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#### Education

Queen's University (In Progress) JD  
 University of Western Ontario (2023)  
 BHSc (Honours – Health Sciences  
 with Biology)

#### Contact

T 416-865-3717  
 mpuscas@litigate.com

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# Maria Puscas

#### MARIA PUSCAS

is a summer student at Lenczner Slaght.

Maria is completing her JD at Queen's University, where she developed a strong interest in advocacy, dispute resolution, and access to justice. As a student caseworker with the Queen's Prison Law Clinic, she has diligently represented prisoners in federal custody during Disciplinary Court proceedings. She has also served as a volunteer editor for the Queen's Law Journal and was a finalist in the Queen's Law Moot Society's inaugural moot.

Prior to law school, Maria built a diverse foundation at the intersection of law, health and policy. She completed an internship at the Canadian Space Agency, where she published an article in *Nature Microgravity* analyzing research in rare disease and space health contexts. She also wrote for the *Rare Disease Review*, publishing articles on rare diseases and orphan drug pricing.

Maria has firsthand experience within the justice system through her work as a Court Clerk for the Superior Court of Justice, where she supported proceedings at every stage across civil, family and commercial matters. She has also been actively involved with the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) Canada for the past six years, organizing Canada's largest health science competition. In addition, she has worked with the Ontario Ministry of Labour to support large-scale digitization initiatives for occupational health and safety certifications.

#### RECOGNITION

- ▶ Course Prize in Employment Law (2026)  
 Queen's University

#### SELECT PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- **Rare Diseases and Space Health: Optimizing Synergies From Scientific Questions to Care** – Maria Puscas co-authored an article examining the intersection of rare disease research and astronaut health, highlighting how shared challenges such as limited data, small sample sizes, and urgent demands for treatment can drive cross-disciplinary innovation. The piece explores how collaboration and knowledge sharing between these fields can accelerate research progress and improve health outcomes both in space and on Earth. *(Prior to joining Lenczner Slaght)*
- **Medicine Prices in Canada: Time for a Change** – Maria Puscas co-authored an article examining Canada's drug pricing framework, focusing on the role of the Patented Medicine Prices Review Board and its proposed guidelines. The article discusses how these changes may affect the availability of new treatments, particularly for rare diseases, and examines the broader implications for clinical trials, market access, and patient access across Canada. *(Prior to joining Lenczner Slaght)*
- **Slipping Through the Cracks: An Analysis of Harlequin Ichthyosis** – Maria Puscas co-authored an article on Harlequin ichthyosis, examining the genetic basis and clinical features of this rare and life-threatening skin disorder. The piece outlines how advances in diagnosis, intensive care, and treatment have improved survival outcomes, and highlights emerging research aimed at better understanding the condition and identifying new therapeutic pathways. *(Prior to joining Lenczner Slaght)*

#### SELECT NEWS ARTICLES

- **Lenczner Slaght Welcomes Summer Student Class of 2026** – Canada's leading litigation firm is proud to welcome 11 exceptional law students. Throughout the summer, they will gain hands-on experience, contribute fresh perspectives, and help us solve our clients' most complex legal problems.

#### PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) Canada National Officer (2020-2026)