



LANDS

Monthly Newsletter



ABOUT OUR NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the February edition of the Law and Society Students' Association Newsletter! In this newsletter, we bring you updates on legal news, insightful recommendations and highlights of our club activities and events.



IN THIS EDITION, YOU WILL FIND:

- ✦ WRITING PIECES
- ✦ TRIVIA
- ✦ CANADIAN CHARTER
- ✦ CATCHING UP WITH ALUMNI
- ✦ AND MORE!





Whats New For LANDS

Check Us Out!



@landsyu



The Law and Society Students' Association



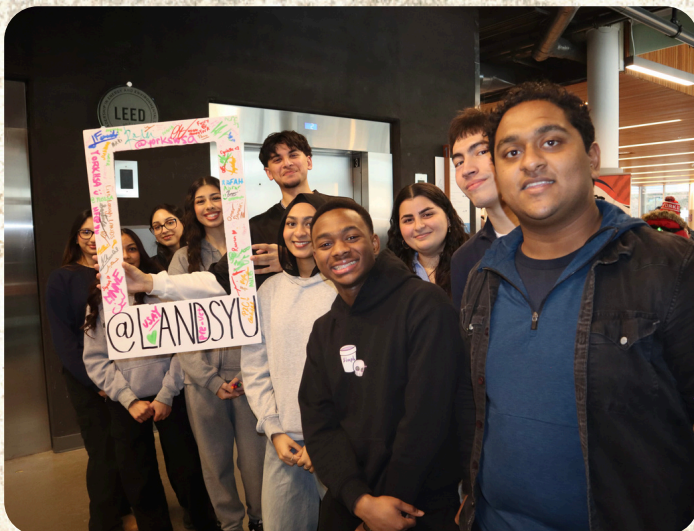
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Previous Events

Picture Perfect Connections

American Law School Symposium

Canadian Law School Symposium



“David and Joyce Milgaard’s Law passed to address wrongful convictions”

By: Nicole Singh



The Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, Arif Virani, announced that David and Joyce Milgaard’s Law, a law that addresses wrongful convictions, was officially passed and received royal assent in the Canadian parliament on December 17, 2024. David Milgaard was a victim of being wrongfully convicted for a crime he did not commit by the Canadian criminal justice system. This law serves justice and recognizes the grave efforts David Milgaard and his mother, Joyce Milgaard have made to prove his innocence and advocate for others’ wrongful convictions (Dino, 2024).

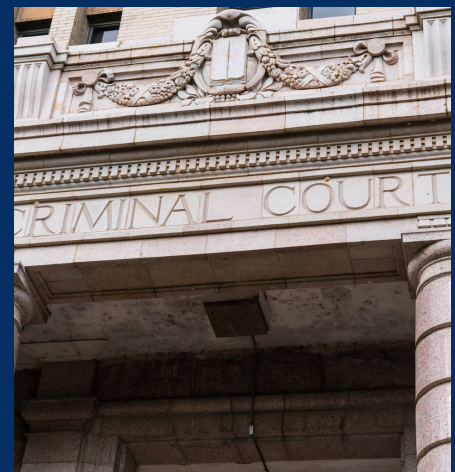


This new law has modified the legal processes in which convictions are reviewed. The ministerial review process (preliminary assessment; investigation; preparation of investigation report; and the decision by the Minister of Justice) (Government of Canada, 2022), is replaced by the independent Miscarriage of Justice Review Commission. This commission provides a more efficient and fair process to ensure the identification and addressment of wrongful convictions (Dino, 2024).

The new legislation of the Miscarriage of Justice Review Commission aims to address the systemic inequalities and inequities of marginalized communities who disproportionately fall victim to wrongful convictions. The importance of this increased recognition to historically disadvantaged groups is addressed as Canada’s justice minister notes, “...that despite being overrepresented in Canada’s criminal justice system, these groups have rarely had their cases reviewed for potential miscarriages of justice” (Dino, 2024)

Furthermore, Canada’s justice minister states that the implementation and exercise of an independent commission to review the possible miscarriages of justice for the wrongfully convicted is the next step in increasing trust between society and the justice community (Dino, 2024).

The commission will focus on removing barriers that hinder access for cases to be reviewed, more support will be provided to the accused to ensure equality before the law, and the increased support to victims of crimes will be provided throughout the commission’s process. The acceleration in the implementation of the Miscarriage of Justice Review Commission will begin reviewing criminal cases promptly (Dino, 2024).



“Osgoode’s new simulation-based learning tool aims to merge ethical and practical legal skills”

By: Nicole Singh



Paul Maharg, the designer of Osgoode’s new simulation-based learning tool, reflects on his time spent in law school and his inspiration to challenge traditional teaching methods

During law school, he recognized there was a stark disconnection between the delivery of legal education and the real world. Maharg’s work on simulation-based learning aims to train and produce “client-ready” lawyers and professionals who are prepared for their future roles in the workforce. His work as a consultant with Osgoode Professional Development at Osgoode Hall Law School assisted his work in designing a modern learning platform to deliver “practical skills with real-world scenarios” while law students’ progress is monitored by educators. This learning tool is officially known as Osgoode’s SIMPLE platform (Simulated Professional Learning Environment) (Wilbur, 2024).

SIMPLE aims to create an authentic practice for law students by replicating the operations and environment of a law firm.

In this simulation, students are expected to navigate through real-world tasks, draft documents, respond to inbox items, and communicate with fellow team members to replicate the highly collaborative aspect of legal practices. This immersive method connects the theory of practice and learning. However, Maharg mentions that this new tool of education is prone to resistance and challenge to changing legal academia due to the “highly conservative” nature of legal educational institutions (Wilbur, 2024).



Despite resistance, the SIMPLE platform has proof of success and future innovations.

Maharg has said that the positive impact of SIMPLE is evident in early trial processes. Extensive support of this new learning tool has been expressed by a professor at the University of South Wales who observed “a significant improvement in student performance when replacing traditional essays with a simulation” and Maharg mentions an increase in students’ scores of up to ten percent (Wilbur, 2024).

Furthermore, Maharg advocates for immersive education in law schools and challenged the outdated, institutionalized model of “herding students into large lecture theatres” (Wilbur, 2024). Ultimately, SIMPLE’s impact goes beyond a digital tool, it conceptualizes and enhances the interdisciplinary breadth of legal education.



HOW WELL DO YOU

Know Your LSAT

DECEMBER

THE LAW AND SOCIETY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

ISSUE #6

If you're thinking about taking the test or just curious. Test your knowledge on this short quiz and find out!

1. What does LSAT stand for?

- a) Law School Admission Test
- b) Legal Standards Assessment Test
- c) Law Student Analytical Test
- d) Logical Skills Aptitude Test

2. How many sections are typically on the LSAT?

- a) Two
- b) Six
- c) Four
- d) Ten

3. Which of these is NOT one of the main sections of the LSAT

- a) Analytical Reasoning
- b) Legal Knowledge
- c) Logical Reasoning
- d) Reading Comprehension

4. True or False: The LSAT includes an unscored experimental section?

- a) True
- b) False

5. How much time do you get to complete each logical reasoning section?

- a) 30 Minutes
- b) 20 Minutes
- c) 45 Minutes
- d) 35 Minutes

6. The Analytical reasoning section of the LSAT is commonly referred to as what?

- a) Logic Games
- b) Pattern Puzzles
- c) Brain Teasers
- d) Problem Solving

7. What is the scoring scale for the LSAT

- a) 0-100
- b) 100-200
- c) 0-1500
- d) 120-180

8. True or false: the LSAT writing sample is optional and does not need to be completed

- a) True
- b) False

Answers can be found in the back

An Overview of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

FEBRUARY

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Introduced in 1982 as part of Canada's Constitution Act, The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom is a cornerstone of Canadian democracy. It assures fundamental rights and freedoms for individuals, protecting them from unfair treatment by government authorities. The Charter applied to all levels of the government and reflects the value of freedom, equality and justice. The Charter was brought to life under the leadership of the late Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, who sought to preserve Canadian's rights in the constitution. Before its establishment, individual rights were protected through various statutes and common law, but these could be changed by governments. The Charter made these rights constitutionally rooted, meaning they are safeguarded and can only be updated under strict constitutional process. Its adoption marked a significant step in strengthening Canada's commitment to individual liberties and equality.

Several Sections that stand out for their importance include:

Section 2: Guarantees fundamental freedoms, such as freedom of expression, religion, assembly and association

Section 7-14: protects legal rights, including the right to life, liberty, and security of the person, as well as protection against irrational detention and unfair trials

Section 15: Enshrines equality rights, ensuring protection against discrimination based on aspects such as race, gender or disability

Section 23: Gives minority language education rights, important for preserving Canada's linguistic duality

For students like ourselves, the Charter's emphasis on equality and freedom of expression plays a vital role. It ensures access to education without discrimination and safeguard students' rights to voice their opinion and beliefs. For the general public, legal rights (protection from unlawful detention or the right to a fair trial) have the most significant impact, providing security and fairness in their interaction with the law.

The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms remains a living document that evolves with societal changes and continues to protect the rights and freedoms of all Canadians.

Writing Piece

Bill S-282: An Act Respecting a National Strategy for Canadian Children & Youth

By: Nicole Singh

FEBRUARY

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In November 2024, Canada independent Senator Rosemary Moodie introduced a bill called S-282: An Act respecting a national strategy for children and youth in Canada. As of June 4th, 2024, this bill was referred to the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology. Canada's Parliament reading remains awaited.

It is unfortunate that Canada does not have a clear vision in its objectives for the well-being of all children and youth. Canada ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on December 13, 1991. This includes, but is not limited to the rights of children to a standard of living adequate for their physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development. Canada's ratification to this convention means that Canada is obligated to undertake this. Although the Government of Canada has implemented policies and programs that benefit children and youths, the country has so far failed to meet Canada's obligation under the convention.

Sen. Moodie's efforts in holistically approaching the rights of children and youths across Canada is vital for the development of Canada as a nation. It is especially important to enact a national strategy that is inclusive to the children and youth of Canada who have been historically marginalized and discriminated against throughout Canadian history; specifically, Indigenous communities. It is a step in the right direction that this bill further recognizes the potential effectiveness to Truth and Reconciliation & the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People's Act when a nation effectively recognizes and implements it. The cross-jurisdictional collaboration of ensuring the Canadian Parliament reports the legislation's progress at regular intervals is vital in securing a positive change in the acknowledgement of human rights amongst the historically marginalized groups of children and youth.

On top of this successful bill, there must be continuous recognition of children not as passive recipients, but as active advocates for such rights. A national framework should include "policies that strengthen families and build resilient communities. Children are not raised in isolation; policies that affect parents will impact children" (Senate of Canada, 2021). Investing in the well-being and growth of Canada's children and youth is crucial to securing an equitable and prosperous Canada.



References

Senate of Canada. (2021). *Public Bill (Senate) S-282 (44-1) - First Reading - National Strategy for Children and Youth Act - Parliament of Canada*. Parl.ca. <https://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/44-1/bill/S-282/first-reading>



Catching up with Alumni

Brandon Bova

Law and Society & French Studies

Can you briefly summarize your academic/ professional journey following your graduation from the law and society program at York University?

I attended Osgoode Hall Law School. I am currently a third-year student in the Juris Doctor program.

What advice or tips do you have for current students in the program?

If you are interested in applying to law school, I recommend getting involved in extra-curricular activities (both within and outside the University setting) and developing strong relationships with your Professors. Law schools and future employers value students who volunteer within their communities and submit strong academic reference letters as a component of their application. These are great ways to get to know your colleagues and make undergrad fun!

What skills or experiences from the Law and Society Program have you found most valuable in your post grad journey?

Two important skills I learned as a Law and Society student are persuasive writing and oral advocacy. The ability to develop research and writing skills as an undergraduate student helped me transition to law school and formulate persuasive legal research papers. Additionally, the Law and Society program encourages oral advocacy through student participation in tutorial and seminar classes. The ability to think critically about the law and its impacts on society helped me develop strong policy arguments in my law school exams.

Any other comments or feedback about the program?

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance to you as you navigate the Law and Society program and/or the law school application process. I always look forward to connecting with students and sharing my experiences!



Member Achievements

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This year, a few of our Law and Society Students Association (LANDS) members had the incredible opportunity to attend the 2025 Law and Business Conference (LBC25), where they engaged with legal professionals, industry leaders, and students passionate about the intersection of law and business.

A huge congratulations to our very own Owais Siddiqui and Rayyan Nadeem for securing second place in the competition—an outstanding achievement!

What makes this even more special is that they were the only non-TMU (Toronto Metropolitan University) team to place this year, proving that our LANDS members can compete with the best.

We are incredibly proud of Owais and Rayyan for representing LANDS with excellence and demonstrating the strength of our program. Their success is a testament to the hard work, knowledge, and dedication that defines our association.

Stay tuned for more updates on future competitions and events where LANDS continues to make an impact



LSAT TRIVIA

ANSWERS

FEBRUARY

THE LAW AND SOCIETY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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How Many Did You Get Correct?

1. What does LSAT Stand for?: a) Law School Admission Test
2. How many sections are typically on the LSAT: c) *Four*
3. Which of these is NOT one of the main sections of the LSAT: b) *Legal Knowledge*
4. True or False: The LSAT includes an unscored experimental section?:
a) *True*
5. How much time do you get to complete each logical reasoning section?: d) *35 Minutes*
6. The Analytical reasoning section of the LSAT is commonly referred to as what?: a) *Logic Games*
7. What is the scoring scale for the LSAT: d) *120-180*
8. True or false: the LSAT writing sample is optional and does not need to be completed: b) *False*