

Law and Society award

Shery Darvish

Bio

Ms. Sherry Darvish is a Deputy Judge at the Small Claims Court, a division of the Superior Court of Justice. She is the first Canadian-Iranian judge in Ontario. Ms. Darvish is also a Vice-Chair at the Workplace Safety and Insurance Appeals Tribunal, where she hears appeal and writes decisions on various civil matters in Ontario. She is a Chair of the Discipline Committee at the Ontario Motor Vehicle Council where she hears appeals and writes decisions pertaining to OMVIC's Code of Ethics. Ms. Darvish is also a Chair on the Discipline and Fitness to Practice Committees of the Ontario College of Trades. Previously, Ms. Darvish was tax counsel in the Tax Law Services Section of the Department of Justice. In that role she acted on behalf of the Canada Revenue Agency in tax appeals before the Tax Court of Canada and Federal Court of Appeal.

Ms. Darvish teaches Legal Analysis and Writing in the Osgoode Hall Masters of Law Foundations program. She has also taught tax law and legal accounting at Humber College. Ms. Darvish was a coach for Ryerson's inaugural Law Practice Program. She is a regular part of the faculty at the Adjudicator Training Courses and the Effective Decision Writing Courses held by the Society of Ontario Adjudicators and Regulators and Osgoode Professional Development.

Ms. Darvish is an active member of her community. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Society of Ontario Adjudicators and Regulators and participates in several committees. She was a member of the Board of Directors and Second Vice-President at Family Day Care Services. She was a past member of the Board of Directors for the Iranian Women's Organization of Ontario. In 2012, Ms. Darvish founded a pro bono outreach and summary advice legal clinic, in partnership with Pro Bono Law Ontario. The legal clinic provides outreach services to over 250 members of the community each year.

Law and Society award

Atoosa Mahdavian

Bio and Resume

(Next Page)

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to nominate Atoosa Mahdavian for the 2017 Law and Society Award. Atoosa is one of the most senior Iranian-Canadian lawyers in Ontario. She was among the first Iranian-Canadians to make partner at a Bay Street law firm. More recently, she played an instrumental part in organizing the first Iranian-Canadian Women's Leadership Conference in conjunction with Tirgan.

Atoosa has strived to make the legal profession accessible to members of the Iranian community. She has mentored many Iranian lawyers and law students throughout her career. My involvement with Atoosa has been one of the defining experiences of my legal career. In addition to her involvement in the legal community, she advocates for equality and women's rights. The key quality that sets Atoosa apart is her dedication and investment to the Iranian community. As the co-founder and chair of the Iranian-Canadian Legal Professionals, she encourages the integration of independent thought and collaborative effort among the board members.

Law and Society award

Rojan Malekzadeh

Bio and Resume

Rojan Malekzadeh, graduated from Osgoode Hall Law School with a J.D. in 2013, and was called to the Ontario bar in 2014.

During her time in law school, she was involved with the legal clinic, Community & Legal Aid Services Program (CLASP). She also completed a clinical placement at Parkdale Community Legal Services in the Immigration Law Division (PCLS). At PCLS, Rojan engaged in community outreach and education, and advocated for low-income clients by providing legal advice, assistance and representation. Rojan also worked as a summer law student and articling student at one of Canada's oldest and largest immigration law firms, Green & Spiegel LLP, where she assisted clients in the preparation of permanent residence applications, work permit applications, study permit and temporary resident visa applications, and represented clients in the Immigration Division, Immigration Appeal Division, and Federal Court.

Rojan is also passionate about international law and social history. Prior to attending law school, Rojan completed her Master's degree in History at York University, where she received a scholarship. During her Master's,

she examined the fluidity of identity within the Aboriginal and Métis communities during European settlement in present-day Canada.

Rojan is a member of the Canadian Bar Association, the Ontario Bar Association, and the Law Society of Upper Canada and Refugee Lawyer's Association.

Rojan is regularly and actively involved in the community, and provides free legal advice to low-income individuals in organizations and community centres in Toronto, including Working Women Community Centre, West Neighbourhood House, and more recently, Iranian Women's Organization of Ontario.