

LawFemme

CENTRE FOR
FEMINIST
LEGAL STUDIES



The Newsletter of the CFLS

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<p style="text-align: center;">Editor Brittany Durrant</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Faculty Director Janine Benedet</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CFLS Steering Committee Janine Benedet Judith Mosoff Fiona Kelly Emma Cunliffe Jenny Dyck Brittany Durrant</p>		<p>when I started law school here at UBC in 1990 (at the ripe old age of 20) I had the very same ambivalence. Of course I believed that women were every bit as capable as men and should have the same opportunities. But I thought those battles had largely been won (after all, I was in law school) and that success was the product of individual effort. I was shocked when, in my first week of law school, a managing partner for a large law firm told my small group that he didn't see how a woman with children could possibly manage the hours at his job. It sounded more like a warning to young women like me than a call for systemic change.</p> <p>In law school, I benefited from faculty members who showed me both how law has been used as an institution of inequality and oppression and how it can serve as an instrument of reform and social change. I saw the ways that dominance and subordination were played out in the legal system, and the ways in which both men and women were harmed by these practices. I learned about the ways in which sex inequality intersects with inequalities on the basis of race, disability, age and other factors. I developed a particular commitment to ending male violence against women in all its forms, which remains the focus of my work today. I graduated from UBC Law proud to be a feminist. Maybe the same will be true for you.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Professor Janine Benedet</i></p>	

R v Ryan: The Criminal Justice System Fails and Women Pay

Laura Johnston, 3L

The Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies (CAEFS) and the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund's (LEAF) intervened in coalition in *R v Ryan*, heard recently at the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC). Feminist alliance has long been an integral strategy to achieving the goals of the women's movement and the CAEFS/LEAF intervention in *Ryan* was a strong example of such coalition work. As a volunteer law student on the *Ryan* intervention, it was an enriching experience to be a part of a process that combined the efforts of professors from several Canadian law schools, lawyers, and community members from CAEFS and LEAF.

Professor Christine Boyle of the UBC Law Faculty skillfully represented CAEFS and LEAF at the SCC. The following is a piece I wrote for the online newspaper "Rabble" to draw public attention both to the SCC hearing and to the larger problem of the criminal justice system's failure to police violence against women: The Supreme Court of Canada heard the latest appeal in *R v Ryan* yesterday. In all ways but one, this case is very typical. A woman is beaten, strangled, sexually assaulted, and threatened with guns for fifteen years by her husband. When she asks for a divorce and takes steps to leave him, he threatens to kill her and their daughter and describes in detail how he will hide their bodies. He begins stalking her, calling her repeatedly, following her in his car, and showing up at the school where she worked as a teacher. She flees her home, and tries to surround herself with family and friends. She calls the police, 911, and police victim services for help 21 times, but the police refuse to investigate the violence she reports and brush off her fears for her and her daughter's lives. They tell her that this is a "civil matter" and there's nothing they can do. She becomes desperate as her repeated attempts to ensure her and her daughter's safety fail.

If the end to this story had been that she waited in terror until he murdered her and their daughter, this story would have been like the hundreds of others we have heard before. Instead, she tried to hire someone to kill her husband. The person she tried to hire was an undercover police officer. She was charged with counselling to commit murder.

As the trial judge commented, "it seems somewhat ironic the system which had failed to address the issues that Ms. Ryan had with her husband was only too eager to come to her aid and provide a solution when it would potentially result in her committing a criminal offence." Both the Nova Scotia Supreme Court and Court of Appeal found that Ms. Ryan had no other reasonable option to save her and her daughter's life, and acquitted her on the basis that she was acting under duress. The Crown chose to appeal her acquittal to the Supreme Court of Canada, which led to yesterday's hearing.

The Crown is prosecuting Ms. Ryan with a vengeance. At every step of the criminal justice system, the Crown has chosen to prolong Ms. Ryan's ordeal, by proceeding with a prosecution to trial, by appealing the trial decision, and by appealing the provincial court of appeal decision. The Crown claims that she wasn't really in danger because she did not go to the hospital every time she was assaulted to report her injuries, she had a good job, and she had left her husband. As interveners in the case, the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies and the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund, point out, the Crown's arguments rely on outdated and inaccurate stereotypes about how to be a "real" battered woman. The Crown's claims also ignore the fact that statistically, women are in more danger when they separate from abusive men.

Ms. Ryan's treatment at the hands of the criminal justice system is appalling. The Nova Scotia police force has no excuse for failing to respond appropriately to Mr. Ryan's violence. The Nova Scotia Crown has no reason to be going to such lengths to prosecute her.

The story of violent men killing their female partners, and sometimes their children and themselves, following inadequate policing is not a novel or unique one. In Canada, one woman is killed every six days by her current or former male intimate partner. These murders are not mysterious or unexpected. They are predictable and, more importantly, preventable.

Feminist anti-violence workers in rape crisis centres
(continued on page 8)

May I Introduce You...

Here are just some of our feminist faculty who work and teach in areas relating to feminism

Janine Benedet: is engaged in research about sexual violence against women, including prostitution, pornography and sexual assault. She was recently co-counsel for the intervenor, Women's Coalition for the Abolition of Prostitution, in *Bedford v. Canada*. She will be teaching Labour Law, Law of Sexual Offenses, and Criminal Law.

Emma Cunliffe: does research on expert evidence, infanticide, women and criminal law, and teaches Criminal Law and Evidence. She is also the author of *Murder, Medicine and Motherhood* (Hart Publishing, 2011), which you can check out in the CFLS Library.

Catherine Dauvergne: does research in the area of immigration and refugee law, and has worked on projects examining gender issues in Canada's refugee system. She teaches Immigration and Transnational Law.

Darlene Johnston: does research and teaches in the area of aboriginal law, and how systemic issues affect aboriginal families with regards to family law and child welfare.

Isabel Grant: does research in criminal law and mental health, sexual assault, disability, and issues of consent and capacity. She teaches Mental Health Law and the Law of Homicide.

Fiona Kelly's research examines law's treatment of non-normative family forms, focusing on both lesbian motherhood and single mothering by choice. You can check out her book, *Transforming Law's Family: The Legal Recognition of Planned Lesbian Motherhood* (UBC Press, 2011) in the CFLS. She teaches Family Law, Tort Law, and Women, Law, & Social Change.

Judith Mosoff: does research in the area of disability law, criminal law, mental health law, and children's law. She teaches Children and the Law, Ethics and Professionalism, and Criminal Law.

Margot Young's research is in social welfare law, equality law, and women's economic equality and justice. She teaches Constitutional Law and Law, Society, and State.

Award Winners: Congratulations!

The **2011-2012 Marlee Kline Essay Prize** was awarded to JD student **Fathima Cader** for her paper, "Made You Look: A Feminist Reading of the Muslim Canadian Congress's Factum to the Supreme Court of Canada in R v NS." The award honours Marlee Kline, former colleague and teacher, and is awarded for excellence in student research on issues involving feminism and intersectional analysis.

The **2011-2012 Auriol Gurner Young Memorial Award in Law** was awarded to JD student **Alex Norris**. This award is given to students who have made significant contributions to feminism and the law, for instance through academic achievement, volunteer work, community activism, or work with a feminist organization.

Fostering Equality in the Law School Classroom

Karen Segal, 2L

Political assumptions and ideologies are embedded in Canadian law, and as these laws are discussed in classrooms, the assumptions and ideologies inevitably become part of the dialogue. These political concepts are often controversial, and there are bound to be students with different opinions about which political ideology the law should seek to uphold. The challenge for a critical law student is to understand the political impact of a law that claims to be apolitical. As students, our understanding of these issues will always be impacted by our experiences of identity markers such as race, class and gender, and the discussions can become personal very quickly. So in the interest of fostering a law school environment that is a safe and inclusive, here are some ideas for discussing the political ideologies of law in an anti-oppressive manner.

A good starting point is to acknowledge that someone in the room may have experienced the precise issue that is under discussion. Proceeding with this assumption is the safest option and will help avoid offending or worse, revictimizing your classmate(s). For instance, discuss the laws of sexual consent as if you are speaking to someone who has been sexually assaulted. Often, you will be right. (It is estimated that 1 in 4 women will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime. Male and female victims under 25 have the highest rates of sexual assault.) Discuss Aboriginal rights as if you are talking to an individual who identifies as First Nations. Being aware of the people around you will reduce the chance that you say something that makes your classmate feel discriminated against or isolated. Experiencing oppression is traumatizing and without sensitivity to that experience, we risk alienating our classmates from participating in the discussion that likely impacts their lives most significantly.

This leads to the next point, which is to listen to and learn from people who have had different experiences from your own. The law impacts everyone differently, and a law that benefits one person can work to marginalize or endanger another. Gaining an understanding of how the law affects people who are different from you is essential to gaining an accurate understanding of the laws function, and to developing a law that is truly equal. A law that has always appeared fair to a white man may have had a deeply unfair impact on people with different identity markers. Oppressed groups can therefore shed light on the inequities that are built into the legal system; inequities that the dominant group, having never experienced, may never have understood. It is necessary to realize constantly that one's own experience of the law is a product of one's social location, and make an effort to understand how it has impacted people from different backgrounds. Without doing so, our understanding of the law will be incomplete.

Further, gaining insight into unequal impact of the law is the only way to determine how the law needs to change. Social change is rooted in people speaking out about their experience. Making space for marginalized voices is therefore essential to achieving equality in the law.

The common law is rooted in male-centric, Anglo-Saxon, religious, and capital friendly ideologies. In Canadian society, we are making steps to improve our inherited legal systems. This change starts by realizing that power and inequality exist in the very foundations of our laws. If we want to move forward, the law must be open to criticism, and there must be space for inclusive anti-oppressive dialogue.

Participate in the CFLS Mentorship Program!

The CFLS mentorship program pairs students interested in social justice with legal professionals who identify with a social justice perspective. If you are interested in participating in the mentoring program, please email us at cfls@law.ubc.ca with the subject heading "Mentorship Program."

CFLS Visiting Scholars

Efrat Arbel

Efrat is the Centre's first postdoctoral affiliate, funded by a prestigious SSHRC fellowship. She is working under the faculty mentorship of Professor Catherine Dauvergne and is actively involved in the activities of the Centre. Her research examines questions of social justice and human rights in Aboriginal, refugee, and prisoner law in Canada and the United States. You can hear Efrat speak on November 13th at 12:30 in Allard Hall 123, as part of the CFLS fall lecture series.



Donna Martinson

The CFLS is delighted to welcome recently retired B.C. Supreme Court Justice Donna Martinson to a two year visit at the CFLS. Donna, who is a former faculty member at UBC Law, is actively working on how both family and criminal courts deal with violence against women and children; and also the failure to coordinate between the two systems. She is doing pro bono research and judicial education and will collaborate with faculty members and students at UBC Law who are interested in these issues.



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African Grandmothers: Transforming the promise of human rights into rights realization and enjoyment on the ground – for themselves, their families and communities

Julaine Eberhard, J.D. (UBC 2006), Ph.D.

Grandmothers across sub-Saharan Africa are in a moment of transformative change. While they continue to face incredible hardships, raising grandchildren orphaned by AIDS after losing their beloved children to the pandemic, thanks to local community based organizations (CBOs), they also enjoy access to many new and effective services and programs. These local programs and services are turning the promises of “guaranteed” human rights into the practical realization of rights on the ground.

Grandmothers are among the 23.5 million people living with HIV in sub-Saharan African, and they are the primary caregivers (carers) of the 300,000 children newly infected with HIV in 2011—and many of their brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers – all affected by, and often infected with, HIV or AIDS. Women and girls, including grandmothers themselves, make up 60% of the HIV-infected people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in the region.

Devastated by the loss of a child, or in many cases, most or all of one’s children, grandmothers in sub-Saharan Africa also face myriad violations of their legal and human rights. Many of these violations reflect common misconceptions and deep discrimination – gender and elder discrimination, among others, that CBOs are working hard to change through education, counselling and other programs. For example, the myth that grannies do not have sex, and/or that they are “virus free,” persists. As a result, grandmothers have become targets of sexual violence. And, despite the respected role of many elders in African communities, grandmothers across nations regularly – but invisibly – face domestic abuse. This abuse can take physical, economic and other forms – sometimes at once. “Property-grabbing” is common among widows and mothers of young men who have succumbed to

AIDS, even when the grandmother is entitled to her husband or son’s property upon his death, and even in cases where she has assumed care of her grandchildren.

Other violations of grandmothers’ legal and human rights are more subtle, but still impactful in terms of a grandmother’s daily reality and her ability to securely house, feed and otherwise generate an income to provide for herself and her grandchildren. Many grandmothers and their grandchildren lack access to information and services, particularly related to healthcare and HIV/AIDS prevention, including testing, treatment, and life-saving antiretroviral (ARVs). Without having properly registered identity-documents, many grandmothers also lack access to entitlements provided by national government-run social services. If grandmothers could access programs to pay for school aged children’s tuition fees or to guarantee them pensions, for example, they would no longer have to constantly worry about what will happen to them and their grandchildren when they are no longer self-sufficient or well enough to provide necessities of life including food, water and safe, habitable shelter.

sub-Saharan Africa requires national and local governments to play a meaningful role in extending the CBOs’ services and programs that are working for many – but not yet all grandmothers, families and communities. And it requires consistent and committed support by regional and international decision-makers and funders, including Canada. These are the ingredients for turning the promise of human rights into the lived experiences of full human rights enjoyment for African grandmothers, their families and communities, and for turning the tide of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in sub-Saharan Africa.

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The CFLS Library contains over 500 books on feminism, social justice and law! Visit Allard 424 or browse online at <http://www.librarything.com/catalog/cfls>

Get Involved!

Brittany Durrant, 2L

My name is Brittany and I am the CFLS student coordinator. You can find me in the Marlee Kline Room (424), in my office (422), or just around Allard Hall.

Last year I went to many of the CFLS lunchtime lectures, and they were always the highlight of my week. Even when I felt busy with my coursework, I was always glad that I had attended because the speakers were fabulous and it was an opportunity to learn about topics not usually discussed in my first year courses. Check out the upcoming schedule for the semester in the back of this issue. This semester we have some fabulous practitioners and academics speaking about the missing women's inquiry, violence against women, important cases, and different career paths.

The Marlee Kline Room is a great space to relax, study, or check out some books! I think it's really important to recognize that there is a space and community where you are welcome to discuss your views and insights about gender equality and social justice. There are a lot of cool feminists here, both students and faculty. There are also other groups to get involved with such as the Women's Caucus and Law Students for Choice.

I encourage you to get involved with the centre, attend the lectures, write for LawFemme, take part in our mentorship program, or talk to me about starting your own initiatives through the centre! I hope to see you around the CFLS and have an excellent year!



**The Centre for Feminist Legal Studies
is part of the UBC Positive Space program and welcomes all LGBTTTQI* students.**

The Positive Space Campaign is an initiative intended to help make UBC more receptive to and welcoming of its lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, questioning, transgender, transsexual, gender variant, two-spirit and intersex (LGBTTTI) communities, individuals and issues of sexual and gender diversity on campus. It aims to foster a welcoming atmosphere and inclusive, respectful dialogue on campus for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities by identifying spaces where sexual and gender diversity is supported and valued.

Find out more at <http://positivespace.ubc.ca/>.

R v Ryan (cont.)

Feminist anti-violence workers in rape crisis centres and transition houses have long pointed out the danger that women are in when they leave abusive men, and the lethal consequences of the state's failure to police and prosecute violence against women.

Research of the numerous femicides in Canada has resulted in the development of clear risk assessment tools for criminal justice personnel to use. Had the tools been used according to policy, the Nova Scotia police department's own risk of spousal homicide assessment tools would have revealed that Ms. Ryan was at an extraordinarily high risk of being killed. All of the warning signs for an impending attack were present: the couple had separated, he had a history of physical and sexual violence, he had strangled her in the past, he had access to guns, he had threatened to kill her, he was obsessive and controlling, and he was stalking her. Ms. Ryan's judgment that she and her daughter were in mortal danger was well founded and accurate. The obvious implication of the police and

Crown's behaviour in this case is that abused women and their children should be prepared to die, rather than use force to protect themselves.

Rather than putting criminal justice system resources into prosecuting this woman, there should be a disciplinary investigation into the misconduct of the police officers who failed to enforce the law and follow their own policies. The police must be held responsible for their repeated and willful refusal to police male violence against women.

In addition, charges should be laid against Mr. Ryan for any of the numerous physical assaults, sexual assaults, and death threats he inflicted on Ms. Ryan and their daughter. If the criminal justice system continues to ignore his violence, it sends a message to men that they can be violent to women with impunity. Finally, I hope that the Supreme Court of Canada will do justice by upholding the acquittal of Ms. Ryan.

All the statistical facts referred to in this article were taken from Statistics Canada reports.



African Grandmothers (cont)

While states bear primary responsibility for complying with international human rights conventions they have ratified, and the related provisions they have incorporated into domestic law, few do enough to ensure that grandmothers have the substantial tools required to access their rights in practice. By listening carefully and responding meaningfully to the needs of grandmothers and their families and communities, African CBOs are filling this gap of unmet needs/ rights by effectively providing services that turn merely conceptual human rights into grandmothers' lived experiences of full human rights enjoyment. For example, through CBO efforts, the formal right to medical care is fulfilled by the provision of home-based medical care to grandmothers who are unable or cannot afford to travel to a clinic. And, the right to housing for a grandmother and her five grandchildren living in a leaky thatched roof hut becomes realized in the form of a secure new home built through a CBOs'

provision of supplies, tools, and building assistance.

National governments – in Africa and around the world – are not off the hook for the commitments they have made - or are legally obligated to fulfill - just because CBOs are so effectively meeting grandmothers' needs. The demand for expanded support in the context of the pandemic is enormous. "Turning the tide" of HIV/AIDS in n sub-Saharan Africa requires national and local governments to play a meaningful role in extending the CBOs' services and programs that are working for many – but not yet all grandmothers, families and communities. And it requires consistent and committed support by regional and international decision-makers and funders, including Canada. These are the ingredients for turning the promise of human rights into the lived experiences of full human rights enjoyment for African grandmothers, their families and communities, and for turning the tide of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in sub-Saharan Africa.

Bridging the Gap Between Elder Law and Feminist Theory: The Older Women's Dialogue Project

Esther Robson, 2L and Krista James (National Director of the Canadian Centre for Elder Law)

Engaging Older women in Law Reform and Social Policy

In July 2012, the Canadian Centre for Elder Law (CCEL) received funding from the United Way Lower Mainland for a project focused on older women. Entitled the Older Women's Dialogue Project, this initiative is one of the first projects in BC (and Canada) to bring together elder law and feminist thinking to explore social policy and law reform initiatives that address the circumstances of older women.

The purposes of the Older Women's Dialogue Project, are to (1) engage older women in law reform and public policy development, (2) enhance the capacity of professionals and practitioners from diverse sectors to understand issues through a lens that considers the impact of aging, ageism, sex discrimination and the imbalance of power between men and women, and (3) raise awareness of the major law and policy issues that must be addressed to improve the circumstances of older women. To meet these goals the CCEL has committed to a three phase project including:

1. A series of consultation events to offer older women the

opportunity to identify key issues requiring law reform, social change or public policy development;

2. A stream of the 2012 Elder Law Conference focused on women and aging; and

3. An International Women's Day event focused on and celebrating older women.

This project is a form of community-engaged research, and a major goal of this project is to clarify older women's experiences of the law and legal practice. The consultation events will culminate in a report that identifies those legal and social policy issues that are most pressing to older women, and indicate where older women highlight a need for law reform. In order to move this project forward, the CCEL is collaborating with West Coast LEAF, and the CCEL and LEAF plan to use the findings obtained through the consultation events to inform the development of future work. This exciting project has the potential to empower older women in BC communities to be involved in creating more responsive law and social policy, and to inform legal and social change.

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Lesbian and gay parenting: Who is a Legal parent?

Professor Fiona Kelly

In 2008 in a small Ontario town, a lesbian couple of 15 years, who had dated since high school and were now legally married, decided to have a baby. Nicole, who was going to carry the baby, knew of a gay man in town, Rene. She approached him about being a sperm donor and he agreed. Nicole offered to pay Rene for his services, but he declined. Nicole indicated to Rene that her wife, Selena, would adopt the baby when possible. A week after the initial conversation, they signed an agreement. It stated:

I, Rene, hereby sign over any and all parental rights to any children created by using my donated semen. I understand that by signing my rights over I will have absolutely no rights, from this day forward, to see, visit, claim, or request custody of any children resulting from use of my sperm. By signing this agreement I understand that my semen will be used to inseminate Nicole, which will potentially result in children being conceived. As well as not having any rights to any children born of my donated semen, I will not be responsible at any time to pay support of any kind of all children conceived by using my semen. I further agree that at no time will I interact with the children without the consent of the mother. Also I will not tell any children, that I believe to be conceived with my semen, that I am their biological father. I agree that I will not interfere with the raising of children. This agreement is a legally binding contract and cannot be changed or revoked without the consent and agreement of the mother as well as the adoptive parent, if any.

Over the next 16 months, Rene provided semen samples 1-5 times a month. Nicole conceived in January 2010. After Nicole informed Rene that she was pregnant, they had no further contact. A baby boy, Tyler, was born in October 2010, and has been raised solely by Nicole and Selena. He has never met Rene. On 28 January 2011, Rene served Nicole with an application seeking a declaration of parentage, to have his name added to the birth certificate, access to Tyler, and a restraining/non-harassment order against Nicole. The access schedule proposed by Rene began with two hour access visits every second weekend in April 2011 and rapidly proceeded to entire weekends of access.

Rene conceded that he had signed the agreement, but argued that he did so under duress. He claimed that when he and Nicole attended school together, she bullied him, and that this past bullying intimidated him and placed him in a disadvantaged bargaining position. Rene argued that the agreement should therefore be declared void. In April 2012, Cornell J. made an interim order declaring the donor agreement void for lack of consideration (an interesting conclusion, given that payment for sperm donation is illegal in Canada). Cornell J. also declared that Rene was Tyler's father, and that the only remaining question was what was in the best interest of Tyler. The judge then permitted Rene to bring a motion for interim access. Acting without instructions and against her client's interests, Nicole's (former) counsel agreed to set aside the donor agreement and permit access. Following the decision, Nicole and Selena obtained new counsel and sought to have Cornell J.'s order set aside. The motion was heard in June 2012 and a decision has not yet been released. While the dispute between Nicole, Selena, and Rene is emblematic of the types of disputes that occur between lesbian couples and their donors, in no other Canadian case have the preconception intentions of the parties been so clear.

Despite all of the recent changes to Canadian law designed to recognize the validity of lesbian families – second-parent adoptions, gender-neutral birth certificates, same-sex marriage – cases such as the one described above persist largely due to substantial gaps in provincial parentage laws. Five Canadian provinces – Quebec, Alberta, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island and Manitoba – have legal parentage laws that include same-sex couples who conceive via assisted conception. However, Quebec is the only province with legislation that explicitly addresses parentage where the donor is known. The lack of law in this area poses few issues for opposite-sex couples, as they are typically able to rely on traditional presumptions of paternity to establish the legal parentage of the mother's male partner. Lesbian couples have no such luxury and, unfortunately, often face the prospect of judicial interference in their families.

Bridging the Gap (cont)

Building a Foundation of Anti-ageist and Age-sensitive Feminist Theory

Although in recent years there has been progress in addressing barriers to gender equality and the issues of particular concern to older people, the experiences of older women have not been adequately addressed. Recent pressure for reform to address the needs of older people has been fuelled by demographics. Our population is aging. But even based purely on a population analysis, women significantly outnumber men in the population of Canadians aged 55 and older¹. The older the age group, the more pronounced this trend becomes, resulting in a largely female population of Canadians aged 80 and older². Furthermore, the population of Canadians 55 and older, which is already high in BC, is only expected to increase in the next decade³. For these reasons the overlap between issues of gender equality and aging is becoming increasingly relevant.

Many feminist scholars assert that the experiences and concerns of women are often very different from their male counterparts⁴. Addressing the experience of women requires a different legal analysis in order to identify issues and uncover hidden gender-based impacts. This dynamic is true of our older population. However, the elder law and equality rights or feminist legal theory communities have remained remarkably separate. There is a need to support the growth of the practice of analyzing elder law issues through a lens that considers gendered impacts, and also to bring together these separate communities to develop a rich foundation of anti-ageist and age-sensitive feminist theory.

Every couple of years the CCEL has hosted the Canadian Conference on Elder Law. This conference has grown to become the leading national conference focused on law and aging issues. The conference has featured discussions on topics such as adult guardianship, elder abuse and neglect, family caregiving, pensions, age discrimination, community care and housing, and support obligations under family law. This is an interdisciplinary event that draws speakers and presenters from law, justice and policing, social work, health, finance and government. Notable speakers have included the Honourable Chief Justice Beverly McLachlin and the Honourable Flora MacDonald. This year's conference is being held in Vancouver on November 16-17, 2012, at the Sheraton Wall Centre.

How Can UBC Law Students get Involved?

There are a number of ways for law students to get involved in the Older Women's Dialogue Project. The CCEL requires student note takers to attend consultation events and record women's participants' comments. Volunteers are also required for assisting with hosting the conference. Student conference volunteers will be able to attend the conference for free. Attendance at this conference provides an excellent networking and learning experience for any students interested in women, aging or social justice issues more generally. Anyone interested in volunteering before or during the conference should contact Esther Robson at estherrobsonbcli@gmail.com.

Student submissions to the Canadian Conference of Elder Law are also encouraged. Each year a student producing a superior paper in elder law is awarded the Gregory K Steele, Q.C. Prize, valued at \$500.00, and invited to present his or her work at the conference. For 2012 we strongly encourage papers that address an issue impacting older women. Papers submissions are due September 30, 2012 with details available here: <http://bcli.org/ccel/news/2012/03/ccel-announces-2012-gregory-k-steele-qc-prize>.

The Canadian Centre for Elder Law (CCEL) is a national, non-profit organization that explores the legal issues particularly affecting older adults throughout Canada. In combination with its parent organization, the BC Law Institute (BCLI), the Canadian Centre for Elder Law conducts legal research, produces law reform publications and legal education tools, and undertakes public outreach on law and aging issues. For more information go to: <http://www.bcli.org/ccel>.

¹ 2011 Census, *Population by broad age groups and sex*, Online: Statistics Canada Website <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/>

² Ibid.

³ 2011 Census, *Population by broad age groups and sex, 2011 counts for both sexes, for Canada, provinces and territories*, Online: Statistics Canada Website <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/dp->

⁴ Dayton, Kim. *A Feminist Perspective on Elder Law* in "Theories on Law and Aging" ed. Israel Doron (University of Haifa: Springer, 2009), p. 45-57

Auriol Gurner Young Memorial Award in Law

The **Auriol Gurner Young Memorial Award in Law** is generously endowed in memory of Auriol Gurner Young for students in the J.D. Program who have made significant contributions to feminism and the law, for instance through academic achievement, volunteer work, community activism, or work with a feminist organization.



This \$3000 award honours the memory of Auriol Gurner Young, who died in 2005 after a lengthy and determined struggle with cancer. She was a remarkable woman with a lifelong love of learning and a great intellectual curiosity. In her 50's, Auriol started her university education, graduating with first class honours in 1983. She loved life, people and ideas.

Marlee G. Kline Essay Prize

The Centre for Feminist Legal Studies will award a \$250 prize to the best essay written by a J.D. student attending the University of British Columbia during the 2011-2012 academic year, addressing the themes identified in the quotation below in relation to a topic dealing with law or legal regulation. The prize is offered in the name of Marlee Kline, a feminist UBC law professor who died in November 2001. The essay should be written for a UBC course, seminar, or directed research project and must incorporate feminist research and analysis. The submissions will be reviewed by a committee consisting of feminist law professors and graduate students.



“The various intersections between gender, race, class, sexual orientation, and other differentiating characteristics, affect *how* and *when* all women experience sexism.” (Marlee Kline, 1989)

Hilda Janzen Memorial Award in Feminist Legal Studies

The Hilda Janzen Memorial Award in Feminist Legal Studies will be granted annually to a male or female student in good academic standing who has demonstrated leadership in feminist issues and faces financial or systemic barriers to accessing or continuing a legal education. Donor Sonya Wall was inspired to establish the award by the commitment shown by her aunt, the late Hilda Janzen, to the advancement of women in professional fields, and by the costs and other barriers students face in pursuing a legal education.

At \$18,000 annually, the award will cover the current costs of tuition and books for the recipient, as well as offset living expenses for the year. This important new award recognizes two important facts: first, that there is an ongoing need for lawyering inspired by a feminist ethic and, second, that many students who are committed to bringing their feminist approach to law encounter barriers in the course of obtaining a law degree.

For application information and deadlines, visit

http://faculty.law.ubc.ca/cfls/feminist_legal_studies/prizes_scholarships.html

CFLS 2012 FALL LECTURE SERIES

All lectures are held Tuesdays from 12:30-1:45pm, in Allard Hall 123

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND!

September 11th, 2012	“Roses and Thorns: The Best (and Worst) Cases for Women” featuring Janine Benedet, Emma Cunliffe, Judith Mosoff & Isabel Grant
September 18th, 2012	CFLS Open House, Marlee Kline Room (Allard 424) Come learn about the CFLS, eat and discuss feminism in law school with feminist faculty and classmates. Hosted by Janine Benedet (CFLS Director) and Brittany Durrant (Student Coordinator)
September 25th, 2012	Hilla Kerner <i>Vancouver Rape Relief & Women's Shelter</i> “State Collusion with Male Violence Against Women”
October 2nd, 2012	W. Anita Braha <i>Barrister & Solicitor</i> “A Feminist Practice: A Chronicle of Issues Over the Years”
October 16th 2012	Elizabeth Hirsh <i>Associate Professor, Sociology, UBC</i> TOPIC: Sex discrimination in employment and legal action
October 23th, 2012	Madam Justice Victoria Gray <i>Supreme Court of British Columbia</i> TOPIC: TBA
October 30th, 2012	Robyn Gervais TOPIC: Missing Women’s Inquiry
November 6th, 2012	Liz Kelly <i>Professor, London Metropolitan University Roddick Chair on Violence against Women</i> “Why Hate Crime is Not Useful for Feminist Theory and Practice on Violence Against Women”
November 13th, 2012	Efrat Arbel <i>Postdoctoral Research Fellow, UBC Law</i> TOPIC: TBA
November 20th, 2012	EXAM TIPS SESSION FOR FIRST YEAR STUDENTS

Contact Us

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**Visit our new space at our upcoming
Open House, September 18th, 12:30-
1:45pm, Marlee Kline Room (Allard
Hall 424)!**

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