



Imagining Feminist Dispute Resolution Conference

Hosted by the Lincoln Alexander School of Law,
Toronto Metropolitan University

Speaker Bios

Panel 1: Rethinking Dispute Resolution Through a Feminist Lens

Carrie Menkel-Meadow, UC Irvine

Carrie Menkel-Meadow is Distinguished and Chancellor's Professor of Law and Political Science at the University of California, Irvine and A.B. Chettle Professor of Law, Emerita at Georgetown University. She is one of the founders of the modern dispute resolution field and has written 20 books and over 200 articles in the fields of negotiation, mediation, arbitration, legal ethics, and dispute system design. She is also a feminist theorist who taught Women's Studies at UCLA for over 20 years. She has taught in 25 countries (including in Canada, at the University of Toronto, Osgoode Hall, and UBC) and has published in international and comparative law as well. Her most recent publications include *A Very Short Introduction to Negotiation* (Oxford University Press, 2022) and *International Conflict Resolution Processes* (Carolina Press, 2025). She has been a mediator, arbitrator, and dispute system designer and consultant for over 30 years for many institutions, including the World Bank, the United Nations, and the International Red Cross.

June Maresca, Ontario Court of Justice (retired)

June Maresca received her LLB and LLM (in ADR) from Osgoode Hall Law School. June was appointed to the bench in 2004 and retired in 2023. Prior to her role as a Judge of the Ontario Court of Justice, June was in private practice for 20 years.

Rosel Kim, LEAF

Rosel Kim (she/her) is a Senior Staff Lawyer at the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF), a national, charitable, non-profit organization with a mission to advance substantive equality of women, girls, trans, and non-binary people through litigation, law reform, and public legal education. She leads LEAF's work on restorative and transformative justice for sexual harm.

Jennifer Orange, Lincoln Alexander Law

Jennifer Orange is an Associate Professor at the Lincoln Alexander School of Law, TMU and part-time member of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal. Prior to that, she was a post-doctoral fellow at the Bill Graham Institute for Contemporary International History at the University of Toronto, a member of the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario, and a litigator at Torys LLP.

Her interdisciplinary research investigates the ways that cultural institutions support the dissemination and evolution of human rights norms. Her work explains how human rights communities of practice that include both state and non-state actors can promote a human rights culture. Orange is also conducting research on the return of cultural artefacts to Indigenous communities. Orange's work is funded by grants from bodies, such as the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). She has held a number of fellowships, including a Jackman Humanities Institute-Mellon Fellowship.

Sabrina Khela, Lincoln Alexander Law

Sabrina Khela is a Judicial Law Clerk at the Ontario Superior Court of Justice. She holds a juris doctor degree (JD) from the Lincoln Alexander School of Law, Toronto Metropolitan University, an honours bachelor of arts degree (HBA) from the University of Toronto (English literature and French), and a master's degree (MSt) from the University of Oxford (English literature). Following the completion of her clerkship, Sabrina intends to pursue a legal career in public service and in academia, specializing in criminal law, constitutional law, human rights law, and women's rights.

Panel 2: Applying Feminist Dispute Resolution to the World of Family Law and Family Violence

Deanne Sowter, Lincoln Alexander Law

Deanne Sowter is an Assistant Professor at the Lincoln Alexander School of Law. Her research focuses on family law, gender-based violence, feminist legal theory, and legal ethics. She is especially interested in the family justice system, including the lawyers' role, and exploring the limitations of the applicable legal principles to examine the ways that law could be more responsive to gender-based violence. Dr. Sowter's research has been generously supported by the Social Science and Humanities Research Council, including through a Vanier Scholarship. She has published twelve peer-reviewed papers, and her work has been cited by the Supreme Court of Canada.

Luke Taylor, Lincoln Alexander Law

Luke Taylor is an Assistant Professor at TMU Law. His work traverses modern and historical aspects of family law, gender, and sexuality in Canada, England, and Australia.

Nikki Pangilinan and Samantha Eisen (tentative), Samantha Eisen & Co.

Nikki is an associate at Samantha Eisen & Company – Family Lawyers and was called to the Ontario Bar in 2023 after earning her J.D. from Osgoode Hall Law School. She also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Ethics, Society, and Law from the University of Toronto. Nikki practices exclusively in family law, with a particular focus on supporting survivors of family violence. She approaches her work through a trauma-informed lens and recognizes that there is no one-size-fits-all approach. Nikki works closely with clients to identify dispute resolution processes that best fit their needs and circumstances.

Panel 3: Feminist Dispute Resolution in the Sphere of International Human Rights Law and Migration

Valerie Oosterveld, Western Law

Valerie Oosterveld is the Western Research Chair in International Criminal Justice and a Professor at the Faculty Law, University of Western Ontario. She served as Special Adviser on Crimes Against Humanity to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) from 2023-2025, and as Director (Acting) and Associate Director of Western's Centre for Transitional Justice and Post-Conflict Reconstruction. She has published widely on international criminal law, particularly on gender-based international crimes, including

gender persecution, sexual slavery, and forced marriage as crimes against humanity, and on gender-sensitive prosecution of these crimes. She is the co-editor of the award-winning book, *Gender and International Criminal Law* (OUP, 2022). She was awarded the 2022 Royal Society of Canada Ursula Franklin Award in Gender Studies. Prior to joining Western, she was a lawyer with Global Affairs Canada, where she provided legal advice on international criminal accountability for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.

Ghizal Haress, Osgoode Hall Law School

Ghizal Haress recently served as a judge on the People’s Tribunal for the Women of Afghanistan. She is an adjunct professor at the University of Toronto and the program director of the Afghan Women’s Fellowship Program at Massey College. A constitutional lawyer, she has nearly two decades of experience working at the intersection of constitutionalism, rule of law, and women’s rights in post-conflict settings. Ghizal previously served as Afghanistan’s first national ombudsperson and as a commissioner on the Afghanistan Independent Commission for Overseeing the Implementation of the Constitution. She is a longtime faculty member at the American University of Afghanistan, where she also served as chair of the Department of Law.

Idil Atak, Lincoln Alexander Law

Idil Atak is Interim Associate Dean-Academic and a professor at the Lincoln Alexander School of Law. Her research focuses on irregular migration, refugee protection, and human rights of migrants in Canada. Former editor-in-chief of the *International Journal of Migration and Border Studies*, Dr. Atak is a past president and current director-at-large of the Canadian Association for Refugee and Forced Migration Studies.

Isabel Vilarino, Lincoln Alexander Law

Isabel Vilarino is a 2L Juris Doctor candidate at Toronto Metropolitan University and a member of a research team led by Professor Idil Atak examining structural vulnerability among non-status and precarious status migrants in the Greater Toronto Area. She holds a Bachelor of Public Affairs and Policy Management, through which she developed a systems-level understanding of migration governance and institutional responses to crisis and precarity, and continues to apply this lens in her legal training and research. Her experience supporting refugee claimants through mock hearings at the Matthew House Refugee Hearing Program grounds her academic work in lived frontline realities.

Panel 4: Feminist Dispute Resolution as a Response to Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment

Bethany Hastie, Queen's Law

Bethany Hastie is an Associate Professor and Director of the Centre for Law in the Contemporary Workplace at Queen's University. She has written extensively on issues attending sexual harassment complaints under human rights law in Canada, and her work has been cited by the BC Human Rights Tribunal. Bethany holds a JD from the University of British Columbia, and an LLM and DCL from McGill University. She previously held an academic appointment at UBC.

Tanya (Toni) De Mello, TMU

Tanya (Toni) De Mello (she/her) is currently the Vice-President, Equity and Community Inclusion at Toronto Metropolitan University. She is also a human rights lawyer, certified coach, and mediator with a diverse background in finance, management consulting, and law. A founding member of Canada's newest law school at TMU, she served as the inaugural Assistant Dean of Students. Her international experience includes roles with the United Nations in Switzerland, Senegal, and Colombia. Toni holds degrees from the University of Waterloo, Princeton, and McGill, as well as a doctorate from the University of Toronto and an LLM in Alternative Dispute Resolution from Osgoode Hall. She has served as a senior mediator in Toronto for nearly fifteen years.

Robin Parker, Paradigm Law Group

Robin Parker has worked in the legal system from every vantage point: prosecutor, defence counsel, counsel for victims, and adjudicator. She has litigated in Ontario, Nunavut, and NWT, receiving an Award of Merit for government service. She holds an MSt in International Human Rights Law from Oxford. A certified workplace investigator with advanced trauma-informed training, Robin specializes in sexual harm cases for universities, churches, and sport organizations. She has testified before the Justice Committee on victims' issues and is a strong advocate for restorative justice alternatives. In 2024, she received the Victim Services Award of Distinction.

Melanie Randall, Western Law

Melanie Randall, Faculty of Law, Western University, researches gender-based violence and the law, human rights, equality law, trauma-informed approaches to law, and restorative justice.

She is one of the court-appointed “Subject Matter Experts” on the Restorative Engagement program in the Canadian Armed Forces. She is a member of the “Equality Effect,” a collaborative project between human rights lawyers from Canada and Africa, developing and implementing better legal responses to gender-based violence, including addressing impunity for sexual violence. This work includes developing a curriculum and training for judges and prosecutors across Kenya, to improve legal responses to child/adolescent rape.

Panel 5: The Negotiation Within: Gender-Based Violence on Campus

Daniel Del Gobbo, Windsor Law

Daniel Del Gobbo (he/him) is an Assistant Professor and Chair in Law, Gender, and Sexual Justice at the University of Windsor Faculty of Law. His research falls at the intersections of civil procedure, ADR, human rights and equality, restorative justice, legal ethics, and feminist/queer theory. A committed teacher, mentor, and community activist, Daniel has published widely in peer-reviewed journals and edited collections, including papers in the Osgoode Hall Law Journal, UBC Law Review, Canadian Bar Review, Journal of Law and Equality, and Dalhousie Law Journal. He is the Canadian editor of the forthcoming North America volume of the International Encyclopaedia of Restorative Justice. His book, *Feminist Frontlines: Campus Sexual Violence, Dispute Resolution, and Restorative Justice*, will be published by the University of Toronto Press later this year.

Ravita Surajbali, University of Toronto and University of Waterloo

Ravita Surajbali is a PhD Candidate at the Centre for Criminology and Sociolegal Studies at the University of Toronto. She works as an Evaluation Specialist with the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Office at the University of Waterloo. Ravita researches the legal and institutional governance of campus sexual violence in Canada.

Panel 6: Learning from Indigenous Law

Sarah Morales, UVic Law

Dr. Sarah Morales (Su-taxwiye) is Coast Salish and a member of Cowichan Tribes. She is an Associate Professor at the University of Victoria Faculty of Law, Associate Dean Indigenous, and Director of the JD/JID Program. Her research focuses on Indigenous legal traditions, particularly Coast Salish law, alongside Aboriginal law and human rights. Her

work supports nation-building, the recognition of inherent rights and jurisdiction, and Indigenous governance. She collaborates with Coast Salish nations on child welfare reform, community safety initiatives, governance planning, and land negotiations involving privately held lands.

Lindsay Borrows, Queen's Law

Lindsay Borrows is an Assistant Professor and holds the Queen's Law Professorship in Indigenous Law & Governance. Her work focuses on the revitalization and application of Indigenous laws, with an emphasis on Anishinaabe law. She is otter clan and a member of the Chippewas of Nawash First Nation.