

## CROSS-SECTORAL CONSULTATION **ACCESSTO JUSTICE**



Dr. Julie Macfarlane is Professor of Law and Distinguished University Professor at the University of Windsor. She has researched and written extensively on dispute resolution and in particular the role of lawyers. Her books include *The New Lawyer: How Settlement is Transforming the Practice of Law* (2nd edition forthcoming 2017 UBC Press) and *Islamic Divorce in North America: Choosing a Shari'a Path in a Secular Society* (Oxford University Press 2012). She is currently the Director of the National Self-Represented Litigants Research Project ([www.representingyourselfcanada.com](http://www.representingyourselfcanada.com)) following the publication of her 2013 National SRL Study. Julie was the first-ever Canadian recipient of the International Academy of Mediators Award of Excellence (2005); in 2012 she was awarded the Scholar of the Year Award by the Institute for Social Policy Understanding ([www.ispu.org](http://www.ispu.org)) for her research work with Muslim communities; and in 2016, Julie was awarded the David Mundell Medal for Legal Writing by the Attorney-General of Ontario.

**ALL TALKS ARE AT GREEN COLLEGE IN THE COACH HOUSE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC WITHOUT CHARGE**

### **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND POLITICAL DISCOURSE OVER ACCESS TO JUSTICE**

5-6:30 pm, Wednesday, March 22, 2017

The urgency of Canada's Access to Justice crisis – where more than half of family litigants and around one third of civil litigants now come to court without a lawyer – is attracting growing attention with the justice system. But is A2J an issue that the public cares deeply about? Surely, if the public were really concerned about A2J, we would hear campaigning politicians talking about it?

Drawing on data from the National Self-Represented Litigants Project, Julie Macfarlane will argue that we under-estimate the importance of A2J to growing numbers of people, and especially those both directly and indirectly affected by the self-represented litigant phenomenon. What will it take for this experience to be directly reflected in our political discourse?

Those attending talks at Green College are warmly invited to come to dinner. For information on making dinner reservations, see [www.greencollege.ubc.ca/how-attend-dinner](http://www.greencollege.ubc.ca/how-attend-dinner)