Dying With Dignity Canada
It's your life. It's your choice.

Full Biographies of Speakers

Sean Griffin

Sean Griffin is a partner in our litigation group. He is a highly versatile litigator that acts in commercial, corporate and public law disputes. His practice focuses on complex and high profile litigation involving constitutional, administrative and commercial law issues, as well as corporate and securities matters. He has significant experience and recognized expertise in defending public and private corporations, financial institutions, directors and officers against a variety of civil and statutory proceedings, including class actions and regulatory investigations.

Sean has also acted for public and private organisations in a number of constitutional challenges, including disputes with respect to the applicability of provincial statutes to federal property, crown corporations and federal enterprises and the constitutional validity of the civil jurisdiction of the Québec provincial Court.

Sean appears before all levels of the courts, and also represents his clients in the context of internal and regulatory investigations undertaken by authorities such as the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada and the Quebec capital market regulator.

A sought-after conference speaker, Sean frequently gives presentations on current issues involving commercial and constitutional litigation, managing complex litigation files and litigation risk, governance, and regulatory and internal investigations.

Kelly Doctor

Kelly Doctor is a partner at the law firm Goldblatt Partners LLP. She represented Dying With Dignity Canada in Carter v. Canada and in a recent legal challenge supporting the College of Physician and Surgeon's policy on effective referral. As a former Supreme Court of Canada law clerk, Kelly enjoys taking on cases raising complex legal questions and novel human rights issues. Her work in the areas of labour, employment, and constitutional law involves fighting for the rights of people experiencing disadvantage and discrimination in the workplace and elsewhere in their lives.

Shanaaz Gokool

Shanaaz Gokool is the CEO of Dying With Dignity Canada.

Shanaaz is a life-long human rights activist. She began her campaigning career in the 1980s in Nova Scotia, where she worked on promoting racial equality and inclusion as a youth leader in a number of community organizations. She holds undergraduate degrees in political science and human rights and equity studies.

She has led numerous grassroots initiatives in the Greater Toronto Area, and was chair of Amnesty International Toronto Organization (AITO) between 2009 and 2014. She was a member of the Amnesty International Speaker's Bureau and has been a public spokesperson on various human rights issues, including Guantanamo Bay, the incarceration of Omar Khadr, child soldiers, and the arms trade. In 2009, she led a successful campaign to have the sitting mayor David Miller declare Toronto a "City against the Death Penalty."

Shanaaz has also held leadership roles in the private sector and has a proven track record in business management and marketing. She brought her diverse skillset over to the non-profit sphere, working at organizations such as Amnesty International Canada, Innocence Canada (formerly The Association in Defence of the Wrongly Convicted) and Leadnow.ca.

Under her direction, Dying With Dignity Canada has become the leading national organization defending Canadians' end-of-life rights and a go-to authority on medical assistance in dying. Shanaaz is a sought-after media commentator and has testified before parliamentary committees at the federal and provincial levels. She has spoken at numerous public and private events, with appearances at the prestigious Empire Club of Canada and the Ramsay Talks in Toronto.