

# FACULTY OF LAW



**THOMPSON  
RIVERS  
UNIVERSITY**





## DEAN'S WELCOME

As Dean of Law at TRU, I invite you to explore why pursuing a JD in our Faculty of Law is regarded by our students as a tremendous opportunity.

Learn from superb professors who are nationally and internationally recognized for their expertise, yet remain committed to being excellent teachers and mentors to our students. My colleagues also have years of experience in private practice, government service, community legal clinics, Indigenous communities and NGOs.

TRU Law has had remarkable success since we welcomed our first students in 2011. Led by our inaugural group of students and staff, we have created a great sense of family that inspires each member—whether student, faculty or staff—to greater achievements while lending support and sharing knowledge for our collective benefit.

Our goal is to be—and to be recognized as being—an outstanding law school filled with exceptional students and faculty. I encourage you to consider pursuing your law degree with us.

**Bradford W. Morse**

Dean and Professor of Law



# WHY THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF LAW?

TRU Law infuses the classic tradition of law and a legal education with a modern, innovative approach. Our three-year Juris Doctor (JD) program, taught in award-winning, state-of-the-art facilities among the stunning natural beauty of Kamloops, British Columbia, offers students a well-established curriculum, with an edge.

Our young faculty are bold and visionary thinkers. They are an accomplished group of scholars and legal professionals with demonstrated excellence in teaching and research. They are also purposeful in fostering a friendly and community-oriented atmosphere, cultivating a highly-engaged and driven student body, to advance the legal profession using a combination of conventional and contemporary solutions.

Be traditional, yet original. Be a part of our TRU Law family.

# FACULTY AT-A-GLANCE

**Here is a snapshot of four of our 18 talented professors:**

**DR. TESH DAGNE** – LLB (AAU), LLM (Calgary), JSD (Dalhousie)

**Highlight:** SSHRC Grant for “3D Printing: The Canadian Consumer and Intellectual Property Law.”

**DR. CHRIS HUNT** – BA (Mt. Allison), LLB (Manitoba), LLM (Cambridge), PhD (Cambridge)

**Highlight:** Cited twice by the Supreme Court of Canada.

**DR. JANNA PROMISLOW** – BA (Alberta), LLB (Victoria), LLM (York), PhD (York)

**Highlight:** Awarded \$50,000 for work with Indigenous peoples on governance.

**DR. RICHARD FRIMPONG OPPONG, FGA** – LLB, BL (Ghana), LLM (Cambridge), LLM (Harvard), PhD (UBC)

**Highlight:** Elected a Fellow of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences, and inducted into the College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists of the Royal Society of Canada.

Read more about our faculty and their research highlights at [tru.ca/law/faculty-staff](https://tru.ca/law/faculty-staff).

# ACCOMPLISHED SCHOLARS

TRU Law, established in 2011, embodies a new and innovative approach that has attracted faculty with world-class credentials and designations—including advanced degrees from Cambridge and Harvard, Queen’s Counsel, Supreme Court of Canada clerkships and international fellowships. Several faculty members were also top of their law class as gold medalists. A number of full-time faculty members retain active legal practices, and appear regularly before the Supreme and Appeal Courts of British Columbia and the Supreme Court of Canada.

Our faculty have studied and practised law around the world, and collectively they bring a remarkable breadth and depth of academic and legal practice experience to TRU Law. Our full-time professors are continually engaged in cutting-edge legal research, publish in top-tier law journals and have demonstrated teaching excellence.

Our full-time faculty are joined by a diverse group of talented lawyers serving as sessional lecturers to augment the range of course offerings and offer unique professional perspectives. TRU Law also hosts an open access international law journal, the Canadian Journal of Comparative and Contemporary Law.



# SPOTLIGHT ON ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR KATIE SYKES

BA (Queen's), JD (Toronto), LLM (Harvard),  
LLM (Dalhousie), PhD Candidate (Dalhousie)

Professor Sykes' research interests include international trade law, animal law and the future of the legal profession.

Graduating as the gold medalist, Sykes obtained her JD from the University of Toronto in 2002. She was a law clerk to Hon. Justice Louis LeBel of the Supreme Court of Canada in 2002-2003, and then attended Harvard Law School as a Frank Knox Scholar, graduating in 2004 with an LLM. She also holds an LLM from Dalhousie, where she is currently a PhD candidate. From 2004 to 2010, she was an associate in the New York office of Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP, a leading international law firm.

Since joining TRU Law in 2013, Professor Sykes has developed two new unique and innovative courses.

L21C—Lawyering in the 21st Century—is a course that fosters innovation in the legal profession. As an outcome of the class project Law Hacks, one student group is receiving national attention for an app they developed that could revolutionize court scheduling.

Meanwhile, Apps for A2J teaches students to design their own tech solutions to enhance access to justice.

**Highlight:** Recipient of a TRU Learning Award, celebrating faculty committed to providing students the opportunity for deep, engaged and focused learning.



*“TRU Law is the perfect environment for developing innovative approaches to teaching law. We are a young law school with a ‘startup’ mentality, a dynamic faculty and adventurous students. There’s space here to incubate new ideas, and institutional commitment to support turning ideas into concrete results.”*



Students present their idea for a court scheduling app for their Law Hacks project, an assignment in Katie Sykes' course Lawyering in the 21st Century.

## TRADITIONAL. YET INNOVATIVE.

TRU Law offers a traditional JD program, approved by the Federation of Law Societies of Canada. Our curriculum also adds an entrepreneurial twist to the quintessential legal education. Our mandatory first-year curriculum builds a solid foundation for advanced legal study in upper years which includes compulsory courses in Ethical Lawyering, Administrative Law, Civil Procedure and Business Associations.

These traditional course offerings are complemented by innovative courses such as Lawyering in the 21st Century; Apps for Access to Justice; Comparative Law—which explores legal traditions around the world; Digital Media Law and Sports Law.

Knowledge gained in the classroom is enhanced by many opportunities for applied learning, such as mandatory dispute resolution courses; competitive mootting internally and with other law schools; and serving clients at our Legal Information Service and Community Legal Clinic.

Learn more at [tru.ca/law](https://tru.ca/law)





# COMPETITIVE. YET COMMUNITY-ORIENTED.

As much as TRU Law strives to instill courage and confidence in our student body, we also value mentoring students as future members of our profession. We champion friendly competition in a collegial atmosphere, one that inspires both bold intellectual rivalry as well as a community-minded sensibility that is celebrated among peers and valued by the legal profession.

With the support of TRU Law, students help create a sense of family from the beginning—forming strong and supportive bonds that will become lifelong friendships.

Students and faculty gather often to socialize and participate in events together. TRU Law enjoys widespread support from our local legal community and in turn we seek to give back, with events like the annual Santa Swimsuit Run which raises money to buy toys for sick children in the local hospital.

Ultimately, our highly-engaged students take pride in the success of their peers and professors, both inside and outside of class, viewing them as a demonstration of the quality and character of their collective TRU Law family.

# HIGH-CALIBRE STUDENTS

Each year a group of diverse and extremely bright students join us from across Canada and abroad to pursue their legal education at TRU Law.

Our high-achieving students are motivated to showcase their talent in a variety of ways. TRU Law students have clerked with the BC Court of Appeal, BC Supreme Court and the Federal Court of Canada, among others, and they have articulated with large and small firms across the country. Students have also interned in Canada and internationally. Through overseas law school partners, our students can also study law abroad and apply their credits toward their TRU Law JD.

Students participate and successfully compete in provincial and national moots—including winning the Begbie Trophy at the BC Appeal Moot Court Competition and taking first place at the UBC Environmental Law Negotiation Competition.

Meanwhile, student clubs enjoy actively organizing events on-campus that provide opportunities to put knowledge to practice, such as the Advocacy Club, Environmental and Natural Resources Law Club and the Human Rights Law Club.

In addition, the Society of Law Students (SLS) hosts an annual themed conference focused on contemporary and controversial legal topics. The 2018 event featured the Honourable Thomas Cromwell (SCC, Ret.), Chief Justice of British Columbia Robert Bauman and the Honourable David Eby, Q.C., Attorney General of British Columbia as keynote speakers.

Check out our student success stories at [tru.ca/law/prospective-students](https://tru.ca/law/prospective-students), and visit [trusls.org](https://trusls.org) for more on the SLS.



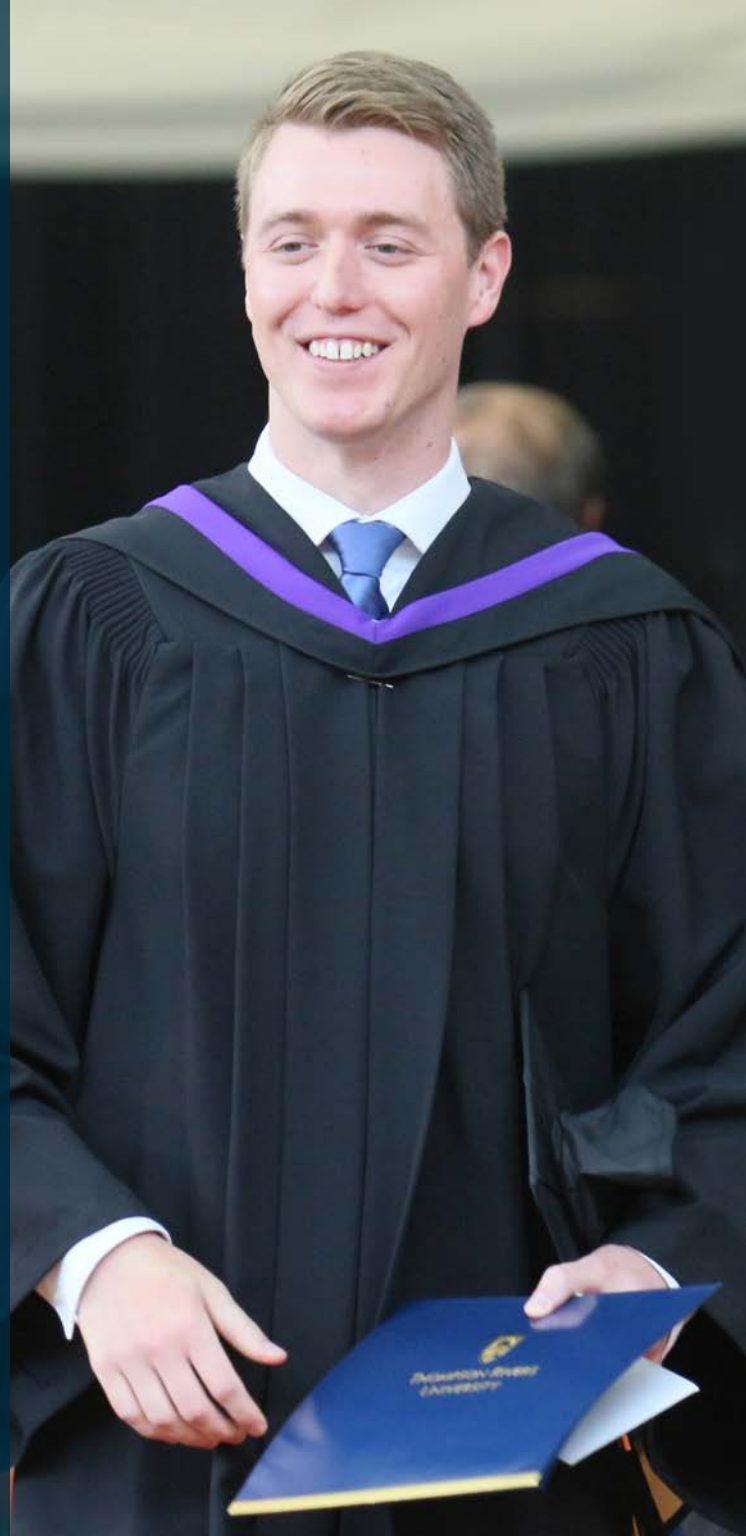
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*I chose TRU to be a part of a new program that would provide me with interesting challenges and opportunities. The TRU Law faculty strike the right balance of being young and wise, accomplished and practical—their approach is to prepare students for real life situations, in addition to advancing research and the theoretical boundaries of the law.”*

**- COLE RODOCKER**, TRU Law JD 2016

Cole is originally from White Rock, BC, and earned his BA in English from UBC-O, followed by his JD from TRU Law in 2016. A highlight for Cole at TRU Law was helping clients of the TRU Legal Information Service (part of the Clinical Legal Education Program).

Cole won numerous awards throughout his JD, including the Law Society of British Columbia Gold Medal, awarded to the top graduating student. He is the first TRU Law graduate to article at Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP (Vancouver office), a top Canadian business firm. He also clerked with the British Columbia Supreme Court.



# ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

Applications for admission completed by November 1 will be considered for early admissions and given priority consideration for scholarships. However, applications are considered on a rolling basis, and offers may be made in advance of this date. Thus, students are encouraged to submit complete applications as early as possible. Applications will be accepted until the final deadline date of February 10.

Apply online or by completing our paper application form.

Visit [tru.ca/law/admissions](https://tru.ca/law/admissions) to apply, and to read our FAQ on admission.





# CONTACT US

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