

## **Laïla Demirdache – Biography**

**Laïla Demirdache** has been working as a staff lawyer with Community Legal Services of Ottawa since 2002 where she practices immigration and refugee law.

Ms. Demirdache is one of the co-chairs of the Canadian Association of Refugee Lawyers detention Working Group. As well, she is a member of several committees including: the Canadian Council for Refugees' Legal Affairs Advisory Committee and Inland Protection Steering Committee; the Ottawa Legal Aid Area Committee; The Immigration Law Legal Aid Area Committee; and the Ottawa Immigration Conference Organizing Committee. Ms. Demirdache was a member of a legal team representing Amnesty International Canada (English) on several occasions before the Supreme Court of Canada including most recently in the Chhina case. She also appeared on behalf of the Centre for Victims of Torture and the Barbra Schliffer Clinic in the Supreme Court of Canada case of Kanthasamy.

Ms. Demirdache is also often appointed by the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) to act as a Designated Representative for minors and persons with mental disabilities who have hearing before the IRB.