

2022 WINNERS OF THE JUSTICE ROSALIE SILBERMAN ABELLA PRIZE



JOLENE ASHINI | University of Victoria's Faculty of Law

Jolene Ashini is among the first cohort of graduates from the University of Victoria's JD/JID law program. She is a member of the Sheshatshiu Innu First Nation, located in Labrador, she grew up on reserve and on the land, within the Innu territory of Nitassinan.



RAYENE BOUZITOUN | Université d'Ottawa - Faculty of Law - Civil Law

Rayene Bouzitoun is currently completing a double major Bachelor's degree in Law and International Development at the University of Ottawa, where she is studying as a 2018 Loran Scholar. At the age of 18, Rayene was an inaugural member of the Prime Minister's Youth Council. Most recently, she worked with youth in northern Ethiopia to improve the health and rights of women and children through the Born on Time Program. Rayene has been involved in several community projects in the Saint-Michel borough, including the Forum Jeunesse de Saint-Michel, where she served as President for two years.

Rayene is even involved in Algeria, her native country. This year, she co-directed a fundraising project to provide the Skikda hospital with the necessary tools to respond to COVID-19.



DAKOTA BUNDY | Queen's University's Faculty of Law

Before attending Queen's Law, Dakota completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Toronto. While at Queen's, her passion for equity and inclusion has been shown through her participation with clubs like Queen's Women and the Law and through initiatives like successfully advocating for a Black applicant stream for the Queen's Law admissions process.



ANITA CARDINAL-STEWART | University of Alberta's Faculty of Law

Anita Cardinal-Stewart a Nehiyaw mother of 3, ultra trail runner and 3rd-year law student at the University of Alberta where she is in her 2nd term as President of the Indigenous Law Students Association. Having been a paralegal for over a decade she knew law school made perfect sense for her.



HARRY CRITCHLEY | Dalhousie University's Schulich School of Law

Harry Critchley is a graduating law student at Schulich. He currently serves as a Commissioner for the Halifax Police Board, Co-Chair of East Coast Prison Justice, and Vice-Chair for the Elizabeth Fry Society of Nova Scotia. He will be articling with Nova Scotia Legal Aid in their Dartmouth criminal office.



RORY ERICKSON | University of Saskatchewan's College of Law

Rory Erickson (he/him) is an educator, artist, and violinist living on the traditional Stó:l territory of S'ólh Téméxw. Rory is completing his Juris Doctor at the University of Saskatchewan and has focused his research efforts on the intersections of Indigenous law, human rights law, and environmental law.



ALLANA HAIST | University of Ottawa's Faculty of Law - Common Law

Allana (she/her) is a champion of legal systems reform. She is an engaged community activist for prisoner rights and for education about the harms of intimate partner violence. Her current project is a "Hero's Journey into the Law", a legal guide for women in shelters. Above all, she is a mother and an advocate for fellow survivors.



RHITA HARIM | Faculté de droit de l'Université de Montréal

Convinced that law can be leveraged to enhance social justice, Rhita Harim, a student at the University of Montreal, has been involved in social work since the age of 15 in the Saint-Michel borough in Montreal, with the goal of helping all those who need better access to justice.

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MARYAM HASSAN | York University's Osgoode Hall Law School

Maryam Hassan is a graduating student at Osgoode Hall Law School and an incoming articling student at Henein Hutchison LLP. Her work addresses systemic racism within and beyond the criminal justice system to advocate for marginalized communities. Maryam also merges her talents in the visual arts and law to make legal education more accessible.



ARIA KAMAL | Lakehead University's Bora Laskin Faculty of Law

Aria Kamal is a JD candidate at Lakehead University. As the daughter of Afghan immigrants, Aria is actively involved in advancing women and refugee rights within her community. She holds an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree from York University and has a great passion for human rights and family law.



PATRICK LEGER | University of New Brunswick's Faculty of Law

A third year law student, Patrick Leger attends the University of New Brunswick Faculty of Law. Patrick helped build the Restorative Justice Society of New Brunswick and ran the Society's first restorative justice circle. This Society focuses on diverting young people, especially young Indigenous people, from the criminal justice system.



NIAMH LEONARD | McGill University - Faculty of Law

Niamh Leonard has a decade of experience working on social impact initiatives, from equipping young people to become active citizens at Apathy is Boring, to supporting refugee claimants at Welcome Collective, to researching how surveillance impacts human rights at Citizen Lab. Niamh will graduate from the B.C.L./J.D. program at McGill University in May 2022.



CATHERINE LORD | Faculté de droit de l'Université Laval

A passionate student, she is completing her final year of her Law degree. Her involvement with PBSC and the Bureau d'information juridique has allowed her to grow as an individual and a legal practitioner, and to gain a better understanding of the challenges with gaining access to justice and of the importance of making a difference in her field.



LEILA NASR | University of British Columbia's Peter A. Allard School of Law

Leila is honored to graduate as a Justice Rosalie Abella Award recipient. Prior to law school, Leila worked in the non-profit sector focusing on advancing the rights of racial and religious minorities. After graduation, she looks forward to clerking at the BC Court of Appeal and Supreme Court of Canada.



BÉNÉDICTE PHILIPPE | Faculté de droit de l'Université de Sherbrooke

Originally from Gatineau and a member of the Mashteuatsh community, Bénédicte completed her law degree at the Université de Sherbrooke from 2018 to 2021. During her university studies, she has been involved with the Aboriginal Law Committee of the Faculty, and took part in hands on activities such as the Kawaskimhon National Moot. She is currently completing her Bar Admission course at the École du Barreau du Québec and plans to complete a Master's degree in Indigenous Law.



PASCALE RIOUX | Faculté de droit de l'Université de Moncton

Pascale is a final-year student of the Faculty of Law at the Université de Moncton in New Brunswick. During her law studies, she has been involved as President of her student federation, as a student representative on the Academic Senate, and as a member of the Status of Women Committee, the Aboriginal Reconciliation Committee and the national Probono student network chapter at her university.

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DAVID SANSCHAGRIN | Université du Québec à Montréal - Faculty of Political Science and Law

David Sanschagrin is a PhD student in Political Science at the UQÀM. His dissertation focuses on the legal reformers who, since the 1930's, have helped build the contemporary Canadian state and enshrine rights and freedoms into the constitution. His dissertation, titled *Le nationalisme constitutionnel au Canada*, will be published by the Presses de l'Université Laval.



RAHUL SAPRA | University of Western Ontario's Faculty of Law

Rahul is in the final year of a JD/HBA(Ivey)/BSc triple degree at Western and a committed advocate for social justice. He is president of the Student Legal Society, co-chair of the Western Law Anti-Racism Working Group, a student liaison with the South Asian Bar Association, and editor-in-chief of both student-run journals at Western Law. He is excited to be articling with Blake, Cassels & Graydon next year and clerking for The Hon. Chief Justice Bell of the Court Martial Appeal Court the following year.



TYRONE SEQUEIRA | University of Windsor's Faculty of Law

Tyrone Sequeira is a law student in the Dual JD program at the University of Windsor and the University of Detroit Mercy. Tyrone looks leadership roles to support marginalized communities. Tyrone created a new Pro Bono Project to help youth with incarcerated family members navigate visitation and introduced a Black and Indigenous Scholarship fund in Windsor Law.



SYDNEY SNAPE | Thompson Rivers University's Faculty of Law

Graduating from TRU Faculty of Law Sydney brings a thoughtful approach to leadership and a willingness to lead by example, never shying away from the tougher challenges. She completed a degree in political science and history at UBC and is a proud member of the 2SLGBTQ+ community. Sydney looks forward to starting her career as a lawyer.



DALAL SOURAYA | University of Calgary's Faculty of Law

Dalal Souraya graduated from the University of Calgary in 2021. As the former Society of Law Student's president, Dalal advocated for EDI support and created a bursary for low-income students. Currently, Dalal is articling at Calgary Legal Guidance. She plans to continue advocating for access to justice throughout her career.



HANNAH TAYLOR | University of Manitoba's Faculty of Law

Hannah (she/they) founded two national charities to support those experiencing homelessness and empower youth to make change. As a law student - she helped create the Trans ID Clinic, co-authored a submission to the ICC to support the Tamil community, and served as president of Robson Hall's 2SLGBTQ+ student group.



DENIZ YILMAZ | University of Toronto's Faculty of Law

Deniz is graduating from the University of Toronto and is excited to pursue a career in family law. She is interested in social justice issues and hopes to use her law degree to better her community.