A Special Thanks to Adjunct Faculty Members

Each year, several practicing attorneys and judges donate a tremendous amount of time to serve as adjunct faculty members at the School of Law. I characterize their work as a donation because, although they are paid, the amount we can afford to pay is so limited that it serves more as an honorarium than a paycheck. Each year, we hire somewhere between 20 and 30 adjuncts, including several who coach our mock trial and moot court teams.

The University requires us to run an advertisement for adjunct faculty members. Interested lawyers then submit a cover letter and resumé during the summer or fall. Regrettably, there are never enough openings for us to invite everyone who is interested to teach, but I find such a high level of interest in teaching particularly gratifying.

This amazing support from the legal community is valuable to our students on many levels. First, students are able to learn from practicing attorneys who are involved in a broad variety of practice areas. While many of our full-time faculty continue to practice law in the clinic and beyond, they are not engaged in the full-time practice of law. Students find the exposure to full-time practitioners inspiring.

In addition, adjuncts infuse our curriculum with specialized knowledge. Finally, the adjunct faculty serves as a core group of local lawyers and judges for our students to meet and depend on as mentors and contacts as they enter law practice after graduation.

It is difficult to give adjunct faculty members the proper recognition for their efforts on behalf of our students. They often teach in the evening or on weekends, making them our quiet partners in the educational process. I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank all of you for your hard work and valuable contribution to the future of New Mexico’s legal community!

Until next time,

Suellyn Scarneccia

Suellyn Scarneccia

HIGHLIGHTS

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On the cover: Gov. Bruce King welcomes guests to the opening of the Gov. Bruce King Reading Room and Archives during a dedication ceremony on his 82nd birthday. See story on Page 6-7.
Leonard Tsosie Honored

UNM School of Law faculty and students paid tribute to state Sen. Leonard Tsosie for more than 13 years of legislative support to the school. Tsosie was elected to the state Legislature shortly after earning his J.D. from the UNM School of Law in 1992. Ever since he has worked to pass legislation that has strengthened the field of Indian Law around the state, along with the school’s Indian Law program. He has supported the Southwest Indian Law Clinic since its inception in 1993 and the Law Library’s Indian Law collection. He was honored at an April celebration and luncheon and was accompanied by his wife, Angie Benally ('93) and their daughter.

Advocacy Tournament

For the 11th year in a row, first-year students impressed the panel of judges and classmates who packed the moot courtroom to witness the New Mexico Court of Appeals Oral Advocacy Tournament. This year’s tournament was organized slightly different than in years past. Students competed in two-member teams, each of which wrote a brief and then argued it before their Advocacy class before moving on to the tournament. Each student on the team was responsible for one issue of a problem that involved federal issues of tribal court jurisdiction and exhaustion of tribal remedies. In the largest participation ever, a total of 68 students competed, with Danielle Cantrell, Robert Lucero, Samantha Ruscavage-Barz and Robert Sanchez making it to the final round. Lucero and Ruscavage-Barz prevailed.

Applications Up at Law School

The University of New Mexico School of Law received more than 1,400 applications for entry in the 2006-2007 school year, resisting a downward trend at 125 of the 190 accredited U.S. law schools. This represents an 8 percent increase from a year ago and the second highest number of applications received for a given academic year.

Upcoming Events

June 23 - July 28
8 a.m. - 5 p.m. June 23, 24 & July 28
Economic Development for Small Businesses
Sara Berger, owner of the Small Business Law Center in Albuquerque, will teach this course, which will introduce law students and practicing attorneys to the legal needs of small and micro businesses in New Mexico. The class is open to practicing lawyers, as well as law students. Register with Gloria Gomez at 277-0820 or gomez@law.unm.edu.

July 7
Summer Golf Classic
Tournament raises funds for alumni scholarships. Sponsored by the UNM School of Law Alumni Association.
Lunch: 11:30 a.m.
Shotgun start: 12:30 p.m.
UNM Championship Course
Cost: $110 per player or $425 per foursome. To sign up, call Carmen Rawls at 277-8184.

October 20
Distinguished Achievement Awards Banquet
6 p.m. hosted reception
7 p.m. dinner and awards ceremony
UNM Student Union Ballroom

October 26
Ramo Lecture on International Justice
UNM School of Law
Details to be announced.

For more information on any of the above events, please contact Carmen Rawls with the UNM School of Law at 277-8184 or rawls@law.unm.edu.

For a more up-to-date list of events, visit lawschool.unm.edu.
On the eve of Justice Samuel Alito’s U.S. Supreme Court confirmation, Harold Koh offered a perspective on the influence of globalization on the nation’s highest court to a public audience at the UNM School of Law. Koh, dean of Yale Law School and a leading scholar in international law, was presenting the John Field Simms/Alumni Association Memorial Lecture.

Koh, a 1980 graduate of Harvard Law School, remembered that when he clerked for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun in 1981 only one case on the court’s docket involved international law. In the last two years, international law issues have made up about 25 percent of the high court docket.

With the growing influence of a global society, the justices have squared off on how much they are willing to embrace globalization in their decisions. On one side are the Transnationalists, who see the United States as interdependent with other countries and they look to the international arena when making their decisions. Taking this approach are Justices Stephen Breyer, Ruth Ginsburg, David Souter and John Paul Stevens. Justice Anthony Kennedy usually agrees with them.

The Nationalists are justices who view the U.S. legal system as autonomous and consider only national precedents in their decisions. This group is comprised of Justices Clarence Thomas and Antonin Scalia. Pointing to their judicial decisions and testimony in their confirmation hearings, Koh suggests that Chief Justice John Roberts and Alito will more often line up with the Nationalists.

“The tension between the Transnationalists and Nationalists is going to determine the U.S. courts’ orientation toward globalization,” he said during his hour-long power-point presentation. Currently, this nonpartisan division is tilted toward the Transnationalists, but Koh anticipates the next appointment to the high court will be scrutinized for its pivotal role in this balance.

He referred to history for how the U.S. has taken its cues from the international arena, most notably when the country was being established. “The rights of Americans were defined in terms of what people thought the universal standards were,” he said. “They wanted to make America the best in terms of these rights.”

After an assessment of how the principles of the U.S. have been upturned since 9/11/2001, Koh concluded with a question, “Is our Supreme Court ready for the age of globalization? Whether they are or not, it is here.”

Preceding the lecture, Koh visited informally with members of the law school’s International Law Students Association.

The John Field Simms Memorial Lecture was established in 1954 by Albert Simms in memory of his brother, John, who served on the New Mexico Supreme Court, as a UNM regent and was a highly respected trial lawyer. Previous Simms lecturers have included U.S. Supreme Court justices William O. Douglas, Anthony Kennedy and Sandra Day O’Connor. The UNM School of Law Alumni Association now donates funds annually to support the Simms lecture series so that it can be hosted by the law school every other year.
Hungarian Students Receive Mediation Training

Like many of Scott Hughes’ students, Zsofia Drjenguszky is interested in learning dispute resolution and arbitration techniques. Her intention, however, is to take the knowledge back to her home in Budapest, Hungary, where she is earning a doctorate in sociology at Corvinus University.

Drjenguszky is the latest in a stream of Hungarian students who show up in Hughes’ classes through the generosity of the Julius Rezler Foundation, established in 1995 by Julius Rézler, a professor emeritus of economics from Loyola University of Chicago. In 1988, he relocated to Albuquerque, where he worked as an arbitrator with the National Academy of Arbitration and as a mediator with the New Mexico Center for Dispute Resolution.

A Hungarian native forced to leave the country in 1948, Rézler, who died in 2001, set up the foundation to help train Hungarian students in conflict resolution as a way to introduce these problem-solving techniques to his home country and Central Europe. Since 1995, the foundation has funded 16 Hungarian students for a semester of study at UNM. Previous scholars now teach conflict resolution and serve as a judge in Hungary; some have set up their own Budapest mediation firm.

Through her two law school courses and a dispute resolution class taught by Zane Reeves in the School of Public Administration, Drjenguszky, whose research involves conflict in the workplace, learned about conflict resolution from different viewpoints. She completed the classroom work, but received no grades, rather a certificate for completing the program.

Reeves, a colleague of Rézler’s at UNM, has run the foundation since his death. He is the only American member of the Julius Rézler Foundation and is finishing a biography scheduled to be published this summer, titled, From Budapest to Albuquerque: The American Life of Julius Rézler.

As a visiting scholar, Drjenguszky has most enjoyed the hands-on opportunities during Hughes’ weekend mediation training sessions, along with the small classes that provide lots of opportunity for interaction with her classmates.

“Most interesting has been the practical work with mediators and the chance to see real-life arbitrations and mediations,” she says.

Like the Hungarian scholars before her, Drjenguszky lives in a garage apartment next door to University Planner Steve Borbas, a Hungarian native who welcomes the connection to his own heritage and the contribution they make to UNM through sharing stories about their culture.

“All of these students are amazing,” says Borbas. “Not only are they smart, but clearly they are adventurous.”

Students Shine

Matt Ingram Receives Fulbright

Matt Ingram has been awarded a prestigious Fulbright Scholarship to pursue dissertation research in Brazil where he will conduct an examination of the Brazilian judicial system. Specifically, he will examine the determinants of state-level judicial performance in Brazil’s 27 states in order to suggest improvements to the country’s system.

Along with a law degree, Ingram, a Mexico native, is working on a Ph.D. in political science with an emphasis in Latin America. His research in Brazil is part of a larger project on judicial performance in Brazil and Mexico, Latin America’s two largest federal systems.

Fulbright scholarships are awarded to about 800 students every year and will allow Ingram to spend nine months in Brazil in 2007.

Carlos Ruiz de la Torre Takes Top Prize in Grammy Writing Contest

Carlos Ruiz de la Torre became the first law student in the nation to win the Entertainment Law Initiative Essay Competition twice, even though others have tried. His paper entitled, “Towards The Digital Music Distribution Age: Business Model Adjustments And Legislative Proposals To Improve Legal Downloading Services And Counter Piracy,” won the grand prize of a $5,000 scholarship, publication of the paper in a national law journal and an all-expense-paid trip to the Grammy Awards. Last year, his paper was one of four runners-up.

UNM Law Students Take Top Roles in Regional BLSA

Aja Brooks has been named regional attorney general and Shammara Henderson as regional corporate relations director on the Rocky Mountain Regional Board for the National Black Law Student Association. They will serve for the 2006-2007 school year. Brooks won her position during elections at the Rocky Mountain BLSA regional conference and Henderson was appointed to her position by the 2006-2007 regional chair. The Rocky Mountain region consists of the following states: Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah and Wyoming.

Staff News

Krista Allen has joined the staff at the Institute of Public Law, where she is the administrator for the institute, the public service arm of the UNM School of Law. For the previous two years, she was the faculty support supervisor at the law school.

Herb Wright has resigned to become a real estate appraiser. He served five years as director of development and alumni affairs at the UNM law school.
Hundreds of old friends, dignitaries, supporters and new friends turned out to help Gov. Bruce King dedicate the Gov. Bruce King Archives and Reading Room and celebrate his 82nd birthday on April 6 at the UNM School of Law.

Speakers included Gov. Bill Richardson, David Harris, acting president of UNM; Jamie Koch, president of the UNM Board of Regents; Suellen Scarnecchia, dean of the UNM School of Law; and Kay Marr and Laura Threet, both former King Administration cabinet secretaries. Marr and Threet led the volunteer effort to fund the archives and room renovation. The project was led at the law school by Professor Carol Parker, director of the Law Library.

Gary King, one of the governor’s sons, shared stories of growing up under the influence of one of New Mexico’s most influential modern-day leaders. Following the accolades, Gov. King symbolically branded a piece of wood with his family’s brand, then cut a three-tiered carrot cake as the crowd sang “Happy Birthday to You.”

The Curio Cowboys and Los Rios de Albuquerque provided music, and guests toured the new reading room inside the Law Library. The room, decorated with King family memorabilia, will be open to state legislators and other groups for meetings, as well as to individual researchers, especially those interested in the governor’s personal papers, which will be stored in a separate archive room inside the Law Library.
New Reading Room

[Images of various events and people in the reading room]
Practical Criminal Law Training Expanding

Everyone knows there are two sides to every argument, a concept our justice system is based upon. Moot court competitions require law students to become versed in both sides of an issue and regularly, in the classroom, professors urge discussion from different points of view.

As such, the UNM law school will be introducing a new course next spring that is designed to offer students the opportunity for hands-on experience in both the District Attorney's and the Public Defender offices in Bernalillo County. The four-credit course, Criminal Law in Practice, will include a classroom component, taught by Professor Leo Romero, along with hands-on practice under the supervision of Ralph Odenwald, chief public defender of New Mexico and Deputy District Attorney Richard Bowman ('85).

“We want students to have more opportunities to work directly with clients,” says Mike Norwood, associate dean of academic affairs. “They will learn about this field from both perspectives and hopefully be better prepared for employment in those offices.”

In the classroom, Romero will discuss pretrial and trial procedures in criminal cases with a particular emphasis on strategy and tactics in the practice of criminal law from both the prosecution and defense perspectives. He will also focus on ethics and professionalism.

“In addition to teaching the practical aspects of a criminal practice, I want our students to appreciate both the prosecution and defense roles in our criminal justice system and to respect the function served by their adversary,” he says.

In addition to representing actual clients, the practical component will offer students the opportunity to learn how a grand jury works and a look into the various divisions in each office. Students will choose to work in either the DA or PD office.

“Regardless of what the students want to do after law school, our goal is to expose them to a good overview of the criminal justice system, particularly in Bernalillo County,” says Bowman. “I am especially excited that we’ll be developing a component that will try to instill concepts of professionalism before they get into the practice of law. This, along with a collaborative effort between the DA and PD offices, can’t help but strengthen the relationships between the offices.”

“It’s always exciting to work with law students,” says Odenwald. “From past internship and externship programs with the law school, we have hired some of our best lawyers.”

This course will replace the District Attorney Clinic, but will not be applied to the clinical requirement. Following the course, students can arrange externships to continue to work for credit in the offices.

“By offering students the additional chance to work in the Public Defender’s Office, we think this course will build on the past successes of the DA clinic,” says Norwood. “I look forward to maintaining our strong relationship with the DA’s office and building a relationship with the Public Defender.”

Law School, Santa Clara Pueblo Sign Agreement

At the All Indian Pueblo Council’s March meeting at the UNM School of Law, Professor John LaVelle provided details on a new Memorandum of Understanding between Santa Clara Pueblo and the law school. Modeled on a similar agreement with the Navajo Nation, the pueblo will provide a stipend matched by the UNM law school to cover tuition and expenses at the law school for Santa Clara law students. Santa Clara also will provide a stipend to tribal members who attend the Pre-law Summer Institute.

The memorandum is the first between the law school and a New Mexico pueblo. A similar agreement is pending with the Jicarilla Apache tribe.

“The memorandum will strengthen support for Santa Clara law students and we look forward to establishing early relationships with Santa Clara students who might be interested in attending law school,” says Susan Mitchell, assistant dean for Admissions and Financial Aid.

Symposium Focuses on Cohen Handbook of Federal Indian Law

The Felix S. Cohen Handbook of Federal Indian Law was the topic of discussion during a daylong symposium that scrutinized the handbook, which was recently updated. UNM law professor John LaVelle served as an executive editor of the update and contributing writers included UNM law professors Kip Bobroff, Christine Zuni Cruz and Gloria Valencia-Weber. The symposium was co-sponsored by the American Indian Law Center, Arizona State University School of Law and the UNM School of Law.
Just before final exams in his first semester of law school, Todd Coberly had a watershed moment. As a member of the New Mexico Innocence and Justice Project (IJP), he had been investigating a case involving Carl Case, who was serving a life sentence since 1982 for raping and murdering a 16-year-old runaway who was a former cheerleader. As he questioned a witness in the case, the witness recanted his testimony, a development that could change Case’s sentence.

“Within 15 minutes of talking to the witness, he said he had lied, then for the next two hours, he couldn’t stop talking,” says Coberly, a 3L. “This remains one of my most powerful law school experiences.”

Throughout law school, he continued to work on this case, and others like it, through the IJP, a collaborative effort between the UNM law school and the New Mexico Criminal Defense Lawyers Association that revisits capital cases of questionable convictions. The IJP was organized in 2000, joining a national movement of innocence projects that began in 1991.

After two years of working with the project, which enlisted students to investigate cases of inmates who completed a questionnaire about their cases, Coberly, along with other IJP members proposed a course that would provide more structured guidance into the area of habeas corpus practice. Their role with the IJP was to read through the questionnaires, conduct research and present them to lawyers who could file to request review of the cases. As a volunteer effort, they couldn’t keep up with the 60 questionnaires that have been returned by inmates since the project’s inception.

This spring semester, their request was answered when Albuquerque lawyers Scot Davidson (’96) and Brian Pori taught Innocence and Justice: Post-conviction Relief, a seminar that attracted 15 students.

The seminar’s objectives were to speed up the screening process of the questionnaires, some returned as long as four years ago, and educate the students on the law of habeas corpus. Individually, students read through those questionnaires to determine which merited further investigation, and researched some that did. In teams of two, they then wrote habeas petitions for six of the most promising claims.

Right away, they learned of the high costs of proving innocence, from DNA testing ($5,000 per test), which can offer conclusive evidence in proving someone’s innocence, to travel and copying expenses.

Still, “This was by far my most valuable experience in law school, working on an actual case,” says Andrea Gomez, also a 3L. “I hope the next class will carry on what we have begun.”

Coberly continued to work on the Carl case, helping to write a habeas brief, which in mid-April was dismissed. His response, “We will be applying with the New Mexico Supreme Court for a writ of certiorari, asking them to hear our case.”

Monte Carlo on the Rio

A night of gambling and fun in late March helped raise funds to support students who work in public interest law during the summer months. The Monte Carlo on the Rio fundraiser is the chief source of funding for the fellowships sponsored by the Association of Public Interest Law.
Moot Court, Mock Trial

Animal Law Moot Court

Two UNM law school teams competed for the first time in the Animal Law Moot Court competition at Harvard Law School in February. The problem involved questions of standing for an organization in a suit against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and review of a district court decision that refused to overrule a Fish and Wildlife Service approval of importation of seven Asian elephants, an endangered species.

While not winning the top awards, one team received the third-highest score on its brief. The other team placed high in oral arguments in which they argued off brief to a panel of judges that included attorneys who actually sued the Fish and Wildlife Service in the real-life case. Members of the team were l-r: Ocean Tama Y Sweet, Simone Seiler, Brooke Nowak Neely, Fantina Becker and Koury Hicks.

Health Law Moot Court

The UNM School of Law’s Health Law Moot Court team competed against 34 teams in the national Health Law Moot Court competition last fall at Southern Illinois University. Pictured are, l-r: Nicholas Marshall, coach Mary Behm (’99), Deana Bennett and John Sugg. Also on the team was Minerva Camp, not pictured. They argued a right-to-die case, addressing a number of issues about living wills.

Jessup International Moot Court

The UNM law school’s Jessup International Moot Court team argued forcefully and eloquently at the regional competition in Austin, TX in February. Members were Lisa Collins, Chris Frey, Annie Maxfield and Brandt Milstein. Matt Ingram, a member of last year’s team, served as team adviser and Beth Gillia (’97) was coach.

National Moot Court

Two UNM teams tackled one of the most challenging problems coach Ed Ricco (’80) has seen in the ABA National Appellate Advocacy competition. The problem involved complex constitutional questions regarding application of the federal Voting Rights Act to felon disenfranchisement. Both teams won one round and lost two in the preliminary rounds of the regional competition in San Francisco in early March. A brief written by Shammara Henderson, Erin Kutinac and Adrian Vega received the fifth-place award. Amy Lammers, David Meilleur and Tiffany Mercado made up the second team. “The team members rose to the challenge and delivered strong and cogent arguments on issues that perplexed many of their judges,” Ricco said. “It is always gratifying to me to watch law students grow as advocates as a result of their efforts in the competition. This year was no exception.”

National Mock Trial

Both UNM law teams in the National Mock Trial competition made a strong showing at the regional competition in February. The team comprised of third-year students Andrea Gunderson, David Leigh and Derek Weems made it to the final round. Second-year students Matt Clarke, Chris Mills and John Sugg also competed. Many students and practicing lawyers helped coaches Steve Scholl (’89) and Brent Bailey prepare the students.
UNM Team Wins it All at Hispanic Bar Competition

At the first UNM School of Law team ever to win the Hispanic National Bar Association’s Moot Court Competition, Denise Chanez, Damian Lara and Elaine Lujan have tasted celebrity. Accompanied by family members, who made the long trip to Seattle for the March 10-11 competition, with every round they won, they picked up more supporters, even judges of their previous rounds.

The first day of competition, they went up against teams from George Washington University and Hamline University law schools, displaying poise when the judges had the teams argue out of order and no bailiff was available to keep track of time. Lujan and Chanez especially enjoyed the rounds when the two of them went up against an all-male team.

That night, with only eight of the original 30 teams remaining in the competition, the UNM team left others to celebrate. Exhibiting the discipline that marked their month-long preparation, they returned to their rooms to review, one more time, the case that was based on Hamdan v. Donald Rumsfeld, a prisoner rights case that was heard in late March by the U.S. Supreme Court. For the competition, the students focused on whether President George Bush had the authority to create a military commission to hear the prisoner’s case and whether the Geneva Convention applied to the case. The prisoner, fictionalized for the competition, was being held at Camp Echo on Guantanamo Bay after being rounded up in Afghanistan in 2001.

The next day, the UNM team defeated teams from Depaul and Catholic universities before going up against the University of Wisconsin in the final round, which was judged by three justices from the Washington Supreme Court, along with state appellate court judges from Colorado, Oregon and Texas.

The teammates attributed their success, which came with $4,000 in scholarship money to be divided among them, to the training they received from UNM law professors and lawyers during their many practice rounds.

“We got a lot of crazy questions during practice rounds and by the time we left for the competition, there were no questions we weren’t prepared to answer,” says Chanez, the only 3L on the team.

Lara agreed: “We had a good combination of ability and sufficient background information to handle the questions thrown at us.”

In addition to the thrill of taking home the trophy, Chanez, Lara and Lujan gained a new level of confidence in their legal skills.

“Now I’m completely confident about standing in front of a judge,” says Lujan. “But most rewarding was having all of our hard work pay off.”

NALSA Moot Court

Philip Morin was awarded third prize in the Best Oralist category at the National NALSA Moot Court competition in Seattle in February. His teammates were Debra Haaland, Nellis Kennedy, Tim McLaughlin, Suzanne Martinez and Emily White Hat. They were coached by Dan Rey-Bear, Doreen Hobson and Rodina Cave, all members of the Nordhaus Law Firm. Professor Gloria Valencia-Weber was the team’s adviser.
Guest Speakers

Juan Manuel Solana, Mexican consul in Albuquerque, presented a talk in February about business and legal culture in Mexico. Solana is an economist with a background in marketing, finance, international commerce and diplomacy. His talk was sponsored by the International Law Students Association.

Dr. David Morton, a veterinary surgeon and head of the Centre for Biomedical Ethics at the University of Birmingham, England, presented a lecture in February titled, "Approaches to Refinement When Using Animals in Research: Same Gain, Less Pain." He also is the author of Animal Ethics. The lecture was sponsored by the UNM School of Law and the UNM Office of Animal Care and Compliance.

Mark Curriden, author of Contempt of Court: A Turn-of-the-Century Lynching that Launched 100 Years of Federalism, discussed his book during an afternoon lecture at the law school. Curriden, senior communications counsel with the Dallas firm Vinson & Elkins, holds a law degree, but has spent his career as a legal journalist and writer. His talk was sponsored by the law school, the Black Law Students Association, the UNM Division of African American Studies and the New Mexico Black Lawyers Association.

Michael Olivas, director of the Institute for Higher Education Law and Governance at the University of Houston Law Center, presented a lecture entitled, "Colored Men and Hombres Aqui: Hernandez v. Texas and the Emergence of Mexican American Lawyering". The case was the first ever tried by Mexican-American lawyers in the U.S. Supreme Court. Olivas also holds the William B. Bates Distinguished Chair in Law at Houston. The lecture was sponsored by MALSA and the International Law Students Association.

Linda Vanzi (’95) and Monica Zamora (’87), both judges in New Mexico’s Second Judicial District, shared stories about their experiences on the bench as part of an April brown-bag lunch series organized by the Women’s Law Caucus.

ACLU Lawyers Talk About their Work

Albuquerque lawyer David Stout talks about his law practice.

A group of local lawyers who accept cases for the American Civil Liberties Union converged on the law school in February to share their stories with students and answer questions about what it’s like to be a plaintiff’s civil rights lawyer. The event was hosted by the UNM School of Law’s ACLU chapter. Panelists were:

- George Bach (’02)
- Scott Cameron
- Peter Cubra (’81)
- Bryan Davis (’02)
- Phil Davis (’78)
- Jane Gagne (’94)
- Sharon Hawk (’04)
- Melissa Hill
- Joe Kennedy
- Nancy Koenigsberg (’88)
- Larry Kronen (’01)
- Liz McGrath (’87)
- Shannon Oliver (’94)
- Maureen Sanders (’79)
- Jim Scarpantino
- Andy Schultz (’84)
- David Stout (’82)
- Jane Wishner

Panel Discusses Kendra’s Law

Dr. Steven Jenkusky, director of psychiatric services at the UNM Health Sciences Center, discusses a proposal to provide mandatory outpatient treatment for the mentally ill in New Mexico. Other participants at the Ethics, Law and Medicine panel in March were, l-r, Nancy Koenigsberg (’88), legal director of Protection and Advocacy System, and Carol Brusca, a therapist with the Southwest Center for Family Development.
MALSA Honors Dan Sosa, Jr.

Justice Dan Sosa, Jr., ('51) received the Fighting for Justice Award at an April banquet, presented for the 11th year by the Mexican American Law Student Association. The former New Mexico Supreme Court Justice was accompanied by his wife, Rita, and many family members, including seven children, 26 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. In fact, during his acceptance speech, Sosa invited his wife to the podium to introduce the family members in attendance.

Attorney General Patricia Madrid ('73) presented the keynote address to a lively crowd at the Sandia Resort and Casino and UNM law students Tim Atler and Dahlia Olsher served as masters of ceremony. Denise Chanez, who served as MALSA president for two years, received the MALSA Graduate of the Year Award.

Sosa’s distinguished career included establishing the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF) in 1968 and serving 16 years on the state Supreme Court, retiring in 1991. Back living in his hometown of Las Cruces, he serves on the New Mexico Judicial Standards Commission.

Minority Mentorship Mixer

Minority high school and college students spent a Saturday afternoon at the law school, where they met law students, law professors, lawyers and judges. They also learned in detail what it takes to become a law student and what it’s like in law school. The March event was sponsored by the UNM School of Law Admissions Office, MALSA, BLSA and NALSA.

Aaron Ezekial, a 3L, left, shows off the law school to his goddaughter and her friend. Second-year student Gbenoba Idah helps out.
Lawyers Donate Time for Mock Interviews

The UNM School of Law would like to say thank you to the following lawyers for the generous donation of their time helping out in the Career and Student Services annual mock interview program.

Mark Baker
Bldtah Becker (’00)
Rachel Berenson
John Blair (’04)
Caroline Blankenship (’02)
Nicole Charlebois
Morris Chavez (’98)
Martha Chicoski
Brian Colón (’01)
Alexander Crecca
Arlyn Crow (’03)
Ernestina Cruz (’01)
Joan Drake (’01)
Sandra Engel
Terry Farmer
Emily Franke (’85)
Melanie Fritzsche (’96)
Sean Garrett (’01)
William Gilchrest
LaDonna Giron (’00)
Amy Haas
Charles Lakins (’01)
Paige Melendres
Shannon Nairn
Kyle Nayback (’96)
Amelia Nelson
Carlos Obrey-Espinoza (’01)
Bryan Otero (’01)
Allison Pieroni (’01)
Judge Daniel Ramczyk (’83)
Clement Rogers
Alison Rosner (’01)
Joseph Sapien (’02)
Phillip Sapien
Raul Sedillo (’02)
David Standridge (’96)
Meghan Dimond Stanford (’00)
Briana Zamora (’00)

Enjoying lunch are l-r: Amelia Nelson, Mo Chavez, Kyle Nayback, Briana Zamora, Arlyn Crow, and John Blair.

Being treated to a thank-you lunch are l-r: Brian Colón, Joseph Sapien and Terry Farmer.
First-year Stories

Former Mid-high Teacher, Students Now Classmates

For 25 years, Mike Osborn was in charge of his own classroom, challenging and encouraging gifted students at Jefferson Middle School in Albuquerque. In his humanities seminar, a freeform course that urged independent thinking, he had the freedom to engage the bright students in far-reaching discussions of literature, social studies and history. He even conducted mock trials.

Last fall, Osborn returned to the classroom, this time as a first-year student at the UNM School of Law. In addition to becoming a student for the first time in many years, he found himself sitting alongside some of his former students, now his classmates.

"It has been remarkably unweird," says Osborn. "And particularly nice."

Before he began teaching, Osborn had planned to go to law school. An Oklahoma native, he was a social worker on the Navajo Reservation when he turned to teaching. Soon he discovered that teaching the brightest students was a great fit and a great opportunity. He obtained a master’s degree and continued teaching at Jefferson. But when he was eligible for retirement, he remembered his original plan and decided it was time to follow through on it.

"I feel like an undecided major; there are so many things that interest me," he says. Coming from a family that embraced adoption, he is interested in the legal side of adoption; being part Cherokee, he wants to earn an Indian Law certificate; a former social worker, he is interested in family law. "It's so energizing."

This year, he has been learning alongside former students, Mark Bolton, Valerie Silva and Jeremy Harrison. Another former student, Jessica Browde, a 3L, was a tutor in his contracts class.

Both Bolton and Browde, now in their 20s, considered Osborn’s class influential in opening up their thinking.

"He was a facilitator, a learning partner and more of a friend," says Browde. "We called him Mike."

"The seminar didn’t feel like a class, especially on Fridays when we sat in a circle for discussion," says Bolton. "That class stood out for me for a long time; it was such a different way of teaching."

Now Bolton and Osborn have endured Property and LRRW together and sometimes Bolton knows the answers to questions when Osborn doesn’t. And last fall, when Osborn’s daughter was in the hospital and he was forced to miss class, Bolton helped him on a brief writing project.

"It has been so nice to see these fine, bright young people doing what I knew they could," says Osborn. "For me, law school is like getting to take my class."

Taking Time to Study for National Triathlon

Not long after they met last fall as first-year classmates at the UNM School of Law, Aristide “Nat” Chakeres and Francisco “Paco” Perez discovered they both enjoyed exercise. Chakeres was a runner who had completed the Duke City Marathon three times and Perez, who rode his bicycle to school every day, had just become interested in triathlons.

At his first triathlon in Socorro shortly after school started, Perez met the coach of UNM’s triathlon team, who talked him into joining the team. After winning the collegiate division for his age group at the Rocky Point Triathlon in Puerto Penasco, Mexico, Perez was hooked. Next he hooked his friend, Chakeres. Then he completed one more triathlon.

Last April, the law students competed with the UNM team at the USA Triathlon Collegiate Nationals in Reno, NV, where Perez placed 73rd and Chakeres 141 out of a field of nearly 800 competitors. UNM took 21st place out of 34 teams. While they were glad to complete the race with no injuries or accidents, they were disappointed that the race organizers dropped the swimming portion due to cold temperatures in the lake. Instead, the race was a run/bike/run event.

"But it was great to meet athletes from around the country," says Perez. "And we couldn’t have done it without the support of everyone at the law school."

In addition to training, which involved running about eight miles, swimming two miles and cycling for up to 60 miles every week, they had to raise money. Chakeres and Perez participated in team fundraisers, such as swimming on a relay continuously through the night at Johnson Center. They also put on their own fundraiser during lunch hour.

See Taking Time on page 16
Deep inside the inner recesses of the UNM Law Library is a hidden cadre of researchers who are finding the hard answers.

These eight law students are members of the Library Research Pool, and they respond every day to a flurry of requests from UNM law faculty. They bury themselves in the library's online and print resources, searching legal literature, state and federal statutes and case law. They create bibliographies, write legal memos and perform cite checking for footnotes.

"The students also help with the preparation of textbooks and other faculty publications," says Barbara Lah ('89), a UNM law librarian who trains and supervises the research pool. "We strive to have their work product equal to the quality that a new associate might give to a senior partner at a law firm."

With only seven professional librarians, the student researchers enabled the library to complete more than 500 research requests from faculty in 2005. They alone worked on more than 75 individual requests in the 2005 fall semester.

Typically, the students, who each work about 10 hours a week, take on projects individually and work at their own pace. But when Professor Alfred Mathewson requested information on CEO turnover in each of the Fortune 500 companies for the past five years, the entire pool was called in.

For Tyler Atkins, a 2L with no attraction to business law, the assignment offered him a glimpse into how corporations work.

"It was interesting to learn about a topic I otherwise wouldn't have taken the time to understand," he says.

Vanessa Chavez, a 1L, enjoyed getting to know students outside her class and the opportunity to build on library skills that she developed when obtaining a master of science in information studies at the University of Texas in Austin.

The process begins when a professor files an electronic request through a faculty database. Lah then assigns the project to a student and suggests research strategies. If the request is simple, the next thing the professor receives is a finished project, complete with a cover memo. Some projects take 20 minutes, others, like the Fortune 500 project, took six weeks to finalize.

For Professor Norman Bay, Renee Ruybal and Lisa Collins looked through case law of the U.S. Supreme Court from its beginning through 1835. They were looking for any mention of international law theorists, which justice cited that person's theory and why. The point of the research was to see if the early Supreme Court used international law in interpreting the Constitution.

A 2L, Ruybal enjoys the challenge of finding out information and the analysis that follows. "It's intellectually exciting to help the professors with their scholarship and to share with them the results of our research," she says.

When they run into dead ends, the students turn to Lah for guidance. She also keeps a close eye on their progress, ensuring the quality of their research.

"This has been a great job," says Atkins. "Now I know so much more about research technology. I can read cases and law review articles more critically and am more efficient. I can also sell myself in the job market with these skills."

The student researchers also have enabled the library staff to expand its ability to assist professors in their academic pursuits.

"The library research pool produces amazing, useful work in timely fashion," says UNM Law Professor Ted Occhialino. "My colleagues on the Supreme Court Rules of Civil Procedure Committee and Family Law Task Force sometimes depend on me to produce background research and proposals. In turn, I rely on pool researchers to assist me. Their work product is often the key ingredient in the work of the committees. We all know that we can rely on the pool researchers to bring us the correct information in the most concise form."

Taking Time - continued from page 15

at the law school. They offered to do one pushup for every dollar the law-school community donated. They raised $172 that day, and nursed aching biceps.

Both Chakeres and Perez grew up in New Mexico. Chakeres left his home in Santa Fe to attend Harvard University, then worked as a legal assistant in the New Mexico governor’s office and on a Democratic campaign. He views law school as a useful steppingstone into government and business. Perez grew up in Belen, then headed to the University of Tampa where he was student body president. He is interested in international law and traveling and is even considering becoming a professional triathlete for a few years after law school.

For now, their training is providing an antidote to the stress of law school.

"It’s the only thing keeping us sane around here," says Perez.
Contemporary Art Enhances Law Library

For Robert Flinkman, a white wall beckons to be adorned with art. Ever since joining the staff of the Law Library in 1999 as a technical assistant, he has envisioned the library’s blank walls as a fine art gallery. After recent renovations and with the support of Law Library Director Carol Parker, last fall that vision became a reality.

Now, original works of art, including larger-than-life constructions, lithographs and oil paintings, hang throughout the library. The pieces were chosen by the Law School Art Committee, comprised of Flinkman, Dan Noyes, an artist who heads up the law school’s media center; and Pam Castaldi, formerly with the Institute for Public Law.

The first to go up were three constructions by Susan Linnell in the circulation/reference area, followed by a series of landscapes by Flinkman. Next came prints by UNM fine art student Alexa Wheeler and oil paintings by Tom Berg and UNM fine art student Jennifer Nehrbass Myers. Across a wall on the library’s second floor is a massive photograph mural by Leigh Anne Langwell, a fine arts graduate student.

Flinkman is pleased with the variety of the contemporary collection, all on loan, except a photograph by Dan Miller that hangs adjacent to the second-floor elevator, which was a gift from the artist.

“Now everywhere you look in the library, you see a different medium, a different size and design,” says Flinkman.

In addition to the library exhibit, the circular wall outside the moot courtroom is the site of changing exhibits. In the coming months, even more contemporary art will begin to grace the walls of the law school, the result of recent donations, says Noyes.

“I am grateful for the vision of the law school’s leadership who wanted to increase the art inside the school,” he says, “because art speaks to us on so many levels and helps define our humanity and inspires us.”

Mediators Gather at the Law School

More than 100 citizens and professionals interested in mediation spent a Saturday afternoon in February at the UNM law school, learning the particulars of alternative dispute resolution at the 2006 Winter Convocation for the New Mexico Mediation Community. The UNM School of Law co-sponsored the free event.
Rio Grande Reservoirs Focus of Symposium

Water experts spent a day in April presenting a big-picture look at the reservoir system along the Rio Grande during a symposium presented by the Utton Transboundary Resources Center and the Natural Resources Journal. The symposium was part of a cooperative effort between the Utton Center and the NRJ that built on the work begun in the late 1970s by the late UNM Law Professor Albert E. Utton, for whom the center is named.

In 1979, working with several law students, including Robert Muelenweg ('80) and Barbara Stephenson ('79), Utton prepared “A Legislative History of the Rio Grande Reservoirs in New Mexico” for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The history tracked congressional legislation for all of the reservoirs on the river, including the major tributaries. In approving the construction of a federal dam, Congress determines the authorized purpose for water storage, which mostly guides how a river will be operated.

Most of the reservoirs were authorized only for flood control and to trap sediment, with the intent to allow the free flow of water to Texas as required under the Rio Grande Compact. Enacted in 1938 by the state legislatures of Colorado, New Mexico and Texas, the compact continues to determine requirements for the storage and delivery of the river’s water. However, through the years, additional issues and circumstances that affect management of the reservoirs have arisen that were unforeseen and not addressed in the original congressional authorizations and compact.

Speakers at the symposium tackled various issues facing the reservoir system. They included Regis Pecos of Cochiti Pueblo, who shared the history of Cochiti Lake from the Pueblo perspective. Among the other speakers, Kevin Flanigan, hydrologist for the Interstate Stream Commission, provided an overview of reservoir management and water operations in New Mexico, and Kara Gillon of Defenders of Wildlife, discussed environmental perspectives on progressive management of the reservoirs.

Advisory Panel Formed for Energy-Water Project

An advisory committee has been formed to provide policy analysis for a collaborative project between the Utton Transboundary Resources Center and Sandia National Laboratories. This project will identify the major regional and national issues and needs that must be addressed to support a long-term sustainable supply of water that would support electric power generation and energy production in the United States. The Utton Center’s role in the project is to identify legal and policy issues that could affect the use of new technologies. When completed, the information will be available on a database currently being established.

“The interconnectedness of water and energy production is unrecognized by many people,” says Marilyn O’Leary, director of the Utton Center. “With the support and guidance of these nationally-recognized experts, we hope to provide significant input into the development and deployment of better technologies for processes and materials for energy generation.”

Henry Vaux, professor emeritus of resource economics at the University of California at Berkeley, has helped identify persons with expertise in water policy to serve with him on the committee, which will meet periodically to provide guidance to the Utton Center on this project.

Other members are:
- A. Dan Tarlock, director of environmental and energy law, Chicago-Kent College of Law;
- William Graf, geography professor, University of South Carolina;
- Helen Ingram, Warmington Endowed Chair in Social Ecology, University of California at Irvine;
- William Blomquist, political science professor, Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis;
- Robert Abrams, professor at Florida A&M College of Law;
- David H. Moreau, director of the Water Resources Research Institute, University of North Carolina.
In Brief

Lara Katz and Josh Mann, below, co-editors of the Natural Resources Journal, offered an overview of Utton Center projects they have worked on at the 2006 Student Water Symposium at the UNM Student Union Building in late March. The symposium brought together UNM students from all disciplines related to water, along with students of all levels from other New Mexico universities to showcase creative water research statewide. In addition to presentations, poster sessions took place throughout the daylong event.

Peter Pino, tribal administrator and former governor of the Pueblo of Zia, discussed the issue of water and culture during a World Water Day celebration at the UNM School of Law on March 22. The event included a showing of the video “Voices of the Jemez River”, which describes how a water-sharing agreement was reached among water-rights owners in the Rio Jemez Valley community. The primary water users on the stream are Jemez and Zia pueblos and a group of non-Indian acequia farmers. The program was co-sponsored by the Environmental Law Students Association and the Utton Transboundary Resources Center.

Marilyn O’Leary, director of the Utton Transboundary Resources Center, served on a panel at the 31st annual conference of the National Association of Environmental Professionals, which took place in Albuquerque in late April. She spoke on the role of legal and regulatory policy in the implementation of new water technologies. The panel’s topic was, “Energy Water Nexus: Research Direction for Energy & Water,” and focused on a project led by Sandia National Laboratories to identify critical policy issues related to the mutual dependence of water and energy productions. The conference theme was titled, “Global Perspectives on Regional Issues: The Future for Environmental Professionals in the Next 30 Years.”

Emily White Hat Receives Scholarship

Emily White Hat, a second-year law student, has received a one-semester scholarship from the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation.

White Hat, a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe (Sicangu Lakota), impressed the scholarship committee with a personal statement in which she pledged to pursue a career working on behalf of Indian tribes in the protection and management of their natural resources and land tenure issues. She also hopes to implement traditional Lakota beliefs into management of the land and resources on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation, where she grew up.

“It is an honor to receive the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation Scholarship,” she says. “I developed an interest in natural resources and an appreciation for our land as a young girl when I would go horseback riding with my father through the canyons of our reservation. Later I continued this appreciation when I worked as a firefighter and in forestry, and eventually learned about land management and policy when I was elected to the Rosebud Sioux Tribal Land Enterprise Board of Directors.”

The goals of the foundation are to foster and encourage the study of the law and applicable regulations relating to oil and gas, mining, water, public land management, land use, conservation and environmental protection. The UNM School of Law is a member of the Denver-based foundation. The objective of the scholarship program is to encourage the study of natural resources law by students who have the potential to make significant contributions to scholarship in that area.

Wild Friends Help Outlaw Cyberhunting

Computer-assisted hunting, or cyberhunting, has been outlawed in New Mexico, thanks to the efforts of students in the Wild Friends Program. The program, aimed at school-age youth, is a component of the Center for Wildlife Law at the University of New Mexico Institute for Public Law, the public service arm of the UNM law school.

Cyberhunting came to national attention when it was discovered a Texas website allowed people with computers to shoot live game via a camera-equipped rifle. Texas and other states, now including New Mexico, have since banned remote-controlled game hunting.

In New Mexico, Wild Friends students drafted the bill, which was sponsored by Sen. Michael Sanchez (’76) of Belen. About 400 of those students, accompanied by 60 adults, including parents, teachers, school administrators and volunteers, traveled to Santa Fe during the 2006 legislative session to lobby for the bill.
Judge Keith Lundin Visits as Weihofen Professor

After working 24 years as a bankruptcy judge for the Middle District of Tennessee, Judge Keith Lundin welcomed the opportunity to spend the spring semester at the UNM School of Law as the Weihofen Distinguished Visiting Professor of Law.

"Nobody should do anything for 24 years without a break," he says. Lundin's need for time off has benefited the law school. He taught basic bankruptcy and an advanced bankruptcy seminar, bringing his judicial perspective to the classroom.

Lundin, a 1976 graduate of Vanderbilt University School of Law, began a bankruptcy practice one year before the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1978 completely rewrote bankruptcy law. In 1982, he was appointed a judge on the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, which he has seen develop as a place to solve social and commercial problems unable to be resolved anywhere else.

A leading scholar on Chapter 13 bankruptcy, he views the new bankruptcy law that went into effect in 2005 as an abomination and, as a result, a challenge for new lawyers.

"Now, after 25 years of a well-written good statute, we have a poorly written bad statute that is difficult to read and difficult to teach," he says. "It will take a lot of time and effort from an army of young lawyers to fix this out-of-balance law."

Nonetheless, he has enjoyed the challenge of teaching, preferring to conduct his classes as a conversation; not surprisingly, the students often end up doing a lot of the teaching.

"I have been amazed and impressed by the people who teach here," he says. "The quality of work and commitment by the faculty at UNM to teaching and national issues is extraordinary."

Although Lundin has spent most of his life in Tennessee, he has developed an addiction to green chile and has been known to grow Hatch green chile in a sandbox in his back yard. This hankering came from his wife, Kathleen Ayres, a 1979 UNM law school graduate. Formerly with the Texas firm of Kemp Smith, she now runs Bankruptcy Press, which publishes books on bankruptcy, including those written by her husband.

Scott Hughes on Sabbatical in Scotland

The memory of a friend spurred Professor Scott Hughes to spend the fall semester at the University of Stirling in Stirling, Scotland while on sabbatical. During his stay, he consulted with the faculty on strengthening its legal writing program.

In an informal arrangement, he was given an office and a computer and spent many hours at the university's library researching materials in the neurosciences, linguistics, psychology and complex adaptive system theory. He also completed work on the second edition of *The Art of Mediation*, with co-author Mark Bennett, and presented occasional lectures.

Around every corner, it seemed, Hughes and his wife and two daughters, who accompanied him, were presented with history lessons. Stirling is where Sir William Wallace (Braveheart), the leader of the Scottish resistance in the country's early battles for independence, won one of his most impressive victories over the English. Nearby is a Beatrix Potter garden and a cave that served as inspiration for Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*.

While in Europe, Hughes traveled to Hungary to discuss the possibility of conducting arbitration and mediation trainings for employment conflicts. He met with professors at the Technical University of Budapest and the University of Szeged.

"They have a long mediation/arbitration history related to collective bargaining in Hungary, but are interested in expanding it to address workplace disputes," Hughes said. He also consulted with the Supreme Court of Hungary on developing court-annexed mediation programs.

Professor Hughes prepares to kick up his heels at a traditional Ceilidh in a kilt rented for the occasion.
Recognizing Excellence

Marsha Baum won an award at the 49th Annual New England Book Show for *Internet Surf and Turf, Revealed: The Essential Guide to Copyright, Fair Use, and Finding Media*. Baum co-wrote the book with Barbara Waxer. It won in the Books: College, single entry category. The book also won the 2006 Textbook Excellence Award from the Text and Academic Author Association, and will be presented at the group’s July convention in Florida.

Steven Homer was presented with the Outstanding Adjunct Teacher/Lecturer of the Year Award for the 2005-2006 academic year. He was one of three teachers to receive the University of New Mexico honor at a May ceremony.

Rob Schwartz was named the 2006 Distinguished Visiting Bioethicist by Southern Illinois University School of Law’s Center for Health Law and Policy. In that capacity, he presented a talk entitled, “The Rules of Engagement in the Bioethics Debate: Lessons from the Terry Schiavo Case”.

Out and About

Sherri Burr presented a talk entitled, “Globalization of the Entertainment Industry”, in late March at St. Thomas University, where she was a Distinguished Speaker. Two days later, she presented the same talk at a conference on the impact of film on law, lawyers and the legal system at the University of Maryland. She also was a presenter at a roundtable discussion of the Oscar-winning movie, “Crash,” sponsored by the Africana Studies Section of Southwest Texas Popular Culture and American Culture Studies associations in Albuquerque.

Antoinette Sedillo Lopez was the keynote speaker at Juris Fiesta, an annual event at Hamline School of Law that unites the law school with the Hispanic business and professional community.

Alfred Mathewson delivered “A Tribute to Dr. Lawrence A. Nixon” at the Official Texas Historical Marker Dedication Ceremony in El Paso. Dr. Nixon was the plaintiff in Nixon v. Herndon and Nixon v. Condon, the first two white primary cases in which the U.S. Supreme Court invalidated the exclusion of Blacks from voting in the Democratic Primary in Texas.

Ted Parnall spent the spring semester as a visiting professor on the law faculty of the Macau University of Science and Technology. He reports that he has students from mainland China, as well as Macau, a special administrative region of China that was colonized by the Portuguese in the 16th Century. As such, the teaching areas encompass the law of the Peoples Republic of China, the Portuguese civil law tradition and common law from nearby Hong Kong. His courses were corporate law and an introduction to common law. He also presented a lecture on “Corruption, Crisis and Corporate Governance Reform: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.” Come June, he plans to head to Hanoi for his next legal project.

Sherry Wolf has retired from the UNM law faculty after 20 years. She plans to resettled in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Jenny Moore Committed to Peace Fair

For the second year, in her role as director of Peace Studies, Jenny Moore helped organize the UNM Peace and Justice Fair, which offered a variety of panel discussions, entertainment and booths.

Jenny Moore unites with her colleague, Alfred Mathewson, for UNM Law Professor Alfred Mathewson shares his personal commitment to peace and justice; his colleague Jenny Moore looks on.

Sherri Burr Helps Unveil New Stamp

Sherri Burr delivered the annual Felice Hill Gaines Lecture as part of Global Conversations in the African Diaspora, the third biennial Africana Studies Symposium at Central Missouri State University in February. Her topic was, “Race and Racism in the New Millennium: The Economic Impact of Unconscious Bias”. During her visit, she conducted an art law workshop for artists, educators and administrators. Burr also helped unveil a new U.S. postage stamp of Hattie McDaniel, who worked behind the scenes to change Hollywood’s view of minorities and appeared in more than 300 films, winning the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress in 1939 for her role in “Gone with the Wind.” A framed photo of the stamp now hangs in Burr’s office.
Faculty In Print


Antoinette Sedillo Lopez has edited three new titles in the series, Latino Communities: Emerging Voices - Political, Social, Cultural and Legal Issues. The titles are: Latino-Anglo Bargaining: Culture, Structure and Choice in Court Mediation, written by Christine Rack, a UNM sociology professor; Leaving Latinos Out of History: Teaching U.S.

Laura Gómez Discusses Historical Racial Dynamics

In her role as the Keleher & McLeod Professor, Laura Gómez presented a lecture, entitled, “The First White Man Our People Saw Was a Black Man: Racial Dynamics in 19th Century New Mexico.” The lecture was a preview of an upcoming book. She is pictured with William Keleher, left, and his brother, Michael Keleher, both with the firm.

History in Texas, by Julio Naboa and Gay Hegemony Latino Homosexualities, by Manolo Guzman.


Justice Mary Walters Award

The Women’s Law Caucus presented Tara Ford and Elizabeth McGrath (’87) with the 2006 Justice Mary Walters Award during an April reception. The Albuquerque lawyers were honored for their work as the founders of Pegasus Legal Services for Children. Susan Conway, retired state district judge, was guest speaker. Pictured are, l-r: caucus President Erin Ferreira, Tara Ford, Elizabeth McGrath, and Brooke Nowak-Neely, caucus vice president.
Many Hands Play Role in Loan Assistance Program

Legislation funding a loan repayment assistance program (LRAP) for district attorneys, public defenders and legal services lawyers was passed by the state Legislature during the last session and signed by Gov. Bill Richardson.

With a budget of $300,000 for LRAP, a mechanism now will be set up to process applications from people working as DAs, PDs or in legal services to see if they qualify for loan repayment relief based on their public service, income and debt load. This program will be open to any lawyers doing this type of work in New Mexico, not just UNM graduates. It is hoped that this program will help with recruitment and retention of lawyers doing this type of work.

Under the new law, a committee will receive and review applications. Comprising the committee will be two representatives from the UNM School of Law, one of which will be the dean or her designee; the president of the District Attorneys Association, or a designee; the chief public defender, and the director of New Mexico Legal Aid, or a designee.

The typical UNM law school graduate now finishes with $43,000 in law school debt. While that is less than what graduates of other schools face, public interest salaries in New Mexico are lower as well. This created a crisis for people doing certain public interest law jobs, and in turn problems for the public.

The creation of an LRAP in New Mexico represents years of effort. UNM law school graduates Joel Davis and Kallie Dixon, both members of the Class of 2004, accompanied John Feldman (’89), assistant dean for Career and Student Services, to the first-ever LRAP 101 course in 2002 at the University of Michigan Law School. The course was conducted by EqualJusticeWorks (EJW), a public interest law organization that has been a clearinghouse for information about LRAPs throughout the country.

They returned to New Mexico prepared to spend however many years it would take to see an LRAP through to completion. Davis worked with students, building the case for an LRAP on groundwork laid by Alfred Creecy (’02) and the law school’s Association of Public Interest Law Students. Creecy studied the effects of law school debt on UNM graduates while Davis worked and reworked the formulas for LRAP entitlement that ultimately made their way into the final legislation.

Feldman returned from the EJW training knowing that creating a lasting LRAP would require commitment from many fronts. He met with John Bigelow, chief New Mexico public defender; Lemuel Martinez (’95) and Henry Valdez (’82) from the District Attorneys Association, and Gail Evans (’91) and Pilar Vaile (’00) of the New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty. Evans, who is the center’s legal director, researched and created talking points that made it possible to explain a complex issue and program to skeptical lawyers and legislators.

This group worked with Sen. Michael Sanchez (’76) to draft the first version of the bill, which Sanchez successfully moved through the Legislature. They also made a commitment to keep the interests of DAs, PDs and legal services lawyers at heart, and not to let the groups become divided. This approach made it easier when testifying before legislative committees to argue that an LRAP was needed for the quality of the justice system in New Mexico, and allowed such groups as the Hispanic Bar Association and New Mexico Bar Association to support this legislation. Sarah Singleton, of Montgomery & Andrews, worked with various bar groups to generate support.

In addition to Sanchez, who never gave up on the LRAP initiative, Rep. Ken Martinez (’77), and Sen. Cisco McSorley (’79) helped their fellow legislators understand the need for a legal LRAP. The model for funding the LRAP looked a lot like that for teachers and doctors. UNM law professors Robert Desiderio and Michael Browde, as well as Evan Blackstone (’04) and Lorraine Montoya-Vigil (’89), helped with legal and technical obstacles.

Kim Posich, director of the New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty, joined Gail Evans in the collective legislative push. Michelle Engert (’04) worked the Legislature with Bigelow on behalf of the public defenders. In the final stages, Feldman, Posich, and District Attorney Association President Donald Gallegos worked with Lt. Gov. Diane Denish and Sonya Carrasco-Trujillo (’00) to make sure that LRAP funding would not be lost in the budget process.

Others who helped make the New Mexico LRAP a reality include David Benavides (’90) of New Mexico Legal Aid, Chris Berkheimer (’00), Brian Colon (’01), Brian Eagan, Alex Beattie and Candace Coulson, all 3Ls; Rosalyn Nguyen, a 2L at the law school and Vincente Vargas (’05). Vargas helped coordinate information about the legislation for all of the stakeholders, including students and lawyers. People from the Legislative Finance Committee, the office of the Attorney General, the Department of Higher Education and counsel to the governor also helped. Dean Suellyn Scarnecchia and Assistant Dean for Admissions and Financial Aid Susan Mitchell will now work to make sure the program will be managed responsibly.

“The future of our most basic legal institutions depends on the ability of talented and dedicated lawyers to take public interest jobs,” says Scarnecchia. “The LRAP program is a significant step in the right direction.”
Leaping into Legal Academia

After law school, most graduates head to a career practicing law. Others return to the classroom, the clinic or the library. In their new capacity, they enjoy the challenges and rewards of introducing students to the study of law and helping them develop into lawyers. Following is a look at UNM alumni who have chosen a career in academia.

Gordon Russell
Associate Dean
Director of the Law Library and Information Services
Charleston School of Law

Gordon Russell had been working in law libraries for years when he enrolled in the UNM School of Law. In fact, he already held a law degree from the University of Western Ontario and a library degree from Brigham Young University. But he was convinced he needed a law degree from a United States law school in order to achieve his grand goal: to lead his own law library.

That opportunity came for the first time after graduation from the UNM law school in 1994, when he became director of a small library at the Southern New England School of Law. Russell was charged with building the library into one that would meet American Bar Association standards. While doing so, he also built a strong digital collection.

He found his next opportunity in the late 1990s at St. Thomas University School of Law in Miami, FL, where his computer knowledge fit well with the law library’s mixed format. As library director, he led a redesign of the library’s infrastructure, again steering the collection to a digital focus. He also oversaw installation of a wireless network in the law library, becoming one of a handful of law schools to do so at that time.

In 2004, Russell took on his greatest challenge yet: building from scratch a law library at the brand-new Charleston School of Law in Charleston, S.C. The school now has two classes totaling about 400 students.

His greatest test was to educate the founders of the for-profit law school about the importance of the library and its connection to the entire school. Building a collection before knowing the needs of faculty was also daunting.

Not surprisingly, most exciting for Russell was contributing his non-traditional approach of focusing on a digital format, with only a small percentage of the collection being in print. Continuing challenges are to stay current on what is available online and meeting the faculty needs.

In addition to serving as director of the law library, Russell teaches advanced legal research and a course on interviewing, negotiating and counseling. He enjoys the combination of teaching and running the library, and thrives in the academic atmosphere.

“I get the best benefits of the profession: I can answer questions and don’t have to deal with the downside of clients, such as billing and running an office,” he says.

Russell regularly serves on panels nationwide, discussing issues facing the future of law libraries, and in 2002 he co-edited Law Library Collection Development in the Digital Age, published by Haworth Press.

UNM School of Law alumni/ae who have pursued careers in law school academia.

If you have been left off this list, please contact Nancy Harbert with your pertinent information: harbert@law.unm.edu

- Jill Adams (’82)
  Associate Professor
  Southern Illinois University School of Law

- John Adler (’76)
  Professor
  University of San Francisco School of Law

- Jo Carrillo (’86)
  Professor
  University of California
  Hastings College of the Law

- Christine Zuni Cruz (’82)
  Professor
  University of New Mexico School of Law

- Rosemary Dillon (’92)
  Assistant Professor of Legal Practice
  Texas Tech University School of Law

- Eileen Gauna (’85)
  Professor
  University of New Mexico School of Law

- Placido Gomez (’85)
  Vice President for Academic Affairs
  New Mexico Highlands University

- Kevin Gover (’81)
  Professor
  Arizona State University College of Law

- Leslie Harris (’76)
  Dorothy Kliks Fones Professor
  University of Oregon College of Law

- Robert Laurence (’77)
  Robert A. Leflar Distinguished Professor
  University of Arkansas School of Law

- William MacPherson (’66)
  Professor Emeritus
  University of New Mexico School of Law

- Mario Mainero (’80)
  Associate Dean for Student and Academic Support
  Whittier Law School
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Associate Dean for Student and Academic Support
Whittier Law School

Mario Mainero received his first taste of teaching during his second year at the UNM law school when he was a teaching assistant for Professor Bill Ellis. Mainero researched and wrote the advocacy problem that was used for the entire first-year class.

Although he enjoyed the experience of researching and coordinating the project, Mainero didn't think much about teaching until he had followed his parents back to San Clemente, CA after graduation in 1980. Mainero had grown up in San Clemente, not far from Richard Nixon's home and is proud of his own mementos personally autographed by the former president.

Mainero started out focusing his law practice on business litigation, tax and estate planning. Within four years, he began teaching legal writing and research in a paralegal extension program at the University of California at Irvine. In 1988, he opened his own firm, with an emphasis on civil transactions and probate and continued teaching on the side.

When Chapman University School of Law was created in 1995, he began teaching oral advocacy and California civil procedure as an adjunct until moving on to Whittier Law School, where he taught law office management and in the legal writing program, again as an adjunct.

In 2001, ready for a change and increasingly enjoying the academic environment, Mainero accepted an offer to direct Whittier's new academic support program. He designed the program, which is mandatory for first-year students. Last summer, after five new faculty members were added to teach some of the courses in this non-graded program, he was promoted to associate dean. He also administers Whittier's bar prep program and teaches a legal analysis workshop.

The biggest surprise to Mainero when he made the leap into full-time teaching has been the lack of political conservatives on the legal faculty. Because he was the only faculty member with a conservative view, he took on the role of faculty adviser to the school's Federalist Society.

"I enjoy ideological debates and seeing students succeed at understanding how to handle an issue," he says. "I also enjoy giving back to a profession I deeply respect."

Aliza Organick
Associate Professor of Law
Washburn University School of Law

The first bricks of her career path were laid during Aliza Organick's clinical rotation in her second year at the UNM School of Law when she experienced firsthand the difference that supportive, dedicated teachers can make. She and classmate Leslie Mansfield initiated an advocacy project on behalf of coal and uranium miners in New Mexico, Arizona and southern Colorado, which continued after graduation when they received grants to establish the Miners' Legal Resource Center.

"The clinical experience itself – the connection of bringing together the doctrinal teachings with real-life cases – crystallized all the things I wanted to explore as a lawyer," she says. "And without the support of the clinic faculty, especially after law school, my career wouldn't be what it is today."

Her teaching career began the summer after graduation in 1996, when the law school provided office space to the miners' center and adjunct status to Organick and Mansfield, allowing students to help them process claims. The money ran out in 1999 and Organick went to work as a public defender. Two years later, she was called back to teach in the

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Operation Iraqi Freedom, Serving in Iraq

Among the many paths UNM School of Law graduates take is to serve their country. Whether they signed up for active duty, the National Guard or the Reserves, some have found their way to Iraq during the current war. Following are a few of their stories.

Chris Holland

Chris Holland has been wearing a military uniform since he received an ROTC scholarship to Eastern New Mexico University when he was 17. After graduation, he spent nine years in the U.S. Army, where he developed a passion for flying helicopters, rising to the rank of captain and serving in Desert Storm before leaving active duty in 1991 to attend law school. He remained in the Reserves and then joined the National Guard during law school so he could continue to fly helicopters.

After earning his J.D. in 1994, Holland spent two years clerking for New Mexico Supreme Court Justice Pamela Minzner, and in 1996 joined Sutin, Thayer & Browne, where he focuses his practice on civil litigation and higher education law.

In 2002, he left the National Guard to join a new Judge Advocate General (JAG) unit in Albuquerque. A year later, he was tapped to go to Iraq and left two weeks later for training at Ft. Sill, OK. For the next two months, Holland prepared wills and helped solve employment issues for the members of his engineer unit. He also spent long hours preparing for battle, impressed with the quality and thoroughness of training that included mock drills simulating roadside bombs.

From March 2003 until the following February, he lived in an air-conditioned trailer on the southwest outskirts of Baghdad and spent most of his days inside an office on a military base, writing and reviewing contracts and providing legal advice to his commanders who oversaw all military construction projects in Baghdad. Occasionally, his work was disrupted by rocket and mortar fire launched from a mile away from the base.

"Basically, my job was to ensure we weren’t breaking the law, and to make sure we got what we paid for from outside contractors," he says.

“There is no doubt that my legal training helped me,” he says. “What I did in Iraq was not much different from my practice here; I looked up case law, did a lot of legal research on Lexis and wrote correspondence.”

About once a month, Holland traveled via convoy through Baghdad to attend a meeting or visit another military base. By far, the highlight of his Iraq duty was to visit the ancient city of Babylon, whose ruins stretch alongside the Euphrates River south of Baghdad.

Since his return, he has concentrated on rebuilding his law practice. He also resumed flying a helicopter for the Bernalillo County Sheriff’s Office to keep up his skills, about three times a month. Five months after he came home, Holland was shot down for the first time in his life, during an investigation of a burglary in northwest Albuquerque. He and his co-pilot received minor injuries.

With his wife, Maureen, and two children, 10 and 16, to think about, Holland has decided to leave JAG and return to the National Guard, where he can continue flying helicopters, for now, in a safer setting.

Rob Guillen

Rob Guillen was working as a prosecutor for the Judge Advocate General Corps at Fort Carson in February 2005. His job was straightforward: build cases against people charged with anything from being AWOL to murder, then go to trial. Then came a call informing him he was being sent to Iraq.

When he left the Colorado Springs army installation on March 9, accompanying the Third Army Cavalry Regiment, he was one of four lawyers along. After arriving in Baghdad, most of the regiment moved north, but Guillen stayed behind with a squadron whose primary mission was to keep a route out of Baghdad secure for travel. All of a sudden, he found himself the go-to guy for any kind of legal question, from legal assistance to military justice.

As command judge advocate, it was also his responsibility to make sure his commander or other officers didn’t unknowingly violate any laws or regulations during the course of duty. He attended staff meetings and reviewed contracts with Iraqis who performed jobs such as cleaning irrigation canals, rebuilding schools and other infrastructure projects.

To familiarize himself with the area of his jurisdiction, which was a breadbasket region in the Baghdad suburbs, he often traveled outside his base. He rode in Blackhawk helicopters on air assault missions to capture bad guys and rode in convoys throughout the rural farmland.
"After driving around for a few months, I resolved myself to the fact that there wasn't anything I could do if my vehicle was one hit by an IED (improvised explosive device)," he says.

Guillen, who served four-and-one-half years as an Army Ranger before returning home to New Mexico to attend UNM for his undergraduate and law degrees, earning his J.D. in 2003, also did prosecutions. Most interesting were cases in the Combined Criminal Court of Iraq, which handled crimes that involved Iraqi defendants. Mostly, Guillen listened, as the Iraqi judge conducted investigative hearings in his chambers, weighing in only if an important detail was overlooked.

"This courthouse was in the unsecured red zone of Baghdad, so everyone inside and outside the building was armed, including me," he says. "I stuck a 9mm pistol into the small of my back and was struck that there aren't many opportunities to legally carry a weapon into court."

Guillen didn't see Saddam Hussein, whose trial was going on in a different courthouse, but every day he saw children with smiles for him and Iraqi citizens willing to risk their lives as police officers or soldiers. "They are out there because they want a different country," he says.

Before returning last February to his wife, Shannon, and two young sons, Guillen re-enlisted.

"Every day I wake up excited to go to work and get the job done. I love the Army and I love the law," he says. "I guess that whatever color my parachute is, it's the right one for me."

Alex Limkin
Written by Alex Limkin, who served in Iraq from November 2004 to September 2005.

Alex Limkin ('04) was a mere five weeks into his first job working as a public defender in Albuquerque's Metro Court when he got the call.

"You're going to Iraq," the voice said. "You've got 10 days to pack your bags." He had no idea what he was going to be doing over there, or who with, but he knew that whatever it was, it would probably be worse than a bad day at the Metropolitan Detention Center.

It turned out that Limkin, a prior airborne ranger Army captain and now in the Reserves, would be posted with an arm of the Multi-National Security Transition Command (MNSTC-I) in Baghdad, an ad hoc organization of several hundred American and coalition forces set up to train Iraqi military and paramilitary forces.

During the next year, his duties would span a wide range of activities, from administrative work in the relative comfort of the Green Zone, to patrolling the streets of Baghdad, to overseeing the train-up of an Iraqi mechanized special police brigade at a remote outpost.

There was always, he says, "a palpable sense of unease in the air. Things had a habit of just blowing up unexpectedly. It was very disconcerting. At night, in his Iraqi tent encampment, there was random gunfire. "Do you get out of your cot and police the police? Or do you pretend like you didn't hear it?," he says. "It was always a bit of a dilemma."

It didn't help his wits that on several occasions he was fired upon by his own trainees, who were fairly competent with their native AKs, "but hoople-headed when it came to handling other weapons, like Glocks, which we probably had no business giving them in the first place."

Although Limkin was decorated with the Bronze Star in Iraq, he admits that the unit was relatively limited in its achievements with respect to the Iraqi soldiers and police they trained.

"We were an ad hoc organization, but we did our best under the conditions," he says. "We had a language barrier, a cultural barrier, a blazing hot desert, logistical problems, mortars, rockets, bad guys, blood, sweat and tears. Our work was very tough."

Now that Limkin has returned from Iraq, he has established himself as an immigration attorney, defending the rights of immigrants much like his own mother and father, who originally came from Catalonia and the Philippines.

Although the closest immigration court is located in El Paso, he doesn't mind the trip because "the roads aren't booby-trapped and I consider El Paso part of New Mexico, anyway," he says.

Limkin can be reached at limkin.esq@gmail.com.

From Law School to JAG
Following is a list of recent UNM School of Law graduates who are now serving in the Judge Advocate General Corps. Please let us know of anyone else who is serving or has served in JAG or in Iraq. Send information to harbert@law.unm.edu.

Class of 2001
Rebecca Ford, Air Force
Robert Madison, Air Force
Julie Simoni, Army
Vincent Ward, Navy

Class of 2002
Jennifer Patterson, Marines

Class of 2003
Rob Guillen, Army
Charles McLeod, Marines
Anthony Spratley, Air Force

Class of 2004
Johanna Astle, Air Force
Michael Carruthers, Air Force
Pilar Gonzales, Air Force
Beth Kotny, Navy
1975  
Catherine Goldberg, a partner in the law firm of Rodey, Dickason, Sloan, Akin & Robb, is one of two New Mexico lawyers chosen for Who’s Who Legal: USA-Real Estate 2006. Goldberg practices in the areas of real estate, financings, foreclosures, commercial law and liquor licensing.

1981  
Tracy Spruhan has been elected to the Board of Directors of the New Mexico Tax Research Institute, a nonpartisan, nonprofit group that believes tax decisions should be based on factual analysis, reasoned principles and fair judgment. He is a partner with Rodey, Dickason, Sloan, Akin & Robb, where he focuses his practice on state and federal tax planning and controversies, estate planning, entity formation and corporate law.

1982  
William Lang has been elected to a three-year term as chief judge of the Second Judicial District Court in Bernalillo County. He had been serving in that position since the resignation of John Brennan (’73) in 2004.

1984  
Andy Schultz has been appointed chair of the Minimum Continuing Legal Education Board by the New Mexico Supreme Court. He is managing director of the Rodey, Dickason, Sloan, Akin & Robb firm.

1989  
Stuart Butzier has been re-elected to a three-year term as a trustee for the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation. He is a shareholder in the firm of Modrall Sperling.

1991  
Abigail Aragon has become the first woman to be appointed a judge in the Fourth Judicial District.

1992  
Steve Taylor has joined U.S. Sen. Chuck Hagel of Nebraska as general counsel. For the previous six years, he was senior counsel on the U.S. Senate Judiciary Subcommittee. He lives in Washington, D.C.

1993  
Margaret Foster has joined the firm of Keleher & McLeod. She represents business and nonprofit clients in tax planning, estate planning, estate administration and probate.

1994  
David Johnson has been elected a director at Rodey, Dickason, Sloan, Akin & Robb. He focuses his practice on health care issues and alternative dispute resolution.

1995  
Sean Olivas has been elected president of the Albuquerque Bar Association. He is a shareholder in the Albuquerque firm of Keleher & McLeod.

1996  
Matthew Parkin has been named a Texas Rising Star for 2006 by Texas Monthly magazine. Rising Stars are Texas lawyers 40 and younger who have been practicing law for 10 years or less. Only 2.5 percent of eligible Texas lawyers are chosen for this honor. Parkin is with Cox Smith Matthews, a San Antonio firm, where he has a broad-based federal income tax practice.

1998  
Ron Archibeque has joined the Phoenix firm of Koeller Necker Carlson & Haluck, where he focuses his practice in the areas of complex litigation, construction defect, products liability and mass tort.

1999  
Mary Behm has been elected a shareholder in the firm of Keleher & McLeod. She focuses her practice in civil litigation, health care law, commercial litigation and insurance law.

Commercial litigation and insurance law.

Michael Brescia, Kurt Gilbert and Aaron Viets have been elected directors at the firm of Rodey, Dickason, Sloan, Akin & Robb. Brescia and Gilbert practice in the areas of health law and products liability and Viets focuses his practice on employment and labor law.

Benjamin Feuchter has been elected a shareholder in the firm of Keleher & McLeod. He focuses his practice in commercial litigation, employer defense and tribal law issues.

Cindy Marrs teaches part time at TVI in the paralegal studies program. She is vice president of the National Lawyers Guild’s southwest region.

2000  
Melanie Rhodes has become a shareholder in the Albuquerque firm of Wolf & Fox. She focuses her practice mostly on Family Law issues.

New Parents

Bidtah Becker and Paul Spruhan, 2000 graduates of the UNM law school, are the proud parents of Bahe Joseph Spruhan, born Aug. 26, 2005. He was 8 lbs. 3 oz. and 19 1/2 inches long. The younger Spruhan accompanied his parents to the UNM School of Law Indian Alumni Council breakfast at the Federal Bar Association’s annual Indian Law Conference in early April. Becker works in the Navajo Nation Department of Justice Water Rights Unit and Spruhan is the permanent law clerk for the Navajo Nation Supreme Court. He also serves on the New Mexico Legal Aid Board and lectures and develops material on federal Indian law for the BarBri program. They live in Gallup.
Jim Blackmer retires, offers to stay on for free

James Blackmer (’73) retired on April 30 from the Second Judicial District Bench, where he served in the criminal division. In an unprecedented request, he petitioned the New Mexico Supreme Court to allow him to continue working without pay until July 4, which he viewed as his own Independence Day. Blackmer said he owed the extra time it to the defendants waiting in jail and the public, which has a right to prompt trials.

Blackmer was appointed to the bench in the First Judicial District. After losing a re-election bid, he was appointed again, this time to a judicial post in the Second Judicial District. Previously, he had worked as a prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney’s Office, Attorney General’s Office and District Attorney’s Office in Santa Fe.

Through the years he presided over a number of high-profile cases and was best known for his attention to detail, along with a generous thoughtfulness. He married people for free, nearly every day, it seemed. He volunteered to sign warrants on weekends or in the middle of the night.

Blackmer grew up on a ranch in Embudo and graduated from Colorado College, where he majored in math. He served as a captain in the U.S. Army after graduating from the Army’s airborne school. Bur then he turned to a career in the law, where he strived for justice, rather than retribution.

Sonya Carrasco-Trujillo was appointed by the Santa Fe City Council to a temporary position as Municipal Court Judge, becoming the first lawyer to hold that position. She formerly served as deputy chief of staff for Lt. Gov. Diane Denish.

2002
Sandra Beerle has been elected to the Board of Directors of RCI, Inc., a nonprofit organization with a mission to empower children and adults with special needs to achieve their highest levels of self-sufficiency. She practices in the litigation department of Rodey, Dickason, Sloan, Akin & Robb.

2003
Anthony Spratley is serving as a captain in the U.S. Air Force Judge Advocate General Corps. He currently is serving as chief of military justice at RAF Mildenhall, England.

Denise Trujillo is expecting her third child later this year. She is a full-time mother and works part time with Law Access New Mexico, a free telephone helpline for low-income residents in the areas of family, consumer and employment law, along with public benefits and housing issues.

2005
Carmela Starace has joined Rodey, Dickason, Sloan, Akin & Robb as an associate in its litigation department. She focuses her practice on products liability and general civil defense.

In Memoriam
Lucy Beals

Lucy Fivekiller Beals, who worked in private practice since graduating from the UNM School of Law in 2002, died of a sudden illness in late March. She was 54.

Beals was born in Lawton, Okla, a member of the Deer Clan of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. Her ancestors included Polly Fivekiller, the sole survivor of a family that was forcibly removed to Indian Territory—now Oklahoma—on the infamous “Trail of Tears” in 1838.

She spent many years in the “school of hard knocks,” where she worked as a truck-stop waitress and managed various businesses, including a Tucson country-western club where she met her husband, Richard, in the early 1970s, and Pizza Hut delivery units. With her husband in the Air Force, they lived in Germany for six years, traveling throughout Europe.

After her husband retired from the military in 1989, she decided to go to college. She graduated summa cum laude from UNM with a bachelor’s degree in anthropology. With a desire to help people, Beals decided on a legal career. She completed the American Indian Law Center’s Pre-Law Summer Institute and later served as a tutor in the program. At the UNM law school, Beals earned an Indian Law certificate.

Following graduation, initially she was active as a guardian ad litem and then as a petitioning attorney for developmentally disabled children in Albuquerque. In this area, she provided extensive pro bono work statewide. At the time of her death, Beals was on a State Bar task force that was developing bar exam scholarships for lawyers interested in practicing Indian law.

“She’s standards, her character, her morals, everything rubbed off on the people she dealt with,” said her husband.

She spoke five languages, researched her family’s genealogy and loved to cook. Her community activities included serving on the Board of Directors of the Rio Grande Nature Center and as president of the Native Plant Society.

In addition to her husband, Beals is survived by her daughter, Crystal Jester; and five grandchildren, all residents of Albuquerque.
Indian Alumni Meet in Albuquerque

Native American alumni of the UNM School of Law met for breakfast during the Federal Bar Association’s annual Indian Law Conference in Albuquerque in early April. They received updates on the Indian Alumni Council, law school activities and the Toby Grossman Scholarship, which this past school year helped pay tuition and expenses for two UNM law students. The following evening, Regis Pecos, a member of Cochiti Pueblo, was guest speaker at the Annual Indian Alumni Dinner, sponsored by the Native American Law Students Association. Pecos, who is director and co-founder of the New Mexico Leadership Institute, shared a tribal leader’s perspective on inherent tribal sovereignty and what it means for the future of indigenous Nations.
Law Review Honors Jim Ellis and Patricio Serna

UNM Law Professor Jim Ellis and New Mexico Supreme Court Justice Patricio Serna received the annual Excellence in Jurisprudence Award during a banquet in March. The award, presented by the New Mexico Law Review, is given to legal professionals who have made outstanding contributions to legal scholarship and the practice of law in New Mexico.

Serna has served on the Supreme Court since 1996. He has been named one of Hispanic Business Magazine’s 100 most influential Hispanics in America and received the Judge of the Year award from the National Hispanic Bar Association. His friend, Judge James Wechsler of the New Mexico Court of Appeals, presented him the award.

Ellis has taught at the UNM School of Law for 27 years. He has received numerous awards for his work on behalf of people with mental disabilities, including filing briefs in 13 U.S. Supreme Court cases.

UNM Law Faculty Organizes Academic Conference

Antoinette Sedillo Lopez, associate dean for clinical affairs, served as conference chair and Sherri Burr, Dickason Professor of Law, served as Local Logistics Chair of this year’s Southeast/Southwest People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference at the Santa Fe Hilton in early April. Alfred Mathewson was honored for being one of three founders of the annual conference. The annual conference is designed to provide support for minority law teachers and help them succeed in their academic pursuits. In addition to panel discussions that address topics such as tenure, international tribunals and workers’ rights, legal scholars provided individual feedback on various works-in-progress by some of the 75 attendees. More than one-half of the UNM law faculty participated in this year’s conference.

Aliza Organick - continued from page 25

Southwest Indian Law Clinic, which she did for several semesters. Afterwards, she spent a year-and-a-half working in Dublin, Ireland for a solicitor’s firm, before deciding to pursue teaching full time.

In 2004, Organick joined the faculty at Washburn University School of Law, where, as a tenure-track professor, she started up the Tribal Law Practice Clinic. In addition to state court, her students practice in three nearby tribal courts, and they provide legal services to students at Haskell Indian Nations University. She also teaches a tribal law seminar and next year will teach a Law of Indigenous Peoples seminar class. This summer, she will be teaching at the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands as part of Washburn’s summer abroad program.

Organick, whose mother is Navajo, was born to the Tsenijikini or Cliff Dweller Clan. She grew up moving around the country as the child of a physician who was also a professor of medicine. She earned an associate’s degree from Nassau Community College in New York, then a bachelor’s at UNM. After working for a women’s health-care provider, she became horrified at the difficulty women had gaining access to health care and abortion services. She considered medical school, but decided on law school as a way to strengthen her advocacy ability. She completed the Pre-Law Summer Institute before starting law school in 1993. Now her goal is to be awarded tenure and to continue to work in legal education.

“The wonderful teachers I had at the UNM law school conveyed a strong sense of working with clients and a commitment to young lawyers,” says Organick. “It’s been a long road, but when I see my students become lawyers, it makes all the hard work worthwhile.”
LET’S HEAR FROM YOU!

We want to know what you’re doing, whether you’ve made a career change, received an award or added a new member to your family.

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