Legal leadership for global challenges

Balarama Holness
Law student
Today’s world is one of global uncertainty: Liberal democracies are under stress. Ethnic nationalism and populism are on the rise. Technology is developing faster than our ability to regulate it. Environmental issues abound. People, ideas, and goods cross borders more than ever before – although borders remain obstacles to many.

Established in 1848 as Canada’s first law school, McGill’s Faculty of Law has continuously thrived at the forefront of complex issues by looking further than other law schools. We have the bilingual, pluralistic approach and global orientation to distinguish us from peers. We make a difference in our community, in Canada, and in the world at large.

Thanks to our accomplished alumni and generous supporters, McGill’s Faculty of Law is already Canada’s most global law faculty. But we aspire to go even further. We have the talent, the experience and the ambition to continue to push the boundaries of what a legal education can be and do.

[ Cover Photo ]
Balarama Holness
What will it take to lead the way in addressing these global challenges?
Confident leaders who imagine pathways to a more equitable, peaceful and prosperous world.

Agile and rigorously trained thinkers.
Legal scholars with exposure to both fundamental and emerging issues.

Globally trained professionals who thrive in multinational, multilingual commerce and governance.
These are our strengths

McGill’s Faculty of Law is Canada’s most globally oriented law school, and one of the best places in the world to study law. Proudly rooted in Montreal, we reach out to the world with our ideas and our people.

This global reach and commitment to excellence is reflected in our reputation: as our alumni will tell you, there is no place in the world where a McGill degree will not open doors and provide a launching pad to career-changing relationships and achievements.

What gives McGill Law its distinctive edge?

An integrated legal education
Our bilingual transsystemic program integrates common and civil law from year one. Students graduate with both degrees. We incorporate other legal traditions, including Indigenous traditions, into our curriculum. No other law faculty in the world adopts such a deeply pluralistic approach.

Expertise across domains and the agility to tackle rapid change
Our Faculty leads in shaping governments and society. Areas of expertise range from migration and trade to peaceful expansion of activities in space. Our presence in Montreal, with its excellence in areas such as aviation and technology, sharpens our competitive edge. Within the University, we leverage McGill’s expertise in domains like medicine and health sciences. McGill-educated lawyers are pioneers in fields such as artificial intelligence and cryptocurrencies. Our graduates are exceptionally prepared for careers both inside and outside the legal profession.

A commitment to serve the public good
Students and faculty advance access to justice and human rights. Activities include placements in local organizations serving vulnerable populations, international human rights internships, and interventions before international courts. Our graduates include two prime ministers, 11 Supreme Court of Canada justices and numerous members of Parliament.

A global perspective and international connections
Our Faculty attracts students, researchers and professors from around the world. And once they are here, international collaboration continues between legal scholars. Researchers advance legal knowledge, inform public policy and engage in debate on a global scale. They tackle vital issues for Quebec and Canada, and provide expertise in international trade disputes, as well as in comparative and transnational law. McGill Law alumni live and work in 113 countries, with critical masses working in Montreal, Toronto, New York, Ottawa, Paris, London, Brussels, The Hague and Hong Kong.
This is our vision

Solving pressing global challenges and preparing the leaders of the future.
As we look to McGill’s third century, McGill Law has a clear plan for how to leverage our distinctive position in Montreal, build on our international connections, and add strength in domains that will be critical to both future legal practice and social progress.

**Our vision will focus on adding capacity in three key areas where we can have the greatest impact:**

**Cultivating leaders for a fast-changing world**
We will bring the best and the brightest to McGill by offering an even wider range of courses and awards, along with additional wellness support. We will provide students with opportunities to do great things today through experiential learning. Through a dynamic Career Development Office and mentorship initiatives, we will continue to help students launch their careers. And we will address issues of fairness and structural challenges to diversity by attracting more students with diverse backgrounds and ideas.

**Shaping better societies**
We will continue to participate in and shape national and international policy debates that advance solutions to pressing societal challenges that include migration and trade, religious and social pluralism, armed conflicts and human rights, resource scarcity, and the need for peaceful expansion of activities in space.

**Providing an exceptional learning environment**
We want to offer our world-class faculty and students a modern environment conducive to deep learning by modernizing classrooms, creating spaces for study and collaboration, and making other enhancements, including a more seamless flow between indoor and outdoor spaces for Old Chancellor Day Hall.
A future to match her ambition. Made by opportunity.

Made by McGill.

Natacha Ngo

Law student and Research Assistant to the H. Heward Stikeman Chair in the Law of Taxation, Prof. Allison Christians. Participant in the McGill/Shantou Summer Law Program established by the Li Ka Shing Foundation (Canada).
Cultivating leaders for a fast-changing world

McGill Law graduates embody success across nearly every field, parlaying the knowledge, perspective and skills we provide into leadership on issues of global importance.

But, as the world changes, preparing cohorts of future-ready graduates requires adapting courses and creating more experiential learning choices. Meanwhile, responding to imperatives of access to justice, fairness and cultural literacy requires that our student body becomes more diverse than ever, and that we create opportunities that open the doors of McGill Law to all qualified students. Ensuring all our students are equipped for the careers of tomorrow requires building stronger support mechanisms, and engaging our global alumni community in new ways.
Preparing students for a changing career landscape requires us to:

Expand innovative learning by:

› **Augmenting course offerings** to include intensive hands-on courses in areas such as environmental law, legal approaches to artificial intelligence, financing and structuring of startups, and human rights and democracy.

› **Letting the world be the classroom** through:
  - **Student placements** in legal clinics and other practical work settings that offer high-impact learning experiences and enhance access to justice in the community.
  - **Awards** enabling students to participate in international human rights internships and other global opportunities through endowed internships.

Launch careers by:

› **Transforming our Career Development Office** into an innovative, multiservice centre. The new office will use technology and networking opportunities to connect students and recent graduates with a broad range of global career opportunities, both within and beyond the legal profession.

› **Expand our alumni mentorship program** to allow our powerful network to help students start their careers.

Support student wellness and increase diversity by:

› **Enhancing mental health counselling and programming**, and responding to growing demands of students from all backgrounds.

› **Awarding bursaries and scholarships to students from underrepresented groups**, including Indigenous people, and to graduate students.

› **Hiring an advisor to provide counselling to students from underrepresented groups** who may be the first in their families to attend university and lack the informal support systems other students may take for granted.
The next generation of law experts. 
Made by professors like Allison Christians. 
Made by McGill.

Associate Dean (Research) at the Faculty of Law, H. Heward Stikeman Chair in Tax Law.
Fostering global networks in human rights.
Led by innovators like Nandini Ramanujam.
Made by McGill.
Shaping better societies

While they teach and collaborate with our extraordinary students, our professors advance knowledge and demonstrate thought leadership in national and international policy debates. We are active in advancing solutions to local and global challenges, including consumer protection, migration and trade, religious and social pluralism, armed conflicts and human rights, resource scarcity, and the need for peaceful expansion of activities in space.

Your support can allow the Faculty of Law to continue to participate in these debates, and to enhance our engagement in strategic areas of research that truly changes lives.

Attuned to the distinctive opportunities offered by our location in Montreal, we are looking to:

Build on existing strengths

› **Business law**: Deploy our integrated, transnational approach to legal teaching and research in business law by creating a Chair in Business Law.

› **Comparative private law**: Deepen our globally recognized expertise in Quebec private law, as well as in transnational and international law and practice.

› **Air and space law**: Anchor the world-renowned Institute of Air and Space Law with a Chair in Space Law. The Chair will strengthen our leadership role on issues such as mitigating potential conflicts in outer space.
Hone expertise in emerging areas

› **Artificial intelligence and technology:** Increase knowledge in areas of rapid change that challenge regulators, and offer opportunities to ensure technology reflects and reinforces our values and aspirations, while drawing on Montreal’s strength in high tech.

› **Health and disability law:** Develop and test new rights-based interventions that can empower people with disabilities, drawing on McGill’s leadership in medicine and health sciences.

› **Indigenous law:** Understand Indigenous legal traditions as resources for positive change and build research capacity.

› **Environmental law and transnational justice:** Use our expertise in dispute resolution and the environment to help settle conflicts over natural resources.

Lead global debate

› **Attracting and retaining top talent:** Create awards for top scholars. Support Professors of Practice to complement our core Faculty. Establish Chairs to draw international legal stars. Provide seed funding so researchers can attract major funding from other sources.

› **Supporting networking and dissemination of research:** Provide funds for researchers to travel and nurture multi-institutional partnerships. Allow researchers to bring international collaborators and networks to McGill.

› **Encouraging outreach and public engagement:** Sponsor lecture series, symposia, workshops, and other opportunities for students and faculty members to connect with fellow scholars and share knowledge with the public.
Passionate about paying it forward.
Fueled by a commitment to community.
Made by McGill.

Neil Modi
BCL/LLB’08
Legal Counsel at the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada. Faculty of Law Young Alumni Board member.
Providing an exceptional learning environment

As an international leader in the field, McGill’s Faculty of Law deserves facilities that will make it a symbol of the legal profession for the future.

The Faculty’s buildings include some of McGill’s – and Montreal’s – most historic structures. These architectural treasures are in urgent need of renewal, so that they can accommodate modern new pedagogical approaches. Enhancing our physical environment and equipping McGill Law’s home in Chancellor Day Hall for legal education in McGill’s third century requires the following:

Modernizing classrooms
The transformation of traditional classrooms on the second floor of New Chancellor Day Hall into flexible, high-tech learning spaces will accommodate McGill Law’s diverse teaching methods and foster a dynamic student experience that reflects how graduates will interact in their professional lives.

Reflecting the 24/7 nature of today’s student experience
The Faculty’s renewed curriculum calls for more flexible study rooms and meeting spaces, where students can come together to collaborate on projects. The Faculty is also eager to upgrade the iconic Common Room in Old Chancellor Day Hall, which has hosted many celebrations, coffeehouses and reunions over the years.

Creating a seamless flow between indoor and outdoor spaces
An ambitious and highly visible project will involve removing the exterior staircase on the southern facade of Old Chancellor Day Hall, enlarging and refurbishing an adjacent ground-floor student lounge, and constructing an adjoining terrace. These spaces will provide a much-needed venue for Faculty gatherings and public receptions.
The Faculty of Law:
Ready to lead the way.
Made by McGill: THE CAMPAIGN FOR OUR THIRD CENTURY.