

Karen Drake

Assistant Professor at Bora Laskin Faculty of Law at Lakehead University

Thunder Bay, ON, CA

Karen Drake's teaching and research interests include Canadian law as it affects Indigenous peoples, Anishinaabe law, and Métis law.

Biography

Karen Drake is a citizen of the Métis Nation of Ontario. Her research interests include the intersection between liberalism and Aboriginal rights, the duty to consult and accommodate Aboriginal peoples in the context of resource extraction, Métis legal issues, and the relationship between law and ethics when conducting research with human participants. She teaches Aboriginal Legal Issues, Indigenous Legal Traditions, Property Law, and Legal Philosophy.

Prof. Drake is a Commissioner with the Ontario Human Rights Commission, a Commissioner with the Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government, a member of the Board of Directors of the Indigenous Bar Association, and a member of the Thunder Bay Métis Council. She serves as Vice-Chair of Lakehead University's Research Ethics Board, and as an alternate member of the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre's Research Ethics Board. She is Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Lakehead Law Journal and was previously Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Indigenous Law Journal.

Prior to joining Lakehead University in July 2013, Prof. Drake practised with Erickson & Partners, focusing on Aboriginal legal issues, human rights, and labour and employment law. Prior to that, she articulated with Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP. She completed a clerkship with the Ontario Court of Appeal, where she clerked for Justice Stephen Borins, Justice Susan Lang, Justice Harry LaForme, and Justice Gloria Epstein. She also served as a judicial law clerk to Justice Leonard Mandamin of the Federal Court.

Industry Expertise

Education/Learning, Public Policy, Research, Legal Services

Areas of Expertise

Canadian Law and Indigenous Peoples, Anishinaabe Law, Métis law, Aboriginal Legal Issues, Indigenous Legal Traditions, Property Law, Legal Philosophy, Indigenous Peoples and Canadian Law

Affiliations

Ontario Human Rights Commission : Commissioner, Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government : Commissioner, Indigenous Bar Association : Member-at-Large of the Board of Directors, Thunder Bay Métis Council : Member at Large, Lakehead University's Research Ethics Board : Vice-Chair and Member Knowledgeable in Law, Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre's Research Ethics Board : Alternate Member Knowledgeable in Law, Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Mining & Exploration at Lakehead University : Researcher, National Observatory on Language Rights within the Public Law Research Centre at the Université de Montréal : Special Correspondent, Law Society of Upper Canada : Barrister and Solicitor, Thunder Bay Law Association : Member

Event Appearances

Aboriginal Rights

(Presentation for the Horizontal Aboriginal Relations Training (HART) Program hosted by Ontario's Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Ministry of Transportation)

Why Do Aboriginal Rights Exist?

Presentation for The Speakers' School, Waverly Library

Protecting Confidentiality: To the Limits of the Law and Beyond?

Presentation to the Canadian Association of Research Administrators

How Treaties Impact Our Community

Panelist, Kenora District Municipal Association's 2015 Annual General Meeting

Should Aboriginal Peoples have Special Legal Rights?

Lecture for the In Conversation Lecture Series at Waverly Library

Education

University of Toronto

Master of Laws

University of Toronto

Juris Doctor

Queen's University

Master of Arts (Philosophy)

Lakehead University

Honours, Bachelor of Arts

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