great Debate**, a Law Day program for secondary school law teachers will take place **April 5** at the Law Society of Upper Canada. The debate will be conducted in both official languages and will address the role of faith in family law arbitration. Call 416-947-5273 to register.

The **Peel Legal Education Committee** hosted their **4th Annual Let Justice Prevail Mock Trial Tournament** for secondary school students **March 2 & 10**. Other upcoming mock trial tournaments include: **York Region's Judge's Cup Competition**, the **Toronto Catholic District School Board Mock Trial Competition**, as well as the **Halton Mock Trial Tournament**, the **Simcoe-Muskoka Mock Trial Tournament**, the **Kitchener Mock Trial Tournament**, the **Oshawa Mock Trial Tournament** and **Manitoulin Island's** first ever **Mock Sentencing**.

The annual **Canadian Association for the Practical Study of Law in Education (CAPSLE)** conference will address "**Civil Rights and Education**" **April 29-May 2** in Montreal. Visit www.capsle.com for details.

The **Ontario Business Educators' Association Spring Conference** will take place in Toronto, **April 20 & 21**. Visit www.obea.on.ca for details.

The Law Society of Upper Canada hosted an **Honouring Ceremony and Talking Stick Presentation for Justice Harry LaForme** on **January 11th** in recognition of Justice LaForme's position as the first ever Aboriginal person appointed to a Canadian appellate Court.

Spring and summer **Law Society of Upper Canada Public Education** events include: **Black History Month**, February 22, **International Women's Day**, March 8, **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**, March 21, **National Holocaust Memorial Day**, April 26, **South Asian Heritage Month**, May 3, **National Aboriginal Day**, June 8, and a **Pride Week** event, June 15. Students are welcome. For further information, contact Rudy Ticzon, LSUC Community & Policy Advisor at rticzon@lsuc.on.ca.

Resource Links

CLEONet
www.cleonet.ca

An online clearinghouse of community legal education, CLEONet is an exciting new website produced by Community Legal Education Ontario (CLEO) with funding from the Law Foundation of Ontario. Unique in Canada, CLEONet is an easily searchable collection of hundreds of resources and news items, on a wide range of legal topics, and in a number of languages.

CLEONet not only helps legal clinics and community organizations find resources, share information, and work together online, but also increases access to justice for low-income people in Ontario. Community legal education information is also important for teachers working with students from disadvantaged communities and for educators who are trying to incorporate a greater understanding of legal rights into their course content.

The CLEONet site allows users to search by category, such as Education Law, Family Law, First Nations and Aboriginal Law and Criminal Law. Users can also browse the site by legal issues for specific communities or audiences, such as Children and Youth. CLEONet also includes an up-to-date news page that lists articles and events on a wide range of legal issues in Ontario and Canada. The site also includes instructions for how to get involved with the website by sharing your own community legal education resources, submitting your news and events and signing up to receive their free, monthly e-mail bulletin.

One of CLEO's mandates is to produce plain language legal material. These materials can be easily downloaded from the website for distribution to students.

Education Network of Ontario – The Charter Challenge
www.enoreo.on.ca

The Education Network of Ontario / Réseau éducatif de l'Ontario (ENO/REO) was founded in 1993 as a collaborative project between the Ontario Ministry of Education and Training and the Ontario Teachers' Federation, and was created to help teachers access the newest forms of information technology.

ENO now hosts a variety of education projects that support teaching and learning through the use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) and online tools and resources. ENO/REO delivers online resources, interactive learning environments and tools for students, teachers and members of the education community. Membership to ENO/REO is free for Ontario educators.

One of the projects now hosted by ENO/REO is the Charter Challenge, a program co-sponsored by the Ontario Bar Association. The Charter Challenge is an online simulation for secondary school students. It was created to help students gain a better understanding of Canada's *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* by involving students in a collaborative, decision-making situation based on a real-world scenario. The activities are tied directly to the curriculum. The activities take place over several weeks in the lead up to Law Day (held in April every year) and include the participation of lawyers who act as online mentors and resources to secondary school students. The final simulation is held on Law Day with the participation of courthouse staff across the province.



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ONTARIO JUSTICE EDUCATION NETWORK
RÉSEAU ONTARIEN D'ÉDUCATION JURIDIQUE

OJEN is a collaborative forum allowing leading institutions and individuals from legal, education, and other sectors to work together on initiatives designed to foster the public's understanding of our justice system. Its organizational structure is comprised of four components – Staff, Network, Working Board, and four Standing Committees.

Vision:

A civil society through education and dialogue.

Mission:

OJEN is dedicated to promoting understanding, education and dialogue to support a responsive and inclusive justice system.

Objectives:

1. Foster public understanding of the justice system and the challenges it faces.
2. Support and encourage the values of a public, transparent and accessible justice system through research and education.
3. Encourage dialogue between justice system participants and the public.
4. Develop, coordinate, or deliver public legal education information and programs to students and others.

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Ontario Justice Education Network
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ojen@lsuc.on.ca

Courtrooms & Classrooms is also available at www.ojen.ca

Please forward requests for copies, notices of upcoming events, submissions of interest to OJEN members and volunteers, change of address notifications, or *Courtrooms & Classrooms* feedback to Julie Petruzzellis, Communications & Program Manager at jpetruzz@lsuc.on.ca

Salle d'audience et salle de classe est aussi disponible en français.

Network

The Network is a collaborative forum serving as a communications and facilitation link for justice system participants, educators, community representatives and others with an interest in public legal educational activity. The Network has an advisory role to OJEN's Board and Executive Director. Participants include:

- The Chief Justice of Ontario (*Chair*) – *The Hon. R. Roy McMurtry*
- The Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Justice – *The Hon. Heather Forster Smith*
- The Chief Justice of the Ontario Court of Justice – *The Hon. Brian W. Lennox*
- The Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada – *as represented by Karen Bron*
- The Deputy Attorney General of Ontario – *Murray Segal*
- The Deputy Minister of Education – *as represented by Kit Rankin*
- The Chair of the Law Foundation of Ontario – *Larry Banack*
- The Treasurer of the Law Society of Upper Canada – *Gavin MacKenzie*
- The President of the Advocates' Society – *as represented by Wendy Matheson*
- The President of the County & District Law Presidents' Association – *Orm Murphy*
- The President of the Ontario Bar Association – *Heather McGee*
- The Ombudsman of Ontario – *André Marin*
- The Chair of Legal Aid Ontario – *Janet Leiper*
- The President of the Ontario History & Social Science Teachers' Association – *as represented by Shannon Simpson*
- The Executive Director of Community Legal Education Ontario – *Julie Mathews*
- The Education Director of the Canadian Civil Liberties Education Trust – *Danielle McLaughlin*
- The Executive Director of the Association of Community Legal Clinics of Ontario – *Lenny Abramowicz*
- The Institute for Catholic Education – *as represented by Angelo Bolotta*
- The Ontario Principals' Council – *as represented by Blair Hils*
- The Executive Director of the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres – *Sylvia Maracle*
- The ESL/ELD Resource Group of Ontario – *as represented by Neil McGrath*
- The Ontario Council of Law Deans – *as represented by Bruce Elman*
- The Executive Director of the Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants – *Debbie Douglas*
- The President of the Association of French Speaking Jurists of Ontario – *Daniel Boivin*

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