

## News

# Osgoode Hall is marking a major teaching milestone

CHRISTOPHER GULY

Osgoode Hall Law School's 125th anniversary holds special significance for its dean.

Lorne Sossin, who is also a professor in the faculty, was a first-year student at the school 25 years ago and is now in his fifth year as its dean.

Much has changed over the past quarter-century at Osgoode Hall—Ontario's oldest law school, established in 1889 by the Law Society of Upper Canada (LSUC) and which only became attached to a university when it was affiliated with York in 1965.

Sossin recalls that when he attended Osgoode, from which he graduated with an LL.B. in 1992, most of the learning occurred in the classroom. Today, a lot of that happens in the community and on digital platforms.

Students participate in a range of community clinics, from helping

people wrongly convicted through the Innocence Project to assisting low-income people with welfare, immigration, workers' and tenants' rights through Parkdale Community Legal Services—Ontario's first community-based legal aid clinic that Osgoode established in 1971.

On Oct. 1, the school's library launched the Osgoode Digital Commons (digitalcommons.osgoode.yorku.ca), an open-access institutional repository and a first of its kind for any Canadian law school in providing free online access to its legal scholarship, including journals published by the school, full-text PDF copies of scholarship articles published by faculty and graduate theses. A digital archive will be added that will include headshots of Osgoode graduates, spanning the late 19th century to the present, and biographies of some of the law school's trailblazers.

This open-for-all online scholar-

ship database is the "next frontier" in promoting access to justice and legal knowledge, explains Sossin, who predicts that every Canadian law school will offer something similar on the web over the next couple of years. Osgoode is also exploring the possibility of establishing Canada's first part-time J.D. program, he adds.

Among Canadian law schools, it has the largest student population: about 900 J.D. students, between 500 and 600 full-time and professional LL.M. students, and some 50 Ph.D. students in the largest doctoral-level program at a Canadian law school. In addition, Osgoode has 60 full-time faculty members and over 100 lawyers and scholars who teach as part-time adjunct professors.

Historically, the law school boasts several other firsts. Among them:

■ The first Chinese-Canadian lawyer, 1945 graduate Kew Dock Yip, **Tradition, Page 11**



Lorne Sossin, dean of Osgoode Hall Law School, addresses the crowd during 125th anniversary celebrations at Osgoode Hall in Toronto in early October. MICHAEL LITWACK FOR THE LAWYERS WEEKLY

## Alternative Dispute Resolution Directory

CHOOSE FROM CANADA'S TOP  
MEDIATORS AND ARBITRATORS



**Andrew M. Diamond**

LL.B., M.B.A.

is an Arbitrator and Mediator in insolvency law, commercial disputes, employment law, and human rights cases. Andrew is a former Superior Court Registrar in Bankruptcy and member of the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario. Andrew provides cost effective dispute resolution.

adrchambers.com  
416.362.8555



**JAMES E. DOYLE**  
Mediator



T: 416-598-2140  
F: 416-598-5466  
jdoyle@wmdlaw.net

Providing mediation  
and other dispute resolution  
services for over 10 years

Over 35 years litigation  
experience involving a broad  
spectrum of civil disputes

Personal Injury, Insurance,  
Commercial, Employment,  
Estates, Sports, Sexual Abuse

Walsh McLuskie Doyle  
Suite 2200, 181 University Ave.,  
Toronto, ON M5H 3M7

**YORK STREET**  
DISPUTE RESOLUTION GROUP INC  
MEDIATION • ARBITRATION • APPRAISAL

We can help You find the

*Fairway*



**Cindy Winer,**  
B.A., A.L.H.C.

Mediator

Long Term Disability, Personal  
Injury & Workplace Disputes



Please call our ADR Coordinator  
or book online.

(416) 866-2400

130 Adelaide Street West, Suite 701  
Toronto, Ontario, M5H 2K4  
Fax: (416) 866-2403  
Email: adradmin@yorkstreet.ca  
Web: www.yorkstreet.ca

**LOBL Mediation**



**RUDY LOBL, QC**

**Extensive experience in:**

- insurance
- professional negligence
- personal injury
- liability issues
- SABS
- long term disability
- commercial disputes

Lobl Mediation & Arbitration Services  
1200 Bay Street, Suite 405  
Toronto, ON M5R 2A5

T: 416-367-5550 ext. 22 E: rl@loblmediation.com

## News

# Tradition: Honouring history while planning ahead

Continued from page 9

who helped to bring about the repeal of the so-called *Chinese Exclusion Act* of 1923, and Gretta Wong Grant, the first female Chinese-Canadian lawyer, who graduated a year later;

■ George Carter (class of 1948), the first Canadian-born black judge; and

■ Harry LaForme (1977), the first aboriginal appointed to an appellate court (Ontario) in 2004.

The “growing march of inclusion” has led to Osgoode Hall reflecting the community of which it is a part, says Sossin, who notes that a quarter of students were born outside Canada and over 40 per cent self-identify as non-white.

There is also an effort to ensure financial accessibility to the law school.

In September, Osgoode launched the Income Contingent Loan Pilot Program, a five-year initiative that starts next year and will provide at least five J.D. applicants a year with an income-contingent loan to pay for tuition, currently at \$23,599.32 for domestic first-year students.

Sossin says the program is about removing the “sticker shock” associated with pursuing a law degree and is based on a “study now, pay later” approach, with the latter contingent on whether a graduate lands a lucrative enough job to repay the fee. But if the recipient ends up working for, say, an international human rights organization and cannot afford to pay back the tuition, the loan is forgiven.

As part of the 125th anniversary celebrations, the student body is hoping to raise \$125,000 to help fellow students with debt relief — an amount that will be matched by both the law school and alumni through this year’s annual fund solicitation campaign.

Socio-economic status shouldn’t trump ability and potential, says Lynn McGrade, the daughter of a CN rail worker who offers that she wasn’t “born with a silver spoon” in her mouth, but didn’t feel she had to be a member of the “Toronto elite” to attend Osgoode in the mid-1980s when annual tuition was about \$1,200.

“I was drawn to Osgoode because of its great history and tradition, and though it was the oldest school in Ontario, I thought it was very progressive, accessible and real at the time,” recalls McGrade, a partner and Toronto regional leader of the investment management group at Borden Ladner Gervais, and president of the board of directors of the Osgoode Hall Law School Alumni Association.

“It provided me with a really good mix of the theoretical and the practical, and a breadth of opportunities and diverse learning that drew me to Bay Street in the end.” She also met her husband, Patrick

McGrade, associate general counsel at Tim Hortons, when they both attended Osgoode.

Chris West, a second-year student from Thunder Bay, Ont., says he was accepted into a few law schools but chose Osgoode because “it’s a very community-based school” that promotes the ideal that “lawyers have a duty to contribute to society in a public-service capacity.” While still studying to

become lawyers, students can think ahead about subsequent generations, as illustrated by a recent Twitter contest run by the law school student council—the Legal and Literary Society, for which West serves as a vice-president.

Students were asked to tweet their ideas for Osgoode’s next innovation, and the grand-prize winner, second-year student Jaimie Alexandria, suggested a “virtual

classroom for practical skills building” that would create lawyers “capable of both discussing and doing.” For that winning entry, Alexandria received \$1,125, which she directed to the Osgoode Women’s Network student group.

Web-based learning that complements classroom-based instruction is Sossin’s dream for Osgoode, whose historic motto, “through law to justice,” has taken a contempor-

ary turn toward art, and not the least of which is its Artists in Residence program.

Playwright Catherine Frid, a 1987 Osgoode grad, and performance artist Julie Lassonde, a social justice lawyer, are collaborating with students to stage a new play and create original performance and installation work respectively.

That’s another first for a Canadian law school.

**Collaboration  
Execution  
Success**

ScanSnap

iOS

**ScanSnap**



visit [www.fujitsu.ca/scanners](http://www.fujitsu.ca/scanners)

shaping tomorrow with you

©2014 Fujitsu Canada, Inc. All rights reserved. Fujitsu and the Fujitsu logo are registered trademarks of Fujitsu Ltd. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

**Introducing PC-less scanning.**

ScanSnap iX500 with onboard GI microprocessor takes document scanning to a whole new level of time savings and convenience. For PC, MAC, Android and iOS.

Document scanners for your digital life.

**FUJITSU**