

LEAFlet

RAISING OUR VOICES FOR WOMEN'S EQUALITY

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER: ROBERTA KAPLAN

A CHAMPION OF EQUAL MARRIAGE

We are thrilled and honoured to announce that the 2018 Equality Breakfast will feature keynote Roberta (Robbie) Kaplan, a history-making litigator and champion of the fight for marriage equality in the United States. Founding partner at Kaplan & Company, LLP, one of the few women-led elite boutique litigation law firms, Robbie has been described as a “powerhouse corporate litigator” and “pressure junkie” who “thrives on looking at the big picture” whether “in the gay-marriage legal fight or high-profile corporate scandals.” She has been selected as one of “The 100 Most Influential Lawyers” in the United States, as a “Litigator of the Year” by *The American Lawyer*, and as a “Lawyer of the Year” by *Above the Law*.

In addition to representing large institutional and corporate clients like Fitch Ratings, Airbnb, Columbia University and T-Mobile, Robbie represented Edith Windsor in the landmark civil rights case of *United States v Windsor* in which the United States Supreme Court held in 2013 that a key provision of the Defense of Marriage Act or DOMA violated the US Constitution leading to the Supreme Court mandating marriage equality nationwide two years later. Robbie is also the author of “Then Comes Marriage: *United States v. Windsor* and the Defeat of DOMA” (W.W. Norton 2015), which was chosen by the *L.A. Times* and *Ms. Magazine* as one of the top 10 books of 2015. In commenting on the book, President Bill Clinton called Robbie an “American hero.”

Robbie has received numerous recognitions for her legal accomplishments and charitable activities, including the New York Law Journal Lifetime Achievement Award; Financial Times Legal Innovator of the Year; the National Law Journal’s 100



**History-making litigator
Robbie Kaplan will be the
keynote speaker at our
2018 Equality Breakfast.**

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WELCOME!



CAITLIN ANDERSON joins West Coast LEAF as the Administrative Assistant. Having previously worked in law and accounting offices, she brings a love of problem solving and list making to the team. An avid dragon boater, she is a strong promoter of adapted sports as a way to combat isolation for people with disabilities. To offset her participation in paddling and yoga, Caitlin knits, reads, and binge watches bad dramas.

ZAHRA JIMALE is a lawyer, mediator, and educator. She joins West Coast LEAF as Director of Law Reform.



Zahra is dedicated to the improvement of equality, social justice, and access to justice for all. She is passionate about effecting transformative change through research, innovation, education, and law reform. Her experience and work has focused primarily on family law and how to improve the

family law justice system, making it more accessible and user-centred, and less adversarial. Zahra's transition from private practice to non-profit work is motivated by a deep desire to effect systemic change. Zahra is completing her master's in law in alternative dispute resolution at Osgoode Hall Law School. She enjoys yoga, swimming, and reading.

NOUR KACHOUH began her social justice journey nine years ago while completing a general biology degree at UBC. She now serves as West Coast LEAF's Youth Programs Coordinator. Volunteering for various anti-violence organizations has allowed Nour to expand her intersectional feminist and anti-oppressive practices to place the most marginalized communities at the centre of her work. Working in the Downtown Eastside and most recently at UBC with sexual assault survivors continues to ground Nour in her practice. Her passions include continuing to learn and apply her intersectional feminist and anti-oppressive practices in both her personal and professional lives, as well as obeying her two cat overlords.

EMIKO OHAMA joins Sarah Layla Robbie in delivering West Coast LEAF's youth rights workshops across the province. Emiko is passionate and driven to impact rural youth and help to achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goal #5: gender equality. As Thompson-Nicola Region Youth Workshop Coordinator for West Coast LEAF, she is responsible for marketing, coordinating, and presenting legal rights workshops that explore social justice issues like inequality, power, gender stereotypes, and discrimination. Emiko holds a bachelor of human kinetics from UBC with a specialization in health promotion. In her spare time, Emiko serves as a community mentor to the gender equality club she founded at Thompson Rivers University and helps a Sweden-based NGO tackle unconscious gender bias. ♀



Youth programs staff members Nour and Emiko alongside Manager of Public Legal Education Alana Prochuk.

DONOR PROFILE

Isaac Brown, age 11, is quite possibly West Coast LEAF's youngest ever supporter. He's definitely one of West Coast LEAF's most engaged donors.

Isaac's mom, Mary Childs, said Isaac has been "in the feminist scene since he was little."

"Because Isaac is growing up in the world being raised by a single mother feminist lawyer he was dragged around a lot as a child," she shared. "He went to his first Law Society committee meeting when he was three weeks old ... his first feminist law conference was in the UK and then in Barbados, where he went snorkeling with a boatload of feminist law professors."

Mary brought Isaac to the 2017 Equality Breakfast to hear Cindy Blackstock, which is when he became a donor. "That's how he ended up as a LEAFlet reader. Now, he reads every issue. He'll say, 'Mom, the AGM is coming up! Oh, look they're providing educational talks in schools. That's a good idea!'"

Isaac has always considered women's equality a given, Mary said. "He was playing this game on the iPad when he was small ... as part of this game, you type in words and a cartoon image appears as part of this scenario. He typed in 'lawyer' and I heard him say, 'What?! That's weird.' I said, 'What's weird?' It was this cartoon of a little man with a briefcase. He said, 'Well, it's a man. Most lawyers are girls, aren't they?!' I said, 'What about the men we know?' and he responded, 'But those guys are married to women who are lawyers!'"

In the Q&A below, Isaac explains his support for gender equality, and tells West Coast LEAF why he is a feminist and about his faith in the progressive values of his peers.

Q: Can you tell our readers something about yourself?

A: I turned 11 on October 8 and I am in Grade 6. My favourite subjects in school are science and math. I play a lot of soccer and basketball, and I am also on a competitive rock climbing team.



Mary brought Isaac to the 2017 Equality Breakfast to hear Cindy Blackstock, which is when he became a donor and an avid LEAFlet reader.

Q: When did you first become interested in equality?

A: Because my mother is a feminist I always thought that you should treat women in the same way as men. I can't remember a time when I thought differently. When I was just a few months old, my mother took me to my first feminist law conference, and I went to others when I was a toddler. She has always taken

me with her to meetings of social justice organizations, as well as marches and rallies. This year, she brought me to the West Coast LEAF Breakfast to hear Cindy Blackstock speak. That's when I decided to give some of my allowance money to support West Coast LEAF. I was especially interested in the work West Coast LEAF does in schools.

Q: Do you and kids at school talk about issues you care about, like equality?

A: At school in social studies class we talk about all kinds of political and social issues, like social justice and being a global citizen. Most kids I know are interested in discussing these questions. Most of my friends are pretty progressive, and a lot of them have strong

feelings about environmental issues.

Q: What would a more equal world look like, if you – or someone that shared your values – were in charge of everything?

A: I think in a more equal world people would be happy pay their taxes because tax dollars would be used to reduce poverty and healthcare and education for everybody. Society would emphasise cooperation over competition.

Q: Do you think school does a good job at generating discussion with kids on big issues like feminism and equality?

A: I think that thinking about equality can be taught in school and hopefully people will come up with the right decisions themselves. 🌱

SPONSOR THE 2018 EQUALITY BREAKFAST

Attended by nearly 800 members of the legal, labour, social justice, political, and academic communities each year, our beloved signature event celebrates International Women's Day and West Coast LEAF's work to advance the full participation of women and girls in the social, economic, and political life of BC.

Becoming an Equality Breakfast sponsor is a meaningful demonstration that you value having women in leadership positions, are committed to corporate social responsibility, support access to justice for all, and want to see a more equal BC!

Sponsoring the Equality Breakfast gives you access and visibility to some of BC's most influential advocates for justice, labour leaders, legal professionals, and decision makers.



Find out more about the many benefits of sponsorship by contacting Basya Laye, development@westcoastleaf.org or 604-684-8772, ext. 114.

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Most Influential Lawyers in the United States; the Columbia Law School Medal of Excellence; and the Stanford Law School National Public Service Award.

Robbie has also received the National Council of Jewish Women Social Action Award; New York County Lawyers' Association President's Medal and the American Constitutional Society Keeping Faith Award.

She also holds an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Johns Hopkins University and an Honorary Doctor of Laws from the Jewish Theological Seminary, Pace University, and Millsaps College.

Robbie currently serves as the co-chair of the Board of Directors of the Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC). She also serves as a subcommittee chair of New York's Commercial Division Advisory Council as well as The Judicial Task Force on the New York State Constitution.

We're also delighted to welcome back CBC Vancouver's Gloria Macarenko as our emcee.

The 2018 Equality Breakfast will take place on Friday, March 9, 2018, from 7 to 9 a.m. at the beautiful Fairmont Hotel Vancouver. Doors will open at 6:30 a.m. for the silent auction. Early bird tickets are on sale until January 31, 2018 and can be purchased online at 2018equalitybreakfast.eventbrite.ca or by calling 604-684-8772.

Give generously this holiday season and receive a 2017 charitable tax receipt.

There are many ways to give. Fill out a pledge card, visit westcoastleaf.org/take-action/donate/ or call 604-684-8772 to donate today.

Our tote bags make great gifts for the feminists in your life. They are available for \$20 by calling 604-684-8772.

Your gift dismantles discriminatory barriers that women face and empowers people of all ages and genders to understand and assert their rights. Thank you!

INVESTING IN WOMEN'S EQUALITY

We are grateful for the ongoing support we receive from our donors, funders, members, and The Law Foundation of BC.

Thank you to our current project funders:



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