



# NOT YOUR MOTHER'S LAW CAREER

## Who (or what) inspired you to go to law school?

Regardless of their reasons for choosing a legal education, today's young lawyers can expect that their experiences practising law will be different from depictions of the profession they witnessed growing up. Tablet computers have replaced wheeled trial bags, Skype™ conferences stand in for face-to-face meetings, and there's no assistant down the hall to cheerfully type a memo or pull a file.

But these changes are just window dressing. The underlying shakeup in the practice of law is far more radical. The globalization of commerce, innovation, conservation and other initiatives is encouraging lawyers to consider how they can assist clients with legal issues that extend beyond our borders. Increasing diversity in Canada's population is placing pressure on firms to increase their cultural competence by hiring lawyers with varied backgrounds, and by training firm members to identify and be sensitive to cultural nuances. Barriers to access to justice – for example, economic barriers to hiring a lawyer – are inspiring lawyers and paralegals to be efficient and innovative in delivering services, and to be more open to collaboration with clients who choose to handle aspects of their own legal work. Finally, technological innovation is forcing lawyers to rethink traditional work processes.

The future of law is no longer your mother's, father's, or Hollywood lawyer's practice. So what does this mean for you?

In this issue of our Student Edition of *LAWPRO Magazine*, we offer a glimpse of a possible future via Dan Pinnington's article "Artificial intelligence and the 'self-driving' lawyer," which originally appeared in our September 2016 Access to Justice issue. But don't let the prospect of being replaced by a robot before you've even begun your legal career derail your plans. By taking time to consider your unique strengths, you'll be well-placed to carve out your own niche in law's new reality. See the text boxes in the next few pages for ideas about how to set yourself apart. ■

### Be a cultural ambassador

Many corporate clients are putting increased pressure on firms to demonstrate diversity. These clients require that the lawyers who work for them be able to collaborate effectively and with sensitivity with business partners from other cultures.

Did you grow up in a culture other than the dominant culture in which you work? Your perspective can be valuable when dealing not only with big corporate clients, but also with individual clients and lawyers who share your heritage. Even if you pride yourself on being a cultural chameleon well-adapted to your new environment, remember that your cultural knowledge is an important asset in a future where business crosses borders.