RYERSON’S LAW PRACTICE PROGRAM (LPP)
GREAT LAWYERS START HERE

FIVE YEARS OF THE LPP
INNOVATIVE • EXPERIENTIAL • ENTREPRENEURIAL

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Ryerson’s Law Practice Program (LPP)

It’s Working!

Ryerson’s successful Law Practice Program (LPP) assists the LSO in meeting its public interest obligations by better preparing lawyers to serve the Public in the 21st Century.

Very Successful – Candidates Are Working After Their Call

1. 87% of Year IV, once called, were working in law or law-related positions one year post-LPP
2. 90% of Year III, once Called, were working in law or law-related positions one year post-LPP
3. 84% of Year II, once Called, were working in law or law-related positions one year post-LPP
4. 75% of Year I, once Called, were working in law or law-related positions one year post-LPP

Experiential Training That Better Serves the Public

1. High-quality, skills-based training meets the highest public service and protection requirements
2. Standardized, supervised and assessed – Meets the highest standards for training set by the LSO
3. Excellent lawyers - 200 plus - develop, deliver, mentor, supervise and assess it
4. High-quality training that lawyers need to successfully serve the Public in the 21st Century

Work Placements for All

1. 100% of Candidates have been placed in each of the first five years
2. 1100 plus new placements over 5 years across the province: mid-size, boutique, small and large private firms; in-house; all 3 levels of government; and legal clinics
3. 82% paid Year V (stipends: 11% Year V)

Strong, Diverse Candidates - Very Successful LSO Diversity Program

1. Candidates reflect the Province of Ontario
2. 1100 Candidates completed the 4-month training, then 4-month work placement
3. Very successful diversity program by the LSO
4. About half are from Canadian law schools (all Ontario except Lakehead) - of the internationally-educated, half (25% of the total) started here and then went to the US or overseas for law school
5. Over 5 years: 79 different languages. Year V: 86 Candidates completed 19 different Masters Degrees, and 2 PhD’s; 40 Candidates had practiced abroad on average 6 years

Innovative – Prepares Candidates to Serve 21st Century Society & Improves Access to Justice

1. Prepare Candidates to combine strong foundational skills with the ability to take advantage of change to better serve 21st Century Society
2. Business of Lawyering and Innovation components help Candidates succeed in meeting client needs in a modern and efficient way
3. Group-firm work and learning encourages success working in teams
4. Diversity and international experience opens eyes and minds to better serve Ontarians

For the Profession, by the Profession.
TAB #1
SUCCESS AFTER THE LPP

- 87% of Year IV, once called, were working in law or law-related positions one year post-LPP
- 90% of Year III, once Called, were working in law or law-related positions one year post-LPP
- 84% of Year II, once Called, were working in law or law-related positions one year post-LPP
- 75% of Year I, once Called, were working in law or law-related positions one year post-LPP

A sampling of their **job titles and roles** for Year I to V include:

- Account Manager
- Anti-Money Laundering Client Analyst
- Assistant Regulatory Compliance Manager
- Associate Lawyer
- Associate Legal Counsel
- Attorney at Law
- Bilingual Staff Lawyer
- Business Manager
- Chief Executive Officer
- Compliance Manager
- Consulting
- Contract Executive
- Contract Review Specialist
- Contract Reviewer
- Contracts Administrator
- Crown Prosecutor
- Discipline Liaison
- Duty Counsel
- Early Resolutions Officer
- E-Discovery
- Ethical Wall Coordinator
- Family Barrister
- In-House Corporate Counsel
- In-House Counsel
- Insurance Advisor
- International Law Consultant
- Junior Lawyer
- Junior Litigation Associate
- Junior Partner
- Lawyer in Association
- Leasing Manager
- Legal Clinic Staff Lawyer
- Legal Consultant
- Legal Counsel
- Legal Counsel and Compliance Coordinator
- Legal Editor
- Legal Manager
- Legal Officer
- Legal Operations Specialist
- Legal & Public Policy Analyst
- Legal Research
- Listings Analyst
- Operations
- Partner
- Policy Organizational Specialist
- Privacy Officer (Compliance)
- Private Practitioner
- Professor
- Project Coordinator
- Research Operations Analyst
- Resolution Manager
- Returning Officer and Board Secretariat
- Senior Processing Officer
- Sole Practitioner
- Strategic Planner
- Tech Start-Up Developer
TAB #2
TRAINING
High-quality, innovative skills-based training, that is standardized, comprehensive, mentored and assessed.

LPP Training Component

Think about running your own general practice law firm, with three other partners, incorporating technology and online opportunities. That is what our Candidates do when they begin the Ryerson LPP each August.

The Training Component: Introducing the Virtual Law Firm (VLF)

During the Training Component, Candidates are randomly placed into virtual law firms (VLFs) of approximately four people. This ensures that LPP Candidates are exposed to group dynamics from the very beginning, which is relevant to today’s successful professional development. We have had approximately 60 firms in each of Years 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Each firm is paired with a Mentor, who is a member of the legal profession in Ontario. Our Mentors come from across the province, average about 15 years of practice, and cover all areas of practice and workplace settings (clinics, government, private practice of all sizes, in-house counsel). These Mentors act as “Supervising Lawyers” for the VLFs, meeting with the entire firm once weekly for 17 weeks via webinar, and then bi-weekly with individual Candidates. During these interactions, Mentors and firms review the case file work that the Candidates have been working on that week, or have coming up, as well as discuss specific themes of Professionalism and Ethics, Practice and Client Management.

Competencies and Practice Areas

So what do the Candidates do during the Training Component? The LPP is “work” not school. On the basis of the expectations of the Law Society’s mandate, our goal is to develop and assess in our Candidates the following skills (broadly):

- Professionalism and Ethics
- Analytical
- Research (legal and factual)
- Communications (oral and written)
- Practice Management
- Client Management

How do we develop these skills? Our Candidates meet at Ryerson 3 times for a week at a time (launch week end of August; middle of October; and middle of December). These 3 weeks offer Candidates the opportunity to engage in intensive workshops or panels (e.g. Trial Advocacy, Corporate Counsel), be assessed in-person by the bench and bar, develop and expand their professional network with each other (future colleagues) as well as members of the profession. The rest of the 14 weeks they are “working” in a simulated environment, responding to lawyer and client requests on a rapid, regular, intense basis.
Their work is “delivered” via case files in the subject areas mandated by the LSO:

- Administrative Law (previously a Landlord/Tenant matter; more recently an Immigration matter);
- Business Law
- Civil Litigation
- Criminal Law
- Family Law
- Real Estate Law
- Wills & Estates Law

**Input by the Profession: Subject Matter Experts, Mentors and Assessors**

Each of the case files is developed by a Subject Matter Expert (SME), a leading Ontario practitioner in their field. The SME develops/updates a background story, online reference resources, precedents and “typical” file assignments. These assignments (over 100 in 2018) include client meetings, to opening a file to research, responding to clients’ questions, to drafting or reviewing contracts or pleadings, through to arguing or presenting before a court or tribunal, and then billing and collecting fees. Candidates receive these assignments throughout the business day/week as “emails” from “Senior Partners” in the relevant practice area. The case files are layered, beginning with work on one, then a second, eventually with all seven, therefore also building the skill of professional prioritization (aka practice management). Sometimes VLFs are working on a single file for a day or two; other times they are juggling the expectations of multiple files, as is the case in “real world” practice.

VLFs connect with their Mentors, each other, Managing Partners, Subject Matter Experts and their clients virtually through web conferencing and other online platforms (e.g. video “meetings”). Who are these clients, you might ask? In five of the files, the VLFs have the benefit of live-actor simulators, trained on the file and the requirement of “client management” skills, through Ryerson’s specialized Interpersonal Skills Teaching Centre (ISTC – see: [http://www.ryerson.ca/istc](http://www.ryerson.ca/istc)).

Candidates submit some work through their firm, most individually. They are offered feedback by their Mentors on some of their work (particularly as they first begin the work), or self-assess based on model answers available by the SMEs (and then discussed during the weekly Firm Meetings with the Mentors). In addition, however, Candidates will be assessed by other members of the profession as specific Assessors for particular subject matter tasks (Motions, Client meetings, Negotiations, Opening/Closing Statements, Cross/Direct Examinations, Submissions, Bail Hearing, Supervisor Meetings), during the 2nd and 3rd in-person meetings. Candidates are assessed monthly by their Mentors on all six of the competencies noted above. Candidates are assessed as “Developing”, “Meets Expectations” or “Exceeds Expectations” by their Mentors and Assessors, and overall success depends on consistent and developing performance throughout the four months.
LAW PRACTICE PROGRAM (LPP)

Ryerson University

LAW PRACTICE PROGRAM

Training Component

17 weeks

Ethics and Professionalism
Oral and Written Communication
Analytical Skills
Research Skills
Client Relationship Management
Practice Management

AUG
On campus (one week)

On campus (one week)

On campus (one week)

ON GOING
MEETINGS & EVENTS

Professional Development and Guest Speakers
Client interviews, meetings & negotiations
Weekly meetings with Managing Partners
Courthouse and Tribunal visits
Hearings and appearances before assessors
Virtual Firm meetings led by lawyer Mentors

OCT
Virtual

Virtual

GENERAL FILE WORK

Open and manage files, including retainers, conflict checks, tickler systems
Manage, review, analyze and address correspondence and memos to file
Docket all matters – billable and otherwise, review accounts and prepare draft invoices

DEC
On campus (one week)

CLIENT MATTERS

Administrative Law
Business law
Civil Litigation
Criminal Law
Family Law
Real Estate Law
Wills and Estates Law

ASSIGNMENTS

Legal Research and Memorandum
Draft Retainer
Draft Demand Letter
Respond to urgent voice message
Draft Opinion Letter

Draft Designation
Draft letter to opposing counsel
Draft Agreement of Purchase and Sale
Draft Application and Financial Statement

Draft Statement of Claim
Memo – Bail Hearing
Search of Title through Teraview
Review Pleadings of other side
Draft Letter of Intent

Confirming Representation and Capacity
Draft Application
Small Claims Research
Draft Powers of Attorney for Property and Personal Care

Draft Requisition Letter
Draft Reporting Letter
Draft Closing Agenda, Share Purchase and Non-competition Agreements
Contract Drafting

Draft questions for Examination-in-Chief and Cross-Examination
Draft Statement of Funds and Statement of Adjustments
Discuss file strategy

Draft Third Party Consents and Promissory Note
Prepare Case Conference Materials
Guilty Plea and Sentencing
Draft Affidavit of Documents

Draft Will
Present submissions to the Landlord & Tenant Board
Prepare client for examinations
Review and use precedents and checklists

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Intensive Trial Advocacy Program
Business Plan
Access to Justice Innovation Challenge
In-House Counsel Concentration

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Thank You

to our mentors, assessors, curriculum developers, guest speakers, the Ontario Bar Association, for our strategic alliance, and The Law Society of Ontario.

ADR Chambers
Justice Agyemang
Alia Ahmed
Ghina Al-sewaidi
Inga B. Andriessen
Zeeshan Baig
Elissa Banach
Katherine Batycky
Lisa Bernstein
Ko Bhamra
Harry J. Borenstein
Diana Brecher
Daniel Brown
J. Patrick Brown
Peter Carayannis
Michelle Chaisson
Julie Chapman
Clio
Hugh H. M. Connelly
Allan Cooper
Nicole Corriero
Emma Cotman
Richard Ashok Coutinho
Orlando Da Silva
Laurelly Dale
Pamela Dancyger
Cherie A. Daniel
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Vern DaRe
Ranjan Das
Jim Davidson
Jim Dean
Jason DeFreitas
Cassandra DeMelo
Abigail Deshman
Reshika Dhir
Marni Dicker
Eva Iole
DiGiammarino
DivorceMate
Software
Lasheff Eaton
Evangelina Fernandez
Delee Fromm
Eldad Gerb
Rachel Gerb
Alice Ghebrai
Anita Goela
Donald L. Granatstein, Q.C.
Ingrid Grant
Neil Guthrie
Daniel Guttmann
Carolyn Hart
Sayeh Hassan
Mick Hassell
Ann A. Hatsios
Laleh Hedayati
Martin J. Herman
Allison Hines
Sheri Hirschberg
Lindsay Hooper
Ian Hu
Jennifer Hue
Ian M. Hull
Nazish Hussain
Kris Hutton
Nick Iannazzo
Taro Inoue
Iryna M. Iwachiw
Maya Jacob
Nicole John
Christine Johnson
Jae-Yon Jung
Avi Kartuz
Jacob Kaufman
David Knapp
Lynn Korbak
LawyerDoneDeal Corp.
Ian Lebane
Jennifer Leitch
Jeffrey Lem
Raquel Levine
LexisNexis Canada
Brian Livingston
Taivi Lobu
Paul V. Lomic
Debra Lovinsky
Jennifer MacInnis
Alfred Mamo
Caroline Mandell
Paul Martin
Amanda Masterton
Matt Maurer
Cornelia Mazgarean
Shazen Merani
Sarah Millar
Michelle Moldofsky
Judy G. Naiberg
Diem Nguyen
Modupe Oluymi
Arlene O’Neill
Alison Payne
Hersh Perls
Jared Persaud
Justin G. Persaud
Natasha Persaud
Vince A. Pileggi
Andrew Pinto
Paulette Pommells
Amanda Potaskey
William Poulos
Joanne M. Prince
Tina Radimisis
Ilana Raynai
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Marko Trivun
Ilan Tsekhman
Myrna Tulandi
Cynthia Verconich
Lyne Vicars,
OBA President
Malini Vijaykumar
Gayle Wadden
Kanta Wadhwan
Eve Wahn
Andrea Waltman
Rhona Waxman
Melanie Webb
Rachel Weiner
R. Scott Whitley
Eliner Whitemore
Brigid Wilkinson
Sage Williams
Tamara Céline Winegust
Judith Wolf
Kenneth Wolfson
Hayden Woodley
Rebecca S. Zearetzsky
Olga Ziman Sabbagh

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Alexa Abiscott
ADR Chambers/Stitt
Feld Handy Group
Alia Ahmed
China Al-sewaidi
Selina Andrelo
Inga B. Andriessen
Elissa Banach
Katherine Batycky
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Abigail Deshman
Marni Dicker
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Marc Emond
Evangelina Fernandez
Robin Flumerfelt
Mark Freake
Delee Fromm
Fernando Garcia
Eldad Gerb
Alice Ghebrai
Ehsan Ghebrail
Brian Gillingham
Anita Goela
Doron Gold
Carla Goldstein
Donald Granatstein
Angela Greenberg
Neil Guthrie
Gillian K. Hadfield
Carolyn Hart
Sayeh Hassan
Mick Hassell
Laleh Hedayati
Martin J. Herman
Sheri Hirschberg
Ian Hu
Jennifer Hue
Ian Hull
Kristin Hutton
Nick Iannazzo
Taro Inoue
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Juliet L. Knapton
Lynn Korbak
Mitchell Kowalski
Jeffrey Lam
LawyerDoneDeal Corp.
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Ken Thompson
Thomson Reuters
Canada Limited
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Eric Tilley
George Tory
Jennifer Treloar* Ilan Tsekhman
Myrna Tulandi
Cynthia Verconich
Gayle Wadden
Kanta Wadhwan
Eve Wahn
Andrea Waltman
Rhona Waxman
J. Toshach Weyman
R. Scott Whitley
Brigid Wilkinson
Denise Ann Williams
Judith Wolf
Georgea Wolfe
Kenneth Wolfson
Marcie Zajdeman
Rebecca S. Zaretsky
Olga Ziman Sabbagh

*Deceased

2017/2018 LPP Candidates

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Katherine Batycky
Wendy Bellack-Viner
Lisa Bernstein
Brian Blumenthal
Jessica Bookman
Harry Borenstein
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Ian Daley
Pamela Dancyger
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Sherry Darvish
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Howard Simkevitz
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Colin Stevenson
Indira Stewart
Allan Stitt
Stitt Feld Handy Group
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Pulat Yunusov
Jack Zawistowski
Deborah Zemans
Maanit Zemel
Justice Roselyn Zisman
Cara Zwibel
Thank You

3 Day Intensive Trial Advocacy Program LPP

Developed & delivered by:

Nicholas Adamson
Alia Ahmed
Scott Arnold
Sandra Barton
Katherine Batycky
Maureen Bennett
Henry
Vitali Berditchevski
Sierra Bilyk
Alexandre Blanchard
Daniel Block
Shelia Block
Duncan Boswell
Hilary Brown
Christie Campbell
John Campion
Jonathan Charland
Denise Cooney
Richard Ashok Coutinho
Laurelly Dale
Cherie A. Daniel
Ranjan Das
Vincent de Grandpré
Jim Dean
Brenda Doig
Lori Dubin
Erin D. Farrell
Carlie Fox
Marie-Eve Gingras
Andrew Gray
Lara Guest
Rovena Hajderi
Anisah Hassan
Ann A. Hatsios
Michael Hershkop
Michael A. Hines
Kristine Holder
Brian Illion
Leora Jackson
Kenneth Jim
Colin Johnston
Matthew Karabus
George J. Karayannides
Nick Kennedy
Anne Kennedy
Catherine Keyes
Sandra Kingston
Ian Lebane
Roslyn Levine
Tina Lie
Ryan McIssac
Brooke MacKenzie
Ian MacLeod
Nicole Mantini
Sia Moshiri
Barbara Murchie
Sarah Naiman
Justin Necpal
Chad Pilkington
James Renihan
Patrick Reynaud
Jennifer Reynolds
Jonathan Rosenthal
Rachael Saab
Dona M. H. Salmon
Jim Seckinger
Myriam Seers
Emily Sherkey
Eric Sherkin
Darryl Singer
Jagtaran Singh
Awanish Sinha
Alex Smith
Mel Solmon
Lisa Spiegel
Christopher Stanek
Paul Steep
Mark Strychar-Bodnar
Lisa Talbot
Deborah Templer
Sheldon Tenenbaum
Evan Thomas
Ken Thompson
Myrna Tulandi
Brad Vermeersch
Andrea Waltman
Rachel Weiner
Sarah Whitmore
Frankie Wood
Grant Worden
Allison Worone

With support from:

Sheila R. Block, Partner
Torys LLP

James Seckinger, Professor
University of Notre Dame

Expert Advocacy Practitioners

Practitioners from many organizations providing advocacy training

Looking forward to the 2019–2020 Law Practice Program
TAB #3
Work Placement Component

Candidates move on to the four-month Work Placement only after they have successfully completed the Training Component. We recruit employers on the basis that our Candidates are ready to “hit the ground running” in January. Our employers span the range of practice areas and office settings across the province. Candidates are prepared for both general and more focused practice areas for their Work Placements. A list of our employers is attached.

Securing Work Placements

Once an LPP Candidate has successfully completed the 4-month intensive Training Component they are eligible to begin their work placement. LPP Candidates can secure work placements in two ways: 1) by applying to the job postings we have secured through the program’s outreach efforts; and/or 2) conducting outreach to potential employers they would like to work with which we then review and confirm the work placement’s eligibility. It is important to note that the vast majority of LPP Candidates secure their work placements through applying to the job postings the Work Placement Office secures and posts in our PlacePro database.

To secure the over 1100 work placement job postings, during the first five years of the program, the Work Placement Office, along with the outreach efforts of the overall LPP team, made many phone calls to prospective employers, attended and presented at numerous legal association and legal conference events, as well as, placed advertisements in a variety of legal publications including the Ontario Reports, Canadian Lawyer Magazine, the Lawyers Weekly, Precedent Magazine, and Legal Association Newsletters.

The Work Placement Office works diligently throughout the year to develop the work placement opportunities with potential employers. In addition to conducting many outreach phone calls, they conduct numerous follow-up calls to confirm the employers participation (i.e. to get the Employer Profile Form from the employer to create the placement position); the position is then vetted and posted for LPP Candidates to apply to; once the position closes the LPP Candidate applications are then reviewed to create a shortlist that employers can review; the applications are then submitted to the employers along with a link to all the applications submitted for their placement position; follow-up calls are then placed to confirm which candidates the employer would like to interview; and again, follow-up calls are made to confirm who the employer has decided to hire. Once the LPP Candidate accepts the position the Work Placement Office sends a completed Work Placement Agreement and Education Plan to the employer and the LPP Candidate to sign and return. The employer also receives a Pre-Placement FAQ & Checklist to assist them in preparing for their LPP Candidate’s arrival in January.

Within the current legal and economic environment, over the past five years, the Work Placement Office has been able to create over 1100 work placement opportunities that would not have otherwise existed in Ontario. Over 75% of roles are paid, with the overwhelming majority being fully paid, with some stipends. We believe this compares favourably with what is actually going on with articling. The participating employers include large and small employers across all legal sectors from private practice to in-house, legal clinics and all 3 levels of government.
The Work Placement Office has once again been working diligently to secure enough opportunities to meet the demands of our LPP Candidate pool and has a 100% rate of placement for all LPP Candidates during the first five years of the program.

In-Placement Check-Ins

During the four-month work placement period the Work Placement Office conducts two in-depth check-in calls with each employer as well as an in-depth check-in call with the LPP Candidate. These check-in calls provide us with the opportunity to gather feedback on the LPP Candidate’s performance, as well as, the LPP Candidate’s experience. The feedback received during the employer check-in calls can be very insightful and, in most instances, quite extraordinary. Employers tend to immediately comment on how well-prepared the LPP Candidate was to “hit the ground running”. In fact, they often mention that they operate at a significantly higher level than other licensing candidates they have encountered in the past. Similarly, LPP Candidates during their check-in calls also comment on how prepared they felt arriving into the new work environment particularly since many of the experiences they are engaging in are tasks they prepared for or completed during the Training Component.

In addition to the formal check-in calls, the Work Placement Office reminds both employers and LPP Candidates that they are always available to support them with any matters that may arise during the work placement. In some cases this may mean acting as a facilitator or providing additional resource support to the employer or the LPP Candidate.

Post-Placement Success

Early indications are that LPP Candidates, once called, are meeting with excellent employment success:

- 87% of Year IV, once called, were working in law or law-related positions one year post-LPP
- 90% of Year III, once Called, were working in law or law-related positions one year post-LPP
- 84% of Year II, once Called, were working in law or law-related positions one year post-LPP
- 75% of Year I, once Called, were working in law or law-related positions one year post-LPP
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Community Advocacy & Legal Centre (Belleville)
Community Legal Clinic of York Region
Community Legal Clinic Simcoe-Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes
Côteau Professional Corporation
CSE - Communications Security Establishment
CST Trust Company
Delaney’s Law Firm
Deo & Nagpal Law Firm LLP
Dooley Lucenti Barristers & Solicitors
Dorington & Associates Professional Corporation
Eschelon General Insurance Company
Edgar Chana Law
Edward M. Otto, Barrister & Solicitor
Echelon General Insurance Company
Elgin-Oxford Legal Clinic
Enriched Investing Incorporated
Equifax Canada
Eunice Kim & Associate Professional Corporation
Evans Sweeny Bordin LLP
Fairmont Raffles Hotels International Inc
Family and Children’s Services of Frontenac, Lennox and Addington
Fanoqq & Chaudry LLP
FCT
Fleck Law
Fleet Street Law
Flemingdon Community Legal Services
Forbes Chochla LLP
Francesca E. Taskiel, Barrister & Solicitor
Garfield Ziedenberg LLP
Grechi Carter Professional Corporation
Gary Anandasingaram & Associates
Geoffrey A. R. Pollock, Barrister & Solicitor
Gilead Sciences Canada Inc
Glass Smith Kline Inc (GSK)
Goldman Hine LLP
Goodmans LLP
Govedaris Professional Corporation
Government of Canada - Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development
Graham Estate Law
Graham Tobe Professional Corporation
Grill Barristers
Harbic Law
Heal & Co. LLP
Hicks Morley Hamilton Stewart Storie LLP
Hodder Barristers
Housing Services Corporation (HSC)
Howard Kerrfald & Dixon, Barristers & Solicitors
Hubbard’s Bay Company (HBC)
Hull & Hull LLP
Hung Tai Truong Law Office
Hurun Percht Community Legal Clinic
Impact Barristers
Infrastructure Ontario
Janice P. Johnson, Barrister & Solicitor
Janis P. Criger, Barrister & Solicitor
Jeffrey F. Mazin, Barrister & Solicitor
Jewitt McCauley & Associates
Johnson & Schwass Professional Corporation
Joseph G. LoPresti, Barrister & Solicitor
Justice for Children and Youth
Kaiser Akbar Law Firm
Kayani Law Firm
Kazembe & Associates PC
Kensington Bellwoods Community Legal Services
Kingston Community Legal Clinic
Knezy Mourauw LLP
Koshy Law
Koskie Minsky LLP
KPMG Law LLP
Krylov & Company, Barristers
Lakhwinder Sandhu, Barrister & Solicitor
Law Office of Joanna J. Ringrose
Law Office of Rosalind E. Conway
Law Offices of Warren & Jansen LawPRO
Legal Aid Ontario - Major Case Management Office
Legal Aid Ontario - North York
Lenchner Slaght Royce Smith Griffin LLP
Levy Zavet PC
Lewis Downey Tornyko Lassaline & Timpano Professional Corporation
Lount & Lounts - Barristers & Solicitors
Lozano Law Office
Luke’s Place
Macdonald Porter Drees, Barristers & Solicitors
MacGregor Horic LLP
Mathiu Law Professional Corporation
Malick Sanchez Law
Marok Law Office
Michael W. Caroline Law Office
Ministry of Attorney General - Court Services Division
Ministry of Attorney General - Crown Law Office Civil
Ministry of Government and Consumer Services
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Legal Services Branch
Mount Sinai Hospital
MUNERA Professional Corporation
Nathans, Siegel Barristers LLP
Neha Chugh Criminal Defence Lawyer
NEI Investments
Neighbourhood Legal Services (London & Middlesex) Inc
Nissan Canada Inc.
Olatere Law Office
Ontario Bar Association (OBA)
Ontario Hospital Association (OHA)
Ontario Motor Vehicle Industry Council (OMVIC)
Pacific Rubiales Energy Corp
Paluare Roland Rosenberg Rothstein LLP
Pallet Valo LLP
PCX - Perry + Currier Inc / Currier + Kao LLP
Pinto Wray James LLP
Pro Bono Law Association (PBLO)
Pro Bono Law Office (PBL0)
RBC - Royal Bank of Canada
RBC - Regional Bank of Canada
Reiner Law Firm
Resilience Community Legal Clinic
Richard M. Goldman, Barrister & Solicitor
Rochon Genova LLP
Robert Smith & Partners LLP
Robertson Law Office
Rosen Clearfield LLP
Roth Law Offices
Ryan LLP
Sack Goldblatt Mitchell LLP
Sahara Lawyers Professional Corporation
Schible Law
Sears Canada Inc
Shel Esen Professional Corporation
Sheridan College
Siddiqui Law Office
Smurfit Law Professional Corporation
Solar Income Fund Inc
SP Law Office PC
Squire Law Office
St. Michael’s Hospital
Stephen Hebscher, Barrister & Solicitor
Stevensons LLP
Subhash Joshi Law Office
Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
T. Edmund Chan, Barrister & Solicitor
Tangerine Bank
TD Bank Group
Teva Canada Limited
The Children’s Aid Society of Hamilton
The Law Office of Aletha A. Green
The Law Office of Vanee Senthoooran
The Law Society of Upper Canada (LSUC)
Thompson Dyndom
Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF)
Vasuki Desavas Law Office
Wakulat Dhirani LLP
Wendy Harris Bentley, Barrister & Solicitor
Wolfson Law Professional Corporation
Woolgar VanWiechen Ketcheson Ducoffe LLP
Workplace Safety & Insurance Board (WSIB)

Ryerson Law Practice Program

BE PART OF THE FUTURE

"Industrious, hard-working ...! Her contributions to the organization started 10 minutes after she got here. We got exactly what we wanted and there are no surprises. ...We are very happy to be involved in the program."

Ontario Motor Vehicle Industry Council (OMVIC)

"She was fabulous. She was able to hit the ground running. We were able to get her involved in a lot of different things: contractual negotiations, regulatory discussions and policy developments - and she was able to contribute."

Royal Bank of Canada (RBC)

"His work is top quality... [He] is doing a great job, the LPP provides Candidates with practical experience and it benefits us too because he is assisting us."

Chicago Title Insurance Company Canada

"She exceeded our expectations. ...Up there with 1st and 2nd year lawyers. ...I wish all students could go through the LPP so they get consistent training across the board."

GFL Environmental Inc.

"The LPP...has been wonderful. I adored the candidate that we had... He was absolutely amazing, very high calibre. The practical training that he is getting here is amazing... and we as an organization are benefitting from it as well."

Infrastructure Ontario

"Our LPP student was thrown into the middle of a trial and was required to take the lead on it. She did an outstanding job and was victorious at the end of the day."

Nissan Canada
TAB #4
CANDIDATES
Curious, Creative, Intelligent, Diverse, Ambitious

Over the last five years 50% of LPP Candidates have graduated from one of 18 different law schools across Canada (all of the Ontario schools, except Lakehead) and of the internationally-educated (168 different law schools from around the world), half of them (25% of the total) started here and then went to the US or overseas for law school.

In Year V: 86 Candidates completed 19 different Masters Degrees, and 2 PhD’s; 40 Candidates have practiced abroad on average 6 years.

LPP Candidate Pool

- 50%: Canadian Undergraduate + Canadian Law School
- 25%: Canadian Undergraduate + Foreign Law School
- 25%: Foreign Undergraduate + Foreign Law School

### Masters Programs

- Business Administration
- Communication Studies
- Education (MEd)
- Environmental Studies (MES) Planning
- European & International Trade Law
- Industrial Relations
- Law
- Law - Canadian Common Law
- Law – Business & Finance
- Law – Comparative Law
- Law – Employment Law
- Law – Global Professional (GPLLM)
- Law – Human Rights
- Law – International Business Law
- Law – Regulation & Technology
- Philosophy
- Political Science
- Religious Education
- Science

### PhD Programs

- Law
- Philosophy
Year I, Year II, Year III, Year IV and Year V: LPP Candidates are fluent in 79 languages ranging from American Sign Language to Yoruba.

- Albanian
- American Sign Language
- Amharic
- Arabic
- Aramaic
- Armenian
- Belarusian
- Bengali
- Bosnian
- Bulgarian
- Cantonese
- Cebuano
- Chinese
- Cree
- Croatian
- Danish
- Dari
- Edo
- English
- Farsi
- Filipino
- French
- Fujian Dialect
- German
- Greek
- Gujarati
- Hebrew
- Hindi
- Hindko
- Hungarian
- Ibibio
- Ibo
- Indigenous Language
- Isoko
- Italian
- Japanese
- Kamba
- Kannada
- Kazakh
- Khmer
- Kinyarwanda
- Korean
- Krio
- Latin
- Latvian
- Lingala
- Luganda
- Malay
- Malayalam
- Mandarin
- Mandarin
- Nepali
- Oriya
- Pashto
- Persian
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Punjabi
- Romanian
- Russian
- Saraiki
- Serbian
- Shona
- Sinhala
- Spanish
- Swahili
- Swedish
- Tagalog
- Taiwanese
- Tamil
- Teochew
- Turkish
- Twi
- Ukrainian
- Urdu
- Uzbek
- Vietnamese
- Waray
- Yoruba
TAB #5
Preparing lawyers to successfully serve Society in the 21st Century: breaking new ground in the area of skills development and practice management.

A few examples of LPP innovations include:

- **Virtual Law Firms (VLFs) - Simulated Practice:** Using the university learning management system, the LPP has created a virtual law office setting with incoming email and voice messages from “partners”, “associates”, “law clerks” and “clients”. The virtual law office contains an administrative area with general resources including: an Office Manual; a virtual library of resources and precedents; the partners “in-tray” for the submission of assignments for assessments; and, a “lunchroom” discussion board for Candidates and Mentors to exchange ideas and suggestions.

- **Technology:** The VLF is enhanced with the additional technology of: web conferencing via Webex; Google Docs for collaboration and file management; WestlawNext Canada and LexisNexis for legal research (as well as the practice management tools offered by both companies to new lawyers); Clio for practice management, docketing and billing; Teranet and Lawyer Done Deal for real estate files; Clausehound for drafting; and, Kira Talent for interview preparation.

- **Intensive Trial Advocacy Program (ITAP):** Sheila Block (Partner at Torys LLP) and Jim Seckinger (Professor of Law at the University of Notre Dame) developed and delivered a 3 Day Intensive Trial Advocacy Program with the support of over 50 practitioners from various organizations for candidates in Year II, III, IV and V and are doing so again in Year VI.

- **Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR):** In Year V, Allan Stitt delivered his Negotiations Workshop and offered his online Negotiation Module to LPP Candidates, enhancing their presentation and negotiation skills.

- **A2J Innovation Challenge:** Each year the VLFs prepare a pitch to deliver a legal service smarter, faster and better. These pitches might involve people, process and/or technology. The top 7 VLFs pitch to a panel of experts. The winning firm then has lunch with the Chief Justice to discuss their innovative idea and the opportunity to work with the Legal Innovation Zone to help bring their idea to fruition.

- **EDI Conference:** In October, 2018, the LPP hosted the “Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Conference: The Power of All of Us”. As part of the 2018 October In-Person week Candidates participated, together with many members of the Profession, in the first LPP EDI Conference. Candidates and participating lawyers heard opening remarks from the LSO Treasurer, viewed a presentation from Ryerson University’s Director of Human Rights and participated in a facilitated discussion about the Business Case for EDI with a large firm representative and a representative from one of the big four accounting firms. Candidates and participating lawyers then engaged with members of the bar in small group discussions around the challenges and potential solutions relating to EDI in the Profession both in large and small organizations.
• **Business Plan** - The practice of law is a profession, but it is also a business. Whether you are in private practice, a corporate in-house law department, or part of a public institution, understanding the business aspects of the practice of law is essential to success. Each year the VLFs prepare a business plan to set up a firm the day after their Call. Business plans include 2 years of financial statements for submission to the Bank. This Plan also includes the areas in which they intend to practice, the business structure they propose to implement, their plans to develop a client base, and a financial pitch to a bank to secure financing.

• **In-House Counsel Concentration** - Candidates develop a greater understanding of the work and challenges of in-house counsel, through panel discussions, presentations and workshops on topics including: company policies; ethical dilemmas in the in-house context; proactive litigation management; deal management; contract administration; and corporate financial literacy. They gain an appreciation of working as a business partner with their internal clients rather than focusing only on the legal issues.

• **Client Simulations - Interpersonal Skills Teaching Centre (ISTC – see: [http://www.ryerson.ca/istc](http://www.ryerson.ca/istc)** - the LPP has revolutionized the development of practice and client management skills of future lawyers, by offering live (in-person and online), performance-based simulations with actors trained through the ISTC. These simulators allow Candidates to experience working with clients, over four months, in a variety of practice settings, from the first interview through to client calls, client/witness preparation to negotiations/mediations and in-court trials.

Sample view of the VLF: