

I am pleased to introduce myself to everyone: my name is Lysandra Moreno. I'm an Anishinaabe Metis lawyer, practicing in the Greater Toronto Area. I have held the position of Toronto Gladue court representative since 2022 and regularly attend Gladue Court Operations Committee meetings in Toronto. I work with the Operations Committee to further the interests of both defence and our clients: my role involves providing input on behalf of our membership regarding policy implementation. I am very passionate about this work, and it means a lot to me on both a professional and personal level. I would continue this work as the Indigenous Director.

If elected as the Indigenous Director, I would hold regular meetings with the Indigenous Committee and welcome ongoing conversations with our membership, creating a safe space, encouraging support and fostering mentorships. I envision a collaborative and supportive environment. I believe it is important we have space to be open about our challenges and successes as Indigenous lawyers and to create a supportive network for incoming Indigenous defence lawyers.

I would aim to implement more CPD sessions and speaker events with Indigenous lawyers and topics. I believe that the availability of educational opportunities will better assist Indigenous clients and defence counsel in providing culturally competent services. I also believe that it is important that Indigenous voices are incorporated into CLA programs and educational sessions. I would like to support all members who have demonstrated a commitment to Gladue issues, whether they identify as Indigenous or not.