



Our News



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THE MCGILL UNIVERSITY, FACULTY OF LAW, ANNUAL CHRISTIE COMMUNITY BIKE RIDE

As a graduate of the class of 1981 of McGill University's Faculty of Law I consider myself honored to have been asked to speak in support of the 12th annual Christie Community Bike Ride commemorating the legacy of fellow alum the late Dugald Christie who was both an avid cyclist and a strong advocate for access to justice.

Every year, McGill Law students and other members of the community bike 50 km around Montreal in his honour to raise funds for a local access to justice organization.

This year support was given to the West Island Black Community Association, (WIBCA), an association I am very proud to be associated with as a member and volunteer lawyer to WIBCA's free legal clinic.

The issue of access to justice looms large in my criminal law practice.

In a free society a lawyer must act as a custodian and a critic of the law. Our custodial role is ever present in our daily practice but it tends to eclipse our duty to be critics of the law and to advocate for the reform that will bring us closer to that elusive just society.

The Covid-19 pandemic has made plain that our criminal justice system is antiquated and needs transformational reform focused on modernizing our courts and humanizing our criminal law. Law students and younger lawyers have a significant role to play in advocating for this much needed transformational reform.

I congratulate McGill law students for establishing and continuing the CHRISTIE COMMUNITY BIKE RIDE – an eloquent expression of collegiality and generosity.