



OTTAWA CONFERENCE
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MARCH 4-5, 2026

LEAH WEST

Associate Professor

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Leah West, SJD, is an associate professor at the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, a CIGI senior fellow, and a leading scholar on national security law.

Leah has written extensively on the law as it relates to information and intelligence collection, the privacy implications of using new technology to collect personally identifying information, and intelligence policy. Her forthcoming book, *The Charter Beyond Borders*, and co-edited volume *Law in the Shadows of War*, will be published by University of Toronto Press. She is also the co-author with Craig Forcese of *National Security Law* (Irwin Law, 2021, 2d Ed), and co-editor with Thomas



Juneau and Amarnath Amarasingam of *Stress Tested: The COVID-19 Pandemic and Canadian National Security* (UCP, 2021).

Leah is frequently consulted by government agencies such as Public Safety Canada, the Communications Security Establishment, and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service on national security law and policy matters, and has testified before the House of Commons, the Senate and the European Parliament. She served on the Research Council of the Public Inquiry into Foreign Interference and sits on the editorial board of the *Journal of National Security Law & Policy* and *Terrorism and Political Violence*. Additionally, Leah is counsel with Friedman Mansour LLP, supporting the firm's criminal, quasi-criminal and



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administrative law practice. She has appeared before the Ontario Superior Court, the Federal Court of Canada, the Security Intelligence Review Committee and the Supreme Court of Canada. Her academic literature has also been cited by the Supreme Court. She previously served as counsel with the Department of Justice National Security Litigation and Advisory Branch. Before being called to the Ontario Bar in 2016, Leah clerked for the Honourable Justice Mosley of the Federal Court of Canada. Prior to attending law school, Leah served in the Canadian Armed Forces for 10 years as an armoured officer and was deployed to Afghanistan in 2010. Beyond her legal degrees from U of T (SJD, JD) and UOttawa (LLM), Leah has an MA in Intelligence from AMU, is a proud graduate of the Royal Military College of Canada.