



Health Ethics Symposium

The Landscape of Health Law in Canada: Understanding Commonalities and Differences Across Provinces

Thursday, 20 November 2025, 12:00 – 3:00 PM

PARTICIPANTS' BIOGRAPHIES



Sarah Kristin Andersen, MD, MSc, FRCPC is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Critical Care Medicine and Adjunct Assistant Professor with the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre at the University of Alberta. She completed an NIH-funded postdoctoral research fellowship and a Master of Science in Health Services Research at the University of Pittsburgh and a Bioethics Fellowship at the Harvard Medical School Center for Bioethics. Her research focuses on ethical decision-making in critical illness and enhancing patient and family-centered care across the critical care journey. She also serves as the Ethics Co-Chair for the Canadian Critical Care Society.



Justice Tracey M. Bailey was appointed to the Alberta Court of Justice in May 2025. As a member of the Family and Youth Division, she hears matters in the areas of child protection, youth criminal justice, family law and emergency applications.

Prior to her appointment, Justice Bailey was a partner with Miller Thomson LLP where she advised health system and professional clients and was recognized by the Canadian LExpert Directory in Life Sciences & Health. She provided legal, legislative, policy and ethics advice on a wide range of issues in health law for more than 30 years. She started her career in private practice and subsequently worked at the University of Alberta's Faculty of Law in an academic position and as Executive Director of the Health Law Institute. In 2013 she joined Alberta Justice's health law team, was promoted to Director of the team and Corporate Counsel for Alberta Health, and subsequently appointed General Counsel, Health Law, acting as a senior legal advisor on numerous complex files to senior officials and public servants. In 2020, she was appointed Queen's counsel and joined Miller Thomson, where she continued to teach, publish and support other initiatives in the health law area. She is an honorary executive member of the Canadian Bar Association's national health law section and Adjunct Professor with the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre.



Karen Bennett-Clayton, KC is a partner with Stewart McKelvey and was admitted to the Nova Scotia Bar in 2001. Karen received her Bachelor of Arts in 1991 from Dalhousie University. She was awarded her LL.B. (first class honours) in 1999 from Brunel University, in London, England and received the University Medal for the highest standing in her graduating class.

Karen's practice focuses on health law including medical malpractice and risk management, professional liability, and insurance. She regularly represents the Nova Scotia Health Authority and Izaak Walton Killiam Hospital on litigated matters. Karen sits on the Board of Directors for the Canadian Mental Health Association – Nova Scotia branch and is a past board member for Ronald McDonald House Atlantic and the Nova Scotia Health Authority Research Ethics Board.



Gillian Lemermeyer, PhD, RN is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Alberta, Canada. She is Associate Director of the International Institute for Qualitative Methodology and Co-Lead of the AI+Health Hub. Gillian's research explores the embodied ethics of healthcare practices, investigating questions situated in the relational encounters between nurses and other healthcare practitioners with the people in their care. Her research program is focused on themes of relational ethics, the nurse's touch, and the ethics of artificial intelligence in healthcare. Gillian is an Assistant Adjunct Professor with the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre.



Lisa Spiegel, KC has an advocacy practice with proficiency in servicing the health industry. Renowned as a trusted advisor to health industry clients on a broad range of intricate legal matters, her practice includes the defence of health professionals, hospital privileging and medical staff issues, and medico-legal defence. With a rich background in health litigation, including navigating complex misconduct cases, Lisa is a seasoned representative in courts and tribunals, offering practical and responsive legal advice.

Lisa's robust presence in academic forums, including her instructor roles at Osgoode Hall Law School as both a co-teacher of its Professional Governance in the Professional LLM Health Law program and an instructor in its Intensive Trial Advocacy Workshop, underscores her passion for spreading legal knowledge while offering valuable insights in professional regulation courses. A proud member of the Law Society of Ontario, The Advocates' Society and the Medico-Legal Society of Toronto among others, Lisa's professional affiliations reflect her commitment to legal excellence and education. She has been recognized by The Best Lawyers in Canada for her prowess in multiple legal domains, including administrative law and health law. Lisa also contributes as a facilitator in legal education programs, including through the Advocates' Society, supporting her dedication to continuous learning and development in the legal sphere.



Michael van Manen, MD, PhD, FRCPC(Peds, NICU, CIP) Endowed Chair in Health Ethics is the Director of the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre and an Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatrics. Michael also has a clinical practice as a physician in neonatal-perinatal medicine with the Stollery Children's Hospital. His research is primarily concerned with relational ethics, situated within the tradition of phenomenology. Michael is considered an international expert in qualitative health research. His research projects relate to ethical decision-making, the experiential life of the fetus/newborn, the use of medical technologies in clinical encounters, and patient-family experiences of hospital care.