



**International Legal Aid Group  
Ottawa, Canada  
17–19 June 2019**

**Legal Aid as Public Service  
Is it Achievable?**

# **Legal Aid as Public Service** Is it Achievable?

International Legal Aid Group (ILAG) Conference

Ottawa, Canada  
17–19 June 2019



June 2019

Dear Conference Participants

As co-organisers of the 'Legal Aid as Public Service – Is it Achievable?' ILAG conference in Ottawa we are delighted that you are joining us. We have been working towards the Conference since the South Africa International Conference in 2017, and are very pleased that it has now come to fruition.

We have tried to put together a programme which covers the key challenges facing our respective jurisdictions and which will feed into policymaking in this field. The format of the Conference is designed to encourage informal discussions and we are looking forward to your attendance and contributions in Ottawa.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A A Paterson".

Alan A Paterson  
Professor of Law  
University of Strathclyde  
Chair, International Legal Aid Group



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David McKillop".

David McKillop  
Vice-President, Strategy and  
Public Affairs  
Legal Aid Ontario



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# Conference Program

## Monday 17 June

12.00 - 12.30 pm	<b>Registration</b>
12.30 - 1.30 pm	<b>Welcome &amp; Introduction</b> Charles Harnick – Chair, Legal Aid Ontario The Honourable David Lametti – Minister of Justice & Attorney General of Canada Professor Alan Paterson – Chair, International Legal Aid Group
1.30 - 2.30 pm	<b>National reports</b> Tomoki Ikenaga: Japan Clair Carlton-Hanciles: Sierra Leone Oleksii Boniuk: Ukraine Peter van den Biggelaar: Overall Summary
2.30 - 3.30 pm	<b>Session One — Pro Bono</b> Catherine P. Coulter: Pro bono in Ontario Trevor Farrow: Lawyers and the future of Access to Justice
3.30 - 3.45 pm	<b>Break</b>
3.45 - 5.15 pm	<b>Session Two — Legal aid in Canada: Diverse needs from coast to coast to coast</b> David McKillop: Project Rosemary Nick Summers & Megan Longley: Legal aid models in Canada Karen Wilford: Delivering Legal Aid Services in Canada's Arctic: an Exercise in Understanding Intersections
7:00 pm	<b>Reception and Dinner — Museum of History</b>

## Tuesday 18 June

9:00 - 10.45 am	<b>Session Three — Helping the Unrepresented</b> Bonnie Hough: Can Technology improve Access to Justice in the Courts? Christopher Griffin: Lessons from the Field: Conducting Randomized Experiments to Improve Civil Legal Aid Services Nye Thomas & Ryan Fritsch: AI and Automated Decision-Making: Impact Access to Justice and Legal Aid
10.45 am - 11 am	<b>Break</b>
11.15 am - 1 pm	<b>Session Four — Exploring Gaps in Provision for Vulnerable People</b> Ab Currie: Building a delivery approach based on outreach: Lessons learned from two legal aid-community partnerships Yu-Shan Chang: Data for Social Good: Developing an Evidence-Based Approach to Locate the Potential Need for Strategic Planning Madhurima Dhanuka: Leaving No One Behind: Access to Justice and Legal Aid Strategies in India

1:00 - 2.00 pm	<b>Lunch</b>
2.00 - 3.30 pm	<p><b>Session Five — Holistic provision: The Way of the Future?</b></p> <p>Hazel Genn: When Law is Good for Health</p> <p>Suzie Forell: The impact of legal help beyond Access to Justice: learning from Health Justice Partnerships</p> <p>Michele Leering: Justice and Health Partnerships in Ontario</p> <p>Frederike Diersen: Redesigning legal aid in the Netherlands: sustainable solutions for legal problems</p>
3.30 - 3.45 pm	<b>Break</b>
3.45 - 5.15pm	<p><b>Session Six — Innovative approaches to cost and affordability</b></p> <p>Paul Prettitore: Access to Justice as a Dimension of Poverty: Making an Impact?</p> <p>Bilal Siddiqi &amp; Justin Sandefur: Delivering Justice to the Poor: Experimental Evidence from Liberia</p> <p>John Boersig &amp; Romola Davenport : Distributing the Legal Aid Dollar – Effective, Efficient and Quality Assured?</p> <p>Anna Barlow: The importance of structure and context in legal aid comparisons – a study in North-West Europe</p>
6.15 pm	<p><b>Reception – Supreme Court of Canada</b></p> <p>Followed by dinner at 3 Brewers restaurant</p>

## Wednesday 19 June

9:00 - 10.45 am	<p><b>Session Seven — Quality</b></p> <p>Alan Paterson &amp; Avrom Sherr: Does Peer Review raise standards?</p> <p>Guido Schakenraad : Quality, transparency and politics.</p> <p>Anika Holterhof: Quality Assurance on the Global Stage</p>
10.45 - 11.15 am	<b>Break</b>
11.15am - 1:00pm	<p><b>Session Eight — Technology and Access</b></p> <p>Roger Smith: Law, Technology and Access to Justice: Where are we now?</p> <p>Sherry MacLennan and Earl Johnson: Digital Delivery Issues</p> <p>Rebecca Sandefur: A Thousand Flowers Bloom Unnoticed: What Makes Legal Technologies for Access to Justice Used and Useful?</p>
1:00 - 2:00 pm	<b>Lunch</b>
2:00 - 3.45 pm	<p><b>Session Nine — SDG 16.3 and Access to Legal Aid at the early stages</b></p> <p>Vicky Kemp: Using technology to improve suspects' understanding of their legal rights</p> <p>Shahin Ali: Early Access to Legal Aid for Suspects in Custody – the Fijian experience</p> <p>Hennie van As: Admission of guilt and criminal record: enough to warrant legal aid?</p>
3.45 - 4.00 pm	<p><b>Closure</b></p> <p>Alan Paterson: Where Next?</p>



# Abstracts

## Session One — Pro Bono

### Trevor Farrow **Lawyers and the future of Access to Justice**

It has been 10 years since I published my article “Sustainable Professionalism” (2008) 46 Osgoode Hall L.J. 51. In that article, in light of developing understandings about professional obligations around equity, access to justice, and the public interest, I challenged the professional sustainability of the then current (and still) dominant model of lawyering – one that favours a client’s interests essentially above all else. That article continues to receive a relatively significant amount of scholarly and policy-based attention (e.g. it remains in the top ten of all downloaded papers on SSRN’s Legal Ethics & Professional Responsibility, and Law & Society: The Legal Profession eJournals). However, over the past decade, there has been a major shift in our collective thinking and understanding about legal problems, the depth and breadth of their impact on peoples’ lives, the costs and inaccessibility of current models of legal services, potential innovations in delivery models, and around challenges related to equity, diversity, access to justice, and what it means to lawyer in the public interest. In Canada alone, a number of major access to justice-related reports and decisions have been released, including for example: Action Committee on Access to Justice in Civil and Family Matters, Final Report (2013); Canadian Bar Association, Reaching Equal Justice Report Final Report (2013); Hryniak v. Mauldin (2014); TRC, Final Report (2015).

These developments, coupled with new understandings around legal problems, including research on individual and collective costs (e.g. “Everyday Legal Problems and the Cost of Justice in Canada: Overview Report” (2016)), are shifting our understanding of the Canadian legal landscape. And clearly Canadian lawyers and professional regulators are not isolated from similar international developments and challenges. In light of ongoing legal problems research by a number of world-leading scholars, together with international calls for action (e.g. UN SDG 16), shared problems and challenges are calling for new thinking and solutions.

In this paper, I will use current access to justice research, projects and calls for action to develop my vision for the future of legal professionalism. In so doing, I will argue that:

- *The relatively unidimensional dominant framework for lawyering, with its obsession for zealous adversarial representation essentially beyond all else, is no longer sustainable within the current social context in which it operates and in light of what we are learning from current access to justice research; and further, theories of legal ethics need to move past the still relatively binary discussion of zealous advocate-moral lawyer professional frameworks in order to make sense of the complex legal demands of modern, pluralistic communities.*

- *A modern model of lawyering needs to re-imagine what it means to facilitate access to justice and to lawyer in the public interest (taking seriously legal problems research and current social, political and cultural events, developments and movements). Although developments in pro bono, paralegals, unbundling, etc. are important, significant innovation - including a professional culture shift - is needed.*
- *If lawyers and professional regulators fail to understand this shifting landscape by refusing to get out in front of these issues and become part of an access to justice solution, I fear that society will choose to go around the legal profession through the use of private, de-regulated options, which – although perhaps economically attractive – may ultimately provide inadequate safeguards for foundational public interest values that should animate the work of lawyers in modern democracies.*

## **Session Two — Legal aid in Canada: Serving diverse needs from coast to coast to coast**

### **David McKillop Project Rosemary**

In recent years Legal Aid Ontario (LAO) has developed multiple client strategies to better understand and meet the needs of specific vulnerable client groups.

These client strategies were based upon analysis of external demographic data, information about the justice sector generally, and anecdotal information from staff and stakeholders.

In recent years, there has been an increasing recognition that collecting, tracking, and reporting human-rights based data is valuable in developing responsive programming and services.

LAO launched Project Rosemary in 2016. Project Rosemary is an initiative to collect and analyze information about the race of legal aid applicants and clients. The goal of the initiative is to support evidence-based service planning, and to provide services that best meet the legal aid needs of our core client groups.

This presentation will review the design and implementation of the project and present the preliminary analysis of its first year of data.

### **Nick Summers & Megan Longley Legal Aid Models in Canada**

Canada consist of ten provinces and three territories and each of these has unique cultural backgrounds and geographic challenges. The result is 13 different ways of approaching the provision of legal aid services.

This presentation will be a quick overview of each province/territory's challenges, and the ways in which they deliver service.

In addition, because many attendees at the ILAG Conference will be visitors to Canada and therefor perhaps unfamiliar with this country, there will be photos of each province/territory shown while the presenters speak about that province/territory.

**Karen Wilford Delivering Legal Aid Services in Canada's Arctic: An Exercise in Understanding Intersections**

Unique challenges are posed in delivering legal aid to Canada's smallest population on her largest land mass and under the harshest conditions. This presentation will highlight the complex intersection of operating within a colonial justice system while serving a client base which has endured the worst effects of a colonial history.

Understanding the Northern context requires embracing geography, weather, language, history, culture and art; our legal practice exists at the intersection of all of these.

## Session Three — Helping the Unrepresented

### Bonnie Hough **Can Technology improve Access to Justice in the Courts?**

California courts are testing a wide number of innovations including enabling people to take interactive, on-line classes as home on how to complete legal paperwork; having that paperwork reviewed remotely; connecting rural courts via Skype to allow them to share resources including attorneys and interpreters; and a Livechat experiment to answer statewide legal questions. This paper will discuss initial evaluation results of those projects as well as efforts to quantify the benefits to the courts and public of these services.

### Christopher L. Griffin, Jr. **Lessons from the Field: Conducting Randomized Experiments to Improve Civil Legal Aid Services**

Stakeholders in the traditional domains of civil legal aid—eviction, small claims and debt collections, protective orders, and family law disputes, among others—now clamour for evidence based guidance. What strategies should professionals still pursue, and which are no longer effective? Which innovations carry verifiable promise, and which cannot deliver predicted efficiencies? Social science provides the rigorous tools needed to causally infer answers to these questions. And social scientists with legal training are building a research agenda for embedding those analytical methods within existing legal aid operations. This paper describes the most prominent example, the randomized control trial (RCT), and discusses its application in the field. It provides a non-technical primer for RCTs, briefly reviews their deployment in the law, and provides select examples of how researchers have partnered with legal aid providers to design and launch experiments. The paper concludes with suggestions for best practices, both for researchers conducting human subjects experiments in the law and for attorneys dedicated to evaluating the effectiveness of their services.

## Nye Thomas & Ryan Fritsch **AI and Automated Decision-Making: Impact on Access to Justice and Legal Aid**

This paper will address a crucial and emerging issue confronting access to justice organizations and legal aid programs in many ILAG jurisdictions: the growing use of artificial intelligence (AI) and automated decision-making in areas of legal aid practice. The Law Commission of Ontario (LCO)'s research demonstrates that these technologies pose new and significant challenges (and opportunities) to traditional models of human rights, dispute resolution, due process, self representation, and access to legal information and automated advice. They are also set to directly impact areas traditionally within the mandate of legal aid services. Automated decision-making in Canadian, US, and UK jurisdictions, for example, have been deployed to sort immigration and refugee status; pre-emptively profile and trigger investigations of families deemed at risk for child abuse; determine and prioritize eligibility for government benefits or social housing; and recommend bail and sentencing for criminal accused, including whether an accused is at high or low risk of reoffending. The Law Commission of Ontario is uniquely positioned to discuss this topic. The LCO has initiated a multi-year Digital Rights Project addressing issues such as algorithmic accountability and the impact of AI on access to justice.

The proposed ILAG presentation will include discussion of the following topics:

- *Use of automated decision-making in legal aid areas of practice;*
- *Risks and benefits of automated decision-making;*
- *Update on proposals and initiatives to develop and regulate "ethical AI";*
- *"Litigating AI"*
- *Potential implications for legal aid programs*

We believe these technologies have important implications for legal decision-making in the criminal, civil and "poverty law" justice systems – which are the main areas of legal aid practice.

## Session Four — Exploring Gaps in provision for Vulnerable People

### Yu-Shan Chang **Data for Social Good: Developing an Evidence-Based Approach to Locate the Potential Need for Strategic Planning**

The Legal Aid Foundation (LAF) is a statutory organization providing comprehensive legal assistance for disadvantaged communities in Taiwan. The scope of its services includes legal advice, minor assistance and representation, public legal education and law reform. Since its establishment in 2004, LAF has collected service data for more than one million cases and management data regarding its non-legal human service partners for legal aid promotion and public legal education activities. However, it was not until recently that the data has been re-visited and analyzed systematically.

Since early 2018, LAF has been working with SAS Institute Taiwan and data analysts to conduct a series of research projects with data from 2014 to 2017. Through data mining and by comparing with the government's open data on both the general population and populations with certain socio-demographic characteristics (for example, low income, disability, elderly, indigenous people, migrant workers, etc.), the LAF calculated its service coverage for each geographical area and targeted disadvantaged communities. Potential legal demands, local distinctiveness and service gaps have thus been recognised. Furthermore, the LAF also tried to locate current outreach points for advice, community legal education and promotion and examined their physical accessibility by taking travel time into account, identifying areas that are 'legal assistance deserts'. The aforementioned findings can be visualised through an interactive map to facilitate understanding. This has provided policymakers and branch offices with a more comprehensive view and baseline information regarding legal needs and service supply in each catchment area in order to assist in future planning and service improvement. The preliminary findings have also suggested improvements for the data collection system itself and encourage more cross-sector collaboration between the LAF, local authorities and NGOs in order to develop local service strategies and to pursue service innovation.

This presentation will outline the newly adopted data-driven and community-based approach, present the research findings from the service data analysis and discuss the research limits. It will also demonstrate the subsequent application work to date concerning how we engage with local knowledge from LAF's branch offices and other organizations to apply the research findings for better strategic planning.

## Madhurima Dhanuka **Leaving no one behind: Access to Justice & Legal Aid Strategies in India**

Legal aid is an essential tool in ensuring equal access to justice for all. In order to attain the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development (Goal 16 and Target 16.3 in particular), and with particular attention to “leaving no one behind” it is important to work towards enhancing meaningful access to quality legal aid for marginalised or vulnerable populations, groups with special needs, and those living in rural, remote or underserved areas.

To achieve these goals in India, given the vastness of its geographies, the roles of paralegal volunteers and university-based law clinics attain importance. CHRI has engaged with both paralegals and clinical legal education initiatives over the past ten years to enhance meaningful access to quality legal aid. This has included preparation of resource materials for enhancing public legal education, as well as preparation of guidebooks for paralegals and university-based clinics to facilitate their work. It is our belief that in India paralegals are increasingly being recognised as the backbone of our extensive legal aid system. Equally important have been efforts by students attached with university-based clinics. Additionally, over the past few years legal aid institutions in India have undertaken initiatives to ensure access to legal aid for all, especially the marginalised and vulnerable populations. These include initiatives such as door-to-door campaigns, implementation of various schemes for vulnerable groups, campaigns for prisoners, using audio visuals/technological aids to promote public legal education, etc.

The paper will discuss the various strategies adopted by legal services institutions in India that are aimed at enhancing access to legal aid for all. Emphasis will be placed to document efforts involving clinical legal education projects and initiatives led by trained paralegals in ensuring that no one is indeed left behind.



## **Session Five — Holistic provision: The Way of the Future?**

### **Hazel Genn *When Law is Good for Health***

The presentation will highlight connections between law and health, drawing on access to justice on unmet legal needs and public health research on social determinants of health and health inequalities. It will look at international development of integrated social welfare legal services and health services to address health harming legal needs (Medical Legal Partnership and Health Justice Partnership). Drawing on research undertaken in the UCL Laws Health Justice Partnership in a general practice in East London, it will consider the benefits and challenges of integrating community legal services within healthcare settings. The paper will conclude with a discussion of where policy and research on health justice should be going.

### **Suzie Forell *The impact of legal help beyond Access to Justice: learning from Health Justice Partnerships***

Health Justice Partnerships (HJPs) in the Australian context are partnerships to embed legal help in health care services and teams. Partnerships aim to improve health and wellbeing for:

- *individuals, through direct service provision in places that they access*
- *people and communities vulnerable to complex need, by redesigning integrated service responses around client needs and capability*
- *vulnerable populations through advocacy for systemic change to policies which affect the social determinants of health.*

This paper first draws upon a recent census of HJPs to profile the Australian health justice landscape. It then discusses the individual and systems outcomes anticipated for HJPs and opportunities for work in collaboration with public health researchers to explore this potential. It considers the benefit of legal assistance beyond the access to justice frame, to ask how legal assistance contributes to health and wellbeing as part of a broader human service network.

## Michele M. Leering **Justice and Health Partnerships in Ontario**

Justice & Health Partnerships (JHP) have emerged in Ontario as an innovative method for connecting vulnerable clients with the legal help that they need. These partnerships are also a formidable access to justice tool for raising legal rights awareness for vulnerable communities, and the legal literacy and legal capability of health care providers. Partnering with “trusted intermediaries”, is an approach that responds to and resonates with the findings of access to justice studies by internationally-renowned legal needs researchers by supporting early intervention, prevention, and holistic approaches to meeting clients’ legal needs.

This presentation will explore the different models for these partnerships in Ontario, as well as initiatives developing in other Canadian provinces, how pilot projects have been funded and resourced, and how these collaborations are increasing access to justice. These emerging JHPs will be reviewed in the context of growing movements in the US (Medical-Legal Partnerships – MLPs), Australia (Health Justice Partnerships – HJP), and the UK.

These initiatives build inter- and multi-disciplinary strategies to improving legal, and physical and emotional health. Additionally, the merits of using action research as a research methodology will be discussed, as well as evaluation approaches to measuring impact and the change that these initiatives create, including in the professional consciousness of the legal and health professionals involved. Health equity commitments are well-developed and articulated for health professionals through their professional training, as well as the understanding of the impact of Social Determinants of Health. This provides a fertile ground for cross-disciplinary collaboration, problem-solving, and advocacy to increase access to justice.

## Frederike Diersen **Redesigning legal aid in the Netherlands: sustainable solutions for legal problems**

The Netherlands are redesigning the legal aid system. The aim of the program is to introduce a new and broader approach than only legal aid to help people with problems they encounter. These problems are not always or automatically best solved with only legal solutions. This presentation will give an insight in the plans and the way we want to connect the legal and social domain and put the litigant in the centre.

## Session Six — Innovative approaches to questions of cost and affordability

### Paul Prettitore **Access to Justice as a Dimension of Poverty: Making an Impact?**

The hypothesis of the research is that there is a correlation between poverty and access to justice and as such access to justice could be considered as a dimension of multi-dimensional poverty. Income and wealth inequality reduce the ability of the poor to afford, and thus access, legal services. While lack of access to justice may not constrain all households, for those it does affect the social and economic impacts can be quite severe. Lack of access to justice in those cases may prove a dimension of poverty as would lack of access to healthcare or education. Impacts of lack of access to justice are more likely to be severe for persons in poverty who lack the financial and social capital to navigate dispute resolution channels and to provide safety nets against economic and social shocks.

Access to justice can protect the vulnerable from falling into poverty because of economic shocks caused by legal problems. For example, an employee could be reinstated in a job from which they were wrongfully terminated before loss of salary has detrimental effect. They can also resolve legal problems that are perpetuating poverty for those already in it, for example by ensuring financial transfers related to wrongfully denied social safety net benefits or payment of alimony and child support payments to poor female-headed households. If legal problems are left unaddressed they have the potential to undermine poverty alleviation programs.

To explore the hypothesis we propose to use data from fourteen household Justice Needs Surveys implemented by HiiL Innovating Justice to assess experiences of poor and otherwise vulnerable persons in accessing justice and how the impacts of legal problems affect poverty and inclusion.

This data will support development of the evidence base for the following:

- *Identifying the justice gaps for the poor and vulnerable in middle and lower income countries, and comparing with justice gaps in high income countries*
- *Measuring impacts of lack of access to justice on the poor versus the non-poor*
- *Channels through which the poor and vulnerable attempt to access justice sector services*
- *Trust in institutions*

Data from the household surveys will be disaggregated by poverty proxies (income, employment status, education levels) and referenced with other aspects of vulnerability (gender, age, location, minority status).

## Bilal Siddiqi & Justin Sandefur **Delivering Justice to the Poor: Experimental Evidence from Liberia**

Can progressive legal reform improve the lives of the poor in places where formal legal institutions have limited reach? We develop a simple model of forum choice highlighting the trade-off faced by poor and socially disadvantaged plaintiffs between repressive, but proximate customary law, and a more progressive, but expensive and punitive formal justice system.

We test our predictions using new survey data on over 4,500 legal disputes in rural Liberia, and a randomized trial of legal aid using paralegals trained in mediation and the formal law. Consistent with our model, plaintiffs facing bias under the custom -- e.g., women suing men -- are more likely to opt out of the customary system in favor of formal courts or mediation, and are relatively happier when they do. On average, plaintiffs offered legal aid are significantly more satisfied with case outcomes, pay fewer bribes, and report greater food security.

## John Boersig & Romola Davenport **Distributing the legal aid dollar - effective, efficient and quality assured?**

Provision of legal aid is essential in enabling access to legal services for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged members of society. Resources allocated to legal aid commissions must be used effectively, efficiently and economically to best support access to justice and to optimise the number of people who can receive assistance. In many cases where a grant of legal assistance has been approved, work is allocated to an in-house staff practice rather than to private lawyers. Conversely, a private lawyer will be allocated work in a range of circumstances. This reflected the 'mixed-model' of services delivery which is utilised in the Australian legal aid environment.

Work Allocation Guide Lines are used to distribute work. The fundamental objective of these Guidelines is to ensure an appropriate balance in the allocation of work as between in-house lawyers and private practitioners. The decision to allocate a lawyer to an assisted person occurs only when these guidelines have been considered. Within the current funding environment most cases are allocated where they are less costly, whether that be by way of grants of legal assistance to in-house staff or private legal practitioners.

In this paper we propose to examine how the decision to allocated work is governed, drawing on the history and legislative basis of legal aid commission in Australia and reflecting on the relationship with law societies, and government funders. The duty of legal aid commission is to optimise services to a particular section of the community. Accordingly the paper will identify the risks and challenges faced by legal aid administrators in the endeavour to ensure that the most vulnerable and disadvantaged members of the community receive professional services. In this context we will also focus on underlining drivers of professional service delivery such as value for money and quality control, and argue for increasing systemic mechanisms for accountability and transparency.

*Session Six continued ...*

## **Anna Barlow The importance of structure and context in legal aid comparisons – a study in North-West Europe**

The legal and administrative structures of legal aid provision are fundamental to its functioning. It is therefore useful to look beyond individual examples of good practice projects to the basic construction of the legal aid scheme in a jurisdiction. The architecture is provided by the public and administrative law elements of legal aid which vary substantially, as shown by a recent large-scale comparison of nine jurisdictions in North-West Europe (the Nordic countries, the UK jurisdictions and the Republic of Ireland).

The research considered the legal foundation for civil and criminal legal aid, in particular the decision-making and appeals structures, scope and merits tests, and found that these vary radically between jurisdictions, including between jurisdictions where similarities might be expected, such as Finland and Sweden. Surprising similarities were also found, such as those between Norway and England & Wales, and Finland and the Republic of Ireland. The large scale of the examination enabled a search for patterns and revealed links between policy and practice, outlined in this paper, which are less evident in smaller comparative studies.

The presence of many structural variables which interact in complex ways has an important consequence for inter-jurisdictional learning; great care must be taken when attempting to transfer elements of legal aid provision between systems. The paper concludes with a proposed framework for the analysis of legal aid systems, to enable systematic evaluation and meaningful comparison between jurisdictions. Use of such a framework can improve the prospects of successful borrowing of ideas by enhancing the understanding of both familiar and unfamiliar legal aid schemes.



## Session Seven — Quality

### Alan Paterson & Avrom Sherr **Does Peer Review raise Standards?**

Ensuring Quality Assurance for legal aid does not sound a very glamorous topic. Worthy but dull – an item for slower days in the offices of a country's legal aid authority. Yet today the issue has never been of greater interest globally. The UNODC global legal aid study found that improving the quality of legal aid services was the number one priority amongst the responding member states. The need for quality assurance features strongly in the UN Principles and Guidelines (2012) Principle 13 and in EU Directive 2016/1919 on legal aid in criminal proceedings.

Like the UN Principles and Guidelines the requirement for quality extends both to the quality of the legal aid system and also to the services delivered by providers. Both sets of requirements are set out at length in the UNODC Handbook on Ensuring Quality of Legal Aid Services in Criminal Justice Processes (2019) and those for legal aid systems in particular will be dealt with in Anika Holterhof's paper in the Quality session (Session 7) of the conference. Measures for assessing the quality of the services offered by legal aid providers are the focus of the second half of the Handbook and of this paper. In that part of the Handbook drawing on the work of Nikartas and Limante, *Tools and Criteria for Measuring Legal Aid Quality: Guidelines for EU Members States* (2018) we identified the range of methods used in different jurisdictions to assess quality of performance. We argue that Peer Review, "the evaluation of a service provided against specified criteria and levels of performance by an independent person with significant current or recent practical experience in the areas being reviewed" is the gold standard for assessing the adequacy of the lawyer's work. However, experience – particularly in Europe - has shown that Peer Review is a project best tackled through a partnership between the professional associations, the legal aid authorities and the public.

This paper focuses on an aspect of quality assurance which has hitherto attracted relatively little attention, namely, whether the target or pass mark to be achieved by legal professionals in a quality assurance programme is static or dynamic. Does the tacit understanding that the profession will deliver competence assume a static level e.g. "threshold competence" or a pass mark that changes over time? Some in the profession claim that the tacit bargain only entitles the public to a fixed standard of competence on the quality continuum. Others share the policymakers' view that professionals should be expected to continually enhance the quality of service that they deliver. Clearly technological advances and innovation entail that today's professionals are expected to practice differently than in the past. But does this mean that the standard expected of professionals changes over time or merely that its content changes? The point can be argued either way but twenty years ago lawyers and doctors frequently adhered to a professional model of "the professional knows best". Patient care and client communication were not person centred but professional centred. Today, case law and professional ethics requires professionals to be client centred – the bar has clearly been raised. More is now expected of today's professionals. What was "competence plus" in the past may now be merely "threshold competence".

Another sense in which Peer Review drives up standards is in its administration. In Scotland lawyers have to fail three separate reviews before being excluded from doing legal aid and after each review they receive detailed feedback with the possibility of mentoring and training. The whole emphasis is on encouraging the poorer performing members of the profession to raise their performance. Lawyers who only just pass their routine reviews (marginal passes) will be re-assessed much more quickly than those who pass well, and it has been suggested that two marginal passes in a row could be treated as a fail if the second demonstrates a failure to continuously improve. Finally, by collecting statistics for the performance of all legal aid lawyers it is possible to identify the areas where the profession is strong and weak and thereby to identify the priority training needs for the profession. In England and Wales similar mechanisms are in place. By these measures the UK Peer Review programmes endeavour, and to a large measure succeed, in raising the overall competence in performance of all their legal aid lawyers.

### Anika Holterhof **UNODC paper on quality assurance**

ILAG has long discussed approaches to enhancing the quality of legal aid services, and measures to evaluate and monitor services delivered. To ensure the efficient use of both financial and human resources, and to ensure equal access of beneficiaries to high-quality services, monitoring and measuring the quality of legal aid is crucial – as is to constantly improve the quality of services, while maintaining an overall high level of quality.

UNODC, in consultation with Prof. Alan Paterson, is currently developing a practical handbook on quality of legal aid services in criminal justice systems, to provide guidance and information on approaches and good practices in different legal systems and legal aid delivery models, as well as practical steps for selecting, implementing and piloting measures to help countries maintain and improve the quality of legal aid services. It is designed to address some of the key issues that policy-makers and practitioners face in ensuring quality of legal aid services, including by:

- *Explaining the relevant provisions of the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems, and other international or regional standards;*
- *Outlining different approaches to quality assurance and describing relevant considerations for designing programmes;*
- *Providing policymakers, civil servants and practitioners (lawyers, judges, prosecutors, police officers, detention officers, civil society actors and others) with tools for quality assurance and monitoring/evaluating;*
- *Sharing practical and innovative examples from different jurisdictions.*

The paper will highlight common, as well as innovative practice as a basis for discussion.



*Session Six continued ...*

## **Andres Mahnke Constructing a Quality Management Model for the Public Defense in Chile**

When a country has a mixed legal system where legal aid and legal services are provided mostly by private lawyers and only on a small portion by public servants, the State replaces the direct provision of legal services by controlling those services provided by private lawyers. As we already know the control over the legal performance is not an easy job, in law school we learned that lawyers have a means obligation and not a result duty. But that old statement is only part true now, experience and work have shown that it is not only possible but necessary to control private lawyers' performance and results as well. There are many instruments and tools to control that legal performance in court and with clients as well. These tools show whether a lawyer is doing a good or a bad job in a particular case and in a more general way as well. And these tools help not only to provide a good service for clients, but to expend the great amount of money used to pay private providers of legal services in an adequate and useful way.

We are going to look at those different tools developed to control private legal delivery in Chile and check how they have improved over the past five years. The most important ones are peer review system, external audits, clients' claims and client's opinion on lawyer's performance and treatment. With all these tools, quality indicators and control systems have developed and improved along the years and help to have a better performance of these private/public lawyers.

All these tools acting together can shape a very complex and sturdy system on quality assurance and legal aid services as we check on the Chilean criminal legal aid system.



## Session Eight — Technology and Access

### Roger Smith **Access to Justice and Technology: Is there a Killer App?**

There can be no doubt of legal tech's impact on the legal commercial market. Over 4,000 attended the latest ILTACON US conference and more than 2,000 the London LegalGeek equivalent. One estimate of the current US spend on legal tech is \$1.5bn on software alone: another states 'Some estimates value the market size at as much as \$400 billion'. A further suggests that 'the global LegalTech market is estimated to be worth \$15.9 billion, and growing'. Stanford lists over 2000 legal startups on its CodeX Techindex. All this frenetic action, interest and expenditure could not avoid being a source of inspiration, not to say jealousy, in the legal aid/legal services/access to justice sector of the legal market. But, overall, though playing an increasing role, technology is having a less traceable impact - at least for the moment.

Four or five years ago, it did appear that a number of developments might kick-start an interest in tech among access to justice providers. First, de-regulation of the legal profession in England and Wales looked likely to encourage providers like Co-operative Legal Services (CLS) which would link web-led legal firms with DIY unbundled legal services in cheap packages in areas like divorce. Second, led by the Rechtwijzer project funded by the Dutch Legal Aid Board, it looked like there might be an internationally marketed product that combined guided pathways with online assistance in court proceedings. Third, judicial reports in England and Wales suggested that small claims court might have a 'solution explorer' front end that would link DIY assistance with court proceedings.

These initiatives all failed to some extent for individual reasons. But, behind those, there were structural elements. Fundamentally, there is just not the money around to finance major investment - particularly in jurisdictions like England and Wales where legal aid is being cut back at precisely this moment by government policies of fiscal austerity. The Dutch Legal Aid Board eventually pulled the plug on its Rechtwijzer investment, fearing it would represent a bottomless hole. Furthermore, 'poverty law' is much more jurisdiction-specific than major commercial legal undertakings like merger and acquisition. Data is, in any event, unlikely to be as 'clean' among hard pressed small providers as among large corporate ones. Many have only just started to use computers. And, finally, controversy rages over just how much technical, cultural, linguistic and cognitive disabilities might impair poorer users from accessing and applying high tech solutions to their problems - but they clearly do to some extent. Finally, most providers in most jurisdictions are up against the wall just to continue existing levels of service in a post-bank crash world where government funding is tighter and tighter.

There are, however, glimmers of light. The US Legal Services Corporation (LSC) holds an increasingly important annual conference on technology which has begun to attract interest beyond LSC grantees. Many providers in all jurisdictions are using standard productivity tools such as Microsoft Office. There is a lot of interest in exploring digitally assisted self-help. The US has led the way in court-oriented provision such as its A2J author software which allows non-technical authors to write programmes to assist self-represented litigants. In England and Wales, self-help programmes have been developed to assist applicants to obtain disability benefits. Over the world, websites providing guidance and information are being improved. In England and Wales, those running [citizensadvice.org.uk](http://citizensadvice.org.uk) can trace which parts of a page are most helpful and amend accordingly. [MyLawBC.com](http://MyLawBC.com) in British Columbia takes users down guided pathways to give them advice in an innovative interactive way that is a direct legacy of the *Rechtwijzer*. In the US, Microsoft is partnering with the LSC to provide two demonstration statewide portals to legal assistance. In Australis, Google has just done the same thing with the NGO Justice Connect. There are also innovative developments like Project Callisto developing totally innovative ways using technology to combat sexual harassment on university campuses. And, in the field of digital advisor support, we have the continued success of Rightsnet in the UK.

In the offing is the promise of artificial intelligence as a potential game changer - with its potential more obscured by the accompanying hype to which it has been subject rather than clarified.

So, what is the take away? As far as legal tech and poor people are concerned, there may be no 'killer app'. There are, however, a myriad of small scale advances. And, there is the continued spur of the froth on the commercial legal tech bubble. So, who knows what is to come? But, there is bound to be more progress and it needs to be charted on an international basis because, though substantive law may be local, technology cannot help but be international.

*Session Eight continued ...*

## Sherry MacLennan & Earl Johnson **Digital Delivery Issues**

Online Dispute Resolution for low income and marginalized people: The British Columbia courts started an online dispute resolution system called the Civil Resolutions Tribunal (CRT) and made it the mandatory forum for all claims under \$5,000 in June, 2017. It has its own Solutions Tool at the threshold and encourages all parties to negotiate a settlement of their dispute without the help of CRT staff, in which case the modest filing fee is returned to them. But if those negotiations are unsuccessful the dispute is assigned to a case manager who seeks to facilitate a settlement, among other ways by serving as an activist mediator empowered to offer his or her opinion as to a fair solution to the dispute. But if the facilitation phase fails the case is adjudicated by a tribunal member and that decision becomes the basis of an enforceable order, the equivalent of a judicial judgment. Only at that stage is there an opportunity to access the regular courts by filing an objection to the CRT adjudication, which triggers a trial de novo in a regular courtroom. After describing the CRT process in some detail and analyzing the statistics from the tribunal's operations during 2018, the paper will discuss the lessons that might be learned from the CRT experience about the potential of online dispute resolution to advance or impede access to justice for low income people.

The Legal Services Society (Legal Aid British Columbia) has developed MyLawBC, which similar to the CRT, provides solutions through guided pathways to everyday legal problems. MyLaw-BC offers a free negotiation platform that generates separation agreements. An evaluation has been completed and highlights presented as well as the addition of an online dispute resolution component for parenting disputers.

## Rebecca Sandefur **A Thousand Flowers Bloom Unnoticed: What Makes Legal Technologies for Access to Justice Used and Useful?**

Though legal technologies proliferate in the access to justice space, their uptake is low. Potential end users show low rates of adoption, and there is limited borrowing of insights and innovation from one technology project to another. Drawing on case studies of three different technologies in two distinct contexts, a large urban area and a rural state, this paper explores the factors that support adoption, maintenance and scaling of digital tools that enable non-lawyers to learn about and take action on justice problems. Most of these factors have little to do with software, but rather reflect aspects of human infrastructure.



## **Session Nine — SDG 16.3 and Legal Aid at the early stages**

### **Vicky Kemp Using technology to help improve suspects' understanding of their legal rights**

This presentation will provide an update on the 'Digital Legal Rights' project, which is exploring how technology can be used to help enhance legal safeguards for suspects interviewed by the police. A summary of key findings arising out of three empirical studies will be presented, and an update on work undertaken to incorporate procedural safeguards into an App to be used by the police when interviewing suspects.

The first study involved user-testing a prototype App with 100 detainees in two police custody suites. While it was intended that the App would help to inform detainees of their legal rights, it was found that some safeguards are routinely ignored. Without sufficient legal protections, this has led to long delays in the average time taken to deal with detainees, which has implications for undermining access to legal advice. Both police and defence-related factors were found to undermine detainees' access to early and confidential legal advice. It is not possible to continue testing an App with users in police custody, not least because it is demoralising to inform people of their legal rights in law, only to find that these are not always available in practice.

Accordingly, in the second study we turn our attention to using an App to help inform suspects of their legal rights when interviewed by the police on a voluntary basis. The police are increasingly using voluntary interviews instead of arresting and detaining suspects to facilitate an interview under caution. Suspects have the same legal rights, including access to free legal advice, but there is no standardised approach that sets out how they should be informed of their rights. A website and App have been made available to inform the public of their legal rights in voluntary interviews. We also intend to work with the police in testing the efficacy of the App in informing suspects of their legal rights, particularly over the waiver of legal advice. It will also include an evaluation of the App's potential in providing the police with a standardised approach to informing suspects of their legal rights in voluntary interviews.

The third study involves engaging with children and young people to adopt a child-centred approach when dealing with young suspects. We have engaged with over 80 children and young people who have experience of being interviewed by the police. They were asked questions about what they understood was happening in the criminal process, and also on their decisions relating to legal advice. The findings highlight the inappropriateness of the current adult-centred approach adopted when dealing with children in the criminal process. In seeking to adopt a child-centred approach, this will require information about suspects' legal rights to be provided in a way that can be understood by children.

We will engage with children and young people to develop a child-friendly website and App that will be attractive to young people. Through interactive videos, we will also encourage children to engage in better understanding their legal rights. From the outset, however, it is important to recognise that when adopting a child-centred approach, it will not always be possible for children to understand their legal rights. It is important, therefore, that policy makers consider the need for enhanced legal protections when dealing with vulnerable suspects.

The presentation will also include a brief summary on work undertaken to incorporate additional procedural safeguards into the App. These include videoing suspects when reading their legal rights, and making a decision about whether or not to have a solicitor. It also includes developing digital feedback forms, so that we can listen to the experience of suspects when involved in the criminal process. There will also be an update on work undertaken in developing digital assessments to be incorporated into the App to test the vulnerability of suspects.

### **Shahin Ali Early Access to Legal Aid for Suspects in Custody through the First Hour Procedure – The Fijian Experience**

After the ratification of UNCAT in March 2016 by Fiji, the Legal Aid Commission together the Fiji Police Force implemented the First Hour Procedure to curtail problems and allegations of police brutality against suspects in custody. The First Hour Procedure is based on the UK and Geneva model of legal service delivery and in our case, the suspect is accorded the services of a Legal Aid lawyer within the first hour of the arrest. The pilot commenced in November 2016 in 2 police stations in the capital city and to date over 4000 suspects have been provided this service. This service is available 24/7 and is provided entirely by the Legal Aid Commission, with no support from the private bar.

Through greater collaboration between the key stakeholders such as the Judiciary led by the Chief Justice, the Fiji Police, Legal Aid Commission, the DPPs Office, and the Fiji Human Rights & Anti-Discrimination Commission, there has been a stark reduction in complaints against Police officers not according a suspect his/her rights. There is now greater trust and confidence in the criminal justice processing system by the Police and Legal Aid lawyers have easy access to the Police Stations and visiting suspects.

The main points of discussion/presentation would be the First Hour Procedure; the video recording of caution interviews; the role of the LAC in both the FHP and the VRI; the coordinated effort of the key justice sector stakeholders; the role of and partnership between the Police and the LAC in combating brutality and bringing about attitudinal change, and the adoption by the LAC of the UN Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in the Criminal Justice System into its Strategic Plan.



*Session Nine continued ...*

## Hennie van As **Admission of guilt and criminal record: Severe enough to warrant legal aid?**

Principle 3 of UN Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems encourages states to provide legal aid regardless of the person's means, if the case is particularly urgent or complex, or if the potential penalty the person faces is very severe. In South Africa, the provision of criminal legal aid is an obligation imposed by the human rights chapter of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996. The Bill of Rights resulted in constitutional provision for a number of rights that have a direct bearing on legal aid. Legal Aid South Africa is the institution tasked with complying with the Constitution. Some of its objectives are to render or make available legal aid and legal advice and to provide education and information concerning legal rights and obligations as envisaged in the Constitution and the Legal Aid South Africa Act. It also declares itself as the vehicle to work towards achieving Target 16.3 of Sustainable Development Goal 6, namely to: Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and ensure equal access to justice for all.

In recent years, Legal Aid South Africa has succeeded to increase its footprint in the country as well as the number of matters dealt with. The model employed is a mixed approach involving salaried lawyers, *judicare*, and cooperation and agency agreements. It has also succeeded in implementing quality control measures. Despite this, a new challenge has reared its head. In October 2018, the powers of municipal law enforcement officers were increased considerably, including the power to issue written notices to appear in court (for an increased number of offences), with the option to pay an admission of guilt fine. Most people choose the latter option, but they don't realise that it has severe consequences. When a fine is paid, the accused is deemed to have been correctly convicted and such conviction is regarded as a conviction for all statutory and common law offences. It is so serious that, for instance, it would serve as the basis for the termination of a lease which contains a clause to the effect that should a lessee be convicted of any offence the lease would be terminated. It could also result in a person not being able to obtain a visa for travel purposes or to emigrate.

This is a large group of people that are on the fringes of the criminal legal system that are at risk and that are not serviced. This paper will examine whether there is a duty on Legal Aid South Africa to at least provide education, information and advice in these matters. It will also propose mechanisms to do so in order to give effect to the UN Principles, the Constitution and SDG 6.



# Conference Participants



**Lenny Abramowicz** is the executive director of the Association of Community Legal Clinics of Ontario. He has held this position since 2000. Before that Lenny was the executive director and a staff lawyer at Neighbourhood Legal Services in downtown Toronto. In addition, Lenny has worked at, and been on the board of directors of, other community legal clinics in Ontario.

Lenny is the Chair of the Alliance for Sustainable Legal Aid, the group that represents Ontario's front line legal aid service providers. Lenny has been on the board of, and worked with numerous community based non-profit groups. Lenny has written articles on legal issues, on community clinics, and on the topic of non-profit governance. In 2012 Lenny was given the Legal Aid Leader Award by the Canadian Bar Association. In 2018 Lenny was awarded the Law Society Medal by the Law Society of Ontario. Lenny graduated from McGill University with an LL.B. and a B.C.L. in 1985.



**Shahin Rafique Ali** joined the Legal Aid Commission in Fiji in March 2004. He is the longest serving employee and has served the Commission in various capacities. He was appointed as the Acting Director in 2016 and holds the substantive post of Business Operations Manager and Secretary of the Legal Aid Board.

He has over 10 years of management and administration experience and is also a Barrister and Solicitor. He is passionate about the work the Commission does and feels privileged that he has the opportunity to serve the most disadvantaged and marginalised members of society through his work. He truly believes in "promoting greater access to justice for all Fijians especially those who are socially and economically disadvantaged.



**Katherine Alteneder** has been the Executive Director of the Self-Represented Litigation Network (SRLN) since 2013. During her tenure, SRLN has grown from being a small unfunded project hosted by the National Center for State Courts to an independent national backbone organization with more than 2,000 members who work daily to get people the legal help they need, when and where they need it, and in a format they can use. Before joining SRLN, Ms. Alteneder spent her career in Alaska, initially as a trial court law clerk and then as a legal aid lawyer.

In 2001, Ms. Alteneder joined the Alaska Court System to serve as the Founding Director of the nation's first comprehensive phone and internet based court self-help center. In 2008, Ms. Alteneder established a successful unbundled practice and founded the first Unbundled Law Section of a state bar. She is a graduate of Northwestern University, and Seattle University School of Law. She resides in Virginia.



**Cleber Francisco Alves** is a Professor at Fluminense Federal University (Brazil) and a researcher at its PhD and Master's Program in Sociology and Law (PPGSD/UFF). He served as Dean of the Law Faculty at the Universidade Católica de Petrópolis (1999-2002). He received his PhD in Law (2005) from Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro: the doctoral thesis is a comparative study about legal aid in the United States, in France and in Brazil. He was a Visiting Fellow at the University of Baltimore, USA (2003), at the Université de Montpellier, France (2004), and at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies of the University of London (2014-2015). He is also a Public Defender (since 1994) with the Rio de Janeiro's State Public Defenders and works representing poor litigants in a Civil Court in his hometown, Petrópolis (Brazil).

He has published many books and articles in the field of legal aid, including: "Justiça para todos! Assistência Jurídica Gratuita nos Estados Unidos, na França e no Brasil" (2006); "Asistencia Juridica: una perspectiva comparada entre Cuba y Brasil" (2016), co-authored with M. Legra Fleitas; "Access to Justice in Brazil - The Brazilian Legal Aid Model", co-authored with A. Castro, D. Esteves and F. Silva (2017); ブラジルにおける司法アクセス・ブラジルの法律扶助モデル, co-authored with T. Ikenaga and D. Esteves (Jiyu to Seigi – 2017) and "Access to Justice in East Asia and in Latina America: comparativa perspectives in Japanese and Brazilian Legal Aid Services", co-authored with D. Esteves (2018).



**Caroline Amond Oloo** is an advocate of the High Court of Kenya and holds a L.L.B from Mangalore University and L.L.M in International Constitutional and Human Rights Law from Pondicherry University-India. She has over 15 years working experience and exposure in various fields, including; the Public Service-in policy administration, legal aid, leadership and management, corporate governance and audit of management systems; the Private Sector as a legal practitioner and a mediator. She has been a pro bono lawyer, and a part-time lecturer at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa. She currently works with the Office of the Attorney General and Department of Justice as the acting Director of the National Legal Aid Service, a position from which she spearheaded the establishment of a legal and institutional framework for legal aid in Kenya through the enactment of the Legal Aid Act, 2016 and the birth of the National Legal Aid Service. Caroline was awarded the Public Sector Pro bono Jurist of Year 2018 in Kenya for her efforts in enhancing access to justice.



**Hennie van As** is a Professor of Public Law and Director of the Centre for Law in Action at the Nelson Mandela University in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. He is an admitted advocate and completed a Diploma in Police Science, the degrees B.Juris, Bachelor of Laws and Doctor of Laws. He completed post-doctoral studies at the La Salle University in Mexico. He is also responsible for the Refugee Rights Centre (ensuring access to legal advice and assistance) and the FishFORCE Academy. He teaches Constitutional Law and the Enforcement of Marine and Coastal Legislation. Furthermore, he focuses on the drafting, implementation, enforcement and administration of legislation and access to legal aid.

Within local government, Hennie van As concentrates on municipal health law, municipal law enforcement, improvement of local governance and council oversight. He has written municipal codes for more than 60 municipalities in South Africa. He also served as an expert member for the World Bank, for the development of local government legislation in East Timor.

With the financial assistance of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he established a Fisheries Crime Law Enforcement Academy (FishFORCE) at the university. FishFORCE's main purpose is to combat sea fisheries crime and related criminal activities. It has started training fisheries control officers, national parks officials, police officers, tax officials and prosecutors in South Africa and it will be doing the same in other countries along the South and East African coastline and the Indian Ocean Rim. He is an Honorary Life Member of the Institute for Municipal and Public Safety of Southern Africa and a Senior Honorary Fellow at the University of Wollongong, Australia.



**Tracy Baguley** is the Manager of Legal Aid Services for New Zealand. She is responsible for the management and delivery of legal aid within the required timeliness, service levels and funding appropriation. This includes duty lawyer representation, police detention legal assistance and the Waitangi tribunal. Tracey moved to New Zealand from the UK sixteen years ago and has held several positions in the Ministry of Justice in service delivery and change management roles.



Dr. **Anna Barlow** is a researcher at Åbo Akademi University in Finland. Her doctoral thesis was a comparative study of legal aid in the Nordic countries, the UK and Ireland from a comparative administrative law perspective. Anna previously worked for 20 years as a legal aid lawyer in London. She was co-founder and CEO of the not-for-profit solicitors' firm Law For All, which developed innovative delivery methods to enable more clients to be helped under available legal aid funding. Anna worked as a solicitor within the organization, specialising in employment, social security and family law, and also led and managed the legal team, which grew to 50 lawyers at its height. In 2009 she moved to Finland with her family and turned towards academic work, completing a Masters degree in international human rights law before commencing her doctorate.

Anna has taught undergraduate and post-graduate law students in a range of institutions and is a thematic coordinator and the Nordic Regional Coordinator of the Global Access to Justice Project. She has published on legal aid in the Nordic countries, the UK and Ireland.



**Mark Benton**, QC has been a lawyer since 1980 and has served as the CEO of the Legal Services Society in British Columbia, Canada since 2003. LSS is BC's legal aid program and largest public legal education provider.

His legal experience includes general practice, appellate advocacy in the BC Court of Appeal and Supreme Court of Canada, and four years as an adjunct professor at the University of British Columbia Faculty of Law. He is a

past chair of the Association of Legal Aid Plans of Canada and contributes to a number of Canada's government and non-government justice task forces including the steering committees of the National Action Committee on Access to Civil and Family Justice and Access to Justice BC. He is currently an Executive Committee member of the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice and sits on the board of directors of the Canadian Forum for Civil Justice.

Mark's recent work includes presentations to Canadian Parliamentary and Senate Committees and advising several foreign governments and NGOs on the development and administration of legal aid programs outside Canada.

Mark has been recognized in the B.C. Legislature as "a passionate advocate for access to justice for the economically disadvantaged in British Columbia, and he brings along with that passion great creativity in the search for solutions for how to make a difference in people's lives."



**Larissa Bezo** presently serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Bureau for International Education - the national organization dedicated to the internationalization of education and the expansion of educational partnerships between Canada and countries around the globe. CBIE's pan-Canadian membership comprises 150 colleges, institutes, cégeps, universities, school boards and language schools. In addition to leading Canada's international education national organization, Larissa serves as the Director of the Quality and Accessible Legal Aid in Ukraine Project (2014 to present) – a technical assistance project in Ukraine funded by the Government of Canada intended to build institutional capacity in Ukraine for the design and sustainable implementation of a legal aid institution in partnership with the Coordination Center on Legal Aid Provision under the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine.

Larissa Bezo has served in senior leadership positions in both the public and not-for-profit sectors, including as the youngest Deputy Clerk in the history of Saskatchewan, Senior Advisor of a Federal Royal Commission and most recently, as Interim President and Chief Executive Officer for the Canadian Bureau for International Education. Larissa has provided technical expertise as a senior advisor to foreign governments, in particular, central executive agencies in countries in transition in a host of development contexts on behalf of the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the Canadian International Development Agency (now Global Affairs Canada). Her areas of expertise include institutional capacity building, public sector reform, civil service management and reform, leadership development, machinery of government and public policy development and implementation.



**Peter van den Biggelaar** (born in Helmond, the Netherlands, on 25/3/1952), Master of Law, is the retired Executive Director of the Dutch Legal Aid Board (LAB). Since his retirement as from 1 April 2016 he is still connected with the LAB as legal aid expert.

In 1992 he joined the Legal Aid Board in 's-Hertogenbosch, which was in the process of being formed. Since March 1993 appointed as executive director of the Legal Aid Board ('s-Hertogenbosch), which was one of the five Legal Aid Boards in the Netherlands.

After the merge of the five Legal Aid Boards (February 2009) he worked for the National Legal Aid Board as executive director. Member of the Steering Committee of the International Legal Aid Group (ILAG) since 2007 and vice-chair as of June 2017. Participant for the Dutch Legal Aid Board in national and international multi-stakeholder access to justice and legal aid seminars, conferences and projects. Participated as medium- and short-term legal aid expert in international projects on access to justice and legal aid, including projects in Eastern Europe, ENI East region, and Asia (e.g. Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, and the Republic of Azerbaijan)

After retirement: UNDP Project Enhancing Access to Justice and Development of a Child-Friendly Justice System in Georgia 2018. Author of the report about methodology for workload measurement of legal aid services & statistical reporting system. Council of Europe Project Support to legal aid reforms in "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" 2018. Author of the assessment report to evaluate the current state of affairs regarding the existing difficulties preventing a higher number of lawyers being willing to provide legal services under the free legal aid system.

- *Member Expert Group Meeting on The Quality of Legal Aid Services in Criminal Justice Systems UNODC 2018.*
- *TAIEX/EU Peer Review Assessment Expert mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina on Free Legal Aid 2018 Co-author of the report.*
- *Member of the delegation for Legal Aid Governance Models and Independence Council of Europe Ukraine 2018.*
- *Expert for the Legal Aid Seminar CHINA-UNODC 2018.*
- *Workshop quality standards for legal aid provision in the pre-trial phase of criminal proceedings EU Bulgaria 2018.*
- *Legal Aid expert for EU project Bulgaria Guarantees for effective access to legal aid in pre-trial phase of proceedings 2017.*
- *Participant Roundtable IBA Belfast 2017.*
- *Legal Aid expert for China-EU Legal Aid Policy Dialogue EU 2014-2017.*
- *Member of committee for the Assessment of the free secondary legal aid (FSLA) system in Ukraine in the light of Council of Europe standards and best practices (the assessment covers the system of providing of FSLA in criminal cases and in cases of administrative detention) Council of Europe 2016-2017.*
- *Official visit Moroccan delegation December 2, 2015 and 3 days workshops in Rabat for Ministry of Justice, Judiciary, Prosecution and Bar 2016.*



Dr **John Boersig** is CEO of Legal Aid ACT. He is the current Chair of National Legal Aid. Dr Boersig worked as an Assistant Secretary in the Federal Attorney-General's Department, responsible for a number of areas including Indigenous law and justice and human rights. Before joining the Attorney-General's Department John practiced law in NSW, as a lawyer for the Aboriginal Legal Service and in private practice. He established the University of Newcastle Legal Centre and was Director of the Professional program in 1994. He was a part-time Presiding member of the Guardianship Tribunal for many years.

John has a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Sydney, and is an Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Canberra. He was awarded the Public Service Medal in the 2008.



**Oleksii Boniuk** has been a barrister since 2001 and a managing partner in “Boniuk and partners” law firm since April of 2016, Mr. Boniuk came to lead the legal aid system of Ukraine as the Director a.i. (later – Director) of the Coordination Centre for Legal Aid Provision on 14th June of 2017. From 1997 to 2000, Mr. Oleksii Boniuk has been working as a legal counsel and a chief legal counsel in several Ukrainian companies, eventually becoming the CEO of “JurEnergoConsulting” law firm on 23 May, 2001.

From November of 2001 to September of 2002, Mr. Boniuk has been holding the post of a CEO in “INTA-Audit” auditing firm. On 23 September of 2002 he acquired the position of a Deputy CEO in “Industrial and financial consulting group” LLC that he held until 18 April of 2005.

In 2015 Mr. Boniuk was an expert in the Council of Europe project “Immediate measures package for Ukraine”. During the Revolution of Dignity, Mr. Boniuk undertook representation of civil activists during criminal proceedings, filing a number of applications to the European Court of Human Rights as well. He holds a degree in Law from the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv (1999)



**Steve Burford**, CPA CGA is Vice President, Finance & Technology, at Legal Aid Alberta. He reports to the President & CEO and is responsible for the Finance and IT departments as well as Facilities and Procurement. The VP ensures that systems and infrastructure necessary to support our front-line staff in delivering legal services to our clients are sufficient and reliable. The VP is responsible for the financial management of LAA, which includes preparation of budgets, business plans, and sustainability plans for review by the Board of Directors and LAA’s funders.

Stephen has a wealth of experience in federal, provincial and municipal governments. He has worked with the Canada Revenue Agency, Parks Canada, the Government of Alberta and several other organizations. Stephen is a CPA-CGA who brings wide-ranging experience to his role with LAA.



**Fatmata Claire Carlton-Hanciles** is the first Executive Director of the Sierra Leone Legal Aid Board since its inception in 2015. Ms. Carlton-Hanciles has been credited with transforming the Board into the largest legal aid organization in the country. It has offices in fourteen of the sixteen districts in the country. Each of the offices has at least two Paralegals. Also, the Board is the only organization with resident lawyers in some parts of the country.

Under her stewardship, the Board has carved a niche in the provision of primary justice services. This has improved access to justice for many, especially those in remote communities where it is not uncommon for people to resort to divine intervention rather than seek redress in the courts because of the challenges which go with it in terms of access, cost, speed and complexity.



Prior to joining the Board, Ms. Carlton-Hanciles worked at the United Nations backed International War Crimes Tribunal, The Special Court for Sierra Leone. She joined the Court in 2002 as Defence Counsel. She rose to the enviable position of Principal Defender in 2009. A position she held until the closure of the court in December 2013. She is the only Sierra Leonean to have held that position and also the longest serving Principal Defender in the history of the Court.

She was engaged in private practice for over four years, which she combined with civil society activism. She was a member of the executive of the Women's Forum one of the leading civil society organizations in the country.



**Pierre Castonguay** was appointed in July 2016 as the Executive Director for the New Brunswick Legal Aid Services Commission. As the head of the Commission, Mr. Castonguay oversees all Legal Aid programs for the Province which include Criminal Law Services, Family Law Services and the Office of the Public Trustee.

Prior to his appointment as Executive Director, Mr. Castonguay was the Chief Operating Officer for the New Brunswick Legal Aid Services Commission from November 2013 to July 2016. As such, he was charged with directing the business and affairs of the Commission, including negotiating the first collective agreement with the unionized staff lawyers.

Before joining the Commission, Mr. Castonguay had a lengthy career with the New Brunswick Public Prosecution Services for over seventeen (17) years. Over that period of time, Mr. Castonguay argued before all level of courts in Canada on issues dealing with the Criminal Code, the Charter of Rights and the Constitution.

Mr. Castonguay is a graduate from the Université de Moncton Law School and was admitted to the New Brunswick Law Society in 1995. In addition to his legal career and on a more personal note, Mr. Castonguay and his wife own and operate a yoga studio in Fredericton, New Brunswick where they reside with their two children.



Dr. **Yu-Shan Chang** is a researcher at the Legal Aid Foundation (LAF) in Taiwan. She joined the LAF in 2017 and has been deeply involved in planning and undertaking research for better management, policy making and service innovation. She has a keen interest in conducting empirical and comparative studies on legal aid systems, access to justice, the legal profession and integrated legal services. She also applies interdisciplinary knowledge and methodology in her research.

Prior to joining the LAF, Yu-Shan practiced law in Taiwan and participated in legal aid work in her early career. She then studied and obtained her LLM and PhD degrees at University College London (UCL). Her PhD project explores and compares the mechanisms and rationale for integrated publicly funded legal services in England and Wales, Australia and Taiwan. She also had volunteered and worked in not-for-profit and advice agencies, supporting ethnic minorities and socially disadvantaged groups both in Taiwan and the UK. These experiences have greatly contributed to her research work at the LAF.



**Jeanne Charn** is a Senior Lecturer on Law at Harvard Law School and the Director of the Bellow-Sacks Access to Civil Legal Services Project, a research and policy project aimed at making civil legal services more widely and effectively available. Jeanne was a staff attorney at the Community Legal Assistance Organization and subsequently at the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute in Boston. In 1973, she was appointed Assistant Dean for Clinical Programs at Harvard Law School. In 1979, Jeanne and Gary Bellow founded a clinical practice center that became the largest civil clinical program at Harvard Law School. The Center served as a laboratory for service learning and for experiments in delivery of high quality and cost effective legal services. Jeanne teaches courses on delivery of legal services, the legal and financial needs of low and moderate income households and the ethical and professional challenges of law practice in a rapidly changing legal world.

Professional service includes membership on the ABA Standing Committee on Delivery of Legal Services and the Board of the Clinical Legal Education Association. She is on the Lawyering in the Public Interest Committee of the AALS Clinical Section.



**Jerry Cheng** is a Taiwanese lawyer practicing for over 21 years. He served as the Chief Secretary of the Legal Aid Foundation, and voluntarily assisted with the legal aid litigation cases for national compensation of the Tungshin Building, Doctor's Home, and Lo-Sheng Sanatorium and hospital. He is the presiding lawyer at the Justice Law Firm, as well as being the founder and president of the Taiwan Jury Association, advocating the establishment of a jury trial system in Taiwan.

- *Presiding lawyer of Justice Law Firm*
- *Founding President of Taiwan Jury Association*
- *Member of Review Committee of the Legal Aid Foundation*
- *Regular member of the Supervision Team of the New Taipei Election Commission*
- *Chief Secretary of Legal Aid Foundation*
- *Executive Officer of International Affairs Committee*
- *Deputy Chief Secretary of Taiwan Bar Association*
- *Convener of the draft team of the private version of Legal Aid Law*
- *Convener of the volunteer lawyer group of Lo-Sheng Sanatorium and Hospital*

Jerry has an LL.B. from the School of Law, Soochow University and is attending Graduate School of Law, Fu Jen University. He specializes in group litigation and bills promotion.



**Han-Wei Chou** joined Legal Aid Foundation as a staff attorney in 2004. Since then, he has risen through the ranks first serving as Director of the Department of Staff Attorneys, followed by Director of the North Legal Aid Staff Attorneys Center, until his last and most recent appointment as Chief Executive of the Legal Aid Foundation. Throughout his time at the Legal Aid Foundation, Han-Wei has and continues to represent a wide range of clients in litigation, including but not limited to, workers who suffer from occupational injury, foreign workers, credit card debtors, and death row inmates. With vast litigation experience,

Han-Wei has also led several class-action cases involving environmental pollution, public safety, among others, from 2008 to 2016.

- *Chief Executive Officer, Legal Aid Foundation, Taiwan*
- *Director, North Legal Aid Staff Attorneys Center, Legal Aid Foundation, Taiwan*
- *Director, Department of Staff Attorneys, Taipei Branch, Legal Aid Foundation, Taiwan*
- *Member of Taipei Bar Association*
- *Consultant, Credit Card Debt Victims Self-Help Association*
- *Associate Partner, Lin & Shih Law Firm*
- *Staff Attorney, Legal Aid Foundation, Head Office*

Han-Wei has a Master of Laws (LL.M.), Ming Chuan University, and a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.), National Chengchi University, Taiwan. He is passionate and constantly engaged in projects involving human trafficking and judicial reform. Han-Wei is also listed as a Pro Bono Attorney at the Taipei Women Rescue Foundation and an Executive Committee member at the Judicial Reform Foundation.



**Benson Cowan** is the Chief Executive Officer of the Legal Services Board of Nunavut - the legal aid provider in Canada's most northern territory. A criminal, constitutional and administrative lawyer, he began his career as a litigator in private practice in Toronto. A rostered expert on rule of law with the United Nations, he was the Legal Officer for the International Prosecutor's Office in Mitrovica with the United Nations Mission in Kosovo and the Special Adviser for Rule of Law to the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General with the United Nations Mission in Liberia during the Ebola crisis. He also ran the Solomon Islands Justice Program, a cross-sectoral justice reform initiative, for the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Honiara.

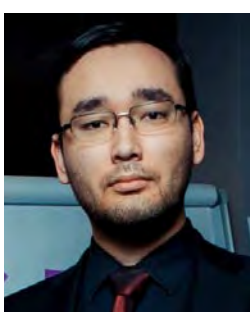
With the Ontario Public Service, Benson worked as the Director of Social Policy and Strategic Initiatives with Ministry of Indigenous Affairs and then the Director of Transition and Head of Legal Services for Safety, Licensing Appeals and Standards Tribunals Ontario. He lives in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut.



**Ab Currie**, Ph.D. (Sociology, University of Toronto) is currently a Senior Research Fellow at the Canadian Forum on Civil Justice (CFCJ) where he is mainly involved in research on legal problems experienced by the public. Prior to joining the Canadian Forum Ab was a researcher at the Department of Justice Canada where he was for the last fifteen years of a career that spanned over thirty years Principal Researcher responsible for legal aid and access to justice. He has conducted research on various aspects of criminal legal aid, including extensive research on unmet need. Ab has carried out three national legal problems surveys in Canada and was substantially involved in a fourth national survey carried out by CFCJ. During the past five years he has worked with several community legal clinics in Ontario providing research support on projects designed enhance legal services by building community partnerships.



**Lise Dahl** is Senior Adviser at the Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR). Based in Copenhagen, she has provided human rights and technical expertise on access to justice in Asia and Africa since 2009, working with justice actors in national contexts including the police, judiciary, legal aid service providers, and traditional leaders. She currently supports projects in Myanmar, China, and Kenya. Ms. Dahl has been a contributing researcher and author to studies conducted by DIHR on informal justice systems and juvenile justice. Previously she worked in Cambodia for UNDP on a justice programme for women and indigenous people with the Cambodian Ministry of Justice. Ms. Dahl holds a M.A. in international law from the Fletcher School at Tufts University in the US.



**Oleksandr Deineko** has been working in the Coordination Centre for Legal Aid Provision (Legal Aid Ukraine) since 2016, leading the International Cooperation Unit and ensuring the implementation of international human rights projects, as well as that the legal aid practices in Ukraine are kept up-to date in regards to the best international trends.

Since 2019 he also holds the position of the Consultant on International and Administrative Affairs to the Commission for Expert Legal Analysis, a joint body of the Ukrainian Bar, Legal Aid Ukraine and civil society organizations aimed at researching and introducing neoteric quality control mechanisms to the legal aid system of Ukraine. Mr. Deineko holds the degrees of an MBA, an M. LL, an MIB and a B. Acc.



**Frederike Diersen** is the Programme manager for legal aid packages at the Ministry of Justice and Security in The Netherlands. She is working on the program Redesign Legal Aid System, which was initiated last year by the minister for Legal Protection. The aim of this program is to introduce a new and broader approach than only legal aid to help people with problems they encounter. These problems are not always or automatically best solved with only legal solutions.



**Brett Dooley** is the Group Manager, National Service Delivery with the Ministry of Justice. He is also the Legal Services Commissioner, a statutorily independent role delegated by the Chief Executive.

As group manager, he is responsible for the collection of court imposed fines, reparation, infringements imposed by other government agencies, civil enforcement and legal aid debt. He is also accountable for contact centre services, centralised processing services, a national transcription service for court reporting, judicial libraries and legal aid services.

Brett has held a number of senior roles across government agencies including NZ Post, NZ Fire Service, New Zealand Transport Agency, State Services Commission, StudyLink, Ministry of Social Development, Ministry of Education and Massey University.



**Diogo Esteves** is Master in Law and Sociology and doctoral researcher at the Fluminense Federal University's Program of Sociology and Law (Programa de Pós-Graduação em Sociologia e Direito da Universidade Federal Fluminense – PPGSD/UFF), where he conduct comparative studies on access to justice and legal aid. He is Professor at Foundation Superior School of Public Defender's Office of Rio de Janeiro (Fundação Escola Superior da Defensoria Pública do Estado do Rio de Janeiro – FESUDEPERJ), where he teaches Brazilian legal aid since 2012. He is also a Public Defender of the State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (since 2008) and works representing vulnerable people in civil and criminal cases. His researcher resulted in several books and articles on the subject of access to justice and legal aid.

Access to Justice in Brazil - The Brazilian Legal Aid Model", co-authored with André Castro, Cleber Alves and Franklyn Silva (2017); "Princípios Institucionais da Defensoria Pública", co-authored with Franklyn Silva (2018); and ブラジルにおける司法アクセス・ブラジルの法律扶助モデル co-authored with Tomoki Ikenaga and Cleber Alves (Jiyu to Seigi – 2017). Currently, he is general coordinator of the Global Access to Justice Project (with Alan Paterson, Bryant Garth, Cleber Alves and Earl Johnson Jr.).



**Chingyi Fan** is Honorary Dean of National Institute of Legal Aid, China University of Political Science and Law, based in the city of Beijing. Professor Fan is one of the 100 jurists who have powerful and far-reaching influence on the development of the rule of law in China. Professor Fan is also the deputy director of Behavioral Law of China Law Society, deputy director of China Procuratorial Society, consultant of China Prison Association, consultant of Institute of Criminal Procedure Law Committee of China Law Society, member of the Advisory Committee of the Supreme People's Procuratorate, member of the Advisory Committee of the Department of Directing Lawyers and Notarization,

adjunct professor of National Prosecutors College of P.R.C, Chinese Academy of Governance, National Judges College and etc., supervisor for expert consulting and law enforcement of People's High Court and People's Procuratorate of Beijing, and deputy director of Institute of Procedure Law of Beijing.

Professor Fan has been teaching and researching in the field of criminal procedure law, evidence law and judicial system for more than 40 years and has made enormous achievements in philosophical research of criminal procedure law and evidence. Among others, his research on the truth theory of judicial adjudication has promoted the modern developments of Chinese jurisprudence of criminal procedure system and evidence rules.



**Trevor C.W. Farrow**, AB (Princeton), BA/MA (Oxford), LLB (Dalhousie), LLM (Harvard), PhD (Alberta), is a Professor and Associate Dean at Osgoode Hall Law School. He is the Chair of the Canadian Forum on Civil Justice and was the founding Academic Director of the Winkler Institute for Dispute Resolution. Professor Farrow's teaching and research focus on the administration of civil justice, including legal process, legal and judicial ethics, advocacy, access to justice and development. He was formerly a litigation lawyer at the Torys law firm in Toronto. Professor Farrow has received teaching awards from Harvard University and Osgoode Hall Law School.



**Suzie Forell** is Director of Research for Health Justice Australia, the national centre for health justice partnership. With HJA, Suzie is: exploring through health justice partnership how best to meet complex needs across service silos and the value of legal help within that; partnering across research disciplines to understand impact of the model; and translating research findings into practice.

Suzie was previously a Principal Researcher at the Law and Justice Foundation of NSW, where she led the Foundation's 'what works' research program and managed research alliances with Legal Aid Commissions to evaluate legal assistance strategies and build evaluation capability.

With the Foundation team, Suzie evaluated a range of legal assistance strategies including outreach, family law duty services, collaborative partnerships, community legal education and summary crime services. Suzie is an author of *Reshaping legal assistance services: building on the evidence base*. In 2016-17, Suzie led a team of researchers in an analysis of administrative data from all NSW civil court and tribunals, to investigate the quality and utility of the data to inform policy. In December 2018 Suzie was appointed an honorary professor at University College London, School of Laws.



**Ryan Fritsch** is Counsel, Law Commission of Ontario with 10 years of experience leading public engagement in law reform initiatives related to mental health discrimination, justice sector system and process design, health law, and digital rights. Ryan leads the LCO's Last Stages of Life, and Digital Rights projects, and is a sessional instructor at the University of Windsor Faculty of Law.

The Law Commission of Ontario (LCO) is Ontario's leading law reform agency. The LCO's mandate is to advance law reform, promote access to justice, and stimulate public debate. The LCO provides independent, evidence-based, multi-disciplinary and authoritative advice on some of Ontario's most complex and far-reaching legal policy issues.



Professor Dame **Hazel Genn** is Dean of the UCL Faculty of Laws and co-director of the UCL Judicial Institute. She is also an Honorary Fellow at UCL. She is a leading authority on access to civil and administrative justice and has conducted numerous empirical studies of public use of legal services. She is author of *Paths to Justice: What People Do and Think About Going to Law* (1999) a seminal study of public access to justice that has since been replicated in jurisdictions around the globe. In 2008 Dame Hazel delivered the Hamlyn Lectures on the subject of civil justice, published by Cambridge University Press in November

2009 entitled *Judging Civil Justice*. Her work has had a major influence on policy-makers around the world and she is regularly invited to lecture and provide advice abroad.

She has been appointed to numerous public service roles concerned with the justice system, including the England & Wales Judicial Appointments Commission, the Committee on Standards in Public Life 2003-7, the Judicial Studies Board, the Secretary of State's Advisory Panel on Judicial Diversity. She currently chairs the judicial sub-committee of the Senior Salaries Review Board. In recognition of her contribution to the justice system, Dame Hazel was awarded a CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 2000 and appointed DBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 2006. In 2006 she was also appointed Queen's Counsel Honoris Causa and in 2008 she was elected Honorary Master of the Bench of Gray's Inn.



**Steven Gibens** is Doctor of Laws (PhD) (University of Antwerp) and a master in criminology (Catholic University of Leuven). He is co-founder of Helder Recht ([www.helderrecht.be](http://www.helderrecht.be)), an organization that provides legal information (in plain language) on line to social professionals. He is also a lecturer and researcher at the University College Karel de Grote (Social work and legal aid) and University of Antwerp (Theory of social work). He is a substitute justice of the Peace. He was a private lawyer at the Antwerp

Bar till December 2018 and former president of the Commission for legal aid and the Bureau for legal aid of Antwerp.



**Craig W.J. Goebel** is a lawyer and the Chief Executive Officer of Legal Aid Saskatchewan, having held the position since 2012. The organization offers legal representation and duty counsel services to low income individuals for adult and youth criminal charges and family matters. Such services are provided by nearly 80 lawyers and paralegals, supported by about 65 staff, in 13 offices throughout the province.

Prior to holding this office, Craig worked for the Legal Services Society of BC; before that, he was Chief Executive Officer of the Law Society of Nunavut and a senior manager with the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia responsible for supervising outside defence lawyers.

During his time in private practice he has undertaken criminal defence and legal aid, worked as a prosecutor and done civil and commercial and insurance litigation. Craig has long been active in extracurricular endeavours that support the profession, mostly through service with the Canadian Bar Association and being active in Pro Bono work.



**Christopher L. Griffin, Jr.** is a Visiting Professor and Research Scholar at the University of Arizona. Prof. Griffin's research primarily focuses on questions of criminal and civil access to justice. He has applied quantitative empirical methods to analysis of employment discrimination laws, particularly the Americans with Disabilities Act. More recently he has designed and conducts randomized field experiments on justice innovations with courts and legal aid attorneys. Prof. Griffin's randomized trials are concentrated on the effectiveness of pretrial risk assessment tools, attorneys' triage decision making, and unbundled representation models. Prof. Griffin previously taught at Duke and William & Mary Law Schools and was the Research Director of the Access to Justice Law School at Harvard Law School. He holds a B.S. in International Political Economy, magna cum laude, from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, where he was a John Carroll Scholar; an MPhil in Economics from the University of Oxford, where he was an Allbritton Scholar; and a J.D. from Yale Law School.



**Charles Harnick** is currently a Mediator and Arbitrator at Yorkstreet Dispute Resolution Group/ADR Chambers as well as Senior Adjudicative Officer at Ontario Insurance Ombuds Service. He is the founding Partner and Principal at Counsel Public Affairs Inc. Previously, he served as member of provincial Parliament for Willowdale, Ontario and is the former Attorney General of Ontario and Minister responsible for Native Issues at Government of Ontario. He has served the boards of several organizations, including: Goldstone Resources Inc., Micromem Technologies Inc., Ontex Resources Ltd. and Ornge. He holds a Bachelor of Arts from York University and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Windsor.



Originally from Ottawa, **Andrew Harrington** is the United Nations Development Programme's Access to Justice, Rule of Law and Human Rights Programme Manager/technical specialist in the Pacific Office in Fiji. Andrew has spent most of the past 15 years working internationally on access to justice-related programming, bringing extensive justice experience in Canada, the United States, Netherlands, Kenya, South Sudan, Honduras, Mozambique, Timor-Leste, Micronesia, Western Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Tonga, and Fiji.

As a Canadian-trained lawyer, he brings diverse legal experience, including private sector, government, international NGOs, and extensive experience with the UN system in with UNDP and UNODC. Andrew's work on justice, security and human rights includes technical positions in diverse legal jurisdictions around the globe, including both common law and civil law jurisdictions. He has worked in external technical advisory roles for government, embedded in internal expert advisory positions with government, and managed external justice programming.



Andrew Harrington brings particular expertise in the interface between formal and so-called traditional justice system, domestic violence and trafficking in persons (led the consultation and drafting process for the 2017 Law to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Persons, Timor-Leste). His last posting was with IOM in Timor-Leste where he managed a portfolio of projects, including counter-trafficking in persons, and led the IOM mission in Timor-Leste as Chief of Mission.

Presently with UNDP, Andrew has a regional justice advisory remit covering 14 Pacific Islands, and is managing a portfolio of projects relating to access to justice, rule of law and human rights. Specifically in Fiji, Andrew is working with the Fiji Legal Aid Commission in 3 separate projects entailing legal aid awareness raising and delivery to remote rural and maritime areas under Project REACH, supporting an early access to justice pilot initiative – the First Hour Procedure – and supporting institutional strengthening under the Fiji Access to Justice Project.

Through involvement in the ILAG Conference, UNDP is seeking to identify opportunities for peer to peer and institutional collaboration to further strengthen the Fiji Legal Aid Commission and the delivery of legal aid overall in the Pacific Region. We are humbled and immensely grateful for the opportunity to participate and contribute to the ILAG Conference.



**Tamsyn Harvey** is the First Assistant Secretary of the Legal Services Policy Division in the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department. The Legal Services Policy Division has diverse responsibilities covering access to justice including legal assistance, legal services and support for Royal Commissions.

Tamsyn's responsibilities include federal policy and funding for legal assistance services across Australia. This includes working with state and territory governments for the provision of legal assistance and funding culturally appropriate legal assistance services for Indigenous Australians. Tamsyn also sits on the Board of the Australian Pro-Bono Centre and the Steering Committee for the development of an Australian online dispute resolution system for family law matters. Tamsyn has worked in a range of policy areas across government, including family law and native title. Tamsyn has a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts.



**Lori Haughian** is the Vice President Justice Services with Legal Aid Alberta. In this role she is responsible for all aspects of the Client Journey including Intake, Duty Counsel, Legal Representation and client payment services.

Prior to joining Legal Aid Alberta, she held a number of senior leadership positions in a national telecommunications organization within a variety of departments including Finance, Sales, Marketing, Business Operations, Labour Relations and Human Resources. Lori has over 30 years of experience leading client service excellence initiatives and excels in operationalizing best practice strategies.

Lori is a past Vice Chairperson with the YWCA Board of Directors in Edmonton and continues to volunteer in support of young women in the community.



**Anika Holterhof**, LL.M. is a qualified lawyer from Germany, specialised in international and domestic criminal law and human rights. She joined the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in 2012 with the Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch, working on cybercrime and international cooperation, and currently holds the position of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer in the UNODC Justice Section/ Division for Operations, where she is focusing on access to justice and legal aid. Prior to joining UNODC, Anika performed assignments with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), Defence Counsel before international and domestic courts, the Organized Crime Department of the Office of Public Prosecution in Bonn, and the Federal Foreign Office of Germany. She holds a law degree from the University of Bonn (GER), and an LL.M. degree from the University of Amsterdam (NL).



**Bonnie Rose Hough** is the Managing Attorney for the California Judicial Council's Center for Families, Children & the Courts and oversees the Access to Justice and Self Help, Family Law and Domestic Violence, and Tribal/State Unit within CFCC. The focus of her work is helping courts meet the needs of litigants who cannot afford counsel in civil cases. Her group manages the California Courts On-Line Self-Help Center with 4,000 pages of information, they also develop a variety of document assembly programs for legal aid, self help centers and the public. She coordinates over 100 court-based attorney-supervised self-help centers throughout the state. Her group also develops statewide forms for family, domestic violence, child support, juvenile and tribal issues. Bonnie was a legal services attorney running a family law agency prior to working for the courts. She is active with California's Commission on Access to Justice and the National Self-Represented Litigation Network.



**Alan W. Houseman** is the Executive Director of CLASP (Center for Law and Social Policy), a position he has held since joining the organization in 1981. His expertise is innovative anti-poverty strategies and civil legal assistance. He has written numerous articles, manuals, papers and books on legal services, poverty law advocacy, and welfare policies. In addition to directing CLASP, Mr. Houseman is a leader of national efforts to preserve and strengthen the federal legal services program.

Mr. Houseman has a long history of involvement in poverty law advocacy and legal services for the poor. He has served as counsel to NLADA and on the NLADA board and executive committee, past chair of the organization's Civil Committee, past chair of the Organization of Legal Services Backup Centers (representing all state and national centers), Vice-Chair of the Project Advisory Group and General Counsel to the Coalition on Legal Services. He also has been involved in a variety of capacities with the American Bar Association (ABA). In 2005-2006, he was staff to the ABA Presidential Task Force on Access to Justice and a member of the ABA

Task Force to Revise the Standards for the Provision of Civil Legal Aid. He also is a past member of the ABA Comprehensive Legal Needs Study Advisory Group, the ABA Policy Development Committee of the Comprehensive Legal Needs Study and the ABA Special Committee on Access to Justice. He has served as an advisor to the ABA Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants and other ABA initiatives. He was the head of the Legal Services Corporation Transition Team for President Obama.

During law school, Mr. Houseman was the national Assistant Director of the Law Students Civil Rights Research Council. In 1968, he was a Reginald Heber Smith Fellow with Wayne County Neighborhood Legal Services. In 1969, he founded Michigan Legal Services, a statewide legal services program that represented organizations working on welfare, health, housing, consumer, prison, mental health, education and family policy issues. Between 1968 and 1976, he was General Counsel for the Michigan Welfare Rights Organization and co-chair of the legal committee of the National Welfare Rights Organization.

From 1976 to 1981, he was a senior staff member at the Legal Services Corporation and director of the Research Institute, which he founded and developed. The Research Institute developed new directions in poverty law and researched delivery of civil legal aid services. At the Legal Services Corporation he also oversaw and was responsible for funding its national and state support centers and the National Clearinghouse (now Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law).

Mr. Houseman is a graduate of Oberlin College and New York University School of Law, where he was a Field Fellow in Social Welfare Law (as part of the Hays Civil Liberties Fellowship Program). Mr. Houseman has been an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University Law Center and the University of Michigan Law School, and he previously taught at Wayne State University Law School. He has received numerous awards and honors including the National Equal Justice Award, the Oberlin College Distinguish Achievement Award and the Coalition on Human Needs 2012 Human Needs Hero Award. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of Oberlin College, Executive Vice-President of the Consortium for the National Equal Justice Library, Chair of the Children's Leadership Council and a board member of the Coalition on Human Needs.

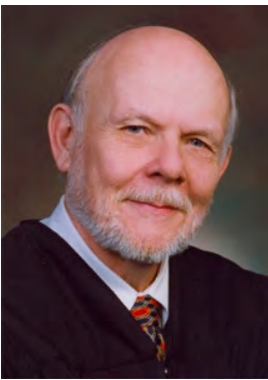


**Hana Hruska** is the director of the legal aid funding program for the Department of Justice Canada. Previously, she led funding programs addressing Indigenous justice and youth justice issues for the department.



**Tomoki Ikenaga** has been an Attorney-at-Law since 1997, and worked as a researcher at the Japan Legal Support Center from 2006 until 2015, which is a public corporation providing both civil and criminal legal aid established with funding from the national government in 2006. He was the staff attorney of the Japan Federation of Bar Associations from 2005 until 2006 and a visiting scholar at the University of California, Berkeley from 2004 until 2005.

He was a Deputy Secretary of the Japan Federation of Bar Associations Central Board on the Japan Legal Support Center from 2015 until 2018 and is currently a chairperson of the civil legal aid committee in the above Central Board on the Japan Legal Support Center.



Justice **Earl Johnson, Jr.** served as a Justice on the California Court of Appeal for a quarter century, retiring in 2007 for the express purpose of researching and writing a history of civil aid in the United States, a 3-volume set Praeger published in November 2014 under the title 'To establish Justice for All: The Past and Future of Civil Legal Aid in the United States (Santa Barbara and Oxford: Praeger, 2014).

Johnson earned his B.A. with Honors in Economics from Northwestern University, his J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School where he was book review editor of the UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LAW REVIEW, and his L.L.M. in Criminal Law from Northwestern University School of Law. Johnson started his legal career as a federal prosecutor in the Organized Crime and Racketeering Section, but shifted to the legal services field when he became Deputy Director of Washington's Neighborhood Legal Services Project (now Program) in 1964. He served as the Director of the War on Poverty's OEO Legal Services Program from 1966-68, then as a Professor of Law at the University of Southern California where he also directed the Program on Dispute Resolution Policy at USC's Social Science Research Institute and was a visiting scholar at the University of Florence's Comparative Law Center. He co-drafted the first version of the Legal Services Corporation legislation which, after many changes and the hard work of others, eventually passed as the Legal Services Corporation Act in 1974. Johnson's research resulted in several books and a dozen articles on the subject of civil legal aid and access to justice, including authoring *Justice and Reform: The Formative Years of The OEO Services Program* (New York: Russell Sage, 1974/New Brunswick: Transaction Books, 1978), "Access to Justice" article in Elsevier's International Encyclopedia of the Behavioral and Social Sciences and co-authoring *Toward Equal Justice: A Comparative Study of Legal Aid In Modern Societies* (Milan and Dobbs Ferry: Giuffre/Oceana, 1975, 1981).

After his appointment to the bench in 1982, Johnson published several more articles on legal aid and chaired the state bar's "Access to Justice Working Group" which led to creation of the California Commission on Access to Justice in 1997. Founding chair of National Equal Justice Library at Georgetown Law School which collects and preserves the history of legal aid in criminal and civil cases and is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year.

Earl Johnson is the former chair and board member of the California Access to Justice Commission which also is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. Member, steering committee of the National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel. He now chairs the Implementation Committee overseeing the Sargent Shriver Counsel pilot projects for the California Judicial Council.

Johnson lives in Channel Islands Beach, California, is married to Barbara Yanow Johnson, a former legal services lawyer and Chief Assistant Attorney General, and has three children and two grandchildren.



**Jon T. Johnsen** is professor emeritus in public law at the University of Oslo and affiliated with the Department of Public and International Law at the Law Faculty. He has held positions as an assistant judge, supervisor and director of a student legal clinic (Juss-Buss) at the Law Faculty and also served as vice dean and dean of the faculty. He worked as expert drafter and adviser to the Norwegian Ministry of Justice on reforms in the legal services to the poor in 1976-78, 1988-89 and 2007-2010. Since 2003 he has been an elected expert member in different working groups of The European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice at The Council of Europe and worked with court reforms in Turkey, Albania and Kosovo. He has been member of the International Legal Aid and Legal Services Group (ILAG) since the start.

In addition to legal aid his research covers criminal justice, human rights, legal services and the legal profession and legal education. He has published on legal service and legal aid in Norwegian and English.



**Christella Kankindi** is Advisor in the Ministry of Justice and President of the Legal Aid Union in Burundi.



**Christina Kamili Ruhinda** is a Lawyer, holding a Master degree in Governance and Leadership - Executive Director of the Tanzania Network of Legal Aid Providers (TANLAP). She is also a Board Member of various Civil Societies Organizations and a Member of Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs National Legal Aid Act Implementing Team. A Vital Voice Global Alumni (VVLEAD). She has further participated in Various African Union expert's Meetings on collaboration between Informal and Formal Justice Structures for promotion of Rule of Law.

Ms. Ruhinda has over 10 years of experience in the Legal Aid sub-sector, Human Rights, Gender, Governance, Justice and Rule of Law, Election Observation, Networking, Programme Management and Capacity Development. She has, inter alia, been engaged in the

identification of potential issues that have had an effect on access to Justice in Tanzania; analyzing human rights abuses and proposing possible reforms; conducting assessment of Tanzania's legislations, practice and capacities in respect to regional, continental and international human rights standards – treaty obligations and compliance.

Ms. Ruhinda has authored a number of publications including thematic reports, articles and papers in international journals. She is fluent in English, Swahili, Ki - Rundi, Ki - Nyarwanda and has conversational French.



**Andrews Kananga** is currently the Executive Director of the Legal Aid Forum – Rwanda, a position he has held since 2008. From 2004 – 2008, Andrews was a Senior Legal adviser to National Semi-traditional Courts (Gacaca) that were charged with trials of people suspected of having committed Genocide in Rwanda.

In 2012, Andrews was among the three Legal experts nominated by the Ministry of Justice in Rwanda to oversee the development of a legal aid policy in Rwanda. Andrews holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice from the Institute of Legal Practice and Development of Rwanda, an LL.B from the National University of Rwanda and an LLM in criminal justice and international law of human rights from University Rwanda. Andrews has contributed enormously to legal reforms in Rwanda which ushered in the legal aid policy, legal aid bill, reform of the penal code and criminal procedure code and many more pieces of legislations that favour access to justice for the poor and vulnerable in Rwanda.

Currently serves as the National Director of Legal Assistance and Judicial Sponsorship of the Institute of Sponsorship and Legal Assistance - Ministry of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs of the Republic of Mozambique, since 2014. Andrews holds a law degree from the Catholic University of Mozambique Faculty of Law– Nampula

- *Legal Assistant at Moma Heavy Sands Factory and at Soft Development in 2005;*
- *Lawyer and Human Resources Manager at the Institute for Public and Local Administration Training in Beira - IFAPA in 2007;*
- *Consultant and Legal Assistant at D&L Consultants and Lawyers in Maputo, with professional domicile at FACIM, Pavilion n° 40 - Maputo, in 2008;*
- *University Lecturer at the School of Economics and Management, lecturing Labour Law and Juridical History, in the year 2009;*
- *University Lecturer at the Catholic University of Mozambique, Faculty of Economics and Management, Lecturing Introduction to the Study of Law, in 2007;*
- *Training Course in Legislature, ministered by the General Directorate of the Politics of Justice, (Government of Portugal from the 2nd to 4th December 2015)*
- *Training Course for Public Prosecution Service Magistrates at the CFJJ -Maputo*



**Vicky Kemp** is a Principal Research Fellow in the School of Law, University of Nottingham (United Kingdom). She is an experienced researcher having conducted a number of empirical studies into the criminal process and the criminal justice system. After having completed her doctorate at the University of Cambridge, which focused on youth justice reforms, she joined the Legal Services Research Centre, which was an internationally recognised and influential leader in the field of access to justice research. In that role, she managed research studies into police station legal advice, criminal legal aid and criminal defence services.

At the University of Nottingham, she was involved in a comparative study of safeguards for juvenile suspects, led by the University of Maastricht.

More recently, Vicky Kemp conducted a study of clinical legal education and experiential learning on behalf of the School of Law at the University of Manchester. This included examining models of best practice in England and Wales and considering the future of clinical legal education in the context of both the proposed legal education reforms and recent developments taking place in the US. She is currently working on developing a police station App with Horizon Digital Economy Research at the University of Nottingham, through which to help improve young suspects understanding of their legal rights.

Vicky is a member of the International Legal Aid Group, the European Society of Criminology, the British Society of Criminology and the Nottinghamshire Law Society.



**Colin Lancaster** became Chief Executive and Accountable Officer of the Scottish Legal Aid Board in September 2015. He joined SLAB in 1997 and was previously Director of Policy and Development where his responsibilities focused on improving the availability, quality and cost-effectiveness of publicly funded legal assistance, both civil and criminal. As Chief Executive, Dr. Lancaster is a member of the Scottish Government's Justice Board which manages the strategic direction of the justice system in Scotland. He is also a member of the Scottish Civil

Justice Council, the Evidence & Procedure Review Programme Board and the Non-Departmental Public Bodies Chief Executives Forum. Colin chairs the tri-partite Criminal Quality Assurance Committee, which oversees a peer-review based system for monitoring and improving the quality of criminal legal assistance services provided by solicitors.



**Coreen Lapointe** is Manager of French Language Services (FLS) for Legal Aid Ontario (LAO), with responsibility for supporting statutory compliance with the French Language Services Act across LAO's service lines. Prior to this role at LAO, she held various business and program management roles, including of general and specialty legal clinics, legal recruitment, and in budget and business planning. Coreen came to LAO in 2003 from a practice in clinic law at community legal clinics in Sarnia and Mississauga, Ontario, focused primarily in the areas of housing and disability benefits. She is a graduate of Concordia University (BComm)

and Osgoode Hall Law School (LLB), and is called to the Bar of Ontario.



**Michele Leering** is the Executive Director/Lawyer with the Community Advocacy & Legal Centre, a non-profit legal clinic serving small urban and rural communities in eastern Ontario, Canada. In addition to traditional lawyering, she has led legal literacy, community development, systemic advocacy, and law reform projects. Current community-based action research projects include working with “trusted intermediaries” in Justice & Health Partnerships and a small research study into the civil legal needs of people who are or have been incarcerated in a correctional/detention centre.

She has been a member of the International Legal Aid Group since 2009. She has advised the Open Society Foundation’s Justice Initiative, International Renaissance Foundation (Ukraine), and Namati on legal empowerment, paralegals, Ontario’s community legal clinic system, and SDG 16.3 measurement indicators.

She was a founding member of the Association of Community Legal Clinics Ontario (ACLCO). Her work within Ontario’s clinic system has included developing performance evaluation, quality assurance, and outcome measurement systems; a clinic managers’ community of practice, a legal aid service coordination network; an action research project to improve knowledge management, and; promoting holistic services and rural justice initiatives.

Michele Leering is a doctoral student in the Faculty of Law at Queen’s University (Ontario) with published articles on reflective practice, action research, legal education reform, and access to justice. She was a Law Foundation of Ontario Community Leadership in Justice Fellow at Osgoode Hall Law School (2009) and a Visiting Fellow at Australian National University (2014, 2017) and Bond University (2017).



**Megan Longley** graduated from Dalhousie Law School in 1994 and was called to the Nova Scotia Bar in 1995. After a period in private practice she joined Nova Scotia Legal Aid in 1999. Megan’s practice was primarily as criminal defence counsel, in the Youth Court for a good portion of her career. She became manager of Nova Scotia Legal Aid’s Youth Justice Office in 2011. In 2015 Megan joined the Executive Office as Service Delivery Director. She became Executive Director of Nova Scotia Legal Aid in 2016.

Megan is past president of the Nova Scotia Criminal Lawyers’ Association, sits as an executive member on the board of the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network and also sits on several court and justice committees. Megan represents the Association of Legal Aid Plans of Canada on Canada’s National Action Committee on Access to Justice.





**Sherry MacLennan** is Vice President of Public Legal Information & Applications for the Legal Services Society of British Columbia.

Sherry joined LSS as a staff lawyer in 2000, and moved into an administrative role to implement BC's family duty counsel program. She managed intake and regional centres before her appointment as Director, (now Vice President) in 2009. Sherry's accountabilities included intake, Aboriginal services and community & publishing services. In 2018, Sherry assumed accountability for the digital delivery of legal aid. She spearheaded MyLawBC, a site internationally recognized for its empowering application of branching logic to everyday legal problems. MyLawBC will see the addition of online dispute resolution this summer, making LSS the first Canadian legal aid plan to offer such a service. Sherry is engaged in access to justice issues and is an advisory board member for Pro Bono Students Canada and the National Self Represented Litigant Project. She frequently presents on technology and access to justice.



**David McKillop** is Vice President, Strategy and Public Affairs at Legal Aid Ontario (LAO). Mr. McKillop joined LAO in 2004 and has been responsible for a variety of areas, including policy development, business planning, quality assurance, communications and media, French language services, business analytics and statistics, public legal education and external relations.

At LAO Mr. McKillop is responsible for the development of special access to justice strategies designed to improve capacity and service response to vulnerable client groups such as victims of domestic violence, people living with issues related to mental health and addiction, and Aboriginals and members of visible minority communities both of whom are overrepresented in the criminal justice system.

Mr. McKillop is a graduate of Wilfrid Laurier School of Business and Queen's University Faculty of Law.



**Lindsay Montgomery** CBE is Visiting Professor, School of Law, University of Strathclyde specialising on Legal Aid and Access to Justice. He was Chief Executive of the Scottish Legal Aid Board from 1999 to 2015. During that period he was a member of the Scottish Government Justice Board, Scottish Civil Justice Council, Chair of the Access to Justice Reference Group and a member of the Policy Board or Reference Groups for the various reviews of aspects of the Justice System in Scotland.

He is Vice Chair of ILAG and a long-standing member of its Steering Group. He has undertaken reviews of legal aid in several countries for the Council of Europe and was part of the EU – China High Level Policy Dialogue Programme. He is the Chair of Community Justice Scotland, the public body responsible for leading work to reduce reoffending and improve rehabilitation in Scotland and Chair of the Charity Regulator for Scotland, OSCR.



**Merja Muilu** is a senior officer, Legal affairs at the Ministry of Justice in Finland and has been Head of Legal Aid and Civil Enforcement Unit since 2010. Her work includes drafting legislation and regulations for legal aid as well as developing and governing of legal aid offices.

Merja was a public legal aid attorney from 1991 to 1996 and served as a Council of Europe expert for legal aid missions in Kosovo, Montenegro and Ukraine 2001 and 2002. She holds a Master of Law from the University of Helsinki.



**Desire Munharira** is a Chief Law Officer in the Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs under the Department of Legal Aid Directorate. The Directorate is mandated to offer legal assistance to indigent persons who cannot afford the services of private lawyers. Ms Munharira holds a Masters Degree in Women's Law from the University of Zimbabwe (2014). She also holds a Bachelor of Laws Honours Degree from the same University and this 2005. She has worked for the Legal Aid Directorate since 2006 and she is very passionate about offering legal assistance to the indigent persons.



Justice **Ali Baqar Najafi** was born on 15th September 1963 at Lahore, completed basic qualification from Govt. Muslim Model High School, Urdu Bazar, Lahore, did his B.Sc. from the Government College, Lahore. He studied at the Punjab University Law College Lahore and obtained LL.B Degree in 1989.

Joined the legal profession in the same year at Lahore and after completion of apprenticeship joined his father, Late Ali Huzoor Najafi, Advocate Supreme Court, enrolled as an Advocate of High Courts in 1990 and subsequently as an Advocate of Supreme Court of Pakistan.

Taught in Punjab University Law College Lahore for 12 years and other Private Law Colleges for 18 years and remained as Internal & External Examiner Punjab University Lahore for a long time. During this time he taught Constitutional Law, International Law, Islamic Law, Land Laws and Minor Acts.

Ali Baqar Najafi remained as Editor of Law Page, The News and also contributed legal & other law related articles in Magazines and Newspapers.

During the course of legal profession career conducted a large number of cases before the Lower Courts, Federal Shariat Court, High Court and Hon'ble Supreme Court of Pakistan.

Conducted more than 1000 cases including some reported judgments during 20 years standing in profession at Bar, on the sides of Constitution, Civil, Criminal, Corporate, Banking, Customs, Narcotics, Anti-Corruption, Labour, Immigration, and Islamic Laws including Private International Law. Also conducted the cases of public interest litigation and human rights etc.

He participated and represented in many Law Conferences, Peace Conferences, Seminars etc. and read research papers.

Since Ali Baqar Najafi's elevation as a Judge of Lahore High Court, Lahore on 16th April, 2012, he decided more than eighteen thousand cases, in Criminal, Civil, Constitutional, Human Rights, NAB, Banking and Company, Anti-Corruption, Narcotics, Murder References, Family, Rent, Labour jurisdiction. He worked at principal seat and at its all benches, Multan, Rawalpindi, Bahawalpur. Also conducted a judicial inquiry on the incident of Model Town, Lahore (June, 17, 2014) in which fourteen persons lost their lives. He attended the workshop at South Africa Legal Aid at the Legal Aid Center Johannesburg, on 23rd January, 2017 and also attended Colloquium on "Integrating Environmental Law Training" in Johannesburg, South Africa from 25 January, 2017 to 27th January, 2017, attended the ILAG Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2017, attended 8th Water Forum in Brasilia, Brazil in 2018. He had also visited U.K, France, Germany, U.S.A, Iran, Iraq and Saudi Arabia.



**Zaza Namoradze**, Director of the Open Society Justice Initiative's Budapest office, oversees activities on legal aid and defendants' rights and legal empowerment and capacity. Since 2016 he also serves as an implementing Lead of the OSFs' Legal Empowerment Shared Framework. Namoradze previously served as staff attorney and, later, Deputy Director of the Open Society Institute's Constitutional and Legal Policy Institute, where he designed and oversaw projects in constitutional and judicial reforms, in student law clinics and human rights litigation capacity building in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Namoradze has worked for the Center for the Study of

Constitutionalism in Eastern Europe, the Central Electoral Commission of Georgia and was a member of the State Constitutional Commission of Georgia.



**John Nyangombe** is Director, Legal Aid Directorate in Zimbabwe. He is a registered Legal Practitioner, Notary Public and Commissioner of Oaths, employed by the Government of Zimbabwe since 2000 to date

He has worked previously as a Professional Legal Assistant in private practice. John enjoys reading and holds a Bachelor of Laws Honours Degree from the University of Zimbabwe.



**John Panusa** (B.A., LL.B., LL.M., C.Dir) is a lawyer and executive. He began his career in Calgary articling with Stikeman, Elliott and moved to Vancouver to join Thorsteinssons Tax Lawyers. He then moved to an in-house counsel position with WorkSafeBC, one of BC's largest corporations that administers both the workers' compensation and occupational health and safety systems in BC. He advanced through several senior leadership positions at WorkSafeBC in areas such as policy and regulation, enforcement, and governance. He played a key part in advising on and implementing the "Final Report on the Work-

SafeBC Review and Action Plan" by Gordon McAtee which saw wholesale changes in the way WorkSafeBC operated in a number of key areas.

John joined Legal Aid Alberta (LAA) in 2017 as President and CEO. Since that time, he has helped secure a multi-year Governance Agreement that includes the first sustainable funding model in LAA's history, including an additional \$70 million over 5 years. The new Governance Agreement also provides LAA more flexibility in how it administers the legal aid plan leading to innovative approaches to serving clients in an effective and efficient way across the Province. John has also introduced significant operational changes and a new Strategic Plan with a new vision, mission and values that have resonated internally and externally, resulting in media coverage by both The Lawyers Daily and Canadian Lawyer.

John is a graduate of the University of Alberta law school and the University of Cambridge. He holds a Chartered Director designation from the McMaster University Directors College. He has a wife and two daughters, and he is a keen cyclist having competed in several ultra-endurance events.



**Alan Paterson** OBE is a Professor of Law and Director of the Centre for Professional Legal Studies at Strathclyde University Law School, Scotland. He is the Chair of the International Legal Aid Group being the co-organiser for the twelve conferences of the Group in The Hague (1995), Edinburgh (1997), Vancouver (1999), Melbourne (2001), Harvard (2003), Killarney (2005), Antwerp (2007), Wellington (2009), Helsinki (2011), The Hague (2013), Edinburgh (2015), and Johannesburg (2017).

Professor Paterson is also:

- *Chair of the Legal Aid and Legal Services Group of the International Working Group on Comparative Legal Professions;*
- *Chair of the Legal Services Group of Citizens Advice Scotland;*
- *Adviser to the Scottish Legal Aid Board and the Law Society of Scotland and responsible for the training and monitoring aspects of quality assurance of the peer review programme for civil, children and criminal legal aid lawyers in Scotland.*

Alan was also the International and Expert Adviser to the Scottish Government's Independent Review of Legal Aid (2017) and has been working as a consultant for the UNODC, the Council of Europe, and the EU in relation to legal aid, governance and quality assuring legal services provision over the last decade.

Alan Paterson's published articles include:

- *Educated at Edinburgh and Oxford Universities and qualified as a solicitor in Scotland, he has published widely in the field of legal aid and legal services, including:*
- *Resourcing Civil Justice (OUP, 1996) (with T. Goriely);*
- *The Transformation of Legal Aid (OUP, 1999) (with F. Regan, T. Goriely & D. Fleming);*
- *Paths to Justice Scotland (Hart Publishing, 2001) (with H. Genn).*
- *Contesting Professionalism: Legal Aid and Non-lawyers in England and Wales" ( with R. Moorhead and A. Sherr ) in 37(2003) Law and Society Review 765-808*
- *"Peer Review and Quality Assurance" 13 (2007) Clinical Law Review 757.*

- *Lawyers and the Public Good* (Cambridge University Press, 2012) Hamlyn Lectures for 2010.
- *Country Report of consultancy Study on the Feasibility and Desirability of establishing an Independent Legal Aid Authority for the Legal Aid Services Council, Hong Kong 2012*
- *Face to Face Legal Services and their Alternatives* ( with Roger Smith ) ( CPLS, University of Strathclyde, 2013 )
- *Assessment of the Free Secondary Legal Aid System in Ukraine in the light of the Council of Europe's Standards and Best Practices* ( with Peter Biggelaar, Nadejda Hriptievschi, Oleksandr Banchuk and Gennadiy Tokarev ) ( Council of Europe, 2016)
- *Peer Review of Legal Aid Files: A Toolkit for the National Legal Aid Centre for China* ( with Avrom Sherr ) ( China / EU Access to Justice Programme, 2016)
- *Legal Aid Governance Models and Independence* ( Draft report ) ( Council of Europe, 2018)
- *Draft Handbook on Ensuring Quality of Legal Aid Services in Criminal Justice Processes* ( with Miri Sharon ) ( UNODC, 2019 )

Alan Paterson was awarded OBE for services to Legal Education and the Law 2010.



**Susanne Peters** is a researcher at the Dutch Legal Aid Board. She has a PhD in social sciences. In 2004 she finished her thesis on ‘The social psychology of being better off than others’. For a couple of years she worked at the Research and Documentation Centre (WODC) of the Ministry of Justice. Since 2007 she has been working at the Legal Aid Board. Every year she co-writes the Legal Aid Monitor and the Monitor in the field of debt restructuring. Also, she conducts additional research in the field of legal aid and debt restructuring.

**Sam Raposo** graduated from the Faculty of Law at the University of Alberta in 1997. Over the next 10 years, Mr. Raposo developed expertise in family law litigation as a private practitioner, Legal Aid Manitoba staff lawyer, and Supervising Attorney at Legal Aid Manitoba, appearing before administrative tribunals, Provincial and Federal Courts, and the Manitoba Court of Appeal. Since 2008, Sam has been the Deputy Executive Director of Legal Aid Manitoba.

Sam is an innovative lawyer and administrator who promotes scalable, sustainable, and practical programs that advance LAM's mandate, and increase access to justice. Two of the access to justice programs he designed and implemented—The Mental Health Review Board Duty Counsel Project, and the Immigration and Refugee Board Duty Counsel project—were awarded the Province of Manitoba's Service Excellence Award in 2017 and 2018 respectively. He provided leadership in LAM's renewed effort to raise its eligibility guidelines to provide more low income individuals and groups with the opportunity of accessing legal advice and representation services.

Over the past twenty one years, Sam has represented and assisted hundreds of disadvantaged individuals, particularly Indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, and social assistance recipients. His work as a lawyer and administrator has had a profound and meaningful impact on people's everyday lives.



**Madeleine Redfern**, LLB, was born in Iqaluit, Nunavut (formerly, Frobisher Bay, NWT). She is currently the Mayor of the City of Iqaluit for her second term. Madeleine has a strong commitment to her community, and she strives to be accessible, responsive and accountable.

Madeleine has 30 years of experience working in business and governance, on issues related to economic development, housing, education, employment and training, justice, community services, early childhood development, and health care. She is a graduate of the Akitsiraq law school with a law degree from the University of Victoria. After graduating, she worked at the Supreme Court of Canada for Madam Justice Charron. Madeleine is a member of the National Indigenous Economic Development Consortium, EcoJustice Board member, Trudeau Foundation, President of the Ajungi Group, and Northern Robotics. Madeleine is spearheading the setting up of an Internet Exchange Point (IXP) in partnership with CIRA and Microsoft in Iqaluit.

Madeleine's expertise is grounded in partnership-building and developing local capacity towards fulfilling the goal of self-government and good governance. She has a record of working with industry, governments, aboriginal organizations and communities, helping to assess and identify strategies and approaches for better outcomes.



**Guido Shakenraad** is based in Eindhoven, Netherlands and has been practicing law since 1978

- 1987 *Subs Judge, recently in the Court West-Brabant/Zeeland*
- 2000 *Chair of Viadicte Foundation (quality assurance, especially peer review for law firms)*
- 2009 *Member of the Dutch Supreme Disciplinary Bar Court (Hof van Discipline)*
- 1985–1993 *Member (and later secretary) of Bar Council at 's-Hertogenbosch*
- 1993–2000 *Member of the Legal Aid Board 's-Hertogenbosch*
- 2000–2014 *Member of the Board of the National Bar Association*

Guido is also a member of several committees for Legal Aid, and committees for handling complaints and instructions within several Institutions.



**Avrom Sherr** is Professor Emeritus, Director Emeritus, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies. He leads the operation of the Independent Peer Review of all legal aid work in England and Wales. He was Deputy Dean of the School of Advanced Legal Studies from 2011 to 2012 and Director of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies from 2004 to 2014. From 1995 he was the founding Woolf Professor of Legal Education, a research chair. He taught at the University of Warwick for 16 years and was the first Alsop Wilkinson Professor of Law at the University of Liverpool. He qualified as a solicitor in 1974 and worked in commercial litigation at Coward Chance till 1980. From 1988 to 2012 he was also Director of Training at Macfarlanes.

Avrom Sherr's main research interests have been the provision of legal services, the development of legal education, the legal profession and ethics in professional work. He has also written in the areas of freedom of protest, discrimination relating to AIDS/HIV, issues of welfare rights provision within health care and carried out two projects on On-line Dispute Resolution. He is the principal architect of the system of assessment of legal competence known as Independent Peer Review. Since 2000 this has been used as the system for assessment of the quality of Legal Aid work in the UK, ensuring the quality of legal services received by the public, and he currently leads the operation of this work for England and Wales.

Avrom Sherr is the founding Editor of the International Journal of the Legal Profession, was the project leader producing the seminal report "Willing Blindness" on regulation of the legal profession, and has coordinated a number of trans-European projects on legal ethics, money laundering, legal and accountancy practitioner defaults and discrimination. He was a member of the Legal Services Commission Quality Assurance Working Group and of the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Legal Education and Conduct. He was Chair of the Advisory Board & Strategy Committee of the UK Centre for Legal Education, Chair of the Advisory Committee of the Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education and is now again Chair of the Hamlyn Trust. He is currently Chair of the Advice Quality Standards Project Committee. Recent work includes the Legal Education and Training Review funded by the Solicitors Regulation Authority, the Bar Standards Board and the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives, advising the Hong Kong Law Society on the future of qualification systems, advising the Legal Aid Board of Georgia and work with the National Legal Aid Centre of the Ministry of Justice in China.

His consultancy and research on law and policy has included leading and advising a Council of Europe Meeting on Legal Aid legislation and implementation for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and the Ukraine in December of 2015, and he has worked in China, New Zealand, South Korea, Chile, South Africa, Bulgaria, Turkey, Japan and Russia on Legal Aid policy and legislation.

Avrom Sherr currently also works with the Save The Children UK, Research and Assessment Ethics Committee.



**Herman Schilperoort** (13 May 1957, Netherlands) is Head of Staff Department, National Legal Aid Board Netherlands. He studied law at the University in Utrecht in the Netherlands. During his studies he worked as a volunteer in a Law Shop run by students. After finishing his studies in 1981 he worked as a public lawyer at one of the 19 Legal Aid Councils.

In 1993 five regional Legal Aid Boards were founded in the Netherlands. He then became a member of the management team of the Legal Aid Board in Amsterdam. In February 2009 the five regional boards in the Netherlands were merged into one national Legal Aid Board with five regional offices and one central office in Utrecht. From then on, he works as head of the central staff department and member/secretary of the Management Board.

- [2009 - Present] Head of Staff, National Legal Aid Board Netherlands
- [2001 - 2008] Head of Staff, Vice Director, Legal Aid Board Amsterdam
- [1993 - 2001] Manager/Senior Staff Officer, Manager Legal Aid Board
- [1981 - 1993] Lawyer at Legal Aid Council



**Irakli Shonia** is the deputy director of the Legal Aid Service of Georgia. He holds this position since October 2014 and supervises the quality of monitoring and human resources management.

In 2008-2013 he worked at the Legal Aid Service Monitoring and Analysis Division. His responsibilities include issues related to lawyers' attorneys, professional standards and quality assurance services provided by the Legal Aid Service.

Irakli Shonia is an active member of the Lawyers Professional. In 2012-2013 he was a member of the Ethics Commission of the Georgian Bar Association.

Since 2007, Irakli Shonia is actively involved in developing various training modules for lawyers of Georgian Bar Association and Legal Aid Service. He is also a certified trainer for various local and international organizations such as Georgian Bar Association, American Bar Association, Council of Europe, European Union, Norwegian Rule of Law Advisory in Georgia for professional ethics, criminal procedure, judicial skills, Judicial decisions and legal spells, as well as minor juvenile justice issues.

Irakli Shonia actively participates in Legal Aid Reformers' Network, which works for the reform of legal aid systems in post-socialist countries and professional standards for criminal lawyers.

- Since 2005 he has been a member of the Georgian Young Lawyers Association
- 2006-2007 - Member of the Association of Lawyers
- 2013 - February 2014 Head of IvaneJavakhishvili Tbilisi State University Master of Law Faculty (Legal Aid Service Clinic)
- From 2013 to 2017, IvaneJavakhishvili Tbilisi State University invited specialist to the Faculty of Law Faculty of Practical Skills
- Invited expert to GuramTvardkiladze Teaching University from 2013 to 2018 "Basics of Legal Ethics" and "Practical Skills" Training Course





**Roger Smith OBE** is a researcher, consultant and journalist. He has written widely on matters relating to legal aid and human rights - most recently on the digital delivery of legal services to people on low incomes (available from thelef.org). He edits the ILAG newsletter and produces a quarterly update on technology and legal aid (also available from thelef.org). He is a solicitor, visiting professor at London South Bank University and writes monthly columns for the Law Society Gazette and New Law Journal. He has been director of the Legal Action Group and JUSTICE. He has been awarded an OBE.



**Nicholas Summers** has been practicing law for over 35 years in Ontario and Newfoundland and Labrador. He joined the Newfoundland Legal Aid Commission as a staff solicitor in 1990 and has been with Legal Aid ever since. He has held the positions of Staff Solicitor, St. John's Area Director, Senior Solicitor - Family and Civil Law, Deputy Director – Administration, and is currently Provincial Director. Nicholas has represented numerous clients in matters such as refugee claims, family disputes, and criminal charges. In addition, Nicholas has been the Chair of the Association of Legal Aid Plans of Canada since June 2016.

**Denise Swanson** heads up the Access to Justice Unit in Scottish Government Justice Directorate. The unit has policy responsibility for helping people to resolve problems and disputes in their lives and support their criminal defence, through the provision of advice and representation at the right time and in the right place, ensuring that advice meets quality standards and that there are suitable avenues for redress.

In practice this means my Unit leads on legal aid policy, the regulation of solicitors, Scottish Government funding of advice services, quality assurance of those advice services and the complaints process for legal services This also includes policy lead for early and effective dispute resolution. The Unit is supporting an independent review of legal aid and Denise attends these meetings as the Scottish Government representative.



**Nye Thomas** is the Executive Director of the Law Commission of Ontario. Nye has more than 20 years experience leading sophisticated, multidisciplinary projects in Ontario's justice sector. As ED of the Law Commission, Nye is responsible for producing independent and evidence-based analysis and recommendations on complex law reform issues. Nye is currently leading LCO projects on Internet defamation, legal rights in the last stages of life, class actions, and law reform and technology issues. Prior to this, Nye was Director General, Policy at Legal Aid Ontario (LAO) where he was responsible for policy development, consultations, and system planning at one of the world's largest legal aid plans. Nye's work at LAO included leading the most significant expansion of legal aid services in more than 20 years. Nye has also been Policy Director on major provincial inquiries, including the Ipperwash Inquiry. Nye studied at the University of Toronto (BA), Queen's University (LLB), and New York University (LLM).

The Law Commission of Ontario (LCO) is Ontario's leading law reform agency. The LCO's mandate is to advance law reform, promote access to justice, and stimulate public debate. The LCO provides independent, evidence-based, multi-disciplinary and authoritative advice on some of Ontario's most complex and far-reaching legal policy issues.



**Andriy Vyshnevsky** is a lawyer and an expert in the area of public administration and justice sector reforms having 13-year experience on leading positions in public administration in Ukraine. In particular, he was responsible for implementation of the new Law on Legal Aid in 2011–2017. A nation-wide legal aid system in Ukraine was developed from the scratch under his leadership. At the moment of his promotion to the position of Deputy Minister of Justice in April 2017, the Legal Aid System included a network of 121 legal aid centers, covering the whole territory of Ukraine, with 550 access points in all cities, towns and districts of Ukraine, staff of 3598 employees, more than 5000 selected and contracted private lawyers and 5 professional networking hubs in 5 the most populous cities of Ukraine. The new public institution has been providing legal aid to at least one million vulnerable people in criminal, civil and administrative cases annually, including legal advice, public defense and litigation.

Mr. Vyshnevsky used to be a member of the expert group drafted the Model Law on Legal Aid in Criminal Justice System at UNODC in 2014–2017. He participated on behalf of Ukraine in the 13th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Doha, Qatar, 12–19 April 2015. The statement proposed by Ukraine and included into the Doha Declaration calls on UN member states “to review and reform legal aid policies for extending access to effective legal aid in criminal proceedings for those without sufficient means or when the interests of justice so require, including, when necessary, through the development of national plans in this area, and to build capacity to provide and ensure access to effective legal aid in all matters and in all its forms, taking into account the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems”. Mr. Vyshnevsky made a presentation of a success story of Ukraine at the 2nd International Conference on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 15–17 November 2016.

After his resignation from the position of Deputy Minister of Justice in June 2017 Andriy Vyshnevsky has been working as a National Consultant for the Council of Europe, OSCE/ODIHR, UN Women and being engaged in a wide range of activities within non-government sector in Ukraine. Thus, he is a Member of the Board of Ukrainian Bar Association and Transparency International Ukraine. He is also leading the Tomorrow’s Lawyer, which is a professional development program for Ukrainian lawyers, including extensive trainings and networking. The Program was founded by Mr. Vyshnevsky in cooperation with Canadian Bureau of International Education and Canadian Bar Association in 2016. Key focus of the program is improving soft skills needed for lawyers to provide legal services of the best quality according to the highest ethical standards. The community of Tomorrow’s Lawyer Program alumni and trainees unites more than 300 prominent lawyers from all regions of Ukraine, who are effective agents of change and advocates of democratic reforms. Since 2018 Tomorrow’s Lawyer has been being supported by the US Department of State.



**Manabu Wagatsuma** is a Professor of Civil Procedure at Tokyo Metropolitan Law School in Japan. He is a civil mediator and judicial commissioner at Tokyo County Court and has done extensive research on comparative legal aid costs and funding.



**Karen Wilford** obtained her Bachelor of Laws from the University of Western Ontario in 1985. She was called to the Bar of Ontario in 1986, the Bar of Nunavut in 2004 and the Bar of the Northwest Territories in 2006. Following a rewarding practice in family law in central Ontario, she moved with her family to Nunavut in 2004, on a two year contract. Fifteen years later, the enchantment of the North, with its compelling intersection of law and culture, keeps her feet firmly rooted to tundra and rock. Currently the Executive Director of the Northwest Territories Legal Aid Commission, she serves with respect on the traditional land of the Dene in Treaty 8 Territory.



**Annik Wills** is the Director General of Legal Aid Ontario, Eastern District. In this capacity, Ms. Wills is responsible for the oversight and management of legal aid service delivery in the areas of criminal law, family law, refugee law, and poverty law. Prior to this, Ms. Wills was Senior Counsel for criminal law in the Eastern District, responsible for a criminal litigation practice in both official languages which focused on representing vulnerable clients and complex litigation matters. Before joining Legal Aid Ontario, Ms. Wills ran her own criminal law practice, Wills Law Office, where she provided legal advice and representation in all areas of criminal law. Ms. Wills is also a part-time professor at the Faculty of Common Law, where she has taught Criminal Law and Procedure, Criminal Evidence and is currently teaching the Law of Evidence.

Ms. Wills is active in the legal community, doing volunteer work including with the Law Society of Ontario, Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Ontario (AJEFO), Ontario Justice



Education Network, and Amethyst Women's Treatment Center. Professor Wills is also a cross-country ski coach and program coordinator with Nakkertok Nordic.

**Hongyao Wu** is an outstanding senior professor of criminal procedure law and Chinese expert of legal aid research. He is one of the consultant researchers of Institute of Procuratorial Theory of the Supreme People's Procuratorate and one of the first ten station-researchers of the Supreme People's Court. He is also an adjunct professor of National Prosecutors College of P.R.C.

Professor Wu studied philosophy at the Faculty of Philosophy, Zhengzhou University (1992-1996) and criminal procedure law at the Post-graduate School, CUPL for his Master's degree and Ph.D. degree (1996-1999, 1999-2002). Since 2002, as a full-time researcher at CUPL, he teaches and researches in the fields of criminal procedure law, evidence and criminal justice, with particular emphasis on philosophical, comparative and international perspectives. In the following years, as an elemental member, he joined several legislating activities of legal drafts, e.g. the draft of Uniform Evidence Law led by Prof. Wei Jiang in 2004; Model Code of Criminal Procedure law led by Prof. Weidong Chen in 2005; the Revision of Organic Law of the People's Courts of the People's Republic of China led by Prof. Chongyi Fan in 2005; the Expert Draft for Re-amendment to Criminal Procedural Law led by Prof. Guangzhong Chen in 2006. Now, he is also the Executive Chief Editor of Zhong Guo Su Song Fa Pan Jie (Journal of Procedural Law Cases), and Associate Chief-editor of Su Song Fa Xue Yan Jiu (Chinese Journal of Procedural Law).

In 2012, working with Mr. Lihua Tong, China's Public Interest Law Leader, and professor Yongzhong Gu, an outstanding professor of law and criminal defense counsel, he founded the Criminal Legal Aid Research Center at CUPL. Besides running a consultation service hotline, a criminal legal aid website and representing some typical cases, the Criminal Legal Aid Researcher Center focuses on the policy and practice of the Procedure for Review of Death Sentences in the People's Supreme Court of China. Two main projects of the Center were finished in past years: One is the Innocence Project which is the first legal aid project for indigent prisoners of murder cases in China. Another is the research on the Legal Aid System of Death Penalty Cases reviewed by the People's Supreme Court.

19th January 2018, National Institute of Legal Aid was established with the support of China University of Political Science and Law and MOJ and Professor Wu was appointed as the first dean of NILI. As the first think-tank institute on legal aid in China, NILA is committed to strengthen the academic research on basic theories, legislation policy and implementation problems, aiming at providing a solid theoretical foundation for the long-term development of legal aid system in China. Now, NILA is working closely with the Legal Aid Agency and National Legal Aid Center, the Ministry of Justice of China on the draft of the on-coming Legal Aid Law.

#### **Other Conference Participants**

- *Alok Agarwal*
- *Eleonora Belei*
- *Sunil Chauhan*
- *Catherine Coulter*
- *Madhurima Dhanuka*
- *Abdool Rahim Khan*
- *Oksana Kikot*
- *Matthias Kilian*
- *Janet McIntyre*
- *Paul Prettitore*
- *Shannon Rhames*
- *Eileen Ritchie*
- *Rebecca Sandefur*
- *Alex Scott*
- *Bilal Siddiqi*
- *Brendan Thomas*
- *Djamshid Turdaliev*

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