Natural Resources Journal & New Mexico Law Review, Annual Reports 2011 - 2012

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The Student Journals program at UNMSOL exists to provide students with a rigorous 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 and the Associate Dean for Finance and Administration, Carol Parker.

The Journals department has been staffed by a single full-time staff person, Lynne Arany, under the title of Managing Editor. She provided support to students including editorial, production, student-training, 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.

Both the Natural Resources Journal and the New Mexico Law Review (which focuses on legal issues specifically related to New Mexico) publish two issues a year. In addition to scholarly articles authored by leading legal scholars and other experts, both publish student-authored notes and articles, and thus serve as a platform for student writing for UNMSOL students.

New Mexico Law Review, Volume 42:1 and 42:2: Student Co-Editors-in-Chief for 2011-2012 were Christopher S. McNair and Catherine M. Gleeson. There were an additional nine student editors, and another 13 staff members, for a total of 24 students. The New Mexico Law Review has a faculty advisor, who in the 2011-2012 academic year was Michael Browde, and who in the 2012-2013 academic year is Carol Suzuki.

Natural Resources Journal, Volume 52:1 and 52:2: Student Co-Editors-in-Chief for 2011-2012 were Dan Akenhead and Nicholas L. Pino. There were an additional 10 student editors, and another 14 staff members, for a total of 26 students. The Natural Resources Law Journal’s faculty advisor is Reed Benson.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Lynne Arany, Managing Editor of the journals for several years, left UNMSOL in June 2012. To support the journals in her absence until a new staff person is permanently hired, UNMSOL brought in a temporary hire, Elaine McArdle, a lawyer with extensive experience in publications including as Director of Student Journals at Harvard Law School. She is also evaluating the journals program at UNMSOL to make suggestions for best practices and to improve the academic experience of the students.

TECHNOLOGY

Last year, in an effort to move the journals more fully into an online journal presentation, the decision was made to try out an Open Access software solution, OJS (Open Journals Systems). After experimenting with OJS, it was determined that it was not a good solution. We are searching for other possibilities for online and e-publishing, and exploring other new technologies that will benefit the journals.
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 Natural Resources Journal – attended the 58th Annual National Conference of Law Reviews at Roger Williams University Law School in Bristol, Rhode Island, March 28 – April 1, 2012. This was an important and valuable exercise for the student editors, who returned to share their educational experiences with their student boards. It 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.