

## SYLLABUS

# BLENDED FAMILIES IN THE EYES OF COMPARATIVE SUCCESSION LAW.

Blended families, created by the re-coupling of individuals with children from previous unions or otherwise preceding the new union, are not new to Canadian society. Yet, Canadian legal systems still struggle to find ways of accounting for their specificities in various legal realms. This presentation focuses on the way laws on inheritance treat blended families: whether a step-child can inherit, upon intestacy, from the father they grew up with if he's not listed on the birth certificate; whether, as intended, the child of one of the spouses really receives the latter's full estate when both parents have passed away; whether an intestate's younger "half-sister" receives as much as an estranged older sibling. Taking a comparative approach to these questions, the presentation critically analyzes laws across Canada, France, England, and Scotland to discuss the strengths and shortcomings of various legislative approaches to this topic.

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Laura Cárdenas is an associate practicing commercial and civil litigation, employment law, and succession law at DLA Piper (Canada), LLP, who is currently completing a clerkship at the Supreme Court of Canada. Laura graduated from McGill with degrees in civil and common law, and is a member of the Quebec bar. Her research interests lie at the intersection of property, succession, and family law, generally questioning conceptions of the family implicit in legislation and jurisprudence in these fields, with a special focus on their potential discriminatory or exclusionary impacts upon society.