

OFNOTE

COLLEGE OF LAW MAGAZINE Career of possibility: Deborah Fry's trailblazing career choices Alumnus' gift gives Iqaluit students opportunity to travel to USask New award celebrates a mother's legacy Examining guardianship law's effectiveness



Published by the College of Law at the University of Saskatchewan, of NOTE contains news and updates from the college as well as information relevant to our alumni and all of our college community.

To submit information or articles for *of NOTE*, or to send us your latest news, whether personal or professional, please contact:

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We acknowledge we are on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respect to the First Nation and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

table of contents

- 2 Dean's Message
- 3 Around the college

College News

- 5 McKercher LLP Lecture Series: Fall highlights
- 6 Tribute to Douglas A. Schmeiser
- 7 Nunavut Law Program enters second year

Faculty News

- 8 News-in-brief
- 9 Examining guardianship law's effectiveness
- 9 Saskatchewan Access to Legal Information project launches public awareness campaign

Alumni News

- 10 Career of possibility: Deborah Fry's trailblazing career choices
- 12 Catching up with alumni

- 13 Alumni Notes
- 13 In Memoriam
- 14 New award celebrates a mother's legacy
- 15 Mary Culbertson appointed Treaty Commissioner for Saskatchewan
- 16 2018 Alumni Achievement Awards
- 16 Judges by the numbers
- 17 New group makes environmental law a priority

Student News

- 18 Legal Follies 50
- 18 LLM News
- 19 Alumnus' gift gives law students from Iqaluit opportunity to attend Indigenous conference
- 20 A legal welcome



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Alumnus' gift gives Iqaluit students opportunity to travel to U of S. Ken Fredeen (LLB'83) supports travel of five students to attend Indigenous Bar Association conference



Examining guardianship law's effectiveness

Doug Surtees' research on guardianship orders in Saskatchewan

Career of possibility

Deborah Fry's (JD'80) journey to Chief Justice of Newfoundland and Labrador

New award celebrates a mother's legacy

Ena Chadha (LLB'92) and her family create the Mohinder Chadha Award in Law

Dean's Message:



As the year winds down and I reflect on another year as dean of the College of Law, I continue to be amazed at all the good work being done by our faculty, staff and students during the past 365 days. Some of that work has been putting together a new strategic plan for the college that

will guide us toward our goals and objectives over the next seven years. This is a plan that will build on our strengths in order to best prepare our students for their legal careers. I look forward to sharing it with you in the coming months.

As always, the fall semester has been a busy one. We welcomed an all-star lineup of guest speakers during the McKercher lecture series; hosted conferences related to medical-legal partnerships and international humanitarian law; officially welcomed 126 new students; and, with the support of Dentons LLP and Pembina Pipeline Corporation, held a negotiation competition.

Another highlight of this term was welcoming five of our students from the Nunavut Law Program to the College of Law. While they were here, they toured the law school, met with our cultural advisor, Maria Campbell, and attended the Indigenous Bar Association's annual conference. Their trip would not have been possible without the generous support of alumnus Ken Fredeen (LLB'83). Read more on page 19.

This edition of of Note features Chief Justice Deborah Fry. As the first woman to be named Chief Justice in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador, she provides a great example of how a non-traditional career path can lead to extraordinary opportunities. Her accomplishments are incredibly interesting and I encourage you to read more about her journey to the Court of Appeal on page 10. And Fry's appointment was just one of many recent appointments that included a USask law alumni (see "Judicial appointments" on page 13).

We are always proud to feature the contributions our students and alumni have made to the law school and the university, but I also appreciate any and all alumni who are working for the betterment of their respective communities and society as a whole. There are so many fascinating and uplifting examples of how our graduates are making life better for the people who surround them and I just want to remind you that the work you are doing is important and it is appreciated. With that being said, if we don't know your story, share it with us. It could be just the inspiration a student or fellow alumnus needs.

Stay in touch...

Sincerely,

Martin PhillipsonDean, College of Law



Around the college



Assistant Professor Keir Vallance, Kaitlyn Ward (law student), Meredith Maloof (Native Law Centre) and Adam MacNeil (law student) speak on a panel during USask Open House for high school students on Sept. 28, 2018.



Just Rights, a social justice advocacy student group at the college, hosted the first-ever *Run for Justice* on Oct. 20, 2018 as part of Access to Justice Week. Photo by Kylee Wilyman.



Aaron Fritzler (left) receives the Law Society of Saskatchewan gold medal for 2018 during the convocation reception on June 6, 2018.



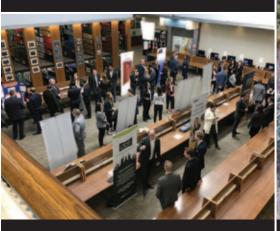
Bob McKercher, QC (LLB'52), Chancellor Emerita Peggy McKercher, CM, SOM, with guest speaker Dick Pound, CC, OQ, QC on Sept. 17, 2018.



George Antonopoulos (left) and Gord Tarnowsky (right) of Dentons LLP with winners of the Oct. 26 Negotiation Competition, Elaine Selensky and Janna Mitchell.



Larry Chartrand, academic director for the Wiyasiwewin Mikiwahp Native Law Centre speaks at the centre's renaming ceremony on May 18, 2018.



The Canadian Bar Association – Saskatchewan and the College of Law hosted the Showcase of SK Firms on Nov. 7, 2018.



Left to right: Heather Heavin, associate dean research and graduate studies; The Hon. Jody Wilson-Raybould, Justice Minister and Attorney General of Canada; Rheana Worme, president of Indigenous Law Students Association and Evatt Merchant, president of CBA-Saskatchewan, during a reception with Minister Wilson-Raybould on Sept. 13, 2018.

College of Law Magazine law.usask.ca FALL 2018 OF NOTE

Students earning Certification in Common Law in French having *la meilleure* experience

By Sarah Trefiak

Since 2016, USask College of Law students have been offered the option to pursue Certification in Common Law in French (CCLF)—a partnership with the University

of Ottawa Faculty in Law that allows select students the opportunity to gain valuable skills in French legal writing and advocacy as well as a deep understanding of the important issues surrounding language rights in Canada.

Now in her third year, student Tava Burton said the program will help her better contribute to her community going forward.

"The CCLF program has allowed me to continue my education in French—an asset that becomes of greater importance in our

ever-increasingly diverse cultural landscape," Burton said.

Burton was part of the first cohort of students who travelled to Ottawa in the fall of 2017. The second cohort is currently

studying there. During their time at the University of Ottawa (uOttawa), students not only take their legal courses in French, but they are also given the opportunity to make invaluable connections with the French legal community.

As part of the 40th anniversary celebrations of the French Common Law Program at uOttawa, students were able to interact with

several Supreme Court judges, and on more than one occasion have met judges and lawyers in the National Capital Region who are champions of common law training in French.

Perhaps one of the most exclusive events planned for CCLF students was a luncheon with Justice Russell Brown and retired Justice Michel Bastarache at the Supreme Court Judges Lounge last December.

"A highlight of my experience with the CCLF so far was the afternoon we spent with Justice Russell Brown of the Supreme Court of Canada," said third-year student Amanda Kimpinski. "The experience was great and one of the best of my life."

New to the program is the Michel Bastarache Moot, an annual Frenchlanguage legal advocacy competition that will be held for the first time in Ottawa in March 2019.

Caroline Magnan, director of the Pan-Canadian French Common Law Program, said the purpose of the moot is to provide participants with a unique opportunity to meet and discuss current language rights issues.

"The objectives of the competition are to encourage students to contribute to the advancement of legal understanding of language rights, to enable them to acquire the knowledge and fundamental techniques of advocacy, and to promote the art of pleading in French," she said.

Although the new cohort of law students will not begin any of the official requirements of the CCLF program until second-year, nine first-year students have already shown interest in what promises to be a fully immersive and unforgettable experience in French common law studies.

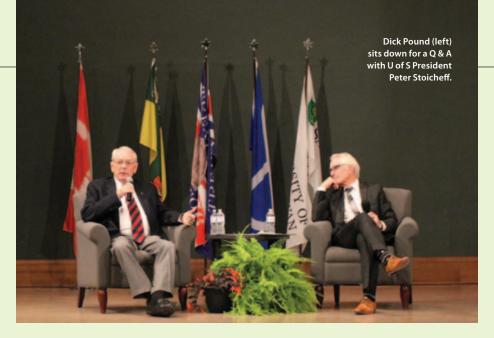
"The CCLF program is an excellent example of how our students can broaden their legal training beyond the classroom and we are excited to build on the strength of this program with the University of Ottawa for years to come," said Martin Phillipson, dean of the College of Law.



CCLF student Tava Burton



Left to right: François Larocque, Acting Dean of the Faculty of Law - Common Law Section, University of Ottawa; Caroline Magnan, Professor and Director of the CCLF; The Honourable Suzanne Côté, Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada; Monique Bews, a CCLF student; The Honourable Russell Brown, Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada; Marie Digney, CCLF student; Tava Burton, CCLF student; The Honourable Beverley McLachlin, P.C., Former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada; The Honourable Michel Bastarache, former judge of the Supreme Court of Canada; Amanda Kimpinski, CCLF student; Isabelle Larocque, CCLF student.



McKercher LLP Lecture Series: Fall 2018 highlights

The McKercher Lecture Series kicked off on Sept. 17 with Olympian and member of the International Olympic Committee, Dick Pound, CC, OQ, QC. More than 200 people congregated in Convocation Hall to hear Pound speak about the fight against doping

in sport and the work of the World Anti-Doping Agency.

On Sept. 24, the college hosted a panel to discuss "Pipeline and Politics: The Trans Mountain



Left to right: Sara Mainville, Devon Page, Bernard Roth and Dwight Newman debate the Trans Mountain Pipeline.

Controversy". This timely and relevant topic attracted more than 200 guests who heard from panelists Devon Page (Eco Justice), Dwight Newman (USask), Bernard Roth (Dentons LLP) and Sara Mainville (Olthuis Kleer Townshend LLP).

Shannon Salter

Regina on Sept. 26.

During a special Regina edition of the series on Sept. 26, Shannon Salter of the Civil Resolution Tribunal spoke on the online processes for legal claims and what the trend means for judges, lawyers and others in the justice system.

The Heald Lecture in Administrative Law on Oct. 3 featured former College of Law Sallows Chair and current Senator, the Honourable Kim Pate. Pate spoke about some of the ways Canada might be able to move beyond crime and punishment as well as an overview of her recent visits to healing lodges in the province.



Senator Kim Pate addresses crowd on the topic of prison law.

On Oct. 23, the college partnered with the Saskatchewan Law Review to bring Orlando Da Silva from the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General. He shared stories of his own mental health struggles and provided information and tools for lawyers to use in order to maintain wellness.





The Honourable Justice Catherine Wedge closed out the fall edition of the series with a lecture on "Judge and Jury: A Remarkable Pact" on Oct. 29.

Videos of past lectures can be found on our website at law.usask.ca/events/ mckercher-llp-lecture-series.php.

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Tribute to Douglas A. Schmeiser

This tribute was delivered by University Secretary Beth Bilson to University Council on June 21, 2018. Saskatchewan, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from St. Thomas More College in 1954, and a Bachelor of Laws with Great Distinction from the College of Law in 1956. In his small class of 27, he counted the Right Honourable Ray Hnatyshyn, who went on to

become Canada's 24th
Governor General, as a
classmate. Doug was the
1956 recipient of the T.D.
Brown Prize and the Gold
Medal in Law, which is
awarded each year to
the most distinguished
graduate of the College
of Law. He was admitted
to the Saskatchewan Bar
on Jan. 1, 1958, and later
that year received his
Master of Laws from the
University of Michigan.

Doug served the
College of Law in
various capacities for
more than 60 years.
Following his graduation
from the college in
1956, he was hired as
a special lecturer at
USask, and also articled
under the Honourable
Emmett Hall—a
fellow College of Law
alumnus, who during
his prestigious career
served as chief justice

of the Saskatchewan Court of Queen's Bench, chief justice of the Saskatchewan provincial Court of Appeal, and also a Supreme Court judge—during the same year.

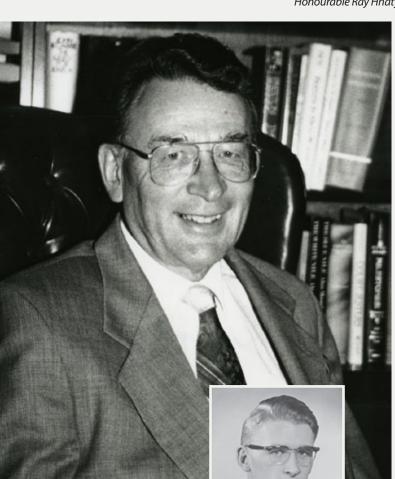
Doug became an assistant professor at the College of Law in 1961, and shortly after, in 1963, he completed his Doctor of Juridical Science at the University of Michigan. He was promoted to associate professor in 1964, and to full professor in 1968—a position he would hold until his retirement in 1995. During his esteemed career as a College of Law faculty member, Doug served as director of graduate legal studies

from 1969 to 1974, and as dean of the college from 1974 to 1977. In 1995, he was appointed professor emeritus. He maintained a healthy involvement with the college by attending alumni events, reunions with the class of 1956, and reunions of 1960s faculty members.

As a professor, Doug taught many students who would go on to have extraordinary careers serving within Canada's highest political and judicial ranks. To name a few, the Honourable Roy Romanow, current USask Chancellor and former premier of Saskatchewan; His Honour the Honourable Tom Molloy, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan; and the Honourable John Klebuc, judge of the Court of Appeal for Saskatchewan and former Chief Justice of Saskatchewan. Doug was widely appreciated as a dedicated and inspirational professor, helping many students on their way to remarkable legal careers.

In addition to his academic success, Doug had many other career highlights. He was the respected author of numerous legal books; he was a consultant on law reform, constitutional and other legal matters to international bodies, provincial and international governments, organizations and law firms; and he played a prominent role in creation of the Canadian Constitution. He chaired the Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan, and served as president of the Saskatchewan Bar Association; he advised and lectured on legal, constitutional and judicial matters all over the world; and for many years he served as legal assessor to the Saskatchewan College of Physicians and Surgeons, and advisor to the Saskatchewan Veterinary Association. In 1982, he was appointed Queen's Counsel for Saskatchewan.

On a personal level, Doug was full of enthusiasm for life—he was a keen researcher with a curious mind, and dedicated himself 100 per cent to his tasks, whether as a professor, an outdoorsman, or a volunteer on numerous and varied boards and committees. He served on the boards of St. Paul's Hospital and Emmanuel Health, and as director of the United Funds of Saskatoon Foundation. He was an avid birder and fisherman, and served as president of Nature Saskatchewan, and a board member of



I would like to start by
welcoming members of
the Schmeiser family who
have joined us today—Irene
Schmeiser, Doug's wife; Robert
and Donna Schmeiser, his son and daughterin-law; and two of his grandchildren, Robbie
Schmeiser and Kaitlyn Landeryou.

Doug Schmeiser was born in the town of Bruno, Sask., on May 22, 1934, to parents Charles and Elsie Schmeiser.

He was educated at elementary and high school in Bruno, before attending the University of

Nature Canada. He had a strong feeling that nature should not just be enjoyed, but also preserved. He was president and campaign chairman of Saskatoon United Way, and was named an honourary life member of the organization in 1995. Doug's faith was important to him, and he served his community as president of Catholic Family Services, and a trustee of the Saskatoon Catholic School Board.

He was also a generous financial supporter of the causes he served, contributing to many scholarships and foundations. He endowed three scholarships to the University of Saskatchewan—two to the College of Law, the Douglas A. Schmeiser Prize in Criminal Procedure, and the Douglas A. Schmeiser Prize in Constitutional Law—and one to St Thomas More College, the Doug and Irene Schmeiser Scholarship in Philosophy. He believed strongly in supporting students and giving them a solid educational foundation. His philanthropy also reflected his gratitude for his own memorable experience during his time at USask.

Doug's extraordinary life work, achievements and philanthropy have been recognized many times with numerous awards. In 1997, he was presented with the Prime of Life Achievement Award from the USask Retirees Association; in 2005, he received the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal for service to the legal community; St. Thomas More College honoured him with a Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2009; and a year later, he received the Saskatchewan Order of Merit—the highest honour the province can bestow upon an individual.

A devoted family man, Doug enjoyed spending time with his loved ones. He and his beloved wife, Irene, travelled the world, making many friends along the way. He was father to six children—Douglas (who sadly predeceased him), Mary Ellen, Robert, Jamie, Gary and Peggy; and his family continued to grow with 11 grandchildren and one greatgrandchild.

Doug will be warmly remembered by his students and colleagues at the College of Law, the USask community, and all who knew him.



Dean Martin Phillipson (front row, second from right) visits JD students in Iqaluit September 2018.

Nunavut Law Program enters second year

By Sarah Trefiak

After a successful first year that included a welcoming ceremony, a mock trial at the Nunavut Court of Justice, a cultural workshop, and a Q&A session with Federal Minister of Indigenous Affairs Carolyn Bennett (just to name a few), the Nunavut Law Program kicked off year two on Sept. 4, 2018, in Iqaluit.

Both Dean Martin Phillipson and Chief Justice Neil Sharkey from the Nunavut Court of Justice were in Iqaluit to welcome students back.

"Like all students, they have a lot of hard work ahead of them, and it's important for our Nunavut students to know that they have the support of the entire law school," said Phillipson. "We will do everything we can to help them succeed."

The first courses, taught by College of Law alumni Tim Quigley (LLB'74) and Deborah Hopkins (LLB'91), included criminal law and legal research and writing. Scheduled for the rest of the term are torts taught by Signa

Daum Shanks and contracts taught by Gail Henderson.

"We are so fortunate to have high-quality faculty and staff in Nunavut, many who have travelled far from home to teach during the second year of the four-year program," said Phillipson. "They include professors from Osgoode Hall, Queen's University, and the Universities of Alberta and Victoria as well as from USask."

In addition to the intensive coursework and exams scheduled for the upcoming year, the director of the Nunavut Law Program, Stephen Mansell and Cultural Advisor Aaju Peter, plan to bring in a number of guest speakers and co-ordinate bimonthly traditional law and cultural programming for the students enrolled.

"Everyone at the University of Saskatchewan College of Law is very impressed with how hard the Nunavut students are working," said Mansell. "The cohort has really risen to the challenges of law school and is exceeding expectations."

College of Law Magazine law.usask.ca FALL 2018 OF NOTE

Amanda Doucette
was the recipient of the
2018 Provost's College
Award for Outstanding
Teaching (College of Law)
from the University of
Saskatchewan.

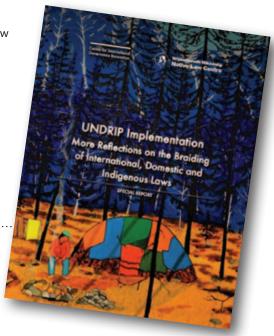


Amanda Doucette

News-in-brief

The International Law Research Program of the Centre for International Governance Innovation, together with the Wiyasiwewin Mikiwahp Native Law Centre of the University of Saskatchewan College of Law, presented a collection of essays

in UNDRIP Implementation: More Reflections on the Braiding of International, Domestic and Indigenous Laws discussing how international law, domestic constitutional law and Indigenous peoples' own laws can work together to bring about full implementation in Canada of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). Larry Chartrand co-authored an essay in the report.



Members of the Nunavut JD Program (Martin Phillipson, Doug Surtees, Heather Heavin, Tracey Wray, Bonnie Hughes, Stephen Mansell, Ben Ralston, Wendy Parkes, Aaju Peter and Serena Ableson) were the recipients of the 2018 Provost's Project Grant for Innovative Practice in Collaborative Teaching and Learning from the University of Saskatchewan.

Larry Chartrand was a successful recipient of a Gwenna Moss grant for experiential learning which was used to allow students to engage in direct cultural and legal processes such as the peace pipe ceremony, the sweat lodge ceremony and Medicine walk tours in the new first-year Kwayeskastasowin course.

Professor Wanda Wiegers is a coinvestigator on a team of five researchers who were awarded a SSHRC Insight grant of just under \$175,000 over three years to study access to justice in domestic violence cases at the intersection of multiple legal systems. The project also received a grant from the Law Foundation of Ontario to fund the establishment of a web-based research portal of domestic violence laws, policies and justice system components across Canada. The research portal is targeted at the intermediaries who support litigants in domestic violence cases.

With the support of the Saskatchewan Health Research Fund, CREATE Justice and the College of Law, in collaboration with the College of Medicine, hosted a medical-legal partnerships conference on Oct. 17 to share interim findings from CREATE's Justice and Health Community of Interest project. While currently emerging, the project aims at encouraging doctors, lawyers, and other health and human service providers to work together to improve health and justice outcomes in Saskatchewan.



Saskatchewan Access to Legal Information project launches public awareness campaign

During the Third Annual Saskatchewan Access to Justice Week in October, CREATE Justice launched a province-wide public library advertising campaign as part of the Saskatchewan Access to Legal Information (SALI) project.

The project aims to provide the public with better access to legal information through public libraries and the campaign highlights the opportunity for the public to find legal resources at their local library.

The campaign includes three videos on the topics of consumer law, family law, and the power of attorney and guardianship. A free legal resources fair was also held in Saskatoon during Access to Justice Week, providing the public with an opportunity to meet with volunteer lawyers for up to 30 minutes.

Visit youtube.com/CollegeofLawUsask to view and share the videos.

Examining guardianship law's effectiveness

By Sarah Trefiak

Professor Doug Surtees has devoted much of his research work to elder and disability law. His latest project is combining those two interests and taking a deep look at guardianship orders to ensure that legislation surrounding the topic is achieving what it was intended to.

In Saskatchewan, guardianship may be sought because an older individual has developed dementia, because an individual who does not have capacity has turned 18, or because a person has experienced a catastrophic event or illness.

"Guardianship law must balance interests such as providing individuals with the protection they need; maintaining as much of the person's autonomy as possible; and not exposing individuals to unwarranted risk of financial or other abuse," said Surtees, adding that guardianship is a topic that touches a large portion of the population at one or multiple points throughout their lifetime.

"Unless a person has created an Enduring Power of Attorney at a time when they did have capacity, the only other way for another to be able to make decisions for that person is to be appointed a guardian by the court," explained Surtees. "My research is aimed at trying to determine if the courts are living up to the principle that the adult is to have the most effective and least restrictive form of support, and that guardianship orders do not take away any more of the adult's rights than necessary for their protection."

Surtees plans to analyze and compare recent guardianship orders—which



Prof. Doug Surtees

provide information on a person's age as well as specific powers granted to the guardian—to those issued a decade ago in order to identify weaknesses in the system. He plans to look at Saskatchewan orders specifically, but expects that his findings will mirror other provinces with similar legislation.

"Removing individuals' rights is such an exceptional thing to do, that we have an obligation to evaluate whether we are doing the best we can."

College of Law Magazine law.usask.ca FALL 2018 OF NOTE

FEATURE:

Career of possibility:

Deborah Fry's trailblazing career choices

By Sarah Trefiak

On June 22, 2018, **Deborah E. Fry (JD'80)** was appointed as the first female Chief Justice of Newfoundland and Labrador. Born in Shellbrook, Sask., Fry moved with her family to Prince Albert, Sask., when she was about five-years old. To be exact, she moved in to the house right next to the former home of John Diefenbaker (LLB'19). One might assume this happenstance influenced Fry to be on a legal-minded career path from day one, but it was instead a career in nursing that intrigued her.

She graduated with her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Saskatchewan in 1973 and then began working in pediatrics and as a public health nurse in Saskatoon. In 1974, Fry made the move to Australia and in 1975 began to teach at the Western Australian School of Nursing in Perth, but in the back of her mind, she was thinking about an even bigger move—a career that might give her a greater level of independence and autonomy, possibly even a higher income.

"My father was a doctor, so medical school was what I was thinking about pursuing, so I enrolled in medical school in Australia," explained Fry.

After encountering difficulties transferring back to the University of Saskatchewan's College of Medicine because of rules of residency (she would have to reside in the province for three years before they would consider her application), she instead began contemplating a career in law.

"I started hearing about law and learning what lawyers did and I thought 'that might meet my career goals of independence and autonomy,' so I looked into it and applied," she said.

"I intended on spending three years doing a law degree, and maybe returning to medical school, but instead I graduated law school, married my husband John and came to Newfoundland and very much enjoyed the practice of law."

At Chief Justice Fry's public swearing-in ceremony on Sept. 10, former Chief Justice of Newfoundland and Labrador, Derek Green, called the residency requirement that prohibited Fry from attending medical school, a "fortuitous event."

"We are very lucky to have Deborah Fry to occupy the office of Chief Justice of the province. We will be well served by her. In fact, it is only by a quirk of fate that we have her," explained Green at the ceremony. "Some disappointments do work out for the best."

Throughout her accomplished and varied career, Fry has kept close ties to her medical and healthcare roots. Upon arriving in N.L.,

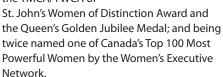


with her husband **John Clarke, QC, (JD'79)** she immediately connected with the nursing and medical community and lectured on medical-legal matters. She served as deputy minister for both the Department of Health and Department of Social Services. Once she became a judge of the Supreme Court in 2007, she joined the board of directors of the Judges Counselling Program.

"I think my health background connected with my legal background has served me well in a number of positions, including those public policy and administrative positions," said Fry.

Besides the ground-breaking (or ceiling-breaking)

accomplishment of becoming the first female Chief Justice of Canada's most easterly province, Fry's resumé also includes becoming the first female Clerk of the Executive Council and Secretary to Cabinet; co-founding the Centre for Innovative Dispute Resolution; serving in a number of senior leadership positions within government; receiving the YMCA/YWCA of



Deborah Fry (JD'80) was appointed

Chief Justice of Newfoundland and

on her.

Labrador on June 22, 2018.

She also lists her work on the elimination and reform of the denominational education system in N.L. as one of the highlights of her professional career. The change required a constitutional amendment and as the deputy minister of the Department of Education at the time, Fry spent a great deal of time in Ottawa at the House of Commons and Senate. As a result, Newfoundland and Labrador now has a single public school system where religious and spiritual values are still taught, but schools are not religiously-based nor does the church have a role in the governance or administration of the school system.

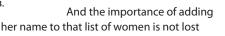
"I feel it was a really important contribution to the public life of our province," stated Fry. "I was heavily involved in all aspects of this important initiative and take pride in having been part of that process."

"I acknowledge and am grateful for the confidence that the Minister of Justice for Canada and the Prime Minister have shown in me in making this appointment"

As she transitions into her new role, Fry has a number of goals associated with the position. One of those being a continuation of her participation with women's organizations.

"I see opportunity for speaking engagements and involvement with the bar," she said. "I have been a mentor before and I intend to continue in that role in order to encourage young women and girls to achieve their goals."

Fry also wants to make sure more people are aware of the impact women have made in the law and judiciary in her province. During her swearing-in ceremony, she gave attendees a quick history lesson on women in law in Newfoundland and Labrador. and named women who have fought for inclusion, freedom of choice, human rights, equality rights and more, as a continuing source of inspiration.



"I acknowledge and am grateful for the confidence that the Minister of Justice for Canada and the Prime Minister have shown in me in making this appointment," said Fry at the ceremony. "This is a first

shown in me in making this appointment," said Fry at the ceremony. "This is a first for our province and I recognize there are special responsibilities that come with this appointment."

When it comes to some of the other challenges facing the court, Fry is looking to advance and move forward on some of the initiatives already underway, including reopening conversations with respect to models of judicially led court administration that feature a greater degree of judicial involvement in ensuring proper funding and staffing of courts while preserving judicial independence and public accountability for money spent.

"Another issue that I'm working hard on is ensuring that the judgments of the court are released on a timely basis, living up to the Canadian Judicial Council's recommendation of six months from hearing to release of decision," she said.

"Making the rules of court more understandable and adaptable for individuals who use the court system is also one of my goals," said Fry, adding that the rise of self-represented litigants in courts and procedures makes this increasingly important.

Since taking office she has already done significant work related to the provision of legal assistance for incarcerated self-represented litigants, including improving ways to distribute legal information and streamlining processes for connecting them to legal counsel or pro bono services.

Through her past work as a public servant and in her current work at the Court of Appeal, she has maintained ties to the University of Saskatchewan through the fellow alumni who surround her.

"We have a number of graduates here in N.L. including six judges sitting on the Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court and Provincial Court," she observed.

She also points to the college's Nunavut Law Program and recently announced partnership with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador in which the college plans to reserve two seats annually for Indigenous students from the province, as important connections.

"I think it's extremely important for the Indigenous population to have that opportunity to achieve higher levels of education and bring really great contributions back to their communities."

With a less than typical path to the highest court position in her own community, her advice to law students and new lawyers takes that into consideration.

"I would really encourage people to open their eyes and open their minds to a huge variety of possibilities that a legal education has to offer. There are so many opportunities to make a difference and follow your passion."

11

College of Law Magazine law.usask.ca FALL 2018 FALL 2018

Catching up with alumni

Members of the Class of 1968 celebrate their 50th reunion on





Professor **Brent Cotter** gives the Class of 1983 a tour of the law school on Aug. 17, 2018.





The Class of 2008 stops by the college for their 10-year reunion on May 19, 2018.

Alumni Notes

Merlis Belsher (BCOMM'57, LLB'63) received an honourary Doctor of Laws degree from USask on June 6, 2018. On June 12, 2018, he was inducted into the Junior Achievement of Saskatchewan Hall of Fame.

On May 22, 1018, Emanuel (Manny) Sonnenschein, QC (BA'62, LLB'63) received an Honourary Lifetime Membership in the Saskatchewan Trial Lawyers Association.

His Honour Tom Molloy (BA'64, LLB'64, LLD'09)Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, is the 2018 recipient of the Ramon John Hnatyshyn Award from the Canadian Bar Association.

Clint Docken, QC (BSC'73, JD'73) was awarded the Alberta Civil Trial Lawyers Association Champion of Justice Award in October 2017.

Peter MacKinnon, OC, QC (LLM'76) was appointed interim president at Dalhousie University on Oct. 16, 2018.

Doug Curliss, QC, CD (JD'79) was appointed a Senior Justice of the Peace for Saskatchewan in November 2017.

On June 12, 2018, **Colleen Wilson (JD'79)** was inducted to the Junior Achievement of Saskatchewan Business Hall Of Fame.

James (Jim) Kerby, QC (BCOMM'81, JD'84) was appointed chair of the board of directors for the Saskatoon Airport Authority on May 2, 2018.

Tracey Lindberg (LLB'93) was named a member of the 2018 College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists by the Royal Society of Canada.

Thomas Isaac (LLM'93) was named one of the "Top 25 Most Influential" for 2018 by *Canadian Lawyer* magazine.

Susan Toews (LLB'93) became General Counsel for Equinox Gold Corp. on April 4, 2018.

Erin Layton (BA'95, LLB'00) received the Premier's Award for Excellence in Public Service (Saskatchewan).

Hazel (Rae) Mitten (JD'00, LLM'04, PhD'11) has been acclaimed to the University of Saskatchewan Senate as a district 1 representative (Weyburn-Estevan-Carlyle).

Beverley Jacobs (LLM'00) was named a member of the Order of Canada on June 29, 2018.

Cameron Kemp (LLB'03) was named to the National Board of Directors for Kin Canada.

Ashley Smith (LLB'07) was named a *Lexpert Rising Star (Leading Lawyers Under 40)* and honoured at a gala in Toronto, Ont. on Nov. 8, 2018.

Blaine R. Beaven (BA'06, LLB'09) was

appointed as a part-time member (Aviation) of the Transportation Appeal Tribunal of Canada by the Governor in Council for a four year term beginning March 26, 2018. He was also awarded the Canadian Forces Decoration in March 2018 for 12 years of service to the Canadian Armed Forces in his trade as a Cadet Instructor Cadre officer.

Megan Nobert (JD'10) was named Humanitarian of the Year on June 14, 2018, by the NGO consortium InterAction in Washington, DC.

Judicial Appointments:

The **Hon. Justice Neil A. Sharkey (LLB'75)** was formally recognized as a Chief Justice of the Nunavut Court of Justice effective Oct. 1, 2018.

The **Hon. Deborah E. Fry (BSN'73, JD'80)**, a judge of the Trial Division of the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador, was appointed as Chief Justice of Newfoundland and Labrador on June 22, 2018.

The **Hon. Elizabeth A. Hughes (BA'81, LLB'81)**, a judge of the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta, was appointed a Justice of Appeal of the Court of Appeal of Alberta in Calgary on Nov. 5, 2018.

Michael D. Tochor (BA'81, JD'83), was appointed a judge of Her Majesty's Court of Queen's Bench for Saskatchewan in Saskatoon on June 22, 2018.

Brenda R. Hildebrandt, QC, (LLB'83, BA'84) a sole practitioner, was appointed a judge of Her Majesty's Court of Queen's Bench for Saskatchewan in Battleford on Nov. 2, 2018.

The **Hon. Robert Leurer (LLB'84)**, a judge of Her Majesty's Court of Queen's Bench for Saskatchewan, was appointed a judge of the Court of Appeal for Saskatchewan on Sept. 21, 2018.

Nancy F. Dilts (BA'85, LLB'88) was appointed a justice of the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta on May 3, 2018.

Charlene M. Richmond (BA'85, LLB'88)

a partner at Richmond Nychuk Barristers and Solicitors, was appointed a judge of Her Majesty's Court of Queen's Bench for Saskatchewan in Regina on Nov. 2, 2018.

Krista L. Zerr (BA'89, LLB'92) was appointed to the Court of Queen's Bench for Saskatchewan on May 11, 2018.

April D. Grosse (BA'94, LLB'97) was appointed a justice of the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta on May 4, 2018.

Erin M. Layton (BA'95, LLB'00) was appointed a judge of the Provincial Court in La Ronge on Nov. 2, 2018.

Submissions: **Send your news for our Alumni Notes column to** law_ofnote@usask.ca.

In Memoriam

It is with sorrow that we note the passing of the following College of Law alumni:

James A. Shields (BA'48, LLB'50) d. May 30, 2017

Robert W. Buckle (BA'74, LLB'78) d. Nov. 21, 2016

The Hon. Wallace V. Goliath (JD'62) d. Feb. 14, 2018

Douglas A. Schmeiser (BA'54, LLB'56) d. April 28, 2018

Nick J. Deptuck (LLB'66, BA'81) d. April 12, 2018

James M. Peltier (BSA'77, LLB'87) d. April 7, 2018

Terence (Terry) G. Graf, QC (LLB'69) d. May 30, 2018

Joseph T. Schuck (BComm'93, LLB'96) d. May 1, 2018

The Hon. Benjamin Goldstein (BA'50, LLB'58) d. June 19, 2018

The Hon. Leigh F. Gower (Arts'81, LLB'84) d. Oct. 29, 2018

Christine (Kris) Engstrom (Former law staff) d. July 2, 2018

Garth A. Turcott (BA'53, LLB'53) d. Jan. 11, 2018

Mary Richiger (Former law staff) d. October 2018

13

College of Law Magazine law.usask.ca FALL 2018 FALL 2018

New award celebrates a mother's legacy

By Sarah Trefiak

The University of Saskatchewan holds a special place in Ena Chadha's heart. It was where she received her law degree, it was where she met her husband, and it was where she began to deeply explore the vast areas of human rights and constitutional law.

Chadha received her LLB from the College of Law in 1992 and was called to the Ontario Bar in 1994. She now lives in Ontario and is a human rights lawyer, educator and mediator and is passionate about working with leaders in the areas of conflict resolution and human rights.

Following the death of her mother Mohinder, who passed away from cardiac arrest due to blood poisoning in 2017, Chadha and her

family decided to honour her mother by establishing an award at the College of Law. The award recognizes and rewards the volunteerism of a female Indigenous student who has successfully completed the Native Law Centre Summer Program and has been accepted into the USask JD program.

Chadha remembers her mother as caring, loyal, supportive and cheerful.

"She spoke her mind, stood up for her beliefs, was extremely hard-working and single-handedly prepared delicious meals for crowds of newcomers to Canada," Chadha recalled. "It's not an embellishment to say that my parents' home was a port of entry for thousands of people. I never knew who my mom



Mohinder Chadha in 1965.

was cooking for until I dished up my plate and met the person."

Aside from shepherding immigrants into Canadian life, Mohinder also liked knitting booties for elderly folks in nursing homes, and was a founding member of the Indo-Canadian community in Brampton, Ont. She was very proud of the fact that she was born in 1947, the year of India's independence from Britain's colonial rule.

"As immigrants that came from a country that had experienced British colonization, we grew up being very sensitive to the types of issues Indigenous peoples in Canada were experiencing and we had a heightened awareness that as first-generation

> newcomers to this country, we were on other peoples' land," Chadha said.



Left to right: Acacia Rambow (2018 recipient of Mohinder Chadha Award in Law), with Ena and her father Rajinder Chadha.

Mohinder and her husband Rajinder raised their daughters, Ena and Meena, to understand about colonialism, oppression and the power of law to change people's destiny. And that, said Chadha, is what led her to a career as a human rights lawyer and her sister to become a social worker.

"My family has a deeply held belief that everyone has a role to be servicing their community," Chadha said. "There was never anything you could do better than doing hard work. There was no way that if you were working in service of somebody that you should do anything less than give it your all. And I think I saw that through my parents' marriage and through their lives."

As she reflected on it, Chadha realized that the work ethic her mother embodied was the same work ethic she sees in the people of Saskatchewan.

"One thing we always say about Saskatchewan people is that they are so darn hard-working. It's not just a stereotype, it really is in their spirit and they embody a work ethic that I feel is unparalleled sometimes. And when you ask me what my mom taught me about doing human rights law and equality rights law, it was that it takes a lot of hard work," she said. Initially Chadha was attracted to studying at USask because of the strong constitutional faculty, but she quickly realized the importance of the Wiyasiwewin Mikiwahp Native Law Centre and became interested in learning more about Indigenous peoples and human rights.

"I think I was really lucky that before Truth and Reconciliation or Indigenous self-government issues were even on the radar of mainstream Canadian society, it was something that my father was talking about to us around the kitchen table," she continued. "He was very much aware of the systemic discrimination experienced by Indigenous people."

Although she was never a participant of the Native Law Centre Summer Program, the centre and the college's commitment to various Indigenous-focused initiatives were the reasons her family chose to establish an award in her mother's name at USask.

"We have ties to a lot of other universities, but USask felt right and the Native Law Centre (NLC) was the big reason. We believe in the principles and the mandate of the Centre and that's what we wanted to support. Hopefully by doing so, students will see what they did

by going through the NLC is an important thing and they will eventually pay back to the NLC themselves."

"Law is so foreign for everybody and in promoting access to justice really you need people from your own community," she added. "I know that as a South-Asian lawyer I have people who just want a lawyer who is racialized and so I know how incredibly important it is to have more Indigenous lawyers in our country."

Chadha believes that if her mother were alive, she would give this advice to current students: "Work hard. You will feel inalienable dignity just from being who you are, working hard and committing to community service."

Mary Culbertson appointed Treaty Commissioner for Saskatchewan

On Jan. 28, 2018, the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations and the Government of Canada appointed College of Law alumna Mary Culbertson (JD'14) as the new Treaty Commissioner for Saskatchewan.

A member of the Keeseekoose First Nation, she is the first from her community to receive a law degree and the first Indigenous woman to hold the title of Treaty Commissioner in the province.

In an interview with the Saskatoon StarPhoenix earlier this year, Culbertson told reporter Jenn Sharp that one of the areas she wants to work on is building relationships in rural communities.

"We need to have courageous conversations where people aren't scared to ask questions. We have to be calm and cautious in how we answer so we can properly educate," said Culbertson.

Culbertson's term as Treaty Commissioner runs until Jan. 28, 2021.



Left to right: Rajinder Chadha, Martin Phillipson and Ena Chadha.

College of Law Magazine law.usask.ca FALL 2018 or NOTE 15

COLLEGE ALUMNI AND FRIENDS HONOURED WITH

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



Kathy Ford, QC (left) is presented with her award by Heather Morrison (right).

Tim Hodgson (LLB'83)

Award recipients are chosen for their outstanding achievements and innovation; commitment to excellence; community engagement and leadership; and contributions to the social, cultural and economic wellbeing of society.

Established in 1978, the University of Saskatchewan Alumni Association Awards honour the outstanding accomplishments of our alumni and attest to the excellence of the University of Saskatchewan educational experience.



Tim Hodgson (left) receives his 2018 Alumni Achievement Award from emcee Heather Morrison (right).

Judges by the numbers

145 alumni currently serving in the judiciary in Canada

107 living alumni who are now retired from the judiciary

Judges and justices by province or territory*

- Saskatchewan: 91
- · Alberta: 23
- BC: 11
- · Yukon: 8
- · Newfoundland and Labrador: 6
- Federal courts: 4
- Manitoba: 4
- Northwest Territories: 3
- · Ontario: 3
- Nunavut: 3
- Prince Edward Island: 2

Chief Judges or Justices:

- Saskatchewan Court of Appeal
- Saskatchewan Court of Queen's Bench
- · Saskatchewan Provincial Court
- Newfoundland and Labrador Court of Appeal
- · Nunavut Court of Justice
- *some judges are appointed to courts in more than one province

Note: These numbers are based on a report compiled by USask University Relations and Records Administration team members on Oct. 26, 2018.

NEW GROUP MAKES ENVIRONMENTAL LAW A PRIORITY

By Sarah Trefiak

After being told time after time that she would have to move out of Saskatchewan if she wanted to work on environmental law issues, Taylor Anne Yee decided to start making her own opportunities.

"Anytime I mentioned I had an interest in the area, people suggested I move to B.C., Alberta or Ontario where they had organizations like Ecojustice, West Coast Environmental Law or the Canadian Environmental Law Association. But I was determined to stay in Saskatchewan," said Yee.

Wanting to give herself and others an outlet for their interests or a chance to develop their skills in environmental law, Yee established an organization called the Saskatchewan Association for Environmental Law (SKAEL), a non-partisan organization for anyone wanting to use the power of law to protect the environment.

"My intention was to start small– perhaps a Facebook blog focused on environmental law– but the endeavour soon morphed into something much, much bigger," she explained.

The group officially started operating as an organization on Aug. 1, 2018. Comprised of Yee (LLB'17), who now works at Bell, Kreklewich and Chambers in Melville, Sask., and other

College of Law alumni, the executive of SKAEL also includes two current USask law students—Glenn Wright and Logan Salm.

For the students, SKAEL gives them an opportunity to develop their skills while bringing awareness to legal issues affecting the environment.

"I became involved with SKAEL because I believe that law can be a powerful tool to enact change," said Salm. "Saskatchewan's clean air and water are some of the most precious resources and SKAEL hopes to preserve these resources for the future." As an engineer with 20 years of experience in resource extraction, Wright made a decision to switch to law in order to dedicate the rest of his career to the mitigation of climate change. He sees SKAEL as a way to network in order to bring more awareness to the topic.

"It has become obvious to me that we need to change public policy and the regulation of industry to better balance the economy and the environment," he explained. "I think the social movement focused on climate change will become one of the biggest social actions in the coming years."

While SKAEL is still in its infancy, the group has already partnered with Pro Bono Students Canada-Saskatchewan to write articles and case briefs for their website (skael. ca) and is planning a launch event in 2019.

Yee is enthusiastic about the future of the group and encourages both students and alumni who are interested to get involved.

"They can assist in writing or editing articles and case briefs, develop educational materials for the public, or, if they are more experienced, can provide legal expertise to volunteers or the general public. If an alumni or student has a particular skill or

project they want to work together on—just let us know!"





For more information on the Saskatchewan Association for Environmental Law, email contactus@skael.ca or visit them on Facebook (www.facebook.com/prairieskael).

College of Law Magazine law.usask.ca FALL 2018 FALL 2018 FALL 2018



CALL FOR ACTS

If you are interested in submitting an alumni act, or have footage, photos or memorabilia of past shows, please email **usask.legal.follies@gmail.com** by **January 4, 2019.**

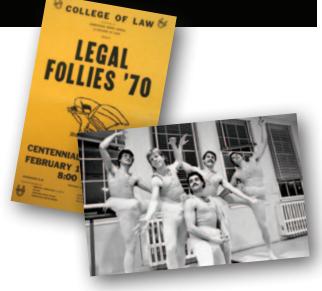
SPONSORSHIPS AND DONATIONS

The recipient charity for Legal Follies 50 will be CLASSIC! CLASSIC is a community legal clinic that provides services to low-income people in Saskatoon who otherwise cannot afford legal advice or representation.

If you are interested in sponsoring or donating to this year's production, please contact the Legal Follies board by emailing the address listed above.

THANK YOU

The Legal Follies board thanks alumni for their continued support and looks forward to showing their appreciation by delivering a fantastic show.



LLM News

Noah Wernikowski and Lawren Trotchie have been named as recipients of the 2018 E.M. Culliton Scholarship. Wernikowski (JD'17) will be working towards a LLM degree at the London School of Economics and Trotchie (JD'18) will undertake an LLM at the USask under the supervision of Professor Glen Luther.

Gideon Odionu successfully defended his LLM thesis *Mitigation of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions from Gas Flaring in Nigeria: Perspectives on Law and Regulation* on Sept. 10, 2018. *Supervisor: Ibironke Odumosu-Ayanu*.

On Aug. 30, 3018, **Nnaemeka Ezeani** successfully defended his LLM thesis titled Appropriate Legal Principles for Determination of Compensation for Infringements of Aboriginal Title in Canada.

Supervisor: Dwight Newman.

Frankie Young successfully defended her LLM thesis A Comprehensive Assessment of the Tax Issues Related to Indigenous Settlement Trusts on Aug. 28, 2018.

Supervisor: Tamara Larre.

Sheethal Veettil successfully defended her thesis *Indigenous Peoples' Rights Over Forest Resource Governance in India and Canada: Debating the Role of Decentralization* on June 13, 2018.

Supervisor: Dwight Newman.

Alumnus' gift gives law students from Iqaluit opportunity to attend Indigenous conference

By Sarah Trefiak

A generous gift from University of Saskatchewan (USask) alumnus Ken Fredeen (LLB'83) has allowed five USask students from Iqaluit to travel to Saskatoon for the first time since the Nunavut Law Program was established at the College of Law.

Fredeen, General Counsel with Deloitte LLP, was recently selected as Canada's General Counsel of the Year and received \$20,000 as part of the honour, which he gifted to the College of Law. With this generous support, the college was able to pay for the travel of five students enrolled in the college's Nunavut Law Program, allowing them to attend and participate in the Indigenous Bar Association (IBA) Annual Conference from Nov. 1-3 in Saskatoon.

A member of the Dean's Advisory Council at the College of Law, Fredeen has long been a passionate supporter of creating a more inclusive legal profession in Canada. He was a founding member of Legal Leaders for Diversity and Inclusion (LLD). With more than 130 general counsel from across Canada, the LLD funded an educational video which features significant Indigenous thought leaders. That video was launched at the IBA meetings in Saskatoon.

"The launch of the LLD video and the use of the General Counsel of the Year award to support Indigenous law students in the city and province of my birth, is very special to me," said Fredeen. "I congratulate the College of Law on their longstanding commitment to the Indigenous legal community."

"The college is enormously grateful to Ken for his generosity and his commitment to issues related to diversity and inclusion," said Dean of Law Martin Phillipson. "The College of Law has a 45-year history of making space for Indigenous students and lawyers and we are proud that alumni such as Ken share that

vision to help reinforce our commitment to a representative and diverse legal profession."

"Mr. Fredeen's gift allows us to not have to worry about the finances, or worry about forfeiting something else in making the decision to attend," said Robert Comeau, a Nunavut Law Program student. "So, we are here to learn and this is just a tremendous gift."

Comeau added "it's not just being able to attend the IBA fall conference,

but to be able to come down to our law school, we really feel like we are part of the University of Saskatchewan." Delivered in partnership between the College of Law, Nunavut Arctic College (NAC) and the Government of Nunavut, the program aims to increase the number of practicing lawyers in the territory, produce graduates that can practice in various fields of law, and improve access to justice for Nunavummiut.

Launched in 2017 and taught over four years, the Nunavut program prepared students

for legal studies during the first year, and will offer the same rigorous Juris Doctor program as the College of Law in the remaining three years. Students who successfully complete the program in 2021 will receive a University of Saskatchewan Juris Doctor (JD) degree, and join a community of distinguished alumni.

"Ken's gift has given members of the class of 2021 from Iqaluit the opportunity to meet their counterparts, as well as Indigenous lawyers from

across Canada, here in Saskatoon, and we are very appreciative of that," said Phillipson.



Ken Fredeen at the 2018 ZSA Canadian General Counsel Awards.



From left to right: David Lawson, Alanna Copland, Jasmine Redfern, Maria Campbell (College of Law Cultural Advisor), Angnakuluk Friesen, Robert Comeau, Martin Phillipson (Dean of Law)

College of Law Magazine law.usask.ca FALL 2018 FALL 2018 19







2018First Year Class

127

64% from Saskatchewan

students 36% from elsewhere in Canada

LSAT 158 (average) GPA 3.36

26 average age

Volunteer work:

food banks, coaching, victim assistance, Special Olympics, tutoring, Kidsport, Amnesty International, Ronald McDonald House and more.

Kwayeskastasowin

name of new first-year law course meaning "setting things right" in Cree.

6 # of provinces represented

5 students registered in the Certification in French Common Law Program

students enroled in the JD/MBA program

19 graduates of the Native Law Centre Summer Program

Previous education:

Sociology, Education, Philosophy, Psychology, Accounting, Chemistry, Marketing, Neuroscience, Marine Biology, Pharmacology, Music, Political Studies, Drama, and more.



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in University of Saskatchewan College of Law Alumni

youtube.com/CollegeOfLawUsask

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