

LAW 440.3 INNOVATION IN JUSTICE: THE DEAN'S FORUM ON ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION 2(3S)
(2023-2024 B. Lowenberger)

It is our intent to offer - for a twelfth year - the experiential course below. The course is typically offered in Term 2 for six upper-year students on an application basis. Further details and the application deadline will be announced during the fall term. It is a unique opportunity for a small group of students to develop justice policy alongside leading members of the legal profession.

JUSTICE INNOVATION: DEAN'S FORUM ON DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Nation-wide conversations about Access to Justice continue to play out, with the Cromwell Report* an important touchstone. The first eleven meetings of the Dean's Forum on Dispute Resolution and Access to Justice were held in September 2013, March 2014, March 2015, February 2016, March 2017, March 2018, March 2019, March 2020, March 2021, March 2022 and March 2023: a gathering of a couple dozen leaders in the Saskatchewan legal and justice community. During the last eleven years, a small group of students participated in the Dean's Forum project for course credit. They conducted research on the Forum's themes, prepared and presented policy discussion papers, helped design the consultative/planning process, and participated fully in the Forum event. A summary of the Dean's Forum initiative is published on the College of Law website: <http://law.usask.ca/deansforum>.

A video by previous Dean's Forum students is published on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sbJY9gQb6wU>.

The project will continue, with a twelfth Forum planned for 2024. The general themes for this year's Forum are currently being developed, and will be assigned near the end of the fall term.

Prior demonstrated leadership in dispute resolution and access to justice initiatives, as well as prior academic performance will be factors in the selection of students for the course. The course will be scheduled based on the successful candidates' availability.

If you have any questions about previous years' projects, or the direction of this year's, please do not hesitate to contact Dean's Forum course instructor, Director of CREATE Justice, and Access to Justice Coordinator, Brea Lowenberger (at b.lowenberger@usask.ca).

*The Cromwell Report can be found at <http://www.cfcj-fcjc.org/collaborations>.

We invite you to apply for the course associated with the Dean's Forum on Access to Justice and Dispute Resolution, now in its 12th year! The course runs in Term 2 and is only available to 2nd and 3rd year law students. The application deadline is Friday October 20th at noon!

The course – LAW 440.3 – typically allows students to conduct research on the Dean's Forum meeting topic(s), draft a policy report based on that research, and participate fully in the March meeting with the Saskatchewan Access to Justice Network (i.e. the Dean's Forum). The course is structured as an intensive: it requires significant work in January and February and less work as the semester draws to a close, with the benefit of wrapping the course up early. Students are required to attend several meetings in the fall, as further detailed below, to kick the initiative off. Law 440.3 is a unique opportunity; a small group of students will develop potential policy solutions alongside leader members of the Saskatchewan legal community.

More information about the course and the application process is provided below.

1. Background to course

The Dean's Forum began in 2013. The meeting was intended to bring together Saskatchewan justice stakeholders for a discussion on access to justice solutions and implementation plans. Student participation in the Dean's Forum began in 2014, as stakeholders sought to have interim progress made on various policies and initiatives between the annual meetings.

More background information to the Dean's Forum can be found: [here](#) and [here](#).

2. This year's topics

The 2024 Dean's Forum aims to continue the conversation on **advancements in generative artificial intelligence and its intersection with law and access to justice**. The topic builds off previous Dean's Forum work on improving Saskatchewan's family court system (see, e.g., 2019 topic papers on *Meeting Saskatchewan's Justice Needs With Technology*). There are a number of ways the Forum could approach this topic. Students will gain access to a number of resources, including literature and justice stakeholders to complete their work, but to pique your interest, check out the expansive related work that the Law Commission of Ontario is completing [HERE](#).

3. The application process

Applications should be emailed to the course facilitator, Director of CREATE Justice (the Centre for Research, Evaluation, and Action Towards Equal Justice) and Access to Justice Coordinator, Brea Lowenberger (b.lowenberger@usask.ca). Your application package should include:

- (a) A 1-2 paragraph explanation of your interest in:
 - i. the Dean's Forum, generally and
 - ii. the topic.
- (b) A 1 paragraph biography that highlights your current or past involvement (if any) in:
 - i. courses, initiatives, or employment experiences related to the topic areas, access to justice, and/or dispute resolution;
 - ii. teams and/or collaborative projects*;
and
 - iii. innovative initiatives, programs, and/or projects.

* In reference to your response in b(ii), above (leading or being part of a team or collaborative project), please include a couple of sentences highlighting when a team you were part of interacted really well, and what role or part you had to play in its success. Also, please include a couple of sentences about when things didn't go well in a group project or team, and what part you played in the conflict and/or resolution of the conflict.

(c) A copy of your unofficial transcript.

Please ensure that the total length of your answer to (a) & (b), combined, does not exceed 1 page.

The selection of students may also involve a short interview in person, over the phone, or via videoconference. Depending on student and facilitator availability, it is expected that these interviews will take place the week of October 23rd. Unavailability at these times does not disqualify you from application. Accommodations can be made for student schedule as necessary.

Prior demonstrated leadership in access to justice and dispute resolution initiatives, as well as prior academic performance and evidence of students' ability to work independently and as part of a team will be factors in the selection of students for the initiative.

The course will be scheduled based on the successful candidates' availability. **Please indicate your availability for class at the following times, so that 2-3 meeting times per week can be chosen:**

- Mondays from 4:30-6:30 PM
- Tuesdays from 4:30-6:00 PM
- Wednesday mornings
- Wednesdays from 4:30-6:30 PM
- Thursdays from 2:30-4:30 PM
- Thursdays from 4:30-6:00 PM
- Fridays

The course meeting day(s) and time(s) will be finalized once the application process is closed.

Additionally, please note that students who are selected will be asked to participate in a SK A2J Network meeting, for part of the day on November 24th. The meeting, held in person at USask College of Law, will provide an opportunity for students to meet stakeholders who will participate in the Dean's Forum. Unavailability on these days does not disqualify you from application. However, please indicate if you are unable to attend.

Best Regards,

Brea Lowenberger, BA, JD, LLM (she/her)
Director, CREATE Justice and Access to Justice Coordinator