



PETER A. ALLARD SCHOOL OF LAW
INDIGENOUS LEGAL STUDIES



Emory Wells

JD Student
BROKENHEAD
OJIBWAY NATION

allard.ubc.ca

Allard School of Law

The Peter A. Allard School of Law at the University of British Columbia offers a comprehensive list of courses and experiential learning opportunities focusing on Indigenous peoples and issues.

With the highest enrollment of Indigenous law students in Canada, and professors who teach and research in areas of importance to Indigenous peoples, including Aboriginal law, the Allard School of Law is a leader in legal education in North America.

Indigenous Student Support

Student success is our priority. Indigenous students receive timely support through one-on-one advising, approachable faculty, and experienced staff that form part of Indigenous Legal Studies (ILS). The **ILS Academic Leadership Certificate** offers first year Indigenous JD students with weekly academic support or leadership workshops and a dedicated Indigenous Legal Studies Coach for tutoring and support. The Indigenous student lounge provides a dedicated place for Indigenous students to build community.

Indigenous Awareness & Cultural Competency

Our aim is to increase awareness and understanding of Indigenous peoples and laws within the Allard School of Law community through annual events such as Indigenous Awareness Week and the Sisters in Spirit Vigil, both organized in partnership with the Indigenous Law Students' Association. In addition, numerous series aimed at encouraging collegiality, facilitating mentorship and promoting an understanding of Indigenous legal traditions are offered, including: the Indigenous Legal Studies Book Talks, Fireside Chats, Research Series, Crafting & Movie Time & Panels.

THE INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMPETENCY CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

provides students, faculty and staff the opportunity to engage with broad conceptual thinking, and develop skills central to a strong professional practice, namely questioning, reflecting and considering. The seven module program aims to instill an understanding around issues such as: Euro-centric teachings and the law; what decolonization means for the legal landscape; and, allows participants to analyze and synthesize issues according to their perspectives through workshop, Talking Circle and reflection exercises.

THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY LEGAL CLINIC (ICLC) is an innovative experiential clinical program that runs three semesters per year and provides free legal services to Indigenous individuals all over the province. Located off campus, the ICLC students attend full time and make a meaningful contribution to a historically underserved and marginalized community, while gaining hands-on experience managing client files and making court appearances.

OBTAINING A SPECIALIZATION IN ABORIGINAL LAW through completing a series of courses in Aboriginal law prepares students, not just for a career in Aboriginal law, but in a variety of practice areas where Indigenous peoples and lands are involved.

THE KAWASKIMHON ("SPEAKING WITH KNOWLEDGE") ABORIGINAL RIGHTS MOOT is a national non-competitive moot where law students from across Canada engage in difficult and complex legal issues of importance to Indigenous peoples. Students selected to form the Allard team are mentored by lawyers and faculty who coach the team on how to research and prepare legal instruments for multi-party negotiations and to advocate in such negotiations.

Financing

In addition to the generous scholarships and awards offered by both the Allard School of Law and UBC, there are a number of externally funded scholarships, awards and bursaries available for Indigenous students at the law school. Please visit the Allard School of Law's website (allard.ubc.ca) and the UBC Aboriginal portal (aboriginal.ubc.ca) to learn more.

Ambassadors

To learn more about what it's like to be a student at the Allard School of Law, book a tour with an Indigenous student ambassador by emailing ambassadors@allard.ubc.ca.

How to Apply

Applicants who self-identify as Indigenous: First Nations (status or non-status), Métis or Inuk are encouraged to apply within the Indigenous category. These applicants will automatically be considered within the regular category as well.

To apply as an Indigenous applicant, you will need:

- 1 To fill out an application form online at apps.allard.ubc.ca/application/welcome.asp which includes two letters of reference and a personal statement.
- 2 A competitive Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) score. LSAT information is available at lsac.org. Check with admissions for the last sitting of the LSAT that will be accepted each year.
- 3 A competitive grade point average. Candidates must have successfully completed a minimum of three years of university towards an undergraduate degree.
- 4 Evidence of Indigenous identity. Please provide evidence of eligibility to apply within the Indigenous category by supplying a photocopy of Indian status card, Provincial Métis card, territorial government documentation, or genealogy supporting self-identification. If you have questions about eligibility, contact us directly at lschmidt@allard.ubc.ca.

The deadline for submitting your application is December 1st. Supporting documentation must be submitted by January 31st, following the application deadline.

Darlene Johnston

Associate Professor
CHIPPEWAS OF NAWASH
FIRST NATION

“With the combination of the Aboriginal Law Specialization, the Indigenous Community Legal Clinic, and the Indigenous Cultural Competence Certificate, the Allard School of Law is a leader in Indigenous Legal Studies in Canada. We attract the largest enrollment of Indigenous law students and provide unparalleled academic and cultural support. In addition to our four Indigenous law professors, many faculty teach and research in areas relevant to Indigenous peoples and are committed to the success of Indigenous law students.”



Patricia M. Barkaskas

Academic Director,
Indigenous Community Legal Clinic
MÉTIS NATION

“Participating in a clinical term at the Indigenous Community Legal Clinic allows students to work directly with Indigenous clients and assist them in their encounters with the Canadian legal system. It is an opportunity for students to engage with people and learn about the real life impacts of legislation and legal systems on peoples’ lives. Working with clients in this way teaches students about the power of law and their role in advocating for people, as well as educating the courts and changing the legal system.”



Jennifer Mackie

JD Student
CARRIER NATION

"I applied to the Allard School of Law because of its commitment to creating a space where I see myself represented in the student body and Faculty. After completing my first year of the JD program, I appreciate more how the entire school is committed to cultural safety and humility. The learning environment here is like nothing I have ever experienced in post-secondary institutions. I am grateful for the privilege and opportunity to learn here among a thoughtful and reflective community of students, faculty and staff."



Terri-Lynn Williams-Davidson

(Class of 1996)
Principal Lawyer
at White Raven Law Corporation
HAIDA NATION AND RAVEN CLAN

"I chose UBC because the course offerings and faculty ideally supported both a JD specialization in Aboriginal-environmental law and an LLM in Indigenous laws to marine spaces. During my JD, participating in the Kawaskimhon Moot and publishing a seminar paper helped to affirm my career pathway. And, Vancouver is a stunning gateway to my Haida Gwaii home."



Standing tall at the north side of Allard Hall is the House Post of 'qiyaplenax' ('Capilano') by Musqueam artist Brent Sparrow Jr. The House Post serves to recognize the historic and ongoing relationship between the Allard School of Law and the Musqueam people in the pursuit of justice and education related to Indigenous peoples.


PETER A. ALLARD SCHOOL OF LAW

To learn more:

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WEB allard.ubc.ca

 [@Allard_ILS](https://twitter.com/Allard_ILS)

 [Indigenous Legal Studies,](https://www.facebook.com/IndigenousLegalStudies)
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