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Natural Resources Journal & New Mexico Law Review, Annual Reports 2012 - 2013

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**Annual report for the New Mexico Law Review and the Natural Resources Journal
July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013**

Prepared By: Elaine McArdle, Director of Journals and Scholarly Communications

The Student Journals program at UNMSOL provides students with an invaluable educational experience in the area of legal research, editing, and writing, while publishing important legal scholarship from legal academicians, practitioners, and other experts from around the world. The New Mexico Law Review (NMLR) and the Natural Resources Journal (NRJ) fall under the auspices of the Law School Library administration. The Tribal Law Journal (TLJ) is within the Indian Law Program at UNMSOL and is overseen by Professor Christine Zuni-Cruz; however, this year TLJ joined with the other two journals in certain efforts, and so is mentioned here when appropriate.

Both the Natural Resources Journal and the New Mexico Law Review (which focuses on legal issues specifically related to New Mexico) publish two print issues a year. In addition to scholarly articles authored by leading legal scholars and other experts, they publish notes and articles by UNMSOL students, thus serving as an important platform for student writing. The Tribal Law Journal, an online-only journal, publishes scholarship related to the law of indigenous peoples by practitioners, experts, and UNMSOL students, and produces one issue a year.

New Mexico Law Review, Volume 43:1 and 43:2: The Student Editor-in-Chief for 2012-2013 was Sophie Martin. There were an additional 13 student editors, and another 13 staff members, for a total of 27 students. The New Mexico Law Review's faculty advisor, Carol Suzuki, was new this year.

Natural Resources Journal, Volume 53:1 and 53:2: Student Co-Editors-in-Chief for 2011-2012 were Joshua Curtis and Zoe Lees. There were an additional 11 student editors, and another 15 staff members, for a total of 28 students. The Natural Resources Law Journal's faculty advisor is Reed Benson.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Until June 2012, the Journals department was staffed by a single full-time staff person under the title of Managing Editor. She provided support to students including editorial, production, and quality standards oversight. The business operations of the journals, including subscription management, primarily were handled by Marquita Harnett, UNMSOL Library Business Operations Librarian, and her assistant, Andrea Lujan.

In August 2013, after the managing editor left, a consultant and temporary support person was brought on board to do a broad-based evaluation of the Journals Program and institute best practices while supporting the students in producing the journals. The consultant, Elaine McArdle, a lawyer with extensive experience in publications including as Director of Student Journals at Harvard Law School, evaluated all aspects of the journals program at UNMSOL to make suggestions for best practices and to improve the academic experience of the students. With the strong support of the law school, generally, and the library faculty, in particular, she instituted a number of improvements to the program including much more emphasis on legal scholarship, assisting students with staying on schedule so their volumes would be published on time, working closely with the faculty and library, and more. In February 2013, she was hired as Director of Journals and Scholarly Communications, a three-quarters position, to continue to support the students and journals-related faculty.

The Journals Program is under the auspices of the Law School Library administration. Until December 2012, it was under the direction the Associate Dean for Finance and Administration, Carol Parker. Michelle Rigual was appointed Deputy Director of the Library in December 2012 and the Journals Program was placed under her direction. A number of library faculty and personnel were very involved in supporting the journals program this year in its new emphasis on scholarship and other efforts, including Michelle Rigual, Sherri Thomas, Ernesto Longa, Marquita Harnett, Andrea Lujan, and Moses Moya. In June 2013, a part-time student employee was hired to handle the subscriptions and other basic business tasks for the journals, under the supervision of the Director of Journals.

JOURNALS SUPPORT

In instituting best practices for the Journals Program, a number of significant changes were made this year in how the students are supported in their journals work. The Journals Director instituted a monthly meeting of all student editors and their faculty supervisors, including the Tribal Law Journal, to encourage community-building and communication among the journals, discuss common issues, encourage joint problem-solving, encourage best practices, and more. Over the years, one of the biggest problems that student editors faced is completing their issues on time, before they graduate; often, they graduated without finishing their issues, and the issues were pushed onto the new group of editors, perpetuating the problem. It is worth noting that the students in the Natural Resources Journal for the 2012-2013 academic year deserve tremendous credit for a truly exceptional effort in producing four issues this year: they published two issues of their own, as well as the previous two issues. For the New Mexico Law Review, the Journals Director worked closely with last year's board of student editors, who had already graduated, to complete their second issue, including doing all computer formatting for them, serving as a liaison with the printer, and even doing cite-checking on one article. Similar support was provided to this year's editors.

In order to avoid delays in publication going forward, the Journals Director created a month-by-month editorial calendar to show students where they should be in the production process each month of the academic year, in order to publish on time. She also did frequent, scheduled check-ins to see if the students were staying on schedule.

The Tribal Law Journal, which is within the Indian Law Program, has traditionally not been supported by the Journals support staffer. This year, in order to make sure the TLJ feel fully integrated into the Journal Program's newly invigorated focus on scholarship, TLJ was provided with an equal office space in the Journals suite, invited to the monthly journals meetings, provided with support for their editorial board training by law library faculty, and much more.

PROMOTIONS

This year, a strategic effort was made to raise the profile of the Journals Program both within and without the law school. There were a number of efforts in this regard, including reaching out to and working with UNMSOL faculty who are broadly interested in supporting student scholarship and publication. Most notably, a new event was launched this year: the Journals Open House. It is anticipated that this will be an annual event. The goal is to keep journals alumni connected to the journals, including for mentorship, clerkship, articles-generation, and subscription-growth purposes. This inaugural Journals Open House was held in April, in the newly renovated journals suite. Library staff worked to create an up-to-date database of alumni for all of the student journals. Alumni of all the journals were invited to attend the Open House. The Open House was a big success, with more than 70 people in attendance, including judges and others.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

This year, a new emphasis was placed on the scholarly benefits of journals work in order to make those benefits apparent to current and potential journals students. A broad strategic effort was made throughout the year, including numerous discussions with faculty advisers of the journals, adjunct faculty who taught the journals-related courses, and other faculty at UNMSOL interested in supporting student scholarship. There was a consensus that students needed more structured training in and orientation to legal scholarship before beginning journals work, and ongoing support in this area throughout each academic year. A new training was created and launched this year, the Journals Workshop, with significant input and support from the law library, the faculty advisers and adjuncts, other faculty, students, and others. A day-long program, the Journals Workshop was held in August 2013 and was taught by law library faculty, adjunct faculty connected to the journals, the faculty advisers, 3L students on the journals, and the Journals Director. It included an overview of the value of legal scholarship and journals work, in particular, as well as exercises in substantive and technical editing, sourcing, Bluebooking, and more. In general, it received very positive response from students, and is expected to be an annual event each August.

OFFICE SPACE

In an effort to create an environment more supportive of legal scholarship, the law school did a significant renovation of the journals suite, including adding better work spaces for the journals, adding a conference table with power sources for laptops, removing unused furniture and books, and creating a more accessible journals archive. The Tribal Law Journal was also provided with its own office space. As was hoped, this has encouraged more students to use the space for journals work and more, including as a meeting and study space.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

To learn more about best practices for legal writing, editing, and student journals production, two student editors – one from the New Mexico Law Review and one from the Tribal Law Journal – attended the 59th Annual National Conference of Law Reviews at Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing, Michigan, on March 20-24, 2013. This was an important and valuable exercise for the student editors, including learning about new technologies for online publications, managing journals, soliciting quality articles, and more. Student attendance also helped UNMSOL maintain a presence among the hundreds of law reviews and student journals in the U.S., which is important for national rankings, encouraging submissions to UNMSOL journals, and more.