

Room for change:

Breanna Needham
advocates for a
cultural shift

- USask Law wins national environmental moot competition
- New course uses art to reimagine the Canadian legal system
- Huskies' star Labach's career is right on track



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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.

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.

Cover image by Caitlin Taylor.



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Dispute Resolution Week debuts in Iqaluit

Prof. Michaela Keet takes dispute resolution north to Nunavut

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

EDITOR

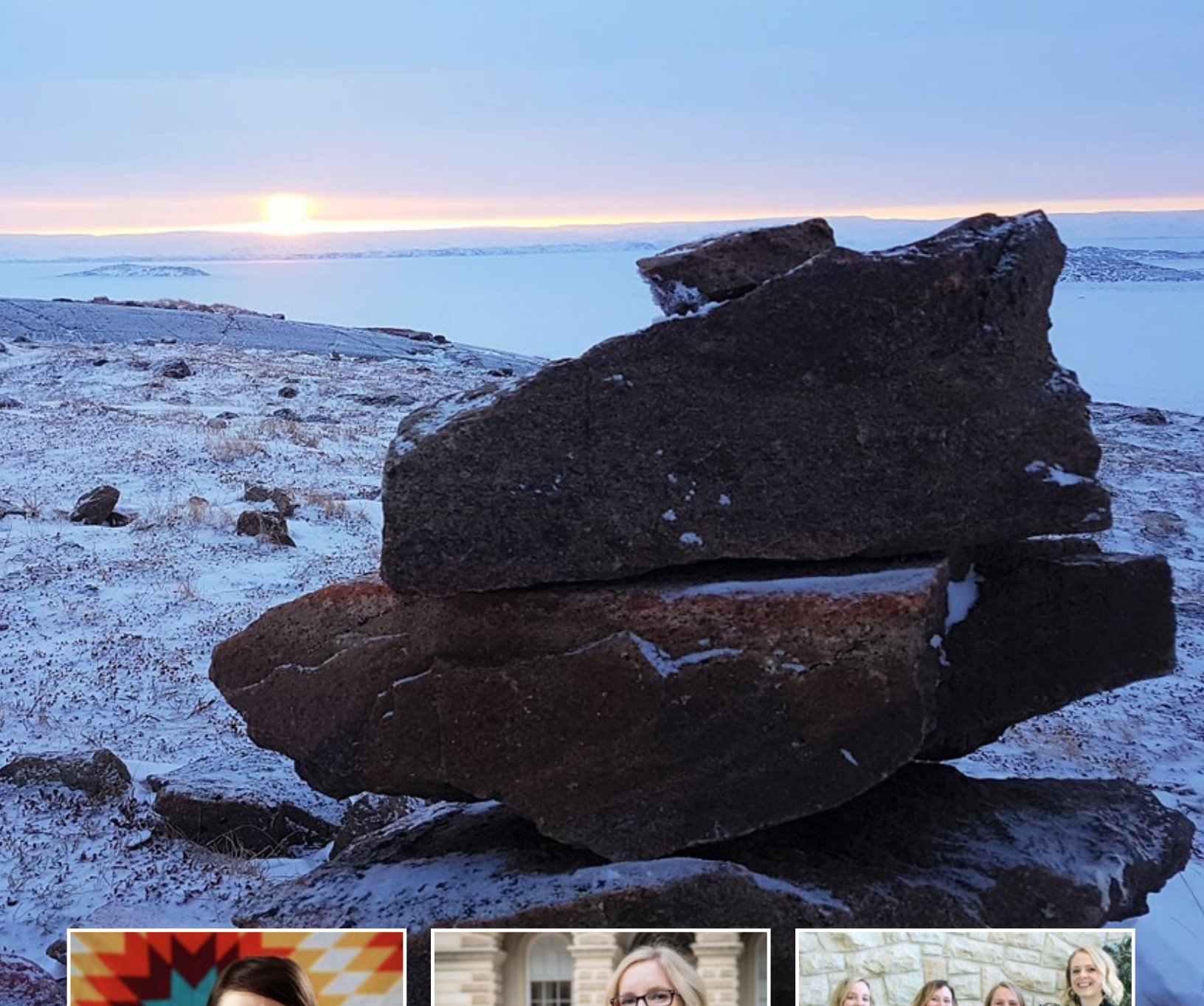
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New course uses art to reimagine the Canadian legal system

Kwayeskastasowin course makes connection between law and art



Room for change

Breanna Needham (JD'15) advocates for a cultural shift inside and outside the courtroom



USask Law wins national environmental moot competition

Students bring home the top prize at the Willms and Shier Environmental Moot

DEAN'S MESSAGE



Three years ago this summer, I became dean of the College of Law. While I don't often have time to reflect on the year gone by, when I do, the first thought I have is, "How will we ever top this year?" And then, I'm pleasantly surprised.

This past term has been one full of celebrating amazing accomplishments at the college: winning a national moot; receiving not one, but two, Provost's Teaching and Learning Awards; marking 50 years of Legal Follies; an international university/community partnership award for the College of Law and CLASSIC; and of course, witnessing our newest graduates cross the stage at spring convocation. This year, convocation moved back to campus for the first time in 50 years and was held in Merlis Belsher Place, named after our very own Merlis Belsher (LLB'63).

In April I was able to visit our students enrolled in the Nunavut Law Program in Iqaluit. This time I had the opportunity to go out "on the land" with them and take part in ice fishing, travelling out of the city and onto the sea ice by snowmobile. It was a remarkable experience and a wonderful opportunity to get to know the students outside the confines of the classroom. The college also delivered the first dispute resolution week in Nunavut when Professor Michaela Keet and two of our students travelled there in early February. Read more about their experience on page 6.

The best part of being dean of this great college is the opportunity to visit alumni across Canada. This spring, we held events in Calgary, Toronto, Vancouver, Ottawa and Kelowna. As I meet both familiar and new faces, I am always struck by the not only incredible accomplishments of our alumni, but also their humility and pride in their alma mater. We often bring current students to these events and it is wonderful to see "seasoned veterans" sharing their insights and experience with alumni in training! It seems that every one I meet has an amazing story to tell and I am excited to share some of your stories in future editions of this magazine.

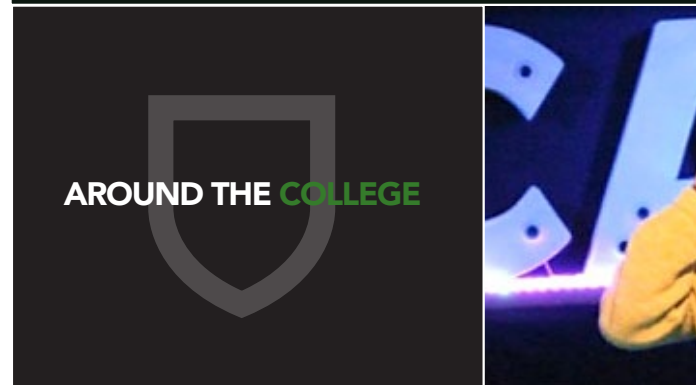
In this issue, we feature some extremely talented and driven individuals. Alumna Jessica Buhler gives us an overview of the CBA Young Lawyers International Program (p.14), we take a look at student Julianne Labach's accomplishments as a Huskie athlete (p.17) and last, but not least, we hear about Breanna Needham's successful online campaign for gender-neutral robing rooms at Osgoode Hall (p.10).

As you read this magazine, I hope you feel inspired and proud. Maybe you will be inspired to share your own story with us, maybe you will be inspired to organize a reunion and reconnect with your classmates, or maybe it will inspire you to reflect on your personal and career accomplishments in a way you have not done before. In any event, if you read these stories and feel even a fraction of the pride for this college that I am so fortunate to experience on a daily basis, I will have done my job! Maybe I'll even add "spread college pride" to our list of accomplishments for next year.

Keep in touch...

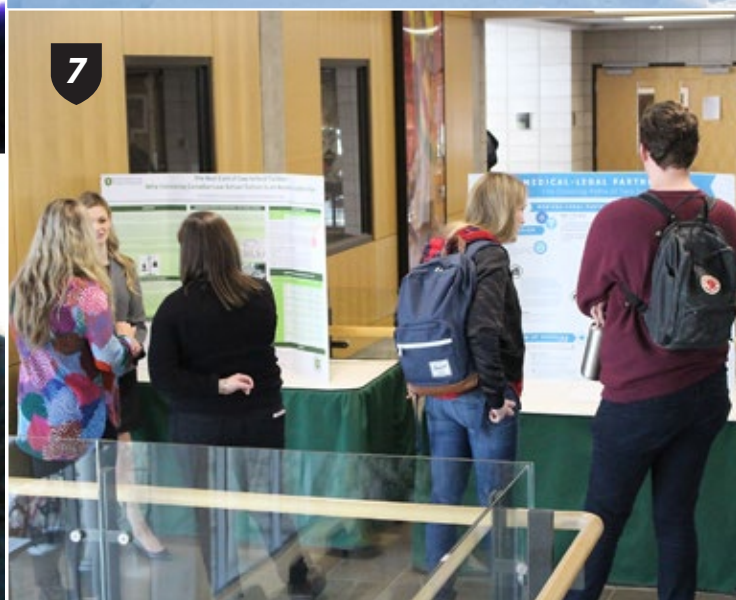
Sincerely,

Martin Phillipson
Dean, College of Law



1 Keeping with tradition, the ladies' kick line performs at the 50th annual Legal Follies. Photo credit: Shelby Fitzgerald.

2 Christine Glazer, QC, delivers the 2019 Silas E. Halyk Lecture in Advocacy on Jan. 21, 2019.



3 Students of the Native Law Centre Summer Program were invited to witness the exoneration of Chief Poundmaker on May 23, 2019. 📷 Brad Fenty.

4 Glen Luther performs at the CLASSIC Karaoke event on March 1, 2019, raising more than \$9,000 for the organization.

5 Chief Justice of Canada, Richard Wagner, PC and law student Katherine Starks during Wagner's visit to Saskatoon in March. Starks will clerk for Chief Justice Wagner in 2020.

6 Martin Phillipson with students of the Nunavut Law Program in April 2019.

7 The third annual College of Law Research Poster Competition was held in conjunction with the Dean's Forum on March 13, 2019.

DRAWING CONCLUSIONS: NEW COURSE USES ART TO REIMAGINE THE CANADIAN LEGAL SYSTEM



Assistant Prof. Jaime Lavallee teaches the Kwayeskastasowin course at USask Law.

By Sarah Trefiak

Law and art are words that do not often appear together in the same sentence, but in one course at the College of Law, the combination has proved to be a valuable learning opportunity.

The *Kwayeskastasowin* (Cree for “setting things right”) course was introduced at the College of Law in the fall of 2018 in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Call to Action #28 which calls on law schools in Canada to educate their students in Indigenous people and the law, addressing areas such as inter-cultural competency, human rights and anti-racism.

As part of the requirements for the course, Jaime Lavallee, assistant professor at USask Law, asked her class to think about and articulate, through the development of a poster, a new vision of an equitable society where Indigenous legal traditions are an inclusive part of Canadian law.

“The idea behind the assignment was to show that there is law in ‘art,’” she said. “It allowed the students to work together to form a vision of what they believe could be a Canada that incorporates Indigenous legal orders. This drew upon their interpretation of the class and what they believe held importance for reimagining Canada.”

Lavallee noted that items that are often considered art, such as the two row wampum, can actually embody law for Indigenous peoples, which is why it is so important to include Indigenous peoples’ legal traditions in the law. She also used the principle of *debwewin* (Saulteaux/Anishnabe) or *tapwewin* (Cree) as a teaching tool throughout the course.

“The task of working in groups showed students how each person has their own vision, their own viewpoint, and world view, that affects the outcome of this assignment and the process to create it—this was an example of *debwewin* or *tapwewin*.”

Loveneet Brar was part of a group that used the analogy of the Canadian Constitution as a living tree instead of a static document. Words and phrases such as “peace pipe,” “understanding” and “storytelling,” are written on the branches of the tree while the image of two eyes on the trunk symbolizes the theoretical framework of *Two-Eyed Seeing*—an Indigenous concept that brings together various ways of knowing and the use of understandings to reshape the world.

“For me, it was tough to understand Indigenous legal traditions in practice, so this assignment put things into perspective for my group and I, in that we were able to grasp a more in-depth understanding of what these traditions look like and how to implement them into our society today,” said Brar.

Brar and her group members recommended the codification of Indigenous legal principles and teachings so that others, including those in the court system, would have access to Indigenous-based knowledge and traditions that previously only existed in an oral format.

“We all found gaps within our current society that did not currently incorporate Indigenous legal traditions. It was unexpected to find the breadth of Indigenous law, the lack of incorporation into Canadian laws, and the continued lack of incorporation. After coming to this realization, I felt more inclined to learn about Indigenous and Aboriginal Law and felt the importance of working towards decolonization as an individual, as part of the College of Law, and as part of society at large,” she explained.

A number of other groups also chose to use a tree to represent the Canadian legal system, including the group Alexandria Struder was a part of. The students drew roots to represent ‘deeply entrenched principles of colonialism’ and leaves to articulate ‘a new vision of an equitable society and ways to procure reconciliation.’

“This course gave me a thorough review of the history of the Canadian Indigenous population that allowed me to better understand laws and issues

surrounding present laws that were covered in other courses throughout the semester,” said Struder.

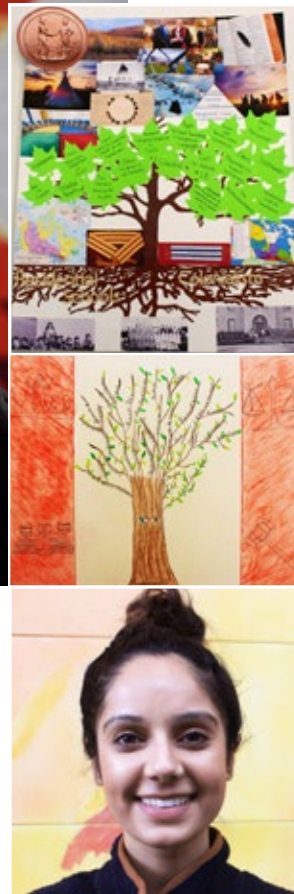
Although the assignment wasn’t considered a traditional teaching method in the mainstream education system, Struder said she was surprised at the depth of learning she was able to achieve.

“This assignment really allowed me to recognize that I need to be able to learn outside my comfort zone in order for my learning abilities to expand.”

Top: Struder’s group drew roots to represent deeply entrenched principles of colonialism.

Middle: Brar’s group used a tree to represent Canada’s Constitution as a living document.

Bottom: Student Loveneet Brar felt more inclined to learn about Indigenous Law after completing the Kwayeskastasowin course.



MCKERCHER LLP LECTURE SERIES:

Winter 2019 highlights



Jeffery Hewitt
from uWindsor
discusses art in law.



A full lecture theatre heard from panellists Eleanore Sunchild, QC,
Estair Van Wagner and Doug Cuthand regarding the impacts of the
trial surrounding the death of Colten Boushie.



The Chief Justice of Canada
addresses students during his
first visit to Saskatoon.



The panel on Jan. 28 discussed food security
and food deserts in Saskatchewan.

Part two of the 2018/19 McKercher Lecture Series began with the Wunusweh Lecture in Aboriginal Law. Jeffery Hewitt, a professor at the University of Windsor, presented "Select Narratives and Visuals of Indigenous Art: Exploring Connections in Law."

On Jan. 28, the college, in partnership with LEVEL, hosted a panel to discuss "Food Deserts in Saskatchewan: The Right to Food Security." Speakers included Glenda Abbott (Pelican Lake First Nation), Gord Enns (Saskatoon Food Council), Rachel Engler-Stringer (USask) and Grant Wood (USask).

More than 130 people gathered on Feb. 25 to hear Estair Van Wagner (Osgoode Hall Law School), Doug Cuthand (Blue Hill Productions), and Eleanore Sunchild, QC, (Sunchild Law) speak on "Law, Advocacy and Public Perspectives: The Impacts of the Boushie Case."

The series concluded with the Gertler Family Lectureship in Law presented by the Right Honourable Richard Wagner, PC, Chief Justice of Canada. On what was his first visit to USask (and Saskatchewan), Chief Justice Wagner discussed "Dignity, Equality, and Democracy: The Impact of Identity in Canadian Law."

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

DISPUTE RESOLUTION WEEK DEBUTS IN IQALUIT

By Sarah Trefiak

One of the goals the College of Law has set for the Nunavut Law program is to provide students there with the same type of learning opportunities that exist at the Saskatoon campus.

That meant planning a Dispute Resolution Week—a one-week program that introduces students to various processes and skills that lawyers use in managing and resolving client problems and legal disputes—for law students in Iqaluit.

In February, Prof. Michaela Keet, who also oversees the program in Saskatoon, travelled to Iqaluit, Nunavut, with two upper-year students, Sarah Wingerak and Katherine Starks, to manage and teach the program. The one-week course included negotiation and interview simulations with regards to property and employment disputes; an introduction to mediation with a focus on family disputes and access to justice considerations; and an overview of alternative approaches to criminal justice.

Keet, who has been involved in the program since its inception in 2008, was deeply moved by the experience.



Dispute Resolution Week took place from Feb. 4 to 8 in Nunavut.

"It was one of the most meaningful teaching experiences I have had in the course of my career. And I think this was because of the relationships that developed among the group—the way we approached one another," she explained.

Keet found that the conversation often at many times like 'collaborative dialogue' rather than teaching.

"It was so refreshing to let go of the normal hierarchical structure of the classroom, and simply—and genuinely—explore issues and dispute resolution models together."

Another observation Keet made note of was just how much legal conflict between people can look the same whether in urban centres, family farms on the prairies, or on the Arctic tundra.



l to r: Sarah Wingerak, Michaela Keet, Katherine Starks, Nastania Mullin and Mike Rafter.

"Once we began to negotiate these legal problems, what became clear was the underlying dynamics of human conflict—the breakdowns in communications, the unmet expectations—all of these things can sound and feel the same no matter where you are."



Marley Dunkers, a student in the Nunavut Law program, said that after a lot of worrying about whether or not she would make a good lawyer, the dispute resolution program gave her a fresh perspective on what she might face if and when she goes on to practice.

"I found that I really enjoyed the hands-on experience and was reminded as to why I wanted to become a lawyer in the first place," said Dunkers.

Students Katherine Starks and Sarah Wingerak shared that while they were asked to join the program to lead discussions, they soon found they were learning just as much as the other students in the Iqaluit classroom.

"This was not a teaching experience, but rather an opportunity to collaborate and share ideas on how to have an effective interview with a potential client regarding a legal matter or issue. It became apparent to me that Kath and I were learning just as much as the other students during the discussions," said Wingerak.

Stark also made note of some of the differences between the typical Saskatoon classroom and the Nunavut Law program classroom.

"One thing that struck me was the direct and sincere engagement many students had throughout the lectures during the week. It made me want to challenge myself to speak up more in class, ask more questions, and work to be more direct in my way of communicating," she said. "I also admired how family-centred and welcoming the classroom was. I think we could learn a lot in Saskatoon about embracing the whole of students' experiences and

expertise—cultural, linguistic, familial and professional—in the classroom."

Outside of the classroom, Starks and Wingerak were given a taste of life in Iqaluit. Their transportation to the airport was via snowmobile (luggage and all), they discovered that the best place for dancing in the city was the Royal Canadian Legion, and while they thought coming from Saskatchewan they knew how to stay warm, they realized they had no idea.

"Store-bought coats are a joke," said Starks. "I was so cozy in the proper sealskin mitts and real parkas our classmate lent me for our trip out on the land."

Personally, it was the connections made with the Nunavut students that meant so much to Wingerak.

"There was a strong sense of cultural identity and community that transpired throughout the classroom – this cultural identity was apparent in their everyday life, and part of what made the USask College of Law Nunavut Campus seem so unique and special."

Both Starks and Wingerak felt the connection made with Nunavut students will make them better lawyers and that they will carry those relationships with them for the rest of their respective careers.

"I strongly value the connections and relationships that were built over this week and hope to stay in touch and continue to collaborate as we all progress into our future careers in the legal profession," said Wingerak.



The Saskatoon contingent travelled by snowmobile to the airport in Iqaluit.

DONOR NEWS

Gowling WLG creates scholarship for students at Native Law Centre

At a reception in Ottawa on Dec. 4, 2018, Gowling WLG announced the launch of the Brian A. Crane/Gowling WLG Indigenous Law Student Scholarship. The award recognizes long-time firm partner and influential Indigenous law practitioner Brian A. Crane, QC.

Created in partnership with the Wiyasiwewin Mikiwahp Native Law Centre at the University of Saskatchewan, the scholarship will support Indigenous students as they pursue a career in law. The \$5,000 scholarship will be awarded annually to an Indigenous student enrolled in the Native Law Centre Summer Program (formerly known as the Program of Legal Studies for Native People).

STLA commits to sponsorship of Western Canada Moot Team

The Saskatchewan Trial Lawyers Association will provide \$60,000 over the next three years to sponsor the college's Western Canada Moot Team.

The funding will go towards expenses incurred when the team travels to compete in the Western Canada Trial Advocacy Moot (otherwise known as the MacIntyre Cup).

In recognition of the gift, the team will now be known as the STLA Western Canada Moot Team.

The STLA is a valued supporter of the College of Law. Since 1988, the STLA has sponsored a Trial Advocacy Award granted annually to a law student enrolled in the Trial and Appellate Advocacy course at the college, and in 2013, the STLA established an annual scholarship to recognize the top academic performer on the Western Canada Moot Team.



Coach Brooke Johnson (left) presents ShayAnne Surtees with the 2019 STLA Western Canada Moot prize.

FACULTY RESEARCH

Jaime Lavallee is the incoming recipient of the 2019 Law Foundation of Saskatchewan Faculty Fellowship. Professor Lavallee's project is titled: "Transformative Governance: Displacing Colonialism – Governance by, of, and for Indigenous Peoples."

The Grants Selection Committee of the Canadian Foundation for Legal Research will provide \$10,000 to **Jaime Lavallee** for her project: "Applying the TRC: Moving beyond reconciliation to kwayeskastasowin (setting things right)."

The Grants Selection Committee of the Canadian Foundation for Legal Research will provide \$10,000 to **Brea Lowenberger** for her project: "Study of the Saskatchewan Legal Coaching and Unbundling Pilot Project."

News-in-brief

Sarah Burningham is the recipient of a faculty research grant in the amount of \$8,420.00 from the *Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science & Justice Studies*. Sarah's project is entitled: "Abortion in Saskatchewan: A History of the *Freedom of Informed Choice Bill*".

Michael Plaxton's newest book, "Sovereignty, Restraint, and Guidance: Canadian Criminal Law in the 21st Century" was released in May 2019.

Students, academics, and lawyers often think of the substantive criminal law as if it were just another branch of the common law. On this understanding, it falls to the courts to decide on a case-by-case basis what conduct should and should not be criminal and which defendants deserve punishment. In *Sovereignty, Restraint, and Guidance*, Plaxton argues that this model badly distorts both the role of the courts and the central purpose of criminal offences.



FACULTY NEWS



On July 1, 2019, the College of Law named **Marilyn Poitras** the new associate director of the Wiyasiwewin Mikiwahp Native Law Centre for a one-year term.

On Dec. 27, 2018, **Patricia Farnese** was appointed by order-in-council as a member (part-time) to the Canada Agricultural Review Tribunal.

Barbara von Tigerstrom was a recipient of a 2019 USSU Teaching Excellence Award for her Torts class in 2018/19.

Clayton Bangsund was named a 2019 recipient of the Provost's College Award for Teaching.

The **Dean's Forum on Access to Justice and Dispute Resolution** was the 2019 recipient of the Provost's Prize for Collaborative Teaching & Learning.

Sarah Buhler was a nominee for a 2019 Saskatoon YWCA Women of Distinction award in the category of Research and Technology.

The College of Law and CLASSIC are the 2019 recipients of the **Professor Sir David Watson Award** for Community University Partnerships. This award, created in memory of the former University of Brighton (United Kingdom) Vice-Chancellor, recognizes the combined efforts of community and university partners towards making a difference to the shared lives of people in their shared community.



Dean's Forum participants. Front (l to r): Brea Lowenberger and Coleman Owen; Middle (l to r): Melissa Craig and Zoe Johansen-Hill; Back (l to r): Larissa Meredith-Flister, Martin Phillipson, Allyse Cruise and Jianna Rieder.

SEVENTH MEETING OF THE DEAN'S FORUM LOOKS AT DIVERSITY AND TECH

The seventh meeting of the Dean's Forum was held on March 13, 2019 with participants addressing the topics of "Diversity and Inclusion in the Legal Profession" and "Meeting Saskatchewan's Justice Needs with Technology". The Dean's Forum is an initiative based out of the College of Law that engages justice community stakeholders in Saskatchewan in a dialogue about access to justice and the future of the justice system.

The day began with upper-year law students Zoe Johansen-Hill, Larissa Meredith-Flister, and Coleman Owen presenting their policy discussion paper on *Diversity and Inclusion in the Legal Profession*. Participants then divided into groups to discuss diversity and inclusion at private law firms in Saskatchewan. Following

the breakout sessions, participants reconvened to discuss themes that emerged during their discussions. Some of those themes included:

- **the role of education for law students and lawyers on topics of bias, leadership, and cultural competence;**
- **diversity and inclusion must be seen as core components of professionalism;**
- **leaders must create an environment in which people are safe and can flourish;**
- **the importance of having support groups that are championed by the leadership of the organization;**
- **the necessity of baseline data to estimate where the legal profession in Saskatchewan is headed; and**

- **the importance of celebrating positive steps taken by organizations and individuals in building momentum**

The afternoon session of the Dean's Forum focused on the topic of "Meeting Saskatchewan's Justice Needs with Technology" and was structured by upper-year law students Melissa Craig, Allyse Cruise, and Jianna Rieder. Attendees were :

- **asked to consider how to strengthen the public's access to credible and centralized legal information online in a matter that would improve the public's capacity to exercise their legal rights and responsibilities.**
- **given a brief description of the current ecosystem in Saskatchewan and the current state of legal technology in other jurisdictions, as well as an introduction to design thinking and process mapping.**

The day ended on a positive note with commitments from several participants to embrace technology and move forward with project development to meet the justice needs of Saskatchewan.

For more information on the Dean's Forum and to view full reports, visit law.usask.ca.



Room for change:

BREANNA NEEDHAM ADVOCATES FOR A CULTURAL SHIFT

By Sarah Trefiak

If you are one of the many legal professionals on Twitter, there is a good chance you have heard of, or maybe even follow, @Breanna_Needham. The 2015 USask Juris Doctor graduate made headlines in February 2019 when she created an online petition leading to the introduction of gender-neutral robing rooms in Osgoode Hall. Today, she continues to have a strong social media presence when it comes to advocating for LGBTQ+, gender-equity and feminist issues.

As a self-declared intersectional feminist, Needham strives to look at feminism in a broader light—one that includes women in minority groups, not just white women.

"I try to explain intersectional feminism by using the stacking effect. Sure, it's difficult to be a woman in law, but it's even more difficult to be a woman in law who happens to be a woman of colour, who happens to be LGBTQ+, who happens to have a disability or mental health issues," said Needham. "It's the confluence of these things that are often problematic and that is what intersectionality is meant to address."

Needham was born and raised in Maple Creek, Sask., and moved to Saskatoon in 2006 to study at the College of Agriculture and Bioresources where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. After entering a male-dominated workplace in the agricultural sector, Needham started to think about feminism and advocacy, which eventually led her to pursue a law degree.

As a law student, she made the most of her time at the college.

"I had a fantastic law school experience. I was fortunate enough to compete in the Jessup moot and I think that was one of the

highlights of my law school experience," she said, adding that she still maintains close friendships with almost all of her teammates.

Needham also volunteered at CLASSIC, served as an editor of the Saskatchewan Law Review and was engaged as a participant of the Dean's Forum on Access to Justice—an initiative focused on finding ways legal services can be integrated into legal practice to provide greater access to justice in the context of a changing societal dynamic.

"With the recent cuts to legal aid in Ontario, my experience with the Dean's Forum has encouraged me to be more thoughtful about access to justice and how it affects our population, our society, our court systems

and even the efficiency of our court systems," she said.

Needham also points out law school wasn't always easy, and it is why she is quick to lend her encouragement to current and future students.

"Law school is hard, but don't let it define who you are. Remember that yes, you are a lawyer, but you should always try to be the best version of yourself. If you can stay committed to what you believe in and not kind of lose yourself in the law school process, then that really is success."

You could argue Needham has found that success. Along with developing a strong voice as a social justice and feminism advocate,



Needham and Martin Phillipson in Toronto in April 2019.

“How many times are we going to have the same conversation, letting it fall away, and do nothing?”

she has solidified a career in commercial litigation, recently joining Borden Ladner Gervais LLP (BLG) as an associate in their Toronto office. She has also received the admiration of fellow College of Law alumni including Brea Lowenberger, Director of CREATE Justice.

“Retaining lawyers from equity-seeking groups has been and continues to be one of the biggest challenges and opportunities in the Canadian justice sector. Breanna’s commitment to using her voice and acting to improve diversity and inclusion in the legal profession is an example to us all,” said Lowenberger.

With that voice and devotion, it is no surprise that Needham decided to take action when she saw a photo posted online of Toronto lawyer Fay Faraday and other female counsel standing in a robing room with sad expressions on their faces because only a few members of their group could fit into that robing room at one time.

“I was scrolling through Twitter, looking at the comments being made and the outrage, and

I said to myself, ‘We just had this conversation. How many times are we going to have the same conversation, letting it fall away, and do nothing? We’re advocates. We should be able to advocate for change when it matters.’”

The conversation Needham referred to was born out of an article that appeared in *Canadian Lawyer* magazine which profiled the spatial disparity of robing rooms at Osgoode Hall. Needham added it was well-known among women in the profession that the robing room was a place where important discussions and mentoring took place. Discussions and mentoring that female lawyers were not privy to.

“After the article came out, there was some online outrage about how change was needed and how this was an antiquated notion in a profession that is supposed to be progressive in setting an example when it comes to addressing these key issues—equality, diversity and inclusion—and then it just kind of died away,” said Needham.

But just 13 days after Needham posted a petition online calling for the Law Society

of Ontario (LSO) to do away with the Lady Barrister room in favour of a unisex robing room, the LSO announced on Twitter that change was coming and the men’s robing room would be turned into an all-gender space.

With more than 800 signatures on the petition, Needham was encouraged and inspired by the outpouring of support she received from colleagues across the legal community, but she admits the response was not all positive.

“There were several people that I spoke to directly and several others that I heard from second-hand who were not pleased with the initiative or the outcome. Often, they would articulate that they were presenting a position on behalf of other groups – women who may not be comfortable speaking out—or they thought I was suggesting we should be changing freely in front of each other,” said Needham, adding that those opposed often couldn’t clearly articulate what their reason for being opposed to the initiative was.

Those types of reactions are part of the reason why Needham feels her work is not done yet.

“To truly integrate diversity, equality and inclusion, not only into our profession, but into society, you have to see a cultural shift,” said Needham. “And a cultural shift isn’t always the result of a big initiative. It’s often what we do in the day-to-day: How we engage with others; how we show solidarity; how we show support; how we address people in positions of power.”

Needham encourages fellow lawyers to apply the same critical thinking skills they would apply to every other manner of their practice to the matters of diversity, equality and inclusion.

“I think that with applying the same level of commitment and the same level of depth of thought that lawyers bring to the profession in their client work, many would see that these are real issues and we are not there yet.”



Needham regularly uses social media to advocate for equality and diversity.  Caitlin Taylor.



1. The Class of 1989 visited the college during their 30th Reunion Weekend on June 7, 2019.

2. Professor Glen Luther and Merlis Belsher (LLB'63) at a Huskies hockey game at Merlis Belsher Place in Saskatoon.

3. On May 3, 2019, Dean Phillipson met with The Hon. John Douglas (LLB'74) of the PEI Provincial Court (left) and The Hon. Justice John Mitchell (LLB'81) of the PEI Court of Appeal (right).

4. Alumni Eve Wahn, Brendan Holness, Brent Weaver and Naseem Malik at the Toronto reception on May 1, 2019.

5. College of Law alumni in Calgary gathered at Sub Rosa for a reception on Feb. 26, 2019.

6. Members of the Dean's Advisory Council met in Saskatoon on April 13, 2019.

YOUNG LAWYERS INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM A STEPPING STONE FOR USASK LAW ALUMNI

By Jessica Buhler (JD'14)

Amanda Dodge (LLB'03) was disillusioned with her first-year foundational law courses.

"Where is the justice stuff?," she asked.

When she heard about the Canadian Bar Association's internship program from a graduate student and program alumni, the College of Law's very own Dwight Newman, Dodge knew that she had found the justice piece she had been missing.

The Canadian Bar Association's Young Lawyers International Program (YLIP) places legally trained Canadians with international partner organizations located around the world. With funding from Global Affairs Canada, YLIP is offering 32 eight-month internships each year until 2022. Interns spend six months overseas, with the remainder of the time allocated for training and preparations before departure and debriefing and reintegration on return. The funding covers each intern's travel-related costs (including airfare, visas, and travel insurance), and attendance at a pre-departure training. Interns also receive a monthly stipend to help cover living expenses, such as accommodation and transportation.

For **Paige Ainslie (LLB'07)**, the opportunity to participate in YLIP was part of what motivated her to go to law school. After working internationally for a couple of years following her undergraduate degree, Ainslie returned to Canada anxious to find her next international opportunity when she came across a link for YLIP. While Ainslie had been considering going to law school to gain some more practical skills to offer in her international work, finding YLIP introduced her to the kinds of international opportunities available to lawyers.

Sonia Eggerman (LLB'05) echoes Dodge and Ainslie's motivation for participating in YLIP: "I wanted to use my law degree in a practical and useful way."

YLIP connects with partner organizations and matches interns for placements. Interns are responsible for researching their placement country, finding accommodation, and learning about the legal frameworks in which they will be working. Interns get a head start by participating in a two-day pre-departure training where they meet fellow interns, hear



Jessica Buhler at Lawyers for Human Rights.

from program alumni and receive training on international development themes, such as gender equality, inclusive governance and environmental sustainability.

Dodge was ultimately placed with the Legal Assistance Centre in Namibia. Her work was primarily focused on the implementation

of a new piece of legislation addressing sexual assault. She conducted research and participated in community legal education initiatives. "I learned how to do community legal education in a way that community members could understand and use," Dodge explained.



Paige Ainslie (left) volunteering as an election monitor.

Eggerman also interned with the Legal Assistance Centre in Namibia. She worked on the implementation of the same legislation only a couple of years after its release. Part of her role involved collecting domestic violence data from court houses across the country. "This gave me great insight into the legal system and some of the enormous challenges associated with implementing progressive laws with limited resources," she said.

Several years after first seeing the YLIP posting, Ainslie was posted with the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative in Uganda. Her work was primarily focused on drafting a human rights report on labour rights in Uganda.

Despite the program name, interns are not required to be lawyers. Interns must have graduated from a Canadian law school or hold a National Committee on Accreditation Certificate of Standing; however, they do not need to be called to the bar. Interns come from different stages of their legal careers—some are recent law graduates, others have completed their articles, and some have experience working in government, in-house or in private practice. The "young" part of the program name does apply, however; interns must be at or below the age of 30.

Informed by her YLIP experience, Ainslie now practises labour and employment law. She credits her placement for fostering her interest in labour and employment and for exposing her to international labour law systems and standards.

Dodge's verdict?

"One of the best years of my life, both professionally and personally," she said. She has used her community training experience throughout her career and says the experience taught her that "social justice-oriented lawyers should facilitate the advocacy of their clients, not necessarily speak for them."

For Eggerman, the opportunity to learn from and work with those who fought hard to abolish legalized racism in Southern Africa has had lasting impacts. "I learned about the

"One of the best years of my life, both professionally and personally,"

- Amanda Dodge (LLB'03)

power of law for both good and bad," she said. "I use what I have learned in YLIP every day."

More information regarding the program and recruitment cycles can be found on the YLIP website: <http://www.cba.org/CBA-International-Initiatives/Young-Lawyers-International-Program>.

For members older than 30 years of age, the Canadian Bar Association offers additional international volunteer opportunities through the International Initiatives Program. More information on current projects can be found at <http://www.cba.org/CBA-International-Initiatives/>.

Jessica Buhler (JD'14) completed her YLIP internship in March 2019. Based with the Environmental Rights Programme with Lawyers for Human Rights in Johannesburg, South Africa, Jessica's work primarily involved representing communities in the regulatory processes with respect to proposed mining activity.



Sonia Eggerman interned with the Legal Assistance Centre in Namibia.

ALUMNI NOTES

On April 25, 2019, **William Ready (BA'48, JD'50)** was named a recipient of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit by the Province of Saskatchewan.

William Vancise (BA'58, LLB'60) was appointed by the Government of Saskatchewan to oversee the Pinehouse Inquiry on June 6, 2019.

Lawrence (Larry) Evans (BA'69, JD'72) received the 2018 Distinguished Service Award from the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society

Susan Amrud, QC (BA'80, LLB'80) was appointed Chairperson of the Saskatchewan Labour Relations Board.

Tamara Buckwold (LLB'80, LLM'95) is the 2019 recipient of the Distinguished Service Award for Legal Scholarship from the Canadian Bar Association Alberta branch and the Law Society of Alberta.

On April 8, 2019, **Sheri Meyerhoffer (BA'82, LLB'85)** was appointed as the first Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise.

Connie den Hollander (BA'85, LLB'91) was awarded the CBA Saskatchewan Community Service Award at the CBA-SK Annual Meeting on June 13.

Ena Chadha (LLB'92) was appointed as Chair of the Human Rights Legal Support Centre Board of Directors in February 2018 by the Ontario Attorney General. In June 2019, she was named Female Professional of the Year by the Indo-Canadian Chamber of Commerce

Tiffany Paulsen, QC, (BA'96, LLB'98) was awarded the Distinguished Service Award at the CBA Saskatchewan Mid-Winter Meeting in February 2019.

Emily Laidlaw (JD'02) was appointed an Ethics Advisor for the City of Calgary on April 8, 2019.

Beau Atkins (JD'11) was appointed interim chair of the Art Gallery of Saskatchewan Inc.

Judicial Appointments

Brian Hendrickson (LLB'81) was appointed to the Saskatchewan Provincial Court in Moose Jaw on Nov. 23, 2018.

Michelle Brass (LLB'97) was appointed as a judge to the Saskatchewan Provincial Court in Estevan on Nov. 23, 2018.

Brian Scherman (BA'72, JD'72) was appointed Deputy Judge of the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories on Dec. 20, 2018.

Jeffrey Kalmakoff (LLB'93) was appointed to the Court of Appeal for Saskatchewan on May 21, 2019.

Beverly Klatt (LLB'86) was appointed to the Court of Queen's Bench for Saskatchewan on May 21, 2019.

Natasha Crooks (JD'04) was appointed to the Court of Queen's Bench for Saskatchewan on May 23, 2019.

Murray Pelletier (LLB'07) was appointed as a judge to the Saskatchewan Provincial Court in North Battleford on June 28, 2019.

Noah Evanchuk (LLB'04) was appointed as a judge to the Saskatchewan Provincial Court in Regina on June 28, 2019.

2018 Queen's Counsel Appointments in Saskatchewan

Leslie Belloc-Pinder (BA'87, JD'84)

Daryl Bode (BA'85, JD'90)

Elwood (Rand) Burlingham (BA'64, LLB'68)

Nicholas Cann (LLB'04)

Jennifer Da Silva Pereira (BA'01, LLB'03)

Glen Dowling (LLB'82)

Sherry Fitzsimmons (BA'92, LLB'95)

David Gerecke (BA'86, LLB'90)

Keith Kilback (BA'90, JD'94)

Walter Matkowski (BA'86, LLB'86)

Wade McBride (LLB'81)

Michael J. Morris (LLB'03)

Michael P. (Mike) Morris, (LLB'84)

Dwight Newman (JD'99)

Ronalda Nordal (LLB'98)

Lyle (Ossie) Phillips (JD'53)

Rachelle Verret-Morphy (LLB'95)

In memoriam

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

Robert M. Nesbitt, QC (BA'47, LLB'51)
d. March 9, 2018

Michael Dolan (LLB'96) d. April 9, 2018

Kenneth R. Steidl, QC (BA'68, LLB'70)
d. July 12, 2018

Thomas (Tom) G. Schollie (LLB'55, BA'72)
d. August 26, 2018

Victor M. Naimish (LLB'48) d. Sept. 1, 2018

The Hon. Gerald C. King (BA'58, LLB'63)
d. Sept. 17, 2018

Micah A. Kowalchuk (BComm'07, JD'13)
d. Nov. 10, 2018

William A. (Willie) Grieve, QC (LLB'84)
d. Nov. 20, 2018

Jonathan M. Poitras (JD'11)
d. Dec. 22, 2018

Jacob (Jack) Eisner, QC (LLB'54)
d. Jan 9, 2019

Adam Anas Moustarzak (student)
d. January 2019

Thomas David Roberts (Bobs) Caldwell, QC (BA'54, LLB'57) d. March 21, 2019

Stephen A. Arsenych (BA'53, LLB'56)
d. June 26, 2019

His Honour the Honourable W. Thomas Molloy, Lt. Governor of Saskatchewan (BA'64, LLB'64) passed away on July 2, 2019. Tom was an incredible friend to the college and will be greatly missed. To read more about his career and legacy, see the Spring 2018 edition of *of NOTE*.





Huskies' star Labach's career is right on track

By James Shewaga

She has earned a place in Huskie Athletics history, joining the likes of the legendary Diane Jones Konihowski, Taryn Suttie and Kelsie Hendry, who all went on to become Olympians.

And after completing a remarkable record-setting track and field career during her five years at the University of Saskatchewan, law student Julie Labach hopes to be the next Huskie athlete to compete for Canada.

"I would say for most athletes, the Olympics is the ultimate goal, and it would be really special, definitely," said Labach, a 22-year-old homegrown star from Saskatoon. "I haven't had the opportunity to be on the national team yet, so that is the next big goal."

Labach, who was named Huskie Athletics female athlete of the year in both 2019 and 2018, capped her U Sports career in award-winning fashion this year, setting two Huskie records and racing into the national spotlight by being named female track athlete of the year in Canadian university sports.

"It was such a lovely way to end off my last year and I definitely didn't expect to win the U Sports award, so that was really special," said Labach, who set Huskie records in the 600 metres (a record that had stood since 1984) and the 1,000 metres, after winning the gold medal in the 600m at nationals and earning silver medals in the 1,000m and 4x400m relay.

"Julie is definitely our best ever in middle distance events," said Huskies track and field coach Jason Reindl, who was named Canada West coach of the year after USask captured both the women's and men's team titles. "For her to end her Huskie career as the track athlete of the year in the country, and to have set a number of records, it's quite remarkable. Student-athletes like her don't come around very often."

Labach's triumphs on the track have been matched by award-winning academic achievements. Labach was named an Academic All-Canadian (for an academic average of better than 80 per cent while completing a full course load) in each of her first four years, while competing for the Huskies in both track and women's soccer—suited up with her sister Ally.

Labach completed her Bachelor of Commerce degree in the Edwards School of Business on the Dean's Honour Roll last spring with a superb 89 per cent academic average, and is now in law school at USask, hoping to earn her fifth straight Academic All-Canadian award this year.

"Definitely it's always a goal of mine," she said. "School always comes first and if I ever felt like my grades were being compromised, that was when it was time to step away and focus on academics first. It's definitely busy and requires lots of time management. But when I am in school, I really love what I am doing, and when I

am at track I really love what I am doing as well. So, when you enjoy it, it doesn't feel like work."

In one of her interesting academic projects, Labach took part in the 2018 Undergraduate Project Symposium hosted by the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union, placing second with her study of how American President Donald Trump's tweets affect the stock market.

"It was part of my honours project in behavioural finance, so it was a very interesting topic," she said. "There was so much data to study, in the future it could make a really interesting master's or PhD project."

Reindl said Labach's commitment to both academic and athletic achievement—juggling a full class schedule with training six days a week—made her the ideal role model for her young Huskie teammates.

"Being able to balance all those time-consuming elements just shows the quality of person that she is," he said. "Julie has found a way to do it throughout her career and she is a prime example that you can be successful in every aspect of your student-athlete career here."

So, what's next for Labach? She wants to earn a law degree and practice corporate/commercial law one day, as well as compete internationally in track. She is a candidate to represent Canada in the Summer Universiade from July 3-14 in Naples, Italy, and to race in the Pan American Games starting July 26 in Lima, Peru. Labach also hopes to make the national team for the world track and field championships that open Sept. 27 in Doha, Qatar, to set up a possible run to the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo.

"It will be a busy summer if all goes well," she said. "But I am really looking forward to it."



Don Voaklander



Courtenay Catlin, Leah Howie (coach), Kaitlin Ward, Allyse Cruise

USASK LAW WINS NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MOOT COMPETITION FOR THE FIRST TIME

The College of Law celebrated after being crowned champions of the country's environmental law moot in Toronto on March 2.

The Willms & Shier Environmental Law Moot is Canada's preeminent nationwide moot court competition devoted to environmental law. Its goal is to promote awareness of the growing role of environmental issues in contemporary legal practice and public life, while enhancing law students' written and oral advocacy skills. The 2019 case was *Orphan Well Association v Grant Thornton Limited*, 2017 ABCA 124.

Team members Allyse Cruise, Courtenay Catlin and Kaitlin Ward won both preliminary rounds and were one of four teams to advance to the semi-final where they met McGill. They met University of Toronto in

the final and were forced to argue for the appellants. To add pressure to the situation, Madam Justice Cote of the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC), who recently sided with the respondent when the case was before the SCC, was one of three judges for the final round of the competition.

Despite the pressure, the team was victorious and Allyse and Kaitlin were also named as two of the top seven distinguished oralists in the competition.

And if winning the competition wasn't impressive enough, the team was presented with an impromptu "Spirit of the Law" award for lending a team member to the University of Victoria after one of their students fell ill. Courtenay and Kaitlin took turns joining the UVic team, resulting in a semi-final finish for their British Columbia rivals.

Coach Leah Howie was extremely proud of the team's performance. "The team worked hard and I was so happy to not only watch them succeed, but have a lot of fun along the way," she said.

The team was selected in September, wrote their factum in January and had been practicing diligently ever since.

"They took part in many practice rounds in front of faculty, alumni, fellow students, former team members and lawyers from MLT Aikins, McKercher LLP, McDougall Gauley, Hnatyshyn Gough, the Ministry of Justice and the Federal Department of Justice. So we just extend a huge thanks to the legal community," said Howie.

Dean of Law, Martin Phillipson, also sat in on a practice round with the environmental moot team and was impressed with their knowledge and professionalism.

"Allyse, Kaitlin and Courtenay embody the spirit of the College in that they combine outstanding legal skills, hard work and professionalism with a true sense of camaraderie and willingness to help others. Our pride in their victory is matched by our pride in the way in which it was achieved," he said.

USask Law places second at inaugural Bastarache Moot



L to R: Tava Burton, Laura Schaan, The Hon. Michel Bastarache, Amanda Kimpinski and Isabelle Larocque capture second place at the inaugural Bastarache Moot.

The inaugural Michel Bastarache Moot Court Competition took place March 22-24, 2019 at the University of Ottawa.

Preliminary rounds were held Friday and Saturday to determine the four finalist teams (two appellant and two respondent teams). The USask appellant team of Tava Burton and Amanda Kimpinski was selected as one of the final four teams who then competed in two final rounds before Justices Bastarache

(Supreme Court of Canada – retired), Hunt (ABCA – retired) and Rouleau (ONCA). The justices selected the Université de Moncton as the first-place team and the University of Saskatchewan as the second-place team.

“All of the judges I spoke to were highly impressed with the quality of the Saskatchewan team, especially given that French is not their first language,” said Caroline Magnan, director of the Pan-

Canadian French Common Law Program.

The USask team also won the Michel-Bastarache Prize for fair play, respect for the other teams, and commitment to advocacy in French. This award was voted on by fellow teams.

“All in all, they did a phenomenal job – all their hard work studying the law in French through the Certification de common law en français has paid off,” said Magnan.

2019/20 MOOT TEAMS



BOWMAN NATIONAL TAX MOOT TEAM

Connor Leeson, John-David Mulder, Joe Gill (coach), Cameron McCracken, Ryley Dalshaug, Morgan Boutin, Brooke Sittler (coach)



AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION MEDIATION COMPETITION TEAM

Elaine Selensky, Janna Mitchell.
Missing: Joe Fingerote (coach)



KAWASKIMHON NATIONAL ABORIGINAL MOOT TEAM

Chris Lafleur (coach), Nuka Olsen-Hakongak, William Stodalka, Kylee Wilyman, Alyson Bear, Rheana Worme



THE WALSH FAMILY LAW MOOT AND NEGOTIATION COMPETITION TEAM

Kayla DeMars-Krentz (coach), Joree Nelson, Peter Beug



WESTERN CANADA ADVOCACY MOOT TEAM

ShayAnne Surtees, Bryn Rees, Mark Roney, Alyssa Phen, Brooke Johnson (coach).



GERDA BLOEMRAAD JESSUP MOOT TEAM

Larissa Meredith-Flister, Ian McRobbie, Geneva Houlden, Sylvia Borowska. Missing: Andre Memauri (coach), Fu Zhang



LASKIN MOOT COURT COMPETITION TEAM

Erik Heuck, Owen Pennock, Anna Singer (coach), Alyssa Marshall, Jenine Urquhart

LLM NEWS

Andrew Dusevic successfully defended his LLM thesis titled *Risk-Informed Decision Making and the Regulation of Small Modular Reactors* on April 29, 2019. Supervisor: Dwight Newman.

Hilary Peterson successfully defended her thesis titled *Applying Gladue Principles Requires Meaningful Incorporation of Indigenous Legal Systems and Values, including Consideration of Community-Based Alternatives to Incarceration* on March 29, 2019. Supervisor: Glen Luther.

STUDENT NEWS

Outgoing **Law Students' Association President Brett Maerz** was the recipient of the 2019 USSU Walter Murray Leadership Award. This award is presented annually to a student who has provided leadership beyond the call of duty in enhancing the student experience at the University of Saskatchewan.



CANADIAN NATIONAL NEGOTIATION COMPETITION TEAM
Wendy White, Kylee Wilyman, Zina Scott (coach), Brooklyn Fiesel, Michael Munro



GALE MOOT TEAM
Fraser Duncan, Luke Brisebois, Lisa Watson (coach), Katie Newman, Willemien Kruger



CANADIAN CLIENT CONSULTATION COMPETITION TEAM
Sarah Wingerak, Katherine Starks.
Missing: Gisele Dumonceaux (coach)



CORPORATE/SECURITIES LAW MOOT TEAM
Rowan LaCasse, Laura Wolfe, Rebecca Burnand, Gillian Broadbent, Scott Hunter



On Feb. 7, 2019, **Rheana Worme** (centre) was the recipient of the 2019 Indigenous Student Achievement Award in recognition of her leadership at USask. Also pictured: Martin Phillipson (left) and emcee Terri Favel (right).





of **NOTE**
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