

Regional Roundup

Winter 2016

OJEN Local Committees had a busy and productive year last year. Here are a few of the highlights of 2015 and a look ahead to some of the events we're anticipating to over the next few months. If you are planning any special justice education initiatives in your area, please send details to ndemoe@ojen.ca. We'd love to share the good ideas that have been generated throughout the province.

Welcome to our New Local Committees

We are delighted to report that three new local OJEN committees have been formed to promote justice education initiatives throughout Ontario! All three are already actively involved in providing students and teachers with positive and enriching experiences with the justice system, taking advantage of the enthusiastic judiciary, court staff and lawyers in each area.

Hastings County

Chair: Gerry McGeachy, Assistant Crown Attorney in Belleville

Projects: Local mock trial tournament in partnership with Loyalist College -part of the OBA/OJEN Competitive Mock Trials (OOCMT)

Windsor-Essex

Chair: Justice Paul Howard (SCJ) - Justice Lynda Ross (OCJ) is also on this committee

Projects: Local mock trial tournament, hosting OOCMT Ontario Southwest Regional Finals and promoting courthouse visits to schools.

Halton

Chair: Inga Andriessen of Andriessen & Associates - Justice Michael Gibson (SCJ) is also joining the committee

Projects: Annual Halton Mock Trial Tournament, hosting the OOCMT Ontario Central West Regional Finals, expanding school mentoring program matching lawyers to schools - initiated by Inga Andriessen, and promoting increased class visits to the Milton courthouse.

OJEN + CLEO = LawConnect

Next month will mark the one year anniversary of OJEN's move into shared office space with Community Legal Education Ontario (CLEO). Apart from the obvious benefits of sharing office equipment and some of our administrative costs, we have been finding ever increasing opportunities to collaborate with one another. Starting small, we have cross-consulted on projects and incorporated each other's resources into programs. We are also exploring the possibilities of joining forces on a larger scale. While maintaining our individual identities and unique mandates, both OJEN and CLEO are excited about the ways we can increase our impact through working together on special initiatives. Today we are launching LawConnect, a separate umbrella under which we can combine our strengths to take on special PLE projects. Look for more news about LawConnect soon.

Northwestern Ontario Law Institute (NWOLI)

Thirty teachers from Thunder Bay, Dryden, Sioux Lookout, Marathon, Geraldton and Kenora attended the Northwestern Ontario Law Institute on November 12th and 13th. Deputy Grand Chief Derek Fox presented a keynote address on the evening of the 12th at the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law at Lakehead University. Speaking to an audience of mostly teachers and students, Deputy Grand Chief Fox spoke about Aboriginal justice and the implications of the Truth and Reconciliation Report.

The following day, Justice Bruce Fitzpatrick of the Superior Court of Justice, welcomed teachers to the NWOLI, where they took part in a full day program which included a tour of the new courthouse, and workshops on Your Rights When Talking to the Police, Preventing Wrongful Convictions, Mock Trial Tips and Tricks, and Cyber Bullying. Teachers also participated in an experiential Traffic Court session.



His Worship John Guthrie with teachers attending the Northwestern Ontario Law Institute in November 2015.



Bursaries Presented to Students Pursuing Education Leading to Careers in Law

Each year The Association of Justices of the Peace of Ontario, The Association of Ontario Judges and the Ontario Superior Court Judges' Association provide bursaries to high school students who are entering into post-secondary school programs leading to a law-related career. Partnering with OJEN to promote and administer the program, bursaries are awarded to students based on academic excellence and financial need. In 2015, a total of 20 bursaries were presented to students entering programs including Police Foundations, Forensic Science, and Political Science.

For more information about the bursary program and for a complete list of 2015 recipients, check out the OJEN website - <http://ojen.ca/program/4065>.

Bursary recipient Danika Balijak with Her Worship De Gannes and His Worship Ryan –Central East Region

Art in the Courts Unveiling at Brampton Courthouse

November was a busy month for justice education activities at the A. Grenville & William Davis Courthouse in Brampton. 37 grade 9 students participated in a successful Take Our Kids to Work Day program. 8 schools sent teams to compete in the annual Mock Bail Tournament for grade 11 law students. During the opening ceremonies for the tournament, Justice Nancy Kastner led the unveiling of the 2015 Art in the Courts poster created by Deeksha Kumar. Her poster was selected from entries to OJEN's Grade 5 Poster Challenge. Each year students submit their artwork based on the theme of Canada's *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. One from each region is chosen to hang in a local courthouse.



Lennox Award Presented to AJEFO



The **Lennox Award for Innovation in Justice Education in Ontario's East Region** was awarded to the Association of French Speaking Jurists of Ontario (AJEFO) at a reception at the Ottawa Courthouse on October 29th. The award, named after the former Chief Justice of the Ontario Court of Justice in honour of his founding role in the establishment of OJEN/ROEJ, recognized AJEFO for its contribution to justice education and specifically for the creation of the innovative web site, *Cliquezjustice.ca*. The Honourable Justice Brian Lennox joined with Justice Célynne Dorval of the Ottawa OJEN Committee to present the award. It was accepted on behalf of the organization by Board Chair, François Baril and Executive Director Andrée Anne Martel.

Flip Your Wig For Justice



The Flip Your Wig for Justice Campaign has kicked off for another year. OJEN is one of 5 justice sector not-for-profit organizations including Canadian Civil Liberties Association, Community Legal Education Ontario, METRAC–Action on Violence and Pro Bono Students Canada collaborating to raise awareness about the access to justice crisis in Canada and to raise funds to advance our access to justice initiatives.

Throughout February we'll be running lots of A2J activities across the province. We're asking our supporters to help raise funds or donate to the campaign. Make a pledge to wear a wig (wacky or legal) to work on February 25th and sign yourself up on our Canada Helps site. Get a team together or if you'd rather, sponsor a team that's already signed up. You can even sponsor Team OJEN...or just make a donation! For more information about the campaign, and how to get involved, check out:

<http://www.flipyourwigforjustice.ca>

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