


National Self-Represented Litigants Project

2018 Year In Review



A pair of ornate brass scales of justice is shown on a wooden surface. The scales are positioned on the left side of the frame, with the pans hanging from a central pillar. The background is a blurred wooden surface, likely a desk or table. A semi-transparent dark rectangular box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing white text.

“The core of our work is to advocate for better and deeper understanding of the needs, motivations and challenges of self-represented litigants”

2018 NSRLRP TEAM



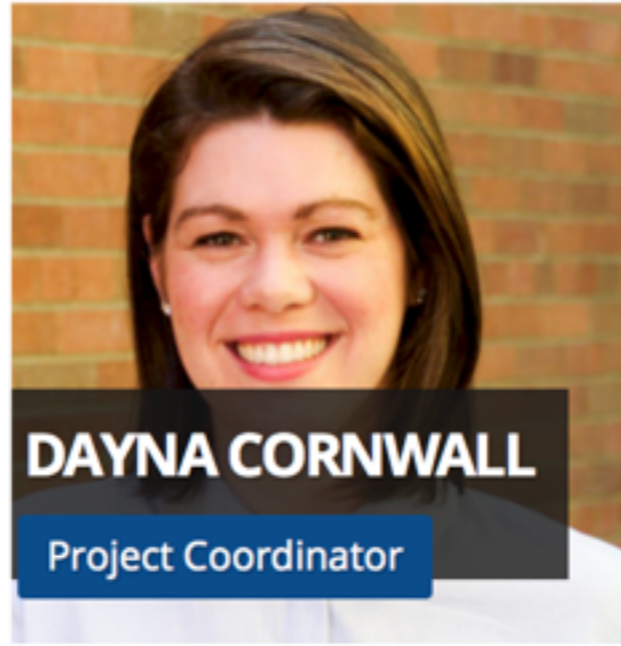
NSRLRP





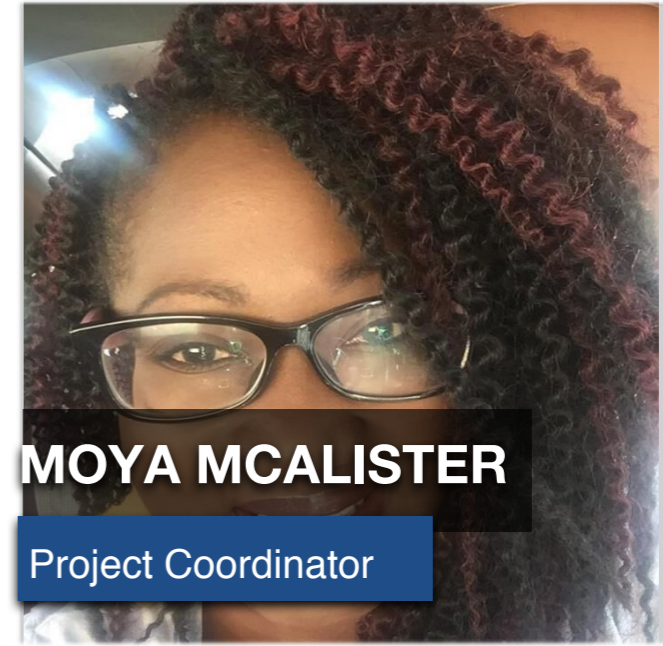
**DR. JULIE
MACFARLANE**

Project Director



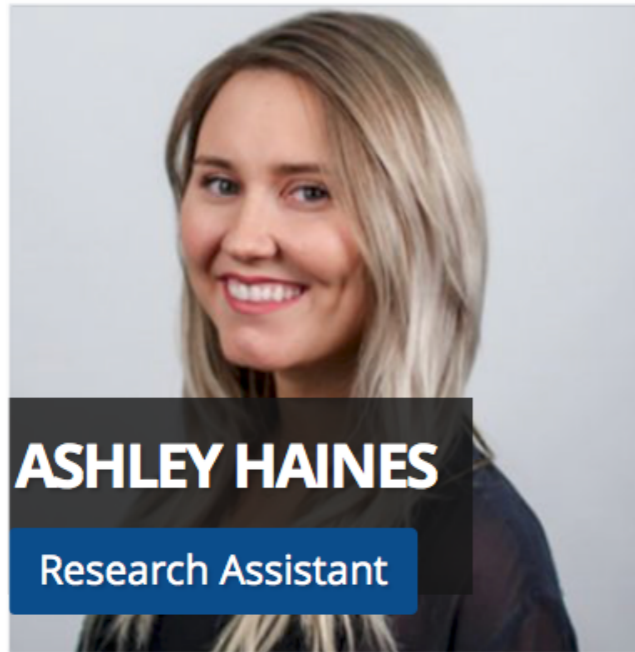
DAYNA CORNWALL

Project Coordinator



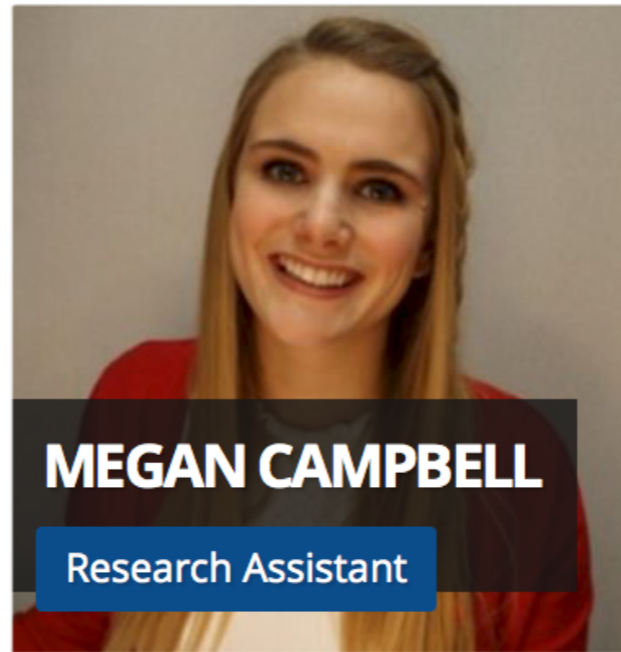
MOYA MCALISTER

Project Coordinator



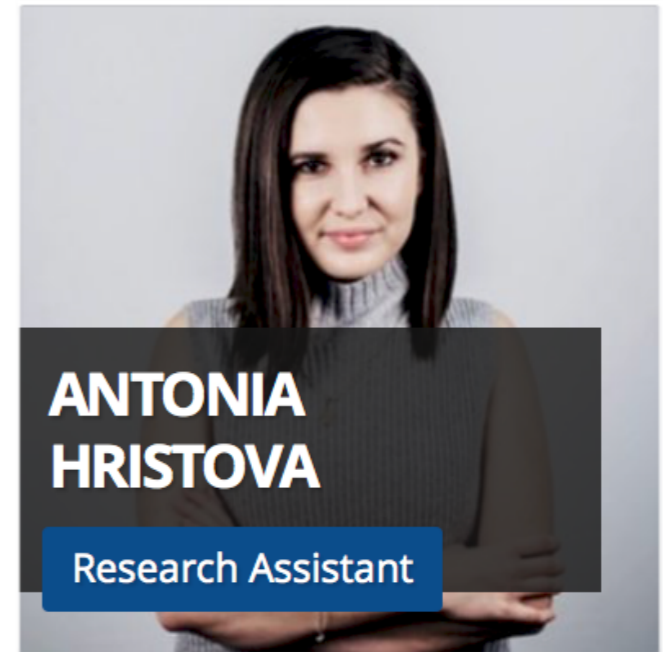
ASHLEY HAINES

Research Assistant



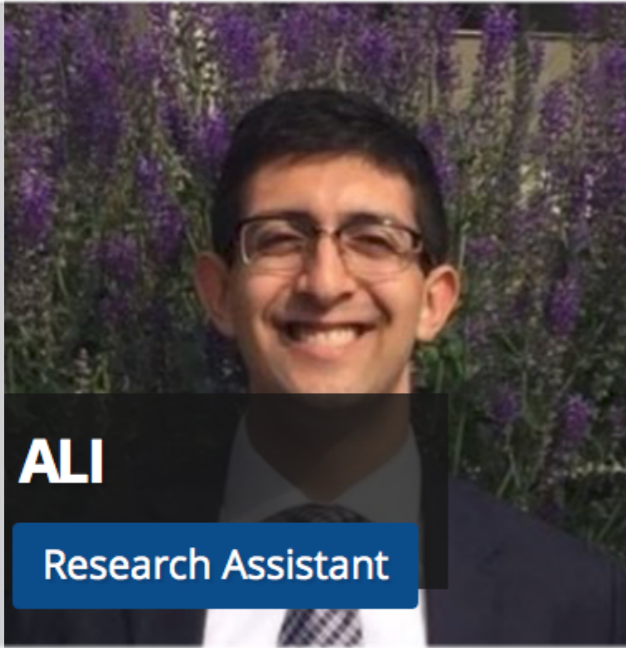
MEGAN CAMPBELL

Research Assistant



**ANTONIA
HRISTOVA**

Research Assistant



ALI

Research Assistant



**JOANNA
PAWLOWSKI**

Research Assistant



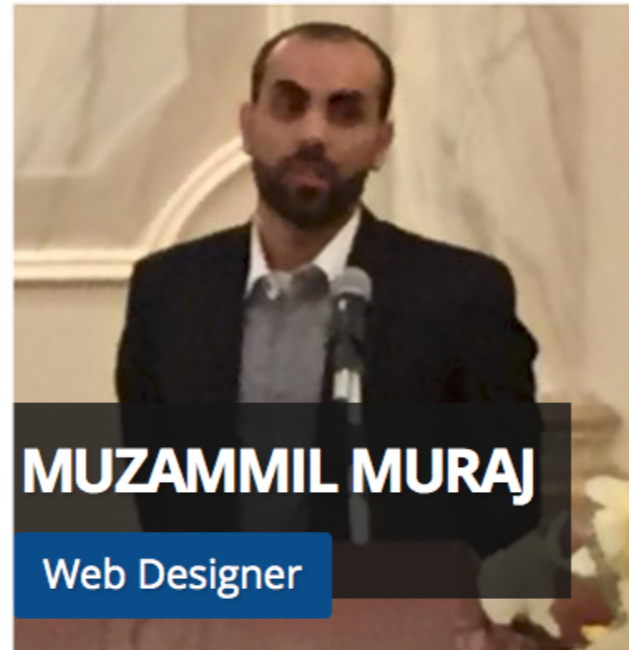
KAILA SCARROW

Research Assistant



CYNTHIA EAGAN

Editor



MUZAMMIL MURAJ

Web Designer



BRAUNTË PETRIC

Podcast Intern

WELCOME MOYA!

We are thrilled to announce that **Moya McAlister** has joined the NSRLP team as our new part-time Project Coordinator! Moya has a background in marketing, fundraising, and non-profit management, and brings a passion for social justice issues to everything she does. Moya's education is in English and Musical Studies, as well as Advertising and Marketing Communications Management; most recently she was an Account Executive at a top North American advertising agency, but she has also worked as Volunteer and Development Coordinator at the Windsor Humane Society. Moya is heavily involved in community arts and social justice initiatives, including serving as Board Vice President and Marketing Director of Windsor's Arts Collective Theatre.



NSRLP Mandates

- **RESEARCH**



- **RESOURCES**

- **ADVOCACY**



- **COLLABORATION & OUTREACH**

SRL Primers: Updates & Upgrades

- Funding from the Canadian Bar Association "Law for the Future" Fund will enable us to substantially upgrade and update our ten SRL Primers
- The Primers have been a central focus of our work at NSRLP for the past five years, and they are widely used across Canada and the US
- The CBA grant will enable us to integrate the latest approaches to plain language and legal literacy, incorporating graphics and visuals
- Project Lead Moya McAlister
- Plan to roll out the new, upgraded Primers Fall 2019



PWD Primer

The Can Lii Primer (Eng)

Reading A Case Primer

The Can Lii Primer (Fr)



**CBA LAW FOR
THE FUTURE FUND**

Case Law Database

- Began January of 2017
- Funded by Windsor Law, LFO, Foundation for Legal Research
- Over 400 cases entered
- Tracking developing SRL jurisprudence across Canada
- Series of reports on various themes found in the data
- Database itself will be released winter 2018



Research reports

- Introducing the SRL Case Law Database
- Cost Awards for SRLs (Lidia Imbrogno)
- When Judges See SRLs, Do They See Gender? (Sandra Shushani)
- Cost Awards Against SRLs (Ashley Haines)
- Pinteá v Johns: 18 Months Later (Kaila Scarrow)

Family Law at the Library Pilot Project

- July 2018– July 2020, Dayna as Project Leader
- Funded by LFO “Family Law Access to Justice Fund”
- Partnered with Windsor and Essex County public library systems
- Staff training, resources for SRLs, educational programming, space, marketing
- Develop best practices and materials for use in other public libraries
- First steps: getting familiar
- National conference fall 2019



**WINDSOR
PUBLIC LIBRARY**





2018 NSRLP Blog Posts

2015 Award Winner
Clawbies
Canadian Law Blog Awards

2016 Award Winner
Clawbies
Canadian Law Blog Awards

2017 Finalist
Clawbies
Canadian Law Blog Awards



“Self-represented litigants are another marginalized, mischaracterized, unfairly treated group in a justice system that is already unfair to most of those who do not fit its preferred “type” – possessing the “right” education, upbringing, clothes, ethnicity and gender...It’s time for us to start to talk frankly about the SRL phenomenon as an issue of power and inequality. It’s time for us to start developing A2J solutions that recognize this core reality.”

**Excerpt from *Inequality and Discrimination in the Justice System*
(September 6, 2018)**

Some of our blog titles from the past year...

- [Playing Fair with SRLs: Documents Need Not Be Perfect \(March 26, 2018\)](#)
- [Bifurcation: A Technique That Can Save SRLs Time & Money \(May 2, 2018\)](#)
- [Motherisk, Pinteá, and Summary Judgement in Child Protection Cases \(June 20, 2018\)](#)
- [NSRLP's New Research Report on Access to Court Transcripts \(June 27, 2018\)](#)
- [Punishing and Deterring SRLs Using Costs Awards: A Failed Strategy? \(July 26, 2018\)](#)



Other NSRLP Publications, 2018

- Is Access to Transcripts an Access to Justice Issue?
(Kaila Scarrow & Becky Robinet)
- SRL Provincial Resources (significant update)
(Megan Campbell)
- SRL Intake Report 2017 (Kaila Scarrow & Becky Robinet)

JUMPING OFF THE IVORY TOWER

Season Two:

“Back to the Future of Legal Services” Featuring [Woody Mosten](#) (Feb 6, 2018)

“Welcome to Canada?” Featuring [Dr. Anneke Smit](#) (Feb. 13, 2018)

“What’s in a Name Tag?” Featuring Sue Rice (Feb. 20, 2018)

“Let’s Talk About Cancer” Featuring Dr. Jake McGee (Feb. 27, 2018)

“Legal Aid on Your Phone” Featuring Sherry MacLennan (March 6, 2018)

“Holding Out for Democracy” Featuring [Benny Tai Yiu-ting](#)

“After Marriage Equality, What’s Next? Featuring Prof. Paula Gerber

“Graduating “SRL-Certified” with our three graduating NSRLP RAs (March 27, 2018)

“Not So Oppressed” featuring speakers at the AMUST Symposium (April 10, 2018)

“[Tarion](#) and the Building industry v SRLs” Featuring [Barbara Captijn](#) and Andy Szabo (April 24, 2018)

“Shameful History: Sexual Abuse in The Anglican Church” (May 1, 2018)

“Repeal the Eight: Ireland’s Moment of Choice” (May 25, 2018)

Welcome to Season Three of Jumping Off the Ivory Tower!



50 YEARS OF ACCESS TO JUSTICE EDUCATION



A SCHOLAR ON DRUGS



MY LAWYER, MY PARTNER



TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION



CROHN'S V LAW SCHOOL



“Continuing the Dialogue”



- “Opening the Dialogue” (May 2013) was the first time the world of law had brought together legal professionals and SRLs to discuss the state of the Canadian justice system
- 5 years later, NSRLP is hosting “Continuing the Dialogue”
- **“What one practical change would make a real difference in Access to Justice?”**
- Small group workshops
- Facilitated discussion
- Practical strategies for the next two years

Conflict Coaching for SRLs



- Fall 2017, Windsor Law first offered the first for-credit SRL Conflict Coaching class in a North American law school
- Instructor is Georgette Makhoul
- Pairs Windsor Law students with SRLs
- Class includes examination of the reasons for the rise in SRLs and implications for the practice of law; understanding the scope and limitations of a “legal coaching” model; common challenges faced by SRLs.

Students work with SRLs in family or civil court to assist them as coaches with tasks including form completion, preparation for hearings, potential or actual negotiation/mediation, and judicial settlement conferences

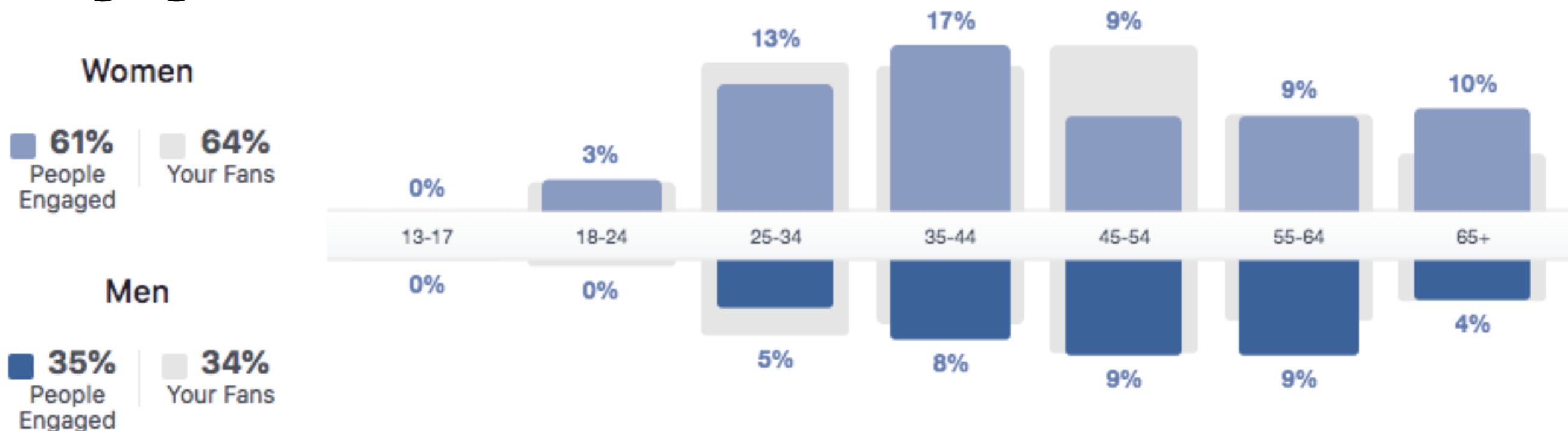
Social Media Stats



NSRLP Total Page Followers 1,196

NSRLP Total Page Likes 1,186

Engagement



Social Media Stats



[@SelfRepsCanada](#) 31 Followers

[@Offlvory](#) 34 Followers

[@ProfJulieMac](#) 2,741 Followers

Social Media Stats



Podcast
5400 total listens
22 Followers
30 Tracks

Website stats

- Average views per month 6500
- Average visitors per month 3500
- Countries: Canada 5500, US 1000, Australia 150, UK 100 but also Sweden, India, Hong Kong, South Africa, the Netherlands and Ireland
- Most popular: The Client Most lawyers Fear (650); Inequality and Discrimination in the Justice System (420); Crohns v Law School (420)

GRANTS

- LFO funding for Case Law Database
- LFO Family Law Access to Justice Fund for Library Project
- CBA Law for the Future Fund for Updated Primers Project
- LFO Catalyst grant for core funding: 2 new proposed NSRLP positions
- Research and Funding Manager
- Public Information Manager

