

WELDON

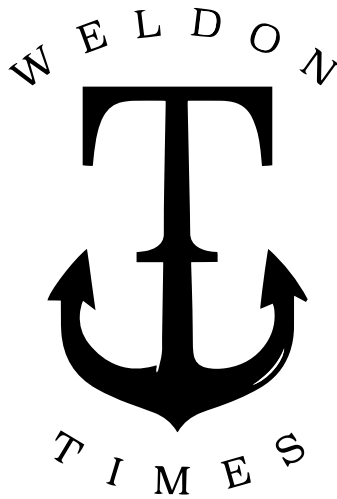
QUARTERLY

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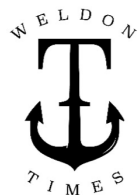
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Dalhousie University sits on Mi'kma'ki, the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq.





Welcome Back Weldon

Tiffany Ward (2L)

To say these last 18 months have been a challenge is perhaps the most overstated understatement – *ever*.

The pandemic has pervaded every aspect of society, and our lives and the effects will be long lasting. Our relationships, family dynamics, employment, social lives, habits, goals, plans, literally everything has been affected. We have had to find new ways to connect, to communicate, to work, to love, to maintain our physical and mental health, and the list goes on and on. It can be overwhelming and for many, this experience will be life-altering: changing perspectives, priorities, and paths. It could even be traumatic for some, leaving scars that may never fully heal. For others, the focus in now is on getting back to some semblance of normal and pick up where they left off. Regardless, I think it is safe to say that we are all, at the very least, slightly different versions of who we were before this all happened.

For us, we have gone through all this unprecedented change during law school, creating a reality of that experience completely outside of the traditional model and subsequently outside of our expectations. We've had to adapt to changing processes, online classes, and disconnection from our professors, the school, and one another. Like many current 2Ls, I did not step foot on campus last year (and some not even in the city) - I began my law school experience at home, in front of a computer hiding behind my Zoom profile picture in the Fall of 2020 as a 1L with little connection to the Weldon Community. 3Ls who had been fortunate enough to make connections prior to the first set of lockdowns in March 2020 were sent home, cut off from the new connections they had just made as new law students. For our 1Ls, their preparatory year writing LSATs and going through the application process was completely altered, as well as their final year of undergrad. Law school certainly has not played out the way most of us expected. The engaging dialogue of the classroom, the debate, the comradery, all those things that one expects to be emerged in as a law student just were not there.

It's been a lot. We've missed a lot.

Fast forward 18 months and we are finally able to be back on campus, even with those all-important modifications and restrictions to keep us safe. As I walked through the door of Weldon a few weeks ago, for the very first time, it felt real, like I was finally here. For many of us, the law school experience will be abbreviated, was interrupted, or will not look the way we thought it would. There will still be changes, pivots, and new paths will be forged as we continue to work our way through this situation. However, the ability to be on campus is perhaps the most welcomed marker of just how far we've come through this crisis. It is a sign that we are going to make it, that there is life after Covid, and that we are almost there.

How fortunate we are to be here.

Like all of us, the Weldon Times needed to adapt and change in response to the pandemic. We moved to a strictly online format with a core group of talented contributors, sharing their insight with the Weldon community on a variety of law related topics over our 4 issues.

This year we are bringing back our traditional print format and are hoping to expand our reach by broadening our content as well as our presence online. We have recruited new writers, some of whose submissions are included in this issue. We have also recruited two photographers, 1Ls Syameena Pillai and Ferris Vasko who will be engaging with the Weldon community to capture the essence of the law school experience that was so noticeably absent over the last 18 months. We are still recruiting for two more executive positions to support our social media/website and engage with the DLSU and other societies to ensure that we are bringing those events and issues that matter to our Weldon community. If you would like to be involved as a contributor or to apply for one of our executive positions, please send an email to weldontimes@dal.ca.

On behalf of my Co-editor Zainab Adejumobi and our Business Manager Madison Ranta, I am so pleased to be able to say Welcome Back Weldon, we are finally *Together Again!*



Caught Between a Rock and a Hard Place: The Meng Wanzhou Case and Canada's Flawed *Extradition Act* (1999)

Anthony Moniuszko (1L)

When the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) requested the extradition of Meng Wanzhou in December of 2018, they forced the Canadian Government to make a choice between two equally unattractive alternatives: accept the DOJ's request, begin formal extradition proceedings against Wanzhou, and wait for the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) to retaliate; or break from tradition and implement a seldom-used clause in a bi-lateral treaty made between Canada and its most important ally.

I use the word "choice" liberally here.

In a legal sense, Canada was (more or less) bound by the terms of its own *Extradition Act* (1999) and the *Treaty on Extradition Between the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States of America* (1976) – but both provided Canadian officials with grounds to reject the request.

When it comes to extraditable conduct, the terms set out by the Act are cut-and-dry: Section 3.1(a) of the Act stipulates that:

3 (1) A person may be extradited from Canada in accordance with this Act and a relevant extradition agreement on the request of an extradition partner for the purpose of prosecuting the person or imposing a sentence on — or enforcing a sentence imposed on — the person if

- (a) subject to a relevant extradition agreement, the offence in respect of which the extradition is requested is punishable by the extradition partner, by imprisoning or otherwise depriving the person of their liberty for a maximum term of two years or more, or by a more severe punishment;

The U.S DOJ charged Wanzhou with bank fraud, wire fraud, and conspiracies to commit bank and wire fraud. Canada's *Treaty on Extradition* with the U.S includes "fraud by a banker, agent, or by a director

or officer of any company" as extraditable conduct under Schedule 16 of the agreement. Canadian authorities had more than enough legal grounds to detain Wanzhou and begin extradition proceedings.

They also had the power to end proceedings almost as quickly as they started.

Section 23.3 of the *Act* grants Canada's Justice Minister the power to arbitrarily halt extradition proceedings at any time without giving any reason:

- (3) The Minister may at any time withdraw the authority to proceed and, if the Minister does so, the court shall discharge the person and set aside any order made respecting their judicial interim release or detention.

Article 4, Section 1(c) of the bi-lateral *Extradition Treaty* also stipulates:

- (1) Extradition shall not be granted in any of the following circumstances:
 - (c) When the offense in respect of which extradition is requested is of a political character, or the person whose extradition is requested proves that the extradition request has been made for the purpose of trying or punishing him for an offense of the above-mentioned character. If any question arises as to whether a case comes within the provisions of this subparagraph, the authorities of the Government on which the requisition is made shall decide.

There was certainly a valid argument to be made at the time that Wanzhou's arrest was politically motivated, and Canada's Justice Minister had the legal power to make that call and halt proceedings. The problem was that there was also enough evidence to make a valid case against Wanzhou, and Canadian legal authorities weren't about to

give her the benefit of the doubt over a fairly simple extradition request from their largest trading partner and historic ally.

Of course, it wasn't really that simple.

The U.S DOJ requested Wanzhou's extradition in the midst of a trade war that started in January of 2018 when the Trump Administration imposed a series of tariffs on China with the stated intent of reducing the U.S-China trade deficit. Less than a year later, the DOJ decides to go after a high-profile Chinese business executive – with President Trump's unequivocal support – in a bid to put a face on the trade war and the President's tough-on-China stance.

Canada's Justice Minister at the time was Jody Wilson-Raybould, who approved the request less than 3 months before a meeting where she alleges Prime Minister Trudeau pressured her into lying in the SNC-Lavalin case. With U.S-Canada (more specifically, Trump-Trudeau) relations already frosty, it's entirely possible that Prime Minister Trudeau called in a favour from Wilson-Raybould in this case as well. Greta Bossenmaier, Trudeau's National

Security Advisor at the time, also pointed out to the Prime Minister in December 2018 that no Justice Minister had ever rejected a U.S extradition request on diplomatic or political grounds.

Three years later, with Joe Biden in the Oval Office looking to thaw relations with the CCP, the DOJ pulls a U-turn and hands Wanzhou a deferred prosecution agreement. For Canada, with no legal cause to hold Wanzhou after the DOJ agreement and two political hostages imprisoned overseas in retaliation for her arrest, the only real choice was to oblige.

The Wanzhou extradition case has ultimately exposed a weakness in the rule of law in Canada. Although there was never a strong case against Wanzhou to begin with, individual political aspirations and geopolitical strategic interests took precedent over the proper administration of justice in Canada. Had the *Extradition Act* included stricter terms – for example, a requirement that the jurisdiction making an extradition request do so with sworn testimony or more concrete evidence of wrongdoing by the person being charged, Canada's legal authorities might not have been put in this position in the first place.



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Behind the Scenes: A Peep Into The Life of Law Professors

Zainab Adejumobi (2L)

We often speak about what students go through, students are stressed and tired. However, over the summer, I got to see what professors go through. I decided to have a sit down with a law professor (Professor Kim Brooks) and get into the mind of our professors. This was our conversation:

Zainab: Hi, Professor Brooks

Prof. Brooks: Hi, I am excited to be able to have a conversation with you about this, what professors do.

Zainab: So, you have a full-time job, you do research work, you reply to emails, make PowerPoints, mark papers, you have a family, and a life outside of all of this. How do you balance everything?

Prof. Brooks: Everyone working in law has to grapple with trying to determine the balance they want in their work life and personal life. The challenge is when we go looking for models in other people because there is no one size fits all approach. For me, the art is in not worrying too much about the line. I think of it as I have a highly integrated life. Your life becomes an amalgam of the things you are excited about. If you hate a chunk of the things you are doing, whether it is in your personal life or work life, then you need to stop and re-tool. You need to take out the things that make you unhappy.

Zainab: I have always wondered about professors, you teach the same material over and over to students in different years and different sections, does it get boring at some point?

Prof. Brooks: No, it does not get boring. I am sure that I say the same things year after year and make the same jokes and laugh at them even if no one else thinks they are funny. Even if there is some kind of repetition in what I am doing, I am always responding to the class. Last year, we did not get to meet face to face, and students struggled with the learning environment. As a prof, I felt way less excited about my classes because I could not connect with students. I had not appreciated how much I read from the conversation in class, I read the room, I see who is taking notes, who is not taking notes, who is nodding off, etc. and I use it to determine where

we are going to go next. Even though the framework of what we teach is sometimes the same, it is different with every class.

Zainab: That is a good segue to my next question. Sometimes professors come to class, make PowerPoints, and try to engage students, but the class is so quiet, crickets, students are not engaging. Sometimes profs ask questions, and nobody responds. How does that make you feel?

Prof. Brooks: A lot of things can be going on there. That happens more and more as the term progresses. At the beginning of the term, it is more interactive, and students are engaged. As the term goes on that disappears. Students get busy, they get tired, they do not do the readings because they have sixteen other things to do. You want to anticipate that there would be some engagement drop-off. Sometimes it is a function of us not being the best profs that we can be. Sometimes I think we suppress students' enthusiasm for a subject by not affirming their contributions. Sometimes students speak up and put themselves out there, and we want to provide feedback to the student, which can discourage them. We should give students a positive experience to keep them engaged.

Zainab: Sometimes professors have favorite classes and students with whom they have an amazing teacher-student bond. How do you feel when they graduate and leave?

Prof. Brooks - I have some favorite things and one of them is student graduation. It is an amazing thing to get through law school. I remember it for myself and see it in students too. I see how much time and effort students put into their legal education and I find it to be moving to see students have a moment when we all celebrate and recognize that. It is really fun to see people launch off. The thing I love the most is when ten years later you hear from somebody out of the blue who says "hey, I just want to tell you, this is what I am doing now", and it is really cool to see that they went out in the world and got up to that. People would have such

different and unpredictable paths, and you constantly get to be a witness to people's stories, and that is a gift.

Zainab: In your life outside of law school, like at home, for instance, do you ever find yourself slipping into lecture mode and lecturing people?

Prof. Brooks - I hope not, but I am loud. When I get home, I can get loud and be yelling away as if there were fifty people in the house. I hopefully do not keep the lecture part of lecture mode.

Zainab: At times, law schools have three-hour classes, and you stand in front and lecture, do your legs ever hurt?

Prof. Brooks - I teach a three-hour class every now and then when I teach corporate tax, and I would never design something to be three hours of standing. It would be boring for people, so you would want to break that up with different things. It depends on the class.

Zainab: There is no summer school in law school, so profs get the summer off, is that a really good perk of the job?

Prof. Brooks - There are three major components of our job - one of them is teaching, the others are research and doing service to the institution, the faculty of law, and the community that you are a part of. Everybody has a different relationship to the three parts. One of the core ways to use the summer for me is to have an uninterrupted chunk of time to get research projects moving. So, you want to get them moving well enough so that during the academic year when you are teaching and doing lots of service, you can still keep the research projects moving. The summer really gives you that breathing room.

Zainab: I would say that students put in about 35 hours a week in their studies. How many hours a week goes into behind the scenes of you prepping for classes, marking papers, and everything else?

Prof. Brooks - I think it depends a lot on how many times you have taught a course. What really surprised me in my first year when I first went from practice to teaching is that getting the teaching ready and teaching was more hours than my practice. It was amazing how much work I had to do to get ready. That stage in your life is exhausting. This is my 20-something year teaching tax. I have been through the curriculum 20 times, so I have a good feel of the curriculum and how it goes. I like to keep myself challenged by reading

new cases and changing the course structure every 4 to 5 years. In years when I make those changes, it is about the same amount of work as when I first started. However, in between, you can get it down to some sensible period of time. Most professors would tell you that it takes them about 2 or 3 hours to get ready for every hour in class once they get good experience in the course, and then you mark on top of that.

Zainab: Students have breakdowns, what is the worst student breakdown that you have ever seen in law school?

Prof. Brooks - None of them are bad to me because I think it is really important for all of us to have the experience of coming up against our limits. It is hard to say this to law students, but law school is a safe space to break down. Most of your profs are there to cheer for you, student support is here to back you up. There is a whole cluster of people that are there to help you figure out how to get through those moments. You want to have that experience before it happens, and you are more isolated. You do not want to have your first work-based crash when you are 35 and in a small firm and there isn't any trampoline net to catch you, and you have kids, and are exhausted all the time and have lost track of your friends. I have seen all kinds of students struggle with all kinds of different things throughout the years, and you have huge empathy when it happens, but we are here to make that a survivable experience. Life would have its hills and valleys, and it is important to figure out how you are in that before you find yourself in practice.

Zainab: We like to think all our law profs were nerds in law school, but is that really true? Or was it a mix of studying and Domus for you?

Prof. Brooks - I think I was a serious nerd, and I have always been a serious nerd. For the first time when you are in law school, you are competing for that. There are other people in law school who are as nerdy as you. I think you just embrace that.

Zainab: Do you have any regrets from law school? Things you wish you did more of or things you wish you did less of?

Prof. Brooks - No. So much time has passed, I think if you asked me that 5 years after I graduated, I might have had something to say, but now when I look back, I think it was all worth it.

Zainab: Thank you so much, Professor Brooks.



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How do we grapple with the feeling that we're not good enough?

Madeline Heinke (1L)

On the first day of orientation week, I walked into Weldon with confidence. Confident that I belonged here, I worked hard to be here, and I would excel here. Several professors and upper years throughout the week kept telling 1Ls that we would come to question that feeling. It was only a matter of time before we would be plagued by imposter syndrome. This is a feeling like you're not good enough to take part in high achieving environments, like law school. I sat there listening and thinking to myself, I know that I belong here, I don't fit this description they're talking about. Now about a month out, my confidence has entirely flipped on its head.

Like most students, I set high goals for myself. Complete the readings two days ahead of class. Go out and socialize about twice a week. Enlist yourself in meaningful extra-curriculars and societies. Eat healthy. Work out. Maintain your long-distance relationship. Maintain your friendships inside and outside of law school. Stay on top of completing your weekly CANs.

For some reason, I thought that building a routine would come as naturally as it had during my undergraduate degree and when I held a nine-to-five desk job. But as classes began, I realized I was in for a rude awakening.

Readings took me far longer than expected, so I naturally began to question my ability to comprehend the material. Going out with friends turned into amazing nights, but only put me farther back on my to do list the next day. Motivating myself to get up early to work out and meal prep before classes proved impossible when I was up late the night before completing readings. Instead of cooking tasty and thought-out meals, I switched to heating

up frozen burritos so it would allow more time to get my work done. On top of this, I could only fit talking to my partner and friends on walks to and from campus. I knew I wasn't doing a good enough job supporting my relationships outside of law school. More importantly, I was just having trouble supporting myself.

It doesn't help that everyone around you, especially in your first year, are in the same boat as you, but they somehow seem to have their life together. The feeling of insufficiency when you're in a room of your peers' cuts deep. One of my organization tools is to use an agenda, a common strategy for many law students. When I plan out readings, assignments, exercises and meals, the feeling that I have some control over my life is restored. But this relief can be short lived. As the day plays out and I'm not keeping up with the goals I set out for myself, the luring shadow of inadequacy returns.

It feels like I'm chasing after a version of myself that is the 'ideal law student.' They're organized, on top of it and confident they're sufficient in all their endeavors. They don't break a sweat in completing the daily to do list, and they also excel at maintaining their physical and mental health. But as we strive to meet these high standards, it's inevitable that we falter because the person we're trying to be is not real; they're just an **idea** of what we think a successful law student looks like.

When we can manage to meet the demands of this ideal student, the accomplishment is euphoric. But when we can't, the cost is equally significant. Instead of being compassionate to ourselves and recognizing that elements in our life are simply out of our control, we love to play the blame game and point the finger at

ourselves to improve. It's far easier sometimes to say to ourselves that we're not doing a good enough job, so we need to change our behavior to do better. It makes us feel like we have more control over the chaos. But the truth is, no one can control chaos. No one is expecting you to control chaos. So why should you put that demand on yourself?

During Pro Bono training, Professor Archie Kaiser provided us with one of his many anecdotes to help guide 1Ls manage workload: "allow for your imperfections but strive for excellence." I wrote it down right away because I recognized the magnitude of his words.

We are all here to strive for excellence. To be successful and equip ourselves with tools to build a meaningful career. But we can't run before we learn how to walk. Not that many of us remember our first steps, but our guardians will remind us that we fell a lot. We cried when we fell and were scared to try again. But then we got up and kept trying until we walked across the floor.

We will make mistakes. We don't want to because most of us as law students are high achievers. But we must remember that mistakes are inevitable when we're just learning how to manage our way through chaos. Instead of turning to feelings of insufficiency, we need to instead be compassionate and accept that we are doing the best we can, and we will figure it out.

“We are all here to strive for excellence. To be successful and equip ourselves with tools to build a meaningful career. But we can't run before we learn how to walk”

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Weldon Times: The Vax Pass

David Williams Watson (1L)

Starting October 4th, Nova Scotia will begin implementing a proof of vaccination policy, or as some may like to call it 'the vax pass'. Nova Scotians will now be required to provide proof of vaccination before entering into businesses when they are attending "discretionary and nonessential activities (Government of Nova Scotia, 2021). These activities include restaurants, gyms, sports, tours, and a lengthy list of others. Places which provide essential services such as grocery stores, or health care facilities will not require proof of vaccination (Government of Nova Scotia, 2021).

Canada is now barreling towards its second year of COVID-19 upheaval. Throughout the pandemic, the federal and provincial governments have been scrambling to develop policy to get ahead of an unprecedented virus they seem to be consistently chasing. Gathering restrictions, lockdowns, travel restrictions, and testing requirements have been introduced to prevent its spread (Detsky & Bogoch, 2020). The Canadian Emergency Response benefit was introduced to lessen the financial blow to those who were put out of work due to the virus or the government restrictions (Government of Canada, 2021). The unprecedented virus and governmental response have undoubtedly touched all our lives in one way or another.

Global efforts to rapidly develop and disseminate vaccines for COVID-19 have followed. The vaccines that were developed have been shown to reduce chances of infection and the severity of the virus upon infection (Government of Canada, 2021). As of October 2021, 73% of the Nova Scotian have been fully vaccinated. Nationally, Canada has fully vaccinated around 70% of its population (Covid-19 Tracker Canada, 2021). The tentative success of the vaccine development and vaccination campaign has led us to today, where vaccine mandates have become the new forefront of the Canadian government's COVID-19 response policy.

Nova Scotia is just one of many provinces implementing a vax pass. Ontario, Quebec, and British Columbia all have their own variations of the pass and so

far, they have found it was a catalyst for an increase in vaccine uptake. For example, following B.C.'s implementation, their vaccine booking appointments doubled (Gollom, 2021) Both Quebec and Ontario both have seen their booking appointments increase by 50% (Pfeffer, 2021). However, there has been some concern about the vax pass implementation on behalf of the public and with civil liberties associations. Hundreds of Ontarian restaurants have been refusing to implement the policy due to ethical and practical concerns (Lorinc, 2021). The Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA) raised concerns that the vax pass could be used to disproportionately target minority groups or cause discrimination against those who cannot be vaccinated for medical or religious reasons (McPhail, 2021). The CCLA has suggested this policy be "time-limited and their impacts should be subject to iterative, publicly accessible human rights review assessments" (McPhail, 2021) Canada's federal, provincial, and territorial privacy commissioners released a joint statement saying "...the necessity, effectiveness and proportionality of vaccine passports must be established for each specific context in which they will be used" (Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada, 2021). They further warn that these prerequisites should be "continually monitored" and if at any time they are not fulfilled the vax pass should be "decommissioned" (Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada, 2021).

We live in an unprecedented time of massive government interference in our lives necessitated by the need to prevent further victims of the virus. Following the social and health care effects of the vax pass's implementation will be an intriguing exercise for those who are interested in government policy. The initial success of the vaccination campaign and vax pass mandates will hopefully allow the Government of Canada to gain and maintain the upper hand in controlling COVID-19. Monitoring for unintended legal and human rights implications due to this controversial policy could be a relevant and important exercise for legal scholars as well as law students.

Meet your LSS Executives



President

Maya Churilov (she/her)

Maya was born in Toronto and raised in Vaughan, Ontario. She completed her Bachelor of Commerce at the Ted Rogers School of Management at Ryerson University. While completing her studies, Maya worked in the hospitality industry as a server and bartender. There she developed a knack for baking, and some of her favourite recipes include toffee chocolate chip brownies, strawberry cheesecake macarons, and M&M brownies. Maya is fluent in Russian, and her other interests include anything and everything to do with the outdoors – hiking, camping, fishing, ATVing, and occasional skydiving.

In her time at the Schulich School of Law, Maya has been involved with several organizations including Pro Bono Dalhousie, the Dalhousie Student Advocacy Service, and the LSS. Maya is passionate about representing the study body at the Schulich School of Law and has held the role

of the Section C Representative in her first year, and Vice President Student Life in her second year. She has also sat on the Budget Committee, the Orientation Week Committee, and Teaching Awards Committee. In her role as President, she hopes to continue to advocate for student concerns and continue fostering a sense of community among her colleagues.



VP Executive

Grace Mangusso (she/her)

Grace is a proud East Coaster from Quispamsis, New Brunswick. She completed her undergraduate degree at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton with a Bachelor of Philosophy in Interdisciplinary Leadership and a minor in Business Administration. Grace's eagerness to critically examine the systems, structures, and authorities that shape our collective life brought her to

Schulich Law. She aims to use her legal education to influence meaningful and actionable change, wherever it may take her.

Grace is excited to be returning to the LSS after serving as the 1L Executive and Section A Representative in her first year. In these roles, she helped her classmates navigate online law school by creating 1L study groups, organizing an exam treat bag initiative, and leading various advocacy efforts on behalf of the first-year class. She spent her 1L summer working as an Academic Orientation Coordinator with Student Services and a Research Assistant for the Dean on trauma-informed approaches to teaching.

Grace's portfolio as VP Executive includes overseeing the governance and operations of the LSS by organizing its internal structure and maintaining its year-to-year continuity.



VP Academic

Jason Stephanian (he/him)

Jason was born and raised in Toronto, Ontario and went on to study drama in New York City before returning to complete his honours bachelors in Ethics, Society, and Law and Philosophy at the University of Toronto. He is also deeply passionate about the integration of human rights and technology and understanding the limits and possibilities technological advancement creates for societies.

Jason has a passion for advocacy and is excited to represent students regarding all academic matters. As VP Academic, Jason is responsible for acting as a liaison between students, faculty, and administration for everything academic related. This includes sitting on associated committees, such as Academic Committee, Faculty Council, and acting as Chair for the Teaching Awards Committee. Jason is also responsible for maintaining the famous CANs database and running the annual LSS CANs Drive.



VP Finance

Emily DiBratto (she/her)

Emily was born and raised in Toronto, Ontario. She completed her Bachelor of Science in Mathematics at York University in 2019. After graduating, she worked in construction project management until she started at Schulich. She came to law school because she wanted to continue her education in something new.

During her first year at Dalhousie, she spent her time navigating online school while exploring Halifax. She also worked on a research project with the Canadian Bar Association. In her free time, she likes to read, shop, and cook new recipes.

As VP Finance this year, she will work with the rest of the LSS and all societies to build (and help fund) a sense of community throughout Weldon.



VP External

Graham Headley (he/him)

Graham is a born and raised Calgarian, but an adopted Nova Scotian. Finishing most of his later education in the province, he obtained a Political Science degree from Saint Mary's before returning to Calgary to work. As law school was one of his major aspirations, eventually he felt he was ready enough to take on the challenge it presented. His desire to attend law school is driven by a wish to assist in access to justice for minority communities.

In his first year of law Graham was elected to be one of three 1L representatives which are a part of the LSS Board of Directors, and he also sat on the finance committee. He is excited to bring this experience to his new role as VP External, where he will sit on the DSU Council as the Faculty of Law Representative, as well as the Board of Directors for the Dalhousie Law Alumni Association, and Dalhousie's Student Senate Caucus.

Graham enjoys spending time outside when the weather is nice, reading fiction, and spending time with friends. He is looking forward to representing student concerns to external organizations and can't wait to (hopefully) see everyone in person for the upcoming year!



VP Student Life

Claire Dowden (she/her)

Claire is a proud "townie," Newfoundlander, and East Coaster (in that order) hailing from St. John's. She completed her Bachelor of Arts at Memorial University with a double major in English Literature and Communication Studies. Claire comes to the Schulich School of Law with an eagerness to learn and a sense of gratitude to be a member of such a community-minded institution.

In her 1L year, Claire helped newcomers to Canada to file citizenship applications through Pro Bono, took on many AIO and SDC cases through the Dalhousie Student Advocacy Service, and sat as the Dalhousie Feminist Legal Association's Section A Representative.

Claire's portfolio as VP Student Life includes overseeing Schulich's many student societies, handling communications and social media, and planning events for students. She is very much looking forward to building upon the "Weldon tradition" and reigniting a sense of community within the law school as it transitions back to in-person learning.



The Spookiest Legal Case in History: Stambovsky v. Ackley

[Also known as the Ghost-busters case]

Zainab Adejumobi (2L)

Helen Ackley lived in a beautiful Victorian-style home in Nyack, New York. Helen and her family reported having several encounters with ghosts at their house. Mrs. Ackley mentioned that the ghosts sometimes gave her grandchildren gifts, e.g., baby rings (which disappeared after a while). She also reported that the ghosts would wake her daughter every morning for school by shaking her bed. Mrs. Ackley disclosed her home ghost encounters to the Reader's Digest and local newspapers, and the house was included in a haunted walking tour of the city. In 1989, Mrs. Ackley put up the house for sale. An interested buyer Jeff Stambovsky approached Mrs. Ackley's real estate broker to buy the house, and he signed the sale contract. However, later, Mr. Stambovsky found out about the ghost story, and he decided that he was no longer interested in the house and wanted to terminate the contract. Mrs. Ackley's real estate broker claimed that he informed Mr. Stambovsky of the ghost story before Mr. Stambovsky completed the sale contract, whereas Mr. Stambovsky mentioned that he was never informed. Both parties decided to take the case to court. Mr. Stambovsky sued for rescission of the contract and fraudulent misrepresentation (because he maintained that Mrs. Ackley did not disclose that the house was haunted). The trial court dismissed the case on the basis of "Caveat Emptor" (buyer beware).

The trial court stated that it was the duty of the buyer to make sure that what they buy is what they intended to buy. Thus, it was not the seller's duty to disclose the ghost story. Mr. Stambovsky appealed to the Court of Appeal. The Court of Appeal reversed the trial court's decision. The Court of Appeal explained that "haunting" cannot be determined by an inspection of a property. Therefore, "Caveat Emptor" does not apply in this case. The Court of Appeal allowed Mr. Stambovsky to succeed in his action for rescission of the contract (which allowed him to get his money back). However, the court dismissed his fraudulent misrepresentation lawsuit.

“She also reported that the ghosts would wake her daughter every morning for school by shaking her bed”

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