

Helen Hamilton — Day —



March 29, 2019

2019 Helen Hamilton Day Schedule

“Ordinary Women Doing Extraordinary Things”

9:00 AM

Registration and breakfast – Burtness Lounge

9:45 AM

Advocate for Women’s Rights Panel

Maria Mitousis - Attorney, Petersen King

Missy Heilman - Executive Director, Bio Girls

Jennifer Cook - Visiting Assistant Professor, UND Law

10:45 AM

Break – Burtness Lounge

11:00 AM

Female Firsts Panel

Shon Hastings - Judge, US Bankruptcy Court Judge

Kylie Oversen - Attorney, Schneider Law Firm

Meghan Compton - Chief Legal Counsel, Altru Health Systems

12:00 PM

Lunch – Burtness Lounge

1:00 PM

Breaking the Glass Ceiling Panel

Haley Wamstad - State’s Attorney, Grand Forks County

Tracey Epp - Attorney, Pitblado Law Firm

Kodi Verhalen - Shareholder, Briggs and Morgan



Helen Hamilton
UND Law, Class of 1905

Helen Hamilton was the first woman to graduate from the UND School of Law, Class of 1905. Hamilton was the only woman in the senior class and was also class president. The following comments about Hamilton appeared in the information published in honor of the graduation of the Class of 1905:

"She with all the charm of woman, She with all the breadth of man. Because of her scholarly ability in the classroom and her charming personality at all times, she has become known as the 'Law School's pride' this girl from old Kentucky. To the men of the class no prophet's vision of the future of this Portia of today could be too full of promise. Whether she pleads at the bar, presides on the bench or graces a home, she will have a career no less enviable than that of the most successful member of the class."

States began admitting women to the bar in 1920 after women obtained suffrage. Hamilton was listed as a member of the American Bar Association in 1925. She practiced law in Grand Forks, North Dakota for 43 years with the firms of Bangs, Cooley & Hamilton; and Bangs, Hamilton and Bangs. Helen Hamilton passed away on September 30, 1949 at the age of 75.

Law Women's Caucus annually hosts Helen Hamilton Day, an event designed to honor not only UND's first woman law graduate, but all people who have made contributions to women in the law. This year, UND's Law Women's Caucus celebrates the 37th annual Helen Hamilton Day on March 29, 2019.

Helen Hamilton Day Presenters



Jennifer J. Cook - is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Law and teaches first year law students legal research, analyses, writing, and oral advocacy in the Lawyering Skills program. Professor Cook received her B.A. in Mass Communication with a minor in History from North Dakota State University in Fargo, North Dakota. She received her J.D. with distinction from the University of North Dakota School of Law. While at law school, she wrote for the North Dakota Law Review, was president of the Environmental Law Society, and a member of the Law Women's Caucus and Delta Theta Phi. After law school, Professor Cook worked as a judicial law clerk to Magistrate Judge Karen K. Klein of the United States District Court for the District of North Dakota. She then became the policy director for the American Civil Liberties Union of North Dakota (ACLU). While serving as the ACLU of North Dakota's policy director, Professor Cook successfully lobbied the North Dakota legislature for stronger legal protections for juvenile and adult confidential informants, privacy safeguards related to unmanned aerial vehicles, and against infringements of the First Amendment right to protest and freedom of religion. Prior to her legal career, Professor Cook served in the Army National Guard for ten years. She attained the rank of First Lieutenant and commanded troops while deployed to Washington state during Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Meghan Compton - is Chief Legal Counsel at Altru Health Systems in Grand Forks, ND. Meghan oversees legal affairs, leads legislative advocacy efforts, and advises the Executive Team and Board of Directors. She also oversees Compliance and Risk Management. Meghan, a Grand Forks native, earned her Juris Doctorate at the University of North Dakota School of Law.

She worked in private practice before joining Altru Health System in 2012. She has over six years of experience in health care, contract law, and general legal practice. She serves on the Downtown Development Association Board and sits on a community partners committee addressing opioid use in the community. In her free time, Meghan enjoys spending time with her husband and three boys, traveling, hiking, yoga and time outdoors.



Tracey Epp - is a member of the Executive Committee of the Pitblado Law Firm and focuses on Labour and Employment law. Tracey represents clients before labour boards, administrative tribunals and the courts. Assists businesses in drafting and negotiating collective agreements and employment contracts. Acts as independent investigator to a number of organizations.

These investigations often relate to respectful workplace, sexual harassment and personal harassment complaints.



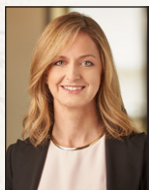
Shon Hastings - Shon Hastings was appointed United States Bankruptcy Judge for the District of North Dakota in September 2011. Judge Hastings is also designated to preside over bankruptcy cases in the District of Nebraska and Minnesota. Judge Hastings received a B.B.A. magna cum laude (1986) and a J.D. with honors (1993) from the University of North Dakota.

Judge Hastings served as the Editor in Chief of the North Dakota Law Review and was admitted to the University of North Dakota Chapter of Order of the Coif. Judge Hastings began her legal career as Judicial Law Clerk to the Honorable Karen K. Klein, United States Magistrate Judge. After her clerkship, she joined Bowman and Brook, LLC, a law firm specializing in civil litigation headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota. From January 1998 until her appointment, Judge Hastings worked as an Assistant United States Attorney in Fargo, North Dakota. She was appointed Chief of the Civil Division in January 2009. Judge Hastings' professional activities with the Department of Justice (DOJ) included serving as a member of the Civil Chiefs Working Group, a subcommittee of the Attorney General's Advisory Committee; Executive Office of United States Attorneys Financial Litigation, Asset Preservation and Child Exploitation Restitution working groups; and assisting the Evaluation and Review Staff with peer review of other United States Attorney Offices. In October 2004, she accepted a short detail with the DOJ Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Training and Assistance Program to conduct commercial law training in Laos. Judge Hastings frequently served as a faculty member at the DOJ National Advocacy Center, speaking on financial litigation-related issues.



Missy Heilman - Mom to three daughters, lifelong runner, and on a mission to help all girls know they are beautiful inside and out, Missy Heilman founded BIO Girls and serves as the Board Chair and Executive Director. Through her leadership BIO Girls, a Fargo-based non-profit, has grown from a single program benefiting 35 girls in 2013 to 33 program locations

impacting more than 1,200 girls in 2019. Prior to following her passion, Missy was a marketer in the tech industry for 15 years, working for companies ranging from small start-ups to global corporations. Most recently, she served as the Director of Marketing for Dynamic Communities in Fargo. Missy has a servant heart and is active in the community. She currently serves on the church council and volunteers in student ministries at Olivet Lutheran, Fargo. A proud '01 graduate of the University of North Dakota with degrees in Exercise Science and Nutrition, Missy was captain of the track team, a three-time all-american and a NCAA post-graduate scholarship recipient. She went on to earn a Masters of Business Administration ('04) from North Dakota State University. Missy, her husband Tom, three daughters and two cats reside in West Fargo, ND.



Maria Mitousis - has practised law in her home city of Winnipeg, Manitoba, since 2006. Prior to that she studied Classics, Greek and Latin at both the University of Manitoba and at Queen's University. She joined Petersen King, a family law boutique of six women lawyers, in the fall of 2014 where she primarily practises family law. She is trained in collaborative practice and is a member of Collaborative Practice Manitoba and the IACP. She is a member of the MBA and sits on the executive committees of both the Women Lawyers' Forum and the Family Law Section. In the summer of 2015, Maria was injured, losing her right hand, when a voice recording device rigged as a bomb exploded in her hands. Two other explosive devices intercepted that day had been delivered to Maria's client and to the lawyer representing the man who was arrested and later convicted of four counts of attempted murder. Since returning to practice, Maria has shared her experience with members of the profession, addressing topics such as facing adversity, self-care, and personal integrity and responsibility in the practice of law.



Kylie Oversen - is a 2016 graduate of the UND School of Law. She also attended UND for her undergraduate education, receiving degrees in social sciences and social work. Kylie served in the North Dakota House of Representatives from 2012-2016. After her first legislative session, she was founded the Democratic-NPL Women's Caucus, with a focus on recruiting and supporting progressive women to run for office. During her time in the legislature, Kylie was a strong advocate for North Dakota's children, women, and families. She worked on policies related to equal pay; paid family leave; domestic violence and human trafficking protections and victim support; early childhood education opportunities; and more. Given her time on the Human Services committee, Kylie also became a staunch advocate for increased and improved access to mental and behavioral health services in the state. In 2015, Kylie was elected Chairwoman of the North Dakota Democratic-NPL party. At the time, she was the youngest person to hold a state party chair position in the country and one of only two women to serve the ND Dem-NPL Party in this role. She served as Chair until June 2018, when she stepped down to focus on her campaign for North Dakota State Tax Commissioner. Kylie is currently employed with the Schneider Law Firm in Fargo, where she focuses on aiding individuals in seeking social security disability benefits and other general civil practice.



Kodi Jean Verhalen - is a shareholder at Briggs and Morgan, Professional Association. She has practiced in the environmental space for 14 years, first as an environmental engineer (PE Minnesota) and now as an attorney and the law firm of Briggs and Morgan, P.A. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in chemical engineering from the University of Minnesota Duluth and a Juris Doctor degree, cum laude, from William Mitchell College of Law (now, Mitchell Hamline School of Law). Kodi was the 2016-2017 president of the National Society of Professional Engineers, a 31,000-member organization. She was the youngest person, and the third woman, in the organization's history to hold the office of president. Prior to serving the professional engineering community at the national level, Kodi held the office of president of the Minnesota Society of Professional Engineers in 2010-2011, in addition to serving in several other elected roles and on committees and task forces. In 2018, Kodi was recognized by her undergraduate university (University of Minnesota Duluth Academy of Science & Engineering), the state legal community (Minnesota Lawyer Up & Coming Attorney and Minnesota Super Lawyers, Utilities Law), and even the American Bar Association (American Bar Association On the Rise – Top 40 Young Lawyers Award) for her contributions to her profession and her community. Kodi stays active in her community through the University of Minnesota, Masonic Children's Hospital FashionFest Advisory Committee (2014-Present) and its WineFest Advisory Committee (2017-Present), providing holiday meals to Community Aid Elk River, a local food assistance organization, and mentoring engineering and part-time law students.



Haley Wamstad - is State's Attorney for Grand Forks County, North Dakota. She oversees a team of 12 attorneys leading the prosecution of felony and misdemeanor offenses, civil commitment cases, and juvenile matters within the county. She also serves as legal counsel to the Board of County Commissioners as well as other county departments and entities. Haley is a native of Hatton, ND. She earned her undergraduate and Juris Doctorate degrees from the University of North Dakota. Prior to becoming State's Attorney, Haley served as an Assistant State's Attorney for over ten years and as a law clerk for the Northeast Judicial District of North Dakota. Additionally, Haley is an active member of the Grand Forks Rotary Club, Sharon Lutheran Church, and various community organizations.

Law Women's Caucus 2018-19 Officers



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