



The Law Society of  
Upper Canada | Barreau  
du Haut-Canada



## ETHICAL ISSUES IN CRIMINAL LAW

# Biographical Summaries of Presenters

[Presented in alphabetical order]

September 12, 2016



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Upper Canada

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**cpd** Continuing  
Professional  
Development



## **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION – LAURA BIRD**

Justice Laura Bird was appointed to the Superior Court of Justice in Newmarket in December of 2014. Prior to that, she was General Counsel in the Etobicoke Crown Attorney's Office. Justice Bird began working for the Ministry of the Attorney General in 1992 as a summer student in the Whitby Crown's office. The Ministry was never able to rid itself of her from that point on. Justice Bird worked as a provincial prosecutor for 3 years and articulated with the Etobicoke office. After her call to the bar in February of 1996, she joined the Etobicoke office as an Assistant Crown Attorney. In the years that followed, Justice Bird focused her career on conducting major prosecutions, including cases involving wiretap evidence, DO/LTO applications and many homicides. After a secondment to the Newmarket Crown's office in 2005 and a leave of absence to join the defence bar in 2006, Justice Bird returned to the Etobicoke Crown's office in January of 2007. She was the Deputy Crown Attorney for 3 years before returning to the trenches in August of 2010 to pursue her true love – trial work. In 2013 Justice Bird was presented with the Frank M. Hoffman award in recognition of outstanding dedication.



## **Phil Brown**

Counsel, Professional Development and Competence  
Law Society of Upper Canada  
130 Queen Street West,  
Toronto, ON  
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## **Background**

Phil graduated from Dalhousie University with a B.Sc. (Hon) and an LLB. He was called to the Bar in Nova Scotia in 1985 and Ontario in 1989. He also holds a post-graduate certificate from Centennial College in e-commerce.

## **Areas of Practice and Experience**

Phil practised criminal law exclusively as a sole practitioner before joining Legal Aid Ontario as the Coordinator of Lawyer Relations. He was responsible for marketing the Legal Aid Online billing project which automated lawyer payments. The project had a 90% uptake by lawyers within the first 6 months.

He joined the Law Society of Upper Canada in 2008 as Counsel in the Professional Development and Competence department and has been involved in CPD planning, accreditation, and certified specialist certification. He participates in developing resources for solos and small firm lawyers and for the past five years has worked on the Practice Management Helpline team assisting lawyers with issues related to the Law Society By-laws, Rules of Professional Conduct and professionalism questions. He is also working on a series of technology podcasts with David Whelan.

## **Professional Activities**

He is currently a member of the Ontario Criminal Lawyers Association and is the Photo Editor of "For The Defence" magazine.

He is a presenter at continuing professional development programs and has spoken at the American Bar Association, Criminal Lawyers Association, Hamilton Law Association, Toronto Lawyers Association, and Law Society programs. He has been a lecturer and instructor in the professional responsibility course and the Professional Conduct and Practice in Ontario course.

## Biography

### **Contact Information**

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### **Background**

After studying criminology and sociology at the University of Toronto, Jennifer Gleitman completed her LL.B at Queen's University in Kingston in 1999. After clerking at the Superior Court of Justice in Toronto, she was called to the Bar in 2001. She practiced as defence counsel, focusing on criminal trials and appeals, until April, 2007 when she joined the Newmarket Crown Attorneys' office as an Assistant Crown Attorney. Jennifer is a trial crown who has spent a great deal of the last four years prosecuting human trafficking matters. Jennifer has held the positions of Domestic Violence and Elder Abuse Crown for York Region. Jennifer has also taught as a sessional instructor at the Faculty of Law at Queen's University.

## **Christine Pirraglia**

Called to the bar in 1989. Employed by Ontario Legal Aid as criminal duty counsel until 1991 when joined the criminal defence bar as a sole practitioner. Joined the North York Crown Attorney's office in 1999 as an assistant crown, prosecuting a broad range of criminal code offences. Took over as Crown Attorney of the North York office in 2010 where I combine the management and supervision of 39 assistant crown's while continuing to conduct some serious prosecutions.

## **Jonathan Shime**

Jonathan Shime is a partner with the firm of Cooper, Sandler, Shime & Bergman LLP. He has appeared at all levels of court in Canada, including the Supreme Court of Canada. He represents clients on a wide variety of criminal and quasi-criminal charges, including homicides, frauds, drinking and driving offences, sexual assaults, domestic assaults and offences under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*. Jonathan also assists individuals and corporations charged under regulatory statutes, including the *Income Tax Act* and the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*.

Jonathan has chaired or been a panelist at multiple conferences on a wide variety of criminal law related topics, including the law of fraud, the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, drinking and driving offences, conditional sentences and the relationship between scientific evidence and the judicial system in the context of prosecutions related to the non-disclosure of one's HIV status. Jonathan has also been invited to speak at Crown conferences on expert evidence, the law of sexual assault and civility. He is also a guest instructor at the Toronto Police College in relation to the investigation and prosecution of the non-disclosure of HIV.

Jonathan served as a staff lawyer to the Honourable Mr. Justice Stephen Goudge on the Inquiry into Pediatric Forensic Pathology in Ontario and as criminal review counsel at Downtown Legal Services, a community legal clinic operated by the University of Toronto Law School. He is currently an Adjunct Professor at the University of Toronto where he teaches trial advocacy and coaches the competitive trial advocacy team. Jonathan also teaches Canadian Criminal law at the University of Toronto's Global Professional Master of Laws Program.

In 2013, Jonathan was awarded the James Kreppner award, which recognizes unparalleled achievement in advocating on behalf of or bettering the lives of people living with HIV.



**John Struthers**

Osgoode 83

Assistant Crown Attorney 86-89

Defence Practice 89 to date

CLE contributor OBA, CLA, LSUC, JP conferences, MAG, Garage Series.