

LEGALLY BROWN

Annual Report



ISSUE 1

Marking the one year anniversary for a blog that began with sharing stories and has now evolved into an online community.

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Thank You



OUR IMPACT

Measuring the interaction in the online community through some key metrics

5

Executive Team Members

568

LinkedIn Followers

247

Instagram Followers

54

Lifestyle Blog Posts



17

Legal Opinion/
Critical Commentary Posts

24

Content Contributors in addition to the Co-Founders



Words of encouragement to continue on this path and grow in terms of outreach

1

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Areas of the Law Analyzed through Current Events

LOOKING BACK AT THE YEAR: NEWS & THE LAW

While the pandemic brought about devastating consequences across the globe, the past year has allowed us to reflect on pre-existing inequalities that persist in our communities and the inadequacy of our legal systems. Here are some key legal developments we believe deserve further reflection and discussion.

#BLM



May 25th, 2020--George Floyd is killed by three Minneapolis officers. Unfortunately, this is the reality for many Black individuals in America. A few months prior, Breonna Taylor was fatally and unjustifiably shot by plainclothes officers. Six years prior, Eric Garner was murdered in a far too similar way. The list goes on. In the first eight months of 2020 alone, police killed 164 Black people in the United States. Floyd's death, however, was the breaking point. People flooded the streets to protest police brutality against Black people and mass calls to defund the police emerged across social. Protesters mobilized in all corners of the world and renewed the conversation around policing. Nearly a year later, Derek Chauvin, the former Minneapolis Police officer who knelt on George Floyd's neck for more than 9 minutes last year was found guilty of three murder charges. It marked the beginning of holding police accountable for their actions but there is much more that needs to be addressed.



In 2020, governments across the world have started to action to fight the spread of COVID-19, implementing emergency measures to save lives, protect jobs and counter an economic disaster. These measures, ranging from social distancing requirements to nationalization of pharmaceutical products, have disproportionately impacted marginalized communities, unable to follow new distancing requirements, and have resulted in a spike in unemployment rates. The field of employment law saw massive transformations. Most recently, the Ontario government introduced legislation that will offer up to three paid sick days per employee in an effort to contain the virus.



Law has often an industry critique for being too resistant to change and technology. However, the legal practice was turned upside down this past year. The pandemic has upended everything from arbitrations to trials. Moving to an online format, revealed many of the inefficiencies that exist in our industry. While Canadian courts have long advocated for open access to trials, it was not until virtual hearings that courts truly opened their door to the public, mitigating or even eliminating many of the non-legal barriers to a transparent legal system. There was no need to file massive amounts of paper to the courts making it easier in many respects for well-established law firms, but also for pro-bono clinics or sole practitioners that spend a lot of their budgets on printing and producing documents.



Blog Posts

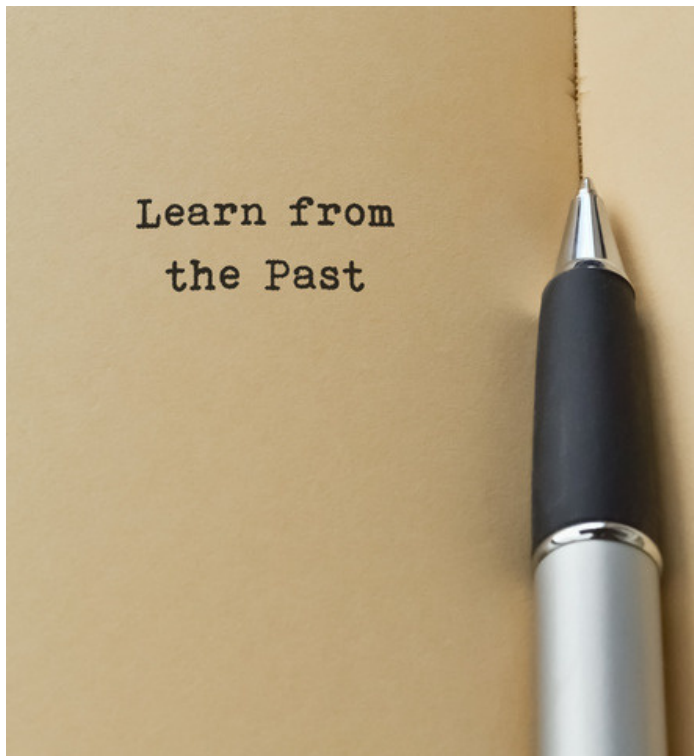
SCHEDULE A- AFFIDAVITS

This tab on our site is dedicated to lifestyle and law - the law student edition. We started by addressing the most popular question of "Why Law?" It later spanned into a reflection of our 1L year. However, we didn't want to limit our readers to just our programs. Thus, we collaborated with law students across Ontario to get their first hand accounts of their programs and to provide our readers with a face to the program. It was also an opportunity to highlight students of colour at various law schools. This section evolved over the school year. January is the peak time for clinic/ intensive program applications at Osgoode Hall Law School and we decided to contact our peers to share their experience and shed some light on the program they are taking, skills developed, and application advice. We also had students who went through the 1L recruit and the OCI process share their

experiences through posts relating to interview advice and how their experience was as a summer student.

Based on the traction we received through growth in followers, it was an indicator that collaboration and community are what our readers are most interested in seeing.

To end off our first year, we hosted a panel with lawyers - who are diverse in their identities, practice areas and approach to the law. Again, the support received in registration, attendance and follow-up motivated the team to think of more ways to connect the community and commit to growing.



Current Events

SCHEDULE B-OUR TAKE

May 2020, we were in the early days of the pandemic. After finishing exams, we realized most of the fact patterns were related to COVID's implications on the law. Building on this theme, we decided to dedicate a COVID series in the Current Events section of the blog. By no means is this legal advice, this is our segment to conduct research and form a critical opinion towards how the law impacts the COVID situation in our nation.

The Covid series covered the following topics:

- Homelessness and COVID
- The impact of COVID on Refugee claims
- Policing during a pandemic
- University students and rental agreements
- Employer liability during a pandemic
- Contact tracing app
- Healthcare workers and the right to refuse treating patients



Beyond the Blog

EVENTS

The adjustment to remote work and remote school showcased that although technology is an ally, it can be difficult to understand when to stop working. The ongoing lockdown in Ontario, specifically in hotspots, has led many individuals to experience burnout and Zoom fatigue.

We wanted to host an event to speak to our readers and start bringing life to the community. On May 5, 2021 we hosted our first panel to celebrate our anniversary.

This panel served as an opportunity to learn about different areas of the law and each lawyer's journey in law school and legal career thus far. We ended on a discussion based on diversity in the legal field.

Key Messages from the One Year Celebration :

- Being a lawyer can be demanding. There will be late nights but you must remember that your mental health comes first. Take time for yourself--meditate, work out or go on a Netflix marathon.
- We must continue to the conversation surrounding diversity in the legal practice. As law students and lawyers, we are in a place of privilege to help diversify the voices in our field.
- There is no one-size-fits-all approach to lawyering. You must continually push yourself to think outside the box and innovate at all points in your career.

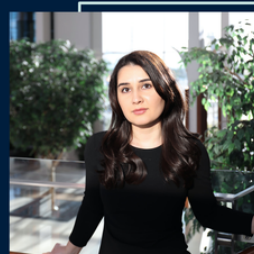
CELEBRATING ONE YEAR OF LEGALLY BROWN



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SODABA RAMEH
Founder of Rameh Law



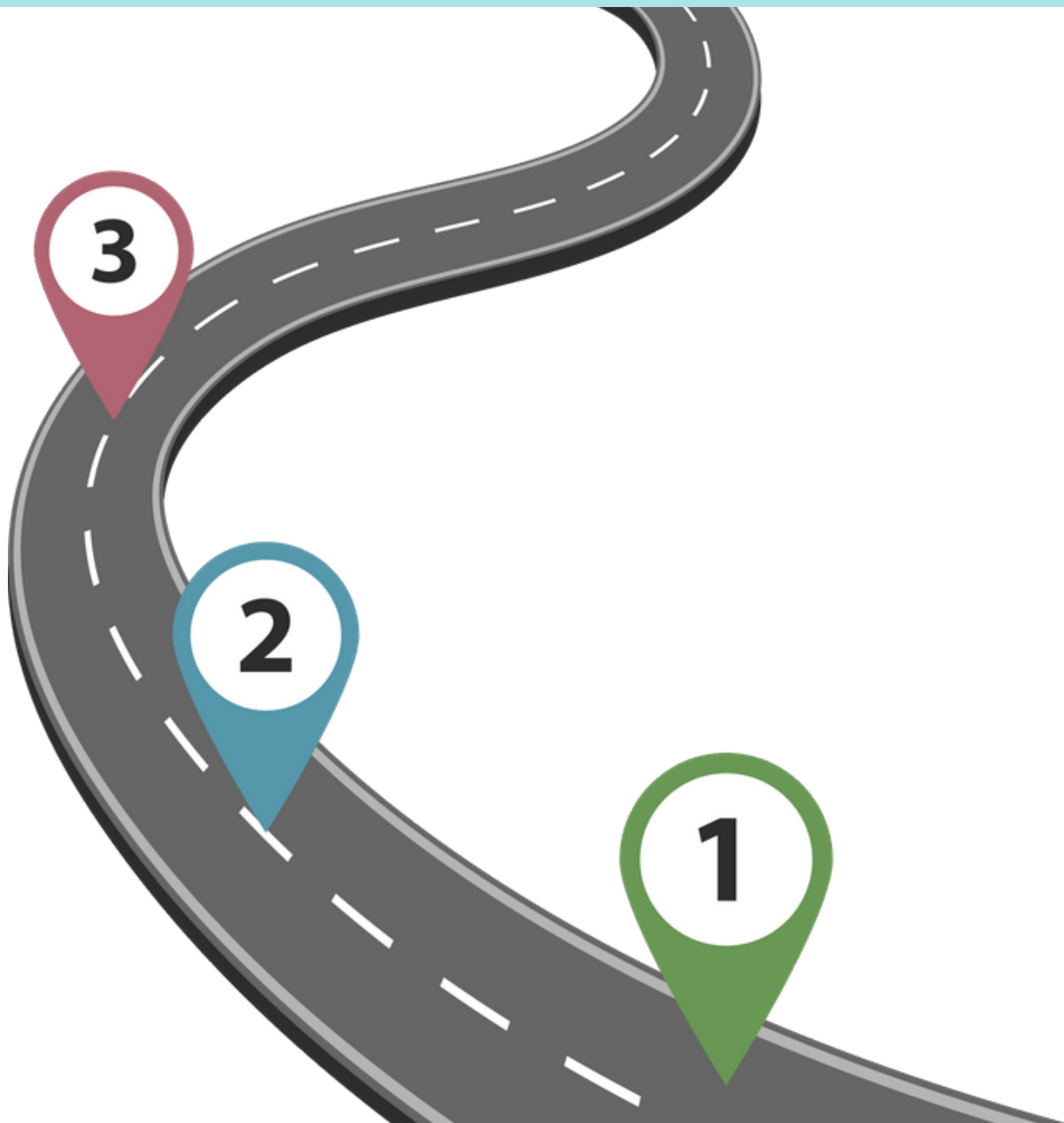
TARA VASDANI
Principal Lawyer and Founder of
Remote Law Canada



The Road Up Ahead

GOALS, VISION, AND MISSION

- Continue to foster a community for minorities and women in law
- Host more events and panels to cater to our demographic of pre-law and current law students
- Provide content about navigating our legal journeys through a memoir of past experiences
- Start an official mentorship network for pre-law students





Thank You

FOR YOUR SUPPORT

We are grateful for the support we have received, through contributions in terms of content or words of encouragement to continue to post and expand the network.



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Continue to be a part
of the journey

