



# WOMEN IN CRIMINAL LAW COMMITTEE

## KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS

1. MAY 3-5, 2024 CLA WOMEN IN CRIMINAL LAW CONFERENCE, MUSKOKA, ON
2. RESPONSES RELATING TO SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION
  - Recorded CPD on Gender-Based Harassment, to be presented at the Fall Conference
  - Co-Chairs Laura Metcalfe and Sam Puchala provided comments to the media and published a response, along with CLA Executive Stephanie DiGiuseppe, to the Toronto Star investigation article on sexual harassment and violence women experience in the legal profession

## KEY INITIATIVES FOR THE NEXT 12 MONTHS

1. THE CLA DIVERSITY COMMITTEE AND WOMEN'S COMMITTEE SUBMITTED A JOINT PROPOSAL TO THE LSO ON OCTOBER 23, 2024 FOR AN EQUITY RESEARCH GRANT. IF SUCCESSFUL, WE WILL BE EXPLORING CURRENT BARRIERS TO RETENTION IN THE CRIMINAL BAR FOR WOMEN AND BIPOC LAWYERS, ALONG WITH IDENTIFYING PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS
  - \* Special thanks to committee members Michelle Psutka and Melody Izadi for their work on this important project
2. THE COMMITTEE IS WORKING ON A PROJECT TO ADDRESS THE FINANCIAL AND PRACTICAL INEQUITIES WOMEN IN CRIMINAL DEFENCE FACE, PARTICULARLY THOSE ON MATERNITY LEAVE
  - \* Special thanks to CLA Board member Jordan Weisz, who will be assisting us with exploring options with Legal Aid Ontario
3. MAY 2-4, 2025 CLA WOMEN IN CRIMINAL LAW CONFERENCE, MUSKOKA, ON. THE FOCUS OF THIS CONFERENCE WILL BE ON DEVELOPING TRIAL ADVOCACY SKILLS
4. PREPARING PART II OF THE GENDER-BASED HARASSMENT CPD, TO BE PRESENTED AT THE SPRING CONFERENCE

**IF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS, COMMENTS, OR CONCERNS, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO EMAIL THE COMMITTEE AT [WOMEN@CRIMINALLAWYERS.CA](mailto:WOMEN@CRIMINALLAWYERS.CA)**