

# YOUR MULTIDISCIPLINARY AND BILINGUAL LEGAL NETWORK ACROSS CANADA

**CIAJ** | Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice  
Listening. Learning. Leading.

ANNUAL REPORT  
2022/2023

## WHO WE ARE

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The Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice (CIAJ) is a non-profit, independent organization which brings together all stakeholders in the justice system. It promotes excellence and leadership in the administration of justice through knowledge, learning and the exchange of ideas.

Since its inception in 1974, CIAJ has kept a critical eye on our justice system and explored cutting-edge issues likely to improve the administration of justice and preserve a strong and independent judiciary.

Collaborating with governments, courts, tribunals, professional associations, law schools and law firms, CIAJ sponsors and conducts specialized seminars and multidisciplinary programs, and develops various customized training programs to be held in-person and online. The Institute also holds national discussions on key issues and prepares comprehensive papers and reports on these topics. Its services are offered across Canada in both official languages.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Honourable Justice  
P. Colleen Suche  
Manitoba Court of King's Bench

As the post-COVID world evolves, CIAJ is adapting to a number of changes: increased cost; travel budgets reduced or eliminated, reduction in air service. Happily, online learning is now acceptable, for some, even preferable, and CIAJ adapted early and very successfully to this environment.

As always, new programs are in a wide range of areas. I will highlight a few:

*Writing Reasons in Sexual Assault Cases* debuted in November 2022, and will be offered again next month. This first foray into writing on specific issues was very well received. The *Seminar on Personal Prejudices and Cognitive Biases* broke all records for attendance. The *Symposium on Indigenous Courts* will highlight the experience of Indigenous communities across the country. The *Role of Addictions in Criminal Law* will explore the many challenges presented when offenders with serious addictions are before the court. And finally, a program with on independence of the courts in a democracy will be held next fall.

Under development is a joint program with Federal Judicial Affairs on international programs, as well as some early discussions about creating a mechanism to connect and engage retired judges in programs for administrative tribunals and other organizations. Stay tuned for more about these.

The circle of tenure is part of every successful non-profit organization. This year, several Directors have completed their terms and will be retiring. Each has contributed a great deal to CIAJ and on your behalf and for myself I thank them:

- Associate Judge Linda Abrahms, Ontario Superior Court
- Professor Bradford Morse, Thompson Rivers University, Faculty of Law
- Stephen Bindman, University of Ottawa, Faculty of Law
- Mark Benton, K.C., Legal Aid BC (retired)
- Justice James O'Reilly, Federal Court of Canada
- Justice Marc Richard, Chief Justice of New Brunswick
- Justice Ritu Khullar, Chief Justice of Alberta

I have to say a word about James O'Reilly. I know of no other person who has contributed so much to every aspect of CIAJ's activities. He completes his service as Past President, having led us through the pandemic. He has been an important member of the Education and Research Committee for many years, and a mainstay in all our courses on judicial writing. Thank you does not seem to cover it quite sufficiently, but thank you, James.

My last thanks go to our hardworking and truly remarkable staff, who do exceptional work under the leadership of our talented Executive Director.

My term as President ends this month. I am looking forward to being Past President, but can say that being part of CIAJ has been incredibly rewarding, interesting and quite simply, a lot of fun. Our Board is comprised of committed and enthusiastic Directors from across Canada, as well as the entire justice system, all of whom have been a delight to work with.

# ON OUR WAY TO CIAJ'S 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY!

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Dear CIAJ members,  
To all the participants in our trainings,  
To all our speakers,  
To all our volunteers,

I would like to start by thanking you from the bottom of my heart for your contribution to CIAJ. Over the years, we have received more and more support for our projects. As you know, CIAJ carries out a wide range of activities—training courses, conferences, podcasts, webinars—to meet the diverse and growing interests of the legal community.

With that in mind, we pursued our research activities by conducting a survey on judges and technology, in conjunction with Athabasca University in Alberta. This survey, initiated by the University of Newcastle, Australia, was carried out by academics from several other countries, including Ireland, the UK and New Zealand. This research aims to help us understand the role of technology in the work of judges. The research results are available in a report on our website in the .

In the wake of this research, we held a summit on access to justice and digital tools in New Brunswick. The objective of this first meeting was to better understand the use of digital tools by the courts during the pandemic. The report will be available on our website shortly. CIAJ hopes to hold similar summits in other provinces. We are also considering the potential to share best practices at a national conference.

Nevertheless, CIAJ has not neglected its training mandate. In the past year, we have created new programs that examine current issues: personal prejudices and cognitive bias among decision makers, writing reasons in sexual assault cases, self-represented litigants, and more. Two new seminars are coming up, on addiction and mental health, and on institutional independence. Thank you to everyone involved in designing these programs, and to all of you who take part in them.

In 2024, CIAJ will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Institute has not aged a day. It remains at the forefront of discussions on issues impacting the administration of justice and access to justice. Follow us on our social media to learn more.

Lastly, I would like to pay tribute to the exceptional work of my small team of employees, who support me through all these projects while giving shape to CIAJ's aspirations. You are doing an amazing job.

A big thank you!



## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Christine O'Doherty  
Lawyer

## ABOUT CIAJ



## KEY STATISTICS 2022-2023

**2600+ members**  
from across Canada

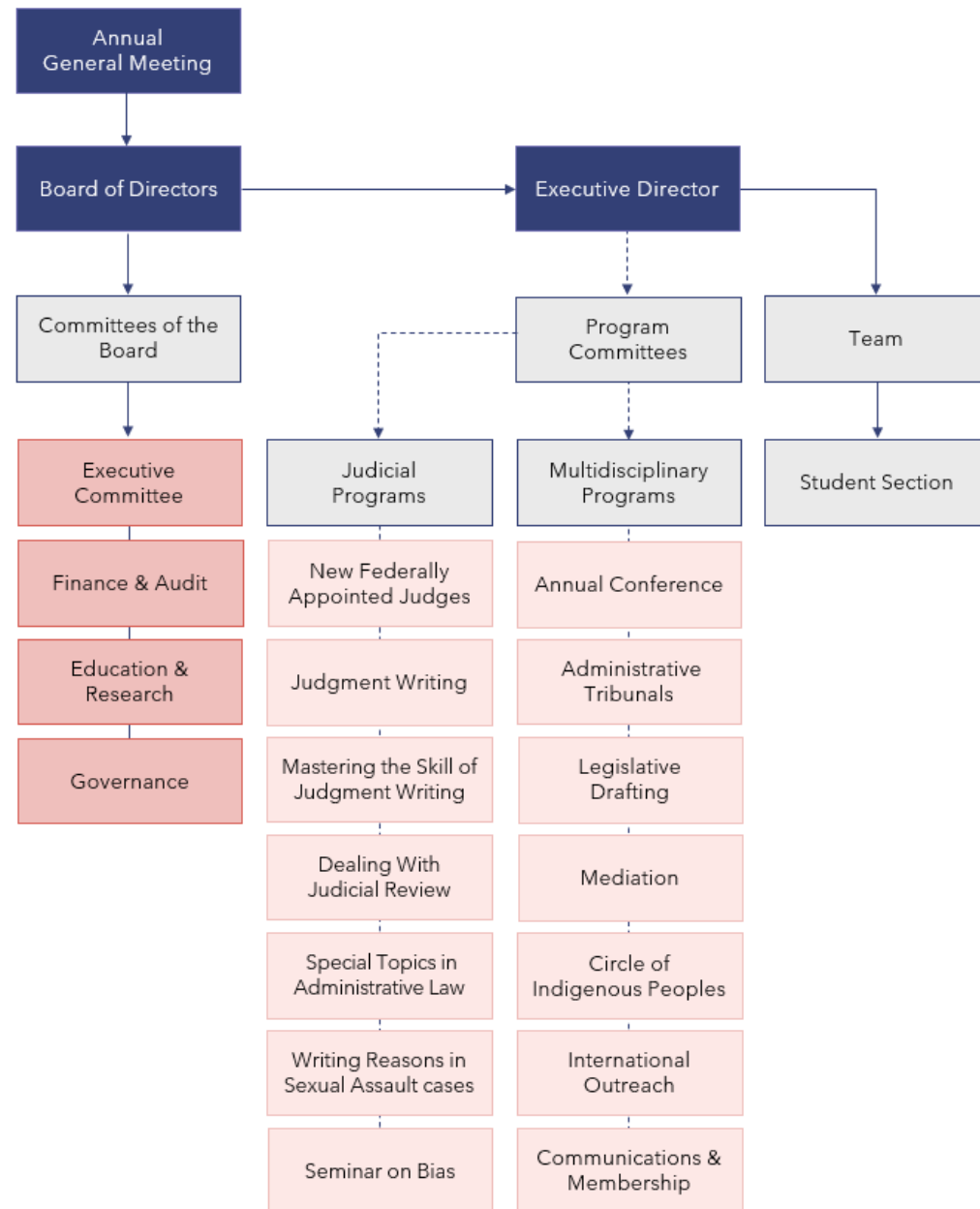
**303 volunteer speakers**  
who are leaders in their  
professions

**1957 participants**  
attending our programs,  
from all branches of  
Canada's legal  
community

**81 days**  
of current accredited  
training programs

**39 programs**  
20 online  
16 in person  
3 hybrid

## ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

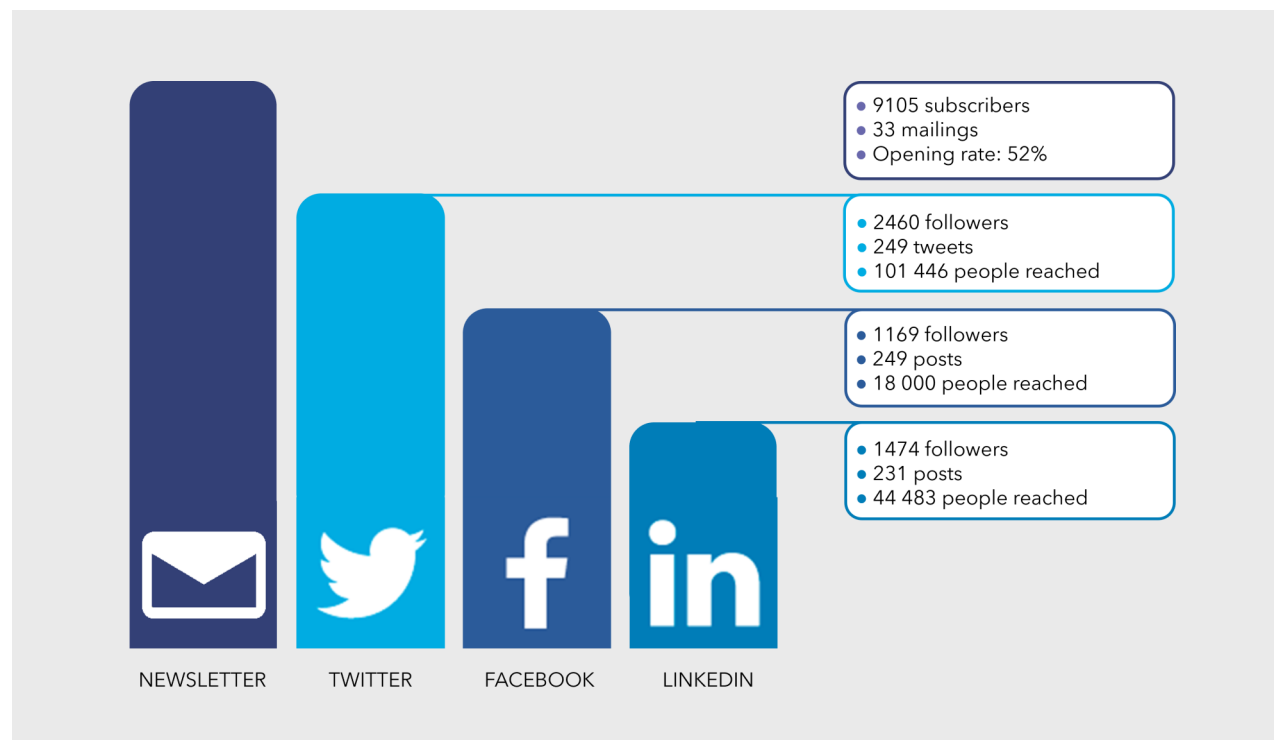


## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

In 2022-2023, CIAJ's annual conference focused on the theme of The Right to Dignity in Canadian Law.

This busy year, we have also launched the National Administrative Law Week, in collaboration with the Council of Canadian Administrative Tribunals (CCAT).

This five-day, cutting-edge training program offered a variety of activities on topical administrative law issues and brought together over 500 participants across the country.







## PODCAST IN ALL FAIRNESS

### Over 31,500 downloads

In All Fairness is a Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice podcast channel welcoming representatives from the legal community and exploring how we can all contribute to improving the administration of Justice in Canada. Legal professionals benefit from informed discussions on key issues, essential knowledge and insights to strengthen their practice.

On June 30, 2023 (about two years and a half after its creation) CIAJ's Podcast "In All Fairness" had reached over 31,500 downloads. 64 podcast episodes, 19 in French and 45 in English, had been released on a wide variety of topics; among which: Administrative Law, Brain Skills, Covid-19, Dignity, Diversity, Family Law, Human Rights, Indigenous Peoples, and Writing Skills.

Legal professionals who have an expertise or new ideas and would like to share knowledge through CIAJ's podcast or blog are welcome to write to us.



## BLOG AND WEBSITE

### 175 blog posts, 26,918 reads

There are 175 blog posts to date: 86 in English and 89 in French. They have been read 26,918 times.

24 blog posts were published during the year, in both official languages. These included a new series on SCC decisions and other related topics by our contributor James Hendry, a series on the right to dignity in Canadian law, portraits of new CIAJ Board members and judicial internships reports.

### 53,000 visitors

CIAJ's website attracted 9,000 more visitors than the previous year, an increase of 20%. Users are mainly Anglophones, from Canada and the USA, and visiting the website from a desktop. From 27,997 visitors in 2019-2020 to 53,043 in 2022-2023, visitor traffic has increased by 88.5%.



## SURVEY: JUDGES & TECHNOLOGY

### Report and Key Findings

This report details the results of the Canadian component of an international survey of judges led by the University of Newcastle, Australia and conducted by scholars from several other countries including Ireland, the UK, and New Zealand.

The data gathered from the survey speaks to two overall results categories: (1) capacity, use, and support of judges in their use of technology; and (2) judges' opinions on the effects of the technology at their disposal on fair hearings and access to justice.

Key findings can be found in the *"Report on the Results of a Survey of Canadian Judges Concerning Technology in Judging Conducted by the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice and Athabasca University in 2022."*:

<https://ciaj-icaj.ca/en/reports-and-recommendations/>

## CONFERENCE ON THE RIGHT TO DIGNITY IN CANADIAN LAW

CIAJ's annual conferences provide a forum for the entire community to come together and reflect on the key issues of our time

CIAJ's conference on The Right to Dignity in Canadian Law took place in Halifax and online from November 26-28, 2022. The Right Honourable Richard Wagner, P.C., Chief Justice of Canada was Honorary Chair.

Over the course of the three days, nine panels and some 35 speakers discussed dignity as a fundamental human right. The conference covered the many facets of the concept of dignity: moral and philosophical notions; us as a legal norm; the role of dignity in gender identity and reproductive rights; medical assistance in dying, elder care, disability, and equality rights; and carceral system, particularly with regards to Indigenous Peoples.



Keynote Speaker: R. Maria Shepherd  
Co-Director, Innocence Canada

## HONORARY CHAIR: THE RIGHT HONOURABLE RICHARD WAGNER

The conference welcomed some thirty speakers, key players and members of the legal profession and from other fields across Canada. Everyone was invited to attend. The program was developed by a committee of experts co-chaired by the Honourable Justice P. Colleen Suche of the Court of King's Bench of Manitoba, and the Honourable Justice Julie Dutil of the Court of Appeal of Quebec, President and First Vice-President of CIAJ respectively. Here is some words from The Honorary Chair, The Right Honourable Richard Wagner, P.C., Chief Justice of Canada:

*"The right to dignity applies to everyone. It is at the core of who we are, in all areas of our lives. This conference will provide a forum for discussion and learning to better understand and accompany people on their journey, particularly within the justice system, regardless of their group of belonging or status."*



Photo: Laforest & Sabourin  
Courtesy of the Supreme Court of Canada

## "INSTANTIATING, PRESERVING AND RESTORING DIGNITY"

### A REPORT FROM THE CONFERENCE

A report compiling highlights, comments and recommendations that emerged from the conference is available on CIAJ's website, in both official languages.

The report examines key themes including wrongful convictions, treatment of inmates, and systemic discrimination against marginalized groups, specifically older people, Indigenous Peoples, and individuals with disabilities. It also addresses the challenges and opportunities in upholding dignity across the Canadian carceral, medical and child protection systems. Furthermore, it explores the complexities surrounding the discourse on dignity, particularly in relation to its definition as a legal right.

**REPORT:** <https://ciaj-icaj.ca/en/reports-and-recommendations/>



# NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE LAW WEEK

A CIAJ & CCAT JOINT EVENT

## ADMINISTRATIVE LAW WEEK 1<sup>st</sup> EDITION

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Tribunal members, lawyers, judges, academics and law students across Canada were invited to participate in the first edition of the National Administrative Law Week, organized jointly by CIAJ and the Council of Canadian Administrative Tribunals (CCAT).

This five-day, cutting-edge training program held in person in Ottawa and online offered a variety of activities on topical administrative law issues to over 500 participants.

**June 5, 2023**

**90-minute Admin Law Webinar**

With Jessica Nordell:  
Creating Cultures Beyond Bias  
*Joint Program*

**June 6-7, 2023**

**Decision Writing Seminar**

(Joint Program)  
*Online only*

**June 8, 2023**

**CCAT Symposium**

Preparing for the Future:  
The Brave New World of  
Administrative Justice  
*In person & online*

**June 9, 2023**

**CIAJ Roundtable on Administrative Law**

Bias and Decision-Making:  
What's Changed?  
*In person & online*



Jessica Nordell  
Award-winning author and science writer

## PERMANENT PROGRAMS & COMMITTEES 2022-2023

### MULTIDISCIPLINARY

#### ANNUAL CONFERENCE

CIAJ's 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on "The Law of Borders" will foster discussion, while taking into account indigenous perspectives.

##### Honorary Chair

- The Honourable Justice Mahmud Jamal

##### Keynote Speaker

- Her Excellency Yuliya Kovaliv, Ukraine's Ambassador to Canada

##### Co-Chairs

- The Honourable Justice P. Colleen Suche
- The Honourable Justice Julie Dutil

##### Members

- Naivi Chikoc Barreda
- The Honourable Justice Peter Edelmann
- The Honourable Justice James O'Reilly
- Mélanie Raymond
- Alicia Seifert
- The Honourable Justice Jeanne Watchuk
- Christine O'Doherty
- Nathan Afilalo

### JUDICIARY

#### SEMINAR FOR NEW FEDERALLY APPOINTED JUDGES

This program is offered twice a year, in collaboration with the National Judicial Institute (NJI). The Fall program was held in Charlottetown, PEI, on October 16-21, 2022, with 91 participants in attendance. The Spring program was held in Quebec City, QC, on April 16-21, 2023, with 128 participants in attendance.

##### Co-Chairs

- The Honourable Justice Michael F. Brown
- The Honourable Justice Daniel Dumais
- The Honourable Justice Lauri Ann Fenlon

### ADVANCED JUDICIAL SEMINAR ON ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

This biennial program entitled "Getting Down to Brass Tacks: Working With Vavilov" was held online on June 3, 2022, with 20 participants in attendance.

##### Co-Chairs

- The Honourable Chief Justice Tracey DeWare
- The Honourable Justice Harvey Groberman
- The Honourable Justice Georgina R. Jackson
- The Honourable Justice James W. O'Reilly
- The Honourable Justice Christine Pallotta

The next edition will take place in person in Ottawa, on May 30, 2024.

For the occasion, the program was updated and renamed "Special Topics in Administrative Law."

### MASTERING THE SKILL OF JUDGMENT WRITING

This biennial program, offered jointly by CIAJ and NJI was held in Vancouver, BC on April 24-28, 2022, with 40 participants in attendance.

The next edition will take place in Toronto, ON, on May 12-16, 2024.

##### Co-Chairs

- The Honourable Justice James W. O'Reilly
- The Honourable Justice Daniel W. Payette

### JUDGMENT WRITING SEMINAR

This annual program was held in Montreal, QC, on June 26-29, 2023, with 80 participants in attendance.

##### Co-Chairs

- The Honourable Justice James W. O'Reilly
- The Honourable Justice Daniel W. Payette

The next edition will take place in Montreal, QC, on June 24-27, 2024.



# THANK YOU TO OUR COMMITTEES

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In 2022-2023, CIAJ hosted 39 events: 20 online, 16 in person and 3 hybrid.

These programs involved 303 speakers, for the benefit of 1957 participants from all areas of the legal profession.

Thank you to all the planning committees and Faculty for their work and dedication, and for their unwavering support. Year after year, these experts from across Canada work together to identify the important issues in their field of expertise and generously share their knowledge.

## LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING

### WEBINARS & CONFERENCE

A webinar on legislative drafting entitled “Cosmetics Regulation and Product Labelling in Canada: The Challenges” was held on November 16, 2022. It brought together 59 participants.

The 2022 Legislative Drafting Conference took place in Ottawa and Online on September 8-9, 2022 and brought together 256 participants. The next edition will be held in Ottawa on September 16-18, 2024.

Co-Chairs

- Charlie Feldman
- Lerissa Thaver

Members

- Pam Anderson
- Dabbs Bhreagh
- Elena Bosi
- John Mark Keyes
- Luc Gagné
- Jaimie Graham
- Ian Rennie
- Jean-Félix Robitaille
- Alexandra Schorah
- Mark Spakowski
- Scott Webber
- CIAJ’s President (ex officio)
- CIAJ’s Executive Director (ex officio)
- Mary Plagakis

## SPECIAL WEBINAR

### CREATING CULTURES BEYOND BIAS

Date: June 5, 2023

Location: Online

Speaker

- Jessica Nordell

## ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

### NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE

This year’s National Roundtable on Administrative Law was held in Ottawa & online. This program entitled “Bias and Decision-Making: What’s Changed?” took place on June 9, 2023 and brought together 97 participants. It was part of the first edition of the National Administrative Law Week (June 5-9, 2023).

The next National Roundtable on Administrative Law will take place on June 6, 2024, in person in Ottawa and Online.

Co-Chairs

- Michael Gottheil
- Athanasios Hadjis
- The Honourable Justice James W. O’Reilly

Members

- Professor Philip Bryden, K.C.
- Jean Buie
- Mélanie Chartier
- Jeff G. Cowan
- Marcel Larouche
- Louis Legault
- Lauren Wihak
- Professor Sheila Wildeman
- CIAJ’s Executive Director (ex officio)

## CUSTOMIZED PROGRAMS 2022-2023

### THE IMPACT

Here is one example of the quality and impact of CIAJ's customized training programs: the decision writing program focusing on point-first writing, overviews, issue-driven structures, and clear language has been noted in a study published in the beginning of March 2021 on the Government of Canada's website. The results are based on a sample of 189 decisions rendered in 2019 and 2020, and offer an evaluation of how easy it is to read decisions of the Social Security Tribunal:

<https://www1.canada.ca/en/sst/plainlanguage.html>



### THE WAY WE WORK

Our team develops customized, bilingual, tailored training based on the client's experience. Our programs consist of a combination of theoretical presentations, discussions and workshops that promote deep learning. To develop and deliver the programs, we draw on our vast network of experts made up of experienced judges, well-known academics, lawyers and consultants from all across the country.

### THE TYPES OF PROGRAMS

#### Indigenous Communities

- Extensive training for new judges of Indigenous courts
- Training in administrative law
- Tools for understanding Indigenous values
- Dispute resolution skills
- Legislative Drafting

#### Administrative Tribunals

- Drafting decisions
- Conducting proceedings and evidence
- Managing an administrative tribunal
- Team work and communication
- Bias and prejudices
- Resilience
- Procrastination
- Wellness
- Collective working environment

#### Various Courts

- Judgment writing
- Writing reasons
- Writing reasons in sexual assault cases
- Managing parties who represent themselves
- Plain language communication
- Bias and prejudices
- Better case and time management



# Listening. Learning. Leading.

## TRAINING THE LEGAL COMMUNITY ACROSS THE COUNTRY

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In 2022-2023, CIAJ delivered twenty-six customized training programs in both official languages, for 16 organizations, courts and tribunals.

With its experience in legal training over the past 49 years, and drawing on its extensive network of experts, including experienced judges, leading academics, lawyers and consultants from across the country, CIAJ is one of those rare national organizations that provide training programs to all players in the judicial system.

The organizations below have taken one customized training program or more with CIAJ over the past year\*:

- Akwesasne Court
- Bermuda Human Rights Tribunal
- Canada Border Services Agency
- Canadian Human Rights Tribunal
- Copyright Board of Canada
- Ontario Energy Board
- Conseil de la magistrature (Cour du Québec)
- College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta
- Commission de protection du territoire agricole du Québec
- Conférence des arbitres du Québec
- Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
- Military Grievances External Review Committee

- Military Police Complaints Commission of Canada
- Tribunal administratif des marchés financiers
- Tribunal administratif du logement
- Veterans Review and Appeal Board

*\* More details can be found on pages 24-25 of this Annual Report*

In 2022-2023, CIAJ worked jointly with 16 courts and tribunals across the country, providing customized training to **over 700** of their members.

## UPCOMING PERMANENT PROGRAMS 2023-2025

CIAJ's permanent programs, including the annual conferences, are bilingual with simultaneous interpretation. Most are accredited in provinces where CLE requirements for lawyers are mandatory. Programs for judges are approved under Section 41 (1) of the *Judges Act*.

### FOR THE JUDICIARY

#### JUDGMENT WRITING SEMINAR (annual)

2024: June 24–27  
Location: Montreal, QC

2025: June 30 – July 3  
Location: Montreal, QC

#### MASTERING THE SKILL OF JUDGMENT WRITING (biennial)

– Joint program with the National Judicial Institute (NJI)

Next Edition: May 12–16, 2024  
Location: Toronto, ON

#### SEMINAR FOR NEW FEDERALLY APPOINTED JUDGES (biannual)

– Joint program with the National Judicial Institute (NJI)

Spring Edition: April 7–12, 2024  
Location: Montreal, QC

Fall Edition: October 20–25, 2024  
Location: Toronto, ON

#### SEMINAR ON PERSONAL PREJUDICES AND COGNITIVE BIAS

Next Edition: January 25, 2024  
Location: Online

#### SEMINAR IN ADMINISTRATIVE LAW: DEALING EFFECTIVELY WITH JUDICIAL REVIEW (biannual)

– Joint program with the National Judicial Institute (NJI)

Next Edition: January 28–31, 2025  
Location: Vancouver, BC

#### SPECIAL TOPICS IN ADMINISTRATIVE LAW (Biennial)

Next Edition: May 30, 2024  
Location: Ottawa, ON

#### WRITING REASONS IN SEXUAL ASSAULT CASES

Next Edition: November 23, 2023  
Location: Online

### MORE PROGRAMS

#### DECISION-WRITING SEMINAR (annual)

– Joint program with the Council of Canadian Administrative Tribunals (CCAT)

2024: May 30–31  
Location: Online

2025: May 29–30  
Location: Online

#### NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE ON ADMINISTRATIVE LAW (annual)

Next Edition: June 6, 2024  
Location: In person in Ottawa & online

#### LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING CONFERENCE (Biannual)

2024: June 6, 2024  
Location: In person in Ottawa & online





## 47<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE THE LAW OF BORDERS

**DATE:** OCTOBER 25-27, 2023

**LOCATION:** ONLINE & IN OTTAWA, ON

### Overview:

The 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference will explore current issues related to the law of borders and challenge the definition of what a “border” is, including the very notion of national borders, taking into account indigenous perspectives.

For many people, moving across borders implies facing vulnerability and precarity. How can we provide better protection to migrants and refugees, extending our vision beyond individuals to include families? In a world experiencing the effects of climate change, is our legal definition of a refugee still accurate? Furthermore, economic frontiers are becoming increasingly blurred. In such a context, it is also important to address work issues from the perspective of the adequacy of protections available to migrant workers, the implications of working remotely across territories, and the challenges of studying abroad, and to join forces in creating a more just and inclusive world.



## 48<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE THE FAMILIES AND THE LAW

**DATE:** OCTOBER 9-11, 2024

**LOCATION:** WINNIPEG, MB

### Overview:

The 48<sup>th</sup> annual conference will discuss the justice system as it affects families in Canada. The conference will consider the wide ambit of concerns regarding the system’s ability to aid families in resolving their disputes.

Are there enough resources available? Are the courts and tribunals the best forum for families and children? Are we ready for a culture shift or paradigm shift?

There is no doubt that improving the situation for families in difficult and sometimes heartbreaking situations is paramount.

All members of the legal community are invited to join forces to explore these issues and offer some solutions.

2024 marks CIAJ’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!



## 49<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE ENVIRONMENT AND THE LAW

**DATE:** OCTOBER 29-31, 2025

**LOCATION:** VANCOUVER, BC

### Overview:

The 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Environment and the Law will critically examine the intersection of environmental crises, legal implications, and human rights.

Vital to the discussion will be the issues of climate change refugees, immigration, land rights, and Indigenous people. The conference’s inclusive and multidisciplinary approach provides a platform for amplifying the voices of individuals and groups most affected and marginalized by environmental issues. This conference will foster dialogue aimed at understanding and addressing these issues, encouraging participants to contribute to crafting forward-thinking solutions. Together, we will explore the means to shape a legal environment that respects human rights, acknowledges the reality of environmental crises, and work toward a more sustainable and equitable future.

## RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP, PRIZES & AWARDS

Committed to promoting sound administration of justice since 1974, CIAJ prides itself on supporting the legal community at all levels by awarding various prizes and scholarships to encourage volunteer involvement, research and creativity.

### PRESIDENT'S AWARD

In 2016, CIAJ established the President's Award to highlight the exceptional contribution of one of its volunteers. The Award is given every other year, alternately with the Justice Medal. The next Award will be given at the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, in 2023.

#### Last Recipient:

**2021:** Mark Benton, K.C.  
Retired Lawyer, former CEO of Legal Aid BC



### JUSTICE MEDAL

At CIAJ's tenth anniversary, in 1984, the Board of Directors established a Justice Medal Award to be given every second year as a mark of exceptional achievement to a person who has shown distinctive leadership in the administration of justice in Canada, or by his or her writings or other endeavours, has made a significant contribution to the administration of justice in Canada.

Recipients are announced at CIAJ's Annual Conference in the fall. The next Medal will be given at the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, on October 9-11, 2024.

#### Last Recipient:

**2022:** The Justice Medal was awarded to the Honourable Rosalie Silberman Abella, Retired Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, for her outstanding legacy in Canada and abroad.





## RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Created in 2009 in honour of a former CIAJ President, the Charles D. Gonthier Research Fellowship of \$7,500 supports research in relation to the topic of CIAJ's Annual Conference.

The 2023 Research Fellowship was given to Professor Robert J. Currie, K.C. for his project entitled "When (and Where) a Crime is a Crime? 'Double Criminality' as a Principle of Fundamental Justice."

### 2023 Recipient: Robert J. Currie, K.C.

Robert J. Currie, K.C., is Distinguished Research Professor at the Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University, where his teaching areas include: transnational, international and domestic criminal law; public international law; comparative criminal law; evidence; procedure; and advocacy. His scholarly work focuses on crime that crosses borders and the systems of law that regulate it, and he has published widely on a variety of subjects, including extradition, jurisdiction, cybercrime, transnational organized crime, corruption, and transnational criminal courts. His scholarly work has been cited by Canadian courts, including the Supreme Court of Canada. He is a co-editor and author of *Kindred's International Law* (10<sup>th</sup> edition forthcoming 2025), the leading text from which public international law is taught in Canada, and a co-author of *Carswell's Annual Review of Criminal Law*.



## ESSAY PRIZE

The Christine Huglo Robertson Essay Prize aims to engage law students in the work of CIAJ and promote scholarship regarding the administration of justice.

The 2023 Essay Prize of \$1,000 was awarded to Seth Gordon for his essay entitled: "Not in Anyone's Backyard: Exploring Environmental Inequality under Section 15 of the *Charter* and Flexibility after *Fraser v. Canada*."

### 2023 Recipient: Seth Gordon

Seth Gordon is a BCL/JD candidate at the McGill Faculty of Law. He is passionate about administrative and public international law, as well as extrajudicial methods of advancing human rights.

He will be clerking for the British Columbia Supreme Court in 2024-2025. He holds a Bachelor of Music from McGill University in music composition and piano performance.





## THANK YOU TO OUR **2600+** INDIVIDUAL AND INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

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CIAJ now brings together more than 2600 members, including 44 institutions. Thanks to them, we are able to develop cutting-edge programs where the entire legal community is invited to work together towards solutions.

### GET INVOLVED

There are many ways to get involved in shaping the administration of justice. CIAJ works hard to make a difference and welcomes its members to add their voices to the effort.

Whether it be from writing a blog post, recording a podcast, speaking or volunteering at our events, donating or encouraging a friend or colleague to become a CIAJ member, all actions are welcome.

Please contact us if you wish to participate in the development of our activities. New projects and ideas are always welcome.

### GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

With the help of our members and community, CIAJ is able to create programs that support the next generation of justice ambassadors in Canada.

In 2022-2023, through the generosity of our members, 123 one-year memberships were donated to students and young lawyers.

This is a wonderful way to contribute and grow our member community. These memberships also helped foster programs designed for students and young lawyers.

## THE STUDENT SECTION

CIAJ's Student Section is a gathering place for law students across Canada. It provides students with various tools and projects. In addition to building bridges between students across the country, the Section is an exclusive learning platform, offering numerous opportunities for students to network and collaborate with key players in the Canadian legal arena. 249 law students have joined CIAJ over the past year.

This summer, CIAJ was fortunate to welcome one young lawyer and four law students (photos below). They had the opportunity to work on a number of topics and projects including:

- The 2023 Annual Conference on Dignity
- The Report on Judges and Technology
- The Symposium on Indigenous Courts
- CIAJ podcasts

*CIAJ's 2023 Summer Interns:*

## JUDICIAL INTERNSHIPS

In the summer of 2019, CIAJ launched the Judicial Internships program to place law students with judges for a week or two of hands-on legal education. The program is designed to allow students additional avenues beyond those offered at their faculties to gain practical experiences during their studies. Participating courts are given wide latitude to modify the experience to fit the needs of the student and the judges with whom they have been paired.

Applications go through a double screening process whereby CIAJ reviews the initial submissions to pass on the stronger candidates to the participating courts, which decide if and when they can welcome one or more students.

Since the creation of the Judicial Internship Program in 2019, CIAJ has received 494 applications from across the country.

In 2023, CIAJ received a total of 84 applications, and 31 students were placed: 12 in Quebec, 5 in Alberta and 14 in Ontario.

The feedback received from students is extremely positive. Students not only learnt from judges, but also from the lawyers they observed.

The judges who take on students want them to have an interesting experience. Students get to see a variety of cases while also being able to draft legal memos and perform legal research for the judges.

Moreover, students can begin building their network and open up other opportunities for themselves all while becoming more familiar with the day to day workings of the law.

**Daniel James Escott**



**Judicial Law Clerk**  
Federal Court

**Léonie Andelfinger**



**Law Student**  
Université de Montréal

**Sophia Lutfallah**



**Law Student**  
University of Ottawa

**Sarah Rowe**



**Law Student**  
University of Ottawa

**Ferris Vasko**



**Law Student**  
Schulich School of Law

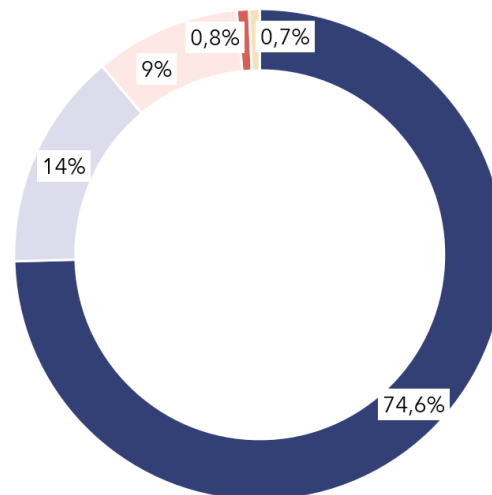


## ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

CIAJ members come from all regions of Canada, and include the judiciary, legal professionals, law professors, legislative drafters, administrative tribunal members, court personnel, representatives of government agencies, staff of social and police agencies, law students, and more.

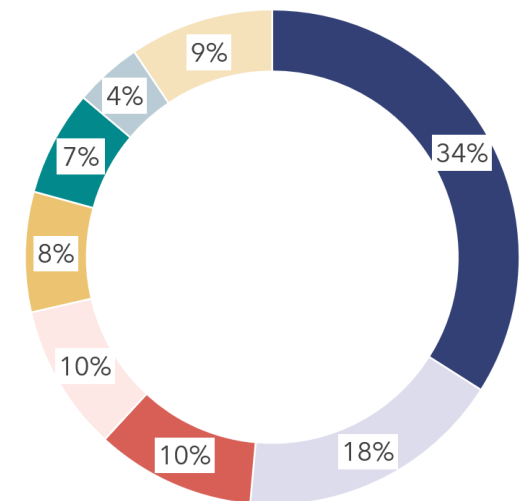
44 institutions became members this year. As of June 30, 2023, there were 2600 CIAJ members, which represents an increase of 5.65% compared on the previous year.

### MEMBERSHIP BY CATEGORY



- Institutional
- Individual
- Student
- Young Lawyer
- Retired

### MEMBERSHIP BY PROFESSION



- Lawyers/Law Clerks
- Lawyers in Administrative Tribunals
- Federally Appointed Judges
- Students
- Legislative Drafters
- Provincial/Territorial Judges
- Academics
- Other



PROVINCE	INDIVIDUAL	INSTITUTIONAL (INDIVIDUALS)	RETIRED	STUDENT	YOUNG LAWYER	TOTAL
Alberta	48	69	1	20	1	139
British Columbia	43	180	7	23	2	255
Manitoba	20	74	1	13	2	110
New Brunswick	10	14	1	12	1	38
Prince Edward Island	7	3	0	0	0	10
Newfoundland and Labrador	11	0	0	2	1	14
Nova Scotia	12	128	2	11	0	153
Ontario	116	761	6	104	8	995
Quebec	69	295	0	56	5	425
Saskatchewan	23	9	0	7	1	40
Yukon	3	29	0	0	0	32
Northwest Territories	4	6	0	0	0	10
Nunavut	4	0	0	0	0	4
International	3	371	0	1	0	375
TOTAL	373	1939	18	249	21	2600

## PROGRAMS LISTING & PARTICIPATION CHART (JULY 1, 2022–JUNE 30, 2023)

WHEN	WHAT	LANGUAGE	WHERE	PARTICIPANTS	SPEAKERS
September 8-9, 2022	Legislative Drafting Conference	Bilingual	Ottawa /Online	235	21
September 13-15-21-22, 2022	Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada	French	Montreal	20	6
September 14, 2022	Webinar: The Honour of the Crown	Bilingual	Online	98	2
September 19-20, 2022	Canadian Human Rights Tribunal	Bilingual	Ottawa	25	3
September 22-23, 2022	Commission de protection du territoire agricole du Québec	French	Quebec City	25	3
October 3-5, 2022	Conseil de la magistrature (Cour du Québec)	French	Beloeil (QC)	22	6
Oct. 13-14-31 & Nov. 2, 2022	Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (Toronto)	English	Online	50	7
Oct. 13-14-31 & Nov. 2, 2022	Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (Vancouver)	English	Online	50	7
October 16-21, 2022	Seminar for New Federally Appointed Judges – Joint program with the NJI	Bilingual	Charlottetown	53	38
October 26-28, 2022	Annual Conference: The Right to Dignity in Canadian Law	Bilingual	Halifax/Online	101	31
November 7-8, 2022	College of Physician and Surgeons of Alberta	English	Online	25	3
November 16, 2022	Webinar (Legislative Drafting): Cosmetics Regulation and Product Labelling in Canada	Bilingual	Online	57	2
November 18, 2022	Tribunal administratif des marchés financiers	French	Montreal	18	2
November 25, 2022	Seminar (New): Writing Reasons in Sexual Assault Cases	Bilingual	Online	37	9
January 14-15, 2023	Bermuda Human Rights Tribunal	English	Online	15	4
Jan. 26, 2023 & Feb. 23, 2023	Canada Border Services Agency	English	Online	6	1
17 janvier 2023	Akwesasne Court	English	Online	75	4
Jan. 30 & Feb.13, 2023	Conférence des arbitres du Québec	French	Online	10	2
January 31-February 3, 2023	Seminar in Administrative Law: Dealing Effectively with Judicial Review – Joint program with the NJI	Bilingual	Montreal	30	13
February 2, 2023	Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada – Appeal Division	English	Online	30	2
February 6-8, 2023	Conseil de la magistrature (Cour du Québec)	French	Quebec City	25	6



## PROGRAMS LISTING & PARTICIPATION CHART (JULY 1, 2022–JUNE 30, 2023)

WHEN	WHAT	LANGUAGE	WHERE	PARTICIPANTS	SPEAKERS
February 9, 2023	Commission de l'immigration et du statut de réfugié du Canada – Section d'appel de l'immigration	French	Online	15	2
February 10, 2023	Seminar on Personal Prejudices and Cognitive Biases	Bilingual	Online	92	10
February 13-15, 2023	Conseil de la magistrature (Cour du Québec)	French	Orford (QC)	25	6
February 21-22, 2023	Ontario Energy Board	English	Online	25	3
February 28 & March 1, 2023	Ontario Energy Board	English	Online	25	3
March 8, 2023	Military Grievances External Review Committee	Bilingual	Online	22	3
March 21-22, 2023	Veterans Review and Appeal Board	Bilingual	Charlottetown	30	3
March 23, 2023	Canadian Human Rights Tribunal	Bilingual	Ottawa	25	3
April 16-21, 2023	Seminar for New Federally Appointed Judges – Joint program with the NJI	Bilingual	Quebec City	81	47
April 20, 2023	Conseil de la magistrature (Cour du Québec)	French	Online	20	2
May 25, 2023	Copyright Board of Canada	Bilingual	Ottawa	22	3
June 2, 2023	Tribunal administratif du logement	French	Baie-Comeau	60	3
June 5, 2023	Webinar: Creating Cultures Beyond Bias	Bilingual	Online	263	1
June 6-7, 2023	Decision Writing Seminar – Joint program with CCAT	Bilingual	Online	67	8
June 9, 2023	National Roundtable on Administrative Law: Bias and Decision-Making: What's Changed?	Bilingual	Ottawa/Online	89	8
June 14, 2023	Military Police Complaints Commission of Canada	English	Online	6	1
June 15, 2023	Commission d'examen des plaintes concernant la police militaire du Canada	French	Online	25	3
June 26-29, 2023	Judgment Writing Seminar	Bilingual	Montreal	58	22
<b>81 DAYS</b>	<b>39 EVENTS</b>	<b>19 BIL 11 FR 9 EN</b>	<b>20 ONLINE 16 IN PERSON 3 HYBRID</b>	<b>1957 PARTICIPANTS</b>	<b>303 SPEAKERS</b>

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2022-2023)

### EXECUTIVE

#### President

- The Hon. Justice P. Colleen Suche

#### First Vice-President

- The Hon. Justice Julie Dutil

#### Second Vice-President

- Associate Justice Linda S. Abrams

#### Treasurer

- The Hon. ACJ Scott Hughes

#### Past President

- The Hon. Justice James W. O'Reilly

### MEMBERS

- Mark Benton, K.C. (Observer)
- Stephen Bindman
- Brian A. Blumenthal
- Angela Caseley, K.C.
- Mélanie Chartier
- Jennifer Cox, K.C.
- Keiran Gibbs
- Miray Granovsky
- The Hon. Justice Lana Krogan
- Doug LePard, O.O.M., M.A.
- Adam O. Letourneau, K.C.
- Megan Longley, K.C.
- Professor Bradford Morse
- Hong Nguyen
- The Hon. Chief Justice J. C. Marc Richard
- Professor Kent Roach, CM, FRSC
- Mark Spakowski
- The Hon. Judge Eric J. Tolppanen
- Professor Martine Valois
- The Hon. Justice Peter M. Willcock
- Brenda Young
- CIAJ's Executive Director (ex officio)

*The Board had two meetings this year.*

## COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

### Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is the decision-making authority as delegated by the Board and is composed exclusively of Board members. It recommends selection committee for justice medal award and ensures proper risk management practices. The Committee reviews Executive Director performance, makes recommendations regarding Executive Director compensation and fundraising strategies. The Committee holds nine meetings per year.

#### Chair

- The Honourable Justice P. Colleen Suche

#### Members

- Associate Justice Linda S. Abrams
- Mark Benton, K.C.
- The Honourable Justice Julie Dutil
- The Honourable ACJ Scott Hughes
- The Honourable Justice James W. O'Reilly
- CIAJ's Executive Director (ex officio)

### Finance and Audit

The mandate of the Finance and Audit Committee is to monitor financial situation, presents annual budget for Board approval and direct the work of the external auditor. It makes recommendations to the Board and to the AGM regarding the choice of auditors, financial investments and fundraising strategies. Every 5 years, reviews bids submitted for auditing services and makes a recommendation. This year, the Committee held three meetings.

#### Chair

- The Honourable ACJ Scott Hughes

### Members

- Brian A. Blumenthal
- Adam O. Letourneau, K.C.
- Megan Longley, K.C.
- Professor Bradford Morse
- CIAJ's President and Executive Director (ex officio)

### Education and Research

The mandate of the Education and Research Planning Committee is to review emerging areas for CIAJ to plan legal education and make recommendations regarding education and research. It recommends expertise in the fields of law covered in education programs, makes recommendations on annual conference themes going forward on an ongoing basis to identify relevant topics. The committee also establishes selection criteria for various research & education, identifies research priorities and determines appropriate processes to conduct research projects. This committee meets once a year.

#### Chair

- The Honourable Justice P. Colleen Suche

#### Members

- Associate Justice Linda S. Abrams
- Stephen Bindman
- Jennifer Cox, K.C.
- The Honourable Justice Julie Dutil
- The Honourable ACJ Scott Hughes
- The Honourable Justice Lana Krogan
- Professor Bradford Morse
- The Honourable Justice James W. O'Reilly
- Professor Kent Roach
- Professor Martine Valois, Ad.E.
- CIAJ's Executive Director (ex officio)

## Governance Committee

This new committee acts as nominating committee for Directors and Officers or any other positions. It leads succession planning for Board, committees and officer positions. The Governance Committee periodically reviews bylaws, Board policies, committee terms of reference and other governance documents as requested by the Executive Committee to bring a resolution to the Board with a view of continuous improvement and compliance with desired governance practices. It ensures proper ongoing governance education for the Board, reviews the mandate and effectiveness of the Board and Committees, and makes recommendations to the Board, as appropriate. This year, the Committee held six meetings to review CIAJ's governance practices and to revise its by-laws.

### Chair

- The Honourable Justice Peter Willcock

### Members

- Associate Justice Linda S. Abrams
- Stephen Bindman
- The Honourable Justice Julie Dutil
- Miray Granovsky
- The Honourable Justice P. Colleen Suche
- CIAJ's Executive Director (ex officio)

## OTHER COMMITTEES

### Communications and membership

The mandate of the Communication and Membership Committee is to advise the Executive Director and advises on internal and external communication and membership strategies. It promotes CIAJ among the communities it serves and recommends communication and membership plans to

the Board. This year, the Committee held two meetings.

### Chair

- The Honourable Judge Eric J. Tolppanen

### Members

- Associate Justice Linda S. Abrams
- Stephen Bindman
- Athanasios Hadjis
- Megan Longley, K.C.
- Professor Bradford Morse
- Professor Martine Valois, Ad.E.
- Student position member
- CIAJ's Executive Director (ex officio)
- CIAJ's Communication Manager (ex officio)

### International Outreach

The International Outreach Committee Advises the Executive Director. It advises on international legal projects opportunities, explores how CIAJ could become involved on training projects abroad and recommends partnerships with international organizations. This year, the International Outreach Committee held two meetings.

### Chair

- The Honourable Justice Julie Dutil

### Members

- Mark Benton, K.C.
- Miray Granovsky
- The Honourable Justice Lana Krogan
- Zulie Sachedina
- The Honourable Justice Peter M. Willcock
- CIAJ's President (ex officio)
- CIAJ's Executive Director (ex officio)

### Circle of Indigenous Peoples

The mandate of the Circle of Indigenous Peoples is to advise the Executive Director,

plan programs related to indigenous issues and advise CIAJ on topics and expertise necessary to ensure Indigenous issues are included in other CIAJ programs when relevant. It is composed of Board members and other volunteers, particularly those from Indigenous communities. This year, the Circle of Indigenous Peoples held two meetings.

### Chair

- Adam O. Letourneau, K.C.

### Members

- Jennifer Cox, K.C.
- The Honourable Justice Tracy Engelking
- Professor Bradford Morse
- Scott Robertson
- CIAJ's President (ex officio)
- CIAJ's Executive Director (ex officio)

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

CIAJ is inviting you to join its Board of directors, program committees or student committee.

CIAJ works hard with experts from across the country to make a difference. Add your voice to the effort and get involved in shaping the administration of justice.

## TEAM (2022-2023)

### Christine O'Doherty, Lawyer

Executive Director

Christine O'Doherty is a bilingual lawyer experienced in professional, labour and commercial law, she has contributed to developing and implementing effective government relations and public affairs strategies for a number of major organizations. Ms. O'Doherty has taught at the Faculté de pharmacie de l'Université de Montréal for 14 years, where she was responsible for the implementation of the soft skills curriculum for graduate and undergraduate students. In her spare time she writes fiction.

### Nathan Afilalo, Lawyer

Legal Research

Nathan is a graduate of McGill's BCL/LLB program and was CIAJ's first articling student. Trained in both Civil and Common Law, he has been called to the Ontario Bar in 2020 and is now preparing for the Quebec Bar exam. He has clerked at the Montreal Municipal Court, as well as involved himself in Montreal-based access to justice organizations. At CIAJ Nathan conducts legal research on our national discussions on key issues, pens reports and helps develop CIAJ initiatives.

### Vicki Gondek, CMP

Project Manager of Judicial Programs

Vicki is a project manager of all the judicial programs at CIAJ since 2014. She earned a bachelor's degree in Sociology from Concordia University, an Event Planning Certificate from LaSalle College and as of May 2017, she became a Certified Meeting Professional (CMP). When Vicki isn't planning CIAJ events

throughout Canada, she likes to cook and spend time in the great outdoors biking around Montreal.

### Isabelle Ligot

Communications Manager

Isabelle enjoys developing creative communication strategies and building bridges between people. Her work at CIAJ includes strategic planning, writing and translating various texts, creating brochures and designing visuals, and managing all web and social media content. Isabelle graduated from the Conservatoire de musique du Québec à Montréal. A language lover, she also holds a certificate in translation and a graduate certificate in legal translation from McGill University.

### Mary Plagakis

Project Manager of Multidisciplinary Programs

Mary is the coordinator for non-judicial programs, making sure that everything runs smoothly, and everyone is well taken care of. She holds a Bachelors in Sociology and a Bachelors in Child Studies from Concordia University. She enjoys solving puzzles, getting caught up on reading her pile of books. One of the things on her to do list is travel to Australia and New Zealand.

### Pauline Crigny

Communications Assistant

Pauline is a French recent graduate who works for CIAJ from France. She obtained a Bachelor's degree in Economic and Social Administration, specialized in Human Resources from the IAE School of Management (Nancy, France) and a Master's degree in European and International Studies, specialized in International Public Relations (communication)

from the Centre Européen Universitaire (Nancy, France). In her free time, Pauline enjoys listening to music, cooking, watching TV series and reading.

## THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

- Athabasca University
- PwC Canada
- The National Judicial Institute (NJI)
- The Council of Canadian Administrative Tribunals (CCAT)
- The ADAJ Project
- The Action Committee on Access to Justice in Civil and Family Matters
- The UNB Faculty of Law
- The New Brunswick Law Foundation
- The Vancouver Law Foundation

And all the experts across the country!



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