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# THE RULE OF LAW PROJECT CANADA

Professors Jennifer Orange & Jake Effoduh

For presentation at a Toronto Metropolitan University  
Institute for the Study of CSR session exploring the  
Canadian rule of law lawyer's pledge initiative as part of  
a broader global rule of law coalition, June 11, 2024

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# WHAT IS THE RULE OF LAW PROJECT?

It is an initiative of a group of Canadian lawyers and academics to reinforce our professional commitment to the Rule of Law in Canada.

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## HOW DID THE PROJECT START?

Senior lawyer Sandra Barton rallied a group of concerned lawyers and academics, who want to educate the public about the important role the rule of law plays in our democracy, and to encourage lawyers and others to stand up for the rule of law so that it does not get eroded over time.

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WE HAVE ALL SEEN  
HOW QUICKLY THINGS  
CAN CHANGE.

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## WHAT ARE THE PROJECT'S GOALS?

The Rule of Law Project Canada is dedicated to creating a community of lawyers that will work together to support the rule of law. We welcome lawyers from all areas of practice. We will strive to educate all Canadians on the importance of the rule of law.

We created a simple [Rule of Law Pledge](#) for lawyers.

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## WHAT IS THE PLEDGE?

The Pledge is a “renewal of our vows.”

When we become lawyers, we take an oath to support the administration of justice and the rule of law.

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# BARRISTER AND SOLICITOR OATH FOR ONTARIO

...I shall protect and defend the rights and interests of such persons as may employ me. I shall conduct all cases faithfully and to the best of my ability. I shall neglect no one's interest and shall faithfully serve and diligently represent the best interests of my client. I shall not refuse causes of complaint reasonably founded, nor shall I promote suits upon frivolous pretences...

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# BARRISTER AND SOLICITOR OATH FOR ONTARIO

...I shall not pervert the law to favour or prejudice any one, but in all things I shall conduct myself honestly and with integrity and civility. I shall seek to ensure access to justice and access to legal services. I shall seek to improve the administration of justice. **I shall champion the rule of law and safeguard the rights and freedoms of all persons.** I shall strictly observe and uphold the ethical standards that govern my profession...

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# THE RULE OF LAW PLEDGE



## **Protection of the judicial system**

We affirm our obligation to encourage respect for the administration of justice, and commit to protecting the Canadian judicial system and all of its participants from undue interference of any kind.



## **Legal work supporting the rule of law**

We will seek to ensure access to justice for litigants where the rule of law in Canada is at stake, including through pro bono work where necessary.



## **An attack on one is an attack on all**

We commit to supporting members of this Coalition of Canadian Lawyers in their work to uphold the principles in this document. If any coalition member becomes subject to undue harm or interference by any arm of any Canadian government as a result of its efforts to uphold the above principles, we all commit to supporting that member's resistance efforts.

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We kept the pledge  
form simple.

## Fill out this form to take the Rule of Law Pledge

Your pledge will be counted and will be made public.

Your name \*

Designation/Organization

Your email \*

Province \*

Select Province

Yes, I want to receive updates on the Rule of Law Project, Canada.

I take this Pledge

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The Rule of Law, like democracy itself, is more than a concept or ideal. Its very existence depends on the purposeful actions of government and citizens alike.

The Rule of Law and democracy both require action.

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## Legal leaders launch oath to uphold rule of law



Gerald Chan hopes initiative will lead to public education



Gerald Chan

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## WHAT'S NEXT?

It's early days for the project.

We are working to get over 1000 lawyer pledges.

We are interested in public education on the Rule of Law.

Please share your ideas!



► Pledge to reaffirm your commitment for the rule of law in Canada

## Take the Pledge!

Our democracy stands on the bedrock of the Rule of Law. The Rule of Law - like democracy - must be exercised and protected. History has shown how quickly a democracy can be eroded when good people do nothing, when laws and judges are not obeyed, and when the legal bar is silenced or simply stays silent. Today, we are asking you not to stay silent, to take the pledge and renew your oath to protect the Rule of Law in Canada.

📍 Canada

👤 578 Pledges

<https://ruleoflawproject.ca/>