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PRESS RELEASE

Nikki Gershbain, Executive Director of Pro Bono Students Canada, to join Windsor Law's National Self-Represented Litigants Project

Windsor, July 4th, 2016:

Nikki Gershbain, National Director of Pro Bono Students Canada, will be joining NSRLP and <u>Windsor Law</u> for one year, commencing December 2016 or January 2017.

Nikki has extensive experience developing and overseeing programs that use law students to provide legal services without charge to people in need.

As part of her Law Foundation Fellowship at NSRLP, Nikki will research and develop teaching tools for a new model of limited and more affordable legal service delivery now frequently described as legal 'coaching'. This model builds on the needs described by SRLs who participated in the 2013 <u>Research Study</u>,

Nikki will be working with law schools and law firms to refine and promote the legal coaching model. She will also be working with Ontario law schools to enhance law student awareness and understanding of the SRL phenomenon, and its far-reaching consequences for how a new generation of lawyers interact with clients and approach the practice of law.

In addition, Nikki will be working on a fundraising strategy and related initiatives, which we hope will enable us to put NSRLP on a secure financial footing for some years to come.

About the National Self-Represented Litigants Project

The National Self-Represented Litigants Project (NSRLP) builds on the National Self-Represented Litigants Research Study, conducted by <u>Dr. Julie Macfarlane</u> from 2011-2013. NSRLP takes its mandate from the Final Recommendations of the Research Report: <u>10 Actions Steps for the SRL Phenomenon</u>.

The National Self-Represented Litigants Project

- aims to continue to generate energy and motivation towards serious contemplation of system change, reflecting the findings of the Research Study
- is committed to collaboration to enhance the responsiveness of the Canadian justice system to SRL's, and to continuing dialogue among the stakeholders who include SRL's, lawyers, judges and court services staff
- is committed to information and resource-sharing on the SRL phenomenon among all interested and affected parties.

For more information please contact:

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