



THOMPSON
RIVERS
UNIVERSITY



FACULTY OF LAW

DEAN'S WELCOME

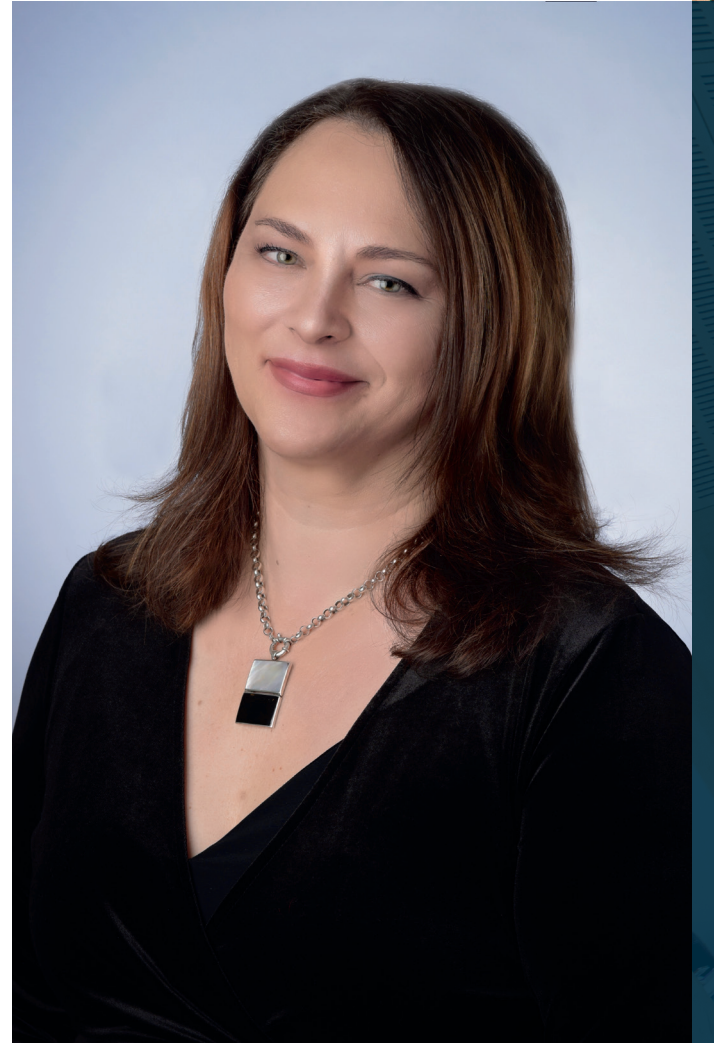
As Dean of Law at TRU, I invite you to explore why pursuing a JD in our Faculty of Law is regarded by our students as a tremendous opportunity.

Learn from superb professors who are nationally and internationally recognized for their expertise, yet remain committed to being excellent teachers and mentors to our students. My colleagues also have years of experience in private practice, government service, community legal clinics, Indigenous communities and NGOs.

TRU law has had remarkable success since we welcomed our first students in 2011. We aim to deliver graduates who have those attributes that will make them successful in legal practice. We incorporate learning opportunities into the curriculum to ensure that student develop practical skills. To that end, we have a robust oral advocacy program and we have developed a practical legal writing resource that enriches the traditional curriculum with guidelines on how to draft an array of legal documents. Look no further, TRU is the school for you!

Daleen Millard

Dean and Professor of Law





WHY THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF LAW?

TRU Law combines the classic tradition of legal education with a modern, innovative approach. Our three-year Juris Doctor (JD) program, is taught in award-winning facilities among the stunning natural beauty of Kamloops, British Columbia.


To mark the recent intake of our 10th first-year intake, we have introduced a new curriculum, ensuring students receive a comprehensive legal education with traditional course offerings complemented by innovative courses such as Apps for Access to Justice, Sport Law, and Community Lawyering. A select number of our students work in the TRU Community Legal Clinic and proudly provide legal services to marginalized members of Kamloops.

Our curriculum now includes a mandatory course titled "Truth and Rebuilding Canadian Indigenous Relations," which responds to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. This course aims to equip students with a deep understanding of our past and provides a strong foundation for reconciliation.

Our faculty members are bold and visionary thinkers. They are an accomplished group of scholars and legal professionals with demonstrated excellence in teaching and research. They are committed to fostering a friendly and community-oriented atmosphere, and are dedicated to cultivating highly-engaged and driven students to advance the legal profession.

Our courses emphasize experiential learning, allowing students to sharpen their legal skills before entering the profession. We offer opportunities to participate in competitive mooting, work at the TRU Community Legal Clinic, or join our new Externship program. Through externships, students gain hands-on experience in various legal organizations in Kamloops, BC, working under the guidance of supervising lawyers to develop skills in file management, legal drafting, communication, interviewing, negotiation, and advocacy. They also learn about professional conduct, ethical issues, and client relationships.

Be traditional, yet original.
Be a part of our TRU Law family.



FACULTY AT A GLANCE

Here is a snapshot of four of our 16 talented professors:

DR. ROBERT CHAMBERS

BEd (Alberta), LLB (Alberta), DPhil (Oxford)

Highlight: Author of *The Law of Property*.

DR. CHRIS HUNT

BA (Mt. Allison), LLB (Manitoba), LLM (Cambridge), PhD (Cambridge)

Highlight: Cited four times by the Supreme Court of Canada as well as citations by the Quebec and Ontario Courts of Appeal.

CRAIG JONES, KC

BGS (TRU), LLB (UBC), LLM (Harvard)

Highlight: Landmark wins at the Supreme Court of Canada and has been retained by the Attorney General as General Counsel to the Premier of BC.

DR. KATIE SYKES

BA (Queen's), JD (Toronto), LLM (Harvard), LLM (Dalhousie), PhD (Dalhousie)

Highlight: SSRHC Grant to research the Civil Resolution Tribunal and author of *Animal Welfare and International Trade Law*.

Read more about our faculty and their research highlights at

tru.ca/law/faculty-staff

ACCOMPLISHED SCHOLARS

TRU Law, established in 2011, embodies a new and innovative approach that has attracted faculty with world-class credentials and designations—including those with advanced degrees from Cambridge and Harvard, Supreme Court of Canada clerkships and international fellowships, plus King's Counsel designations. Several faculty members were also top of their law class as gold medalists. A number of full-time faculty members retain active legal practices, and appear regularly before the BC Supreme Court, BC Court of Appeals, and the Supreme Court of Canada.

Our faculty have studied and practiced law around the world, and collectively they bring a remarkable breadth and depth of academic and legal practice experience to TRU Law. Our full-time professors continue to engage in cutting-edge legal research, publish in top-tier law journals and demonstrate teaching excellence.

Our full-time faculty are joined by a diverse group of talented lawyers serving as sessional lecturers to augment the range of course offerings and offer unique professional perspectives.

In 2022, TRU Law established the TRU Law Review, a peer-reviewed and open access law review published by students.

SPOTLIGHT ON PROFESSOR **RUBY DHAND**

BA (Ontario), MA (Carleton), LLB (Ottawa), LLM (Toronto), PhD (Osgoode)

In February 2020, Dr. Ruby Dhand appeared before the Supreme Court of Canada as part of a legal team on behalf of the Empowerment Council.

On Nov. 20, 2020, the Court issued its ruling in *Ontario (Attorney General) v. G* and held that part of Ontario's sex-offender registry is discriminatory as it applies to those who have been found not criminally responsible on account of mental disorder for a crime involving a sexual offence.

According to the ruling, the sex-offender registry, known as Christopher's Law, "perpetuates disadvantage and negative stereotypes about persons with mental illness." The Supreme Court of Canada found part of Christopher's Law is unconstitutional, according to section 15 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

"TRU Law is an incredible environment for learning and teaching law. We continue to inspire students to use the law as a tool for social change and increasing access to justice."

"This ruling advances the section 15 charter-protected equality rights of people with mental health or addiction histories," explicitly recognizing that "mental health [issues] are not like other illnesses, because they regularly cause people to lose their rights and freedoms in ways that are unimaginable in other health conditions."

"We are very hopeful this case will result in systemic and transformative change for people with mental health or addiction histories."

Highlight: Recipient of the TRU Board of Governors Recognition of Excellence Award. Awarded by the TRU Board of Governors for academic excellence and leadership.



INNOVATIVE, YET TRADITIONAL.



TRU Law offers a traditional JD program, approved by the Federation of Law Societies of Canada. Our curriculum also adds an entrepreneurial twist to the quintessential legal education. Our mandatory first-year curriculum builds a solid foundation for advanced legal study in upper years which includes compulsory courses such as Ethical Lawyering, Dispute Resolution, Civil Procedure and Business Associations.

These traditional course offerings are complemented by innovative courses such as AI, Law and Justice, Sexual Offences: Prosecution and Defence, Comparative and International Indigenous Rights, and Sports Law: Professional Leagues and International Sports Organizations.

Knowledge gained in the classroom is enhanced by many opportunities for applied learning, such as competitive mooting internally and with other law schools, participation in Pro Bono Students of Canada and serving clients at our Community Legal Clinic.

The TRU Community Legal Clinic is the first student-staffed free legal clinic in the BC Interior. The students work under the guidance of a team of supervising lawyers to provide legal assistance and advice in a range of areas to those who would otherwise be unable to afford legal assistance.

Learn more at
tru.ca/law

COMPETITIVE YET COMMUNITY-ORIENTED.

As much as TRU Law strives to instill courage and confidence in our student body, we also value mentoring students as future members of our profession. We champion friendly competition in a collegial atmosphere, one that inspires both bold intellectual rivalry as well as a community-minded sensibility that is celebrated among peers and valued by the legal profession.

With the support of TRU Law, students help to create a sense of family from the beginning—forming strong and supportive bonds that will become lifelong friendships.

Students and faculty gather often to socialize and participate in events together. TRU Law enjoys widespread support from our local legal community.

Across the province, lawyers generously volunteer to mentor our students through the Canadian Bar Association of BC Mentorship Program. Many of these mentors are proud TRU Law alumni who are passionate about giving back to the community that supported their own journey.



HIGH-CALIBRE STUDENTS

Each year, a diverse and exceptionally talented group of students from across Canada and abroad joins us at TRU Law to pursue their legal education.

Our high-achieving students are motivated to showcase their talent in a variety of ways. TRU Law students have clerked with the BC Court of Appeal, BC Supreme Court and the Federal Court of Canada, among others, and have articulated with large and small firms across the country. Through overseas law school partners, our students can study law abroad and apply their credits toward their TRU Law JD.

Our students actively participate and succeed in moot court competitions across Canada. In recent years, TRU Law won the BC Law Schools Moot, the National Family Law Negotiation, and

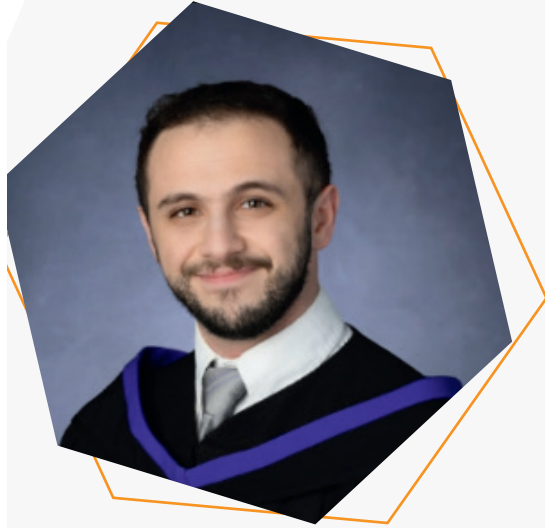
the Immigration, Refugee, and Citizenship Law Moot. TRU Law moot teams also place well in other moots. We hosted the Kawaskimhon National Aboriginal Moot in 2024

Meanwhile, student clubs enjoy actively organizing events on campus that provide opportunities to put knowledge to practice, such as the Oral Advocacy Club, Environmental and Natural Resources Law Club and the Human Rights Law Club.

In addition, the Society of Law Students (SLS) hosts an annual themed conference focused on contemporary legal topics. Our students network with lawyers and the judiciary, bringing in notable guest speakers who will inspire the next generation of legal professionals.

POST-GRAD EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES

	CLASS OF 2023	CLASS OF 2022	CLASS OF 2021	CLASS OF 2020	CLASS OF 2019
Secured articles*	95 (99%)	98 (98%)	111 (98%)	100 (98%)	98 (97%)
Seeking articles	1	2	2	2	3
Opted not to article	5	2	0	3	2
Status unknown	2	3	1	2	4
Graduating class size	103	105	114	107	107



Valedictorian

Mostafa Elfakhani

Hailing from Beirut, Lebanon, Mostafa Elfakhani brings a diverse background to TRU Law. With a Bachelor of Business Administration and a minor in Theatre from the American University of Beirut, Mostafa spent his pre-law years teaching improvisational theatre to underprivileged children and contributing to rebuilding efforts following the 2020 Beirut Port explosion.

At TRU, Mostafa was a dedicated and active member of the law community. He served as a teaching assistant, participated in the winning BC Law Schools Moot team and co-founded The Gavel, a student-run satirical law newspaper. Mostafa's commitment extended beyond the classroom, volunteering with Pro Bono Students Canada and coordinating humanitarian efforts.

During the summers after his first and second year of law school, Mostafa worked at a full-service law firm in Vernon, and at Dolden Wallace Folick LLP in Vancouver, respectively. After graduation, Mostafa is set to return and begin articling at Dolden Wallace Folick LLP in Vancouver, and looks forward to continuing his journey in the legal field.

Law Society of British Columbia Gold Medalist

Vanessa Locke

Vanessa Locke is a 2024 graduate of TRU's Faculty of Law and the proud recipient of the Law Society of British Columbia Gold Medal. Prior to law school, Vanessa earned a Bachelor of Arts in English with a minor in Psychology from the University of Victoria and gained valuable experience working in law firms as an administrative assistant and accounting clerk.

At TRU Law, Vanessa excelled both academically and within the law community. She served as a teaching assistant for Torts, mentored fellow students and served as the Finance Executive for the TRU Women in Law Society. Vanessa's summers were spent gaining practical experience through temporary articles at law firms in Port Moody and Vancouver.

A consistent Dean's List recipient, Vanessa earned several accolades, including the Alvin & Lydia Grunert Scholarship and the Lawson Lundell LLP Award for the Top Performing First Year Law Student. Vanessa will continue her legal journey at Farris LLP to complete her articles after graduation.





ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

Our application portal opens each fall on September 1, and closes February 10. Completed files by November 1 will be considered for early admission offers, and then offers will be made on a rolling basis until the class is full. Please see our First-Year Admissions page for further details and application instructions.



APPLY ONLINE

Visit tru.ca/law/admissions to apply, and to read our FAQ on admission.



CONTACT US

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Please reach out to lawadmissions@tru.ca with questions or to book a tour of the law school.

tru.ca/law



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