The appointment of Kevin Washburn as our ninth dean was our major accomplishment this year. He will bring a warm regard,

evaluation of the law school confirms what we all know – the school is doing very well.

I am pleased to report that the law school this year received full accreditation from the ABA and continued membership in the AALS. The re-accreditation process included completion of an extensive questionnaire, preparation of a self-study and a visit by a site evaluation team. After reviewing the teaching and scholarship of our faculty, the curriculum, the strength of our students and their performance on the bar examination, the accreditation committees of both organizations continued our accreditation and membership for another seven years. This external evaluation of the law school confirms what we all know – the school is doing very well.

There have also been many rewards. Our students' law school experience was enriched by a number of outstanding speakers and events. Dame Sian Elias, chief justice of the New Zealand Supreme Court, delivered the Ramo Lecture in the fall and Justice Antonin Scalia spent a day this spring visiting two Constitutional Law classes and addressing the student body in a question and answer session. In April, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit held oral arguments in our moot courtroom for the very first time.

The appointment of Kevin Washburn as our ninth dean was our major accomplishment this year. He will bring a number of strengths that include experience in both the practice and teaching of law. A member of the Chickasaw Nation in Oklahoma, Kevin began his legal studies at the Pre-Law Summer Institute at the UNM School of Law. His teachers included Barbara Bergman, Ted Occhialino and Rob Schwartz. He knows the law school and has a good sense of our values and strengths. He is married to Libby Rodke Washburn ('98), who will introduce him to many of our alumni. With his youth, energy and fresh ideas, Kevin will be an excellent dean, and I ask you to give him your support.

I want to thank faculty, staff, alumni and students for helping to make this year as interim dean so rewarding. I look forward to returning to the faculty and teaching next year, at UNM in the fall and as a visiting professor at Stanford Law School in the spring. I am also looking forward to having more time for research and tennis.

Warm regards.

Leo M. Romero

HIGHLIGHTS

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On the cover: U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, right, is welcomed to Albuquerque by, l-r: Raymond Sanchez ('67), president of the UNM Board of Regents, UNM President David Schmidly and Dean Leo Romero.
From the Alumni Board President

The UNM School of Law has announced a new dean and I would like to extend a warm welcome to Kevin Washburn, who will take over on July 1. I look forward to the great things Kevin will accomplish for the school and I encourage fellow alumni to lend their full support and resources to him.

My sincere thanks go to Interim Dean Leo Romero, who kept the school moving forward this past year and presided over many exciting events, such as the visit by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals hearings and the campaign for the Pamela B. Minzner Chair.

I’d like to thank David Martinez and Maureen Sanders, who served as the alumni representatives on the Dean’s Search Committee. It was a pleasure to see many of you get involved and engaged in the process.

Coming up, we have the 8th Annual Summer Golf Classic on August 7. I invite you all to come and reminisce with former classmates and make new connections. Proceeds go to student scholarships – more important than ever in the current economic climate.

On September 12, the classes of ’54, ’59, ’64, ’69, ’74, ’79, ’84, ’89, ’94, ’99 and ’04 will come together for Alumni Reunion Weekend. Events for each class will be scheduled by class committee members; please sign up, get involved and take your classmates down memory lane. Contact Carmen Rawls at 505-277-8184 or rawls@law.unm.edu.

I hope to see many of you at these and other law school events.

Sincerely,

Gregory P. Williams
President, UNM School of Law Alumni/ae Association

On the Air with Arts Talk

Professor Sherri Burr recently concluded the 11th season of Arts Talk, a cable-access television show that provides students in her Art and Entertainment Law classes a hands-on opportunity to assist in television production. Students draft legal documents, such as release agreements for guests to sign, secure guests for the show and help with all aspects of production.

Burr created the television show, in which she interviews artists, entertainers and publicists, during a visiting professorship at the University of Hawaii. When she returned to the UNM School of Law, she brought the show with her and it has been broadcast on Channel 27 since the fall of 1999.

Through the years, her guests have included cellist Yo-Yo Ma, entertainment lawyer Johnnie Cochran and New Mexico authors Rudolfo Anaya and Max Evans.

To read more from around the UNM School of Law, go to lauschool.unm.edu. For even more news, click on News Archives.

Professor Sherri Burr interviews Robert Mirabal, an internationally recognized Taos Pueblo musician.

Patrick Schaefer Receives Fulbright Grant to Study in Portugal

Patrick Schaefer (’09) has been selected by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board for a Fulbright grant to Portugal for the 2009-2010 academic year.

Schaefer will enroll in the Catholic University of Portugal’s LL.M. program in International Trade and Business Law. There, he plans to develop a thesis investigating the impact that regional economic and legal integration have had on the concepts of state sovereignty and individual autonomy through the study of Portuguese arbitration law.

In addition to his Fulbright grant, he will also be receiving a full scholarship to study at the Catholic University of Portugal.

“I am very excited to finish my academic career as a Fulbright Scholar,” said Schaefer. “At the same time, I immediately think of all those who have helped me along the way; this award is really a reflection of their dedication and care.”

Through the course of his academic career, Schaefer has focused his work on the political histories and legal systems in the Iberian-American sphere. While earning his M.A. degree in Latin American and Iberian Studies (UNM 2005, Honors), he studied the modern, post-revolutionary political histories of Mexico and Spain, as well as Brazil and Portugal. Once in law school, he furthered this research to include the impact these political movements have had on classical concepts of state sovereignty within the respective legal systems, specifically within the field of economic and trade law and international environmental law.

UNM Graduates Have Impressive 100 Percent Bar Exam Passage

For the first time in the recent history of the UNM School of Law, every graduate taking the New Mexico Bar Exam for the first time passed. The 19 students, all members of the Class of 2009 who completed school in December 2008, sat for the exam in February 2009.

“These graduates have raised the standard,” says UNM Registrar Pat Trainor. “Now the pressure is on for the rest of the class to keep up with them at the July exam.”

In almost every year, the pass rate for UNM law graduates on the bar exam exceeds the pass rate for non-UNM lawyers. Last year, the 72 UNM graduates who took the exam for the first time had a 94 percent passage rate. The passage rate for non-UNM law graduates taking the July 2008 exam for the first time was 90 percent.

UNMLAW 3
U.S. Sen. Jeff Bingaman congratulated and inspired members of the Class of 2009 during a Commencement ceremony on May 16.

In a speech buffeted about by blustery winds that often threatened to uncap the graduates, Bingaman shared his wisdom. “Lawyering is an honorable and essential profession, with a rich history of contributions to our society,” he said. “Put another way, lawyers feel a responsibility not only to their client, but to something greater.”

His second point: remember that you could be wrong. Question the assumptions you make. Listen to your opponents’ arguments as carefully as you listen to your own. Take care that your zealous advocacy does not drown out the greater truth.”

Thirdly: “Because of your legal training, you have immense potential to do good and contribute to society.” Pointing out a plethora of needs in society, he encouraged the graduates to apply their new legal skills, especially in public service.

“I have no doubt that 41 years from now, the person standing at this podium will speak some of your names to honor what you have done,” he concluded.
Three judges from the U.S. 10th Circuit Court of Appeals spent a day at the UNM School of Law in April. After a question/answer session with students, the judges enjoyed lunch with faculty and members of the New Mexico Court of Appeals and then conducted oral arguments on six cases, all involving appeals from New Mexico. The judges were Judge William J. Holloway, Judge Carlos F. Lucero and Judge Michael W. McConnell.

The visit also reunited Judge Holloway and Professor Gloria Valencia-Weber, who was his chief judicial clerk from 1987-1989, when he served as chief judge. She worked on cases, administration of the 10th Circuit and orientation for his new law clerks. Following her clerkship, she began teaching at the University of Tulsa College of Law.

The 10th Circuit handles appeals from U.S. district courts in New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Kansas and Oklahoma. The court has headquarters in Denver, but periodically sits in other locations in the circuit.
Justice Scalia Shares Wit and Wisdom with UNM Law Students

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia spent a morning at the University of New Mexico School of Law on April 14, speaking to two Constitutional Law classes and, with his signature wit, answered discerning questions from the student body in a school-wide gathering in the forum. He then joined the faculty for lunch, during which he visited with them informally and discovered that he and Professor Fred Hart both grew up in Queens, New York.

That afternoon, he presented a public lecture at the Kiva Auditorium to a crowd of nearly 1,000.

Members of the UNM Chapter of the Federalist Society helped arrange the visit, which was sponsored by the UNM School of Law and the Federalist Society. This was Justice Scalia’s first visit to the law school. Retired Justice Sandra Day O’Connor was the last Supreme Court justice to visit the law school, in 1993, during Interim Dean Leo Romero’s first term as dean.

“Justice Scalia’s visit to the law school exceeded our expectations,” said Romero. “Our students were excited about the interactions they had with the justice in discussions about constitutional law issues they had studied. They were impressed by his knowledge, wit and warmth. It was a visit they will not forget.”
Moot Court, Mock Trial

National Moot Court

The UNM School of Law team of Rose Bryan ('10), David Clements ('10), Kathryn Eaton ('10) and Steven Lucero ('10) gave their best performance ever at the ABA National Moot Court regional competition in Brooklyn, NY, but did not make it to the national finals. They were coached by Ed Ricco ('80).

National Trial Competition

Francesca Bardacke ('10), Brent Ferrell ('09), Justin Gonzales ('09), Kevin Holmes ('10), Heather Jaramillo ('09) and Athena Spencer ('09) represented the UNM School of Law in the National Trial Competition in Oklahoma City. They competed as two mock trial teams, with one team advancing to the semi-final round, losing in a split vote. “They received many compliments from tournament officials and judges on their high skill level, professionalism and zeal,” said Brent Bailey, who coached the team with Steve Scholl ('89).

Animal Law Appellate Moot Court

Alicia Santos ('10) and James Burns ('10) represented the UNM School of Law at the 2009 National Animal Law Appellate Moot Court and Closing Argument Competitions at Harvard Law School in February. Alison Endicott-Quinones ('09) provided support to the team without credit or compensation, along with many other students, lawyers and professors. They were coached by Helga Schimkat.

Health Law Moot Court

Members of the UNM School of Law’s 2008 National Health Law Moot Court Team placed third in the nation for their brief during the annual competition last fall at Southern Illinois University School of Law. The team of Tiffany Dowell ('09), Julianna Koob ('09), Brian Close ('10), Erica Neff ('10) and Alicia Santos ('10) also won a preliminary round in oral arguments. In addition, Dowell was fourth place oralist. They were coached by Mary Behm ('99), Cassandra Malone ('08) and Kevin Pierce ('09). A total of 34 teams competed.

This year’s question concerned a hospital wanting to terminate life-sustaining treatment for a patient in a persistent vegetative state, against his wife’s wishes. To support this action, the hospital used a procedure in state law that grants it full immunity for that decision. Issues addressed by the students included: Was the hospital a state actor and did the hospital give due process to the patient?

Jessup International Moot Court

The UNM team of Jennifer Anderson ('10), Elisa Gallegos ('10), Michael Gritzbaugh ('10) and Eric Ortiz ('10) traveled to Houston to compete in the Jessup International Moot Court Competition. According to their coach, Cassandra Malone ('08), the team "showed grace, poise and an admirable knowledge of international law in a highly competitive atmosphere.”

In mid-February, the UNM law school team of Nick Gilbert ('10), Keri Hatley ('10) and Ryland Hutchins ('10) battled their way to the semi-finals of the National Pace Environmental Law Moot Court Competition before losing to Louisiana State University. They were among 68 teams to participate in the prestigious annual environmental law competition, held in White Plains, NY. Melissa Kennelly ('10) helped with administration duties. “They were smooth, persuasive and fearless,” said their proud adviser, UNM Law Professor Eileen Gauna ('85).

UNM Environmental Law Moot Court Team Reaches Semi-Finals

UNMLAW
Regional winners, l-r: Ryan McKelvey, Amanda Connor, Erin McSherry and Charles Kalm.

and Erin McSherry ('10). An additional UNM team comprised of Samantha Barncastle ('10), Brian Close ('10), Shoshanah Epstein ('09) and Johnn Osborn ('10) prepared as an alternate team, but did not compete at the regional competition because no other team dropped out to make room for them. They were coached by David Fine ('02) and Derek Weems ('06), both former UNM mock trial team members.

Williams Moot Court

The teams of Corrina Laszlo-Henry ('10), Richard Ortiz ('10), and Paige Duhamel ('10) and Derek Garcia ('10) made an impressive showing at the National Sexual Orientation Law Moot Court Competition, sponsored by the Williams Institute at UCLA. This was the first year the UNM School of Law participated in the national competition, which attracted 28 teams.

"I know the students learned a great deal about appellate advocacy and the issues in the problem," said their coach, UNM Law Professor Steven Homer. The problem involved implications of Lawrence v. Texas for substantive due process analysis and the constitutionality of "Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell".

Following their dress rehearsal is the team, their coach and judges, from l-r: Professor Steven Homer, Richard Ortiz, Corinna Laszlo-Henry, Paige Duhamel, Derek Garcia, New Mexico Supreme Court Justice Charles Daniels ('69), New Mexico Court of Appeals Judge Linda Vanzi ('95) and New Mexico Supreme Court Chief Justice Ed Chavez ('81).

NM Court of Appeals Hears Oral Arguments at Law School

A three-judge panel from the New Mexico Court of Appeals held court in the UNM School of Law Moot Courtroom on May 22 to consider an appeal of a punitive damages award in a medical malpractice case.

Presiding were Chief Judge Cynthia Fry ('81), Judges Michael Bustamante ('74) and Timothy Garcia ('84).

The case that was heard was Phillip Grassie vs. Roswell Hospital Corp., d/b/a/ Eastern New Mexico Medical Center.

Holding court were, l-r: New Mexico Court of Appeals Judge Michael Bustamante ('74), Chief Judge Cynthia Fry ('81) and Judge Timothy Garcia ('84).
Kevin Washburn was headed to law school when he first came to New Mexico to attend the American Indian Law Center's Pre-Law Summer Institute (PLSI), housed at the University of New Mexico School of Law. The experience changed his life.

Washburn and his two siblings had been raised by a single mother in southeastern Oklahoma. A citizen of the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma, it was not always easy growing up as an Indian in Oklahoma. After working his way through the University of Oklahoma with night and weekend jobs, and both scholarships and internships, he welcomed the all-expenses-paid opportunity that PLSI provided.

"It was the first time I had lived outside of Oklahoma, and it was the first time in a long time, that I did not have to work at an outside job while in school," says Washburn.

"That was a real luxury. Being able to spend the summer studying with 30 other American Indians was a treat. For the first time in my life, it was acceptable, and even good, to be an American Indian. The summer was also an introduction to a legal world governed largely by merit, in which values like hard work and intellect are more important than background or identity."

Faculty Impressions

That summer, in 1990, at the law school, he found an engaged and enthusiastic faculty, a playful spirit of intellectual inquiry and a deep sense of community. "In teaching at Minnesota, Harvard and Arizona, I have never since seen a faculty more committed to students than the professors I met so many years ago at New Mexico," he says. "The more experiences I have had at different schools as both a student and professor, the more I have come to realize how special UNM is." Come July 1, he will join them when he takes over as dean of the school.

Washburn began his legal education at Washington University School of Law, but transferred, and in 1993 earned his J.D. at Yale Law School, where he was editor-in-chief of the Yale Journal on Regulation. As a law student, he had come back to New Mexico to spend a summer at Montgomery & Andrews. "Most of those lawyers who were then at Montgomery & Andrews in Albuquerque have since moved on, but I remain grateful to them for all I learned that summer," he says.

After a year clerking for Judge William Canby of the Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, Washburn was chosen for the prestigious U.S. Department of Justice's Honors Program. One of his first assignments was a water rights case in Arizona, in which he faced senior litigators from some of the largest law firms in Phoenix. "It was intimidating," he says, "but since I represented the biggest party of all, the United States, I had a greater speaking part in those hearings than even some of the name partners of major Phoenix law firms. As a young lawyer, I had to grow up quick." For the next three years, he litigated cases in both state and federal courts on behalf of the U.S. in its role as trustee for Indian tribes.

Washburn returned to Albuquerque in 1997 as an assistant U.S. Attorney, serving in the office's Violent Crime Section. During this time, he taught part time as an adjunct professor at the UNM School of Law. Less than three years later, he returned to Washington, D.C., to become general counsel of the National Indian Gaming Commission. "It was an In Print

Antoinette Sedillo Lopez , with co-author Barbara Shapiro ('78), has completed the second edition of Family Law In New Mexico, a book designed to help non-lawyers better understand the complexities of the family law system. She and Shapiro, who authored the first edition, are donating all royalties to the Pamela B. Minner Chair in Professionalism at the UNM law school. The book originally was published in 1998 by Abogada Press, owned by Merri Rudd ('86), a former elder lawyer who is now a probate judge in Bernallilo County, and Rudd’s husband.

Leo Romero has written an article titled, "Punitive Damages, Criminal Punishment and Proportionality: The Importance of Legislative Limits," published in The Connecticut Law Review, Vol. 41, No. 1, November 2008. As a result of the article, he has been invited to participate in the University of St. Thomas Law Journal’s fall symposium, Exxon Valdez Revisited: Rights and Remedies.

Honors and Recognition

Sherri Burr received two first-place awards in the 2009 New Mexico Press Women Communications Contest. The categories were Nonfiction Instructional Books, for Sum & Substance on Entertainment Law and Instructonal Columns, for "Minding Finances for Writers", which appears in Southwest Sage, the monthly newsletter of Southwest Writers.

On the Go

Marsha Baum taught a comparative law course, "Concepts of Property," in January at the University of Tasmania, which has an exchange program with the UNM School of Law. While in Australia, she was the keynote speaker at the Griffith University Roundtable on Companion Animals and Weather Disasters. In May, she spoke at Canada’s first animal law conference in Montreal. Her presentation was entitled, "Legal Treatment of Animals in Times of Weather Disasters," in which she discussed various models used to handle, evacuate or rescue animals in the U.S. and Australasia and the impact of the status of animals as property on their treatment during disasters.

Barbara Blumenfeld presented a talk at the Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference in March in Tempe, AZ. The title of her talk was, "An Alternate Approach to Case Briefing - A System of Because." The alternate approach she discussed provides a deeper understanding into the cases students are reading, in addition to the necessary schema, and thus helps them develop legal reasoning and argumentation skills.

Sherri Burr attended the Cannes Film Festival, with hopes to teach an international film law CLE class there next year.

Mike Norwood has been named Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs at the UNM School of Law.

In her continuing interest in preserving instream flows on New Mexico rivers, Denise Fort organized a symposium for the Western Division American Fisheries Society to address that concern. At the Albuquerque meeting in early May, she also presented a paper titled, "The Legal, Political, and Economic Challenges of Fish Protection in NM". In January, she presented her suggestions for how to advance the protection of instream flows in New Mexico to a group of philanthropists. And she is working with several NGOs on a pro bono basis on the same topic.

Professor Fort has been appointed to a committee of the National Research Council, the research arm of the National Academy of Sciences. She is helping to draft a book on water reuse. In February, she joined about 50 experts from Europe and North America to discuss strategies in water education at a UNESCO water education workshop in The Netherlands.

Eileen Gauna, who has worked extensively in the area of environmental justice, provided input to a President-elect Barack Obama committee working on energy and natural resources. Members of the committee included Lisa Jackson, who went on to become the head of the Environmental Protection Agency, and Carol Browner, who is now President Obama’s assistant for energy and climate change.

AALS annual meeting in January. At the AALS Mid-Year Meeting in June, he made two presentations, titled, "The Reckoning of Accounting: Consolidating Weakness," and "Information Flow and Fraud Interdiction: An Empirical Study of Law Firm Due Diligence."

Laura E. Gómez has been elected president of the Law and Society Association, an organization of university scholars from throughout the world who study law in its cultural context. She is the first minority scholar and one of the youngest ever to head the group. She also is co-director of the new Institute for the Study of "Race" and Social Justice at UNM's Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy. She shares the position with Professor Nancy López of the UNM Sociology Department.

Alfred Mathewson was the keynote speaker at the Dean's Leadership Forum on Diversity at Widener University School of Law in March. The program was titled, "Diversity and Sports: the History, the Challenges and the Future." Also in March, he spoke on a panel on economic justice at Yale Law School's 12th Annual Livan Colloquium titled, "Forty Years of Clinical Education at Yale: Rights, Remedies and Legal Services."

Ted Parnall made his fifth trip to Kabul, Afghanistan in early 2009 to continue his work with the Cheechi Afghanistan Rule of Law Project. He taught commercial contract law to three groups of professors and students and several judges. He also organized a moot court program.

Christine Zuni Cruz was among a handful of speakers invited to the 13th Annual Tribal Law and Government Center Conference at the University of Kansas School of Law. The title of this year's February conference was "Innovations in Tribal Governance." Her talk was titled, "Indigenous Identity and the Lines of Tribe."

Jose L. Martinez was honored at a 40th anniversary celebration of Centro Legal De La Raza in Oakland, CA. Martinez helped establish the legal services agency in 1969 with a handful of fellow students from the University of California at Berkeley School of Law (Boalt Hall). Forty years later, Centro Legal continues to serve the low-income community in East Oakland. He is pictured with Dolores Huerta, a New Mexico native, who was active in the United Farmworkers Union and presented the keynote address, and Cruz Reynoso, right, a former member of the UNM law faculty who went on to serve on the California Supreme Court.

Chris Fritz Book Earns Accolade

Choice, the premier reviewer of academic books, designated as an Outstanding Academic Title for 2008 Chris Fritz's book, American Sovereigns: The People and America’s Constitutional Tradition Before the Civil War. Every year, Choice bestows the title on only 10 percent of the more than 7,000 printed and electronic academic books published. In spring 2009, the book was printed in softcover.
Pamela B. Minzner Chair Campaign Nears Goal

The University of New Mexico School of Law has nearly completed the campaign to create a lasting honor and tribute to Justice Pamela Minzner, a former member of the UNM law faculty who succumbed to cancer nearly two years ago. Once established, the Pamela B. Minzner Chair in Professionalism will be awarded to a UNM law professor who exemplifies professionalism inside and away from the classroom.

The fund-raising goal for the campaign is $1.5 million. To date, the campaign and its committee have raised more than $600,000 dollars in private funding and has received the full legislative appropriation of matching funds allocated by the state Legislature in 2008 to help establish the new chair.

“We are in the final stages of completing this campaign and would like to thank all of our thoughtful and generous donors; we are so grateful for your support,” says Interim Dean Leo Romero. “This Chair will have lasting meaning to those who contributed to this campaign to recognize and honor a remarkable woman, jurist and law professor whose work and warmth touched so many of us.”

When the campaign reaches its goal, the establishment of the chair will be celebrated and all donors will be invited to take part. It is anticipated that the first award of the Minzner Chair will be in the 2010-2011 academic year.

For more information contact Hannah Farrington, director of development and alumni affairs, at 505-277-1038 or farrington@law.unm.edu.

Hannah Farrington Leads Development, Alumni Affairs

Hannah Farrington has been named Director of Development and Alumni Affairs at the UNM School of Law. Upon relocating to New Mexico last year, she worked in fund raising for UNM Hospitals, following roles in Regional Advancement and Development for Georgetown University and as the manager of Department of Human Services contracts and funding for Washington D.C.’s Continuum of Care for homelessness. Farrington has also worked in sales and operations in New York City and New Jersey.

Farrington is a graduate of the Pingry School, has a bachelor of arts degree in theater and Spanish from Ohio Wesleyan University and also attended the Studio Theatre Conservatory in Washington, D.C. In her free time, she has worked as an actor, a motivational speaker for youth and holds professional certifications in management, public speaking and website design.

Currently, Farrington is focused on the completion of the Minzner Chair campaign and securing increased funding for scholarship and programming. In addition, she looks forward to identifying new opportunities for participation and engagement of the law school’s alumni, donors and friends. She always welcomes comments and suggestions and can be reached at farrington@law.unm.edu or 505-277-1038.

GIVING ONLINE  You can help further the mission of the UNM School of Law anytime, any hour of the day. To donate online, go to lawschool.unm.edu and click on Alumni & Giving, then click on Giving. It’s easy, it’s quick and it’s very much appreciated.
Alice King, the former first lady of New Mexico, was honored for her role in modern New Mexico public policy during a panel presentation and reception on May 21 at the UNM School of Law.

King died in early December 2008 after suffering a stroke. She was the wife of Gov. Bruce King and worked tirelessly throughout her adult life to improve the lives of New Mexico’s children. She is credited with creating the state’s Children, Youth and Families Department, was chair of the New Mexico Children’s Trust Fund and was a major supporter of the Carrie Tingley Children’s Hospital.

Laura Threet and Kay Marr co-chaired a panel comprised of people who worked closely with Alice King, each of whom shared their perspectives on her initiatives. Gov. King, members of his family, including Attorney General Gary King ('83), and former cabinet secretaries in the three King administrations attended the event.

"The law school and law library were pleased and proud to be part of this event honoring Alice King and her legacy," said Interim Dean Leo Romero.

In 2001, Gov. King donated his personal papers to the UNM School of Law Library to establish an archive for the use of researchers interested in public policy and political history. The papers are indexed in the Rocky Mountain Online Archive index. The King family announced in May 2009 its intention to add the papers of Alice King to the law library collection.

The UNM Law Library has scheduled a scholarly symposium on the work of Gov. Bruce King for mid-October. As details become available, they can be found at lawschool.unm.edu. Click on More News and Events.

Gary King ('83), right, greets his cousin, David King.
Will Ferguson: Building Business

Will Ferguson ('74) was avoiding the Vietnam War when he arrived at the UNM School of Law in 1971, but it wasn’t long before he embraced a different kind of battle: helping people through tough situations as a plaintiff’s lawyer.

“I never wanted to do anything else,” he says. “To make a difference in someone else’s life, I can’t imagine anyone not wanting to do that.”

After his military stint and a detour practicing entertainment law, in 1983 he opened a plaintiff’s practice with Duane Lind ('81), and Ferguson & Lind became one of the first New Mexico firms to advertise its services, following authorization by the state Supreme Court.

The advertising campaign was so successful they stopped the ads as overkill in 1999. After Lind left the firm in 1991, it became Will Ferguson & Associates and now has seven lawyers.

Ferguson also discovered a talent for building small businesses, preferably those that mirrored his interests. He has owned West Mesa Aviation at Double Eagle Airport, several bars in Albuquerque and Club West in Santa Fe. He established Bank 1st, and two years ago bought Taos Chrysler Jeep Dodge as a way to pursue a longtime passionate interest in cars.

Ferguson also was involved in the start-up of Sandia Motorsports Park, where he raced alongside colleagues in souped-up vintage cars, known as Legends. In 2002, he received an award for Best Crash from the New Mexico Legends Racing Association. These days, he prefers the sidelines and in 2007, opened up Motiva Performance Engineering, which specializes in race modifications for cars.

When asked about his favorite class, Ferguson says, “I won’t defend the clinical practice. They let us loose with real people.

At the law firm, he has reduced his caseload, preferring the role of manager, and is more than ever enjoying his business ventures.

“It’s always changing and interesting,” he says. "There is something biological about it: nurturing a business, helping it to grow, the feedback loops, identity and consciousness; it’s the joy of my life.”

A CONVERSATION WITH WILL FERGUSON

Q: What was your least favorite class?
A: There were so many....

Q: Who was your favorite professor?
A: Joe Goldberg. I used to call him Rube.

Q: What are you reading now?
A: Infinite Jest by David Foster Wallace. It’s like eating rich food; you eat to enjoy the taste of it, not to get to the end.

Q: What do you enjoy most about being a plaintiff's lawyer?
A: Never having to send a bill. Plus, every now and then you really get to help somebody who needs it.

Lorene Ferguson Contributes to Navajo Law

Lorene Ferguson was working with the Indian Education Training program when she was sent to the UNM Law Library to research the New Mexico statutes. Her job was to help parents of Native American children understand what schools were required to provide when they received federal money and she needed to know how state law was involved.

She became so intrigued with the law that she signed up for the Pre-Law Summer Institute, not really intending to go to law school. Considering that she had earned her undergraduate degree in English Literature from Fort Lewis College 13 years earlier, she found the study of law to be overwhelming, requiring a completely different approach to learning.

But that didn’t stop her; she went ahead and earned her J.D. from the UNM School of Law in 1983, staying up late many nights. Following graduation, she continued to live in Albuquerque with her husband, Bruce, and two daughters, but returned to the Navajo Reservation, where she had grown up, to work, first as a law clerk, then staff attorney, for the Navajo Nation Department of Justice. In 1992, she was appointed a district court judge and nine years later became the second woman to serve on the Navajo Nation Supreme Court.

"It was exciting to see how the law has evolved, and is still evolving,” she says.

Being one of the first women to serve alongside men on the court was filled with barriers that took years to dismantle.

"I stuck it out because I saw lots of young women come through the courts, many of them victims of domestic violence, and it seemed important to give them time to speak,” she says.

Since retiring in 2007, Ferguson has been making up for lost time with her grandchildren. Eventually, she would like to volunteer in the arenas of women’s, children’s and elderly issues, both on and off the reservation.
Marty Esquivel Combines Passion for Writing and Law

Marty Esquivel was in high school when the quandary began: whether to be a journalist or a lawyer. He had answered phones at the New Mexican, the daily newspaper in his hometown of Santa Fe, and worked as a courier at Montgomery & Andrews.

Ultimately, he has combined both as a shareholder at the Narvaez Law Firm, maintaining a civil litigation practice with an emphasis on First Amendment Law.

Esquivel’s first job after law school was with Montgomery & Andrews. In 1993, he joined Dines, Wilson & Gross, which became Dines, Gross & Esquivel. He has represented newspapers and television stations in matters ranging from defamation to rights to public records, taught media law at the UNM Communications and Journalism Department and served on the Board of Directors of the New Mexico Foundation for Open Government (FOG) since 1993, including as president for two years. In 2006, he received FOG’s William S. Dixon First Amendment Freedom Award for his legal contributions to maintaining open government in New Mexico.

In 2003, he joined the Narvaez Law Firm.

"It’s been exciting to combine my genuine interest in journalism, the First Amendment and the law," he says.

In 2007, he was elected to the Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education and now serves as the board’s president.

"As an outsider, I was frustrated with APS; the graduation rates were unacceptably low," he says. "We now have set measurable, identifiable achievement goals for the superintendent, and I plan to keep the pressure on him to meet them.

"With three children in each level of school in the district, it’s nice to have a voice that is heard and respected," he says.

At the UNM School of Law, Esquivel was known as the person in his graduating class most likely to be a politician. He still holds that goal, with an eye on the office of attorney general – some day.

A CONVERSATION WITH MARTY ESQUIVEL

Q: What was your favorite class in law school?
A: First Amendment Rights, taught by Bill Dixon.

Q: What was your least favorite class?
A: Civil procedure.

Q: Who was your favorite professor?
A: Michael Browde.

Q: If you weren’t a lawyer, what would be your dream job?
A: A writer for Sports Illustrated.

Q: What’s the last book you read?
A: The Last Lecture by Randy Pausch.

Q: What law would you like to see thrown out?
A: Red-light cameras. I’ve had a few tickets.

A CONVERSATION WITH LORENE FERGUSON

Q: What was your favorite class in law school?
A: Contracts and Products Liability.

Q: Who was your favorite professor?
A: Ted Occhialino.

Q: What did you enjoy most about being a justice on the Navajo Nation Supreme Court?
A: Working with my own people and applying what I learned to local situations.

Q: If you hadn’t been a lawyer and Supreme Court justice, what would have been your dream job?
A: In undergraduate school, I took a lot of classes in children’s literature and I would have liked to work with the creativity of children.

Q: What is the last book you read?
A: Grass by Sheri Tepper.

ALUMNI PROFILES ONLINE

For in-depth interviews on these alums and more alumni profiles, go to lawschool.unm.edu/alumni and click on Alumni Profiles.
UNM Grads Plentiful at State Engineer’s Office

When DL Sanders (‘85) walks into work at the Office of the State Engineer (OSE), where he serves as chief counsel and director of the Litigation and Adjudication Program (LAP), he looks around at his staff and sees a veritable reunion of UNM School of Law alumni, especially when he adds in his contract attorneys. Of the 30 lawyers in the office and at the Interstate Stream Commission, 12 are UNM law graduates, and even more alums regularly handle work on a contract basis.

“Arianne Singer (‘98) is the managing attorney of the OSE’s Northern New Mexico Adjudication Bureau, where she oversees four attorneys, a cadre of contract attorneys and handles her own caseload. Sometimes she finds herself arguing against the professors who taught her water law: Em Hall and Chuck DuMars, both retired from the school.

“Every day the job is challenging,” she says. “With adjudications going on for so many years – some started in the 1960s – and thousands of defendants, I’m always learning.”

Essentially, lawyers in the State Engineer’s Office prosecute all water right adjudications brought on behalf of the State of New Mexico in state and federal courts. They also provide legal representation to the Water Resources Allocation Program in all water rights administrative hearings and to the state engineer in appeals of his decisions to district court.

Christopher Lindeen (‘03) and Uday Joshi (‘04) are around the corner from each other in the OSE’s Administrative Litigation Unit, where, unlike Singer’s long, drawn-out projects, they regularly resolve cases in nine months. And their jobs have been equally interesting. They both enjoy the nuts-and-bolts practice of water rights.

“I like the diversity of the issues of public welfare, conservation and hydrology/geohydrology,” says Joshi, who earned a dual degree in law and water resources, along with a Natural Resources Certificate.

Two floors below, Charles Kinney (‘07) has carved out his own niche as the office’s only ADR officer, a position he proposed after conducting a successful pilot mediation program in 2006. To avoid any conflicts, he reports directly to State Engineer John D’Antonio. So far, he has resolved 29 cases through mediation.

Sanders, who is part Cherokee, came to the UNM law school to study Indian law, but soon discovered that water permeated many of his courses and captured his attention. Guided by Al Utton, DuMars and Hall, it wasn’t long before his focus shifted.

He was one of the first students to earn a Natural Resources Certificate and was a member of the NRJ editorial staff. In 1990, he joined the Office of the State Engineer and became director of LAP in 2001. He now oversees 78 employees, including not only lawyers, but engineers, surveyors and technicians.

Sanders has worked on every river in the state and argues all cases that are appealed to the state Supreme Court. “New Mexico is very sophisticated water-wise and it’s been exciting to have taken a role in many agreements, such as those involving adjudications of the Pecos River, Navajo Nation, Aamodt and Taos,” he says.

Now in a leadership position, he welcomes the opportunity to work with the school’s Natural Resources Program.

“If it weren’t for the UNM law school, I wouldn’t be where I am and I enjoy coming back as a guest lecturer and making available experts to do the same,” he says.

He regularly hires summer clerks from the UNM law school and sets up externships, with a goal to formalize an ongoing externship between his program and the law school.

“The more we get people acquainted with water law, hopefully the more people will want to practice it,” he says.

Last year, Professor Reed Benson joined the UNM law faculty and has already begun to build on the school’s strong tradition in water law.

“Water law is such an important field, particularly in New Mexico, and with many of our students interested in making a career of it, we are excited to prepare them to succeed, at the State Engineer’s Office or anywhere else they choose to practice,” he says.
Francisco “Paco” Perez Joins Foreign Service

Last fall, Francisco "Paco" Perez was sworn in as a Foreign Service officer, realizing a childhood dream to travel the globe while making a difference in people’s lives. His first posting is in Matamoros, Mexico, as a consular officer. Perez ('08) returned to his home state to attend the UNM School of Law after earning an undergraduate degree in International Business at the University of Tampa. At Tampa, he served as one of the first Hispanic student government presidents of the university and developed an interest in politics, working on three political campaigns.

Back in New Mexico, he took and did not pass the Foreign Service exam twice. Then, after completing two internships with the Department of State, a study-abroad program in Portugal and receiving a wealth of legal knowledge, he finally passed the exam during his final year of law school.

"If it weren’t for the countless student organizations, the extensive variety of excellent professors and the endless support network of the UNM Law family, I would never have made it," he says.

Following graduation, Perez volunteered for the Barack Obama presidential campaign. In August, he was awarded a fellowship with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute in Washington, D.C., where he was an international public policy fellow on the Congressional Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere.

"After reading case after case from our textbooks, the opportunity to sit in the audience of a real live Supreme Court case brought everything into context," he says. "To watch Congress debate a bill on the floor and to listen to congressional hearings firsthand was unbelievable." He also attended President Obama’s inauguration ceremony.

As he begins his career track, he reflects on his first year in law school. "In my Hugh Muir Oath project as a 1L, I pledged to never forget where I came from or what motivates me now. Now I look forward to the challenge of having a positive impact on the lives of fellow Americans and Mexicans who have suffered so much," says Perez. "I am so grateful to the UNM School of Law for giving me and all my classmates the opportunity to develop our advocacy skills while holding true to our ideals."

In Memoriam

Harold “Buddy” Brown ('97)

Harold “Buddy” Brown, a highly respected Athabascan leader in Alaska, died on April 21 at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital after a long battle with cancer. He was 39. Brown was raised in Huslia on the Koyukuk River, a remote town about 300 air miles west of Fairbanks, and returned there with his wife, Patti Ballard Brown, also a 1997 UNM School of Law graduate. He became a staff attorney with the Tanana Chiefs Conference, a traditional tribal consortium of the 42 villages of Interior Alaska. Two years later, he became general counsel and in 2002, he was elected president and executive officer.

Garnett Burks ('59)

Garnett Burks, Jr., who served 18 years as a state District Court judge, died in mid-January at a hospice center in Las Cruces. He was 74. Burks was born and raised in Socorro and followed his father, also a state District Court judge, into the legal field. After earning his J.D. in 1959, he worked in private practice in Las Cruces before being appointed to the 3rd Judicial District bench in 1971. He resigned in 1989 to return to private practice.

Paul Kruse ('81)

Paul Kruse, the tallest University of New Mexico basketball recruit of all time before moving on to law school, died on Feb. 16, 2009 in his sleep after suffering from heart problems. He was 57. Kruse arrived in New Mexico in 1970 fresh from his family’s ranch in Wyoming. After earning his J.D. in 1981, he headed to Washington, D.C. to begin a career in which he worked in both the public and private sectors, eventually building a reputation as a private land-use consultant.

Carol Vigil ('78)

Carol Jean Vigil, the first Native American to be elected a state district court judge in the United States, died in her sleep at Tesuque Pueblo in late March. She had suffered from a number of health problems, including diabetes, said her husband of 31 years, Philip Palmer. She was 61. Following graduation in 1978, Vigil became the first Pueblo woman to be admitted to the New Mexico State Bar, and joined Indian Pueblo Legal Services. She was an assistant attorney general, then in the mid-1980s, went into private practice and served as tribal lawyer for Tesuque Pueblo; she wrote the tribal codes for both Tesuque and Taos pueblos. In 1998, she was sworn in as a judge in the First Judicial District.

George Zimmerman ('50)

George Zimmerman, a highly respected jurist and mediator, died on April 3 in Las Cruces. He was 89. He was a member of the first graduating class of the University of New Mexico School of Law. After earning his J.D., he worked in private practice in southern New Mexico, and then joined the bench in the 3rd Judicial District in 1963, serving until 1986. He returned to the bench, this time in the 12th Judicial District, serving from 1973-1984. In the 1990s, he was a mediator and arbitrator. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the UNM School of Law. Contact Carmen Rawls at 505.277.8184 or rawls@law.unm.edu.

To read complete obituaries, go to lawschool.unm.edu, click on Alumni and Giving and then click on In Memoriam.
1951
Dan Sosa, Jr., retired chief justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court, was honored with the Spirit of Excellence Award by the American Bar Association. The award recognizes the efforts of lawyers to advance diversity in the profession.

1959
Michael Sutin has become a shareholder and partner in the firm of Sommer, Udall, Hardwick & Hyatt. He focuses his practice on real estate and mortgage financing law.

1960
Gene Gallegos has been appointed to the UNM Board of Regents. He is the name partner at the Gallegos Law Firm in Santa Fe, where he focuses on commercial litigation.

1969
Hal Simmons has written a novel titled, Magic Lance, Mystery & Adventure in the New West. He lives in Albuquerque.

1972
Mark McFeeley has retired from the bench of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Mexico, where he served for 27 years.

1976
Kent Walz has been inducted into the New Mexico Press Association Hall of Fame. He is editor of the Albuquerque Journal.

1978
Albert "Pat" Murdoch received the Outstanding Judge Award for 2008 from the Albuquerque Bar Association. He is the presiding judge in the Second Judicial District's criminal division. Murdoch also coaches a youth basketball team.

1980
Jerry Walz has been appointed to the Western New Mexico University Board of Regents. He lives in Cedar Crest.

1983
James Jacobsen, an assistant attorney general, has been named the New Mexico Business Weekly's Bankruptcy Attorney of the Year for 2009. He has been with the AG's office since 2002 and currently represents the State of New Mexico's interests in bankruptcy matters with the Taxation and Revenue Department. Jacobsen has experience in civil litigation and has represented judges in state and federal court. He has served on the State Bar's Bankruptcy Section Board of Directors. Jacobsen is the vice-president of the State's Association of Bankruptcy Attorneys, a nationwide organization of public servants involved in bankruptcy matters.

1986
Ruth Pregenzer has joined Marcy Baysinger, Erin Wideman ('07) and Nell Graham Sale to open the Albuquerque firm of Pregenzer, Baysinger, Wideman & Sale. Sara Traub ('08) is an associate. The firm focuses on estate and business planning, elder law, probate and trust litigation and guardianships and conservatorships.

1987
Nelson Franse, a shareholder in the Rodey Law Firm, has been selected as a fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America. He is also the leader of the firm's professional liability practice group. Fellowship in the LCA is limited and by invitation only.

1993
Zachary Cook has been appointed to fill a vacant seat in the New Mexico House of Representatives. He has worked for John Underwood, a lawyer in Ruidoso, since 2004.

1994
Seth Sparks has been elected to the Trucking Industry Defense Association. He is a partner in the Rodey Law Firm, where he has served in the firm's litigation department, transactional and corporate law.

1995
Mary Ann Cuneo has become an associate in the firm of Barlow & Wilcox. She focuses her practice on estate planning, administration, and asset transfer.

Virginia Dugan, a shareholder in the firm of Atkinson & Kelsey, has been named 2008-09 chancellor of the Jack Rabbit Bar, a group of eight bar associations with similar populations.
and issues. The bar associations are in New Mexico, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming.

2000
Hope Eckert has opened a civil law practice in Albuquerque, after taking a break from the practice, during which she traveled around the world.

Briana Zamora has been appointed to the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court. Previously, she was with the Albuquerque firm of Butt, Thornton & Baehr.

2001
Jason Bousliman has become a shareholder in the firm of Modrall Sperling. He focuses his practice in banking law, contract disputes, tort and personal injury.

Ernestina Cruz was named 2008 Outstanding Young Lawyer by the New Mexico Hispanic Bar Association. She is a partner in the Narvaez Law Firm, where she focuses her practice on employment law, civil rights and insurance defense litigation.

Joan Drake has been promoted to shareholder in the firm of Modrall Sperling. She practices in the areas of environmental and regulatory law, energy and utility law, renewable energy and water law.

Sean Garrett has become an associate in Butt, Thornton & Baehr.

Marcus Rael, Jr., was named Outstanding Young Lawyer of the Year by the New Mexico Bar Association. He is a partner in the Robles, Rael & Anaya firm, where he focuses his practice on environmental compliance and regulation, governmental and administrative affairs and real property and land use.

2002
Bryan Davis has opened Davis & Gilchrist, with Dooley Gilchrist. Davis, who previously practiced with the Rodey Firm and Bannerman & Williams, has focused on healthcare litigation. In his new litigation firm, he welcomes all manner of cases, both plaintiffs and defense.

Jean Moore has been promoted to shareholder at Sutin, Thayer & Browne. She practices in the areas of commercial lending, real estate, construction law and general business law.

Raul Sedillo has been promoted to partner at Sutin, Thayer & Browne. His broad practice includes employment litigation and trucking and transportation defense.

2005
Kimberly Bannerman has joined Sutin, Thayer & Browne, where she focuses her practice on business, real estate, water law, appellate law, probate and estate planning.

Felicia Castillo Supnick has become an associate in Butt, Thornton & Baehr.

2006
Tim Atler has joined Sutin, Thayer & Browne, where he focuses his practice on commercial litigation, creditors’ rights and appellate law.

Nasha Torrez (Spall-Martinez) is general counsel at Expo New Mexico. She married Raul Torrez and they are expecting their first baby in July.

2007
Deana Bennett has become an associate in Modrall Sperling, where she works in the Natural Resources and Environment Department. Previously, she clerked for New Mexico Supreme Court Justice Richard Bosson.

Gbenoba Idah has joined Sutin, Thayer & Browne, where he focuses his practice on commercial litigation and creditors’ rights.

2008
Chet Alderete has joined Sutin, Thayer & Browne, where he focuses his practice on family law.

William Consuegra has become a land development associate for the Mesa del Sol project of Forest City Enterprises.

Shawn Cummings has become an associate in Butt, Thornton & Baehr.

Juliet Keene Lee has joined the Harvey Law Firm in Albuquerque.

Robert Lucero has been selected to serve on the Board of the New Mexico Water Lawyers Association. He practices in the Business Department of the Rodey Law Firm, where he focuses on real estate, land use, finance and water law.

Jeres Rael has become an associate in the firm of Wolf & Fox, where he practices in the areas of corporate law, real estate law, gaming law, family law and criminal law.

Defending Guantanamo Prisoners

Nancy Hollander (’78) Theresa Duncan (’00) and Ahmad Assed (’94) are members of a team representing a prisoner held at Guantanamo Bay, Abd al Rahim al Nashiri, a principal suspect in the 2000 bombing of the USS Cole. The representation is through the American Civil Liberties Union’s John Adams Project. In February, Hollander hailed a decision by a chief Pentagon official to dismiss all charges against al Nashiri. Hollander, along with her team, have maintained that al Nashiri, who is being held at Guantanamo Bay, was tortured and that evidence of the torture was purposely destroyed. Hollander and Duncan also represent Mohamedou Ould Slaibia, another prisoner at GTMO. They have been representing him entirely pro bono since 2005. In the photo: In March, Hollander, right, joined UNM Law Professor Jennifer Moore and Greg Zanetti, New Mexico Army National Guard brigadier general, as guest speakers at the regular meeting of the Albuquerque Bar Association. Hollander and Duncan are with the firm of Freedman, Boyd, Hollander, Goldberg & Ives.
August 7
8th Annual Summer Golf Classic
Eighth annual tournament raises funds for scholarships and alumni programs at the UNM School of Law. Sponsored by the UNM School of Law Alumni/ae Association.
12 pm lunch • 1 p.m. shotgun start • Isleta Eagle Golf Course

September 12
Alumni Reunion Weekend
Plan an additional event for your class; class committee members will plan other events during the weekend. If you are interested in being a class committee member, please contact Carmen Rawls.
6 p.m. reception • 7 p.m. dinner • Hyatt Regency

October 9
Distinguished Achievement Awards Dinner
Annual event honoring outstanding members of the New Mexico State Bar.
6 p.m. reception • 7 p.m. dinner • UNM Student Union Ballroom

For more information on any of the above events, contact Carmen Rawls at 505-277-8184 or rawls@law.unm.edu