

# WELDON

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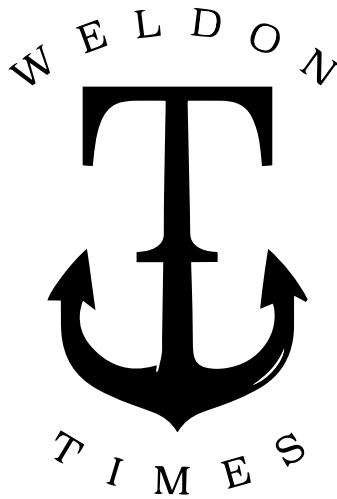
## QUARTERLY

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The Weldon Quarterly is written and published by the law students of Dalhousie University.

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*Dalhousie University sits on Mi'kma'ki, the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq.*





# The Law School You Don't Know

Zainab Adejumobi (1L)

The law school that we know is a fast-paced machine made up of many components: case briefing, factums, memos, classes, mootings, and more. As students, we often think that the light at the end of the tunnel consists of a graduation gown, a confirmed articling position, and the ability to become a partner at a high-ranking firm after some years.

With this in mind, imagine how surprised I was after attending an event titled “Becoming a T-Shaped Lawyer”. The information that I gained from this event is worthy of rumination and an article of its own. The hosts from Stewart McKelvey started the event session with a warm welcome, and the event got off to an easy start. Soon enough, however, the hosts proceeded to present us with hard-hitting truths about the legal industry, and the session quickly became one of the most informative sessions in my entire first-year law school experience.

The hosts rightly mentioned that the legal job market is saturated with lawyers. The job market is further limited due to in-house legal counsels, and the availability of websites like LegalZoom and LawDepot that provide automated legal services to customers. The hosts introduced us to a different realm, which I would like to call the law school that we do not know. The law school that we do not know is the competitive practice itself and what it will teach us about legal practice in its purest and most unfiltered form.

The key to survival in the legal market is more than knowledge of the law, but a combination of law, technology, data analysis, business tools, and several other factors that make a legal practice wholesome. Simply put, legal knowledge is the expertise, whereas the knowledge of every other factor is the business of law. If you survived online law school during the pandemic, then I want to congratulate you. You learned to lean on technology consistently for an extended time. Chances are high that you are a bit more technologically skilled than you were before the pandemic, and technology expertise is one of the skills you need to be a well-rounded lawyer in the modern legal market. You are already on the path!

*“[L]egal knowledge is the expertise, whereas the knowledge of every other factor is the business of law.”*



# Alum Bio: Conor Mullin

## B.A. Hons (UPEI '09) JD (Schulich '14), Associate, Key Murray Law

Tiff Ward (1L)

Conor Mullin is currently an associate with Key Murray Law in Charlottetown, PEI. His current practice is primarily in criminal defence, but he also works in immigration law as well as personal injury. Conor's day normally includes some familiar tasks such as meeting with clients, researching, drafting legal documents, and appearing in court. As he manages his own practice, he sees his files through from the initial intake to completion.

Conor grew up on Prince Edward Island, completing his BA at UPEI in 2009. He later attended the Schulich School of Law, completing his JD in 2014. Following graduation, Conor began his legal career articling with Legal Aid in the northern Manitoba town of The Pas, working in family law and criminal defence. After articles, he took up a position with Legal Aid in Happy-Valley Goose Bay, NL for a couple years, eventually transferring to the Legal Aid office in Corner Brook. In 2018, like so many Maritimers, the urge to return home became strong and he applied for his current position with Key Murray Law, where he has been since.

In his relatively short career, Conor has had some great success as a criminal defence attorney. He has successfully won two challenging jury trials, as well as has appeared before the Court of Appeal in NL to successfully reduce the sentence of one of his clients from four years to two. He notes that some of the most interesting experiences to date have happened during his time spent in northern communities: "...this allowed me to experience first-hand the issues faced by Indigenous Canadians and also to see some of the most beautiful and breathtaking parts of Canada that I would've never have been given the opportunity to otherwise."

In his community, Conor continues the Weldon tradition of unselfish public service. He

volunteers on a number of boards, including acting as president of the board for the John Howard Society of PEI. The mission of the John Howard Society is very close to his heart, as it aligns with Conor's beliefs and values in the importance of promoting rehabilitation, reintegration, and restorative justice within the Canadian legal system. As a big film buff, Conor also volunteers on the board of Charlottetown's local independent cinema, City Cinema. Conor is also an avid hiker, enjoying Prince Edward Island's extensive trail system, as well as a practitioner of Muay Thai.

Conor's choice to attend Dalhousie for law school was influenced by our great reputation amongst Canadian law schools, as well as Halifax's reputation as a great city to live in. "What I came to love about Dal was what [then] Dean Kim Brooks referred to as the "Schulich Spirit" or "Weldon Tradition" – that spirit of giving back to the community," Conor recalls. As a community-minded individual, seeing those common values embodied in our law school let him know he had made the right choice. During his time at Schulich law, Conor was an executive member of the Social Activist Law Students Association (SALSA). In 2014, the association hosted the IDEALaw conference that focused on issues of Indigenous law. The conference was a huge success, and as one of the people who helped to make that vision come to life, Conor recalls the experience as "one of my proudest accomplishments while at Dal."

Conor has some sage advice to impart on students: "Enjoy law school, you'll never have that much free time again!" He encourages students to find ways to learn through experience to build towards a successful career. He says, "...you can always make money in this profession, but experience is what is



CONOR MULLIN B.A. HONS (UPEI '09) JD (SCHULICH '14)

truly valuable early on." Conor credits his time in the north with supporting his professional development, allowing him to learn valuable skills and gain experience that has helped him get to his current position. For those interested in criminal law, he stresses the value that experience in northern Canada can provide. Criminal lawyers are in high demand in many northern communities, and thus new lawyers have an opportunity to take on a very large practice very quickly and gain experience quickly. Finally, Conor advises students to "take every opportunity you can to spend time with people who have different lived experiences from you...this will make you a more understanding, patient and compassionate human being, all attributes that criminal lawyers should possess."

*“Take every opportunity you can to spend time with people who have different lived experiences from you...this will make you a more understanding, patient and compassionate human being, all attributes that criminal lawyers should possess.”*



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# On Race and Robots

Elizabeth Taylor (3L)

When I first saw Shudu in a YouTube video, I was immediately bothered and I couldn't put into words exactly why. She wasn't the first virtual model that I had come across. The company Neon, for example, has begun publicizing their versions of artificial humans with AI. I had also heard about Lil' Miquela and Sophia the robot (who's not a model). Sophia is the first robot to have citizenship. Although Sophia the robot is an embodied white woman, she does raise an interesting question about what it means for robots to have citizenship.

Shudu was different though because she is a Black woman, who has dark skin and is getting quite a bit of attention in the modeling world. Shudu is an embodied dark skin Black woman but again, she is not a real person. She is owned and operated by a white man out of England. This got me thinking about the ethical implications of AI embodied robots and non-embodied robots in terms of the conversations that were having about race. In 2020 our society began to have deeper conversations about race and anti-racism work especially since the tragic death of George Floyd.

At one point in Nova Scotia, there were free Black people and enslaved Black people living side by side. At the time, it posed serious problems for the human rights and treatment of the free Black people who were here. If there is someone who looks just like you and their enslavement is partially defined by the colour of their skin, it really limits how much freedom and rights you are able to access and is dehumanizing all around. The question that I have now, in 2021, while Black people continue to fight for basic human rights, is whether or not there is an ethical problem with the image of Black people being owned and operated by

white people (or by largely white-owned technology companies)? Does this limit or challenge the rights that Black people are able to achieve in real life? This is a new take on an old problem because if there are images of Black people who are servants (in the case of Neon's virtual assistants) or who are owned by white people (like Shudu), does that not create a challenge of how Black people in real life are seen and perceived?

*“The question I have now, in 2021, while Black people continue to fight for basic human rights, is whether or not there is an ethical problem with the image of Black people being owned and operated by white people (or by largely white-owned technology)?”*

We already know that AI has its limitations because of the limited diversity in the tech industry and the people who programmed them. Will these robots (the ones who have consciousness) have an awareness of their own Blackness or Black history? As we navigate this new tech space and think about the idea of racial justice and racial equality, we really should consider the ethical implications of having Black embodied images being owned and operated by people who do not have the Black experience as we continue to advance human rights in North America.

## Sources:

- “Shudu Gram is a White Man's Digital Projection of Real-Life Black Womanhood” by Lauren Michele Jackson for the New Yorker. <https://www.newyorker.com/culture/culture-desk/shudu-gram-is-a-white-mans-digital-projection-of-real-life-black-womanhood>.
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# The Summer Before 3L

Jamie Samson (2L)

We're almost at the end of the 2020–2021 school year. For many, as we know, it hasn't been the year they predicted or hoped for. For others, it has been filled with unexpected opportunities and hard-won victories. Wherever you fall on the scale from suck to success (light wordplay to encompass many complex moments and emotions), you've almost completed another trip around the sun of legal education. That is a victory in itself – so keep on keepin' on!

We can only hope that 3L (or 1L or 2L for some of you!) will hold joys for those who have lacked them, and even more for those who've managed to find them this year. For impending 3Ls, this final year at Schulich will hopefully allow for us to meet again and enjoy all the little and not-so-little things that this past year has lacked.

*“Try not to hang your hat on the misadventure that this year was for many, but instead look forward to more years and more opportunities.”*

Whether you are in a law-related position for the summer, have a regular summer job like myself, have no job at all, or are anywhere in between, try not to let this past school year define what you think you can accomplish in the next, or in your legal career at large. Not to get too metaphysical, but this year has been just that – only one year. It was long to get through in many ways, certainly, but it doesn't negate the years that came before it, or the ones that will come after. Try not to hang your hat on the misadventure that this year was for

many, but instead look forward to more years and more opportunities – both in law, and in life.

In the meantime, here are some recommendations about what to do with your summer – whether in your infrequent free time from full-time studies, work or other occupation, or to fill many hours of unemployed existence. These are some of my favourite summer pastimes to pursue in Halifax:

1. Visit DeeDee's Ice Cream on Cornwallis Street, choose one of their amazing homemade ice cream flavours (Mexican Chocolate is my personal favourite!) and sit on the hill next to the Citadel to enjoy the summer weather.
2. Head over to Point Pleasant Park for a walk along the shore, or on trails between the trees to feel like you're not even in the city.
3. Bring your favourite (or potential next favourite) book to the Halifax Public Gardens to enjoy.
4. Speaking of books, visit John W. Doull Bookseller in Dartmouth to find that next immersive read, or to find a copy of an old favourite.
5. Take the ferry to Dartmouth without a destination in mind and stroll through downtown.
6. Take a trip to the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History to visit Gus, the 98-year-old tortoise, and take his afternoon walk with him.
7. Visit the Halifax Seaport Farmers' Market to enjoy all the local vendors (especially Bliss Bowls, creators of amazing smoothie bowls, perfect for a summer's day breakfast!)

Whatever you decide to do this summer, try to look forward to the next school year with anticipation, some excitement, and hope for at least one Law Ball for the 3L class! I hope to see you soon.





# Three Lessons to Make Politics and Policy Less 'Male, Pale and Stale': Practical Advice from the "Women in Politics and Policy" Event

Victoria Watson (1L), Dal PPLS Section B

For those aspiring to political and policy careers, finding a professional path and overcoming the realities of leadership is challenging and involves navigating aspects of policy, law, and diplomacy not taught in school. For this reason, the Dal PPLS and DFLA invited women leaders in Canadian governance to speak to how they translated their experiences as activists into successful leadership in the policy sphere. Speakers included Senator Kim Pate, Ontario MPP Bhutila Karpoche, MP Elizabeth May, Senator Gwen Boniface, and Megan Leslie, CEO of World Wildlife Fund Canada. Each speaker's experience, championing different socio-political issues and the unique paths that brought them into leadership, demonstrated the diverse means of engaging with policy and politics. These amazing women left us inspired with these major lessons.

## 1. Connection with Community Matters

Bhutila Karpoche, an Ontario MPP, spoke to the practical side of bringing communities into the legislative development process. To ensure that she represents her constituency, Bhutila allocates time for door-to-door community engagement, community organizing, and work with grassroots nonprofits in her riding of Parkdale-High Park to continually centre their voices within the legislative system. Meaningful representation means not only working on behalf of a community, but bringing each member into the advocacy process so that they can shape the agenda and help restructure the system itself.

## 2. Increasing Diversity Across the Board is Key

Law must become less "male, pale, and stale," Senator Kim Pate asserted. To this point,

panelists emphasized the need for greater inclusivity and intersectional representation throughout the conversation. Bhutila shared how being the first woman from Nepal to serve as an MPP emphasized how much more work needs to be done to ensure people from all cultures are represented in legislatures. The panelists also discussed the absence of trans-identified leaders in Parliament. While each panelist does their best to represent concerns from all communities, ensuring better representation within the upcoming generation of leaders is required to ensure that community representatives are present in the rooms where decisions that affect them are being made.

*Meaningful representation means not only working on behalf of a community, but bringing each member into the advocacy process so that they can shape the agenda and help restructure the system itself.*

## 3. Focus on What You're Passionate About

Panelists also offered practical guidance to women law students considering political careers. Senator Kim Pate and Megan Leslie both emphasized the importance of taking time after law school to work in areas of practice that matter to you and relate to the area of law you wish to shape. Senator Kim Pate discussed

her experience working in youth justice, emphasizing the importance of working with, not for, the marginalized people you support. Megan Leslie highlighted how taking a path outside the traditional firm trajectory made a difference in her ability to influence policy, as she now has perspectives from both sides of the legislative process. After law school, Megan worked as a community legal worker and found that this experience anchored her ability to be an effective political representative.

In 2021, the Dal PPLS plans to continue curating panels featuring Canadian government leaders with a focus on partisan diversity and intersectional perspectives while fostering a safe and inclusive space for cultivating student political interests. The society hopes to plan more collaborative student-led events with DFLA, the Dalhousie Black Students Association, and more, and hopefully be able to have these discussions face-to-face!

Does your society have  
an event coming up?



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# Women's Week at Weldon

Claire Dowden (1L), DFLA Section A Representative

The Dalhousie Feminist Legal Association (DFLA) is a society at the Schulich School of Law typically comprised of about 70 active members. In a year that has been all-but-normal, DFLA has instilled a sense of normalcy in its membership, hosting a myriad of events between September and April. Of the many initiatives organized and hosted this year, DFLA's executive team is most proud of those that occurred during its annual Women's Week festivities from March 8–12. Centring on International Women's Day, the week offered events promoting personal wellbeing, social interaction, and professional and leadership development.

The week's festivities commenced on Monday March 8 with our #LawNeedsFeminismBecause campaign, which was facilitated by way of an Instagram filter this year as we could not photograph participants on-campus. That same evening, DFLA co-hosted a panel discussion entitled "Women in Public Policy" with the Public Policy in Law Society. The discussion was extremely engaging and featured heavy-hitters including MP Elizabeth May, Senator Kim Pate, Senator Gwen Boniface, Ontario MPP Bhutila Karpoche, and Megan Leslie. The panelists discussed the hurdles and opportunities they've experienced as women in politics and policy, offering candid advice and lighthearted stories.

During the evening of Tuesday March 9, DFLA collaborated with Weldon Eats for a virtual cooking class where 1L Representative Claire Dowden taught participants to cook loaded baked potato soup. On Wednesday March 10, members attended a virtual yoga class hosted by Stephanie Procenko. These activities served as important reminders to take time for ourselves during this busy time in the semester.

Thursday's collaboration with Law Hour gave

members a glimpse into Black women and the Justice System, hosted by lawyer and advocate El Jones. The discussion was timely, reminding us that uncomfortable conversations can — and should — lead to systemic change, for which we can be partially responsible.

On Friday, we shared members' "sheros" and hosted feminist trivia, where the winners had the opportunity to pick an organization to which DFLA donated \$100.

DFLA takes pride in its activities and efforts throughout the 2020–2021 school year. Although this year has been characterized by isolation and hardship, DFLA has continued to build a community of like-minded law students while collaborating with community-minded individuals and organizations. We are thankful for the opportunities that have been presented to us as DFLA members and hope that our organization serves as a reminder of what collaboration, team work, and advocacy can accomplish in the legal profession.

*“Although this year has been characterized by isolation and hardship, DFLA has continued to build a community of like-minded law students while collaborating with community-minded individuals and organizations.”*



# Theatre Review: The Trial of Frankenstein



Eliza Richardson (2L), President, Weldon Literary Moot Society

What is it about legal dramas that have always captivated audiences? Is it the schadenfreude of watching Chutney squirm under Elle Woods' ruthless questioning about proper hair maintenance? Is it the quotability of Jack Nicholson yelling "You want the truth? YOU CAN'T HANDLE THE TRUTH"? Or maybe we merely envy the quiet dignity of Atticus Finch as he fights for justice. Whatever it is, *The Trial of Frankenstein* on March 5 starring Weldon's own Matthew Frick, Sophie Trinacty, and Diana Ginn, had it all.

*“The show was a thrilling mingling of the literary and the legal by interrogating the ethical obligations of a creator to their creation.”*

The show was a thrilling mingling of the literary and the legal by interrogating the ethical obligations of a creator to their creation. And who better to address these issues than Frankenstein's Monster himself? The show opened with Frankenstein's Monster on the stand. We learned that the Wretch has moved past his murderous vendetta against the Doctor and has turned instead to the courts of law for justice. The Plaintiff argued that in failing to provide him with an attractive body, the Doctor (played by Professor Diana Ginn) breached the standard of care. He testified that being a monster in this world of social media is a terrible burden to force on a person. A sentiment we can all sympathize with!

The Doctor, of course, denied any and all claims of negligence. Her protestations, it turns out, were quite fair as the truth came out on cross-examination. The Defense called Igor to speak to the Doctor's capabilities as a creator of life. Matthew Frick, counsel for the Defence, began ruthlessly grilling Igor. He flung question after question at Igor, who got increasingly agitated as the cross-examination went on. In a twist that shocked all present, Igor, brilliantly played by Weldon alum Nick Foran, confessed: HE HAD DONE IT. The doctor had flicked the switch, sure, but that was only to the porch light. It was he, Igor, who was responsible for breathing life into the Monster. The audience was flabbergasted... but so too was counsel. It took Mr. Frick a few moments to realize his case against the Doctor had completely fallen apart. Mr. Frick had committed the futile mistake made by so many overzealous litigators - he went for the dramatic "gotcha" and was burned for his efforts.

The Trial of Frankenstein captured something essential about humanity. We all want to be loved for who we are, despite our many flaws. In the closing words of defence counsel, "at the end of the day, aren't we all monsters?"

The Weldon Literary Moot Society fundraises for Halifax Humanities by putting on an annual theatrical moot. This year, it raised over \$6,900 for Halifax Humanities with sponsors including such big names as McInnes Cooper, Stewart McKelvey, Cox & Palmer, Burchells LLP, TD Bank, and North Star Immigration Law. If you are interested in joining the society or participating in next year's play, please email us at [weldon.lms@gmail.com](mailto:weldon.lms@gmail.com).



# Nova Scotia Remembers Legacy Society: Honouring Those Lost from our Communities

Tiff Ward (1L), Chair of the Nova Scotia Remembers Legacy Society

On April 18–19 2020, the most unimaginable tragedy occurred in rural Nova Scotia. Twenty-three lives were taken from their families and our communities in the worst mass shooting event in Canada's history.

The shock of this tragedy impacted our communities to their very core. Things like this do not happen here in rural Nova Scotia. Not here in our safe, small villages, where many people have lived their entire lives. To make matters worse, in the early weeks of the COVID-19 pandemic, we could not come together as a community; we could not wrap our arms around the families, our friends, and community members at the centre of this tragic event. We could not come together in a local hall, school, legion, or arena. We could not do what other communities have done in the face of their darkest days. It was a feeling of utter helplessness; there are no other words to describe it.

In an attempt to do something, our collection of friends and residents developed a Facebook group in support of the families and communities. In the days following the tragic events, this group, then called "Colchester-Supporting our Communities" (Now "Nova Scotia Remembers Legacy Society") grew to nearly eighty thousand members. Supporters from across the province, country, and around the world shared their condolences, their tears, their artistic expression, beautiful photographs of sunsets, candles they lit in memory of the victims, poetry and prose, and so many other expressions of grief and support. Though it did not allow us to be together physically, it did provide many people with a virtual space to grieve together.

During the first week following the tragedy, this effort evolved into the online and televised vigil, Nova Scotia Remembers, which was broadcast across Canada and online on the evening of Friday, April 24. Featuring a number of local artists, faith lead-

ers, and government representatives, this vigil represented an outpouring of our community and our country's collective grief. Perhaps the most memorable moment was a beautiful fiddle duet featuring Natalie McMaster and the youngest victim, Emily Tuck, her talent far exceeding her very short life.

In the weeks and months that followed, our group found ourselves still wanting to do more. What has resulted is the incorporation of the Nova Scotia Remembers Legacy Society. Our non-profit society stands on four pillars – education, memorial, community development, and grief and trauma supports – each of which attempts to shine some light into the darkness that has befallen our rural communities. We have several projects in development that we hope will help our resilient communities come through this dark hour strong and united. We will not let this tragedy define us. We will write our own story of resilience and of love as we move forward, at our own pace and time. You can learn more about our four pillars and the work we are doing by visiting [www.novascotiarmemembers.com](http://www.novascotiarmemembers.com) or on Facebook.

Currently, our organization is developing plans to mark the anniversary date this April. On this first anniversary, our society is planning a three-part event on April 18. First, on that Sunday morning, we will be holding the Nova Scotia Remembers Memorial Race. This is an in-person and virtual fundraiser taking place in and around West Colchester and Truro and features marathon, half-marathon, 10k and 5k races. All proceeds from this event will go towards the society's Memorial Build Fund that will help to fund the creation of a permanent and accessible memorial in the region in memory of all of the victims. In addition, the family of Jolene Oliver, Aaron Tuck, and Emily Tuck are holding a 5k walk on that date in Oliver's home province of Alberta. To sign up for either race in person or to take part in a virtual event, please visit [The Weldon Quarterly](http://www.race-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)



roster.com and search “Nova Scotia Remembers.”

Second, a contemplative walk will be open in Truro’s Victoria Park from April 11–19 where the public is invited to visit a series of memorials dedicated to the victims and spend some time in quiet reflection in one of Nova Scotia’s most beautiful urban parks. We are asking to reserve the walk path on Sunday April 18 from 12–2 pm exclusively for family members to take part.

Lastly, a private memorial ceremony will be held at 3 pm on April 18. Though the ceremony will be held privately in person for family members, the public is invited to watch the live stream via our website ([www.novascotiaremembers.com](http://www.novascotiaremembers.com)) or participate by watching the stream in small groups at community halls and centres across rural Nova Scotia (within pandemic restrictions). We are also hoping to be able to hold a simultaneous showing of the ceremony’s live stream on a large screen in Victoria Park on Sunday afternoon, with details to be confirmed.

I am pleased to have had the opportunity to share this story with our Schulich community. This

event has had a great impact on myself, as it has on most of us across the province and the country. Giving back to my community through the Nova Scotia Remembers Legacy Society has been, and continues to be, a privilege and an honour. In the spirit of the Weldon Tradition, I would encourage you all, as students, to find that issue, that calling, that “thing” you are passionate about and take the skills you learn in law school and as professionals to go out and do your part to make the world a better place however you can contribute.

“*[T]ake the skills you learn in law school and as professionals to go out and do your part to make the world a better place however you can contribute.*”



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