



Dr. Ab Currie

Originally trained as a sociologist, Dr. Currie has been a key player in major research initiatives by Justice Canada on legal aid and access to justice across the country for more than two decades. He has also collaborated internationally with researchers around the world. In recent years, he has been hugely influential in developing justiciable problems research in Canada. Justiciable problems are problems ordinary people experience that have a legal dimension and in theory are resolvable through the justice system. In the United Kingdom, academics have used research about justiciable problems to reorient how access to justice policy is developed, making it more focused on various paths to justice available to users for resolving their problems. In a series of major studies he conducted in Canada, Ab discovered that over a three year span, 50% of Canadians have at least one justiciable problem and that for many Canadians justiciable problems cluster together and have a cascading effect. Moreover, there are very different rates of resolution as well as ways to resolve these justiciable problems, depending on the nature of the problem and its relationship to other justiciable problems.