



APRIL 2026



ACTIVITY REPORT 2025

uOttawa Startup Law Clinic

ACADEMIC DIRECTOR

Prof. Doug Sarro



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BY THE NUMBERS

12

STUDENT
CASEWORKERS

852+

HOURS LOGGED

21

VIRTUAL
MEETINGS WITH
FOUNDERS &
ADVISORS

2

LIVE TOWNHALL
EVENTS WITH 71
REGISTRATIONS

13

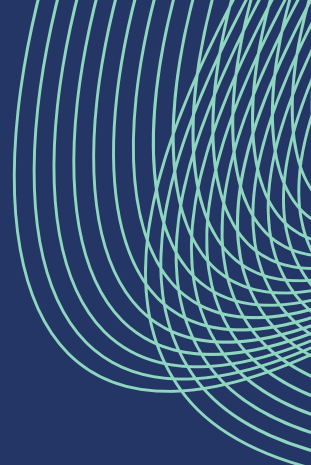
BLOG POSTS ON
TOPICS RELEVANT
TO THE STARTUP
COMMUNITY

65,000+

SOCIAL MEDIA
IMPRESSIONS



OUR STUDENT CASEWORKERS



ADAM ALANA

Adam Alana is a 3L JD candidate at uOttawa with experience in technology and business. He previously worked in legal and revenue operations at a Toronto tech startup and has gained firm experience in Montreal and Vancouver, focusing on technology and law.



AREESHA ARSHAD

Areesha Arshad is a 3L JD candidate at uOttawa who completed her 2L summer at the Ontario Securities Commission in compliance and enforcement. She focuses on business law and securities regulation and is committed to providing clear, practical legal support.



TINA DERAК

Tina Derak is a 3L JD candidate at uOttawa with experience advising MPs and Ministers on economic development. She combines her public policy background with a passion for innovation to help startups address legal challenges and protect their ideas as they grow.

OUR STUDENT CASEWORKERS

AMY FISHER

Amy Fisher is a 2L JD candidate at uOttawa and holds a Commerce degree in finance. She worked in innovation and IT procurement at the Department of National Defence. After interning at a corporate/commercial firm in Calgary, she looks forward to supporting startups in achieving their goals.



ALEXANDER HNATOVSKY

Alexander Hnatovsky is a 2L JD/BCom candidate with a strong interest in the intersection of entrepreneurship and law. He is passionate about understanding how business and legal strategy complement one another, and enjoys tennis, rock climbing, and building his cosmetics business.

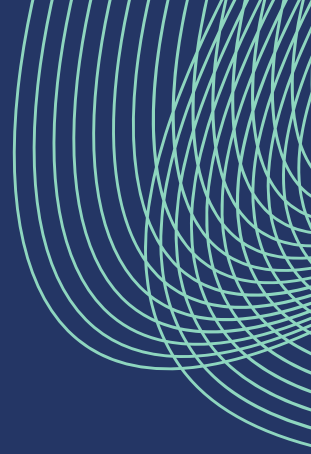


DANIEL KIM

Daniel Kim is a 3L JD candidate at uOttawa focused on startups and business law. With six years of experience resolving complex legal and insurance claims, he brings practical insight and strong advocacy skills to support early-stage entrepreneurs.



OUR STUDENT CASEWORKERS



MICHAEL LEGER

Michael Leger is a 3L JD candidate at uOttawa with a strong focus on intellectual property law. He brings practical legal experience and is dedicated to helping innovators and startups protect, manage, and grow their ideas.



TYLER LI

Tyler Li is a 3L JD candidate at uOttawa and incoming articling student at Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP, with experience at international law firms in Hong Kong and China. He was awarded by the Ottawa Law Review for his research in digital assets, banking, and securities law.



ELLA LIM

Ella Lim is a 3L JD candidate at uOttawa with experience in corporate and startup law. She has experience supporting founders across a range of transactional and commercial matters at a Toronto-based firm. Ella brings a policy perspective to her work, having worked with Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada.

OUR STUDENT CASEWORKERS

MAHDI NAIMI

Mahdi Naimi is a 2L JD candidate at uOttawa focused on intellectual property, technology, and corporate law. He holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of Waterloo and has research experience, along with years managing business operations for independent franchises.



SEBASTIAN WOO

Sebastian Woo is a 2L JD candidate at uOttawa with experience in private equity and advisory. He worked at DigitalBridge supporting fund formation and M&A, with previous experience in strategy and consulting roles. He brings strong financial and legal insight to support early-stage ventures.



VICTORIA ZBRZEZNIAK

Victoria Zbrzezniak is a 3L JD candidate at uOttawa focused on legal strategy for startups. She brings experience from a corporate litigation firm and the Ontario Public Service, developing strong legislative analysis and practical advisory skills.



VIRTUAL MEETINGS WITH FOUNDERS

From September to November, our student caseworkers held 21 virtual meetings with 19 founders and advisors working in the Ottawa area and beyond, providing legal information on corporate, intellectual property, employment, and various regulatory matters.

After each meeting, our caseworkers followed up with a written summary of the information provided during the meeting, along with any follow-up research they agreed to carry out during the meeting.

Among the startups we helped:

nextroom.ca

See [Nextroom](#)



See [PocketLab](#)



See [143garments](#)



LIVE TOWNHALLS

The Startup Law Clinic held two townhalls during Entrepreneurship Month: one at uOttawa's Kanata North campus, the other at the uOttawa Entrepreneurship Hub. The Clinic walked founders through corporate, intellectual property, employment, and capital raising issues for founders and also fielded questions from audience.



BLOG POSTS

In addition to direct outreach to founders, students engaged in thought leadership by writing blog posts on issues relevant to the startup community. Here are some topics that our students have covered:

[The Canadian Legal AI Deficit](#)

"Compared to foreign jurisdictions, Canadian small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) face a lack of reliable, jurisdiction-specific legal AI tools." - Areesha Arshad

[Policy Tailwinds: The Trickle-Down Impact of Canada's Mandates for Defence and Public-Private Partnership on Startups](#)

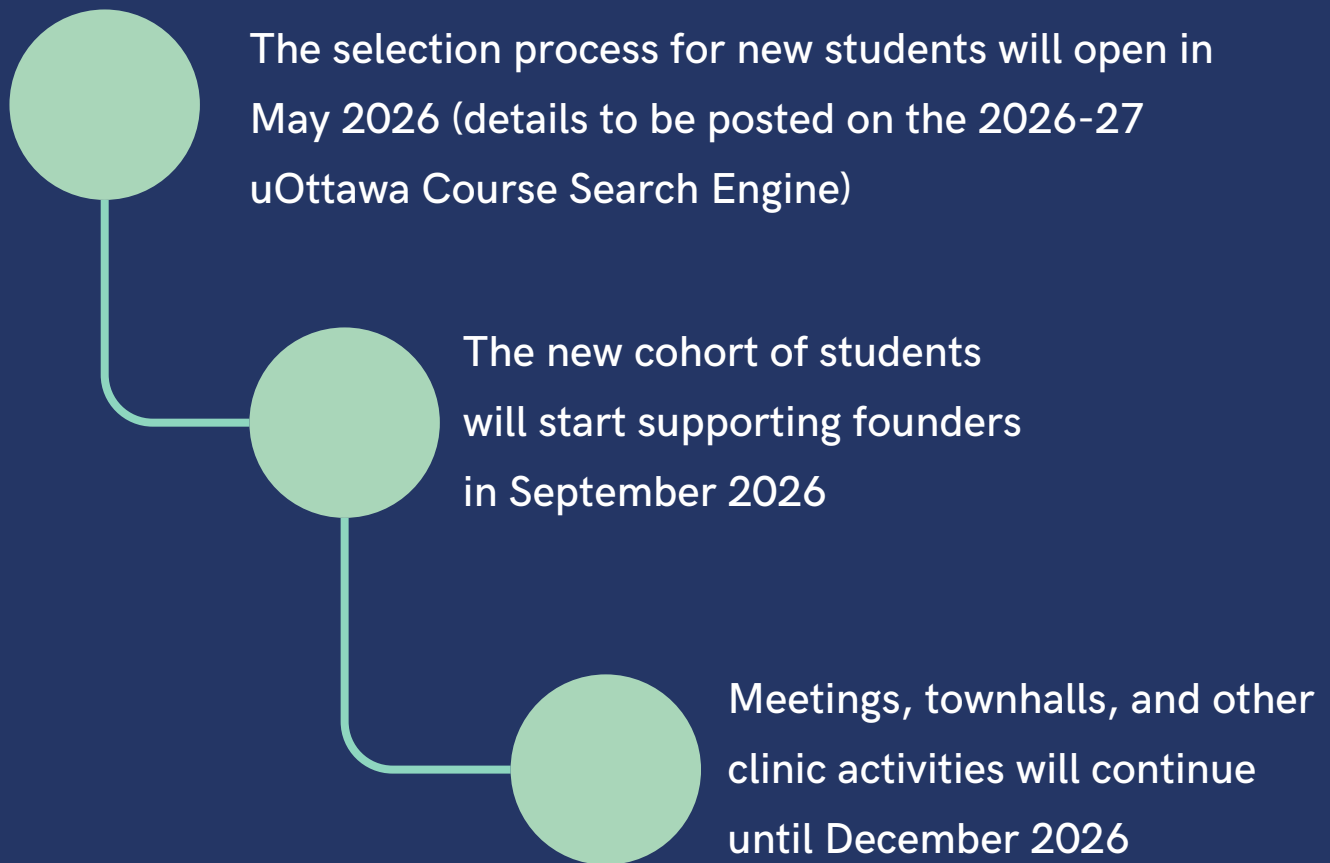
"The DIA's mandate, to overhaul Canada's defence procurement, comes in line with the government's commitment to increase defence spending to roughly 2% of GDP (about \$63 billion) in 2025-26, and to 5% by 2035..." - Adam Alana

[Barriers to Legal Advice for Entrepreneurs: Rethinking Who Can Provide Legal Services](#)

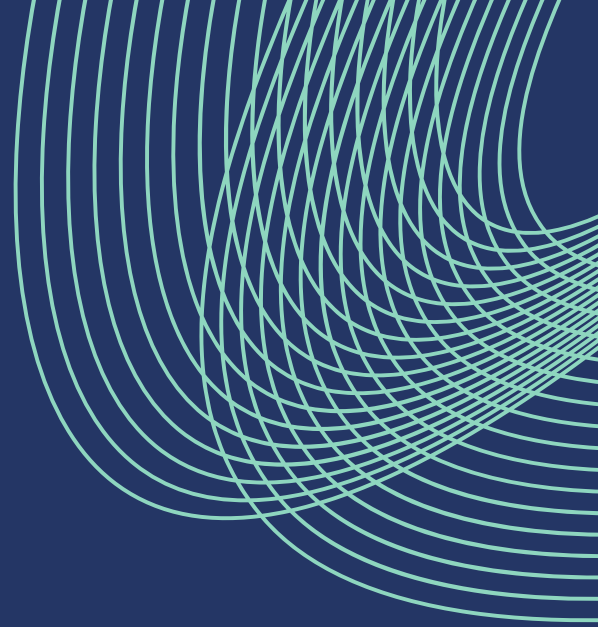
"Regulators will need to rethink how and by whom legal services can be provided and find ways to ensure that both innovation and access to legal services work together..." - Victoria Zbrzezniak



LOOKING FORWARD



QUESTIONS? CONTACT US.



 uOttawa

<https://startuplawclinic.ca/>
jed-slc@uottawa.ca