

2025 SPEAKERS



Kimberley Adams

Kimmy Adams has over 20 years of experience in the legal field, beginning her journey as a summer student legal assistant, which ignited her passion for the legal field. She earned her Paralegal license in 2016 and has since gained extensive knowledge in various areas of law.

Since 2021, Kimmy has been a dedicated and proud Ontario Public Servant, holding numerous roles such as Court and Client Representative, Caseworker, and Supervisor of Court Operations. Her commitment to furthering the standards of equity, diversity, and inclusion within the justice sector is evident through her active participation in several committees, including the Braiding Diversity into Justice Committee, the Waterloo Wellington Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, and the Court Services Divisional Anti-Racism Committee.



Alyssa Bain

Alyssa is a graduate of Wilfrid Laurier University (BA – Psychology, 1997) and the University of Ottawa (LLB, 2001).

She was called to the Ontario Bar in 2002 after completing her articling year with the Department of Justice in Toronto. She began her legal career as a Federal Prosecutor with the Public Prosecution Service in Kitchener. In that role she gained extensive criminal trial litigation prosecuting drug offences within the Waterloo Region. In 2019, Alyssa joined the Waterloo Region Crown Attorney's Office as an Assistant Crown Attorney, where she expanded her role in public service to prosecuting homicides, offences related to firearms, intimate partner violence, and sexual assault. She joined the Stratford Crown Attorney's office in 2022 where she currently works as an Assistant Crown Attorney.



Jennifer Bolduc

Jennifer began her career in Thunder Bay, Ontario with a full-service law firm but ultimately returned to Southern Ontario and commenced work in the Waterloo Region in 2014. After working other local firms where she developed a stellar relationship with her fellow lawyers and the courts, Jennifer joined McLeod Green Dewar & Associates in February of 2025. Jennifer practices solely in family law, including being a panel lawyer for the Office of the Children's Lawyer.

Effective April of 2025 Jennifer will be the President of the Waterloo Region Law Association (the first in the organization's history to be from the 2SLGBTQIA+ community). She also sits as a representative on the Courthouse Child Protection Committee and the Courthouse Community Resource and Liaison Committee which works to bring together stakeholders around the Region to identify and improve family law and associated services.

Jennifer has been an active volunteer in the Ontario Justice Education Network's Waterloo Braiding Diversity program which aims to connect marginalized and/or racialized young women (cis and trans) in high school with women working in the legal sector. Jennifer is a founding committee member of Braiding Diversity 2.0, a program geared towards post-secondary students.

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 being called to the Bar in 2010. In her spare time, Jennifer enjoys playing hockey and golf as well as attempting to keep up with her dogs on walks. Jennifer is a member of The Advocates' Society, the Family Lawyers Association, the Waterloo Region Law Association, the Ontario Bar Association, and the Canadian Bar Association.



Sarah Bott

Sarah (she/her) was born and raised in Kitchener-Waterloo. Sarah is a recent graduate of the University of British Columbia, where she obtained her J.D. in 2024. She is currently articling as a Judicial Law Clerk with the Superior Court of Justice. As a law student, Sarah volunteered for UBC's Law Students' Legal Advice Program, the BC Human Rights Drafting Project at the Community Legal Assistance Society, worked with the Alma Mater Society's Advocacy office, completed a placement at Rise Women's Legal Centre and spent her second-year summer working at Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP. Sarah is interested in pursuing a career in litigation. In her free time, Sarah loves spending time with her friends and family, playing the guitar (though still learning), and trying new food.



The Honourable Madam Justice Catrina Braid, Superior Court of Justice, Ontario

Justice Braid was appointed to the Superior Court of Justice in 2014 and presides in Kitchener, Ontario. Justice Braid hears criminal, civil and family cases. Justice Braid is one of the founding committee members of the Braiding Diversity into Justice program.



Sophie Chase

Sophie Chase (she/her) earned her law degree from the University of Victoria, located on the traditional territories of the lək'wəŋən and WSÁNEĆ peoples. Prior to law school, Sophie graduated from the University of Toronto where she obtained a BSc.

During law school, Sophie gained valuable experience at the UVic Law Centre (a legal clinic providing pro bono advice, assistance, and representation) as well as at a prominent union-side labour and employment firm in Vancouver, BC. These roles sparked Sophie's keen interest in the intersection between human rights law and the workplace.

In her free time, Sophie enjoys biking around the city, spending time with her partner at the pottery studio, or watching college quiz bowl.

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.

Cynthia Davis



Cynthia Davis is the Managing Partner at Giffen LLP. She is an experienced courtroom advocate. Her current practice focus is corporate commercial litigation and estate litigation matters including guardianships, passing of accounts, and trustee negligence disputes. Cynthia is effective at examining her clients' interests, both legal and practical, and developing a strategy that best achieves results for her clients in the most effective and timely manner.

Cynthia has a long-standing belief in giving back to her community for which she was awarded the 2016 Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest Woman of the Year Award in the professional category, the Coulter A. Osborne Award presented by the Waterloo Region Law Association in 2022, and the 2024 FEMPOWR Pillar of the Community Award.

Cynthia has volunteered on a number of Boards and is currently Chair of Governance on the St. Mary's General Hospital Foundation Board, is past Chair of Governance for St. Jerome's University, is a Past President of the WRLA Board of Trustees, and is past Chair of the Board of Trustees for KidsAbility School Authority.

Mentorship is also very important to Cynthia. She founded and was the first chair for FEMPOWR (Feminist Engagement and Mentorship for Practitioners of Waterloo Region) and she currently mentors young female lawyers in Waterloo Region through FEMPOWR as well as her own team at Giffen LLP.

Raman De Souza



Raman's parents moved to Canada from Punjab, India, in the 1980s, seeking better opportunities and a brighter future for their children, especially in education. Her father worked as a taxi driver, while her mother was employed in a factory. Through their hard work, they ensured a stable life for the family. After completing her undergraduate and post-graduate degrees, Raman attended the University of Leicester's law school in England, UK, earning her law degree and becoming a lawyer in 2015. She began her legal career as a legal aid family lawyer and has been practicing family law at Sorbara Law since 2018. Raman brings a diverse set of skills, knowledge, and expertise to her clients, guiding them through negotiation, mediation, arbitration, or litigation, depending on each case's needs. She represents clients in the Ontario Court of Justice, Superior Court of Justice, and the Court of Appeal.

Cassandra Dhanapala



Cassandra Dhanapala is in her final term at the University of Waterloo, completing an Honours B.A. in Legal Studies. Through her studies, she has recognized that autonomy is a privilege not equally shared, often due to historical injustices and social inequalities. She has come to see the law as a powerful tool for addressing these disparities, fueling her passion for further legal education. In the summer of 2024, Cassandra worked under Stephen Gleave, a Partner at DLA Piper LLP, gaining experience in Commercial Litigation. In September 2025, she will begin law school, where she aims to earn her J.D. She is eager to explore various areas of the law and immerse herself in a learning experience that will best equip her to advocate for and support others.



Denise Dwyer — **Keynote speaker**

Denise Dwyer is a graduate of the University of Windsor Law School and the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at University of Toronto. She has enjoyed a lengthy career in the public service dedicated to advancing social justice in both the legal and education sectors. Denise began her career as an Assistant Crown Attorney in Kitchener and Toronto and gained further expertise working as a federal prosecutor for Department of Justice conducting major drug and organised crime prosecutions. Her desire for new challenges resulted in a unique and interesting trajectory within the Ontario Public Service spanning from Legal Director roles in the Ministry of the Attorney General to her becoming the Assistant Deputy Minister of Indigenous Education and Wellbeing Division in the Ministry of Education. Denise's passion and vision for law transcended the boundaries of formal institutions. In 2006, she founded the Black Female Lawyers Network (BFLN, also known as "Sistahs-in-Law") by inviting women into her home to foster dialogue and mentorship. BFLN is now a thriving not-for-profit organization in its 19th year. Denise was recognized for improving the lives of young women and girls as a recipient of the 2017 YWCA Toronto Women of Distinction Award.



Misha Farrukh

Misha received her Honours Bachelors in Health Sciences from the University of Western Ontario and a minor in French. She then attended the University of Windsor, where she earned her J.D. in 2024. Misha is currently Articling with the Crown's Office for the Region of Waterloo.

Misha is passionate about giving back to the community and playing an active role in politics. She ran the Orphan Sponsorship Program during her undergrad and was the Vice-President of Finance for the Student Law Society at Windsor Law. Throughout law school, Misha volunteered and worked at the Legal Assistance of Windsor community clinic as a caseworker. Misha has formerly worked as a campaign organizer and as a constituency assistant for a federal member of parliament. Outside of work, Misha is an avid reader and a travel enthusiast!



Tory Harshman

Cst. Tory Harshman has been a police officer with Waterloo Regional Police since 2020. She is currently working in the Crime Suppression Analysis Response Unit (CSAR).

The CSAR Unit works within the downtown Kitchener core to solve problems within the community placing an emphasis on problem-oriented areas to suppress criminal activity in these areas. Cst. Harshman has a passion for making members of the community feel safe while keeping those individuals accountable who commit crimes. Outside of policing, Cst. Harshman has a passion for hockey and assists with female player hockey development.



Shermeen Khan

Shermeen is a dedicated advocate for accessibility and inclusivity. While earning a law degree from the University of Ottawa, she interned with the Canadian Human Rights Commission. She was called to the bar in 2014, having articulated in the area of family law. Currently, she serves as the manager of Accessible Learning Services at Conestoga College, where she champions equal opportunities for students with diverse needs and abilities. In addition, she is a member of The Kitchener Record's Community Editorial Board, writing about her experiences as a blind working professional, parent, and engaged citizen. She speaks regularly about the importance of both accessibility and preparedness for post-secondary education. Outside of work, she enjoys choral and Broadway music, is a lover of books, and savors the perfect pairing of wine and cheese-when not dreaming of her next nap.



Jennifer Mohomed

Jennifer is an associate lawyer with several years of experience in civil and corporate litigation, particularly within the areas of estates and power of attorney litigation, employment law, real estate, insurance defence litigation and construction law.

Jennifer began her career as a lawyer in 2007 when she was called to the Bar in Trinidad and Tobago, where practiced for several years, both as an Associate – Litigation/Dispute Resolution and as in-house Legal Counsel – Refining, Marketing and Corporate at an integrated State Oil and Gas Company that focused on both the up-stream and downstream oil and gas markets.

Jennifer then took a hiatus from her career to focus on moving to and settling her family in Abu Dhabi, in the United Arab Emirates; a career change that she managed for almost 10 years.

Jennifer has since re-settled her family in Kitchener, Ontario, and has successfully resumed her career as an associate lawyer with the firm of GGFI Law LLP, again practising in the field of civil litigation, with a particular focus on estate and power of attorney litigation, employment law, insurance defence litigation and construction law.

Jennifer has successfully represented clients at all levels of court, including the Court of Appeal, administrative tribunals and in mediation and arbitration. With a passion for dispute resolution, Jennifer is committed to ensuring successful outcomes with her clients.

Jennifer obtained her LL.B. with honours before completing a Master of Laws in Corporate and Commercial Law, from the University of the West Indies, before being called to the Ontario Bar in 2019.

Jennifer recently volunteered and was a member of the organizing committee of the Braiding Justice Into Diversity 2.0 Initiative – Career Modelling in the Legal Sector, held on March 04 2025, a similar event that targeted under-graduate students at the University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University.



Shirin Mollayeva

Shirin is a graduate of the Lincoln Alexander School of Law, Toronto Metropolitan University. Prior to law school, she studied biology at the University of Toronto and worked in health research focused on brain injury.

As a law student, Shirin gained experience in criminal, family and administrative law, and class actions, working at Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services, the Ministry of the Solicitor General, and Windsor Law's Class Action Clinic.

In her free time, Shirin enjoys arts & crafts, family time, and rewatching her favourite shows and movies.



Nicole Morrison

Cst. Nicole Morrison graduated from Wilfrid Laurier University in 2018 with an undergraduate degree in Communication studies. During her time at Laurier she was team captain for the Varsity Women's basketball team and was awarded female athlete of the year in her last year. Nicole continued to support the Laurier community by working as a special constable at the University before getting hired in 2019 with the Waterloo Regional Police service where she is currently a patrol officer in the Kitchener area. Nicole most recently represented her police service in the 2023 World Police and Fire games where she won gold medals in the powerlifting event and set new world records. Nicole has always had a passion for community work especially working with female youth, by being a volunteer coach for girls basketball in the Kitchener Waterloo region. Becoming a police officer has allowed Nicole to continue to serve her community in a meaningful way and involve herself in volunteer work related to youth outreach.



Najla Nureddin

Najla is a Library Technician at the Waterloo Region Law Association. She received her Bachelor of Environmental Studies from the University of Waterloo in 2017. Najla worked for five years as a mapping and data management technician at a consulting firm. She specialized in modelling soil and groundwater contamination across southern Ontario. In 2022, she changed her career path and began working in libraries. She received her Library and Information Technician Diploma in 2024. She is a member of the Canadian Association of Law Libraries, the Toronto Association of Law Libraries, the Ontario Library Technician Association, and the Ontario Courthouse Libraries Association.



Kerri Rice

Kerri Rice is currently a Supervisor of Court Operations at the Waterloo Region Courthouse. Kerri oversees operations in the Civil, Small Claims, Estates, Enforcement, SCJ Criminal, Exhibits, and Finance areas of the courthouse. Kerri has always had an interest in the Criminal Justice System. She has a Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree in Criminal Justice and Public Policy from the University of Guelph, and obtained her Paralegal licence in 2020. Kerri started working for the Court Services Division in 2021 and has pursued a variety of positions since then, including Administrative Assistant and Group Leader. In her personal life Kerri enjoys photography, true-crime podcasts, reading, crafting, and spending time finding new coffee shops and hiking trails with her partner and their dog Hemi!



Amanda Rivera

Amanda is currently Articling with the Crown's Office for the Region of Waterloo. She is Canadian Born with a Filipino heritage. Amanda earned her Undergraduate and Law School degrees through the Wilfrid Laurier University and the University of Sussex Partnership program, to which she remains actively involved in by volunteering with both of her Alma Matters. In her spare time, she enjoys playing volleyball and discovering new dining spots.



Jennifer Roggeman

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.



Nazira Safi

Nazira Safi first worked as a defence lawyer, advocating for the rights of women and children in Afghanistan.

She later served as a judge in the Family Court, the Supreme Court, and the Commercial Court until August 2021.

She holds a Master's degree in Commercial Law.

After the Taliban regained power, she left Afghanistan and now lives in Kitchener, Ontario.



Armin Sethi

Armin did her B.A. Honours at York University, specializing in Criminology and International Development Studies, her J.D. at Windsor Law, and her LL.M. at Osgoode Hall Law School. She was called to the Bar in 2013, after articling at Crown Law Office - Criminal. She started at the Kitchener Crown Attorney's Office in 2013 and became the Acting Deputy Crown Attorney in August 2022. She is currently the Deputy Crown Attorney for the Region of Waterloo. She specializes in mental health, youth matters, and hate crime, and works on major prosecutions and warrants. Outside of law, she writes screenplays with her sister, dances, and enjoys sports.



Maheen Sherwani

Maheen graduated from the University of Guelph with a bachelor's degree in political science in 2024. She began her career with the Waterloo Regional Police Service in February of 2024 as a part-time Special Constable. In November of 2024 she received a permanent full-time position. In her role as a Special Constable, she executes arrest warrants and DNA warrants, takes fingerprints, completes surety checks, prisoner transport, completes court dockets and ensures public safety in the courtroom. In short, her main role as a Special Constable is managing and monitoring prisoner safety.



Pia Williams

Pia Williams has over 20 years of experience as a librarian working in various libraries, including over ten years as a law librarian. Currently, Pia is the Library Manager and Executive Director of the Waterloo Region Law Association (WRLA). She received her Honours Bachelor of Arts in History and Politics from the University of Toronto, and her Master of Library and Information Studies (MLIS) from Western University. Prior to joining the WRLA, Pia was a librarian at Mohawk College, a prospect researcher for St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton, a technology and systems librarian and Laurier Liaison librarian for the Brantford Public Library, a law librarian for the Hamilton Law Association and a law librarian for Torys LLP. Pia has been the Library Manager and Executive Director of the WRLA since 2018.