

Dr. Pierre Gilles Bélanger

Lawyer – Expert in international human rights law, criminal law, constitutional law and inter-American law.

Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa.

**Trainer of judges and judicial actors - Founder of JusticeAméricas.org
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Languages: French (mother tongue), English, Spanish.

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

A member of the Quebec Bar since 1989, Dr. Pierre Gilles Bélanger is recognized as one of Canada's leading experts on judicial reform in Latin America, international human rights law, comparative criminal law and inter-American cooperation.

His career combines **33 years as counsel at the Department of Justice Canada** with sustained **academic involvement** focused on judicial independence, access to justice, judicial training and comparative research in the Americas.

Founder of the JusticeAméricas.org platform, he plays a structuring role in the development of inter-American networks bringing together judicial actors, researchers, ministries, NGOs and public institutions for the promotion of inclusive Justice and Human Rights.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Ottawa – Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Civil Law

2021–Present

- Responsible for the summer course *Legal-Political Orders in Latin America and their Relations with Canada*.
- Co-founder of **JusticeAméricas.org** – Inter-American Research Platform (SSHRC funding and other partners).
- Trainer and program coordinator for judges and judicial institutions in Latin America.
- Associate Researcher at the Centre for Research and Education on Human Rights (HREC).

Department of Justice Canada – Senior Counsel

1990–2024

- Specialist in extradition, mutual legal assistance, privacy, international criminal cooperation and public law.
- Inter-American Project Manager (OAS, CEJA, Chile, Mexico, Colombia, Haiti).
- Creation of an Inter-American Group on Mutual Legal Assistance (experts from 30+ countries).
- Designer and trainer of judicial strengthening programmes.

Center for Justice Studies of the Americas (CEJA), Santiago, Chile

Seconded Lawyer – 2008

- Expert in penal reforms and transformation of judicial systems.

ACADEMIC

- **Ph.D. in Law**, University of Ottawa (2021).
Thesis: The Abbreviated Procedure in Chile: Bourdieusian Analysis of the Legitimacy of Judicial Reforms.
- **LL.L.**, University of Ottawa (1989).
- **Master's degree in Social Sciences**, University of Ottawa (1987).
- Diploma in Penal Procedural Reform, INACIPE (Mexico, 2010).
- Certificate in Mexican Criminal Procedure (2011).
- **Bachelors of Art** with concentration in Psychology (1985)

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Comparative Criminal Law and Judicial Reforms in Latin America
- Judicial independence and judicial governance
- International human rights law
- Justice for vulnerable groups
- Comparative analysis of legal-political systems
- Inter-American Co-operation – OAS, Canada-LAC Ties
- Transnational education and judicial training

RESEARCH CONTRIBUTIONS

1. Current research projects (2025-)

1.1 – Persecution and judicialization of illegal mining (Colombia)

Co-direction: analysis of the links between illegal exploitation, organized crime and human rights.

1.2 – Civil Service and Institutional Crisis (Canada, Chile, United States)

Comparative project on politicization, loss of legitimacy and governance reforms.

1.3 – Front-line justice: access to justice and inter-American dialogue, Coordination of a 10-module webinar (JusticeAmericas).

1.4 – Ethics and the Legal Professions in the Americas - A Comparative Study of Judicial Ethical Dilemmas and Recommendations for Codes of Conduct.

2. Major Contributions to Research (Career)

2.1 – Creation of the JusticeAméricas.org network (2023-). An interdisciplinary platform on democracy, the rule of law and judicial practices in the Americas.

Partners: Canada, Latin America, Caribbean. Network recognized for its comparative leadership.

2.2 – Canada-Latin America Comparative Education Program (University of Ottawa)

Course created in 2010; contributions in comparative law, constitutionalism, transnational justice, human rights, etc.

2.3 – Training Program for Mexican Judges (2017–2020)

International standards, judicial governance, empirical research. Partnerships: Poder Judicial del Estado de México and Canadian universities.

2.4 – Leadership in Inter-American Legal Cooperation (2000–2007)

Leadership of the Inter-American Group on Mutual Legal Assistance and Extradition (OAS – 30+ countries). Strengthening judicial capacity and creating a continental network.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO TRAINING

- Creator of the course *The Legal-Political Systems of Latin America and their Relations with Canada* (uOttawa).
- Education: discrimination, legal prejudice, contemporary corruption, comparative constitutionalism, international negotiations, etc.

- Visiting professor: University of Chile (annual intensive summer school since 2021 to present), Mexico (2009, 2011), Colombia since 2016.
- Training of judges in Mexico, Colombia, Haiti.
- Project management and student communications (CALACS, Carleton, Toledo).
- Editorial staff as Canadian editor of *Juriste International*.

PUBLICATIONS (selection)

Monographs & Chapters

1. Bélanger, Pierre Gilles, "El Procedimiento abreviado en el contexto de la reforma legal penal chilena. Un análisis de la legitimidad Bourdieusiana a través de sus actores jurídicos", [*The abridged procedure in the context of the reform of Chilean criminal law. An analysis of Bourdieusian legitimacy through its legal actors*], Chapter 2 in "Justicia y Legitimidad en América. Espacios judiciales para grupos vulnerables de especial protección", [*Justice and Legitimacy in America. Judicial spaces for vulnerable groups under special protection*], April 2023, Ed. Instituto de Investigaciones y de formación en derechos humanos, México, online: <https://instituto.codhem.org.mx/wp-content/uploads/sites/16/2024/12/justicia_legitimidad_digital.pdf>.
2. Bélanger, Pierre Gilles, and Duhaime, Bernard, Ovalle, Neson, Foucher, Pierre, "La Constitución canadiense y sus desafíos" [*The Canadian Constitution and its Challenges*], in Claudio Nash, Constanza Núñez, Natalia Morales, Marie-Christine Fuchs, eds., Constitución y estado de derecho. Experiencias comparadas, [*Constitution and the rule of law. Comparative Experiences*], Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung & Tirant lo Blanch, Bogota, 2021, pp. 207-250, online:<<https://www.kas.de/documents/271408/4591369/Constituci%C3%B3n+y+estado+de+derecho.+Experiencias+comparadas.pdf/768a041d-bf45-63af-7c41-1b143e4d6bc5?t=1634656563176>>.
3. Bélanger, Pierre Gilles, "Una reforma Penal en Latinoamérica en búsqueda de su legitimidad", [*A Penal Reform in Latin America in Search of its Legitimacy*], in Bélanger y Sandoval, Debates y desafíos del estado de derecho y las formas alternas de Justicia - El orden jurídico político de Canadá y sus relaciones con Latinoamérica [*Bélanger and Sandoval, Debates and Challenges of the Rule of Law and Alternative Forms of Justice - Canada's Legal-Political Order and its Relations with Latin America*], Ed. Nueva Jurídica, Colombia, 2019, pp. 39-76.
4. Bélanger, Pierre Gilles and Iliana Rodríguez Santibáñez, "Las decisiones judiciales como fuente del derecho internacional. La responsabilidad de los Estados en materia de derechos humanos: los casos de México y Chile", [*Judicial decisions as a source of international law. State Responsibility for Human Rights: The Cases of Mexico and Chile*], in Becera Ramirez, Manuel, Fuentes de derecho internacional desde una visión latinoamericana, [*The Sources of International Law in a Latin American Perspective*], Ed. Instituto de Investigaciones jurídicas UNAM, 2018, ISBN:978- 607-30-1033-7, México, at p. 322, online: <<https://archivos.juridicas.unam.mx/www/bjv/libros/11/51>>.

Scientific articles

1. Bélanger, Pierre Gilles, "Criminal Defamatory Libel: A Long History Where the State... of law interferes in the field of the private", 2024 54 HS RGD 55-97, online: <<https://www.erudit.org/fr/revues/rgd/2024-v54-rgd010085/1118440ar.pdf>>.
2. Bélanger, Pierre Gilles, "After a rejection in 2022, a new constitution is planned for 2023 in Chile", in *Juriste International*, 2023, no 2, pp.17-18, online: < https://www.uanet.org/sites/default/files/ji_2023_2_bat-3.pdf>.
3. Bélanger, Pierre Gilles and Mariana Balcorta, "The Law of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights: A Modern Obligation for Canada," *General Review of Law, in Canada's Role in the Protection of Human Rights in the Americas*, Volume 49, 2019, pp. 85–129, Ottawa, Canada, online: <<https://www.erudit.org/fr/revues/rgd/2019-v49-rgd04229/1055486ar/>>.
4. Bélanger, Pierre Gilles, "What if Bourdieu had an idea of human rights for penal reforms in Latin America?" published in *Canadian Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies*, May 2015, ed. Taylor and Francis - Routledge, London, online: <<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/08263663.2015.1044722>>.
5. Bélanger, Pierre Gilles; "A Penal Reform in Latin America That Should Seek Its Legitimacy", *Special Issue, March 2015 Revue Québécoise de droit international (RQDI)* 29, ed. by Sébastien Grammond, Pierre Gilles Bélanger et al . <http://www.sqdi.org/fr/revue-collection-vhsn201503-3.html>>, also available: <https://www.erudit.org/en/journals/rqdi/2015-rqdi05162/1067940ar/>
6. Mejia Azuero, Juan Carlos; Sandoval Mesa, Jaime Alberto; Bélanger, Pierre Gilles (coauthor); "Derecho Internacional Penal y derecho penal internacional". Editorial Biblioteca Jurídica DIKE. Universidad de Medellín. Colombia. Primera Edición. Medellín, 2013 - ISBN 978-958-8692-69-2.
7. Bélanger, Pierre Gilles; "La libertad en un contexto de seguridad y la búsqueda del equilibrio para el ciudadano"; in: ZAVALA De ALBA, Luis Eduardo; BÉLANGER, Pierre Gilles, "Los derechos humanos en la formación ciudadana. Desafíos emergentes para la paz y la seguridad", *Tecnológico de Monterrey University Press*, México, 2011, 28 pp. 28
8. Bélanger, Pierre Gilles, Algunos apuntes sobre las razones de la reforma del procedimiento penal en América Latina, *Prolegómenos. Derechos y Valores*, vol. XIII, núm. 26, julio-diciembre, 2010, pp. 59-78 Universidad Militar Nueva Granada, Bogotá, Colombia. <http://www.redalyc.org/pdf/876/87617274005.pdf>
9. Bélanger, Pierre Gilles; "Implementation of the obligations set out in the Statute of the International Criminal Court: Canada's experience", *OAS* 2007, 176, Online <https://www.oas.org/ext/en/democracy/mla/Member-States/Canada#Mutual-Legal-Assistance>
10. Sandoval Mesa JA, Pierre Gillés Bélanger P., Elements of universal jurisdiction in criminal matters: Rome statute (1998) and domestic law in the Colombian case. *Sociology Int J.* 2023; 7(5):246–250. DOI: 10.15406/sij.2023.07.00351 <https://medcraveonline.com/SIJ/elements-of-universal-jurisdiction-in-criminal-matters-rome-statute-1998-and-domestic-law-in-the-colombian-case.html>

Doctoral thesis

1. Bélanger, Pierre Gilles, "The Abbreviated Procedure in the Context of Chilean Legal Reform, an Analysis of Bourdieusian Legitimacy through its Judicial Actors," Doctoral Thesis, 2022, University of Ottawa, [Online]:<https://ruor.uottawa.ca/handle/10393/43246>

Publications in the Press and Journals for the General Public

1. Bélanger, Pierre Gilles, "The thin line between threat and attack," September 11, 2025, La Presse, online: <<https://www.lapresse.ca/dialogue/opinions/2025-09-11/drones-russes-en-pologne/la-mince-frontiere-entre-menace-et-attaque.php>>.
2. Bélanger, Pierre Gilles, "Garantizar los derechos fundamentales de acceso a la información pública y protección de los datos personales", [*Guaranteeing the fundamental rights of access to public information and the protection of personal data*] - Comments by the President of the Institute of Data Access and Privacy of Mexico, *Juriste International*, July 2024, pp.12-13, online: <https://www.uanet.org/sites/default/files/ji_2024_3_bat_0.pdf>.
3. Bélanger, Pierre Gilles, "Interview with the Minister of Justice of Chile", in *Union International des Avocats*, pp.6-9, December 2024, online: <https://www.uanet.org/sites/default/files/ji_2303_3_bat_bd.pdf>.
4. Bélanger, Pierre Gilles, "Le Chili et l'équilibre des pouvoirs," *La Presse*, January 27, 2023, online : <<https://www.lapresse.ca/debats/opinions/2023-01-27/le-chili-et-l-equilibre-des-pouvoirs.php>>.
5. Bélanger, Pierre Gilles, Les enjeux du droit pénal. Interview with Marie Eve Sylvestre, *International Jurist*, February 2022 pp.8-10 https://www.uanet.org/sites/default/files/ji_2022_2_bat.pdf
6. Bélanger, Pierre Gilles and Kami Temisjian, "Would Canadian Companies Be Responsible for Their Actions Abroad?", *Juriste International*, February 2021, online: <https://www.uanet.org/sites/default/files/uia_2102_bd_bat.pdf>.
7. Bélanger, Pierre Gilles, "Will the Chilean People Adopt a New Constitution?" *La Presse*, October 21, 2020, online: <<https://www.lapresse.ca/debats/opinions/2020-10-20/le-peuple-chien-se-dotera-t-il-d-une-nouvelle-constitution.php>>.

Public Lectures

1. [Democracy, Rule of Law and Independence](#), Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice, *Justice and Democracy in the Americas - A Region Under Pressure*, interviewer with the Honourable Richard Wagner, P.C., Chief Justice of Canada, Leo M. Gordon, Senior Judge of the U.S. Court of International Trade, Arturo Prado Puga, Justice of the Supreme Court of Chile. November 2025, Ottawa.
2. **La independencia judicial - Otro eje de análisis, [*Judicial independence – another line of analysis*]**, SENADIS, Corte Suprema de Chile, Universidad Central de Chile, *¿Qué metodología debe utilizarse para analizar la independencia judicial?*, [*What methodology*

should be used to analyse judicial independence?], 17 and 18 July 2025, online: <<https://www.ucecentral.cl/noticias/fac-derecho-y-humanidades/conversatorio-internacional-reunio-a-expertos-para-debatir-sobre>>.

3. **The Law and the Role of the Social Worker**, Conference of Social Workers in Chile, *Magíster en Intervención Social y Desarrollo Humano*, [Master's Degree in Social Intervention and Human Development], Universidad Central de Chile, Santiago - La Serena, 10 May 2025, online: <<https://www.linkedin.com/company/magister-en-intervención-social-y-desarrollo-humano/posts/>>.

4. **Entre dos fuegos: Escenarios de violencia frente a la migración irregular en América Latina**, [Between Two Fires: Scenarios of Violence in the Face of Irregular Migration in Latin America], UNAM, Mexico, November 7, 2024, online: <<https://www.juridicas.unam.mx/actividades-academicas/3635-entre-dos-fuegos-escenarios-de-violencia-frente-a-la-migracion-irregular-en-america-latina>>.

5. **Environmental Justice: Overview and Challenges in the Americas Region**, Commission for Environmental Cooperation—*The Environmental Assessment Process in the Context of Environmental Justice*, September 5, 2024, online: <<https://www.cec.org/es/eventos/el-proceso-seem-en-el-contexto-de-la-justicia-ambiental/>>.

6. **Conference on Indigenous Environmental Law and the Independence of the Judiciary**, Santiago, 29, 30 November and 1 December 2023, online: <<https://www.ucecentral.cl/noticias/fac- derecho-y-humanidades/juez-canadiense-realiza-actividades-en-la-facdeh>>.

7. **Academic freedom and the respect for human rights, advantages, disadvantages and challenges towards the present times**, Universidad de Chile - *Academic freedom in Canada: a bigger problem than we think*, October 19, 2023, online: < <https://derecho.uchile.cl/agenda/209958/seminario-libertad-academica-y-el-respeto-por-los-derechos-humanos>> and <<https://uchile.cl/noticias/211666/libertad-academica-tiene-rol-clave-en-el-desarrollo-del-pensamiento>>.

8. **Chile's New Constitutional Project and Social Justice**, January 25, 2023, University of Ottawa, online:<<https://www.uottawa.ca/recherche-innovation/credp/evenements/nouvelle-constitution-chili>>. (Conference Moderator and Organizer)

9. **Modelo centenario de enseñanza para nuevos y Mejores Abogados, plataforma eja**, [Centenary Teaching Model for New and Best Lawyers, EJA Platform], UNAM, Mexico, International Legal Education Seminar (PAPIME PE300922 Project), 6 October 2022.

10. **Political Legal System of Latin America and its Relations with Canada**, Radio Universidad de Chile, Derecho en el aire [Law on the Air], Faculty of Law of the University of Chile, August 3, 2022.

11. **Access to Justice and Legitimacy in Judicial Spaces for Special Protection Groups**, Jurivision, December 9, 2021, online: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tM2dpn_Jn1Y>.

12. **A transversal view on legitimacy of the Judicial reforms of Latin America**, Jurivision, *La legitimidad y la ilegitimidad a través los intereses de los actores*, 27-28 April 2021, online: < <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OsoNuMJ2SnI>>.

13. **Chile: A Constitutional Laboratory**, Jurivision, June 13, 2021, online: <<https://jurivision.ca/le-chili-un-laboratoire-constitutionnel/>>.
14. **The University of Ottawa's involvement in the field of law**, Confederación de Estudiantes de Posgrado e Investigadores Mexicanos en Canadá (CEIMEXCAN): *Huellas mexicanas en Canadá y sus frutos*, [Confederation of Mexican Students and Researchers in Canada (CEIMEXCAN): *Mexican Traces in Canada and Their Fruits*], November 2, 2020, online: <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tZaf7q7QFC4>> between 23:20 and 38:00.
15. **International Seminar on Law in the Pandemic Era**, PAPIME Project, 7 October 2020, UNAM, Mexico, online: <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=5CpwSysGLFs&app=desktop&fbclid=IwAR2O7iCuU4eZRGs1djPunuBTMwK8XDE5m9lrVnhshl5VoX0tm-RNRW5shL0>>.
16. **Chile – a laboratory for a new democracy?** Centre for Inter-American Studies, Université Laval, Quebec City, March 12, 2020, online: <<https://www.eti.ulaval.ca/evenements/le-chili-un-laboratoire-pour-une-nouvelle-democratie-cei>>.

RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 33 years at the Department of Justice Canada: coordination, inter-American cooperation, training of magistrates.
- Trainer in international human rights law and judicial governance in Mexico, Chile, Haiti.
- Seminars were held with the Presidents of the Judiciary of Mexico, the judges of the Supreme Court of Chile and the Chief Justice of Canada.
- Construction and management of inter-institutional academic and judicial networks in the Americas.
- Expertise in participatory research methodologies, intercultural dialogues and institutional strengthening.