



## Indigenous Jurists and Academics Tour



**Associate Professor Naiomi Metallic**  
*Chancellor's Chair in Aboriginal Law and Policy,  
Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University, Canada*

Associate Professor Naiomi Metallic is from the Listuguj Migmaq First Nation in the Gespègewàgi district of Migmàgi (Quebec, Canada) and is based in Halifax, Nova Scotia. She was the first Migmaq person to clerk at the Supreme Court of Canada and is a leading expert in Constitutional, Aboriginal, and Indigenous law. Recognised as one of Canada's top lawyers in Aboriginal law since 2015, she has appeared in numerous high-profile Indigenous rights cases. She was named one of Canadian Lawyers' Magazine's Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers in 2018 and received the Canadian Bar Association's 2024 Ramon John Hnatyshyn Award for outstanding contributions to law reform and legal scholarship. Her academic work centres on Indigenous self-determination, governance, and legal revitalization, and she is currently completing a PhD on the use of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a framework for Indigenous self-government in Canada. She also works closely with Indigenous communities to revitalise their laws through language and storytelling.



**Judge Karen Whonnock**  
*Provincial Court of British Columbia, Canada*

Judge Karen Whonnock (Tzimih) is from the Gitdumden clan of the Wet'suwet'en First Nation and was appointed to the Provincial Court of British Columbia in 2016. She previously served as Director's Counsel under the Child, Family and Community Services Act and taught Gladue Report Writing at the Justice Institute of BC and the Legal Services Society. Judge Whonnock also served as an Associate Judge for the Colville Tribal Court in Washington State (2002–2006) and has held roles as Lead Treaty Negotiator and Spokesperson for the Office of the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs. Appointed Queen's Counsel in 2014, she has a long-standing commitment to advancing Indigenous justice. Her academic work includes a Master's thesis on Indigenous women and domestic violence (Osgoode Hall, 2003) and a doctoral dissertation on Aboriginal youth incarceration and Witsuwit'en law (Royal Roads University, 2018).



**Professor Leilani Tuala-Warren**  
*Former Supreme Court Judge, Samoa; Dean, School  
of Law, University of Waikato, New Zealand*

Professor Tuala-Warren is the current Dean of Te Piringa Faculty of Law at the University of Waikato and is the first Dean of Law of Pacific descent in Aotearoa and the first Pacific woman to be a Professor of Law in Aotearoa. Her career has spanned various roles, including serving as a state solicitor, a lawyer in private practice and the first Executive Director of the Samoa Law Reform Commission. She was the first Family Court and Family Violence Court Judge in Samoa in 2013, and the second woman to be appointed a Justice of the Supreme Court in Samoa in 2016, a role she held until 2023. She continues to hold a temporary warrant as a Justice of the Supreme Court of Samoa.

In recognition of her achievements, she was awarded the University of Waikato's Distinguished Alumni Award in August 2022. She has just been appointed a Member of the Waitangi Tribunal and is the first person of Pacific descent to be appointed to the Tribunal.