



Get to know University Councillor Allison P. Williams, Artsci'09



Most memorable moment as a student?

From that late summer day I moved into Victoria Hall (Floor 2B) to walking across the stage at Grant Hall for convocation, there are too many memorable moments to pick just one! A few I remember most fondly now include: acting as a residence Don at Jean Royce Hall on West Campus (Boucher-Bryce), working ritual at Clark Hall Pub, serving as leader of the Green Party at Queen's Model Parliament, and attending luncheons with the Over 50s Group of the QUAA Ottawa Branch as a Queen's Student Alumni Association ambassador. Academically, my fondest memories were in Margaret Little's Political Studies and Women's Studies (as the program was then known) classes.

What is your current career?

After Queen's, I went to law school at Osgoode Hall Law School at York University, and I am currently a lawyer at one of the province of Ontario's specialty community legal clinics, Justice for Children and Youth (JFCY). JFCY provides legal services to children under the age of 18 and unstably housed youth and youth with precarious immigration under age 25, in multiple areas of law. See: <https://jfcy.org/en/>

What's the career highlight you're most proud of?

As a litigator, of course there are a few cases I've been involved in which pop to mind. But, I think the aspects of my career that I am most proud of are actually a bit more mundane. In the every day course of my work I have the privilege of working with highly vulnerable young people in really difficult situations. I am proud when they approach our clinic with what seem like unsurmountable legal and personal problems, and more often than not, with our support and guidance, we are able to leave them in a much better position than before. Whether it be by assisting them with obtaining immigration status, accessing education or child protection services, protecting their privacy, or obtaining a favourable resolution in the youth criminal justice system. It's very rewarding, if demanding work.

How do you spend your free time?

My work really takes up more of my time and energy than I would like to admit, so the little free time I do have is usually spent trying to keep up with friends and family! Although, I've recently been doing more reading for pleasure in a book club hosted by one of my Queen's housemates.

What motivated you to stand for election for University Council?

I am appointed to University Council in my role as QUAA President. Like many members of University Council, my involvement with Queen's alumni activities has primarily been motivated by a sense of gratitude for how Queen's charted the trajectory for my career, while connecting

me to many of my closest friends and most valuable mentors, as well as a commitment to service and volunteerism.

What are your aspirations for being on University Council?

The QUAA mission statement is “To reach out and foster a lifelong association with Queen's, to engage our members in the life and work of the university, and to serve the alumni community in all its diversity.” University Council is comprised of alumni who exemplify this mission at the highest level. I hope to make a meaningful contribution to council, while also acting as a resource for council members curious about broader engagement in the alumni community.

Anything else you would like to add/highlight?

I am really looking forward to connecting with members of University Council during my term as QUAA President. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you are curious about the Queen’s Universality Alumni Association or how you might be more involved.

Connect with [Allison](#) on LinkedIn

