



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
College of Law
LAW.USASK.CA



University of Saskatchewan College of Law First-Year Welcoming Ceremony

Convocation Hall
September 22, 2026

With support from:



ABOUT THE COLLEGE OF LAW

Established in 1912, the University of Saskatchewan College of Law is one of the oldest law schools in Western Canada, exemplifying a tradition of excellence in teaching, research and innovation.

The college offers Juris Doctor (JD), Master of Laws (LLM), and Doctor of Philosophy degrees.

As leaders in Indigenous law, criminal law, transnational commercial law, and environment and sustainable resources law, the College of Law also offers a strong clinical program, a highly regarded moot program, joint degree programs and global exchange opportunities.

Over the past 100 years, the college's graduates have become distinguished judges of courts at all levels, including the Supreme Court of Canada; respected academics; learned members of the legal profession across the country; diplomats; and political leaders.



**Thank you to our sponsor
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PROGRAM

○ Procession of first-year students

Welcome remarks and introductions

Doug Surtees (LLB'87, LLM'94), Interim Dean, College of Law

Welcome and blessing

Joseph Naytowhow, Cultural Advisor, Indigenous Law Centre

Greetings from McDougall Gauley LLP

Michael Milani, KC, (LLB'80)

Greetings from the Court of Appeal

The Hon. Justice Georgina Jackson (LLB'76)

Greetings from the Court of King's Bench

The Hon. Justice Cara Haaf (LLB'02)

Greetings from the Saskatchewan Provincial Court

The Hon. Chief Judge Shannon Metivier (LLB'92)

Greetings from the Law Society of Saskatchewan

Laura Klemmer, President

Greetings from the University of Saskatchewan

Dr. Patti McDougall, Interim Provost and Vice-President Academic

Keynote address

Shawn Moen (LLB'05)

Presentation of gowns

Recitation of student commitment

Entrance awards

↓ Reception to follow at Marquis Hall



The following commitments by students, the institution, and educators, have been derived from the University of Saskatchewan's learning charter. The learning charter is our commitment to opening our university to learning, engagement and opportunities for all Peoples of Saskatchewan and beyond, and in so doing, recognizes and appreciates the knowledge, diverse abilities and the ways of teaching and learning that they bring with them.

STUDENT COMMITMENT

As a law student of the University of Saskatchewan College of Law, I will, to the best of my ability:

- engage in a respectful way with local, national and global members of community and society,
- contribute to the creation of a respectful and inclusive university community,
- actively engage in the learning process, and
- undertake all learning activities with academic and ethical integrity.

INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENT

The University of Saskatchewan will, to the best of its ability:

- offer high-quality programs and activities for learning and discovery,
- foster reciprocal learning collaborations,
- ensure qualified educators and effective instruction,
- promote research-enhanced and community-driven learning,
- create mechanisms for ongoing quality enhancement of all programs and courses,
- define transparent programmatic milestones expected of students in all pursuits of learning,
- provide safe, secure, and inclusive environments,
- provide appropriate learning resources, facilities, and technologies,
- support the students, the educators and the community.

EDUCATOR COMMITMENT

As professors at the University of Saskatchewan College of Law we commit to creating a positive learning environment for our students:

- by exemplifying active learning and curiosity, demonstrating broad thinking, following ethical principles, and engaging respectfully with students and peers.

We commit to striving for excellence in teaching:

- by maintaining a high level of subject matter knowledge and ensuring that content is current, accurate, relevant to learning outcomes, and representative of the knowledge and skills being taught.

We commit to developing respectful and inclusive learning environments that support student learning:

- by creating experiences where students feel respected, valued and empowered to contribute.

And we further commit to creating and upholding the academic expectations and standards expected of the profession and of a professional education in law.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Shawn Moen (LLB'05)

Shawn Moen is the co-founder and CEO of 9 Mile Legacy Brewing, a craft brewery and beverage innovation hub located in the heart of Saskatoon. He is a proud Saskatchewanian and has law degrees from the University of Saskatchewan (LLB'05) and Osgoode Hall Law School at York University (LLM'10).

Prior to launching 9 Mile Legacy Brewing in 2015, he practised as a lawyer in both public and private practice and has experience in commercial law, policy development and regulatory matters. In a varied practice over the course of a decade, he had tours of duty as a civil litigator, crown prosecutor, and M&A solicitor.

Mr. Moen is a proud dad and an active community member. He currently serves as chair of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce and is a 2022 Nuffield Scholar.

Doug Surtees (LLB'87, LLM'94)

Doug Surtees was appointed interim dean effective July 1, 2026 while the university continued the search for the new dean of USask Law. He joined the faculty in 2005. Prior to his appointment, he taught at the college as a sessional lecturer beginning in 1994. He held a term appointment to the college in 2002-2003. He has also taught as a sessional lecturer at the College of Agriculture, Edwards School of Business and Saskatchewan Polytechnic.

Prof. Surtees was co-director of the Public Legal Education Association of Saskatchewan (PLEA) from 1994-2005, and has acted as an arbitrator, labour adjudicator and adjudicator under the former Foreign Worker Recruitment and Immigration Services Act. He is a certified mediator and holds a professional teaching certificate as well as being a member of the Saskatchewan bar. He is a board member and past president of Easter Seals Canada, a former president of the Saskatchewan Abilities Council, and a board member and former president of PLEA. Previously he was a board member of the Saskatchewan Prevention Institute, and a board member and former chair of the governance committee of the Saskatoon Co-op.

Joseph Naytowhow (BEd'95)

Joseph Naytowhow is an award-winning Plains/Woodland Nehiyaw (Cree) interdisciplinary artist from the Sturgeon Lake First Nation in Saskatchewan. His generosity and compassion for sharing cultural knowledge make him a much sought-after speaker, performer, facilitator, and outdoor educator for adults and children alike, locally, regionally, and internationally. A longtime resident of Saskatoon, he has been playing music and telling stories, both tall and short, for over 35 years.

Mr. Naytowhow has also served as a cultural advisor to various institutions such as the Indian Teacher Education Program (ITEP) at the University of Saskatchewan and multiple universities across Turtle Island. In June 2024, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws by the University of Regina for his commitment to bridging the gap between the contemporary world and traditional Indigenous culture. He holds a Bachelor of Education degree from ITEP.

Michael Milani, KC (LLB'80)

Michael Milani, KC, received his LLB in 1980 from the University of Saskatchewan College of Law. He is the chair of the executive committee of McDougall Gauley LLP. He is a past-president of the Law Society of Saskatchewan and the Federation of Law Societies of Canada. Mr. Milani is the chair of the Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan and is a Fellow of the Insolvency Institute of Canada, and a Fellow of the American College of Mortgage Attorneys. He has appeared in the courts of Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba, and in the Supreme Court of Canada. Mr. Milani served as the Estey Chair in Business Law at the College of Law in both 2022 and 2025.

The Hon. Justice Georgina Jackson (LLB'76)

The Hon. Justice Georgina R. Jackson was appointed to the Court of Appeal of Saskatchewan in 1991. Prior to her appointment, she was a partner with MacPherson, Leslie and Tyerman (now MLT Aikins LLP), having previously served as a Crown counsel and then the Master of Titles and executive director of the Property Registration Branch with the Department of Justice of Saskatchewan. She received a Queen's Counsel (now King's Counsel) designation in 1991.

Throughout her career, Justice Jackson has supported legal or judicial education in some form. She is the past president of the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice. As a former associate judicial director with the National Judicial Institute, Justice Jackson organized numerous national seminars for judges from 1998 to 2004. She has held a variety of board positions and memberships, including serving as the first woman president of the Uniform Law Conference of Canada and of the Saskatchewan Branch of the Canadian Bar Association and chairing Saskatchewan's Advisory Committee on Federal Judicial Appointments.

She has a particular interest and expertise in judicial ethics, having served as co-chair of the National Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics, written many articles and speeches and spoken and taught in many countries on that subject.

The Hon. Justice Cara Haaf (LLB'02)

Justice Cara Haaf was appointed to the Court of King's Bench in 2020. Prior to her appointment, she dedicated significant time to serving both the legal profession and the broader community.

Through the Canadian Bar Association, she most recently served as chair of the Alternative Dispute Resolution National Section. She was also a member of the Children's Law Committee, where she worked to advance the legal interests of children. In addition, Justice Haaf has shared her expertise as a guest lecturer at USask Law. Earlier in her career, she volunteered with CLASSIC, Saskatoon's community legal clinic. In 2018, Justice Haaf was elected as a benchler of the Law Society of Saskatchewan and served on its ethics and competency committees. She has also served as chair of the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Network of Saskatchewan board and vice-chair of the John Bosco Wilderness Camp board.

Justice Haaf has continued her commitment to improving access to justice, serving on the Access to Justice Network, participating in the annual Dean's Forum, and helping lead the development and implementation of the Judicial Case Conferencing process.

The Hon. Chief Judge Shannon Metivier (LLB'92)

Chief Judge Shannon Metivier received her LLB from the University of Saskatchewan College of Law in 1992. She practised law as an associate and then as a partner at McKercher LLP in Saskatoon. While in private practice, she was a civil litigator with a wide-ranging practice and was actively involved in law firm administration.

She was appointed to the Provincial Court of Saskatchewan in 2013. In 2021, she became the Chief Judge. She has a special interest in the intersection of mental health and the justice system and currently serves as the alternate chairperson of the Saskatchewan Review Board, an independent tribunal that makes or reviews decisions and orders regarding the accused where a verdict of not criminally responsible by reason of mental disorder, or unfit to stand trial on account of mental disorder, is made.

Laura Klemmer

Laura Klemmer graduated from both the University of Windsor Law School and the University of Detroit Mercy Law School in 2008. She articulated at Gowling WLG in Ottawa and was called to the bar in both Ontario and Saskatchewan in 2009. Ms. Klemmer has worked as in-house counsel to a Crown corporation financial institution and is now counsel at MLT Aikins LLP in Regina where her practice focuses on debt and equity financing, agriculture, technology and commercialization of businesses. A benchler since 2023, she currently serves as president of the Law Society of Saskatchewan.

Dr. Patti McDougall (BSN'03)

Patti McDougall is a developmental and educational psychologist currently serving as interim provost and vice-president academic at the University of Saskatchewan. With more than 20 years of senior leadership experience at USask, she has held key roles including Vice-Provost Teaching, Learning, and Student Experience, Deputy Provost, and various leadership positions within a USask college prior to joining central administration.

Dr. McDougall has led and contributed to numerous institutional growth and change initiatives, spanning strategic planning, academic program development, organizational design, resource allocation models, Indigenous engagement, and administrative process renewal. She is dedicated to fostering a university environment that responds to the evolving needs of learners and society.



CLOAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Jayden Blumhagen

Jayden Blumhagen is a third-year law student and president of the Law Students' Association (LSA). She previously served as the LSA's 2L class representative and is currently a co-managing editor of Caveat Lector, the College of Law's satirical newspaper. Originally from Alberta, she holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Women's and Gender Studies from the University of Alberta. She has gained legal experience through roles with the Department of Justice Canada and the Alberta Law Reform Institute. Following graduation, she will return to the Department of Justice Canada to article.

Kayla Gardiner (BA'24)

Kayla Gardiner is a third-year law student and president of the Indigenous Law Students' Association where she previously served as the VP social. She was raised in Saskatoon but is a member of Cumberland House Cree Nation. Prior to law school, she obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Political Studies from the University of Saskatchewan. Over the past two summers, she has worked at the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations where she focused extensively in Child Protection law. This experience has made her passionate about how Indigenous Peoples interact with the child welfare system. Upon graduation, she will article at Public Prosecutions in Prince Albert.

Lora Bansley (LLB'96)

Lora Bansley is a legal executive director in the Justice Services and Tribunals Division of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice and Attorney General. Prior to joining the division, she was the Registrar of the Court of King's Bench. She also gained valuable experience during her years at Information Services Corporation and in private practice in Swift Current and Weyburn. She earned a Bachelor of Science from the University of Saskatchewan in 1994 and a Bachelor of Laws in 1996. She was called to the Saskatchewan Bar in 1997. During her legal career she has been an active member of the Canadian Bar Association (CBA) Saskatchewan Branch and served on its board of directors for seven years. She also served as a member of the national CBA Legislation and Law Reform Committee.

The Hon. Gordon Wyant, KC, ECS (LLB'86)

Gordon Wyant practised as senior counsel at McKercher LLP in Saskatoon, where he worked in the areas of corporate and commercial law. He served as chair of the Saskatoon Public School Board and then later on Saskatoon City Council for seven years before being elected as the MLA for Saskatoon Northwest in 2010. He received his King's Counsel designation in 2008.

Mr. Wyant served several senior roles in government including Deputy Government House Leader, Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Deputy Premier, Minister of SaskPower, Minister of Education, Minister of Advanced Education, and Minister of SaskBuilds and Procurement. He currently serves on the board of the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan's Provincial Judicial Council. After leaving politics in 2024, he returned to the practice of law at McKercher LLP.

Richard Hardy (LLB'81)

Richard Hardy, ONWT (LLB'81), is a retired Métis lawyer who practised law for close to 40 years. He was born and raised in the Mackenzie River District and received his LLB from USask Law in 1981. He is a proud alumnus of the Indigenous Law Centre program. Since childhood, Mr. Hardy has spent his life defending and advancing the rights of the Métis of the Northwest Territories, particularly those from the Mackenzie River District.

He is a recipient of the Commemorative Medal for the 125th Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada in recognition of significant contributions to compatriots, community, and to Canada. He is also a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. He was invested as a Member of the Order of the Northwest Territories (ONWT) in 2024. He wrote and published *Molazha (Child of a Whiteman)* in 2022, a story of his life and his antecedents, primarily the Gaudet and Hardisty families.

Grace Hession David (LLB'85)

Grace Hession David graduated from the University of Saskatchewan College of Law in 1985. She completed a master's degree at Western University and then articulated with the law firm of Osler, Hoskin and Harcourt LLP in Toronto in 1989. She clerked for the Ontario Superior Court before joining the Ontario Securities Commission as its first tribunal Adjudicative Counsel. She then served as legal counsel supervising corporate governance for the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan in the equity division.

In 2011 she joined the Ontario Attorney General in Toronto and prosecuted fraud and other criminal organization matters involving Part VI Criminal Code applications and wiretaps. She has been active with the Canadian Bar Association criminal justice section in Ontario and Saskatchewan. She was also employed with the Ministry of Justice and the Attorney General in Regina in its appellate office prior to assuming the position of Information and Privacy Commissioner for the Province of Saskatchewan.

Kenneth Ready, KC (LLB'76)

Ken Ready is a lifetime resident of Regina, graduating from the University of Regina with a Bachelor of Arts and the University of Saskatchewan College of Law with a Bachelor of Laws. Upon graduation, he became a member of McDougall Ready Wakeling, now McDougall Gauley LLP. He continues to practise with the firm at its Regina offices.

His legal career has been principally focused on civil litigation and related disciplines. In his professional and community life, he has served as president of the Canadian Bar Association (CBA) Saskatchewan Branch, chair of the Saskatchewan and the national boards of the Arthritis Society of Canada, chair of Skate Regina, chair of Do It With Class Young People's Theatre, co-commissioner of the Saskatchewan Baseball Association, board chair of Lakeview United Church, and board member of Regina Summer Stage.

Paul Caron, KC (LLB'66)

Paul J. Caron, KC, graduated from the University of Saskatchewan College of Law in 1966. He returned to his hometown of Calgary, Alberta where he practised for 57 years. He is a founding member of the firm Caron & Partners LLP, where he now serves as its senior advisor. During his career, he has appeared before all levels of court in Alberta, as well as the Supreme Court of Canada. He received his KC designation in 1998 and was awarded a Certificate of Recognition from the Law Society of Alberta in 2018 for service to the profession. He was instrumental in organizing the 59th class reunion held in Saskatoon in 2025, from which a scholarship was established to assist new students entering the College of Law.

Alison Bruce (JD'16)

Alison Bruce obtained her Bachelor of Commerce in Finance from the Edwards School of Business in 2012. She later attended the University of Saskatchewan College of Law where she earned her Juris Doctor in 2016. She articulated at a small firm in Saskatoon before transitioning into public practice. She currently serves as a Crown counsel with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice where she practises in the civil litigation group.



FIRST-YEAR CLASS

ABDALLAH, Danial
AHMAD, Arhama
AHMED, Eman
AHMED, Sameer
ALY, Noor
ANWAR, Osman
BAL, Vikramjit
BALLANTYNE, Dorothy
BAYLIS, Zoe
BECKER, Brentt
BERNIER, Brooklyn
BLACKLOCK, Brayden
BONNEY, Reuben
BORG, Alyssa
BROWN, Tishima
BRUNTON, Hannah
BUNTON, Jessica
CANDY, Olivia
CARLINE, Paige
CHAO, Daniel
CHATLAIN, Luke
CHOPRA, Kashish
CHUDEK, Dylan
CHUGHTAI, Mahreen
CREBBIN, Owen
DANIELS, Jordan
DAS, Jasmine
DE LEYSSSAC, Alexander
DEYENBERG, Danielle
DODDS, Connor
EL AOAMI, Ibrahim

ELHAMI, Safa
FAIGELMAN, Elior
FEE, Reidar
FINNESTAD, Kai
FLAMAN, Matthew
FRIESEN, Braden
GABRI, Dolly
GELFAND, Ayden
GELINAS, Connor
GOLD, Ayanna
GRAHAM, Sheadon
GRANT-BALDWIN, Carson
HA, Sarah
HALLGRIMSON, Heather
HAM, Megan
HAMILTON, Laura
HENNEBERG, Graeme
HERRING, Jason
HILLESTAD, McLean
HILTON, Joshua
HUIJBREGTS, Arun
HUNKA, Damon
IVERSON, Melissa
JACKSON, Camryn
JEFFRIES, Colby
JENSEN, Talyssa
JIWA, Aliya
JOHNSON, Ava
KARIEM, Ahmad
KELLY, Andrew
KEWISTEP, Kennedy

KIM, Taeun
KONKIN, John
KOVACS, Daniel
KUKURA, Emmanuelle
LAVOIE, Margo
LE, Caitlyn
LEE, Henry
LEE, Juyeon
LEONARD, Jackson
LESYK, Jordan
LINDBERG, Nolan
LUTES, Connor
LUU, Gia Ky
MACKENZIE, Ava
MALONEY, Reighan
MARCOUX, Alexandra
MARSCHALL, Anna
MARTENS, Jillian
MAYSUN, Nabeeha
McDONALD, Nolan
McEACHERN, Mitchell
McELMAN, Katelyn
McEVOY, Patrick
MIHAYLOVA, Dima
MOHYEDDINE, Ronan
MOOLLA, Bashar
MOORES, Sara
MURPHY, Matthew
NEIL, Lexus
PERERA, Kodikara
PETRUN, Abbey

PINEL, Evan
PITRE, Caleb
PRINCE, Grace
RAHMAN, Faiha
RAMPURI, Kyle
RAVASIA, Chiara
RIPPLINGER, Matthew
ROSTOTSKI, Riley
SCHELL, Kathrin
SCOTT, Brandon
SEIFEDDINE, Jenna
SOLOMON, Makeiya
STRANG, Connor
SUN, Cheng
SUTHERLAND, Amy
TAHIR, Irsa
THIESSEN, Henry
TOTH, Caeden
TUCK, Megan
VAN IMPE, Benjamin
VANGENNE, Yohanna
WADDELL, Xavier
WALKER, Tyler
WANG, Halda
WEVER, Avery
WIENS, Gregory
WILKES, Leigh-Ann
YIH, Robert
YOCHIM, Jenelle
ZAIDI, Syeda Bismah
ZHAO, Irene

ENTRANCE AWARDS

Entrance awards presented at today's ceremony:

- The Gary & Tammy Bugeaud Centennial Entrance Award
- Rawlco Radio John Gormley Mature Law Student Award
- MLT Aikins LLP Scholarship in Law
- William Elliott Scholarship
- Law Society of Saskatchewan Scholarship
- Harris, Lauretta & Raymond Earl Parr Memorial Scholarship
- Christopher Lee and Bonnie Braithwaite-Lee Indigenous Entrance Award
- BD&P Entrance Award of Excellence
- Stevenson Hood Thornton Beaubier LLP Saskatchewan Award
- Law Foundation of Saskatchewan 25th Anniversary Scholarship
- Mohinder Chadha Award in Law
- Robert L. Pierce and Eleanor D. Pierce Entrance Scholarship
- College of Law Class of 2004 Entrance Award
- Dentons LLP Indigenous Legal Education Award

Additional entrance awards:

- Morris and Jacqui Shumiatcher Scholarship in Law
- Justice John H. Maher Memorial Scholarship
- Thomas P. & Peter S. Deis WWII Memorial Scholarship
- James M. Stevenson Entrance Scholarship
- Philip Edward Mackenzie Entrance Scholarship
- J. Barrie Thomson Scholarship





BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS



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