



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR CRIMINAL LAW  
REFORM & CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

ICCLR promotes the rule of law, human rights, and good governance in criminal law and the administration of criminal justice, domestically, regionally and globally.

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# Message from the Chair

## Prof. Neil Boyd, Chair of the Board

The International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy (ICCLR) has had another active and productive year with Dr. Peter German continuing to lead the Centre in his role of Acting Executive Director and as President. Dr. German, with the guidance of a very strong VACI Advisory Committee, continues to spearhead the development of our Vancouver Anti-Corruption Institute (VACI) an initiative now in its second year. In November of this year, we will be welcoming representatives of the United Nations Program Network Institutes (PNIs) to Vancouver for the



annual fall meeting of the Institutes. This is our first opportunity to host the PNIs and will be followed by a conference on crypto crime, hosted by VACI. The work of the Centre continues to be guided by the President and by the Board of Directors. Associates of the Centre, many of whom have been engaged in and have supported the work of ICCLR over the past twenty-five years, continue to enhance the Centre's capacity and remain critical to its continued success.

On behalf of ICCLR, I would like to express my appreciation to our funders and to our supporters who make our continuing work possible. We would like to make particular mention of the support provided by the Department of Justice Canada, the Attorney General of B.C., the Law Foundation of British Columbia, Public Safety Canada, and the Vancouver Foundation. Finally, I wish to thank Dr. German for the energy and enthusiasm that he has continued to invest in the Centre, and for the leadership that he provides for all of us.

*Neil Boyd*

# ICCLR Overview

The International Centre for Criminal Law Reform (ICCLR) is an independent UN-affiliated international research institute based in Vancouver, Canada.

Founded in 1991, ICCLR is a joint initiative of the Government of Canada, the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, the International Society for the Reform of Criminal Law, and the Province of British Columbia. It is officially affiliated with the United Nations pursuant to a formal agreement between the Government of Canada and the UN.

- 01** ICCLR develops and delivers technical assistance programs including needs assessments, capacity building measures, performance indicators, and measurement frameworks. In addition, ICCLR Associates can provide recommendations on legislative reform, legislation drafting and treaty implementation.
- 02** ICCLR Associates include criminologists, legal specialists, former law enforcement practitioners, computer scientists and gender experts. Because of this cadre of expertise, ICCLR is able to offer insights that incorporate multiple perspectives and dimensions in many fields.
- 03** Hosting conferences, developing workshops, and participating in seminars and expert meetings are among ICCLR's most important activities. ICCLR delivers current, timely and community-specific programming to advance conversations with policymakers and stakeholders. ICCLR Associates engage in thought leadership as accomplished workshop leaders and presenters around the world.

**ICCLR promotes the rule of law, human rights, and good governance in criminal law and the administration of criminal justice, domestically, regionally and globally.**

# Year in Review

Police Relationships with Visible Minorities: A Review of the Impact of the 20-Year Effort by Police in British Columbia and Canada to Improve Visible Minorities' Assessments of Police Services

Youth Crime Prevention and Sports

Working Paper 41: Targeting Unexplained Wealth in British Columbia

Support and Assistance to Survivors of Human Trafficking in Alberta

UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network Institute (PNI) Newsletter – Second Issue, Autumn 2022

Navigating Access to Justice Pathways: Problem Resolution Routes for People Experiencing Civil and Family Law Problems in British Columbia

Toward child-sensitive criminal justice in Thailand Responding to violence against children in educational settings (ongoing)

Know Your Gladue Rights

## Publications

## Projects

## Events

Demystifying Anti-Corruption Enforcement for Journalists Part III: Anti-Corruption in Multilateral Organizations

Assistance and Support Services for Survivors of Human Trafficking: A Qualitative Study (ongoing)

Considering the Best Interests of the Child in Sentencing and Other Decisions Concerning Parents Facing Criminal Sanctions (ongoing)

Nexus Conference on Wrongful Convictions

Whistleblowers & Public Integrity Conference

The Anti-Corruption Law Program (ACLP) Seminar Series: Implementing the Cullen Commission Recommendations for Institutional Reform Within the Government of British Columbia

United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice PNI Coordination Meeting

Presentation of a paper and continuous discussions on anti-Asian hate crime in BC at a meeting hosted by BC's Office of the Human Rights Commissioner for its Inquiry into hate in the COVID-19 pandemic

Presentation on "The Strengths of Canada's Criminal Legal Aid System" - a lecture for the 180th UNAFEI International Senior Seminar

April

May

June

July

August

September

October

November

December

January

February

March

# Where We Work



## ICCLR AROUND THE WORLD

This year ICCLR and associates provided technical assistance, analysis/reporting or thought leadership in the following countries among many other virtual engagements.

**431**

Publications loaded onto  
our online publication library

**+4,000**

Followers on social media

**84**

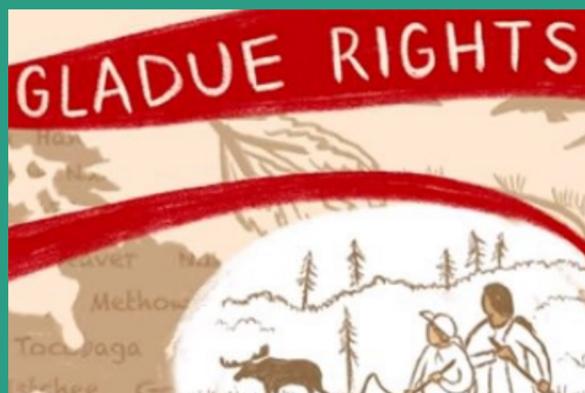
Technical assistance  
projects/activities

# Access to Justice

## Know Your Gladue Rights

This year ICCLR completed a multi-year initiative Know Your Gladue Rights to enhance access to justice for Indigenous persons living in remote communities in BC by increasing access to and use of Gladue services for Indigenous persons through technology.

Under the direction of an all-Indigenous Advisory Board and project leaders, ICCLR developed an animation video that explores Gladue Rights through the eyes of three people on a healing journey.



- Evaluation of BCFNJC Indigenous Justice Centres (BCFNJC, MAG-Justice Services) - ICCLR Senior Associate Allan Castle
- Presentation on “Promoting Legal Aid for Offenders and Victims” at the 180th International Senior Seminar- ICCLR Senior Associate Vincent Yang
- Victim Court Support Program: External Models (PSSG-Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch) - ICCLR Senior Associate Allan Castle
- Mapping Community Services Available to Navigation Clients (Legal Aid BC) - ICCLR Senior Associate Allan Castle

## Navigating Access to Justice Pathways

In April 2022, the University of Victoria Access to Justice Centre for Excellence released a report on Navigating Access to Justice Pathways: Problem Resolution Routes for People Experiencing Civil and Family Law Problems in British Columbia.

Based on qualitative interviews, the authors including ICCLR Associates Prof. Yvon Dandurand and Jessica Jahn, explored the main pathways people use to resolve civil and family justice problems, the barriers and obstacles they encounter, the assistance they seek and sometimes receive, and the decisions they make along the way.

## Other Projects

- Presentation on “Access to Justice Pathways: Problem Resolution Routes for People Experiencing Civil and Family Law Problems in British Columbia” for the Canadian Bar Association’s workshop on “Access to Justice Research from the Edge” - ICCLR Senior Associate Yvon Dandurand



## Assistance and Support Services for Survivors of Human Trafficking in BC and Alberta

ICCLR recently published a report on a qualitative review of the assistance and support services available to survivors of human trafficking in British Columbia and Alberta.<sup>1</sup> This study was conducted with the financial support of the Office of Crime Reduction and Gang Outreach, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Province of British Columbia.

The study identifies several persistent obstacles to access to support and assistance by victims of trafficking, especially victims of labour trafficking. Although there are a significant number of services for victims and survivors of sexual exploitation and human trafficking in both BC and Alberta, it is clear from the feedback provided by stakeholders that more can be done to streamline service provision across the entire continuum of care. Service providers lamented that there is a significant and ever-widening gap in their ability to fully meet the unique and complex needs of human trafficking victims due to a perpetual lack of adequate funding and resources. The trauma inflicted upon victims of human trafficking before, during, and after their exploitation requires years of specialized recovery support. However, stakeholders pointed out that most programs and initiatives lack the funding to provide service long enough for most victims to heal. This lack of funding, coupled with barriers in the form of program eligibility and lengthy waitlists, continues to frustrate service providers who work to meet the needs of victims and survivors of human trafficking.

# Considering the Best Interests of Children

## A System-Change Initiative

FUNDED BY THE  
VANCOUVER FOUNDATION



Children whose parents come into conflict with the law, and particularly those whose parents are incarcerated, experience tremendous stress and disruption in their lives that can affect their development and social adaptation.

There is current momentum in British Columbia favouring reduction in short-term incarceration, particularly of Indigenous offenders, and implementing community-based alternatives that promote public safety and the successful reintegration of offenders. The goal of this project is to instigate and support a systemic and cultural change in the way that the best interests of the child are considered by defence counsel, the prosecution and the courts.

The ultimate intention is to encourage active consideration of child impact and family impact at time of sentencing and other court decisions, principally by prosecutors and judges but also all those with influence in criminal proceedings, to avoid the potentially negative impacts of those decisions. A broader purpose is to raise awareness about these issues more generally, and to assist the reader in identifying practices which serve to diminish consideration of the best interests of the child, where these exist.

An Overview document and several additional resources authored by ICCLR Associates and experts have been developed for that purpose and are available on this website. The Overview document is intended to influence policy change, to encourage greater availability of non-carceral or community-based alternatives to incarceration for people with parental responsibilities, and to support parents in mitigating the impact of their own sentencing and court order compliance on their children.

# Police Relationships with Visible Minorities

*Police Relationships with Visible Minorities: A Review of the Impact of the 20-Year Effort by Police in British Columbia and Canada to Improve Visible Minorities' Assessments of Police Services*

Strained police relations with visible minorities are reflected in the fact that these minorities are much less likely than other citizens to view the police as legitimate, fair, or trustworthy, or to report crime to the police. Police in and outside of Canada have long understood the importance of improving their relationship with minorities, and in this regard, they have undertaken multiple initiatives intended to improve minority-police relations.

Considerable resources and energy were devoted to trying to enhance police relationships with various visible minority groups. These efforts have included extensive outreach initiatives, force-wide sensitivity training for police officers, substantial recruitment and promotion of minorities, and policy changes relating to police practices. Have those efforts made any significant difference in how visible minorities view the police?

ICCLR released a report on a study that attempted to answer that question. Funded by the Office of Crime Reduction and Gang Outreach, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Province of British Columbia, the study examined the extent to which police efforts aimed at improving police-minority relations over the past 20 years have improved perceptions of the police among visible minority groups in Canada (with special attention to British Columbia). More specifically, the study examined the degree to which attitudes of visible minorities over that 20-year period between 1999 and 2019 can be distinguished from those of the overall population in Canada and British Columbia – with special attention to the matter of crime victims' contacts with police. The core analysis for this study involved a comparison of data from Statistics Canada's General Social Survey (GSS) panels on Canadians' Safety (Victimization) conducted in 1999, 2004, 2009, 2014 and 2019.

# Nexus Conference on Wrongful Convictions

Those involved in post-conviction review and relief work in common law jurisdictions (such as Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand) face similar challenges and legal barriers with respect to remedying and preventing wrongful convictions.

The Nexus Conference on Wrongful Convictions provided a virtual forum in which experience, research, and ideas can be exchanged between these countries.

The Nexus Conference on Wrongful Convictions was held on September 26-30 which convened over 700 registrants from around the world. The conference included powerful keynotes, the stories of the wrongfully convicted and cross-jurisdictional discussion on preventing and remedying miscarriages of justice among legal practitioners, academics, students, and exonerees working in the post-conviction review field. It provided a forum to discuss common challenges, share success stories, review the latest jurisprudence and advances in forensic science, and collaborate on recommendations for best practices and reform. The conference was cohosted by the UBC Innocence Project, Innocence Project London, Griffith University Innocence Project, ICCLR with participation from Innocence Canada.



# Child-Sensitive Criminal Justice



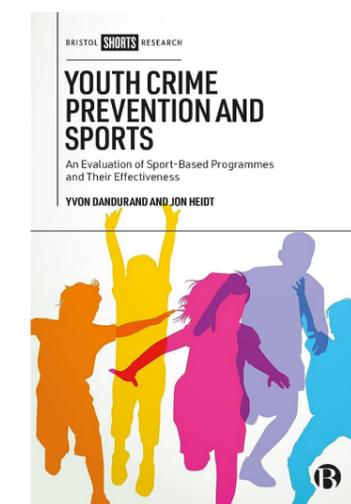
## Youth Crime Prevention and Sports: An Evaluation of Sport-Based Programmes and Their Effectiveness

### Towards child-sensitive criminal justice in Thailand: Responding to violence against children in educational settings

This research project focuses on children subjected to violence in educational settings in Thailand and strategies to ensure that they have access to child-sensitive criminal justice processes and obtain effective justice, protection and redress for such violence.

By understanding the extent and nature of violence against children in education settings in Thailand and analysing the existing laws, policies and practices in place to address such violence in Thailand, this study will identify issues that need to be addressed in preventing, reporting, investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating such violence. Using the international framework, particularly the UN Model Strategies and Practical Measures to Eliminate Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as a guide, as well as good practices from Thailand and other countries, the study will provide recommendations to relevant stakeholders.

Sport-based crime prevention programmes are becoming increasingly popular worldwide but until now there has been very little research on the effectiveness of such approaches. Bringing together authoritative evidence from existing programmes, the authors identify and analyse emerging successful practices. Covering mentoring and coaching, particularly as they relate to Positive Youth Development (PYD) programmes, the authors explore how the development of core life skills can improve individual resilience and decrease the risk of criminal involvement. The book conceptualizes the links between criminological theory and PYD and gives recommendations for future policy and practice.



# ICCLR at the United Nations

ICCLR is one of eighteen institutes in the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network.

In UN resolutions, the Programme Network Institutes (PNIs) are often called upon by Member States to carry out research and policy development work. The PNIs meet regularly to coordinate efforts and undertake or support joint programme activities.



## Here are the ways that ICCLR and our Associates worked with the United Nations this year.

- 01 ICCLR Senior Associate Yvon Dandurand helping facilitate the three-day UNODC Expert Group Meeting to review the main elements of the proposed Model Strategies on the Prevention of Recidivism
- 02 Second & Third Session of the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes
- 03 Thirty-first session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
- 04 CCPCJ Side Event on “Integrated Strategy for Effective Governance of Global Crime” in collaboration with the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime and the European Public Law Organization
- 05 Second intersessional consultation with multi-stakeholders of the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes
- 06 Thirteenth session of the Implementation Review Group and the thirteenth session of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption Technologies for Criminal Purposes
- 07 First resumed thirteenth session of the Implementation Review Group
- 08 The intersessional meeting of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption
- 09 Eleventh Session of the Conference of the Parties to UNTOC
- 10 United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice PNI Coordination Meeting





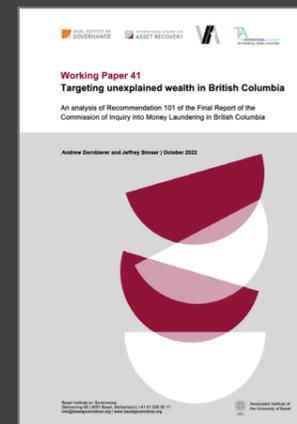
# Vancouver Anti-Corruption Institute

## Whistleblowers & Public Integrity Conference

On November 8-9, 2022, the Vancouver Anti-Corruption Institute in partnership with the Ombudsperson of British Columbia hosted a major conference on Whistleblowers and Public Integrity. Chaired by the Right Honourable Kim Campbell, the conference focused on the role of whistleblowers in public administration, including: whistleblower case studies; current legislation and practice in handling and investigating whistleblower reports; the effectiveness of whistleblowing relative to the power of the media; international practices and alternative models; the psychology, personal experience and impacts of whistleblowing. We welcomed public sector leaders; experts in transparency and anti-corruption; civil society watchdog, ombuds and advocacy functions; journalists specializing in government integrity and accountability; and all others whose work brings them into direct contact with questions of public sector integrity and accountability.

## Speaking Engagements

- CIFA Semi-Annual Symposium
- Changjiang International Forum
- Identity North Annual Summit
- 21st Annual Canadian Forum on Anti-Money Laundering and Financial Crime



## The Anti-Corruption Law Program

The Anti-Corruption Law Program (ACLP) is a joint program under a collaborative working partnership between VACI, the Centre for Business Law at UBC, and Transparency International Canada. The ACLP is an ongoing series of CPD-accredited public education events that are open to lawyers, business professionals, law enforcement officials, government representatives and bureaucrats, students, and academics alike. These public education events provide a fertile setting for learning and informed discussion among participant panelists and registrants regarding the role the law may play in the global fight against corrupt business practices.

## Demystifying Anti-Corruption Enforcement for Journalists

Presented by VACI and TRACE, this series brings together current and former government officials from several countries, international development bank personnel and private sector lawyers to provide an overview of anti-corruption investigations and enforcement for journalists.

## Working Paper 41: Targeting Unexplained Wealth in BC

The final recommendation of the Commission of Inquiry into Money Laundering in British Columbia ('the Commission') urged the government to legislate an unexplained wealth order ('UWO') as part of a wider approach to counter the prevalence of money laundering and proceeds of crime in the province. In partnership with the Basil Institute on Governance, this working paper co-authored by VACI expert, Jeff Simser, analyses the feasibility of this recommendation.

## Global Corruption, Fourth Edition, Volume One

*Global Corruption* is the Canadian definitive text on anti-bribery and anti-corruption. Authored by ICCLR Senior Associate, Gerry Ferguson with contributions from Dr. Peter German, KC, this text provides a rich analysis of the nature, scope and extent of global corruption by canvassing international requirements and UK, US and Canadian law on a vast array of topics from the investigation, prosecution and sanctioning of corruption, money laundering and the recovery of corruption proceeds to laws and policies on preventative mechanisms such as the regulation of public procurement, lobbying, campaign financing, whistleblowing and other corruption risks.

# Gender-Based Violence

ICCLR has, since its inception, acted as a bridge between local, national and international criminal justice systems to build capacity to prevent and respond to gender-based violence.

One of ICCLR's longest standing programmes has been on eliminating violence against women. This year, ICCLR Senior Associate Eileen Skinnider was involved in the following initiatives:

- The E-Learning Module for UNODC for criminal justice professionals on crime prevention and criminal justice responses to gender-based violence against women has been finalized and uploaded to the UNODC website.
- The E-Learning Module for the UN Women "I Know Gender" series on Gender Equality and Organized Crime has been finalized and will soon be uploaded to their website.
- UNODC study to assess the criminal justice response to sexual violence in Sudan
- Development of a regional Trainer of Training Handbook for Southern African prosecutors on the management of gender-based violence cases.

## Blogs

**ICCLR associates and researchers regularly publish blogs on pertinent issues for public consumption:**

- Know Your Gladue Rights
- Access to Justice Pathways - New Study
- Wildlife Trafficking: Is a Fourth Protocol to UNTOC the Answer?
- Gender Equality and Organized Crime
- Police Relationships With Visible Minorities: Survey Result
- Providing a Protective Environment for Children with Incarcerated Parents – The Role of Civil Society Organizations
- The Role of Sports in Crime Prevention
- Miscarriages of Justice in a Human System: The Nexus Conference on Wrongful Convictions
- The Strengths of Canada's Criminal Legal Aid System: A Lecture for the 180th UNAFEI International Senior Seminar

# Other Projects



- Thinking Globally, Acting Locally: The criminality–resilience nexus - ICCLR Senior Associate Yvon Dandurand
- CCJA Justice Report Issue 37.1.2 Canada’s Work to Assist the Development of Community Corrections in China: Significant and Long-lasting Results - ICCLR Senior Associate Vincent Yang
- Expert Roundtable in Support of Our Common Agenda which focused on Global Governance and Transnational Organized Crime - ICCLR Senior Associate Yvon Dandurand
- Presentation at PNI Event on Reducing Reoffending “Enhancing Technical Assistance to Reduce Reoffending and Promote an Inclusive Society” - ICCLR Senior Associate Vincent Yang
- Building resilience to organised crime - ICCLR Senior Associate Yvon Dandurand
- Leadership Gathering on Services to People with Multiple and Complex Needs I (“Complex Care Housing”) - ICCLR Senior Associate Allan Castle
- Advisory Services to Office of the Police Complaints Commissioner for British Columbia (OPCC) - ICCLR Senior Associate Allan Castle
- Presentation of a paper “Canada’s Work to Assist the Development of Community Corrections in China: Significant and Long-lasting Results” - ICCLR Senior Associate Vincent Yang
- Online open lecture “Why is it significant? - The Sentencing Decision in R. v. Michel Jean-Jacque Berthiaume and Eric Berthiaume in Richmond, BC“ for the Chinese Canadian community - ICCLR Senior Associate Vincent Yang
- Presentation at international conference on “Cooperation between Viet Nam and Southeast Asian Countries in the Fight against Crime” - ICCLR Senior Associate Yvon Dandurand
- Seminar on Resilience to Organised Crime: New Insights from West Africa - ICCLR Senior Associate Yvon Dandurand
- Presentation of a paper and continuous discussions on anti-Asian hate crime in BC at a meeting hosted by BC’s Office of the Human Rights Commissioner for its Inquiry into hate in the COVID-19 pandemic - ICCLR Senior Associate Vincent Yang
- Reinventing Criminal Justice, 15th Annual Symposium: “Healing, Wellness and Justice” (Justice Canada, CACP)
- Program Review: CFSEU Provincial Tactical Enforcement Priority Program (PSSG-Policing and Security Branch) - ICCLR Senior Associate Allan Castle
- Coalition for the International Criminal Court
- Public Interest Disclosure Act Conference 2023 (Office of the BC Ombudsperson) - ICCLR Senior Associate Allan Castle
- A Framework for the Introduction of Family Justice Courtworkers (NCCABC) - ICCLR Senior Associate Allan Castle
- Leadership Gathering on Services to People with Multiple and Complex Needs II (“Mental Health and Transitions Between Systems”) - ICCLR Senior Associate Allan Castle

# Impact Reports

## By the Numbers

The ICCLR Impact Report serves to measure our value to our partners and our impact in our areas of focus. There are currently 146 past and on-going projects loaded into our project tracker database that are individually being tracked under a set of key metrics. This year, more than 30 organizations have worked and/or funded projects led by ICCLR associates. We also celebrate this year the fact that ICCLR and its associates have been involved in 84 projects whether it was providing technical assistance, analysis/reporting or thought leadership around the world. We continue to work on issues of criminal law and criminal justice policy where data gaps are present, information is limited, and where meaningful positive change can occur when government policies are strengthened.

## Telling our Stories

ICCLR's long history of successful partnerships with authorities and civil society organizations all over the world speaks to the quality of our work and to our ability to continue to assist governments in developing and sustaining healthy, safe communities. Because of the nature of our work, however, we may not be able to report on the impact of our initiatives for some time after projects are completed. The following narratives describe some of the accomplishments of ICCLR and our associates in previous years and share how the results of work we did then is being felt today.

# Promoting Effective Responses to Human Trafficking

Human trafficking squarely confronts law enforcement agencies with the struggle to keep up with loosely structured, illusive, and adaptive criminal organizations and networks, as well as the limitations of the existing legal framework and the need for more effective law enforcement cooperation, locally, nationally, and internationally. Clearly, all these challenges require attention, even if they are not unique to the problem of human trafficking.

ICCLR has been active for more than two decades, nationally and internationally, in promoting effective responses to human trafficking and effective law enforcement strategies. ICCLR's previous work on the subject which, over the last twenty-two years since the adoption of the *United Nations Protocol on Trafficking in Persons* (2000), has involved research, the development of practical tools for law enforcement and other practitioners as well as legislative guide for policy makers, training programs, reviews of legislation, national and international consultations, and research on the prevention of and response to trafficking in persons in B.C., Canada, and abroad.

Previous work includes: co-drafting the United Nations Legislative Guide for the Implementation of the United Nations against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols; developing a Toolkit to Combat Trafficking in Persons for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

developing a Reference Guide for Canadian Law Enforcement Agencies on Human Trafficking; facilitating the strategic planning process for the RCMP Human Trafficking National Coordination Centre; developing a handbook for Vietnamese police officers on commercial child sexual exploitation (UNICEF Vietnam); providing advice to the Ministry of Justice of Vietnam for the drafting of the new Penal Code provisions concerning human trafficking (a UNDP and Save the Children UK project); delivering or participating in training workshops for policy makers, police officials and judges in support of the implementation of the international instruments relating to human trafficking and the sale of children in various countries, including China, Vietnam, and Haiti; and, providing expert testimonies for the prosecution in several migrant smuggling and human trafficking prosecution cases in British Columbia and Ontario. ICCLR conducted a consultation, on behalf of the Government of Canada, on the implementation of the United Nations protocols on migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons. More recently, ICCLR senior associates Yvon Dandurand and Vivienne Chin, with Darryl Plecas and John Winterdyk, completed a *Qualitative Analysis of Services/Supports for Human Trafficking Survivors in British Columbia and Alberta*, which covers issues such as service providers' cooperation with law enforcement and victims' reporting behaviour.

# Mental Health in the Criminal Justice System

Current treatments and the dominant model of mental health care do not adequately address the complex challenges of mental illness. Persons challenged by mental health issues often fall victim to a cycle of criminality, poverty, homelessness, and addiction. This problem is exacerbated by the underfunding and shortage of community-based and other mental health treatment programs and the compartmentalized approach and disconnect between agencies engaged in service delivery. People living with mental illness are slipping through the cracks of the existing social safety net and are landing in the criminal justice system at an alarming rate. Although various criminal justice sectors have made significant efforts to address the issue of their continued overrepresentation in correctional populations and high rates in recidivism, many have occurred in sectoral isolation with minimal effect. These circumstances call for radical change in the paradigm and practices of mental health care in the criminal justice system. To date, there have been few, if any, opportunities for all stakeholders in the mental health system, the criminal justice system and social services to meaningfully discuss this issue, share strategies and establish coordinated and collaborative rights-based approach to guide reform efforts in the mental health of justice-involved individuals.

ICCLR has extensive experience on mental health in the criminal justice system. The 2015 Symposium: Mental Health in the Criminal

Justice System jointly hosted by ICCLR, the International Society for the Reform and of Criminal Law and the Vancouver Police Department hosted over 175 justice professionals from various cross-section of criminal justice stakeholders in British Columbia, including ICCLR Associates, discussed the complexities and unique challenges of individuals who are mentally ill and who encounter the criminal justice system. The forum provided an opportunity to deliberate some of the challenges and successes of addressing mental illness within the justice system from the perspective of a variety of participating agencies and provoked discussion, collaboration and understanding about this key issue.

ICCLR Associates and researchers have published a number of reports in this area including: *Mental Health Related Practices in the Canadian Criminal Justice System and Mental Health and Substance Use Services in Correctional Settings: A Review of Minimum Standards and Best Practices* (2009); *Policing and the Mentally Ill: A Review of Issues Related to Mental Health Apprehensions by Police in British Columbia* (2013); *Mental Illness and the Criminal Justice System* (2013) (Prepared for Re-Inventing Criminal Justice: The Fifth National Symposium Montreal, QC, Canada); and, *Mental Illness and the Criminal Justice System: A Review of Global Perspectives and Promising Practices* (2014).

# Autism Training in Corrections

Prisons are complex social environments that are burdensome for even the most resilient individual to navigate. Inherently restrictive, the prison environment is one that is often characterized by mistrust, distinct hierarchies of power and control, overcrowding, limited privacy, proximity to anti-social individuals and exposure to victimization, violence, and hostility. These conditions can be especially challenging for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Without appropriate support, persons with traits associated to ASD, (i.e., such as deficits in social communication, issues of sensory over- or under-stimulation and difficulties dealing with change) may find it difficult to adjust to the social and physical environment of a prison setting which can affect their engagement in rehabilitative treatment programs and potentially result in the increased risk of their recidivism. Given the difficulties that individuals with ASD may face within prisons and the impact those difficulties may have on successful rehabilitative and reintegrative efforts, it is vital to support strategies that promote a safe and stable environment for individuals incarcerated with ASD.

To fill this need, ICCLR developed an online course that offers autism-focused training in the field of corrections. Modules specifically address the aims of increased understanding about autism, considerations for the correctional system, including support for autistic individuals within the correctional system, and means to promote individual well-being. The Correctional Service of Canada has agreed to include the course in their e-learning platform. This initiative builds on ICCLR's earlier work. In 2020, ICCLR developed a training video, in collaboration with the Pacific Autism Family Network (PAFN), the RCMP and the Vancouver Police Department to educate police officers and the public on the benefits of facilitating positive interactions between law enforcement and persons with ASD during first response.

# Board of Directors

# Staff & Associates



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**David Winkler, KC**



**Dr. Vincent Yang**

# In Gratitude

ICCLR's work would not be possible without support and collaboration from our many generous and knowledgeable members. Our distinguished Board of Directors is appointed by our Member Organizations:

- Department of Justice Canada
- Public Safety Canada
- Global Affairs Canada
- The University of British Columbia
- Simon Fraser University
- BC Ministry of the Attorney General
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- International Society for the Reform of Criminal Law

This year ICCLR is grateful for the support and collaboration of various generous members:

- British Columbia's Office of the Human Rights Commissioner
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- Dai Hoc Luat Ha Noi
- Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture British Columbia
- Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime
- Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver
- Innocence Canada
- Transparency International Canada

# International Society for the Reform of Criminal Law

Our thanks to the International Society for the Reform of Criminal Law (ISRCL) for whom we act as Secretariat for the continued trust and fruitful partnership. The ISRCL is an international non-governmental association of judges, legislators, lawyers, academics, governmental officials, police and corrections professionals who have come together to work actively on the administration of criminal justice both in their own jurisdiction and internationally.

In October 2022, the ISRCL hosted an international virtual conference on "Thinking Beyond the Bars: New Approaches in Sentencing, Corrections, and Restorative Justice." The theme "Thinking Beyond the Bars" encompasses new visions for resolving criminal law problems, including: specialized courts such as Indigenous courts, mental health courts, drug courts, community courts; the use of neuroscience, artificial intelligence and genetics in the sentencing process; youth justice sentencing; the role of police and diversion; victims' rights and implicit bias in sentencing. The conference was well-received. In 2024, the ISRCL will be hosting the next international conference which will take place in Vancouver, BC.

# Don & Kathy Sorochan Scholarship Fund

Donald and Kathy Sorochan are founding directors of the International Society for the Reform of Criminal Law (ISRCL) and the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy (ICCLR). This award has been established in Donald and Kathy Sorochan's name in recognition of their many achievements to law and justice, nationally and internationally, and for the invaluable support they have given to the work and activities of both ISRCL and ICCLR over the past twenty years. This scholarship is open to criminology and law students at Simon Fraser University and the University of British Columbia, ICCLR's two sponsoring universities.

A donation in support of the Don and Kathy Sorochan Scholarship fund will allow young scholars to be recognized for their contributions to the field of international criminal law, criminal law policy, and criminal law reform.



Please make your cheque or money order payable to the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy and mail it to: International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy, 1822 East Mall, Vancouver BC, V6T 1Z1 Canada



## Career Opportunities

At ICCLR, we strive to create a culture that is centered around employee growth and career development, mentorship, and sponsorship. If you are interested in employment opportunities, follow our LinkedIn and Twitter page for the latest openings. For consultant opportunities, please email your CV to [icclr@allard.ubc.ca](mailto:icclr@allard.ubc.ca).



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ICCLR can be a great place to start your career. Whether your interest lies in conducting research, organizing events or program management and development, ICCLR has a place for you. Let us know how you want to be involved by emailing a cover letter and CV to [icclr@allard.ubc.ca](mailto:icclr@allard.ubc.ca).



## Donations

ICCLR has benefited from the support of hundreds of individuals, foundations, academic institutions and governments who share our vision in advancing criminal law reform, public safety, and criminal justice policy. All charitable donations to ICCLR are eligible for a tax receipt in Canada. You can make a donation today at [www.icclr.org/get-involved/](http://www.icclr.org/get-involved/).



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