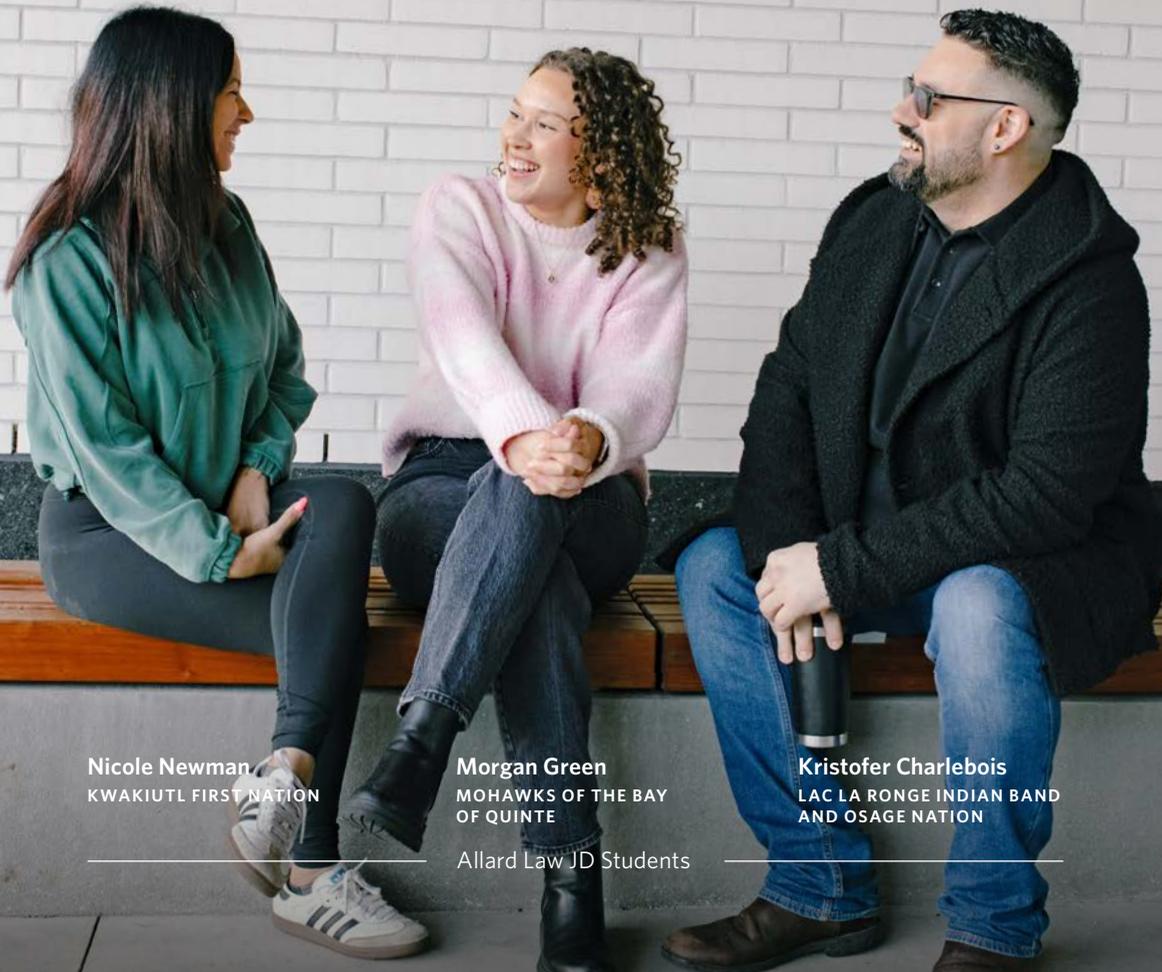




# PETER A. ALLARD SCHOOL OF LAW

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

# INDIGENOUS LEGAL STUDIES



**Nicole Newman**  
KWAKIUTL FIRST NATION

**Morgan Green**  
MOHAWKS OF THE BAY  
OF QUINTE

**Kristofer Charlebois**  
LAC LA RONGE INDIAN BAND  
AND OSAGE NATION

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Allard Law JD Students

# Peter A. Allard School of Law at the University of British Columbia

Allard Law offers a wide breadth of courses and experiential learning opportunities focused on Indigenous peoples and issues.

With one of the highest enrollments of Indigenous law students in Canada and professors who teach and research in areas of importance to Indigenous peoples, including Aboriginal law, Allard Law is a leader in Indigenous legal education in North America.

## Indigenous Student Support

Student success is our priority. Students receive timely support through one-on-one advising, approachable faculty and experienced staff.

The **ILS Academic Leadership Certificate** offers first-year Indigenous law students alternating weekly academic support and leadership workshops and a dedicated ILS coach for tutoring and support. The Indigenous Student Lounge provides you a dedicated space to meet other Indigenous students and build community.

## Learning Opportunities

The **WSÁNEĆ Law Field Course** is a semester-long intensive that gives students an opportunity to learn, practice and engage with Indigenous legal traditions while living and participating in the WSÁNEĆ community on southern Vancouver Island. The course incorporates significant land-based learning opportunities, as well as community projects in which students directly contribute to the revitalization of WSÁNEĆ law in different contexts.

Students may choose to obtain a **Specialization in Indigenous Legal Studies**, selecting from a broad range of courses related to legal issues affecting Indigenous peoples and Aboriginal law in Canada, focused on topics such as modern treaties, economic and taxation issues specific to Indigenous peoples, and Indigenous legal orders. This specialization prepares students not just for a career in Aboriginal law, but for a variety of practice areas involving Indigenous peoples and lands.

The **Indigenous Community Legal Clinic** is an innovative experiential clinical program that provides free legal services to Indigenous individuals all over British Columbia. Students make a meaningful contribution to a historically underserved and marginalized community, while gaining hands-on experience managing client files and making court appearances.

The **Kawaskimhon (“Speaking With Knowledge”) Aboriginal Rights Moot** is a non-adversarial, consensus-based moot, focused on Indigenous legal issues. Student teams play the role of lawyers working towards consensus on topics such as band membership rights, shared jurisdiction, Métis rights, and jurisdictional issues.

The **Indigenous Cultural Competency Certificate Program** explores the history of colonial policies and practices in Canada, Indigenous perspectives on law, and what decolonization means for legal practice. Open to all students, faculty and staff, this eight-month program provides opportunities to analyze these issues through workshops, Talking Circles and reflection exercises.

Numerous **ILS events** aimed at cultivating collegiality, facilitating mentorship and promoting an understanding of Indigenous legal traditions are held throughout the year, including fireside chats, research talks, film screenings and panel discussions. In partnership with the Indigenous Law Students’ Association, annual events such as Indigenous Alliance Week and the Sisters in Spirit Vigil help increase understanding of Indigenous peoples and laws within the Allard Law community.

## Finances

Numerous bursaries, scholarships and awards are made available by the Allard School of Law and UBC, including the Entrance Award in Law for Indigenous Students, which provides \$15,000 to three First Nations, Inuit or Métis students of Canada entering the JD program.

Please visit the Allard School of Law’s website ([allard.ubc.ca/ils](http://allard.ubc.ca/ils)) to learn more.

## Ambassadors

Reach out to an Indigenous student ambassador to get a first-hand impression of law school and living in Vancouver, or to ask any other questions. Email [ambassadors@allard.ubc.ca](mailto:ambassadors@allard.ubc.ca) or visit [allard.ubc.ca/ambassadors](http://allard.ubc.ca/ambassadors) to learn more.

## How to Apply

Applicants who self-identify as Indigenous — First Nations (status or non-status), Métis or Inuk — are encouraged to apply within the Indigenous category. These applicants will automatically be considered within the General category as well.

To apply as an Indigenous applicant, you will need:

- 1 To fill out an application form online at [allard.ubc.ca/apply](http://allard.ubc.ca/apply), which includes two letters of reference and a personal statement.
- 2 A competitive Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) score. LSAT information is available at [lsac.org](http://lsac.org). Check with admissions for the last sitting of the LSAT that will be accepted each year.
- 3 A competitive grade point average. Candidates must have successfully completed a minimum of three years of university towards an undergraduate degree.
- 4 Evidence of Indigenous identity. Please provide evidence of eligibility to apply within the Indigenous category by supplying a photocopy of your Indian status card, Provincial Métis card, territorial government documentation, or genealogy supporting self-identification. If you have questions about eligibility, please contact us.

**Application deadline:** December 1st  
**Supporting documentation deadline:** January 31<sup>st</sup>, after the application deadline

“Participating in a clinical term at the Indigenous Community Legal Clinic is such a unique and valuable opportunity for law students because it provides them with a glimpse into what life as a lawyer will be like. Not only does it provide them with an opportunity to work on real files, it gives them the ability and confidence to prove that it’s something they can do well. Students usually come in with a passion for doing good, and this is the perfect opportunity to demonstrate that passion with guidance from experienced supervising lawyers.”

**Jessica Buffalo**

Assistant Professor and Academic Director,  
Indigenous Community Legal Clinic  
SAMSON CREE NATION/NIPISIKOHPAHK



“Allard Law has a large faculty with a range of course offerings and learning opportunities across all areas of law. Specifically, Allard Law has both required and optional courses in the areas of Aboriginal and Indigenous law. Students who are interested in advancing the revitalization of Indigenous people’s own laws and legal traditions can learn from several Indigenous faculty who work directly with their own and other Indigenous communities.”

**Robert Clifford**

Assistant Professor and Co-Academic Director,  
Indigenous Legal Studies  
TSAWOUT FIRST NATION



"I recommend Allard Law because Indigenous Legal Studies is meaningfully and institutionally embedded into the school. There is strong faculty support, dedicated courses, experiential learning and programming for students interested in legal issues affecting Indigenous peoples. You are not limited to studying Indigenous law or Aboriginal law — rather, you're encouraged to explore and specialize in other areas like business law, environmental and natural resources law or social justice. Allard Law has so much to offer."

**Hunter Lang**

Allard Law JD Student  
TS'K WÁYLAXW FIRST NATION  
(PAVILION INDIAN BAND)



"I chose UBC because the course offerings and faculty ideally supported both a JD specialization in Aboriginal-environmental law and an LLM and PhD in Indigenous laws. During my JD, participating in the Kawaskimhon Moot and publishing a seminar paper helped to affirm my career pathway. And Vancouver is a stunning gateway to my Haida Gwaii home."

**Terri-Lynn Williams-Davidson**  
(Class of 1996)

Principal Lawyer at White Raven Law Corporation  
HAIDA NATION AND RAVEN CLAN



Standing tall at the north side of Allard Hall is the House Post of 'qiyəplenəx' (Capilano), carved by Musqueam artist Brent Sparrow Jr. The House Post represents the historic and ongoing relationship between the Peter A. Allard School of Law and the Musqueam people in the pursuit of Indigenous justice and education.

## PETER A. ALLARD SCHOOL OF LAW

### Contact Indigenous Legal Studies

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and [@allardlaw](https://www.instagram.com/allardlaw)

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