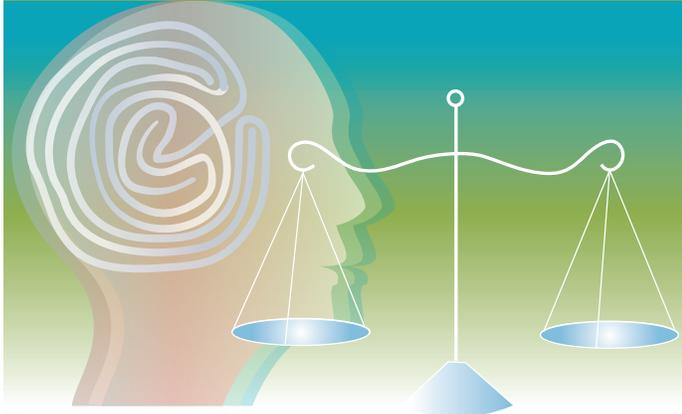


# "Ambiguous Crossroads": Persons with Mental Health Problems and the Criminal Justice System



## The program will include :

### Living in the Community

This module will offer an overview of the history of the ways in which the criminal justice system has responded to the needs of persons with mental health problems and will scrutinize both contemporary reality and future aspirations.

A panel comprising persons with lived experience and representatives of the mental health and justice communities will review some of the major issues that remain to be confronted in the region.

### First Contact with the Justice System: Providing Police Services for Persons with Mental Health Problems

This section will feature serving police officers who will survey many contemporary policing policies, practices and problems. Urban and rural issues and responses

- Emerging understandings of persons with mental health problems and the adaptation of police attitudes and services
- Ensuring respectful and peaceful outcomes
- Protecting the rights of suspects, witnesses and victims with mental health problems
- Developing awareness of the mental health dimensions of providing police services.

### Role Expectations for Crown and Defence Counsel

- Crown Attorneys will discuss: how discretionary decisions reflect mental health considerations; how to interact with unrepresented persons who have a mental illness; how to ensure respectful dealings with affected accused and witnesses; providing continuity between mileposts in the justice system; adapting relevant directives to the context of the accused/witness with mental illness; thinking about ensuring effective judicial interim release for accused with mental illness; the sentencing process for accused with mental health problems.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2013

Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University  
Halifax, Nova Scotia

This conference is intended to bring together many of the actors responsible for ensuring equitable treatment for persons with mental health problems who come into contact with the criminal justice system. As many challenging cases have revealed and as the ratification by Canada of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities mandates, this is a time for change. Persons with lived experience and their advocates, police officers, lawyers and judges, among others, will collaborate to present and discuss the latest developments and preferred practices at the often difficult intersection of criminal justice and mental health. The goals of the conference include updating attendees, fostering discussion and enabling participants to emerge with better tools and firmer links to other justice, health and social service professionals and to the community.

- Defence Counsel will canvass: taking instructions from clients who are experiencing mental health crises; establishing client service standards for the mentally distressed client; strategic planning for the client with mental health problems: NCR or other use of mental health evidence; effective counsel case law and obligations to the accused with mental health problems; special issues in procedure and practice.

### Courtroom Dilemmas: The Judicial Role at the Junction of Criminal Justice and Mental Health

- Judges and Mental Health Professionals will explore: providing fair and expeditious proceedings for accused/witnesses who have ongoing mental health difficulties; findings of contempt or judicial empathy; the use of amicus curiae; avoiding prejudice and suppressing stigma; sentencing conundrums; judicial recommendations regarding the needs of accused and offenders with mental health problems; reports or assessments: standards for ordering, monitoring their production and expectations for content and counsel analysis.

### Putting (Some of) The Pieces Together: The Conference Wrap-Up

- A Representative Panel will examine: what we have learned and what we need to do or how to implement the lessons of the conference; more effective collaboration in the face of a history of silos; maintaining vigilance about the mental health of justice participants; unanswered questions and ongoing challenges.
- The Audience will be encouraged to pose questions and to make comments.

### Who will attend?

**Judges • Adjudicators • Crown and Defence Counsels  
Law enforcement professionals • Mental Health Providers  
Legal and Mental Health Professionals • Court Administrators.**

## Program Organizing Committee

### Co-Chairs

**Judge Anne Derrick**, Provincial Court of Nova Scotia, Chair, *Hyde Inquiry*, Halifax

**Justice Joel Fichaud**, Nova Scotia Court of Appeal, Halifax

**H. Archibald Kaiser**, Professor, Schulich School of Law and Department of Psychiatry, Dalhousie University, Halifax

### Members

**Constable Michael Alford**, RCMP Court Liaison Officer, Kings County, Nova Scotia

**Staff Sergeant John D. Ennis**, Advisory NCO Southwest Nova (District), New Minas, Kings County, Nova Scotia

**Constable David Fairfax**, Community Safety Resource Officer for the RCMP in Nova Scotia

**Ms. Emma Halpern**, Equity Officer, Nova Scotia Barristers' Society, Halifax

**Deputy Chief Bill Moore**, Halifax Regional Police, Halifax

**Beth Symes**, C.M., LSM, Symes Street Millard, LLP, Toronto

REGISTRATION FORM

## Persons with Mental Health Problems and the Criminal Justice System

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2013**

**SCHULICH SCHOOL OF LAW, DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY**

**HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA**

*TO REGISTER, please complete and return this form to:*

CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE  
Faculty of Law, University of Montreal  
PO Box 6128, Station "Centre Ville", 3101 Chemin de la tour, Room 3421  
Montreal, Quebec, H3C 3J7,

Telephone: (514) 343-6157 — Fax: (514) 343-6296

E-mail: [ciaj@ciaj-icaj.ca](mailto:ciaj@ciaj-icaj.ca) — URL: <http://www.ciaj-icaj.ca>

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title to appear on name tag: \_\_\_\_\_

Court/organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

YES I will attend \_\_\_\_\_ NO I will not attend \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in the documentation distributed at the Seminar

REGISTRATION FEE (includes materials, and lunch): \$ 200

Payment by:      Cheque \_\_\_\_\_ Invoice \_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_ Mastercard \_\_\_\_\_ AmEx \_\_\_\_\_

Account No. \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any dietary restrictions? Which? \_\_\_\_\_

**ACCOMMODATION:** A block of rooms has been reserved at The Lord Nelson, 1515 South Park Street, Halifax, NS, H3J 2L2 Tel: 1-800-565-2020 or 902-423-5130, [book@lordnelsonhotel.ca](mailto:book@lordnelsonhotel.ca), <http://www.lordnelsonhotel.ca> at \$109 single or double occupancy (taxes not included). **Participants outside of Halifax are required to make their own hotel reservations before January 15, 2013 and refer to CIAJ for group name or code # 27038 to take advantage of this rate.**

**CANCELLATION FEE:** Requests for reimbursement must be submitted in writing to CIAJ seven (7) days prior to the event. An administrative fee of 10% will be withheld on cancellations submitted 7 days prior to the event. Except as noted, fees will not be reimbursed. Another participant may be designated as substitute.

***Please register as soon as possible!***