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Natural Resources Journal & New Mexico Law Review, Annual Reports 2014 - 2015

Michelle Rigual

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

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Law Library and Journals Annual Report
July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015
Submitted by Michelle Rigual

I. LIBRARY

As of 2013-14, the University of New Mexico no longer required each department to submit an annual report. Despite that, the Library has decided to continue producing one because it creates documentation that is an aid to internal continuity and operational transparency.

As part of the Law School's reaccreditation, an ABA site team visited the Law School in late September 2014. The site team's report praised the service provided by the Law Library and its positive impact on the curriculum and scholarship. However, it also found three issues of concern in addition to the need for a final resolution to the library director search. These issues were:

- 1) the print collection maintenance and organization was in need of attention;
- 2) services might need to be scaled back if the temporary reference position currently funded from operating lines does not become a permanent position;
- 3) there was no administrative support position for the Director or the library faculty who teach.

None of these issues is new or unexpected; all three are addressed in this report.

A. Service to Law Students

The Library began the 2014-15 academic year by participating in 1L Orientation. The Library's portion included after-hours access training for the entire 1L class rather than the one-on-one training used since the service's inception in 2010. This approach made the process more efficient and increased the number of students who were able to take advantage of the service.

The Librarians taught six sections of the 2-credit required Legal Research course to second year students, with two sections offered in Fall 2014, three in Spring 2015, and one in Summer 2015. In addition, the librarians provided 20 presentations and research lectures for at least 396 student attendees. These included legal research sessions for Land Use Regulation; Ethics; Human Rights Law; Elements of Legal Argumentation; Small Business Law; Clinic; and Tribal Natural & Cultural Resource Law. These also included presentations for Externship students; students selected for the State Bar of New Mexico's Arturo L. Jaramillo Summer Law Clerk Program; and Law Journal staff including citations and research sessions for the New Mexico Law Review as well as a citation session for the Tribal Law Journal.

At the Library's front desk there were 458 instances of law students receiving reference assistance and they checked out or renewed course reserve items 1105 times. In addition, the student-edited journals relied heavily on the Library's interlibrary loan service.

- Launch LibGuides to provide enhanced access to Library materials in support of student research, faculty scholarship, and public access to legal material;
- Continue to rationalize and routinize faculty scholarship promotion, including use of a digital sign for in-house promotion of digital publications;
- Resume digital collection maintenance by locally archiving the U.S.-Mexico Law Journal, updating the digital collection of bar examinations, and creating a digital link to the Chris Fritz collection;
- Resume limited legal research outreach by working with tribal and other libraries across the state so that they can provide basic legal research assistance;
- Plan for upcoming staff changes (at a minimum this includes 2 retirements, 2 graduations, 1 sabbatical, and 2 conversions from Lecturer to tenure-track positions) and provide staff with professional development opportunities;
- Draft and approve promotion standards for Lecturers;
- Improve the web presence by performing a web content audit and creating a site map;
- Adopt Sharepoint and Keepass;
- Clean up administrative files and adopt records management best practices;
- Prepare to host Southwestern Association of Law Libraries annual meeting in Spring 2017.

II. JOURNALS

A. Journal Administration

The journal student editors are responsible for the content and production of their respective publications, in consultation with their faculty advisors. The previous model of relying on a staff member to proof articles and coordinate author relations has been fully eliminated.

Incoming board members are responsible for student recruitment events held during the Spring semester. This introduces them to working respectfully with the other journals, the budgeting process, and the role of the Journals Assistant.

Marie Griggs Andrews is the Journals Assistant. Her primary responsibility in this part-time position is to ensure that the student editors receive administrative and organizational support so that they may focus on the journals' substantive content. Marie reports directly to Alexandra Siek, the Public Services Librarian. This chain of command was created to provide the Journals Assistant with consistent oversight and support.

The three journals share a website that was created to represent each equally and make them readily accessible to potential law students. Jayson Capps, the Law School's web designer, maintains and updates these pages. In addition, each journal has set up its own social media sites.

The NRJ and NMLR budgets are split into two parts: operations and events. The operations budget is administered by the Library. This budget pays for printing, supplies, postage, telecomm, and copiers/printers and is funded by subscription fees and royalties. The events budget is administered by the students with assistance from the Journals Assistant and Law

School accountants. It pays for recruitment activities and items such as National Conference of Law Reviews annual meeting attendance, award plaques/trophies, etc. It is currently funded at a level of \$1,500 per year which is transferred from the operations index to the events index at the beginning of the fiscal year. The two journals share this \$1,500 and so must work together to budget it responsibly. The journals are permitted to engage in fundraising, donations are deposited into the events index. The TLJ's budget is administered by the Indian Law Program.

B. Accomplishments

Volume 55 of the *Natural Resources Journal* included 55.1 and 55.2. Issue 55.2, Water Security and the West, included an introduction by Dan Tarlock, a preeminent water law scholar. Student Co-Editors-in-Chief were David Ketai and Xochitl Torres-Small, with Managing Editor Curtis Vernon. There were an additional seven student editors and sixteen student staff, for a total of 26 students. Alex Ritchie served as NRJ's faculty advisor, with adjunct faculty Dan Akenhead. NRJ currently has 273 domestic subscribers, 47 foreign, plus 5 gratis patrons; 63 domestic and/or foreign subscribers have not yet paid/cancelled. NRJ applied for and was awarded an \$8,000 grant by the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation to host a symposium on Mexico Energy Reform in Spring 2016.

Volume 45 of the *New Mexico Law Review* included 45.1, 45.2, and 45.3. Issue 45.2, *Breaking Bad and the Law*, garnered international recognition. In the month following its release, over 250 media outlets worldwide reported on this special issue, with the issue's first mention on the *Wall Street Journal Blog*. In addition, they produced a third issue to include articles and notes not aligned with the special issue. Matthew Zidovsky was Editor-in-Chief and Ryan Schotter was Managing Editor. There were an additional eleven student editors and thirteen student staff, for a total of 26 students. NMLR's faculty advisor was Dawinder Sidhu, with adjunct faculty Neil Bell. NMLR currently has 105 domestic subscribers, 3 foreign, plus 3 gratis patrons; 14 subscribers not yet paid/cancelled.

Volume 15 of the *Tribal Law Journal* included four articles and several additional posts to the TLJ Blog. The TLJ's faculty advisor acts as Editor-in-Chief. Scott Taylor, a Visiting Professor from the University of St. Thomas, filled this role in 2014-15 while Christine Zuni Cruz served as the Law Foundation Chair at the University of Saskatchewan. Eric Abeita was the Managing Editor, there were an additional five student editors and fourteen student staff. The TLJ editors and staff visited Acoma Pueblo to observe Judge Randolph Marshall Collins presiding over the Wellness Court, a program that combines elements of traditional justice with Western style treatment programs and judicial enforcement. While there they also received a tour of the community.

In 2014-15, the three journals co-hosted the first-ever named, Recruitment Series. The Series included five events:

- General Information Session
- Bluebooking Introduction
- Information Session on the Write On

- Open House
- End-of-Semester Celebration for 1L Students (hosted day before Write-On began)

The General Information and Bluebook sessions each attracted about 70 students. This was the first time a Bluebook session was offered, and came about because the incoming boards wanted 1L students to use the Bluebook, rather than ALWD, for the Write-On application. The session was taught by Library faculty member, Ernesto Longa.

The Open House invited prospective 1L students in addition to current journal members and alumni. Speakers included Dean David Herring, Justice Charles W. Daniels, and Andrew G. Schultz. There were an estimated 80 attendees.

C. Plans and Recommendations

A continuing goal is to build a strong relationship among the journals, strengthen their branding, and respectfully highlight each journal's strengths. As the subscriber-model of publication continues to wane the journals will focus on creating a reputable and far-reaching online exposure (websites, email, newsletter, blogs, and so forth) so that they can influence and be cited within writing and scholarship by professors and professionals in the field.

The Library will become 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 new Bluebook rule. Each journal will have to decide whether to adopt Perma URLs and draft policies for adding them to articles.

In order to maximize the journals' online presence, each needs to include article abstracts. In addition, we need to make sure they are being effectively indexed by the major academic search engines as well as Google Scholar.

In this coming year, the print journals will switch to digital rather than offset printing. This will streamline production and drastically decrease printing costs. The decreased costs will lengthen the period that printing the publications will remain a financially viable option. The move to digital printing also allows the journals to take advantage of print on demand to fill backorders of journals rather than ordering and warehousing extra copies of each edition in case they are needed.

Moving to a new printer requires redesign of the covers because the journals' logos cannot be effectively rendered digitally. In addition, the web sites, article templates, social media sites, and correspondence templates are being updated and/or developed with the goal of bringing the journals into alignment within the family of branding and standards of the University and Law School.

The journals' institutional memory will continue to be strengthened this year. The processes have been documented and archived. In addition, all passwords to permissions will be stored in KeePass and hosted by UNMSOL IT.