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On the cover: U.S. Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan congratulates a newly hooded graduate.

Photo by Mark Holm for the UNM School of Law
Dean's Message

We had a great academic year and so many of you helped along the way. I wish to thank all of you who shared in the extraordinary 60 for 60 project, our most significant effort ever to capture the school’s impact on law in New Mexico and beyond since turning out its first graduates in 1950. The project included the publication of a lively and readable book as well as a remarkable evening at the law school that brought together more than 700 of our alumni, state and federal leadership and friends and sponsors. What a magnificent celebration it was of the wide-reaching contributions our school and these high-achieving lawyers and leaders have made!

In May, we were honored to have U.S. Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan here to share her wit, wisdom and encouragement with our community as our distinguished 2011 commencement speaker. Justice Kagan helped us make history that day as this was her first public address of any kind since becoming a U.S. Supreme Court justice. Our students and our community enjoyed a very special day.

The 60 for 60 celebration and the Kagan commencement were book ends to a very good year in which much was accomplished. To name just a few successes, we hired terrific new faculty members who will join us this fall. Dave Sidhu and Max Minzner will come to us with great potential and a keen interest in teaching and scholarship. Our tradition of quality and diversity continues.

We also jump-started our newly funded Innocence and Justice Project and hired a fantastic director, Gordon Rahn. We also successfully started our Domestic Violence and DWI Prosecution in Practice class, pioneered by Hope Eckert (’00), who also has taught in our clinic. We also continue to be blessed and, at times, amazed by the outstanding and noteworthy accomplishments of our existing faculty members. I am delighted to bring you the news of the unique faculty scholarship and endeavors you will find among these pages.

Rigor, leadership, engagement and service continue to be the most important values we wish to model for our students. Our faculty, staff and students continue to make this community special, as does our excellent relationship with the bar and the judiciary.

In the pages that follow, you will find stories about some of the people who make the law school special. Our faculty, our students, our alumni and friends do very important work. I hope you will find some time to read and enjoy the stories and articles featured here, and to celebrate with us the many memories and achievements we have enjoyed together as a community in the past year. I wish you a wonderful summer.

Sincerely yours,

Kevin K. Washburn
Dean and Professor of Law

2011 Distinguished Achievement Awards Dinner

Join the UNM School of Law Alumni/ae Association and the UNM School of Law community at the 2011 Distinguished Achievement Awards Dinner

Honoring
Peter C. Mallery (’68) • Catherine T. Goldberg (’75)
Former Dean and Professor Leo M. Romero

November 4, 2011
6 p.m. Reception
7 p.m. Dinner and Awards Presentation
UNM SUB Ballroom
For more information and to RSVP
Please go to
lawschool.unm.edu/alumni/events/2011/daad.php

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Commencement 2011

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan shared her wit, wisdom and encouragement with members of the Class of 2011 during commencement on May 14. As the first U.S. Supreme Court justice to deliver the school’s commencement address, she made history, and the speech was her first since joining the nation’s high court last August. In fact, it was the first commencement address she has delivered outside of Harvard Law School, where she was the first female dean.

Kagan came at the invitation of Dean Kevin Washburn, who had been the visiting Oneida Nation professor at Harvard Law School when she was dean there. What piqued her interest was the way Washburn spoke of the UNM law students.

“It made me remember those parts of teaching law students I loved the most — people on the cusp of their careers, brimming with curiosity about what’s soon to come,” she said.

Kagan encouraged the graduates to follow their hearts. “You should immerse yourself in the problems you think most important and challenging, surround yourself with people you think most interesting, throw yourself into whatever has the greatest prospect of giving meaning to your life and providing satisfaction and excitement. Do what you love.”

She clearly enjoyed being back in a law-school setting. Prior to the hooding ceremony, she visited the graduates as they were donning their gowns and also spent a few minutes with the faculty as they prepared for the ceremony. She spontaneously agreed to be in the official class photo, and after her speech, insisted on congratulating and being photographed with each graduate after they received their hood.

School of Law Among Top 10 Most Popular Law Schools

The UNM School of Law is among the top 10 most popular law schools around the country, according to a U.S. News and World Report poll. With nearly 50 percent of accepted applicants choosing to attend the UNM School of Law in fall 2010, the school secured the No. 10 spot on the list of 190 schools.

Topping the popularity list was Yale Law School, followed by Brigham Young University Clark Law School and Harvard Law School.

For the entering class of 2010, the UNM School of Law accepted 242 applicants, of which 116 were enrolled — 47.9 percent. Data gathered included 180,479 acceptances and 49,054 total enrollments, making the nationwide yield 27.2 percent.

For a complete list of academic honors presented to members of the Class of 2011, go to lawschool.unm.edu. Click on News Archives, and then click on Commencement 2011.
A Look at the Class of 2011

Stephen Marshall was on his way to becoming a physicist when he made an abrupt change in his career path. He had earned bachelor’s degrees in physics and Spanish and a minor in math at the University of New Mexico. After spending enough time working in a lab to realize he didn’t like it, he learned about the field of patent law.

The possibility of combining his interest in science with the law was enough to turn him toward law school. He applied to only one — the UNM School of Law — where his grandfather, Peter Gallagher, had received his law degree in 1951.

“I knew I wanted to practice law in Albuquerque, so it was the best place to go, and you can’t beat the price,” said Marshall, who graduated first in his class.

Initially, he struggled with the grayness of the law, which was the opposite of the black-and-white physics world he came from. As his comfort with legal principles grew; however, he found the logical reasoning of law very similar to that of his physics background.

Marshall was impressed by the diversity of his classmates’ backgrounds and he established friendships he knows will be long lasting. He enjoyed every course he took and was a manuscript editor for the Natural Resources Journal. Surprisingly, he was never able to fit in any courses in copyright or patent law, even though he took the patent bar after his first year. Those classes just never fit into his schedule.

In addition to the legal education he received, Marshall said his writing skills improved tremendously and he gained the confidence to take risks in standing up in front of people. “I took Advanced Evidence and Trial Practice from Carl Bettinger (’90), who required each of us to stand up and sing a song,” said Marshall. “After singing in front of class, talking was much easier.”

After his second year, Marshall clerked at the Rodey Law Firm, an opportunity that came from the school’s on-campus interview program. He also became a father. That summer set the stage for his future, as he joined Rodey after graduation. “During the summer I spent at Rodey, I could tell that

School of Law as a flex-time student, continuing to work full time at the EEOC. After his first year, he figured he could increase his law-school commitment. Not only did he continue to work full time while taking a full course load, but he didn’t let many additional opportunities slip by.

“I wanted the full law-school experience as much as possible,” he said.

At the end of his first year, Sylvertooth, of Blackfeet heritage, won the New Mexico Court of Appeals Appellate Advocacy Tournament. He was co-editor-in-chief of the New Mexico Law Review, competed on two moot court teams and was a member of the 2011 national mock trial team that won the regional tournament and competed in the nationals. He was an active member of BALSA, MALS and NALS.

Ever since he was in middle school and argued a make-believe case before a make-believe jury inside his Detroit home, D’Ontae Sylvertooth knew he wanted to be a lawyer. Though no one in his family had graduated from high school, he had his sights on a legal career.

Sylvertooth earned a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice and a master’s degree in public administration at Old Dominion University. When the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission offered him a job in Albuquerque as a federal investigator, he relied on Google to find out about the place. After four visits, he accepted the job. Right away, he visited the UNM School of Law.

When he received his J.D. in May, Sylvertooth not only saw his dream come true, but he achieved it in a way that defied time. He entered the UNM
Class of 2011

Continued from previous page

Jessica Terrazas knew she wanted to be an advocate for social justice, she just didn’t always know what form that would take. Growing up outside Silver City in the mining hamlet of Hurley and coming from a family of copper miners, she saw firsthand the hardships they endured.

But it wasn’t until she was a student at the University of Massachusetts Amherst that Terrazas first learned about the early 1950s strike at a zinc mine in Hurley, an event that inspired the 1954 movie, “Salt of the Earth.” The mostly Hispanic miners were seeking better wages and working conditions.

“Growing up, I didn’t realize my family and others were discriminated against,” she said. “Gaining this perspective lit a fire in me.”

After earning her degree, Terrazas moved across the country and began work as a labor organizer, focusing on Los Angeles County child care workers and mental health facility workers, for the Service Employees International Union. Two years of 16-hour days took its toll, and while visiting a friend in New York City, she applied for a job with the Empire State Pride Agenda. For the next two years, she spoke to unions across New York state, seeking their support for gay rights.

“It was a great fit,” said Terrazas of her work as a labor organizer. “Not only do I believe in the labor movement and workers’ rights, but because of my family background, I also had legitimacy with the workers.”

But Terrazas knew she could be even more effective with an advanced degree, so while in New York, she took the LSAT. She chose to return to New Mexico for law school, attracted by its affordability and to be closer to her mother and grandmother, both of whom raised her. She was glad she did for a number of reasons; most significantly because her grandmother died last spring, a couple of months before Terrazas earned her J.D. from the University of New Mexico School of Law. She was the first in her family to receive an advanced degree.

After spending her early career among like-minded colleagues, Terrazas expected that would be the case in law school. She was surprised to discover school was just the opposite — full of divergent perspectives.

“It was hard for me to come in as an advocate, but the more exposed I was to my classmates’ belief systems and opinions, the more I was able to think of law objectively,” she said. “Taking in the different views and then making a decision — it definitely shaped me.”

During law school, she was heavily involved in MALSA and served as its president during her third year. She also participated in moot court: on the Hispanic National Bar Association team and she was on the 2009 team that made it to the semifinal round of the National Latino/a Law Student Association competition. She received a Dean’s Award during commencement activities.

Terrazas will spend the next year clerking for New Mexico Supreme Court Justice Ed Chavez (’81). She looks forward to learning the judicial perspective of the law, but afterward, she will be back following her passion — to be an advocate for social justice.
Summer Program Attracts Native American Undergrads

Twenty Native American undergraduate students from across the country spent the month of June at the University of New Mexico School of Law, where they learned many aspects about the legal profession as part of the Native American Pre-law Undergraduate Scholars Program (NA-PLUS), sponsored by the LSAC DiscoverLaw.org PLUS Program.

The students, primarily in their first or second year of college, were enrolled in three courses that focused on writing, critical thinking and analysis of federal Indian law and other current Native American legal issues. The students also learned about the law school admissions process and receiving career advisement in planning an education path that would lead to law school.

During their time in Albuquerque, they also visited tribal, state and federal courts, along with Albuquerque law firms that focus on Indian law, and they were mentored by Native American lawyers and law students.

The program debuted last summer at the UNM law school, which was joined by the American Indian Law Center (AILC) in putting it on. The law school and the AILC have a long tradition in preparing Native American students for a career in the law. For the past 41 years, they have collaborated on the Pre-law Summer Institute, a program for Native Americans entering law school. The NA-PLUS program reaches a younger cohort of students.

“This program adds a new dimension to a long-running and very successful existing program,” said Dean Kevin Washburn. “It helps to increase the pipeline for American Indians to law school.”

Tim Vollmann Endowment Honors Legacy

Less than six months after a tragic bicycle accident claimed the life of Tim Vollmann, a leading Indian law practitioner and scholar and a longtime friend of the University of New Mexico School of Law, a scholarship fund has been established in his memory.

Jo Vollmann, Tim’s widow, and their son, Bryan Rowland, are leading the fundraising effort for the Tim A. Vollmann Justice Scholarship Endowment, which will support scholarships for second-year UNM law students enrolled in Indian Law courses who have demonstrated a commitment to secure fairness and justice for Native Americans through Indian law, and who have demonstrated a respect for the culture of indigenous people.

Vollmann had been a beloved adjunct professor since 2004 and was teaching the 2010 fall semester’s Indian Water Law class when he died on his commute home in early December. Previously, he had spent 26 years with the Solicitor’s Office of the U.S. Department of Interior, during which time he authored important pieces of legislation, including the Indian Mineral Development Act of 1982 and the Jicarilla Apache Water Rights Settlement Act of 1992.

For more information on how to contribute to the Vollmann scholarship endowment, contact Hannah Farrington, assistant dean for advancement, at farrington@law.unm.edu or 505.277.1038.

Symposium Reflects on Montana v. United States Decision

Thirty years to the day after Montana v. United States was decided by the U.S. Supreme Court, judges, tribal leaders, law professors, lawyers and students gathered in Albuquerque to reflect on the impact of that decision. The day-and-a-half gathering was organized by Indian law faculty at the University of New Mexico School of Law.

Tim Vollmann speaks to a law school class in 2002.

Professor Barbara Creel (’90) moderates a panel consisting of, 1-r: F. Woodside Wright, Michael Eakin and Urban Roth.
Moot Courtroom Turned into Classroom, Skylights Return

Shortly after the moot courtroom hosted its first oral argument in 1971, its magnificent skylights, designed to brighten up the circular room’s somber interior, showed their vulnerability to a rainstorm: they leaked. Soon after, they were removed, taking with them all of the natural light from the space.

In January 2011, when students returned from the holiday break, a modern leak-proof version of those skylights had appeared, and the moot courtroom was no longer a moot courtroom. It had been transformed into the newest and one of the largest classrooms at the law school.

Now known as Room 2404, the airy classroom is equipped with state-of-the-art technology, but it “remains true to our architect Antoine Predock’s wonderful vision of a courtroom representing the centrality of the common law in the heart of the building,” said Dean Kevin Washburn.

Professor Ted Occhialino teaches one of the first classes in the new classroom.

Pamela Minzner Papers Donated to Law School

Professional writings of The Honorable Pamela B. Minzner have been donated to the University of New Mexico School of Law Archives. Minzner was one of the first female professors at the school, from 1973-1984. Following her death in 2007, the school established the Pamela B. Minzner Chair in Professionalism.

“Pamela’s major intellectual interests were the law and history,” said her widower, Richard Minzner. “It is gratifying to feel that she is able, even now, to contribute to both.”

She left the law school to join the New Mexico Court of Appeals, where she served for 10 years, including one year as chief judge. In 1994, Minzner was appointed to the New Mexico Supreme Court and later became the first woman to serve as chief justice. She remained on the high court until her death.

“The UNM School of Law was an important part of my mother’s life and career,” said her son, Max Minzner, who will be joining the UNM law faculty in fall 2011. “I’m very pleased that her papers can become part of the holdings of the law school library. I hope they can serve as a resource for future scholars and lawyers in the State of New Mexico.”

The Minzner collection contains a rich sampling of her professional research files: writings from the full expanse of her career, along with her speeches from 1984 to 2007, ranging from addresses at high school law days to keynotes at the State Bar’s annual conference.

“Given Justice Minzner’s long career in so many aspects of New Mexico legal history, this is an especially important collection,” said Archivist David Myers. “It is a wonderful addition to the Law Library’s holdings.”

The Alice King collection of personal papers has been catalogued and is now open for research. For information, contact David Myers, archivist and special collections librarian, at 505.277.6796 or myers@law.unm.edu.
Innocence and Justice Perseverance Results in Court Order

Sometimes justice is slow in coming, but when it finally arrives, the long hours and repeated setbacks fade away. For the many University of New Mexico law students who worked on a case that came to the attention of the New Mexico Innocence and Justice Project (IJP) shortly after it organized at the UNM School of Law in 2001, a decision 10 years later by U.S. District Judge Martha Vazquez brought a day they feared would never come.

“When I received word that Judge Vazquez had granted the habeas corpus petition for Carl, I almost cried,” said Jason Burnette ('04), one of the first students to work on a request from Carl Case, a Carlsbad man who had been convicted of raping and murdering a teenage runaway in 1982. Case had already served more than 20 years in prison in 2003 when he sought the assistance of the IJP to put together a habeas corpus petition seeking a new trial. He had always maintained his innocence, and after reviewing his IJP request, Professor April Land believed him.

Land has been the driving force behind the law school’s affiliation with the IJP, which was created to review claims of factual innocence. On a shoestring budget, she provided students the opportunity to review and research cases that came in through the IJP.

Grant Boosts Project

In 2009, the IJP received a huge boost when it received a $780,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice. The grant enabled the UNM law school to hire Gordon Rahn, who joined the faculty last fall as a research professor and IJP supervising attorney. Through his leadership, the law school now offers both a basic and advanced IJP seminar, which provides students with a unique law school experience.

Students are assigned cases to review to determine if new evidence exists that supports the applicant’s claim of factual innocence. The casework gives the students practical experience that helps them develop practice skills that can be used throughout their professional careers.

Nearly every student visits the applicants in prison. “When the students sit and talk to somebody in prison, every one of them comes away with a different attitude,” said Rahn. “They know they are free to go, but not the person they leave behind. We begin to see the empathy developing in them, which will make them better lawyers.”

The Big Break

Burnette, now a civil rights lawyer in Albuquerque, clearly remembers when the big break came in Case’s case. He had been assigned the Case petition as part of his clinic caseload. He took the phone call that led to a witness who recanted her trial testimony. Two days later, he and classmate Christina Vigil ('04) drove to Carlsbad, where they listened to the witness recant her testimony. That led to a second witness who also recanted. Both witnesses, teenagers at the time of the murder, said they had been intimidated by police to implicate Case.

Professor Carol Suzuki and Nan Erdman ('05) also traveled to Carlsbad to interview potential witnesses and other people who might have had information related to the incident, and to review the physical evidence. “The opportunity to advocate for justice in such a serious matter, knowing that the results of their work had real-life consequences, impressed upon the students the importance of meeting the client’s objectives and their supervisors’ expectations,” said Suzuki. “In representing Mr. Case, the clinical law students gained valuable experience in legal research and advocacy, investigation, and strategic problem solving.”

Burnette and Vigil stayed on the case throughout law school, drafting Case’s first habeas corpus petition; Vigil presented the argument before a Carlsbad judge, assisted by Land and Peter Schoenberg, an Albuquerque lawyer who worked pro bono on the case.

As Burnette prepared to graduate in 2004, Todd Coberly ('06), who was finishing his first year, took over student responsibilities for the case. He worked on the Case petition throughout law school and has continued to remain involved, except when he clerked for the New Mexico Supreme Court. He worked on the case with Schoenberg and Marc Lowry ('99) even after he moved to Washington, D.C. to join the law firm of Williams & Connelly.

In 2009, Coberly moved back to New Mexico, and once the state Supreme Court denied Case’s petition, he assumed the lead role, taking the case to federal court. In March 2011, Vazquez found serious flaws in the original trial and ruled that Case either be retried or set free. State attorneys appealed her decision to the 10th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals and separately moved to stay her order. In early June, the 10th Circuit denied the stay, returning the case to the Fifth Judicial District. Case will now be retried or released.

“When the students sit and talk to somebody in prison, every one of them comes away with a different attitude.”

—Gordon Rahn

GIVING BACK

GIVING BACK...
For the past five years, the largest fundraising effort in the history of the University of New Mexico has been quietly under way. To date, nearly 50,000 donors have given more than $380 million to support the university’s mission.

In mid-April, this effort — Changing Worlds: The Campaign for UNM — went public. Nearly 800 UNM friends, alumni, donors, community leaders, distinguished faculty and students joined together to kick off the second and public phase of the eight-year campaign.

This is only the third time a university-wide campaign has been conducted. As part of the comprehensive campaign, the university and the UNM School of Law have identified priorities, which include:

- **Endowed Scholarship Funds.** Even though tuition at the UNM School of Law remains one of the best bargains around, economic conditions continue to force steady increases. A strong scholarship resource pool will allow the school to attract the best students and maintain the school’s trademark range of diversity;

- **Endowed Chairs and Professorships.** With a long tradition of bringing in and retaining leaders in their academic fields, funds are needed to maintain this nationally recognized faculty. Competing with better-funded schools for new hires is an ever-present challenge. Providing important faculty support will retain beloved faculty and power new additions and ideas;

- **Capital Improvements.** Worlds change when facilities and technology match the goals and innovation of those who use them. Needs at the UNM School of Law include technology upgrades and expansion of the law library and modernizing the nationally renowned law clinic and classrooms.

By the time the campaign concludes in 2014, 135 years after UNM opened its doors on an untamed mesa two miles east of Albuquerque, the UNM School of Law will be poised to move forward in a way that hasn’t been possible for many years, but only with the support of the school’s giving community.

“The law is vital to our society and our donors are vital to our success in preparing diverse, capable and inspired practitioners of the law. Together we can change worlds.”

— Dean Kevin K Washburn

To date, nearly 50,000 donors have given more than $380 million to support the university’s mission.

View the law school Changing Worlds brochure at:  
http://fromhereworldschanges.net/node/32
Robert Medina (‘08): Changing His World

The ancient and the modern are always engaged in a complicated dance at Zia Pueblo. The pueblo itself is at least 600 years old. The famous sun symbol, appropriated for the New Mexico state flag, is even older. But new tribal leaders are actively guiding the Zia people on the path into the 21st century.

Robert Medina (‘08), Zia Pueblo’s first-ever tribal judge trained as a lawyer, is one of those leaders. He is completely transforming the judicial code on the pueblo: “We were given a tribal law and order code by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the 1970s,” he said, “and it was not based on tribal values. The UNM School of Law opened my eyes to how much tribal sovereignty has been lost and also helped me realize that people at the pueblo had never heard about the Indian Civil Rights Act and what it meant for the tribe.”

It took the better part of a decade and long days of working at various jobs and studying, but he never wavered through two associate degrees at CNM, a criminology degree at UNM, then on to the UNM School of Law. He was asked to apply as a tribal judge even before he graduated and has had amazing results in bringing accountability, tribal values and caring to the system. And it’s working: in his first year he saw 500 criminal cases, and this year it has dropped to 65.
Institute of Public Law

New Leaders

Pam Lambert (’84) became interim director of the Institute of Public Law (IPL) on June 1, replacing Paul Biderman, who retired after 19 years of inspired commitment to IPL. Lambert joined IPL in 1987 and has worked on a broad variety of projects. When the Rozier E. Sanchez Judicial Education Center was established in 1991, she began focusing her attention on its mission of training non-lawyer judges across New Mexico, and in 2006, she became its director.

Beth Gillia (’97) became director of the Corinne Wolfe Children’s Law Center on Feb. 1, taking the place of Judy Flynn O’Brien, who retired after 27 years of steadfast service to IPL. In 2003, Gillia joined the staff of the Judicial Education Center, where she wrote the Children’s Law Handbook. By 2005, she was devoting all of her time to the Children’s Law Center and became its senior staff attorney.

Susan George (’88) became director on May 1 of the new Regulatory Programs and Training Center, where she works on public interest issues ranging from driving safety and ignition interlock programs to environmental and wildlife protection.

Professor Denise Fort became director of the Utton Transboundary Resources Center on July 1. She will continue to teach natural resources courses and run the Utton Center on a part-time basis. Current Director Susan Kelly (’81) will stay on part time.

Economic Security Forum Attracts Public Input

Intense conversation prevailed when about 45 people gathered at an Economic Security Forum to share their values and concerns for how best to move the United States into better economic times. The March 23 forum titled, Economic Security: How Should We Take Charge of Our Future?, was sponsored by the Institute of Public Law (IPL) and the Albuquerque Journal.

The discussion itself was in many ways more important than any solutions that emerged during the three-hour forum, said IPL Director Paul Biderman.

“This was a chance to participate in a very different kind of deliberation on public policy issues,” he said.

Utton Seminar Examines NM Land Use and Water Planning

Integrating Land Use and Water Planning in New Mexico was the title of an April 8 seminar that examined how to better coordinate local, state and regional water plans with local land use plans to support the sustainability of communities, protect the environment and ensure economic vitality.

The seminar was organized by the Utton Transboundary Resources Center. It brought together land use planners, water resource professionals, representatives of the development community, environmental and community groups. Through panel presentations and breakout sessions, participants explored ideas to improve land use and water resource integration.

“There are a lot of people working in New Mexico on land use planning for future growth. Other people are working on future water supply issues,” said Susan Kelly (’81), of the Utton Center. “Our goal is to help them communicate, coordinate their efforts and improve processes.”

Gov. Martinez, Justice Daniels Open Children’s Law Institute

Gov. Susana Martinez and Charles Daniels (’69), chief justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court, opened the 18th annual Children’s Law Institute on Jan. 12 in Albuquerque. Both expressed the importance of programs for children in New Mexico.

“As a former district attorney, I know firsthand the need to be vigilant about keeping our children safe,” said Martinez.

The institute, sponsored in part by the Corinne Wolfe Children’s Law Center and the New Mexico Judicial Education Center, brings together professionals across disciplines who work in the state’s child’s welfare community. Title of the 2011 conference was, Children and Families Need us Now More Than Ever.
Professor Ellis Leads Team in Tennessee Victory

The Tennessee Supreme Court ruled last spring that expert testimony, and not just raw IQ scores, may be considered when determining intellectual disability of a person facing the death penalty. This ruling was a victory for Professor Jim Ellis, who presented an amicus curiae argument that supported defendant Michael Angelo Coleman’s contention that he is mentally disabled. Under Tennessee law, people with proven mental disability cannot be executed.

In his latest effort to keep mentally disabled inmates off death row, Ellis led his 20th team of UNM law students and staff in a unique learning opportunity. The brief was filed on behalf of the American Association of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and the Arc of the United States and the Arc of Tennessee.

The UNM School of Law’s effort began in September 2010, with Ellis’ co-counsel, Professor April Land, assembling the team. Members were: UNM Law Librarian Theresa Strike, Ann Delpha (10), staff attorney for the New Mexico Innocence and Justice Project; Megan Dorsey (11), Sarah Grisham (11), Evie Jilek (12), Kate Loewe (11), Jasmine McGee (11) and Melanie Stambaugh (11).

A statutory interpretation

The case was a statutory interpretation of the Tennessee law that defines intellectual disability as a functional intelligence quotient of 70 or below and deficits in adaptive behavior. Ellis remembered when the 1990 law was passed because he was living in Washington, D.C. at the time and lobbied on behalf of the statute.

In Coleman’s case, the criteria used to determine his intellectual competence was at question. He was convicted of a 1979 murder of a man during the robbery of a Memphis grocery store. In his appeal, he argued that lower-court rulings concluding he did not meet the statutory definition of intellectually disabled were incorrect.

Throughout the month of September, the team spent long hours on various aspects of research for the brief. Their mission was to help the court understand what the Legislature meant when it added language about IQ scores to the law. Delpha took a close look at the legislative history of the statute, poring over transcripts of every legislative session in which the law was discussed.

Ellis is certain Delpha is now the foremost expert in the world on the statute.

The Tennessee law was passed before the 2002 U.S. Supreme Court decision in the Atkins case, which determined that executing people with mental disabilities violates the Eighth Amendment. That historic decision also showcased Ellis and a UNM law school team.

Stambaugh compiled the team’s research into a comprehensive survey of state statutes that prohibit the execution of people with intellectual disability and of states that have not enacted such legislation. Grisham edited and cited the entire brief.

“My background is in publishing, and it was an honor to be able to contribute the skills I learned in that field to this singularly worthy effort,” said Grisham. She lost count of the hours she spent on the case, but that didn’t matter.

“Working on the brief took me out of the four walls of the law school and into the real world. It reinforced the idea that every word counts, and that every move directly affects other lives,” she said. “I would never trade the experience.”

High level of professionalism

As he has done with every team, Ellis involved the students in every aspect of the process, and before he filed the brief in October, everyone sat down in a marathon session and went through the entire brief, line by line. Ellis argued the case in Jackson, Tenn. on April 11, the court ruled in favor of Coleman.

On April 11, the court ruled in favor of Coleman. As a result, two months later, the State of Tennessee agreed to a life sentence, dating back to his 1980s conviction, which means Coleman could be eligible for parole before the end of 2011.

Such a profound outcome was good news for the students whose participation was totally voluntary, and they received no credit for the long hours they spent on the case.

“This required an immense amount of work in a short period of time while they were going to law school,” said Ellis. “My hope is that they gained for themselves that it was worth the effort. For the disability organizations and people with mental retardation, the students perform a wonderful service at the highest level of professionalism.”
Summertime and the Reading is Easy

Summer is the season to relax, regenerate and sit back with a good read. We checked in with a few members of the UNM School of Law community to see what books they were cracking this summer, or what they would recommend for good warm-weather reading.

Randi McGinn (’80), who regularly teaches Advanced Evidence and Trial Practice as a member of the adjunct faculty, turned to The Diving Bell and the Butterfly by French journalist Jean-Dominique Bauby when she was researching a case. The memoir about Bauby’s experience after suffering a stroke that left him “locked-in”, in which his mind was intact but he couldn’t move or speak, provided insight into one of McGinn’s clients in a similar state.

“I wanted to understand what my client’s life is like so I could translate his experience into words and a story that would resonate with the jury,” she said. Bauby wrote the book by working out a system of communication in which he selected letters by blinking his left eyelid. Each word took about two minutes to communicate and the small book took 10 months, working four hours a day, to complete. The sad ending was that he died of pneumonia three days after the book was published.

“The surprising thing about the book was how the author finds beauty and strength in the mundane, everyday events that happen in the hospital where he is confined and in the simple joy of visits by his family,” said McGinn. “It was a remarkable testament to the resilience of the human spirit and our need for human connection and communication, even when we are completely immobile.”

Professor Alfred Mathewson was drawn by author Michelle Alexander’s motivation for writing The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarcerations in the Age of Colorblindness, which he saw reviewed in the New York Times. Her thesis was that the War on Drugs and its concomitant mass incarceration of African American males has led to the return of Jim Crow. Convicted felons are returned to minority communities without voting rights or economic opportunities, thus devastating those communities through the segregation that results.

“A criminal defense lawyer in Oakland, Calif., Alexander was looking for a test case on racial profiling,” said Mathewson. “She thought she had found the perfect plaintiff in a young man who had meticulously documented his encounters with the police.” Upon discovering that he had a felony conviction arising out of the drug trade, she declined his case. His response was that he would not find her perfect plaintiff in his community as all of the young men had been targeted and marked with felonies.

Professor Sherri Burr has curled up with an advanced copy of Prime Time: Making the Most of Your Life, Jane Fonda’s latest book. She obtained the copy after seeing Fonda speak about it at Book Expo America, the largest book convention in the world. The book will go on sale in early August.

Fonda, 73, advises seeing life as a staircase rather than an arc, providing a metaphor in which life potentially gets better with time as we continue to ascend.

“One aspect of the book that I like is Fonda is not afraid to reveal her fears and inner demons or share the truth about her life,” said Burr. “I think it takes a lot of courage for a public person to share so openly.”

Burr also liked Fonda’s 11 ingredients to successful aging, which include: not abusing alcohol, not smoking, getting enough sleep, being physically active, eating a healthy diet, maintaining a healthy active brain through learning, encouraging a positive attitude, reviewing and reflecting on your life, loving and staying connected, giving of oneself and caring about the bigger picture.

Professor Leo Romero found Andre Agassi’s autobiography, Open, enjoyable for its vivid portrayal of the tennis star’s life, from how his violent father drove him relentlessly to hit a minimum of 2,500 balls a day at the age of seven to his relationships with both of his wives and friends. While the gossip was engaging, Romero was struck by how well-written it was, assisted by award-winning author, J.R. Moehringer.

“I cannot say that Agassi’s book will improve my game, but the book certainly makes me appreciate the hard work and commitment that goes into the development of world-class professional tennis players,” said Romero. “After reading about the life of a tennis professional and the sacrifices required to reach the top ranks, I am still glad I chose law as a career and tennis as an avocation.”

Prof. Leo Romero is impressed by Andre Agassi’s writing talent.

Prof. Sherri Burr is inspired by Jane Fonda.

Randi McGinn (’80) finds big inspiration in little book.
Nearly 800 members and friends of the University of New Mexico School of Law community packed the school’s Forum on Nov. 12, 2010 to help launch 60 FOR 60: SHAPING LAW IN NEW MEXICO SINCE 1950, a celebration of the school’s first 60 years of graduates and the many ways they have contributed to the development of modern-day New Mexico.

The 60 FOR 60 book is filled with a sampling of fun, readable profiles commemorating the 60th anniversary of the law school’s first graduating class. It is on sale for $24.95 and can be purchased from the school’s website, lawschool.unm.edu.

At the spirited November celebration, alumni from those first 60 years mixed with faculty, staff and students. Offering a few memorable anecdotes from their years at the school were U.S. Sen. Tom Udall ('77), Anne Bingaman, wife of U.S. Sen. Jeff Bingaman, who was the school’s first female professor; Tom Olson ('73) and Mike Hart ('88). Corinne Hale ('11), president of the Student Bar Association, and Lucas Conley ('13) shared what it’s like to be a UNM law student today.

The commemorative book culminated a year-long project that began with a comprehensive call for nominations of people, changes, events, legislative breakthroughs, transformational changes and accomplishments related to law in New Mexico and the School of Law. Following an exhaustive review process of the nominations, the project’s chairs and advisory committee selected the book’s contents.

To purchase a book, go to lawschool.unm.edu/60for60 and click on Purchase Book or call 505.277.1038.

Special Limited Edition
A special limited edition of 60 FOR 60 can be purchased for $100. This exclusive volume contains signatures of the deans and favorite professors for a special keepsake.
The 60 for 60 book and celebration were made possible in part through the generosity of sponsors. The top sponsors served as 60 for 60 committee chairs. The law firm of Robles, Rael & Anaya served as Celebration Honorary Chair, Modrall Sperling served as Celebration Chair, the Rodey Law Firm served as Celebration Vice Chair and Promotional Sponsor, and Mel Yost ('73) served as the Santa Fe Chair.

Robles Rael & Anaya
Celebration Honorary Chair

Robles, Rael & Anaya has been in business less than 10 years, but already it has experienced significant success for its clients. Established by Luis Robles ('90), Marcus Rael ('01) and Christina Anaya ('94), the full-service law firm offers an expertise in representing governmental entities, including municipalities, counties and the State of New Mexico.

Firm lawyers have represented clients in high profile cases, including allegations of police misconduct, employment and labor law cases, and governmental affairs. The firm represents clients in areas of high liability such as environmental compliance and litigation, land use and other natural resource regulatory matters. Lawyers also frequently represent private clients before government agencies such as zoning authorities, planning commissions and state agencies.

Robles, Rael & Anaya’s 13 lawyers bring more than 65 years of collective experience practicing law in New Mexico and throughout the Southwest. Some members have served as in-house counsel for cities and counties. Of the firm’s members, eight are graduates of the University of New Mexico School of Law. In addition to the founders, they are, Brian Colon ('01), Daniel Macke ('00), Vanessa Chavez ('08), Terri Beach ('90) and Dr. Scott Smith, of counsel. ('01).

A commitment to client accountability, ethical conduct and finding the best and most cost-effective solution to solving a problem has been key to the firm’s success. Along with strong litigation skills, Robles, Rael & Anaya attorneys are well-versed in successfully arbitrating and mediating disputes between parties.

With a strong connection to the UNM School of Law, Robles, Rael & Anaya was excited by the opportunity to support the school’s 60 for 60 project as Celebration Honorary Chair. In addition to valuing their own legal education, the firm’s founders have seen firsthand the high-performing lawyers produced by the school, and know well the significant impact these well-educated lawyers will have on New Mexico’s development in years to come.
Modrall Sperling
Celebration Chair

Modrall, Sperling, Roehl, Harris & Sisk, known today as Modrall Sperling, is the largest law firm in New Mexico. The firm is approaching its 75th anniversary year and is proud of its long relationship with the University of New Mexico School of Law. One of the firm’s shareholders, George T. Harris, was a member of the law school’s first graduating class in 1950. Since then, dozens of law school graduates have joined Modrall Sperling, and today, more than 30 percent of the firm’s lawyers are UNM law school alumni.

Modrall Sperling originated in 1937 when former New Mexico Supreme Court Justice John F. Simms formed a partnership with James R. Modrall and Augustus T. Seymour. “Dick” Modrall was a cowboy turned lawyer and “Joe” Seymour was a distinguished lawyer subsequently appointed to the New Mexico Supreme Court. The three founding partners were bound by their common desire to provide the highest quality legal services while maintaining standards of impeccable integrity. Today, Modrall Sperling remains true to the vision of its founders by continually striving to provide the highest quality legal services while maintaining a commitment to professionalism, integrity and productivity, as well as contributing to the community and to the bar, both locally and nationally.

One of Modrall Sperling’s current shareholders and a former president of the firm, John Cooney, has been honored by the UNM School of Law with a Distinguished Achievement Award and remains an active alum today. He was admitted to the law school as a junior in college and received dual degrees in 1965. Cooney taught property law and land use planning at the law school from 1972 to 1983, and stated that, “Serving in an adjunct role was a great experience for me, as well as for a number of my Modrall Sperling colleagues over the years.”

A number of other Modrall Sperling lawyers are engaged with the law school in various ways. Leading-edge curricula in areas critical to the future of New Mexico. The firm’s practices have benefited by well-prepared graduates who have joined the firm in a number of key areas including natural resources, water and Indian law. The firm’s clients have benefited as well.

Modrall Sperling looks forward to continuing its decades-long relationship with the law school in new and exciting ways in the future. The firm’s president, R.E. Thompson, says that, “Even though I am not a graduate of the UNM School of Law, I am happy to say that after many years of involvement with the administration, faculty and students, I consider myself an honorary alum. I, along with everyone at Modrall Sperling, am committed to being a part of the continued success of the law school.”
Bernard Shandon Rodey came to New Mexico in 1856. During his lifetime, one of his greatest achievements was authoring the bill that brought the University of New Mexico to Albuquerque. Today, a handful of structures and institutes continue to commemorate his extraordinary life - Rodey Theatre on the UNM campus, the Village of Rodey south of Hatch and the law firm of Rodey, Dickason, Sloan, Akin & Robb.

Founded in 1883, the Rodey Law Firm is one of the largest law firms in New Mexico with full-service offices in Albuquerque and Santa Fe. Rodey lawyers have a distinguished history of trying and winning lawsuits in all of New Mexico's state and federal courts, and the firm also offers a full range of services in advising clients in business and financial matters. For the past 127 years, the Rodey Law Firm has been an integral part of New Mexico's legal landscape.

In addition to its role as one of New Mexico's premier law firms, the Rodey Law Firm has been an avid supporter of the UNM School of Law.

- During most years, Rodey hires UNM law students for its summer clerk program.
- Rodey lawyers consistently serve as adjunct professors and frequent lecturers at the law school. They also regularly supervise moot court competitions and the law school's writing and advocacy programs.
- Don L. Dickason, a longtime member and named partner of the Rodey Law Firm, provided a bequest to the law school that created and continues to fund two professorships.
- In addition to the Dickason bequest, the Rodey Law Firm has been a strong financial supporter of the UNM School of Law through the years.

As one of New Mexico's oldest and largest law firms, a member of UNM School of Law's Honor Roll of Donors and an avid supporter of the school for many years, the Rodey Law Firm is both pleased and honored to have played a small part in UNM Law School's 60 for 60 project.

The list of prominent, influential and amazing lawyers who have chosen to spend their legal careers at Rodey is long. The firm is especially proud that so many of those lawyers are UNM law school graduates. Currently, nearly one-half of the firm's lawyers are graduates of the University of New Mexico School of Law.

During 38 years of practicing law in New Mexico, Mel Yost has been the lead attorney in many complex cases in both state and federal courts, and has appeared before the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit and the Supreme Court of the United States, and he still has an active litigation and general practice representing clients throughout New Mexico on various matters.

Amid this record of success, he prefers to talk about the mediation practice that he has built during the past 25 years. These days, he devotes at least one-half of his law practice to mediation. In addition to working with attorneys and their clients, he shares his deep knowledge of alternative dispute resolution in training and seminars he conducts for local bar associations across New Mexico, the State Bar of New Mexico and national organizations. He has been recognized by his peers for his work in alternative dispute resolution by being elected to Best Lawyers in America and Southwest Super Lawyers.

"It's very rewarding, helping people resolve disputes and avoid the uncertainty, cost and emotional turmoil of litigation," said Yost of the benefits of his practice.

Yost, who grew up in Santa Fe, followed his father, Melvin T. Yost, into the legal profession. They practiced together until the elder Yost died in 2001. Yost is now a senior shareholder and director in the Santa Fe firm of Scheuer, Yost & Patterson.

He chose the University of New Mexico School of Law, the only school to which he applied after he graduated from Columbia University, because he figured it was the best choice, knowing that he wanted to practice in New Mexico. He earned his J.D. from UNM in 1973 and graduated first in his class. He remains friends and colleagues with many of his law school acquaintances and classmates. Becoming involved in 60 for 60 was a way to reconnect with his law school alma mater and to give back to the school that prepared him for his legal career.

"It was exciting and inspiring to learn about all of the school's different success stories and about how many leaders in various fields it has produced," he said. "Through this project, I became aware of what an important institution the UNM School of Law is in New Mexico, and I was able to focus again on the important role it played in whatever success I have enjoyed in my practice."
Helping Retain the Best and Brightest Law Students

Scholarships are critical to the success of students at the UNM School of Law. By reducing their debt load and providing assistance during law school, students are better able to pursue their dream of serving their community as a lawyer and being highly contributing members of the State Bar.

The following is a sampling of scholarship highlights.

**The Roehl Advocate Endowment**

Jerry Roehl established the Roehl Advocate Endowment in 1997 to advance advocacy teaching and support the efforts of the school’s mock trial team that competes annually in the National Trial Competition. The recipient exemplifies the attributes of an outstanding trial lawyer.

“During my last year of law school, I was given a similar scholarship to help with the mock trial program. I appreciated it so much and thought it would be a nice thing to do for other students,” said Roehl.

He adds to the endowment every year and looks forward to the day when more than one student will benefit from the fund. In 2010, he donated a portion of the proceeds from Concours du Soleil, a car show at his Albuquerque home, and he intends to make that contribution an annual tradition.

Andy Scholl (‘11) was the 2010-2011 recipient. He competed in the National Trial Competition during his last two years of law school, under the tutelage of the team’s coach and his father, Steve Scholl (‘89). Andy will be joining the Albuquerque firm of Shapiro Bettinger Chase.

“Having received the Roehl scholarship, and thus not having to work during my last semester of school, I was able to direct my entire focus on my classes and on preparing for our mock trial competitions,” said Scholl.

**Esteban A. Aguilar Scholarship**

Steve Aguilar (‘78) established the Esteban A. Aguilar Scholarship in 2000 to support a third-year law student with an interest in and aptitude for trial practice.

“The UNM School of Law has such a terrific clinical program and produces great trial lawyers. I wanted to support and further that reputation,” he said. “I wanted to make it easier for students interested in a trial practice to focus on the courses that would make them great litigators.”

For Aguilar, who has taught Evidence and Trial Practice as an adjunct professor, the reward has been seeing the number of good litigators produced by the school.

Jessica Terrazas (‘11) was the 2010-2011 recipient. She will begin clerking for New Mexico Supreme Court Justice Edward Chavez (‘81) in the fall.

“I feel very fortunate to have been chosen for this scholarship,” said Terrazas. “It helped tremendously this past year as it paid for a substantial portion of my tuition.”

**Carlos F. Vigil Scholarship Fund**

The Carlos F. Vigil Scholarship Fund was created in 2000 to honor the legacy of Carlos Vigil, a Santa Fe lawyer who dedicated his practice to serving low-income clients in northern New Mexico. He often took payment in the form of firewood and vegetables.

“We wanted this scholarship to represent what Carlos was about and what was important to him. The law was not about money to Carlos,” said Janet Clow (‘75), who coordinates the scholarship on behalf of a group of friends who established it after Vigil was gunned down in 1999 by a client near the Santa Fe County District Courthouse. “Each year when we give a new recipient the scholarship, it reminds all of us of Carlos and we hope that his legacy lives on.”

The annual scholarship is presented to a student interested in providing legal services to low-income New Mexico Hispanics through civic, educational or community activity.

For Dayan Hochman (‘11), the 2010-2011 recipient, the scholarship has helped sustain her while she looks for a job that would allow her to focus on immigration or constitutional rights. “This scholarship has allowed me to take a bar study class to prepare for the New Mexico Bar.”

Additional scholarship donors and recipients will continue to be featured in upcoming issues of UNM Law. For more information about UNM School of Law scholarship funds, or to establish a scholarship fund, please contact Hannah Farrington, assistant dean for advancement, 505.277.1038 or farrington@law.unm.edu.
Out of Africa

Professor Jennifer Moore takes a humanitarian look at conflict resolution in Uganda, Sierra Leone and Burundi in new book

Armed conflict is no stranger to African nations. During the past two decades, the continent has played host to a number of the world’s most severe atrocities, including wars and genocides in Burundi, Congo, Liberia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda.

In her latest academic project, University of New Mexico School of Law Professor Jennifer Moore, a longtime scholar of refugee law and international law, explores how international law provides resources for conflict resolution in particular countries; she looks to specific African countries for illustration.

She presents her research in _Humanitarian Law in Action on the African Continent_, to be published in late 2011 by Oxford University Press.

“International law provides rules and mechanisms to alleviate poverty, end repression and resolve conflict in countries around the world,” she says. “Given that all 22 of the least-developed nations in the world are in Africa, and 16 African countries were at war around the turn of the 21st century, Africa is a vital stage on which to test the content and value of these international rules and tools.”

Into Africa

Prior to joining the faculty of the University of New Mexico School of Law in 1995, Moore spent time in West Africa as an associate protection officer for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. She focused her early scholarship and fieldwork on refugee issues, co-authoring the first law school casebook on refugee law, _Refugee Law and Policy_, the fourth edition of which was published in January 2011. She also spent time in Tanzania on a 2002-2003 Fulbright Scholarship, teaching international law at the University of Dar es Salaam. During her time in Tanzania, she planned and facilitated human rights workshops for Burundian refugees residing in camps in Western Tanzania.

Her interest in refugee issues began when she was a student at Amherst College and continued after graduation when she worked for the Refugee Policy Group, a think tank on refugee issues. During law school at Harvard University, Moore spent a summer conducting field research on the protection of Salvadoran refugees in Honduras for Catholic Relief Services.

After working in the Burundian refugee camps in Tanzania in 2003, Moore was inspired by the idea that human rights education among refugees could be a means of internalizing international law principles within the very community impacted by the civil war, and might serve as a catalyst for peacemaking within Burundian society. It was this concept that germinated into her current manuscript.

Exploring Basic Concepts

The first part of her book sets forth and explores the basic concepts of international law and introduces and discusses four sub-fields of international law, which have particular relevance to armed conflict. They are: international humanitarian law, international human rights law, international refugee law and international criminal law. She provides an analysis of the relationship between national and international legal systems. This component of her book is directed not only at the legal community and academics, but for non-lawyers, particularly humanitarian aid workers, as well.

In the second part of the book, Moore looks at various arenas in which international principles are applied in the real world to help alleviate or resolve armed conflicts. Specifically, that would be through the courts, military, media, markets and communities.

“I’m looking at how groups and organizations can be seen as mouthpieces and incubators for human rights,” she says. “I’ve also become interested in the role musical and other artistic groups play in sending out anti-war messages.”

When it comes to markets, Moore looks at how debt relief, international aid and development assistance serve as conflict resolution tools.

“Genocide and other crimes against humanity are extreme responses to pitched competition for scarce resources. Thus, to the extent that debt relief and aid result in shared socioeconomic development across communities, some of the root causes of armed conflict may be alleviated as employment, health care and educational opportunities increase,” she says.

As for communities, she focuses on what happens on the ground in societies that are struggling to repair themselves after the prolonged violence and dislocation of armed conflict.
Uganda

“In addition to hosting refugees from Burundi, Rwanda, Congo, the Sudan, Chad and Somalia, Uganda has experienced more than 20 years of civil conflict between the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) and the Ugandan armed forces,” says Moore. “Five leaders of the LRA have been indicted in the International Criminal Court in The Hague, and while none are yet in custody, their prospective trials have resulted in a fascinating and sometimes fraught debate within Ugandan civil society regarding whether and how international prosecutions deepen conflict, contribute to its resolution, or both.”

For this last section, especially, she draws on her personal experience working with refugees. During her time with the United Nations, she worked with Sierra Leonean refugees, and in 2010, returned with her 17-year old daughter, Kyra, to visit with government officials and leaders of nongovernmental organizations. During her Fulbright year in Tanzania, she worked with Burundian refugees, and during a March 2010 visit, she spent time in Burundi and Uganda, deepening her knowledge about international humanitarian law, criminal law, human rights law and community-level reconciliation work.

“These studies will illustrate how important human rights education is in each country,” says Moore.

Burundi

“Burundi, is a Central African country in the process of national reconciliation. Throughout its 15-year civil war, Rwanda’s southern neighbor has not often received high-profile media attention. Other than a regional peace-keeping mission, the international community has mounted no large-scale military, economic or prosecutorial interventions.

“My exploration of Burundian efforts at national reconciliation is perhaps a fitting finale to this text, because it focuses our lens on the ways in which international law may be understood and creatively utilized by individual members of national communities at the grassroots level,” says Moore.

“While this text will strive to ground theory in practice, it will not shy away from the hopeful dimensions of international law. Through a deeper examination of the visionary aspects of international law, we may better judge which of these goals are most worthy of implementation and amenable to it,” she says.
Supporting Faculty

Ronald and Susan Friedman Endowed Faculty Excellence Award

In 1986, Ron Friedman (’71) began contributing money for an annual faculty award as a way to thank the school for giving him the opportunity to succeed. After earning his J.D., he went on to enjoy a rewarding and exciting career as a real estate lawyer in Pennsylvania. “Through the years, my wife and I have felt a need to give something back to the faculty that was so nice to me when I was a student there. I think this faculty award is a valid use of my contribution because it helps provide incentive for faculty excellence and rewards professors who go above and beyond.”

Recipient Antoinette Sedillo Lopez (2010-2011)

“For a teacher and scholar at a university, it is gratifying to feel that your work is valued and supported. I really appreciated the award because it gave me positive feedback and recognition of my scholarship, teaching and service. I had the special opportunity to meet Ron Friedman and his lovely wife, Susan, and I was privileged to get a copy of his novel about the practice of law and university politics and intrigue.”

Recipient Reed Benson (2009-2010)

“I am very grateful to Ron Friedman for his generous support of the UNM law faculty, and it was a real honor to receive the Friedman Award last year. During that year I was researching issues relating to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. I eventually wrote two articles on those issues, published in the Harvard Journal on Legislation and the UCLA Journal of Environmental Law and Policy, and the support I received through the Friedman Award was very helpful to me in that work.”

Faculty Update (2010-2011)

APPOINTMENTS

James Ellis was appointed in 2010 to the board of directors of the national Death Penalty Information Center.

Gloria Valencia-Weber was confirmed to the national Legal Services Corp. Board of Directors in 2010.

Peter Winograd was appointed in 2010 to the Board of Governors of the American Bar Association.

Leo Romero became chair of the board of trustees of the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA) in January 2011 for a two-year term. He has been with NITA since its beginnings in the early 1970s and has been involved in every aspect of the institute, as a faculty member, team leader, program director, trustee and now chairman of the board. Romero brought the NITA method of teaching trial practice to the University of New Mexico in 1972 when he started the Evidence/Trial Practice course that he taught for more than 20 years.

HONORS

Barbara Bergman received the Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Advocacy from Stetson University College of Law in 2010.

Ernesto Longa’s book, ANARCHIST PERIODICALS IN ENGLISH PUBLISHED IN THE UNITED STATES (1833-1955): AN ANNOTATED GUIDE (2009), was named Best Reference Book for 2010 by the New Mexico Book Coop.

Alfred Mathewson received the 2010 Keep the Dream Alive Award from the Martin Luther King, Jr. Multicultural Council in Albuquerque and he received the inaugural 2010 Presidential Luminaria Award for his diversity efforts of faculty, staff and students across the UNM campus.

Margaret Montoya received the 2011 UNM Presidential Luminaria Award.


Gloria Valencia-Weber was honored in 2010 for establishing the Martin Luther King, Jr. Multicultural Council in Albuquerque and building the 35-year-old Psychology Divestibled Students Program at Oklahoma State University.

Christine Zuni Cruz (’82) received the 2010 Pincus Award, the highest honor presented by the American Association of Law Schools’ Section on Clinical Legal Education. She also was honored by the Tribal Law Journal at a March symposium that focused on her academic work. The symposium was titled, Cultivating Native Intellect and Philosophy: A Community Symposium Recognizing and Discussing the Contributions of Christine Zuni Cruz.

ON THE GO

Reed Benson and Denise Fort joined colleagues from six continents to participate in an early January water law colloquium titled, “Water Law: Through the Lens of Conflict,” at the University of New England in Armidale, Australia. Benson’s presentation was titled, “Public on Paper: The Failure of Law to Protect Public Water Uses in the Western U.S.” and Fort spoke on “Too Hot to Handle: Climate Change and Agricultural Water Use.”

Barbara Blumenfeld has brought Havruta, a traditional Jewish teaching technique, into the legal education dialogue, both in a new article and during an early June conference in New York City. Her article, “Can Havruta Style Learning Be a Best Practice in Law School?,” was published in the Williamette Journal of International Law and Dispute Resolution. She applied concepts from her article in a practical presentation at the Institute for Law Teaching and Learning Summer Conference.

Barbara Creel (’90) and Gloria Valencia-Weber made separate presentations at Thomas Jefferson School of Law’s 10th Anniversary Women and the Law Conference in mid-February. The conference title was Gender Justice and Indian Sovereignty: Native American Women and the Law.
Jim Ellis was a member of a roundtable that addressed the practice of putting to death juveniles and developmentally disabled adults at the Fourth World Congress Against the Death Penalty in Geneva, Switzerland in February 2010.

Denise Fort presented a talk titled, “Groundwater in the West” at an April symposium at the University of Idaho School of Law. She presented a paper titled, “The U.S. Failure to Control Greenhouse Gas Emissions,” at the Second Global Conference on Environmental Governance and Democracy at Yale University in September 2010.

Christian Fritz delivered the 21st Annual State Constitutional Law Lecture at the State University of New Jersey (Rutgers, Camden) School of Law in February 2010.

Eileen Gauna (*85) led off U.S. Environmental Justice and the Law, an early April symposium that brought together a wide range of interests to discuss the evolution of efforts to more effectively address conflicts that can arise among industrial facility operations and conflicts that can arise around industrial facility operations and community needs. The event took place in Oxford, Miss.

Laura Gómez explored the racial dynamics surrounding the confirmation process of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor as part of St. Thomas University School of Law’s 2009-2010 Distinguished Speaker Series.

April Land presented a paper titled, “Lawyering Beyond Without Leaving Individual Clients Behind,” at the UCLA/University of London Seventh International Clinical Conference in November 2010.

Antoinette Sedillo Lopez shared her expertise at an invitation-only Access to Justice Forum at Stanford Law School on March 18. She joined about 20 legal experts at the roundtable event that they addressed ways to enhance the role of legal scholars and teachers in closing the justice gap in America.

Nathalie Martin presented a paper titled, “Transactional Clinics’ Impact on Social Justice Issues,” at the 10th Annual Transactional Clinical Conference. The April event was organized by Northwestern University School of Law.

Alfred Mathewson addressed gender equity in college sports in a presentation during a conference at Wake Forest University in mid-April. The conference title was, Losing to Win: Discussions of Race and Intercollegiate Sports.

Margaret Montoya was the keynote speaker at Cesar Chavez Week in late March at the University of California at Davis School of Law. She was the lead scholar of an American Bar Association initiative that analyzed a broad set of information aimed at advancing racial/ethnic, gender, disability and sexual orientation diversity within the legal profession. The result of the two-year effort, “Diversity in the Legal Profession: Next Steps,” a 68-page report, was released in April 2010.

Kevin Washburn was a member of a panel titled, “Tribal Council and Board Member Ethics, Duties, and Responsibilities: What Tribal Leaders Need to Know,” at the National Conference of American Indians’ annual meeting in Albuquerque in November 2010.

Christine Zuni Cruz (*82) made a presentation for the Repatriation at 20: A Gathering on Native Self-Determination and Human Rights at the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law at Arizona State University in January 2010.

ACADEMIC HONORS

Professorships

Keleher & McLeod Professors: Nathalie Martin, Christian Fritz

Dickason Professors: Elizabeth Rapaport, April Land, Sherri Burr, Alfred Mathewson

Regents Professor: Marsha Baum

Hatch Professor: Sergio Pareja

Lectureship

Regents Lecturer: Camille Carey

Awards

Friedman Award: Reed Benson, Antoinette Sedillo Lopez

Dean’s Award for Faculty Excellence: Laura Gómez, John LaVelle, Jennifer Moore

Dean’s Award for Distinguished Law School Service: April Land, Carol Suzuki

Nathalie Martin has found her place in the blogosphere at creditsblogs.org, a blog on all things about credit, bankruptcy, consumers and financial institutions. As one of the regular contributors, she shares her expertise on credit, bankruptcy, consumer law and predatory lending practices.

New Faculty

Ann Hemmens, assistant director for Public Services at the University of New Mexico Law Library, associate professor of Law Librarianship.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Erik Gerding, Disclosure 2.0: Leveraging Technology to Address “Complexity” and Information Failures in the Financial Crisis in Risk Management and Corporate Governance (Abolhassan Jalivand and A. G. Malliaris eds., 2011).


BOOKS


Nathalie Martin and Frederick Hart, Secured Transactions (2nd ed. 2011).


Kevin Washburn et al., Indian Law Stories (2011).

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Globetrotting with Emeritus Professor Ted Parnall

September in France, October in Kosovo, then on to Rwanda. That was how Emeritus Professor Ted Parnall (67) spent the fall of 2010. His mission (in order): vacation, helping establish an LLM program and ongoing work on a project for the East African Community Secretariat. In 2011, he was in Nairobi in June and back to Kosovo for the month of July.

Through the past 40-some years, Parnall has established an international reputation as a go-to guy for advancing legal education and legal systems in developing countries around the world, and he is still in demand. After spending a month touring through France, Parnall was off to Kosovo’s capital, Pristina, where he worked on setting up an LLM program in commercial law at the University of Pristina.

In October, he offered suggestions for a syllabus, curriculum and resources needed for the new program. An objective of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which is supporting the project that hired Parnall, was to improve the skills of Kosovo lawyers in the area of contracts.

“The hope is that by improving the skills of lawyers, contracts can be enforced and breaches reduced, thus strengthening the use of contracts in the country,” he said. “When I left, they had the beginnings for the program and I hope it will be able to start in fall 2011.”

Then it was on to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; Nairobi, Kenya and Kigali, Rwanda, where he worked on a project that had begun in February 2010 for the East African Community (EAC), an organization comprised of Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, Burundi and Tanzania.

Parnall was helping a team develop guidelines as part of a project titled Harmonization of Legal Education, Certification and Introduction of Cross-Border Legal Practice in the Community. The EAC Secretariat engaged the Uganda-based International Law Institute – African Centre for Legal Excellence for the project.

On two visits, Parnall attended workshops in three of the five partner states of the EAC to familiarize himself with their legal institutions, and made at least short stops in all five. He spent the most time in Kenya, the country to which he was assigned as part of the project to develop a coordinated approach to legal education and attorney licensing among the countries.

The goal of the project is not to create uniformity, but rather to develop a practical, harmonious system of both law and legal education that would allow lawyers and businesses to operate more easily across borders and enable people to have freer movement and work in the five countries.

In Kenya, he met with Supreme Court members, legislators, members of the executive branch and legal educators, all involved in strengthening their legal system and making reforms in legal education so that all five partner states of the EAC have legal systems compatible for commercial activity and increased social traffic.

“After my visit to Nairobi I prepared a preliminary report offering my thoughts to our team on how to develop common standards for legal education, a model syllabus for legal education, model bar admission standards and a road map to achieve this,” he said.

“The goal is to help develop guidelines and standards to allow lawyers from each country to understand and work in the legal systems of all five countries,” said Parnall. His early November visit to Dar, Nairobi and Kigali was to present the interim report to a series of national workshops attended by leaders of the legal communities in the five partner states. He presented a portion of the final report at a June 2011 EAC conference in Nairobi.

Parnall has been impressed with the dedication of his African colleagues: “It has been rewarding to see very smart, talented lawyers, judges and educators willing to work together and build a system that will facilitate economic transactions and improve the ability of citizens to work and live across borders with a focus on the future, rather than being driven by regional rivalries and past grievances.”

Professor Sergio Pareja Featured in National Jurist Magazine

Professor Sergio Pareja was included in a Bucket List presented in National Jurist’s March 2011 issue. He was one of 22 professors and one dean chosen from across the country for the magazine’s list of most interesting law professors.

“We all know that a good professor can make law school a lot more interesting and maybe even a little adventurous,” wrote Managing Editor Michelle Weyenberg in the article. “What if you could bring together the most interesting pros from across the nation? ... All of them would make law school – dare we say – a fun and fascinating experience. And if you get the chance, these are the pros you have to take before you die.”

Pareja is listed under Tax Law, and here’s what Weyenberg wrote about him:

“Sergio Pareja works his students hard, giving them homework and occasional pop quizzes and a mid-term and a final, but he works as hard as the students do, say his peers. The students love him for it. And part of what they enjoy is that he occasionally breaks into song in class.”
Class Notes

1951
Jacob Rosenbaum was honored by the Cleveland Bar Association as an outstanding real estate attorney. He is past president of the Lawyer Pilots Bar Association and is a life trustee of the Cleveland Zoological Society. He has retired from Tucker Ellis & West, in Cleveland, Ohio, and would like to hear from his classmates at Jacob.Rosenbaum@TuckerEllis.com.

1960
Norman Thayer was inducted into the Roehl Circle of Honor for Trial Lawyers in 2010. He is the senior partner at Sutin, Thayer & Browne. The Circle was established in 1990 at the State Bar Center by Jerald J. Roehl in memory of his father, Joseph E. Roehl, a prominent trial lawyer. On July 1, 2010, Thayer was appointed to the Judicial Standards Commission. He also was recognized by the New Mexico Supreme Court for his longstanding service to improve the state’s courts and promote judicial independence.

1962
C. Gene Samberson received the 2010 Trustee of Free Enterprise Award from the University of the Southwest. The award was presented for outstanding business achievements, ethical business practices, community leadership and working to preserve a free society.

1971
Mel Eaves was designated a 2010 Southwest Super Lawyer.

John Leathers is general counsel of Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney, a 450-lawyer firm based in Pittsburgh with offices in 10 other cities. He joined the firm in 2005, following 17 years in commercial litigation. After earning his J.D., Leathers received an LL.M. from Columbia University and spent the next 16 years as a law professor.

1973
Walter Echo-Hawk authored In the Courts of the Conqueror: The Ten Worst Indian Law Cases Ever Decided, a 576-page book that looks at how court decisions through the years have shaped life in Indian country across the United States. The book was published in 2010. He is counsel to the Crowe & Dunleavy law firm of Oklahoma.

1975
Catherine Goldberg was elected to the Board of Directors of Albuquerque Economic Development in 2010. She is a partner and shareholder in the Rodey Law Firm, where she is a member of the business department. The mission of Albuquerque Economic Development is to recruit business and industry to generate quality job opportunities in the Albuquerque area.

1976
Paul W. Grimm has been a full-time magistrate judge for the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland since 1997, serving as chief judge since May 2006. An order he issued in late 2010 was featured in an article in the American Bar Association’s Litigation News.

1977
Hannah Best was presented with the 2011 Lifetime Achievement Award by the New Mexico Commission on the Status of Women. The commission presented awards to 20 additional women from across New Mexico for their contribution to improving the lives of women in the state.

1978
Thomas Acevedo was appointed by President Barack Obama to the National Advisory Council on Indian Education. He is CEO of S&K Technologies, a family of tribally owned businesses in northwestern Montana. He previously served as chief of staff for the National Indian Gaming Commission.

1979
Angela Jewell received the 2011 Justice Pamela B. Minzner Professionalism Award from the State Bar of New Mexico.

Richard Puglisi became a U.S. magistrate judge for the District of Hawaii in March 2011. He was appointed to a magistrate judge position in the District of New Mexico in 1996 and was chief judge when he relocated to Hawaii, where he began his career as a Navy judge advocate stationed in Pearl Harbor.

Barbara Stephenson was promoted in early 2011 to shareholder in the firm of Sheehan & Sheehan, where she works in the area of counseling and defending employers in employment litigation and administrative procedures.

Kathleen Kennedy Townsend is the author of FAILING AMERICA’S FAITHFUL: HOW TODAY’S CHURCHES MIXED GOD WITH POLITICS AND LOST THEIR WAY, published in 2010. She is an adjunct professor at Georgetown University’s School of Public Policy and former lieutenant governor of Maryland.

Jimmie Reyna

Jimmie Reyna (’78) was unanimously confirmed in April 2011 by the U.S. Senate as the first Hispanic member of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Prior to his confirmation, he was a partner in the Washington, D.C. office of Williams Mullen, Clark & Dobkins, where he led the law firm’s International Trade and Customs Group and served on its board of directors. Reyna also has a distinguished track record of leadership in the Hispanic legal community.

Jimmie Reyna
1981
Patricia Bradley joined the Law Office of George Giddens in 2009. She focuses her practice on probate, guardianship, real estate, commercial litigation, bankruptcy and estate planning.

Catherine “Cate” Stetson, founder of Stetson Law Offices in Albuquerque, was named a 2010 Southwest Super Lawyer. She practices in all areas of Indiana law.

1982
Allan Wainright received the 2011 Robert H. LaFollette Pro Bono Award from the State Bar of New Mexico.

1983
Gary King was presented with a 2010 New Mexico Earth Science Achievement Award for his work in advancing earth science in public service and public policy. As a state legislator, he worked to establish New Mexico’s first mining reclamation law and he served as assistant secretary for environmental management at the U.S. Department of Energy. In 2010, he was re-elected New Mexico Attorney General.

1984
David Iglesias, a captain with the U.S. Navy’s Judge Advocate Corps, leads a team prosecuting war crimes and terrorism cases at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Leslie Fernandez was named Law Enforcement Prosecutor of the Year for 2010 by the Prosecutors Section of the State Bar of New Mexico. She is with the 8th Judicial District Attorney’s Office.

Andrew G. Schultz has been elected to the board of directors of the American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico. He is a partner at the Rodey Law Firm and the leader of the firm’s Complex and Commercial Litigation Practice Group.

1985
Karen Ballard Molzen was designated chief U.S. magistrate judge for the District of New Mexico and began her new duties in Albuquerque in May 2011. She has served on the federal magistrate court since 1999 in Las Cruces.

1986
Marte Lightstone became a shareholder in January 2011 at Modrall Sperling, where she focuses her practice in the areas of environment law, Indian law, oil and gas and renewable energy.

1987
Frank Sedillo was appointed in 2010 to the New Mexico State Bar Legal Education Commission, the Judicial Continuing Legal Education Committee and the Metropolitan Court Rules Committee. He also coaches youth football and Little League baseball teams.

1988
Debra Hill received the 2010 Community Service Award, presented annually by the Arizona American Jewish Committee’s Judge Learned Hand Society to a lawyer who has devoted her career to public service. She was the first woman to receive this award. Hill has practiced with Osborn Maledon in Arizona since earning her J.D., concentrating on criminal defense, civil rights and complex commercial litigation.

1989
Bruce Brown is an assistant public defender in Palmer, Alaska. He has practiced law in Alaska for 20 years.

1990
Linda Ellison became certified as a specialist in Family Law in 2010. She also chairs the annual Family Law Institute CLE committee and is on the board of directors of the State Bar’s Family Law Section. She practices with the Law Offices of Lynda Latta in Albuquerque.

Yvette Gonzales was elected to the bench in the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court in 2010. Previously, she had been special counsel for House Speaker Ben Lujan during the 2010 Legislature and a prosecutor with the Second Judicial District Attorney’s Office.

Jennifer Stone was elected to the Art Therapy Credentials Board, a national body that confers and administers professional credentials to qualified art therapy practitioners. She joined the board in 2010. She is a partner at the Rodey Law Firm.

1991
William Slease became chief disciplinary counsel for the New Mexico Supreme Court in 2010. He supervises a staff of nine whose job is to investigate allegations of misconduct against lawyers. Since 1999, he practiced at his own firm, Slease & Martinez, where he focused on civil rights, estate planning and representing small businesses and local governments.

1992
Mary Torres received the 2011 Distinguished Bar Service Award presented to a lawyer by the State Bar of New Mexico.

1993
Denise Torres was named co-chair of the New Mexico Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission in 2010. She is a name partner with Saenz & Torres in Las Cruces.

1994
Lori Gallagher is director of the Center for Irish Studies at the University of St. Thomas in Houston. In 2009, she was honored for her work building up the center’s program. She was named grand marshal of the 2011 Houston St. Patrick’s Day Parade.

Kenneth Gonzales was named U.S. Attorney for New Mexico in 2010. He had been an assistant U.S. attorney since 1999, most recently as a prosecutor in the Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force unit.

David Johnson joined Bannerman & Williams as a shareholder in 2010. He brings 30 years of experience in the health care field to the firm, which has changed its name to Bannerman & Johnson.

Rick Wellborn was named Community Service Prosecutor of the Year for 2010 by the Prosecutors Section of the New Mexico State Bar. He is with the Third Judicial District Attorney’s Office.

Best of the Bar
Every year, a panel of local legal judges selects the Best of the Bar for New Mexico Business Weekly. Following are UNM School of Law alumni who made the list for 2011:

Business/corporate:
Deborah Seligman (78),
Kurt Sommer (84),
Tracy Sprouls (81);

Civil litigation:
Jeffrey Croasdest (93),
Antonia Roybal-Mack (97);

Employment law:
Pia Gallegos (83),
Barbara Stephenson (79);

Family law:
Roberta Batley (95),
Virginia Dugan (95);

All other practice areas:
Stuart Butzier (89),
John Myers (74).

Class Notes
1995

Virginia Dugan was listed in the 2011 edition of The Best Lawyers in America. Dugan is a shareholder with Atkinson & Kelsey. She serves as co-chair of the New Mexico Supreme Court's Mandatory Legal Education Committee.

Lemuel Martinez is serving as the 2011 president of the National Hispanic Prosecutors Association, the only professional membership organization dedicated to the advancement of Hispanics as prosecutors. He has been district attorney of the 13th Judicial District since 2001.

Sean Olivas has been elected to the American Law Institute. He is a shareholder and director with Keleher & McLeod, where his practice focuses primarily on tort defense, employment and civil rights litigation, mainly defending employers. Olivas has served on the ABA’s Committee on Law School Accreditation, as president of the Albuquerque Bar Association and UNM School of Law Alumni/ae Association.

Emeterio Rudolfo was appointed to the New Mexico Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission in 2011. He has been in private practice since 1998 in Farmington. He is a member of the San Juan Labor Relations Board and the Board of Directors of the Boys and Girls Club of Farmington.

Linda Vanzi, a New Mexico Court of Appeals judge, received the 2010 Justice Pamela B. Minzner Outstanding Advocacy for Women Award from the State Bar of New Mexico’s Committee on Women and the Legal Profession.

Vicki Wilcox is certified as a specialist in estate planning, trust and probate law by the New Mexico Board of Legal Specialization. In 2010, she was listed in Best Lawyers in America in the categories of tax law and trusts and estates.

1996

Henry Alaniz was appointed to the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court bench in 2011. He has been assigned to the criminal division. In 2009, he was president of the State Bar of New Mexico. Alaniz earned a J.D. and M.B.A. in a dual-degree program at UNM. In 2010, he was inducted into the Anderson School’s Hall of Fame.

Patricia Galindo became an associate with the Vickie R. Wilcox law firm in 2010. She focuses her practice on estate planning and estate litigation.

Ronald Holmes received the 2010 Robert H. LaFollette Pro Bono Award from the State Bar of New Mexico. He is an Albuquerque bankruptcy lawyer.

Trace Rabern Receives Charles Driscoll Award

Trace Rabern (’96) was presented with the 2011 Charles Driscoll Award from the New Mexico Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. Rabern runs a solo specialty criminal law writing practice in Santa Fe and is an adjunct professor at the UNM School of Law, where she co-teaches Appellate Law in Practice.

1997

Jeffrey Albright was elected to the State Bar’s Intellectual Property Law Section Board of Directors in 2009. He is a partner with Lewis and Roca, where he practices intellectual property, land use and zoning, telecommunications and utilities and environmental and natural resources law.

1998

J. Brent Moore was promoted in early 2011 to shareholder in the firm of Montgomery & Andrews, where he focuses his practice on governmental relations, administrative proceedings and regulatory matters before the state Legislature. Previously, he was agency counsel with the Navajo Nation Environment Department.

Brett Olsen became counsel with Montgomery & Andrews in 2010. He concentrates his practice on water and natural resources litigation, along with environmental, administrative and real estate law.

Will Steadman joined Grubb & Ellis as chief operating officer in 2010. Previously, he had been New Mexico division president of SunCal, a California company with development plans on Albuquerque’s West Side.

Whitney Warner, a founding partner at Moody & Warner, an Albuquerque labor and employment law firm, has been elected a fellow of the American Bar Foundation.

1999

Sharon Pino became a prosecutor in the New Mexico Attorney General’s Violence Against Women Division in 2010. Previously she served as Gov. Bill Richardson’s domestic violence czar. She is chair of the state Domestic Violence Leadership Commission, which monitors domestic violence laws, trends and policies.

2000

Susan Bisong became a shareholder in January 2011 at Modrall Sperling, where her primary areas of interest are in water and natural resources law, nursing home and healthcare law, insurance law, tort and personal injury litigation.

Matthew Bruff was inducted into the UNM Anderson School of Management’s Hall of Fame in March 2011. He is the chief development officer and general legal counsel for Altela, an Albuquerque-based clean tech startup that he co-founded. He received his B.B.A. and M.B.A. from the Anderson School in 1994.

Raul Burciaga was named director of Legislative Council Service in 2010. He joined the state agency in 2000 and has served as assistant director for drafting services since 2004.

Patricia M. Cofty (formerly Michelsohn) has been elected a fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation. Cofty is with the Fowler Law Firm in Austin, where she focuses her practice on mediation and arbitration, family law, business and consumer litigation, small business incorporations and transactions and entertainment law.

Christa Hazlett has joined the Albuquerque firm of Conklin, Woodcock & Ziegler, where she represents clients in health care and employment matters. She joined the firm in 2010.

Pilar Vaile opened a solo practice in 2010. She focuses on mediation, arbitration and serving as a contract administrative law judge in labor and employment matters. Previously, she was deputy director and hearing examiner of the Public Employee Labor Relations Board.

Reunion 2011


To find out how to get involved with your class celebration, go to lawschool.unm.edu/alumni/events/2011/reunion.php.
2001
Hector Balderas received the 2010 John F. Kennedy New Frontier Award, becoming the first New Mexican to receive the annual award. Balderas is state auditor of New Mexico. The New Frontier Awards were created by the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation and the Institute of Politics at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

Jason Bousliman was elected president of the Albuquerque Bar Association in 2010. He is a shareholder with Modrall Sperling, where he focuses his practice on commercial contract disputes, creditor's rights in bankruptcy, collections and construction law.

Roxanna Chacon was appointed to the Board of Directors of New Mexico Legal Aid in 2010. She is a staff attorney with the Third Judicial Court and is a member of the UNM School of Law Alumni/ae Association’s board of directors.

Lauren Keefe was promoted to shareholder with Peifer, Hanson & Mullins in 2010. Prior to joining the firm in 2003, she clerked for both the New Mexico Supreme Court and Court of Appeals. Before law school, she was a reporter in Boston.

Allison Pieroni was elected chair of the State Bar of New Mexico’s Family Law Section for 2011. She practices with Atkinson & Kelsey. She also is board president of St. Pius X High School Foundation and La Familia, Inc.

Janean Vilven-Doggett was elected a shareholder in Peacock Myers. A registered patent attorney with a Ph.D. in biomedical sciences, she is on the board of the New Mexico Biotechnology and Biomedical Association. She is also on the board of A Child’s Garden, as well as chair of the CNM Biotechnology Advisory Board and was selected for inclusion in Best Lawyers in America for 2010.

2002
Sandra Beerle was elected to the board of directors of the Rodey Law Firm in 2010. She practices in the litigation department’s health law section.

2003
Samantha Adams became a shareholder in January 2011 at Modrall Sperling, where she focuses her practice on education, employment and labor law, insurance and intellectual property. She is vice president of the UNM School of Law Alumni/ae Association Board of Directors.

Wade Jackson was appointed to the New Mexico State Advisory Committee of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights in 2010. He practices in the products/general liability practice group at the Rodey Law Firm, where he also is involved in insurance coverage opinions and insurance litigation.

Sarita Nair has been promoted to shareholder at Sutin, Thayer & Browne, where she practices primarily in the areas of business, water, environmental and Indian law. In 2010, she was selected as an American Bar Association Business Law Ambassador for a two-year term.

Lorena Olmos became a shareholder in January 2011 at Modrall Sperling, where her areas of interest are commercial litigation, employment and labor, health care, and torts/personal injury litigation.

Willow Misty Parks was elected probate judge for Bernalillo County in the 2010 election.

Valerie Reighard was elected to the board of directors of the Rodey Law Firm in January 2011. She focuses her practice on professional liability, medical malpractice defense, personal injury, wrongful death and insurance defense litigation.

Brenda Saiz was elected to the board of directors of the Rodey Law Firm in January 2011. She emphasizes product liability in her practice and also focuses on professional liability, wrongful death and insurance defense litigation.

Quentin Smith has been promoted by the Albuquerque law firm of Sheehan & Sheehan to shareholder and director. He focuses his practice on counseling and defending employers in employment litigation and administration proceedings.

2004
Elena Moreno opened La Morena Law in Albuquerque in January 2011. She focuses her practice on probate, family, business, criminal and civil law. She also is a certified mediator.

Lynn Mostoller has joined Sutin Thayer & Browne, where she practices primarily in the areas of commercial litigation, employment law and appeals. She joined the firm in 2010.

Christina Vigil, president of the New Mexico Hispanic Bar Association, was named Regional President of the State Bar of New Mexico.

Aimee Martuccio Whitsell joined the State Bar of New Mexico in 2010. She focuses her practice in the areas of civil litigation, construction law, health law, premises liability, product liability law and professional liability law.

2005
Nicole Moss was named Legal Impact Prosecutor of the Year for 2010 by the Prosecutors Section of the State Bar of New Mexico.

Hilary Noskin was elected to the Board of Trustees for the Albuquerque Community Foundation in 2011. She practices intellectual property law with the Peacock Myers law firm.

Amanda Sanchez was elected to the Board of Directors of the Domestic Violence Resource Center in Albuquerque in 2010. She is an associate at the Rodey Law Firm, where she practices in the business department. The Domestic Violence Resource Center provides a variety of services, including legal services, to adults and children who are victims of domestic violence.

Alums Establish Immigrant Law Center

Jennifer Landau ('06) and Megan Martinez ('10) founded the New Mexico Immigrant Law Center in fall 2010. The center provides legal services to immigrants unable to afford an immigration lawyer, with an initial focus on immigrants in New Mexico who face deportation and those seeking humanitarian protection and family reunification. Landau is also an adjunct professor at the UNM School of Law. The nonprofit’s board of directors includes Javier Martinez ('10) and Kip Bobroff, a former member of the UNM law faculty.
2006
Amber Creel has become an associate with Montgomery & Andrews, where she focuses on defending hospitals and their employed physicians, nurses and technicians in medical malpractice actions. She joined the firm in 2010.

Anita Kelley has become an associate in Civerolo, Gralow, Hill & Curtis, where she has a general civil litigation practice. She joined the firm in 2010.

Josh Skarsgard is one of 15 young commercial real estate professionals to receive the 2010 Developing Leaders Award from NAIOP, the Commercial Real Estate Development Association.

Nasha Y. Torrez (formerly Spall-Martinez) has joined the Albuquerque office of Walsh, Anderson, Brown, Gallegos & Green. She represents school districts across New Mexico. Her practice focuses on general school law, employment and labor law, public meetings and records, contracts and procurement.

2007
Amara (Bustos) and Scott Aaron have opened Aaron & Aaron in Albuquerque, where the couple focus their practice on immigration, criminal and estate planning/probate law. Their 2-year-old son, Isaac Immanuel, loves to sing, dance and eat Challah bread with chocolate chips. They opened their firm in 2010.

Gina Constant was named one of New Mexico’s Women in Technology for 2010 by the New Mexico Technology Council. She is with the Rodey Law Firm, where she focuses her practice in the areas of intellectual property and entertainment law. In 2011, she was elected to serve on the board of the Intellectual Property Section of the State Bar of New Mexico.

Rebecca (Shreve) Kitson has become a shareholder at the Albuquerque firm of John W. Lawit, where she practices in all areas of immigration law. The firm has changed its name to Lawit & Kitson. She joined the firm in 2010.

Kimberly Padilla has become an associate with Wolf & Fox, where she focuses her practice on family law. She joined the firm in 2010.

2008
Mark Bolton joined the government relations group of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck in early 2011. He focuses his practice in the areas of taxation, energy, business regulation and regulation of the legal profession, as well as covering a variety of general legislative issues. He works in the firm’s Phoenix office, which opened in December 2010.

Isaac Estrada joined Peacock Myers as an associate patent attorney in 2010, handling patent, trademark, copyright, and other intellectual property matters, particularly in the field of biotechnology. Estrada is also enrolled in the Johns Hopkins University Advanced Academic Program pursuing a master of science degree in biotechnology.

Robert Matteucci, Jr., became an associate with Raines & Associates, an Albuquerque law firm, in 2010. He focuses his practice on family law cases with business assets and large financial portfolios. His family has owned shoe stores in Albuquerque since the 1990s and he owned Shoes on a Shoestring for 13 years before enrolling in law school.

2009
Daniel Alsup has joined Modrall Sperling as an associate. He focuses his practice on commercial litigation, corporate, real estate and banking transactions.

Neil Bell joined Keleher & McLeod as an associate in 2010. He focuses his practice on civil litigation. Prior to joining the Albuquerque firm, Bell clerked for Justice Richard Bosson of the New Mexico Supreme Court.

Dahlia Dorman joined Modrall Sperling as an associate in 2009. She focuses her practice on employment litigation.

Monica Ewing has joined Sutin, Thayer & Browne. She focuses her practice on commercial litigation, creditors’ rights and intellectual property.

Chris Gatton has joined the Law Office of George Giddens. He focuses his practice on commercial litigation, bankruptcy, bank collections, foreclosures and real estate.

David Gordon has joined Sutin, Thayer & Browne. He focuses his practice on business law, commercial real estate transactions, mergers and acquisitions and commercial contracts.

Heather S. Jaramillo joined the Harvey Law Firm as an associate in 2010. Her practice focuses on nursing home abuse and neglect cases.


Christina Sheehan has become an associate in Modrall Sperling, where she focuses her practice on class action/tort litigation.

Kyle Wackenheim became a death penalty law clerk for the U.S. District Court’s Western District of Oklahoma in 2010. He processes habeas corpus petitions to the federal court from state death row inmates.

Geoffrey White has become an associate in Butt Thornton & Baehr. He focuses his practice on general litigation, medical negligence, workers’ compensation and commercial litigation.

2010
Angela Chávez Adkins joined the Albuquerque law firm of Rugge, Rosales & Associates in 2010. She focuses her practice on family law, estate planning, civil rights and employment law.

Matthew Sanchez became an associate with Sheehan & Sheehan in 2010. He focuses his practice in the areas of general commercial litigation, construction, employment and insurance. Prior to law school, he worked in construction and commercial real estate.

Jordyn Whisenant became an associate with the Eaton Law Office in Albuquerque in 2010. She practices in the areas of personal injury litigation and insurance coverage.
Hannah Best: Always Working on Behalf of People

Even before she entered law school, Hannah Best was working on behalf of people, especially women, less fortunate than herself. Married to a physician, she was a social worker, a consultant for Zuni Pueblo and was involved in a number of civil rights organizations.

Best was a founding member, along with a group of prominent women's rights activists, including Gloria Steinem, Lisa Murkowski and Bella Abzug, of the national Women's Political Caucus. In the 1970s, she, along with 300 other New Mexico women, founded the New Mexico chapter of the National Organization for Women. She also served as the president of the state NAACP.

The more she traveled around New Mexico, the more frustrated she became when she couldn't find lawyers in the small towns to represent civil rights organizations. As a result, she enrolled in the University of New Mexico School of Law.

Following graduation in 1977, she joined the American Indian Law Center, where, under the guidance of Toby Grossman ('68), she helped prepare materials for tribal leaders prior to White House meetings and helped bring top government officials and tribal leaders together to discuss issues. She conducted field work for a paralegal program that trained Native Americans.

In 1981, Best wanted to open her own practice, but she recognized that she needed some supervision. With Harry Relkin ('74), she shared office space and found the support she wanted. For the next 24 years, she focused her practice on employment law, civil rights and work-related discrimination cases.

After a break, she opened a new office and changed her focus. She now helps businesses develop proactive human resources policies and procedures so they can stay in compliance with federal and state laws.

Best is one of the founders of the New Mexico Black Lawyers Association, along with Ray Hamilton and Tommy Jewell ('79). For her contributions to her community, she has received the United Nations Human Rights Award, a Women on the Move Award from the YMCA, a Diva Award from the Rape Crisis Center, the Charlie Driscoll Award from Dismas House and an award of distinction from the New Mexico State Bar.

In 2011, she received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the New Mexico Commission on the Status of Women. Reflecting on her career, Best said, "Being a lawyer gave me an identity and financial independence. I liked the idea of combining my experience as a social worker and the law."

Although she now considers herself a New Mexican, Best was born at West Point Military Academy, where her father was a member of the 10th Cavalry, a black-only unit of the U.S. Army known as the Buffalo soldier regiment. As such, he was a member of the cavalry's polo team, which was the only all-black polo team in the country. The youngest of six children, she babysat for Gen. George Patton's daughter and Dwight D. Eisenhower's grandson.

After earning a master's degree in social work at UCLA, she arrived in Albuquerque with her husband, a physician who was invited to complete his residency at the Veteran’s Administration hospital. They remained in Albuquerque and while no longer married, Best still remembers how the state grabbed her.

"From the moment we drove in from Gallup, I knew this was it. The 5 a.m. sunrise, with the twin boys in back, I thought, 'This is my place.'"
Peter Gallagher
Traded Law for Lounging in Mexico

During Peter Gallagher's military training in World War II, he discovered a knack for learning languages, which propelled him into the Office of Strategic Services, the precursor to the CIA. Already fluent in Spanish, having grown up in Las Cruces, the Army immersed him in a Chinese language program. Gallagher, along with three other men, was then sent to an area in northern China occupied by the Japanese. The men used their new language skills to report on Japanese movement until the war ended.

Back in New Mexico, Gallagher earned his degree from the New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, known today as New Mexico State University. Married with a growing family, he decided to see what the new law school was all about and enrolled in the University of New Mexico law school, earning his law degree in 1951.

He set up a practice with Dale Walker in the Bank of New Mexico building in downtown Albuquerque. Like many lawyers of the day, they were generalists, welcoming nearly every client who walked in the door.

After 28 years, as the practice of law became more specialized, Gallagher was ready to move on. He headed south to Manzanillo, Mexico, where he has lived ever since.

When his grandson, Stephen Marshall ('11), was at his own education crossroads, Gallagher urged him to consider the UNM School of Law. Last May, he traveled from Mexico to see his grandson graduate first in his class. “I’m very proud of him.”


• • •

Steve Scholl:
A Law and Order Life

Before he learned how to read and write, Steve Scholl was making deals. When he and his brother disagreed about their toys, he enlisted his mother to write out a contract that they both signed.

As his literacy skills improved, he decided that he would become a police officer, an FBI agent and a lawyer, probably not all at the same time. His interest in the law was no surprise to his family, considering that his father served as a magistrate and municipal judge for 25 years in his hometown of Silver City. In high school, Scholl spent many afternoons in his father’s courtroom watching trials and pulled many all-nighters inside a police cruiser as an observer. When he went off to New Mexico State University, trailing Chris Menefee, his high school girlfriend and future wife, he majored in police science.

For six years after graduation, he was an officer in the Dallas Police Department, where he was on street patrol and was one of the department’s youngest field training officers. He also met the last surviving member of the Bonnie and Clyde gang, who had been their driver and mechanic. His last two years on the force were spent as a member of the SWAT team.

His two children were born, Stephanie and Andy ('11). After being passed over for a promotion to sergeant, he turned his thoughts toward a different side of the law. Seeking to return home, he applied to the UNM School of Law.

After earning his J.D. in 1989, he joined Hatch, Bettler, Allen & Shepherd, where right away he began taking depositions and going to court.

Eight years later, he joined with Lynn Sharp and Mark Jarmie to establish Sharp, Jarmie & Scholl, where he continued to practice insurance defense and civil litigation. By 1999, his firm had grown to 14 lawyers, which propelled him to seek a more intimate practice.

In 2000, he formed Dixon, Scholl & Bailey with Jerry Dixon and Brent Bailey. “We wanted to be able to say, ‘Serving clients since the turn of the century,’” he says. The firm now has eight lawyers, all of whom focus on civil litigation, serving both plaintiffs and defense clients.

During law school, Scholl competed in the National Trial Competition in 1989, a year when both UNM School of Law teams advanced to the nationals. He has assisted with preparing the team ever since, and in 1992 he became the coach. Bailey, his law partner, now assists him.

“I love working with students who want to learn to be trial lawyers and are willing to work hard,” he says.

In addition to leading the mock trial team, Scholl always finds time to give back to his alma mater. He is currently president of the law school’s Alumni Board, teaches trial practice regularly as an adjunct, helps out whenever asked and is seen at many law school events.

“I love doing what I do, but I couldn’t do it without a law degree,” he says.

“I love the atmosphere at the law school and I brag about it when I travel around the country. It’s a jewel in the crown of government and education in New Mexico.”
Members of the Dean’s Circle gathered for a festive spring reception at the home of Dean Kevin and Libby (’98) Washburn. They reminisced, reconnected and relaxed during the evening event.

The Dean’s Circle is an annual giving society, which is open to all UNM School of Law donors who contribute a minimum of $2,000 in a given fiscal year to any of the school’s funds.

“As a result of this generous level of giving, deserving students receive scholarships, the faculty obtains support for research and resources are provided to help maintain the rigorous academic standards found at the UNM School of Law,” said Washburn.

Benefits of membership in the Dean’s Circle include:

- A personal invitation to all annual UNM School of Law events;
- A personal invitation to two private receptions annually at the home of Dean Kevin Washburn;
- Special designation and recognition at annual UNM School of Law events;
- Listing in an annual Dean’s Circle roster in UNM Law magazine and online.

To learn more about membership, please contact Hannah Farrington, assistant dean for advancement, at 505.277.1038 or farrington@law.unm.edu.

“My continuing support of the UNM School of Law springs from a mixture of gratitude, obligation and hope. I am profoundly grateful for my three years at the law school, for rich memories of excellent teachers and classroom experiences, for lifelong friendships with faculty and classmates, and most of all for thoroughly preparing me for a challenging and personally satisfying career as a lawyer. I’m obligated because my gifts to the law school, no matter how much, will never measure up against the gifts I’ve received. Finally, I’m hopeful that in a small way my giving helps nourish this cherished institution and enables present and future generations of law students to partake in an extraordinary educational community.”

—Tom Olson (’73)
The Dean’s Circle has formerly recognized individuals and firms making contributions of $1,000 or more to the School of Law in an annual period. As we continue to refine and grow our donor recognitions and giving circles in the coming year, we have opted to recognize these alumni and our donors who have made a gift of $2,000 or more (our current Dean’s Circle giving level) for the period of January 2009 to May 2011.

Samantha Adams (‘03)
Diane E. Albert (‘07)
Jeff Albright (‘97) & Beth Albright
Allen, Shepherd, Lewis, Syra and Chapman, P.A.
Bidta Becker (‘00)
Herbert Becker
Mary Behm (‘99)
Anne Bingaman & Sen. Jeff Bingaman
Kristina Bogardus (‘91)
Kay Bratton (‘85)
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Chief Justice Charles Daniels (‘69) & Randi McGinn (‘80)
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Dixon, Scholl & Bailey, P.A.
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Law Office of Stephen Durkovich
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Law Offices of Daymon B. Ely
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Regent Jake G. Gallegos (‘60) & Felice Gonzales (‘83)
M. P. Gross & Associates, P.C.
Leonard Grossman
Wesley Grey Handy (‘84) & Dianne Delany (‘84)
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J. Gary Hickman (‘69) & Dr. Karen Hickman
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Stephanie Landry (‘85)
Robert Lara (‘08)
Patricia Larrabee
Kathleen Davison Lebeck
‘76 & Alan Lebeck
Marte Lightstone (‘86)
Michael W. Lilley, P.A. (‘80)
Cindy Lovato-Farmer (‘93)
Brady Lovelady (‘96)
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Martinez, Hart & Thompson, P.C.
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Brian McPartland
Miller, Stratvert, P.A.
Carl Minzner
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Richard Minzner
Modrall, sperling, Roehl, Harris & Sisk, PA.
Montgomery & Andrews, P.A.
Ronald Morgan
Cerianne Mullins (‘95)
Kathleen Oakey (‘87)
Professor Ted & Sally Occhialino
Thomas Olson (‘73) & Evonne Olson
Dylan O’Reilly (‘99)
Agnes Fuentevilla Padilla (‘92)
The Hon. James Parker
Peacock, Myers, P. C.
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Mary Poole
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Edward Ricco (‘80) & Mary Ann Sweeney
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Rodey, Dickason, Sloan, Akin & Robb, P.A.
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Faith Roessl (‘81) & Matthew Slater
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Rothstein, Donatelli, Hughes, Dahlstrom, Schoenburg & Bienvenu, LLP
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Andrew Shultz (‘84) & Debbie Good
Shapiro, Bettinger, Chase, LLP
Sheehan & Sheehan, P.A.
Simone, Roberts & Weiss, P.A.
Thomas A. Simons, IV, & Susan S. Simons
Simons Firm, LLP
Lynn Slade (‘76) & Susan Zimmerman
State Bar of New Mexico
Jennifer Stone (‘91)
David Stout (‘82)
Sutin, Thayer & Browne, PC
Titus & Murphy PC
Mary Utton
The Hon. Linda vanzi (‘95)
Volk Poulos & Coates, LLP
Walz & Associates
Gregory Williams (‘95)
Peter A. Winograd
Mel E. Yost (‘73) & Barbara Yost
Bradford Zeikus (‘66)
John Ziegler (‘01)

Please note: Names are listed as indicated as preferred in our records. If you wish to update your information, include a spouse, make changes or report an error, please email lobato@law.unm.edu.
The collegiality that develops among fellow law school alumni can be necessarily put on hold when they find themselves on opposite sides of a case. While that may have been the circumstances in a class action lawsuit against Old Line Insurance, what happened once a settlement was reached demonstrated how a high level of professionalism among UNM School of Law graduates and friends can significantly impact the law school in an enduring and noteworthy way.

UNM law school alumni held many roles in this complex lawsuit involving the cost of term life insurance. Lisa Enfield ('87) was the plaintiff. Plaintiff’s attorneys were David Freedman ('73), Robert Hanson, Alan Konrad, Dennis McCary and Floyd Wilson. Representing Old Line was Andy Schultz ('84). The lawsuit was settled in June 2008 for $15 million.

Following the settlement, the attorneys came together in a great show of support for the UNM law school. Once the settlement was reached, it took the lawyers little time to agree on how to distribute unspent funds. The cy pres award, nearly $1.4 million, was presented to the UNM School of Law for the creation of the Frederick M. Hart Chair in Consumer and Clinical Law. Judge Linda Vanzi ('95) signed the order on her last day as a district court judge in 2008, before moving up to the state Court of Appeals.

“The class action lawyers and the plaintiff who brought this case, Lisa Enfield, working on behalf of insurance consumers, felt that it was important to perpetuate the goals of this class action — to protect consumers by providing a vehicle for law students and faculty to address, on a continuing and comprehensive basis, the needs of consumers that often go un-redressed,” said Freedman, who has been a great resource and support to the law school throughout the process of establishing the chair. “Judge Vanzi agreed when she approved the class action lawyers request to use the cy pres funds to establish the chair. It was an honor to name the chair for Dean Hart, whose commitment to both the clinical law program and consumer advocacy has long been recognized.”

Creating a chair in consumer and clinical law embraced the essence of the settlement by supporting the educational mission of the law school through recognition of its faculty members who teach in the areas of consumer and clinical law. At the same time, all parties agreed that it was a great opportunity to honor their former dean and professor for his many contributions to consumer and clinical law. “In so many ways, Fred is the person who influenced our education, our careers and our perception of what a lawyer can and should be,” Schultz said.

The chair was fully endowed in December 2010. Dean Kevin Washburn anticipates it will be awarded for the first time to a UNM Law faculty member this fall. “The law school is grateful for this meaningful gift,” said Washburn. “By providing this chair to a member of our faculty, we will be able to deepen the law school’s commitment to the teaching of consumer and clinical law.”

“The class action lawyers... felt that it was important to perpetuate the goals of this class action — to protect consumers by providing a vehicle for law students and faculty to address the needs of consumers that often go un-redressed.”

— David Freedman ('73)

Continue the Legacy

Please help us to continue this remarkable legacy by making a gift to The Frederick M. Hart Chair in Consumer and Clinical Law. Gifts to this fund will allow its impact to be both rewarding and impactful to its faculty recipients. Faculty chairs allow the School of Law to recognize great achievement and provide much needed faculty support, which would be otherwise unavailable.

To make a gift, call 505.277.1038 or visit lawschool.unm.edu/alumni/index.php today. We deeply appreciate your support of our faculty.

The Frederick M. & Joan M. Hart Opportunity Scholarship Fund

Be one of the first to help us establish the Frederick M. & Joan M. Hart Opportunity Scholarship Fund.

This new fund, named for beloved former Dean and Professor Fred Hart, and his wonderful wife, Joan, for their extensive and tireless support of the UNM School of Law, is being established for students interested in the study of law and pursuit of a legal career who otherwise would be wholly unable to do so.

For more information, and help with gifts to this fund call 505.277.1038 or visit lawschool.unm.edu and click on Alumni & Giving.
Connecting in Washington, D.C.

With so many highly engaged alumni in the Washington, D.C., area and students eager to enrich their academic experience, the UNM School of Law has continued its efforts to provide study and exchange opportunity in and around Washington D.C. for our students. With a vibrant alumni community and a group of these alumni having come together to support these efforts, this is a wonderful opportunity to increase a sense of connectivity and community while providing meaningful work and study opportunities for our students.

Taking advantage of unmatched educational and internship opportunities available only in the nation’s capital, UNM law students have spent recent semesters at Howard University and Catholic University (The Catholic exchange ended with the Spring 2011 semester.) and have worked as summer interns at government agencies.

These students have enjoyed resources and support from an alumni committee that has come together to ensure that every UNM law student succeeds during their time in Washington. Through this group’s generous seed funds, the Washington, D.C. Area Law Student Exchange and Internship Fund has been created to provide financial support to UNM law students during their time in Washington, D.C.

Recent Alumni Events

Alumni, friends and faculty gathered on June 20 at the Washington, D.C., home of Sen. Jeff and Anne Bingaman for a reception with Dean Kevin K. Washburn to celebrate the recent appointment of Judge Jimmie Reyna (’78) to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Spirits were high as reminiscences flowed at the festive event.

The enthusiastic UNM School of Law D.C. alumni group gathered in March for an informal happy hour at the Elephant and Castle Pub in Washington, D.C. The happy hour provided UNM law students Anne Illanes-Meyers (’12) and Monica Moya (’12), who were visiting at Howard University School of Law and at Columbus School of Law at the Catholic University of America, respectively, an opportunity to meet graduates of the UNM School of Law who live and work in the nation’s capital. Also in attendance were Kathryn Benz (’06), Jane Cavanaugh (’95), Rebecca Roose (’04), Chandria Slaughter (’02), Patrick Schaefer (’09), Denise Coca (’96), Michael Connelly (’93), honorary alumna Ana Montiel, and the organizers of the event, Anne Noel Occhialino (’98) and Tequila Brooks (’97).

Connect with UNM Law Students

Washington, D.C., area alumni are encouraged to connect with UNM School of Law students participating in the Washington, D.C., exchange program, working, interning and externing in metro Washington, D.C. and to support Washington-area alumni working to create alumni opportunities and gatherings.

For more information, please send an email to: nmlawindc@gmail.com. Or visit them at LinkedIn or Facebook — University of New Mexico School of Law DC Alumni

Alumni/Employers — Get involved! To let us know of internship and externship opportunities year-round where you work or have connections, or to contribute support for this programming, please contact Hannah Farrington, assistant dean for advancement, farrington@law.unm.edu.

Upcoming Event

Washington, D.C., Area Alumni Annual Fall CLE — Ethics, to be presented in Washington, D.C., by Emeritus Professor Ted Occhialino. Date and time are still to be determined. Stay tuned.
### SCHOOL OF LAW HAPPENINGS  •  2011

**August 12**  
10th Annual School of Law Alumni/ae Association Summer Golf Classic. Proceeds benefit the UNM School of Law Alumni/ae Association’s critical full-tuition student scholarships. 11:30 a.m. lunch, 12:30 p.m. shotgun start. The tournament is returning to the UNM Championship Golf Course. Register at lawschool.unm.edu/alumni/events/2011/golf.php or contact Melissa Lobato at lobato@law.unm.edu.

**August 17**  
Orientation for the Class of 2014. First-year students are welcomed to the UNM School of Law during three days of familiarizing activities. First day of classes is August 22.

**September 28**  
Scholarship/Donor and Recipient Recognition Luncheon. Save the date and look for details in the coming months.

**October 20**  
U.S. Senator Dennis Chavez Endowed Lectureship/Symposium on Law and Civil Rights. The inaugural event of this new lecture series made possible with the Chavez and Tristani families will be presented by Judge Mary Murguia, of the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Save the date and look for details in the coming months.

**November 4**  
Distinguished Achievement Awards Dinner. Peter C. Mallery (’68), Catherine T. Goldberg (’75) and Professor Leo M. Romero will be honored with the 2011 award for their accomplishments and dedicated service to the legal profession. Reception at 6 p.m., dinner and awards presentation at 7 p.m. UNM SUB Ballroom. Make a reservation today at lawschool.unm.edu/alumni/events/2011/daad.php or contact Melissa Lobato at lobato@law.unm.edu.

**Fall 2011**  
The Fall 2011 Dean’s Circle Reception at the home of Dean Kevin and Libby Washburn is expected to take place the second week of November. Details to come.