

Madam Justice Michelle O'Bonsawin

Madam Justice Michelle O'Bonsawin is an Abenaki member of the Odanak First Nation, Québec, and the first Indigenous judge named to the Ontario Superior Court of Justice in Ottawa. She is originally from Hanmer in the Sudbury region, perfectly bilingual and actively learning her Abenaki language.

Prior to joining the Superior Court of Justice, Madam Justice O'Bonsawin was General Counsel at the Royal Ottawa Health Care Group and previously Counsel at the Canada Post Corporation. She practiced in the areas of mental health, Indigenous law, labour, employment, human rights and privacy law. She has also taught the course *Les autochtones et le droit* part-time at the University of Ottawa.

Madam Justice O'Bonsawin received her LL.B. from the French Common Law Program at the University of Ottawa and her LL.M. at Osgoode Hall in 2014. In December 2021, she completed her PhD in law at the University of Ottawa. In 2019, Madam Justice O'Bonsawin was inducted into the University of Ottawa's Common Law Honour Society. In addition, she was awarded the School of Abenaki Scholarship from the Middlebury Language School.

Madam Justice O'Bonsawin continues to be very active in the legal community. She is currently a Board member of the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice and was a member of the University of Ottawa's Board of Governors and a Board member of the Aboriginal Legal Services of the University of Ottawa Legal Aid Clinic.

Madam Justice O'Bonsawin is an elected member of the Canadian Superior Court Judges Association's council and the Chair of the Education Committee. She is a member of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee of the Superior Court of Justice of Ontario and a member of the organizing committees for national conferences. She also acts as a mentor to law students and lawyers.

Madam Justice O'Bonsawin is a frequent guest speaker regarding issues of mental health law, Indigenous issues and *Gladue* principles. She has been a guest speaker at conferences held by, for example, the Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Ontario, the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice, the National Judicial Institute, the Action Committee on Access to Justice in Civil and Family Matters, the University of Ottawa and the County of Carleton Law Association.