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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**For Immediate Release**

**Date: October 29, 2009**

### **"Legal clinic to host forum about Sexual Harassment on the Job"**

The Community Advocacy & Legal Centre (CALC) is pleased to present Dr. Constance Backhouse, Director of the Human Rights Research and Education Centre, University of Ottawa, as their featured speaker prior to the legal clinic's Annual General Meeting on December 8<sup>th</sup> at St. Thomas Anglican Church, Belleville.

Dr. Backhouse is a Professor of Law and University Research Chair at the University of Ottawa. A graduate of the University of Manitoba, Osgoode Hall Law School and Harvard University, she has published a number of books including *Carnal Crimes: Sexual Assault Law in Canada, 1900-1975*. Additionally, she is the recipient of numerous awards including the Law Society Medal (1998) and the Bora Laskin Human Rights Fellowship (1999). She was named to the Order of Canada in 2008.

A case study from *Carnal Crimes* entitled "**Sexual Harassment on the Job: Lessons from the Past and Innovative Remedies**" is the topic of Dr. Backhouse's presentation on December 8, 2009. There will be an opportunity for questions following the presentation.

"We are thrilled to present this dynamic, feminist speaker who has researched and written extensively about women and the law" says Michele Leering, Executive Director (CALC). "Dr. Backhouse has been a leader in making phrases such as 'sexual harassment in the workplace' familiar to lawyers and non-lawyers alike."

Dr. Backhouse's presentation will be followed by a panel of local service providers knowledgeable about sexual assault and violence against women. There will be a discussion about alternative remedies, such as the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

The community is invited for this special event at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 8, at the St. Thomas Anglican Church, 201 Church Street, Belleville. A free lunch will be provided at 12:00 p.m.

ASL interpretation services will be provided if requested prior to November 25, 2009, by contacting Lynda Morgan at 613-966-8686, extension 25. FM devices will be available at the event.

The Annual General Meeting for the clinic will follow at 1:00 p.m.

The clinic has been helping people living on a low income since 1980 with their legal problems in the areas of housing law (tenants' rights), income assistance, criminal injuries compensation, employment law including worker's compensation, and human rights. Funded mainly by Legal Aid Ontario, the clinic has also received funding to provide Tenant Duty Counsel services at the Ontario Rental Housing Tribunal, and from the Provincial Homelessness Initiative for eviction prevention.

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For further information about the contents of this press release, please call Michele Leering at 613-966-8686, ext 27 or Toll Free at 1-877-966-8686.

Community Advocacy & Legal Centre  
158 George Street  
Belleville, ON K8N 3H2  
[www.communitylegalcentre.ca](http://www.communitylegalcentre.ca)