



RYAN FRITSCH

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PROFILE

Ryan Fritsch is a Toronto-based health, human rights and administrative lawyer experienced in leading social justice initiatives.

EDUCATION

McGill University, Faculty of Law — Montreal — LL.M., 2010

University of Windsor, Faculty of Law — Windsor — LL.B., 2005

University of Victoria, Department of Political Science — Victoria — B.A., 2002

EXPERIENCE

POLICY COUNSEL — LEGAL AID ONTARIO — 2012-PRESENT

Leading development of a province-wide [Mental Health Strategy](#) for Legal Aid Ontario, one of the largest legal aid and justice services providers in North America.

LEGAL COUNSEL — PSYCHIATRIC PATIENT ADVOCATE OFFICE — 2008-2012

Member of the senior management team responsible for serving over 30,000 in-patient psychiatric clients each year. Provided legal advice to management and 75 staff members at 10 regional offices and 70 hospitals across Ontario. Clients services included patient advocacy, patient rights advice, and hospital investigations.

Additionally responsible for leading provincial-level systemic law reform projects, policy development, test case litigation, knowledge transfer, staff training and performance measures, and media relations.

SESSIONAL LECTURER — FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR 2012-PRESENT

Lecturing on Mental Health and the Law, surveying a broad array of criminal, capacity, human rights, privacy, professional ethical and tribunal law.

ECOJUSTICE CANADA — ARTICLING & ASSOCIATE LAWYER — 2006-2007

Articling student and associate lawyer at Canada's leading independent environmental law reform firm. Litigated strategic test-cases at provincial and federal levels of court.

PIVOT LEGAL SOCIETY — ARTICLING STUDENT — 2007

Articling student to legal clinic serving impoverished clients in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. Prepared submissions relating to the *Charter of Rights*, affordable housing and policing.

LEADING CASES AS COUNSEL

Police Record Check Coalition achieves province-wide ban on disclosure of personal mental health information by police (July 2011)

Inquest into the death of Jeffrey James (Ontario Coroner's Courts, Sept. 15 – Oct. 8, 2008) obtaining 65 recommendations related to the reduction in restraint use in psychiatric care

BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

Toronto Police Services — Co-Chair — Emergency Mental Health Hospital Admissions Working Group — Toronto, 2012-Present

Toronto Police Services Board — Member — Advisory Committee for Mental Health — Toronto, 2009-Present

Ontario Police Records Check Coalition — Co-Chair — Toronto, 2009-2013

Law Commission of Ontario — Member — Advisory Board for Law as it Affects Persons with Disabilities — Toronto, 2010-2012

Legal Aid Ontario — Member — Provincial Mental Health Advisory Committee — Toronto, 2009-2012

Balance for Blind Adults — Executive Board Member — Toronto, 2009-2012

SELECT MEDIA INTERVIEWS

Cross-border disclosure of mental health records — Newstalk 1010 Radio Jim Richards Show (November 29, 2013)

Ontario police to seal non-criminal mental health records – Globe and Mail (July 25, 2011)

Mental health records protected from disclosure – CBC Radio Ontario Today (July 25, 2011)

Canadian woman denied entry to U.S. because of suicide attempt – Toronto Star (January 29, 2011)

Ontario's Mental Health Crisis – TVO broadcast of The Agenda with Steve Paikin (January 7, 2011)

RECENT SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Presentation on Police Record Checks at the Centre of Addiction and Mental Health (August 15, 2013)

Ontario Provincial Police Conference on Crisis Intervention Teams (May 10, 2012)

Presentation to the Ontario Association of Police Service Boards (February 23, 2012)

Presentation to the Office of the Independent Police Review Director (February 7, 2012)

Provincial Human Services Justice Coordinating Committee Annual Provincial Conference (November 22, 2011)