



**FOR
INFORMATION**

PUBLIC

OPEN SESSION

TO: Academic Board

SPONSOR: Trevor Young, Vice-President & Provost
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PRESENTER: See Sponsor
CONTACT INFO:

DATE: April 11, 2024 for April 18, 2024

AGENDA ITEM: 6

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Faculty of Law's Academic Plan 2023-2028

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

Divisional academic plans are considered by the Planning and Budget Committee and the Academic Board for information and feedback. Prior to approval by the Provost and presentation to the Committee, it is expected that the relevant divisional Council would endorse the academic plan in principle. (Planning & Budget Committee, Terms of Reference, Section 4.1).

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. **Planning and Budget Committee [for information and feedback] (April 9, 2024)**
2. Academic Board [for information and feedback] (April 18, 2024)

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

The Academic Plan was endorsed in principle by the Faculty of Law's Council on February 28, 2024.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The Faculty of Law's Academic Plan 2023-2028 was developed through planning and consultation sessions with the Academic Planning Committee and divisional leadership, faculty members, students, staff, and alumni.

This plan was created in line with the Guidelines on Divisional Academic Planning, which were confirmed by the Executive Committee on February 9, 2015. The Faculty of Law’s previous plan ended in 2022, and this will be the first plan developed under the current dean.

The Academic Plan identifies three high-level themes with related initiatives:

1. JD and Graduate Legal Education: Preparing Lawyers and Leaders for a Changing World

- Attracting Outstanding Students
- Providing a Transformative Learning Environment
- Providing a Rewarding and Supportive Student Experience

2. Research/Scholarship: Transformative Research and Intellectual Leadership

- Develop and implement a Strategic Research Plan
- Strategically (Re) Building Opportunities for Engagement
- Purposive Mentoring and Career Development

3. Impact: Influence, Visibility, and Engagement with the World

- Harnessing Opportunities for Visibility and Engagement

A fourth theme, Inclusive Excellence, has goals embedded within each of the three themes:

- “Inclusive excellence cuts across and informs all aspects of what we do at the Faculty”

The Academic Plan was considered by the Provost’s Advisory Group on February 14, 2024.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no immediate financial implications at the point of adopting a new academic plan. As the plan moves into the implementation phase, new initiatives will be brought forward and financial implications will be reviewed as part of the University's established budget planning and approval processes.

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for information and feedback only.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

- Item Cover Sheet – Faculty of Law’s Academic Plan 2023-2028
- Item – Faculty of Law’s Academic Plan 2023-2029

2023-2028

Academic Plan

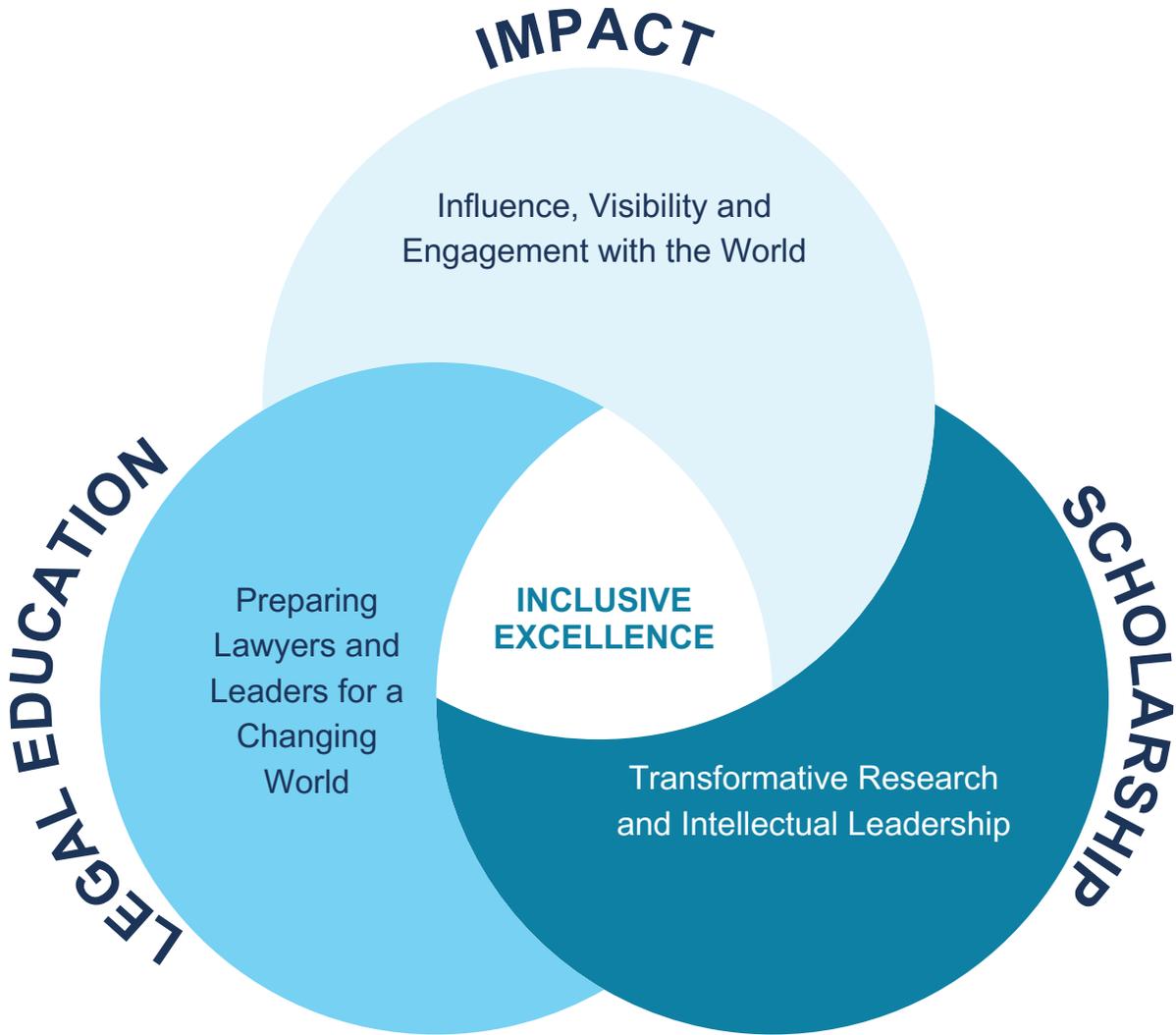


Land Acknowledgement

We wish to acknowledge the land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years, it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous Peoples from across Turtle Island, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to learn, work, and build community together, on this land.

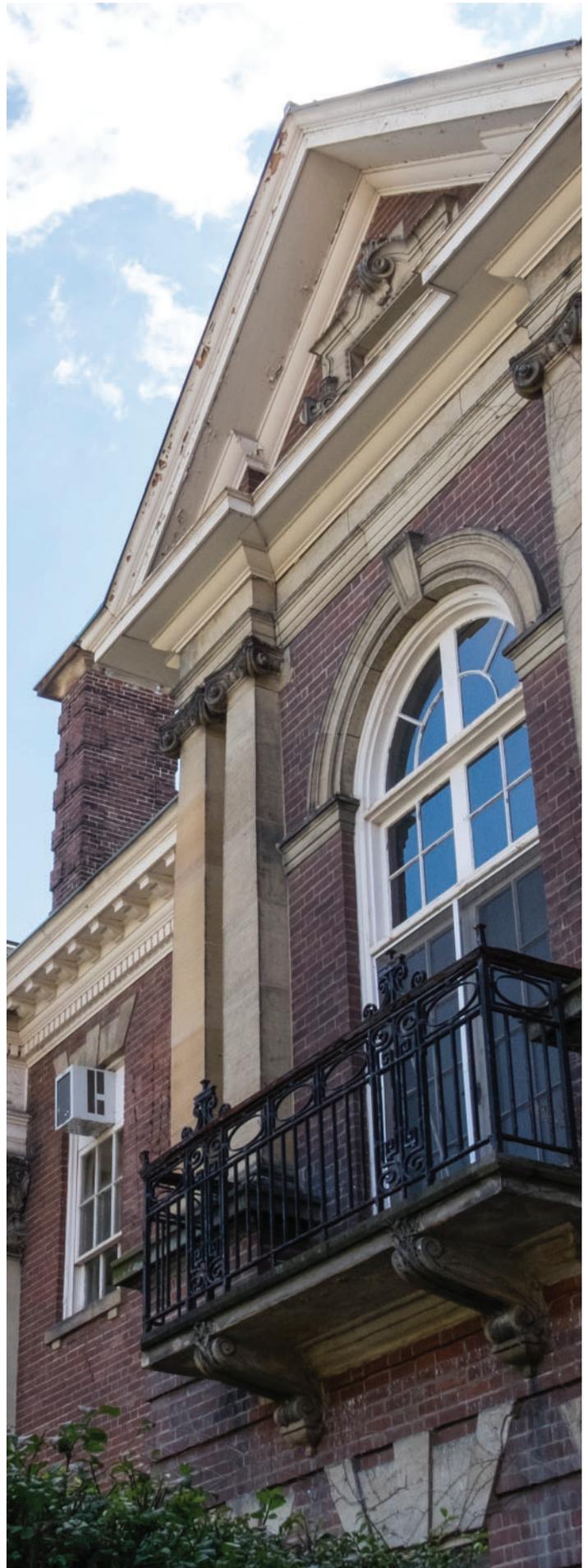
The relationship between First Nations, Inuit and Métis people and the legal profession has been filled with challenges, struggles and painful experiences for Indigenous Peoples. There is much in telling the truth of this history, to help us teach and practise in respectful ways that encourage an understanding of culture, rights, and reconciliations.

Let us reflect on how we might individually and altogether contribute to moving forward on this path of reconciliation.



University of Toronto Faculty of Law

For over a century, the University of Toronto's Faculty of Law has understood that law is more than a profession—it has a deep and broad impact, shaping everything we do. The law can help keep us safe, support innovation, contribute to economic prosperity, strengthen democracy and protect the most vulnerable. That is why we focus on preparing students to become world-class lawyers and some of Canada's most impactful leaders in every field and profession.





Mission

To lead through transformational legal education and research, positioning our students and scholars to excel in a rapidly changing world, while providing impactful leadership and catalyzing positive change.

Vision

A global leader in legal education and scholarship, committed to inclusive excellence and grounded in a strong sense of community and belonging. By upholding academic excellence, celebrating diversity, fostering interdisciplinary connections, embracing innovation, and instilling ethical responsibility, we aim to enable our faculty, students and alumni to help shape the future of law and address the dynamic challenges of our time.

Preparing Lawyers and Leaders for a Changing World

Reimagine our curricular and extracurricular offerings to provide an unrivalled student experience centered on transformative classroom, clinical and experiential learning that equips extraordinary students to thrive in and lead change.

Transformative Research and Intellectual Leadership

Develop and implement concrete strategies to foster outstanding, transformative scholarly achievement, innovation and intellectual leadership.

Influence, Visibility and Engagement with the World

Leverage and expand the Faculty's impact through intentional steps to promote visibility and engagement with academic and broader legal, policy and public audiences.



Message from the Dean

U of T Law's distinctive scholarly ethos and approach to legal education are fueled by rigorous, analytical, critical, cross-category and cross-disciplinary thinking, undergirded by a commitment to inclusive excellence and a strong sense of community.

Our Faculty is a place of encounter—between extraordinary people, ideas, and the world around us. It is this coming together that makes U of T Law what it is: an intellectual home as well as a global force. Being part of one of the world's leading research-intensive universities and located in one of the world's most diverse cities, U of T Law is Canada's global law school.

The [2023-2028 Academic Plan](#) builds on the conviction that these traits of our scholarly and learning community have never been more important than at the present juncture, when societies need rigorous as well as agile and versatile legal professionals and thinkers.

Global crises intersect with manifold domestic challenges. The rule of law—foundational to democratic societies—is coming under pressure domestically and internationally, at the very same time as rapid technological change, notably generative artificial intelligence (AI), is impacting the law and the legal profession. Rarely have so many challenges converged, testing our ability to plan under conditions of both complexity and uncertainty, and to ensure that individuals, institutions and societies can thrive. Law, and those who teach and work with law, play a crucial role at this time of profound transformation.

The [2023-2028 Academic Plan](#) will guide our work to further enrich three main drivers of our collective footprint – *Preparing Lawyers and Leaders for a Changing World*, *Transformative Research and Intellectual Leadership and Influence*, *Visibility and Engagement with the World*. The goals and objectives outlined in this Plan are animated by the conviction that true excellence is inclusive—it flourishes in an environment that seeks out and embraces the broadest range of perspectives. Our overarching ambition is to provide leadership through innovative scholarship and JD and graduate legal education, fuelled by the diversity and vibrancy of our community and by engagement with the broadest range of perspectives and ideas in our research, teaching and learning environments.

As we look to the future, we are at once holding fast to the Faculty's hallmark scholarly ethos and approach to legal education and committed to continuous reflection, to engaging with and inviting feedback from our diverse community, and to being responsive to changing needs, perspectives and opportunities.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Brunnée', written in a cursive style.

Jutta Brunnée, FRSC
Dean, University of Toronto Faculty of Law
University Professor and James Marshall Tory Dean's Chair
Associate Member, Institut de droit international
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Canada's Global Law School



1st

in Canada

Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2024 by subject

Top 25

Law schools in the world

Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2024 by subject

\$1.7M

Research Funding 2022/2023

20

Endowed Faculty Chairs

4

Canada Research Chairs (CRC)

13

Combined Degree Programs (JD)

5

Collaborative Programs (Graduate)

2

International Dual Degree Programs

8

University Professor Appointments (U of T)

8

Faculty Journals and Publications

16

Public Interest Programs and In-house Legal Clinics

53

Endowed Fellowships (JD and Graduate)

1,034

Articles and book chapters by U of T Law faculty (2018-2023)

116

Books written or edited by U of T Law faculty (2018-2023)

2,281

JD applicants Fall 2023 admission

3.9/4.0

Median GPA JD program entry

4

Graduate Programs LLM, GPLLM, MSL and SJD

5

Master's degree (LLM) areas of focus

3

Executive Program (GPLLM) areas of specialization

82%

First in family to attend law school*

33%

Born outside of Canada*

45

Prestigious external doctoral awards in the past decade

45

SJDs (2018-2024) employed in university teaching positions

64%

Parents(s)/guardian(s) born outside of Canada*

99.5%

JD articling placement rate

29

Countries represented across our Graduate Programs

*JD First-Year Class Graduating in 2026

Preparing Lawyers and Leaders for a Changing World

Our Faculty

Scholarly and student excellence, grounded in a strong sense of community, are the foundation of everything we do at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law.

Excellence and diversity—of thinking and lived experience—go together. Our vision of inclusive excellence cuts across and informs all aspects of what we do at the Faculty—teaching, research and scholarship, clinical and experiential learning, student support and extra-curricular programming and opportunities.

Our reputation as a site for excellence in teaching and research rests on the caliber of our professoriate. Our world-leading scholars are the recipients of major research awards, advisors to expert panels and governments, authors of acclaimed and debate-shaping books, and contributors and editors to top-ranked journals worldwide. They work in every conceivable area of law. They take a wide range of cutting-edge legal and interdisciplinary approaches, expanding the world of ideas, fostering legal change, and anchoring a vibrant intellectual community and learning experience. This innovative, cross-category thinking is what U of T Law is known for in Canada and around the world.

Upholding the highest standards of academic rigor and intellectual inquiry, we foster a unique, supportive and dynamic learning environment where students from all backgrounds are consistently challenged to think critically and innovatively.

Students at U of T Law engage not only in a rigorous curriculum and academic research, they are also active in a variety of applied settings, enabling them to deepen and enrich their academic experience and understanding of law's role and functioning, and positioning them to contribute in innovative ways to the resolution of legal and social problems.



PHOTO BY ALICE XUE PHOTOGRAPHY

The Honourable Anita Anand (LLM 1996), President of the Treasury Board and Oakville MP in conversation with U of T Law students.



The Faculty's robust clinical and experiential offerings are designed to reinforce and extend the academic legal education we prize, fostering rigorous, analytical, critical, cross-category and cross-disciplinary thinking. An array of student-focused staff and offices are available to support learners at every step of their law school journey, working to foster a strong, collaborative sense of community and belonging.



U of T Law has a long-standing commitment to addressing the inequities in the legal profession through a comprehensive, needs-based financial aid program and targeted programs such as LAWS (Law in Action Within Schools), Canada's leading law school youth outreach and access program, and Black Future Lawyers, established to respond to the underrepresentation of Black law students, and Downtown Legal Services. We prepare our graduates to become exemplary leaders, at home and abroad in the legal profession, the judiciary, public service, academia, business and beyond.



Director Prasanna Balasundaram (far left), with clinic lawyers, staff and summer caseworkers in front of the community legal clinic Downtown Legal Services, located in the Fasken Building on Spadina Avenue.

PHOTO BY NINA HAIKARA

JD Program



ATTRACT AND
SUPPORT
EXTRAORDINARY
STUDENTS

PROVIDE A
TRANSFORMATIVE
LEARNING
ENVIRONMENT

ENSURE A
REWARDING AND
SUPPORTIVE
STUDENT
EXPERIENCE

Attract & Support Extraordinary Students

Our students, who demonstrate excellence through academic achievement, leadership, intellectual curiosity and ambition, are essential to our remarkable learning environment. Attracting and supporting a diverse cohort of extraordinary students will continue to be a priority for the Faculty. In keeping with the premise that diversity is a key driver of excellence, our recruitment efforts go hand-in-hand with initiatives aimed at ensuring accessibility for top students from diverse backgrounds and diverse experiences.



Provide a Transformative Learning Environment

In order to position our graduates to thrive in and lead in a changing world, we will leverage our academic approach to legal education to train agile, versatile, adaptable yet rigorous thinkers. In pursuit of this goal, we will be guided by objectives designed to ensure continued support for diverse, innovative approaches to teaching and learning in and beyond our classrooms.



JD students participate in a Q&A session with retired Supreme Court of Canada Justice Rosalie Silberman Abella (LLB 1970, Hon. LLD 1990), Distinguished Jurist-in-Residence at the Faculty of Law (photos by Polina Teif).

Ensure a Rewarding and Supportive Student Experience

Our students are part of a closely-knit and supportive community. U of T Law will sustain and enhance this uniquely vibrant experience.



Established by the LGBT Purge Fund in 2021 and named in honour of acclaimed class action litigator, R. Douglas Elliott (JD1982), the R. Douglas Elliott Fellowship supports a JD or graduate student's work with public interest-oriented LGBTQ+ organizations. Photo left, 2023 Elliott Fellow Jarren Fefer (JD 2025) worked over the summer with Egale, Canada's leading organization for 2SLGBTQI people (photo of Fefer by Betty Kassa; photo of Elliott by Paul Terefenko).

Graduate Programs



Attract and Support Extraordinary Graduate Students

The University of Toronto provides an outstanding, diverse, inter-disciplinary and supportive intellectual environment for domestic and international students pursuing rigorous graduate education in law. Attracting and supporting a diverse cohort of extraordinary graduate students is essential to maintaining and enhancing this environment. Our objectives are designed to advance this goal.



Provide a Transformative Graduate Student Experience

Our ambition is to enhance our position as a national and international leader in graduate legal education, by providing a transformational graduate student experience to train extraordinary lawyers, academics and thought leaders for a changing world.



Yukiko Kobayashi Lui is a doctoral candidate (SJD) with a collaborative specialization in sexual diversity studies at U of T's Mark S. Bonham Centre. Her doctoral project is about the law and politics of legal relationship recognition, particularly as related to economic dependence, social assistance, and unwaged work during and after relationships (photo by Dewey Chang).

Leverage and Refine Existing Graduate Programs

U of T Law is committed to ensuring that our graduate programs are responsive to the myriad of reasons students choose to undertake graduate studies in law.



Transformative Research and Intellectual Leadership



Develop and Implement a Strategic Research Plan

The Faculty will develop and implement a Strategic Research Plan, designed to enhance support for ambitious, boundary-pushing faculty scholarship through all stages of the research cycle. The Plan will encompass multiple interlocking initiatives, to support faculty research from the incubation and funding stages to the dissemination, promotion and impact stages, rising to the challenges of a changing research environment. These initiatives will boost the Faculty's capacity to provide thought-leadership on fast-moving challenges, like rapid technological development and generative AI.



U of T Law has been ahead of the curve with a group of world-renowned scholars leading pivotal debates on AI and the law.



Enhance Inclusive Excellence Across our Research Environment

Inclusive excellence is integral to the Faculty's endeavours across its research, teaching and learning environments.



Professors Abdi Aidid and Benjamin Alarie, Osler Chair in Business Law received the Association of American Publishers (AAP) PROSE Award for Legal Studies and Criminology for *The Legal Singularity: How Artificial Intelligence Can Make Law Radically Better* (supplied photos).



Professor Douglas Sanderson (*Amo Binashii*), Prichard Wilson Chair in Law and Public Policy, has received numerous accolades for his co-authored book, *Valley of the Birdtail: An Indian Reserve, a White Town, and the Road to Reconciliation*. (supplied photo).



Loveland Chair in Indigenous Law, Professor John Borrows, received the Charles Taylor Prize for Excellence in Policy Research (photo by Alice Xue Photography).



Professor Gillian Hadfield named recipient of President's Impact Award and U of T's Carolyn Tuohy Impact on Public Policy Award. She was also named a CIFAR AI Chair and a Schmidt Sciences AI2050 Senior Fellow (supplied photo).



Professor Yasmin Dawood received the Legal Excellence Award from the South Asian Bar Association of Toronto (SABA) (supplied photo).



Professor Brenda Cossman, Associate Dean, Research, honoured with U of T's Berry Smith Award for Doctoral Supervision (supplied photo).

Strategically (Re) Build Opportunities for Engagement

Building on its long tradition of rigorous intellectual engagement across areas, disciplines, perspectives and approaches, the Faculty will continue to foster a dynamic intellectual community.



SELECT BOOKS BY FACULTY 2021 - 2023



The A.I. Taxman is part of UDocs's Continuing Professional Education (CPE) program and features Professor Benjamin Alarie, Osler Chair in Business Law, who launched legal-tech startup. The purpose of the film is to provide legal and accounting professionals with a better understanding of the fundamentals of artificial intelligence, including ethics, security of information, productivity and efficiency (film premiere and discussion at U of T's Isabel Bader Theatre, Sept. 29, 2022, photo by Dewey Chang).

Influence, Visibility and Engagement with the World



2022 GRAND MOOTERS WITH MEMBERS OF THE PANEL: THE HON. JUSTICE JULIE THORBURN, COURT OF APPEAL FOR ONTARIO; THE HON. JUSTICE RITA J. MAXWELL, ONTARIO SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE; AND THE HON. JUSTICE LORNE SOSSIN, COURT OF APPEAL FOR ONTARIO / PHOTO BY NINA HAIKARA

Leverage an Impactful Community: Faculty, Staff, Students and Alumni

By virtue of the scholarship and ideas we generate, the JD and graduate legal education we provide, and the sense of community we inspire, our Faculty is an intellectual home as well as an intellectual force. We aim to be visible and engaged with the world and to help shape the central debates and tackle the challenges of our time. Our extraordinary scholars, staff, students and alumni turn the analytical, critical and interdisciplinary thinking that we prize into impact—across the country and around the globe. Ours is an impactful community, which the components of this Academic Plan are designed to leverage.



Graduate Amma Anaman (JD/MBA 2012), Managing Director & Associate General Counsel, NASDAQ in New York City, was a guest speaker at the annual JD/MBA reception for current program students and alumni (photo courtesy of U of T's Rotman School of Management).

U of T Law Alumni Reunion Class Dinner is held for honoured years (every 5 years) during the U of T Alumni Reunion (photo by Alice Xue Photography).

Prospective law students attend the Black Future Lawyers (BFL) annual conference, March 2023. With the support of the Black Law Students' Association (BLSA), the University established BFL program in the 2019/2020 academic year. In 2021, 14 leading law firms—Blakes, BLG, Cassels, Davies, Dentons, Fasken, Goodmans, Gowling WLG, McCarthy Tétrault, McMillan, Norton Rose Fulbright, Osler, Stikeman Elliott and Torys—announced a combined commitment to provide \$1.75 million in operational funding to BFL over the next 10 years (photo courtesy of BFL).

Harness Opportunities for Visibility and Engagement

The Faculty of Law is uniquely placed to help tackle the converging challenges of our time. Over the next five years, we will continue to ensure that our expertise, ideas and curriculum project outward, and that the Faculty is actively and visibly engaged with academic counterparts, with legal and policy actors and with community and public interest groups at the local, national and global levels.



University Professor David Dyzenhaus, Albert Abel Chair, received the highest research honour awarded by SSHRC, the Gold Medal (supplied photo).

The Honourable Arif Virani (LLB 1998), Member of Parliament for Parkdale—High Park, Toronto and Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, in conversation with Dean and University Professor Jutta Brunnée during a Q&A with students (photo by Alice Xue Photography). / Advertising for Law in a Changing World, the biannual conference hosted by the Faculty. The topic in 2023 was The Climate Crisis (photo by Lewis Parsons on Unsplash).

The Faculty has a long tradition of transversal and interdisciplinary thinking, driven by world leading faculty, extraordinary students and remarkable staff. Together, we push forward debates and advance the world's thinking about the big issues of our time.

Preparing Lawyers and Leaders
for a Changing World

Transformative Research and
Intellectual Leadership

Influence, Visibility and
Engagement with the World

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