

OF NOTE

Phillipson closes a chapter

After 10 years leading the College of Law,
Dean Martin Phillipson leaves the helm.



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
College of Law
LAW.USASK.CA

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



38 **The College of Law is celebrating significant gifts from three top law firms: McDougall Gauley LLP, McKercher LLP, and MLT Aikins.**

Editor
Donella Hoffman,
Communications Officer,
College of Law

Art direction/design
Roger Denis,
Denis Design Works

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Contact
College of Law
15 Campus Drive
Saskatoon SK S7N 5A6
Email: law_ofnote@usask.ca



Dr. Barbara von Tigerstrom
is receiving one of USask's highest honours for professors.

20



Brad Berg and Brian Rolfes
were honoured by USask for their professional achievements and their work advancing 2SLGBTQQIA+ rights.

28



USask Law grad Emma Neufeld
was selected for the highly competitive Supreme Court of Canada law clerk program.

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**‘It’s been
a privilege’**

*Dean Martin Phillipson
reflects on what makes the College
of Law a special place.*

Dean’s message, June 2026

It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as dean of this remarkable institution for the past 10 years. Before that, having been on faculty for 17 years, plus spending two years here as a graduate student, I had already learned that the College of Law is a special place.

In the 10 years since I took over the deanship, I have learned just *how* special. I will endeavour to explain.

It has been a privilege to work with such a talented and dedicated cohort of faculty and staff. The college is home to some of the finest scholars and teachers in the country and their dedication to their research and their students is matched only by the dedication of our staff to their work. It’s pretty easy to “lead” a place where everyone is committed to providing an academically strong and collegial environment within which students may flourish.

Speaking of students, it has also been a genuine pleasure to get to know as many as possible of the approximately 1275 students admitted to the college during my deanship. We are still small enough that it’s actually possible to do that, which is another thing that preserves the special nature of this place.

I am constantly amazed by the talent and work ethic of the students we admit and how they fully embrace the college ethos of “lawyer as public servant,” regardless of whether they are from a farm or a First Nation, a town in rural Saskatchewan or a larger city such as Saskatoon or Regina, or whether they count themselves among the approximately 30 percent of our students who join us from outside of Saskatchewan. Regardless of the journey that brought them to us, it is wonderful to see them embrace the ethos this college has forged in its 114-year history.

But, as I stated earlier, after 17 years I already had a pretty good idea that all of this was true. Being dean allowed me to experience another facet of our community: our amazing alumni. Perhaps the single biggest privilege of being dean was that it allowed me to meet so many of you. The college has over 5,000 living alumni and in my 10 years as dean, several thousand of you attended alumni events in every province and territory in the country. Whether it was some of our newest alumni from the Nunavut Law Program, or graduates from the 1960s or many of my former students and everyone in between, several things became clear.

Firstly, your passion for the school remains strong and clear. One way this has been demonstrated is by your generosity during the *Be What the World Needs* fundraising

campaign. We exceeded our campaign goal and more than 80 percent of funds raised came from college alumni. Many of you volunteered to assist with the campaign and get the word out, and I am truly grateful for that commitment and support.

Secondly, I have been humbled by the willingness of alumni to help recent graduates and current students with their career development. I asked many of you in cities and towns across the country if you would be willing to talk to a recent grad or current student who might want to work in your community and not a single request was ever turned down. The instant bond that develops when two College of Law grads meet each other is a remarkable thing to witness.

I am also amazed, but not surprised, by the remarkable careers that many of you have had and by the stories I have heard at alumni events. Sometimes I think that Saskatchewan humility means that not enough people know about your accomplishments, or these wonderful stories, but I also came to learn that while we are justifiably proud of our “famous” grads we take just as much pride in the work of those alumni who worked for their clients and communities without any expectation of recognition or fanfare. In many ways, these lawyers leave just as lasting an imprint on people and communities as our illustrious graduates. Lawyers as public servants indeed.

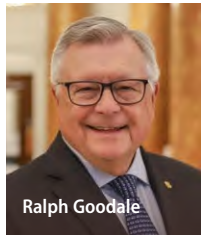
Finally, I will note that one of my favourite tasks as dean, and one that I will miss perhaps more than any other, is welcoming alumni back to the college for reunions and seeing first-hand their pride in the institution, along with the camaraderie and the life-long friendships that developed in a short but transformational three-year stint at the college.

In closing, let me reiterate what a privilege it has been to serve as dean of our remarkable college. I hope that for all the reasons stated above, you are in no doubt that it was an absolute pleasure to do so.

Keep in touch.

Martin

Alumni Notes

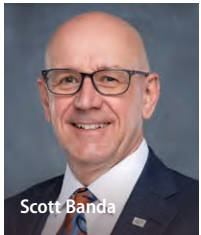
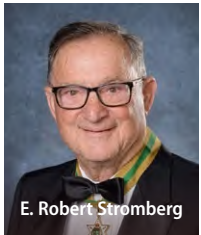


Professor Emeritus William Brent Cotter, KC (BComm ’71), a former dean of the University of Saskatchewan College of Law and college alumnus E. Robert Stromberg, KC (JD’68) received the Saskatchewan Award of Merit in 2025.

The award, which is the province’s highest honour, recognizes excellence, achievement and contributions to the social, cultural and economic well-being of the province and its residents.

Cotter is known for his extraordinary career as a Canadian Senator, legal academic, legal ethicist, and senior public servant. While dean at the college, his adept leadership helped the university successfully reform curriculum, manage faculty development, achieve greater research strength, and plan and fundraise for a multi-million-dollar expansion in the college’s building premises. His time as a deputy minister in the Saskatchewan government was marked by the provision of highly competent advice to numerous premiers and cabinet ministers through the areas of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs, Municipal Affairs, and Justice. For many years, Cotter has been a champion of people with intellectual disabilities through Inclusion Saskatchewan.

Stromberg contributed to the success of Robertson Stromberg LLP as senior partner and helped lead it to national success. He also sat on the Federal Judiciary Advisory Committee, supporting the indepen-



dence of the judiciary. His leadership in the privatization of what is now Nutrien and Cameco was paramount, developing a Saskatchewan-first business model that has led to investment generating billions of dollars for the province. He and his firm also developed the business model that allowed First Nations to invest and partner with non-First Nations with a favourable tax and ownership structure not previously used.

University of Saskatchewan College of Law (USask Law) grad Scott Banda (LLB’90) was appointed in 2025 as the 17th chancellor of the University of Saskatchewan.

As chancellor, Banda’s duties include: chairing the university senate, serving on the USask Board of Governors, presiding at university convocation ceremonies, and conferring degrees.

Banda had a 20-year tenure with Federated Co-operatives Limited (FCL), including 12 years as FCL’s chief executive officer before retiring in May 2022. He was also the 40th chair of the Board of Governors of the Canadian Football League. Banda was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal for Industry and Commerce in 2023, as well as the Co-operative Merit Award for Lifetime Co-operative Achievement.

Ralph Goodale (LLB’72) was appointed to Prime Minister Mark Carney’s special committee on Canada-US economic relations.

He was elected nine times as a federal member of parliament for Saskatchewan and served more than 30 years in the House of Commons, including cabinet responsibilities for Agriculture, Natural Resources, Public Works, Finance and Public Safety, among others.

In 2021, Goodale began an assignment of nearly five years in London as Canada’s High Commissioner to the United Kingdom. Chosen as one of the 100 most influential graduates of the University of Saskatchewan and a recipient of the Canadian Churchill Society’s Award of Excellence in the cause of Parliamentary

Democracy, Goodale was honoured in 2025 as Diplomat of the Year in London and was awarded the “Freedom of the City” for his work on Canada-UK relations.

Judicial Appointments

These are the USask Law grads who were appointed to the bench between 2021 and 2025.

The list of judicial appointments in the Of Note print edition inadvertently omitted provincial court judges. The College of Law sincerely apologizes for this oversight.

2021

Judge Jeffrey Lubyk (LLB’98)
Provincial Court of Saskatchewan,
Prince Albert, February 5

Justice David G. Gerecke (LLB’90)
Saskatchewan Court of King’s Bench,
Saskatoon, April 6

Justice Keith D. Kilback (LLB’94)
Saskatchewan Court of King’s Bench,
Estevan, July 2

Judge Michael Tomka (LLB’97)
Provincial Court of Saskatchewan,
Meadow Lake, August 16

Judge Lynn Hintz (LLB’03)
Provincial Court of Saskatchewan,
Yorkton, September 10

Judge Jane Wootten (LLB’90)
Provincial Court of Saskatchewan,
Saskatoon, October 29

Judge Bradley Shane Mitchell (LLB’07)
Provincial Court of Saskatchewan,
Saskatoon, November 5

Judge Dorinda Mae Stahl (LLB’05)
Provincial Court of Saskatchewan,
La Ronge, November 5

2022

Judge Derek Maher (LLB’96)
Provincial Court of Saskatchewan,
Yorkton, February 4

Judge Ian William Mokuruk (LLB’01)
Provincial Court of Saskatchewan,
North Battleford, April 4

Judge Bryce Pashovitz (LLB’95)
Provincial Court of Saskatchewan,
Meadow Lake, April 4

Justice Nancy M. Carruthers (LLB’90)
Alberta Court of King’s Bench,
Calgary, April 20

Justice Jillyne M. Drennan (LLB’05)
Saskatchewan Court of King’s Bench,
Regina, June 21
Saskatchewan Court of Appeal, October 31

Justice John P. Morrall (LLB’92)
Saskatchewan Court of King’s Bench,
Regina, October 31

Justice Peter T. Bergbusch (LLB’95)
Saskatchewan Court of King’s Bench,
Regina, October 31

Justice Holli A. Kuski Bassett (LLB’08)
Saskatchewan Court of King’s Bench,
Regina, October 31

Justice Dorinda Mae Stahl (LLB’05)
Saskatchewan Court of King’s Bench,
Family Law Division, Saskatoon, October 31

Judge Stephen Kritzer (LLB’91)
Provincial Court of Saskatchewan,
Lloydminster, December 16

2023

Judge Lisa Watson (LLB’09)
Provincial Court of Saskatchewan,
Saskatoon, April 10

The Honourable April D. Grosse (LLB’97)
Alberta Court of Appeal, Calgary, April 24

Judge Nathan Forester (LLB’07, LLM’13)
Provincial Court of Saskatchewan,
La Ronge, June 16

Judge Kim Armstrong K.C. (LLB’00)
Provincial Court of Saskatchewan,
Meadow Lake, July 31

Judge David Chow K.C. (LLB’00)
Provincial Court of Saskatchewan,
Moose Jaw, July 31

Judge Jennifer Claxton-Viczko (LLB’01)
Provincial Court of Saskatchewan,
Melfort, July 31

Judge Darren Howarth (LLB’05)
Provincial Court of Saskatchewan,
Saskatoon, July 31

Jodi R. Wildeman (LLB’03)
Saskatchewan Court of King’s Bench,
Regina, August 28

Justice Darren Reed (LLB’04)
Alberta Court of King’s Bench, Calgary,
October 23

2024

Justice Michael Tomka (LLB’97)
Saskatchewan Court of King’s Bench,
Saskatoon, May 1

Judge Mitch Miller K.C. (LLB’91)
Provincial Court of Saskatchewan,
Estevan, May 31

Judge James Korpan K.C. (LLB’92)
Provincial Court of Saskatchewan,
Regina, May 31

Justice Keith D. Kilback (JD’94)
Saskatchewan Court of Appeal, July 24

Justice Sheri Ann Donegan (LLB’92)
British Columbia Court of Appeal, August 29

Justice Sean M. Sinclair (LLB’03)
Saskatchewan Court of King’s Bench,
Saskatoon, November 1

Justice Andrea L. Froese (LLB’97)
Alberta Court of King’s Bench, Calgary,
December 19

Judge Cynthia Alexander (LLB’96)
Provincial Court of Saskatchewan, Regina,
December 20

Judge Buffy Rodgers (LLB’98)
Provincial Court of Saskatchewan, Prince
Albert, December 20

2025

Justice J. Scott Cowan (LLB’00)
Ontario Superior Court of Justice,
Owen Sound, October 14

Justice Sheri L. Woods (LLB’09)
Saskatchewan Court of King’s Bench,
Prince Albert, November 17

Justice Gregory W. Koturbash (JD’92)
Supreme Court of British Columbia,
Kelowna, November 17

King’s Counsel Appointments in Saskatchewan

These are the USask Law grads who received a King’s Counsel designation between 2021 and 2025.

2021

Andrea Vanessa Argue (LLB’01)
Catherine Maria Benning (LLB’96)
Wayne Lloyd Bernakevitch (JD’82)

David John Bishop (LLB’90)
Kaylea Michelle Dunn (LLB’01)
James Grant Garden (LLB’78)

Kara Dawn Jordan (LLB’02)
Randall Todd Klein (LLB’96)
Stephen Kenneth Kritzer (LLB’91)

Reche Jacklin McKeague (LLB’05)
Ronald James Miller (LLB’82)
Robert Clare Nicolay (JD’00)

Ronald George Parchomchuk (LLB’90)
Wayne Leroy Pederson (LLB’72)
Sean Anthony Quinn (LLB’84)

Raymond Wiebe (LLB’82)
Kurtis Gordon Wintermute (LLB’96)

2022

Kim Marie Armstrong (LLB’00)
Megan Denise Dolo (JD’01)
Richard James Fyfe (LLB’00)
Kathy Lee Hodgson-Smith (JD’08)
Leanne Mae Lang (LLB’90)
Jana Marie Linner (LLB’08)
Scott Robert Moffat (LLB’97)
Jason Wayne Mohrbutter (LLB’00)
Curtis John Onishenko (LLB’01)
Brian Roderick Pfefferle (LLB’07)
Ian Allerdyce Sutherland (LLB’87)

2023

Steven Dribnenki (LLB’05)
Morris Froslic (LLB’77)
Charlene Greve (LLB’85)
John Hill (LLB’94)
Timothy Huber (JD’01)
Suzanne Lalonde (LLB’00)
Mitchell Miller (JD’91)
Kimberley Newsham (LLB’96)
Todd Rosenberg (LLB’94)
Cameron Scott (LLB’93)
Ashley Smith (LLB’07)
Tammy Van Lambalgen (LLB’93)
Jay Watson (LLB’85)

2024

Jeffrey Brick (LLB’91)
Ryan Hrechka (LLB’03)
Kendra Jacobs (LLB’01)
Gordon Kirkby (LLB’84)
Robbie Parker (LLB’92)
Nicole Sarauer (JD’09)
Lee Anne Schienbein (LLB’93)
Mark Dolan (LLB’03)
Adam Touet (LLB’06)
Tim McLeod (JD’04)

2025

Trifon John Agioritis (LLB’3)
Shawn Edwin Blackman (LLB’03)
Jessie Clairisse Buydens (LLB’06, LLM’08)
George Anthony Green (LLB’02)
Robert James Grimsrud (JD’90)
Theodore Francis Koskie (JD’80)
Maria Markatos (LLB’04)
Sandra June Schnell (LLB’91)
Heather Janine Sherdahl (LLB’00)
Crystal Lynn Taylor (LLB’98)
Shannon Gayle Whyley (LLB’04)
John Michael Williams (LLB’83)



In Memoriam

The College of Law
notes with respect
the passing of these
members of our
alumni community:

2021

- Franklin A. MacBean, KC** (JD’65)
d. April 4, 2021
- Brian W. Strutt** (LLB’85)
d. June 13, 2021
- Glenn A. McGuire** (LLB’76)
d. July 28, 2021
- Donald A. Phillips, KC** (LLB’74)
d. August 15, 2021
- Susan M. Gibson** (LLB’69)
d. September 5, 2021
- Ronald W. Hewitt, KC** (JD’78)
d. September 11, 2021
- Heiko H. Dahlem, KC** (JD’69)
d. September 18, 2021
- Monica Schubert** (LLB’81)
d. October 6, 2021
- The Hon. Calvin F. Tallis** (LLB’54)
d. October 14, 2021
- Damon D. Himsi** (LLB’76)
d. November 1, 2021
- The Hon. Barry G. Morgan** (LLB’85)
d. November 30, 2021
- Donald S. McKercher, KC** (LLB’55)
d. December 4, 2021
- William T. Perks** (JD’72)
d. December 25, 2021

2022

- The Hon. George E. Noble** (JD’50)
d. January 18, 2022
- Lawrence J. Hudon** (LLB’56)
d. January 22, 2022

- Harold D. Johnson** (LLB’95)
d. February 9, 2022
- Kenneth M. McIntosh** (JD’62)
d. February 14, 2022
- Robert J. Smith** (LLB’80)
d. March 8, 2022
- Melville Neuman, KC** (JD’50)
d. April 26, 2022
- James A. Cox, KC** (LLB’52)
d. May 4, 2022
- Edward A. Odishaw** (LLB’61)
d. June 3, 2022
- Dr. Deborah A. Chatsis, CM** (LLB’86)
d. June 9, 2022
- Larry R. Olsson, KC** (LLB’59)
d. June 17, 2022
- Timothy J. Murphy** (LLB’85)
d. July 10, 2022
- Melissa A. Brunsdon** (LLB’83)
d. July 13, 2022
- Diane Pask** (LLB’73)
d. July 14, 2022
- Michael J. Bondar** (LLB’75)
d. July 29, 2022
- Desiree K. Steele** (JD’18)
d. August 24, 2022
- Henry R. Kloppenburg, CM, SVM** (JD’68)
d. October 12, 2022
- The Hon. Irving Goldenberg** (LLB’60)
d. October 22, 2022
- Duncan K. MacKenzie** (LLB’57)
d. October 28, 2022
- Lawrence J. Litman** (LLB’82)
d. November 4, 2022
- Allan S. Blott, KC** (LLB’64)
d. November 13, 2022
- Gerald M. Beaumont** (JD’62)
d. December 2, 2022
- The Hon. Barry L. Strayer, OC** (LLB’55)
d. December 3, 2022
- Ronald F. MacIsaac** (JD’48)
d. December 10, 2022
- The Hon. William J. Girgulis** (LLB’56)
d. December 10, 2022

2023

- Christopher K. Hambleton** (LLB’00)
d. February 4, 2023
- Ellen C. Schmeiser KC, SOM** (LLB’57)
d. February 24, 2023

- Roy Laschuk, KC** (JD’55)
d. March 18, 2023
- James F. Judiesch** (JD’16)
d. April 16, 2023
- Gary W. Kinar** (LLB’75)
d. April 18, 2023
- Andrew E. Appolloni** (LLB’00)
d. April 25, 2023
- Lionel S. Kayseas** (LLB’05)
d. May 2, 2023
- Micheal K. Fisher, KC** (LLB’70)
d. May 12, 2023
- The Hon. Elizabeth A. McFadyen** (LLB’64)
d. May 12, 2023
- Roy A. Dickinson, KC** (LLB’56)
d. June 2, 2023
- Janice E. Lawrence, KC** (LLB’77)
d. June 5, 2023
- Jane M. Sather, KC** (LLB’80)
d. July 9, 2023
- The Hon. Ronald H. O’Neil** (LLB’58)
d. August 6, 2023
- Alfons H. Boving** (JD’84)
d. August 14, 2023
- Melvin R. Annand, KC** (LLB’77)
d. August 25, 2023
- Leslie R. Meiklejohn** (JD’61)
d. August 28, 2023
- Robert P. Emes** (JD’19)
d. September 6, 2023
- Allan P. Beke** (LLB’60)
d. October 3, 2023
- Catherine M. Zuck, KC** (LLB’78)
d. October 5, 2023
- James P. Bourassa, KC** (JD’75)
d. October 11, 2023
- The Hon. Jon B. Nutting** (LLB’60)
d. October 28, 2023
- Larry M. Korchinski** (LLB’89)
d. December 12, 2023
- Cheryl A. Cuelenaere** (LLB’77)
d. December 30, 2023

2024

- Margaret Mair** (JD’85)
d. January 7, 2024
- Glen W. Acorn, KC** (LLB’50)
d. January 8, 2024
- George Perdcaris** (LLB’53)
d. February 29, 2024

- Dale R. Skelton** (LLB’65)
d. March 5, 2024
- Katherine D. Wellman, KC** (LLB’63)
d. April 23, 2024
- William A. Reed, OMM, CD** (LLB’69)
d. June 5, 2024
- Elke Churchman** (LLB’75)
d. June 16, 2024
- Michael B. Phillips, KC** (LLB’64)
d. July 5, 2024
- Robert L. Jamieson, KC** (LLB’68)
d. July 13, 2024
- Mary E. Wellsch, KC** (LLB’79)
d. July 26, 2024
- Harold T. Hepting** (JD’61)
d. July 26, 2024
- Colleen E. Repchinsky** (LLB’75)
d. August 27, 2024
- Robert L. Stevenson** (LLB’68)
d. October 4, 2024
- Edward J. Uniacke** (JD’73)
d. November 16, 2024
- James P. MacLowich** (LLB’84)
d. November 20, 2024
- Keith W. Chow** (LLB’76)
d. November 21, 2024
- Silas E. Halyk, KC** (LLB’61)
d. December 2, 2024
- Robert H. McKercher, KC** (LLB’52)
d. December 15, 2024
- Kenneth D. Paskaruk** (LLB’74)
d. December 17, 2024
- Gordon Balon, KC** (JD’73)
d. December 25, 2024
- Eric C. Diehl** (LLB’61)
d. December 26, 2024
- Peter Sorokan** (LLB’60)
d. December 30, 2024

2025

- Daryl K. Reid** (LLB’76)
d. January 18, 2025
- William D. Preston, KC** (JD’65)
d. February 9, 2025
- Louis E. Martel** (JD’83)
d. March 7, 2025
- The Hon. D.E. Wayne McIntyre** (JD’75)
d. March 24, 2025
- Lucille F. Thomson** (JD’77)
d. April 7, 2025

- Gerald I. Averbach** (JD’58)
d. April 11, 2025
- Douglas W. Lutz** (LLB’76)
d. April 18, 2025
- Shelley A. Gavigan** (LLB’75)
d. April 20, 2025
- Ronald H. Stewart** (LLB’72)
d. April 29, 2025
- John Kozak** (LLB’56)
d. May 9, 2025
- William A. Buchan** (LLB’50)
d. May 13, 2025
- Neil A. Ross** (LLB’59)
d. May 26, 2025
- Horst H. Dahlem, KC** (LLB’72)
d. June 1, 2025
- Jill McMahon** (LLB’75)
d. June 10, 2025
- Audrey S. Brent** (LLB’74)
d. June 25, 2025
- Lyle O. Phillips, KC** (JD’53)
d. July 10, 2025
- Roger L. Arendt** (JD’74)
d. July 26, 2025
- The Hon. Edward C. Malone** (LLB’62)
d. July 31, 2025
- Professor Emeritus Ruth E. Bilson, KC** (LLB’77)
d. August 13, 2025
- Carl A. Wagner, KC** (LLB’64)
d. September 5, 2025
- The Hon. Gerald K. Fielding** (LLB’55)
d. September 8, 2025
- Ronald L. Bowman** (LLB’66)
d. September 19, 2025
- Dale K. Beck** (LLB’79)
d. October 9, 2025
- Evatt F. Merchant, KC** (JD’67)
d. October 13, 2025
- Timothy W. Froese** (JD’10)
d. October 22, 2025
- Jacob R. Hoffart** (LLB’73)
d. November 3, 2025
- Gregory J. Pinch** (JD’76)
d. November 17, 2025
- Ronald G. Gates, KC** (LLB’74)
d. November 22, 2025
- Janis M. Pritchard** (JD’76)
d. November 23, 2025
- Joseph R. Ashfield** (LLB’81)
d. December 1, 2025
- The Hon. Michael T. McGaw** (LLB’84)
d. December 15, 2025

A full-page photograph of Dean Martin Phillipson, a middle-aged man with glasses, wearing a dark blue suit, white shirt, and a red and blue striped tie. He is standing in a modern building hallway with large glass windows and doors in the background. The lighting is bright and natural.

In closing...

At the end of June, Dean Martin Phillipson wraps up two five-year terms at the helm of the University of Saskatchewan College of Law.

Amy Liebaert from USask Law Communications recently chatted with Martin, looking back on his work as dean and learning about his hopes for the college.

If you could go back to your first day as dean and offer yourself one piece of advice, what would it be?

Decisions should always be guided by what's in the best interests of the institution, the college, and the students. Of course, it's nice when those decisions align with your own interests, but that will not always be the case. Sometimes it means being unpopular or having to make difficult choices, but the focus can't be on how it reflects on you personally.

The second piece of advice would be to take your vacation time. I served 10 years straight as dean, even though you're typically entitled to a year of leave after five. COVID hit during that period, and I couldn't imagine stepping away then, but I still strongly believe in the importance of taking time to rest, reflect, and recharge. I often tell students that a healthy lawyer is a better lawyer, and the same applies here.

Whatever gave you joy before law school – whether it's music, art, or Dungeons and Dragons – you need to keep those things in your life. Balance matters. So, my advice to my past self would be to practise what you preach: take your holidays, truly switch off, and make space for the things that give you joy.

Editor's Note: On March 13, 2020, the University of Saskatchewan closed for the COVID-19 pandemic. Classes shifted to online delivery for one full academic year due to health and safety concerns. The College of Law resumed in-person classes in Fall 2021 once provincial COVID-19 restrictions were lifted.

What are you most proud of accomplishing during your 10 years as dean?

There are quite a few things but foremost has to be the successful delivery of the Nunavut Law Program. That was a highlight of my professional career. As a college, we delivered what was the most successful higher-education program in the history of Nunavut, one that has had a transformational and ongoing impact on the territory, the legal community, and the delivery of legal services. I'm particularly proud that we delivered the final year of the program in the midst of a pandemic.

I also take great pride in how the college navigated COVID more broadly. We were one of the law schools that lost the least amount of in-person instruction, and that speaks to how the faculty, staff, and students pulled together during an incredibly challenging time.

Finally, I'm proud of my time serving as president of the Council of Canadian Law Deans for three years. What we accomplished collectively as deans, particularly in strengthening the relationship between law schools and our accreditors, the Federation of Law Societies of Canada, was deeply rewarding.

What unexpected challenges did you encounter during your tenure?

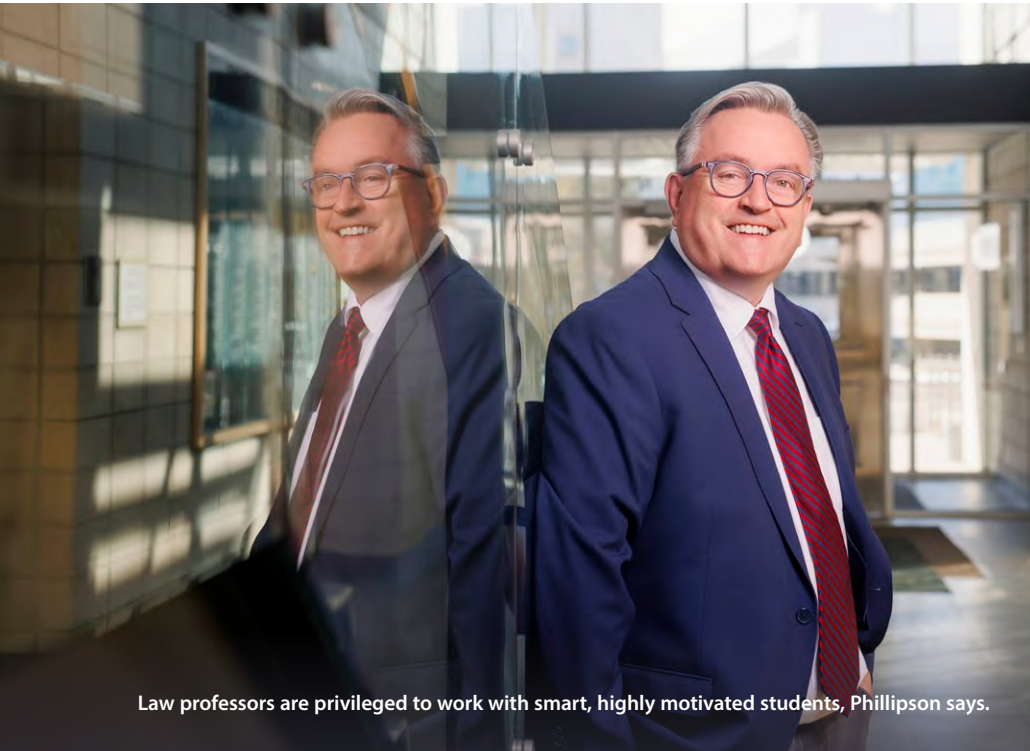
Two things stand out. The first, of course, was COVID – talk about unexpected. Everything shut down in the middle of March. We managed to get through the final three weeks of classes, and then, about a month later, it became clear that we wouldn't be coming back in September. At that point, it really hit me: we were going to have to completely change the way we teach.

The second challenge was budget constraints that emerged within my first six months as dean. Many of the things I had hoped to accomplish early on simply couldn't happen. As a result, we had to rethink our approach and set clear priorities. Budgets are always an ongoing concern, but a significant cut so early in my tenure was a real surprise.

More personally, there was my “bizarre golfing accident” (with apologies to Spinal Tap) in 2022, which led to a double leg injury, surgery on both legs, and nearly three years of rehabilitation to regain full mobility. I was off work for months on end and returning from that was its own challenge.

What aspects of the dean's job surprised you?

You're given the illusion that you're the CEO – and you're not. The dean's office is very well respected by students, alumni, and the legal profession, but you don't actually have as much power as people expect. It's a



Law professors are privileged to work with smart, highly motivated students, Phillipson says.

I aimed to instill that the ethos of this law school is “lawyer as public servant.”

I hope they really embrace and appreciate that they are there to serve the public.

strange dichotomy. You're not omnipotent. To be successful, you have to be a persuader and a negotiator, not a boss who simply says, “Do this, do that.”

Another surprise has been our alumni. I knew we had great alumni, but I'm constantly amazed by how successful so many have been and by the remarkable things they've accomplished. At the same time, we're justifiably proud of the thousands of alumni who quietly go about their work and make a real difference in the lives of their clients and their communities. That impact is just as important. You don't have to be prime minister or a Supreme Court judge to be a significant help to people.

What underrated skills do you need as dean of a law school?

You need to be a good listener, and you have to be patient. This is my 35th year as a professor, and I've learned that there's no

magic wand in a university or in an academic institution. Progress requires collaboration, patience, and a lot of back and forth.

What are the top three things students should know as they begin law school?

1. From day one, every time I introduced myself to the first-year class and welcomed them to the college, I aimed to instill that the ethos of this law school is “lawyer as public servant.” I hope they really embrace and appreciate that they are there to serve the public.
2. Law school is a team sport. You need support from family and friends, and you must be cooperative, collaborative, and collegial in every interaction.
3. Your professional reputation is everything, and it's one of the most valuable things you'll gain during law school. It starts forming the moment you enter the college.

What have you learned from students?

Students are the reason why we're here. Obviously, law school exists for other reasons such as research, but fundamentally, job one is the education of students and prioritizing their well-being and success. If you put them first, it pays off.

I'm continually amazed by the work ethic and talent of our students. It's not just that they're successful; it's their intelligence and their willingness to push themselves. What impresses me most is how they are not afraid to ask difficult questions or to challenge themselves. I'm not surprised by their success, but I am routinely astonished by their ability to overachieve. I'm also constantly astounded by their non-legal talents. All you have to do is attend Legal Follies once and you'll understand what I mean.

We're very privileged as law professors to work with really smart, highly motivated students. I've learned that if you give them confidence and support, they can do anything. This is a place of opportunity, and they've taught me that to the nth degree.

What do you hope the next decade holds for the College of Law?

One of the things I love about this school,



Phillipson with USask Law student Cedric Michelet.

and about Saskatchewan generally, is our humility. We don't brag about what we do; we just do it. And while that humility is a real strength, I would like to see the college blow its own trumpet a bit more in the next decade.

The college should continue to operate on the basis of the traditions, values, and ethos developed over the past 114 years — qualities that have made us so successful. A key milestone will be the successful completion of the project exploring competencies in legal education and the profession, which will position us as one of the leaders in legal education in Canada.

USask Law has also been a leader in Indigenous legal education, something reflected in the revitalization of our Indigenous Law Centre and I am particularly excited about the land-based learning course that will commence in the fall. We punch well above our weight in developing competency-based curricula and in advancing Indigenous legal education, and it's important that this work receives the recognition it deserves, even as we remain true to our humility.

Finally, I am eager to watch the development of new faculty. We have hired really well in the last 10 years and I can't wait to see what the next generation of USask Law teachers and scholars come up with.

Without your day-to-day responsibilities as dean, how are you looking forward to spending your time?

Drumming. Reading. Golfing. Dogs. Family time. Getting back into writing and reading. This job is very reactive, and you don't really have time to switch it off, so I'm looking forward to some rest and relaxation.

What do you hope will stand as your lasting legacy for the College of Law?

I'm not really a legacy person. I think that's something for others to judge and decide. If your motive for doing the job and making decisions is to construct a personal legacy, I think you're probably doing it for the wrong reasons.

What matters most to me is recognizing that I've simply been a steward of a 114-year-old institution. I inherited a tremendous legacy of public service, hard work, humility, and success. All I hope is that I've lived up to those traditions and values and carried them forward so they can be passed on to the next dean. 🍀

Phillipson and USask President Vince Bruni-Bossio.



Phillipson attending homecoming celebrations.

A job well done

We asked colleagues and friends of Dean Martin Phillipson to comment on his tenure as dean and the unique qualities he brought to the role.



Vince Bruni-Bossio
President, University of Saskatchewan

During his 10 years as dean, Martin Phillipson has been an exemplary leader for the College of Law. His deep commitment to faculty and students has strengthened a vibrant academic culture, while his engagement with industry, government, alumni, and community partners has expanded the college's impact and visibility. A trusted ambassador, Martin's leadership has meaningfully advanced teaching, research, and community-connected legal education.



Preston Smith
Former dean, University of Saskatchewan College of Medicine

Martin is and has been a remarkably important and influential leader at the University of Saskatchewan, the College of Law and possibly to the surprise of some, the College of Medicine (COM). As Vice-Provost for the Restructuring of the COM from 2012-2015 he was the architect and the advocate for the reform of the COM. Martin's qualities that have facilitated his success as a leader are his remarkable ability to build warm and enduring relationships with anybody, his analytical abilities, his transparency, his attention to detail and process, his humour, his ability to see through the "stuff," and navigate through challenging situations always to the benefit of the institution and the people he was leading.



Doug Surtees
(LLB'87) (LLM'94)
Professor, University of Saskatchewan College of Law

Martin has an uncanny knack for putting people at ease. He genuinely cares about and is interested in our students. I have often seen Martin greet students in the hall by name and ask how specific events in their lives are going. These small gestures help our students feel valued, welcome and important to the life of the law school. This is one small example of Martin's commitment to improving the USask student experience.



Barbara von Tigerstrom
Professor, University of Saskatchewan College of Law

Martin always focuses on and advocates for what is best for the college. He genuinely cares about individual students, staff, and faculty, and puts their interests first. This has been especially important in difficult times like during the pandemic, when his leadership helped us to adapt to challenging circumstances and stay connected.



Annie Rochette
Former Law Foundation of Saskatchewan H. Robert Arscott Chair

What distinguished Martin and what made him a great leader was his ability to see the bigger picture and to be forward-thinking, both for the college and its mission, but also for legal education more generally. Also, throughout his terms, his commitment, devotion and love for the College of Law and all of its people (professors, staff, students, alumni) were remarkable and he was able to communicate these things effectively.



Judge Gerry Morin
(JD'87)
Retired judge, Provincial Court of Saskatchewan

I first met Dean Martin Phillipson early in his tenure as dean of the USask College of Law. We talked and listened to each other. I examined and commended his commitment to Indigenous legal education, both in increasing the number of Indigenous students and in incorporating the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action through the development of a mandatory Indigenous Law curriculum.



Kate Bilson (LLB'00)
USask Law Alumna

Dean Phillipson has made significant contributions to the supportive culture at the College of Law, one that allows faculty and students to flourish. His energy, thoughtfulness, strategic approach to work, and genuine care for those around him have resulted in lasting positive impacts for the growth and sustainment of the college, the strength of the legal education our students receive, and the collective reputation of excellence faculty, alumni and students carry into their work.



Stephen Mansell
(JD'07)
Former director, Nunavut Law Program, USask Law

Dean Martin Phillipson was instrumental in establishing the Nunavut Law Program, a unique initiative that enabled 25 Nunavut students to pursue a University of Saskatchewan law degree in their home territory. Martin's leadership led to the bold decision for the college to take on this important work. He was deeply engaged as dean, visiting Nunavut regularly, building meaningful connections with students, and ensuring they felt part of the broader university community. As the Iqaluit-based director, I always knew I could rely on Martin for the support and resources needed to ensure the students in Nunavut received the same quality of legal education as their peers in Saskatchewan. By any measure, the program was a success. With a graduation rate of 88 percent, including 16 Inuit students, the program left a lasting legacy within Nunavut's legal community. Martin's dedication and support were integral to that success.



Ken Fredeen
(LLB'83)
Co-Chair, USask Law Be What the World Needs Campaign Cabinet

The College of Law is a small, collegial law school with a successful and remarkable history. During his tenure, Martin has not only kept the traditions but enhanced the culture and the reputation of the college we know and love. His connection to students, staff and alumni will be hard to replace.



Adam Touet, KC
(LLB'06)
Past president, Law Society of Saskatchewan

Martin brings a welcoming, good-humoured presence to everything he does, creating an environment that is collegial and inclusive. He is thoughtful and engaging and takes a real interest in the people around him, including students, faculty, and colleagues. His combination of openness and genuine care for others has made him an exceptional leader at the College of Law and someone I truly admire.



Deborah Wolfe
National Committee on Accreditation and Law Schools Programs, Federation of Law Societies of Canada

Dean Phillipson has made significant contributions to the Federation of Law Societies of Canada over the past decade. His work on the Federation's National Committee on Accreditation brought a valuable Canadian law school perspective, enriching discussions and strengthening the committee's work. His dedication, thoughtful leadership, and spirit of respectful collaboration – together with his integrity, professionalism, and kindness – have made working with him a genuine pleasure.



Justice Georgina Jackson
(LLB'76)
Saskatchewan Court of Appeal
Gerald Tegart, KC
(LLB'76)
Retired, Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice

Martin's accessibility has been a hallmark of his tenure as dean. No one hesitates to call Martin and ask for his advice or support, which he generously gives. He has fostered positive links with the larger legal community in part through the various formal connections he has with lawyers and judges, for example as a law society bench. But the positive relationships he has created are equally a product of his impressive personal characteristics and the ease with which he makes and maintains friendships. When Martin attends or organizes an event, everyone wants to spend time with him. His initiatives to reach beyond Saskatoon have been important and appreciated.



Justice Richard Danyliuk
(LLB'83)
Saskatchewan Court of King's Bench

Simply put, Martin leads from the front. He builds and maintains relationships with all segments of the legal community. His friendliness and commitment are genuine and people see that. He is, I think, politically and financially savvy but that's not why people support the college. You can, and do, trust Martin. He does what he says. When he and I first discussed the King's Bench Justice in Residence program pre-COVID he said he would make it happen and he did. This is forging a significant trilateral link (bench, college, students) where all benefit. Martin is a man of his word. That's a big reason the college has flourished while he's been dean, and a big reason we are friends. ♥





Dr. Ibironke (Ronke) Odumosu-Ayanu, Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies, arrived at USask Law after earning her PhD at the University of British Columbia.

Prairies are now home for Odumosu-Ayanu

Associate dean appreciates the warmth of the USask Law community

BY AMY LIEBAERT

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I found that the students at USask were the warmest.

They were very kind. There was just something about them that was different from other places.

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Like many master's students, Dr. Ibironke (Ronke) Odumosu-Ayanu intended to study abroad, but she didn't plan on the Canadian Prairies becoming home.

"Since I started law school, I always knew that I wanted to do a master's and to do one abroad. But I always thought I would go to England."

Growing up in Lagos, Nigeria, Ronke assumed she would follow the common path to England for graduate studies. But then Calgary came into the picture because of its strong research in natural resources, energy, and environmental law, areas of particular interest to Ronke. When funding from the University of Calgary arrived, she chose to take the leap and move to Canada.

Although she has gone on to build a successful academic career in law, Ronke's heart was not always set on the legal profession. "From a young age, there were always hints about law, but law wasn't the only thing that I was thinking about," she said. As a child, she loved to read and write, often creating her own stories. "No one had to make me read anything," she said.

She developed an interest in communications, but as a quiet child she questioned whether she wanted to pursue such a public-facing path. Encouraged by teachers who saw her strengths, and supported by her parents, she began to consider law more seriously. By the end of high school, she was committed to studying law and decided to enroll at the University of Lagos where she began to learn law from leading law professors. She earned her Bachelor of Laws from the University of Lagos and her Master of Laws from the University of Calgary.

Ronke originally intended to return to Nigeria after completing her master's degree and begin working as a lawyer. Instead, she pursued her PhD at the University of British Columbia (UBC).

"Because I've always enjoyed reading and writing, I thought, let's continue along this path. So, I decided to apply for a PhD."

Earning her doctorate is one of her proudest achievements. And during this time, she realized she wanted to remain in academia and began interviewing for academic positions. One place stood out.

"I found that the students at USask were the warmest. They were very kind. There was just something about them that was different from other places."

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"It doesn't feel like going to work

because I do something that I absolutely love and I get to do it alongside very kind people.

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One day, before COVID-19, when we would show up regardless of how sick we were, I almost didn't have a voice and still taught a class. As a student left, she whispered 'lemon and honey.' Those things stay with you.

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In 2008, Ronke moved to Saskatchewan to join the College of Law. But before she left, a mentor at UBC who grew up in Saskatoon gave her memorable advice: buy yourself a nice parka. She still wears the same one on the coldest days.

Now nearly 18 years later, Saskatoon is home for Ronke, her husband, and their two children. The welcoming environment at the College of Law has been a major reason she decided to stay.

"It doesn't feel like going to work because I do something that I absolutely love and I get to do it alongside very kind people.

"They don't bug you," she joked. "So it's been good."

Her positive spirit and genuine care for students have made her a respected and beloved presence in the college. In 2012, she received the Provost's College Award for Outstanding Teaching. Small moments of appreciation stay with her.

"One day, before COVID-19, when we would show up regardless of how sick we were, I almost didn't have a voice and still taught a class. As a student left, she whispered 'lemon and honey.'"

"Those things stay with you," Ronke said, "Students see that you make an effort and they appreciate it. It's one of the things that I love the most about the students here."

Now associate dean of research and graduate studies, Ronke's passion for law remains grounded in improving the lives of others.

"It's what drove me to law in the first place, and I think it's still what drives me – it's that sense that things could be better for people."

Her research focuses on areas of law such as foreign investment and natural resource development and their implications for local communities. She's interested in the contributions that local communities make to these areas of law, how they interact with legal systems, and the distinctive ways in which legal decisions shape their lives.

"At the heart of most that I look at is, how is the law engaging with these communities and how are these communities engaging with the law?"

Outside of her professional work, Ronke finds joy in her family and in her faith. She remains closely connected with loved ones near and far, whether at her church, spending time with her husband and kids, visiting with her mom, siblings and good friends, or traveling to see extended family.

When asked about Black History Month, Ronke shared a thoughtful and intentional message.

"Black History Month for me is an opportunity to apply some intentionality to reflect

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Black History Month for me is an opportunity to apply some intentionality to reflect on the lives of Black people around the world.

One of the benefits of being an academic is that you're in a space where you can pause and even reflect.

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on the lives of Black people around the world. One of the benefits of being an academic is that you're in a space where you can pause and even reflect – I think that's a privilege. Not everyone has that opportunity."

She believes the month should act as a catalyst to inspire ongoing action and support for Black students and initiatives.

"I like that the College of Law is paying attention to these things. Just recently, the college helped support some of our students going to the Black Law Students Association Conference. Funding to support black law students is very helpful."

Ronke also emphasized that the month is about recognizing the strength and accomplishments of Black communities.

"I draw strength from some very exceptional black women that I've known and that I still know, like my mom, the mother figures in my life – all incredibly amazing women. Black History Month is an opportunity to intentionally think about those people and celebrate them." ■

'Big questions' remain in constitutional law: professor

Research chair is exploring the constitutional rights of Canadian people and communities.

Dr. Dwight Newman (DPhil) was recently appointed to a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Rights, Communities, and Constitutional Law, with a focus on centring questions of constitutional law on communities alongside the individual.

Dr. Dwight Newman (DPhil) is a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Rights, Communities, and Constitutional Law.



"The big change I'm trying to make is to think about the rights of communities," he said. "For example, I'll be thinking about things like what does it mean for a religious community to claim rights as a community in addition to the freedom of religion rights that individuals might claim, and just what arises from that? These kinds of questions extend across a lot of different rights and freedoms."

Newman has been a faculty member with the University of Saskatchewan College of Law (USask Law) since 2005 and served as the associate dean academic of the college from 2006 to 2009.

In 2025, he was named a Royal Society of Canada (RSC) Fellow, one of Canada's highest academic honours. He was selected as a member of the RSC's College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists in 2016. In 2022, he received the provincial Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal and

was awarded a King Charles III Coronation Medal for his contributions to the humanities and social sciences in 2025.

Newman, who earned his law degree at USask, has more than 200 publications attributed to his name, including 15 different books on various areas of the law. His writing has been cited in at least 14 Supreme Court of Canada decisions to date.

His fascination with constitutional law is long-standing and says it is "always really exciting" because of the way the people of Canada must directly interact with it.

Newman hopes to explore more of what he calls "forgotten freedoms," specifically freedoms that are entrenched in the Canadian constitution that haven't received a lot of attention like freedom of thought, freedom of the press, and freedom of assembly, among others.

He has started to write on freedom of thought. "Particularly with AI and some of the other technological developments in neuroscience, there are some real questions arising there."

Newman said much of his new research builds from work he explored in his previous appointment as a Tier 2 CRC in Indigenous Rights in Constitutional and International Law.

Canada already has instances of centring groups instead of individuals in questions of constitutional law, he said, and some of those examples involve Indigenous groups.

"Indigenous rights are a context where we've already seen the importance of considering communities in constitutional law," he said. "There's still big questions that remain, nuanced things like who represents the community for legal purposes and what's the scope of the community."

Looking into the future, Newman wants to expand resources available to lawyers and hopes his work will contribute to the development and interpretation of constitutional law in this country, potentially making direct contributions to policy development.

"I hope to keep contributing to public conversations as well. Law isn't the easiest thing to always explain or make really accessible, but I always welcome the opportunity to help with the public understanding of the law." ■

'The best of what USask has to offer'

Dr. Barbara von Tigerstrom (PhD) will receive the title of Distinguished Professor in honour of her outstanding achievement as a legal scholar and teacher at USask.

When the leadership team at the University of Saskatchewan College of Law (USask Law) discussed potential nominees for USask's Distinguished Professorship title, the conversation was remarkably short.

Dr. Barbara von Tigerstrom's nomination was supported as "the obvious choice," Dean Martin Phillipson wrote in his letter officially nominating her for the award,



Dr. Barbara von Tigerstrom (PhD)

bestowed annually to a handful of USask faculty members.

"As a Distinguished Professor, Dr. von Tigerstrom would represent the best of what we as a university have to offer. She is humble and hard-working, and she brings to USask both profound academic depth and true heft," Phillipson wrote.

The nomination was successful and von Tigerstrom, who joined USask Law in 2005, will join the select group of faculty who this year are receiving the lifetime honorary title of Distinguished Professor.

Here are five things to know about von Tigerstrom and her career.

1. She is an influential scholar in the field of health law.

"Much of her research has had a significant impact on health and science policy, both nationally and internationally. She has an outstanding reputation in the health law community, and is viewed as a meticulous, thorough and fearless researcher that policymakers turn to for a reliable, unbiased assessment of the relevant law," wrote Timothy Caulfield in support of von Tigerstrom's nomination. Caulfield is research director of the Health Law Institute at the University of Alberta.

2. Her research has impacted several areas of social concern.

"She was the first in Canada – and among the first internationally – to confront the profound regulatory challenges associated with regenerative medicine and, more broadly, stem cell research. Her work exploring how emerging stem cell technologies should be handled by regulatory entities like Health Canada and the (Federal Drug Administration) has been tremendously influential," stated Caulfield.

In 2017, von Tigerstrom was one of two

legal researchers on the Canadian government's Task Force on Marijuana Legalization and Regulation.

3. von Tigerstrom is also regarded as the leading expert on privacy law in Canada.

She has authored the field-standard textbook in this area, *Information and Privacy Law in Canada*, with the second edition due this year.

"While there are a few practitioner-focused texts on Canadian privacy law, this book stands out as the only comprehensive academic treatment of the subject area. It is widely relied upon as a key source," stated Teresa Scassa in her letter of support. Scassa is a Canada Research Chair in Information Law and Policy at the University of Ottawa.

4. von Tigerstrom has a stellar teaching record in the College of Law.

"Not just a leading researcher, Barbara is also distinguished by her outstanding track record as a teacher. She has received five institutional awards for her teaching as well as national recognition in 2012 from the Canadian Association of Law Teachers. She is one of the most highly regarded professors in the college by the students," Phillipson wrote.

von Tigerstrom says her goal is to help students build a solid set of skills that they can use as lifelong learners. "You want to provide them with useful, productive challenges that help them develop good ways of teaching themselves, so they have a strong foundation to build on when they go out and begin their careers."

5. She was a reluctant nominee.

"This particular designation is intended to recognize effort and achievement across the whole spectrum of the job, both teaching and research. To me, both have always been really important, so I like the idea of the university honouring faculty for this," von Tigerstrom said. "But I feel uncomfortable being singled out."

She is grateful for her colleagues on faculty, as well as the staff at USask Law. "The level of collegiality here is really pretty exceptional and just makes every part of the job so much better." ■

Remembering Beth Bilson

"
I remember Professor Bilson's extraordinary kindness when dealing with students. It was a privilege to attend her classes.

GARY CARTER COTTAM (LLB'93)

USask Law mourned the passing of our friend and colleague Beth Bilson, KC (LLB'77) on August 13, 2025.

In addition to her work as a law professor, Beth was dean of the college from 1999 to 2002 and subsequently served two terms as acting dean. She was also the University of Saskatchewan's Assistant Vice-President of Administration from 1986 to 1988.

One of only three women on faculty when she joined the college in 1979, Beth was a role model and mentor for many. While she readily shared her passion for the law with her students and colleagues, we remember her wisdom and kindness above all. ■

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Beth was a leader, and more importantly, a wonderful human.

DION MARTENS

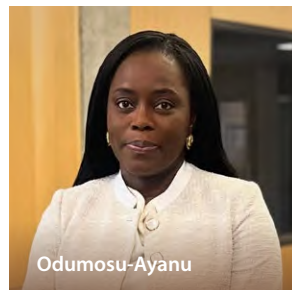
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She was a warm, kind, gentle woman of deep intelligence and integrity.

JUDITH FALLE (LLB'77)

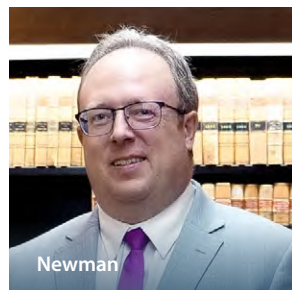
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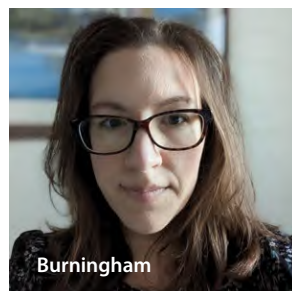
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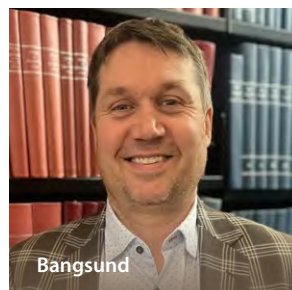
Odumosu-Ayanu



Newman



Burningham



Bangsund

Awards

Provost's Award for Outstanding Teaching, USask Law

Teaching excellence is celebrated annually at USask. Faculty and staff members from colleges, schools and units across campus are honoured for their exemplary contributions in support of USask's teaching and learning mission.

The following faculty members from the College of Law have been honoured with a Provost's Award for Outstanding Teaching:

- 2026: Dr. Clayton Bangsund (PhD)
- 2025: Benjamin Ralston
- 2024: Dr. Jaime Lavallee (SJD)
- 2023: Jamesy Patrick (JD'12, LL.M'17)
- 2022: Mark Carter (LLB'88, LL.M'92)

Odumosu-Ayanu recognized for grad student mentorship

Professor Ibironke Odumosu-Ayanu received the 2025-2026 InterD (Interdisciplinary Studies) Advisor Award from USask's College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

The award was created to recognize advisors on InterD students' committees who mentor these graduate students and support the success of their interdisciplinary research program.

The award acknowledges the critical guidance, commitment and dedicated efforts these mentors bring to interdisciplinary graduate research.

Newman honoured by Royal Society of Canada

Professor Dr. Dwight Newman, KC, (DPhil) was named a Royal Society of Canada (RSC)

Fellow, one of Canada's highest academic honours, in recognition of his invaluable contributions to his field.

Newman is a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Rights, Communities, and Constitutional Law at USask Law. His influential work has had major impacts on constitutional law, Indigenous rights law, and legal and political theory on rights.

"(My work) has a significance to questions about who we are as Canadians, questions about how we live together across complex differences, questions just about how we live up to responsibilities to one another," Newman said. "I think in that way it matters to all Canadians how we engage with these questions."

Newman earned his Juris Doctor from USask Law in 1999 and completed three graduate degrees at Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar (BCL, MPhil, DPhil).

The RSC is considered the most prestigious collection of Canadian scholars, artists and researchers across a vast interdisciplinary field. It fosters intellectual leadership for Canada and for the world.

Burningham named USask Sustainability Faculty Fellow

USask Law Associate Professor Sarah Burningham (LLB'09) was appointed a University of Saskatchewan Sustainability Faculty Fellow for the 2025-2027 term.

The fellowship supports faculty in designing, instructing, and assessing in ways that build student competencies for sustainability.

The fellowships are supported by the Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching and Learning at USask. The contributions of faculty members are planned to align their expertise, experiences, and interests, and the university's priorities.

Bangsund appointed Buckwold/Milani Scholar

Professor Dr. Clayton Bangsund (PhD) was appointed the College of Law's first Buckwold/Milani Scholar in Commercial Law.

Michael Milani, KC (LLB '80) and Tamara

Buckwold (LLB '80, LL.M '95), with husband Bruce Buckwold, collaborated through matching donations to create the position at USask Law.

Bangsund's research focuses on the substance of Canadian commercial legislation and the design and implementation of meaningful legislative reform. He has published three books and is currently writing others on several pieces of commercial legislation; he has also published a significant number of academic papers.

"My general aim is to furnish students, lawyers, judges, and professors – particularly those in the Province of Saskatchewan – with access to modern, comprehensive treatises on commercial legislation," Bangsund said.

Hansen and Lavallee win award for joint paper

USask Law professors Robin Hansen and Dr. Jaime Lavallee (SJD) received the 2025 Prize for Scholarship of Teaching and Learning from the Canadian Association of Law Teachers (CALT) for a paper they jointly authored: Reflections on the TRC's Mandate to Law Schools: Microscopic and Macroscopic Changes.



Hansen and Lavallee

It includes reflections on their professional relationship and explores the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's mandate to law schools to integrate Indigenous knowledge and perspectives into their curriculum and practice, as well as USask Law's response.

The award honours exceptional contributions to the scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL) by a Canadian law teacher. CALT defines SoTL as investigating questions related to teaching and learning and sharing the answers obtained through peer review, publication, performance or presentation.

Book releases

Clayton Bangsund

Bangsund on the Commercial Liens Act of British Columbia (University of Toronto Press, 2026)

- The book is a highly practical guide for service providers, lawyers, judges, students, and financial professionals navigating the revolutionary new Commercial Liens Act (CLA).

Sarah Buhler (Co-editor)

Legal Unhousing: Power, Rights & Housing Precarity (UBC Press, Upcoming September 2026) Sarah Buhler, Anna Lund (Eds.)

- *Legal Unhousing* exposes the often-unseen ways in which legal processes across various fields work to remove people from their homes. This book received a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Scholarly Book Awards Publication Grant.

Colton Fehr

Cruel and Unusual: Section 12 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (University of Toronto Press, 2026)

- *Cruel and Unusual* presents an overview of and critical discussion surrounding the judicial interpretation of section 12 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Rethinking Homicide: The Constitutional Case for Reform (Queen's University Press, 2026)

- *Rethinking Homicide* makes a compelling case for constitutionally restructuring homicide law and considers how Parliament might respond. This book received a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Scholarly Book Awards Publication Grant.

Judging Sex Work: Bedford and the Attenuation of Rights (UBC Press, 2024)

- *Judging Sex Work* takes stock of the Bedford decision, arguing that the constitutional issue was improperly framed. *Judging Sex Work* has been shortlisted for the Walter Owen Book Prize, presented by the Canadian Foundation for Legal Research, for outstanding new contributions to Canadian legal literature.

Robin Hansen

Prison Born: Incarceration and Motherhood in the Colonial Shadow (University of Regina Press, 2025)

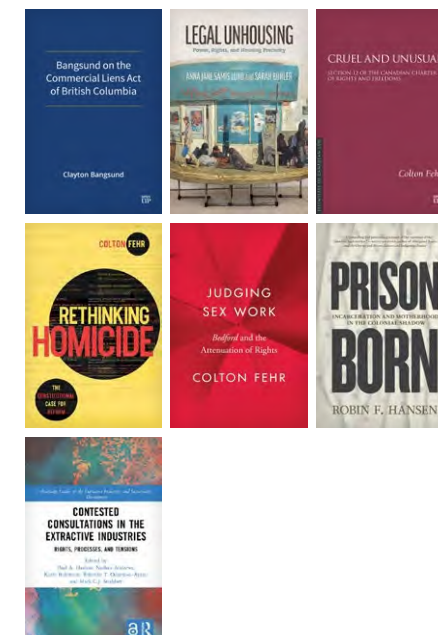
- *Prison Born* is a critical examination of the Canadian legal system. It focuses on the traumatic, often automatic separation of newborn babies from their incarcerated, predominantly Indigenous mothers. The book was nominated for three Saskatchewan Book Awards: First Book Award, City of Saskatoon Book Award, and the Scholarly Writing Award.

Ibironke Odumosu-Ayanu (Co-editor)

Contested Consultations in the Extractive Industries: Rights, Processes and Tensions (Routledge, 2025) Paul A. Haslam, Nathan Andrews, Karin Buhmann, Ibironke T. Odumosu-Ayanu and Mark Stoddart (Eds.)

- This book examines how communities, companies, and governments contest and contribute to the evolution of norms, rules and decision-making procedures that govern stakeholder consultation in the extractive industries.

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Research highlights in brief

Sarah Buhler (Principal investigator), Jamesy Patrick (Co-applicant)

“Evicting Children: Eviction, the Human Right to Housing, and the ‘Best Interests of the Child.’” \$10,000, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Insight Development Grant, 2026

Colton Fehr

“Studying the Impact of Religious Symbols in Court Proceedings.” \$59,262, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Insight Development Grant, 2024

“Sexual Offender Information Registries: The Case for a Punishment-Based Framework” (2025) 50 Queen’s Law Journal 32-64. Winner of the 2025 David Watson Award, presented annually for the paper published in the Queen’s Law Journal judged to make

the most significant contribution to legal scholarship.

Jaime Lavallee (Co-investigator)

“Tâpwewin: Confronting Indigenous-Specific Racism in the Academy.” \$25,000, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, 2024

MOU signing

FSIN, USask Law sign MOU to foster child welfare legal research

The Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN) and the University of Saskatchewan College of Law (USask Law) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to advance legal reform in child welfare systems for First Nations communities in Saskatchewan.

The agreement formalizes the partnership between FSIN and the USask College of Law, solidifying their shared vision of addressing critical legal and policy issues surrounding child welfare.

Through this initiative, both parties intend to strengthen their relationship and deepen their collaboration in academic and community-led research for the betterment of First Nations children, youth, and families in Saskatchewan. The research initiative aims to empower and support the communities through capacity building, offering valuable insights and solutions to enhance child welfare systems for First Nations.

FSIN Vice Chief E. Dutch Lerat and USask Law Dean Martin Phillipson formally signed the Memorandum of Understanding at the signing ceremony in fall 2023. It marked the official launch of the First Nations Child Welfare Legal Research and Community Partnership Initiative.

Milestones

USask Law Faculty Appointments and Retirements (2021–present)

Faculty Appointments

Chris Lafleur: Reappointed to a second term as Director of the Indigenous Law Centre, August 2025

Joshua Shaw: Appointed to a tenure-track position, July 2025

Iryna Ponomarenko: Appointed to a tenure-track position, July 2025

Jamesy Patrick: Appointed to a tenure-track position, July 2024

Funmi Abioye: Appointed to a faculty position, July 2024

Eleni Arvantis-Zorbas: Appointed to a faculty position, July 2024

Colton Fehr: Appointed to a tenure-track position, January 2024

Ben Ralston: Appointed to a tenure-track position, January 2023

Lawren Trotchie: Appointed to a part-time faculty position, November 2021

Faculty Retirements

Professor Emeritus Mark Carter (June 2025)

Professor Emeritus Glenn Luther (June 2025)

Professor Emeritus Lucinda Vandervort (June 2023)

Professor Emeritus W. Brent Cotter, KC (June 2022)

Professor Emeritus Ron C.C. Cuming, KC (June 2022) 🍀

USask Law welcomes Sask. jurists to classrooms

Program’s goal is to give students insight from sitting jurists.

The University of Saskatchewan College of Law (USask Law) welcomed two sitting jurists to the college during the 2025-2026 academic year.

King’s Bench Justice Richard Danyliuk (LLB’83) was the college’s Justice-in-Residence for a week in February 2026. Judge Donna Taylor (LLB’82) of the Provincial Court of Saskatchewan visited for a week in October 2025.

Justice Danyliuk engaged with students in first- and upper-year classes, sharing practical insights drawn from his career as a lawyer and time on the bench. He also attended several moot team practices, offering guidance as students prepared for competition.

“My hope for this program is that it creates a closer bond between the college and judiciary, both for professors and for students,” said Justice Danyliuk.

Judge Taylor spoke to students in a variety of classes, including Legal Ethics, Sentencing, and Legal Research and Writing with first-years.

In this class, Judge Taylor stressed the value of lawyers being clear, concise and professional communicators. She also told the students that she had read some of their recent work and was impressed they were using straightforward language, short sentences and writing with a direct voice.

“I was pleased to see it. It’s important material and the things you are working on will serve you well in law and in life,” she said.

Designed to encourage open dialogue, the judge-in-residence program gives students the opportunity to be inquisitive while gaining an authentic understanding of judicial work.

“I see firsthand the positive impact it has on our students,” said Professor Colton Fehr, the faculty representative for the program for Justice Danyliuk’s visit. “Having a judge in the classroom helps humanize the judiciary and gives students direct insight into life on the bench, a perspective rarely available in an academic setting.”

Justice Danyliuk echoed that, emphasizing the importance of breaking down misconceptions about the judiciary.



Justice Richard Danyliuk (right), here with Professor Colton Fehr, said he wanted to emphasize to students that judges “are regular people, with regular lives.”

“Judges are regular people, with regular lives, and I’d like to leave students with an understanding of that.”

Each year, the College of Law hosts current and former jurists from the provincial court and the Court of King’s Bench during week-long residencies. Dean Martin Phillipson said the college is grateful for the time and support the courts provide the program.

“The College of Law arguably enjoys the strongest relationship with the provincial bench and practising bar of any jurisdiction in Canada,” said Phillipson. “In Saskatchewan, most members of these groups are our alumni, and we are incredibly fortunate and grateful that they take every opportunity to give back to the college through the sharing of their time, knowledge and expertise.”

“The Court of King’s Bench judge-in-residence program is an outstanding example of that generosity, offering students invaluable access to, and insight from, jurists sitting at the Court of King’s Bench.”

Fehr also highlighted the significance of having a sitting judge visit a law school.

“Judges bring on-the-ground experience in law, and given their demanding schedules, having them immersed in the college for a full week is both an honour and an incredible learning opportunity.” 🍀



FSIN Vice Chief E. Dutch Lerat and USask Law Dean Martin Phillipson formally sign the Memorandum of Understanding at the signing ceremony in fall 2023.

Advancing access to legal education for Indigenous PEOPLES for 50 years

The Indigenous Law Centre (ILC), based at the University of Saskatchewan (USask) College of Law, this year celebrated more than 50 years of facilitating access to legal education for Indigenous peoples.

Here are five things to know about the ILC.

1. The centre was founded in 1975 by Dr. Roger Carter, a professor and former dean at USask Law.

Carter, dean of the College of Law from 1968 to 1974, was committed to social justice issues and worked with the university to establish a centre to facilitate access to legal education for Indigenous peoples. It was initially known as the Native Law Centre.

2. For decades, Indigenous law students from across Canada came to USask to attend the ILC's Summer Law Course for Indigenous Students.

One of the centre's first programs was a preparatory course offered



Joseph Naytowhow



Julie Pitzel

during the spring/summer for Indigenous students accepted to a Canadian law school. Students would temporarily move to Saskatoon to take the course, which emphasized developing skills needed for success in law school, in addition to learning substantive legal content. Over time, the course became an introductory property law course that included significant material relating to Indigenous/Aboriginal property.

ILC director Chris Lafleur says the sense of camaraderie and support that develops among students is beneficial.

"Students realize they have people they identify with, people that can help them through law school," Lafleur said. "Dean Martin Phillipson always says getting through law school is a team sport and that sense of community is even more prevalent in Indigenous spaces."

Since the COVID pandemic, the course has moved online, with enrolment continuing to be drawn from across Canada.

3. The ILC remains a place of community in the College of Law for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students.

The ILC routinely brings in speakers to explore issues in Indigenous law or discuss their experience as lawyers. It also currently has two cultural advisors: Joseph Naytowhow and Julie Pitzel.

"With the two elders here, we want the ILC to be a community centre where students feel comfortable coming in and talking to the elders or having lunch, or coming in for a speaker," said Lafleur. "This is a place of learning and we want it to be a place where students feel safe as they learn."

Naytowhow says he strives to give students insight into Indigenous culture through stories and song, and through ceremonies like smudging or a pipe ceremony.

"Developing relationship is the foundation of being in a friendship," he said. "I want to give them a glimpse of the people who were here on the land and what they did, and help them get to know that First Nation and Métis people are still here, practising their culture and ceremonies."

4. The ILC is a critical way that USask Law is responding to the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).



Lawren Trotchie (JD'18, LLM'22) spoke at the ILC anniversary celebration, describing her experience as a student, teaching assistant and lecturer at the centre.

In Call to Action #28, the TRC called upon law schools in Canada to require all law students to take a course in Aboriginal people and the law.

"For 50 years the Indigenous Law Centre has made a profound and lasting contribution to the advancement of Indigenous legal education in Canada," says Dean Martin Phillipson.

"More recently, the centre has played a huge role in assisting the College of Law in meeting its obligations under Call to Action 28 of the TRC. From providing cultural advice and support to students, to supporting curriculum reform and the development of land-based learning opportunities and hosting Indigenous speakers, the centre is a key focal point of the college's reconciliation initiatives.

5. The ILC celebrated its anniversary this spring with the Going Forward Together! gathering on May 9.

The event reconnected colleagues, friends and former students of the ILC.

The themes of the gathering were reconnect, reflect, and celebrate.

Lafleur notes that this was the first gathering of its kind for ILC alumni. "This is an emerging community. We wanted to reconnect with our alumni and renew their connection with the ILC." 🍀

Chris Lafleur

CHANGEMAKERS

Berg, Rolfes honoured for advancing 2SLGBTQQIA+ rights



Brad Berg (left) and Brian Rolfes met while clerking at the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal.

The award

Brad Berg (BComm'91, LLB'92) and Brian Rolfes (LLB'91) were recognized with the University of Saskatchewan Alumni Achievement Award for Outstanding Impact for significantly advancing 2SLGBTQQIA+ rights and inclusivity in Canada and around the world. Their work includes the campaign for equal marriage in Canada and deep contributions to charities and educational organizations.

The Outstanding Impact Award is intended to recognize USask alumni who demonstrate exceptional leadership in their field and maintain a standard of excellence that inspires their colleagues and peers, resulting in a demonstrable betterment of their community, with promise of future achievement. Berg and Rolfes received the award in October 2025.

About the winners

"I knew very early on there was a connection between societal change and law. I knew that to be a lawyer, there was a responsibility to also participate in your community and in society and hopefully to lead and hopefully to bring about change."

-Brad Berg

"When I went into law, I did actually think that law was a great way to make society better, to make the lives of individuals and collectively the world a better place. Law is a tool for good."

-Brian Rolfes

Berg and Rolfes met in 1993 while clerking at the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal after studying at the University of Saskatchewan College of Law (USask Law). In 1998, they held a commitment ceremony at the United Church at St. Andrew's Chapel on the USask campus, with 130 friends and family members attending. It was one of the first same-sex union ceremonies on the Prairies. They then helped to lead the national campaign for equal marriage in Canada, with Rolfes serving for eight years as chair of the Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto. The church performed Canada's first same-sex marriages in 2001 and was part of the litigation (Halpern v. Canada) resulting in equal marriage being recognized by the Ontario Court of Appeal



Brad Berg and Brian Rolfes at the University of Saskatchewan Alumni Achievement Awards in October 2025. (Photo: Dave Stobbe)

in 2003. In celebration, Berg and Rolfes — who grew up in Dorintosh and Saskatoon, respectively, and continue to live in Toronto — had their wedding vows renewed and finally legalized.

As active USask law alumni they established the Brad Berg and Brian Rolfes LGBT Rights Scholarship in 2015. Together, they have an impressive record of accomplishments and honours that highlight their dedication to 2SLGBTQQIA+ rights, community service, and professional excellence. In 2018, the couple received the Together Towards Zero Award from the AIDS Committee of Toronto for their long-term support. They are members of the Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto ELEVATION Campaign Cabinet, the goal of which is to elevate social justice, human rights, and inclusion. Both are recipients of Out on Bay Street (now StartProud) awards for professional leadership.

About Brad Berg

"We were part of a movement that led to equal benefits in the workplace. We both pushed our two firms to rewrite their policies to extend same-sex benefits, eventually same-sex parental leave. We pushed courts and we held fundraisers and we were part of the fight for equal marriage."

-Brad Berg

Berg, a partner and litigation practice group leader at Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP, earned a Bachelor of Commerce degree in 1991 and a Bachelor of Laws degree

in 1992, both from USask, followed by a Master of Laws degree at the University of Toronto. Recognized as one of Canada's top litigators, Berg has received numerous accolades, including being elected president of The Advocates' Society, one of the leading associations of litigators in Canada. In 1999 he co-founded Pride@Blakes, one of the first queer affinity groups that has grown to become one of the largest at any Canadian law firm.

His litigation expertise has been recognized in Chambers Global, Chambers Canada and the Lexpert/American Lawyer Guide to the Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada. In 2022, he was the inaugural recipient of the Ontario Bar Association's Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Community Robert Muir Award for Mentorship. His dedication to mentorship and social responsibility was further recognized with separate Lexpert Zenith Awards for Mid-Career Mentorship and Pro Bono Service. He serves on the board of the Centre for Addictions and Mental Health (CAMH), the largest mental health teaching hospital in Canada.

About Brian Rolfes

"There are now 38 countries in the world in our lifetime that you can be legally married as a same-sex couple. That's fantastic. So I would hope that the next generation can look at us and look at the folks before us and say, 'OK, they did their part, now I've got to do my part.'"

-Brian Rolfes

Brian Rolfes earned his Bachelor of Laws degree at USask in 1991 and holds a Bachelor of Arts in public administration from Carleton University, a Bachelor of Arts (Juris) in Law from Oxford University, where he studied as a Rhodes Scholar, and a Master of Laws from Cambridge University. He was the global recruiting partner at McKinsey & Company, a management consulting firm, where he co-founded Equal, a worldwide network that has grown to include 6,000 2SLGBTQQIA+ colleagues and allies. He has also been instrumental in creating inclusive policies and diversity training at McKinsey and has supported numerous 2SLGBTQQIA+ organizations globally. Although he recently retired after nearly 30 years of serving clients and leading talent and diversity initiatives, he continues to support these initiatives at McKinsey as a senior external advisor.

Rolfes was ranked #17 (in 2018) on the Financial Times OUTstanding LGBTQ+ Role Models list, recognizing his global influence and leadership. As part of this work in diversity and in finding the best talent in the world to join McKinsey, Rolfes helped the firm co-found Reaching Out MBA (ROMBA) more than 20 years ago. More recently, he helped launch The Alliance, a global network of 2SLGBTQQIA+ senior leaders from public, private, and social sectors. Rolfes was recently elected as the incoming vice-chair of the board for the Stratford Festival (2026-28), and then chair (2028-30), and is the deputy national secretary for selection for the Rhodes Scholarships in Canada. 🍀

A story of war, love, and peace.

Capt. Sandy MacPherson and Dorothy Borutti are pictured in Le Touquet, France, in 1944.

BY SHANNON BOKLASCHUK

"Theirs is a story of war, love, and peace. A story for the ages."

That's how former Canadian journalist Romie Christie describes the captivating lives of her late parents, University of Saskatchewan College of Law (USask Law) graduate Sandy MacPherson (LLB'38), and his wife, Dorothy (Borutti) MacPherson, who fell in love amongst the conflict, suffering, and challenges of the Second World War.

Christie has captured their fascinating story in her book, *See You in Le Touquet: A Memoir of War and Destiny*. Published by Regina's DriverWorks Ink, Christie's book explores her parents' personal journals as well as family stories and historical records.

"Without question, their first meeting is quite a story. A story I've told numerous times throughout my life. Even former

Canadian Prime Minister John Diefenbaker, who appointed my dad to the Court of Queen's Bench in Saskatchewan, once described it as 'the best love story ever,'" Christie wrote in the book's preface.

Sandy MacPherson's early life

Sandy MacPherson was born on Nov. 15, 1916, in Swift Current, Sask. He was given the full name of Murdoch Alexander MacPherson, Jr., in honour of his father, who was also named Murdoch but was more commonly called Murdo.

Murdo, the eldest of six children, was born in 1891 on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. He had received a scholarship to attend Dalhousie University in Halifax, graduating with a law degree in 1913. Murdo relocated to Saskatchewan when a law firm in Swift Current offered him a job. He met and married his wife Iowa there and it's where Sandy spent an early part of his childhood during the First World War. Murdo served in the war and returned to Canada with serious injuries.

His lingering disabilities left him in a quandary, Christie writes in her book. "He was eager to get back to practicing law, to advocacy and defending people in the courtroom, but that wasn't the kind of legal work he could do sitting down. Getting up the stairs at the courthouse was problem enough. Moving around the courthouse as a trial lawyer on crutches was an impossibility. How was he to support his family?

"Fortunately, a solution landed in his lap. Murdo took an appointment as the solicitor to the Soldiers' Settlement Board in Regina, 245 kilometres east of Swift Current."

As a result of his father's new job, Sandy moved with his family to Regina. As he grew up in the city, he excelled as a student. After graduating from Central Collegiate, he decided to follow in his father's footsteps and study law.

Sandy enrolled at his father's alma mater, Dalhousie University, before moving to Saskatoon and completing his last two years of law school at USask Law. He earned his Bachelor of Laws degree in 1938 before going to work for his father's law firm in Regina.

"It played a big role in his life, the University of Saskatchewan," Christie said.

On Sunday, Sept. 3, 1939, Sandy was at home enjoying a relaxing day off work when he heard the news that the United Kingdom had declared war on Germany. By Jan. 12, 1940, Sandy was on a train travelling east to Camp Borden, north of Toronto, for training as a lieutenant in the Army Service Corps.

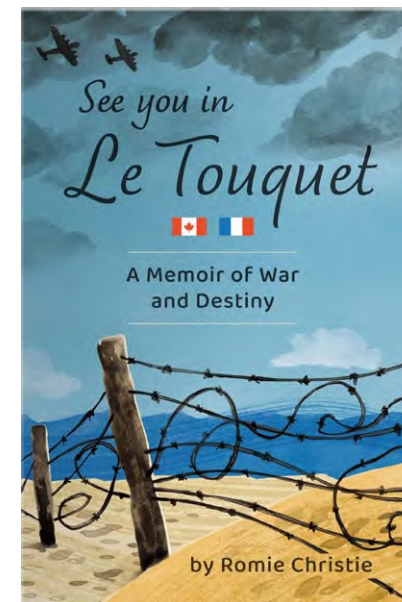
Going to War

In May 1940, then 23-year-old Lieutenant Sandy MacPherson, wearing a new military uniform, arrived by plane at the Regina airport to say goodbye to his family before being shipped over to Britain. At the time, his brother Ian was completing his second year at the Royal Military College in Kingston, Ont. When asked by his family where he was headed, Sandy said he would be stationed as backup to 1st Division. Beyond that, he had few details. It was an emotional time.

Adjusting to life in the army was difficult for Sandy, who, like so many soldiers, experienced loneliness and homesickness. He didn't know it then, but at the same time he was in England, his future wife, Dorothy Borutti, was living in Le Touquet, France, under Nazi rule. On Jan. 3, 1941, following a bleak and dismal Christmas season, Dorothy turned 19 years old. It was a challenging time for her family and for the other residents of Le Touquet, who had no choice but to adapt to their new reality.

"With the arrival of the new year, the Touquettois adjusted as best they could," Christie wrote. "Some local services continued to operate, especially those needed by the German occupiers, such as electricians, bakers, carpenters, and car repair shops. Despite the fact that many local men were now in German prisons or work camps, the remaining residents had little choice but to participate in an uneasy truce, though no one forgot who held all the power.

"Nazi rules were tough. Everything was rationed, curfews were strictly enforced, everyone was hungry. And given its geographical location, Le Touquet was in the forbidden coastal zone, so control was more severe there than anywhere else in France."



Romie Christie's creative nonfiction book, *See You in Le Touquet: A Memoir of War and Destiny*, was published in 2023.

Sandy spotted something unexpected up the road: a young woman – Dorothy – jumping up and down and waving her arms. Sandy shouted to the driver of the Jeep to slow down and stop.

It was a life-changing moment.

Sealed With a Kiss

As the war continued, Sandy, Dorothy, and their families faced many hardships. At one point Dorothy found herself imprisoned in Lille, France, for listening to English radio. Meanwhile, her future husband, Captain Sandy MacPherson, was working tirelessly in Britain to create a more just court martial system for the Canadian army. As she sat in her jail cell as a political prisoner, Dorothy vowed that she would embrace the first liberator who came to free her and her hometown of Le Touquet.

In the recent interview about her book, Christie said it seemed like destiny that her parents would one day meet in Le Touquet. She noted that Sandy was always an avid reader, and as a youth one of his favourite authors was P.G. Wodehouse – who happened to live in Le Touquet until the German occupation in 1940.

It's perhaps not surprising that as the Canadian army made its way north in September 1944 and liberated the town of Montreuil, Sandy decided to visit nearby Le Touquet, which the Germans had fled.



"That's where P.G. Wodehouse had been captured by the Nazis, and my dad had read about the town. Something drew him there," Christie said. "He took a Jeep and a couple of guys went with him to drive over and see what was left of Le Touquet."

As Sandy and the other Canadian officers drove along an avenue in Le Touquet, marked by a large square that featured seriously damaged hotels, Sandy spotted something unexpected up the road: a young woman – Dorothy – jumping up and down and waving her arms. Sandy shouted to the driver of the Jeep to slow down and stop. It was a life-changing moment.

"Lo and behold, she ran right up to him, stood on her toes, reached her hands onto his shoulders, angling him down towards her, and she kissed him. A *real* kiss, right on his lips," Christie wrote. "Dorothy was just as stunned and thrilled as Sandy. She'd done what she'd vowed she would do! She'd kissed the first Allied soldier she saw. A real lip-smacking kiss."

Making a Life Together

After that fateful day, Sandy and Dorothy knew they were meant to be together. On April 2, 1945, Dorothy Borutti officially married Sandy MacPherson in Le Touquet during a morning ceremony at City Hall – a building that had somehow survived the bombings. The war ended shortly after, and Sandy and Dorothy moved to Canada to begin their life together in Saskatchewan.

Dorothy vowed to love her new country

Sandy and Dorothy MacPherson reenact their first kiss during the 40th anniversary of Le Touquet's liberation in 1984

while continuing to be a strong ambassador for her homeland of France. Sandy's family quickly embraced her.

"Dorothy already loved Canadians for what they'd done to free France. Regina was very different from Le Touquet, yet people couldn't have been kinder or more welcoming," Christie wrote.

In May 1947, just over two years after they wed, Sandy and Dorothy welcomed their first son. He was named Ian, in honour of Sandy's brother who passed away during the war. Their first daughter, Rosemary (Romie), was born in 1950, and their second daughter, Alexandra, arrived in 1955. In Regina, Sandy became a partner with his father's law firm, MacPherson Leslie and Tyerman, while Dorothy befriended women in the community. The MacPhersons enjoyed a vibrant social life in Regina, filled with evenings of dancing and music.

In 1961, Sandy was appointed a Justice of the Saskatchewan Court of King's Bench, where he served for two decades until his retirement in 1981 at the age of 65. He presided over many interesting cases, including a notorious murder trial that involved the 1967 killing of the Peterson family on their farm near Shell Lake, Sask.

"Throughout his career, Sandy developed an excellent reputation, which journalist and



Romie Christie

author Jack Batten wrote about in his book *Judges*. Batten said Sandy was 'probably the most respected trial judge in his generation of Saskatchewan jurists,' Christie wrote.

During his retirement, Sandy learned how to type and began writing down his memories and recounting his experiences from the Second World War. While Sandy never published those essays and chapters into a book, he passed them on to Christie about a decade before he died. Christie, who lives in Calgary and had worked with CBC Radio for about 20 years, hoped to one day do something with her father's papers. After retiring in 2019, and while the COVID-19 pandemic swept across the globe in 2020, she decided the time was right to write her parents' story.

"I realized at that point if I didn't write this story, it would be gone. It would just fade away like most family stories do, and it was such a good story – the parts that I knew," she said.

Returning to Le Touquet

Throughout their marriage, Sandy and Dorothy took many trips back to Europe. In the spring of 1984, the mayor of Le Touquet invited the couple to attend the 40th anniversary of Le Touquet's liberation. It was a celebratory event.

"They were guests of the town. They were being honoured," Christie wrote. "In his letter, the mayor remarked that he was sure they would remember the day of the liberation. This got a chuckle. Sandy and



Sandy MacPherson

USask graduate Murdoch Alexander "Sandy" MacPherson served in the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps during the Second World War. He later served as a justice of the Saskatchewan Court of Queen's Bench.

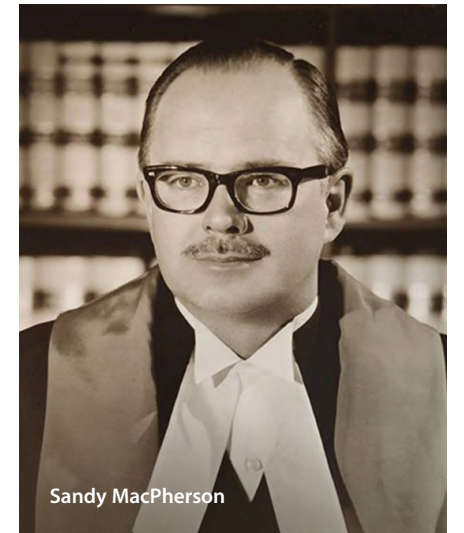
Dorothy knew each and every detail as if it were yesterday."

Christie, who by 1984 was a married mother of three, joined her parents in Le Touquet with her son, Benji, who was then nine years old. Dorothy was pleased that one of her grandchildren could visit her home community and represent the next generation of her family. Sandy and Dorothy were also pleased to have an opportunity to visit with the residents of Le Touquet.

Later in their retirement, Sandy and Dorothy relocated to Victoria, B.C., but Le Touquet was never far from their minds. In fall 1996, they called Christie to let her know that when they passed away they would like to be buried there.

"There was just one place they belonged together for eternity – Le Touquet," Christie wrote.

As Sandy lay dying in 2003, he held Dorothy's hand and said to his wife of nearly 60 years: "See you in Le Touquet." Dorothy died less than two years later in Calgary, where she moved after her husband's death to be closer to family. As they had requested, Sandy and Dorothy's ashes were buried beneath a marble statue in Le Touquet's cemetery, beside Dorothy's parents.



Sandy MacPherson

In September 2024, Christie was honoured to be invited to Le Touquet to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Canadian liberation of the French town. She brought with her copies of her 2023 book, and the town's residents welcomed her and her family with open arms.

It was an amazing experience for Christie.

"For the 80th celebration, over 20 Jeeps with Canadian, American, and French 'soldiers' in period military dress paraded the streets," she wrote.

"After Mayor Fasquelle delivered a somber message detailing the loss and devastation that occurred in Le Touquet, we were transported – by Jeep again, of course – to another traffic circle about a kilometre away, at the corner where my mother's childhood home, Rosemary Cottage, still stands. She lived there with her parents throughout the war years. The town had reached out to the present owners of Rosemary Cottage, who allowed their home and garden to play an authentic role in the re-enactment of our parents' first meeting.

"As the story goes, my mom vowed early in the war that she would kiss the first Allied soldier she saw. She told her plan to the female political prisoners who were in jail with her in 1942. And after five long years of wartime occupation of Le Touquet, the day after German forces fled the town, my mother heard a Jeep on the road . . . and the rest is history, told in my book." ■

Law alums hit the road for epic African bicycling adventure

After meeting on the first day of law school more than 40 years ago, Don Layh and Don Buckingham have found that a shared love of cycling has helped keep their friendship strong.

✍ **BY DON BUCKINGHAM (LLB'86)**

What could sitting down in a campus lecture hall in Saskatoon have in common with drinking an ice-cold beer by Victoria Falls in Livingstone, Zambia? Well, for two guys named Don from the Class of '86, quite a lot actually.

Since our time together at the University of Saskatchewan College of Law (USask Law) in the 1980s, Don Layh and I have bonded over our simple and bizarre love of bicycling and the great outdoors. This shared passion has provided much of the adventure and camaraderie that has sustained our friendship for more than 40 years.

We met on a balmy fall day in September 1983, at our very first lecture on our very first day of law school. Don L., a school teacher from the Manitoba-Saskatchewan border town of Marchwell, happened to grab a seat beside me; at the time I was a perpetual student from the Alberta-Saskatchewan border town of Lloydminster. Over a beer at Louis' after class, we became fast friends and I soon became a regular at the Layh household for supper, which just happened to be on my way home from classes.

Fast-forward a few years when graduation pushed us off in very different directions. Don L. took up the life of an honest legal practitioner, first with a big Saskatoon firm and then as a sole practitioner near his hometown. He opened offices in both Langenburg, SK and Russell, MB, becoming the guru of personal property security and general financing law in both provinces and later a Queen's Bench, now King's Bench, judge in Yorkton.

I, on the other hand, started my quest to

see the world and almost immediately went off to do graduate studies in international law at Cambridge, England, then some years later completed my doctorate in law jointly in France and Canada. Ultimately, I pursued a career as a law professor and public servant, mostly in Ottawa, specializing in food and agriculture law and policy.

Despite our unrelated geographical and professional endeavours, we two Dons continued to find excuses to get together, including surprise visits for each other's important events: I appeared when Don received his Queen's Counsel appointment (as it then was) and when he was sworn in as a justice on the Court of Queen's Bench (as it also then was); Don was there when I was bestowed my doctorate in law and later when I was inducted into the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame in 2021.

Our first cycling trip was the so-called Champagne Tour for my 50th birthday. For seven days, we toured the vineyards and First World War trenches of the Champagne region of France, sampling a different bubbly every day. Next, there was the tour of Italy's Amalfi Coast for hill-climbing and pasta-eating challenges.

In 2024, it was a 500 km tour in the meat-atarian Chilean Lake District of the Andes Mountains in South America.

But in 2025, Don L. dreamed of something even bigger – a bike trip from the top of Africa to the bottom of the continent. And he invited me along. Why not? We have cumulatively already visited over 100 countries, what with my work and pleasure trips bringing my tally to 70-plus while Don's stood at 30-plus. But this next cycling adventure would take four months and cover thousands of kilometres.

Soon the next cycling deal between the two Dons was struck – together we would do 10,000 total kilometres of cycling in Africa but Don L. would do the more ambitious part: racking up 9,000 km on the full trip from Cairo to Cape Town, while I chose to do 1,000 km in the middle of the tour, which would see us cycle through Malawi and Zambia together.

It was quite an adventure – average days of cycling varied from 82 to 217 km, with temperatures from 15 to 40 degrees C as we traversed mountains and deserts and encountered torrential rains and blowing sands.

The experience was nothing short of incredible – with birds, butterflies and African animals so close by (sometimes too close). We met Zambian school children eager to practice their English – “Hooooooooo aaaaaare youuuuu?” – and when we responded, the youngsters would run away laughing hysterically at the two white geysers wrapped in cycling Lycra, sporting helmets and fingerless cycling gloves. “Why would these old guys be doing this crazy ride anyway?” the kids must have wondered.

Why? Well, to see the towering Pyramids of Egypt, the majesty of Victoria Falls, Ugandan rain forests, Namibian deserts, and the rolling, verdant hills of Zambia. The Southern Hemisphere stars were absolutely exhilarating and awe-inspiring. Seeing Africa's abundant zebras, elephants, and monkeys from a bicycle was an absolute thrill. How entrancing to hear the birds and insects of the African savannah.

The smell of charcoal smoke from cooking fires everywhere along the route was intoxicating and the meals prepared over these same charcoal fires were an otherworldly culinary experience. (Even the crocodile pizza was jaw-droppingly tasty!) To touch and feel the hard-packed African soil under an air mattress and sleeping bag after a hard day of cycling made one feel truly grounded with the universe.

It was a chance encounter in a law school lecture more than 40 years ago that connected a couple of farm boys from opposite sides of Saskatchewan, neither having travelled much outside its borders. But 100 or so countries and many thousands of cycled kilometres later, it doesn't seem that the encounter was so accidental after all. Perhaps it is more reminiscent of the famous last line of the movie *Casablanca*: “I think this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship.” And so it has been.

Don Buckingham, who taught at USask Law from 1995 to 2000, is an agriculture, food and sustainability consultant currently living in Geneva, Switzerland. Don Layh, who served in Yorkton on Saskatchewan's Court of King's Bench, retired on October 1, 2024 after 10 years on the bench. As of this writing, they are continuing their cycling adventures solo in Canada and Europe as opportunities present themselves. 🍷



Don Layh and Don Buckingham were part of the Tour D'Afrique expedition organized by TDA Global Cycling. (Photo: submitted)

Together we made a difference!

When the historic *Be What the World Needs* fund-raising campaign for the University of Saskatchewan (USask) ended, the impact for the College of Law (USask Law) was significant.



Money raised during the campaign advanced four key priorities within the college:

- Student awards to enhance access to legal education
- Experiential learning
- Student health and wellness
- Indigenous opportunities and achievements

"This support helps us continue to build on the tradition of excellence here at the College of Law," said Dean Martin Phillipson.



Above: Martin Phillipson speaks to alumni.

Right top: Tamara Buckwold at a USask Law campaign event.

Right bottom: Ken Fredeen speaks about the USask Law fund-raising campaign.

"Thanks to the generosity of everyone who contributed, we provide our USask Law graduates with the foundation to become lawyers who will make an impact for years to come."

Fund-raising efforts in the college were supported by a team of USask Law alumni that stepped forward to provide their leadership. Campaign co-chairs were Tamara Buckwold (LLB'80, LLM'95) and Ken Fredeen (LLB'83).

"The fund-raising campaign demonstrated the critical importance and impact of connections with our alumni and the legal community," said Buckwold. "It sparked new and renewed relationships and showed yet again that our graduates excel through

many career paths in many places."

"This was a very successful fund-raising campaign to keep our college as it always has been: a top-rated, small, collegial law school that provides many experiential opportunities and graduates talented students who do great things from coast to coast to coast and beyond," said Fredeen.

Both Buckwold and Fredeen thanked their alumni colleagues who were members of the campaign team, in addition to all those who donated.

"You now have the lifelong spirit of giving to the College of Law!" said Fredeen.

Support from donors remains the foundation of the college's success, said Phillipson.

"I am deeply grateful for their commitment to the College of Law and for what they do for our USask Law community."



Thank you to these firms for their support of USask Law during the *Be What the World Needs* Campaign.

Avenue Law LLP	Knoll & Co. Law Corporation	Osler Hoskin & Harcourt LLP
Bereskin & Parr LLP	Leland Kimpinski LLP	Paulson & Ferraton Barristers & Solicitors
Blake Cassels & Graydon LLP	McCarthy Tetrault LLP	Peszko & Watson Barristers & Solicitors
Borden Ladner Gervais LLP	McDougall Gauley LLP	Pfefferle Law
Burnet, Duckworth & Palmer LLP	McKercher LLP	Revering Law Office
Dentons Canada LLP	Miller Thomson LLP	Saskatchewan Provincial Court Judges Association
Fasken Martineau LLP	MLT Aikins LLP	Stevenson Hood Thornton Beaubier LLP
Felesky Flynn LLP	Norton Rose Fulbright LLP	W Law LLP
Field Law LLP	Nychuk & Company	
Gerrand Rath Johnson	Olive Waller Zinkhan & Waller LLP	

USask Law Campaign Cabinet

Campaign Co-Chairs

Tamara Buckwold, Saskatoon SK (LLB'80, LLM'95)

Ken Fredeen, Oakville ON (LLB'83)

Campaign Committee Leadership

The Honourable Madam Justice Wendy Baker, Vancouver BC (LLB'77)

Derek Cranna, KC, Edmonton AB (LLB'98)

Christine Glazer, KC, Saskatoon SK (LLB'80)

Matt Lindsay, KC, Calgary AB (LLB'89)

Michael Milani, KC, Regina SK (LLB'80)

Andrew Parsons, KC, Channel-Port-Aux-Basques, NFLD (LLB'04)

Dave Rusnak, KC, Yorkton, SK (LLB'81)

Seumas Woods, Toronto, ON (LLB'84)

Team Leads

Vancouver:

Rhonda Bender (JD'05)

Perry Ehrlich (JD'76)

Calgary:

Toby Allan (LLB'01)

Joanne Alexander (LLB'90)

George Antonopoulos (LLB'05)

Jason Holowachuk, KC (JD'99)

Courtney Kachur (LLB'08)

Perry Mack, KC (LLB'82)

Michael Mysak (LLB'00)

Terri-Lee Oleniuk (JD'03)

Bernie Roth, KC (LLB'88)

Ken Skingle, KC (LLB'87)

Jenine Urquhart (JD'20)

Rita Tripathy (LLB'91)

Randal Van de Mosselaer (LLB'92)

Steve Will (LLB'08)

Red Deer:

Suzanne Alexander-Smith, KC (LLB'93)

Lethbridge:

Kurt Schlachter, KC (JD'03)

Saskatoon:

Bob Affleck (JD'11)

John Agioritis (LLB'03)

Kim Anderson, KC (LLB'88)

Jessie Buydens (LLB'06)

Kirk Cherry (LLB'08)

Andy Chiang (JD'15)

Alain Gaucher, KC (LLB'79)

Nancy Hopkins, KC (LLB'78)

Terry Kimpinski, KC (LLB'90)

Amelia Lowe-Muller (JD'15)

Gifts from firms strengthen USask Law



Three of Saskatchewan's largest law firms donated to the University of Saskatchewan College of Law (USask Law) during the university's *Be What the World Needs* fundraising campaign.

Their generous gifts will have wide-ranging impact in the college.

McKercher LLP recognized for \$900,000 gift to USask Law

McKercher LLP's \$900,000 donation to USask Law includes \$500,000 to help the college develop and teach a new upper-year land-based learning course set to be offered this fall. Students will spend time out on the land and learn how Indigenous laws flow from the relationship Indigenous peoples have with the land, upholding their traditional responsibilities to care for and protect it.

"We see this as an important contribution to innovative legal education and to reconciliation through learning," said Collin Hirschfeld, KC, chair of McKercher's executive committee.

"We know how important it is that everyone in the legal system – lawyers, law firms, students, deans, and professors – take responsibility to push reconciliation forward. Gifts such as this help the college equip students and future lawyers with foundational knowledge that will help them discharge this responsibility," said Dean Martin Phillipson.

Chris Lafleur, director of the Indigenous Law Centre at USask Law, is helping to develop the land-based learning class, which will include immersive experiences such as a canoe trek, sweat lodges, round dances, and songs. Learning the basics of Indigenous law, he said, will help students build authentic relationships in Indigenous communities.

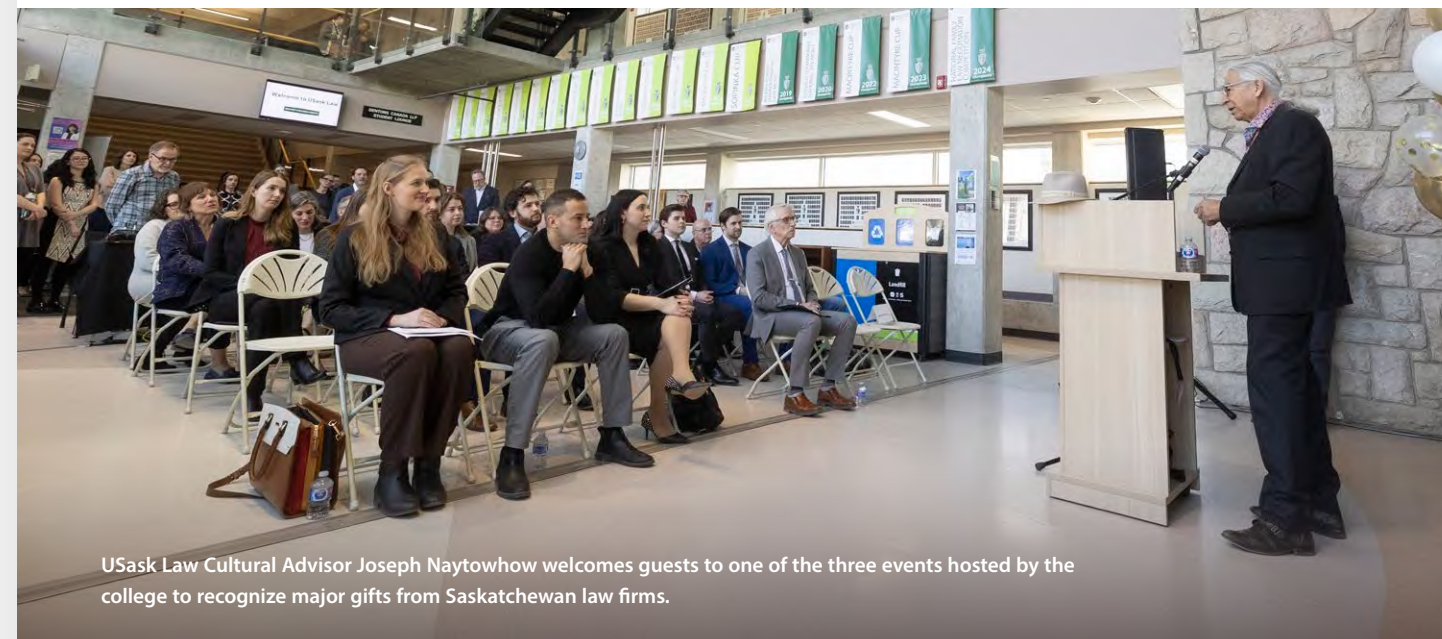
"You are enhancing the legal education of these students, and that will impact their future practice," he said of McKercher's donation. "They're going to be able to go into the community with an understanding of the proper protocol and be able to build relationship and progress toward reconciliation."

College celebrates \$750,000 gift from McDougall Gauley LLP

A \$750,000 donation from McDougall Gauley LLP to USask Law creates bursaries for students in need and provides long-term support for one of the college's favourite traditions, the First-Year Welcoming Ceremony.

It also establishes scholarships for each of the 18 students selected every school year to serve on the editorial board of the college's Saskatchewan Law Review, in recognition of their academic achievement.

"In Saskatchewan, we need strong, home-grown legal talent. You wouldn't think it matters (but) it does," said Michael Milani, KC (LLB'80), partner at the firm. "This is why we were really pleased to be able to support the college, so that individuals in government, business, and others will benefit from the legal services and trusted advice that people who trained in this college can bring."



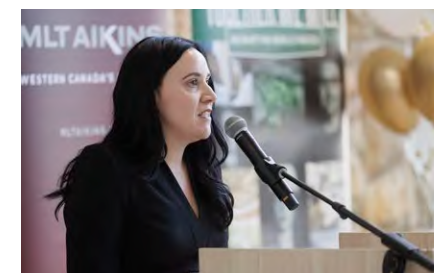
USask Law Cultural Advisor Joseph Naytowhow welcomes guests to one of the three events hosted by the college to recognize major gifts from Saskatchewan law firms.



Left top: Collin Hirschfeld, KC, said McKercher's gift was a contribution to innovative legal education.



Left middle: Mike Milani, KC, from McDougall Gauley, said the firm values law school graduates from Saskatchewan.



Left bottom: Erin Eccleston, a partner at MLT Aikins, is a 2011 graduate from USask Law.

Photos by Matt Smith and Dave Stobbe

and the maintenance of this province. And it's gifts like this from McDougall Gauley that make sure we continue to do the work we've done for more than 114 years."

Milani and classmate Tamara Buckwold (LLB'80, LLM'95), with husband Bruce Buckwold, also provided a joint gift to create the Buckwold/Milani Scholar in Commercial Law, enhancing instruction in business law at the college.

\$500,000 gift from MLT Aikins LLP expands scholarships

A \$500,000 donation from MLT Aikins LLP to USask Law will ease financial barriers for students entering law school and help to develop the next generation of legal professionals.

The donation will directly benefit students pursuing their legal education at the college by providing scholarships that recognize academic excellence, leadership potential and a commitment to public service. The gift will also support access to education for Indigenous students and will be designated for Indigenous law entrance scholarships and awards.

"We are proud to support the University of Saskatchewan College of Law and its students," said Aaron Runge, managing partner at MLT Aikins. "We have a long history with the USask College of Law, with one-third of our partners being graduates of the law school."

"By investing in the education of law students, we are not only helping them succeed, but we are also contributing to the continued growth and vitality of the legal community in Saskatchewan and Western Canada more broadly."

"For more than 40 years, MLT Aikins has been a valued and long-standing partner of the College of Law," said Martin Phillipson, dean of the college. "The firm's continued support will help ensure that our future legal professionals – including incoming Indigenous students – have the financial resources they need to excel in their studies and make meaningful contributions to the profession and their communities." 🍀

By the numbers



\$570,739,155
Total gifts to USask

USask Law and the
Be What the World Needs
fundraising campaign

10 years
Length of campaign



978
Donors



879
Individuals



99
Businesses,
corporations,
associations



689
USask Law
alumni



6 Gifts
through
wills or
estate plans



16
International
donors



499
Saskatchewan
donors



463
Canadian
donors
outside SK



80%
Faculty and staff
participation at
USask Law

Priorities supported:



45%
Student awards



14%
Experiential
learning



8%
Health and
wellness



20%
Indigenous
opportunities
and achievements

13% Other

USask Law students say thank you

Simon Rowland

This generous award allows me to prioritize my obligations as a parent and a student without jeopardizing my family's financial wellbeing. One of the primary reasons I decided to attend law school was because I wanted a career that could help support a family in an increasingly expensive society and this award directly touches on that goal.



Kato Carriere

Balancing the demands of law school, community responsibilities, and fatherhood can be both financially and personally challenging. This award has helped me dedicate more time and energy toward my studies and participation within the law community, while also remaining present and engaged with my family life.



Hallie Bourassa

Receiving this award has deepened my passion for my legal career and reinforced how meaningful donor support is for students striving to achieve their goals. I have always juggled working, managing student loans and studying for my classes, and this support greatly improves the quality of my educational experience.



Joi Ines

My legal academic experience has been undoubtedly shaped by the wonderful community at the college, and donors are an essential part of that. This financial support enabled my wholehearted dedication to my studies, and to the MacIntyre Cup and Sopinka Cup moot competitions. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.



Saman Chughtai

This award is deeply meaningful to me as it proves my dedication to being a JD/ MBA student and reinforces my decision to pursue this challenge. It's already made a significant impact on my journey, allowing me to focus more on my studies without financial worry.



USask Law alum selected for SUPREME COURT OF CANADA clerkship

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My entire time at USask has done such a good job preparing me.

EMMA NEUFELD



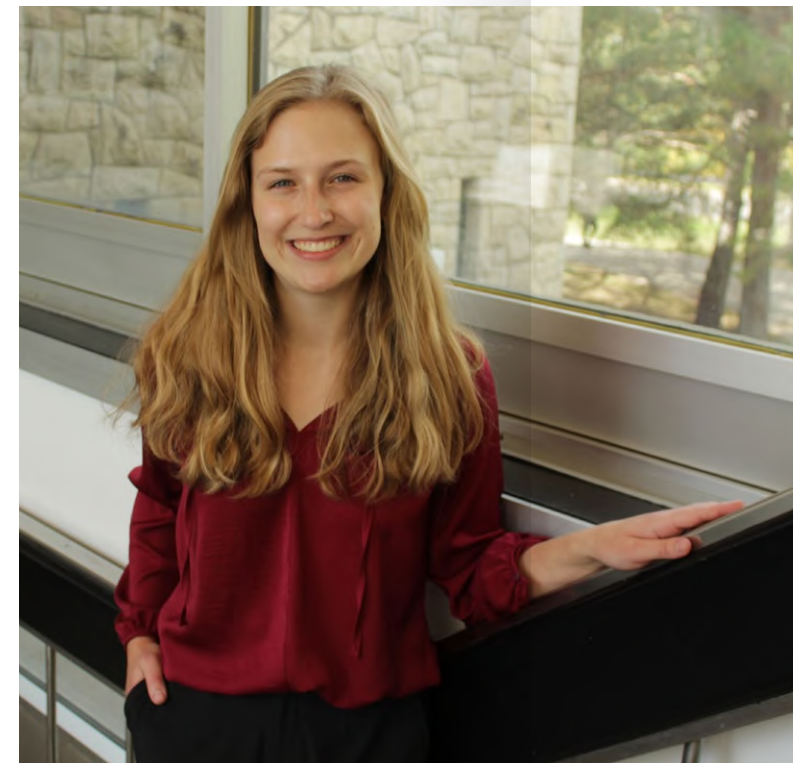
Emma Neufeld (JD'25) secures a coveted placement with the Supreme Court of Canada Law Clerk Program.

✍️ **AMY LIEBAERT**

It was a Friday morning in late February when Emma Neufeld, a 2025 graduate from the University of Saskatchewan College of Law (USask Law), received a phone call that would set a new course for her legal career.

While sitting in the library at the Court of Appeal for Saskatchewan, where she is currently clerking, Neufeld noticed her phone light up with an Ottawa-area number. On the other end of the line was retiring Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) Justice Sheilah L. Martin, offering Neufeld the opportunity to clerk with her successor for the 2027–2028 term.

Neufeld was ecstatic upon receiving the offer. “I think I blacked out during the call... I was just so excited.” She immediately ran



Emma Neufeld (JD'25) will begin her clerkship with the Supreme Court of Canada in summer 2027. (Photo: Submitted)

down the hall to share the news with her colleagues and the court's judges.

For each one-year term, every Supreme Court judge selects three clerks based on strong academic achievement, excellent research and writing skills, and diverse perspectives and experiences. The program does not consider regional representation, meaning selection is based purely on merit. During the 2026–27 application cycle, the Court received 172 applications and selected only 27 candidates. Of those, 96.3 per cent had prior clerkship experience.

The rigorous hiring process for the law clerk program begins more than a year before the term starts. Applications open in fall and by January candidates must submit a cover letter, curriculum vitae, four reference letters, and, if applying as a bilingual candidate, a writing sample in both English and French. Selected applicants are interviewed by either an individual judge or a panel, after which offers are made to successful candidates.



“I had lots of support during the application process from family and friends, professors at the college, judges at the Court of Appeal, former clerks, and clerks who are beginning their term soon,” said Neufeld. “The support and guidance I’ve received has made a big difference. I’m so grateful.”

Though she had long been interested in clerking, she also knew how difficult the positions are to land. “When I started law school, it was something that I thought would be such a cool experience, but I didn’t know if it was attainable,” said Neufeld, who earned the Law Society of Saskatchewan Bronze Medal for achieving the third-highest average in her graduating class.

She credits her time at USask Law with providing a strong foundation for pursuing clerkship opportunities, particularly through her involvement in the college’s French Common Law Option, earning her Certification in Common Law in French (CCLF), as part of her Juris Doctor degree.

While Neufeld was completing her CCLF, she received strong encouragement to apply for an SCC clerkship from then-director of the program, Justice Caroline Magnan. Justice Magnan, who was appoint-

ed to the Alberta Court of King’s Bench in March 2025, offered significant support throughout Neufeld’s application process, as did USask Law associate professor Sarah Burningham, says Neufeld.

That encouragement continued with judges at the Court of Appeal being quick to offer their support to Neufeld. She additionally drew confidence from the valuable experience gained during her internship with Justice Georgina R. Jackson, which she completed while attending law school. This, combined with her sense of determination, reinforced her decision to apply.

“It’s such a unique opportunity that I knew I couldn’t pass it up. I wanted to throw my hat in the ring and see if it was something that I could achieve.”

Before beginning her SCC clerkship in summer 2027, Neufeld will attend the University of Toronto, where she will pursue a Master of Laws program. In the meantime, she will complete her current clerkship at the Court of Appeal, a role she holds in especially high regard.

“Getting the chance to work closely with the judges has been so wonderful. I’ve learned so much from them and from the staff.” 🍀

//
Getting the chance to work closely with the judges has been so wonderful.
I’ve learned so much from them and from the staff.

EMMA NEUFELD



Student notes

Bilsky recognized for work as LSA president

Jetta Bilsky, president of the Law Students' Association, received the 2026 Walter Murray Leadership Award from the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union.

The award is presented to a student who provides leadership beyond the call of duty in enhancing the student experience at USask.

"This recognition means a great deal to me, especially as it reflects the work I've been fortunate to do through the Law Students' Association and Legal Follies, from planning large-scale student events to helping build a stronger sense of community within the USask College of Law," Bilsky wrote in a LinkedIn post.



Jetta Bilsky

Association and Legal Follies, from planning large-scale student events to helping build a stronger sense of community within the USask College of Law," Bilsky wrote in a LinkedIn post.



Tiffany Situ

Cyberbullying prevention project earns national award

The Cyberbullying Prevention and Awareness Project undertaken by Pro Bono Students Canada (PBSC) USask received a 2026 Chief Justice Richard Wagner Award from the national PBSC organization.

The USask team delivered legal education sessions to more than 2,500 students across the province, addressing online harms, legal consequences, and emerging issues such as AI and deepfakes. The project was supported by the Public Legal Education Association of Saskatchewan (PLEA).



(From left) Alaina Weltz, Joi Ines, Shelby Fitzgerald, Robbie Lee-Phillipson and Priya Braithwaite.

Tiffany Situ served as project lead for the initiative. She said key members of the team were: **Brooklyn Willick**, **Cassandra Kondzielewski**, **Joi Ines**, **Natasha Lee**, **Elisa Lee**, and **Kaelan Leslie**.

"Working with a dedicated team of volunteers to bring legal education into classrooms across Saskatchewan has shown me how impactful accessible legal information can be for young people and their communities," Situ said.

The Chief Justice Richard Wagner Award honours outstanding PBSC volunteers from across Canada. The Right Honourable Richard Wagner is the Chief Justice of Canada.

USask Law mooters excel on national stage

2026

The University of Saskatchewan College of Law had an impressive third-place finish at the 2026 Western Canada Trial Competition (MacIntyre Cup). The team of **Alaina Weltz**, **Joi Ines**, **Robbie Lee-Phillipson**, and **Priya Braithwaite**, was coached by **Shelby Fitzgerald** (JD'21).

Two team members won individual awards at the competition: **Joi Ines** (Best Direct Examination) and **Priya Braithwaite** (Best Closing Argument).

The successful finish at the MacIntyre Cup secured the team a place at the Sopinka Cup in Ottawa, where they again achieved a third-place result. The Sopinka Cup features top law student advocates from across Canada who advance from regional competitions.

Joi Ines received the award for Best Opening Statement at the competition.

USask Law is grateful to the Saskatchewan Trial Lawyers Association for its continued support of this team.

2025

USask Law teams finished first and second at the 2025 National Family Law Negotiation Competition.

Mackenzie Singer and **Anjani Sharma** won the event, while **Dominique Panko** and **Laura Chartier** achieved second place. Singer was also recognized as Best Individual Negotiator. The team was coached by **Gisele Dumonceaux** (LLB'86) and **Kane Fritzler** (JD'22), with assistant coaches **Mack Dumba** and **Eryn Stewart** (3L students).

Mark Wonko and **Michael Letts** won the 2025 Canadian National Negotiation Competition (CNCC), with **Sarah Hoag** and **Brandon Johnson** placing second. Wonko and Letts represented Canada at the International Negotiation Competition in London in July 2025. Both teams were coached by **Katie Newman** (JD'20).

Stonechild honoured with USask Indigenous Achievement Award

Jaylynn Stonechild, a second-year student at the University of Saskatchewan College of Law (USask Law), received a 2026 USask Indigenous Achievement Award recognizing her exemplary leadership.

Stonechild is a member of the Muscowpetung Saulteaux Nation.

"My motivation extends beyond my own academic goals; it is rooted in a responsibility to help open doors for the next generation of First Nations women, just as my Elders and predecessors did for me," she said.

Stonechild's activities in the College of Law include being a 2L Class Representative on the Law Students' Association (LSA), chair of Student Representatives on the LSA, and teaching assistant for Law 232 Kwayeskastasowin, the first-year course about Aboriginal people and the law. She was also a member of the college's 2026 Kawaskimhon National Aboriginal Moot Team.



Jaylynn Stonechild

Past USask Law students who won a USask Indigenous Achievement Award are:

2025: Amy Constant, James Smith Cree Nation

2024: Jordan Calladine, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan

2023: Dominga Robinson, Pheasant Rump Nakota First Nation

2022: JC Steele, Anishinaabe from Cote First Nation

USask Law recognizes top graduates



Brad Heskin

The University of Saskatchewan College of Law annually awards Law Society of Saskatchewan medals to the three students who have achieved the highest cumulative averages of all College of Law classes taken to earn their Juris Doctor degrees.

2026

Brad Heskin (Gold Medal)
Ashley King (Silver Medal)
Drake Bodie (Bronze Medal)

2025

Kira Dmytryshyn (Gold Medal)
Brenna Triffo (Silver Medal)
Emma Neufeld (Bronze Medal)

2024

Caydence Marley (Gold Medal)
Kennedy Marley (Silver Medal)
Laura Rask (Bronze Medal)

2023

Sophia Marie Roth (Gold Medal)
Éric Ruel Turcotte (Silver Medal)
Liam Taylor McDonald (Bronze Medal)

2022

Corbin Gilding (Gold Medal)
Julianne Labach (Silver Medal)
Kane Fritzler (Bronze Medal)

continued on next page

Kennedy Marley selected for Rhodes Scholarship

University of Saskatchewan College of Law graduate Kennedy Marley (JD'24) was selected to receive a prestigious Rhodes Scholarship and began her graduate program at Oxford in fall 2025.

Established in 1903, the Rhodes Scholarship includes tuition, fees, and a stipend for living expenses while studying at the University of Oxford. It is the oldest graduate scholarship offered in the world and one of the most prestigious.

Marley is a Métis woman who grew up near Regina on Treaty 4 Territory and received her Juris Doctor from the USask College of Law in June 2024. Marley earned the Law Society of Saskatchewan Silver Medal for attaining the second-highest cumulative average throughout law school.



Use QR code and read more about Kennedy Marley and the Rhodes Scholarship.

Caydence Marley wins scholarship to University of Cambridge

Caydence Marley (JD'24) was awarded The Right Honourable Paul Martin Sr. Scholarship at the University of Cambridge and began her Master of Law studies there in fall 2025, with a focus on criminal law and international law.



Marley is a member of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan; she grew up near Regina on Treaty 4 Territory. In May 2024, she was invested into the Order of Gabriel Dumont as a recipient of the Bronze Medal in recognition of her significant contributions to leadership and Métis cultural advancement. Marley earned the Law Society of Saskatchewan Gold Medal for achieving the highest cumulative academic average during law school.

During her legal studies, Marley was the managing editor for the Saskatchewan Law Review, was a teaching assistant for the Indigenous law course Kwayeskastasowin, while outside of school she pursued volunteer work, most notably with Big Sisters of Canada.

Ron and Linda Fritz Graduate Scholarship in Law

Caydence Marley was the recipient of the 2025-2026 Ron and Linda Fritz Graduate Scholarship in Law, awarded to USask Law grads who are pursuing graduate studies in law at a university in England or Scotland.

"I feel deeply fortunate and privileged to receive such support, and I hope donors know that their support ripples far beyond individual recipients and flows into our families and broader communities," said Marley.

The college is grateful to retired Law Professor Ron Fritz and Librarian Emerita Linda Fritz, formerly Head of Special Collections at USask, for their generosity in creating this scholarship.

Ahmed selected for Helton Fellowship Program

Fatima Ahmed (JD'25) received a 2025 Helton Fellowship from the American Society of International Law.

Helton Fellowships provide financial assistance in the form of micro-grants for law students and young professionals to pursue field work and research on significant issues involving international law, human rights, humanitarian affairs, and related areas.

Ahmed planned to travel to Bangladesh to collect testimonies from people living in the Kutupalong refugee camp, which is inhabited mostly by Rohingya refugees who fled nearby Myanmar (Burma).

Ahmed was also the college's 2025 recipient of the Justice Rosalie Silberman Abella Prize, presented annually to a graduating law student in each of Canada's law schools who is most likely to positively influence equity and social justice in Canada or globally upon graduation.



"I feel humbled and grateful that the University of Saskatchewan nominated me for this award. I acknowledge that I'm standing on the shoulders of giants through whose work I, myself, was able to benefit from equity and access opportunities," said Ahmed. "I hope to use this award as motivation to open doors for others, just the way others opened doors for me." 🍀



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