



# Understanding Offenders and Offending

## National Problem-Solving Courts Virtual Conference

Friday, September 17, 2021

### BIOGRAPHIES

---

#### Dartmouth Wellness Court Team



#### The Hon. Chief Judge Pamela Williams

A graduate of Dalhousie Law School, Chief Judge Pamela S. Williams was called to the Nova Scotia Bar in 1985.


She was a staff lawyer with Nova Scotia Legal Aid for nearly 20 years before her appointment to the Bench. During that time, she represented adults and youth in the areas of family law and criminal law. She was also a legal advocate for individuals living with mental illness who appeared before the Criminal Code Review Board.

Chief Judge Williams was first appointed to the Provincial Court in 2003. She has presided over adult and youth criminal matters and some Family Court matters. Between October 2006 and August 2010, she was the primary Youth Court Judge in the Metro Youth Justice Court. Since then, she has been the dedicated judge for the Nova Scotia Mental Health Court, now known as the Dartmouth Wellness Court. She also presides in adult criminal court.

She became the Associate Chief Judge of the Provincial Court in 2011 and was named the first female Chief Judge of the Provincial and Family Courts on Feb. 27, 2013. The Chief Judge is responsible for scheduling court sittings, assigning judicial duties, hearing cases, and administering the judicial functions of the Provincial and Family Courts.

Chief Judge Williams is a member of the province's Criminal Justice Transformation Group Chair and co-chairs the Wellness Court Program Steering Committee with the Chief Medical Officer of Nova Scotia, Dr. Robert Strang. Nationally, she has served as both a Member and Chair of the Canadian Council of Chief Judges.

Starting in 2015, Chief Judge Williams served as Co-Chair on the Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children Restorative Inquiry, part of the Government of Nova Scotia's commitment to respond to the institutional abuse and other failures of care experienced by former residents of the Home. The final report, *Journey to Light: A Different Way Forward*, was released in 2019.





### **Zabrina Smith, Judicial Assistant**

Zabrina Smith first began her journey working with the Nova Scotia Department of Justice a decade ago.

Her first three years with the Department she worked as a Clerk at the Central Nova Scotia Correctional Facility. From there, she moved to the Court Services Division where she worked as a Justice Officer 2 in Court Administration at the Halifax Provincial Court. During that time, Zabrina also acted in the Accounting Department.

In 2016, Zabrina moved up to a Justice Officer 3 and started as a Judicial Assistant at the Dartmouth Provincial Court. After months of extensive training in her role, she became the Lead in Courtroom 5 and the Dartmouth Wellness Court, where she administers and delivers a broad range of court support services within the Provincial Court.

---



### **Aileen McGinty, Crown Attorney**

Aileen is the Crown Attorney for the Dartmouth Wellness Court. She also teaches in the Criminology Department at Saint Mary's University, Halifax.

She came to Canada from Scotland in 2010. In the UK she is qualified as both a lawyer and psychologist. Between 2010 and 2015 she sat on the Review Panel for the Involuntary Psychiatric Treatment Act, for three of these years as panel chair.

Aileen has been involved in mental health advocacy for more than twenty years, in numerous roles. She was involved in the development of the Mental Health Care and Treatment (Scotland) Act and subsequent McManus Review and was involved for many years with policy work with the Royal College of Psychiatrists, UK.

She has a strong background in mental health policy and leadership worldwide. In 2010 she was selected to represent Scotland at the International Initiative for Mental Health Leadership in Brisbane, Australia and in 2019 she represented Canada at the same event in Washington, D.C.

Aileen is currently the Vice-Chair of the Canadian Mental Health Association National Board, a Board member of the Nova Scotia Criminal Justice Association and a former member of the Mental Health Commission of Canada's Mental Health and Law Advisory Committee.





### **Kelly Rowlett, Defence Counsel**

Kelly Rowlett works with Nova Scotia Legal Aid in the Mental Health Legal Services Department. She has been the primary Defence Counsel in the Dartmouth Wellness Court since its inception in November of 2009.

Kelly has been practicing law since 1997 and has been working exclusively in the area of Mental Health Law (both criminal and civil) since 2006. Kelly is actively involved in advocacy, education and policy development in these areas and is the Co-Chair of this Conference. Kelly would like to welcome everyone to this virtual conference in her home province of Nova Scotia, where she lives with her family and her urban farm.

---

## **Dartmouth Wellness Court Clinicians**

There are currently three Clinicians working on the Dartmouth Wellness Court team. The Clinicians are responsible for completing comprehensive screen assessments on new applicants to help the team determine eligibility for the program. They work with participants on case management, helping to identify their needs and develop an Individual Support Plan with goals and required supports. The Clinicians also act as liaisons between the Court and the participant's health-care providers, allowing for clear communication and collaboration between the two systems.



### **Heather Young, Clinician, Occupational Therapist**

Heather Young started with the Dartmouth Wellness Court in October 2019 and works primarily in the Mental Health Court Program. She has a background in health science and graduated with Bachelor of Science degrees in Biology and Kinesiology from Dalhousie University. In 1999, Heather graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy and achieved her Post Professional Masters of Science in Occupational Therapy in 2010, both from Dal.

Heather has held numerous positions, including President of the Nova Scotia Society of Occupational Therapists. She was the Nova Scotia Board Member on the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists from 2003 to 2011. She has worked primarily in mental health, including at the East Coast Forensic Hospital as an occupational therapist for eight years and a Forensic Case Coordinator for 10 years.





### **Lindsey Vautour, RN**

Lindsey Vautour, RN, is a graduate of the Saint John School of Nursing in New Brunswick. She has more than 25 years of nursing experience and eight years in leadership roles.

She began her nursing career working at Centracare in Saint John, New Brunswick. From there, she moved to Nova Scotia where she continued her career in Mental Health and Addictions. Lindsey worked for 21 years in Forensic Psychiatry at the Nova Scotia Hospital and was part of the move to the East Coast Forensic Hospital in 2001.

Lindsey worked in the Charge Nurse role on the Mentally Ill Offender Unit (MIOU) for six years before transferring to the Dartmouth Wellness Court in 2018. She is currently working in the role of Clinician and Clinical Team Lead, primarily with the Mental Health Court Program.

---

### **Nicole K. Hughes, BA, BSW, MSW, RSW**



Nicole Hughes is a Clinician and Social Worker with the Dartmouth Wellness Court, primarily working with the Opioid and Alcohol Court Programs.

Nicole has a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology with a minor in psychology from St. Thomas University in Fredericton, N.B. She went on to attend Dalhousie University, earning her Bachelor of Social Work, and from there began work in Disability Management. Nicole later returned to Dalhousie University to complete her Master of Social Work degree.

Nicole has worked for the former Annapolis Valley Health region as a Crisis Response Services Coordinator, working with people in the community experiencing mental health and addictions crisis. During this time, she was involved in many community liaison groups, assisted in providing training and awareness to first responders and corrections staff on how to recognize and respond to mental health concerns, and chaired a committee on creating support and services related to sexual assault in the Annapolis Valley.

Nicole joined the Dartmouth Wellness Court team in 2016 in a new role focused on delivering the Drug Treatment Court Program, which has since evolved into the Opioid Court Program and the Alcohol Court Program. She also works with participants in the Mental Health Court Program.





### **Tracy Landry, Probation Officer**

Tracy Landry is a graduate of Dalhousie University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology and a Bachelor of Social Work Degree. She has been employed by the Nova Scotia Department of Justice for the past 14 years.

Following the completion of her Social Work degree, Tracy worked as a Child Protection Social Worker for Family and Children's Services of Lunenburg County for approximately four years. She then joined the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services in 2005, where she was employed as an Adoption Assessment Social Worker. She later joined the Department of Justice in 2007, where she has remained since.

In her role as a Probation Officer, Tracy has worked with both youth and adult offenders. Since 2017 she has been the Probation Officer assigned to the Dartmouth Wellness Court, which she feels is a good fit given her social work background.

---



### **Trudy Vroegh, Administrative Assistant**

Trudy Vroegh has been the Administrative Assistant with the Dartmouth Wellness Court since March 2019.

Trudy graduated from Mount Saint Vincent University with a Diploma in Office Administration and has spent almost 30 years in administrative roles, including Pediatric Cardiac Surgery at the IWK Health Centre in Halifax, N.S., and Family and Community Support Services for the City of Leduc, AB.

Throughout her career, Trudy has also provided support on various research projects, implementation of new projects, and coordination of events, including Nova Scotia's first Atlantic Problem-Solving Courts Conference in September 2019.





## Conference Speakers



### Dr. Brad Kelln

Dr. Brad Kelln is a clinical and forensic psychologist who has worked in the area of sexual offenders for more than 20 years.

Dr. Kelln works full-time at the East Coast Forensic Hospital, Atlantic Canada's largest forensic psychiatric facility, while also maintaining a busy private practice and consulting with the Dartmouth Wellness Court and the RCMP.

In 2020, Dr. Kelln expanded his evolutionary approach to understanding male sexuality to general mental health and released a book, *Hacking Evolution: Ditch Anxiety, Get*

*Happy Forever.*

His presentation at this conference offers some insight into the problems of being human in a digital age and how our justice system might not be ready for the fallout.

Dr. Kelln's full bio is available online at <https://medicine.dal.ca/departments/department-sites/psychiatry/our-people/faculty/brad-kelln.html> or find him on Instagram: @brad.kelln.

---





### Jocelyne Boissonneault

Jocelyne is a partner at the law firm of Snell Balka and Scovino. She received her law degree from the University of Ottawa in 1998 and was called to the Ontario Bar in 2000. She began her law career practicing Health Law at a large Canadian law firm. She then moved to the United States where she was admitted to the California State Bar and practiced Intellectual Property litigation in Silicon Valley.

Upon returning home to Canada, Jocelyne started working for the Durham Crown Attorney's office and in 2006 helped develop the Durham Drug Treatment and Mental Health Court. Jocelyne has represented the Crown in that court ever since. In 2011, Jocelyne began working as the Community Court / Mental Health Court Crown in Lindsay, Ontario. She has also represented the Crown in the Peterborough Community Support Court, which is a hybrid Mental Health and Drug Treatment Court.

In addition to her work for the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General in therapeutic courts, she represents clients who have been found Not Criminally Responsible before the Ontario Review Board.





Drawing from more than 14 years of experience working in therapeutic courts in Ontario, Jocelyne consults nationally and internationally on the topic of Drug Treatment Courts and Mental Health Courts. She is currently on the Board of the Canadian Association of Drug Treatment Court Professionals, as well as Co-Chair of the City of Kawartha Lakes Human Service and Justice Coordinating Committee.

---

### **Raymond Gemmill**

Raymond Gemmill attended Bond University located on the Gold Coast of Australia, where he graduated with Honours from the Juris Doctor (JD) program.

Prior to Law School, Raymond was awarded a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Administration from Columbia Southern University. Called to the Bar in 2010, Raymond practices criminal law in the Central East region.

He is a member of the Legal Aid Ontario Panel for Extremely Serious Matters and has appeared as Amicus Curiae in multiple murder cases. He has been involved in the local Mental Health Court since his call to the Bar, first as a staff duty counsel, and more recently representing individuals on Certificates. When Raymond is not at work, he can be found enjoying time with his wife, Jen, and their three sons.

---

### **Dr. Phil Tibbo**



Dr. Phil Tibbo is a Professor of Psychiatry and the Dr. Paul Janssen Chair in Psychotic Disorder at Dalhousie University in Halifax, N.S. He is also the Director of the Nova Scotia Early Psychosis Program (NSEPP) and President of the Canadian Consortium for Early Intervention in Psychosis (CCEIP).

Dr. Tibbo's research includes studies of individuals at the early phase of, and individuals at risk for, a psychotic illness. He is a recipient of the Michael Smith Award from the SSC, the 2017 recipient of the CAMIMH Champion of Mental Health Research/Clinician Award and the 2018 RCPSC Specialist of the Year (Region 5).

