



University
of Manitoba

Faculty of Law

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

JULY '22—JULY '23

ROBSON HALL
FACULTY OF LAW

Alumni News—Class of 2023—and more!



University
of Manitoba

Faculty of Law

ALUMNI MAGAZINE 2022 - 2023

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From the Dean's Desk

Updates of new initiatives



As Dean of the Faculty of Law, I am delighted to present to you this year's edition of our Alumni Magazine on behalf of our academic faculty, practicing professionals, and administrative staff. Our community of alumni exemplifies the practical and critical values instilled by a law school education in Manitoba. Your remarkable achievements continue to make us immensely proud, and we cherish your association with the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Law.

At the Faculty of Law, we have a strong commitment to providing our students with practical and experiential opportunities that prepare them for success in their legal careers. We understand the importance of bridging the gap between education and practice, which is why we continuously expand our clinical and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) offerings.

I am pleased to update you on some of the initiatives we have undertaken over the past year:

1. **JD/MBA Joint Degree:** Starting in Fall 2024, we will be offering a joint law and business degree program that combines the Juris Doctor (JD) and Master of Business Administration (MBA) degrees. This exciting opportunity allows students in Manitoba to pursue this valuable joint experience without having to leave their home province.
2. **Master of Laws Streams of Study:** Under the guidance of Associate Dean (Research & Graduate Studies) Donn Short, the LLM now offers streams of study: Human Rights; Business; Indigenous Studies; Law and Society; Criminal Law; Public Policy; and Practice. For the first time, working in our pro bono clinics can count as coursework towards an LLM! Expect more exciting announcements this year regarding our graduate program.
3. **Expanded Clinical Offerings:** Under Director of Clinics and Experiential Learning, **Liz McCandless [LLB/2007, LLM/2020]** we have broadened our clinical courses to offer significantly more experiential learning opportunities to third-year law students. Over two-thirds of the students in their final year have applied for externship opportunities this year, choosing from an expanded range of options. Our Rights Clinic continues to operate, and we now offer externships at esteemed organizations including the University of Manitoba Community Law Centre (UMCLC), Manitoba Law Reform Commission (MLRC), Legal Help Centre of Winnipeg (LHC), L. Kerry Vickar Business Law Clinic, Public Interest Law Centre (PILC), plus exciting new externships at the Indigenous Community Legal Clinic, Manitoba Department of Justice, , Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF), and Law Library Hub.
4. **Expanded Desautels Centre for Private Enterprise and the Law Offerings:** Under the guidance of Professor Darcy MacPherson and Dr. Laura Reimer, the centre continues running advanced education experiences and produces a blog, case reporter and annual journal. The refreshed centre is on track to make even more major announcements this year. Stay tuned!

5. **Expanded Master of Human Rights Experiences:** With Dr. Nathan Derejko as our inaugural Mauro Chair for Human Rights and Social Justice, we are anticipating significant growth in our human rights curriculum including improved clinical experiences.
6. **Expanded Concentrations in the JD Program:** In addition to our existing Access to Justice in French concentration running under Director Dr. Lorna Turnbull, we have introduced three new concentrations to provide students with specialized knowledge. These include Private Enterprise and the Law, Criminal Law, and Law and Society.
7. **Indigenized Curriculum:** Thanks to the dedicated efforts of **Marc Kruse [JD/2015]**, Director of Indigenous Legal Learning and Services, the Truth and Reconciliation Action Team, and many others, we have enhanced our curriculum to align with Call to Action #28. Our improved curriculum ensures that our law students receive education on Residential Schools, Indigenous culture, and history. We are fortunate to have the guidance and wisdom of two esteemed Elders-in Residence, The Honourable **Murray Sinclair [LLB/1979]**, and our long-serving Instructor and retired Student Advisor, Wendy Whitecloud.
8. **Clerkships:** We also provide valuable hands-on for-credit opportunities to third-year law students through clerkships with the Provincial Court, Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench, and the Manitoba Court of Appeal.
9. **Career Services Enhanced and Expanded:** Our career and professional development services team of comprised of Director of Professional Development **Trina McFadyen [LLB/2000]** and Lisa Griffin, Career Development Coordinator, have continued to expand their impressive suite of services, placing over 90% of students with articling opportunities and preparing them life beyond Robson Hall. Trina McFadyen is also the Faculty of Law's EDI liaison with the University of Manitoba and in charge of alumni outreach.

10. **Access to Justice:** In April 2023 we welcomed **Natasha Brown [LLB/2005]** as Director of Access to Justice and Community Engagement. She will oversee the coordination of the Access to Justice Advisory Network which serves as a valuable resource for justice system stakeholders as well as bring an access to justice lens to the Faculty of Law's clinical programs.

As esteemed members of our legal community, your voices and contributions are invaluable. We seek to foster a strong relationship between alumni and the law school as our goal is to be your lifelong partner in legal learning and support you throughout your professional journey.

We hope that you continue to feel at home here at Robson Hall and enjoy this publication. We are eager to hear from you and learn how we can better engage with you in your daily work. Together, let us build a stronger bond between our alumni and the Faculty of Law.

With warm regards,



Dr. Richard Jochelson

Dean, Professor of Faculty of Law
University of Manitoba

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At the Faculty of Law, we have a strong commitment to providing our students with practical and experiential opportunities that prepare them for success in their legal careers.

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Alumni Greetings

Reconnecting with classmates and friends



Friendships that develop during law school often form the basis for lifelong networks, both in professional and personal capacities. Part of my role at the Faculty of Law is alumni outreach and I can truly say it is one of the best parts of my job as I get to connect with old friends and colleagues, learning more about their jobs and where they are now. This Alumni Magazine is a chance to share some of that news with all Robson Hall alumni.

After two years of on-line learning, the 2022-2023 school year was a return to full time, in-person legal education at the Faculty of Law. Our calendar came back to life last fall and it was wonderful to hear students back in the halls of Robson. You will read about a number of the events we hosted, including Homecoming 2022 where we heard amazing stories from alumni about their time as law students in Robson Hall's Legal Aid clinic, a fixture at the school for 50 years thanks to an incredible partnership

with Legal Aid Manitoba. You will learn about the inaugural winners of the Faculty of Law Alumni Awards which honoured three deserving graduates, and how you can nominate yourself or a classmate for the 2023 awards. You will meet a few of our newest alumni who are part of the Class of 2023. You will also be happy to know that John Irvine and his overalls are still a beloved fixture at Robson Hall.

We want to hear your stories, your achievements, the paths your UM Law degree took you on (both in traditional practice and otherwise), and your memories of Robson Hall. Send us an email at law.alumni@umanitoba.ca and follow us on our various social media accounts.

If we learned anything over the past few years, it is that we truly need to gather together, and more often. We hear from many of you that returning to Robson Hall makes you long for the days when your top priorities were making it to class on time and meeting up with your friends in the Common Room. We hope you will join us at a Robson Hall event this upcoming school year, returning to campus to reconnect with one another, relive memories, and see what's new in the building. Whether you graduated years ago or just this spring, you are always welcome at Robson Hall.

Trina McFadyen [LLB/2000]

*Director of Professional Development
& Alumni Outreach
Faculty of Law, University of Manitoba*

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Friendships that develop during law school often form the basis for lifelong networks, both in professional and personal capacities.

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ALUMNI NEWS

Alumni Spotlight

Faculty of Law celebrates exceptional alumni with new award series



LEFT TO RIGHT: Sherri Walsh [LLB/1985] (Nardella Photography), Dayna Steinfeld [BA(Hons)/2009, JD/2012], Dr. Jennifer Schulz [BA/1991, LLB/1994].

By Christine Mazur

(Originally published in [UM Today News January 27, 2023.](#))

To celebrate the achievements of graduates, the Faculty of Law created the **Faculty of Law Alumni Awards** to be presented annually. Nominees demonstrate standards of inspiring professionalism in one of three categories including Outstanding Alumni Award, Emerging Leader Award, and the Trailblazer Award. The inaugural Faculty of Law Alumni Awards were presented at the Practising Professionals Reception held in April 2023.

2022 OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD—SHERRI WALSH [LLB/1985]

A litigator, adjudicator and arbitrator, Sherri Walsh is the Managing Partner of Winnipeg law firm Hill Sokalski Walsh. Much of her legal career has been spent serving the public interest and her work has had significant impact in the promotion of

human rights and social justice in Manitoba with repercussions across Canada.

From 2011 to 2013, she acted as Commission Counsel to the Commission of Inquiry into the Circumstances Surrounding the Death of Phoenix Sinclair, which was the largest public inquiry ever held in Manitoba. The resulting report from that Inquiry made sixty-two recommendations to better protect children in Manitoba.

From 2009 to 2019, she served as an adjudicator under the Human Rights Code, serving as Chief Adjudicator from 2012 to 2019. Before serving as an adjudicator, she acted for the Human Rights Commission on complaints that resulted in positive systemic changes to Provincial legislation and policies.

Ms. Walsh was an arbitrator on The Manitoba Framework Agreement—Treaty Land Entitlement, signed in 1997, where she delivered decisions which resolved land disputes that had been outstanding for 150 years.

Frequently acting *pro bono* as an intervenor for public interest groups, she has ensured that perspectives of groups such as the Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities, the HIV AIDS Legal Network and the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, were put before the Court on matters including the unilateral imposition of DNR Orders, criminalization of HIV status, and the over-representation of First Nation children in the child welfare system.

Walsh has taught Civil Procedure at Robson Hall for nine years, and sits on many committees. Outside of legal practice, she volunteers for community-based organizations including Harvest Manitoba and currently sits on the boards of the University of Winnipeg and the Manito Ahbee Festival.

Throughout her career, Walsh has achieved numerous firsts, including being the first woman in Manitoba to act as Commission Counsel to a large public inquiry, first person to perform the role of Chief Adjudicator under the Human Rights Code, first Integrity Commissioner for the City of Winnipeg, and first Municipal Codes of Conduct Appeals Director for the Province of Manitoba. She serves as a mentor to many young lawyers and is one of only a few women in the role of Managing Partner of their firm.

Described by her nominator as “honest, honourable and compassionate,” Ms. Walsh shared the following words of wisdom for current law students:

- I am so honoured to be receiving this award and to be recognized by the professional school that launched my career.
- A legal education is a gift—one that will influence you forever and will give you a framework through which to navigate the world, in your personal and professional lives.
- You are moving into a future which is in many ways unknowable and uncertain but the education which you are working so hard to receive will give you the capacity to take action and influence outcomes—to pursue and achieve just results.
- As you look for the right career path, be true to yourself and follow what interests and inspires you.
- Look for mentors. Be a mentor.
- Find colleagues with whom you share sensibilities and perspectives.
- Think critically.
- Maintain a sense of curiosity and don’t stop learning.
- Trust your instincts.
- Stay hopeful and be brave. Don’t hesitate when faced with a challenge.
- Think big but know that by taking even the smallest action you can make a difference.
- Engage with community and be compassionate in that engagement.
- Finally, remember to maintain your sense of humour.
- Don’t take yourself too seriously and have a good time!
- I wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

2022 EMERGING LEADER AWARD— DAYNA STEINFELD [BA(HONS)/2009, JD/2012]

Dayna Steinfeld is a lawyer at RavenLaw LLP. Called to the bar in both Manitoba and Ontario, she is committed to advancing the rights of working people, specializing in union-side labour law, employee-side employment law, long-term disability benefits, human rights and whistleblower protection.

Ms. Steinfeld has been recognized as a Lexpert Rising Star and a CBC Manitoba 40 Under 40. In 2019, she was awarded the Manitoba Bar Association Pro Bono Award for her work representing a coalition of poverty and mental health organizations on significant constitutional privacy issues before the Supreme Court of Canada.

Having started her legal career as an articling student at RavenLaw’s Ottawa office, she clerked for the Honourable Justice Marshall Rothstein at the Supreme Court of Canada before returning to Winnipeg to work at a large firm in administrative, regulatory, labour and employment law.

Her nominator stated that Ms. Steinfeld demonstrates that commitment and hard work can help people achieve great things while promoting principles of access to justice and equality. Her willingness to help others achieve their goals is evident in the work she has done with the Manitoba Bar Association's Women Lawyer's Forum to advance the cause of equality for lawyers identifying as women working in the legal profession in Manitoba.

Dayna Steinfeld offered the following advice to current law students:

As a law student, lawyer or legal professional, never assume you are the expert because you are the person in the room with legal training. Be humble and curious. Take every opportunity to learn from, and be guided by, your clients and all those with whom you work and collaborate.

2022 TRAILBLAZER AWARD— DR. JENNIFER SCHULZ [BA/1991, LLB/1994]

Dr. Jennifer Schulz is a Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Manitoba and the current Associate Dean of the Juris Doctor program. While still a law student, Schulz had her first publication, publishing a chapter in Professors Barney Sneiderman and John Irvine's public health law text book.

After pursuing graduate studies at Cambridge and the University of Toronto, she started her career as a law professor at the University of Windsor, eventually returning to the University of Manitoba by way of the University of Toronto, Osgoode Hall and Harvard. She has been at Robson Hall since 2004, teaching and conducting research in the areas of Alternative Dispute Resolution, Mediation and Cultural Legal Studies. Dr. Schulz has served as both Associate Dean JD as well as Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies.

Dr. Schulz's teaching skills have been recognized multiple times: she was named Professor of the Year (2002) at the University of Windsor; Outstanding Teacher—twice (2015 and 2017) at the University of Manitoba's Students' Teacher Recognition Reception; and she received the

Barney Sneiderman Teaching Award in 2019 from the University of Manitoba.

For her work in ADR, she was recognized with the Lionel J. McGowan Regional Award of Excellence in Dispute Resolution (2015) by the ADR Institute of Canada. Dr. Schulz frequently presents on the topic of ADR to the Manitoba Bar Association, the Canadian Bar Association, and at academic conferences across North America and Europe.

She has been instrumental in inspiring students to excel in their own careers. She serves as an inspiration to female law students, and is approachable and willing to advocate for the retention of women in the legal profession.

Dr. Schulz shares these words upon being acknowledged with the Trailblazer Award:

I am truly honoured to have received this award. It means a lot to me because it is from my alma mater and employer, the U of M, and specifically its wonderful law school, Robson Hall. My fellow professors and our students are what make Robson Hall a wonderful place to be every day. I especially hope our students know that not only can they find fulfilling careers as lawyers as a result of graduating from Robson Hall, but they can also find a myriad of other interesting and fun careers—like being a law prof—because they graduated from U of M. ■

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As a law student, lawyer or legal professional, never assume you are the expert because you are the person in the room with legal training. Be humble and curious. Take every opportunity to learn from, and be guided by, your clients and all those with whom you work and collaborate.

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University
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| Faculty of Law

2023 Alumni Awards

Launched in Spring 2022, the Faculty of Law Alumni Awards celebrate the achievements of UM Law graduates. Recipients are nominated by alumni and the selection committee is made up of alumni. The Faculty of Law does not participate in the nomination process. Alumni may self-nominate or nominate a fellow alum who demonstrates a high degree of professionalism in one of three categories:

Outstanding Alumni Award – Honours a UM Law alum recognized for outstanding professional achievement in their legal career and who has shown dedication and commitment to the betterment of the legal profession while exhibiting the qualities of integrity and professionalism

Emerging Leader Award – Honours a UM Law alum who graduated within the last 10 years. The alum has shown dedication and commitment to the legal profession, and the qualities of integrity, professionalism, and leadership in their time practicing law

Trailblazer Award – Honours a UM Law alum who has excelled in a career outside the traditional practice of law. This alum is a person of integrity and has demonstrated leadership and service to the community

NOTE: Alumni who were nominated in 2022 and did not win will have their nominations stand for 2023.

Nominations open in Fall 2023. Please consider nominating yourself, a classmate, or a member of the profession who went to Robson Hall.

For more information, contact: law.alumni@umanitoba.ca

Alumni Class Notes

1950s

Charles Huband [LLB/1955] Appointed to the Order of Manitoba

1980s

Marcia Kran [LLB/1980, BA/1997] Appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada

Thomas Frohlinger [BSc/1973, LLB/1981] K.C. appointment

Howard Morry [BComm (Hons) 1981, LLB/1984] University of Manitoba 2023 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient for community service

Lionel R.R. Chartrand [BA/1978, LLB/1984] Appointed to the Alberta Provincial Court

Wayne Onchulenko [LLB/1984] President of Law Society of Manitoba (2023-24)

Sherri Walsh [LLB/1985] Faculty of Law Outstanding Alumni Award-winner

Jeffrey Hirsch [BA/1983, LLB/1986] K.C. appointment

John Stefaniuk [BComm (Hons)/ 1984, LLB/1987] CBA president and K.C. appointment

Stuart Blake [BA/1985, LLB/1988] K.C. appointment

Kevin Williams [BComm(Hons)/1985, LLB/1989] K.C. appointment

1990s

Helga Van Iderstine [BRS/1984, LLB/1990] K.C. appointment

Evan Roitenberg [LLB/1991] K.C. appointment

Lawrence Pinsky [LLB/1992] K.C. appointment

Grant Stefanson [BA/1988, LLB/1992] K.C. appointment

Christine Van Cauwenberghe [BComm(Hons)/1991, LLB/1994] K.C. appointment

Michael Conner [BSc/1990, LLB/1994] K.C. appointment

Jennifer Schulz [BA/1991, LLB/1994] Faculty of Law Trailblazer Alumni Award-winner

Sarah Inness [LLB/1998] K.C. appointment

Ryan Rolston [LLB/1999] Appointed Chief Judge of Provincial Court of Manitoba

Lisa Stiver [BA95, LLB/1999] K.C. appointment

2000s

Rekha Malaviya [BA/1991, LLB/2000] K.C. appointment

Lee Ann Martin [LLB/2000] Named Associate Chief Judge of the Provincial Court of Manitoba

Priscilla Sternat-Mclvor [LLB/2001] K.C. appointment

Sofia Mirza [BSc(Maj)/1992, BA/1995, LLB/2003] K.C. appointment

Jason Gisser [LLB/2009] President of the Manitoba Bar Association (2023-24)

2010s

David Ireland [LLB/2010, LLM/2014] Appointed to the Provincial Court of Manitoba

Lori Hunter [LLB/2011] Appointed to the Provincial Court of Manitoba (The Pas)

Dayna Steinfeld [BA(Hons)/2009, LLB/2012] Faculty of Law Emerging Leader Alumni award-winner

2020s

Chimwemwe (Chim) Undi [BA(Adv)/2016, JD/2020] Named Winnipeg Poet Laureate for 2023 and 2024



Alumni Spotlight

Meet the 2023 Distinguished Alumni Award for Community Service recipient

*Learn about Howard Morry's journey
from student to community builder and advocate*



Howard Morry [BComm(Hons)/1981, LLB/1984], recipient of 2023 Distinguished Alumni Award for Community Service.

By Emily Janssens

(Excerpted from [UM Today News June 6, 2023](#))

The University of Manitoba's Distinguished Alumni Awards recognize UM graduates across all faculties who have achieved outstanding accomplishments in their professional and personal lives, and who have been an inspiration to fellow alumni, current students and the community both near and far. The 2023 winner in the "Community Service" category was **Howard Morry [BComm(Hons)/81, LLB/1984]**.

When Howard Morry decided he wanted to write for The Manitoban on his first day at UM, he walked right into the office, pitched an article and made it happen. His tenacity has not wavered much since then in either his legal career or dedication to his community. From an early age, Morry was introduced to community activism and encouraged to be deeply involved in youth organizations.

"Like many communities, the Jewish community has a tradition of volunteerism, leadership and philanthropy, and growing up I watched my maternal grandmother take that to heart," he says. "She didn't have much of her own, but she was still

always out joining committees and volunteering for everything. She was a great role model for me, and as I grew up, I started getting involved at different levels and realizing where I could add value to different organizations.”

Morry has volunteered extensively in the Jewish community, serving as the president of the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg, regional president, national board member and national New Leadership Chair of Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University and has held a variety of leadership roles among other Jewish community organizations. In the general community, he has served as President of a Rotary Club, the founding Chairman of the Canadian Association of Farm Advisors, Chair of the Lawyers Division of the United Way, to name a few.

“I had tons of energy and lots of vision and big networks, and I think because of that I became the youngest president, chairman, leader of several organizations. I was really working hard to try and make a difference,” he says. “I learned a lot through trial and error and made some mistakes, but I always fell back on advice I received from my mentor, **Izzy Asper [LLB/1957, LLM/1964, LLD/1998]**. He liked to say ‘Shoot for the stars. You’re going to fail more often than you succeed, but when you fall, you’re going to fall to the same place. So, you might as well shoot higher and then if you can achieve that, you know you’re achieving more than you thought possible.’”

Throughout his career, Morry has also worked with many Indigenous organizations, including the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business, and is highly regarded by First Nations, Inuit and Métis political and business leaders for his wisdom, sage advice and mentorship. Morry has proven exceptional in his openness and commitment to understanding and then representing the rights and views of Indigenous peoples in Canada, often challenging the status quo. He is a passionate advocate for economic Reconciliation, believing that this is essential to building a strong, healthy and inclusive Canada.

He was one of the founding members of the Arab-Jewish Dialogue, dedicated to encouraging positive relations and respect between Arabs and Jews in Canada and has worked with hundreds of

supporters of peace in the Middle East to promote respect, dignity, tolerance and diversity.

For over two decades, Morry has been a part of the Friends of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights (CMHR) and led the Manitoba Capital Campaign initiatives. As a result, the Capital Campaign was a success and enabled the CMHR to be built without compromise, with over 75 per cent of the \$150 million Capital Campaign coming from Manitoban donors. Today, Morry continues to sit on the Board of the Friends.

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*“All I’ve ever wanted to do was
 leave this world a better place than
 the way I found it.”*
 – **Howard Morry**

Morry just received the Sol Kanee Distinguished Community Service Medal, a lifetime achievement award for dedicated leadership and service to the Jewish community. This year Morry will receive the University of Manitoba Distinguished Alumni Award for Community Service.

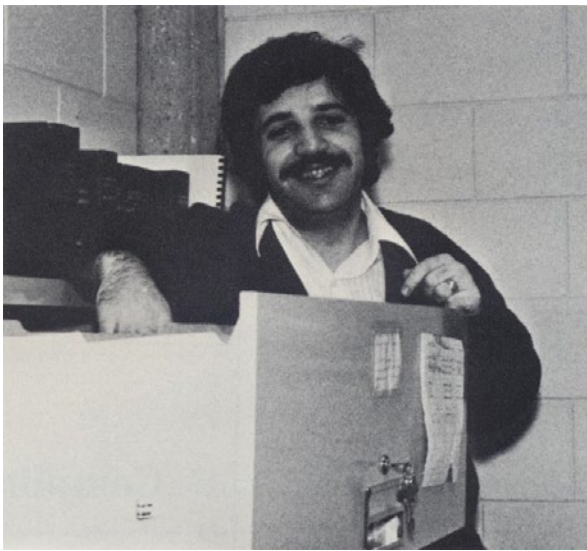
“I’m so appreciative of this award. It’s especially meaningful to me because my son, **Josh Morry [JD/2016]**, won the Distinguished Alumni Award for Outstanding Young Alumni a few years ago (2020). My wife, Hope, and I are so proud of both Josh and our daughter **Samantha [JD/2021]**,” he says. “When I learned I won this award, Chancellor Mahon said to me ‘like son, like father’. I told my son this. I said, ‘I’m following in your footsteps’. For a dad, you know, that’s everything. It is one of those wonderful moments when you do feel validated to continue doing the good work.” ■

Homecoming 2022

Homecoming 2022: Celebrating a 50-year partnership between Legal Aid Manitoba and Robson Hall

By Christine Mazur

(Originally published in [UM Today on October 6, 2022.](#))



Law student Robert (Rocky) Pollack [BA/1969; LLB/1972] (as he then was) poses for a 1972 Robson Hall Yearbook photo, little suspecting that his work at the Legal Aid Clinic would launch him on a path to becoming a Provincial Court Judge and member of the Queen's (now King's) Counsel.

The Faculty of Law hosted its 2022 Homecoming event on September 21 in collaboration with Legal Aid Manitoba to celebrate the 50-year partnership that has existed between the two institutions. Since 1972, Legal Aid lawyers have supervised law students working at the University of Manitoba Community Law Centre (previously known as the Legal Aid clinic) to provide experiential learning opportunities to law students and ensure access to justice to persons who cannot afford a lawyer.

During the virtual event that was attended by alumni from as far away as Victoria, BC and

Melbourne, Australia, guests heard greetings from The Honourable Judge **Wanda Garreck [BA/1987, LLB/1990]** on behalf of the Manitoba Provincial Court; **Peter Kingsley, Q.C. [LLB/1994]**, Executive Director of Legal Aid Manitoba; Erin Wilcott, Executive Director of the Manitoba Law Foundation, and Dr. Richard Jochelson, Dean of Law. Associate Professor **David Ireland [LLB/2010; LLM/2014]**, Director of Clinics at the law school, acted as host, and moderated two panel discussions—one of supervising lawyers, and one of former students from the clinic's past, present and future.

During her greetings, Judge Garreck shared that she and her fellow members of the bench are always pleased to see student lawyers in their courtrooms. "Judges see students as enthusiastic, well-prepared and well-supervised," she said. Recalling her own days as a law student working at the clinic, she encouraged current students to take advantage of the opportunities the clinic offers to gain experience and make connections. "It's a good way to start your reputation," she said.

Professor David Deutscher, who acted as clinic supervisor from 1977 to 2015, explained that the clinic first got started as a result of movement by the law students wanting to both help people and get hands-on experience. "It was a period of experimentation," he said. His goal as supervisor was to ensure that student representation would not be perceived as "bargain basement" but rather that it would be the same if not better than paid representation.

Legal Aid lawyer **Michael Walker [BA/1981, LLB/1985]** supervised the clinic from 2015 to current times, and saw students adapt to new technology and the expansion of services to include family law, prison law and Indigenous legal services. Walker was himself a clinic student who said "It's a community-building clinic."

The Honourable Judge **Rocky Pollack, Q.C. [BA/1969, LLB/1972]** was a student at the clinic in 1971—72. Upon first starting law school, he didn't recall having any sense of wanting to help "the little guy," but soon became inspired by his experiences at the clinic, working with fellow student Randy McNichol and the clinic's supervisor at the time, Al McGregor, who he described as "a hot-shot criminal

lawyer” who ran a strict clinic. “It was an interesting time to be a law student,” he recalled. Working at the clinic inspired him to want to be a “lawyer of change,” he said.

Diane (Demeule) Hartley Holley [LLB/1995]

brought the unique perspective of having worked at the clinic as an administrative assistant from 1979 until 1986, during which time she helped guide many of the student volunteers. By 1990, she had enrolled in law school part time and became a volunteer at the clinic.

Hayley Allardyce [JD/2019], now a junior associate at criminal defence firm Campbell Gunn Inness Seib, shed light on current clinical experiences,

recalling how “the clinic was a safe place to learn the practice of criminal law.” She especially noted how law students had the luxury of time that practicing lawyers did not, and was thankful for the ability to call her supervising lawyer Mike Walker for help as needed. Further illustrating the supportive community surrounding the clinic and its activities, Allardyce shared that at her first trial, for which she had prepared for hours, she had forgotten to mention a critical issue in her conclusion, but the Crown graciously rose and prompted her in a supportive way. ■

LET'S STAY IN TOUCH

We would love to hear from you! Share your news, stories, and advice with fellow alumni and current students!

Keep your Contact Information up to Date

Our alumni are spread over 30 countries around the world. Be sure to [update your contact information](#) so we can keep you posted about alumni events, lifelong learning opportunities, updates from the school, news and achievements of your fellow alumni, and ways that you can volunteer or help current law students.

Follow us on Social Media

Connect with us through social media on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

Share Your Stories

We would love to hear from you: what have been up to; where has your law degree has taken you; what interesting work are you doing; what advice do you have for law students? Your input will improve our alumni outreach!

lawalumni@umanitoba.ca



In Memoriam

Since the publication of the Fall 2022 Alumni Magazine, the UM Law community lost a number of cherished alumni. We hold their memories dear and celebrate their achievements.

Alumni	Class	Date of Passing
Brendan Mahatoo	JD/2017	May 29, '23
Andrew Donald Slough	JD/2015	Feb. 7, '23
Robert Bruce Lindey	LLB/1995	Oct. 13, '22
Brian Jeffrey Pannell	LLB/1986	Sept. 9, '22
Cyrus Ming Chau Yung	LLB/1985	Feb. 19, '23
David Paul Tackaberry	LLB/1985	July 17, '22
Marc Chapnick	LLB/1984	Sept. 2, '22
Ronald Edward Dearman	LLB/1984	Jan. 1, '23
Allan Farrell Weinshenker	BA/1980, LLB/1983, MA/2009	Dec. 23, '22
Sidney Roe Restall	LLB/1982	Sept. 20, '22
Barry George Browning	LLB/1978	Nov. 29, '22
Ronald G. Reimer	LLB/1977	Aug. 31, '22
Richard Synenko	BSc/1973, LLB/1977	April 9, '23
Thomas Alexander Goodman	LLB/1974	April 21, '23
Garry R. Micflikier	LLB/1973	March 5, '23
Johannes Keyzer	LLB/1972	Feb. 7, '23
Karl F. Warner	LLB/1972	Nov. 18, '22
Roy A. Yerex	LLB/1972	Sept. 16, '22

Sidney G. Soronow	BA/1968, LLB/1971	Jan. 28, '23
Brian C. Vogt	BComm/1964, LLB/1970	Jan. 25, '23
William Hechter	LLB/1970	Sept. 17, '22
Morley E. Cofman	BA/1966, LLB/1969	Jan. '23
John Alan Davidson	LLB/1969, BA/1970	Feb. 11, '22
Brian F. Squair	BA/1957, CertEd/1961, LLB/1967	Nov. 18, '22
Chrys Pappas	BA/1967, LLB/1967	Dec. 11, '22
Arnold F. Piragoff	BA/1961, LLB/1965	April 10, '23
Glen P. Bancroft	LLB/1965	Jan. 19, '23
Patricia Grace Ritchie	LLB/1964	June 11, '22
Marcel Andre Desautels	BA/(LatPh)/1955, LLB/1959, LLM/1965, LLD/1999	Jan. 31, '23
William E. (Bill) Ireland	BA/1955, LLB/1959	March 7, 2023
David L. Fraser	BA/1956, LLB/1959	Dec. 8, '22
Charles N. Rubin	BA/1954, LLB/1958	July 31, '22
Harvey I. Pollock	LLB/1957	Feb. 5, '23
Cecil A. Chapman	LLB/1955	April 28, '23
Donald J. MacKay	BA/1951, LLB/1955	Jan. 31, '23
Charles Huband	LLB/1955	June 14, '23
Robert Guy Smethurst	LLB/1952	Feb. 18, '23



Plan Your Class Reunion!

Reconnect with former Robson Hall classmates! Consider organizing an Alumni Reunion - in two simple steps.

Step 1: Pick a Reunion Representative from among your classmates who will act as the primary contact.

Step 2: The Reunion Rep will work directly with UM's Alumni Relations contact Lynn Ferguson:
Phone: 204-474-7881 **Email:** lynn.ferguson@umanitoba.ca

Lynn will:

- ~ Provide the class rep with updated class lists of contact information
- ~ Offer guidance and support in reunion planning as required, including helping with reunion communications
- ~ Assist with the coordination of any audio/visual requirements, including hosting an online reunion
- ~ Help facilitate faculty tours
- ~ Other assistance as needed

That's all there is to it! Your reunion can be as elaborate or simple as you want.

Contact the Faculty of Law for more information about reunions: law.alumni@umanitoba.ca

Reunion

**ROBSON HALL
CLASS OF 1980**
(BAR CALL 1981)

The Robson Hall class of 1980 (Bar Call 1981) will be holding their 43rd (prime) year reunion on the weekend of **September 22-24, 2023**. The main event will be a dinner at the Hotel Fort Garry on Saturday evening the 23rd. This was also the location of our grad dinner in 1980. The weekend will also include informal gatherings, a tour of the Canadian Human Rights Museum, and the Winnipeg General Strike walking tour.

If you are interested in attending, please contact the reunion committee, Taras Luchak at tluchak@mymts.net

Juris Doctor Program News

Year in Review

The 2022-2023 school year was a busy one at Robson Hall with the first full year of in-person learning since the 2018-2019 school year. Learn more about a few of the highlights from the year and, where available, click on the hyperlinks to read more in-depth stories.

August 2022

- ▶ The Faculty of Law was thrilled to welcome **The Honourable Murray Sinclair [LLB/1979]** and retired UM Law instructor **Wendy Whitecloud** as Elders-in-Residence. Read the full story: [Faculty of Law welcomes Elders-in-Residence, The Honourable Murray Sinclair and Wendy Whitecloud.](#)



Harry Walsh, Q.C. Moot Courtroom at Robson Hall. Photo by David Lipnowski.

September 2022

- ▶ Classes started in-person on **September 6**. While everyone was still required to wear masks as per UM guidelines, it was exciting to have people back to class. Read about [Getting oriented in a modern-day law school.](#)

- ▶ The first cohort in the French Concentration in Access to Justice also officially started after 11 years of French language courses being taught at the Faculty. Read the full story: [Enfin, Access to Justice in French! UM Faculty of Law welcomes first cohort of French Concentration.](#)
- ▶ Law's 2022 Homecoming event was held virtually on **September 21** to celebrate 50 years of the UM Community Legal Centre (UMCLC) being part of Legal Aid. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the past, present, and future of UMCLC, and hear some memorable and funny stories about the volunteering experiences alumni had at UMCLC over the years. Read: [Homecoming 2022: Celebrating a 50-year partnership between Legal Aid Manitoba and Robson Hall.](#)
- ▶ On **September 22**, the Faculty of Law welcomed Supreme Court Justice Russell Brown to Robson Hall. Later in October, students had the opportunity to also hear the wisdom of Supreme Court Justice Andomache Karakatsanis. Read: [Supreme Court Justice visits Manitoba law students.](#)
- ▶ The Faculty of Law partnered with the Law Society of Manitoba and the Manitoba Bar Association on **September 28** to honour the *National Day for Truth and Reconciliation* (September 30). Assistant Professors Leo Baskatawang and Daniel Diamond along with the Faculty's Director of Indigenous Legal Learning and Services, **Marc Kruse [LLB/2015]** led the discussion with audience members sharing in a traditional ceremony and lunch feast at the Law Society offices.

- ▶ Also on **September 28**, the 20th annual Celebrating Student Achievement reception was celebrated with Jim and Sandra Pitblado meeting the students who received Pitblado Scholarships which are presented to members of the Dean's Honour Roll. Learn more about the Pitblado Scholars in [Creating a legacy for future generations](#). Other special awards were also presented to LLM and Master of Human Rights students. Some were bestowed in the memories of remarkable alumni including **Ken Tacium [BA/1980, LLB/1985]** and **David Sowemimo [BA(Adv)/2008, JD/2015]**. Read: [Students and donors celebrated with annual awards](#).
- ▶ Throughout September, student governance was alive and well. The Manitoba Law Students Association (MLSA) executive was Mikal Sokolowski (President), Brayden Gray (VP Internal), Ashley Bains (VP External), and Dion Cheung (VP Finance). The Manitoba Indigenous Law Students Association (MILSA) was led at the start of the year by Dominique Gibson and Melinda Moch.
- ▶ Starting in September and continuing throughout the school year, Law(yer) Strong became a monthly presence at Robson Hall with **Tamara McCaffrey [LLB/1995]** meeting informally with student in the Common Room to help them deal with issues that arise in both law school and down the road in their legal careers.
- ▶ The Faculty of Law was pleased to continue supporting the ongoing articling position of **Danielle Otto [JD/2020]**, who started a position as an in-house Articling Student at the Faculty of Law. A collaborative program between the MLSA and the Faculty, two articling positions have now been made available to ensure alumni unable to obtain conventional articles can still complete the Law Society's requirements to be called to the bar, while fulfilling a need within the Faculty. Read more in: [Manitoba Law Students' Association and Faculty of Law sign agreement for critical change](#).

October 2022

- ▶ On **October 19**, the MLSA's annual Law Banquet was held at the Winnipeg Art Gallery, giving practicing lawyers and law students a chance to meet. Thank you to sponsors Fillmore Riley, MLT Aikins, Pitblado, Taylor McCaffrey, and Thompson Dorfman Sweatman (all Diamond Sponsors); Scotiabank and Myers (Gold Sponsors), and the Manitoba Bar Association and the Law Society of Manitoba (Event Sponsors).
- ▶ The Faculty of Law participated in National A2J Week on **October 26**, highlighting its clinics and organizations where law students work at to gain practical hands-on experience: Legal Aid Manitoba, CLEA, Legal Help Centre, AJFEM, Community Unemployed Help Centre, and the four UM Law Clinics of UMCLC, L. Kerry Vickar Business Law Clinic, Cochrane Saxberg Indigenous Community Legal Clinic and the Rights Clinic.
- ▶ Robson Hall welcomed Supreme Court Justice Andromache Karakatsanis on **October 28** who emphasized that one of the most useful skills a law student can work on is writing. "I think clear writing leads to clear thinking," she said. "If I can't explain this case to my mom, then I haven't understood it yet."



Left to right: Dominique Gibson, 2L, Jodi Plenary, 3L, Dr. Gerald Heckman, The Honourable Andromache Karakatsanis, Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada. Photo by Christine Mazur.

November 2022

- ▶ The student-led Professional Development Committee hosted the second annual “speed-networking” event on **November 17** at the Inn at the Forks, providing an amazing networking opportunity for students to meet lawyers from 17 different in-house counsel employers as well as small to medium Manitoba firms.
- ▶ The 17th Annual Robson Hall Negotiation Competition took place on **November 29**, returning to an in-person format for the first time in three years. The competition involved 3L students who were selected on the basis of their excellent performance in the 2L Legal Negotiation course from the previous year. Winners represented Robson Hall at the National Negotiation Competition at McGill University in February 2023. Our deep thanks to Fillmore Riley LLP for being the annual sponsor for the event and to the many wonderful lawyers who were guest judges during both this competition as well as those who volunteered with coaching/judging the exercises in the Legal Negotiation course. Read the full story on UM Today: [Competition Teaches Robson Hall Students Critical Negotiation Skills.](#)

December 2022

At the end of the fall term, the University of Manitoba approved important course changes to the JD and LLM programs including:

- ▶ **Mandatory Indigenous Course:** Beginning in September 2023, all new JD students are required to take Indigenous Methodologies and Perspectives in 2L (this course is currently being taught as an elective).
- ▶ **New Concentrations:** JD students can choose to focus their studies in one of three new concentrations—Private Enterprise and the Law, Law and Society, or Criminal Law and Justice—in addition to the existing concentration of Access to Justice in French. Concentrations are not “majors” but rather allow students in their final year of law to declare that they have concentrated their studies in a particular area as a way to distinguish themselves from other students.

- ▶ **LLM Clinical Opportunities:** For the first time in the history of the Master of Laws program, LLM students will be able to select clinical course electives to enhance their experiential learning opportunities, starting in the fall term of 2023.

January 2023

- ▶ Canadian Bar Association President Steeves Bujold and Manitoba Bar Association President **Tanya Keller [LLB/2008]** visited the law school on **January 18**.
- ▶ Faculty and staff organized activities for law students during the week of **January 23** to encourage conversations around mental health and wellness.
- ▶ The Robson Hall Jets student hockey team won the Cross Border Classic in Grand Forks this month. During the finals, the Jets had an incredible comeback scoring 6 goals in the third period.



The Faculty encouraged students to eat healthy during Mental Health Week. Photo by Christine Mazur.

February 2023

- ▶ On **February 9** the student-led Cultural Diversity in Law Group’s second annual Speed Networking Night, sponsored by Taylor McCaffrey LLP, gave Indigenous and racialized students the opportunity to network and learn from lawyers across Winnipeg.
- ▶ **February 14** was a perfect day for The Manitoba Indigenous Law Students Association (MILSA)

to host a wonderful afternoon of traditional Métis musicians and food coupled with a presentation on Métis history, language, and culture.



Law students dance a jig to traditional Métis fiddle music at Louis Riel Day celebrations held at Robson Hall on February 14, 2023. Video still by Lily Deardorff.

- ▶ MLSA student elections were held on **February 17**. The 2023-2024 MLSA executive elected included Jayden Wlasichuk (President), Eric Gagnon (VP External), Selene Sharpe (VP Internal), and Thomas Mooney (VP Finance).
- ▶ On February 24, the OUTLaws student group and the MBA SOGIC section hosted the first ever Queersay Evidence conference “2SLGBTQ+ Perspectives on the Law in Manitoba” to discuss the unique legal issues facing 2SLGBTQ+ people living in Manitoba. Read the full story: [Conference shines spotlight on 2SLGBTQ+ legal perspectives](#).
- ▶ UM Law hosted the Canadian Division Qualifying portion for the Jessup International Moot Competition **February 23-25**, with many Manitoba lawyers acting as judges, and **Justice Christopher Mainella [LLB/1994]** giving the keynote address. Assistant Professors Dr. Gerard Kennedy and Dr. Gillian MacNeil were the hard-working organizers of this prestigious international moot competition. Read more in [Faculty of Law proud to host Canadian Division of Jessup International Moot](#).

March 2023

- ▶ On **March 2**, Director of Professional Development **Trina McFadyen [LLB/2000]** hosted 26 lawyers at the inaugural “Government and Public Sector Career Fair,” giving students an opportunity to learn more about the work done by various Manitoba government departments and public sector organizations.



Trina McFadyen, Director of Professional Development, welcomes students and public sector lawyers to the inaugural “Government and Public Sector Career Fair” held March 2 at Robson Hall. Photo by Christine Mazur.

- ▶ The Manitoba Law Students Association hosted the annual Carbolic Smoke Ball at Club Regent Casino on **March 4**.
- ▶ Mock Interview Night was once again hosted at Robson Hall on **March 6**, with many volunteer lawyer helping to prepare students for the upcoming articling recruit.
- ▶ On **March 10** the Black Law Students’ Association (MB), with sponsor Fillmore Riley, held a “See Yourself Here” information evening to encourage BIPOC undergrad students to attend law school. Read the story [Black Law Students Association invites undergrads to see yourself here at Robson Hall](#).
- ▶ Practicing Professional Instructors Melissa Serbin and **Stacey Soldier [LLB/2007]** returned to Robson Hall **March 11 and 18** to lead a two-part “Indigenous People and the Criminal

Justice System” seminar with instructors was held at Robson Hall.

- On **March 17** the inaugural Art Braid Business Law Case Competition took place at Thompson Dorfman Sweatman. The competition was created in honour of late Dean and Professor Art Braid to offer a practical learning opportunity for students interested in transactional practice. Read the full story on UM Today: [Inaugural Art Braid Business Law Case Competition impacts clinical learning.](#)



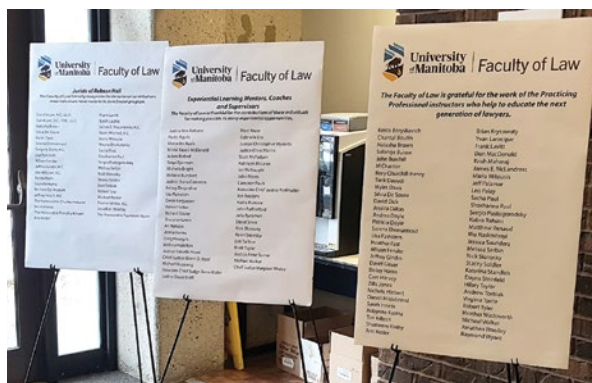
Business Law Group executive (left to right): Ben Manness (3L)—Vice President, Matt London (2L)—Treasurer, Diana Gutierrez (2L)—Secretary, Rebecca Penner (2L)—Event Planning and Logistics Director, Chris Dick (3L)—President, and Devan Vercaigne (2L)—Communications and Marketing Director. Photo submitted by the BLC.

- In **March**, the Faculty of the Law and the MLSA signed a Memorandum of Understanding to share the cost for hiring up to two articling student per year starting in June, 2023 with funding to continue until 2027. Robson Hall students exclusively will be considered for these positions and preference will be given to candidates who demonstrate they are from an equity-seeking group. Mentioned above, this story on UM Today is [Manitoba Law Students' Association and Faculty of Law sign agreement for critical change.](#)
- In the same MOU, the MLSA designated \$250,000 from unspent Law Student

Endowment Funds to turn basement space at Robson Hall into a study space with key card access, individual study carrels, a kitchenette, and gender inclusive accessible washrooms. This money, in addition to an equal amount of funding received from the previous year's MLSA, will finally make the Robson Hall basement an inviting space for students.

April 2023

- On **April 4**, the Faculty of Law hosted a reception to thank this year's practicing professionals, Jurists of Robson Hall, moot coaches, externship supervisors, and Judges and Justices involved in clerkships and judge shadowing, as well as celebrate the 2022 Alumni Award winners. Learn more about the event in [Faculty of Law recognizes contributions of Alumni, Instructors, Professors and Staff at annual reception.](#)



Posters put on display at the annual Faculty of Law reception recognized the many members of the legal profession who volunteer for the law school's programs each year. Photo by Christine Mazur.

- Second year student Seth Lozinski was this year's deserving recipient of the Pro Bono Students Canada Chief Justice Richard Wagner Award presented **April 11**. This award is given to one student volunteer in each PBSC law school across the country who demonstrates exemplary leadership and commitment to PBSC's mission. Read about how this year's PBSC volunteers helped Manitobans gain access to justice in [Legal Super Heroes.](#)



Attorney General of Canada and Minister of Justice the Honourable David Lametti visited with law students at Robson Hall on April 14. Photo by Jessica Spindler.

- ▶ On **April 14** the Honourable David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada visited with faculty and students of the Access to Justice in French program, and first year law students fresh from writing their Constitutional law exam.
- ▶ The Faculty of Law took part in the Manitoba Bar Association's Law Day on **April 21**, which was the first time since the pandemic that the law courts were once again open to the public. Admissions and Financial Aid and Awards Officer **Rory Churchill-Henry [JD/2019]** worked a booth and answered the public's questions about how to attend law school and become a lawyer.
- ▶ In **April** Robson Hall welcomed back **Natasha Brown [BEd/2001, LLB/2005]**, Director of Access to Justice and Community Engagement. Read about Natasha's role in this new position in [Director of Access to Justice and Community Engagement arrives at Faculty of Law](#).

May 2023

- ▶ On **May 1** the mask mandate was lifted at the University of Manitoba, but the campus remains mask-friendly for anyone who prefers to keep wearing a mask.



Law students Scott Groot, 2L and Hardeep Suri [JD/2023] air high-five each other to illustrate the University of Manitoba's mask-friendly-but-not-mandatory policy that started May 1st. Photo by Leif Norman.

- ▶ **May 12** was the Faculty of Law's special night to once again sponsor a performance of the RMTC/MBA Lawyers Play, this year the incredibly performed "9 to 5 The Musical."
- ▶ **May 2** was the 31st Annual Students' Teacher Recognition Reception (STRR) where each Faculty at the University of Manitoba selects an exceptional student who then chooses two teachers who have made important contributions to their education: one from Kindergarten to Grade 12, and one from their years at the University of Manitoba. Class of 2023's Lauren Gowler was chosen by the Faculty of Law as its exceptional student, and she in turn chose Associate Professor **David Ireland** (as he then was), as her most memorable professor.

June 2023

- ▶ On June 1, Federal Minister of Justice, The Hon. David Lametti announced that Professor Gerald Heckman was appointed a Justice of the Federal Court of Appeal. A week later, Manitoba's Minister of Justice, **The Hon. Kelvin Goertzen [BA/1992; BComm (Hons)/1995; LLB/2003]** announced the appointment of Associate Professor **David Ireland [LLB/2010; LLM/2014]** to the Provincial Court. Read the full story: [Two UM Faculty of Law professors appointed to judiciary](#).

- ▶ On June 8, the Faculty of Law's Convocation ceremony was held in-person at the Fort Garry campus with a reception following at Robson Hall for the newly graduated students and their guests.



Class of 2023 at Convocation on June 8.
Photo by Mike Latschislaw.

- ▶ A significant gift from alum **L. Kerry Vickar [LLB/1980]** transformed a basement storage space at Robson Hall into a modern clinical space complete with board room, offices, incubator spaces, private virtual consultation booths and workspace for law students participating in the Faculty's clinical learning program. Read more: [Vickar gift to transform clinical space at Robson Hall](#).



A glimpse of the new L. Kerry Vickar Business Law Clinic space in the basement of Robson Hall. Construction was completed in June. Photo by Christine Mazur.

July 2023

- ▶ Robson Hall welcomed Dr. Akinwumi (Akin) Ogunranti who commenced a tenure-track Assistant Professor position on **July 1**, along with Yvan Larocque and **Andrea Doyle [LLB/2009]** who are joining the law school as Clinical Instructors. At the same time, **Elizabeth (Liz) McCandless [LLB/2007, LLM/2020]** took over the role of Director of Clinics.
- ▶ Dr. Gerard Kennedy and Dr. Rebecca Jaremko Bromwich said goodbye to Robson Hall this month to continue exciting legal careers at other destinations.

Summer 2023

- ▶ The UM Law/MLSA welcomed articling student Tasha Ellis who will be working under principal **Natasha Brown [LLB/2005]** and receiving rotations at the Rights Clinic, University of Manitoba Community Law Centre, Legal Help Centre, Manitoba Justice (Family Resolution Services), and the Manitoba Law Reform Commission.
- ▶ The Halls of Robson were alive with the sound of construction all summer, with the Moot Court and four classrooms receiving much-needed AV updates, and the Common Room being renovated to have a gender inclusive washroom. All work is scheduled to be complete by the end of August with the exception of the Common Room project which will be completed later in the 2023 fall term. ■

Experiential Learning News

Faculty of Law continues to expand clinical options for experiential learning

By Christine Mazur

(Adapted from the story [originally published in UM Today](#) on August 5, 2022.)

In the fall of 2022, third-year law students had their pick of an expanded number of experiential learning, or clinical courses. Out of approximately 100 students coming into their final year of the University of Manitoba's *Juris Doctor* program, over half applied for an externship opportunity to get a chance to roll up their sleeves and do work helping clients with legal matters or seeing first-hand how law works in practice.

Six externships in addition to the new Rights Clinic and the continuing Public Interest Law Centre (PILC) clinic were available during the 2022—2023 school year. These included:

- Legal Help Centre
- University of Manitoba Community Law Centre (UMCLC)
- Manitoba Law Reform Commission
- L. Kerry Vickar Business Law Clinic
- Cochrane Saxberg Indigenous Community Clinic
- RobsonCrim Attorney General Externship

Clerkships with the Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench (now King's Bench) and the Manitoba Court of Appeal have been staples of hands-on for-credit opportunities available to third-year law students. Today, a total of 12 clerkship spots are available, each student earning six credit hours for the year. Professor Darcy MacPherson initially started the MBCA clerkship in 2004, and later added the Queen's (now King's) Bench in 2010 with students

working on Criminal, Civil, and Family cases. Judges are involved in the selection process along with Faculty members.

The Legal Help Centre, UMCLC, the Manitoba Law Reform Commission and the Vickar Business Law Clinic are mainstays of the annual roster of externships. In 2022, the Faculty of Law celebrated a 50-year partnership with Legal Aid Manitoba in running the UMCLC, in addition to implementing a new expansion of services that have students helping with a [wider range of files](#). Law students have assisted at the [Legal Help Centre](#) almost since its origins in 2011.

As with other clinics, the Cochrane Saxberg Indigenous Community Clinic will provide hands-on opportunities for students to interview clients, provide counsel, develop and manage client files, and conduct qualitative research. Students will especially have an opportunity to learn theory about decolonizing and Indigenizing law, and integrate these principles into the practice of law.

The RobsonCrim Attorney General externship placed law students with the Manitoba Department of Justice's Crown Law Analysis and Development department. Students worked directly with legal counsel and policy analysts at the branch to help with related legal research, cross-jurisdiction analysis and policy development.

With the growing number of clinics and engaged students, the Faculty had appointed Associate Professor **David Ireland [LLB/2010, LLM/2014]** as Director of Clinics. He worked with a team that included Assistant Professor **Brandon Trask [JD/2012]** (clinical professor), Senior Clinical Instructors **Elizabeth McCandless [LLB/2007, LLM/2020]** and Dr. Rebecca Jaremko Bromwich, along with staff members **Marc Kruse [JD/2015]** (at the time Indigenous Legal Studies Coordinator) and **Trina McFadyen [LLB/2020]** (Director of Professional Development).

Since Ireland was appointed a judge in the Manitoba Provincial Court in June, 2023, McCandless has assumed the role of Director of Clinics.



Elizabeth McCandless [LLB/2007, LLM/2020]

For 2023–2024, the externships have been expanded to nine including the below, which provide placements for a total of 54 students (over half the number of law students entering their final year).

- Legal Help Centre
- University of Manitoba Community Law Centre (UMCLC)
- Manitoba Law Reform Commission
- L. Kerry Vickar Business Law Clinic
- Cochrane Saxberg Indigenous Community Clinic
- Manitoba Department of Justice Externship
- Public Interest Law Centre Externship
- Women's Legal Education and Action Fund
- Law Library Hub Externship
- Rights Clinic at Robson Hall ■

Moot Competitions



Sarah Sharpe (3L) and Aiyana McKenzie (3L) represented Manitoba at the MacIntyre Cup in 2023. Photo submitted by Chantal Boutin.

Solomon Greenberg Moot and MacIntyre Cup Trial Advocacy Moot

Sarah Sharpe (3L), winner of the 2022 Solomon Greenberg Moot (held in the fall) and runner-up Aiyana McKenzie (3L) represented Manitoba at the MacIntyre Cup trial advocacy moot for western Canadian law schools held in Calgary, February 9—11, 2023. Volunteer judges included the **Honourable Judge Raymond Wyant [LLB/1977]**, the **Honourable Judge Timothy Killeen [BA/1976, LLB/1979]**, **Chantal Boutin [LLB/2008]** and Professor **David Ireland [LLB/2010, LLM/2014]** as well as the volunteer coaches of **Ryan Amy [LLB/2004]**, **Matt Armstrong [JD/2014]**, **Daniel Chaput [LLB/1999]**, **Adam Gingera [BA (Hons)/2010, JD/2016]**, **Carley Mahoney [BA/2013,**

JD/2016], **Aaron Millo [LLB/2010]**, **Dayna Queau-Guzzi [BA (Hons)/2010, JD/2014]**, **Laura Robinson [LLB/2009]**, and **Evan Roitenberg [LLB/1991]**.

Read the full story in UM Today: [Moot Report: Strong performances by Team Manitoba at MacIntyre Cup.](#)



Manitoba's 2023 Laskin Moot Team left to right: Megan Filyk (3L), Eric Gagnon (2L), Eric Epp (2L), Matt Reimer (2L), and Bradley Légaré (2L).

Laskin Moot (Bilingual appellate competition)

UM Law's team of Bradley Légaré (2L), Eric Epp (2L), Matt Reimer (2L), Eric Gagnon (2L), and researcher Meghan Filyk (3L) took home the "Spirit of the Laskin" Award for fair competition, commitment to bilingualism, and professional camaraderie at the Laskin Bilingual Moot held February 23—25 at Dalhousie University in Halifax. The team was coached by lawyers **Gabrielle Lisi**

[JD/15] and Tanys Björnson along with Professor Gerald Heckman (as he then was).

Read the full story in UM Today: [Moot Report 2023: Capturing the Spirit of the Laskin](#).

Robson Hall Negotiation Competition

Sixteen teams of Robson Hall students competed in the seventeenth annual Robson Hall Negotiation Competition November 29th, 2022. These third-year students were selected for having excelled in the Legal Negotiation course they took in their second year of law school. Ramsay Hall (3L) and Samantha Harvey (3L) were awarded first place. The runners up, who also did a tremendous job, were Benjamin Leahy (3L) and Jodi Plenert (3L). Both teams went on to represent Robson Hall and compete in the Canadian National Negotiation Competition. The event was generously sponsored by Fillmore Riley, which has a very long history of supporting the competition. In addition to covering all competition costs and supplying cash prizes, lawyers from the firm volunteered to judge the students. These included: **Don Baker [BComm (Hons)/2014, JD/2017]**, **Annika Friesen [JD/2012]**, **Aron Grusko [JD/2014]**, **Sven Hombach**, **Rachel Loewen [BComm(Hons)/2009, JD/2014]**, **Keith Senden [JD/2016]**, **Delaney Vun [LLB/2008]**, **Ranish Raveendrabose [JD/2017]**, **Andrea Signorelli [LLM/2010, JD/2019]**, **Brynne Thordarson [BComm (Hons)/2011, JD/2014]**, and **Sarah Thurmeier [BA(Adv)/2004/LLB/2007]**. Visiting Ukrainian Scholar Dr. Natella Roskoshna also judged the competition.

Read the full story in UM Today: [Competition Teaches Robson Hall Students Critical Negotiation Skills](#).

Canadian National Negotiation Competition

Three University of Manitoba Faculty of Law teams put in extremely strong performances at the seventh annual Canadian National Negotiation Competition (CNNC). The team of Chris Dick (3L) and Kennedy Pinette (3L) won second place in the inaugural French stream of the competition, a major accomplishment given that four of the six French teams were from Québec. In the English stream, Ramsay Hall (3L) and Samantha Harvey (3L) placed third, and Benjamin Leahy (3L) and Jodi Plenert (3L) also performed at an extremely high level in a very talented field of 18 teams. This year, the CNNC was held at McGill University, in Montreal on February 24 and 25, 2023. The team was coached by **Andrea Doyle [LLB/2009]**, **Andrew Torbiak [JD/2015]** and **Heather Wadsworth [JD/2015]** along with Associate Professor Bruce Curran, and Professors Gerald Heckman, and Lorna Turnbull.



Team Manitoba left to right: Jodi Plenert (3L), Samantha Harvey (3L), coach Andrew Torbiak, coach Chris Dick (3L), Benjamin Leahy (3L), coach Heather Wadsworth, Ramsay Hall (3L), Kennedy Pinette (3L), and coach Andrea Doyle.



Manitoba's 2023 Gale Cup team of Xiyuan Feng (3L), Genevieve Smith (2L), Kaylee Furber (2L) and Tyson Priebe (2L).

Gale Cup Moot

Team Manitoba made the Faculty proud at this bilingual appellate moot by the teams of Kaylee Furber (2L) and Genevieve Smith (2L) for the Respondents, and Xiyuan Feng (3L) and Tyson Priebe (2L) for the appellants. The judging panel told them they exhibited natural courtroom presence and calm demeanor under pressure. Judges were impressed with their clear and articulate styles and their knowledge of the relevant case law in support of their positions. The team was coached by Michelle Bright [LLB/2005] and Melissa Hazelton [BA/2007, LLB/2010]. The Gale Cup took place in Ottawa, March 3 – 4.

Davies Corporate/Securities Moot

The team of Melinda Moch (2L), Ashley Slagerman (2L), Calvin Ediger (2L), and Jessie Anton (3L) had a strong showing at the Davies Moot which took place March 10–11 in Toronto with 14 teams from across Canada. Coaches included **Ari Hanson [BComm/2009, JD/2012]**, **Sharyne Hamm [JD/2016]**, **Paolo Aquila [JD/2016]**, and Professor Darcy MacPherson.



Coach Ari Hanson with Manitoba's Davies Corporate/Securities Moot team of Melinda Moch (2L), Ashley Slagerman (2L), Calvin Ediger (2L) and Jessie Anton (3L).

.....

The team of Melinda Moch (2L), Ashley Slagerman (2L), Calvin Ediger (2L), and Jessie Anton (3L) had a strong showing at the Davies Moot which took place March 10–11 in Toronto with 14 teams from across Canada.

.....

Kawaskimhon Moot

Read the full story on UM Today: [Moot Report 2023: More than words, Kawaskimhon offers real-world practice of collaborative principles.](#)

University of Manitoba law students travelled to the University of Victoria to take part in the 2023 Kawaskimhon Moot held March 10—11. Third-year students Adam Kowal, Brayden Gray, Heather Alexander, and Carleena Cavallo were coached by Assistant Professor Daniel Diamond, and Director of Indigenous Legal Learning and Services, **Marc Kruse [JD/2015]**. The students returned with profound learning experiences from having had the opportunity to put the collaborative principles of the Indigenous moot into practice.



University of Manitoba at the 2023 Kawaskimhon Moot (left to right): Assistant Professor Daniel Diamond (coach), Brayden Gray, Carleena Cavallo, Heather Alexander, Director of Indigenous Legal Learning and Services Marc Kruse (coach), and Adam Kowal.

Bastarache Moot

The Manitoba team took home awards at this constitutional and statutory language rights moot in Ottawa, held March 17 - 19, especially impressive as French is not the first language of

any of the team members. The team consisted of Seth Lozinski (2L), Marie Boyd (2L), Trusha Dash (2L) and Dominique Gibson (2L) and was expertly coached by Julien Bédard, Richard Goulet, and Gerald Heckman. Dash and Gibson mooted in the finals and won second-best pair overall. Gibson placed as second-best oralist in the competition while Boyd took third-best oralist.



Bastarache Moot team members were excited to meet The Honourable Justice Michelle O'Bonsawin of the Supreme Court of Canada in Ottawa. Left to right: Dominique Gibson (2L), Trusha Dash (2L), Justice O'Bonsawin, Seth Lozinski (2L) and Marie Boyd (2L).



Left to right: Diana Gutierrez (2L), Thomas Gagnon [LLB/2010], Liam Brown (1L), Stefan Leicht (1L).

The Hague Inter-University Law Debate Tournament

For the first time in known memory, University of Manitoba law students participated in The Hague Inter-University Law Debate Tournament, and won third place! The competition was held at the end of May—both hybrid and in The Hague. Not able to get enough moot during regular moot competition season, intrepid law students Liam Brown (1L), Diana Gutierrez (2L), and Stefan Leicht (1L), took the initiative to sign themselves up for the Tournament. While competing in the Netherlands, the UM team visited the International Court of Justice at the Peace Palace, attended a trial at the International Criminal Court, and met with UM law alum **Thomas Gagnon [LLB/2010]**, who is Second Secretary at the Canadian Embassy.

Read the full story on UM Today: [University of Manitoba law students head to The Hague for Inter-University Law Debate Tournament Finals.](#)

Art Braid Business Law Competition

The inaugural Art Braid Business Law Case Competition took place on March 17, hosted at Thompson Dorfman Sweatman, and organized by the Business Law Group. The practice of legal reasoning was an essential skill dear to Art Braid, Q.C., late Dean and Professor at the Faculty of Law. Open to law students of all levels, the competition problem focused on raising funds for an early-stage, private Manitoba technology company. Winners were: Alli Knox (1L), Zeynep Fattah (1L), and Kirsten Nynych (1L) and runners-up Ashveer Sohi (1L), Jaspreet Brar (1L), Eric Moon (1L), and Daniel Rosenthal (1L). Competition judges included **Don MacDonald [LLB/1983]**, **Kyle Mirecki [JD/2017]**, **Amy Gelhorn [BA/2015, JD/2018]**, Katie Leung, and **Paolo Aquila [JD/2016]**.

Read the full story on UM Today: [Inaugural Art Braid Business Law Case Competition impacts clinical learning.](#)

.....
For the first time in known memory, University of Manitoba law students participated in The Hague Inter-University Law Debate Tournament, and won third place!

Practicing Professionals & Volunteers

The Faculty of Law benefits greatly from the generosity of the Manitoba legal community in a variety of ways, including having members of the profession act as sessional instructors. We are extremely grateful to have such a supportive and involved Bar and Bench who generously give their time and knowledge to educate the next generation of law students.

We also extend our deepest thanks to the Manitoba Law Foundation for its financial support over the past many years for the Sessional Instructors program.

On April 6, 2023, Robson Hall hosted a celebration of our practicing professionals along with the Jurists of Robson Hall, moot coaches, externship supervisors, and Judges and Justices involved in clerkships and judge shadowing. It was our way of thanking the many people who support law students throughout the year.

Read the full story on UM Today: [Faculty of Law recognizes contributions of Alumni, Instructors, Professors and Staff at annual reception.](#)

PRACTICING PROFESSIONALS

Krista Boryskavich
Chantal Boutin
Natasha Brown
Solange Buisse
John Burchill
Michele Chartier
Rory Churchill-Henry
Tarik Daoudi
Myles Davis
Silvia De Sousa
David Dick
Jessica Dillon
Andrea Doyle
Patricia Doyle
Serena Ehrmantraut
Lisa Fainstein

Heather Fast
Allison Fenske
Jeffrey Gindin
David Gisser
Bailey Harris
Cam Harvey
Nichole Hiebert
Daniel Hildebrand
Sarah Inness
Zilla Jones
Robynne Kazina
Judge Tim Killeen
Shameem Koshy
Ami Kotler
Brian Kryswaty
Yvan Larocque
Frank Lavitt
Don MacDonald

Krish Maharaj
James McLandress
Maria Mitousis
Jeff Palamar
Leo Palay
Sacha Paul
Shoshanna Paul
Sergio Pustogorodsky
Kobra Rahimi
Matthew Renaud
Illia Roskoshnyi
Jessica Saunders
Melissa Serbin
Nick Slonosky
Stacey Soldier
Katerina Standish
Dayna Steinfeld
Hilary Taylor

Andrew Torbiak
Virginia Torrie
Robert Tyler
Heather Wadsworth
Michael Walker
Jonathan Woolley
Judge Raymond Wyant

MOOT COACHES

David Silver (Bowman Tax Moot)
Paolo Aquila
Sharyne Hamm and Ari Hanson
(Corporate/Securities Law Moot)
Melissa Hazelton and Michelle
Bright (Gale Cup Moot)
Julia Ryckman, John Myers and
Kelsey Desjardine (Fox Moot)
Richard Goulet and Julien Bédard
(Bastarache Moot)
Gabrielle Lisi and Tanys Björnson
(Laskin Moot)
Kathleen McLean and Mercedes
Ayala (Family Negotiations
Competition)

LEGAL NEGOTIATION COURSE AND COMPETITION COACHES AND JUDGES

Don Baker
Kristine Barr
Eric Buettner
Kaitlan Buchko
Melissa Cattini
Braeden Cornick
Andrea Doyle

Menal Al Fekih
Annika Friesen
Aron Grusko
Amber Harms
Sven Hombach
Desiree Katz
Melanie LaBossiere
Shimon Leibl
Rachel Loewen
Steven Meltzer
Ranish Raveendrabose
Anjali Sandhu
Gary Sarcida
Jessica Schofield
Keith Senden
Andrea Signorelli
David Silver
Nick Slonosky
Tanci Smart-Carvalho
Brynne Thordarson
Sarah Thurmeier
Andrew Torbiak
Delaney Vun
Peter Ward

CLINICAL AND EXTERNSHIP INSTRUCTORS

Michael Walker (UMCLC)
Kristal Bayes and Stefanie
(Goldberg) Steigerwald (MB Law
Reform Commission)
Nadia Rumore and Scott
McFadyen (Legal Help Centre)
Lisa Fainstein and Nick Slonosky
(L. Kerry Vickar Business Law
Clinic)

Marc Kruse (Cochrane Saxberg
Indigenous Community Clinic)

Michael Koppang, Owen
Fergusson and Jenna Harms
(RobsonCrim AG externship)

ADVOCACY LAWYER VOLUNTEERS

Joe Aiello
Steven Brennan
Katherine Bueti
Cynthia Devine
Serena Ehrmantraut
Scott Farlinger
Tyler Grant
Troy Harwood-Jones
Randall Horton
Janna Hyman
Kristen Jones
Dean Kropp
Mark Lafreniere
Robert Maertens
Maria Mitousis
Sarah Murdoch
Andrew McKelvey-Gunson
Dayna Queau-Guzzi
Raegan Rankin
Laura Robinson
Evan Roitenberg
Ian Scarth
Aaron Seib
The Honourable Judge Kusham
Sharma
Stacey Soldier
Amy Wood
James Wood

MOCK INTERVIEW NIGHT VOLUNTEERS

Mark Alwar
Sandra Bracken
Aaron Challis
Jean-Pierre Deniset
Anthony Foderaro
Graham Fuga
Samantha Gergely
Mary Goska
Denis Guenette
Julian Kim
Peter Kingsley
Maria Penner
Nadia Rumore
Jerilee Ryle
Margaretha Spezzano

Jarrod Sundmark
Lauren Vrsnik
Mike Weinstein
Erin Wolfe
Trevor Yakimchuk

PBSC LAWYER SUPERVISORS

Kristal Bayes
Andrew Buck
Katharyn Burczynski
Heather Fast
Miranda Grayson
Bethany Hutlet
David Ireland
Chris Klassen
Leah Klassen

Morgan Lawrence
Kelsey McCue
Eli Milner
Meredith Mitchell
Karine Pelletier
Omri Plotnick
Ingrid Ruiz
Joelle Pastora Sala
Katrina Scaramuzzi
Melissa Serbin
Jennifer Sokal
John Stefaniuk
Sarah Thurmeier
Mary Troszko
Robert Walichnowski
Kristen Worbanski
Michael Zacharias

ADDITIONAL THANKS

Thank you to all the alumni and volunteers who were guest speakers in classes, who attended networking events and student-led presentations,

who acted as judges in the mini-moot competition, who were MBA mentors to students, who put on information sessions for students, and so much more. We apologize to any names we may have missed in the above lists.



University
of Manitoba | Faculty of Law

presents

RETURN TO ROBSON

Homecoming 2023

Wednesday, September 20 at 5:00 p.m.

Welcoming grads of 2023, 2013, 2003, 1993, 1983, 1973, 1963 and 1953!

[Register Here](#)

Jurists of Robson Hall

Faculty of Law introduces “Jurists of Robson Hall”

Recognizing the hard work of Practicing Professional instructors

By Christine Mazur

(Originally published in [UM Today on January 19, 2023](#))

In the fall of 2022, the Faculty of Law recognized some its sessional instructors, now referred to as “Practicing Professionals,” for the many years of hard work they contributed to the education of future generations of lawyers. Practicing Professionals who taught for at least 10 or more years were formally recognized as “Jurists of Robson Hall” and were presented with brass plaques expressing thanks for their dedication

“The guidance you provide to our students is one of the greatest gifts this law school could receive from this community,” said Dr. Richard Jochelson, Dean of Law, in each letter sent to the Jurists. “Our partnership in educating prospective members of our profession is part of what makes the Manitoba legal community a special place.”

“The years of experience in the practice that you bring to the classroom are invaluable,” he added. “You help our students chart their own path while signposting the road that they will travel.”

Dean Jochelson described the Practicing Professionals as the “lifeblood” of the Faculty of Law in its endeavour to teach law students both theory and practice to ensure the highest quality of legal education.

.....

The Faculty plans to continue adding outstanding instructors to the list of *Jurists* each year and will formally present tokens of appreciation at an annual reception for its Practicing Professionals. Find [the complete list of Jurists of Robson Hall](#), on the Faculty of Law website.



“Justice” stained glass by McCausland and Robert

CLASS OF 2023

Congratulations Graduating Class of 2023

The University of Manitoba Faculty of Law proudly congratulates our Juris Doctor, Master of Laws, and Master of Human Rights graduates of 2023! Visit our webpage on umanitoba.ca/law for all things Convocation.



The University of Manitoba Faculty of Law Juris Doctor Class of 2023. Photo by Mike Latschislaw.

Juris Doctor (JD) program

Shuyao Ai
Heather Alexander
Jessie Anton
Laura Ayres
Ashley Bains

Sandra Barkho
Antonio Barraza-Luna
Mikaela Jade Bauerlein
Julia Beal
Sierra Bednarz
Audrey Bews
Nikki Boggs

Chashandeep Brar
Sipy Brar
Michael Brennan
Ryan Burky
Mackenzie Cardinal
Carleena Cavallo
Katrina Chanas

Dion Cheung
 Harold Chisel**
 Natasha Chudley
 Tan Ciyiltepe
 Sophie Collier
 Noah Curle
 Gustavo da Roza
 Anthony Dempsey
 Christopher Dick
 Jana Elazar
 Richmond Eshikena
 Masuma Fatima
 Xiyuan Feng
 Megan Filyk
 Keenan Fonseca
 Ashley Fouad
 Janelle Futros**
 Sara Fretwell
 Andrew Gabel
 Mason Geddes
 Isanne Goldberg
 Lauren Gowler
 Brandon Gray
 Brayden Gray
 Samantha Green
 Samantha Harvey
 Jonathan Hinman
 Ravneet Hothi**
 Heather Hughes
 Elise Janzen
 Housam Jeha
 Connor Jonsson
 Alisen Kotyk
 Adam Kowal
 Jordan Kreml

Evan Kwong
 Drew Lambert
 Andrea Lett
 Brittney Macht
 Abhishek Makam
 Benjamin Manness
 Nicholas Mark
 Cole McClelland
 Aiyana McKenzie
 Liam Menec
 Gentiana Morina
 Braeden Ness
 Derek Novosel
 Samantha Onchulenko
 Hazem Osso
 Brett Oxenforth
 Justin Paulic
 Kennedy Pinette
 Jodi Plenert
 Liam Pollock
 Zackery Porter
 Matthew Rakar
 Abhijit Ranade*
 Tiana Romeo
 Marko Roslycky
 Furyal Sadiq
 Prachi Sanghavi
 Ty Schmidt
 Christopher Scofield
 Dustin Seguin
 Sarah Sharp
 Edvanny Silva Burns
 Davinder Singh
 Mikal Sokolowski
 Blaine Speck

Hardeep Suri
 Rhiannon Swan
 Jenna Symons
 Johanna Thiessen
 Kaitlin Trager
 Justin Vermette
 Nikolai von Schilling
 Nicholas Warsza

Master of Laws (LLM) program

Daniel Booy**
 Nalini Persaud*
 Ian McIsaac*

Master of Human Rights (MHR) program

Sabbontu Abdushekur
 Aayushi Bana
 Mia Bastien**
 Michael Campbell**
 Amy Cherpako
 Mitchell Defehr
 Sara Gibson
 Piper Larsen
 Kimberly Lenz
 Omobolanle Sodipo
 Mandeep Thind
 Natasha Tomchuk
 Victoria Weir
 Stephanie Zirino**

* Graduating October 2022

** Graduating February 2023

Meet the *Juris Doctor* Class of 2023

This year the Faculty of Law interviewed 13 members of the Juris Doctor class of 2023 to learn more about what motivated them to study law, their experiences at Robson Hall, and their hopes and dreams for the future. The full interviews can be found [on our Instagram account](#) but now that they are officially alumni, we share with you their favourite memories of law school.

MIKAL SOKOLOWSKI



Mikal was the MLSA President for 2022-23 and will be articling at Restall & Restall in Winnipeg. Prior to the Faculty of Law, he completed a Commerce degree at the Asper School of Business, majoring in Marketing and Human Resources. [Read the full interview on Instagram.](#)

What is your favourite memory of Robson Hall?

Not really a memory per se, but I think the most important things I gained from law school were the friends I made. I was lucky enough to meet two of my best friends and my fiancée in law school. The

memories with them are by far one of the most important memories I have from law school.

DION CHEUNG



Dion has a degree in microbiology from the University of Manitoba. She was the MLSA executive's VP Finance for 2022-23 as well as the chair of the Cultural Diversity in Law Group. Dion will be articling at Thompson Dorfman Sweatman in Winnipeg. [Read the full interview on Instagram.](#)

What is your favourite memory of Robson Hall?

I spent two out of three years at Robson Hall online, so I did not get what some may call the full "Robson Hall Experience". With that being said, I still have many fond memories and my favourite was probably the Speed Networking Night that the Cultural Diversity in Law Group (CDLG) hosted this year. The field of law is not particularly diverse, especially in Manitoba, so having about 50 other individuals who looked like me or had similar experiences as me felt especially empowering.

BRAYDEN GRAY



Brayden completed a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) from the University of Winnipeg in Criminal Justice. He was the MLSA Executive's VP Internal for 2022-23 and will be articling at MLT Aikins in Winnipeg. [Read the full interview on Instagram.](#)

What is your favourite memory of Robson Hall?

It is difficult to choose one. Serving on a panel that created and presented questions to a Supreme Court justice was a unique experience, as was serving as a clerk for the Manitoba Court of Appeal. Flying to Victoria to represent Robson Hall at the Kawaskimhon Moot was an opportunity that reinvigorated my interest in my own Indigeneity, so I treasure that. Rising the ranks in the Canadian Journal of Human Rights was also a rewarding experience. However, many of my best memories come from time spent with friends and peers I have met at Robson Hall—I have created valuable friendships, which may be the source of some of my favourite memories.

DUSTIN SEGUIN

At 18, Dustin was a Sheriff's Officer at the Winnipeg Courthouse where he met some amazing lawyers. Dustin joined the Canadian Armed Forces as a Military Police Officer (NCM) in the regular force and after a few decades travelling the globe with the military, he completed his undergrad via correspondence and came to Robson Hall where he was involved in the Manitoba Indigenous Law Students Association. Dustin will be articling at



McCarthy Tetrault in Toronto. [Read the full interview on Instagram.](#)

What is your favourite memory of Robson Hall?

Watching a man—who soon became one of my closest friends—butter a ham sandwich on Zoom during our 'welcome to law school' meeting with the Dean. I was dressed in a suit and tie and when the sunlight beamed through his glorious beard and onto his muscle shirt, a tear came to my eye. I tracked him down on Facebook, invited him over for a shin-dig, and the rest is history.

MEGAN FILYK



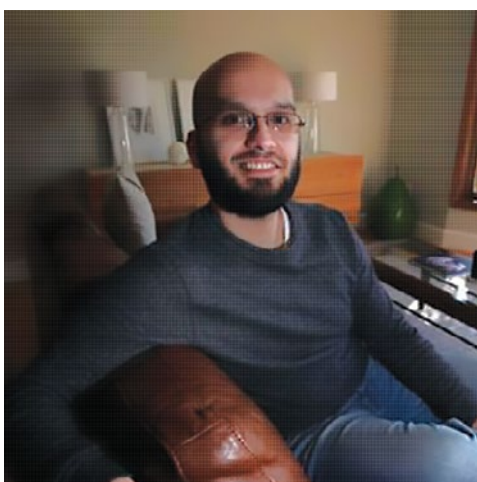
Megan completed a science degree at the University of Winnipeg with a double major in bioanthropology and biology. She was also a barista at a few local coffee shops before and during law school which, according to her family, meant she

went from barista to barrister. Megan was the Class of 2023 Valedictorian and will be articling at Pitblado LLP in Winnipeg. [Read the full interview on Instagram.](#)

What is your favourite memory of Robson Hall?

Getting to develop relationships with incredible folks. Although our class did not spend much time at Robson Hall, the people I have met have made me feel welcome and excited about entering the legal field.

DR. DAVINDER SINGH



Davinder completed medical school with training in public health and preventative medicine. During law school, he practiced public health medicine in Manitoba and will continue to do so following graduation, seeking opportunities to combine his interests of public health and law. [Read the full interview on Instagram.](#)

What is your favourite memory of Robson Hall?

I had a really nice time at the Carbolic Smoke Ball back in first year. It was nice meeting my classmates' significant others, and the food and entertainment were great.

JODI PLENERT

Jodi earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from CMU where she also played post-secondary volleyball. She became a touring musician in an indie rock band, playing shows across Canada, the US, and

Europe. Jodi will be articling at Cochrane Saxberg in Winnipeg. [Read the full interview on Instagram.](#)



What is your favourite memory of Robson Hall?

My favourite memory of Robson Hall is going to Ottawa with the Cochrane Saxberg Indigenous Community Clinic with the Seven Oaks students. I loved being able to spend quality time with both my peers and my mentees.

CHRIS DICK



Chris finished high school a year early and attended Providence University College and Theological Seminary where he took general studies and played basketball. He spent the year before law school working for the Public Guardian and Trustee of Manitoba. Chris will be articling with Norton Rose in Calgary. [Read the full interview on Instagram.](#)

What is your favourite memory of Robson Hall?

It is difficult to choose a favourite memory at Robson Hall. A few that come to mind are participating in the mini-moot with my dear friend Mikal Sokolowski, going to Montreal for the Canadian National Negotiation Competition with my negotiations partner Kennedy Pinette (and the rest of the gang), and playing chess anywhere and everywhere.

SAMANTHA HARVEY

Samantha received her Bachelor of Arts at the University of Manitoba in 2020, with a major in Indigenous studies, receiving a medal in the Bachelor of Arts General Degree for the highest standing in the program. She was also the Gold Medalist in Law for the Class of 2023. Samantha will be articling at Fillmore Riley in Winnipeg. [Read the full interview on Instagram.](#)

What is your favourite memory of Robson Hall?

My best memory from Robson Hall was travelling to Montreal and placing third in the Canadian National Negotiations Competition with my amazing partner, Ramsay Hall. The time spent prepping all the questions and bouncing questions off each other was such a unique and fun experience.

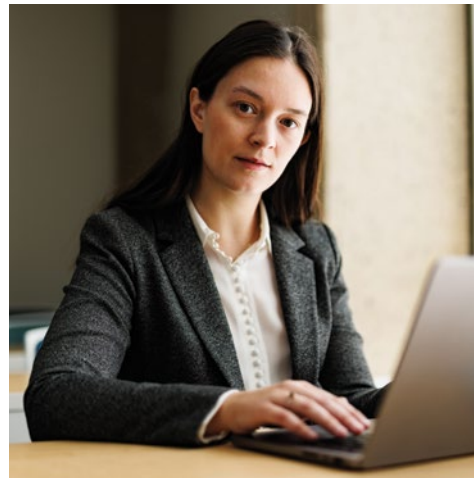
JUSTIN PAULIC

Justin joined Robson Hall with a degree in Engineering from UM in 2020 and also had a successful stint playing for the WHL's Moose Jaw

Warriors. Justin will be articling at KGS Group in Winnipeg. [Read the full interview on Instagram.](#)

**What is your favourite memory of Robson Hall?**

Although not directly related to Robson Hall, my favourite memory of law school was going out to eat with my classmates after evening classes. Life can get pretty busy during school, so getting to build a sense of comradery with classmates and future colleagues provided a nice break from the work.

LAUREN GOWLER

Lauren completed her undergrad degree at UM in English Literature in 2018. She says her English and theatre classes developed her written and oral communication skills which was a plus at law school when it came to memo writing, giving presentations, and moot arguments. Lauren will be pursuing an LLM at Queen Mary University of London (United

Kingdom). [Read the full interview on Instagram.](#)

What is your favourite memory of Robson Hall?

The thing I'll remember most fondly about Robson Hall is the people. The amazing professors, the great staff, and my unbelievable classmates. I've met some of the most intelligent, enthusiastic, and talented people I know at Robson. While doing two years of law school online was not ideal, I think weathering a global pandemic together really helped forge a special connection amongst my cohort.

- *Meet everyone as fast as you can and maximize the time you have with the people that you find. Keep track of the people that love you and cheer for you. These are the people that you are going to have in the days ahead of you to go to for tea and advice.*
- *For those thinking about attending law school: do it if you can. Anyone can make it through with the right tools. The Juris Doctor is the new Master's Degree as far as being the doorway that allows you the next tier access to society.*

ADAM KOWAL



Adam received a philosophy degree from the University of Manitoba. He started down the path of getting a degree in medicine but left to pursue a graduate degree in philosophy while being a teacher's assistant at the medical school. Stints in bartending and air traffic control led him to Robson Hall where he was involved in the Manitoba Indigenous Law Students Association. Adam will be articling with the Ministry AG Ontario Civil Law Division in Toronto. [Read the full interview on Instagram.](#)

Beyond memories of Robson Hall, Adam shared a comprehensive response to our question about advice for prospective students:

What advice would you give to a new law student or people considering going to Robson Hall?

- *Shortcuts have costs. It also costs something to be balanced. Don't lie to yourself about these things.*

TAN CIYILTEPE



Tan has a background in acting and music, and has licensed some of his music for use in TV and film. He has an English degree from the University of Toronto and a Master's degree from McMaster University. He will be articling at MLT Aikins in Winnipeg. [Read the full interview on Instagram.](#)

What is your favourite memory of Robson Hall?

There are many great memories. I fondly recall arguing for a fake client in an oral advocacy exercise for Legal Methods in first year. As a complete novice, the exercise was intimidating. But the rush of excitement that I felt during the exercise was akin to what it felt like to be on stage playing for an audience and in front of the camera. It reframed my law school journey and motivated me to try out for a moot the following year. Looking back, that oral exercise really opened my eyes to how exciting advocacy can be. ■

Class of 2023 Convocation Awards



HIGHEST GRADES

University Gold Medal in Law

- *Samantha Harvey*

Highest Grade point average in whole of LLB course (Honourable Alexander Morris Exhibition Prize)

- *Samantha Harvey*

Highest Standing in Third Year Law (Margaret Hypatia Crawford Prize)

- *Samantha Harvey*

Second Highest Standing in Third Year Law (Pauline & Samuel Zinman Prize as well as Law Society of Manitoba Prize)

- *Audrey Bews*

Third Highest Standing in Third Year Law (Alf Francis Memorial Prize as well as Law Society of Manitoba Prize)

- *Mikal Sokoloski*

Fourth Highest Standing in Third Year Law (Law Society of Manitoba Prize)

- *Aiyana McKenzie*

CLASS PRIZES

Advanced Advocacy (D'Arcy McCaffrey, Q.C. Prize)

- *Richmond Eshikena*

Advanced Clinical Business Law Course (Max Kaplan Prize)

- *Julia Beal*

Advanced Legal Research (John R. Haig, Q.C. Memorial Prize)

- *Davinder Singh and Tan Ciyiltepe*

Business Law (Gerald W. Schwartz Gold Medal in Business Law)

- *Julia Beal*

Canadian Charter of Rights & Freedoms Dispute Resolution (Frank Billinkoff Prize)

- *Lauren Gowler*

Criminal Law (Irvin Goldman Prize)

- *Sam Green*

Dispute Resolution (Robert I. Soronow Q.C. Prize)

- *Liam Menec*

Family Law (Judge Ross A. Johnston Prize for Family Law)

- *Audrey Bews*

Yude M. Henteleff Awards in Human Rights and Civil Liberties

- *Lauren Gowler*

Labour Relations (The Leon Mitchell, Q.C. Prize)

- *Justin Paulic*

Paul Teskey Memorial Prize for Labour Law and Mediation

- *Tony Dempsey*

Property, Trusts & Succession (Jane Evan, Q.C. Prize)

- *Rhiannon Swan*

Real Estate Transactions (Gilbert T. Gregory Memorial Prize)

- *Richmond Eshikena*

Remedies (Anthony Draper Memorial Prize)

- *Kennedy Pinette*

Securities Law (Paul Norman Warren Memorial Prize)

- *Gus da Roza*

Taxation of Trusts and Estates (Cecil Black Memorial Prize)

- *Ai Shu*

Wills & Successions (Frank Billinkoff Prize)

- *Ai Shu*

Wills & Successions (STEP Canada Prize in Estate Law)

- *Brandon Gray*

SPECIFIC ACHIEVEMENT PRIZES

ZSA – National Post/Richard Leipsic Prize

- *Jessie Anton*

Outstanding involvement in extra-curricular activities (Class of 1980 Prize)

- *Lauren Gowler*

Jo-Anne Findlay Memorial Award for Volunteerism at Legal Help Centre of Winnipeg Inc.

- *Heather Hughes*

2022–2023 MLSA EXECUTIVE REPORT



With the return to in-person learning after a nearly three-year hiatus, the Manitoba Law Students' Association's goal was to create a sense of community at Robson Hall. We worked alongside various equity-seeking groups to develop initiatives to make Robson Hall a more welcoming place for all students. We formed a Strategic Advisory Committee that led to many initiatives such as the creation of two U M Articling Student positions for students facing challenges securing articles, funded renovations to Room 105 in the basement to create an exclusive law student study space and single-stall gender-neutral washrooms, and offered key-card access to the common room for law students to have a dedicated place to gather.

We are also proud of the new MLSA logo which was featured on nametags used by students at networking events, the creation of a Student Equity Advocate position to advocate for the MLSA's equity-seeking groups, having two Supreme Court Justices visit Robson to speak to students, developing the new Art Braid Case Competition focusing on business law, providing additional funding for student groups, and acquiring another Law Faculty Council student vote.

On behalf of the MLSA, thank you to everyone who assisted us this past year, from the many student volunteers to the supportive Robson Hall staff to the legal community who attend our networking events, spoke at our sessions, or sponsored student-led events. The student experience at Robson Hall would be much different if not for you! We look forward to the next chapter of our careers and the many exciting things on the horizon at Robson Hall!

Submitted by the 2022 - 2023 MLSA Executive:

Mikal Sokolowski (President),
Brayden Gray (VP Internal),
Dion Cheung (VP Finance),
Ashley Bains (VP External)



What's Next for Class of 2023?

What does the future hold for the Class of 2023 after Robson Hall? Here is a snap-shot of where this year's graduating students are headed.

- 69 students found 2023-2024 articling positions in Manitoba
- 18 students accepted articling positions outside of Manitoba
- 10 are going to Alberta
- 6 are going to British Columbia
- 4 are going to Ontario
- 1 student will be clerking at the Alberta Court of Appeal
- 4 students chose a path other than law
- 1 student chose to pursue a Master of Laws degree (England)

Are you looking to hire a summer or articling student? Contact Trina McFadyen, Director of Professional Development, at 204-474-6154 or trina.mcfadyen@umanitoba.ca to discuss.

VALEDICTORIAN 2023

The Class of 2023 Valedictorian was Megan Filyk. Watch her address to the Juris Doctor Class of 2023 on the [Faculty of Law Youtube Channel](#).



LLM Program News

LLM Graduate Spotlight: Nalini Persaud

*The Faculty of Law is very proud of its Master of Laws program which is designed to be completed in one year and is ideal for legal professionals to further explore and make contributions to research in their chosen areas of practice. This year we feature lawyer **Nalini Persaud [BA/2005, LLB/2008, LLM/2022]**, who graduated from the LLM program in Oct., '22.*



What was your thesis on and who was your advisor?

Section 27 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms requires that it be interpreted in a manner consistent with the preservation and enhancement of Canadians' multicultural heritage. My thesis, which is titled "The Charter's Multiverse: The Marvel of Section 27," systematically analyzes section 27's promise as a substantive Charter right and functional legal tool.

I could not have completed my thesis without the guidance of my advisor Dr. Gillian MacNeil. Her expertise and mentorship supported me through all stages of the LLM program.

Why did you choose that topic?

My decision to explore section 27 academically stems from a very personal interest in seeding ideas for developing the law in a direction that honours multiculturalism and combats racism and bias. My parents, Dushyanta and Angeli Persaud, came to Canada from Guyana and Trinidad to establish a better life for themselves and encountered many barriers in the process. As a woman and a child of BIPOC immigrants who grew up in Winnipeg, I have also been acutely aware that the way I experience the world personally is not from a position of power or privilege. In my professional life, I am often faced with examining the assumptions on which a law is based and considering the experiences of diverse groups. My thesis was an opportunity to do the same in the context of a fascinating provision that holds great promise for a more just Canada.

What advice would you give to anyone considering taking an LLM at Robson Hall, as to the benefits the degree will have to your legal career?

My lifelong commitment to learning is the motivating force behind my pursuit of a Master of Laws from the University of Manitoba. My LLM has afforded me an opportunity to further my legal education and apply my knowledge in my professional career as a public servant. More importantly, I have made a contribution to the legal research in an area I am passionate about, and which will hopefully be valuable in the face of growing diversity, and greater awareness of systemic discrimination, in Canada. ■

OTHER 2022-2023 LLM GRADUATES INCLUDED:

Daniel Booy [JD/2016, LLM/2023] Thesis title: *Moral Self-Convictions: Uncontested Pleas and Canadian Criminal Law*. Thesis advisor: Dr. Amar Khoday

Ian McIsaac [LLM/2022] Thesis title: *Democratic legitimacy of executive government under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms: reassessing crown prerogatives and political constitutionalism under sections 3 to 5 of the Charter*. Thesis advisor: Dr. Gerard Kennedy

UM Faculty of Law announces refreshed LLM program

The Faculty of Law has made some significant updates to its long-standing Master of Laws (LLM) program. Now organized into streams of study, the program reflects our commitment to fostering theoretical, doctrinal, practical and inter-disciplinary scholarship of national and global significance in relevant areas of legal education and practice.

The LLM is designed with the possibility of being completed in one year, and is an research-intensive course of study which attracts students from around the world. Students benefit from individualized supervision by research-diverse faculty, a designated graduate student study and meeting room, and access to the E.K. Williams Law Library. LLM students may now also select clinical course electives to enhance their experiential learning opportunities.

Streams of study to choose from include:

- *Human rights*
- *Business*
- *Indigenous studies*
- *Law and society*
- *Criminal law*
- *Public policy*

Learn more about the LLM program on the [Faculty of Law website](#).

Reclaiming Anishinaabe Law

Dr. Leo Baskatawang publishes first book on Kinamaadiwin Inaakonigewin and the Treaty Right to Education



The publication of a first book is a rite of passage for many academics but making it accessible to the general public is a very generous and sincere way to share knowledge. Dr. Leo Baskatawang met that milestone of his academic career when the University of Manitoba Press released his book *Reclaiming Anishinaabe Law: Kinamaadiwin Inaakonigewin and the Treaty Right to Education* on March 31, 2023.

[Read the full story on UM Today.](#)

Read about more academic and research achievements of faculty members in the [Faculty of Law Research Report Spring 2023 edition](#).

Faculty of Law launches legal research magazine

*Research Report demonstrates global
impact of legal scholars' work*

By Christine Mazur

(Excerpted from the [UM Today News story](#) originally published on June 1, 2023)

The Faculty of Law is pleased to announce the publication of its Spring 2023 Research Report. This magazine showcases the impact of legal research done by UM Law professors, instructors, graduate and undergraduate students.

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"As Dean of Law, I am thrilled to present this research report on the activities of our esteemed faculty at Robson Hall," said Dr. Richard Jochelson. "In this report, we aim to showcase the exceptional research conducted by our faculty members, fostering reflections among readers. By exploring a wide range of legal topics, this report highlights the intellectual rigor and scholarly excellence that define our academic community. It also invites readers to contemplate the profound impact our faculty's research has on society, shaping the legal landscape and promoting social justice. Moreover, it emphasizes the collaborative nature of our research, fostering interdisciplinary dialogue and partnerships within and beyond the legal community. I believe this report will ignite conversations, and inspire action."

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The Faculty of Law's *Research Report* is now [available online on the Faculty of Law website](#), or in print upon request by contacting lawinfo@umanitoba.ca.



MHR Program News



Master of Human Rights program students pose together with their online colleagues presenting at the Practicum Symposium held Dec. 8, 2022. Photo by Christine Mazur.

The University of Manitoba's Master of Human Rights (MHR) program was the first of its kind to be offered in Canada. Now having seen its third cohort of students graduate, the program is becoming established as a leader in offering practical and academic training for careers in human rights work. The program is a collaboration of the faculties of Arts, Education, Law and Social Work, and is housed at the Faculty of Law under the direction of Dr. Kjell Anderson, an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Law. The program is supported by the Mauro Family Foundation which made possible the Mauro Chair in Human Rights and Social Justice, held by Dr. Nathan Derejko.

The MHR program offers both a thesis stream (16–24 months of full-time study) and a practicum stream (16 months full-time including a practicum of at least three months). Complete information about the program is on the [Faculty of Law website](#). The annual deadline for applications is December 1st each year. ■

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*The program is supported
by the Mauro Family
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possible the Mauro Chair in
Human Rights and Social
Justice, held by Dr. Nathan
Derejko*

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Master of Human Rights Practicum Symposium 2022 brings students and mentors together



Sign of the times: Sara Gibson presents from afar online, but alongside her fellow panelists, Mitchel Defehr and Stephanie Zirino. Dr. Kjell Anderson moderates. Photo by Christine Mazur.

By Christine Mazur

(Excerpted from the [UM Today story](#) originally published on January 20, 2023.)

The Master of Human Rights program's annual Practicum Symposium took place on Thursday, December 8, 2022 at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. The symposium gives students enrolled in the interdisciplinary graduate degree's practicum stream an opportunity to present their major research papers and share experiences working at their respective placement sites.

Fourteen students presented in five different panel sessions which were divided into the topics of Human Rights and Mental Health, Human Rights and Education, Indigenous Rights, Perspectives on Human Rights, and Discrimination—Race, Gender, and Disability.

.....

“It was wonderful and enriching to all be together in the same room for the Master of Human Rights Symposium,” said Dr. Kjell Anderson, Director of the MHR program. “The pandemic has been a bumpy ride, but our students have shown a lot of resilience and I know they were grateful for the opportunity to gather to share their experience and knowledge with each other and the community.”

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Presenting student Piper Larson reflected on how removed from each other her cohort felt, due to the pandemic. This symposium marked the first chance some of her classmates were able to meet in-person. “It was an honour to listen to all of my classmates as they spoke of their practicum experiences and their upcoming research. The diversity in the field of human rights is remarkable and listening to what everyone is passionate about is truly special. I cannot wait to see where the MHR students go from here,” she said.

Students in the practicum stream undertake work placements with leading local and international human rights organizations to gain practical, hands-on experience doing human rights work. Recent graduates are sometimes offered paid employment with their practicum organization following the completion of their hours.

Practicum placements and topics presented were as follows:

HUMAN RIGHTS AND MENTAL HEALTH

VICTORIA WEIR [JD/2018]

Practicum Site: Initiatives for Just Communities

Title: ***Offenders with FASD and the Case for Carceral Abolition***

AAYUSHI BANA

Practicum Site: Public Interest Law Centre

Title: ***Right to Mental Health; A Scoping Review of Social and Cultural Barriers to Accessing Mental Healthcare Services for Refugee Women in Winnipeg***

OMOBOLANLE SODIPO

Practicum Site: Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth

Title: ***Rethinking Mental Health Legislation to Provide Protection for Children and Youth at Imminent Risk of Harm: A Human rights approach***

HUMAN RIGHTS AND EDUCATION

STEPHANIE ZIRINO

Practicum Site: Manitoba Association of Rights and Liberties (MARL)

Title: ***Mental Health as a Human Right: A Review of Mental Health Policies in Winnipeg School Divisions***

SARA GIBSON

Practicum Site: MARL

Title: ***Gaps in Human Rights Knowledge among Canada's Youth***

MITCHEL DEFEHR

Practicum Site: MARL

Title: ***The right to Tell Stories: Human Rights Narratives and the Digital age***

INDIGENOUS RIGHTS

MICHAEL CAMPBELL

Practicum Site: National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR)

Title: ***Preserving the Right to Truth at the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation***

AMY CHERPAKO

Practicum Site: Wa Ni Ska Tan

Title: ***Nature's Rights are Human Rights: Revitalizing Indigenous Land Stewardship through Legal Personhood***

PERSPECTIVES ON HUMAN RIGHTS

NATASHA TOMCHUK

Practicum Site: Manitoba Human Rights Commission

Title: ***The Effects of COVID-19 on the Manitoba Human Rights Commission***

SABBONTU ABDUSHEKUR

Practicum Site: MARL/Human Rights League Horn of Africa

Title: ***The Hidden War in Oromia (Ethiopia)***

PIPER LARSEN

Practicum Site: Immigration Partnership Winnipeg

Title: ***Permanent Residents and the Right to Vote***

DISCRIMINATION—RACE, GENDER, AND DISABILITY

RAISA SALIMA AMIN

Practicum Site: Sexual Violence Resource Centre, UM

Title: *Sexual Violence against Students with Disabilities on Campus: A Review of Resources and Accessibilities.*

KIMBERLY LENZ

Practicum Site: Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights (Montreal)

Title: *Accelerating Global Efforts to Eradicate Gender-based Violence against Women: The Prospects of an International Binding Treaty*

JESSIE THIND

Practicum Site: Her Code Camp

Title: *Artificial Impartiality: The Insidious Role of AI in Reinforcing White Supremacy in Canada*

Mauro Chair in Human Rights and Social Justice

The Mauro Chair in Human Rights and Social Justice was created and funded through the generosity of the Mauro Foundation and is a key part of the Master of Human Rights program. Dr. Nathan Derejko was appointed Mauro Chair and joined the Faculty of Law as an Assistant Professor on July 1, 2022. Last year, he taught human rights law for both the Juris Doctor and Master of Human Rights programs, and an elective Human Rights course, “Use of Force in International Law.”

In March, 2023, he gave a hybrid/online lecture at St. Paul’s College, which had a surprising impact across the globe. Please read [Dr. Nathan Derejko and the Attack of the Peacekeepers: Research of Mauro Chair in Human Rights and Social Justice impacts frontline United Nations’ forces](#) on UM Today to learn how Dr. Derejko’s research into the legal implications of the use of lethal force by and against UN peacekeepers sparked a conversation with actual UN peacekeepers on front lines in the Central African Republic. ■



Tuning in online to Dr. Nathan Derejko’s Brown Bag lecture held at St. Paul’s College, University of Manitoba, are members of the Peruvian Military Engineering Company in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA). Photo by Lt. Cdr. Gabriel Velarde.

Donor News— A Brilliant Friend: The Legacy of Butch Nepon

Law professor's gift continues to help students after more than 20 years



By Christine Mazur

(Excerpted from the [full story originally published in UM Today News](#) on March 24, 2023)

Once upon a time there was a law professor who was beloved by students, colleagues and Faculty of Law alumni alike. His name was Matthew Bernard Nepon, and he was a graduate of the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Law, class of 1967. Everyone called him "Butch." He never had children, but for the past two decades, law students at his alma mater have continued to benefit from his legacy, whether they knew it or not. Now that family members who remember their 'Uncle Butch' are getting older, they thought it important to share the story of the extraordinary man behind the [Butch Nepon Memorial Bursary](#).

Currently valued at over \$1.8 million, the Bursary has supported a significant number of law students each year since it started disbursing support to students in 2006. To date, nearly \$900,000 has helped law students get through their studies. The story of Nepon's legacy at the Faculty of Law as both a former student and professor is one that should not be forgotten.

"Brilliant" was a word frequently used to describe Nepon by his professors, colleagues and students. In an interview in the *Manitoba Law Journal's* special issue on *The Great Transition in Legal Education in Manitoba*(39:1), Professor Emeritus Cameron Harvey, who started teaching at the Faculty in 1966, remembered Nepon as a student in his Administrative Law class, which Nepon later taught himself, along with Constitutional Law. Harvey described his former student as "the most brilliant law student I have ever taught" (at page 114).

"He did not participate in class, but he would get to the exam, start writing, and write continuously for the whole exam," Harvey recalled. "The remarkable thing was: he would not only answer the question in terms of the law, he would answer the question in terms of sociology, or political science, or whatever other area may be involved in the answer. It would be a complete answer and it all just came flowing out of his head. He never thought about it, never made any notes. He never had to structure an answer. It was just a stunningly amazing performance."

When they became colleagues on the Faculty, Harvey described Nepon as a creative thinker. “He would come into my office and run things by me and I would just marvel. It is like watching a hockey player or a soccer player doing something and you think, “How the hell did he do that?” He did not even want any feedback; he just wanted someone to bounce ideas off of.”

Nepon loved teaching and the faculty so much that he wanted to continue supporting them after he was gone. He did so by donating a substantial gift to the University of Manitoba to create the **Butch Nepon Memorial Bursary**. This bursary has allowed students the financial support to pursue a degree in the Faculty of Law for more than 20 years, and will continue to do so for many more years to come.

*UM is saddened to learn of the recent passing of Esther Halpern, Butch Nepon’s sister. Gifts made in memory of Butch or Esther to the **Butch Nepon Memorial Bursary** will benefit students in the Faculty of Law in perpetuity.*

Creating a legacy for future generations

Philanthropists Jim and Sandra Pitblado will have a lasting impact through their generosity

By UM Today Staff

(Excerpted from the [full story originally published in UM Today News](#) on March 24, 2023)

For the past 20 years, Jim and Sandra Pitblado have changed the lives of more than 260 of UM’s top law students through their generous scholarship program, the Pitblado Scholars.

Jim credits the education he received at UM as the basis for all his career accomplishments and strongly believes in the potential of young minds to shape the future. “My grandfather and father were both graduates of UM and stayed very involved with the school. Due to family and personal ties, the University was always something I wanted to support. I wanted to find a way to have a connection with students while honoring my family name.”

In the 20 years since the program was established, Jim and Sandra have connected with countless students whose lives have been impacted by their generosity. Many go on to make significant contributions to their profession and in the communities they serve.

“Being a Pitblado Scholar allowed me the freedom to focus on my studies, but more than that, gave me the motivation that allowed me to succeed. It set me up for success and opened opportunities for me,” said 2004 and 2005 recipient, **Kathleen McCandless [LLB/06]**, who is now a Partner at Pitblado LLP.

Jim and Sandra’s goal is to make a lasting impact on the world through their support of students and education. “We want to provide both financial and emotional support to help students on their journey and be recognized for their hard work. I believe that recognition is important for students. It’s important for them to know that someone believes in them. ■



Sandra and Jim Pitblado with the Pitblado Scholars.

A Lasting Impact

First recipients of a new alumni scholarship look to follow in donor's footsteps

By UM Today Staff

(Excerpted from the [full story originally published in UM Today News](#) on February 24, 2023)

UM alum **David Sowemimo [BA(Adv)/2008, JD/2015]**, created a new entrance scholarship in 2021 with the intention of supporting Black students to pursue a career in law. It is the first scholarship of its kind at the University of Manitoba.

Decreasing the financial burden while starting a degree in law can relieve a great deal of stress and allow students to focus on their studies. The first recipient, Keza Uwitonze, was awarded the Sowemimo Scholarship in 2021 and is now in her second year of the Juris Doctor program at the Faculty of Law. Thanks to the financial support of this scholarship, she is looking forward to a successful law career that will allow her to give back to the marginalized community.

“It’s partially because of the scholarship that I didn’t have to take out a student loan in my first year. With all the stressors of law school overwhelming me, I’m glad that there wasn’t a financial burden weighing down on me as well,” says Uwitonze.

The second student to receive the scholarship, Meseret Alem, started her first year with the Faculty of Law in 2022. At first, she was hesitant about applying to law school because she didn’t have enough money, but she says receiving this scholarship and from a successful Black lawyer

and the Robson Hall Bursary has made a massive impact for her as she begins her own law journey.

“I don’t think there are enough Black specific scholarships at the University of Manitoba and that is something that I am hoping will change in the near future. I intend eventually to establish something at Robson Hall as well,” says Alem.

“I’m delighted to see the impact that the scholarship is having on law students at the University of Manitoba. Keza and Meseret’s respective journeys and experiences exemplify the reason for starting this scholarship in the first place. I can’t wait to see where their legal careers take them,” says Sowemimo.

The David Sowemimo Law Entrance Scholarship will be awarded next in the 2023-24 academic year. Application information for students [can be found here](#). Those who wishing to make a donation to the scholarship can do so by [clicking here](#). ■



Sowemimo Scholarship recipients Keza Uwitonze and Meseret Alem.

Faculty of Law thankful for **Desautels legacy** of Private Enterprise and the Law

Passionate benefactor's passing leaves gap for next generation to fill



Honorary degree recipient and Faculty of Music namesake, Marcel Desautels, performed 'O Sole Mio and received a standing ovation at Homecoming, 2017. Photo: Mike Latschislaw

By Christine Mazur

(Excerpted from the [full story originally published in UM Today News](#) on February 2, 2023)

The Faculty of Law joins the University of Manitoba community in remembering its extraordinary benefactor and alum, Marcel A. Desautels, CM, OOnt, OM. A former business leader and one of UM's, and the Faculty of Law's most distinguished benefactors and alumni, he passed away on January 31, 2023, at age 88.

Desautels [BA (LatPh)/55, LLB/59, LLM/65, LLD (Hon)/99] had generously supported the development of the Marcel A. Desautels Centre for Private Enterprise and the Law, which promoted the study and practice of integrating the two disciplines of business, law and the humanities as they apply

to family-controlled and other private enterprises. By developing synergies between disciplines, the Centre's programs work to provide future lawyers and their clients with a better understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing privately held businesses. The Centre's areas of strength include Law & Technology, Business Organizations, Business Transactions & Obligations, Financing & Insolvency, and Alternative Dispute Resolution.

"The Faculty of Law owes an eternal debt of gratitude for the foresight of Marcel Desautels in addressing the need to educate law students in the inherently interdisciplinary nature of business law, and, in particular, in addressing the needs of family-owned businesses," said Dr. Richard Jochelson, Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Manitoba. "The law school shares these passions and The Desautels Centre for Private Enterprise and the Law has had a crucial impact on furthering business law research and education in Manitoba, and in advancing the study of and work by small businesses in this province."

Currently, the Desautels Centre consists of an Advisory Committee, a Research Cluster, a research journal titled the *Desautels Review of Private Enterprise and Law*, and it oversees the operations of the L. Kerry Vickar Business Law Clinic. The Centre also hosts an annual lecture featuring an exceptional scholar or business practitioner. Desautels' multi-million dollar gift was given to the Faculty of Law in 2007. ■

Faculty & Staff News

A lot of new faces have joined Robson Hall over the past year, while some familiar people have said farewell.

Professor Karen Busby officially retired after the Winter Term after nearly 35 years of teaching at the Faculty of Law. Read about her incredible career in the UM Today story [A Legacy of Human Rights Research: Karen Busby bids farewell as Director of Centre for Human Rights Research](#).

Dr. Virginia Torrie left at the end of 2022 to pursue a rigorous research agenda on Bankruptcy and Insolvency Law, and Dr. Krish Maharaj found the mountains surrounding Thompson Rivers University, Faculty of Law too beautiful to resist, and took his leave of the prairies last year also. Dr. Gerard Kennedy departed for the University of Alberta, Faculty of Law in Edmonton, and Dr. Rebecca Jaremko-Bromwich returned to Toronto, both in July, 2023. Lastly, Dr. Gerald Heckman and David Ireland were appointed to the Bench.

The Faculty welcomed three new members to the teaching staff in July 2023, and has plans to hire more. Watch the [University of Manitoba's Recruitment Site](#) for teaching positions at the Faculty of Law.

Two UM Faculty of Law professors appointed to judiciary

(Read the [full story originally published in UM Today News](#) on June 13, 2023.)

Two University of Manitoba Faculty of Law professors were snapped up by the judiciary. On June 1, 2023, it was announced that Associate Professor Gerald Heckman would be replacing Justice W.W. Webb on the Federal Court of Appeal. Just over a week later, Manitoba's Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Manitoba, The Hon. **Kelvin Goertzen [BA/92, B.Comm (Hons)/95, LLB/03]**, announced the appointment of Associate Professor **David Ireland [LLB/2010, LLM/2014]** to the Manitoba Provincial Court.

"While we are sorry to lose such excellent professors, the appointments of Professor Gerald



Newly-appointed Federal Court of Appeal Justice Gerald Heckman and his Faculty of Law colleague, Manitoba Provincial Court Judge David Ireland

Heckman and Associate Professor David Ireland to the judiciary are a testament to the exceptional quality of expertise and legal acumen at Robson Hall,” said Dr. Richard Jochelson, Dean of Law. “Their appointments reflect the depth of expertise and dedication to justice that our faculty possesses. It is a great loss for us, but Manitoba and Canada gain immensely from their talents. We are confident that Justice Heckman and Judge Ireland will serve with integrity, impartiality, and bring their wealth of knowledge and experience to their respective roles. We wish them every success in their new appointments and have no doubt that they will make significant contributions to the Canadian judicial system.”

The former Professor—now Justice—Gerald Heckman taught administrative law, constitutional law, and language rights at Robson Hall since 2006. He also served as co-director of Robson Hall’s Concentration in Access to Justice in French. Fluent in English and French, Justice Heckman holds a Bachelors of Applied Science (Génie Physique) from Laval University, a Master of Applied Science degree in electrical engineering from the University of Waterloo, a law degree from the University of Toronto, an LL.M. from Queen’s University and a doctorate in law from York University’s Osgoode Hall Law School. He has practiced labour, employment and human rights law and published extensively in the areas of administrative and constitutional law.

Justice Heckman served on the boards of several national organizations, including the Council of Canadian Administrative Tribunals and the Canadian Association of Law Teachers. He regularly participated as a faculty member in judicial education seminars on administrative law organized by the National Judicial Institute and Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice. Justice Heckman served as a board member and president of the Association des juristes d’expression française du Manitoba, where he promoted initiatives to enhance access to justice in both official languages.

Throughout his teaching career, he has been presented with several awards including The Barney Sneiderman Award for Teaching Excellence (in 2022 and 2016), the Olive Beatrice Stanton

Award for Excellence in Teaching (2016), and the Students’ Teacher Recognition Award (CATL) (2010). This year he received the Faculty of Law’s Extraordinary Service Faculty Award, for his diligence, professionalism, and leadership in providing support to his colleagues in service work on Access to Justice in French and in service work with Manitoba Justice.

As an Associate Professor at Robson Hall since 2016, Ireland was the Director of Clinics and taught Criminal Law and Procedure, Evidence, Advocacy, and Legal Profession and Professional Responsibility.

A graduate of Robson Hall, he was called to the Manitoba Bar in 2011 and practiced criminal law in both defence and prosecution work. Throughout his practicing career, he was involved in public interest legal work concerning inquests, public inquiries and human rights.

First appointed a professor at the University of Manitoba Faculty of Law in 2016, he was presented with the Students’ Teacher Recognition Award (CATL) this April, 2023. In 2022, Ireland was very instrumental in [expanding the University of Manitoba Community Law Centre](#) to ensure more access to justice for Manitobans, and over the past year as Director of Clinics, worked to provide law students with [more opportunities for hand-on experiential learning](#).

In addition to teaching, he led a full research program that centred on improving the delivery of criminal justice in Canada. His work interrogated the complexities of state/citizen interactions and aimed to lead positive policy change to improve equality and fairness in the criminal justice process.

The entire faculty, staff, student body and Robson Hall community at large, wish Justice Heckman and Judge Ireland all the best in their new appointments. ■

New teaching staff welcomed to Faculty of Law

Business law, human rights, and clinical instruction expanding with new talent on Faculty



Dr. Akinwumi Ogunranti, Yvan Larocque and Andrea Doyle joined the Faculty of Law on July 1, 2023.

By Christine Mazur

(Excerpted from the story [published in UM Today News](#) on May 3, 2023.)

On July 1, 2023, Robson Hall welcomed Yvan Larocque, and **Andrea Doyle [LLB/09]** who will be commencing two-year Instructor II positions, and Dr. Akinwumi Ogunranti, who will commence a tenure-track Assistant Professor position in the Faculty of Law.

DR. AKINWUMI OGUNRANTI

Dr. Akinwumi Ogunranti (Akin) earned his LLB degree from the University of Ilorin, Nigeria, and was called to the Nigerian bar in 2013. He practiced law in a full-service commercial law firm for three

years before starting his graduate studies. Akin earned his LLM and Ph.D. degrees in 2017 and 2022, respectively, at the Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University. His Ph.D. thesis is titled *Africa's Contribution to the Development of the Norm of Corporate Responsibility to Respect Human Rights*. His research interests include business and human rights, private international law, investment law, and dispute resolution relating to corporate accountability and access to justice.

Akin has published nationally and internationally. His recent paper, *Localizing the UNGPs: An Afrocentric Approach to Interpreting Pillar II*, is published in the Business and Human Rights Journal. His forthcoming paper on international investment law titled *Why the Multilateral Investment Court is a Bad Idea for Africa* is forthcoming in the Dalhousie Law Journal.

Akin is licensed to practice law in Nigeria and Nova Scotia, Canada. He is a member of the Nigerian Bar, the Nova Scotia Bar Society, the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, and the Association of Certified Anti-money Laundering Specialists.

When asked what it was about Robson Hall that inspired his wish to join the Faculty, he explained, “The strategic vision of the law school on teaching and research was a major attraction for me. Robson Hall’s goal of supporting students’ experiential learning aligns with my teaching philosophy because I believe law cannot be taught; its application can only be learned. Similarly, the law school’s business and human rights research centers that produce cutting-edge research excite me. My research focuses on the intersection of business and human rights. So, the opportunity to collaborate with colleagues in these research clusters is difficult to turn down.”

YVAN LAROCQUE

Yvan Guy Larocque, CD, LLM is a well-respected Indigenous business lawyer and the Founder of Larocque Business Law. With a practice focused on Indigenous Economic Development and Governance, Yvan has extensive experience advising Indigenous governments and Economic Development Groups on a wide range of corporate, financing, tax, and development matters.

Yvan holds a Juris Doctor degree from the Peter A. Allard School of Law (UBC) with a Business Law Concentration and a Specialization in Aboriginal Law, as well as a Master of Laws from Osgoode Hall Law School with a Specialization in Business Law. He is called to the Bar in the Province of British Columbia and Manitoba.

Prior to joining Robson Hall as an Instructor, Yvan regularly guest lectured on the subjects Indigenous economic development and governance at the University of British Columbia and University of Victoria, and taught Commercial Law and Corporations I as a Practicing Professional Instructor.

Yvan’s expertise and contributions to the field of Indigenous business law are further reflected in his co-authorship of *The Taxation and Financing*

of Aboriginal Businesses in Canada (Thomson Reuters). His dedication to improving the economic opportunities and legal rights of Indigenous peoples in Canada is a testament to his commitment to justice and equality.

ANDREA DOYLE

Andrea R. Doyle graduated from the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Law (Robson Hall) with a Bachelor of Laws degree in 2009 and was called to the Manitoba Bar in 2010. During the past thirteen years, Andrea has had a broad practice with the firm Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP (TDS). She is fluently bilingual and has practised law in both English and French. As a student at Robson Hall, Andrea was honoured to receive many academic awards, including being a Pitblado Scholar and obtaining the third highest standing in her first and third years of law school.

Andrea has been a sessional instructor at Robson Hall since 2020 teaching the French section of Legal Negotiation (Négociation juridique) and more recently, teaching Remedies. She coached the Robson Hall negotiation team that recently participated in the Canadian National Negotiation Competition in French.

Andrea has made presentations in the areas of bankruptcy and insolvency law and French language programs. She is a member-at-large of the French Speaking Common Law Members Section Executive of the Canadian Bar Association and a member of the board of directors of l’Association des juristes d’expression française du Manitoba (AJEFM). Andrea is currently chair of the Insurance Agents’ and Adjusters’ Licensing Appeal Board and has been a member of the Manitoba Health Appeal Board since 2017. She has also been involved with the Manitoba Bar Association, including being a member of Council and a member of the Law Day and Mid-Winter Conference Committees. ■

Faculty and Staff Awards

The Faculty of Law is very proud of the team members who work hard to provide a quality law school experience for our students. A number of new awards, in addition to the traditional teaching awards, have been created to recognize their hard work and service at the Faculty.

2022 Barney Sniderman Award for Teaching Excellence

Dr. Gerald Heckman

2022 Dean's Award for Teaching Excellence for Sessional Instructors (Practicing Professionals)

Liz McCandless [BA/2003, LLB/2007, LLM/2020]

2023 Faculty of Law's Extraordinary Service—Faculty Award

This award recognizes faculty members who have gone above and beyond in their service to the university, the field of education, and the wider community. It is awarded to individuals who have displayed a remarkable level of commitment, innovation, and leadership in their service to their colleagues and students.

Dr. Bruce Curran

Dr. Gerald Heckman

Dr. Lorna Turnbull

The Faculty of Law's Extraordinary Support—Staff Award

This award serves to recognize and celebrate the contributions of Support Staff to teaching at the Faculty of Law. The Faculty of Law is grateful to dedicated and talented team members of the who work tirelessly to support the education and preparation of the next generations of lawyers and professionals. Started in 2021-2022, this

award is an important opportunity for members of the Faculty of Law community to publicly support and recognize our exceptional staff.

2023 – Trina McFadyen [LLB/2000]

2023 – Lisa Griffin

2022 – Rosa Muller

2022 – Lily Deardorff

FACULTY OF LAW STAFF UPDATES

STAFF

Finances

Ying Chen	Financial Officer
Larissa Fair	Assistant to Financial Officer

Student Services

Rory Churchill-Henry [JD/19]	Admissions, Financial Aid & Awards Officer
Lisa Griffin	Career Development Coordinator
Trina McFadyen [LLB/00]	Director of Professional Development, Alumni contact
Rosa Muller	Student Advisor / Academic Program Assistant

Communications

Lily Deardorff	Digital Communications & Technology Coordinator
Christine Mazur	Communications Officer

Academic Staff

Nathasha Brown [BEEd/01, LLB/05]	Director of Access to Justice & Community Engagements
Marc Kruse [JD/15]	Director of Indigenous Legal Learning and Services

Dr. Laura Reimer Director of Program Development; Chairperson, The Marcel A. Desautels Centre for Private Enterprise and Law Advisory Committee

General Office

Jodi Petch Dean's Executive Assistant
Debra Illsley Administrative Clerk
Sangita Shah Receptionist
Kirsten Wolfe Office Assistant

FACULTY

Dean of Law

Dr. Richard Jochelson, Professor (Crim)

Associate Dean (Academic)

Dr. Jennifer Schulz [BA/91, LLB/94], Professor (Mediation, ADR, Torts)

Associate Dean (Research and Graduate Studies)

Dr. Donn Short, Professor (Property, Trusts, Scholarly Pub)

Director, Master of Human Rights Program

Dr. Kjell Anderson, Assistant Professor (Human Rights)

Director of Clinics

Liz McCandless [BA/03, LLB/07, LLM/20], Senior Instructor (Constitutional, Legal Methods, Legal Research, Civ Pro)

Desautels Centre

Darcy MacPherson, Research Director, Professor (Corporate, Securities, CA Clerkship)

Brandon Trask [JD/2012] Academic Director, Assistant Professor (Crim, Enviro)

Asper Chair of International Business and Trade Law

Dr. Bryan Schwartz, Professor (Constitutional, Charter)

Mauro Chair in Human Rights and Social Justice

Dr. Nathan Derejko, Assistant Professor (Human Rights)

Concentration in Access to Justice in French

Dr. Lorna Turnbull, Director, Professor (Child, Youth & the Law, Tax)

Andrea Doyle [LLB/09], Coordinator, Instructor II (Admin, Constitutional, Family, Negotiations, Remedies)

FACULTY-AT-LARGE

Dr. Leo Baskatawang, Assistant Professor (Indigenous Methodologies & Perspectives)

Dr. Bruce Curran, Associate Professor (Contracts, Trusts, Negotiations)

Martine Dennie, Assistant Professor (Torts, Labour)

Daniel Diamond, Assistant Professor (Aboriginal Law, Indigenous Legal Traditions, Property)

Dr. Michelle Gallant, Professor (Tax, Philanthropy)

Brenda Gunn, Professor (On secondment as Director, Academic & Research, National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation)

Cameron Harvey, Professor Emeritus (Agency, Commercial, Private International)

John Irvine, Professor (Torts, Property)

Dr. Amar Khoday, Associate Professor (Crim, Admin, Law & Resistance)

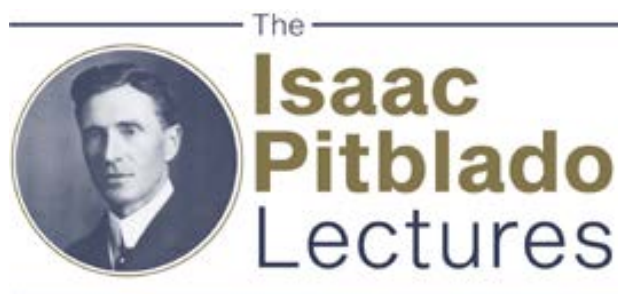
Yvan Guy Larocque, Clinical Instructor (L. Kerry Vickar Business Law Clinic externship)

Dr. Gillian MacNeil, Assistant Professor (Legal Methods/Systems, International Crim)

Dr. Akinwumi Ogunranti, Assistant Professor (Torts, Corps, Contracts, Business & Human Rights)

Dr. Mary Shariff [LLB/02], Associate Professor (Aging, Bioethics, Contracts, Enviro, Animal)

Dr. Katie Szilagyi, Assistant Professor (Law & Tech, AI, Property, Privacy)



*Jointly presented by
The Law Society of Manitoba,
the Manitoba Bar Association
and the
University of Manitoba, Faculty of Law*

Date:

November 16, 2023

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location:

Robson Hall, Faculty of Law,
University of Manitoba



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