

LCO / CDO

LIAISON

NEW HOME

The LCO has a new permanent home in the revitalized Osgoode Hall Law School. Read inside for our new address. Phone, fax and email remain the same.



Osgoode Hall Law School

NEW STAFF

Welcome to Aaron Dhir, LCO's newest Scholar-in-Residence; Research Lawyer Sue Gratton; Counsel-in-Residence Norine Nathanson; and Board members Adam Dodek (Law Deans) and Gwen Boniface (Law Foundation of Ontario). Special thanks to outgoing LCO Board of Governors member Frank Iacobucci and Counsel-in-Residence Mohan Sharma.

Message from the Executive Director

As I write this, we're promised a lovely sunny Thanksgiving weekend. And "sunny" describes the LCO's future. We have commitments from all our funders for continued funding for another five years. We're grateful for their recognition and, of course, their support. The

Law Foundation, the Ministry of the Attorney General, Osgoode Hall Law School and the Law Society have been magnificent partners and we're keen to further develop our relationships with them and the law schools.

The LCO had its first international exposure in September when I participated in a law reform conference in Hong Kong. What a great chance to learn from others and offer our experiences for consideration. I'm thrilled to note, too, that our draft Framework for the Law as it affects Older Adults is being introduced by members of the Project Advisory Group in various settings, domestic and international.

What's in store for the future? One tidbit now: the Board of Governors recently approved our first project for our second mandate — the law on capacity and guardianship. This project arises out of our framework projects relating to older adults and persons with disabilities, allowing us to build on the expertise developed there and to extend the relationships we have developed in those projects.

All of us at the LCO are excited about the future – and we'd like to involve you!

Patricia Hughes

in this issue . . .

- **New year, new mandate**
- **Student eyes wide open**
- **Media law and ethics conference**



Renewed!

LCO earns five-year commitments from funders

In a clear show of support from its funders, the Law Commission of Ontario has received the commitments and funding to operate for a second five-year term beginning January 2012. The Law Foundation of Ontario, Ministry of the Attorney General and Osgoode Hall Law School pledged an increase in financial support through to 2017 to reflect the extensive activities and impact of the LCO over its first five years. (At publication, a formal funding decision was still pending from the Law Society of Upper Canada.)

“The trustees of the Law Foundation of Ontario have been delighted to support the important work of the Law Commission,” says Mark Sandler, Chair of the Law Foundation’s Board of Trustees. “We look forward to continuing to do so.”

Since launching in 2006, the LCO has initiated eight projects on the law-related needs of Ontarians, including the 2009 report on Division of Pensions Upon Marital Breakdown, which was reflected in legislation governing how pensions are divided when couples separate and divorce. The LCO’s draft framework for laws affecting older adults is already in play in domestic and international contexts. And the Commission has hosted numerous events, symposia and workshops, from time to time in partnership with law schools and community legal organizations.

“We have developed expertise in the areas of our projects and established excellent relationships, which we plan to continue, with many professional, government and community people,” says Patricia Hughes, LCO executive director.

“The Law Commission has achieved outstanding success with the support of our funding partners, community organizations and dedicated staff,” adds Board Chair Larry Banack. “Future research will respond to some of the most pressing issues facing Ontarians.”

Eye-opening experiences for students

High school students learn the LAWS

Toronto high school graduate Meijuan Lin gained new perspective on the law during a month-long placement at the LCO this summer as part of Law in Action Within Schools (LAWS). A partnership between the University of Toronto Faculty of Law (and now, Osgoode Hall Law School) and the Toronto District School Board, LAWS helps high school students gain entry to post-secondary studies, and become informed and engaged citizens through exposure to legal environments.

“The experience helped to broaden my view of the world,” says Lin of her tenure at the LCO. It also helped to open the door to new ways of thinking in preparation for her admission this fall to the University of Waterloo.

Interning through Pro Bono Students Canada

September also marked a new beginning for Osgoode’s Stephen Hsia and U of T law student Marianne Salih, participants in Pro Bono Students Canada’s academic year-long internship program through the two law schools. Hsia and Salih will spend up to five hours a week working on the LCO’s law reform files and learning first-hand the value of public service.



Mei Lin, our summer 2011 LAWS student



Members of the panel on confidential sources: L-R: **Julian Sher**, Investigative Reporter, The Globe and Mail; **Gail Gove**, Asst. General Counsel, Dow Jones & Co (The Wall Street Journal); **Jamie Cameron**, Professor, Osgoode Hall Law School and LCO Scholar in Residence; **Kevin Donovan**, Editor & Investigative Reporter, The Toronto Star; **Brian Rogers**, Barrister & Solicitor

LCO conference tackles journalism law and ethics

Investigative journalists, media lawyers, academics and students from Canada, the United States and United Kingdom gathered to debate the role of the free press in a democracy at an October 14 conference co-hosted by the LCO and Osgoode Hall Law School. In the Public Interest: the Law and Ethics of Investigative Journalism was the culmination of a six-month-long research project by LCO scholar-in-residence Jamie Cameron.

The day-long conference brought together such notable speakers and moderators as CBC Radio's Anna Maria Tremonti, Toronto Star reporter Robert Cribb and Daniel Henry, senior legal counsel for the CBC. Panel members and participants debated such topics as the role of law in media regulation.

"The combination of participants and topics really set this conference apart," says Cameron.

She plans to use the conference findings to bolster her research on freedom of the press and source privilege, and to generate recommendations for law reform.

"The Ontario Human Rights Commission is very pleased to participate in the LCO's stakeholder consultation. A key recommendation in a Commission report on human rights and aging was the need for government to evaluate laws and policies to ensure they respect the human rights of older persons. The LCO's framework will make a significant contribution to help government achieve that goal."

— JEFF POIRIER, SENIOR POLICY ANALYST, ONTARIO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

PROJECT UPDATES

- On November 2, 35 representatives of government, academia, advocacy organizations, service providers and other stakeholders will voice their opinions about the LCO's proposed new legal framework for laws affecting older adults. Feedback from the event, focus groups and a questionnaire will be used to revise the LCO's interim report and create a series of final recommendations for release in the new year.
- Two years of research and consultations will culminate this fall in an interim report exploring how a person's first forays into Ontario's family law system might be improved. The LCO will receive input from stakeholders and members of the public before producing a final report in Spring 2012.
- The LCO's final report on the Provincial Offenses Act is due for release this fall.
- Watch in early 2012 for an interim report on the LCO's Vulnerable Workers and Precarious Work Project.

The Law Commission of Ontario is funded by:



LAW COMMISSION OF ONTARIO
2032 Ignat Kaneff Building
Osgoode Hall Law School, York University
4700 Keele Street
Toronto, ON M3J 1P3
Tel: 416-650-8406
Toll Free: 1-866-950-8406
lawcommission@lco-cdo.org
www.lco-cdo.org

And supported by the Faculties of Law at:
Queen's University, University of Ottawa (Common & Civil Law Sections), University of Toronto, University of Western Ontario and University of Windsor.