

Megan Longley, QC

6344 Liverpool Street, Halifax, NS B3L 1Y2

902-718-7832

meganalongley@gmail.com



Leader in innovative access to justice and collaborative system change.

Skills

- Strategic Planning
- Justice and Community Relationship Builder
- Sound Operational Management
- Innovative Service Development
- Collaborative leadership
- Clear Communicator

Experience

DECEMBER 2016 – PRESENT

Chief Executive Officer / Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission, Halifax

- Responsible for the efficient and effective operation of Nova Scotia Legal Aid.
- Accountable for a budget in excess of \$28 Million, and a staff of approximately 200.
- Following Strategic Plan set by Commission, develops annual plans for enhancement of service and operations.
- Liaises with Federal and Provincial Governments, all levels of Judiciary, and Community Stakeholders to promote the work of NSLA and identify and eliminate gaps.

SEPTEMBER 2015 – DECEMBER 2016

Service Delivery Director / Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission, Halifax

- Managed and recommended services provided by the Commission.
- Evaluated and reported on services offered.
- Managed provision of Telephone Duty Counsel; Court-ordered Counsel Applications; Disbursements; Prisoner Appeals; Enhanced Duty Counsel; Summary Advice Counsel among other initiatives.
- Worked closely with the Executive Director, Executive, Commission, and external justice partners.

JANUARY 2011 – AUGUST 2015

Managing Lawyer / Nova Scotia Legal Aid – Youth Justice Office, Halifax

- Represented youth charged with criminal and drug offences, and youth facing social justice issues.
- Managed lawyers and staff working in the Halifax Youth Court.
- Responsible for all administrative duties involving the office, accounts, and staffing.
- Responsible for arranging, issuing, and monitoring Legal Aid Certificates.
- Responsible for implementation of NSLAC's Strategic Plan, including development of office-wide youth social justice practice.

SEPTEMBER 1999 – DECEMBER 2010

Staff Lawyer / Nova Scotia Legal Aid, Halifax Regional Municipality

- Trial lawyer with experience in Provincial, Supreme, and Appeal Courts.
- Youth Justice (criminal and social justice) practice from September 1999 to late 2000, and from January 2004 to August 2015.
- Family law practice (Dartmouth Office) from February 2003 to December 2003.
- Adult criminal practice (Halifax South Office) from fall 2000 to February 2003.

1997 – 1999

Barrister & Solicitor / Landry McGillivray, Dartmouth

- Trial lawyer practicing primarily in the areas of family and criminal law.

1994 – 1997

Articled Clerk and Lawyer / Weldon, Beeler Mont & Dexter, Dartmouth

- Completed articles and practiced primarily in the areas of family and criminal law.

Education

2021 – Intermediate French through Université Sainte-Anne

2015 - CYCC Network Course / Dalhousie University, Halifax - Sharing Promising Practices: Supporting Youth Mental Health & Wellbeing (4 Online Modules, 16-Hour Course)

1995 - Bar Admission / Nova Scotia Barristers' Society - Admitted following Completion of Bar Course and Exams

1994 - Bachelor of Laws / Dalhousie University, Halifax - Graduated With LLB

1990 - Bachelor of Science / Dalhousie University, Halifax - BSC In Biology

September 2015 - PRESENT

While keeping abreast of substantive law developments, CPD focus has been:

- Ongoing leadership training with Fairwinds Training and Development Inc.
- Mentorship - both formal and informal.
- Introduction to Financial Accounting: Online course presented by Wharton School of Business.
- Leadership Courses including: The Art of Giving and Receiving Feedback; The Making of a Great Leader; Business Process Mapping.
- Self-learning through reading books (e.g., Fierce Conversations; Good to Great in the Social Sector), Articles (e.g., subscribe to Harvard Business Review; McKinsey Online Services; Stanford Business & Social Innovation Reports), and blogs (e.g. Richard Zorza's Access to Justice, Roger Smith's A2J Blog).

Throughout Career

- Continuing Professional Development in substantive law, as well as in issues relevant to cultural proficiency broadly defined, always far in excess of NSBS requirements. Details available upon request.

Qualifications and Memberships

- Member of the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society
- Queen's Counsel Designation Awarded in February 2017
- Certificate of Completion – CBA's The Path – Journey Through Indigenous Canada
- Awarded NSLA Senior Staff Counsel designation effective December 2014
- Notary Public for the Province of Nova Scotia
- Member of the Canadian Bar Association
- Member of the Nova Scotia Criminal Lawyers' Association
- Member of Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice
- Member of the Association of Legal Aid Plans of Canada (ALAPC)
- Member of Department of Justice Canada's Permanent Working Group (PWG) on Legal Aid

Community & Justice System Involvement

- **Criminal Justice Transformation Group** – Member (in capacity as President of the NSCLA and then as CEO of NSLA), and member of the Video Conferencing Subcommittee, May 2015 - Present
- **Criminal Backlog Working Group** – Chair of working group at request of Chief Judge. Group is tasked with looking for solutions to the COVID backlog in provincial
- **National Access Committee on Access to Justice** – Association of Legal Aid Plans representative on national committee chaired by Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin
- **Association of Legal Aid Plans of Canada** – Executive member as Atlantic representative
- **Access to Justice Committee** - Law Reform and Access to Justice Institute, October 2020 - present
- **HIV Legal Network** – Board Member, June 2016 - present
- **Access to Justice Coordinating Committee** Chief Justice & Minister of Justice co-chair, Aug. 2016 - Nov. 2018
- **Nova Scotia Criminal Lawyers' Association** – President, May 2015 - May 2017; member since 1999

- **AIDS Coalition of NS** – Executive Board Member, Policy & Board Development Committee, June 2014 – December 2016
- **Waeg Waves Swim Team** – Volunteer, 2014 - 2018: Timer, Swim Meet Hospitality & Banquet Organizer
- **ECHO Hub** – Member, Sept. 2014 - Aug. 2015. Monthly service at youth drop-in and Community Roundtable
- **Schulich School of Law** – Supervisor for Public Law Placement Course (2013, 2014, 2015); Supervisor of students in Criminal Clinic (several years from 2004 to 2012); Judge for 2nd Year Moot (on-going)
- **Legal Information Society of Nova Scotia** – Member of Legal Content Committee and past Board Member. Leader of NSLA Play in a Day team in 2011, 2012, 2014, winning award for most funds raised in all 3 years
- **Community Justice Society** – Board Member 2009-2011, agency responsible for Youth Restorative Justice
- **Halifax Youth Court Liaison Committee** – Member 2004 to 2015

Selected Professional Presentations & Collaborations

- **October 2020 (ongoing)** – Invited expert collaborator on **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime** working group developing international assessment tool for criminal legal aid systems.
- **June 2020** – Panelist with former Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin and Bob Rae in national virtual presentation to an audience of 750+ for the **National Action Committee on Access to Justice's** event: *Crisis. Change. Reform. Access to Justice: People First*
- **November 2019** - Presentation on Specialty Courts at **Federal/Provincial Territorial Permanent Working Group on Legal Aid** (Calgary)
- **October 2019** - Keynote address at 5th Annual **IWK Children's Hospital IRCS** Conference entitled 'Beyond Punishment Fitting the Crime: Approaches to Working with Young Offenders Convicted of Violent Crimes'
- **September 2019** - **Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice** Roundtable on Jury Representativeness (organizer and participant)
- **June 2019** – Invited panelist and presenter at **All-Ukrainian Forum of Women Lawyers** sponsored by **Canadian Bureau for International Education** in Kyiv, Ukraine
- **June 2019** – Presentation on Legal Aid in Canada at **International Legal Aid Group** conference
- **January 2019** – Expert input **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime** publication "Handbook on Ensuring Quality of Legal Aid Services in Criminal Justice Processes: Practical Guidance and Promising Practices"
- **April 2018** – CBA Criminal Conference Panelist on Youth Bail
- **January 2016 to present** – Annual participant in by invitation only national **Transforming Criminal Justice Symposium**, which brings together up to 100 criminal justice leaders to consider aspects of criminal justice and make representations for improvements
- **2016 to present** – Regular presenter on work of NSLA and legal aid leadership in Canada to **Federal-Provincial-Territorial Permanent Working Group on Legal Aid** and **Association of Legal Aid Plans of Canada**
- **June 2015** – *Pathways to Resilience III: Beyond Nature versus Nurture* – Presenter, NSLA's Youth Social Justice Initiative at international conference (over 40 Countries participating), held in Halifax
- **November 2004 - present** – Regular presenter at NSLA in-house conferences
- **June 2014** – Presenter, legal issues around HIV Non-disclosure, HIV/AIDS Knowledge Exchange Conference
- **April 2014** – Panel Member at national invitation-only conference in Toronto, entitled *Rethinking HIV Non-disclosure and Sexual Assault: A Feminist Dialogue*
- **March 2012** – Invited speaker at UNB Law School on Youth Criminal Justice