

Laura Tamblyn Watts, LLB

President and CEO at CanAge

Toronto, ON, CA

Nationally and internationally recognized expert on law and aging issues, with a specialty in law reform, policy, partnerships, and more.

Biography

Laura Tamblyn Watts is a lawyer, advocate, researcher and media commentator. Her work focuses on law, aging, abuse, accessibility, law reform, governance and knowledge mobilization. She has previously served as Chief Public Policy Officer at CARP (Canadian Association of Retired Persons) for the past two years and as the National Director of the Canadian Centre for Elder Law. She currently teaches at the University of Toronto, where she is also a Fellow of the Institute for Lifecourse and Aging. She is a past Chair of the Canadian Bar Association's National Elder Law section, where she sits as a current Executive member. Laura is a Board member of the National Initiative for Care of the Elderly (NICE) network and facilitates the section on Law and Aging issues. She is an incoming member of the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada (IIROC), and a member of the Investment Funds Institute of Canada's (IFIC) committee on Seniors and Vulnerable Investors (IFIC). She is one of two Canadian representatives on the North American Securities Administrators Association (NAASA) committee on Vulnerable Investors and a continuing member of the Ontario Securities Commission's Taskforce on Seniors. Laura is also a board member of PACE Independent Living, a housing and services nonprofit which provides attendant care to persons with physical differences. Laura created and oversaw CARP's research portfolio and is actively involved with a number of National Centres of Excellence and a wide variety of current research initiatives, including the NICE Network, AGE-WELL, and the Canadian Frailty Network. She helped to co-found Canada's second low-income seniors' legal services centre, SeniorsFirst BC, located in Vancouver. She received her undergraduate honours degree in Political Science from Queen's University and her law degree from the University of Victoria. She was called to the BC Bar in 1999.

Areas of Expertise

Financial Literacy for Vulnerable Populations, Plain Language Tool Development, Legal Research, Elder Law, Mediation, Advocacy and Government Relations, Law and Aging

Affiliations

Distinguished International Fellow - Stetson University, Center of Excellence in Elder Law, Board Member and Affiliated Faculty - McMaster University, Gilbrea Centre on Aging, AGE-WELL National Centre of Excellence (NCE) on Aging and Technology, Lead ? Legal Issues - National Prevalence Study on Elder Abuse and Neglect, Canada, Prof. Lynn McDonald - 2015, Ombudsman for Banking Services and Investments (OBSI) ? current Board Member, Family Councils Ontario ?Past Board Chair, National Initiative for Care of the Elderly (NICE network) ? current Board member, Committee Chair, Law and Aging Chair, PACE Independent Living Society ?Secretary and Board Member, Canadian Bar Association National Elder Law Section ? current National Executive Committee member at large and Past-Chair, Ontario Bar Association Elder Law Section ? current and Founding member

Education

University of Toronto
S.J.D. / Ph.D. Law

University of Victoria
L.L.B. Law

Queen's University
B.A. International Politics and Strategic Studies

Université Canadienne en France
Certificate of Bilingualism

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