

Helene Love is in her first year of the SJD program at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law. Her project, which is supervised by Martha Shaffer, investigates intergenerational inequalities in the application of the rules of evidence in relation to older adults. Helene's research interests include human rights, criminal law, the law of evidence, and elder law.

Born in Toronto and raised in Calgary, Helene studied science and psychology at the University of Victoria, where she earned her B.Sc. (with distinction). During the course of these studies she was first introduced to the concept of ageism, and how social constructs of age impact the believability of witnesses, themes that have continued to influence her research and study interests.

Helene stayed on the west coast to pursue her studies in law at the University of British Columbia, where she applied her background in psychology to the study of the formal rules that govern social behaviour. At law school, Helene was a member of a number of student organizations including the environmental law club and the UBC Law Review, where she sat on the editorial board. During the summers, Helene worked as a research assistant for her professors and as a summer student at Stikeman Elliott's Vancouver office.

Upon graduation, Helene spent two years working as a lawyer with Stikeman Elliott's litigation group, where she conducted research, drafted legal briefs, and presented oral arguments in court. Her passion for learning brought her back to the UBC Faculty of Law, where she worked while completing her LL.M. on age and ageism in the sentencing of older adults. Helene has published on the topics of ageism and criminal law in the Canadian Journal for Elder Law, the Canadian Bar Review, the Windsor Review of Legal and Social Issues, Canadian Criminal Law Review, and the International Journal for Criminology and Sociology.