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Law program for minorities gets new boss

By Our Staff

Halifax lawyer Davies Bagambiire has been appointed director of a Dalhousie University program meant to increase black and Micmac representation in the legal professions.



■ Bagambiire

Dalhousie announced his appointment Wednesday to the Indigenous Blacks and Micmacs Program.

Mr. Bagambiire said he is delighted with the appointment but feels it is a big challenge.

"I think that at the time when the Marshall inquiry has very clearly catalogued the races, it's only fitting that Dalhousie, as a national institution, respond by, first of all, creating this program and,

secondly, by appointing a Micmac or black like myself to head it," he said in an interview. "I see it as a challenge not only to the law school, but to the entire Nova Scotian community at large."

Mr. Bagambiire — who will be responsible for tutorials, the Pre-Law Programme, student services and fundraising — said his first aim is to knock on doors and tell young people it's time to consider a career in law.

The program was set up in 1989 to make the law school more accessible to black and Micmac applicants. Six students were enrolled in the program during the last academic year. Ten more students — six blacks and four Micmacs — are enrolled for September.

Mr. Bagambiire, a native of Uganda who has practised law in Halifax for 12 years, will also join the Faculty of Law as an associate professor to teach immigration law.

Black United Front executive director Rev. Ogueri Ohanaka praised Mr. Bagambiire and the

move, but said he fears it's just another "token appointment."