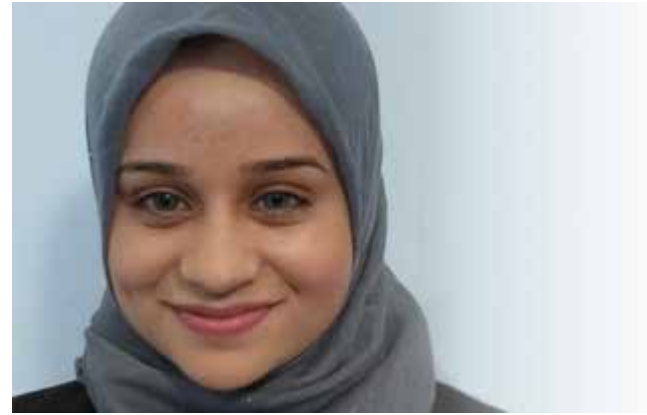




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“PBSC gave me an opportunity to contribute to people’s lives in a tangible way, and to make a difference. As a law student, it was nothing short of exhilarating. It was why I wanted to be a lawyer.”

Born and raised in Saudi Arabia, Noorain Shethwala had her eyes open to injustice early. After immigrating to Canada, she saw the challenges associated with coming from a racialized background.

Now 23 and graduating from Osgoode Hall law school, Shethwala says “There are a lot of systemic issues that perpetuate inequality among certain groups of people; whether they be women, immigrants, visible minorities, or those from a lower socio economic background. I think as a lawyer, you have a professional responsibility to help those people get access to the justice they need...to foster a culture where we give voices to the marginalized.”

As a result, Shethwala plans to pursue a career in immigration law after she acquires some experience in litigation. She decided to start her career in access to justice early. “I really wanted to get practical experience and I wasn’t going to get that from learning abstract theories and reading case law,” she says. “When I started law school, I immediately saw PBSC as an amazing opportunity for me. The program welcomes first years into the fold and provides concrete experience working in the community with organizations that serve vulnerable populations.”

After concluding her placement at the Afghan Women’s Organization, Shethwala took a position as a PBSC coordinator at Osgoode, setting up placements for other students during her second and third years. “PBSC was an amazing leadership experience. Working for PBSC taught me the valuable role law students can play in fixing a flawed justice system, and how to set up programs that can actually help.” Emails from grateful clients reinforced her faith in PBSC’s mission and her dedication to its cause.

PBSC is proud to attract the best and brightest students – ones like Noorain Shethwala.

Noorain Shethwala,
Articling Student, Lerner LLP & Former PBSC Program Coordinator & Volunteer