

# NOTICE

## First-Year Dispute Resolution Program: Client-Centred Advocacy Skills

A required one-week program (8-12 January 2018)

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The first-year law curriculum focuses chiefly on doctrinal case analysis and legal skills that help lawyers create and present legal arguments. In contrast, the First-Year Dispute Resolution Program is about the lawyer-client relationship, at the heart of lawyering. In advancing clients' interests, lawyers employ a wide range of advocacy skills: communication, problem-solving and negotiation skills, in addition to courtroom advocacy. This program introduces various processes and skills that lawyers use in resolving disputes. You will:

- be introduced to the continuum of dispute resolution processes
- discuss and reflect on the various professional roles of a lawyer
- gain practice in effective communication and negotiation skills
- consider the ethical implications of the choices that lawyers make
- experience problem-solving approaches in various settings

The program also forms the basis for upper-year courses in dispute resolution, including negotiation, mediation and conflict resolution theory.

*During the week of 8-12 January 2018, all first-year students will take an intensive introductory program on dispute resolution skills and the role of the lawyer. This is a mandatory component of first year, and involves hands-on work, in addition to some instruction. Participation is assessed on a pass/fail basis. **You will require a pass to successfully complete your first year of law school.** During this week, all other first-year classes will be cancelled, and you will be expected to participate fully in the program unless exempted for illness or other extenuating circumstances.*

You will receive more information about the program later in the year, but for now, **please adjust your work and travel plans for January to accommodate your participation in the program.** We will begin at 8:45 on Monday, and most days will involve full days (until about 4:30), with the program finishing on Friday afternoon.

*If you are a part-time student in first year, and you have any questions about how this program applies to you, please feel free contact one of the program coordinators. All students taking Legal Research and Writing are required to complete the First-Year Dispute Resolution Program.*

