



## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OTTAWA, Thursday, April 16, 2026

(33)

[English]

The Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs met this day at 10:32 a.m., in room B30, Senate of Canada Building, the chair, the Honourable David M. Arnot, presiding.

*Members of the committee present:* The Honourable Senators Arnot, Batters, Clement, Dhillon, Miville-Dechêne, Oudar, Pate, Prosper, Saint-Germain, Simons, Tannas and Wells (*Alberta*) (12).

*Participating in the meeting:* Dana Phillips and Michaela Keenan-Pelletier, Analysts, Library of Parliament.

Pursuant to the order of reference adopted by the Senate on Thursday, March 12, 2026, the committee continued its consideration of Bill C-14, An Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Youth Criminal Justice Act and the National Defence Act (bail and sentencing).

*WITNESSES:*

*Criminal Lawyers' Association:*

Cassandra Richards, Criminal Lawyer.

*Canadian Bar Association:*

Melanie J. Webb, Chair, Criminal Justice Section (*by videoconference*).

*Barreau du Québec:*

Eva Sikora, Lawyer, Secretariat of the Order and Legal Affairs (*by videoconference*);

Nicholas St-Jacques, Member, Criminal Law Expert Group (*by videoconference*);

Francis Savaria, Member, Criminal Law Expert Group (*by videoconference*).

*Ontario Crown Attorneys' Association:*

Lesley Pasquino, President *(by videoconference)*;

Ian Bulmer, Vice-President, Collective Bargaining *(by videoconference)*.

*Canadian Association of Black Lawyers:*

Sabrina Shillingford, Member, Criminal Justice and Police Reform Committee.

*As individuals:*

Ari Goldkind, Criminal Defence Lawyer *(by videoconference)*;

David Cole, Retired Judge, Ontario Court of Justice *(by videoconference)*.

Cassandra Richards, Melanie J. Webb, Ari Goldkind and Eva Sikora each made a statement and, together with Nicholas St-Jacques and Francis Savaria, answered questions.

At 11:29 a.m., the committee suspended.

At 11:34 a.m., the committee resumed.

Lesley Pasquino, Ian Bulmer, Sabrina Shillingford and David Cole each made a statement and answered questions.

At 12:28 p.m., the committee adjourned to the call of the chair.

*ATTEST:*

Vincent Labrosse

*Clerk of the Committee*