



Action Committee on  
Access to Justice in  
Civil and Family Matters

**CIAJ ICAJ**

Canadian Institute  
for the Administration  
of Justice

Listening. Learning. Leading.

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de la justice

Écouter. Apprendre. Inspirer.

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## **SPEAKER'S BIOGRAPHIES**

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### **INNOVATION ROUNDTABLE**

#### **“The Tools of Innovation”**

Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, March 22, 2017

**Nicole Aylwin** | access to justice researcher | design thinker | legal educator

Nicole Aylwin is the Assistant Director of the Winkler Institute for Dispute Resolution and the Assistant Director of Research at Osgoode Hall Law School. Her work focuses on exploring the intersection of human centered design, innovation and access to justice. She has worked on the national policy reports of the *Action Committee for Access to Justice in Civil and Family Matters* and is currently a lead researcher on the national access to justice research project, *The Cost of Justice: Weighing the Costs of Fair and Effective Resolution to Legal Problems*. She is a co-editor of the *Journal for Arbitration and Mediation* and she frequently speaks and writes on the topics of innovation and creative problem solving, technology and access to justice. She has led several design thinking projects in the justice system, while also teaching design thinking to both post-secondary and law students. She also teaches courses at Osgoode on access to justice and legal technology.

### **Kari D. Boyle**

Kari enjoys using her legal, mediation and leadership experience to collaborate with others to improve BC citizens' access to justice, with a current focus on how the justice system supports families experiencing separation or divorce. Her career began (too many years ago to mention) practicing corporate commercial litigation with Edwards, Kenny & Bray in Vancouver, moved to an inhouse management position (ICBC) specializing in legal services management, led mediation research projects with the UBC Program on Dispute Resolution and participated in many justice reform initiatives. From 2006 – 2015, Kari served as Mediate BC Society's Executive Director and then spent one year as Director of Strategic Initiatives. She is currently Coordinator of the BC Family Justice Innovation Lab, the Project Manager for Mediate BC's "Family Unbundled Legal Services Project", a member of the BC Access to Justice Leadership group, and a Board member of the Courthouse Library Society of BC.

### **Meredith Brown** | Strategist

Meredith Brown joined CALIBRATE after 17 years with the Ministry of the Attorney General for Ontario. She spent many years as a labour and employment lawyer before moving to court administration to tackle the challenges facing that system. She then served as Chief Legal Counsel to three Deputy Attorneys General. Most recently, she has been the Executive Director of MAG's Innovation Office introducing a culture of transformation and delivering successful change into the ministry by working creatively with private sector, judicial, community representatives. Her work with CALIBRATE has focused on improving access to justice and transforming systems on a provincial, national and international scale.

## **Sarah Collins**

Sarah works with The Dispute Resolution Office, Ministry of Justice, and Government of Saskatchewan as a Mediator. Before focusing her work on conflict resolution in 2009, Sarah worked in the field of Project Management in Alberta. Sarah has mediated hundreds of disputes in the areas of civil litigation, family, and workplace. Sarah is passionate about working with organizations in the areas of leadership, conflict resolution, change management, and continuous improvement. Sarah develops and delivers training programs and workshops in a number of areas related to conflict resolution, mediation, continuous improvement and negotiation with The Dispute Resolution Office. Sarah is a member of ADR Saskatchewan and holds a Chartered Mediator designation through the ADR Institute of Canada.

## **The Honourable Thomas Cromwell**

The Honourable Thomas Cromwell received law degrees from Queen's and Oxford, practised law in Kingston and Toronto and taught at the faculty of law, Dalhousie University. During his time at Dalhousie, he was active as a labour arbitrator and served as Vice-chair of the Nova Scotia Labour Relations Board. He served as Executive Legal Officer to the Chief Justice Canada from 1992 – 1995 and was appointed to the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal in 1997. He served there until his appointment to the Supreme Court of Canada in 2008 where he remained until his retirement on September 1, 2016. Mr Cromwell was awarded the C.B.A.'s Louis St. Laurent Award of Excellence and was elected an honorary fellow of Exeter College, Oxford and of the American College of Trial Lawyers. He is the recipient of four honorary doctorates in law and an award in his name, The Honourable Thomas Cromwell Award for Public Service, has been established by the Queen's law faculty. He is a past President and Honorary Director of CIAJ. He serves as the chair of the Action Committee on Access to Justice in Civil and Family Matters and is counsel to the national litigation practice of Borden Ladner Gervais LLP.

## **J. Glen Gardner**

**J. Glen Gardner, Q.C.**, is the Deputy Minister of Justice and Deputy Attorney General for the Province of Saskatchewan. Prior to that, he was the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Innovation Division and the Director of the Dispute Resolution Office, Ministry of Justice. Mr. Gardner has been instrumental in supporting the Ministry's innovation mandate, which focuses on responding to access to justice challenges.

After graduating from the College of Law at the University of Saskatchewan in 1980, he practiced as partner at a private law firm for several years. In 1988, Glen became a mediator with the Ministry of Justice, which began a long career in mediation and dispute resolution. Throughout his career, he has also worked as Chief of Staff for Saskatchewan Executive Council and Senior Labour Relations Consultant with the Ministry of Health. He has been a sessional lecturer and

visiting scholar at the College of Law, University of Saskatchewan, taught at the Bar Admissions Course, the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, and the National Judicial Institute. He has also been a frequent presenter at many continuing legal education sessions over the years.

Mr. Gardner received his Queen's Counsel designation in 2016.

### **Trish Livingstone**

Ms. Trish Livingstone is currently permanently employed as Director, Office of Performance, Planning and Improvement with the Government of Saskatchewan.

She has 20 years of experience with the Saskatchewan public service in public sector policy and program development, leading large-scale change initiatives, quality improvement, applied research and evaluation, strategic planning, and measurement.

She led the team that initiated the provincial deployment of the Lean Management System in the Ministry of Health, provincial health agencies, and 13 regional health authorities. In the past 3 years, she has provided strategic advice, coaching, and training to all 22 ministries of government.

Trish has a Master of Arts degree in Applied Social Psychology, with specialization in applied research, program evaluation and organizational development. She has completed an intensive Lean Leader Certification program that involved 120 days of training, hands-on learning, and coaching over an 18-month period. She also has certifications in executive leadership and change management.

### **Julie Macfarlane**

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 (2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**Sarah McCoubrey, B.F.A, LLB., M.Ed.**

*Strategist, Access to Justice issues.*

*CALIBRATE* [www.calibratesolutions.ca](http://www.calibratesolutions.ca)

Sarah McCoubrey is the founder of CALIBRATE, where she works with small and large organizations to tackle access to justice challenges. Sarah has over 20 years of experience as a staff member, a volunteer, and a board member in the access to justice, legal and non-profit community. She has been active in access to justice projects internationally, nationally and locally.

She received her law degree from UVic, and her Masters of Education at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. Sarah was in private practice at Shibley Righton, LLP, focusing on Education law and the legal issues facing the school system. She spent 10 years as OJEN's Executive Director, combining her interests in law and education.

**Jerry McHale**

Professor M. Jerry McHale, QC. Since 2011, Jerry has occupied the *Lam Chair in Law and Public Policy* at the University of Victoria teaching in the areas of public policy, legislation, collaborative dispute resolution and access to justice. From 2001-2011 he served as the Assistant Deputy Minister of Justice Services Branch in the BC Ministry of Justice where he was responsible for civil, criminal and family law policy and legislation, as well as for legal aid, family law programs, dispute resolution and access to justice reform. From 1996-2001 he was the Director of the Ministry's Dispute Resolution Office responsible for developing mediation programs and expanding the use of alternative dispute resolution processes in the courts and in government. From 1980 to 1991 he worked as a barrister, solicitor and mediator in the private sector. Jerry chaired the BC Family Justice Reform Working Group, which published "A New Justice System for Families and Children" in 2005 and, more recently, he chaired the Family Working Group of the National Action Committee on Access to Justice Civil Family Matters, which published "Meaningful Change for Family Justice: Beyond Wise Words" in 2013. He has worked extensively in the areas of child welfare and public policy.

**David Merner**

David Merner completed degrees at Harvard University, the University of Alberta, Oxford University, and the University of Toronto prior to his call to the British Columbia bar in 1990 and the Ontario bar in 1991. David practised in various areas, including constitutional reform, employment law, electoral reform, tax litigation, and dispute resolution at the Department of Justice and the Privy Council Office in Ottawa. He now works on the transformation of BC's justice system, including the implementation of the Civil Resolution Tribunal and the Tribunal Transformation Initiative. As Executive Director of the Dispute Resolution Office at British Columbia's Ministry of Justice, he creates and resolves disputes.

## **Jane Morley**

Jane Morley, Q.C. is a lawyer by profession and now works as a conflict consultant, facilitator, mediator, arbitrator and public policy advisor. She is currently the Strategic Coordinator of Access to Justice BC and a principal of Restorative Solutions, a group that offers a constructive approach to conflict both within and among organizations. She practised family law, labour law and general civil litigation in Victoria for over 20 years before restricting her law practice in the mid-1990s to mediation and arbitration. She has served in many professional and public positions, including: Governor and Chair of the BC Law Foundation; public representative on the Council and Executive of the BC College of Physicians & Surgeons; Chair of the Jericho Hill School for the Deaf and Blind Compensation Panel; Official Trustee, BC Legal Services Society; BC Child and Youth Officer; Commissioner of the first Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission; President, BC Mediator Roster Society; Director of Mediate BC. She is currently a core team member of the BC Family Justice Innovation Lab.

## **Lisa Nakamura**

Lisa Nakamura is the Senior Innovation Advisor in the Dispute Resolution Office of the Justice Services Branch of BC's Ministry of Justice. She holds Bachelor degrees in Arts and Law as well as a Master of Public Administration. Lisa's access to justice work has included legal aid policy, participation in the development of the first Justice Access Centres, Public Legal Education and Information (PLEI) and being part of the Civil Resolution Tribunal – Tribunal Transformation team. Lisa currently leads collaborative working groups, works with a variety of stakeholders and is committed to involving users more actively in design, development and testing of justice system processes and tools.

## **KURT SANDSTROM, Q.C.** **Assistant Deputy Minister** **Justice Services Branch** **BC Ministry of Justice**

Kurt Sandstrom was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister, Justice Services Branch (JSB) in June 2016. Kurt began his career with the BC Public Service in February 2014, as Assistant Deputy Attorney General (ADAG) of Legal Services Branch. Prior to coming to BC, Kurt worked with the Alberta Government as the Assistant Deputy Minister of Legal Services, and before that, Assistant Deputy Minister of Safe Communities – a Premier-led initiative designed to make Alberta communities more safe and secure for citizens. Kurt led this cross-ministry initiative with nine partnering ministries designed to innovate and transform the justice system.

Kurt also taught Constitutional Law and History, and Constitutional Litigation at the University of Alberta, Faculty of Law. He was appointed Queen's Counsel on January 31, 2010.