



September 22, 2016

**Update Report
TAG – The Action Group on Access to Justice**

Access to Justice Week

TAG is coordinating Ontario's first Access to Justice Week with a wide range of partners from October 17 to 21. The week will be an opportunity to engage the public and explore current access to justice issues such as technology, public legal education and child welfare.

This week will also feature the launch of [Steps to Justice](#), a digital initiative led by CLEO that provides plain language information about common legal problems. The content is available from CLEO's website and can also be embedded by other organizations on to their websites. TAG played a key role in facilitating collaboration among key justice stakeholders to develop the Steps to Justice.

Learn more about Access to Justice Week events and related registration details on the [TAG website](#).

Architects of Justice

Architects of Justice is TAG's initiative that increases public participation in the development of access to justice solutions. Last spring law and paralegal students were recruited to join the Architects of Justice project through on-campus and online promotion. They were tasked with sharing public legal education materials and inviting people to imagine the justice system of the future at summer events in Toronto, Kingston and Windsor. The students also surveyed the public about access to justice using iPads. Over 1200 people completed the survey and data is currently being reviewed.

Evaluations from the students are positive with much of the feedback stressing that engaging with the public provided a valuable experiential education opportunity. Student reflections will be shared publicly in the coming weeks. TAG's counterpart in Saskatchewan, the Deans Forum has adopted the Architects of Justice program, they will be launching their efforts this fall.

Imprisoning the Innocent

We are pleased to partner with Innocence Canada and the Canadian Civil Liberties Association on a Continuing Professional Development session that brings together a variety of speakers with a wide range of perspectives on Canada's bail system. The event takes place on October 11 in the Donald Lamont Learning Centre at the Law Society of Upper Canada and will also be webcast. Register on the [TAG website](#).

This program will:

- Highlight recent academic research findings on bail in Canada
- Provide an overview of recent policy recommendations for reforming the bail system
- Introduce initiatives from the Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Aid Ontario aimed at addressing systemic issues in the bail system
- Provide concrete, practical guidance, from both defence and Crown perspectives, on best practices that individual lawyers and adjudicators should implement to improve the bail system
- Review suggestions for practical implementation of Gladue principles and ameliorate systemic discrimination at the bail stage

Speakers Include:

- Sukanya Pillay, Executive Director and General Counsel, Canadian Civil Liberties Association
- Dr. Jane Sprott, Department of Criminology, Ryerson University
- Abby Dushman, Director of Public Safety Program, Canadian Civil Liberties Association
- Danny Morton, Legal Counsel with the Aboriginal Justice Division, MAG
- Lori Montague, Deputy Crown Attorney and Former Co-Chair of the MAG Bail Experts Table
- Georgia Koulis, Duty Counsel Manager at 1000 Finch Ave West Court
- Susanne Hunter, Manager Duty Counsel Services (Criminal), GTA
- Jilliam Rogin, Review Counsel at Community Legal Aid, University of Windsor
- Elizabeth McIsaac, President, Maytree (moderator)
- Anil Kapoor, Lawyer, Kapoor Barristers (moderator)

A2J

Access to Justice Week

OCTOBER 17-21, 2016

 **TAG** #A2J2016

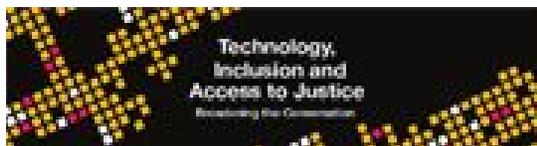
Organized with a range of partners this week will explore collaborative initiatives and engage new participants in the access to justice conversation.



Architects of Justice Public Design Session

This design session will ask participants to imagine the justice system of the future. This all ages event is open to the public.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17
LAW SOCIETY OF UPPER CANADA
130 QUEEN STREET WEST



Technology, Inclusion and Access to Justice: Broadening the Conversation

This day of discussion will highlight new technology ideas in the justice sector and explore ways to strengthen the connection between inclusion and innovation.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18
9AM – 4PM
LAW SOCIETY OF UPPER CANADA
130 QUEEN STREET WEST



Connect, Create, Communicate: Public Legal Education and the Access to Justice Movement

This two-day conference offers the opportunity to advance knowledge, skills and awareness about promising practices in public legal education and current issues in the push for access to justice in Ontario.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20
8AM – 5PM
CHESTNUT CONFERENCE CENTRE
89 CHESTNUT STREET

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21
8AM – 3PM
CHESTNUT CONFERENCE CENTRE
89 CHESTNUT STREET

For more details and to register for these events visit:
theactiongroup.ca/access-to-justice-week

 @tagactiongroup



Re-imagining Child Welfare Systems in Canada: A Symposium

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21
9AM – 4PM
OSGOODE HALL LAW SCHOOL
YORK UNIVERSITY
4700 KEELE ST



Stories From the Justice System with Raconteurs Storytelling

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21
7:30PM – 9:30PM
HART HOUSE
7 HART HOUSE CIRCLE