



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
FACULTY OF LAW



University of Toronto Faculty of Law

# Juris Doctor (J.D.) Program

2013-2014



## From the Dean

**At the University of Toronto**, we offer one of the world's outstanding legal educations. To be a student at our law school is to join a wonderful community of the finest law teachers and scholars, and the most promising law students in Canada.

As Dean, I believe our law school has an important public mandate. Our leadership position within Canada has enabled us to serve as a national forum for rigorous debate on domestic policy in a range of different contexts. Each year the Faculty is host to a plethora of conferences, workshops and public lectures that bring together scholars, policy-makers, jurists and students from around the globe to examine and comment on complex social issues.

While our faculty are educating the leaders of tomorrow and our students are engaged in the learning and community building that they do so well, we're also deeply engaged beyond the University. Our faculty members are regularly called upon to litigate at the

Supreme Court of Canada, draft important new legislation, head commissions of inquiry, advise countries around the world on the rule of law and constitutional issues, and work with our governments to produce policy papers with national and international reach and scope. A legal education at U of T reflects our belief that law is a powerful tool for social change, and that lawyers can—and should—make a positive difference in the world.

You are about to embark on a fantastic journey. I wish you all the best and hope to see you at the law school next year.

Mayo Moran (S.J.D. '99), Dean  
University of Toronto Faculty of Law

## Experience the camaraderie of an academically gifted and engaged student body

**As a Faculty of Law student**, you will quickly become part of our very special community. You will learn alongside an exceptional group of the country's top students who bring a broad and complex set of life experiences to the study of law. Our students are highly educated, extremely diverse and deeply committed to justice at home and around the world. Academically, they are the strongest student body in the country and they rank among the top in North America. Students come to our law school with a unique and varied mix of racial, cultural and socio-economic backgrounds and experiences, intellectual interests and political commitments. For a number of years, women have made up more than 50% of the student body.

In the academic year 2012–2013, we have 25 Aboriginal students enrolled and 33% of the first-year class identifies with a visible minority group.

The relatively small size of our student body, combined with its diversity of backgrounds, ages, experiences and ambitions, affords distinctive opportunities for the exchange of ideas among students and between students and faculty, and helps to foster a sense of community at the law school. Ours is a community institutionally committed to intellectual openness and collegiality, where students are constantly challenged by new ideas and experiences.



### Profile of 2012–2013 First-Year Class

#### 194 students

- 49% women
- 33% visible minority students, including Aboriginal students
- 21% with graduate degrees
- 11% mature students (five or more years of non-academic experience)
- 61% from Ontario universities
- 24% from universities in other provinces
- 14% from universities outside of Canada



**Left to right:** Professors Yasmin Dawood, Jutta Brunnée and Douglas Sanderson

## Learn the law from world-renowned faculty

**We are committed to recruiting** and retaining the best academics in the world and delivering the finest legal education possible, one that meets international standards of excellence.

Professors at the Faculty of Law are leading experts in their fields who regularly shape the most important policy issues and debates in our society. More than 50 full-time faculty members and eight visiting scholars from across the globe create an intellectually robust and exciting academic environment for the study of law. Internationally renowned for their research excellence, our faculty members have published many groundbreaking books with major academic publishing houses. They also regularly publish leading articles in prestigious national and international journals. Their academic textbooks are some of the most widely used texts at

law schools across Canada and worldwide. Our faculty members have earned a number of prestigious prizes, fellowships and other honours, including several Killam and Connaught awards, two Molson Prizes, and countless book prizes.

U of T law professors are engaged in traditional legal scholarship and theoretical and inter-disciplinary study. They draw on a range of different intellectual perspectives and more than one-third are cross-appointed to other faculties, departments and centres at the University. Our inter-disciplinary strength and diversity is reflected in many ways: with vibrant academic workshops and lectures sponsored at the law school each year; with the breadth and innovation of our curriculum; and with the range of our collaborative and combined programs.



## Rosalie Abella ('70)

Supreme Court of Canada Justice

“My time at the University of Toronto law school flew by, but the wonderful memories didn’t. It’s the place where we learned that law was even more fascinating than we had hoped, and that working at it was even more exhilarating than we had expected, all enhanced by the incredible generosity of teachers and colleagues. And it’s been like that ever since—the fascination, exhilaration and generosity have never stopped. The three years at law school were all we needed to be propelled, enthusiastically, into the profession. It was magic.”

Our graduates include a former Chief Justice of Canada, a former Chief Justice of Ontario, numerous federal and provincial court judges, almost half of the Court of Appeal for Ontario and several current and former members of the Supreme Court of Canada, including The Honourable Justice Rosalie Silberman Abella, pictured here, the first Jewish woman to be appointed to the Supreme Court.



## Ideally located in North America's most multicultural and diverse city

**Our physical location provides** an exceptional opportunity for studying law in Canada's largest urban centre, an exciting multicultural city of more than 2.5 million people with a richness and cultural diversity no other city can match. Nestled in the heart of old Toronto, bordered by the tranquil tree-lined pathways of Philosopher's Walk, the Faculty of Law is just steps away from the provincial legislature, the Ontario Court of Appeal and Superior Courts, and the country's largest legal and financial district.

The uniqueness of the U of T experience extends to the charming heritage buildings and classrooms where you will be studying. Two

architecturally beautiful buildings, Flavelle House and Falconer Hall, house the many classrooms that make up our law school. The Bora Laskin Law Library, named after one of the faculty's finest scholars and the former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada (1973-1984), is a more recent addition to Flavelle House. It is an outstanding resource for the Faculty's students and professors, with a team of five dedicated librarians and more than 270,000 volumes and primary legal materials from the major common law countries such as Canada, the U.S., and the U.K. Study space occupies three floors and includes a computer lab and wireless Internet connectivity.

# Programs

## First Year

**Our first-year curriculum** includes seven core courses: Legal Process, Professionalism and Ethics; Administrative Law; Canadian Constitutional Law; Contracts Law; Criminal Law; Property Law; and Torts. Three additional elements enrich the student experience and make our first-year program distinctive: the Introduction to Law Academic Orientation, the Legal Research and Writing Program, and the Professionalism and Ethics Intensive Program.

## Upper Year

**The upper-year program** at the Faculty of Law is rich and varied, with more than 180 courses offered each year. The breadth and diversity of the curriculum allows the law school to tailor programs of study to the individual needs and ambitions of students.

### The Distinguished Visiting Faculty Program

Each year the Distinguished Visiting Faculty Program brings eight world-renowned academics to the Faculty to teach two-week intensive courses in their area of specialty. This program allows students to learn from some of the best legal scholars, jurists and policy-makers in the world.

### Co-Curricular Opportunities

Students continue to learn outside the four walls of the Faculty's classrooms through a co-curricular education program that includes five legal clinics, four student-run law journals, a client-counseling competition and a mooted program that is one of the best in the country. Through various exchange programs and internships, upper-year students can study and/or work across Canada and around the world.

### Combined Degree Programs

The Faculty of Law partners with other U of T faculties and departments to offer a number of special combined degree programs. Each of these inter-disciplinary programs enables students to combine their J.D. degree with a second, graduate-level degree in another discipline. Students interested in combined programs must apply to and be admitted separately by both the Faculty of Law and the corresponding department or faculty within the University.

- J.D./M.B.A.
- J.D./Master of Social Work
- J.D./Master of Global Affairs
- J.D./M.A. in Criminology
- J.D./M.A. or Ph.D. Economics
- J.D./M.A. European, Russian and Eurasian Studies
- J.D./Master of Information Studies
- J.D./M.A. English
- J.D./Ph.D. Philosophy
- J.D./Ph.D. Political Science
- J.D./Master of Public Policy



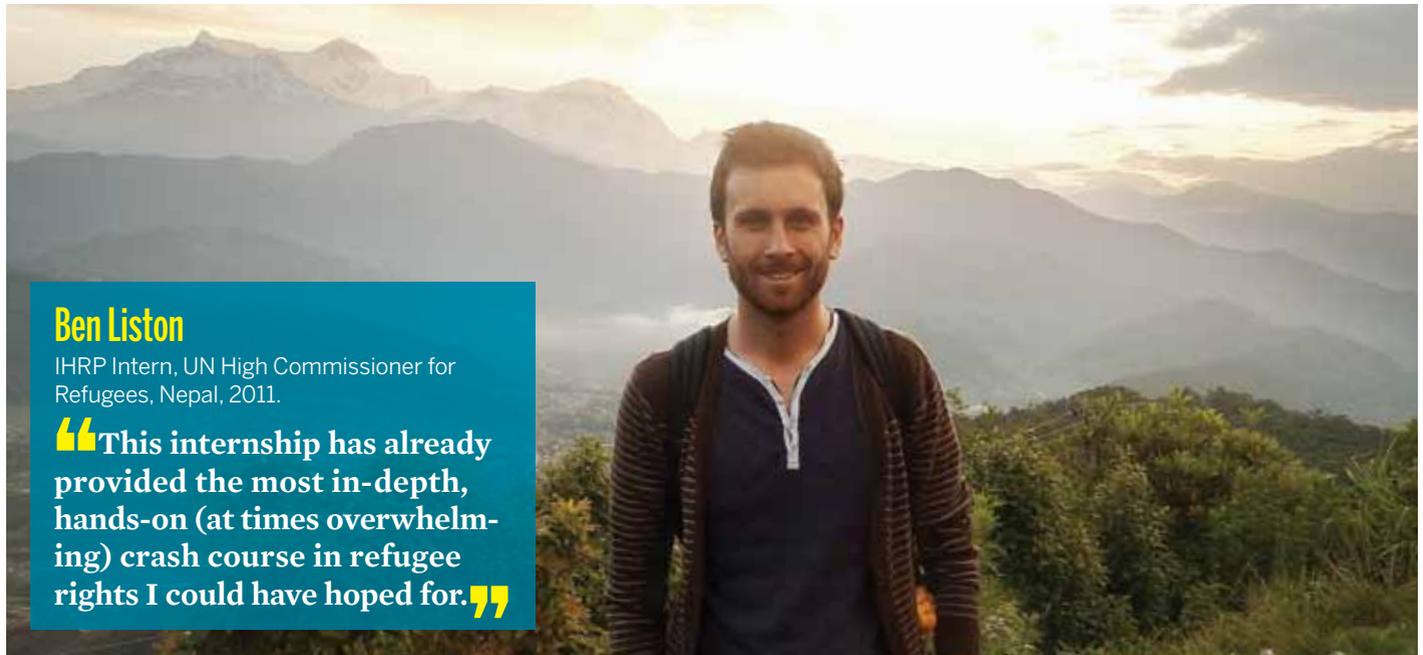
## Renatta Austin (J.D. '12)

As a Grade 11 high school student in downtown Toronto, Renatta Austin, JD 2012, took advantage of the University of Toronto's outreach programs. One of them took her to the Faculty of Law for six weeks, to a summer mentorship program—and mentor—that changed her life. “She had such an impact on me. She was just the most down-to-earth person I met at the law school.” When she was accepted to the Faculty of Law, after completing her undergraduate degree at U of T, Austin says it was important for her to pay it forward.

**“I want to live in a city where opportunities are available to everyone; I want people to have options, and that’s why I’ve been so involved in programs at the Faculty of Law that allow people to have options.”**

The Faculty of Law also offers four certificate programs which complement students' legal training by providing an interdisciplinary framework within which concepts and methods from the study of law can be applied to a relevant topic:

- J.D./Certificate in Aboriginal Legal Studies
- J.D./Certificate in Environmental Studies
- J.D./Collaborative Program in Jewish Studies
- J.D./Certificate in Sexual Diversity and Gender Studies



## Ben Liston

IHRP Intern, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Nepal, 2011.

“This internship has already provided the most in-depth, hands-on (at times overwhelming) crash course in refugee rights I could have hoped for.”

## Change the world: locally, nationally, globally

At the Faculty of Law, we believe an outstanding educational institution is one that demonstrates extensive public engagement with a broad cross-section of society, and a strong commitment to social responsibility in local and global communities. As such, public service is a critical component of the Faculty’s mission and of every law student’s legal education.

### David Asper Centre for Constitutional Rights

 Devoted to advocacy, research and education in the area of constitutional rights in Canada, the David Asper Centre houses a unique legal clinic that brings together students, faculty and members of the legal profession to work on significant constitutional cases. Through the establishment of the Centre, the University of Toronto joins a small group of international law schools that play an active role in constitutional debates of the day. It is the only Canadian Centre in existence that endeavours to bring constitutional law research, policy, advocacy and teaching together under one roof to play a vital role in articulating Canada’s constitutional vision to the broader world. The Centre was established through a generous gift to the law school from U of T law alumnus David Asper (L.L.M. ’07).

### Downtown Legal Services

 This is the Faculty’s flagship public-interest clinic for low-income clients. Each year, approximately 180 students from the Faculty of Law provide important legal services to low-income clients in Toronto under the close supervision of the clinic’s expert staff lawyers.

Students have the opportunity to meet with clients, draft pleadings, develop case strategies, and conduct their own trials, hearings and negotiations in areas such as criminal law, housing law, refugee law, family law, human rights and university affairs.

The Faculty has four additional clinical programs—Advocates for Injured Workers, the Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic, the Asper Constitutional Advocacy Clinic and the International Human Rights Clinic.

### International Human Rights Program (IHRP)

 The IHRP enhances and advances the field of international human rights law through advocacy, knowledge exchange, and capacity-building initiatives that provide experiential learning opportunities for students and legal expertise to civil society.

#### Advocacy

Through the clinic and working groups, students gain key experiential learning opportunities that expose them to the theory and practice of international human rights law while providing essential legal expertise to civil society. Projects range from drafting policies and submissions to the United Nations, creating public legal education materials and clearinghouses, to advocating before courts and tribunals. (Participation in the clinic is by application only and is limited to upper-year J.D. students. Working groups are open to all J.D. volunteers.)

#### Knowledge Exchange

The IHRP exposes students to cutting-edge debates and grassroots

defenders through a speakers series and symposia. The IHRP’s magazine, *Rights Review*, is a student-edited publication that highlights the perspectives and experiences of our students.

### Transformative Experiences

Through a summer internship program, students immerse themselves in the practice of international human rights law, whether in Geneva, the Hague, or in the field. In 2012, students interned at the International Criminal Court, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Uganda, the UN Development Program in East Timor, the International Labour Organization in Geneva, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Tanzania, and at grassroots organizations in China, Kenya, Korea, Peru and the United States.

### Law in Action Within Schools (LAWS)

**LAWS is a unique three-year** academic and extracurricular high school program aimed at inner-city students who are interested in the law but face barriers to succeeding in school. A partnership between the Faculty of Law, Osgoode Hall Law School, and the Toronto District School Board, LAWS is a critical part of the law school’s commitment to ensuring that legal education is accessible to students from all segments of Canadian society.

LAWS provides a range of interactive learning experiences that exposes high school students to legal issues, the justice system and the legal profession. It assists students to stay engaged in school, access postsecondary studies and become informed and engaged citizens.

To deliver its unique programming, LAWS partners with lawyers, judges, justices of the peace, courts, law firms, and public interest

organizations. Law students volunteer as after-school tutors, workshop developers and facilitators, and coaches for clubs such as debate and mock trial.

### Pro Bono Students Canada (PBSC)

**PBSC was founded at the Faculty** in 1996 and is today a national, award-winning pro bono organization with 22 chapters across Canada, one in every law school. PBSC’s mandate is to provide legal services without charge to organizations and individuals in need. University of Toronto PBSC volunteers work on a range of engaging, innovative volunteer projects, including assisting family law litigants, advocating before the Tax Court of Canada and the Health Professions Appeal and Review Tribunal, developing legal education materials for Indian Residential School Survivors, providing workshops to refugees in detention centres and women survivors of domestic violence, writing for a Canadian Civil Liberties Association blog, drafting wills for HIV+ and low-income clients, and helping non-profit organizations with their business law needs. By exposing law students to the value of community service, PBSC also aims to encourage the next generation of lawyers to make pro bono service an everyday part of their practice.

PBSC also administers programs that provide students with valuable, paid opportunities in public interest law, including the Public Interest Articling Fellowship Program. This program, offered in partnership with the Law Foundation of Ontario, provides students with an opportunity to article at a public interest organization that otherwise would not have the financial capacity to host an articling student, including Amnesty International, the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, the Barbra Schliker Commemorative Clinic and Ecojustice.



Photos: Jeff Kirk

## Financial Aid

**We have one of the most** generous financial aid programs in Canada. If you have the credentials to be admitted, and you want to come here, financing should not be a barrier. Nor, once you are here, should it have a distorting impact on your career choices. That's why we award financial aid purely on the basis of financial need. Unlike many Canadian law schools that use financial aid as a tool to recruit students, we award less than a handful of merit entrance scholarships. At the Faculty of Law, we reserve all of our financial aid resources for students who actually require financial aid assistance. Quite simply, the students with the greatest financial need will receive the largest bursaries. We believe that this approach is equitable, fair and transparent.

While it is true that most law students across the country go into some debt to attend law school, we think that it is a very sound investment. At the Faculty of Law, our students are hired by the top employers in Canada, New York, and London, and earn internationally competitive salaries. Each year, approximately 95% of our J.D. students secure articling jobs. This hire rate is by far the best in the country, and reflects the high opinion the legal profession holds for our students and the Faculty of Law's program.

## Back-End Debt Relief Program

**If, like many of our students,** you choose a lower-paying career with a legal aid clinic or small specialty law firm, the Faculty of Law will continue to provide financial assistance through our post-graduation debt relief program. The only program of its kind in Canada, our Back-End Debt Relief Program provides assistance in repaying eligible law school debt for up to 10 years after graduation.

Once you have been given an offer of admission, we will invite you to apply for financial aid well before the deadline for accepting our offer. On the basis of the information you provide about your financial resources, we will give you a provisional estimate of the amount of financial aid you can expect to receive in your first year—that way you can make an informed decision about whether the Faculty of Law is the best option for you.

Amount of bursary funding distributed in 2011-2012: **approximately \$2.7 million**

Average first-year bursary in 2011-2012: **\$11,410**

Average bursary in 2011-2012 (all three years): **\$10,138**

Maximum bursary awarded in 2011-2012: **\$22,831**

Average first-year tuition in 2011-2012 (after bursaries): **\$13,809**

Number of students who applied for Faculty of Law financial aid in 2011-2012: **300**

Percentage of students who applied for Faculty of Law financial aid in 2011-2012 and received it: **89%**





Photo: Michelle Yee

### **Cornell Wright (J.D./M.B.A. '00)**

Faculty of Law alumnus, long-time LAWS volunteer, and Torys LLP partner, Cornell Wright believes that it is important to convey high expectations to students—the same high expectations his parents, who immigrated to Canada from Jamaica, had for him. Wright is the first lawyer in his family.

**“You realize how lucky you are to have graduated from a law school like U of T, with access to the people that we have at this institution. It makes it very easy to convey to students the sense of opportunity that’s available.”**

# J.D. Admission Requirements and Procedures

**Our J.D. admissions process is** designed to identify exceptional students who will bring a broad and complex set of life experiences to the study of law. We strive to build a diverse and unique community of students who will forge lifelong friendships as they learn with and from each other.

We use three sources of information to assess your application:  
→ your Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) result(s),  
→ your post-secondary records of academic achievement, and  
→ your personal statement.

The review process is holistic, which means we look at all these factors together. We rely on the essays for information that cannot be conveyed by numbers. Multiple readers assess each file to get a full sense of the unique strengths each applicant will bring to the first year class.

Our holistic admissions approach also means that if your grades and LSAT score are below our median admissions statistics, you should consider applying anyway. That's because our median LSAT score is not a cut-off score—it indicates that an equal number of applicants have scores above and below the median. It is possible, for some applicants, to gain admission to the Faculty of Law with scores below our admissions statistics.

## Admission Requirements

### Undergraduate study

To be considered for admission in 2013-2014, applicants must have completed at least three years of post-secondary study no later than the end of May 2013. Almost all of our students have completed a four-year undergraduate university degree.

### Law School Admission Test (LSAT)

The LSAT must be taken no later than February 2013. For entry in September 2013, LSAT scores taken on or after the June 2009 administration of the test will be accepted.

In 2012-13, successful applicants had a median LSAT score in the 95th percentile and a median cumulative undergraduate academic record of about 86% (this statistic is based on the best three years of an applicant's undergraduate academic record).

### Admission Procedures

Applications to the J.D. program are accepted through the Ontario Law School Application Service (OLSAS). A complete application file includes the following:

1. Application form
2. Official and original copies of all post-secondary academic transcripts
3. LSAT score report
4. Personal statement and optional essay
5. Resume (for mature applicants only)

The deadline for submitting applications for the 2013-2014 program is **November 1, 2012**.

For a more detailed explanation of our admission policies, requirements and procedures, please see the Admissions section of the Faculty of Law website: [www.law.utoronto.ca](http://www.law.utoronto.ca).



**Left to right:** Our Aboriginal Law Student Association Executive: Christina Markie-Mammoletti, Jonathan Charland and Promise Holmes-Skinner. In 2012-13, 25 Aboriginal students will be attending the Faculty of Law.

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## 2012-13: Key Stats

- Number of applicants: **1915**
- Size of first-year class: **194**
- % of incoming students with graduate degrees: **21**
- Median LSAT score: **168 (96th %)**
- Median GPA for best three fulltime years: **86.5%**
- Number of student-run journals: **4**
- % of graduating class who secure articling positions: **90+**
- # of U of T students who have clerked for the Supreme Court since 2004: **41**
- \$ distributed in financial aid for 2011-12: **approximately \$2.7 million**