



Dear Class of 2025,

Congratulations on your offer to study law at the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Law starting September 2022. On behalf of our staff, professors and practicing professional instructors, I extend a warm welcome to you and look forward to seeing you in-person at Robson Hall for Orientation. As we emerge from two years of pandemic, we are ready for anything and are confident that we can give you the best legal education no matter what comes our way. We are working hard to get back to what we do best: in-person legal education.

### **Welcome to Manitoba's Law School**

If you haven't already acquainted yourself with Manitoba's law school, please allow me a moment to tell you where we come from, where we stand today and some of our future plans.

While legal education first started in Manitoba in 1877, the Manitoba Law School was established in 1914, making us one of the oldest law schools in Western Canada. Our alumni have included extraordinary legal practitioners who have pioneered key developments in common law, Indigenous Legal Orders and novel ways of thinking about the law.

### **Balancing Classroom with Courtroom**

Today, informed by our tradition of innovation, our vibrant academic culture values both research and experiential learning. This affords students opportunities to study all the traditional basic essentials critical to a solid legal education, but also get hands-on practical experience through our newly-expanded clinical program. Yours is the inaugural year for our new Director of Clinics and team who will be coordinating the University of Manitoba Community Law Centre (UMCLC) in cooperation with Legal Aid Manitoba, the L. Kerry Vickar Business Law Clinic, the Desautels Centre for Private Enterprise and the Law, the Legal Help Centre, a new Rights Clinic, an Indigenous Law Clinic, and the Moot competition program.

While these are opportunities first year students can look forward to in their upper years, you will be introduced to the courtroom through the Legal Systems course, Judge Shadowing program, and opportunities to volunteer for Pro Bono Students Canada, the Welcome Place, and starting the summer after you finish first-year, the UMCLC.

### **Learn Law in French**

In Manitoba, Canada's Constitution guarantees equal access to the legislatures, the laws and the courts for francophones and anglophones alike. We are proud to offer a Concentration in Access to Justice in French that allows law students to take about one-third of their legal training in French in order to improve access to justice for Manitoba's French-speaking population. Please watch for a letter from my colleagues, Dr. Lorna Turnbull and Dr. Gerald Heckman, the directors of the bilingual Concentration at Robson Hall. In the meantime, please check out [the French Concentration webpage](#) and [enjoy this video](#) explaining some of the advantages of studying law in French, including mention of specific scholarships that are available for students who have learned French in an immersion program.

## **Fund your Legal Education**

Our tuition remains among the most affordable among Canadian law schools, and we have more bursaries available than any other professional faculty at the University of Manitoba. Approximately 50% of the student body receives needs-based financial aid from one of our dedicated endowments funds. Performance and merit-based awards are distributed to students in every course, recognizing academic excellence. Dean's Honour List Students entering second year or third year, receive a substantial scholarship and are named *Pitblado Scholars*. We strive to ensure that all eligible students will be supported according to their needs.

## **Automatic Registration for First Year Law**

We understand that some erroneous information may have come your way earlier this year suggesting that you would have to register for your First Year Law courses yourself. Please rest assured that we will do it for you, since all of the courses you will be taking will be mandatory, anyway. So why give you one more thing to worry about? Leave it to us and all you have to do is show up to class! And study. And write exams...

## **Student Life**

When your classes are done, be sure to take part in the active student life available to you through the many student groups that operate as part of the [Manitoba Law Students Association](#) and the [Manitoba Indigenous Law Students Association](#). You will find groups focused on different areas of legal practice, groups advocating a cause or celebrating identity, and groups that encourage you to take a moment to breathe, socialize and enjoy your experience at Robson Hall. I encourage you to make the most of your time here – it will fly by faster than you realize!

Until we see you in September, [please visit our website](#) and feel free to contact us relating to any questions you may have. We look forward to welcoming you as part of the class of 2025 and again, congratulations!

Sincerely,

Dr. Richard Jochelson

Dean of Law