From the Dean

ABOUT REUNIONS AND FOOTBALL: I was thrilled to see more than 100 UNM School of Law graduates who attended our first Reunion Weekend in September. Representing classes from 1960 through 2000, the group was fun, friendly and generous – they donated more than $8,500 to the law school in class gifts.

An explanation is needed, though, for those of you who noticed that the reunion party was scheduled on the same evening as a Lobo football game. When we planned the reunion, the game was scheduled for Friday night, but was later changed to Saturday. We’re sorry for the conflict and we are planning future reunion gatherings for the spring to avoid the football conflict.

A Michigan Wolverine like myself would never intentionally schedule against a football game! We have run into the same problem with the Oct. 28 Distinguished Achievement Awards Dinner. The football game date changed and I apologize in advance!

ABOUT STUDENTS AND GIVING: We welcomed an enthusiastic and talented new group of first year students in August. Then Hurricane Katrina struck and we turned our attention to the needs of the survivors. I am proud to report that our students rose to the occasion by organizing a three-part campaign to raise money, donate blood and gather essential food and clothing.

The law school administration, with the support of the university, also worked quickly to admit three students from Tulane and Loyola – New Orleans law schools – tuition free, allowing them to continue their legal educations while their schools developed a recovery plan. The strength of our community was evident as we struggled to comprehend and respond to the devastation caused by the hurricane.

Thanks so much for all of the support you provide the law school. Please let me know if you have suggestions for improving the work of our school. Feel free to e-mail me at the address below. Have a wonderful fall season.

Suellyn Scarnecchia

scarnecchia@law.unm.edu

HIGHLIGHTS

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Harold Koh, Yale Law Dean, to Present Simms Lecture

Harold Koh, dean of the Yale Law School, will present the 2006 John Field Simms Memorial Lecture on Jan. 27 at the UNM School of Law. The title of his lecture will be, “International Law and the United States Supreme Court.”

Koh has been on the faculty of the Yale Law School since 1985 and became the school’s 15th dean in July 2004. He continues to serve as the Gerard C. and Bernice Latrobe Smith Professor of International Law.


After a brief period practicing with a Washington, D.C. firm, he began teaching at George Washington University National Law Center, then joined the faculty at Yale. He teaches international law, the law of U.S. foreign relations, international human rights, international organizations and international regimes, international business transactions, international trade and civil procedure.

The Simms lectureship was established in 1954 by a gift from Albert Simms in memory of his brother, John, who had been a trial lawyer and justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court.

Rodey Firm Increases Scholarship

Andy Schultz (’84), managing partner of Rodey, Dickason, Sloan, Akin & Robb, has announced that the Rodey Scholarship will be increased to a full scholarship, covering the full amount of in-state tuition for a school year. This represents a 76 percent increase in the $5,000 the firm has pledged every year to a UNM law student.

When the scholarship was established in 1991, the $5,000 covered a year’s tuition, but it has not kept up with rising tuition costs.

“The firm has had a strong, long and close relationship with the UNM School of Law and we wanted the Rodey Scholarship to be meaningful, to truly address a student’s financial needs and to reflect the kind of firm Rodey is,” says Schultz. “I am very happy we were able to return it to its former glory.”

The scholarship is awarded after the first year to a UNM law student who has demonstrated the potential to make an outstanding contribution to the practice of law. The upgraded scholarship will take effect this year.

“This generous gift from a firm that is such a loyal supporter of the School of Law is a great example of how the legal community can help us maintain the highest standards and the best access to legal education. The fortunate recipient of the Rodey Scholarship will breathe 100 percent easier, knowing that a full year of tuition is covered. That kind of support allows a student to concentrate on his or her studies and to truly maximize the law school experience,” says Dean Suellyn Scarnecchia.

IRS Grant Received in the Clinic

The Taxpayer Advocate, an arm of the Internal Revenue Service, has awarded a grant to the UNM Clinical Law Program to represent low-income taxpayers before the IRS and to help educate non-English-speaking taxpayers. To direct this initiative, Evan Hobbs, a local tax, business and estate planning practitioner, has been hired to collaborate with the other faculty in the Economic Development Clinic.
Distinguished Achievement Award

Richard Gerding

Dick Gerding has focused his legal career on litigation and hospital-related issues since beginning private practice in 1965. He earned both an undergraduate and law degree from the University of New Mexico, graduating from the law school in 1964.

After a year clerking for Justice Irwin Moise of the New Mexico Supreme Court, he moved to Farmington and joined the Tansey firm. When the firm dissolved in 1996, he established Gerding & O’Loughlin with Michael O’Loughlin. He is general counsel for the San Juan Regional Medical Center and spends much of his time on mediations.

Gerding is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and helped organize the Four Corners Chapter of the American Inns of Court. He serves on the state Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism and in 2003 received the State Bar of New Mexico’s Professionalism Award. He is involved with a number of community organizations.

Gerding is a pilot, teaches flyfishing and is a part-time fishing guide on the San Juan River in his spare time.

Tommy Jewell

Tommy Jewell served his community as a trial judge for 21 years, first in the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court for seven years, then in the Second Judicial District’s Children’s Court until his retirement on Sept. 30. In 2001, he was named Outstanding Judge by the Albuquerque Bar Association and in 1997 received the Outstanding Judicial Service Award from the State Bar of New Mexico.

After graduating from the UNM School of Law in 1979, Jewell spent two years with the Legal Aid Society of Albuquerque, one of those years as a Reginald Heber Smith Fellow. He then worked in private practice for five years. Jewell received post-graduate training in alternative dispute resolution at the National Judicial College and has remained active in judicial education.

In 1995, he was appointed by President Bill Clinton to the State Justice Institute Board of Directors, a position he still holds. He chairs a collaborative effort in juvenile detention and system reform in Bernalillo County.

Jewell plays tennis, holds a second-degree black belt in karate and plays drums for a number of Albuquerque bands.
Ruth Kovnat

When Ruth Kovnat became a tenure-track professor at Temple University School of Law in 1971, she was the school’s first female law professor and among the first wave of female law professors in the nation. Four years later, she joined the faculty at the UNM School of Law, where she concentrated her scholarship in environmental law, constitutional law and federal jurisdiction. From 1991-1994, she served as associate dean for academic affairs, and in 1999, she became an emerita professor.

Through the years, Kovnat has been active in the legal and environmental communities, serving on the Board of Directors of the New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty and the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission. As a member of the South Valley Task Force, she studied water quality issues in Albuquerque’s South Valley. For her community involvement, Kovnat received the Governor’s Award for Outstanding New Mexico Women.

In recent years, she has concentrated on both issues of comparative constitutional law and problems regarding the scope of federal judicial jurisdiction.

Past Recipients of Distinguished Achievement Award

2004
Ranne Miller
Maureen Sanders
Peter Winograd

2003
Robert Desiderio
Nancy Hollander
Luis Stelzner

2002
No awards dinner
Frederick M. Hart Wing dedication

2001
John Cooney
Raymond Sanchez
Anne Thomas

2000
Sarah Bradley
Arturo Jaramillo
William Snead

1999
The Hon. Howard Bratton
Kevin Gover
Fred Hart

1998
Gene Gallegos
The Hon. Richard Ransom
Steve Schiff

1997
The Hon. E.L. Mecham
The Hon. Joe Wood
Russell Moore

1996
Albert Utton
Felix Briones

1995
The Hon. Dan Sosa, Jr.
John Robb, Jr.
William Bondurant, Jr.
Raymond Schowers

1994
Franklin Jones
Henry Weihofen
The Hon. Mary Walters
Haskell Rosebrough

1993
Paul Robinson
The Hon. Santiago Campos
Ruth Streeter
Standing before the Class of 2005, Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano spoke of the ever-accelerating rate of change in our society, the importance of an independent judiciary and of nourishing one's personal spirit and that of the community.

She said it would be a lawyer's job to make sense of such transformations as technology's fast-paced development, New Mexico's population growth and challenges to the rule of law.

"Your job will be to sort out where to alter the law, and where to leave it alone," she told the 97 graduates in the May commencement address.

In the midst of all of these changes, Napolitano, who grew up in Albuquerque, encouraged graduates to reserve time for personal pleasures, in her case, tennis and opera.

She also emphasized that being a lawyer is about much more than making money.

"To know the law is to know how to make this world better through its proper application," she said. "And to practice law properly is to engage in public service of the highest order. Never forget that being an attorney is not just a job. It is a calling, a way of life."

Napolitano earned her J.D. from the University of Virginia Law School and began practicing law in Arizona in 1983. Before being elected governor in 2002, she served one term as Arizona's attorney general and four years as U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona.
Class of 2005 Honors and Awards

West Law Award for Outstanding Achievement
Lynn Carrillo-Cruz

A.H. McLeod Prize for interest and skill in advocacy
Sheila Sievers

ABA/BNA Award for excellence in the study of intellectual property law
JiSan Lopez

Albert E. Utton Natural Resources Law Award
Kimberly Bananner
David Duffy
John Ringham

ALI/ABA Scholarship
Josh Ewing

American Bankruptcy Institute Medal
Thomas Garrett

Atkinson & Kelsey Award for excellence in family law
Nanette Erdman

Clinical Legal Education Association Outstanding Student Award
Sarah Steadman

Clinical Honors
Rachel Bayless
Julia Bishop
Natalie Bruce
Suzanne Bruckner
Quinn Bumgarner-Kirby
James Cook
David Duffy
Nanette Erdman
Michelle Haubert-Barela
Darcie Johnson
Cara Mickelsen
Dawn Priestman
Sheila Sievers
Jared Slade
Carmela Starace
Sarah Steadman
Elizabeth Strahan
Ryan Villa
Kelly Waterfall
Rachel Winston

Faculty Award
Pablo Padilla
Cydni Sanchez

Frederick M. Hart Prize for excellence in commercial law
Jenica Jacobi

Freedman, Boyd, Daniels, Hollander, Goldberg & Cline Prize for excellence in criminal law
Ryan Villa

Health Law Scholar Award
Robin Dreisigacker
Clara Fields

Indian Law certificates
Elizabeth Collard
David Duffy
Pablo Padilla
Elizabeth Strahan
Sherri Thomas
April Winecke
Natasha Young

Tribal Law Journal certificates
Anna Martinez
Dawn Priestman
Sherri Thomas
April Winecke
Natasha Young

Award for Excellence in International and Comparative Law
Anne Sovcik

Irwin Stern Moise Award in legal and judicial ethics
Jammy Kiggundu

Judge Oliver Seth Award in ethics
Jared Slade

Jerrold Walden Memorial Award
Susan Carter
Kelly Waterfall

Judge Oliver Seth Award for excellence in alternate dispute resolution
Elizabeth Collard

Julia Raymond McCulloch Memorial Award for excellence in constitutional law
Quinn Bumgarner-Kirby

Lee Teitelbaum Fellowship
Lynn Carrillo-Cruz

Lewis Sutin Award for excellence
Dawn Priestman

LexisNexis Award for top three students
Josh Ewing, first
Martha Mulvany, second
Jared Slade, third
Martha Keiper Dailey Award for awareness of social problems, concern for people in trouble and dedication to a professional responsibility to provide equal justice for all
Rachel Winston

Mary Beth and Rick West Award for excellence in Indian Law
Anna Martinez
Natasha Young

Natural Resources Law Certificates
Daniel Buttram
David Duffy
Darcie Johnson
Pablo Padilla

Natural Resources Journal Certificates
Daniel Buttram
David Duffy
Grieta Gilchrist
Darcie Johnson
Marcos Martinez
Justin Miller
Martha Mulvany
Pablo Padilla
Sharon Shaheen
Rachel Winston
Kyle Wiswall

Pete Domenici Award for excellence in environmental law
Charlotte Itoh

New Mexico Law Review Certificates
Kimberly Bannerman
Quinn Bumgarner-Kirby
Michelle Haubert-Barela
Cara Mickelsen
Camille Pedrick-Chavez

Amanda Sanchez
Kelly Waterfall

Sheehan, Sheehan & Stelzner Pursuit of Excellence Award
Sarah Steadman

Special Staff Award
Janet Cox

Tort Scholar Award
Flynn Syvset

U.S./Mexico Law Journal Certificates
Saul Ramos
Ignacio Gallegos
Gabe Wade

Wall Street Journal Student Achievement Award
James Cook

West Book Award for outstanding contribution to scholarship
Theresa Copland
Michelle Haubert-Barela
Cara Mickelsen
Martha Mulvany

Thomson West Award for Domestic Relations Law
Rachel Brown

National Association of Women Lawyers’ Award
Brenna Claini
Sherri Thomas

Dean’s Awards
Esteban Aguilar
Elizabeth Collard
Mateo Delgado
Sarah Gorman
Rishi Khan
Nicole Moss
Sarah Maestas
Hilary Noskin
Amanda Sanchez
Camille Wagner
April Winecke
Native American Access to Justice Network Starts Up

The UNM School of Law’s Access to Justice Practitioner Network has been so successful that it has spawned its first subsidiary. The Native American Access to Justice Practitioner Network debuted this summer and its goal is to make it easier for Native American clients in rural New Mexico to access the legal system.

The law school’s Clinical Law Program operates both networks, through which practicing lawyers accept referrals from the clinic, either pro bono or on a reduced-fee basis. Members of the networks also serve as resources to students and are eligible to take designated law school courses for CLE credit at a minimal cost.

The clinic already was working on setting up the Native American Access to Justice Practitioner Network when Sen. Leonard Tsosie (’92) weighed in. Because of the far-flung nature of the state’s Native American communities, he proposed making databases accessible in communities closer to their homes. His idea coincided with plans already under way at the Law Library to provide legal databases to UNM branch libraries in Gallup and Farmington.

Through Tsosie’s efforts, the Legislature appropriated $21,000 to pay for legal databases to support the program. As a result, lawyers who join the Native American practitioner network will receive free access to Loislaw, an Internet-based database of federal and 50-state primary laws, four Aspen online practice libraries with forms and a CD-ROM of the Navajo Code.

UNM law librarians will train the practitioners on how to use the databases, at the law school and in other communities, such as Crownpoint, Gallup and Farmington.

“We were already working on our own outreach, so this project fit perfectly with the library’s goals,” says Law Library Director Carol Parker. “We bring our reference desk to the clinic once a week already and this is a further step toward taking our service beyond the law school.”

The cases referred in this new practitioner network come from the Southwest Indian Law Clinic (SILC) and involve Native American issues in various state, federal and tribal courts and with governmental agencies. SILC also is looking for mentors interested in helping students. To volunteer, please contact SILC Director Christine Zuni Cruz at 505.277.5265 or zunicruz@law.unm.edu.

For more information on the Native American Access to Justice Practitioner Network, contact Antoinette Sedillo Lopez, associate dean of clinical programs, at 505.277.5265 or lopez@law.unm.edu.

Outreach a Priority at UNM Law Library

Outreach is an important part of the UNM Law Library’s mission. In addition to serving the students and faculty of the UNM School of Law, the library offers the only large academic legal research collection in New Mexico. As such, legal researchers from across the university, along with private practitioners and citizens, rely on the library. In a typical year, 45 percent of the questions asked at the reference desk come from citizens doing legal research.

Because of the important role the library plays in the statewide community, an average of 75 law library presentations, tours and research lectures are attended by more than 1,000 people every year, including public librarians and paralegal students from other schools and colleges. UNM law librarians also present workshops at libraries around the state, for librarians, lawyers and citizens.

Database Training Calendar

Librarians from the UNM Law Library will offer database training at the following locations:

Nov. 16: San Juan College Library, Farmington
January: UNM Gallup branch

For an up-to-date listing of trainings, go to: http://lawschool.unm.edu/lawlib/index.php.

For registration information, please contact the UNM Law Library at 505.277.0955.

Following are the UNM Law Library’s most recent outreach initiatives:

• Michelle Rigual, head of the UNM Law Library’s Technical Services, spent a day in August with librarians at Northern New Mexico Community College in Espanola. She offered advice on managing the library’s legal materials and demonstrated several free legal websites.

• UNM Branch Libraries Outreach Program. The UNM Law Library is licensing online legal research databases for the four UNM branch libraries in Valencia, Gallup, Taos and Los Alamos, providing expanded citizen and practitioner access to these resources. UNM law librarians also offer training sessions on the databases at those libraries.

• Citizen and Practitioner Access to Legal Research Databases. About $135,000 worth of online databases are licensed for citizen and practitioner use within the UNM Law Library. These are licenses above and beyond what are available for law student and faculty use.
Website One of Four Nationwide to Top Accessibility Standards

Cyndi Dean, assistant dean for Information Technology, knew it was important for the UNM School of Law’s website to be accessible to sight-impaired students. But it wasn’t until she sat with a blind exchange student from Canada a year ago and saw that he couldn’t access much of the information on the school’s website, that she made it a priority.

The result, which debuted Aug. 2, 2004, is a website that exceeds standards set by the Americans with Disabilities Act and World Wide Web Consortium, and is one of only four law schools to do so with their law library websites. The site was highlighted at a June conference of the Center of Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction (CALI).

“When I heard compliments from colleagues at large law schools with huge endowments, I felt proud of this accomplishment of our small staff,” says Dean.

Dean’s standards were high: she wanted to improve the website’s accessibility, simplify navigation and make the site pleasing to look at. She turned the project over to her web designer Janet Roupas, who in turn brought in Gabe Chavez, a computer science student working in the law school’s IT department. Roupas’ unrelenting persistence for perfection and support of Chavez’s experimentation proved a winning combination.

During the next 19 months, they conducted hours of research. The challenge of figuring out how to make the website compatible with screen-reader programs that enable blind users to use keystrokes to navigate their computers was monumental. There were no experts or manuals to guide the process. Chavez taught himself about the ADA standards and how to use existing web programming tools to meet those standards.

“Most rewarding was my exposure to the concerns of users and learning how to accommodate them,” he says. “I’ve learned that my job is to anticipate the user of the website.” From the experience, Chavez has become one of the experts at UNM on ADA website compliance and he has begun marketing himself as a web programmer.

Roupas relied on photographs to make the site attractive and is appreciative of students who accommodated her requests for their input and feedback.

The Canadian student is no longer at the law school, but Dean knows it won’t be long before another student’s special needs must be met. With more and more information, such as class schedules and book lists, available only on the website, accessibility will become even more vital. The UNM School of Law is setting the pace.
Rebecca Roose Finds Career Niche in Washington, D.C.

Rebecca Roose was in the 8th grade when she decided to become an environmental lawyer. Midway through her first year of law school, she knew she wanted to work in the environmental nonprofit community and not in a courtroom. She worked on the Natural Resources Journal and earned a Natural Resources certificate. Every year during law school, she attended the Equal Justice Works public career fair in Washington, D.C. and spent her summers there, clerking for environmental groups.

Upon graduation in 2004, she took a job with Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, which she discovered at the career fair and for whom she clerked during law school. The small Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit is a resource for city, state and federal government employees who work in environmental and natural resources agencies.

“We provide support for whistleblowers in an agency, such as the EPA or a state department of environmental quality,” she says. “Hopefully, they don’t have to go so far as to blow the whistle, that the problem can be resolved before that.”

As program director and staff attorney, Roose is in charge of investigating and researching campaigns that result from employees’ phone calls to her office. Those campaigns typically involve sending press releases to the media as a way to get the word out about wrongdoing or harassment. Since joining the nonprofit a year ago, Roose has primarily worked with a coalition of other environmental and public health organizations, investigating charges that the Bush Administration has manipulated scientific facts and suppressed the scientific research of federal scientists.

She is learning about web development, fundraising and often conducts intakes from employees who call to report problems. In that last role, she has been ever thankful for her clinical rotation at the UNM School of Law, a requirement she tried to circumvent, knowing that she didn’t intend a traditional law practice. She resented working in the clinic and praises Assistant Professor Carol Suzuki for putting up with her.

“I had no idea that my community lawyering clinic would pay off in just my first year out of school,” says Roose. “At any given moment, the phone can ring with an employee on the verge of a nervous breakdown for what they have to endure at work. They expect me to be their counselor, attorney and friend, all within 30 seconds of introducing myself. I have learned how to listen and make them feel comfortable speaking with me, despite the fear instilled in them at the office.”

Even though she does not spend her time in a courtroom, every day Roose relies on her legal education, which has helped her understand the framework within which her employees work, how government operates, interpret and carry out environmental legislation and communicate with public employees or colleagues.

“I learned to listen and more effectively share information,” she says. “Law school helped me express myself better, gear information toward my audience and draw information I need out of my audience.”

Field Trip Highlights Natural Resources Issues

Law professors from across the country attended the Natural Resources Law Teachers Conference, sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, in Santa Fe. As part of the three-day conference in June, the Utton Transboundary Resources Center organized a day-long field trip, which included a presentation on Indian Law by UNM Law Professor John LaVelle, discussions with fire experts regarding fires and their impacts in the Los Alamos area, along with visits to the Valles Caldera National Preserve and Bandelier National Monument, where participants explored cliffside ruins. At Zia Pueblo, the professors enjoyed lunch and a presentation by Tribal Administrator Peter Pino on the pueblo’s gypsum mine. The final stop was along the Rio Grande, where Brian Bader, manager of the restoration division of Santa Ana Pueblo’s Department of Natural Resources, explained the pueblo’s efforts to keep the water table at a level favorable to plants native to the area.
Workshop Addresses Bosque Restoration

Scientists, professors, land managers and environmental professionals gathered at the UNM School of Law last May for the Second Annual Bosque Restoration Workshop, sponsored by the Utton Transboundary Resources Center.

The day-long workshop continued the work of the first gathering a year earlier, during which Cliff Crawford, UNM professor emeritus of biology, and Sterling Grogan, biologist with the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, presented a proposal for habitat restoration projects in the Rio Grande bosque. During the 2005 workshop, specific guidelines were developed that focused primarily on preventing catastrophic fire and creating wildlife habitat, while minimizing water depletion of the river.

More than 35 agencies are involved in issues concerning the bosque that stretches between Cochiti Dam and Elephant Butte Lake. The Utton Center was asked to help facilitate the discussion among these groups – in sharing information and making sure that restoration funding is being used wisely. The resulting guidelines will help land managers design projects and promote bosque restoration without increasing water use.

For more information on the bosque workshops, contact Susan Kelly at 277-0514 or skelly@law.unm.edu.

Border Governors Water Table Created

At a summer meeting of the Border Governors, a bi-national group of 10 states on either side of the Mexico-United States border, the Water Table subcommittee was created to establish a work program and method for discussing and resolving water-related issues along the border.

Marilyn O’Leary, director of the Utton Transboundary Resources Center, was appointed to represent New Mexico on the Water Table, and she will work with New Mexico officials and those of the other states on issues such as groundwater and development of a bi-national system of water information. The goal is to ascertain how the six Mexican states and the four U.S. states can work together to further mutual objectives in the exchange of water data and expertise.

Given the differences in water management between the two countries, Water Table members won’t be discussing issues such as water deliveries under international treaties or water allocation. In Mexico, the federal government manages water allocation, whereas, in the U.S., state law governs water allocation.

But the Water Table can address other issues, such as the need for joint groundwater modeling and monitoring, which is envisioned in a pending bill sponsored by U.S. Sen. Jeff Bingaman.

O’Leary is excited about the possibilities: “The recent settlement between New Mexico and Texas regarding payment of the Mexican water debt to Texas under the 1944 Water Treaty has helped the states put aside some of their differences,” says O’Leary. “As a result, I am hoping the Water Table will be able to make good progress.”

Marilyn O’Leary Attends Stockholm Event

Marilyn O’Leary, director of the Utton Transboundary Resources Center, participated in the 2005 World Water Week in Stockholm last August. She moderated a panel that was part of a seminar titled, “Trans-boundary Water Governance as a Manifestation of a Triologue.”

The World Water Week is the leading annual global meeting place for the world’s diverse water community. It includes the Stockholm Water Symposium, topical plenary sessions and panel debates, scientific workshops, independently organized seminars and side events, along with exhibitions. Participants come from more than 100 countries and represent the business, civil society, governmental, inter-governmental, science and water management sectors.
Laura Gómez Combines Law and Sociology

When Laura Gómez was searching for a career path after earning a bachelor's degree in social studies from Harvard College, she knew she wanted to teach, but she couldn't decide between law school and sociology. So she did both.

First she received a master's in sociology at Stanford University, then, in six years, earned both a Ph.D. in Sociology and a J.D. with honors from Stanford.

“I like sociology for its persuasive way to see the world by focusing on societies, communities and organizations,” she says. “I didn’t want to be closed off in an “ivory tower,” and teaching law provides a connection with the real world.”

She had considered journalism, but while working as an intern for the McNeil-Lehrer NewsHour, she became frustrated with the medium’s restrictions: “There wasn’t enough time to think through issues.” She also spent a year as a legislative aide to Jeff Bingaman, then a freshman U.S. senator. After advising the New Mexico senator on Central American and South African policies, among other duties, she was off to graduate school.

After earning her Ph.D. and J.D., Gómez joined the faculty at UCLA, where she taught at the law school and in the Department of Sociology for 11 years. In 1996-1997, she was the Rockefeller Fellow in Legal Humanities at Stanford.

She spent 2004-2005 as the Weatherhead Resident Scholar at the School of American Research in Santa Fe, researching an upcoming book on the role played by law, legal actors and legal discourse during the early years of the American colonization of the Southwest. The book is scheduled for publication in fall 2006.

“New Mexico emerges as the optimal site for exploring the clash of peoples in the 19th century Southwest because it is the product of what I term a double-colonization: the American colonization of the 19th century was grafted onto the Spanish colonization of previous centuries,” she says.

In addition to her upcoming book, Gómez has published extensively, relishing the opportunity to contribute to legal discourse. Her article, “Off-White in an Age of White Supremacy: Mexican Elites and the Rights of Indians and Blacks in Nineteenth-Century New Mexico,” was recently published in the UCLA Chicano-Latino Law Review.

This fall, Gómez, who taught as a visitor at the University of New Mexico School of Law in 2003-2004, joined the UNM faculty in a tenured position. In keeping with her dual interests, she will be spending 75 percent of her time at the law school and 25 percent in the American Studies Department of the College of Arts and Sciences.

In addition to teaching one course a year in American Studies, she will advise graduate students in the Race, Class and Ethnicity, Gender Studies and Southwest Studies clusters.

Gómez’s UNM appointment is a return home to Albuquerque, where she grew up and still has scores of relatives, including her brother, Miguel, who serves on the Albuquerque City Council. She bought a house not far from where she grew up in the North Valley and looks forward to raising her eight-and-one-half-year-old son among green chile and her extended family.

From her year as a visiting professor, Gómez has earned the nickname, “La Jefa,” for the demands she places on her students, who she considers having equal or greater potential than her UCLA law students.

“I think it’s extremely important that we demand a lot from our students at UNM,” she says. “Because this is the only law school in the state, I feel a particularly strong obligation to open doors for students. It’s exciting to help them see the world in a different way and to do what I can to help them through law school.”

She is proud to note that two of her former students are now law professors.

“It’s rewarding to change the world in a little way by connecting with even a few students,” she says.
Barbara Bergman has been elected president of the National Criminal Defense Lawyers Association.

Sherri Burr taught International Entertainment Law in Innsbruck, Austria for St. Mary's Law School last summer. While in Europe, she conducted research on “The Globalization of the Film and Television Industry” in preparation for a fall lecture for UNM alumni, and on a lecture titled, “Selling Art Internationally”, which she presented in August to the International Conference on Art Law in Santa Fe.

Christine Zuni Cruz presented “The Tribal Law Journal – A ‘Shadow’ Analysis of Indigenous Peoples and the Internet” at the Sovereignty Symposium 2005 in Oklahoma City in June. She was a member of a panel entitled, “Indian Country Online.”


Antoinette Sedillo Lopez presented a talk entitled, “Colonized Bodies: A Reproductive Rights Agenda for Women of Color,” at the International Family Law conference on Culture and International Law in Salt Lake City and at the Southwest/Southeast People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference in New Orleans. She also was elected chair of the group’s spring conference, to be held April 7-9, 2006 in Santa Fe.

Carol Parker gave a presentation at the Computer Assisted Legal Instruction (CALI) Conference at Chicago Kent-ITT Law School in Chicago in June. The title of her presentation was: “DSpace: Why You Should Care, or A Case Study of the University of New Mexico School of Law’s Implementation of DSpace, an Open Source Institutional Repository.”

Michelle Rigual has been elected secretary/treasurer for the newly formed American Association of Law Libraries’ Latino Law Librarians Caucus. Her term will run through 2007.

Robert Clark, Former UNM Law Professor, Dies at Home

Robert Emmet Clark, a former UNM law professor, died from complications of Parkinson’s disease at his Albuquerque home in early August.

At the University of Arizona law school, he taught Natural Resources Law, Mining and Public Land Law, Water Law and Torts. In 1979, he received the Creative Teaching Award from the University of Arizona Foundation, and in 1980 he was presented the Dean’s Award for his service to the college and the profession. He retired in 1980, and in 1998, Clark was one of the first alumni to receive the University of Arizona College of Law Annual Lifetime Achievement Award.

Clark was born in Minneapolis and left high school after his sophomore year to work to support his mother and younger siblings. He returned later and graduated. In 1934, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, but an advanced case of pulmonary tuberculosis kept him out of active duty during World War II. He earned his undergraduate degree from UNM, then went to Arizona for law school. He practiced law before joining the UNM law faculty.

Suelynn Scarneccia is chair of the 2005 University of New Mexico United Way Campaign. She has been appointed to the Law School Admissions Council’s Minority Affairs Committee.

Peter Winograd has been elected to a two-year term as secretary of the American Bar Association’s Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar (the law school accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education). He was featured in an ABA Journal article, discussing an effort to amend the Higher Education Act to make it easier for law school graduates employed in public service positions to repay their educational debt.

Kudos

Ted Occhialino is the recipient of the State Bar of New Mexico’s 2004 CLE Pinnacle Award for General-Continuing Legal Education. He received the award for his presentation at the Bar’s annual review of civil procedure in August 2004. Scores for this new award were based on standardized annual results from more than 250 presenters from July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005. Based on overall presentation ratings, seminar attendance and participant responses, Occhialino was the overall highest rated presenter of the year.

Rob Schwartz received the Jay Healey Distinguished Teaching Award from the National Health Law Teachers Association.

Visiting: Scotland, Boston

Scott Hughes is spending the fall semester as a visiting professor at the University of Stirling in Stirling, Scotland. He is assisting with the legal writing program and doing comparative work on mediation and conflict resolution. He also will be lecturing in Hungary.

Leo Romero is spending the fall semester at Suffolk University Law School in Boston as the Distinguished Visiting Professor of Law. He is teaching criminal law to first-year law students and an international criminal law seminar. As part of this prestigious appointment, he will present a lecture on the comparisons between punitive damages and criminal sanctions.
Cynthia Aragon

Cynthia Aragon (Stanaland) brings to the Southwest Indian Law Clinic a knowledge of criminal, civil and Indian law.

Since earning a J.D. in 1996 from the UNM law school, she has worked as in-house counsel to the Navajo Agricultural Products Industry, a Navajo Nation-owned corporation, and she has been an assistant district attorney, prosecuting both juvenile and adult felony and misdemeanor crimes and representing the DA’s office in mental competency, habeas corpus and civil forfeiture proceedings.

Most recently, she has been providing legal assistance to low-income New Mexico residents in domestic relations, consumer, family, public benefits, tax, bankruptcy and other poverty law areas in her work with Law Access New Mexico. Aragon also has assisted tribes nationwide in developing and planning their own justice systems. She has taught civics at the Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, incorporating different tribal justice, tribal government and indigenous systems into the course.

Prior to law school, Aragon, who is a member of the Navajo Nation and also of Hispanic heritage, worked as a juvenile probation parole officer and currently she is a member of the New Mexico Adult Parole Board and the New Mexico Sentencing Commission.

Gary Conine

Judge Leon Karelitz Endowed Chair in Oil and Gas Law

Gary Conine's visit to the UNM law school is his second appointment as the Judge Leon Karelitz Endowed Chair in Oil and Gas Law.

Conine practiced for 10 years with Liddell Sapp, a large Houston law firm, representing clients across the country with interests in domestic and international petroleum matters, before turning his focus to teaching.

After earning an L.L.M. at Harvard Law School in 1988, he joined the faculty at the University of Houston Law Center, where he served as director of the graduate program in energy, natural resources and environmental law and was honored by being designated as one of the university’s first Shell Interdisciplinary Scholars. His legal research has focused on the economic foundations of oil and gas law; operational contracts that shape the nature of petroleum operations and international petroleum transactions. He retired in 2000.

Currently, he works as a consultant on oil and gas educational and legislative projects.

Charles Daniels

Charles Daniels has taught at the UNM School of Law since 1971 in a variety of capacities, from tenured professor in the early 1970s to adjunct. In 1998, he was presented the national Roscoe Pound Award for Excellence in teaching trial advocacy as an adjunct professor. This year he is teaching Evidence/Trial Practice.

In 1976, he left full-time teaching to establish the Albuquerque firm now known as Freedman, Boyd, Daniels, Hollander & Goldberg. During his career as a trial lawyer, he has litigated cases in federal and state courts from Hawaii to Puerto Rico and he has been featured on Court TV, Dateline, 20/20 and the A&E Network.

Daniels received an MFA in 1966 from the University of Arizona. In 1969, he earned a J.D. from the University of New Mexico, then went on to earn an LL.M. in 1971 from Georgetown University Law Center as an E. Barrett Prettyman Fellow.

Outside of the law, he is a licensed NASCAR driver and honkytonk musician.

Evan Hobbs

Evan Hobbs is teaching in the clinical law program, assisting faculty and students in the new low-income taxpayer component of the economic development clinic. This assignment marks a return to the UNM School of Law for Hobbs, who spent the 2002-2003 academic year as a visitor, teaching business planning, estate planning, partnership tax and wills and trusts. Before that, he taught similar courses as an adjunct.

Hobbs has practiced law in Albuquerque for more than 20 years, with an emphasis on tax, business planning and estate planning since earning an L.L.M. from Southern Methodist University in 1993. Following his last visit to the law school, he rejoined the Albuquerque firm of Laffin, Pick & Heer. He majored in history and German at the University of California at Irvine, then went on to Brigham Young University, where he earned a J.D. and
M.P.A. His law practice focused on corporate finance, securities and environmental law before he returned to school to study tax law.

Hobbs has retained his German language skills and enjoys spending time with his family, serving the community, playing guitar and cello and riding his motorcycle.

**Stewart Paley**

Stewart Paley is teaching Business Associations, Commercial Transactions and International Business Transactions during his year as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Law. He practiced business, bankruptcy and banking law for 10 years in Philadelphia and New Hampshire before moving to New Mexico. He is a former partner in the Philadelphia law firm of Klehr, Harrison, Harvey, Branzburg & Ehlers.

Since moving to New Mexico with his wife, UNM Law Professor Nathalie Martin, he has taught in the American Indian Law Center’s Pre-Law Summer Institute. They also regularly teach abroad for Temple University School of Law in the summers. During the school year, he teaches reading at Belen Middle School and sponsors the student council.

Paley earned a B.A. from the University of Colorado, followed by a J.D. from Syracuse University College of Law. He earned another bachelor’s, in education, from the College of Santa Fe.

Outside of the law, he hikes, rides his bike, skis and snowshoes. He also teaches people with disabilities how to downhill ski.

**Robert Yazzie**

This is Robert Yazzie’s second year as a visitor in the Indian Law program. This fall, he is teaching a course that explores the many facets of tribal courts in the United States. Yazzie is a retired chief justice of the Navajo Nation.

He grew up on the Navajo Nation, then earned a bachelor’s degree from Oberlin College. After graduating from the UNM School of Law in 1982, he returned home, where he practiced law. He also was a Navajo-English interpreter in U.S. District Court and a consultant to law firms before becoming a judge on the district court in Window Rock, Ariz. In 1992, he was appointed chief justice of the Navajo Nation, retiring in 2003.

He is on the faculty of the National Judicial College and is developing legal studies curricula for the Crowpoint Institute of Technology. He is noted for his writing and speeches on traditional Navajo peace-making, traditional Indian law and tribal court practice.

**Hart, Desiderio Teach Pre-law in Saipan**

Fred Hart and Robert Desiderio are former deans and professor emeriti at the UNM School of Law, where they have helped shape a generation of lawyers. Last summer, the two friends and colleagues took their show on the road, to the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). For three weeks, they provided a sampling of two law school courses to 15 island residents who have indicated an interest in the legal profession.

Four days a week, they took their students through portions of Agency and Property courses, running the classroom much like they would a first-year class. The students were also required to write a short brief and an oral argument, which they presented before a three-judge panel in a moot court-style exercise. This pre-law program is sponsored by the CNMI Supreme Court, the Northern Mariana Islands Bar Association and the Northern Mariana Islands Humanities Council.

Hart was making his first trip to the Pacific Island nation, which has been a U.S. commonwealth since 1975. But Desiderio has a long history with the commonwealth. In 1978, he worked with the first Legislature and returned in 1991 to start up the pre-law summer program. Last summer was the fourth time he led the program. From 1992-1994, he helped draft the tax code for the commonwealth.

Since its inception, 73 residents have taken the course. Three of last summer’s students began law school this fall, one at UNM.

“The pre-law program has been extremely successful,” says Desiderio. “Over the years, about 25 local students have attended or are attending law school. Of those who have graduated from law school, approximately 15 are practicing privately or with the government. One of our graduates is a judge. I am happy to say that the UNM law school is well known and respected in the commonwealth.”

Relaxing after a day of teaching: (l-r) Fred Hart, the Hon. Miquel S. Demapan, chief justice of the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Robert Desiderio.
Lisa Gover
Committed to a Clean Environment and Battling Injustice

Lisa Gover was in middle school in northern Virginia when a righteous indignation rose up that remains a driving force today. In those early years, she became aware that just being a female was a disadvantage.

“From my eyes, boys got all the breaks,” she says. “They could play football and more money went to boys’ athletics. I just saw so much injustice and I thought I could fix it.” Then and there, she decided she would be a lawyer.

Her family moved to Albuquerque, where her mother worked for Americans for Indian Opportunity, a Native American advocacy group. Two years later, when Gover, of Pawnee and Comanche heritage, was 18, she was accepted into the paralegal training course at the American Indian Law Center. She was the youngest in the class, and several lectures by the center’s director, Sam Deloria, have influenced her passion in the work she does today. Deloria’s involvement with leaders in indigenous communities in Mexico, Central America and South America spurred Gover’s interest in International Law. The Alaska Native Claims Act had just been signed and the Oliphant Decision had just come down from the U.S. Supreme Court.

“The Oliphant decision essentially turned federal Indian Law on its head, by ruling that tribal government jurisdiction didn’t extend to non-Indian criminal acts on reservations,” she says. “I remember that the professors and lawyers described how the progression of Indian Law up until then had supported tribal government sovereignty, self-determination and jurisdiction over tribal lands.”

It would be 12 years before she finally realized her lifelong goal of attending law school. In between, she raised five children and fit in college whenever she could, starting out at the University of Oklahoma, then transferring to the University of New Mexico, where she earned a degree in political science. After graduating in 1993 from the UNM School of Law, Gover went to work for the new National Tribal Environmental Council (NTEC), an organization dedicated to protecting tribal environments across the country. She helped organize the nonprofit’s first national conference in Albuquerque.

Then she accepted a position with the U.S. Attorney’s Office, where she worked on stream adjudications in water rights cases that involved tribes. After two years, she moved on to the New Mexico Indian Gaming Association, which was embroiled in a number of battles to protect tribal casinos. She learned firsthand the many faces of politics, the New Mexico legislative process and how all three branches of government can weigh in on controversial issues.

“I also watched an impressive modern example of tribes forming a coalition to protect their economic, social and governmental interests,” she says. “It helped me understand the benefit of organizations like the gaming association and NTEC to have an understanding and vision on impacts on tribes nationally and locally.”

After two years, her children were teenagers and Gover felt she was needed at home. She accepted contract work with the state Office of Indian Affairs to develop recommendations for working with New Mexico tribes on health care financing and welfare reform legislation.

In 2000, she returned to the NTEC, where she is now director of the council’s superfund program, assisting tribes in their efforts to address contamination on and near tribal lands across the country. She also works with tribes and federal agencies on the impacts of federal facilities, such as energy and defense installations, on tribal resources.

Gover is involved in helping define international rights of indigenous people and was a member of a U.S. delegation that attended a recent hemispheric conference against racism in Chile. She looks forward to an upcoming conference in Guatemala. She serves on two federal advisory committees: the Natural Resources Damages Assessment Review Committee of the Department of Interior and the government advisory committee to the EPA administrator on NAFTA.

Her righteous indignation has not abated, but Gover is finally fulfilling her childhood goal of working to fix the many injustices that swirl around her.

“I have learned so much about science, politics and human relations, and perseverance, and that issues can take a long time to resolve,” she says. “The tribes have taught me that it’s about the long haul, to keep moving forward, because we deal with a lot of setbacks. But the benefits of working with tribes on these issues will affect our environment as a whole; it’s important that my grandchildren not be afraid of stepping into the Rio Grande some day.”

When she is not “fighting the good fight,” Gover can be found in her vegetable garden, playing with her 6-year-old granddaughter or soaking at the Jemez Springs Bath House.
Tony Jeffries
Runs Paperless Practice, Ponders Chaos Theory

The year before Tony Jeffries graduated from the UNM School of Law, Richard Nixon resigned as President of the United States. The shenanigans of Nixon’s lawyers surrounding the resignation soured his excitement for practicing law.

“It made me doubt the value of being a lawyer,” he says.

Instead, he became a certified public accountant, attracted by the black-and-white world of numbers, and spent three years with Peat, Marwick & Mitchell.

But he still felt drawn to the law and decided to follow the many lawyers in his family before him, including Antonio Abad Sedillo, the first speaker of the New Mexico House of Representatives, Juan Antonio Abad Sedillo, who served in the Nuremberg trials conducted in Morocco and Fito Sedillo, the first judge of the Thirteenth Judicial District. Jeffries joined the Albuquerque firm of Knight & Sullivan.

“I learned to appreciate that what lawyers do is so vast—the scope of skills needed, the scope of accomplishment for clients,” he says. “That was a challenge worthy of giving one’s best. I wanted to follow that path.”

After an evolution from employee to partner to sole employer of other lawyers, he abandoned the law firm track in favor of solo practice based on a compelling epiphany: “If God had meant there to be partnerships, he would have had one!”

He’s been on his own ever since.

“It’s been the right choice for me,” he says. “Working alone, I answer to my own sense of rightness and I’m free to evolve in any direction.” He’s also free to spend a month in Europe and work in his pajamas.

These days, Jeffries (’75) has gone paperless in his solo practice, which he operates from his living room, concentrating on commercial litigation, real estate, estate planning and tax law. He is so convinced of the efficiency of a paperless practice that he lectures on its benefits to anyone who will listen.

“I realized that most legal secretaries spend 50 percent of their time filing or moving paper, so I decided to file things only once, into a digital format. If I lose something, I ask the computer to look for it,” he says. “As a result, I have removed a lot of unnecessary frustration by eliminating the movement of paper.” He also has removed the need for a staff.

Jeffries estimates that up to 70 percent of the revenue of most law practices goes toward running the practice. In his paperless, and secretary-less, office, he figures his overhead cost is never more than 25 percent of gross revenues.

Despite his early resistance to a law practice, Jeffries welcomes the responsibility of representing clients and the window it provides into human nature. Ever since his years as an undergraduate student at St. John’s College in Santa Fe, he has pondered the meaning of his existence.

“Practicing law has allowed me to engage in an ongoing examination of why humans do what they do,” he says. “I meet people at a crisis in their lives and within 15 minutes of a phone conversation, we plumb the depths of their assumptions; I ask why they want to do what they are asking me to do. Often, they fundamentally change what their goals were.”

Jeffries has continued his interest in the meaning of life through an informal group he met four years ago in a UNM class on chaos and complexity theory. His classmates meet twice a month to discuss such esoteric topics as the synthesis and inter-relatedness of knowledge and how a simple math expression, for example, leads to complex behavior.

In his spare time, Jeffries has begun writing a book on single fatherhood, a position he found himself in after a divorce. Even though he is happily remarried to Jan Usinger and his two sons are now grown, he remembers how lost he felt.

“I start with the assumption that parents bring their own baggage to parenting, usually have poor parenting examples themselves and need first to recognize that parenting involves their own evolution,” he says.

“I focus on the importance of respecting the immensity of the challenges facing children, that their problems are as important to them as the crises in our own lives,” he adds. “Our role as parents is continuously to examine our own values and methods of interacting with the world, and in light of that honest assessment, to provide our children with the tools to deal with situations, respecting their own strengths, weaknesses and fears.”

Jeffries, who has not lost his desire for knowledge into the deeper meaning of life, has found a path that serves him well.
Inaugural Dean’s Circle Dinner

Charter members of the Dean’s Circle, an exclusive club of donors who contribute a minimum of $1,000 to the law school in a given fiscal year, were feted to a festive barbecue at the home of Dean Suellyn Scarnecchia in late August. The dean will host a second event for Washington, D.C. members in November.

Dean Suellyn Scarnecchia would like to thank the founding members of the Dean’s Circle for their generous donations to the UNM School of Law.

Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Albright
Sen. Jeff and Anne Bingaman
Paul Bohannon
Mr. and Mrs. James Branch, Jr.
Mrs. Howard Bratton
James Braun and Cerianne Mullins.
Michael Browde and Ruth Singer
Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Butzier
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Richard Sertich and Marte Lightstone
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Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pharris
Ronald Podboy
Mary Poole
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Popejoy, Jr.
Roberta Cooper Ramo and Dr. Barry Ramo
Edward Ricco and Mary Ann Sweeney
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Rivera
Steven Roche
Alumni Summer Golf Classic

The UNM Championship Golf Course was the place to be on July 29 when 63 golfers of all talents hit the links at the fourth annual Alumni Summer Golf Classic, hosted by the UNM School of Law Alumni Association and the State Bar of New Mexico. More than $8,000 was netted for the law school’s scholarship program. Members of the golf committee were Art Beach (’70), Henry Narvaez (’74) and Hunter Geer (’68).

Taking third place were: (l-r): Dan Long, Tim De Young (’90), Terry Gibson and Jake Ross.

Second-place winners were (l-r) Rex Throckmorton, Jack Brant (’83), Tracy Jenks and John Throckmorton.

A special thanks to the tournament sponsor, Miller Stratvert and other sponsors:
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Ron Valencia

Ron Valencia died from complications of Huntington’s Disease in June.
A 1982 graduate of the UNM School of Law, he was an attorney with Northern New Mexico Legal Services for years, before he became too debilitated from the disease. He also was on the Board of Directors of “La Compania,” an Albuquerque theater group.

Valencia grew up in the Santa Fe and Pecos areas, graduating from St. Michael’s High School in Santa Fe. He earned a bachelor’s degree from New Mexico State University.

He is remembered for a strong sense of justice, a wonderful sense of humor, a contagious laugh and a love of adventure.
Michael Cox Receives Trial Advocacy Award

The Association of Government Attorneys in Capital Litigation (AGACL) has presented Michael Cox (’81) with its Trial Advocacy Award for 2004-2005. Cox directs the special prosecution/investigation division of the New Mexico Attorney General’s Office.

A prosecutor for the past 24 years, Cox has personally prosecuted more than 60 first-degree murder cases, supervised an additional 300 first-degree murder cases, tried eight death-penalty cases and prosecuted an additional 12 death-penalty cases that resolved prior to trial.

He currently chairs the New Mexico Uniform Jury Instructions Committee, as well as the data committee for the New Mexico Sentencing Commission, and he serves on the Board of Directors of the State Bar’s Prosecutors Section.

“Capital cases are among the most difficult cases to try anywhere,” says Sean Byrne, president of AGACL and executive director of the New York Prosecutors Training Institute. “We receive nominations for this award from all over the country and we select only 12 award recipients every year. To be selected for these awards means the recipients have done an exceptional job in this very difficult and outstanding field of law.”

1973
Patricia Madrid was chosen to participate in “Women in Power: Leadership in a New World” at Harvard University last May. The intensive, week-long program at the Kennedy School of Government explored the relationship between power and leadership and how women attain and exercise power. Hispanic magazine presented her with its 2005 Latina Excellence Award in Government.

1974
Jacqueline Robins received the Charlie Driscoll Memorial Award, an annual honor bestowed by the New Mexico Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. Robins served six years as chief public defender for the State of New Mexico and has been in private practice the past 14 years.

1978
Carol Vigil is stepping down from the bench in the First Judicial District. In 1998, when she was sworn in, she became the first American Indian woman in the United States to serve as a state district judge. Affiliated with both Tesuque and Isleta pueblos, she worked extensively with the state’s tribal courts before becoming a judge.

1979

1980
Kenneth Martinez has been appointed to a new judgeship in the Second Judicial District. He has worked in private practice for the past 12 years, focusing on personal injury and criminal defense. After graduation, he spent nine years as a state prosecutor.

1981
Freddie Romero has been appointed to the bench in the Fifth Judicial District. He lives in Roswell.

1982
Kerry Kiernan has joined the firm of Sutin, Thayer & Browne. He practices in the areas of appellate, personal injury, commercial litigation and Indian gaming law.

1983
Todd Heisey was named Community Prosecutor of the Year by the New Mexico Administrative Office of the District Attorneys. He is chief deputy district attorney in the Second Judicial District.

1984
Peter Kierst has joined the firm of Sutin, Thayer & Browne. He focuses his practice on commercial litigation, personal injury, antitrust and employment law.

1985
Richard Bowman was named Legal Impact Prosecutor of the Year by the New Mexico Administrative Office of the District Attorneys. He is a deputy district attorney in the Second Judicial District.

1986
Conrad Rocha has been promoted to vice president of the Menaul School in Albuquerque.

1991
James Thomas Martin has been appointed to a judgeship in the Third Judicial District. Since graduation, he has been branch chief for the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Doña Ana County.

1992
Pete Ross, who died last February, was named Prosecutor of the Year by the New Mexico Administrative Office of the District Attorneys. He spent his legal career with the District Attorney’s Office in the Second Judicial District.

1993
Brad Hays has been re-elected chair of the U.S. Soccer Foundation, the major charitable arm of soccer in the United States. He is a founding board member of the foundation with an extensive background in the sport. Hays practices law in Sandoval County.

1994
Richard Flores has been elected district attorney for the Fourth Judicial District, which includes the counties of San Miguel, Mora and Guadalupe. He has a daughter, Cameron, who is 6 years old.
David Johnson has been elected to a three-year term as chairman of the American Bar Association's Health Law Section. He practices with Rodey, Dickason, Sloan, Akin & Robb.

Donald Sears, Jr. and his wife welcomed their first child, Arthur Sears, on June 4. He practices with Steven K. Sanders and Associates in Albuquerque.

1995
Tessa Davidson has opened the Davidson Law Firm in Corrales. She practices in the areas of water law, natural resources, real property, small business issues, estate planning and mediation. She formerly was a shareholder in the Albuquerque firm of Swaim, Schrandt & Davidson.

Virginia Dugan has been elected chair of the Marital Property Committee's Family Law Section of the American Bar Association. She practices with Atkinson & Kelsey.

Allison Pieroni has been elected chair of the Board of Directors of La Familia, an Albuquerque nonprofit social service agency. She practices with Atkinson & Kelsey.

1996
Patricio Tafoya has completed a Master of Laws program specializing in International Law at the Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School in Charlottesville, VA. He was recently awarded the Bronze Star for service in central Iraq in 2003. Currently, he is staff judge advocate for Marine Forces Europe in Stuttgart, Germany.

1998
Trena Klohe gave birth to her second child, a daughter, Morgan Lee Davis, on June 25 in Portland, Ore. She is married to Sanders Davis and recently celebrated her third anniversary at Legal Aid Services of Oregon, where she focuses on the civil legal needs of low-income survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. Her second child, Taylor, will turn two this fall.

1999
Germaine Chappelle has joined the firm of Swaim, Thayer & Browne. She focuses her practice on water law, property and real estate law.

Gene Chavez has reopened Chavez Law Offices in Albuquerque. He focuses his practice on personal injury, criminal law and worker's compensation. Formerly, he was an assistant district attorney and insurance defense lawyer.

2001
Jason Bousliman has been named co-chair, along with his wife, Samantha, of the Future Fund of the Albuquerque Community Foundation. The fund is a program to acquaint younger members of the community with philanthropy, community awareness and leadership.

Ida Hernandez Sedillo and Raúl Sedillo ('02) were married Dec. 4, 2004. She is an associate with Hatch, Allen & Shepherd and he is an associate with Buttr, Thornton & Bachr.

Vincent Ward has been named Gov. Bill Richardson's deputy chief counsel. Prior to his appointment, he was an associate with Rodey, Dickason, Sloan, Akin & Robb and a trial counsel with the U.S. Navy Trial Service Office in San Diego. He was rated the top litigator.

2004
Catherine Begaye has joined the New Mexico Public Defender's Office in Santa Fe as an assistant appellate defender.

Alex Limkin has been serving in Iraq with the Multi-National Security Transition Command, training Iraqi security forces, since November 2004. He was expected to return to Albuquerque this fall and his work as a public defender.

Elisa Paster ('03) has joined the firm of Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker in its Los Angeles office. She is an associate in the real estate department, where she is a member of the land use group. She works on takings litigation, eminent domain and inverse condemnation, obtaining entitlements for developers, due diligence and updates general plans and zoning codes for clients across the country. She had been working in Kansas City for Freilich, Leitner & Carlisle, which closed its doors after 30 years. Paster joined Freilich in the move to Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker, which has more than 950 lawyers in offices worldwide.

She says: “Much to my surprise, I love being in a big firm. The resources are amazing and I’ve met many competent and intelligent lawyers. Land use in California is fascinating, both because of the pace of development and the regulatory climate in California. Communities are struggling to keep up with the pace of growth, especially in the provision of infrastructure and services. Similarly, developers are also responding to a demand for housing that breaks the traditional suburban mold, developing walkable communities that include mixed-use development and pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods. I love working at all ends of the spectrum.”

Sean Sullivan has been selected to join the Special Investigations Bureau (SIB) of the Office of the New York City Special Narcotics Prosecutor. In his new position, he will work on major investigations of narcotics trafficking into New York City through such means as confidential informants, undercover officers, search warrants and wiretaps. Sullivan worked as an assistant district attorney in the trial division of the New York County District Attorney’s Office before joining SIB, which is staffed by experienced assistant district attorneys from each New York City’s five boroughs.

Carol Parker has joined the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) as assistant general counsel. She will represent EMNRD in real estate transactions and contracts, provide legal advice on conservation and land management issues and assist with legislative activities. Previously, she clerked for U.S. District Judge Bruce D. Black.

Elisa Paster
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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