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Natural Resources Journal & New Mexico Law Review, Annual Reports 2015 - 2016

Michelle Rigual

University of New Mexico, rigual@law.unm.edu

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School of Law Library and Journals Annual Report

July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

Submitted by Michelle Rigual

III. JOURNALS ACTIVITIES

A. Student Accomplishments

This year *Natural Resources Journal* produced two special issues. The first, volume 56.1, focused on the National Parks Service at the Centennial, with a foreword by Senator Tom Udall. The second, volume 56.2, was a symposium issue. The one-day symposium on Mexico Energy Reform was funded by the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation. The Foundation grant covered travel expenses of all six speakers, breakfast and lunch for 50 attendees plus editors, free parking, publicizing and videotaping the event, and a group dinner to welcome the speakers. The host committee received an abundance of positive feedback about the educational value of the event and its rich, cross-cultural component. The event was available for CLE credit.

NRJ Student co-editors-in-chief were Lance Hough and Natalie Zerwekh, with Managing Editor Robin James. There were an additional ten student editors and sixteen student staff, for a total of 26 students. *NRJ*'s faculty advisor was Alex Ritchie, with adjunct faculty Dan Akenhead.

For *NRJ* volume 56 there were 225 domestic subscribers, 38 foreign, plus 5 gratis patrons (the previous year's volume had 273 domestic subscribers, 47 foreign, 5 gratis).

Volume 46 of *New Mexico Law Review* included two issues. Student editor-in-chief was Jim Monteleone and the Managing Editor was Jeffery "Randy" Taylor. There were an additional ten student editors and fifteen student staff, for a total of 27 students. *NMLR*'s faculty advisor was Dawinder Sidhu. For *NMLR* volume 46 there were 92 domestic subscribers, 3 foreign, plus 3 gratis patrons (the previous year's volume had 105 domestic subscribers, 3 foreign, 3 gratis).

Volume 16 of *Tribal Law Journal* included three articles as well as posts to the *TLJ* Blog. It was dedicated to the memory of Professor G. William Rice and included his final article: "American Indian Children and U.S. Policy." The *TLJ* Managing Editor was Rachel Felix and there were an additional seven student editors and seven student staff, for a total of fifteen students. *TLJ*'s editor-in-chief and faculty advisor was Christine Zuni Cruz.

B. Student Recruitment Events

At the beginning of each fiscal year, \$1500 is transferred from the joint operations account of the NMLR and NRJ to an activities account from which the editors spend at their discretion. This year they chose to hold the following two recruitment events:

- General Information Session
- Write-On Information Session with a Bluebook introduction provided by a library faculty member.

Both events attracted about 70 students each. Additionally, an Open House was tentatively planned for Fall 2016.

C. Journal Administration

The journals' student editors are responsible for the content and production of their respective publications, in consultation with their faculty advisors, and are supported by the part-time Journals Assistant who is a Library staff member. The Assistant is responsible for the business and operations of the journals, providing policy guidance, purchasing assistance, financial bookkeeping, and acting as the budget officer.

Traditionally the print journals' income from subscriptions exceeded the cost of production; however, large scale changes in the publishing industry have led to mass cancellations. Since 2009-10, the number of subscriptions to *NRJ* has dropped by 68 percent and to *NMLR* by 70 percent. To counter the loss of subscription income, the printing contract was switched from an offset printing company to a digital printer, with a dramatic drop in costs. Combined printing costs for the 2015 volumes (old printer) were \$29,900 and 2016 volumes (new printer) will be \$8000.

With the move to a new printer, the web sites, article templates, social media sites, journal covers and all correspondence were updated and/or developed with the goal of bringing the journals into alignment within the branding standards of the University and Law School.

As the decline of the subscriber-model of publication continues, there is a growing focus on creating a reputable and far-reaching online exposure to maximize scholarly impact. Steps taken this year to help achieve this exposure include:

- An eNewsletter was created to share recently published issues with the legal community and publicize journal events.

- Article abstracts were added to the journal webpage to provide more effective search engine indexing.
- Each of the school's three student journals joined SSRN's Partners in Publishing, this resulted in a webpage for each on SSRN and the opportunity for each issue's papers to be included in up to 12 of SSRN's subject matter journals.
- *NRJ* and *NMLR* were registered with Sherpa Romeo.⁸
- The Open Access and Author's Rights statements were updated to reflect current policy.
- A Commitment to Excellence Statement was placed on the journals' website to describe current policies on plagiarism and accuracy.
- Notice that the journals are licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License was placed on the *NMLR* and *NRJ* websites.
- Journals and links to them were added to the law school's Wikipedia entry.

In the coming year the *NRJ* and *NMLR* will be published and archived in Digital Commons.⁹ In anticipation of the move, *NRJ* and *NMLR* metadata as well as *United States-Mexico Law Journal* full digitized articles and metadata were acquired from Hein.

The Library became a Perma consortium partner, allowing the journals to minimize link rot in their publications by citing to reliable archived versions of web sources as per the current Bluebook rule. It is up to each journal to decide whether to adopt Perma URLs and draft policies for adding them to articles.

The journals' institutional memory continued to be strengthened this year. A Student Legal Journals Guide¹⁰ was created and posted online. The Guide provides tips on writing case notes and book reviews, "source and cite" assistance, information about library services, event procedures and funding information, and overviews of Open Access and Perma. In addition, all passwords to permissions were placed in KeePass which is hosted by the Law School's IT department.

⁸ Sherpa Romeo is a searchable database of publisher's policies regarding the self-archiving of journal articles on the web and in Open Access repositories.

⁹ Digital Commons is a stable and well-respected open access institutional repository offered for licensing by bepress.

¹⁰ See <http://libguides.law.unm.edu/LawJournals>.

V. PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Library Plans and Recommendations

B. Journal Plans and Recommendations

Increased readership and scholarly impact in a digital environment will be the focus of activity in the coming year.

- The NMLR has appointed a web editor and is re-building their website which will contain a blog/news section. The site will be managed by the journal with content and branding support from the Law School's web administrator. The NRJ expects to initiate similar work in the near future.
- The Library is working with University Counsel to approve a licensing agreement so that the *NRJ* will be available in JSTOR²² as part of its Sustainability collection.

²² JSTOR is a digital database of approximately 2000 academic journals in more than 50 disciplines.

- The details of the migration of both the *NRJ* and *NMLR* published works from the law school's web server to Digital Commons will be negotiated and undertaken.
- The future of subscriber-based printing will be discussed by the faculty library committee and will hopefully result in a recommendation to the full faculty or Deans.
- *NRJ* and *NMLR* are updating their publication agreement language for the 2017 volumes.