

CHAMPIONING HEALTH JUSTICE PARTNERSHIPS CONFERENCE

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Funding by



Championing Health Justice Partnerships Conference

September 22 – 23, 2026 | All times EDT (GMT-4)

Osgoode Professional Development Centre, 1 Dundas St W Suite #2602

Detailed Program

Subject to change | (Updated: September 15, 2026)

Day 1: Tuesday, September 22, 2026

8:00 - 9:00 AM – Registration & Check-in

Attendees are encouraged to arrive between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m. to collect their name badge, enjoy refreshments, and network with colleagues.

9:00 - 9:30 AM – Welcome & Invocation

Classroom B

An opening reflection to ground us in our collective commitment to equity, justice, and community, and to set the tone for a day of learning, connection, and action.

Opening remarks from Jody Harbour | Grandmother's Voice

Video Greetings from the Honourable Doug Downey | Attorney General of Ontario

Video Greetings from Dr. Danielle Martin | Member of Parliament for University–Rosedale

Video Greetings from Legal Aid Ontario

Greetings from the Ontario Health Justice Community of Practice

Aidan Johnson | Executive Director, Niagara Community Legal Clinic ; Co-chair, Ontario Health Justice Community of Practice

Aidan Johnson is a staff Lawyer at Niagara Community Legal Clinic, where they also serve as Executive Director. Mx Johnson provides representation at the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario. NCLC is a not-for-profit agency funded by Legal Aid Ontario. The clinic provides access to justice for poverty-affected people in the Region of Niagara.

Previously, Mx Johnson was a criminal defence staff lawyer for Legal Aid Ontario and a city councillor in Hamilton. They served in a quasi-judicial capacity as chair of the City of Hamilton Planning and Economic Development Committee, which adjudicates appealable land use and zoning decisions.

They hold a Master's degree from the University of Chicago and were a Fulbright scholar.

Amy Slotek | Staff Lawyer, Legal Aid Ontario; Co-chair, Ontario Health Justice Community of Practice

Amy Slotek is a Staff Lawyer with Legal Aid Ontario (LAO). Since 2016, she has coordinated a LAO program focused on meeting the interconnected legal needs of homeless accused who manage complex mental health disabilities in Toronto through a community mental health justice partnership. In this role, Amy maintains a broad practice, including criminal and eviction defence, mental health and immigration law.

Ms. Slotek is also a sessional instructor with the University of Windsor Faculty of Law and the Toronto Metropolitan University Lincoln Alexander School of Law (LASL) where she teaches professionalism and ethics, mental health law and an upper year seminar for students who are involved in a mental health justice clinic.

9:30 - 10:30 AM – Session 1 (Plenary)

Classroom B

Setting the Stage: Why Health Justice Partnerships Matter Now More than Ever

Description

This plenary session will set the stage for the conference by exploring the growing global movement toward Health Justice Partnerships (HJPs) as an integrated approach to addressing the social, legal, and structural determinants of health.

Plenary speakers will provide a high-level overview of what health justice partnerships are and why they are needed now more than ever. They will examine how Health Justice Partnerships are being implemented across jurisdictions, drawing on examples from countries including Australia, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Canada. The plenary will consider how collaborative, interdisciplinary responses can reduce systemic barriers experienced by marginalized populations and contribute to better health, social, and justice outcomes for all.

The discussion will also situate Health Justice Partnerships within broader national and international policy frameworks and commitments, including universal health coverage, human rights-based approaches to health, access to justice initiatives, Indigenous rights and reconciliation efforts, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Particular attention will be given to the ways Health Justice Partnerships advance commitments to equity, prevention, early intervention, and person-centred care and justice.

The session will provide participants with a shared understanding of the strategic importance of Health Justice Partnerships and the opportunities for cross-sector collaboration, policy innovation, and systems change. It will also establish a foundation for the conversations and knowledge exchange that will continue throughout the conference.

By grounding the conference in a shared understanding of both the urgency and the opportunity of this work, the plenary will inspire participants to think boldly about collaboration, innovation, and collective impact in advancing health justice.

Moderator

Michele Leering | Visiting Scholar, Queen's University Faculty of Law; Post-doctoral Research Fellow, University of Ottawa Faculty of Law

Michele Leering is a Visiting Scholar at Queen's Faculty of Law, and a Post-doctoral Research Fellow at the University of Ottawa Faculty of Law. Her research and advocacy are informed by her experiences as the (now former) Executive Director/Lawyer of the Community Advocacy & Legal Centre for almost four decades. She works to transform legal services to be more holistic and evidence-based to respond to the multi-faceted and intersecting needs of clients and marginalized communities. Her research advances "people-centred justice" in response to the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Goal 16.3 on ensuring access to justice and the rule of law. A founding

member of Ontario's Health Justice Partnerships' Community of Practice, she published a [background paper](#) on the evolution and impact of health justice partnerships in Australia, Canada, UK and the USA in May 2024, and "[Knowledge for Implementation of People-centred Justice: Promise of Medical-Legal/Health Justice Partnerships](#)" in April 2026.

Presenters

Bethany Hamilton | Director, National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership, George Washington University's Milken Institute of Public Health

Bethany Hamilton is the Director of the National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership (NCMLP) based at The George Washington University's Milken Institute School of Public Health.

Hamilton has spent her career working at the intersection of health equity and social justice. She previously served as Deputy Director, State Affairs at the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC), where she led projects focused on expanding Medicaid, defending the Affordable Care Act, and strengthening the ability of community health centers to carry out their mission.

She advanced healthcare workforce development initiatives as part of NACHC's Community HealthCorps Program, and began her career as an Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Legal Fellow at Legal Assistance of Western NY, where she built a re-entry law clinic and co-managed a law student summer associate program. As a former member of NCMLP's Advisory Council from 2014-2019, she served as a bridge between the two sectors and was part of the team that oversaw NCMLP's transition to become a federally-funded technical assistance hub for health centers.

Dame Hazel Genn DBE, KC (Hon) | Professor of Socio-Legal Studies in the Faculty of Law, University College London (UCL), Pro-Provost (Bicentennial); Founder and Academic Adviser, UCL Centre for Access to Justice

Dame Hazel Genn is Professor of Socio-Legal Studies in the Faculty of Laws at UCL and Pro-Provost Bicentennial. She was Dean of the Faculty 2008-2017 and is Academic Adviser to the UCL Centre for Access to Justice, which she founded in 2013. With a background in quantitative social science, social policy and law, she is a leading empirical legal researcher and expert on access to civil and administrative justice - author of *Paths to Justice: What People Do and Think About Going to Law* (1999) a seminal study of public access to justice which has since been replicated in numerous jurisdictions around the world. Her work has had a global influence on policymakers in relation to the provision of legal aid and the social and health effects of unmet legal need. Between 2016-2018 she developed the activities of the UCL Centre for Access to Justice to include an innovative partnership with a GP practice in East London delivering free social welfare legal advice to low income and vulnerable patients within the practice.

Supported by The Legal Education Foundation, she is currently Directing a National Strategy for Health Justice Partnerships, working with a wide range of UK and international policymakers, commissioners, service providers, researchers and research funders. As part of this work she has written about the developing health justice field: '[When Law is Good for Your Health: Mitigating the Social Determinants of Health through Access to Justice](#)'. Dame Hazel has been a regular visitor to Hong Kong since 1993, undertaking teaching, and policy advice on justice system issues. She has been a member of UK judicial delegations to the Mainland as well as organising justice system international conferences on the Mainland and in Hong Kong.

Lottie Turner | Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Health Justice Australia

Lottie Turner (she/her) is the CEO of Health Justice Australia, where she leads national efforts to strengthen the way health, legal and social service systems work together to improve health, justice and wellbeing outcomes.

A systems-oriented leader with a background in social work, knowledge translation and adaptive leadership, Lottie focuses on building the relationships, shared understanding and collective capability needed to hold and respond to complex challenges.

Lottie was one of Health Justice Australia's inaugural Directors and has played a central role in shaping the organisation's strategy, partnerships and culture since its establishment. She brings deep experience in cross-sector collaboration, organisational learning, workforce development and leading change in complex environments.

Before joining Health Justice Australia, Lottie worked across the university and community health sectors, translating evidence into practice and advancing human rights-based approaches to policy, strategy and service delivery.

Lottie's leadership is grounded in curiosity, collaboration and purpose. She is passionate about building organisations and systems that can hold complexity well, work across boundaries, and remain connected and accountable to the communities at the heart of their work.

Dr. Sarah Beardon | Senior Research & Policy Fellow, University College London Faculty of Laws

Sarah Beardon works as Senior Research and Policy Fellow at the UCL Faculty of Laws. She completed a Masters in Public Health in 2012, and through this training developed an interest in health equity and the prevention of ill health. She began her interdisciplinary work with law when she joined UCL in 2016, with a project evaluating the impact of a Health Justice Partnership based in East London. She has continued to focus on Health Justice Partnerships in her academic work since that time. Her projects have included a national mapping study of HJPs across England, two international evidence reviews on the impacts of HJPs, and an in-depth study on the

implementation of HJPs across England. The latter study was conducted for her PhD and explored various partnership models, as well as factors that influence the successful delivery of partnerships. The findings have been used to develop implementation guidance and continue to inform discussions with practitioners and policy makers. Sarah also teaches on UCL degree programmes in medicine and law, and undertakes research with the UCL Legal Advice Clinic.

10:30 - 11:00 AM – BREAK

Please take a moment to recharge with refreshments and continue the conversation with fellow attendees during the break.

11:00 AM - 12:15 PM – Session 2 (Plenary)

Classroom B

Models & the Spectrum of Health Justice Partnerships

Description

This plenary session will introduce the spectrum of HJP models emerging across Ontario and beyond, including hospital-based, primary care, embedded, rural, and academic partnership models. Speakers will highlight lessons learned and opportunities for adaptation across settings.

Moderator

Aidan Johnson | Executive Director, Niagara Community Legal Clinic; Co-chair, Ontario Health Justice Community of Practice

Please refer to Welcome & Invocation for bio.

Presenters

Amy Slotek | Staff Lawyer, Legal Aid Ontario; Co-chair, Ontario Health Justice Community of Practice

Please refer to Welcome & Invocation for bio.

Emmanuelle Bernheim | Professor, University of Ottawa Civil Law Section of the Faculty of Law; Co-founder, Outaouais Interdisciplinary Social Law Clinic

Emmanuelle Bernheim is a full Professor at the Civil Law Section of the Faculty of Law at the University of Ottawa and holds the Canada Research Chair in Mental Health and Access to Justice. She is a member of the College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists of the Royal Society of Canada.

Grounded in sociological and legal scholarship, her research investigates how legal institutions and judicial practices generate and reproduce patterns of social inequality. Her research agenda aims to deepen understanding of how marginalized populations become subject to serial judicialization through the intersection of police, social, and health interventions.

She co-founded the Outaouais Interdisciplinary Social Law Clinic that has, since 2021, operated within soup kitchens, trained students in law, social work, and nursing, provided services to individuals experiencing homelessness, and carried out action-research activities.

Giulia Reinhardt | Lawyer & Executive Director, Halton Community Legal Services

Giulia Reinhardt is a Lawyer and the Executive Director of Halton Community Legal Services (HCLS). She is a graduate of the University of Ottawa and has practiced at several legal clinics in Ontario. Her work at HCLS has focused on shifting the clinic's approach to holistic client service in the delivery of legal services.

Jennifer Stone | Executive Director, Neighbourhood Legal Services; Manager, The Health Justice Program

Jennifer (Jennie) Stone is the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Legal Services and was previously NLS' staff immigration lawyer from 2011-2019. Prior to joining NLS, she co-founded the Hong Kong Refugee Advice Centre (now Justice Centre HK) which advocates for refugee claimants and vulnerable migrants in the HKSAR. Until November 2018, she spent 4 years on the Executive Committee of the Canadian Council for Refugees.

Jennie thinks a lot about how to best accommodate clients through ableist legal systems. Together with her NLS colleagues, she leads the [Health Justice Program](#) (HJP), which provides embedded legal services for patients of the Family Health Team at St. Michael's Hospital. HJP also brings together a number of specialty legal clinics ([HALCO](#), [ARCH](#), and [ALS](#)) with primary healthcare providers to engage in cross-professional education and systemic advocacy around key social determinants of health.

Jennie studied at McGill University (Hons BA), the London School of Economics (MSc) and the University of Toronto (JD). She was called to the Ontario Bar in 2005.

Lisa Turik | Lawyer & Executive Director, Community Advocacy & Legal Centre (CALC)

Lisa Turik is a lawyer and the Executive Director at CALC. Lisa graduated from the University of Guelph with an undergraduate degree in Psychology, and obtained her law degree from Osgoode Hall Law School in 2013. She was called to the bar in 2014. Lisa articulated at CALC, then worked as a staff lawyer and Co-Director of Legal Services prior to becoming the Executive Director. Her legal work focuses on income security issues. Lisa also co-created and manages the [Justice & Health Partnership project](#) at CALC.

Michael Ollier | Director of Legal Services, Hamilton Community Legal Clinic

Michael (Mike) Ollier was called to the Ontario bar in 1989. He was in private practice until joining McQuesten Legal & Community Services in Hamilton in 1991. He was the Executive Director there in 1993 until becoming the Director of Legal Services at Hamilton Community Legal Clinic, that amalgamated three Hamilton clinics in 2010. He has been a member of the Executive of the Association of Community Legal Clinics of Ontario and co-chaired the Race Equity Advisory Committee. He joined the Health-Justice Community of Practice in 2015. Mike combines management duties with direct legal service.

Dr. C.Tess Sheldon | Associate Professor, University of Windsor Faculty of Law; Director, Health Justice Clinic in Mental Health and Addictions

Dr. C.Tess Sheldon (she/her) is an Associate Professor at the University of Windsor Faculty of Law and Director of the Health Justice Clinic in Mental Health and Addictions, which serves the Empowerment Council, the collective voice of people who use Ontario's mental health and addiction system. Her research, teaching, and community-engaged practice focus on disability justice, mental health law, human rights, and access to justice. Her work explores how law can challenge—or reinforce—structural drivers of health inequity, including poverty, racism, colonialism, and ableism. She writes on psychiatric detention, coercive treatment, and community-based approaches to health. Before joining Windsor Law in 2018, she practiced in Ontario's community legal clinic system, including at ARCH Disability Law Centre and Justice for Children and Youth. Through the Clinic, she works with the Empowerment Council and interdisciplinary partners while training a new generation of movement lawyers.

12:15 - 1:15 PM – LUNCH

Please join us for a catered lunch and take this time to recharge, reflect, and connect with others committed to advancing health justice.

1:15 - 2:45 PM – Session 3 (Workshop - Practical)

Classroom B

Teaching & Embedding Health Justice in Medical, Healthcare & Legal Education

Description

This session brings together three educators and practitioners who are actively integrating health justice content into medical, healthcare, and legal education. Speakers will share their approach to

embedding health justice content in the curriculum, the lessons they've learned along the way, and practical strategies for others looking to include health justice in their own curricula.

This session will explore:

- The approaches speakers have developed, how they came about, and what implementation looked like in practice
- The case for health justice education - why this work matters, why the moment is right, and why their particular approaches were chosen
- Strategies for gaining institutional buy-in and successfully integrating health justice content into existing curricula
- Recommendations and practical takeaways for educators and practitioners ready to take next steps

By the end of this session, attendees will leave with a clearer picture of what health justice education can look like across disciplines, and concrete strategies to advance this work in their own institutions and communities.

Co-moderators

Helen Anderson | Director of CLEO Connect at Community Legal Education Ontario (CLEO)

Helen Anderson is the Director of CLEO Connect at Community Legal Education Ontario (CLEO). CLEO provides clear, accurate, and up-to-date public legal information to help people understand and exercise their rights. Helen's work focuses on providing training and resources to trusted intermediaries who support people with law-related problems. She holds a PhD in Theory and Policy Studies in Education from the University of Toronto. Helen is also a co-author of the Health Harming Legal Needs curriculum project for family medicine residents. She has been involved with patient education and Continuing Medical Education in previous roles at the Arthritis Society Canada and Public Health Ontario. Prior to her work in the legal and health sectors, Helen delivered educational programming on human rights in the nonprofit and post-secondary education sectors.

Lisa Turik | Lawyer & Executive Director, Community Advocacy & Legal Centre (CALC)

Please refer to Session 2 (Plenary): Models & the Spectrum of Health Justice Partnerships for bio.

Presenters

Dr. Melanie Henry | Vice-Chair, Community & Partnerships, Department of Family & Community Medicine, University of Toronto; Family Physician, Health for All Family Health Team; Staff Physician, Oak Valley Health; Physician, Blue Door Shelter.

Dr. Henry is the Vice-Chair of [Community and Partnerships](#) in the Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of Toronto. She is a staff physician at Oak Valley Health, Markham-Stouffville site, and a family physician at the community-based clinic of Health for All. In her community clinic, she previously held the positions of board chair, and director of the Global Health program through the teaching unit. She currently works as a physician at Blue Door Shelter and provides physician support through the Community Paramedic Outreach Response Team (CPORT) program.

Dr. Melanie Henry received her undergraduate degree at the University of New Brunswick, Renaissance College in Interdisciplinary Leadership, where she studied public policy and leadership through participatory action research. She received her MD from McMaster University and completed her postgraduate training and a fellowship in Global Health and Vulnerable Populations at the University of Toronto. Despite educational, and professional travel experiences in northern Canada and internationally, Dr. Henry returned to practice in York Region, striving to address the health inequities in the community in which she grew up. Dr. Henry is working toward improving the health equity curriculum for family medicine residents in order to encourage empathetic and social justice-minded physicians. She is passionate about systemically improving health inequities through community engagement and partnerships.

Mercedes Perez | Lawyer & Founding Partner, Perez Procope Leinveer LLP; Adjunct Faculty, Osgoode Hall Law School

B.A., University of Toronto; M.A., University of Chicago; LL.B. McGill University. Called to the Ontario Bar in 2003. Partner at Perez Procope Leinveer LLP with focused expertise in administrative and constitutional law, civil litigation and appeals.

Mercedes has represented clients before a range of administrative tribunals and at all levels of court in Ontario, Federal Court and the Supreme Court of Canada. She specializes in mental health/ capacity law, guardianship proceedings, disability rights, sexual assault complainants' representation, elder law and *Charter* litigation. She has advocated on behalf of clients at hundreds of Ontario Review Board and Consent and Capacity Board hearings and is active in appeals from decisions of these tribunals. She has received numerous *amicus curiae* appointments from the Superior Court of Justice and Ontario Court of Appeal in mental health and capacity related matters, including in several precedent-setting homeless encampment eviction *Charter* cases such as the recent decision in *The Regional Municipality of Waterloo v. Named Respondents and Persons Unknown*, 2026 ONSC 2971 (CanLII). Mercedes was also lead counsel to the applicant in *P.S. v. Ontario*, 2014 ONCA 900 (CanLII), a successful constitutional challenge to the involuntary detention provisions in Ontario's *Mental Health Act*.

Mercedes co-instructs the Law and Psychiatry course at Osgoode Hall Law School. As a member and former Vice-Chair of the Mental Health Legal Committee, she has prepared submissions on

proposed provincial and federal legislative reform bills. She has been a frequent speaker on capacity, constitutional and administrative law matters at law conferences and continuing legal education programs.

Robin Nobleman | Staff Lawyer, Income Security Advocacy Centre; Adjunct Professor, University of Toronto Jackman Faculty of Law

Robin Nobleman, B.A. (McGill), M.Sc. (London School of Economics), J.D. (Osgoode Hall) is passionate about using the law to improve social determinants of health. Robin is a Staff Lawyer at the Income Security Advocacy Centre (ISAC) where she engages in strategic litigation and policy advocacy to advance the interests and rights of low-income Ontarians around income security programs and low-wage precarious employment. Robin was previously a Staff Lawyer leading the litigation practice at the HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario (HALCO) where she appeared at all levels of court, including the Supreme Court of Canada. She has practiced in the areas of public health, administrative, human rights, constitutional, privacy, and employment law.

Robin teaches an interdisciplinary course in Public Health Law at the University of Toronto's Jackman Faculty of Law and writes about social determinants of health and public health law and policy in Canada. Prior to law school, Robin completed her Masters in Health, Community and Development at the London School of Economics and worked in frontline health and social services in Canada and abroad.



This program contains 1 hour(s) and 0 minutes of Professionalism Content

1:15 - 2:45 PM – Session 4 (Workshop - Policy)

Classroom A

Equity, Inclusion, & Priority Populations

Description

This panel will explore the histories of community-led health justice activism that have shaped, and often predated, what are now called “health justice partnerships”. Drawing on the expertise of people with lived experience, elders, activists, and community leaders, the session will examine

how marginalized communities have built models of care, legal support, policy change, and resistance in response to systemic inequities across healthcare, legal, social service, and carceral systems.

Rather than treating HJPs as a new innovation, the panel will ask what current practitioners can learn from long-standing movements, including HIV/AIDS activism, harm reduction, MAD organizing, and more. Panelists will share lessons learned, strategies that worked, harms to avoid, and principles for building partnerships that remain accountable to the communities they aim to serve.

Moderator

Bérangère Desfonds | Lawyer, Justice Pro Bono (formerly Pro Bono Quebec)

Bérangère Desfonds is a lawyer with Justice Pro Bono's Medical-Legal Partnership Program in Montréal, Québec. She currently oversees partnerships with two pediatric hospitals and a local community health centre (CLSC), helping integrate legal support into care pathways for vulnerable patients and families. Her practice focuses primarily on families of children with complex health needs and persons with precarious immigration status.

Working closely with social workers and healthcare professionals, she also contributes to systemic advocacy efforts aimed at improving access to healthcare for underserved populations, particularly those facing social, economic, or immigration-related barriers. Before joining Justice Pro Bono, Bérangère practised in both Legal Aid and the private sector in the areas of housing law, human rights law, and civil litigation.

Presenters

Alexander McClelland | Associate Professor, Institute of Criminology, Carleton University

Alexander McClelland, is an Associate Professor at the Institute of Criminology, Carleton University. He is the author of *Criminalized Lives: HIV and Legal Violence*, released in 2024, from the Q+ Public Series at Rutgers University Press. He is a member of the *Canadian Coalition to Reform HIV Criminalization*, and the Global Advisory Panel of the *HIV Justice Network*. He was a long-time member of *AIDS ACTION NOW!*

Dr. Daisy Rivadeneira | Physician; Migrant Public Legal Education & Outreach Worker, Niagara Community Legal Clinic

Dr. Daisy Rivadeneira Quintero trained in Ecuador before immigrating to Canada with her family in 2014. Since then, she has dedicated her career to supporting migrant and temporary foreign workers through healthcare, education, advocacy, and community outreach.

Her journey in Canada began with volunteer roles at Quest Community Health Centre and Lynnhaven, while working a variety of jobs and learning English. These experiences, including working alongside migrant workers in both service and agricultural settings, gave her firsthand insight into the challenges faced by temporary foreign workers and inspired her lifelong commitment to advancing their health, rights, and well-being.

Over the past decade, Daisy has worked with organizations including the Multicultural Centre's Bridges Niagara Program, Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers (OHCOW), Positive Living Niagara, and the Niagara Community Legal Clinic. Her work has focused on occupational health and safety, health education, legal rights, community outreach, and reducing barriers to healthcare access.

Since 2024, she has served as Health Program Coordinator at Positive Living Niagara, supporting migrant and temporary foreign workers through health promotion, advocacy, and education initiatives. In 2026, she became the Public Legal Education Project Coordinator for Agricultural Workers at the Niagara Community Legal Clinic, where she combines her healthcare expertise, advocacy experience, and lived experience as a newcomer to Canada to support agricultural workers across the Niagara region.

Daisy is also a co-founder of VARIMED, an organization focused on health education and prevention for vulnerable communities. Her work reflects a deep commitment to health equity, social justice, and ensuring that migrant workers have access to the supports and services they need to thrive.

Jody Harbour | Co-founder, Grandmother's Voice

Jody Harbour is an Urban Indigenous woman of Cayuga, Ojibwe, Romanian, and English ancestry, entrepreneur, and senior executive with more than 30 years of leadership experience across the manufacturing, textile design, apparel, and sales industries.

As the co-founder of Grandmother's Voice, a collective-guided movement led by Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers, Jody works to carry ancestral teachings into health, wellness, leadership, and community systems. Her own journey of reconnection to culture has shaped her purpose and commitment to creating spaces where Indigenous wisdom can guide healing, education, and meaningful systems change.

Grounded in relationship, responsibility, and love, Jody is dedicated to supporting the transfer of Indigenous knowledge that restores balance and strengthens individuals, families, organizations, and communities. Her leadership reflects a deep commitment to empowering Indigenous women and communities to help shape the systems that affect their lives, bridging boardrooms and ceremony with a focus on reciprocity, stewardship, and long-term impact.

Jody believes that lasting change begins by honouring the whole person and creating opportunities for people to reconnect with themselves, one another, the land, and the teachings that have sustained Indigenous Peoples since time immemorial.

"I'm a granddaughter, daughter, mom, auntie, sister, wife, and friend," she shares. "That's how I connect—through who I am and where I come from."

Through Grandmother's Voice, Jody continues to walk with purpose, helping to create pathways where Indigenous knowledge and relationships inspire healing, belonging, and hope for future generations.



This program contains 1 hour(s) and 0 minutes of
EDI Professionalism Content

2:45 - 3:15 PM – BREAK

We invite you to enjoy refreshments during the break and take some time to connect with colleagues and fellow attendees.

3:15 - 4:45 PM – Session 5 (Workshop - Practical)

Classroom B

Laying the Foundation: Building Health Justice Partnerships That Last

Description

This practical and interactive workshop will equip participants with resources, best practices and strategies to initiate, develop and sustain effective health justice partnerships. Participants will learn from Canadian and international experts who have developed and implemented successful health justice partnerships in hospitals and in community.

This session will explore:

- Approaches to building and sustaining interdisciplinary collaboration

- Methodologies for researching health harming legal needs, gaps, and local capacities
- Risk mitigation strategies, including how to minimize and address conflicts of interests and protect confidentiality through a health justice partnership
- How to integrate and apply common terminology across health and justice sectors to improve communication and streamline collaboration
- Resources to develop health justice partnerships

By the end of the workshop, attendees will leave with actionable tips and a clear framework for advancing health and justice through local partnerships.

Moderator

Amy Slotek | Staff Lawyer, Legal Aid Ontario; Co-chair, Ontario Health Justice Community of Practice

Please refer to Welcome & Invocation for bio.

Presenters

Dr. Gary Bloch | Family Physician, St. Michael's Hospital & Inner City Health Associates; Associate Professor, University of Toronto; Co-founder of Inner City Health Associates & Health Providers Against Poverty

Dr. Gary Bloch is a family physician with St. Michael's Hospital and Inner City Health Associates, and an Associate Professor at the University of Toronto. His clinical, program innovation, education, research, policy, and advocacy interests focus on the intersection between primary care, health equity, and the social determinants of health. He is a co-founder of the physician homeless services group Inner City Health Associates and the advocacy group Health Providers Against Poverty. He has developed numerous innovative clinical programs for primary care teams and educational curricula for health care trainees, and served on an Ontario government task force targeting income security. He has supported the development of the St. Michael's Hospital Academic Family Health Team's Health Justice Project since its inception.

Julien Dion | Lawyer & Mediator, La Maison Bleue; Adjunct professor, Université de l'Ontario français.

As a general practice attorney and accredited mediator, driven by a deep desire to give meaning to his actions and a passion for sharing knowledge, Mr. Dion has always worked in the community legal sector with a diverse clientele, consistently striving to make the law more accessible, empower citizens, and defend their rights.

A believer in alternative dispute resolution and paradigm shifts, after earning his bachelor's degree from Université du Québec à Montréal, he completed a specialized graduate diploma in dispute prevention and resolution at the University of Sherbrooke and underwent family mediation training

through the Quebec Bar Association. He has since assisted hundreds of people in numerous cases as a certified family mediator and small claims mediator.

For the past four years, he has been part of the interdisciplinary team at La Maison Bleue, an organization affiliated with the healthcare network that provides prenatal care to vulnerable families, helping establish a new intervention program: the legal support service. There, in a welcoming environment, he meets with families daily to support them in navigating a wide range of legal and administrative challenges. Seeking to share his passion for access to justice, Mr. Dion also serves as a supervising professor at the Bar School and as an adjunct professor at the Université de l'Ontario français.

Lisa Turik | Lawyer & Executive Director, Community Advocacy & Legal Centre (CALC)

Please refer to Session 2 (Plenary): Models & the Spectrum of Health Justice Partnerships for bio.

Yonit Fuhrmann | Deputy Director, Pro Bono Ontario (PBO)

Yonit Fuhrmann joined PBO as its second employee when the organization was in its infancy. She worked alongside the founding Executive Director and a growing team to build PBO into an organization of more than 30 staff and 1,500 volunteers that serve nearly 40,000 clients annually. Yonit leads many critical functions at PBO including project development, governance, finance, human resources, strategy, research and evaluation, development and communications. She has developed many of those functions from scratch and scaled them to meet the evolving needs of PBO, its volunteers and the people it serves.

Yonit has led and contributed to important research and publications to better understand the legal needs of low-income people and their pathways to justice, including the 2011 Listening to Ontarians report and the 2024 Gateways research. Yonit also builds strong relationships to stakeholders and staff and works effectively to continually strengthen and develop the organization. Her work to shepherd and build out a portfolio of grants has provided PBO with a stable base from which to innovate and explore new opportunities to pursue 100% access to justice for the people of Ontario.



This program contains 1 hour(s) and 0 minutes of
Professionalism Content

3:15 - 4:45 PM – Session 6 (Workshop - Policy)

Classroom A

Policy & Legislative Enablers of Health Justice

Description

Access to justice and health equity are too often pursued in policy silos. Yet the tools to bridge them already exist. The legislative frameworks underpinning Canada's healthcare system and public health infrastructure already recognize the importance of the social determinants of health.

This policy-focused session will bring together thought leaders from academia, government, law, and medicine to investigate how we can use policy and legislative tools to facilitate cooperation and support the expansion of health justice partnerships. We will explore what a whole-of-government approach to health and access to justice could look like.

Moderator

Robin Nobleman | Staff Lawyer, Income Security Advocacy Centre; Adjunct Professor, University of Toronto Jackman Faculty of Law

Please refer to Session 3 (Workshop – Practical): Teaching & Embedding Health Justice in Medical, Healthcare & Legal Education for bio.

Presenters

Dr. Naheed Dosani | Founder, Palliative Education and Care for the Homeless (PEACH) Program at the Inner City Health Associates; Medical Director, Kensington Hospice (Kensington Health); Health Equity Expert Advisor, Canadian Partnership Against Cancer; Physician, St. Michael's Hospital (Unity Health Toronto)

As a palliative care physician and health justice activist, Dr. Naheed Dosani is dedicated to advancing equitable access to healthcare for people experiencing structural vulnerabilities like poverty and homelessness. These efforts include founding & leading the Palliative Education and Care for the Homeless (PEACH) Program at the Inner City Health Associates in downtown Toronto, serving as the Medical Director of Kensington Hospice (Kensington Health), a Health Equity Expert Advisor at the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer and as a palliative care physician at St. Michael's Hospital (Unity Health Toronto).

Dr. Dosani shares his passion for palliative care and health equity with learners as an Assistant Professor with the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Toronto. As a researcher, he is appointed as an Investigator with the MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions at St Michael's Hospital's Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, with a special interest in health system

innovation & advancing access to equity-oriented care for structurally vulnerable populations. As a health systems leader, he serves on the Board of Directors for the Canadian Medical Association.

Dr. Dosani has received many prestigious honours for his trailblazing work. These awards include the Meritorious Service Cross for Humanitarianism from Canada's Governor General (2018), the Award for Humanitarianism from the Canadian Society of Palliative Care Physicians (2019) and the Early Career Leader Award from the Canadian Medical Association (2020). Most recently, Dr. Dosani received an Honorary Doctorate Degree (Doctor of Laws) from Ontario Tech University (2022), the Dr Earl Dunn Award [for advancing primary care] from the University of Toronto Department of Family & Community Medicine (2024) and the Dr S. Lawrence Librach Award [for excellence and leadership in Palliative Care] from Hospice Palliative Care Ontario (2024). In 2025, he was awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal, awarded to Canadians whose work strengthens their communities and country.

Sara Gold | Legal Counsel, Access to Justice Office, Department of Justice (DOJ) Canada

Sara Gold is Legal Counsel with the Access to Justice Office at the Department of Justice Canada (DOJ), where she provides technical assistance to foreign governments on justice sector reform and leads the implementation of multi-year bilateral development projects focused on the rule of law and human rights. Ms. Gold has worked in Mexico, Kazakhstan, Benin and Nigeria on strengthening collaboration between the health and justice sectors, particularly in the areas of gender-based violence and youth justice. She holds dual degrees in common law and civil law from McGill University, complemented by a bachelor's degree in international development studies from the same institution. Before joining the DOJ, she practiced as a litigation associate at a global law firm, completed a judicial clerkship at an international tribunal and served as an analyst at the Embassy of Canada to Argentina and Paraguay.

Vanessa Gruben | Professor, University of Ottawa Faculty of Law; Director, Centre for Health Law, Policy, & Ethics

Vanessa Gruben is a Full Professor in the Common Law Section of the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Law and Director of the Centre for Health Law, Policy and Ethics. One of Canada's leading scholars in health law and policy, her research addresses difficult legal and ethical questions in health care today. Her scholarship is distinctively interdisciplinary, bridging law, medicine, ethics, and policy, with research funded by CIHR, SSHRC, Canadian Blood Services, and the Foundation for Legal Research. In addition to her scholarly work, Professor Gruben is the chair of the Board of AMS Healthcare, serves as a trustee of the Royal Ottawa, and sits on the Board of the Canadian Health Coalition.

4:45 - 7:00 PM – Reception

Poster Showcase & Networking Reception

Description

The reception and poster showcase will highlight innovative HJP initiatives, research projects, and interdisciplinary collaborations from across the health, legal, and public health sectors. Passed hors d'oeuvres and light refreshments will be served.

CHAMPIONING HEALTH JUSTICE PARTNERSHIPS CONFERENCE

INNOVATE. ELEVATE. COLLABORATE.

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Day 2: Wednesday, September 23, 2026

9:00 - 10:30 AM – Session 7 (Workshop - Practical)

Classroom B

Building Evaluation and Research Capacity for Advancing Health Justice Partnerships

Description

This practical workshop will explore realistic ways to document, evaluate, and research health justice partnerships. Drawing on Canadian and international experience, panelists will distinguish among internal program evaluation, quality improvement, participatory and action research, and more resource-intensive empirical studies. The session will ask: What evidence should HJ partnerships collect? How can small teams get started? What does a meaningful but manageable evaluation framework look like? How can evidence support program improvement, accountability, sustainability, advocacy, and policy change?

The session will emphasize feasible first steps for legal aid-service providers: articulating a theory of change, documenting initiatives as case studies, choosing useful measures, collecting data ethically, and building toward stronger evaluation and research through collaboration with health and academic partners.

Co-moderators and Presenters

Michele Leering | Visiting Scholar, Queen's University Faculty of Law; Post-doctoral Research Fellow, University of Ottawa Faculty of Law

Michele Leering is a Visiting Scholar at Queen's Faculty of Law, and a Post-doctoral Research Fellow at the University of Ottawa Faculty of Law. Her research and advocacy are informed by her experiences as the (now former) Executive Director/Lawyer of the Community Advocacy & Legal Centre for almost four decades. She works to transform legal services to be more holistic and evidence-based to respond to the multi-faceted and intersecting needs of clients and marginalized communities. Her research advances "people-centred justice" in response to the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Goal 16.3 on ensuring access to justice and the rule of law. A founding member of Ontario's Health Justice Partnerships' Community of Practice, she published a [background paper](#) on the evolution and impact of health justice partnerships in Australia, Canada, UK and the USA in May 2024, and "[Knowledge for Implementation of People-centred Justice: Promise of Medical-Legal/Health Justice Partnerships](#)" in April 2026.

Jennifer Stone | Executive Director, Neighbourhood Legal Services; Manager, The Health Justice Program

Jennifer (Jennie) Stone is the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Legal Services and was previously NLS' staff immigration lawyer from 2011-2019. Prior to joining NLS, she co-founded the Hong Kong Refugee Advice Centre (now Justice Centre HK) which advocates for refugee claimants and vulnerable migrants in the HKSAR. Until November 2018, she spent 4 years on the Executive Committee of the Canadian Council for Refugees.

Jennie thinks a lot about how to best accommodate clients through ableist legal systems. Together with her NLS colleagues, she leads the [Health Justice Program](#) (HJP), which provides embedded legal services for patients of the Family Health Team at St. Michael's Hospital. HJP also brings together a number of specialty legal clinics ([HALCO](#), [ARCH](#), and [ALS](#)) with primary healthcare providers to engage in cross-professional education and systemic advocacy around key social determinants of health.

Jennie studied at McGill University (Hons BA), the London School of Economics (MSc) and the University of Toronto (JD). She was called to the Ontario Bar in 2005.

Presenters

Lisa Turik | Lawyer & Executive Director, Community Advocacy & Legal Centre (CALC)

Lisa Turik is a lawyer and the Executive Director at CALC. Lisa graduated from the University of Guelph with an undergraduate degree in Psychology, and obtained her law degree from Osgoode Hall Law School in 2013. She was called to the bar in 2014. Lisa articulated at CALC, then worked as a staff lawyer and Co-Director of Legal Services prior to becoming the Executive Director. Her legal

work focuses on income security issues. Lisa also co-created and manages the [Justice & Health Partnership project](#) at CALC.

Dr. Liz Curran | Evaluator & Professor of Justice Reform and Legal Innovation, Nottingham Law School, Nottingham University; Academic Advisor on Health Justice Partnerships for Central England Law Centre

Professor Curran is a legal practitioner with over thirty years working in private and public law practice and providing legal education to tertiary students and the professions. Academic: main areas of research: access to justice, integrated practice, health justice partnerships, legal empowerment, legal ethics and effective practice. She is on the Ministry of Justice's Legal Support Strategy Group in the UK. She recently gave evidence to the UK's Parliamentary Justice Committee on solutions to the access to justice crisis.

Liz has worked for NGOs, for government, as a consultant, senior adviser and been a director of charities, human rights NGOs, legal practices, and a clinical legal education supervising solicitor/adviser. She also works in policy, law reform, research, and legal empowerment and is a regular media commentator on access to justice.

Liz's international and national research, evaluation, practice, and academic work in access to justice has led to policy change, funding for community agencies & developments in good practice. She recently gave oral evidence to the Justice Committee of the UK Parliament, published a Final 3 -year Evaluation Report on a Health Justice Partnership and was Project Lead on the 'Regulatory Leadership in Access to Justice' report for the Legal Services Consumer Panel and Legal Services Board (England and Wales).

Dr. Navindra Persaud | Director, St. Michael's Hospital's MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions

Dr. Navindra Persaud is the Canada Research Chair in Health Justice, Staff Physician in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at St. Michael's Hospital in Unity Health Toronto, and Associate Professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Toronto.

His research focuses on health equity or fairness, especially as it related to medicine access (cleanmeds.ca). He also compares national essential medicines lists in collaboration with the World Health Organization (essentialmeds.org).

9:00 - 10:30 AM – Session 8 (Workshop - Practical)

Classroom A

Navigating Referrals in Health Justice Partnerships

Description

Effective referral pathways are at the heart of health justice partnerships. This panel brings together perspectives from both the health and legal clinic sectors to explore what works when navigating referrals across disciplines. Speakers will draw on their direct experience building and managing referral processes to offer practical insights for partnerships at any stage of development.

This session will explore:

- How to collaboratively develop a referral process that works
- Navigating professional and ethical considerations including confidentiality, consent, and conflicts of interest
- How to set clear expectations with referral partners and manage caseloads sustainably over time
- The differences in culture, language, and professional norms between health and justice sectors and how to bridge them effectively

By the end of this session, attendees will be able to:

- Return to their own work with concrete steps to strengthen or establish referral processes
- Anticipate and address common ethical and professional challenges
- Apply practical strategies to set expectations, manage volume, and maintain strong relationships over time

Moderator

Helen Anderson | Director of CLEO Connect at Community Legal Education Ontario (CLEO)

Helen Anderson is the Director of CLEO Connect at Community Legal Education Ontario (CLEO). CLEO provides clear, accurate, and up-to-date public legal information to help people understand and exercise their rights. Helen's work focuses on providing training and resources to trusted intermediaries who support people with law-related problems. She holds a PhD in Theory and Policy Studies in Education from the University of Toronto. Helen is also a co-author of the Health Harming Legal Needs curriculum project for family medicine residents. She has been involved with patient education and Continuing Medical Education in previous roles at the Arthritis Society

Canada and Public Health Ontario. Prior to her work in the legal and health sectors, Helen delivered educational programming on human rights in the nonprofit and post-secondary education sectors.

Presenters

Giulia Reinhardt | Lawyer & Executive Director, Halton Community Legal Services

Giulia Reinhardt is a lawyer and the Executive Director of Halton Community Legal Services (HCLS). She is a graduate of the University of Ottawa and has practiced at several legal clinics in Ontario. Her work at HCLS has focused on shifting the clinic's approach to holistic client service in the delivery of legal services.

Dr. Rami Shoucric | Family Physician, St. Michael's Hospital Academic Family Health Team/Health Justice Program; Lawyer

Dr. Rami Shoucric is a practicing family physician since 2014 and a newly licensed lawyer as of 2026.

He has a comprehensive family practice at the St. Michael's Hospital Academic Family Health Team and has locum privileges with the Weeneebayko Area Health Authority, serving the people of the Western James Bay coast.

Rami served as the Health Justice Partnership's clinical champion from 2016 to 2024, co-leading a partnership between the St. Michael's Family Health Team and four Legal Aid Ontario funded clinics with a three-part mandate to (i) facilitate access to legal services for low-income patients of the family health team; (ii) inter-professional education; and (iii) upstream advocacy.

He is co-editor of a textbook arising from this partnership published through U of T Press in September 2025 for primary care clinicians in Canada to help them identify and address what we call "health haring legal needs."

Rami is also proud to serve as the Board Chair for Community Legal Education Ontario since 2024.



This program contains 1 hour(s) and 0 minutes of

Professionalism Content

10:30 - 11:00 AM – BREAK

11:00 AM - 12:15 PM – Session 9 (Plenary)

Classroom B

Building Evidence, Legitimacy, & Policy Impact

Description

Have you ever wondered about the stories behind the big legal cases that change the game on health issues? Our panelists include healthcare providers and legal advocates who have been involved behind the scenes in major policy and law reform campaigns on the climate crisis, refugee healthcare, harm reduction and the criminalisation of HIV. Explore how HJPs can produce evidence and advocacy strategies that influence policy reform and systems advocacy.

Moderator

Robin Nobleman | Staff Lawyer, Income Security Advocacy Centre; Adjunct Professor, University of Toronto Jackman Faculty of Law

Please refer to Session 3 (Workshop – Practical): Teaching & Embedding Health Justice in Medical, Healthcare & Legal Education for bio.

Presenters

Dr. Mona Loutfy | Senior Scientist & Director, Women & HIV Research Program, Women's College Hospital Research & Innovation Institute; Innovation Fellow, Women's College Hospital Institute for Health System Solutions & Virtual Care; Staff Physician, Maple Leaf Medical Clinic; Professor, Department of Medicine, University of Toronto and Women's College Hospital

Dr. Mona Loutfy is an Infectious Diseases Specialist, Clinician Scientist and Professor at Women's College Hospital and the University of Toronto. Her clinical and research work focuses on HIV, women's health, sexual and reproductive health, and health equity. Her main clinical practice is at Maple Leaf Medical Clinic, where she provides HIV care to cisgender and transgender women, gender-diverse people, youth and couples, with a particular focus on reproductive health. She also travels regularly to northern Saskatchewan to provide HIV and related care in Prince Albert and surrounding First Nations communities.

Dr. Loutfy's work is grounded in community-based, social justice, and trauma- and violence-aware approaches. A major focus of her career has been advancing the sexual and reproductive health and rights of people living with HIV and 2SLGBTQ+ communities and ensuring that medical evidence informs health policy, clinical practice and the law. She led the development of the Canadian HIV Pregnancy Planning Guidelines, first in 2012 and updated in 2018, which helped

advance evidence-based and rights-affirming approaches to pregnancy and parenting for people living with HIV. She was also the lead author of the Canadian Consensus Statement on HIV Transmission in the Context of Criminal Law and a co-author of the subsequent international equivalent Statement on the Science of HIV in the Context of Criminal Law. Dr. Loutfy has served as an expert reviewer and witness in legal cases involving HIV transmission and disease, helping to ensure that legal decisions are informed by the best available scientific and medical evidence.

Dr. Samantha Green | Family Physician, Unity Health Toronto; Assistant Professor, University of Toronto; President, Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment

Dr. Samantha Green is a family physician at Unity Health Toronto and Assistant Professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Toronto. She is also the President of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE). Her work bridges clinical practice, research, practice change, and advocacy for planetary health.

Sandra Ka Hon Chu | Lawyer & Co-Executive Director, HIV Legal Network

Sandra Ka Hon Chu (she/her) is a lawyer and co-executive director of the HIV Legal Network, a health justice organization based in Toronto that works to promote the human rights of people living with HIV or AIDS and other populations disproportionately affected by HIV, punitive laws and policies, and criminalization, in Canada and internationally. Sandra has helped guide the Legal Network's litigation in key court cases in Canada and internationally, including lawsuits challenging the Canadian government's failure to adopt prison-based needle and syringe programs and criminal laws governing sex work, and provincial governments' restrictions on harm reduction services.

Dr. Vanessa Redditt | Family Physician, Crossroads Refugee Clinic (Women's College Hospital); Lecturer, University of Toronto's Department of Community & Family Medicine and Dalla Lana School of Public Health

Dr. Vanessa Redditt (she/her) is a family physician at the Crossroads Refugee Clinic, a specialized primary care clinic for refugees at Women's College Hospital, and a lecturer at the University of Toronto's Department of Community and Family Medicine and Dalla Lana School of Public Health. She also works with Inner City Health Associates with unhoused and precariously housed individuals. She's a founding steering committee member of the Canadian Refugee Health Network, a lead organizer of the No Cuts to Care Coalition, and active in various community-led advocacy campaigns. Vanessa's clinical care, research, teaching, and advocacy focus on enhancing the health of communities facing marginalization and oppression, particularly refugee newcomers and migrants. She is also the mom to a delightful three year old, a bicycle enthusiast, and a lover of poetry and picnics.

12:15 - 1:15 PM – LUNCH

Please join us for a catered lunch and take this time to recharge, reflect, and connect with others committed to advancing health justice.

1:15 - 2:45 PM – Session 10 (Workshop - Practical)

Classroom B

Building Academic Health Justice/Medical-Legal Partnerships: Collaborative Models for Interprofessional Education, Advocacy, & Systems Change

Description

This practical roundtable explores how academic medical-legal partnerships can strengthen interdisciplinary education, advance health justice, and support systems change. Speakers will share their Canadian and US experiences developing academic HJPs between university-based legal, health, and/or community partners. Through presentations, facilitated discussion and audience engagement, participants will explore the spectrum of possibilities, practical strategies for building and sustaining academic partnerships that address health-harming legal needs and promote equity-centered care, and possibilities for learning from one another.

Co-moderators

Michele Leering | Visiting Scholar, Queen's University Faculty of Law; Post-doctoral Research Fellow, University of Ottawa Faculty of Law

Please refer to Session 7 (Workshop – Practical): Building Evaluation and Research Capacity for Advancing Health Justice Partnerships for bio.

Vanessa Gruben | Professor, University of Ottawa Faculty of Law; Director, Centre for Health Law, Policy and Ethics

Vanessa Gruben is a Full Professor in the Common Law Section of the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Law and Director of the Centre for Health Law, Policy and Ethics. One of Canada's leading scholars in health law and policy, her research addresses difficult legal and ethical questions in health care today. Her scholarship is distinctively interdisciplinary, bridging law, medicine, ethics, and policy, with research funded by CIHR, SSHRC, Canadian Blood Services, and the Foundation for Legal Research. In addition to her scholarly work, Professor Gruben is the chair of the Board of AMS Healthcare, serves as a trustee of the Royal Ottawa, and sits on the Board of the Canadian Health Coalition.

Presenters

Emmanuelle Bernheim | Professor, University of Ottawa Civil Law Section of the Faculty of Law; Co-founder, Outaouais Interdisciplinary Social Law Clinic

Emmanuelle Bernheim is a full professor at the Civil Law Section of the Faculty of Law at the University of Ottawa and holds the Canada Research Chair in Mental Health and Access to Justice. She is a member of the College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists of the Royal Society of Canada.

Grounded in sociological and legal scholarship, her research investigates how legal institutions and judicial practices generate and reproduce patterns of social inequality. Her research agenda aims to deepen understanding of how marginalized populations become subject to serial judicialization through the intersection of police, social, and health interventions.

She co-founded the Outaouais Interdisciplinary Social Law Clinic that has, since 2021, operated within soup kitchens, trained students in law, social work, and nursing, provided services to individuals experiencing homelessness, and carried out action-research activities.

Dr. Kathryn Dorman | Family Physician, St. Michael's Hospital Academic Family Health Team; Clinical Lead, Health Justice Program

Dr. Kathryn (Katie) Dorman is a Family Physician within the St. Michael's Hospital Academic Family Health Team (SMHAFHT) in Toronto, where she has built a substance-use focused primary care practice. She is the Clinical Lead of the Health Justice Program, a medical-legal partnership between the SMHAFHT and Neighbourhood Legal Services, with advisory from HIV& AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario, Aboriginal Legal Services, and ARCH Disability Law Centre. Dr. Dorman holds an appointment as an Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto and facilitates lectures and workshops on substance use, harm reduction, and health justice. Her current research focuses on primary care transitions for people with experience of incarceration. She is committed to supporting community-led advocacy to expand harm reduction, improve the social determinants of health, and increase access to justice.

Dr. Rami Shoucri | Family Physician, St. Michael's Hospital Academic Family Health Team; Lawyer

Please refer to Session 8: Navigating Referrals in Health Justice Partnerships for bio.

Dr. C. Tess Sheldon | Associate Professor, University of Windsor Faculty of Law; Director, Health Justice Clinic in Mental Health and Addictions

Dr. C. Tess Sheldon (she/her) is an Associate Professor at the University of Windsor Faculty of Law and Director of the Health Justice Clinic in Mental Health and Addictions, which serves the Empowerment Council, the collective voice of people who use Ontario's mental health and addiction system. Her research, teaching, and community-engaged practice focus on disability justice, mental health law, human rights, and access to justice. Her work explores how law can

challenge—or reinforce—structural drivers of health inequity, including poverty, racism, colonialism, and ableism. She writes on psychiatric detention, coercive treatment, and community-based approaches to health. Before joining Windsor Law in 2018, she practiced in Ontario's community legal clinic system, including at ARCH Disability Law Centre and Justice for Children and Youth. Through the Clinic, she works with the Empowerment Council and interdisciplinary partners while training a new generation of movement lawyers.

Yael Cannon | Professor of Law & Director, Health Justice Alliance Law Clinic, Georgetown Law, USA

Yael Cannon is a Professor of Law at Georgetown Law and Director of the [Health Justice Alliance Law Clinic](#), training the next generation of leaders in law and medicine to use law to advance health equity through a medical-legal partnership addressing the legal needs of pediatric patients. She also serves as Associate Director of the [Urban Institute–Georgetown Law Project on Health Equity](#), an interdisciplinary initiative to develop strategies for reducing health disparities and incorporating health in all policies.

Professor Cannon's research focuses on the role of law in helping children and families thrive. She was recognized as an American Society of Law, Medicine & Ethics Health Law Scholar, a Georgetown University Center for Social Justice Faculty Research Fellow, and a Hastings Center for Bioethics Rising Star Scholar. She is the author of articles in law and medical journals and several book chapters.

She previously taught at the University of New Mexico School of Law's Medical Legal Alliance and American University Washington College of Law's Disability Rights Law Clinic. Before teaching, Professor Cannon practiced law at the D.C. Children's Law Center's medical-legal partnership. She graduated *with distinction* from Stanford Law School and *summa cum laude* from the University of Maryland.



*This program contains 1 hour(s) and 0 minutes of
Professionalism Content*

1:15 - 2:45 PM – Session 11 (Workshop - Policy)

Classroom A

Ensuring Funding, Sustainability, & a Centre of Excellence

Description

This policy-focused session will explore funding streams, sustainability planning, and opportunities for developing centralized supports or centres of excellence for HJPs in Canada.

Moderator

Aidan Johnson | Executive Director, Niagara Community Legal Clinic ; Co-chair, Ontario Health Justice Community of Practice

Aidan Johnson is a staff Lawyer at Niagara Community Legal Clinic, where they also serve as Executive Director. Mx Johnson provides representation at the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario. NCLC is a not-for-profit agency funded by Legal Aid Ontario. The clinic provides access to justice for poverty-affected people in the Region of Niagara.

Previously, Mx Johnson was a criminal defence staff lawyer for Legal Aid Ontario and a city councillor in Hamilton. They served in a quasi-judicial capacity as chair of the City of Hamilton Planning and Economic Development Committee, which adjudicates appealable land use and zoning decisions.

Presenters

Kirsti McHenry | Executive Director, Pro Bono Ontario

Kirsti McHenry is the Executive Director of Pro Bono Ontario, an access to justice organization that delivers legal services to tens of thousands of low-income Ontarians annually. A lawyer with a career spanning private practice, public sector leadership and legal innovation, McHenry previously held senior roles at Legal Aid Ontario and the Law Foundation of Ontario. Pro Bono Ontario proudly runs Medical Legal Partnerships at four children's hospitals across southern Ontario and connects many families with pro bono lawyers who help them with legal issues.

Nye Thomas | Executive Director, Law Commission of Ontario (LCO)

Nye Thomas joined the LCO in October 2015. As Executive Director of the LCO, Nye is responsible for producing independent, balanced, and authoritative advice on complex and important law reform issues.

Nye has been leading projects in Ontario's justice system for more than 25 years. His expertise includes access to justice, law reform, technology and legal rights, and legal services for low-income communities.

Dr. Zayna Khayat | Chief Program Officer, AMS Healthcare; Adjunct Professor & Executive-in-Residence, Health Sector Strategy, University of Toronto Rotman School of Business

Dr. Zayna Khayat is Chief Program Officer with Canadian healthcare nonprofit, [AMS Healthcare](#).

She is adjunct faculty and Executive in Residence with the University of Toronto's [Rotman School of Management](#). She instructs in various programs including the health stream of the MBA, the global executive MBA in healthcare and life sciences, and executive education programs on AI in healthcare, partnerships, strategy and foresight. She is also a member of the School's Healthcare & Life Sciences Advisory Board.

Zayna is the chair of the board of [Nourish](#), a food + medicine national Canadian non profit, and chairs a local queer positive dance collective, [Sara Porter Productions](#). As board member with community non profit services provider [West Neighbourhood House](#), Dr. Khayat chairs the property committee that is providing oversight to the redevelopment of vital land in downtown Toronto to expand access to affordable housing in the community.

From 2022-26 Zayna was the health futurist in residence with the healthcare and life sciences practice of [Deloitte](#) in Canada where she guided individuals, companies, organizations, and governments in the sector on key trends and shifts that are reshaping healthcare, and how they can make smarter bets today to be resilient to whatever futures unfold in healthcare and life sciences.

Dr. Khayat has worked for and advised a range of pioneering health technology companies and organizations including [Teladoc Health](#) Canada and [Quadrivia AI](#).

From 2018-2021 Zayna was the Future Strategist with [SE Health](#) [Saint Elizabeth Healthcare], a national social enterprise in home care and aging, where she lead the Futures team. With her colleagues at SE Health Zayna co-authored the book [Future of Aging](#).

2:45 - 3:15 PM – BREAK

Enjoy light refreshments and take the opportunity to connect with fellow attendees and speakers.

3:15 - 4:15 PM – Session 12 (Workshop - Practical)

Classroom B

Future Visioning & Next Steps - Frontline Providers

Description

This facilitated discussion will bring together frontline providers to reflect on key conference themes, identify future priorities, and discuss opportunities for collaboration and systems change.

Facilitator

MASS LBP | Toronto-based democracy shop and policy impact consultancy

MASS LBP is a Toronto-based democracy shop and policy impact consultancy firm that helps governments, public agencies, and civil society organizations work more effectively with the public. For nearly two decades, MASS has designed and led citizens' assemblies, reference panels, and other engagement processes across Canada, supporting more than 200 major policy initiatives and engaging tens of thousands of participants in public decision-making.

3:15 - 4:15 PM – Session 13 (Workshop - Policy)

Classroom A

Future Visioning & Next Steps - Policy, Research, & Funding

Description

This session will convene policymakers, researchers, and funders to identify strategic next steps for advancing HJPs across Ontario and Canada.

Facilitator

MASS LBP | Toronto-based democracy shop and policy impact consultancy

4:15 - 5:00 PM – Session 14 (Plenary)

Classroom B

Where Health Justice Partnerships Go Next in Ontario and Closing Remarks

Description

This closing plenary will synthesize key conference themes and identify future directions for HJPs in Ontario, with input from the visioning sessions.

Presenters

Aidan Johnson & Amy Slotek | Co-chairs, Ontario Health Justice Community of Practice

Video Closing Remarks from the Honourable Justice Andromache Karakatsanis | Justice, Supreme Court of Canada