



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



MANAGING HIGH RISK CASES **in Family Law and Criminal Law**

Biographical Summary of Speakers

(In Alphabetical Order)

September 19, 2017



Joanna Birenbaum is a litigator specializing in equality and human rights, professional discipline and regulation, administrative/public law, employment law and domestic violence and sexual assault law. Called to the bar in 1998, Joanna's practice has included Aboriginal and treaty rights litigation, constitutional test case litigation, and policy development, training and advocacy relating to access to justice for marginalized groups.

Joanna is counsel for the University of Manitoba, National Research Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NRCTR), in *Fontaine et al v. Canada et al* on the question of whether the Independent Assessment Process (IAP) records of Indian Residential School survivors will be destroyed or securely archived by Canada or the NRCTR (the Indigenous Archive).

Joanna has appeared at all levels of Court including the Supreme Court of Canada. Her most recent Supreme Court advocacy includes acting as counsel for the Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic in *R. v. Quesnelle* 2014 SCC 46 (involving the criminal code regime to protect the private records of sexual assault complainants) and the Canadian Association for Community Living in *R. v. Nur; R. v. Charles* (Charter challenge to mandatory minimum sentencing).

Joanna is a 2014-2015 McMurtry Clinical Fellow at Osgoode Hall Law School.

She is also adjunct faculty at Osgoode, teaching Gender, Equality and the Law. She has lectured and published in the areas of equality rights and violence against women.

Her recent publications include: Joanna Birenbaum, Kelly Gallagher Mackay, "From Equal Access to Individual Exit: The Invisibility of Systemic Discrimination in *Moore*" (2013) 10 JL & Equality 93-112; and Joanna Birenbaum, Isabel Grant, "Taking Threats Seriously: s.264.1 Threats as a Form of Domestic Violence" (2012) 59 *Criminal Law Quarterly* 206-236

Mara Greene

Mara Greene graduated from Osgoode Hall Law School in 1994 and was called to the bar in 1996. Mara Greene was appointed to the Ontario Court of Justice in 2009. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Mara practiced exclusively in the area of criminal law. Her practice included both trial and appellate work at all levels of Court. Mara is an adjunct professor at Osgoode Hall Law School and also guest lectures at the University of Toronto. Mara has also lectured and been on panels for continuing legal education programs for the Law Society of Upper Canada, the Ontario Bar Association, and the Criminal Lawyers' Association. Mara also sits on the editorial board of Lexis Nexis' *Annotated Youth Criminal Justice Act*.



Heather Hansen is a Partner at Martha McCarthy & Company LLP. She is a Certified Specialist (C.S.) in Family Law by the Law Society of Upper Canada.

Heather represents and advises clients on all issues related to divorce, custody and access, spousal and child support, division of property, separation agreements, domestic contracts, religious marriage contracts, and cross-border/international family law issues (including Hague Convention matters). She particularly enjoys working on matters that involve the complex intersection of family law and business, including working closely with corporate counsel, valuers, tax advisors and accountants.

Heather regularly appears before all levels of court in the Province of Ontario. Heather teaches trial advocacy at the University of Toronto (Faculty of Law). She is a frequent speaker at continuing education sessions and conferences and has authored or co-authored a number of articles and book chapters on topics ranging from evidence in family law, to estates and trust matters. Heather also provides media commentary on current issues in family law.

In addition to an active pro-bono practice involving child related matters, Heather also represents children in domestic and child protection matters as a member of the panel for the Ontario Government's Office of the Children's Lawyer.

Heather is a member of the Law Society of Upper Canada, the Family Law Section of the Ontario Bar Association, The Advocates' Society, and the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts. She is a graduate of the University of Toronto (Hon. BA) and the University of Windsor, Faculty of Law (LL.B) where she was the recipient of a number of academic awards and prizes. Heather lives in Toronto with her husband and two children.

Craig Harper is Crown Counsel at the Crown Law Office - Criminal (Ministry of the Attorney - Ontario). During his time at the Crown Law Office he has been involved in domestic violence policy. Prior to joining the Crown Law Office he was an Assistant Crown Attorney at North York for 14 years. During that time he was a co-lead of the Domestic Violence Team.



Elizabeth Hyde is the Principal of Medius Dispute Resolutions, the Executive Director of mediate393 inc. and a mediator, arbitrator and parenting coordinator with Riverdale Mediation Ltd.

Elizabeth's practice is focused on providing effective and informed family mediation, arbitration and mediation/arbitration involving parenting plans, child and spousal support and property division. Through her work providing onsite and off-site mediation with mediate393 inc., she has developed expertise in working with high-conflict families. In addition, she works with parents as a Parenting Coordinator when ongoing conflict continues following separation.

Elizabeth's professional experience includes several years as a public school educator and seven years practicing family law in Toronto. Elizabeth received her Master of Laws (ADR) at Osgoode Hall Law School in 2013. She was an Adjunct Professor at Western University Law School and a sessional instructor in the LL.M. program at Osgoode Hall Law School.

Elizabeth is the past chair of the ADR section of the Ontario Bar Association and is currently a member of the Child and Youth Law section executive. In addition to her ADR practice, Elizabeth designs training programs and dispute resolution processes to address issues of bullying in schools and communities.

Irene MacDonald, Senior Advisor

Irene MacDonald works at the Ministry of the Attorney General, as the policy and program lead of the Independent Legal Advice for Survivors of Sexual Assault Pilot Program.

CHRISTINE MAINVILLE



Christine Mainville represents clients in criminal, extradition and regulatory proceedings, in both English and French. She has been practising in both official languages since her call to the bar in 2007, including for two years in Montreal. Christine has appeared at all level of courts in both Ontario and Quebec, as well as in the Supreme Court of Canada. She serves as pro bono duty counsel in the Court of Appeal, and has represented the Canadian Civil Liberties Association and the Criminal Lawyers' Association in interventions before the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court.

In 2014 and 2015, Christine was counsel with Murray Segal on Nova Scotia's *Independent Review of the Police and Prosecution Response to the Rehtaeh Parsons Case*, which made recommendations to the government on how the justice system can deal with the emerging problem of cyber-bullying. Christine was also involved as bilingual counsel in the Independent Police Oversight Review conducted by the Honourable Justice Michael Tulloch.

Christine has also worked on prosecutions before the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario, the Justices of the Peace Review Council and the Ontario Judicial Council, and has defended matters before the Law Society of Upper Canada and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario. She has also lectured to Justices of the Peace in both Ontario and Quebec, as well as to police officers and fellow lawyers.

Prior to joining Henein Hutchison LLP in 2011, Christine was a law clerk to the Honorable Justice Ian Binnie of the Supreme Court of Canada. She completed her law degree at McGill University where she was the recipient of a number of distinctions including the Brett Code Prize in Criminal Law and the Johnston Gold Medal, awarded for academic standing and contribution to the Faculty and the community. She also completed a master's degree in Comparative Criminal Law at the Université de Paris I (Panthéon – Sorbonne), and a Bachelor's in Criminology at the University of Ottawa.

While practising in Montreal, she was a board member of the Québec Elizabeth Fry Society, and a member of the advisory board of Innocence McGill. She is currently a member of the Criminal Lawyers' Association, the Association des Avocats d'Expression Française de l'Ontario, The Advocates' Society and the Canadian Civil Liberties Association. She is fluently bilingual.



Robert Morris C.S.

Barrister and Solicitor
Goderich, Ontario

Bob Morris is a lawyer who practices criminal law in Canada's prettiest town, Goderich, Ontario.

For over 26 years, until his retirement in 2011, Bob was the Crown Attorney for the County of Huron. Bob began his career working as a prosecutor in Windsor. After working there for 6 years, he moved to Goderich.

Over his career, Bob has worked diligently to safeguard all victims of violence especially victims of domestic violence.

Bob co-founded the first Domestic Assault Review Team (DART) in Canada. He was the first Crown Attorney in Ontario to implement a comprehensive questionnaire for domestic assault victims that helped to identify risk and potential lethality.

Bob testified as an expert witness at the May/iles inquest in Toronto advocating for systemic changes to our justice system to improve the safety for victims of domestic violence.

For 6 years, Bob was a member of the Domestic Violence Death Review Committee. This Committee of experts was established by the Chief Coroner of Ontario to review and make recommendations on domestic homicide cases that occurred in Ontario.

Bob helped to create the Huron Assessment Risk Reduction Team (HARRT). HARRT identifies then actively manages the most serious and dangerous domestic violence cases.

Bob was awarded the **Excelsior Award for Outstanding Achievement** by the Ministry of the Attorney General. This Award recognized the work he has done to make the justice system more responsive to the safety of domestic violence victims.

Bob has won two awards given out by the Ontario Crown Attorneys' Association: **The Frank Hoffman Memorial Award** for dedication, diligence and enthusiasm and the **Doug Lucas Award** for the pursuit of justice through science.

Debra Paulseth

Debra is a Judge of the Ontario Court of Justice and assigned to 47 Sheppard Family Court. She was appointed in November, 2005. On January 1, 2014, Debra was appointed to the new position of Senior Advisory Family Judge for the Ontario Court of Justice for a three year term.

Before her appointment, Debra was a lawyer with the provincial government, serving as Acting Assistant Deputy Attorney General, Legal Services and Assistant Deputy Attorney General, Court Services. After her Call to the Bar in 1981, Debra worked with local child welfare agencies and joined the Children's Lawyer in 1987. She has appeared at all levels of court.

Debra has also worked in the area of justice reforms, including the Civil Justice Review, the Discovery Task Force, the NJI/CIDA reform project in Jamaica, and the Canadian Forum on Civil Justice. She is past President of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts-Ontario Chapter.