

Symposium Presenters and Performers

Natasha Bakht is an assistant professor of law at the University of Ottawa. Her research interests are generally in the area of law, culture and minority rights and specifically in the intersecting area of religious freedom and women's equality. She has written extensively on the issue of religious arbitration in family law. Natasha is also an independent dancer and choreographer. She has danced professionally for the past fifteen years in the works of several Canadian and British choreographers. Her own choreography includes 4 solos for herself, one of which was nominated for Dora Mavor Moore award. Natasha has been described as "a brilliant diamond" (The Dance Current)... "all honed to the bone elegance and precision" (Vancouver Sun).

Melina Buckley is a lawyer and legal policy consultant working primarily in constitutional and human rights, access to justice, and dispute resolution. She is counsel to the Canadian Bar Association in its test case litigation on the constitutional right to civil legal aid and has represented interveners in several cases at the Supreme Court of Canada including in *Symes, Meiorin, Little Sisters, Via Rail, and Christie*. She holds a Ph.D. in law from the University of British Columbia.

Gwen Brodsky, LL.B. (University of Victoria, 1981); LL.M. (Harvard, 1994); Ph.D. (Osgoode Hall, 1999), practises, writes, and teaches in the areas of human rights law, and constitutional law. She has acted as counsel on many *Charter* equality rights cases, including *Andrews, Swain, Mossop, Thibaudeau, Gould, Vriend, Meiorin and Gosselin*. She has taught in the University of British Columbia, Faculty of Law and in the Akitsiraq Law Program in Iqaluit. She has written extensively about equality rights theory, human rights law, and the *Charter*. She was the first Litigation Director of the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund. She is a Director of the Poverty and Human Rights Centre.

Rosemary Cairns Way teaches Constitutional and Criminal law at the University of Ottawa, Faculty of Law where she has been on faculty since 1989. She tries to keep things balanced by making music as often as possible. Upcoming engagements include La Traviata with Opera Lyra Ottawa, a performance of Haydn's "The Creation", and a Cole Porter Pops concert, all with the National Arts Centre Orchestra at the NAC.

Rachel Cox est chercheure indépendante et avocate spécialisée dans les droits de la personne. Depuis dix ans, elle fait de la recherche et de la recherche-action dans le domaine du travail, surtout avec des groupes de femmes. Ses publications incluent « Pour en faire un véritable emploi : des stratégies pour améliorer les conditions de travail des responsables de services de garde en milieu familial » (Ottawa : Condition féminine Canada, 2005). Elle a également publié dans les domaines de la santé et de la sécurité au travail, de l'aide sociale, de l'effet discriminatoire des tests de sélection et des prestations de maternité et prestations parentales. Elle est en train de faire son doctorat en droit à l'Université d'Ottawa.

Shelagh Day is an expert on women's human rights, with many years of experience working with governments and non-governmental organizations. She was the first

Human Rights Officer in the Province of British Columbia, the Director of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission, the first President of the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF), and a founder of the Court Challenges Program. Currently, she is a Director of the Poverty and Human Rights Centre, and Co-Chair of the Canadian Feminist Alliance for International Action. She publishes the Canadian Human Rights Reporter. Shelagh has written extensively on women's equality rights and human rights, and is co-editor of a new book entitled *Poverty: Rights, Social Citizenship and Legal Activism*. She works internationally, appearing on behalf of Canadian women before United Nations treaty bodies when they are examining Canada's compliance with its international human rights obligations.

Mary Eberts was retained by the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) in 1992 to work on its claim for a seat at the table during the Charlottetown Accord negotiations. She continues to do counsel work for the NWAC, focusing on constitutional, membership, and violence issues at the Supreme Court of Canada and trial and appellate courts in various Canadian jurisdictions. Mary received her B.A. and LL.B. from University of Western Ontario and her LL.M. from Harvard. She taught in the Faculty of Law at the University of Toronto and has held the Gordon Henderson Chair in Human Rights in the Faculty of Law at the University of Ottawa. Mary is a co-founder of the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund and was first chair of its National Legal Committee. She practises constitutional, equality, and Aboriginal law throughout Canada from an office in Toronto. Her honours include the Governor-General's Gold Medal of Honour in the Persons' Case and the Law Society Medal.

Fay Faraday is a partner at Cavalluzzo Hayes Shilton McIntyre & Cornish LLP, a union-side labour and human rights law firm in Toronto. Fay graduated as the gold medalist from Osgoode Hall Law School in 1993 and worked as a law clerk to Justice Peter Cory of the Supreme Court of Canada. Her practice focuses on constitutional and appellate litigation, particularly in the areas of Charter rights, labour and human rights. She has worked with a range of equality-seeking groups, labour groups, community groups and non-governmental organizations on *Charter* rights. Most recently at the Supreme Court she represented UFCW Canada in the *B.C. Health Services* appeal and is representing UFCW in ongoing litigation at the Court of Appeal to protect Ontario agricultural workers' rights to bargain collectively; she represented the Canadian Labour Congress in the *NAPE* appeal regarding pay equity rights; and the Canadian Association of Community Living and Council of Canadians with Disabilities in *Auton*.

Fay was a member of the National Legal Committee of LEAF – the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund. In that context, she coordinated a series of think tanks and a national consultation on advancing substantive equality rights and co-edited the resulting book of essays on s. 15 *Charter* rights called *Making Equality Rights Real* which was published by Irwin Law in 2006. She has published numerous articles on both domestic and international equality rights and workplace discrimination.

Daphne Gilbert is on faculty at the University of Ottawa, Faculty of Law where she teaches Constitutional law, American Constitutional law, Animals and the Law, and Criminal Law. She writes mainly in the area of section 15 and women's equality rights.

She is a newly appointed member (and excited to be so) of LEAF's Law Program Committee. She has a frequent collaborator and co-writer in Carleton University colleague, Professor Diana Majury. They speak frequently on the merits of buddy writing. For the past five years, Daphne has been a researcher on a major SSHRC-funded interdisciplinary project entitled "On the Identity Trail". The project investigates all aspects of identity, anonymity and privacy in a networked society.

Susan Hare graduated from Osgoode Hall Law School in 1993. She returned to the M'Chigeeng First Nation to set up office as a sole practitioner. She was elected to the Board of the Ontario Press Council in 1997 and the Aboriginal Healing Foundation in 2000. Susan is a member of the Indigenous Bar Association and she was a member of the Aboriginal Study Panel on Residential School for the Law Commission of Canada. She is also a leading ADR practitioner, acting as an Adjudicator in the Grandview School for Girls Settlement for three years. In 2007, she was elected a Bencher of the Law Society of Upper Canada.

Rosemary Hunter is a Professor of Law at the University of Kent, UK, where she moved from Australia in 2006. She has researched and published on women in the legal profession for a number of years, including work on women barristers and women judges. She is currently exploring the issue of feminist judging in connection with two projects - a broader study of feminism and power, and as one of the organisers of the UK Feminist Judgments Project, a project inspired by the work of Women's Court of Canada.

Jennifer Koshan is an associate professor in the Faculty of Law at the University of Calgary. Her research and teaching interests are in the areas of constitutional law, human rights, violence against women, feminist legal theory, and public interest advocacy. She was on the steering committee for the Women's Court of Canada project.

Lucie Lamarche (Ph.d : 1994; Jean Monnet Fellow : 1998) is a professor at the Faculty of Law of University of Ottawa where she holds the Gordon F. Henderson Chair in Human Rights. She joined the University of Ottawa after 25 years at Université du Québec à Montréal (Faculty of law and political science).

She is a member of the Québec Bar and the year 2000 recipient of the Mérite Tourigny for social justice. She teaches social and labour law, international human rights and women's rights and is an acknowledged expert in the field of economic and social rights. Her current fields of investigation concern public policies and trade agreements, employment equity, accountability of community non state actors in regard of human rights and the fight against poverty legislative model.

She is a member of the SSHRC- CURA Social Rights Accountability project (with M Jackman, lead, B. Porter, M. Young, G. Brodsky and S. Day).

Heather Mallick, who writes a weekly column on CBC.ca, has written about women's rights throughout her journalism career. She has been nominated four times for National Newspaper Awards, winning for Critical Writing and Feature Writing. She has worked at the *Toronto Star*, *The Financial Post*, *The Sunday Sun* in Toronto and was the As If

columnist in the *Globe and Mail*. This spring, Knopf Canada will publish the paperback edition of her second book, *Cake or Death*, a collection of essays on surviving the Bush era. In October, she gave the annual Hurtig lecture at the University of Alberta on the threat to Canada as it allows itself to be taken into the American sphere. She also writes for the Guardian Online.

Carissima Mathen is an Associate Professor at Faculty of Law at the University of New Brunswick. She is a Harrison McCain Foundation Young Scholar, and teaches Constitutional Law, Criminal Law, and U.S. Constitutional Law. She has been a visiting scholar at the University of Aberdeen and the University of Toronto; and an invited speaker at conferences all over the world (including several dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the *Charter*). From 1994-2001, she was Counsel and, later, Director of Litigation for the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF).

Professor **June McCue** is a member of the Ned'u'ten People located along Lake Babine in northern British Columbia. She graduated from the UBC Graduate Law Program in 1998, and has been the Acting Director of First Nations Legal Studies since 1998. She joined the Faculty as an Assistant Professor and Director of First Nations Legal Studies from 2000 - 2004.

Professor McCue has directed the development of a First Nations Legal Studies Academic Plan and supervised the process to create the conceptual development for the Centre for International Indigenous Legal Studies. From 1999-2005, Professor McCue was the founding Chair of Environmental-Aboriginal Guardianship Through Law and Education (EAGLE). Her current work is in the Indigenous law field. Recent publications include: "New Modalities of Sovereignty: an Indigenous Perspective" 2 *Intercultural Human Rights Law Review* 19-29 (2007), and "Afterward: Box of Treasures or Empty Box ?" in A. Walkem and H. Bruce, eds. *Box of Treasures or Empty Box: s. 35 Twenty Years After* (Penticton: Theytus Books, 2003) at 365.

Sharon McIvor is an Nle?kepmxcin woman and member of the Lower Nicola First Nation in Merritt, British Columbia. She is a mother of four and a grandmother of six. Sharon was called to the Bar of British Columbia after graduating from the Faculty of Law at the University of Victoria and has a practice in Merritt. She is an instructor at Nicola Valley Institute of Technology, chair of the Feminist Alliance for International Action, and chair of Syemycin Transition House Society, a shelter for Aboriginal women and children victims of violence. As an Aboriginal feminist activist of over twenty years in the field, she has marched in the streets and argued two cases in the Supreme Court of Canada. She is a former board member of the Native Women's Association of Canada and has served in this capacity for a decade. She continues her work as an activist for Aboriginal women and women's rights in Canada.

Teressa Nahanee is a member of the Squamish Indian Band in North Vancouver, British Columbia. She is a term instructor at Nicola Valley Institute of Technology and practises law part time. She is a land manager with the Upper Nicola Band of British Columbia. She served eighteen years with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, including in the Minister's Office for two years and with the Secretary of the State Department. She has

served with Ministers David Crombie and Lucien Bouchard. Her specialty is communications and information.

Maryka Omatsu was born in Hamilton, Ontario and received her early education there. She went on to study at the University of Toronto, where she received a B.A. and a M.A. in sociology and in 1975 an LL.B from Osgoode Hall Law School.

Maryka practised law in Toronto for 16 years working in criminal, human rights, and environmental law, at times representing Aboriginal peoples. During those years, she also worked for all 3 levels of Government, taught in Lanzhou, China; Tokyo and Kyoto, Japan; and Ryerson University, in Toronto. She was Chair of the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal, a Law Society of Upper Canada referee and a member of the Fair Tax Commission (women's issues).

During the 1980's Maryka was a member of the National Association of Japanese Canadians' strategy and negotiation teams. She helped her community win a hard fought victory for their denial of civil rights. In 1988, the Canadian Government apologized to the Japanese Canadian community, established a Race Relations Foundation to combat racism, and awarded compensation to all affected individuals. In 1992, Maryka published a book, *Bittersweet Passage: Redress and the Japanese Canadian Experience*, which documented her community's history in Canada. The Book won the Prime Minister's Award for Publishing and the Laura Jamieson Prize for the "best feminist book" in 1992. *Bittersweet Passage* was translated into Japanese and published in Japan in 1994.

In February 1993, Maryka was appointed to the Ontario Court of Justice. She is the first Asian woman judge in Canada. She has presided at Toronto's Metro North and College Park courts and is presently at the Old City Hall court in downtown Toronto, where she is on a panel of judges who sit in the restorative justice courts: Glaude (First Nations), Drug Treatment and Mental Health.

Evalyn Parry: Award-winning songwriter, poet, theatre artist and ironic social commentator evalyn parry is gifted with a sharp pen, a quirky musical sensibility and a wicked sense of humour. She has performed at music, storytelling and political events all over North America, hailed as "equally funny and dangerous" (CBC Radio), "engaging, clever and constantly surprising, Parry evokes tears and laughter in equal measure" (Herizons Magazine). Evalyn's outspoken, personal and political creations hold out a powerful vision of social change, while her irreverent wit holds nothing sacred. This summer will see her performing at music festivals across the country, with her newest CD entitled *Small Theatres*. www.evalynparry.com will tell you more!

Bruce Porter: Director, Social Rights Advocacy Centre; Co-ordinator of the Charter Committee on Poverty Issues (CCPI)

Bruce is a human rights consultant and researcher and a well-known advocate for poor peoples' human rights in Canada and internationally. He is the Director of the Social Rights Advocacy Centre and the Co-ordinator of the Charter Committee on Poverty Issues for which he has co-ordinated 11 interventions at the Supreme Court of Canada including *Eldridge*, *Gosselin*, and *Chaoulli*. He is the Co-Director, with Professor Martha Jackman, of a five year research project into social rights accountability in Canada,

funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, partnering four non-governmental organizations and five universities.

Bruce has represented claimants before human rights tribunals in a number of precedent-setting human rights cases, including the first case to establish poverty as a form of sex discrimination. He has published and spoken widely on equality rights and social and economic rights, and has spearheaded important initiatives at United Nations human rights bodies and in many other countries for more effective adjudication and enforcement of social rights. He is currently a member of the Steering Committee of the NGO Coalition for an Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Denise Réaume is professor of law at the University of Toronto, where she teaches discrimination law as well as torts. Her recent work on equality includes “Harm and Fault in Discrimination Law: A Tort Perspective on Recent Developments” (2001) 2 *Theoretical Inquiries in Law* 349; “Of Pigeon Holes and Principles: A Reconsideration of Discrimination Law” (2002) 40 *Osgoode Hall Law Journal* 113; “Discrimination and Dignity” (2003) 63 *Louisiana Law Review* 645; “The Relevance of Relevance to Equality Rights” (2006) 31 *Queen’s Law Journal* 696; and “Dignity, Equality and Second Generation Rights,” forthcoming in Margot Young, Susan Boyd, Gwen Brodsky, and Shelagh Day eds., *Poverty: Rights, Social Citizenship and Governance* (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2007).

Fiona Sampson is Director of Litigation for the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF) in Toronto, and has appeared as counsel for LEAF before numerous courts and tribunals, including work as counsel in *Auton* and *NAPE*. She holds a PhD from Osgoode Hall, and has published widely in the area of equality rights and gendered disability discrimination.

The Honourable Madam Justice Lynn Smith: Justice Smith was born and raised in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. She earned an Honours B.A. in Philosophy from the University of Calgary in 1967, and an LL.B. from the University of British Columbia in 1973. She clerked for the Chief Justice of British Columbia, then practised law (general litigation) in Vancouver with Shrum, Liddle & Hebenton (now McCarthy Tétrault) as an associate, then a partner, from 1974-1981.

Lynn Smith joined the U.B.C. Faculty of Law in 1981 and served as its Dean from July 1, 1991 - June 30, 1997. She was named Queen's Counsel in 1992. On June 23, 1998 she was appointed a Justice of the Supreme Court of British Columbia. As an academic, Lynn Smith published work on civil litigation and evidence, human rights, Charter equality rights and women's equality. Recent publications include: W. Black and L. Smith, “The Equality Rights”, (2005), 27 *Supreme Court Law Review* (2nd) 315 (reproduced in G.A. Beaudoin & E. Mendes, eds., *The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, 4th ed. (2005)); Smith, L., “Judicial Education on Context” (2005), 38 *U.B.C. L. Rev.* 569 – 582.

She was a member of the Board of Governors of the National Judicial Institute from 1996 – 2001 and has worked in the development of a number of its programs. She joined the

Board of the Vancouver Foundation in March, 2000 and chairs its Arts and Culture Advisory Committee.

Lynn Smith has been named a Y.W.C.A. Woman of Distinction, was the recipient of a medal commemorating the 125th anniversary of Confederation, and in 2003 was awarded the Georges A. Goyer Q.C. Memorial Award for Distinguished Service by the B.C. Branch of the Canadian Bar Association. Simon Fraser University granted her an Honorary Doctorate in Law in 2004.

She is married to Mr. Justice Jon Sigurdson of the British Columbia Supreme Court, and they have two daughters.

M. Kate Stephenson is a partner at WeirFoulds LLP in Toronto. Called to the Bar in 1996, she has a diverse civil litigation practice including constitutional, administrative, commercial, estates, human rights and employment law. She has argued before all levels of court, including the Supreme Court of Canada, and she has been co-counsel in constitutional challenges involving sections 2, 7, 8, 12 and 15 of the *Charter*. Kate was the first person to be awarded the Advocates Society's Arleen Goss Young Advocate's Award, inaugurated in 2004 to recognize a lawyer who has been engaged in practice for less than 10 years, and who has a record of innovative, passionate advocacy, and concern for social justice. She is a past co-chair of the National Legal Committee of the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund. She is currently on the Board of Directors of the Income Security Advocacy Centre, in Toronto, and is a member of the Charter Committee on Poverty Issues.

Chantal Tie teaches immigration and refugee law at the University of Ottawa Law School and maintains an active administrative law litigation practice at South Ottawa Community Legal Services. She has appeared in all Federal and Ontario courts and the Supreme Court of Canada on issues related to social and economic rights, refugee rights and the equality rights of women and girls. She has served as co-chair of LEAF's National Legal Committee and as a Board Member and Chair of the Court Challenges Program of Canada, and is currently working part-time for CBA International on the Bangladesh Legal Reform Project, assisting the Bangladesh Government to strengthen their national legal aid services for women and children.

Margot Young is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Law, University of British Columbia. Her research and teaching interests include constitutional law, in particular, equality law and theory, and social welfare law. Professor Young has worked with a number of non-governmental groups on issues of women's economic equality and justice. She has authored alternative NGO reports for Canada's periodic reviews under the United Nations ICESCR, ICCPR and CEDAW Committees. Recently she co-edited the collection *Poverty: Rights, Social Citizenship and Legal Activism*, UBC Press, 2007.