

Bias / Connections Chart: Justice MacLeod and Adam Newton

Evidence-backed appearance-of-bias map: MHN, CAS, Nightingale, and spouse/household overlap vs. no comparable connection boxes to Melanie Grillo

Justice MacLeod

Adam Newton

Melanie Grillo

Cumulative relationship / institutional overlap

MHN Lawyers / predecessor-successor firm network

MacLeod: MHN lawyer/partner; joined Cline, Backus, Nightingale and McArthur, became partner in 2004, and remained with successor firms throughout his career until 2019.
Newton: connected to MHN lawyers below.

E1-E2

Newton's MHN lawyers - Maria Kinkel and Jamie Pereira

Kinkel: Retained civil lawyer for Adam Newton, signed Partner, MHN LLP.
Pereira: OPP record identifies him as Newton's retained criminal lawyer. Separate records also identify Pereira as acting as counsel for the Federal Crown. **Issue:** overlap between Newton's retained criminal counsel and Crown-court role in same local legal community.

E2-E3

Kathy MacLeod / MHN Office Administrator / spouse

Kathy: Kathy (Ferguson) MacLeod is MHN Lawyers Office Administrator.

MacLeod: Kathy MacLeod is married to Justice Robert MacLeod.

Issue: spouse/household/professional overlap with the firm connected to Newton.

E9

Local CAS / CFSGE

MacLeod: CAS counsel identified him as "our case management judge"; bio confirms he's overflow trial counsel for CAS Haldimand-Norfolk.

Newton: subject of CAS protection file / verification; CAS offered supervised parenting time to Newton in Jan. 2023 while sexual-harm finding in place.

E4-E5

CAS outcome change

Sept. 2022-Feb. 2023: Verified sexual-harm finding against Newton was later changed to "inconclusive".
Jan. 2023: CAS offered supervised parenting time while CAS's verified sexual-harm finding remained in place.

Issue: verified sexual-harm later changed to inconclusive; no new evidence, changed facts, or fresh investigation has been identified to justify the change; inconclusive is not a finding that it did not happen.

E5

Justice Nightingale - prior conflict / former law partner

2022: CAS records - Newton advises covering judge (Nightingale) was a friend and "there was a conflict."
2023: CAS letter - Nightingale does not routinely preside over their cases and that MacLeod is their case management judge.

2025: MacLeod confirmed Justice Nightingale is former partner of 12 years and they work on same local court bench.

E6-E7

Nightingale family witnesses - Ryan, Leanne, Halle

MacLeod: confirmed (1) Ryan is Justice Nightingale's son, (2) Ryan/Leanne were on Newton's witness list, (3) Leanne is Ryan's wife, and (4) Ryan is his son's age.

Newton: identified Leanne as Halle's mother, Halle as Zaria's best friend, and Nightingale's granddaughter, and confirmed Halle slept over at his house. Zaria disclosed Halle was present during abuse by Newton at Newton's house.

E7-E8

No comparable
connection boxes
shown here

No MHN, CAS, Nightingale,
judicial-family, or spouse/household
connection shown for Mel Grillo.

Evidence tags:

E1 Canada.ca MacLeod biography; E2 MHN/Kinkel materials; E3 OPP/Pereira occurrence; E4 Kinnear Jan. 26, 2023 CAS supervised-time letter; E5 Kinnear Feb. 24, 2023 MacLeod/CAS outcome letter; E6 2022 CAS contact log re prior conflict; E7 May 14, 2025 transcript re MacLeod/Nightingale/Ryan/Leanne; E8 Newton document re Leanne/Halle/sleepover; E9 Kathy Ferguson/MacLeod MHN administrator and spouse screenshots.