

Mary (Molly) M. D. Churchill

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LANGUAGES

- **English** (fluent)
- **French** (intermediate)

EDUCATION

McGill University, Faculty of Law and School of Social Work, Montreal, Quebec 2012-2016
M.S.W/B.C.L./LL.B (JD equivalent)

McGill University, Faculty of Arts, Montreal, Quebec 2005-2010
B.A. (Humanistic Studies and Women's Studies)

SELECT WORK EXPERIENCE

JFK Law LLP, Toronto, Ontario Oct 2022-present
Associate Lawyer

- Provide governance advice to First Nation clients, mainly in the area of child and family services reform and exercise of inherent jurisdiction

Neighbourhood Legal Services Nov 2021-Apr 2022
Staff Lawyer (Housing) (contract position)

- Worked in a high-volume, fast-paced environment as a housing staff lawyer providing summary legal advice and legal representation to clients living in poverty in downtown Toronto

Falconers LLP, Toronto & Thunder Bay, Ontario May 2018-Oct 2021
Associate Lawyer

- Worked as part of a small, dynamic team on files primarily focused on state accountability, mostly but not exclusively on behalf of Indigenous clients (individuals, governments, organizations)
- Appeared before all levels of court in Ontario and worked on several tribunal-level cases
- Represented Nishnawbe Aski Nation at the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal in a case about systemic discrimination against on-reserve First Nations children and families, and in related negotiations

Hensel Barristers, Toronto, Ontario Sept 2017-April 2018
Associate Lawyer

- Worked in an office with two other lawyers on a diverse range of files (child protection, interjurisdictional family law, Third Party Management mediation at the Federal Court, etc.) on behalf of Indigenous clients

Federal Court of Canada, Toronto, Ontario Aug 2016-July 2017
Judicial Law Clerk to the Honourable Justice Mandamin

- Assisted Justice Mandamin as he presided over *Alderville First Nation et al. v. Canada*, a case revolving around the 1923 Williams Treaties in south-central Ontario and the honour of the Crown
 - Summarized and analyzed evidence, including expert opinion evidence and oral history/tradition evidence
 - Conducted legal research and analyses, prepared memos, and edited reasons for judgment

The Healing Imperative of Truth and Reconciliation, Montreal, Quebec Jan-May 2016
Assistant to Dr. Marie Wilson (TRC Commissioner, Professor of Practice)

- Helped coordinate, select readings, and gave a lecture in a 13-week course at McGill University
- Assisted with coordination, and drafted a summary report, of a 3-day international seminar

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Jordan's Principle Working Group, Montreal, Quebec **May 2014-Apr 2016**

Research Fellow, McGill Centre for Research on Children and Families

- Helped research and write a report on First Nations children's access to public services
- Coordinated and attended regular meetings with a research advisory committee composed of representatives from the Assembly of First Nations, UNICEF Canada, the Canadian Paediatric Society, and the Canadian Association of Paediatric Health Centres

Ethnic Minority Women & Domestic Violence in Northern Ireland, Jordanstown **May-Aug 2013**

Research Assistant to Professor Monica McWilliams, Transitional Justice Institute, U. of Ulster

- Helped research, draft and edit a report submitted to the United Nations Commission to End Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and a paper submitted to a peer-reviewed journal, both exploring the interplay between U.K. immigration policy and social security policy

Lieutenant-Governor's Aboriginal Literacy Camps, Ontario **July-Aug 2006, July-Aug 2007**

Camp Councillor in Poplar Hill, Fort Albany, and Slate Falls First Nations

- Worked with children ages 5 to 12 years, in a team of four, promoting literacy skills
- Co-developed and co-delivered a staff training workshop on team-building and conflict-resolution

SELECT PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- Panelist at the conference of l'Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Ontario on the panel, "Ressources Naturelles et Droit Autochtone" (June 2019), Sudbury, ON.
- Churchill, M. & Sinha, V. "Reclaiming the spirit of Jordan's Principle: Lessons from a Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ruling", *Canadian Review of Social Policy*, Vol. 78, 2018.
- Churchill, M. *McGill Faculty of Law Initiatives Relevant to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Report and Calls to Action* (2016). Published by the Faculty for internal consultation and strategic planning purposes.
- Jordan's Principle Working Group (2015). *Without Denial, Delay, or Disruption: Ensuring First Nations Children's Access to Equitable Services Through Jordan's Principle*. Ottawa, ON: AFN.
- McWilliams, M., Yarnell, P., & Churchill, M. "Forced dependency and legal barriers: Implications of the UK's immigration and social security policies for minoritized women living in abusive intimate relationships in Northern Ireland" in *Oñati Socio-Legal Series*, Vol. 5, No. 6, 2015.
- Churchill, M. "On knights, gentlemen, and fighting for what you believe in" in *Contours: Voix de femmes en droit/Voices of Women in Law*, Vol. 2 (Spring 2014).

SELECT VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Legal Strategy Coalition on Violence Against Indigenous Women

March-Apr 2018

Volunteer Drafter & Editor, Toronto, Ontario

- Assisted the LSC draft its [April 2018 submission](#) to the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its Causes and Consequences

Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada

June 2015, Apr 2013

Statement Gatherer and Volunteer, Ottawa, Ontario & Montreal, Quebec

- Received statements from Indian Residential School Survivors at a TRC event in Ottawa in June 2015 and provided logistical support at a TRC event in Montreal in April 2013

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PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION & MEMBERSHIPS

- Law Society of Ontario, Bar Admission 2017