

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER - ISSUE #1

About the Newsletter



Welcome to the September edition of the Law and Society Students' Association Newsletter! This month, we bring you updates on legal news, insightful recommendations, and highlights of our club's activities and events. Whether you're a seasoned legal scholar or just starting out, we hope this newsletter provides valuable insights and keeps you connected with our vibrant community.

In This Newsletter You Will Find:

- → EVENT UPDATES
- → CURRENT TRAILBLAZERS
- → LEGAL TRIVIA
- → LEGAL NEWS UPDATES
- → AND MORE!









Previous Events

Law in the Park Event.

- · Woodbine beach
- Picnic
- Volleyball & games
- Networking

Check Us Out!



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Students' Association



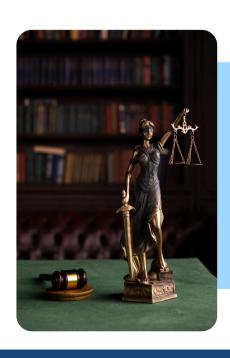
www.landsyu.com

Coming Up

Law Mixer - September 12

Azimi Law Firm Panel -September 13

LSAT Workshops and more!



CURRENT TRAILBLAZER IN LAW



Chinelo Meg Egbunonu stands as a prominent figure in the legal field, recognized for her contributions to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and her advocacy for affordable housing. Her journey from Nigeria to Canada exemplifies resilience and determination, making her an inspiring role model for aspiring lawyers.

Egbunonu, a finance transactions counsel at the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), plays a pivotal advisory role in deal structuring to provide affordable housing solutions for Canadians. Her work at CMHC highlights her commitment to upholding social responsibilities and bettering our communities.

Facing prejudices because of her non-Canadian legal experience and lacking the proper networks, her journey into the Canadian legal market was challenging. Despite these hurdles, she deftly integrated into the Ontario legal space, completing the licensing process in less than a year. This rapid progression not only reflects her intelligence, but her determination and the value of her international legal experience.

Egbunonu's influence extends beyond her profession. She is a staunch advocate for women's empowerment, particularly for Black women in the legal profession. Her blog, "Meet My Busy Mind," serves as a platform for discussing societal issues such as workplace bias and racism. Through her writing and speaking engagements, including a TED Talk, she encourages others to challenge societal stereotypes and strive for excellence.

Moreover, Egbunonu's dedication to DEI initiatives is evident in her efforts to support internationally trained lawyers and promote workplace diversity. She recognizes the importance of creating an inclusive environment where individuals from diverse backgrounds can thrive. Her work contributes to the gradual breakdown of barriers faced by internationally trained lawyers in Canada.

Chinelo Meg Egbunonu's story is one of courage, perseverance, and impactful advocacy. Her contributions to affordable housing, DEI, and women's empowerment make her a trailblazer in the legal field, inspiring future generations to pursue their goals with determination and integrity.



CATCHING UP WITH ALUMNI

STACEY ANN BERRY





President and Founder of Bstellar® Group Inc.

Degree: Hons. BA
Major: History & Law and
Society (Double Major)
Year of Graduation: 2008

STACEY'S JOURNEY AFTER LAW & SOCIETY AT YORK UNIVERSITY

After graduation I pursued an internship at *The Washington Centre* in Washington D.C. It was a great opportunity that provided a wide range of experiences and strengthened my professional skills. I worked as a federal policy intern for *Local Initiatives Support Corporation*, which supports the creation of affordable housing, access to childcare, financial support for small business, charter schools, early childhood learning facilities, and healthy food. I witnessed how public policy professionals engaged with elected officials on Capital Hill and lobbied for policies and funding. I also volunteered for *Housing Up*, a non-profit in D.C., which provides shelter and housing for unhoused people and low-income individuals and families. In addition to attending a tour of the White House, I met well-known civil rights leaders at the annual Congressional Black Caucus Conference. I also met President Jimmy Carter at an event hosted by Habitat for Humanity. One of the most memorable moments was interviewing an award-winning news anchor at the ABC News headquarters in Virginia who provided me with a wealth of knowledge and helpful career advice. These experiences motivated me to pursue a graduate degree in Public Policy, which I completed at York University.



During my time as a York student and as a post-graduate, I maintained a commitment to community service. I got involved with various health advocacy initiatives such as, the Heart and Stroke Foundation and The Olive Branch of Hope. My experience leading health awareness campaigns propelled me to serve on the Toronto Board of Health with the City of Toronto, where I advocated for better health policies for people from marginalized communities (such as, low-income women and children). I continue to give back to the community by volunteering as the Toronto Chapter President for Blacks In Technology. Foundation, which provides upskilling resources, a job board, host virtual career fairs, networking events and an annual conference for people underrepresented in tech sectors. This opportunity motivated me to research the intersection between tech and public policy. as well as the societal impacts of technologies like Facial Recognition, Biometrics and AI. In addition, I used this research to recommend solutions for mitigating harm and a public policy framework centred on human rights, which I delivered at various conferences in Canada and the United States.



I furthered my training in AI policy and governance by completing a program with the <u>Centre for AI and Digital Policy</u>. This program provided insights on how to develop a universal human rights framework for AI policy development. I also developed a course with Udacity, <u>AI Governance, Policy and the Public Good.</u> This course is a great introduction for anyone who wants to learn more about the kinds of harm that AI can cause but also the importance of regulation as well as an ethical and inclusive framework for AI development and deployment. Lastly, I was recently accepted to <u>BlueDot Impact AI Safety Fundamentals</u>, which will help me to further hone my skills in AI policy.

I published my first book Deeper Reflections of Life in 2018 and co-authored my second book in 2019, 365 Empowering Stories and became a full-time entrepreneur in 2020. My journey as an author, and overall work experience, truly helped me to strengthen my skills in entrepreneurship. As the founder of Bstellar@Group Inc., a government relations and professional development company, I wield my skills in advocacy, public policy, writing, communications, and community engagement to make a positive impact in society.

TIPS FOR CURRENT STUDENTS

What are some advice/tips you have for current undergraduate students at York University?

Get involved in student clubs to develop your leadership skills and expand your network. Explore internships outside of Canada to gain international experience and broaden your perspective. Conduct informational interviews with people who are in sectors that interest you. Always check your 'rearview mirror' in life. Don't be so laser focused on one goal that you are unable to identify blind spots which could prevent you from developing your potential. Pursue what gives you joy but be practical. Stay in touch with your professors. You might need them to write a reference letter in the future. Be kind to everyone you meet regardless of their position or title.



Check out Stacey's interview with the City of Toronto on:

https://www.youtube.com/watc?
y=cRhButUIrfo!

What experiences/skills from the Law and Society program have been the most valuable in your professional career?

The Law and Society program helped me to hone my skills in critical thinking and analytical reasoning, which influences how I write speeches and deliver presentations. My skills in writing, communication and editing were enhanced tremendously, which I use daily in my current career. These skills are essential for putting together compelling presentations and speeches. I learned how to ask the right questions, which leads to understanding complex problems and identifying practical solutions.



Use discount code "AI4Good" for a 40% discount on Stacey's Udacity course, "AI Governance, Policy, and the Public Good".

You can sign up on:

<u>https://www.udacity.com/course/AI-</u>governance-and-the-public-good--cd13383.

What was your ideal career when you started the Law and Society program? Did it change throughout your undergraduate career? If so, why?

My ideal career was to be a lawyer **but, I did not** get accepted into law school, which was a blessing in disguise. As a result, I decided to pursue a degree in public policy because it has some similarities to law, which includes lobbying to change policies or legislation. After interviewing many lawyers over the years, they all emphasized the long hours that they had to put in. Most of them seemed unhappy and stressed, which I found uninspiring. I value a work-life balance, which would be extremely difficult to maintain if I became a lawyer. Sometimes life does not go exactly as planned but if you commit to your values, remain disciplined, work smart, and are willing to bet on yourself, then you can create the career of your dreams!



Fun Facts & Trivia About Law



The Myth of the "One Phone Call:" Hollywood often depicts arrested individuals getting their "one phone call" to a lawyer or a loved one. In reality, this right often varies by jurisdiction. In California, detainees are allowed up to 3 phone calls. Interestingly, the myth is *not* a myth in Canada: detainees are allowed only one call within 24 hours of their arrival into custody.



The Origins of "Innocent until Proven Guilty:" This widely-recognized fundamental principle of criminal law has roots in Roman law. The maxim "*Ei incumbit probatio qui dicit, non qui negat*" means "the burden of proof lies upon who affirms, not who denies."



Unusual Laws: In Quitman, Georgia, it is illegal for chickens to cross the road. While this sounds like a setup for a joke, it is an actual law designed to keep the streets clean and safe.



Legal Fiction: The term "legal fiction" refers to a fact assumed or created by courts for legal reasoning. An example of this is the concept of "corporate personhood," where corporations are treated as individuals with rights and responsibilities.



Maritime Law and Pirates: Maritime law, or admiralty law, governs nautical issues and private maritime disputes. Interestingly, pirates were some of the first to create their own such codes of conduct, some of which influenced modern maritime law. (sources)



First Law School in Canada: The first law school in Canada was established in 1848 at McGill University in Montreal. Known as the Faculty of Law, it remains one of the oldest law faculties in North America and has produced many influential legal professionals, including Sir John Joseph Caldwell Abbott and Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

LEGAL SPECIALIZATIONS

Law is a broad field with many different specializations, each focusing on specific areas of legal practice. It can be overwhelming to decide what specialization you are interested in, so we have listed some of the prominent specializations below.

Criminal Law

This area deals with cases related to crimes and their prosecution. Lawyers in this area represent either defendants or the state in criminal trials. Whether serving as a prosecutor or defense lawyer, a criminal attorney plays a crucial role in the justice system, preparing cases, gathering and reviewing evidence, and interviewing witnesses.

Corporate Law

This area deals with cases related to crimes and their prosecution. Lawyers in this area represent either defendants or the state in criminal trials. Whether serving as a prosecutor or defence lawyer, a criminal attorney plays a crucial role in the justice system, preparing cases, gathering and reviewing evidence, and interviewing witnesses.

Immigration Law

Immigration and refugee law governs legal immigration to Canada and safeguards the rights of immigrants and refugees. It also addresses deportation procedures, aiming to streamline processes and maintain accurate records, in accordance with international refugee and asylum laws.









Constitutional Law

This field of law focuses on understanding and applying a country's constitution. It includes laws that define how the executive, legislature, and judiciary interact with each other.

Employment Law

Employment law involves the rules for hiring and treating employees. These laws ensure both employers and employees follow their work agreements. This type of law also covers the creation of unions, their negotiation rights, and workplace discrimination.

Family Law

This type of law deals with legal matters involving families and children. It includes things like marriage licences, divorces, custody hearings, and legal issues involving children aged 12 to 17.

Intellectual Property Law

Intellectual property law is a type of law that provides guidance around the process of securing ownership and the use of ideas. This includes patents, trademarks, and copyrights.

Environmental Law

This form of law includes rules about controlling pollution, managing energy, and conserving land to protect the environment and natural resources. It also involves property rights for people or organizations.

LEGAL NEWS UPDATE



US SUPREME COURT GRANTS TRUMP IMMUNITY

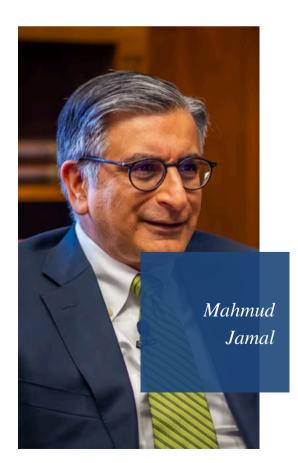
In a 6-3 ruling, the Supreme Court set guidelines for prosecuting a president. This has resulted in a delay of Donald Trump's trial over the 2020 American election until after the November 2024 election. This delay means Trump has avoided all but his New York hush-money trial. Critics argue this undermines the accountability promised by Republicans. The ruling impacts the election-interference case and might influence other cases, with Trump's lawyers citing it to challenge his New York conviction. The court established high standards for prosecuting presidential acts, with official acts broadly defined as immune. Some judges warned this makes the president nearly above the law, which undoubtedly raises concerns for the future of the American state.

QUEBEC SUPREME COURT JUSTICE - IMPARTIALITY?

The Quebec government requests Supreme Court Justice Mahmud Jamal recuse himself from the secularism law challenge due to his past role as president of one plaintiff, the Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA). Quebec's attorney general, the Mouvement Laïque Québécois, and Pour les Droits des Femmes du Québec argue Jamal's potential bias. Jamal served on the CCLA board from 2006 to 2019, which, along with the National Council of Canadian Muslims, challenged Bill 21 in court. Although Jamal claims no conflict of interest, the Supreme Court's registrar invited parties to present their arguments for his recusal.

LSAT UPDATES - LOGIC GAMES REMOVED

Starting in August 2024, the LSAT will update its structure for the 2024-2025 testing cycle. The multiple-choice portion will include two scored Logical Reasoning sections and one scored Reading Comprehension section, plus one unscored section of either type. This change, based on extensive research, aims to better assess test-takers' logical reasoning skills. The LSAT will continue to evaluate the reasoning, reading, and writing skills essential for law school and legal practice success.



TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS

Book, article, podcast, and any other educational resource recommendation that has helped our team with their courses or in preparation for law school applications. We hope this helps you!

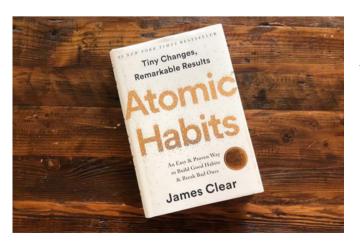
Sarah Fadavi

Best LSAT Books: The PowerScore LSAT Logical Reasoning (personal favourite), The LSAT Trainer by Mike Kim, LSAT Strategy Guide Set, 10 Actual, Official Preptests, Kaplan LSAT prep, BLUEPRINT LSAT prep, and Manhattan Prep LSAT Reading Comprehension.

Reasoning Bible: Read each chapter and summarize important points. After you have fully understood the crucial concepts, try applying them to questions.

LawHub Advantage to LSAT Practice Tests: Full access requires a yearly subscription of \$115.

Osgoode Hall Law School's Access to "Law and Learning" is a LSAT prep course for low income students: https://www.osgoode.yorku.ca/programs/juris-doctor/jurisdoctor-admissions/free-lsat-prep-course/

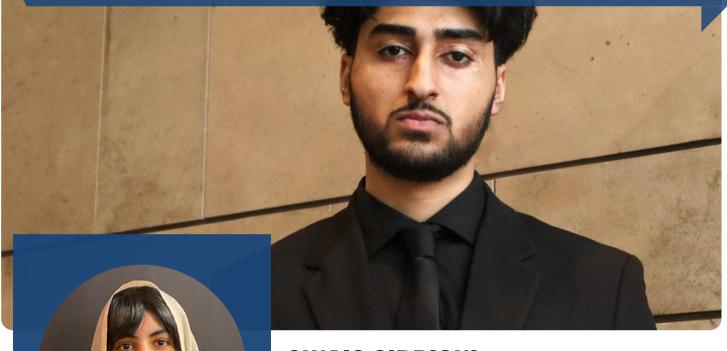




Atomic Habits

Atomic Habits, a written piece by by James Clear. It discusses guidelines for habit formation and teaches you how to accomplish large goals through small changes!

LANDS Team Achievements



FARIDAH MAZHAR

Faridah is entering her final year English and Professional Writing, joining the club back in December 2023 as an editor for Writ of Certiorari. During the previous academic year, Faridah was awarded the Dean's Award for Academic Excellence as well as the Dean's Award for Research Excellence. These achievements will help her successfully steer the journal as one of the new Editorin-Chiefs. You can also find Faridah at the Professional Writing Students' Association (Instagram: @pwsa.yorku), as she will serve as the president this year!

OWAIS SIDDIQUI

Owais is entering his second year of studies in Law and Society. In April 2024, he joined the Law and Society Club as an External Coordinator, where he has been beneficial in promoting student collaboration and outreach. Additionally, Owais actively participated in the LBSA conference and business case competition, demonstrating his dedication and openness to new opportunities. His achievements reflect a continuous drive towards excellence in both his studies and extracurricular activities.



TONY MENDOZA

Tony is a Psychology student who will enter his third year of studies in September 2024. He joined the LANDS executive team in April 2024 as a Marketing Coordinator. However, his extracurricular involvement doesn't end there. In March 2024, he was a competitor for the 2024 Marketing Students' Society (MSS) Case Competition, in which he won 2nd place. This achievement has motivated him to pursue various marketing roles in several student societies. This includes his current role at LANDS, Director of Marketing at ACE York, and Director of Public Relations at the MSS.



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