**Theory and Practice – Promoting LLM Research to the Profession**

***About the programme***

The Career Development Office is offering LLM students in the thesis-intensive stream an innovative programme, “*Theory and Practice – Promoting LLM Research to the Profession”*. This programme is presented in collaboration with leading Canadian law and the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General (MAG). The purpose of this programme is to promote networking and provide educational opportunities for both LLM students and lawyers at partnering organizations. The programme represents a valuable opportunity for LLM students to meet lawyers practicing in their area of research, to receive practical insight into their research, and to promote a specific topic that they are currently writing about.

***How it works***

Every year the programme brings together a small number of U of T LLM students and public and private sector lawyers. In previous years, we were able to match 2-3 students with MAG counsel and 1-2 students with lawyers at each of the firms. LLM students present their thesis in progress (or a part of their thesis) to a group of lawyers in one-hour meetings, and have an opportunity to receive feedback from lawyers practising in the same area of law. For example, an LLM student writing a thesis in the area of competition law would meet with the Competition Group at one of the firms, and a student working in the area of constitutional law would meet with counsel at the Constitutional Branch at MAG. Our partners are aware of our academic schedule, and of the fact that students' thesis will be in progress.

***Areas of research***

We try to offer this programme to students working in diverse areas of law. We partner with a few full service Canadian law firms, a boutique IP firm, and the Ontario government, and are as a result able to provide opportunities for participation to students focusing on different areas of law. If you are unsure whether your area of focus would be a good match for this programme, please contact Ivana Kadic to discuss in more detail.

***When the programme will run***

The discussion meetings will be held in May and June 2015. The scheduling of potential meeting groups and the selection of students will be conditional on the availability of practitioners in specific areas.

***What some participants in previous years have said about the programme***

“I really appreciated having the opportunity to meet with and present my thesis topic to practitioners in my area of study.  Primarily, they confirmed the importance and usefulness of my thesis research, something many graduate students are concerned about. Secondly, they provided me with many great insights, resources to turn to and ideas to look into.  Finally, this program gave me the opportunity to meet some of the top practitioners in my area.  Overall, it was a rewarding and worthwhile experience and I recommend that other students also make use of this great opportunity.” Carrie Vanderveen, LLM 2006

"This is a very helpful and flexible program that you can really structure in a way that works best for you. The lawyers were very well selected: they were all experts in my field, but specialized in different aspects. It was not only a great opportunity for me to get professional

advice and refine my ideas for thesis before first draft, but also an enjoyable experience of academic communication with so many real world experts! My reward from participating in this program was multiple. Therefore I highly recommend it to other students.” Hu Yihua LLM 2010

“I remember reading about this program when I was applying for the LLM program.  Programs like this really help to set U of T apart from other schools as it provides an invaluable experience for students to get feedback on their thesis and to really test it out in the real world.  I was enlightened and challenged by the feedback I got from the skilled and highly professional lawyers at MAG.  This experience helped to make my thesis the defining piece of work in my legal education.” Elliott Wilschick, LLM 2010

***How to apply***

If you are interested in participating in this programme, please send your application to Ivana Kadic, Graduate Studies Career Advisor at ivana.kadic@utoronto.ca by **Monday, April 13th**. Applications should include:

* Title of your thesis;
* Very brief description of the topic you are writing about (not longer than 5 lines);
* ½ to 1-page outline of your thesis;
* Resume; and
* Indication of general availability in May and June, and any timing preferences/restrictions, including specific periods during the day (e.g. mornings vs. afternoons).

Students will be notified about the results of the selection process in the first half of May. If you have any questions about this programme, please feel free to contact Ivana Kadic at ivana.kadic@utoronto.ca or at 416 978 2743.

***If you need more information***

Ivana Kadic will be available to talk about the programme and answer any questions you might have about the programme. Appointments can be arranged by phone (416 978 2743) or email (ivana.kadic@utoronto.ca).