

**AFRICAN NOVA SCOTIAN
JUSTICE INSTITUTE
AGM**



MANDATE

To address issues of systemic racism in the justice system that negatively impact African Nova Scotians while ensuring fair, legal and constitutional treatment of all African Nova Scotian community members.



VISION

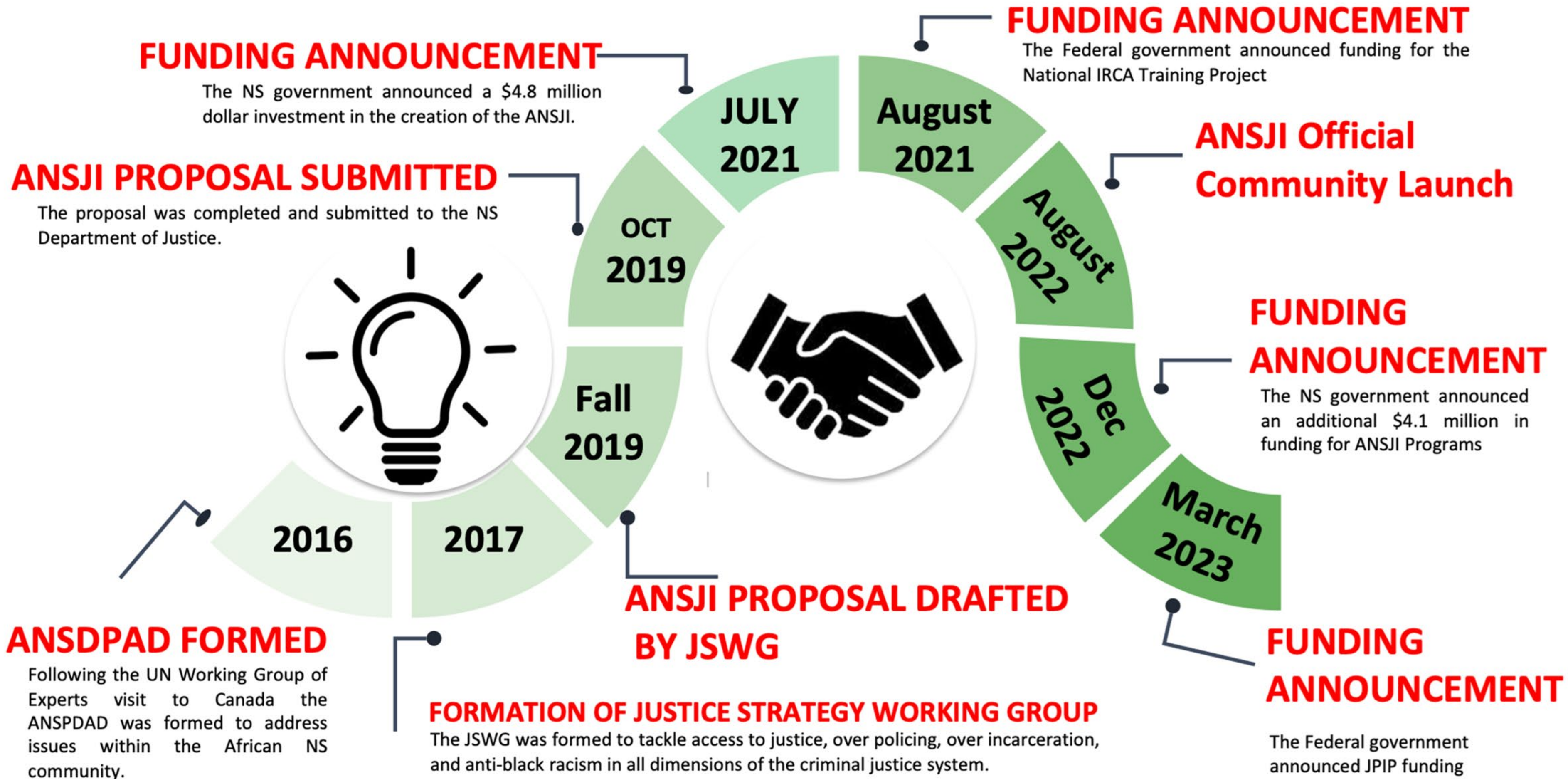
To create programs and services that will address anti-Black racism faced by Black people in human rights complaints, the justice system, law enforcement and incarceration.

ANSJI provides tailored legal advice guidance, and advocacy.

ANSJI is a trusted resource for Black people seeking assistance, and a recognized leader in legal research advocacy, and education on Justice issues impacting the Black community at all levels of government and in various organizations.



ANSDPAD AND ANSJI TIMELINE



1

Legal

- Criminal & Youth
- Family & Child Welfare
- Human Rights
- Justice System Navigators

2

Community Engagement and Initiatives

3

Forensic Assessment & Treatment

PILLARS

Legal

- Criminal & Youth
- Family & Child Welfare
- Human Rights
- Justice System Navigators

**Data
Collection and
Justice System
Accountability**

Forensic

Assessment &
Treatment



Meet The Team



Shawna Paris-Hoyte
Executive Director



Sarah Upshaw
Director of Operations



Kharisse Thompson
Administrative Assistant



Matthew Byard
Communications Officer



Tiffany Gordon
Manager, Data Collection Unit



Rajean Willis
Director, F.A.T.U.



Warren Kelsey
Social Worker, F.A.T.U.



Natalie Hodgson
Director, National IRCA Project



Tracey McCallum
IRCA Intake Coordinator



Meet The Team



Brandon Rolle
Director of Legal Services



Charys Payne
Director of Legal Services



Desiree Jones-Matthias
Lawyer, Criminal Division



Fenessa Williams
Lawyer, Family & Child Welfare



Wayne Desmond
Lawyer



Naomi Marsman
Paralegal, Criminal Division



DeRico Symonds
Community Engagement



Angelina Simmonds
Justice Navigator, Halifax



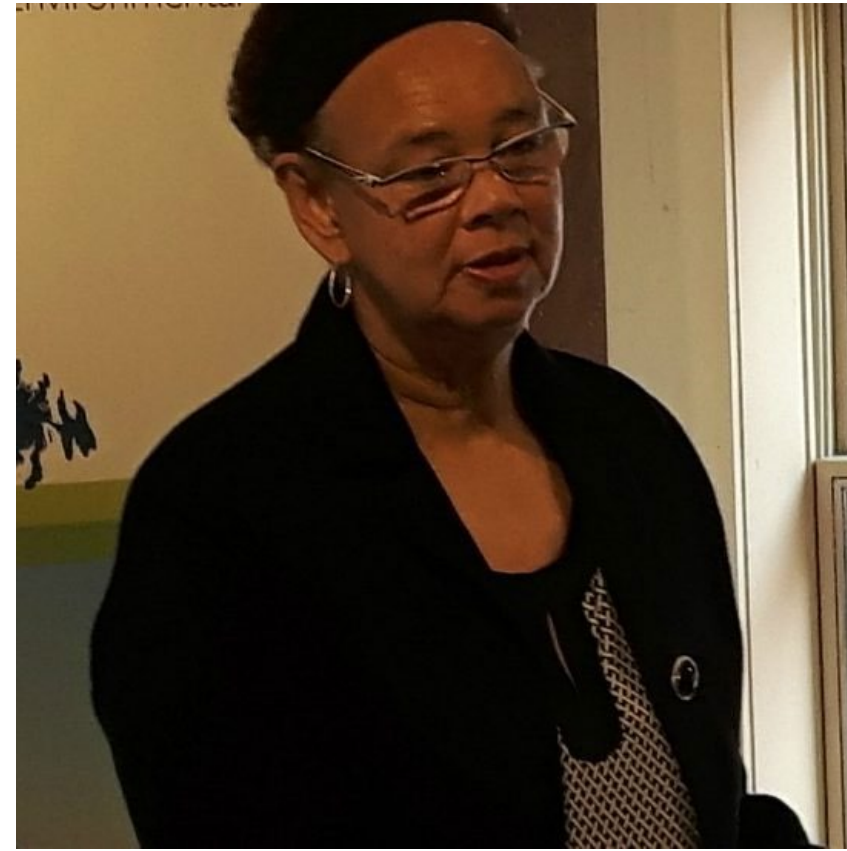
Matthew Dixon
Manager of Justice Navigators



Board of Directors



Vanessa Fells



Louise Delisle



Elizabeth Cooke-Sumbu



Jude Clyke



Folami Jones



Sylvia Parris-Drummond

Operations



Robert Wright
Special Advisor



Shawna Paris-Hoyte
Executive Director



Sarah Upshaw
Director of Operations



Kharisse Thompson
Administrative Assistant

ANSJI Programs & Services



Legal



Brandon Rolle
*Director of Legal Services,
Criminal Division*



Charys Payne
*Director of Legal Services,
Family Law & Child Welfare
Division*

Legal



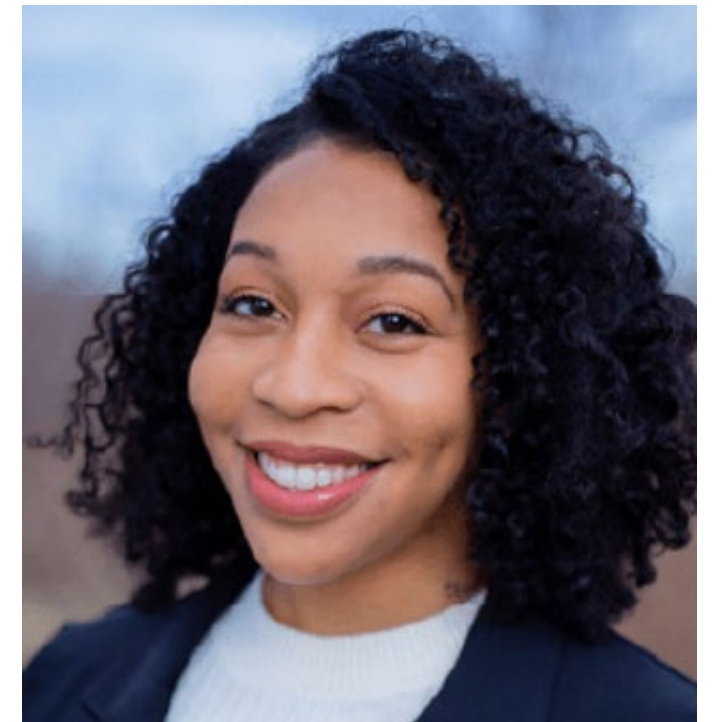
Criminal Law Division

ANSJI Criminal Division serves clients who are African Nova Scotian or Black people of African descent living in Nova Scotia in criminal matters (Adult & Youth) free of charge.

Our lawyers appear at all levels of court in Nova Scotia and have been effective in using a critical race lens to advocate for clients in a system that has historically marginalized and mistreated Black people.



Brandon Rolle
*Director of Legal Services,
Criminal Division*



Desireé Jones-Matthias
*Lawyer,
Criminal Division*



Wayne Desmond
Lawyer, Human Rights Law



Naomi Marsman
*Paralegal,
Criminal Division*

Family Law & Child Welfare Division

The Family Law Division of ANSJI provides free legal services to African Nova Scotian and Black families living in Nova Scotia from a critical race and Africentric perspective.



Charys Payne

*Director of Legal Services,
Family Law & Child Welfare
Division*



Fenessa Williams

*Lawyer, Family Law & Child
Welfare Division*

Family Law & Child Welfare Division

Core Legal Services:

- Child Protection
- Custody/Access/Child Support
- Emergency Protection Orders pursuant to the Domestic Violence Intervention Act (DVIA)



If a person needs Child Welfare and/or Family Legal Services ANSJI may:

- Provide representation in appropriate circumstances
- Provide legal information or Summary Advice
- Consult with your lawyer in race-based issues that may be present in your file
- Assist with finding supports to help aid family reunification
- Mediation

Justice Partnership Initiative Program

The staff lawyer also oversees initiatives related to public legal education and support. ANSJI seeks to partner with relevant organizations and institutions to create self-help guides and pre-recorded advice sessions, co-host workshops, lectures, and engagement opportunities, and youth led programming and peer training.



Wayne Desmond
*Lawyer, Human Rights
Law*

Justice Partnership Initiative Program

This program provides free independent legal information and advice to ANSJI's target population. The program helps people navigate informal and formal legal processes in Nova Scotia, with a focus on human rights, employment discrimination, and policing issues.

The program helps provide access to justice for people navigating legal and quasi-legal bodies such as the Office of the Police Complaints Commissioner, local police boards, the Commission for Public Complaints against the RCMP and making applications to the Human Rights Commission of Nova Scotia or the Canadian Human Rights Commission.



Justice Navigators

Justice Navigators assists individuals aged 12 and older who are currently involved in the Justice System.

The Navigator concentrates on preventing recidivism and helps clients navigate areas such as but not limited to criminal law, family and child welfare, mental health, addictions, and social justice issues.

They advocate for clients and promote legal and social reform within the community when necessary.



Matthew Dixon

Manager of Justice navigators



Angelina Simmonds

Justice Navigator



Community Engagement and Initiatives



DeRico Symonds
*Director of Community
Engagement and Initiatives*

Community Engagement and Initiatives plays a crucial role at ANSJI by supporting the community through policy, advocacy, engagement, and direct service delivery. This pillar is deeply involved with the community across the province on a variety of issues, participating in events, launching initiatives, and offering justice navigation support on the ground through our Justice Navigators.

Forensic Assessment & Treatment Unit



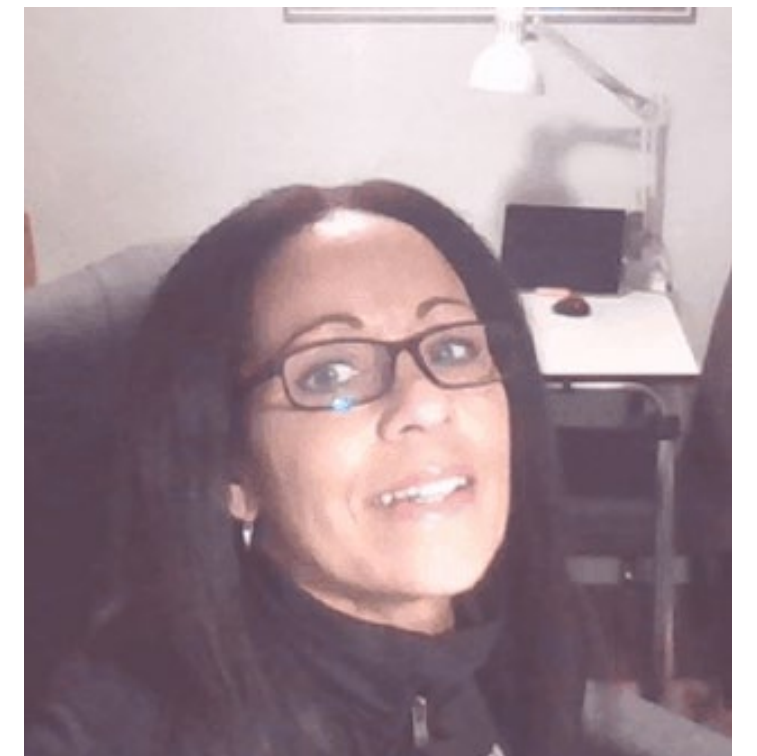
Rajean Willis
*Director, Forensic Assessment
and Treatment Unit*



Natalie Hodgson
*Director, National IRCA Training
Project*



Warren Kelsey
*Social Worker, Forensic
Assessment and Treatment Unit*



Tracey McCallum
IRCA Intake Coordinator

Forensic

Assessment &

Treatment

Unit



Components:

- Recruiting, training, and support for IRCA writers
- Continuing educational opportunities for lawyers, members of the judiciary and other professionals that play a role in the presentation of IRCA's
- Oversight of the IRCA delivery framework
- Policy and Strategy development around mental health service delivery for African Nova Scotians, including youth, in conflict with the criminal justice system
- Cultural competency training for mental health professionals working within the criminal justice system

National IRCA Training Program



Natalie Hodgson

Director, National IRCA Training Program

Impact of Race and Culture Assessments (IRCAs) are comprehensive pre-sentencing reports prepared for judges, to aid in sentencing decisions for African Nova Scotians and Black people of African descent involved in the criminal justice system.

An IRCA examines the impact that systemic anti-Black racism has on an individual.

In 2021, the Government of Canada supported the implementation of IRCA infrastructure in each province and territory through funding agreements.

Data Collection & Justice System Accountability Unit



Tiffany Gordon

*Manager, Data Collection Unit,
Justice System Accountability Unit*

The goal of the “Data Collection and Justice System Accountability Unit” is to combat systemic anti-Black racism within Canada’s justice system by analyzing and interpreting data and information on justice related matters in Nova Scotia.

The information collected by the Accountability Unit will be shared in reports, publications, community engagements, and in the media. The information will also be used in advocacy aimed at contributing to policy change.



Data Collection & Justice System Accountability Unit

Unit

The Data Collection & Justice System Accountability Unit currently has two research assistants, two research associates, and one community engagement facilitator who is working on the research team.



Current Projects:

- **An IRCA-Legal project, examining the effectiveness of IRCAs in the court system.**
- **Developing an IRCA Tool that can be used at bail.**
- **Supporting a research project aimed at addressing gender-based violence within the Black community.**
- **A research project, funded by the Law Foundation of Nova Scotia, entitled an "Africentric Approach to Restorative Justice in Nova Scotia." The purpose of this research project is to develop a restorative justice program that is catered to the African Nova Scotian/Black community.**

CONTACT US



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