

WITHOUT
PREJUDICE

WAY OUT THERE: Practising law
in rural and small centres

PANDEMIC PLANNING: How
UAlberta Law is meeting the
challenges of COVID-19

WE'VE GOT GAME: Game-based
learning that inspires students
and professors

SUMMER 2020

UAlberta Law



Calm and
Constructive

BARBARA BILLINGSLEY BECOMES NEW DEAN OF LAW



Legacy Gifts: Shape Future Leaders



Briggs Larginho

JD Candidate 2021

Recently completed an internship at the Alberta Court of Appeal

When you include the Faculty of Law at the University of Alberta as part of your estate plan, you inspire the next generation of law students and leaders.

Bequests are revocable; you retain control of assets during your lifetime and can alter them if your financial circumstances change

Up to 100% of net income can be claimed as a donation receipt in year of death and year preceding


Bequests

A gift in your will, also known as a bequest, can include cash, securities, retirement funds, real estate or other property.

Give to the Faculty of Law

John MacDonald

Assistant Dean, Advancement

 780-492-6691

 john.macdonald@ualberta.ca

CONTENTS



EDITORIAL

Helen Metella, Sarah Kent, Denis Ram, Curtis Comeau, John Ulan

ART DIRECTION + DESIGN

FKA: Gord Montgomery, Mark Watson

DIGITAL

Tim Young

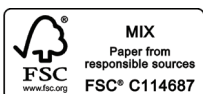
Without Prejudice is published bi-annually by the Faculty of Law. All material is copyright ©2020 and may not be reprinted without express written permission of the Faculty of Law.

Canada Post Publications Agreement No. 40063511

PRINTED IN CANADA

Burke Group, Inc.
Return undeliverable copies to:
Faculty of Law
University of Alberta
177 Law Centre
Edmonton, AB T6G 2H5

Visit us online at ualberta.ca/law and find us on:



8 CHALLENGE ACCEPTED

Barabara Billingsley becomes Faculty of Law's 13th dean during unnerving times

12 RAPID RESPONSE

How the Faculty of Law is meeting the challenges of COVID-19

14 A ROAD LESS TRAVELLED

UALberta Law alumni find big opportunities in small centres

Cover photo by Curtis Comeau

UPFRONT

4 Interim Dean's Message

5 New Dean's Message

6 Highlights

STUDENTS

20 Simply Soaring

Students surpass expectations again and again with two more clerkships at the Supreme Court of Canada, multiple mootung victories and a new law tech app

FACULTY

28 We've Got Game

Game-based learning as an innovative teaching method; Professor Ubaka Ogbogu becomes a Trudeau Foundation Fellow; and Prof. George Pavlich named to Henry Marshall Tory Chair

30 Faculty Member Highlights

ALUMNI

36 Stickhandling hockey players' contracts

Alumnus Manav Deol is a sports agent at renowned firm Wintersports Ltd.

37 New moot for first-year law students

Renamed Dean's Cup Moot honours former Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin

38 Class Notes

COMMUNITY

40 Witten LLP champions students' mental health

Michael O'Boyle Mental Health and Wellness Fund meets its fundraising target with firm's generous donation

42 In Memoriam

A FAREWELL FROM

INTERIM DEAN DAVID PERCY



It was a great pleasure to serve as the interim dean of the Faculty of Law, at least until about March 12, 2020. On that date, the University of Alberta suspended in-person classes and by the middle of the following week we were all online. The quick and unexpected switch caused much anxiety on the part of students, a lot of preparation time for Faculty members and long hours of work for Vice-Dean Eric Adams and Tim Young, who had to educate everyone on the use of unfamiliar technology. At the same time, following the provincial budget on February 27, the university began to wrestle with implementing a 17 per cent reduction in our operating grant, or \$110 million in monetary terms.

So, I can credibly claim that my last four months as dean were memorable. Unfortunately, COVID-19 deprived us of the most enjoyable part of the academic year. We were forced to cancel the wonderful Spring Reception, normally hosted by the Alumni & Friends of the Faculty of Law Association at the Hotel Macdonald, as well as all the class reunions. I was particularly sorry to miss the 50th reunion of the Class of 1970, the first class I ever taught at law school. I had planned to entertain them over dinner with a refresher course on developments in Jurisprudence over the last half century. The university was forced to cancel graduation ceremonies, but the Class of 2020 participated enthusiastically in an online Convocation and virtual after-party.

I am delighted to hand over the keys to the dean's office to my friend and colleague Barbara Billingsley (though I will miss the view of the downtown skyline). I know that we could not have better leadership in these challenging times.

David R. Percy, QC

Interim Dean of Law, 2019-2020

A MESSAGE FROM

DEAN BARBARA BILLINGSLEY

Hello Fellow Alumni!
I am very excited to be sending you greetings in my new role as dean of the University of Alberta Faculty of Law.

Our Faculty has been educating future lawyers for over a century, and we are fast approaching some significant milestones. In 2021, we will mark the Faculty's 100th anniversary as a distinct full-time law faculty on the University of Alberta campus, and 2022 will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the opening of the current Law Centre building. Longevity like this is no accident. It speaks to the quality, dedication and resilience of our professors, staff and students, and to the enduring support of our alumni.

This edition of *Without Prejudice* highlights these qualities. In addition to featuring alumni practising law in small centres, it chronicles the successes recently achieved by our faculty and students amid an unexpected global pandemic. This spring, under the unflinching leadership of Interim Dean David Percy and Vice-Dean Eric Adams, and with the tireless assistance of our IT advisor Tim Young, we urgently replaced traditional in-person classes with remote instruction, conducted online exams, and held our first-ever virtual convocation. Additionally, Professor Peter Sankoff conceived of and implemented the 100 Interns Project, arranging summer internships for 100 law students from across the country.



In the coming months, our Faculty will be faced with the challenge of continuing to provide superior legal education in the context of COVID-19, provincial budget cuts, and the University of Alberta's academic restructuring plans, aimed at reducing the total number of existing Faculties by almost half. Like all public legal institutions, we are also called upon to meaningfully respond to long-standing but recently accentuated concerns about racism in the law and in legal

education. (See the Faculty's anti-racism statement on our website at ualberta.ca/law).

Despite these challenges, the achievements featured in the pages of this magazine remind me of the great things we can do as a community and inspire me about the future of UAlberta Law. I hope you will be inspired too.

Barbara Billingsley
Dean of Law

HIGHLIGHTS

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA'S NEW PRESIDENT IS THE FORMER DEAN OF LAW AT QUEEN'S

An Edmonton-born former dean of law at Queen's University is the new president of the University of Alberta. Bill Flanagan began his new duties on July 1, 2020. Flanagan grew up in Stony Plain and Lacombe. Known as an exceptional communicator, he obtained a BA in English and philosophy from Carleton University and then attended the University of Toronto's law school, graduating with a JD in 1985. He earned a DEA in international economic law in 1986 from the Université de Paris (a.k.a. the Sorbonne). In 1987, he clerked for the Hon. Justice Willard Estey of the Supreme Court of Canada and went on to receive a master's in law from Columbia University in 1989. Flanagan joined the Faculty of Law at Queen's in 1991 and became dean in 2005, serving in that capacity for three terms. During his tenure, he developed the online delivery of an undergraduate program in law and two graduate diploma programs—one that trains immigration consultants and another that provides lawyers with business skills.



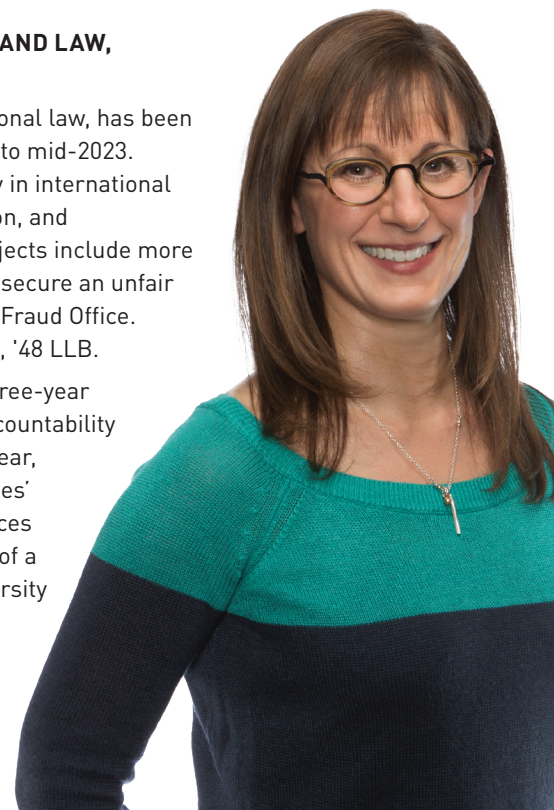
Bill Flanagan

JULY 1ST

NEW APPOINTMENTS TO THE ELDON FOOTE CHAIR IN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND LAW, AND THE KATZ GROUP CHAIR IN HEALTH LAW

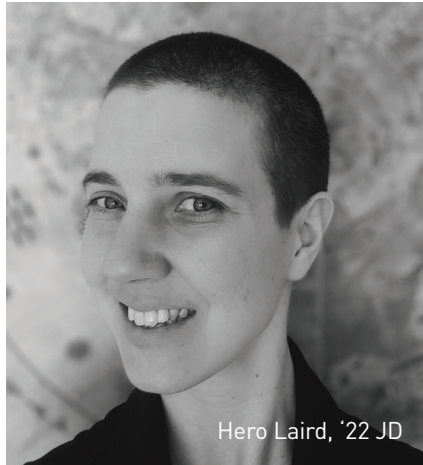
Professor Joanna Harrington, an authority on the links between national and international law, has been appointed the Eldon Foote Chair in International Business and Law for a term extending to mid-2023. The appointment will see Harrington deepening her research into corruption and bribery in international business transactions, general matters of transnational criminal law including extradition, and international civil procedure in relation to human rights matters. Her planned future projects include more work on the use of deferred prosecution agreements to address corporate criminality to secure an unfair business advantage and further research into the work of the United Kingdom's Serious Fraud Office. The Eldon Foote Chair was established by the late lawyer and philanthropist Eldon Foote, '48 LLB.

Professor Erin Nelson has been appointed the Katz Group Chair in Health Law for a three-year term that began July 1. Nelson is currently completing a project on transparency and accountability in Alberta's Mental Health Review Panel Process. She is also a co-applicant on a multi-year, interdisciplinary SSHRC research grant entitled, "Surrogates' Voices: Exploring Surrogates' Experiences and Insights." This project will be the first large-scale study of the experiences of surrogates in Canada. The Katz Group Chair in Health Law was established from part of a \$7 million donation that the Edmonton-based Katz Group Canada Ltd. made to the University of Alberta in 2006.



STUDENT GROUP PARTNERS WITH UALBERTA LAW TO LAUNCH DIGITAL LAW COHORT

Students at the University of Alberta Faculty of Law will have the chance to be at the cutting edge of law and technology thanks to the Digital Law and Innovation Society. The new student group spearheaded by student Hero Laird, '22 JD, has partnered with UAlberta Law to launch the first Digital Law Cohort for fall 2020. The Digital Law Cohort is a learning initiative in which law students are offered both courses within the curriculum and extracurricular opportunities to expand their knowledge of how technology may influence the rule of law and how technology can change the legal profession. Coding the Law, taught by Jason Morris, and a new core Digital Law course, taught by Professor Péter Szigeti, are highlights of the curricular opportunities for cohort members, who will also be eligible for external placements with partner organizations.



TWO GRADUATE STUDENTS MAKE HISTORY AT UALBERTA LAW BY DEFENDING THEIR LLMS VIRTUALLY

On May 13, Jason Morris, '20 LLM, became the first UAlberta Law graduate student to defend his degree virtually. Holding the event via Google Meet was necessary because of social distancing measures demanded by COVID-19. Fittingly, Morris's thesis is about using technology to make the delivery of legal services more efficient and accessible. His thesis is also atypical because it was written for the first interdisciplinary degree granted between the Faculty of Law and the Department of Computing Science. Morris's co-advisors were Professor Cam Hutchison and Professor Randy Goebel, who supervised from the respective Faculties. In June, Donald Netolitzky, '20 LLM, also successfully defended his LLM thesis titled "Supreme Court of Canada Self-Represented Appellants in 2017," supervised by then-Professor Barbara Billingsley. Several more such defences are scheduled for the Faculty in 2020.

FALL 2020

MAY & JUNE 2020

2020 - 2021



FACULTY OF LAW WELCOMES TWO POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS THIS ACADEMIC YEAR

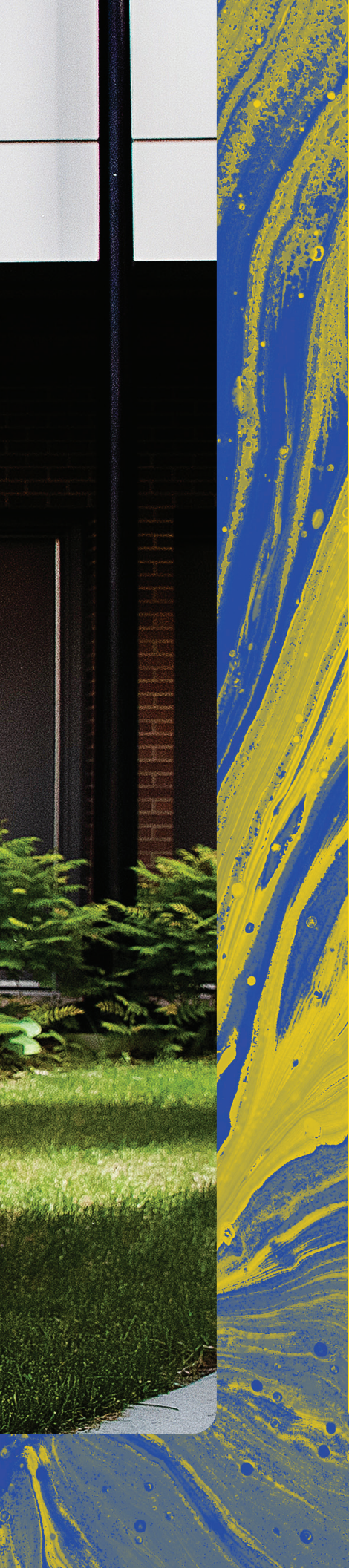
Two postdoctoral fellows studying Indigenous and environmental law under the supervision of Professor Joshua Nichols join the Faculty in the upcoming academic year. Keith Cherry, a PhD candidate at the University of Victoria, takes up a prestigious Killam Postdoctoral Fellowship in October. His postdoctoral project will explore the role of peripheral partner communities in urban decision-making processes. His research will examine the work of Indigenous activists at remote resource extraction sites and the primarily non-Indigenous urban activists who support their efforts. Rebeca Macias Gimenez, who is also completing her PhD at the University of Victoria, is a recipient of the Grant Notley Memorial Postdoctoral Fellowship. She joins UAlberta Law in 2021 to complete her postdoctoral project, which uses a comparative study of Indigenous Peoples in Brazil and British Columbia. Her project will address decolonizing the notion of jurisdiction and finding ground for co-operative ecological governance between Indigenous Peoples and the colonial state.

Challenge Accepted

**BARABARA BILLINGSLEY BECOMES
FACULTY OF LAW'S NEW DEAN
DURING UNNERVING TIMES**

By Helen Metella
Photos by Curtis Comeau





Being the 13th dean to lead the Faculty of Law might have given Barbara Billingsley a tiny bit of pause given how tumultuous a year 2020 has become, but happily there's an easy way around such superstitions.

If you count Anne McLellan, who was acting dean in 1991-1992, and David R. Percy, QC, who has just completed his second tour of duty (as interim dean from 2019 to 2020), Billingsley may actually be considered the 15th person to hold the deanship.

Still, there's no denying that Billingsley assumes the role in an arduous era. The University of Alberta is dealing with the aftermath of two provincial budgets that are forcing it to strip \$110 million dollars from its operation through 2021, to downsize itself academically and administratively in less than a year, and to prepare for another \$100 million in cuts by the end of 2023. Then, there is the small matter of a still-raging global pandemic that has upended every norm of campus life, from in-person classes to office operations.

Also, in the month prior to Billingsley taking over the deanship, a historic flashpoint in centuries-old racial tensions has lit fires within societies worldwide.

The Black Lives Matter movement and the deaths of numerous Indigenous Canadians during police actions are events that demand the Faculty's immediate attention in relation to its teaching and scholarship regarding injustice, as well as to its obligation to avoid the perpetuation of racism in its internal operations

When she applied for the position, collegial governance was on Billingsley's mind. "My goal was to foster an environment where reciprocal goodwill exists among faculty, students and staff in regards to Faculty policies and operations, and where individuals are confident that their role within the

Faculty is respected, that their views are valued and that their input will be fairly considered," she says.

"That objective remains especially important to me as the Faculty engages with the significant challenges it now faces."

A former practising lawyer and a full-time professor with the Faculty since 2001, Billingsley is a UAlberta alumna who received a BA in political science in 1987 and her LLB and LLM from the Faculty of Law in 1990 and 1995, respectively. She practised civil litigation in Edmonton at Brownlee LLP and at Sharek & Co, and began teaching at the Faculty as a sessional in 1996.

She has taught insurance law, civil litigation and constitutional law. She has also served as the Faculty's associate dean of research and of graduate studies.

"Barbara Billingsley is perfectly suited to leadership," says Justice Russell Brown of the Supreme Court of Canada, a faculty colleague of hers at UAlberta Law for several years before his appointment to the bench in 2015.

"She listens carefully, assesses fairly and reasonably, and acts with integrity."

Billingsley is the author of *General Principles of Canadian Insurance Law* (LexisNexis) and a contributing co-editor of *The Civil Litigation Process: Cases and Materials* (Edmond). She has contributed to seven textbooks, authored numerous articles and spoken at some 60 conferences, seminars and guest lectures.

She's received the Canadian Bar Association/Law Society of Alberta Award for Distinguished Scholarship, the University of Alberta's Rutherford Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching and the Faculty of Law's Hon. Tevie Miller Teaching Excellence Award.

In addition to such top-tier professional credentials, the new dean has long held the skills needed for the coming challenges, her peers say.

“She listens carefully, assesses fairly and reasonably, and acts with integrity.”

— JUSTICE RUSSELL BROWN OF THE SUPREME COURT OF CANADA

Justice June Ross of the Court of Queen’s Bench of Alberta has known Billingsley as a student, a fellow faculty member and as “a valued member of the legal community we both care deeply about. She has always been open to new ideas, experiences and perspectives, and she is a natural teacher and leader, with a calm, collected and collaborative approach that will serve the Faculty well in these challenging times.”

Senator Paula Simons met Billingsley as a high school student, when both were members of the Alberta Debate and Speech Association. They became good friends while teammates at the University of Alberta Debate Club.

“The Barb I knew then was very much the same person she is today: thoughtful, measured, down-to-earth with a dry and sardonic sense of humour,” says Simons. “She looks for common-sense solutions to problems and applies a rapier-sharp analytical perspective to every question she encounters.”

Simons describes Billingsley as both private and straightforward. “She has little patience with hyperbole or melodrama. People are drawn to her because she radiates competence and calm.”

Her ties to UAlberta are also of the bedrock variety. She met her husband, lawyer Johnson Billingsley, ’88 LLB, to whom she’s been married for more than 30 years, at that same university debate club where she met Simons. Her son, Doug, and eldest daughter, Anne, are both UAlberta graduates, while her youngest daughter, Jane, is currently enrolled in the Faculty of Arts.

Outside of work, Billingsley likes to spend as much time as possible with her family. Her other interests include travel, music, reading and yoga. Additionally, she says, “in recent years, I have spent a significant amount of time researching my family’s Polish wartime history.”

As for how she hopes to guide a disparate community of students, professors and staff, Billingsley will rely on an insight she developed when meeting a wide variety of people when both practising and teaching law.

“I have found that, whatever their specific approach, most people are genuinely doing their best to achieve a positive outcome. I think that this fundamental commonality of motivation and purpose to achieve a constructive result is a key element to remember in any group dynamic.”



Previous Deans

1926-1942 JOHN A. WEIR

- Faculty's first professor in 1921 and outstanding teacher, scholar and administrator
- Ran the Faculty almost alone, a stress that likely contributed to his death at 47

1942-1945 MALCOLM M. MACINTYRE

- A renowned scholar of Canadian legal writing
- Founded the *Alberta Law Quarterly*, precursor of *Alberta Law Review*

1944-1947 GEORGE H. STEER (ACTING DEAN)

- Tackled diminished enrolment during Second World War
- Recruited Wilbur F. Bowker to teach full time

1948-1967 WILBUR FEE BOWKER

- Guided period of growth at Faculty, hiring strong core of faculty, upgrading library
- Added flexibility to course selection, taxation and administrative law; established master of laws program (1965)

1968-1970 GÉRARD LA FOREST

- Pushed for construction to begin on Law Centre in February 1970
- Modernized the curriculum

1970-1975 GERALD H.L. FRIDMAN

- Prolific scholar who oversaw the opening of Law Centre in 1972
- Fostered closer relations between the courts and the law school

1976-1986 FRANK JONES

- Networked with law profession leaders in Edmonton and Calgary and enhanced Faculty's international reputation
- With Justice Ellen Picard, established the Health Law Institute and with Bruce Elman, established the Centre for Constitutional Studies

1986-1997 TIMOTHY CHRISTIAN

- Launched Law Campaign 75 to fundraise and therefore resist the provincial government's plan to have just one provincial Faculty of Law — in Calgary

1991-1992 ANNE MCLELLAN (ACTING DEAN)

1997-2002 LEWIS KLAR

- Formed the Alumni & Friends of the Faculty of Law Association
- Started Admitted Students Day, now known as the Dean's Welcome

2002-2009 DAVID PERCY

- Shepherded renovation of the Law Centre
- Oversaw Campaign 2008 during the University's centennial year
- Developed alumni relations by establishing contact in all major Canadian cities and several abroad

2009- 2014 PHILIP BRYDEN

- Managed the sudden transition from a period of expansion supported by a robust economy to an era of far more modest provincial contributions

2014-2019 PAUL D. PATON

- Oversaw an era of renewal in which 11 new faculty were recruited, an emphasis was placed on Indigenous initiatives, experiential learning and the student experience
- Raised the Faculty's profile and fundraising despite an economic downturn

2019-2020 DAVID PERCY (INTERIM DEAN)

- Dealt with two provincial budget cuts in one year, COVID-19 and online-only classes



RAPID RESPONSE

HOW THE FACULTY OF LAW IS MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF COVID-19

At the Faculty of Law, the reality of COVID-19 arrived the morning of Wednesday, March 11. CBC journalist Vassy Kapelos cancelled her engagement at the Merv Leitch QC Memorial Lecture. Hours earlier, the World Health Organization had declared COVID-19 a pandemic and André Picard, the *Globe & Mail's* renowned medical journalist, had published astonishing advice: "Shut it down: It's time for Canada to get serious about social distancing."

By Tuesday, March 17, all Faculty of Law classes were online. Working

from home, Google Meets and virtual celebrations were the norm. Here are highlights of the Faculty's response and some of its plans for virtual education delivery in Fall 2020.

GOING VIRTUAL

As the first professor in Canada to implement the flipped classroom method in law classes (recording and uploading lectures online so that students can learn key concepts before engaging in discussions, problem-solving and case studies in class), **Professor Peter Sankoff** easily moved

his large lecture course online, provided tips and stressed the advantages of virtual learning to his colleagues. For instance, he says, the anonymous chat function in Zoom gave students the chance to ask questions without feeling self-conscious and produced significantly more interactions than in the physical classroom.

Professor Steven Penney, another veteran of the flipped classroom, prepared online lectures, posted videos, held virtual office hours and hosted additional Q&A sessions to prepare students for exams. **Assistant Professor**

Anna Lund, who had made audio of her lectures available for accessibility earlier in the term, not only created pre-recorded lecture content but acknowledged the profound changes in her students' personal and family obligations. She invited their children and pets to join virtual classes and devoted some live classroom time to mental health checks. "We talked about, 'What are you doing for exercise, how are you managing anxiety?'" she says.

To create an even playing field for all students, only CR/NCR (Credit or No Credit) evaluations were issued for the spring semester. However, instructors identified exceptional class performances so that the Prizes and Awards Committee could ensure that students were fully supported by all of the Faculty's available assistance.

BEHIND THE SCENES

To move smoothly to remote delivery of classes, professors received newly created instructional videos from Tim Young, the Faculty's online course system administrator. He taught instructors and students how to share screens for multimedia presentations and how to troubleshoot equipment failures. For weeks, he left a Google Meet open for prompt consultations. He monitored classes, stepping in when needed, while simultaneously answering inquiries via Facebook, email, text and phone. When a student's aging computer began slowly updating in the middle of a class presentation, he helped the student insta-switch to presentation-by-phone. "Even the most technically challenged of our faculty have done well with online presentations," says Young. "They went through the ringer and they came out successful. Next term, it will just be old hat."

CELEBRATIONS

With in-person events out of the question, the annual Celebration of Mooting became the first virtual celebration the Faculty produced, underscoring the Faculty's commitment to honour and recognize students for their hard work despite the pandemic. With a combination of live presenters



Professor
Peter Sankoff

and video-streamed content, the celebration's guest of honour was the Hon. Kevin Feehan, '78 LLB, Justice of the Alberta Court of Appeal.

In June, two virtual convocations followed. June 12 was for all of the 2020 convocants of UAlberta while on June 17 the Faculty of Law hosted its own celebration, mixing formal presentations with personalized video memories and greetings. The Hon. Russell Brown and the Hon. Sheilah Martin, justices of the Supreme Court of Canada, delivered heartfelt advice, and medallists and award-winners were named. To temper the disappointment of students not being able to walk across the Jubilee Auditorium stage to receive their parchment, the name of each graduating law student was announced during the Faculty's ceremony.

100 INTERNS

In mid-March, the pandemic was already adversely impacting law students' employment prospects, with many summer jobs and articling positions suddenly vanishing. So Professor Peter Sankoff decided to find funding and short internships for several law students. Six weeks later, and after being hospitalized for a brain hemorrhage on April 19, he met his goal of raising \$120,000 and had matched 100 students from across the country with law practitioners.

Working his phone, email and Twitter account during 16-hour days, "I can actually say, without hyperbole, that it almost killed me, but I'm as proud of making it to 100 as anything I've ever accomplished in my life." His brush with mortality will have no long-term impact on his health, but his initiative gave law students three weeks of part-time work and the opportunity to take on legal research, complete pro bono work or assist with legal aid.

"It has been absolutely inspiring seeing all these members of the legal community, especially the criminal bar and the judiciary, showing their support for young legal professionals and sending in so many donations for students to get an opportunity to learn," says Rebecca Taylor, '22 JD, who interned with criminal defence lawyer Brian Pfefferle as a result of Sankoff's efforts.

FALL 2020

Although most classes at the university will be delivered virtually in the fall, exceptions for some small-scale classes will be granted. The Faculty of Law has applied to incorporate a few of those in its delivery, but they will be virtually accessible, too. The spring's CR/NCR system gives way to grades in the fall term.

Orientation for first-year law students on September 8 will be a virtual event, with guest speakers and a video tour of the Law Centre. Small groups of 1Ls will meet for the Foundations of Law course, soon afterward.

Over the summer, professors have adjusted their courses to include more robust use of remote delivery technologies and to embrace the advantages they afford. These include the ability to book guest speakers from the law profession who might not otherwise have been available; the option for instructors to move seamlessly through different technological tools — PowerPoint to video; and to devise creative ways to expand and contract the classroom, splitting up the class time and student groups in ways possible with the absence of physical barriers.

A Road Less Travelled

**UAlberta Law alumni
find big opportunities
in small centres**

Story: Sarah Kent | Photos: Denis Ram

Jessica Andreassen, '20 JD, had an assured job waiting for her at the law firm that her grandfather established in 1954, in Camrose, AB, but besides that security, she sees a bright future for herself working in a small central Alberta city surrounded by farmland.

“Growing up in that firm, I could see how being a lawyer can help people with so many different issues,” says Andreassen, who started her articles at Andreassen Borth in June. “I can’t imagine working anywhere else.”

While Andreassen will become the third generation to provide legal services at the firm in Camrose, many small town firms are at risk of permanently closing without arrangements for new lawyers to take over the practice. This is a crisis for small centres that may be left without affordable or timely legal services in their community.



Yet the myth of the sleepy small town law firm has never been more inaccurate, say alumni of the University of Alberta Faculty of Law who are working in smaller communities from Camrose to Grande Prairie, Sylvan Lake to Squamish.

Legal practices in small centres offer lively, challenging and profitable career opportunities in addition to providing more work-life balance.

“People think small towns, small files,” says Laura MacLelland, UAlberta Law Career Services advisor. “That is just not the case.”

In small town firms, articling students and early career practitioners see greater autonomy working on files, hitting the ground running right out of law school, says Timothy Burnham, ’06 LLB. This independence gives young lawyers important exposure at a critical point in their legal career.

“Everything that articling students were allowed to do, I did, and there are some things that you can do with leave of the court, which I sought leave of so I could do them too,” says Burnham. “There is a pretty steep learning curve, but I climbed up it as quick as I could.”

Within three years of graduating, Burnham became a partner at the firm where he started articling. Fourteen years after finishing law school, he has bought out the other partners at Gurevitch Burnham Law Office in Grande Prairie and is now the sole owner and managing partner.

Another career benefit is that prestigious associations and provincial organizations are always seeking representation outside of the major hubs, says Burnham. “You can be involved in ways that you didn’t think were possible and be rubbing shoulders with people you never thought you’d be working side by side with, especially early in your career.”

The Lifestyle

“Being based out of Squamish allows me to balance work and play. It’s great to finish work and still have time to go mountain biking in my backyard,” says Caitlin Hodgson, ’17 JD, who practises at Race and Company LLP in Squamish, British Columbia. “It’s a vibrant, young community where most residents share a love of the outdoors.”

The embrace of a close community also makes practising in smaller centres more appealing to many UAlberta Law alumni.

“People tend to form closer relationships,” says Imran Bhutta, ’15 JD, who practises at Rouillard Law in Sylvan Lake, Alberta.

“For me, to move to a smaller centre with a very different demographic was a challenge initially,” says Bhutta, who grew up in Pakistan and moved to the Greater Toronto Area in 2004. “You have to culturally adapt to a small town, in a sense, but if someone like me is able to immediately adapt, anyone can.”

The Small Town Fit

While some lawyers in rural communities specialize, the majority are generalists, able to offer their expertise on a variety of cases — everything from family law to corporate law to criminal law. It takes a wide knowledge base to be a jack of all trades and a willingness to jump in where needed.

Playing major roles in their communities, small town lawyers wear many different hats, serving as active members on boards, councils, political organizations and community associations. Lawyers’ advocacy and leadership skills become invaluable as they help guide the community they live in.

“You can have more of an impact in your community because everyone wants to know their lawyer,” says Burnham.

For practitioners in small towns, interpersonal skills determine whether you sink or swim, says Bruce Wakeham, director of Career Services at UAlberta Law. “Those people skills are not only for in the office but for getting out of the office and drumming up business,” says Wakeham.

The downside is that you’re always representing the profession. “There is the need to recognize the risk that any time you’re speaking, you’re speaking as the lawyer.”



Jessica Andreassen, '20 JD

ARTICLING STUDENT, ANDREASSEN BORTH, CAMROSE

WHY: There are a lot of lifestyle benefits: a lower cost of living, no commute, an emphasis on community involvement and work-life balance, and learning opportunities directly from experienced, senior partners.

TOUGHEST CHALLENGE: You kind of have to hit the ground running and learn a lot about a wide range of practice areas in order to effectively

serve clients in your community. I think that makes for a rewarding and exciting career, but it can be intimidating starting out — there's definitely a lot to learn!

BEST EXPERIENCE: With a general practice, you're able to help clients with such a wide range of issues and in different capacities. That client relationship aspect is really exciting to me.



Timothy J. Burnham, '06 LLB

MANAGING PARTNER OF GUREVITCH BURNHAM LAW OFFICE, GRANDE PRAIRIE

WHY: I get to spend a lot of time with my family and be involved in other things in the community that have kept me busy without having to choose or sacrifice.

TOUGHEST CHALLENGE: It can be tricky to have access to the resources that some of the larger firms have. I have taken on an awful lot more administration. In a larger firm, you might offload all of that to someone else.

BEST EXPERIENCE: Regularly, you do work and then you see the actual impact in the community. You get to see clients come into the office when they are going through some difficult challenges or have an exciting opportunity ... then you see them out in the community, and they are happy to see you and thankful for what we were able to do for them. It is very uplifting and gratifying to be able to have that kind of impact.



Caitlin Hodgson, '17 JD

LAWYER, RACE & COMPANY LLP, SQUAMISH

WHY: My backyard offers so much to do: mountain biking, climbing, snowboarding, and hiking.

TOUGHEST CHALLENGE: My practice is solely civil litigation and the closest courthouse is in Vancouver. As a result, most steps in a file (discovery, chambers applications, trials) require me to commute to the city. This takes a couple hours each day, which in turn

takes away from my ability to work on other files.

BEST EXPERIENCE: The people! I feel that working in a smaller community has allowed me to become deeply ingrained in my own community. I get the opportunity to meet and help people in Squamish. It's not uncommon to run into these people outside work.



Imran A. Bhutta, '15 JD

LAWYER, ROUILLARD LAW, SYLVAN LAKE

WHY: I did the "Red Deer Firm Hop" organized by the University of Alberta Career Services in 2014. This involved visiting six of the major law firms in Red Deer and spending an hour with each law firm. The experience definitely piqued my interest, and I ended up applying for and getting an article in central Alberta.

TOUGHEST CHALLENGE: There are certain specialized areas that do not find much of a market in the smaller centers. For example, a

lot of immigration law, intellectual property law, and bankruptcy law related work is concentrated in the bigger centers. If you are interested in one of those areas, your choices may be limited in terms of available employment in the smaller centers.

BEST EXPERIENCE: I know most lawyers personally. It is not too small of a bar, but it is small enough that you get to know lawyers on a personal basis. This has been a fairly enriching experience.

The Qualifications

At UAlberta Law, fewer than 15 per cent of alumni article outside of major hubs like Edmonton, Calgary, Vancouver or Toronto. Even fewer settle into small town practices.

While attracting and retaining lawyers is a challenge for rural law firms, they choose carefully, scouting for those who will relate well to their neighbours, says Pat Neil, the school's Career Services officer. "They want people who are going to stay."

Andreassen knew early on that she wanted to practise in Camrose,



working alongside her father, James Harry Andreassen, '84 LLB, and aunt, Margaret Weir Andreassen, '81 LLB, who are both partners.

"I started working there when I was 14. It was my first job — I was the janitor," she says. "I distinctly remember cleaning the lawyers' coffee mugs at the end of the day, wanting to eventually be in one of the offices."

For others, finding opportunities in smaller centres takes initiative since small town firms don't always recruit the same way as big city practices. Formal job postings are rare, and searches are often student-led, says Neil.

"I would suggest going to the areas that you might want to live in. Call up a few lawyers and go out for coffee," says Bhutta. "You have to be someone who is not afraid of being 'out there.' "

Redefine Success

"Many students define success as being large law firms—Calgary, Toronto, Vancouver, Edmonton—in a big glass tower somewhere," says Wakeham.

Yet to many law students and early career practitioners, big city practices are not what they ultimately want for their legal careers.

"Students say, 'I don't think I want a big firm long-term, but if I start there, I can do anything.' There is a mindset you have to start in this one specific spot to have all these avenues open," says MacLelland. "That is a major misconception."

"Define your success your way, rather than having your classmates define your success for you," says Wakeham. "Everybody is going to fit somewhere, but not everyone is going to fit in the large firm and not everyone is going to fit in the small town sole practice."

“People think small towns, small files. That is just not the case.”

– Laura MacLelland, Career Services advisor

SIMPLY SOARING

Students surpass expectations again and again

TWO MORE GRADUATES LAND COVETED CLERKSHIPS AT SUPREME COURT OF CANADA

By Helen Metella

Joanne Cave and Leah Strand make it six recent clerks from UAlberta Law



Joanne Cave

With the most recent selections, six UAlberta Law graduates have been chosen to clerk at the Supreme Court of Canada in the past five years.

In 2021-2022, Joanne Cave, '20 JD, will clerk for the Rt. Hon. Richard Wagner, PC, the Chief Justice of Canada, and Leah Strand, '19 JD, will clerk for the Hon. Russell Brown, a former Faculty member.

JOANNE CAVE

"My first year of law school was pretty tough," says Joanne Cave, a former Rhodes Scholar. "I was used to being a good student, but I couldn't apply myself. I was focused on other things."

Just prior to starting law school, Cave lost her mother to early-onset Alzheimer's disease. In the last stage of her mother's life, Cave's father was diagnosed with the disease, too. So, in addition to her studies, Cave spent the equivalent of several days each week at his home, making meals, completing chores, liaising with doctors and a homecare nurse, and fielding calls when her father wandered away from home.

Following first year, while Cave was a summer student for MLT Aikins, her



Leah Strand

father disappeared for almost 36 hours. It's believed he walked to downtown Edmonton from his suburban home. He was found on a median of the Yellowhead Highway, dehydrated and dishevelled.

"It was extremely stressful," says Cave, who subsequently moved her father into extended living before starting second year.

Despite such formidable duties, Cave belonged to the Women's Law Forum all three years at UAlberta Law and volunteered for all of the projects delivered by Student Legal Services — civil/family law, criminal law, legal education and reform, and the SAGE Wills Clinic through Pro Bono Students Canada. For her dedication to those programs and to other access-to-justice issues, she was awarded the Faculty of Law's 2020 Cecilia Johnstone Equality Award.

During her upper-years, Cave became engrossed by studies in constitutional, Aboriginal and environmental law, which supported the interests she'd developed while earning a double major in women's studies and sociology at the University of Toronto, and two, one-year master's

programs in public policy while a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford.

During summer 2020, Cave is clerking at the Court of Appeal of Alberta in Edmonton. She'll finish her articles at MLT Aikins and begin her clerkship at the Supreme Court of Canada in September 2021.

LEAH STRAND

Leah Strand was instrumental in bringing success and renown to UAlberta Law long before her clerkship to the Supreme Court of Canada was announced.

In 2019, she was a member of the Gale Cup Moot team that not only won the most prestigious moot competition in Canada but went on to win the Commonwealth Moot, a competition of 10 law schools from the world's Commonwealth countries, held in Livingstone, Zambia.

At the Gale Cup, Strand was also named Top Oralist, and at the Commonwealth, she won Best Mooter of the final round. She made the Dean's List all three years of law school and at graduation was awarded the George Bligh O'Connor Silver Medal in Law and was class valedictorian.

The opportunity to clerk at the Supreme Court of Canada plays directly to her strengths.

"I'm passionate about persuasive advocacy, and to persuade judges you need to think like a judge," she says. "I think this will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see how the law develops, first-hand, and to improve my writing skills."

During law school, Strand was a member of the *Alberta Law Review's* editorial board, a member of the Women's Law Forum, a volunteer with Student Legal Services, Pro Bono Students Canada and the Edmonton Community Legal Centre, and played on the women's law hockey team, Swift Justice.

Prior to entering UAlberta Law, Strand earned a bachelor of arts in English and communications from the University of Lethbridge, after transferring from Red Deer College.

After completing a clerkship with the Court of Appeal of Alberta, she moved to Calgary to finish articling with McCarthy Tetrault. She begins her clerkship at the Supreme Court in August 2021.

UALBERTA LAW TAKES GALE CUP MOOT FOR UNPRECEDENTED THIRD YEAR IN A ROW

Sweeps both Davies and Court of Appeal moots, and performs splendidly at inaugural Western Canada Family Law Negotiation Moot



Gale Cup Moot Team

Peter Sankoff and Mandy MacLeod (coaches), Aidan Paul, '21 JD, Alec McIlwraith-Black, '20 JD, Bonita Arbeau, '21 JD, and Zach Wilson, '21 JD

GALE CUP

In a feat that no other Canadian law school has achieved before, UAlberta Law has won the Gale Cup Moot for a third consecutive year.

The 2020 team members were Bonita Arbeau, '21 JD, and Zach Wilson, '21 JD (respondent team) and Aidan Paul, '21 JD, and Alec McIlwraith-Black, '20 JD (appellant team).

The appellant team also won second prize for Best Factum Overall. And for one of the few times in the competition's 47-year history, both Dickson Medals for Exceptional Oralist Performance in the Preliminary Rounds went to members of the same school: Bonita Arbeau and Aidan Paul, respectively.

For its three consecutive winning years, the Gale Cup team has been

coached by Professor Peter Sankoff and Mandy MacLeod, '14 JD, a Crown prosecutor and a 2013 Dickson Medallist and Gale Cup finalist. This year, Professor Steven Penney also helped Paul develop a difficult argument involving sec 11 (d) of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The team is sponsored by Beresh Law.

The prospect of a 'three-peat' win was ever-present, but it was never a source of additional stress, said the students in a joint statement. "If anything, it gave us extra motivation to put in the amount of work required to win. Especially with this being the last year for (coaches) Mandy MacLeod and Professor Sankoff, the team really wanted to make it happen, and it drove us to do whatever we could to give ourselves the best possible chances of winning."

“With this being the last year for (coaches) Mandy MacLeod and Professor Sankoff, it drove us to do whatever we could to give ourselves the best possible chances of winning.”

— Gale Cup team members

DAVIES CORPORATE / SECURITIES LAW MOOT

After entering the final round at the top of the standings, UAlberta made a clean sweep of the Davies Corporate/Securities Law Moot Competition, winning the overall competition, as well as awards for Top Oralist and Best Factum.

Denis Ram, '21 JD, was named the Top Oralist. Other team members were Jesse Fontaine, '21 JD; Melissa Garska, '21 JD; Yan Gao, '21 JD; and researcher Ember Lagden, '21 JD.

The team was coached by Dentons Edmonton practitioners John Lemieux (a partner in the firm's corporate and commercial group), Morgan Deacon (a partner in the litigation group) and Kaelyn McGillivray (an associate in the financial services group). The team is sponsored by Stikeman Elliott LLP.

"Being the top corporate/securities law mooter in the country feels surreal," says Ram. "This is a testament to all the support from the school, our coaches, and our all-star guest judges."

ALBERTA COURT OF APPEAL MOOT

The University of Alberta recovered the Alberta Court of Appeal moot trophy from the University of Calgary this year, emerging victorious in each of the Civil, Constitutional and Criminal Law rounds. Team members were Melissa Erickson, '21 JD, and Annie Tran, '21 JD [Criminal], Marcus Szyron, '21 JD, and Emily Bielech, '21 JD [Constitutional], and Ethan Reis, '21 JD, and Kaitlynd Hiller, '21 JD [Civil].

The annual competition with the University of Calgary was hosted this year by UAlberta Law, in conjunction with the Edmonton Courthouse. The moot took place in front of a panel of sitting judges: one from each of the Court of Appeal, Court of Queen's Bench, and Provincial Court.

Team coaches were Kyle Kawanami (Civil, Emery Jameson LLP), Katherine Fraser (Criminal, AB Justice General Prosecutions), Don Padget (Constitutional, AB Justice Constitutional), and Andrew Foster (Constitutional, Court of Appeal Legal Counsel).

UAlberta Law is also grateful to Court of Appeal Justices Jack Watson, Frederica Schutz and Dawn Pentelchuk; Master Lucille Birkett; and Provincial Court Judges Greg Rice, Allan Lefever and Sandra Corbett for their participation in the moot.

WESTERN CANADA FAMILY LAW NEGOTIATION MOOT

At the inaugural Western Canada Family Law Negotiation Moot, students participated in three challenging rounds of negotiation on a complicated Family Law scenario (parenting scheduling and decision-making issues, child support, spousal support, and a mobility issue).

They were evaluated on presentation, legal acumen, teamwork, problem-solving, identification of interests,

communications, effective advocacy, generating creative options, and the ability to follow a "representation plan" that each team presented to the judges.

Students Alex Peters, '20 JD, and Megan Washington, '20 JD, won first prize in the creation and use of their representation plan while Tracy Zimmer, '20 JD, and Sheila Raffray, '20 JD, took third place overall for their moot team. Both teams were coached by Megan Dawson, a partner at McCuaig Desrochers LLP.

In 2020-21, the University of Alberta will host the Western Canada Family Law Negotiation Moot. Marie Gordon, QC, and Chris Samuel, director of the Faculty of Law's Legal Research and Writing Program are members of the competition's organizing committee.



Davies Moot Team

John Lemieux (coach), Jesse Fontaine, '21 JD, Denis Ram, '21 JD, Melissa Garska, '21 JD, and Yan Gao, '21 JD. Missing: Ember Lagden, '21 JD

OTHER TRIUMPHS

- UAlberta took second place overall at the Canadian Client Consultation Competition.
- At the Clinton J. Ford Moot, the appellant team of Holly Spurrell, '20 JD, and Tunahan Uygun, '20 JD, took top prize.
- UAlberta was a finalist at the Donald G.H. Bowman National Moot.
- At the Jessup International Law Moot, UAlberta received Second Best Overall Memorials, Second Best Respondent Memorial and Fourth Best Applicant Memorial.
- At the Laskin Moot, Maddison Croden, '20 JD, captured the second place Oralist Prize and the team placed sixth out of 19 schools.

Alberta Court of Appeal Moot

Civil team, coached by Kyle Kawanami:
Kaitlynd Hiller, Ethan Reis
Constitutional team, coached by Don Padget
and Andrew Foster: Emily Bielech,
Marcus Szyron
Criminal team, coached by Katherine Fraser:
Melissa Erickson, Annie Tran

Donald G.H. Bowman National Tax Moot

Coached by Chris Sprysak: Amy Boyd, Elisa
Genuis, Jordon Magico, Michael Matwichuk

Bennett Jones Cup in Health Law Advocacy

Coached by Renee Gagnon and Natasha
Laffin: Tamy Chowdhury, Lauren Hebert,
Ashley Reid, Corinna Steffen

Canadian Client Consultation Competition

Coached by Farrel Shadlyn,
Barbara Acton and Lynn Parish:
Zachary Bliss, Nicky Sellinger

Canadian Competition Law Moot

Coached by Chris Samuel: Adam Kotlowitz,
Rachel Poelzer, Kyle Roberts, Tanner Shapka

Canadian National Negotiation Competition

Coached by Omolara Oladipo: Peter Cheng,
Liria Nair

Davies Corporate/Securities Law Moot

Coached by John Lemieux, Morgan Deacon
and Kaelyn MacGillivray: Jesse Fontaine,
Melissa Garska, Denis Ram, Yan Gao,
Ember Lagden

Clinton J Ford Moot

Coached by Troy Couillard: Shireen Bangash,
Holly Spurrell, Tunahan Uygun, Torri Woods

Gale Cup Moot

Coached by Peter Sankoff and Mandy
MacLeod: Bonita Arbeau, Alec McIlwraith-
Black, Aidan Paul, Zachary Wilson

Harold G. Fox Moot

Coached by Evan Duffy: David Adie, Allison
Jandura, Julia Kingdon, Lauren Webster

Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot

Coached by Péter Szigeti: Anita Nowinka,
Doris Vucijak, Alexandra Warkentin,
Anastasia Yevtushenko, Joseph Zondervan

“Our mooters have
given me the best
bragging rights possible
with
so many team
and individual
successes in
one year”

— Interim Dean
David R. Percy, QC

Laskin Moot

Coached by Patricia Paradis and the Hon.
Shaina Leonard: Maddison Croden, Briggs
Larguinho, Spencer Marks, Jacob Roth

Kawaskimhon Moot

Coached by Troy Chalifoux, Hadley Friedland
and Darcy Lindberg: Kristen Hamilton, Sarah
Kriekle

Michel Bastarache Moot

Coached by Albert Nolette and Justine
Mageau: James Allan, Jean-Pierre
Desrochers, Adrienne Faulkner, Andrew Kim

Mathews Dinsdale National Labour Arbitration Moot

Coached by John Carpenter, Kristan McLeod
and David Williams: Lauren Chomyn,
Mitchell Hayward

MacIntyre Cup Western Canada Moot

Coached by Don MacCannell and Steve
Smith: Taylor Chartier, Daisy Feehan

Western Canada Family Law Negotiation Moot

Coached by Megan Dawson: Alexander
Peters, Sheila Raffray, Megan Washington,
Tracy Zimmer

Wilson Moot

Coached by Chris Samuel: Leigh Acheson,
Tony Basu, Molly Clark, Connor Vaandering

ALEC MCILWRAITH-BLACK AWARDED INAUGURAL MANDY MACLEOD PRIZE

Alec McIlwraith-Black, '20 JD, is the first winner of the annual Mandy MacLeod Prize, awarded to the graduating student who has made the greatest contribution to the UAlberta Law mooting program in their three years of law school.

"Mooting has been the highlight of my time at UAlberta Law," says McIlwraith-Black. "Mooting is something that brings the whole Faculty together."

McIlwraith-Black received second prize for the Best Appellant Factum at the 2020 Gale Cup as part of the team that earned a historic "three-peat" by bringing the Gale Cup home to UAlberta for a third consecutive year. He won the Dean's Cup in his first year, and

the Brimacombe Selection Round in his second. He also dedicated time to mentoring other students in mooting as a Writing Fellow and received Eighth-Best Oralist in the Davies Corporate/Securities Moot in 2019.

The prize is named for Mandy MacLeod, '14 JD, "one of the best mooters that this school has ever produced," says Professor Peter Sankoff. A Crown prosecutor and a Dickson Medallist and Gale Cup finalist in 2013, she co-coached the Gale Cup teams through their unprecedented back-to-back-to-back wins, and led Alberta Law to success in the 2019 Commonwealth Moot. The award was founded by Sankoff in conjunction with Interim Dean David Percy, QC.



STUDENTS SHOWCASE PROTOTYPE ACCESS-TO-JUSTICE APP AT LEGAL TECH COMPETITION

Faculty of Law students showcased a prototype app that makes the landlord/tenant dispute process more accessible at an international legal technology competition held virtually in April.

UAlberta Law was the only Canadian team at the 2020 Iron Tech Lawyer Invitational, which focuses on student-led tech solutions that improve access to justice.

The app was created by Alec McIlwraith-Black, '20 JD, and Erin Peters, '21 JD, Patrick White, '21 JD,

Andrew Green, '21 JD, and Moriah Noel, '20 JD, during Jason Morris' inaugural Coding the Law course. Named EMRLD (Electronic Means for Renter & Landlord Dispute), it was developed to help the Edmonton Community Legal Centre offer free legal advice more efficiently to low-income clients.

With interview questions written for a Grade 4 reading comprehension level, clients can generate the tribunal application form without additional assistance, so the centre's staff can

concentrate on discussing legal strategy and advice.

"One of the biggest practical challenges in improving access to justice is having limited resources to meet a high demand," says Peters. "If legal tech can be used to automate even part of the process, it will free up more human resources to help more people more efficiently."

While UAlberta did not advance to the competition's final round, it was praised for its comprehensive model and the app's fit with legal aid goals.

GOLD MEDALLIST CREDITS SUCCESS TO WORK ETHIC HE LEARNED IN SKILLED TRADES

Patrick Schembri awarded the 2020 Horace Harvey Medal in Law

By Sarah Kent

The discipline Patrick Schembri, '20 JD, learned while working in skilled trades has helped earn him the 2020 Horace Harvey Medal, the Faculty of Law's most prestigious accolade for a graduating JD student.

Informally known as the gold medal, the Horace Harvey Medal recognizes the graduating student with the highest grade point average throughout their three years in the JD program. With the gold medal, Schembri also received the Mr. Justice WG Morrow Memorial Prize.

Following his first undergraduate degree at Brock University, Schembri began an apprenticeship in industrial HVACR. "The work ethic that the skilled trades gave me, going to trade school at night and on the weekends

"Going to trade school at night and on the weekends while working full time, gave me an advantage in terms of general discipline."

— Patrick Schembri, '20 JD

while working full time, gave me an advantage in terms of general discipline," says Schembri. "That really translated into the success I've had so far."

When Schembri went back to school at York University for political science, he received the Dean's Award for Academic Excellence for achieving the highest overall grade point average in the final year. He graduated *summa cum laude*.

While at UAlberta Law, Schembri accumulated a number of accolades for his outstanding academic achievements, including the Honourable Mr. Justice Arnold F Moir Scholarship, the Norton Rose Fulbright Canada LLP Scholarship, the Professor Trevor Anderson Prize in Jurisprudence, and the Dr. Alexander Smith Q.C. Prize in the Subject of Contracts.

Outside the classroom, Schembri was involved with Student Legal Services and served on the editorial board of the *Alberta Law Review*, a peer-reviewed, student-run journal.

Schembri spent his summers working for in-house counsel at major companies and is now articling at Bennett Jones LLP in Calgary. "I wish the best for all of my colleagues at the U of A," he says. "Learning from my peers has been critical to my studies, and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with them."

SILVER MEDALLIST ERIN BOWER EXPRESSES GRATITUDE TO PROFESSORS FOR THEIR DEDICATION

By Sarah Kent

For silver medallist Erin Bower, '20 JD, earning top marks throughout all three years of law school was no easy feat, but the passion of her professors made the long hours studying worth the hard work.

Bower is the 2020 recipient of the George Bligh O'Connor Silver Medal in Law, awarded to the graduating JD student who has achieved the second highest grade point average across all three years of their time at UAlberta Law.

"I have to thank the professors and the lawyers who went out of their way to make classes engaging and make themselves available to students both in and out of the classroom," she says.

During her second and third years of law school, Bower served on the

BRONZE MEDALLIST ELISA GENUIS SAYS PARENTS GAVE HER A PASSION TO LEARN

By Helen Metella



Elisa Genuis

Elisa Genuis, winner of the 2020 Judges' Bronze Medal, appreciates her parents' role in her success.

Her father, an electrical engineer, always "took it for granted that I could pick up whatever he taught me," says Genuis, recalling that when she was in Grade Six she made a simple inquiry about the circumference of a sphere and he promptly taught her concepts from calculus. Her mother, a graphic designer who left her career to raise four daughters, led her children almost daily on field trips into the natural world.

"I was fortunate that both parents modelled a sense of wonder at the world," says Genuis, who credits being awarded the prize for third-highest academic standing throughout her JD program with the passion for learning her parents instilled in her. "I have a wonder about life, I love people and I want to understand things — it doesn't really matter what they are."

In addition to attaining a 3.7 GPA in first year and a 3.97 GPA in second year, Genuis was on the editorial board of the *Alberta Law Review*, an executive member of the Runnymede Society, a member of the Sexual Assault Liaison Committee and of the Women's Law Forum Kindred House Committee, and volunteered with Student Legal Services.

She also worked part time as a writing fellow with the Faculty's Legal Research and Writing program and as a research assistant for Professor Malcom Lavoie. Outside of law school, she was the president of the Christian Legal Fellowship's chapter at UAlberta and a board member of the Electoral District Association for a federal political party.

Genuis starts a judicial clerkship with the Alberta Court of Queen's Bench in August. She will complete her articles with Alberta Justice and Solicitor General in 2021.

editorial board of the *Alberta Law Review*. In third year, she was a member of the Laskin Moot that won second place for its factum.

She is the recipient of the Parlee Scholarship, the Blake Cassels & Graydon Second Year Scholarship, the Chief Justice S. Bruce Smith Prize, the Chief Judge Nelles V. Buchanan Memorial Prize in Litigation, and the Witten LLP Prize in Property Law.

Bower will be clerking with the Court of Appeal of Alberta before finishing her articles at a firm in Calgary.

Erin Bower





WE'VE GOT GAME

James Muir and Péter Szigeti use game-based learning as innovative teaching method

Story and photos by Sarah Kent

It's more than fun and games for University of Alberta Faculty of Law students during several inventive classes that use game-based learning techniques to teach property law and the history of the Constitution.

In Professor Péter Szigeti's property law class, students unleash their creativity designing Monopoly boards to understand property law concepts while students in Professor James Muir's legal history course role-play as delegates to the confederation and the patriation of Canada's Constitution.

"It was wonderful to come into the law school and see professors experimenting with their subject matter," says Hero Laird, '22 JD, a student in Szigeti's 2020 class.

Game-based learning is a growing trend in higher education as studies of learning have established that game play is an effective teaching method. But game-based learning is not new;



learning is already a core component of most games. Chess teaches strategy, puzzles teach problem-solving and multi-player games teach collaboration. Mooting, which has been a source of pride at UAlberta Law, is also a form of role-playing.

Game-based learning is a perfect fit for law, says Szigeti. Strategic thinking is a cornerstone of legal practice, and games like Monopoly build on that. The ability to advocate for a variety of positions, necessary for Muir's course, is also fundamental to law.

PROPERTY LAW MONOPOLY

Szigeti's Monopoly assignment has been almost a year in the making. "I did go on some research and fact-finding missions in the summer to (Edmonton's) Hexagon Board Game Café." He chose Monopoly for its alignment with property law and its status as a classic board game.

The Monopoly assignment for his class is based on *Property and Justice*, a book by legal academic James Harris, which contemplates how property in

“Including play in learning is an incredibly powerful strategy”

— Hero Laird, '22 JD

non-Western or non-capitalist societies might take on definitions different than those typical in the Western world.

Each group of students is responsible for designing a game based on a fictional society in which the idea of property is reimagined.

In “Redopoly,” there was no such thing as private property. “Everything is owned by all,” read that group’s rule book. The goal was to acquire as much “happiness” as possible while avoiding starving to death.

In “Deadmonton,” an apocalyptic world, life and death hung in the balance when acquiring property. Any time a player landed on a property, they could battle the landowner with a game of dice to dodge paying taxes.

“For me, the game was a really neat way of realizing — in a different way — how much of society depends on how we decide to distribute property and resources,” says Laird.

Szigeti hopes that in addition to energizing the class and breaking away from the traditional lecture format, the assignment allows the students to learn from each other. “The best teaching happens when students get each other interested in a certain topic,” he says.

His students agree. “Including play in learning is an incredibly powerful strategy,” says Laird, who wants to see more game-based learning incorporated into law courses. Szigeti has plans to design a property law course entirely devoted to game-based learning.

LEGAL HISTORY ROLE-PLAYING

Muir’s class starts with students negotiating the Confederation agreements of 1864-1867. In its second



half, students role-play as delegates for the patriation negotiations of 1981 that led to the Constitution Act, 1982. Students assume the identities of representatives for government or non-governmental organizations.

One of the learning outcomes is for students to understand the Constitution in its historical context by giving them a taste of the patriation negotiations. “The Constitution is a historical document created by a small group of people at a particular moment in time,” says Muir. “It is a fallible document.”

During the term, representatives of the Federal Patriation committee have an uphill battle catering to the different wants and needs of the provinces and non-governmental organizations.

Debate was fierce on the reenactment of opening day. During that class, the federal government presented its initial proposal and delegates had the opportunity to advocate for their interests.

“As Alberta, we are tired of getting the short end of the stick from the federal government,” said delegates of Alberta. “We thank God we have universal health care because we’ve

been breaking our backs supporting this country.”

Meanwhile, “We do not support the expansion of bilingualism in Canada,” said representatives of Quebec, who advocated for protecting the province’s francophone heritage. “We don’t want the federal government breathing down our provincial necks.”

The “Patriation Conference 1981 Game” is in its ninth iteration, having transformed significantly since 2011, when Muir and Professor Peter Carver first co-taught the course. Muir refines it every year, tweaking the gameplay and assignments.

“This class was like no other course I have taken,” says Tracy Zimmer, ’20 JD, who represented the Canadian Teachers Federation in the negotiations. “The interaction of this class went beyond someone telling you Canada’s history and put you in the midst of the action.”

“The final learning objective of the course is that they have fun,” says Muir. “In some ways, that is the primary objective. If they have fun, the other learning objectives will come along with that.”

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR UBAKA OGBOGU NAMED A TRUDEAU FOUNDATION FELLOW

Health law expert chosen for his expertise in ethical implications of biotechnology

Associate Professor Ubaka Ogbogu, a health law scholar in both the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, has been named a fellow of the prestigious Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation for 2020 to 2023.

An authority on the ethical, legal and societal implications of novel and emerging biotechnologies, Ogbogu is one of four scholars and the only one from the University of Alberta chosen to focus on the foundation's new scientific theme for the next three-years — technology and ethics.

"I'll be leading training on gene therapy and genetic technology and the ethical issues surrounding them," said Ogbogu. "The focus includes technical issues pertaining to biotechnology and the incorporation of artificial intelligence in the area of health care, and that's my area of expertise."

In its announcement, the Foundation said, "With the ongoing, ever-changing circumstances stemming from the proliferation of COVID-19, this area of research will be more relevant than ever to our community, domestically and internationally."

Since 2001, the Trudeau Foundation has trained foremost researchers, from Canada and abroad, to develop into influential leaders through its scholarship, fellowship and mentorship programs.

Ogbogu believes his selection speaks to the strength of the University of Alberta's Health Law program. He is the second professor from the Faculty

of Law to be chosen by the Foundation. The first, in 2015, was fellow Health Law scholar Timothy Caulfield, director of the university's Health Law Institute, who Ogbogu credits as his mentor.

Ogbogu has researched ethics and biotechnologies since 2005, but as a multidisciplinary scholar his work cuts across numerous fields, including health law, bioethics, science policy, science and technology, public health, legal history and legal philosophy.

His publications have explored legal and ethical issues associated with stem cell research, gene and engineered gene therapies, biobanks, germline gene editing and assisted reproductive technologies. He is the Katz Research Fellow in Health Law and Science Policy at UAlberta and chair of the university's Research Ethics Board No. 2.

He is also a member of the Council of Canadian Academies Expert Panel on Somatic Gene and Engineered Cell Therapies; a member of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Stem Cell Oversight Committee; and a member of the International Society for Stem Cell Research Task Force on Guidelines for Stem Cell Research and Clinical Translation.

"It's quite significant and I feel very humbled by it."

— Associate Professor
Ubaka Ogbogu

Previously, he served on the Council of Canadian Academies Expert Panel on Medical Assistance in Dying and as a member of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Governing Council's Standing Committee on Ethics.

"It's quite significant and I feel very humbled by it," said Ogbogu of his appointment. "The fellows are a list of who's who in Canadian academics, brilliant names. To be among them is very exciting. It really shows I've come a long way in one field."

PROFESSOR GEORGE PAVLICH IS NEW HENRY MARSHALL TORY CHAIR

Expert in sociology of law recognized for outstanding contributions to UAlberta

Professor George Pavlich of the Faculties of Law and Arts has been named a Henry Marshall Tory Chair in recognition of his outstanding research and contributions to the university.

The Tory Chair commemorates the first president of UAlberta and honours individuals who enhance the university's reputation with their scholarship, leadership, teaching and community work.

"I am honoured to be named a Henry Marshall Tory Chair and feel especially so in light of Dr. Tory's quest to champion the academic and public life of the University of Alberta for all people of this province and beyond," he says.

Pavlich, who just completed his term as the Canada Research Chair in Social Theory, Culture and Law, is an international leader in the field of socio-legal studies. Using historical analysis and social theory, his interdisciplinary research examines processes of criminalization, starting with criminal accusations.

During his five-year term as Tory Chair, Pavlich will trace the history of how particular social categories have created inequality in the Canadian criminal justice system. His research will explore how popular or common conceptions of criminality have historically targeted and marginalized some people more than others.

"By focusing on how individuals are initially captured by law's criminalizing processes (through accusations of crime), my work raises the prospect of limiting entryways to criminal

"My work raises the prospect of limiting entryways to criminal justice institutions."

— Prof. George Pavlich



justice institutions and responding to destructive social harm by attending to the collective relations from which it emerges," says Pavlich.

As the principal investigator on a project funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Pavlich explores social, cultural and political changes in the nineteenth century North West Territories (Alberta) that determined how people were deemed "criminals" and admitted to colonial criminal justice systems.

"Governing Entry To Criminal Justice in Canada and Britain since 1870," uses rare archival material to "reveal

how Indigenous legal systems were displaced as Dominion criminal law facilitated colonial settlement."

While he uses historical case studies, Pavlich's research has significant implications for understanding contemporary criminal justice practices, particularly the overrepresentation of Indigenous Peoples in the prison system.

"This research shows how decolonized approaches might embrace legal pluralism and seek other ways to define and govern harmful social actions."

PROFESSOR STEVEN PENNEY HONOURED WITH HON. TEVIE H. MILLER AWARD FOR 2020

Criminal law professor earns UAlberta Law's highest accolade for teaching excellence

By Sarah Kent

Professor Steven Penney isn't afraid to shake things up in the classroom and that principle helped earn him the 2020 Hon. Tevie H. Miller Teaching Excellence Award.

His innovative teaching methods include the flipped classroom model in upper-year courses on criminal procedure and evidence, and creative assignments in his first-year criminal law class.

The flipped classroom model builds on Penney's strengths — his ability to clearly explain material to students and encourage energetic discussions.

Students learn the core concepts before class by engaging with Penney's online video lectures. Class time is then devoted to discussion, active learning and problem-solving with Penney posing thought-provoking and challenging questions.

Students who are visual learners are entertained by the dynamic images on his slides, auditory learners are engaged by his carefully constructed videos, and hands-on learners benefit from the interactive elements of his class discussion.

Assignments and activities for Penney's first-year class range from a skit in which students act out a Supreme Court of Canada case to a creative video project for which students explain a topic in criminal law.

Penney also regularly uses Top Hat, a teaching app with features such as live polling, to encourage participation and assess learning.

Prior to COVID-19, Penney hosted regular Q&A sessions at Hello My Friend Cafe in the Law Centre, where students dropped by to ask Penney questions over a coffee.

"It is another tool for students to get together in a low-pressure environment," said Penney.



HISTORY

The Honourable Tevie H. Miller Teaching Excellence Award was established in honour of Justice Tevie H. Miller, Associate Chief Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench (1984-1993) and a former Chancellor of the University of Alberta.

NEW BOOKS

Anna Lund

Assistant Professor Anna Lund's new book, *Trustees at Work: Financial Pressures, Emotional Labour, and Canadian Bankruptcy Law* (UBC Press), addresses the financial and emotional dimensions of Canadian personal bankruptcy law.

Says Lund, "bankruptcy law sorts debtors into two groups: those who are considered deserving of relief and those who aren't. I wanted to understand how this sorting process works in practice." Insolvency trustees — professionals who are tasked with assessing bankruptcies — play a key role in this sorting process. Bankruptcy law provides them with a great deal of latitude to decide who gets debt relief. To understand how they exercise this discretion, Lund interviewed

trustees, reviewed case law and analyzed statistics from the federal government.

Joshua Nichols

Assistant Professor Joshua Nichols, an expert in Aboriginal Law and Federalism, has published a new book on the limits and possibilities of reconciliation. *A Reconciliation without Recollection? An Investigation of the Foundations of Aboriginal Law in Canada* (University of Toronto Press) thinks through how

SESSIONAL INSTRUCTORS REWARDED FOR REVAMPING WILLS AND ESTATES COURSE

Doris Bonora and Erin Lafuente receive Pringle/Royal Teaching Excellence Award

By Sarah Kent

Doris Bonora, '86 LLB, and Erin Lafuente, '01 LLB, were jointly honoured with the 2020 Pringle/Royal Teaching Excellence Award for their innovations in the classroom and their commitment to student learning.

Bonora and Lafuente, both Edmonton partners at Dentons, undertook a major overhaul of the wills and estates course this past academic year and the effort paid off.

"We had several comments from students saying that they had never considered a career in wills and estates but that after our class it was a topic area they would consider based on our passion for our practice," said Bonora and Lafuente in their award nomination letter.

When Bonora co-taught the course in 2018 with another instructor, she felt uninspired by the lecture format of the class. She and Lafuente, a previous guest lecturer, knew they needed to find new ways to get students engaged and excited about the topic of wills.

"People were taking notes for the purposes of taking notes. A common question was 'Is that going to be on the exam?' " said Lafuente. "It felt artificial when we really just want students to be excited about learning."

In revamping the course, they planned student-led presentations, added a class participation component and designed a hands-on assignment in which students practised drafting a will for a fictional person.

Erin Lafuente,
'01 LLB



HISTORY

The Pringle/Royal Sessional Teaching Excellence Award recognizes excellence in teaching by a sessional instructor at the Faculty of Law. It honours two long-serving sessional instructors and friends of the Faculty, the late criminal lawyer Alex D. Pringle, QC, and Peter J. Royal, QC, a senior partner at Royal & Company.

"We really thought this was an amazing way to give them a skill that almost every lawyer uses in their future practice," said Bonora and Lafuente.

The change in students' interest was quickly apparent. "We stayed after class to mentor and answer questions about drafting and the estate planning process," they said.

Doris Bonora,
'86 LLB



Canada's Constitution rests on the assumption of Crown power over Indigenous nations and communities. The book addresses Canada's failure to remember that the foundation of section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, which provides constitutional protection to Indigenous Peoples and their treaty rights, is fundamentally colonial. The book features forewords by respected Ojibway legal scholar John Borrows and political philosopher James Tully.

Peter Sankoff

Professor Peter Sankoff has published a new, two-volume book, *The Law of Witnesses and Evidence in Canada* (Thomson Reuters), which offers comprehensive analysis of the procedural rules governing witness testimony and the laws of evidence more broadly. The book focuses on how these rules are applied in civil and criminal proceedings, as well as before administrative

tribunals, public inquiries and legislative committees. It is a significant transformation of Sankoff's earlier book *Witnesses* (Thomson Reuters), co-authored with the late Alan W. Mewett. *Witnesses* was originally published in 1991, with Sankoff contributing to this text since 1995 and working to completely overhaul the text since 2015. The new book features a foreword by the Honourable Peter Lauwers, Justice of the Ontario Court of Appeal.

PROFESSOR UPDATES

Timothy Caulfield

In April, Professor Timothy Caulfield, research director of the Health Law Institute, was named to the Royal Society of Canada's Task Force on COVID-19 in order to support Canada's response to and recovery from COVID-19. Just prior to that, he was awarded \$380,000 from Alberta Innovates and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research to track and help counter misinformation and conspiracy theories about COVID-19.

Joanna Harrington

A publication by Professor Joanna Harrington, an expert in transnational criminal law, provides guidance on how Canada can and should provide redress for overseas victims of foreign corruption. Her article, "Providing for

Victim Redress within the Legislative Scheme for Tackling Foreign Corruption," appears in the *Dalhousie Law Journal*. The article examines the prospects for victim redress for the corporate commission of foreign corruption, using Canada as a case study.

Darcy Lindberg

Assistant Professor Darcy Lindberg, a specialist in nêhiyaw (Plains Cree) constitutionalism, examines how Indigenous legal traditions can expand our understanding of laws and constitutions in his latest publication. His commentary, "Drawing Upon the Wealth of Indigenous Laws in the Yukon," appears in a special issue of the peer-reviewed publication, the *Northern Review*. Lindberg advocates for more

recognition of the positive potential of constitutional pluralism, where multiple legal systems overlap and coexist in one place.

Tamar Meshel

Assistant Professor Tamar Meshel proposes a solution for international fresh water disputes in a research paper published in the *Harvard International Law Journal*. In the article, "Swimming Against the Current: Revisiting the Principles of International Water Law in the Resolution of Fresh Water Disputes," the expert in international water law argues that countries worldwide should change their approach to international fresh water disputes and focus on balancing harms — to each other and the environment — instead of arguing over what is "equitable" or "reasonable."

BILINGUAL GUIDES EXPLAIN HOW TO INTERPRET FEDERAL ACT ON INDIGENOUS CHILD WELFARE

Wahkohtowin Law and Governance Lodge creates resources to help navigate new law

By Sarah Kent

The Wahkohtowin Law and Governance Lodge is helping Indigenous communities and front-line professionals apply a new law that affirms Indigenous communities have inherent jurisdiction over the welfare of their children.

The Lodge has produced a library of guides in both English and French that unpack "An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families." Formerly known as

Bill C-92, the Act came into force on January 1.

The Act recognizes the inherent jurisdiction of Indigenous communities and nations to write their own laws regarding child and family services. It also sets national minimum standards that must be adhered to immediately, says UAlberta Law professor Hadley Friedland, co-lead of the Lodge.

But there are questions and concerns about the Act that may make it a

challenge to implement, she says.

"In order for any Act to really fulfil its intended purposes, people on the ground need to understand the law, interpret it in light of its purpose and do the hard work of applying it in unique factual situations. These guides are designed to take some of the uncertainty and guess-work out of doing this," says Friedland.

Six guides are currently available for social workers, service providers,

“People on the ground need to understand the law, interpret it in light of its purpose and do the hard work of applying it in unique factual situations.”

— Prof. Hadley Friedland

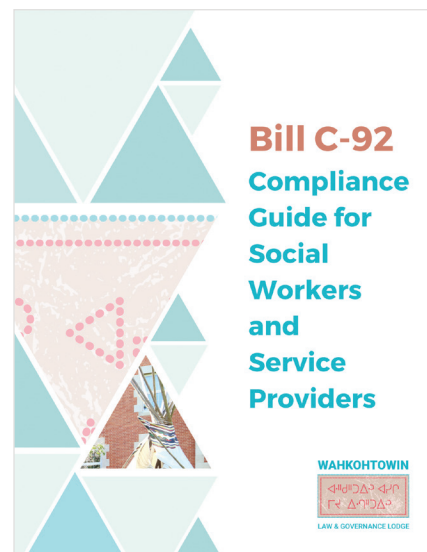
health care professionals, lawyers, Indigenous governing bodies and community members. The guides provide practical support, covering topics such as compliance for social workers, prenatal provisions for healthcare professionals and implementation for legal professionals.

“The national standards came into force January 1st, and we are still hearing that many legal and social

work professionals are not aware the law has changed,” says Friedland. “We want to produce high-quality resources to bridge this gap so the law is followed.”

In addition to writing and publishing guides on the new Act, the Lodge has created workshops, a webinar and teach-ins on how to build on the benefits of this new Act.

The Lodge is a joint initiative of the



University of Alberta’s Faculty of Law and Faculty of Native Studies. One of its mandates is to produce useful, accessible and practical governance resources and public legal education.

NEW BLOG TACKLES QUESTIONS ABOUT COVID-19 ORDERS, LEGISLATION, AND THE CONSTITUTION

Centre for Constitutional Studies provides weekly insights and information

By Sarah Kent

Canadians have questions about their rights and freedoms as their governments issue rapidly changing mandatory orders and new legislation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. A new blog from the Centre for Constitutional Studies is providing information and insights.

The blog, *Pandemic Powers and the Constitution* addresses constitutional issues that arise as the government responds to the global public health crisis. Launched in May and updated weekly, it features posts by legal scholars from across the country.

“It has been a great success — younger scholars engaging with senior

scholars, a great willingness to re-publish articles, and a great number of new posts on arising issues,” says Patricia Paradis, the executive director of the Centre.

Posts cover a range of topics from Indigenous jurisdiction to possible Charter rights infringements, and basic questions about the extent of government powers during a public health emergency.

In addition to the blog, the Centre continues with its speaker series, which is now offered via webinar, rather than in-person sessions.

“There are challenges to working with a webinar format, but the great

advantage is that we can reach so many more people,” says Paradis. “Where we used to draw a group of 40-50 people for a Downtown Charter event, we now draw between 180 and 200 participants from across Canada.”

In May, the Centre featured guest speakers Professor David Dyzenhaus of the University of Toronto, and Professor Paul Daly of the University of Ottawa, who spoke on emergency powers and legal principle during the pandemic. The webinar, which had an audience of participants from 13 countries, focused on the scope of emergency powers and the arguments used by governments to justify their actions.



STICKHANDLING HOCKEY PLAYERS' CONTRACTS

By Helen Metella

Manav Deol is a sports agent at renowned firm Wintersports Ltd.

Manav Deol may be too young to have been misled by Tom Cruise's version of a professional sports agent's life in the 1996 film *Jerry Maguire*, but some aspects of the job he now holds did surprise him.

"I was probably not aware of how much time I'd spend in front of a computer," says Deol, '14 JD/'15 MBA. "Like most people, I thought I'd be out and about watching games, doing deals on the sidelines."

Three years ago, Deol left his job as an associate lawyer practising labour and employment law at McLennan Ross to become a junior sports agent. As the hockey operations associate at Wintersports Ltd. (the Edmonton-based company founded by world-renowned hockey agent Ritch Winter), he does attend games, but the nuts and bolts of his work are research, analysis and relationship management.

The research consists mainly of "comparing numbers, comparing what statistical performance in the past has led to players getting a certain amount of money, looking at contracts as precedents." However, Deol also helps Winter prepare for player drafts at the NHL and junior hockey levels, and for contract negotiations. Both stay in touch with clients year-round, with services ranging from helping young players prepare for moves to a new city to finding and vetting sponsorship deals.

Relationships Deol forges with sports clients are far closer than those he developed during his law practice. "When you're representing young athletes, you're more than just an agent. You're a confidant, sometimes an older brother, watching them grow and achieve their goals."

As a former elite soccer player, Deol had been interested in representing

athletes since his teens. Throughout his studies, he'd cold-called North American sports agents for advice. In Winter, he found one of the NHL's top agents, who has represented some 300 players over 30 years, including such superstars as goalie Dominek Hasek and winger Marian Hossa.

Winter first put Deol to work on volunteer non-profit projects he was involved with and eventually introduced him to the Business of Hockey Institute, where Deol served as the managing director, carrying out the mandate of a group of highly accomplished hockey executives.

In his limited off-hours, Deol sits on the board of Free Footie, a grassroots, no-cost, after-school soccer league for vulnerable youth, and is a member of the FC Edmonton advisory committee.

To law students intrigued by his path, Deol offers two pieces of advice: network as hard as you can and make your calls asking the professionals for 15 minutes of their time now, while you're still a law student.

"Very few people in the sports industry will say 'no' to a student. It's a lot more difficult when you're not a student."

FORWARD
THINKING

NEW MOOT FOR FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS HONOURS FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE BEVERLEY MCLACHLIN

Funded by alumnus Elvis Iginla, the renamed Dean's Cup Moot will provide a cash award to top team

First-year law students at the University of Alberta will soon have the opportunity to compete in a moot that offers a financial prize while honouring an illustrious alumna.

Edmonton lawyer Elvis Iginla, '91 LLB, has established an endowment that will fund an annual award for the two-person team that wins the newly named Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin Moot.

"I know first-hand what it's like to win a moot in law school," said Iginla. "In 1990, I teamed up with James Brown for the client counselling competition, and under the tutelage of Professor Bruce Ziff we won the regional championship. The \$150 we each received went a long way to support the two poorest students in law school at the time."



The new moot, formerly known as the Dean's Cup, celebrates the many achievements of McLachlin, the former Chief Justice of Canada.

McLachlin received her LLB from UAlberta Law in 1968 and retired as head of the Supreme Court of Canada in 2017, after serving as the country's first female Chief Justice and its longest-serving head of the top court.

"Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin is a source of pride to me as an alumnus of University of Alberta law school," said Iginla. "Aside from being the first female Chief Justice, her impact on the development of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms will be recognized for a long time. She has brought great honour to our law school and to our province."

The former Dean's Cup is a first-year moot competition grounded in the Faculty of Law's curriculum. As part of the Faculty's first year Legal Research & Writing class, more than 90 teams of students participate in a mooting exercise.

The top 12 teams are invited to challenge for the top award in a competition that takes place each spring. Faculty judges adjudicate the early rounds. The final round is overseen by a panel of judges made up of the Faculty's dean of law and, typically, two members of the judiciary.

Iginla graduated from the Faculty of Law after studying medicine briefly. He also holds an honours degree in psychology from UAlberta, which he received in 1983. He founded Iginla & Company, his firm of personal injury lawyers, in Edmonton in 1999.

CLASS NOTES

SIX ALUMNI APPOINTED TO COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH

Six alumni of the University of Alberta Faculty of Law have been recently appointed to the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta, three in March and three in June

Melanie Hayes-Richards, '98 LLB,

has served on the Provincial Court in the Criminal Division since 2018. Before joining the bench, she practised primarily in the area of criminal law, working as a Crown prosecutor and as legal counsel for the Court of Appeal of Alberta. She has taught criminal law courses to police, prosecutors and law students, and has been active in the legal community, including as a faculty member for the Legal Education Society of Alberta. She recently served on the judges panel for the Clinton J. Ford Moot.

Nathan J. Whitting, QC, '97 LLB,

won the Horace Harvey Gold Medal in Law at UAlberta Law, and went on to earn a master of laws degree from Harvard Law School in 1998. In 1999-2000, he served as a law clerk to the Honourable Justice John Major of the Supreme Court of Canada. Whitting had a diverse litigation practice for the first 15 years of his career and subsequently practised criminal defence with a focus on criminal appeals. He represented former Guantanamo Bay detainee Omar Khadr in recent years. He is a past coach of UAlberta Law's Gale Cup Moot team.

Shaina Leonard, '02 LLB, '14 LLM,

was a maritime surface officer with the Royal Canadian Navy, Naval Reserve during law school. Upon graduation, she clerked with the Court of Appeal of Alberta and the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta. She worked with Borden Ladner Gervais LLP in Calgary. In 2006, she became a legal officer with the Canadian Armed Forces. She deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan in 2009, working alongside American military lawyers as a legal mentor to the Afghan National Army. In 2012, she moved to the Public Prosecution Service of Canada and became the deputy chief federal prosecutor for the Alberta region of the service in 2017. For the past three years, she has helped coach the Laskin Moot team at UAlberta Law.

Denise J. Kiss, '91 LLB,

formerly counsel at Bruyer Mackay Family Law in Edmonton, has practised family law for more than 27 years. She was an early advocate of alternative dispute resolution processes and had a particular interest in assisting clients with custody and parenting disputes. She was a member of the Alberta Citizen's Appeal Panel,

served on the Law Society of Alberta Conduct Committee and on the Appeal Committee for the Legal Aid Society of Alberta. She was also involved with the Independent Legal Advice Program for Survivors of Sexual Violence, offered through the Elizabeth Fry Society of Alberta.

Thomas Rothwell, QC, '97 LLB,

was the assistant deputy minister of the Legal Services Division at the Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General of Alberta in Edmonton. Prior to that, he worked with Alberta Justice and practised in the areas of Aboriginal, constitutional and health law. He was with the Edmonton firm Reynolds, Mirth, Richards and Farmer LLP from 1998 to 2004. He has co-taught constitutional litigation at UAlberta Law for the past seven years and in 2019 was co-awarded the Pringle/Royal Teaching Excellence Award. He served on the board of the Alberta Law Foundation and currently sits on the board of the Centre for Constitutional Studies.

Sherry L. Kachur, QC, '91 LLB,

formerly a partner and co-founder of WK Family Lawyers in Calgary, was first called to the bar in British Columbia and returned to Alberta to continue her practice. For most of her career, she has practised primarily in the area of family law. Access to justice, particularly in family matters, has been an important thread in her career. She is a past president of the Calgary Bar Association, was a volunteer at the Calgary Women's Centre and a dispute resolution officer. She has instructed at the Alberta Bar Admission course and numerous Legal Education Society of Alberta events, and has presented at the Federation of Law Societies' National Family Law Program, Canadian Bar Association events and the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants Investigative and Forensic Accounting Conference.

FORMER DEAN OF LAW AND EIGHT SESSIONAL INSTRUCTORS NAMED QUEEN'S COUNSEL



Paul Paton, the former dean of the University of Alberta Faculty of Law, was named Queen's Counsel in March as were eight other prominent Alberta lawyers who are currently sessional instructors at the Faculty of Law.

The lawyers awarded the prestigious honour are Doris Bonora, '86 LLB (who teaches wills and administration), Dino Bottos, '89 LLB (criminal law), Sandra Hawes, '96 LLB (professional responsibility), Maureen McGuire (appellate practice and procedure), Leslie Paetz, '92 LLB (insurance law), Christine Pratt, '92 LLB (insurance law and civil procedure), Tom Rothwell, '97 LLB (constitutional litigation) and Karen Smith (professional responsibility).

Paton completed a five-year term as dean of law in June 2019 and is scheduled to teach at UAlberta Law in Fall 2020 and Winter 2021. He is also the Thomas W. Lawlor QC Professor of Law and Ethics at UAlberta and a Visiting Scholar at Stanford Law, the American Bar Foundation and the UConn School of Law (University of Connecticut). "I am delighted to congratulate Professor Paton on his appointment as Queen's Counsel," said Interim Dean of Law David Percy, QC. "It recognizes his contributions, particularly in respect to his work on legal ethics, and his service to the Faculty and the legal profession."

ALUMNI RECOGNIZED FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS

Orest Yereniuk, '78 LLB, has been named a recipient of an Alumni Honour Award at the University of Alberta's Alumni Awards for 2020. The award recognizes the significant achievements and contributions, over a number of years, by University of Alberta alumni to their

profession and/or their community.

Chuen Hing William Cheung, '86 LLB, has been named a recipient of the Alumni Service Award which recognizes alumni who have demonstrated an extraordinary level of commitment, dedication and volunteer service to the University of Alberta.

The Alumni Awards ceremony has historically been hosted during Alumni Weekend in September. However, due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, the 2020 ceremony will be postponed to late February/early March 2021 in the hope of an in-person celebration for recipients

“(It’s) a signal, not just of our commitment, but of a need for the entire legal community to commit to improving conditions for students.”

— Howard J. Sniderman, QC, partner, Witten LLP



WITTEN LLP CHAMPIONS LAW STUDENTS’ MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVES

Michael O’Boyle Mental Health and Wellness Fund meets its fundraising target with firm’s generous donation

By Sarah Kent

Law students are part of a profession that is at high risk for experiencing mental health distress, so the University of Alberta Faculty of Law is grateful to a local law firm for stepping forward to help remove the stigma for students who need support.

Thanks to Witten LLP, the Michael O’Boyle Mental Health and Wellness fund has met its fundraising target and will support student-led mental health initiatives starting in the 2020-2021 academic year.

“The fund struck me immediately as meeting a need that, in our society as a whole, is underfunded and often swept under the rug,” says Howard J. Sniderman, QC, a partner at Witten LLP.

The fund honours the late UAlberta Law alumnus Michael O’Boyle, ’04 JD, who struggled with depression privately.

With a goal of raising awareness, the fund will support students in developing the skills they need to cope with the demands of the legal profession.

Sniderman hopes that the O’Boyle fund helps students recognize the signs of mental illness and seek support by “getting rid of the stigma that surrounds the reticence to say, ‘I need help.’”

Making the O’Boyle fund possible has been a community effort, with an initial seed gift from the O’Boyle family and donations from members of the Class of 2004. The fund took shape under the Faculty’s former dean of law, Paul Paton, QC, who committed considerable effort to enhancing mental health resources for UAlberta Law students during his tenure of 2014 to 2019.

“The Michael O’Boyle fund and its focus on mental health is one of the most important innovations in the recent

history of the law school,” said Interim Dean David R. Percy, QC, in March. “The donation from Witten LLP provides us with a firm foundation upon which we intend to build on in the future.”

Witten LLP’s pledge marks the first major donation from a law firm to the fund, but Witten has contacted other firms, “to let them know that we want them to follow suit,” says Sniderman. He hopes that news of the donation will be “a signal, not just of our commitment, but of a need for the entire legal community to commit to improving conditions for students.”



VIRTUAL CAREER DAY

September 25, 2020

Don't miss our
largest event!

We invite all Canadian legal employers to meet & mingle with UAlberta Law students — this year on an interactive virtual platform.

If you are an employer interested in participating, contact Career Services (lawcar@ualberta.ca).

The Student Articling Committee



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
FACULTY OF LAW

ALUMNUS BRUCE RAWSON SERVED IN SEVERAL DEPUTY MINISTER ROLES FEDERALLY, PROVINCIALY

1962 graduate was both a Queen's Counsel and Officer of Order of Canada

By Helen Metella

Bruce S. Rawson, OC, QC, a former deputy minister for both the provincial and federal governments, died on May 15.

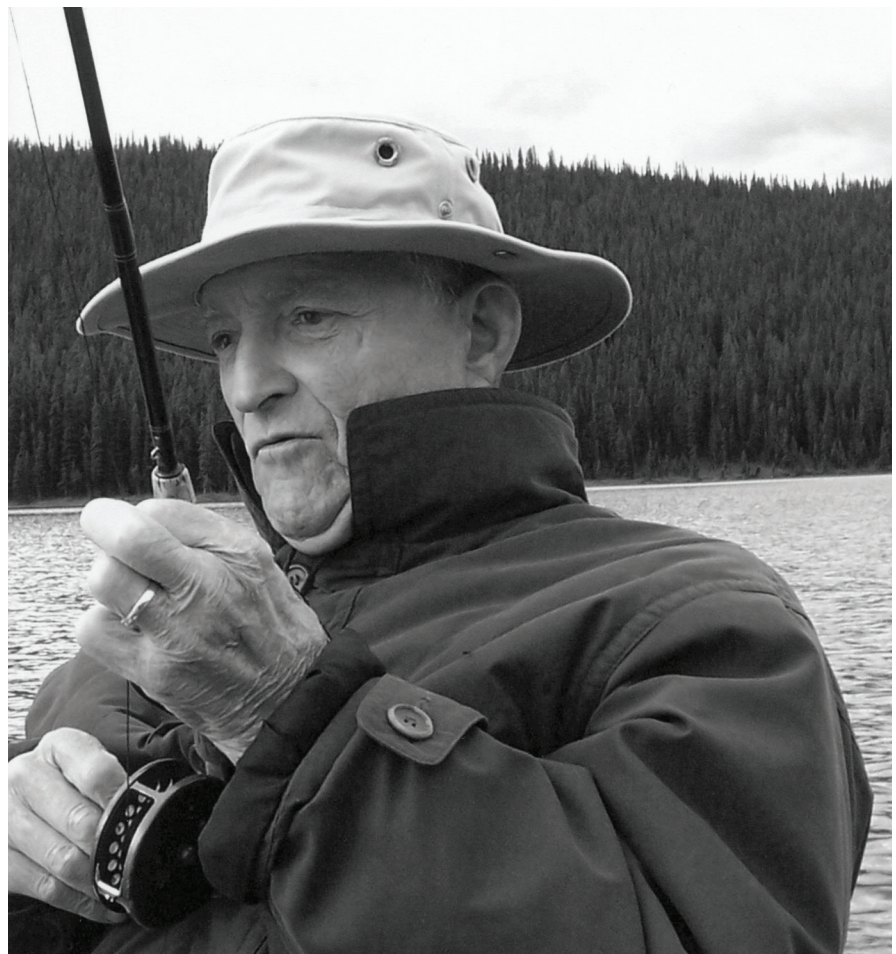
Rawson earned his LLB from the University of Alberta in 1962.

In Alberta, he served as the deputy minister of Community Health and Social Development. After relocating to Ottawa, he served as a deputy minister in multiple positions, including for National Health and Welfare; the Ministry of State for Social Development; Indian Affairs and Northern Development; Western Economic Diversification; and Fisheries and Oceans.

Rawson received the Public Policy Forum Award for distinguished service to Canada and the APEX award for outstanding leadership in the federal public service. He was co-director of the International Joint Commission Inquiry into the Red River Flood and a past chairman of the National Advisory Committee of the Banff School for Management. In 2008, he became the chief federal negotiator for Nova Scotia Comprehensive Claim negotiations.

He was named a Queen's Counsel in 1978 and an Officer to the Order of Canada in 1990. After his retirement, he furthered his career with Rawson Group Initiatives Inc., continuing to consult on and pursue socially relevant issues.

Rawson was born on July 1, 1935, in Saskatoon, Sask., and completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Saskatchewan. During his university



years, he served for one year as president of the National Federation of Canadian University Students (NFCUS) and led the Canadian student delegation at its annual meeting in Moscow.

In a published obituary, his family remembers him as an extraordinary mentor and leader. "Bruce made friends

everywhere he went, with people in all contexts, of all ages and backgrounds."

Rawson is survived by his wife, Mary Raylene Johnson, and his son Nicolas A. Surette. He was the cherished brother of Eric and his wife, Zivile, whom he considered his sister.

GIFT REPORT

The University of Alberta Faculty of Law continues to soar to new heights as a top law school globally, thanks in no small part to generous support from donors. This past year, we raised a total of \$3,110,033.

Your donations support scholarships, prizes, bursaries, new courses, research grants and extracurricular activities such as our competitive moot and peer support programs. They allow students the opportunity to fully immerse themselves in their legal studies and thrive both inside and outside of the classroom, helping to foster a faculty of dedicated scholars, teachers, practitioners and leaders.

APRIL 1, 2019 - MARCH 31, 2020

FACULTY OF LAW FUNDRAISING
ACHIEVEMENT TOTAL:

\$3,110,033

FUNDRAISING ACHIEVEMENT FOR APRIL 1, 2019 - MARCH 31, 2020 (Fiscal year) FACULTY OF LAW

\$1,000,000+

1 Individual Donor

\$100,000 - \$499,999

Genome Alberta
1 Individual Donor

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Canadian Blood Services
2 Individual Donors

\$25,000 - \$49,999

Witten LLP
2 Individual donors

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Beresh Law
Brownlee LLP
Canadian Petroleum Tax Society
Edmonton Bar Association
1 Individual Donor

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Bishop & McKenzie LLP
Emery Jamieson LLP
Institute for Liberal Studies
McLean McCuaig Foundation
Norton Rose Fulbright
Rocky Mountain Mineral Law
Foundation
Stikeman Elliott LLP

Terri and Roland Sturm
Foundation
5 Individual Donors

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Borden Ladner Gervais LLP
Canadian Energy Law
Foundation
Diane and Irving Kipnes
Foundation
Faculty of Law 2019 Graduating
Class
5 Individual Donors

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Bennett Jones LLP
Canons of Construction

CBM LLP
DLA Piper (Canada) LLP
Edmonton Community
Foundation
Gift Funds Canada Foundation
McCarthy Tétrault LLP
McCuaig Desrochers LLP
Simplex Legal
32 Individual Donors

Under \$1,000

187 Donations

Note: Donor count totals reflect total donations per giving level. Donors may be counted more than once.

FUNDING INITIATIVES

COMPETITIVE MOOT PROGRAM

The Faculty of Law distinguishes itself with one of Canada's premier competitive moot programs, having won 11 moot championships over the past three years, highlighted by three consecutive Gale Cup wins and a first place at the international Commonwealth Moot.

STUDENT BURSARIES & SCHOLARSHIPS

Help ensure that financial barriers to a legal education are lowered for those most in need by building on the over \$1.3M in scholarships, bursaries and awards that the Faculty of Law provides to students each year.



EVERY GIFT MATTERS

MAKE YOUR GIFT COUNT

To make a gift in support of the University of Alberta Faculty of Law, please contact:

John MacDonald, Assistant Dean, Advancement
780-492-6691 or john.macdonald@ualberta.ca

DONATE ONLINE ualberta.ca/law/make-a-gift



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
FACULTY OF LAW

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:

University of Alberta Faculty of Law
Law Centre
Edmonton Alberta T6G 2H5 Canada