A New Era at UND Law

The last eight months have seen the idea of an expanded and renovated School of Law facility translated into a set of design schematics and construction documents that will enable work to begin this summer soon after our May commencement. The result will meet our current needs and be readily adaptable to the future evolution of the school and of legal education.

The building project consists of a design focused on three major components, with the planning for each component reflecting the careful prioritizing that was established over the course of three on-site workshops conducted by the architects.

The first component is a 15,000 square foot addition located in the triangle between the north wall of the 1970s law library and the original 1920s building. This new space enables us to enrich the learning experience and increase the range of functions beyond those that could be accommodated within the existing structure. Key elements of the addition are:

• A medium-sized case-study classroom, seating 40-45 students. This room adds an option to our instructional program that has not been available, and that is well-suited to many of our 2nd and 3rd year course offerings.

• A teaching courtroom, so that our students will graduate having had the experience of advocating in a room similar to the courtrooms in which they will practice.

• A public entrance at grade level facing University Avenue, opening into a commons area that will be the “living room” of the school. Furnished with moveable soft seating, this space will be used for social and educational gatherings in a less formal setting. The commons area is the north end of a clear pathway into all the other functions of the school.

• Additional faculty offices that will permit all faculty to be housed in the law school, and allows for anticipated modest growth in the number of faculty.

• Multi-purpose meeting/seminar rooms on each floor of the addition, again adding to the inventory of options for the way in which we interact with our students and with each other.

• A new restroom core that extends through the 3 stories of the addition.

• A new elevator that reaches all floors of the addition as well as the existing building.

The second major component is the renovation of the law library. This part of our project brings the library into line with what our community wants and with national best practices.

• Reflecting the emphasis on “service, not shelving,” the renovated first floor of the library will be an open, welcoming space housing all of the service functions that library users would need. In addition, open table seating and small study and collaboration rooms will make this a place that students and the public will find suitable for gathering, studying, and working.

• The current basement level of the library will remain the location for most of the collection, retaining the compact shelving that was installed in 2003. Study rooms and tables will reflect the book-oriented uses of this floor.

• The second floor will have reduced shelving, with open seating and tables for users. The other element of this floor will be offices and work spaces for our co-curricular activities, including our student-edited journals, moot court, and a Student Bar Association office.

• The third floor will house the second largest portion of the collection, along with seating and study areas. As the need for shelving books diminishes in the future, the space can be converted to meet the most pressing needs of the future.

• Windows will be located along the east (Memorial Union) wall, and (in a shocking departure from tradition!) restroom facilities added to each floor.

The remaining component of the building project is the renovation of the original building. As with the other components, the focus is on the student learning experience, the encouragement of gathering and collaboration, and a service-oriented range of administrative and support functions.

• A remodeled legal clinic will occupy the entire north half of the basement level, with individual work space for up to 16 students as well as meeting and interview rooms.

• An adaptable classroom will be constructed in the other half of this floor, next to one of our large classrooms. The adaptable classroom will lend itself to our faculty experimenting with experiential and active learning methodologies in space that is more suitable for such techniques.

• The first floor of the original building will contain administrative and support functions, including all of the student life offices and the main administrative offices for the school.

• The second and third floors will largely retain their current uses, including the Baker Courtroom as one of the premier ceremonial courtrooms in legal education.

A great deal of time and thought have gone into the planning of the facility, at the same time that faculty and staff have been continuing to deliver high quality education and service, and also completing preparation for the regularly-scheduled reaccreditation by the ABA. During construction, all of the functions of the law school will be relocated to other parts of campus, so that the school can maintain operations as people eagerly await the Fall 2015 occupancy of the new home of the UND School of Law.
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Cover Photo: ICON Architectural Group and SHW Group design
Photo Right: 3L student committee for the annual Art Auction fund raising event.
The 2013 North Dakota State Legislature and North Dakota Governor Jack Dalrymple made a historic commitment to the legal future of North Dakota by supporting an $11.4 million appropriation to the University of North Dakota for an addition to and renovation of North Dakota’s only School of Law.
A New Era Begins

“Thanks to the funding provided through the 2013 Legislature and approval by the executive branch, as well as the tremendous support of our alumni and friends, we have had the opportunity to engage all of our constituencies in an exciting process of thinking about how a new and renovated facility can meet the needs of legal education at UND for the next 50 years,” said Dean Kathryn Rand.

The May 2013 legislative approval set in motion the building project, and in August, the project gained steam as UND President Robert O. Kelley named ICON Architectural Group in partnership with SHW Group to lead the addition to and renovation of the UND School of Law.

ICON, with offices in Grand Forks and Fargo, N.D., is a premier architectural firm in the Upper Midwest. SHW Group, headquartered in Texas, is a national architectural firm specializing in education facilities. Together ICON and SHW Group bring extensive experience working in higher education, specifically with law school building projects across the nation.

Kelley also appointed a formal committee to oversee the building project, as well as 11 external advisors who are available to the committee for input as needed. Rand and Professor Paul LeBel, former Dean and Provost, are co-chairs of the seven-member Building Planning Committee.

“We started this project without drawings or plans,” said Rand. “Instead we started with a strong sense of our needs. We’ve known that we have a great need for improved educational space, as well as improved study and workspace throughout the law school so those needs are guiding the design process.”

A Detailed Process of Information Gathering

September and October were devoted to an intensive program of information gathering from all constituents including faculty, staff, students, alumni and other outside experts. Information was gathered through online surveys, workshops, focus groups, individual meetings, through the work of the individual design teams and on two benchmarking trips to law schools in Minnesota and Wisconsin. The gathering period also included a
comprehensive review of how the existing building currently meets and falls short of the program of legal education.

The architects came to campus on three separate occasions to gather information, present findings and create design ideas. An initial design concept was presented through a public Town Hall meeting on December 3, which served as the starting point for the design work they completed during their visit. Immediately following the Town Hall, the architects set up a temporary workspace on campus and began to do “real time” design, revising and refining the initial schemes/drawings presented. They used onion skin paper to sketch out ideas presented during a series of drop-in design planning workshop sessions with students, faculty, staff and others interested in the project.

As the design began to take shape, the University took another important next step with a decision to employ Construction Engineers of Grand Forks to serve as the “construction manager at risk” for the law school project. A “schematic design” package was submitted to the construction manager in January. The package included schematic drawings from the architects, the mechanical engineers, and the electrical engineers. Construction Engineers will use the schematic design to refine cost estimates, leading to the “design development” phase, in which construction documents will be completed and put out for subcontractor bids.

The latest schematic design combines an addition of approximately 15,000 square feet with renovation of the original 1920s law school building and the law library that was built in the 1970s.

The addition is planned for the triangular open space to the north of the existing law library, turning the “stepped” glass wall of the library into an interior wall. The addition introduces a new entry on the north, or University Avenue, side of the building, leading into a commons area that will promote student gathering and provide space for law school events. Clear pathways from the entry will lead to the legal clinic, to the law library, and to the student life and law school administration offices. The addition also includes a restroom core on each floor and a new elevator that accesses all levels.

**Key Features of the Design**

The key features of the addition are directly related to the student educational experience. A medium-sized “case study” classroom will fill the gap between the large classrooms and the teaching spaces that accommodate seminars and small classes. The other major instructional space in the addition is a modern teaching courtroom that complements the more ceremonial nature of the Baker Courtroom. New multi-purpose conference/seminar/meeting rooms are designed into each floor of the addition, as well as in many parts of the renovated space.

Additional faculty offices will enable the school to bring all current faculty into the law building and provide for modest growth in the future. Administrative workspace renovations will make offices more accessible to students and more efficient for staff. Security will be linked to a card access system that gives law students, faculty, and staff access to the building itself and to locations within the building at times when it is not open to the public.
Renovation priorities focus on the student experience. A completely renovated legal clinic will comfortably house up to 16 students with work space and interview/meeting rooms. A new flexible classroom will be constructed next to the large classroom on the basement level. The student organizations office will be located adjacent to a student life center that includes offices for student support functions from recruitment and admissions through career placement.

An extensive renovation of the law library is included in the schematic design. Library personnel are engaged in the national best practice of reducing the size of the collection, so the focus can be on service rather than shelving. The collection would then be concentrated on the basement and third levels of the library. The first floor would become the focal point for library services and technology support, with the remainder of that floor converted into student gathering and study space. The planning for the second floor of the library includes office and work space for the co-curricular activities of student journals and moot court, and for the Student Bar Association. In a much welcomed new feature of the law library, restrooms will be located within the library for the first time since it opened in 1973. For a more specific listing of the proposed features, please refer to the Dean’s column on page 2.

The addition and renovation will emphasize the historic character of the original law school building, without trying to replicate the details in the addition. The case study classroom in the addition, for example, will have an arched ceiling similar to the current third floor. The renovations will be consistent with the original 1920s design, with the law library given a more modern and welcoming feel for students and other library users.

“It’s been fascinating to watch the architects brainstorm innovative solutions to design challenges in real time,” said Rand. “The emerging design reflects the character of our law school — serving students and our curriculum, making the best and most efficient use of every space, and creating a professional educational environment.”

This historic project marks only the second major renovation/addition associated with the Law School in its more than 100 years of existence. The only prior major upgrade was the addition of the law library in 1973.

“The emerging design reflects the character of our law school — serving students and our curriculum, making the best and most efficient use of every space. . .”

Dean Kathryn Rand
We all know this tired old saying: there are too many lawyers in America.

Not so, says North Dakota Supreme Court Chief Justice Gerald VandeWalle. He points out that some rural counties in the state have little or no access to legal services. Following a proposal from a North Dakota judge and the dean of the state’s only law school, VandeWalle announced earlier this year that three internships for law students will be made available to address the shortage.

The chief justice noted that 21 of North Dakota’s 53 counties have fewer than four attorneys, and four counties have no attorneys. So VandeWalle, quoting the proposal, said the internships will be with judges chambered in communities that have fewer than 15,000 people. The goal: to demonstrate to new lawyers the benefits of living and working in small communities.

University of North Dakota School of Law Dean Kathryn Rand and N.D. Judge Gail Hagerty, past president of the State Bar Association of North Dakota (SBAND), drafted and submitted a document titled “Rural Justice Proposal” to the Chief Justice for his support.

“This was a joint initiative of the state courts, the School of Law, and SBAND,” said Rand.

Hagerty, a former state prosecutor, has been elected several times to the bench of the South Central Judicial District; she's been a judge for 26 years. A Bismarck native and UND Law alumna, Hagerty says she and many other jurists and legal professionals in the state have been concerned for a long while about the lack of attorneys in many rural North Dakota communities.

“The American Bar Association has noted this too, and when I was president of the North Dakota State Bar Association, we were concerned about the need for judges, and state’s attorneys (prosecutors) in rural communities,” said Hagerty. “I resolved to undertake something that was doable in the short-term and would lead to some additional steps.”

“The first step was looking at having positions with rural judges,” she said. “So we decided to pilot-test that out, for students to work in the summer months with state’s attorneys, judges, and private practitioners, and continue with those relationships..."
through distance communications. We got funding from the legislature for this project.”

Hagerty sees the problem firsthand. “I am one of eight judges in the North Dakota South Central Judicial District, which covers a lot of western North Dakota,” she said. “Most of my work is in Bismarck and Mandan, but in rotation with the other seven judges in the district, I travel to rural communities such as Center and Stanton, where there are not enough attorneys to meet the growing needs of these places.”

Hagerty describes the challenge, “There are real legal needs out there — more oil and gas law, an increasing amount of probate matters, more crimes to deal with, and more need for family law. Right now, without immediate access to legal services, it’s very difficult for people, and it can increase costs. We also need more attorneys to do indigent defense work, we need more prosecutors, and we need more new practitioners. There’s a lot of potential in rural communities.”

Probate work is a specific case in point underlying the need for more rural legal practitioners.

“There’s a lot more probate work, for example, with property that wasn’t probated for generations,” Hagerty says. “Now we need to clearly establish ownership of the land and mineral rights. Some of that land was once thought not to be worth very much, but it’s suddenly worth a lot more.”

There is also more family law work, and a significant need for attorneys in criminal and business law.

The SBAND established a task force to evaluate the needs of the justice system in energy-impacted areas. They found a significant need for additional legal services, Hagerty noted.

She sees the developing partnership with the UND School of Law in this area as very beneficial to the state. “We have a wonderful partnership with the University of North Dakota School of Law because Dean Rand was very open to recognizing this need,” Hagerty said. “The school actively looked for ways to be part of the solution and to use technology to facilitate an ongoing relationship between students and practitioners.”

A meeting was held at the School of Law in October for a meet-and-greet with practitioners, judges, prosecutors, practicing attorneys and students, to stir up interest in rural clerkships.

“UND Law Assistant Dean for Student Life Brad Parrish is working on this with us,” Hagerty said. “This is really a unique project between the state judicial system and the law school to meet an identified need.”

The word already is getting around. “We’ve already had requests from other judges to expand the program, so if this pilot is successful we will explore whether we can place more students in similar clerkships and externships to serve our state’s justice system,” Rand said.

About the “Rural Justice Proposal”

Co-written by Rand and Hagerty, the Rural Justice Proposal basically outlines ways to directly address the shortage of law practitioners at all levels in many rural North Dakota counties.

“Rural counties in North Dakota are facing a crisis in terms of the availability of legal services,” the writers say in the proposal’s introduction.

The American Bar Association House of Delegates passed a resolution urging states to support efforts to “address the decline in the number of lawyers practicing in rural areas and to address access to justice issues for residents in rural America.” (Resolution 10B, adopted in August, 2012)

Rand has indicated the UND Law School is exploring ways in which it can support and facilitate the administration of justice in western and rural North Dakota. She has volunteered to work with the State Bar Association of North Dakota in exploring possibilities including assisting in lawyer referrals, working with the courts
and state agencies to develop student externship programs, expanding current programs, such as Attorney Services and Central Legal Research, to better serve needs in western North Dakota, and providing research and administrative assistance, office space, or other support to attorneys and organizations that serve low-income clients.

The heart of the proposal is the step supported by North Dakota Supreme Court Chief Justice Gerald VandeWalle in his January statement that the judicial system provide for two or three summer clerkships for law students with judges who are chambered and live in rural communities – communities of 15,000 or fewer residents. The law clerks would have an opportunity to reside in a rural community and work with a judge who would most likely travel to other rural communities.

In addition to the summer clerkship, opportunities for a continued working relationship with the judge could be provided by the Law School. When the law clerk returns to school, research and writing could be done for the judge and possibly the student could receive credit or receive other incentives to continue to provide services.

By: Juan Miguel Pedraza

Success in the West: Liz Pendlay Thriving in Rural Practice

Taking risks most times parallels change, and fear is the most natural human response to change. UND Law alumna Elizabeth Pendlay has not let fear hold her back from pursuing opportunities for her and her family.

She took her first major leap when she moved from her home in Wasilla, Alaska to Grand Forks, North Dakota to attend law school in 2004. After graduating from UND Law in 2007, she and her husband, Heath, weighed their options and ultimately made the decision to remain in the state they felt was home. “We didn’t want to leave North Dakota because of the sense of community. There is a great quality of life here and it is a wonderful place to raise a family,” stated Pendlay.

The Pendlays looked west. There were several things that attracted them to western North Dakota following graduation. Because of North Dakota’s expanding oil patch, the Pendlays knew there were great opportunities for anyone with an entrepreneurial spirit. Heath, the owner and operator of an agricultural trucking business, realized the need for new trucking firms in the oil fields. With their three children, Elyse, 12, and twins Vaughn and Olivia, 10, they made the move to western North Dakota.

Pendlay found her opportunity when she purchased the Stefonowicz Law Firm in Crosby N.D. from retiring attorney and UND Law alumnus Mike Stefonowicz. She is now the sole proprietor of Elizabeth Pendlay Law Firm. “Mike and I still work together pretty frequently, and he has been a great mentor to me,” said Pendlay.

This small town firm was particularly appealing to Pendlay because it enabled her to split time between private practice and serving the local government. She was

Photo: Judge Hagerty, along with other rural judges and attorneys, held a “rural practice” panel on campus in October.
appointed State’s Attorney for Divide County in 2008, filling Stefonowicz’s vacated seat. She was reelected and served in that position through 2013, when she stepped down to focus on her ever-growing private practice.

She maintains a hectic book of business, but enjoys the diversity of cases she is able to handle. Her general practice firm sees everything from family law and civil litigation to criminal law. Additionally, as the oil industry continues its exponential growth, oil and gas law makes up about 30 percent of Pendlay’s practice. Although she knew there was opportunity for her firm to grow, nothing could have prepared her for the high level of demand for legal services. “There is definitely more need out here for more attorneys,” said Pendlay. “Western North Dakota is hugely underrepresented. There is such an abundance of work out here more legal help is direly needed — everything from private property rights, criminal representation to family law — more lawyers are needed for things that deeply effect people on a daily basis.”

Pendlay’s law firm is the only one that has a physical presence in all of Divide County, and they have increased the number of phone lines to five to handle the volume of calls coming in. “It’s a lot of hard work, but it’s no less rewarding,” states Pendlay. She anticipates the need to add one or two associates in the near future. After her experience, fellow UND Law graduates would be at the top of her list to hire. “There is not a law school in the nation where you can get a better education for your dollar.”

In addition to her thriving practice, Pendlay is very involved in the Crosby community. “I think being a rural attorney is comprised of a number of responsibilities that some are professional and trade oriented, but I am also a mom, so just being a member of a community in a smaller place you are expected to wear many hats,” said Pendlay. For example she serves as Secretary of the Divide County Library Board, and was an ex-officio member of the City of Crosby Planning Commission. She also has a passion for her children’s interests and is an integral part of the Tumbleweeds Gymnastics Center and her law firm helps coordinate Law Day activities for the Divide County Elementary and High Schools by organizing lyceums for their student bodies. “You can’t help but get involved. That is what being a part of a community is about.”

The Pendlays see their residency in Crosby as long term. “There are so many opportunities for our family. There are so many things for our kids to do, from gymnastics, basketball and other sports, to Boy and Girl Scouts.”

The opportunities in western North Dakota are real. “There is great potential for economic opportunities in a rural market for those willing to be rural attorneys. It is also unique to have a set of circumstances where you can raise a successful family as well as a successful business,” says Pendlay. When asked what her advice would be to future attorneys hoping to follow a similar path, Pendlay advises, “Don’t be scared to take the leap and take over a practice or to start a new one. You need to proceed with caution, educate yourself, but also go forward with optimism. It’s hard work, but really, nothing worthwhile comes easily.”

By: Kelly Jordet
A four-year study focused on identifying the country’s best law teachers has uncovered something many UND Law School students and alumni already knew — Professor Patti Alleva is an example of national excellence in law teaching. A new book published by Harvard University Press prominently features Alleva, the Rodney & Betty Webb Professor of Law, as one of 26 “best law teachers” in the United States.

“Patti’s teaching, and her innovative curricular contributions, inspire a type of transformative learning,” said Dean Kathryn Rand. “That’s the kind of educator Patti is — truly one of our profession’s best, and I’m delighted for her, our law school, and our State, that Patti’s extraordinary impact has received national recognition of the highest order.”

Alleva’s former deans share similar sentiments. She is “a teacher’s teacher of superb skill and dedication to craft,” said Jerry Davis. And Paul LeBel, describing Alleva as a “consummate professional,” sees her as “one of the most intentional thinkers about education” that he has encountered in his academic career who “challenged us to be very serious about how we taught, why we taught in those ways, and how we could become even more effective in serving the needs of the generations of law students who would shape the profession for the next forty years.”

What The Best Law Teachers Do, authored by noted legal scholars Michael Hunter Schwartz, Gerry Hess, and Sophie Sparrow, is the culmination of their work that sought to identify extraordinary law teachers. It is the first systematic study of its kind. “The book describes how 26 amazingly dedicated and dazzlingly effective law teachers do their work,” said Schwartz.

Alleva was selected out of more than 250 nominees nationwide. The authors, in addition to reviewing submitted teaching materials and letters of support, visited each of the study subjects at their law schools in order to observe their classroom behavior and to conduct lengthy interviews with the subjects as well as their current and former students. “The study itself inspired me to examine, in new ways, who I am as a teacher-scholar,” Alleva reflected. “It was not only an honor to be involved, but an invaluable learning experience.”

So what makes Alleva — a two-time recipient of UND’s Lydia & Arthur Saiki Prize for Graduate or Professional Teaching Excellence, a multiple winner of UND’s outstanding student advisor award, and an articulate advocate for legal education reform whose recent article on learning was featured on the Wall Street Journal Law Blog — an outstanding teacher? The authors describe the study subjects as thoughtful, creative, authentic, humble, engaging, and committed to and respectful of students and the process of learning. According to Hess, who came to Grand Forks and sat in on Alleva’s innovative Professional Visions class, “All of the teachers we studied are regarded as being among the most rigorous professors at their law schools who have high expectations of every student, yet they also are known for their kindness to their students.”

Impacting the Lives of Her Students

A review of the many letters in support of Alleva’s selection clearly show the impact she has had on the lives of her students both within and beyond the classroom walls. Carlee McLeod, ‘05, credits Alleva with giving her a “gift” that she uses every day in her career. That gift is “the knowledge that every decision, every direction, has a life of its own,” she said. “To really understand our role in society, we need to jump into the ripples our actions cause and understand, from every possible angle, their whole effect.”

Other letters highlight Alleva’s commitment to her students and their professional success. She challenges them, but takes an interest in them as people. Several explain how she has been a mentor, helped deal with academic concerns, served as advisor on extracurricular activities,
and assisted in their job search. Lori Conroy, ’09, said, “Initially, I asked Professor Alleva to draft a letter of recommendation. What she offered in return went much further. I was absolutely amazed at the care, precision and effort she exhibited on my behalf during the search.”

Alleva’s commitment to class preparation and teaching style engages the student in the learning process. “You wanted to excel in her class because you knew that she was dedicated to your being the best you could be,” said 1996 alumna Alana Bassin. “Her teaching wasn’t just about covering the syllabus for the sake of academia – it was about conveying the information so that a student could understand its significance in the real world context.”

Shawn Seiler, ’03, agrees. “She is not afraid to use dramatics, comedy, or puppets to help students learn. She exemplifies the true spirit of teaching and it is immediately apparent that her only goal is to help students learn.” Seiler added, “Her approach is not to intimidate or scare students. Instead, she fosters an environment where students are not afraid to give the wrong answer. She teaches through her own pure enjoyment and enthusiasm for life and the law. This environment allowed me to leave my fears at the door and absorb everything she taught.”

This is Alleva’s 26th year teaching at UND, and she feels fortunate to serve in her role as professor. “I am privileged to participate in what I hope is the transformative process of helping students to reach new understandings of subject, self, and society that, in turn, will fuel their distinctive contributions to the world at large,” said Alleva. Jackie Stebbins, a 2009 graduate, said “[Alleva’s] enthusiasm and compassion are two of her most powerful characteristics and the combination makes her an influential law school professor.”

**Professional Visions Course Inspires**

One of those influences is a unique course addition to the UND Law curriculum, which explores professional identity, judgment, and the relational side of lawyering. Professional Visions, which Alleva designed from the ground up and first taught in 2003 before the current focus on these subjects, is an example of her interest in helping students understand their future role as an attorney and the impact they will have on the lives of those they work with. The class uses theory and literature to examine the human dimensions of being a lawyer, especially the interpersonal and emotional dynamics between lawyer and client as well as the lawyer’s metacognitive realm.

“[S]tudents can discover the humanity of the law. It’s not just about applying rules to fact patterns,” said Dean DePountis, ’10, about the class. “Practicing law is also about learning to be comfortable with awkward circumstances and finding a way to navigate through the grey mess that is life.” Her students describe Professional Visions as one of their favorite and most important courses taken in law school. As DePountis described it, “[Alleva] has an uncanny ability to challenge without intimidating and to guide without molding.” Said 2009 graduate Wendy Ellis-O’Konek of the class, “She inspires you to be a better person and to appreciate the honor and privilege we have, as the few who become lawyers, to serve our fellow mankind.”

Alleva believes ultimately, the best teachers are perennial students who never forget that sometimes there is as much to learn as there is to convey, and that true teaching is not imposing ideas on students, but facilitating understanding and creation of their own. “One of the most powerful and lasting lessons Professor Alleva taught me was that lawyers are lifelong learners,” said 2005 graduate Melissa Burkland. “Knowing that I will never be done learning has made me a better lawyer.”

Alleva’s selection as one of the best law teachers in the nation is summed up most aptly by 2005 graduate Candace Hawkins who said, “Professor Alleva is a teacher that changes lives — the lives of her students, and perhaps most importantly, the lives of the clients her students go on to represent.”
On March 1, 1996, Mary Maring was appointed by then Governor Edward Schafer to the North Dakota Supreme Court to fill the vacancy created by Justice Beryl Levine’s retirement. Maring became only the second woman in the history of North Dakota to serve as a justice on the North Dakota Supreme Court. She brought to the Supreme Court more than 20 years of experience practicing law in North Dakota and Minnesota state and federal courts.

At a retirement celebration for Maring, former Governor Schafer explained the importance of an appointment to the Supreme Court and how it takes careful consideration. For Schafer, after a personal visit with Maring, his decision became very clear. “She was very intelligent. She had the mind to be a successful justice. Mary had the soul and understood the soul of North Dakota and its heritage, the soul of our people and the sense of being a North Dakotan. Third is Mary’s heart. She has a heart for the state and our people.”

Maring’s heart, mind, and soul were what made Schafer confident he had selected the right person. He said, “There has not been one second since I have made that decision that I have doubted her appointment.”

In her retirement letter to Governor Dalrymple, Justice Maring wrote, “It has been my distinct pleasure to have served on the Court for the past 17½ years. I am thankful to former Governor Ed Schafer for appointing me to the Supreme Court in March of 1996 and to the wonderful people of North Dakota who elected me in 1996, 1998, and 2008 to my position on the Court.”

During her time on the Court, Maring heard more than 3,800 oral arguments and wrote more than 820 opinions. Numerous Court milestones and administrative improvements were realized during her time on the bench. She is credited with the implementation of gender fairness initiatives, creation of North Dakota juvenile drug courts, creation of the Justice Teaching Institute public outreach program and significant advancements in judicial education.
Her contributions and dedication to the judiciary and legal system extend well beyond the borders of North Dakota; particularly, through her work with the National Association of Women Judges, the National Center for Civic Education, the Institute for Faculty Excellence in Judicial Education, and the Advanced Science and Technology Adjudication Resource Project to name a few.

Embodying the spirit of leadership, aside from her judicial role, Maring frequently volunteers to serve on church and community committees, mentors students, coaches and encourages young leaders, and speaks to classes, groups and service clubs.

Chief Justice Gerald VandeWalle said of Maring, “We will greatly miss her presence on the Court. Justice Maring has an outstanding work ethic and her analysis and research on each case that comes before the Court is thorough and detailed. She has been tireless in promoting the rule of law. I personally will miss her guidance and wise counsel, her energy, and her friendship.”

“No one does this job or reaches this point in their career without support from many individuals and I thank them for it and that goes back to Justice Beryl Levine and Governor Ed Schafer,” said Maring. “This is the pinnacle for a lawyer’s career, and I love the law so this has been a perfect career for me.”

Maring will stay connected to the court as she has agreed to serve as a surrogate judge.

McEvers Appointed to Court

The torch has now been passed to McEvers, another UND Law School alumna, and Maring is pleased with the selection. She said, “The state of North Dakota is very fortunate to have Lisa Fair McEvers as the new justice and I wish her well. I know she will serve as justice with lots of passion.”

McEvers was selected from a highly qualified group of four finalists. “Judge McEvers brings a wealth of experience to the position of Supreme Court justice, experience that includes private practice litigation, trying criminal cases before a jury and presiding over civil and criminal cases as a judge,” Dalrymple said. “She has a proven track record of success at every position she has accepted, including her service as a District Judge and North Dakota Commissioner of Labor.”
New Faculty, First-Year Curriculum, and Curricular Mission Statement

Paul LeBel joined the School of Law as Dean in May 2004. In 2009, at the request of University President Robert O. Kelley, Dean LeBel undertook the duties of the University’s Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost. LeBel retired as Vice President and Provost in 2013 and has returned to the UND Law School as Professor of Law. He is a 1977 graduate of the University of Florida College of Law, and earned his B.A. in American Literature from George Washington University in 1971. He served in the United States Air Force from 1971 to 1975. His primary scholarly interest is in the field of tort and personal injury law, including products liability, workers’ compensation, and the relationship between tort law and the First Amendment. He has also taught and written about law and American literature.

Anne Mullins received her J.D., with honors, from the University of Chicago School of Law. She was a member of the University of Chicago Law Review, and she was named a Tony Patino Fellow for her academic achievement, leadership, and commitment to public service. She received her B.A. from Dartmouth College. Professor Mullins teaches in the areas of legal research and writing, judicial writing, and trial advocacy. Her scholarship focuses on judicial writing and judicial decision-making. Prior to coming to UND Law, Professor Mullins started her academic career at the University of Oregon School of Law, where she taught in Oregon’s top-ranked Legal Research and Writing Program.

Tammy Pettinato received her J.D. from Harvard Law School, her MSI from the University of Michigan, and her BA, magna cum laude, from Gannon University. During law school, she served as an editor on the Harvard Negotiation Law Review and worked as a research assistant for Professor Martha Minow. Her research is broadly focused on issues of racial, sexual, and socio-economic equality. She has written in the areas of criminal procedure, family law, democratic theory, and legal education generally. She teaches Lawyering Skills I & II, Employment Discrimination, and Disability Law. Prior to joining UND, she was a Visiting Assistant Professor of Law at the University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law. She has also taught at UCLA School of Law and the University of La Verne College of Law.

Christyne Vachon was a visiting professor at UND Law for the 2012-13 school year, and is now on the full-time faculty. Previously, Professor Vachon taught at the University of Nebraska College of Law as the Clayton Center for Entrepreneurial Law Visiting Professor, at the University of Tennessee College of Law, and as adjunct faculty at Northeastern University. She also taught as a fellow in the master’s program at Swinburne University in Melbourne, Australia. She received a B.A. from Wellesley College and a J.D. from the University of Denver, Sturm College of Law, where she was a Chancellor Scholar and editor for the University of Denver Law Review and the Journal of International Law and Policy.
New First Year Curriculum

When the UND School of Law’s Class of 2016 began its studies last fall, it had the distinction of being the first class to experience the benefits of a newly reconfigured and expanded first-year curriculum. The Faculty adopted these changes in pursuit of the goals expressed in the Law School’s Curriculum Mission Statement (see below), with its overriding objective “to produce competent and ethical lawyers with entry-level proficiency and professional self-sufficiency in any setting . . . .”

A centerpiece of these changes is a new two-credit class called Professional Foundations. This innovative course will focus student learning squarely on developing the foundations of professional persona. It is especially intended to complement the first semester’s primary emphasis on thinking, writing, and researching about the law. Thus, Professional Foundations will create an intentional semester-long space, outside of any particular substantive law setting, in which students will be expressly encouraged to cultivate a reflective mindset and the habits of being that are vital to the development of professional identity and the exercise of sound professional judgment. The course will not be an abstract examination of professionalism, but an opportunity for students to ask themselves “What would I do and how would I feel as a lawyer in that situation.”

Another unique feature of this thirteen-session course is who will be teaching it — a team of nearly the entire Faculty will bring their collective experience and insights to this exciting educational venture. Professors Patti Alleva and Michael McGinniss serve as the inaugural Course Coordinators, charged with developing the course and working with faculty team members to achieve a compelling whole. The varied line-up of professors will introduce first-year students to more than first-year faculty and help to ensure a diverse educational experience with contributions made from multiple perspectives and areas of expertise.

The course learning goals revolve around exploring and experiencing a number of highly important professional qualities, including dealing with unpredictability, confronting mistakes, displaying courage, acting diligently, being empathic, maintaining integrity under pressure, and cultivating sympathetic detachment.

Additional changes to the first-year curriculum involve both Property and Constitutional Law. Property is now taken only in the first semester and has expanded to a four credit course. Constitutional Law I is now taken in the second semester of the first year, and Constitutional Law II is delayed until the first semester of the students’ second year. First-year students take a total of 31 credits during the calendar year.

UND Law Curricular Mission Statement

The curricular mission of the University of North Dakota School of Law is to produce well-rounded legal professionals with the necessary skill set to serve as effective, innovative, and ethical leaders. Our distinct character as one of the smaller public law schools in the nation informs our program of legal education, which is designed to produce competent and ethical lawyers with entry-level proficiency and professional self-sufficiency in any setting and reflects a cooperative and collaborative approach to teaching and learning. Our curricular goals are to facilitate each student’s professional and personal development and to promote the highest professional standards, critical thinking, self- and other-awareness, creative problem-solving skills, life-long learning, and a commitment to serving society.
Dana Blue, DRI Diversity Award Recipient

Dana Blue, a third-year student, is the co-recipient of a $10,000 Law Student Diversity Scholarship from DRI. Mary Massaron Ross, President of DRI, in presenting the award, said, “Dana is a DRI Diversity Scholarship winner because of her demonstrated character, academic achievement, and contributions to the less fortunate in her community.”

She learned of the scholarship opportunity from a partner at the Schnader, Harrison, Segal & Lewis law firm, a Philadelphia based firm she had worked for during the summers of 2012 and 2013. The criteria included an essay on uniform asset freezing orders and at least two letters of recommendation, which she acquired from Assistant Dean Brad Parrish, Professor Julia Ernst, and Al Dandrige, the partner who recommended she apply for the scholarship. “I put in a great amount of effort, but I wasn’t expecting to win,” said Blue.

In May, Blue was invited to Chicago to receive the award and attend the DRI Diversity Seminar. The three-day conference offered a wide variety of sessions and workshops related to defense attorneys as well as social gatherings and networking events. She met several attorneys from around the country and found herself with many potential job opportunities. “I am so proud of Dana and I am so proud of UND School of Law for enabling one of our students to receive the national recognition that Dana has done. It’s phenomenal both for her and for UND School of Law to have this recognition,” said Professor Julia Ernst.

Blue earned her Bachelor of Arts degrees from the University of Southern California in Broadcast Journalism and Political Science. She is the President of the Black Law Student Association and worked as a Legal Researcher for Central Legal Research at the UND Law School.

DRI is a 50-year old professional legal organization representing 22,000 members of the defense bar nationally. Membership provides access to resources and tools for attorneys who strive to provide high-quality, balanced and excellent service to their clients and corporations. DRI focuses on five main goals including education, justice, balance, economics and professionalism. “I really appreciate their efforts to maintain diversity in the legal field as well as within their organization,” said Blue.

By: Beth Moe

Stacie Crawford Hired As Summer Associate In Indian Law Firm

Only two dozen law schools in the country offer an Indian Law Certificate program and the University of North Dakota School of Law is one of them. The program provides specialized instruction to students who are interested in practicing Indian Law. Stacie Crawford, a second-year student at UND School of Law, is actively pursuing the certificate and credits the program and the courses she is taking within it for her success in obtaining a Summer Associate position with the Fredericks, Peebles & Morgan law firm, a firm that is “dedicated to representation of American Indian tribes and organizations throughout the United States.”

During the interview, they asked her about the courses that make up the Indian Law Certificate program. After some research on their end, they realized it is rare for a law school to offer such programs and the ones that do are extremely unique. “I think that might have been one of the key selling points for me,” said Crawford.

She will begin her 12-week Associate position in May and will be located in their Rapid City, South Dakota office. Crawford will be traveling extensively to reservations in South Dakota and North Dakota, working with the tribal courts on housing, employment laws, economic development, federal Indian law, and litigation matters.

Prior to coming to law school, Crawford received her undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Phoenix in Hawaii while working for the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS). She then worked in tribal law as a tribal prosecutor and a tribal judge. After attending a conference by the Tribal Judicial Institute in Billings, Montana, she met the director, BJ Jones, who sparked her interest in law school. When new federal laws for the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) were incorporated, stating that only law-trained judges and public defenders were acceptable, something that her tribe lacked, Crawford decided that it was time to go to law school in order to give back to her tribe. She chose UND because it was the closest law school to her home that offered the Indian Law Certificate. “UND was the only school that I applied to, and I was lucky enough to get in.”

Crawford is a member of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in Poplar, Montana. She is married with seven children.

By: Beth Moe
The UND Law team of Tom Coyer, Sharon Lo, and Erica Woehl earned the title of Regional Finalist for advancing to the final round at the National Trial Competition for Region 9, which consisted of 22 teams from seven states.

“We could not be prouder of their performance! Tom, Sharon, and Erica were simply outstanding each step of the way, eliminating top-tiered law schools and schools with long-established and nationally-recognized trial advocacy programs,” said Trial Team faculty coach Denitsa Mavrova Heinrich.

The team of three tried their final case before experienced district court judges and esteemed private practitioners, including Brian O’Neill, the presiding judge for the final round. O’Neill is best known for serving as lead counsel for plaintiffs in the Exxon Valdez oil spill trial. His comments to our students at the end of the final round embody the preparedness, passion, and professionalism they demonstrated during each of the rounds: “If I were still practicing law, I’d hire you in a heart beat!”

The final round was as close as Mavrova Heinrich has seen it. “We lost by the narrowest of margins, 2:1 in judges’ votes, with only five points differential, 280 to 275. But as we told the students at the end of the round, they could not have tried the case any better.”

Mavrova Heinrich reflected on the work the team did to prepare for the competition. “It was an absolute pleasure watching their hard work over the last few months pay off—they have practiced countless hours and have made limitless revisions to their opening statements, closing arguments, motions in limine, and examinations, all the while keeping a positive attitude and showing a tremendous appreciation for the skills our trial advocacy program has allowed them to gain.”

UND Law’s other team, consisting of Beth Alvine, Cody Atkins, and Kyle Craig, also made their coaches extremely proud. Although they did not advance, the team won one of their preliminary rounds and lost the second one by a close margin, 2:1, to the Creighton team that ultimately went on to become Region 9’s champions. Each of them was praised, over and over again, for their excellent control of the courtroom, their command of the case, and their knowledge of the rules of evidence and procedure.

“I want to take a moment and express my gratitude for the amazing support we received from our bench and bar as we prepared for the competition,” said Mavrova Heinrich. “Over the last few weeks, we have had federal judges, a Supreme Court Justice, and some of the best trial lawyers in the state graciously give up their weekend plans to come and assist with the preparation of our team. They did so because they truly believe the practical skills our students gain by participating in trial advocacy courses are precisely the skills they need to succeed in the practice of law.”

Mavrova Heinrich also gives a great deal of credit to the team’s adjunct coaches, Aubrey Zuger and Lori Conroy, both former Trial Team members. “Aubrey and Lori have devoted their time, effort, and expertise to helping our students become better advocates. They have spent days, nights, and weekends preparing the students not only for the competition, but also for the practice of law; and by simply being who they are, Aubrey and Lori have served as wonderful role models for everyone involved,” said Mavrova Heinrich. “Their love for our trial team program is contagious, their commitment to the program is unwavering, and their contribution to the program’s success is undeniable.”
Making A Difference

Strong Support For UND Law

The School of Law is privileged to have a dedicated family of alumni and friends who have a strong interest in giving back. Those gifts enhance our educational program, support our faculty, and provide opportunity for our students in many ways. Through the last fiscal year, the UND School of Law has seen an increase in both the number of total donors and gifts made, in addition to realizing a 28 percent increase in the law school endowment. The following are just a few of the many examples of our generous alumni and friends.

In Support of Priority Needs

Jack Marcil, ’68, continues to enjoy the benefits of deferred giving plans, and has made additional direct gifts to his existing endowment to increase the amounts of both his trial advocacy and alternative dispute resolution scholarships. In addition he has contributed to the Foundation to establish additional deferred gift annuities. He has created the Jack Marcil Law Endowment that will be funded with the remainder of those life income arrangements with the UND Foundation. This endowment will support priority needs of the School of Law.

In Support of Innovative Programs

A number of former law clerks of the late Judge Rodney S. Webb have been funding, with annual gifts, a jurist-in-residence program at the School of Law for the past year. Sara K. Sorenson, ’01, saw the need to honor the Judge on a permanent basis. Sorenson has a very high regard for the late Judge Webb. She considered him a true mentor who helped launch her legal career. To honor him, she has provided for the establishment of the Judge Rodney Webb Jurist-in-Residence Endowment. Allocations from the endowment will provide funding for a sitting or retired judge, or appropriate attorney or scholar, to serve as an “in-residence” visitor at the UND School of Law for the educational benefit of faculty and students.

Judge Jim, ’53, and Beverly Carrigan recently funded the Judge Jim and Beverly Carrigan Trial Advocacy Endowment through the UND Foundation. Allocations from the endowment will be used to provide scholarships to the winning student team in the annual Carrigan Cup Trial Competition, and/or other UND School of Law students who have demonstrated excellence in trial advocacy.

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Johnnie and Howard, ’69, Moum, decided their gift to the UND School of Law would come after their lifetimes, so they included a provision within their will to support the law school. Their estate was recently settled and as a result the law school received a generous bequest. The provision is unrestricted, so their gift can support many areas within the School of Law.

UND Foundation donors James, ’60, and Verna Johnson have a love of aviation and aerospace. The Johnsons have generously given to create an endowment, which was eligible to be matched by the new North Dakota Match Program established by the North Dakota Legislature. Allocations from the endowment will support scholarships in the School of Law for a law student who is pursuing a U.S. Air Transportation Policy Certificate.

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In Support of Passionate Students

Leslie Johnson Aldrich, ’83, wanted to support a student organization that was close to her heart and had a positive impact during her years in law school. She established the Leslie Johnson Aldrich School of Law Endowment to support educational initiatives, including scholarships and programs, of the Law Women’s Caucus student organization.

Friends of the Law School Sheila and Earl McClennen, of Bismarck North Dakota, made a generous gift to the University of North Dakota Foundation to benefit the School of Law. With their gift, they established the Justice Paul M. Sand Memorial Law Scholarship Endowment in honor of Sheila’s late father, a 1941 graduate who served as a Justice on the North Dakota Supreme Court. The proceeds from the endowment will provide scholarships for UND law students with a preference toward North Dakota residents from a smaller community or rural area with an interest in work in state government or other public service in North Dakota.

William Saltzman attended the School of Law and wanted to help students from outside of North Dakota, like himself, earn a degree at the UND School of Law. He has made gifts through the UND Foundation to establish the William H. Saltzman Law Scholarship Endowment. It will provide scholarships for non-resident students attending UND Law.

Additional endowed funds were established to provide much needed scholarships for our students. R. Jon Fitzner, ’64, established The R. Jon Fitzner School of Law Scholarship Endowment, which is awarded annually to a law student who is a graduate of a North Dakota high school and Constance Hofland, ’80, ’00, and Craig Johnson, ’78, ’80, ’82, created the Hofland and Johnson Law Scholarship Endowment to support law students who have earned an undergraduate degree in one of the sciences.

With Other Types of Gifts

Richard Jeffries, ’70, donated an electronic version of his new book titled The Confidence to Pass: Study Tips for the Uniform Bar Exam and Any Bar Exam. He wanted to share it with the students and faculty at UND Law to help in their preparation.

David, ’61, and Karen Johnson, ’62, donated a beautiful doctoral hood to the School of Law. David used it during commencement ceremonies through his career as a law faculty member. Upon his retirement, they wanted to find a home for this special garment. It will continue to be used in UND Law commencement ceremonies.

We hope you will consider joining in our success. For information about supporting the UND School of Law, contact UND Foundation School of Law Development Director Mark Brickson. He will assist you with your philanthropic goals to benefit the law school.

Email - markb@undfoundation.org or call 1.800.543.8764
You can also make your gift to the law school online at law.und.edu/alumni/ Click on the “Make a Gift” button on the left.
Five Selected to Clerkships with North Dakota Supreme Court

The North Dakota Supreme Court selected its clerks to serve for the 2014-15 term. The students will begin on August 1, 2014, and serve a one-year term. All five are currently students at the UND School of Law and natives of North Dakota. The clerks selected are Andrew Askew of Devils Lake, North Dakota; Meagen Essen of Fargo, North Dakota; Justin Hagel of Napoleon, North Dakota; Jill Martin of Jamestown, North Dakota; and Erica M. Woehl of Bismarck, North Dakota. All five are currently finishing their third year of law school and are expected to graduate in May.

N.D. Public Service Commission Holds Hearing in Baker Courtroom

The North Dakota Public Service Commission held a public hearing in the Baker Courtroom in February. The topic of the hearing was on the applications of Enbridge Energy LLC, pertaining to a proposed 299-mile, 24-inch crude oil pipeline in North Dakota. The hearing drew a large crowd of interested participants. Their visit provided an invaluable opportunity for students to see the work of the Commission up close. In addition, Commissioner Brian Kalk gave a presentation to the law students in the Energy Law Association the evening prior to the hearing.

Vachon Appointed to ABA Committees

Assistant Professor Christyne Vachon was recently appointed to the American Bar Association (ABA) Business Law Education Committee’s Task Force to Define Business Law Competencies. The Committee is identifying core competencies for business law lawyers and how to achieve education of these competencies in law school. In addition, Vachon has been asked to serve on the ABA Corporate Law Committee as the state liaison for North Dakota. This committee is tasked with maintaining the Model Business Corporation Act.

New Course Leads Law Students to be Published

This fall, students had the opportunity to take a new innovative course entitled Professional Writing & Communication. The course, which was designed and taught by Professor Mavrova Heinrich, offered students a chance to develop skills in the “other” types of written and oral communication lawyers are often expected to produce in practice. As a result, two sets of students had their work published in state legal publications. Students Austin Lafferty, Brittany Wollin, and Magdaleno Gutierrez published an article titled “Melvin Webster: Pioneering the Use of Rule 3.1 to Give Back” in the State Bar Association’s official publication, The Gavel. A second group including students Joseph Lassonde, Anders Odegaard and Amy Aughinbaugh had their article titled “It Bears Repeating: Performance Appraisals Are Good Business” published in the North Dakota Employment Law Letter.

Three Selected for Upper Missouri Bar Association Scholarships

Kirsten Sjue, Assistant State’s Attorney for Williams County, recently announced the Upper Missouri Bar Association has awarded three $500 scholarships to students at the UND School of Law. The recipients are Zachary Eiken, Ty Skarda, and Aaron Weber. All three are currently in their second-year of law school.

Moot Court Teams in Washington D.C. Competition

On February 7 & 8, two teams from UND Law competed at George Washington Law School in Washington D.C. in the National Religious Freedom Moot Court Competition. The two teams included third-year students Ben Sand, Jared Wall, Tracy Green, and Laura Ringsak. Advisor Kirsten Dauphinais said, “Out of 28 teams, both of our teams advanced to the top eight, beating teams from George Washington, Brigham Young, Boston College, and the University of Minnesota along the way.” In the quarterfinal round, both teams were defeated by the teams that took first and second place in the competition. This is the second time UND has participated at the competition. Last year’s team finished in third place.
First-year Student Visits White House

First-year student Kylie Oversen had the honor of making a special visit to the White House at the invitation of President Barack Obama’s office. In addition to being a law student, Oversen serves in the North Dakota Legislature as a State Representative from District 42. It was her first visit to the White House. The reception was held in the East Wing, so she enjoyed the opportunity for full access to see the decorations and appreciate the history within the building. Oversen enjoyed the reception, but for her the most exciting piece of her visit was the policy briefings held earlier in the day in the Eisenhower Building. She said, “There were state legislators from all over the country participating in state policy briefings with policy leaders, the White House staff, and senior advisors to discuss what is coming up in the next two years and how we can work together.”

Turtle Mountain Tribal Court Visits UND

The Turtle Mountain Tribal Court of Appeals heard an oral argument in the matter of Ronald Allery et al v. Chairman of the Turtle Mountain Band at the law school in November. The Turtle Mountain Tribal Court of Appeals is the highest appellate court of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians located in Belcourt, North Dakota. The Court handles approximately 100 appeals per year ranging from family law disputes to personal injury disputes, with a high number of the Court’s cases pertaining to its jurisdiction, especially in the civil arena.

Henderson and Schumacher Join Law School staff, Tretter Honored

Pam Henderson is the Assistant Director of Student Life. Henderson’s responsibilities include managing the Career Connect Law job board, advising students through the application process, reporting to outside agencies, providing support for student organizations, and assisting with the law school first-year orientation program. The Connecticut native came to the law school from the College of Nursing where she served as Graduate Student Service Specialist. Henderson earned a M.S. in Educational Leadership from UND in 2007.

Michelle Schumacher recently joined the law school staff as Administrative Assistant for Dean Kathryn Rand. Her previous position was Administrative Clerk at UND Dining Services. Schumacher is a native of Thompson, N.D. and comes to the law school with a wealth of experience working in private law firms. She replaces Phyllis Treifa, who retired in 2011, but continues to work in a part-time support position.

Cheri Tretter, Administrative Secretary, received the prestigious U-Shine Award in the month of September. The UND Staff Senate award recognizes a UND staff member who went out of his or her way to make UND a better place. She received a certificate, $50, and a token of appreciation.

Student Awarded Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation Scholarship

Third-year UND law student Jarrod Steele has been awarded a $5,000 scholarship from the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation (RMMLF). Steele was among 24 scholarship recipients from 27 RMMLF Constituent Law Schools. Applicants are evaluated by their demonstrated commitment to the study of natural resources law, academic ability, leadership ability, and year in law school. In addition to the financial award, Steele attended the 59th Annual RMMLF Institute in Spokane, Washington.

Myers Honored with Best Research Paper at International Conference

UND Law’s Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Bradley Myers, along with his wife, Teaching and Learning Ph.D. student Yee Han Chu, were recognized with the Best Research Paper Award at the Second Annual International Conference on Law, Regulations and Public Policy, hosted by the Global Science and Technology Forum, in June in Singapore. They received the award for their paper titled “Leaving Gifted Students Behind: The Misplaced Public Policy of Deference to Local Officials in the Public Schools of the United States.”
1 The Canadian Law Student Association held the first law school pumpkin carving contest. The pumpkin carved with Lux Et Lex was the grand prize winner.

2 The members of the UND School of Law Class of 1963. Several members of the class returned to campus during Homecoming to celebrate their 50th class reunion.

3 The law school partnered with the College of Business to present the 2013 Mellem Business Symposium. This year’s program was focused around the business of law and featured several law school alumni.

4 Nineteen students completed their requirements for the Juris Doctor degree in December. The ceremony was held on December 20, 2013 at the Chester Fritz Auditorium. Professors Mike McGinniss and Gregory Gordon served as faculty hooders.

5 Owen L. Anderson, ’74, was awarded the University of North Dakota Alumni Association & Foundation’s highest honor, the Sioux Award, at a special award banquet held on October 10, 2013. Anderson is the Eugene Kuntz Chair of Law in Oil, Gas and Natural Resources, George Lynn Cross Research Professor, and Director of the John B. Turner LL.M. Program in Energy, Natural Resources & Indigenous Peoples Law at the University of Oklahoma College of Law.
Members of the Class of 2003 celebrated their 10-year reunion during Homecoming with a variety of activities, dinners and tours.

From left: Dean Rand pictured with former Governor Allen Olson, ’63, Roger Royse, ’84, and Al Royse, ’76, after presenting during the Mellem Symposium. Roger received a plaque for his luncheon keynote lecture titled “The New Face of Legal Practice.”

The North Dakota Law Review hosted its annual symposium on October 24, 2013. This year’s symposium was focused on Energy Law. To view the individual presentations, please visit the website at law.und.edu.
Litigation Practice Group, the Business Crimes, Regulatory Offenses & Corporate Investigations Practice Group, and the Banking Practice Group.

1970s

Donald Jorgensen, 1970 announced he will retire as South Central District Judge at the end of this year. Prior to this position, he served as judge of the Southwest Judicial District. He has been a member of the bar since 1970 and was first elected district judge in 1984.

Jack McDonald, 1970 received the Austin Legacy Award from the UND Center for Community Engagement. McDonald is a senior partner in the Wheeler Wolf Law Firm with a specialty in First Amendment and Communications Law. He lives in Bismarck with his wife Constance.

Murray Sagsveen, 1973 was named Chief of Staff, Ethics Officer and Director of Legal Services for the North Dakota University System. He began his duties in November 2013.

Joel Medd, 1975 retired as North Dakota District Judge on September 1, 2013. At his retirement, he was the longest-serving state judge on the bench. Medd was appointed in 1979 by North Dakota Governor Art Link and was re-elected to the position six times.

Sheryl Ramstad, 1975 is embarking on a new career after almost four decades of work in the law arena. She has been a federal prosecutor, a public defender, a judge, and even Minnesota’s Commissioner of Corrections. Now at the age of 63, she has earned her Masters of Nursing degree from the University of Minnesota and plans to work with burn victims, burn patients and burn survivors – something she has experienced in her lifetime.

William W. McLees, 1976 presiding judge of the North Central Judicial District, has announced that he will retire June 30. He was elected a district judge in 1994 after serving as a county judge since 1983.

1930s

Mildred Johnson, 1939 was featured in the Fargo Forum’s “Her Voice” section highlighting local women and how they make an impact on the world around them. According to the article, Johnson was the only woman in her class and one of the first women to practice law in North Dakota. She served as a “downtown lawyer” for 48 years with the Wahpeton N.D. law firm of Johnson, Johnson, Stokes, Sandberg & Kragness.

1950s

Garry Pearson, 1958 was selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America 2014. He was selected in the areas of Commercial Litigation, Corporate Law, Tax Law and Trusts & Estates. Garry has been listed in Best Lawyers since 1987.

1960s

Salvatore R. Martoche, 1967 joined Hodgson Russ in the law firm’s Buffalo office. With his addition the firm will formally launch its national Alternative Dispute Resolution Practice Group. Judge Martoche, who has extensive experience in alternative dispute resolution at the federal, state, and local levels in addition to his 13 years on the Supreme Court bench, will lead the group. In addition, he will be a member of the Business
Allen C. Hoberg, 1977
retired from his position as director of North Dakota’s Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH). He has directed the office since it was established in 1991. His retirement comes after more than 32 years of service as a state employee. He served more than 22 years with OAH, three years with the Legislative Council, and seven years with the Office of Attorney General. He plans to move to private legal practice in Bismarck, N.D.

Gail Hagerty, 1978
has been awarded the Certificate of Judicial Development General Jurisdiction Trial Skills by the National Judicial College at the University of Nevada – Reno. The certificate was presented at the conclusion of a course titled Technology Assisted Crimes against Children: Computer and other Pretrial issues.

Bruce Quick, 1978
was named by Fargo Forum and Inforum.com readers as the Best Attorney in the Red River Valley. He concentrates his practice at Vogel Law Firm, Fargo, in criminal defense. Quick also serves as affiliated faculty at UND School of Law.

Paul Richard, 1979
has been named President of the Sanford Medical Center in Fargo, North Dakota. He has long served as Sanford’s top lawyer, and has been with the organization for 42 years, dating back to the days of St. Luke’s Hospital and Fargo Clinic.

1980s

Ron Fischer, 1980
was selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America 2014. He was selected in the areas of Commercial Litigation, Litigation – Construction, Litigation – First Amendment, Litigation – Labor and Employment, Litigation – Municipal, and Personal Injury Litigation – Defendants. Ron has been listed in Best Lawyers since 2006.

Allen Flaten, 1982
has earned recognition as a leader in the field of Corporate/Commercial practice of law by “Chambers USA-America’s Leading Business Lawyers.” He specializes in real estate law and title insurance, and is a stockholder and director in the Grand Forks law firm of Zimney Foster P.C.

Norman G. Anderson, 1982
was appointed by Governor Jack Dalrymple to a newly created judgeship in the East Central Judicial District. The 2013 Legislature established a ninth judgeship in the East Central Judicial District which serves Cass, Steele and Traill counties.

Jeanne McLean, 1985
was recently appointed to be the Citizen Access Coordinator at the North Dakota Supreme Court. This is a new program recently funded by the North Dakota Legislature to put together a state-wide program for assisting pro se litigants.

1990s

Jon Jensen, 1990
was appointed to serve as Northeast Central Judicial District Judge. Prior to his appointment Jensen was an attorney in private practice focused on tax litigation as well as litigation in custody, divorce, and commercial matters.

Ronald B. Hocevar, 1991
has been named a Minnesota State Bar Association (MSBA) Board Certified Criminal Law Specialist. This certification program is administered by the MSBA and approved by the State Board of Legal Certification.

Michael Fritz, 1993
was appointed a district judge by Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton. He will be chambered in Moorhead in Clay County and will replace Judge Lisa Borgen, who is leaving for private practice.

Chad Pearson, 1994
is Senior Director, Tax Planning at Best Buy Corporation in Minneapolis. He also serves as adjunct associate professor at the University of Minnesota School of Law teaching International Tax Law.

Gerad Paul, 1995
has been named Vice President of Legal Affairs and Regulatory Compliance at Minnkota Power Cooperative in Grand Forks. A Powers, N.D. native, Paul began working at Minnkota as staff attorney in 2006. He was elevated to senior attorney in 2010.
Tony Weiler, 1998
was was hired as the Executive Director of the State Bar Association of North Dakota last summer. Before joining SBAND, Weiler was North Dakota's Commissioner of Labor. He was with the Maring Williams Law Office, PC in Bismarck from 2002 to 2010 and the Wheeler Wolf Law Firm from 1999 to 2002. Weiler also served as Law Clerk to the Honorable Dale V. Sandstrom, Justice of the North Dakota Supreme Court, from 1998-1999.

Matt Striegel, 2006
continues his work with Ascent Sports representing NFL football players. In addition, he has accepted an offer to head-up Business Development for CES Performance in Houston, Texas. CES is a strength and conditioning/sports performance facility with locations in Atlanta, Georgia and Houston.

Kara Johnson, 2008
has been named Assistant Disciplinary Counsel. She will work under the direction of Brent Edison, Disciplinary Counsel for the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court and Judicial Conduct Commission. Before joining Disciplinary Counsel's office, Johnson practiced for five years with the Bismarck law firm of Zuger Kirmis & Smith, where her primary focus was civil litigation.

Ann Miller, 2009
is an associate attorney with Anderson, Bottrell, Sanden & Thompson in Fargo, North Dakota practicing in the areas of Housing Law, Commercial Transactions, Commercial Litigation and general Civil Litigation.

Joseph Morsette, 2009
was sworn in as Spirit Lake Sioux Tribe Chief Judge in December. Morsette was previously the Director of the Native Americans into Law Program at UND Law.

Adam Landstrom, 2011
is founder and Executive Director of the Young Professionals in Energy, Bismarck, N.D. chapter, a nonprofit group focused on delivering networking opportunities to young members of the global energy industry to Bismarck. He currently works as a landman for Hess Corporation in Minot, N.D.

Jon Godfread, 2011
was named one of the Top 40 Under 40 Business Professionals by Prairie Business Magazine. He is the Vice President for Government Affairs with the Greater North Dakota Chamber in Bismarck, N.D.

Meg C. Morley, 2011
joined the North Dakota State Staff of United States Senator Heidi Heitkamp. She is based out of the Senator's Grand
Forks office and works in the areas of office administration, constituent services, and outreach.

**Saly Abd Alla, 2012**
serves as Civil Rights Director for the Council on American-Islamic Relations, Minnesota (CAIR-MN). CAIR-MN received one of the American Bar Association Solo, Small Firm and General Practice Division 2013 Difference Makers Awards for “making a difference through pro bono work.” CAIR-MN handled nearly 180 cases in 2012.

**Breezy Schmidt, 2012**
works with Legal Services of North Dakota. She began practicing with the agency in September 2012, specializing in housing law. Schmidt chairs the board of the Minot Area Homeless Coalition and is temporarily chairing the newly formed Community Affordable Housing Advisory Committee. She also serves on the board of the YWCA, which provides permanent supportive housing and emergency shelter for women.

**Sarah Estep-Larson, 2012**
is an associate attorney with Krekelberg, Skonseng and Miller law firm. She has a general legal practice, including the areas of General Civil Litigation, Family Law, Personal Injury, Social Security Law and Commercial Litigation. She lives in Fergus Falls, Minn.

**Lindsay Harris, 2012**
joined Maring Williams Law Firm in Fargo, North Dakota. Prior to joining the firm, she served as a Law Clerk to the Honorable Mary Muehlen Maring of the North Dakota Supreme Court. Her practice focuses on plaintiff’s personal injury and wrongful death law.

**Andrew Sorbo, 2012**
is an attorney with Olson, Juntunen & Sandberg, Ltd. in Grand Forks, N.D. His practice areas include Agricultural Business, Real Property, Business Law, Civil Litigation, Estate Planning, Debtor-Creditor Law, Criminal Law, and Family Law.

**Ashley Summers, 2012**
is an associate lawyer with Ebeltoft Sickler Lawyers in Dickinson, N.D., where she is a part of the Business Solutions Practice Team and Personal Planning Practice Team.

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**Law Alumni Named Clerks For U.S. District Court Judge**

U.S. District Court Judge Daniel L. Hovland has named three law clerks to serve with the U.S. District Court in Bismarck.

**Danielle M. Krause** of Hazen, North Dakota, received a B.S. in Child Development and Family Science with a minor in Psychology from North Dakota State University. Krause received her J.D. cum laude from the University of North Dakota School of Law in May 2012, and will be serving as a career law clerk for Judge Hovland.

**Sarah A. Barry** of Fargo, North Dakota, received a B.S. in Management from the University of North Dakota. Barry received her J.D. cum laude from the University of North Dakota School of Law in May 2013.

**Rebecca L. Binstock** of Bismarck, North Dakota, received a B.A. in Biology, Society, and Environment from the University of Minnesota, and a M.S. in Secondary Classroom Education from Northern State University. Binstock received her J.D. magna cum laude from the University of North Dakota School of Law in May 2012.

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**Joy M. Vega**

Class of 2007

received the 2013 Leaders in Law, Up & Coming Lawyer Award. The award “honors attorneys who are in their first ten years of practice, yet have already distinguished themselves in the practice of law, and appear poised for even greater things.” She is an attorney for Jones & Swartz PLLC in Boise, Idaho and her practice is concentrated in contract disputes, complex commercial litigation, and civil rights litigation.
Q: What inspired you to seek a legal career?

The idea of resolving conflict intrigued me at an early age. But with that being said, I cannot recall one definable moment where I thought, “A-ha, I want to be a lawyer.”

Q: Why did you choose the University of North Dakota School of Law?

My wife and I grew up a block from one another in Williston, ND until my family moved to Oklahoma in the early ’80s. We recon- nected during our first year of graduate school. Amy was attending medical school at the University of North Dakota and I was at the University of Oklahoma, where I had also completed my undergraduate work. It was easier for me to transfer, so there you have it.

Q: What classes or professors especially influenced you during your time at UND?

The general relationship between students and professors was much tighter than at my previous school. The professors were much more approachable, perhaps due in part to the smaller classes.

Q: Do you have a favorite law school memory?

My experience at North Dakota as a whole was a very pleasurable one. I met a lot of neat people, who I continue to stay in touch with today.

Q: Chart your path following law school. How did you eventually become a partner at a Twin Cities law firm?

When we moved to the Twin Cities in 2004, I didn’t have any connections in the legal field. I worked for a couple small/mid-size firms until launching my own practice in 2009. It was always my intent to have control over my own law practice and to practice law in a manner that I deemed most appropriate. In 2012 I was approach–ed by Randy Seaver and Matthew Swanson to assist with their Trustee work, which culminated in the formation of our current firm.

Q: Can you tell us about your firm and your specialties?

My primary practice areas are Bankruptcy & Creditor/Debtor Rights, Real Estate, and Mechanic’s Liens. There is some overlap between the practice areas.

Q: What do you enjoy most about your job? What are your greatest challenges?

Practicing law is never dull and the profession offers daily challenges, which for me is good because it keeps me engaged. The greatest challenge is managing the conflicting objectives of the various parties. It can wear you down.

Chad A. Kelsch earned his J.D. from the University of North Dakota School of Law in 1999. He is now a partner at Fuller, Seaver, Swanson & Kelsch, P.A., a Twin Cities law firm providing legal services in the areas of personal and commercial bankruptcy, real estate law, and mechanic’s liens.

Stay in Touch With UND School of Law

There are many ways to stay in touch with UND Law. Browse our website, or follow on any of our social media sites. Join us and see all the great things happening at your School of Law!
The School of Law shares the sad news of the passing of former faculty member Robert E. Beck, who died Friday, Dec. 6, 2013, in Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, at the age of 76. Professor Beck last visited Grand Forks this past fall during UND’s Homecoming to celebrate UND School of Law alumnus Owen Anderson’s 2013 Sioux Award.

Professor Beck was born April 24, 1937, in Aitkin, Minn., to Ernest and Elna (Salmela) Beck and grew up in Palisade, Minn. He obtained a J.B.S.L. in 1958, a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) degree in 1960 from the University of Minnesota and a Master of Law (LL.M.) degree in 1966 from New York University. From 1962 to 1976 he was an assistant professor and professor at the University of North Dakota School of Law. In 1976 he joined the Southern Illinois University Carbondale law faculty and retired August 2002.

Over his career, Professor Beck wrote and lectured extensively on all aspects of natural resources law. He held offices and was a member of numerous committees and panels at the local, state, regional, national and international levels. He authored and co-authored chapters for, and served as editor-in-chief of, Waters and Water Rights, from 1991 through 2008.

Professor Beck was the recipient of various awards including The Order of the Coif (1960), The Chester Fritz Distinguished Professorship (University of North Dakota, 1975), The Chester Fritz Distinguished Professor Emeritus (University of North Dakota, 1987), SIU Law School Faculty Scholar of the Year (1995) and The Clyde O. Martz Teaching Award (Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, 2007).
1973 marked the last major addition to the UND School of Law since its original construction in 1923. A new three story, 15,000 square foot law library that would be named in honor of Olaf H. Thormodsgard, Dean of the UND School of Law. Law Library photos shown here were taken in 1972 as the construction of the new Law Library was underway.