



**APRIL 22, 2021 – ALL THE STORIES YET TO BE TOLD: WHY DIVERSITY MATTERS, AND WHY IT'S SO HARD TO ACHIEVE**

**Moderator: Yves Faguy, Editor-in-Chief, CBA National magazine**



**Michael Gottheil, Chief of Commission and Tribunals, Alberta Human Rights Commission**



Michael is the Chief of Commission and Tribunals of the Alberta Human Rights Commission, a role he assumed in August 2018.

Michael brings many years of leadership experience in the Administrative Justice sector, having previously served as Chair of the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario and Executive Chair of both the Environment and Land Tribunals Ontario and the Social Justice Tribunals Ontario.

Since commencing in his role at the Commission, Michael has focused on improving meaningful access to human rights enforcement in Alberta, by reducing the historic delays and backlogs in complaint resolutions. At the same time, he is driving the

Commission to be more proactive, build capacity to address systemic discrimination, and to be a key partner in a diverse, inclusive and just Alberta.

Michael has written and presented widely on justice reform, including the importance of tribunal independence, and recruitment practices that value substantive knowledge, diversity and cultural awareness. He has driven collaborative initiatives which understand the critical role community organizations play in making justice accessible and meaningful for those who need it most.

As a person with a disability, Michael has always been open to sharing his experiences, and to be inquisitive about other's differences, challenges and insights. He is a firm believer that by listening and hearing diverse perspectives, we all grow stronger, individually and as a community.

## **Me Farah Rousseau, Lawyer, Commission for Labour Standards, Pay Equity or Occupational Health and Safety (CNESST) (QC)**



Farah has been a member of the Quebec Bar since 2010. Since 2018, she has worked at the General Direction of Legal Affairs - Labor Standards at the CNESST representing employees before the Administrative Labor Tribunal.

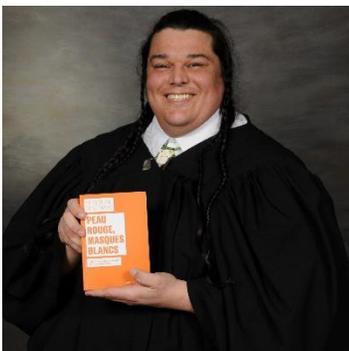
Farah had her own practice for several years in the areas of criminal and family law representing the interests of clients facing economic, legal and social difficulties. Along with her practice, from 2015 to 2018, she taught at Teccart Institute several courses in the paralegal technology program.

Over the past several years, Farah has volunteered at the Centre des femmes de Montréal and participated in several initiatives to make legal information more accessible. She took part at several activities such as: *Conférences Visez Droit*, the annual telephone clinic, and the Salon Visez Droit. Farah has also worked with victims

of domestic violence by helping them to manage legal and organizational processes for women living in shelters.

Since 2020, Farah has been a member of the Bar of Montreal's Cultural Diversity Committee with the goal of achieving ethno-cultural openness and inclusiveness within the legal profession.

## **Alexis Wawanoloath, Articling Student, Neashish & Champoux s.e.n.c**



Alexis is a jurist born July 9, 1982 in Val-d'Or, Quebec, the first Indigenous person elected since the Indigenous persons were granted the right to vote in 1969 and the second Indigenous Quebecer to sit in its Parliament. Prior to entering politics, he worked in education with Indigenous preschool and elementary children. He was also a councillor for the Abenakis of Odanak and director of human resources development for the Anishnabek of Lac-Simon. Today, after earning a bachelor's degree in law, a Juris Doctorate and completing his studies to be admitted to the Bar, he is now an articling student at Neashish & Champoux s.e.n.c.