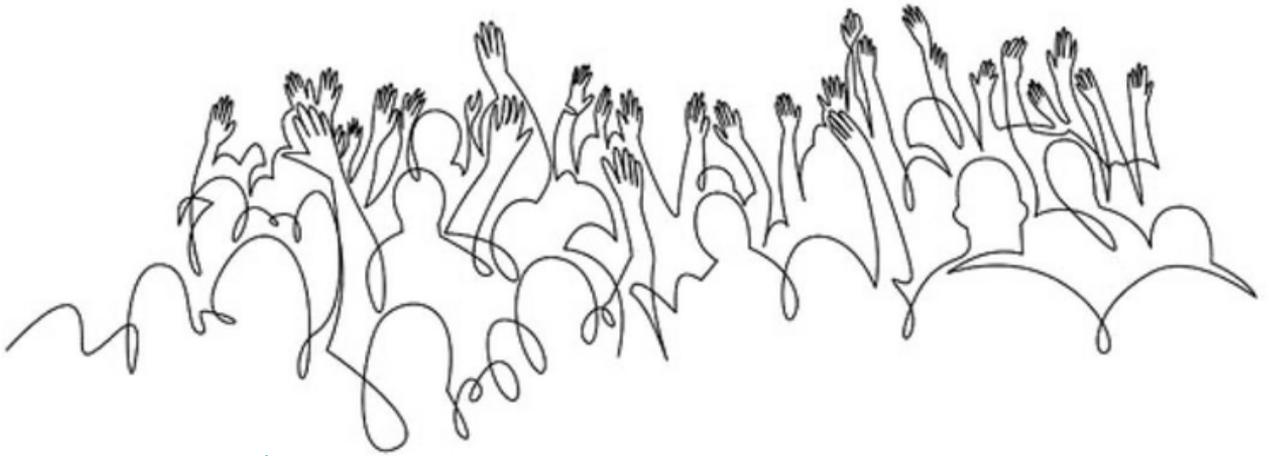


# MINERVA

*University of Ottawa Association of Women & the Law*



*We want to hear  
from you!*

## MANDATE EXPANSION

UOAWL is expanding its mandate to address all forms of gender-based discrimination, rather than focusing on discrimination against women alone. This expansion is intended to include non-binary and Two-Spirit people, and others who face gender-based discrimination.

To ensure we take the right approach, we want to hear from gender-diverse people to learn how the UOAWL can better meet their needs and advocate for them. For anyone who would be willing to share their thoughts, you can do so anonymously through the link below or you can reach out to the team through UOAWL's Facebook page. Moving forward, the UOAWL will make a greater effort to include gender-diverse people in our decision-making processes.

Expanding our mandate is merely a first step towards addressing gender-based discrimination more meaningfully, however, it is a necessary step to move forward.

LINK: [Feedback on UOAWL's Mandate Shift](#)

**OUR EVENT  
JOIN US!**

## MARCH EVENTS

### Women's Month Caring Event

UOAWL

**Wednesday, March 2,  
2022**

**11:30 AM - 12:45 PM**

Register [here](#)

Join us to learn from a speaker about the work of Minwaashin Lodge Indigenous Women's Support Centre and a yoga class!

### Networking with Legal Professionals

South Asian Law Student  
Association (SALSA)

**Thursday, March 3, 2022**

**6:30 PM - 7:30 PM**

Register [here](#)

# The Next SCC Appointment, Diversity, and Impartiality

By Julia Yunji Chung, 2L

On February 24, Justice Moldaver announced his retirement from the bench on September 1, 2022. Several months before this announcement, Justice Jamal was appointed as the first person of colour to the SCC. These changes encouraged me to reflect on diversity and impartiality.

## Diversity is Necessary for Impartiality

Diversity on the bench is important because no individual can truly be impartial. People are the product of their experiences and background. Yet impartiality means “to be free from any incentive or predisposition towards one party in preference to the other.” True impartiality would therefore require an individual to detach from their values, experiences, and opinions, which is impossible to achieve.

Accordingly, the current law is not the product of complete impartiality. Justice Jamal is the first racialized SCC judge. Justice Bertha Wilson was the first woman to be appointed to the SCC in 1982. The present law reflects the fact that the judiciary in Canada has historically and continues to be dominated by Caucasian men.

To reverse this dominant white male perspective, the bench needs diversity. Individuals from equity-seeking groups view the world and its injustices from a different perspective from a non-equity seeking group. Accordingly, diversity plays a major role in introducing “impartiality” to the dominantly white bench. If we truly want the judiciary to contribute to equity in Canada and counteract past injustices, Canada should appoint those with diverse backgrounds and experiences to the bench.

I am hopeful that the next appointment will improve diversity - and impartiality - on the bench.

## March 8: Happy International Women's Day!



*"Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time."*  
-Ruth Bader Ginsburg

**Stocking your Resilience Toolbox: Proactive Stress Management**

**Ontario Bar Association  
Mindful Lawyer Series /  
Student Section Program  
Monday, March 7, 2022  
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM  
Register [here](#)**

**International Women's Day 2022**

**Law Society of Ontario  
Tuesday, March 8, 2022  
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM  
Register [here](#)**

**Upcoming Deadline  
Writing Them In Student  
Essay Contest**

**CBA Women Lawyer's Forum  
Monday, May 2, 2022  
Click [here](#) for more information**

## Legal highlight: Texas labels gender-affirming care as child abuse

By Taylor Bain, 3L

CW: anti-trans practices

On February 22, 2022, Texas Governor Greg Abbott directed the state's Department of Family and Protective Services to investigate allegations of gender-affirming care for transgender children, referring to such practices as child abuse. The decision supplements Texas' stringent anti-trans laws and subjects parents and licensed institutions who facilitate gender-affirming care, such as providing transgender youth puberty-suppressing drugs and hormones, to criminal penalties. The decision also imposes criminal penalties on licensed professionals, such as teachers, doctors, and nurses, who are in direct contact with children undergoing gender-affirming medical care and do not report such care as child abuse.

Despite the Governor framing the law as one that aims to protect children, experts on transgender health emphasize that limiting gender-affirming care will significantly harm transgender youth.

Not sure how to help? Here is a list of organizations in Texas that could use your support:  
<https://twitter.com/herong/status/1496611035196891139?s=20&t=p3n2xn0j7KKFGMEWUf1AFQ>

I also encourage you to learn more about the work of transgender organizations within Canada.

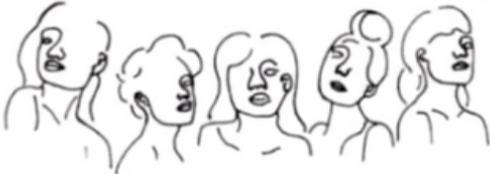
## MERCHANDISE

We are currently organizing our merch sales! Please stay tuned for updates in March.

**Law Needs  
Feminism Because**

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**WOMEN  
AND  
THE  
LAW**

  
**WOMEN IN LAW**

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