Shadow judgment writing is a legal method whereby judgments are rewritten. Women’s Court of Canada (2006),1 Feminist Judgments Project (2010)2 and Diversity and Human Rights (2013)3 are three examples of prominent shadow judgments projects. In Women’s Court of Canada (2006) a group of scholars rewrote decisions from the Canadian Supreme Court in order to show how the equal treatment provisions could have been applied more effectively.4 In the Feminist Judgments Project (2010) the method of shadow judgment writing was used to demonstrate what UK cases could have looked like from a feminist perspective. In Diversity and Human Rights judgments from the European Court of Human Rights were rewritten to highlight the position of non-dominant groups. As more shadow judgments projects emerge5 and that the method is increasingly used as a tool at Law faculties around the world, it becomes appropriate to talk about a shadow judgments movement.6

Shadow judgments projects come with a great diversity but the main idea is to rewrite a judgment or a decision under the same rules as the court. Since there is more than one way to apply the law, the method of shadow judgment writing can be used to illustrate alternatives to the original judgment.7 Shadow judgment writing is therefore suited to elucidate arguments, perspectives, minority issues or human rights violations that have been overlooked.

1 Women’s Court of Canada: http://www.thecourt.ca/decisions-of-the-womens-court-of-canada/