



Indigenous Jurists and Academics Tour



Justice Michelle O'Bonsawin
Supreme Court of Canada

The Honourable Michelle O'Bonsawin was appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada on September 1, 2022, following five years as a Justice of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice. An Abenaki member of the Odanak First Nation and a fluent bilingual Franco-Ontarian from Hanmer, Ontario, she brings extensive expertise in Indigenous, mental health, and human rights law. Before her judicial appointments, she served as General Counsel for the Royal Ottawa Health Care Group, where she focused on forensic mental health and Gladue principles. Her legal career also includes roles with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Canada Post. Justice O'Bonsawin has taught Indigenous law at the University of Ottawa and is a published author on topics including access to justice, mental health, and Indigenous legal issues. She holds degrees from Laurentian University, the University of Ottawa, Osgoode Hall, and a Doctorate in Law, and has received honorary doctorates from Bishop's and Laurentian Universities. She currently serves as co-president of the International Association of Indigenous Judges and is active in several legal and judicial organisations in Canada and internationally.



Justice Johanna Price
Court of King's Bench of Alberta, Canada

Justice Johanna Price is a member of the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg First Nation in Quebec, Canada, and is of both Indigenous and Chinese descent. Her diverse background and commitment to justice led her to pursue a legal career. She holds a BA in Political Science from the University of Calgary (1994) and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of British Columbia (1998). After articling and practising at McCarthy Tétrault LLP, she joined the civil litigation firm Peacock Linder Halt & Mack LLP, where she later became a partner. In 2019, Justice Price was appointed to the Alberta Court of King's Bench, the province's Superior Trial Court. She primarily hears civil and criminal matters in Calgary and across Alberta's 11 judicial districts. She is co-chair of the Court's Indigenous Initiatives and Relations Committee and chairs the Tsuut'ina Peacemaker Court Advisory Committee, supporting the court's restorative justice approach. Justice Price remains deeply connected to her community through regular visits to her home of Kitigan Zibi.



Judge Peggy L. Bird
Former Chief Judge, Pueblo of Pojoaque Tribal Court

Hon. Peggy L. Bird (Kewa Pueblo, New Mexico) is the former Chief Judge of the Pueblo of Pojoaque Tribal Court and has served as a tribal judge for over 19 years across multiple Pueblo Indian Nations. She is a board member of the National American Indian Court Judges Association (NAICJA) and a founding member of several national organisations advocating for Indigenous women's rights and justice.

Judge Bird's leadership and advocacy have been recognised with national awards, and she holds a law degree from the University of New Mexico and a PhD from Arizona State University. She brings to this conference her extensive experience in tribal justice and advancing the rights of Indigenous peoples, particularly women and families.