This roundtable welcomes together legal academics, practitioners and law students to talk about the implications of recent judicial inquiries which brought questions of gender, among other issues, to the fore. Together we can begin to think through our answers to questions including:

- What have we learned about how the role of the judge is understood through these inquiries and surrounding public discourse?
- What expectations about judicial language and behaviour do the outcomes of the Inquiries suggest?
- Is the process set up for judicial inquiries working? Are there changes we would propose and why?
- What are the implications for judicial appointments?
- How do gender, race and indigeneity figure in the Camp and Douglas Inquiries and more broadly in our discourse about what good judging requires and who would be a good judge?
- What strategic questions do we need to consider in terms of when and how to draft complaints to the Canadian Judicial Council?

Our invitees will speak briefly before a group discussion

Alice Woolley, Professor, University of Calgary, Faculty of Law
Fathima Cader, Barrister and Solicitor, McMahon, Morrison, Watts
Molly Reynolds, Barrister and Solicitor, Torys LLP
Kim Stanton, Barrister and Solicitor, Goldblatt Partners LLP
Nana Yanful, Barrister and Solicitor
Sonia Lawrence, Associate Professor, Osgoode Hall Law School
Texts/Context for Further Reading

Inquiry Committee Regarding the Honourable Robin Camp: Report

- Other documents related to the Camp Inquiry available here including submissions of interveners, response to the Report, etc. available here.
- Alice Woolley (2017) The resignation of Robin Camp: background and reflections from Canada, Legal Ethics, 20:1, 134-137, DOI: 10.1080/1460728x.2017.1346550 To link to this article:

Inquiry Committee Regarding the Honourable Lori Douglas (all documents) here

- Alain Roussy (2014) The Continuing Saga of the Douglas Inquiry in Canada, Legal Ethics, 17:3, 442-447, DOI: 10.5235/1460728X.17.3.442 To link to this article: https://doi.org/10.5235/1460728X.17.3.442

Reforms and Changes

Sexual Assault Training

Bill C-337 An Act to amend the Judges Act and the Criminal Code (sexual assault) (Short Title Judicial Accountability through Sexual Assault Law Training Act “This enactment amends the Judges Act to restrict eligibility for judicial appointment to individuals who have completed comprehensive education in respect of matters related to sexual assault law and social context. It also requires the Canadian Judicial Council to report on continuing education seminars in matters related to sexual assault law. Furthermore, it amends the Criminal Code to require that reasons provided by a judge in sexual assault decisions be entered in the record of the proceedings or be in writing” This Bill died in the Senate.

Ontario Bill 120 Mandatory Sexual Assault Law Training for Judicial Officers Act, 2017 “Currently, under section 43 of the Courts of Justice Act, the Judicial Appointments Advisory Committee makes recommendations to the Attorney General for the appointment of provincial judges. New subsection 43 (10.1) provides that the Committee cannot consider a candidate unless he or she has completed comprehensive sexual assault law education.
Section 51.10 of the Act is amended to require the plan for the continuing education of judges to require judges to complete education in respect of matters related to sexual assault law.


Reforming the Canadian Judicial Council Process


Department of Justice Canada Possibilities for further reform of the Federal Judicial Discipline Process JUNE 2016 [consultation closed August 2016]