

Nicholas Hersh - Biography

Nicholas Hersh (JD, LLL) is an immigration and refugee lawyer at Community Legal Services of Ottawa. He has worked extensively in refugee private sponsorship since 2010 with Capital Rainbow Refugee, a community group committed to providing a safe haven for sexual and gender minority refugees. Nicholas also develops training materials and conducts workshops for lawyers volunteering for the Refugee Sponsorship Support Program [SSP], a nationwide program dedicated to providing pro-bono legal assistance to private sponsorship groups. He also teaches the SSP course to 15 law students each semester at the University of Ottawa. He has previously worked in the Protection Division of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Rabat, Morocco.

Nicholas was recently hired by the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada to train adjudicators on properly assessing cases involving sexual orientation and gender identity and expression. He has written and presented on the legal, attitudinal, and evidentiary challenges in having the Convention refugee definition applied to sexual and gender minority claimants.