

University of Toronto. He went on to study law at Montreal's McGill University and Yale Law School in the United States.

Jamal says his wife also came to Canada as a teenager, a refugee from Iran fleeing the persecution of the Baha'i religious minority during the 1979 Revolution.

She spent several years in the Philippines before being welcomed by Canada and settling in Innisfail, Alta.

After they married, Jamal became a Baha'i, attracted by the faith's message of the spiritual unity of humankind, and the couple raised their two children in Toronto's multi-ethnic Baha'i community.

"These experiences exposed me to some of the challenges and aspirations of immigrants, religious minorities, and racialized persons," Jamal wrote. "My perspectives on these issues have broadened and deepened over more than 25 years as a lawyer and judge." *

Jamal was a longtime litigator before becoming a judge of Ontario's Appeal Court two years ago.

As a lawyer he appeared in dozens of appeals before the Supreme Court on a wide variety of issues.

He began doing pro bono work on cases early in his career and says he found the most meaning in these efforts.

Away from the courtroom, he coached soccer in Toronto.

Fluent in English and French, he taught constitutional law at McGill and administrative law at Osgoode Hall Law School.

"At this stage of my life, there is no more meaningful way for me to contribute to the law and the pursuit of justice than through public service as a judge," Jamal said in responding to the questionnaire.

"I try to approach each case with an open mind and a willingness to listen, both to counsel and to my colleagues — it is always more important to listen than to speak."

Members of the House of Commons justice committee and Senate committee on legal affairs, along with a member of the federal Green party, will soon take part in a question-and-answer session with Jamal.

The session will be moderated by Marie-Eve Sylvestre, dean of the civil law section at the University of Ottawa's faculty of law.

* Text in dark blue is additional content from this online version of the article, which has some more sentences that fill out the story. [h/t D. Couper, 2021]

METADATA

Views2528 views since posted 2021-06-19; last edit 2021-06-19 11:51 UTC;

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