

OSGOODE'S IPC THE FIRST IN A GROWING CANADIAN NETWORK

A second university investor protection clinic is now open with a third planned for 2023



Osgoode's Investor Protection Clinic is inspiring a pan-Canadian network of pro bono legal clinics for wronged investors.

A plan to turn Osgoode's Investor Protection Clinic into a pan-Canadian network of pro bono legal clinics for wronged investors is gaining momentum with a second university clinic now open and a third set to open its doors in 2023.

"We had this vision that Osgoode would host the model clinic and we would roll it out across the country," says Poonam Puri, an Osgoode Hall Law School professor who founded Osgoode's IPC in 2016 with the Canadian Foundation for Advancement of Investor Rights and now serves as the clinic's academic director.

A first in Canada, Osgoode's IPC has recovered nearly \$700,000 in mismanaged investments, while delivering invaluable hands-on training to 77 Osgoode Hall Law School students. The clinic has also developed investor education resources, including a six-part informational video series and a retail investor's guide to avoiding crypto scams, and reached hundreds of lawyers, investment advisers, investor advocates, regulators and academics through legal education seminars and the "Access to Justice and Fair Outcomes for Harmed Investors" conference this September.

With Osgoode's IPC as the roadmap, the University of Toronto's Faculty of Law launched an Investor Protection Clinic in 2020.

In addition to student education, **"we're very concerned with prevention—how to prevent people from falling victim to scams and frauds," says Ivy Lam, the clinic's inaugural director.** U of T has hosted a series of public education seminars through the Toronto Public Library and the YMCA Newcomer Information Centre and participated in policy projects, including consultations on the state of self-regulatory organizations.

The Faculty of Law at Université Laval in Québec City is also developing a legal clinic based in part on Osgoode's experience. Expected to launch in September 2023,

it will provide legal advice to financial consumers through a partnership with the Autorité des marchés financiers responsible for financial regulation in the province.

Together, the three clinics form the cornerstones of what Puri hopes will be a pan-Canadian network of university clinics dedicated to supporting harmed investors from coast-to-coast. To jumpstart the idea at even more universities, she plans to invite a handful of students from other law schools to join Osgoode's clinic in a virtual capacity beginning as early as next year.



(L to R): Brigitte Catellier, Samuel Tanenbaum, Poonam Puri, Ivy Lam and Cinthia Duclos discuss the role of university-led investor protection clinics.

"We need a network to share ideas and resources and help other law faculties develop their clinics, much like Poonam did for me," agrees Cinthia Duclos, an associate professor of law at Université Laval and the clinic's founding director. When it comes to funding, research and advocacy, she says there is strength in numbers.

"When I speak in Québec about the clinic or investor protection, my ideas stop here. If we want to have a voice everywhere in Canada, we need to work together."

Puri is setting a goal to make that happen. "I want to continue to scale up Osgoode's model. In our second five years, I'd love to see even more clinics across the country, so even more law students are being trained and more Canadian investors have somewhere to turn."

To learn more about the role and impact of Osgoode's Investor Protection Clinic, read our [2022 Annual Report](#) or visit our [website](#).

To join our team as a supervising lawyer or donor, contact the clinic at ipc@osgoode.yorku.ca or 416-736-5538.