UNM LAW 2012

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Students and faculty at the UNM School of Law helped organize and hosted a first-ever event for New Mexico homeowners to resolve foreclosure issues.

10 Catron Family Legacy

The Catron family roots run deep in New Mexico and at the UNM School of Law, beginning with Thomas B. Catron establishing one of the state’s first law firms in 1866.

20 Class Notes

Who presented the 2012 Law Day address, who joined the Foreign Service, who received the Justice Mary Walters Award? Discover that and more about your classmates.
In the pages that follow, you will enjoy stories about some of the people who make our law school special. Our faculty, our staff and students, and our alumni and friends are accomplishing amazing work. I hope you will have time to read the stories featured here, and to reflect with us on the many lasting achievements we have enjoyed together as a law community over the past year.

We have enjoyed a wonderful academic year because our alumni, faculty and friends have engaged with us in so many ways. I want to recognize all of you who have shared your support for our programming, and your guidance, as we have continued to develop our outreach, our curriculum and our outstanding faculty.

In May, we were privileged to have the Honorable James A. Parker here to share his wisdom and wit with our community as our distinguished 2012 commencement speaker. Judge Parker held graduates, family and friends alike captive with his encouraging, insightful and light-hearted remarks. On a beautiful spring day, our law community enjoyed a very special commencement.

Commencement was the culmination of a year in which much was accomplished. A few successes include the hiring of Professor Alex Ritchie in oil & gas, Professor George Bach (’02) in constitutional rights, Professor Aliza Organick (’02), an accomplished clinical law professor and our first Navajo professor, Professor Yael Cannon, a clinical professor who joins us from American University in Washington, D.C. and Kevin Tu, in commercial law, who joins us from Seattle. Some are already settling themselves and their families into Albuquerque this summer, and some will be joining us closer to the fall.

Each of these individuals comes to us with great enthusiasm for our law program and a deep commitment to teaching and scholarship. I hope you will join us in welcoming them to our community. With the addition of these five new full-time professors, this fall will mark the culmination of a significant effort to attract and retain even greater expertise to our already accomplished faculty body. Following their official retirements, we are honored and fortunate to have Professors Romero, Desiderio, Hart, MacPherson, Schwartz, Martinez, Browde, Hall, Gonzales, Norwood, Occhialino, Pammal and Valencia-Weber remaining with us as emeriti professors, for emeriti truly are the bedrock of our academic community. What magnificent contributions our high-achieving faculty has made and continues to make!

In the near future, as you visit us, you may delight in seeing a number of capital improvements to our facility. Currently under way are remodeling and expansion efforts to our law clinic, our café and our basketball court. We look forward to sharing the unveiling of these improvements with you this fall as we host a remodeled clinic open house, the Rocky Mountain Clinical Legal Conference, class reunions, our annual Alumni Board Association golf tournament, our Annual Scholarship Luncheon, an exciting Distinguished Achievement Awards dinner, and so much more.

Rigor, leadership, engagement, and service continue to be important values and objectives in our work. I am proud to be beginning my fourth year as dean.

Sincerely,

Kevin K. Washburn
Dean and Professor of Law
U.S. District Court Judge James Parker discussed the vast changes in the practice of law during the past 50 years and offered an optimistic message for the future to members of the Class of 2012 during the University of New Mexico School of Law commencement ceremony on May 12.

“Enormous changes have been driven largely by the accelerated development of science and technology, that has affected all areas of our lives,” he said. “In your future, the demand for lawyers will increase exponentially as opposed to the rather linear progression over the last 50 years because of the accelerated pace of change in science and technology. You will experience not only good economic opportunities in practicing law, but also novel intellectual challenges that will make your professional life rewarding.”

As examples on the near horizon, Parker discussed opportunities in genetics and nanotechnology along with a proposal to mine helium 3 on the moon and then transport it back to earth where it would be used to generate electricity.

“If this venture is successful, it will cause a revolution in power generation. If the helium 3 mined on the moon comes to the new spaceport in southern New Mexico, visualize all of the consequent legal issues and the numerous opportunities you will have,” he said.

Above all, Parker encouraged the new graduates to have as much fun and enjoyment with the law as he has had throughout his career.
For a complete list of academic honors presented to members of the Class of 2012, please go to lawschool.unm.edu. Click on News Archives, and then click on Commencement 2012.
Interning at the Federal Communications Commission

By Moses Winston ('12)

In the spring semester of 2011, I was fortunate to participate in the University of New Mexico School of Law’s Washington D.C. Exchange Program.

My primary goal when thinking about how to spend my time in D.C. was to ensure that I would participate in activities, courses, work experiences and social events that I would not otherwise have the opportunity to experience while studying at UNM. Upon my selection, I immediately began to think about the types of work experiences in which I could participate while I spent a semester in the legal capital of the United States.

My internship with the Federal Communications Commission was in the Wireline Competition Bureau, Competition Policy Division. The bureau is responsible for broadband deployment and ensures that all Americans have access to affordable services such as broadband Internet and (landline) telephone services.

Additionally, the Competition Policy Division was tasked with reviewing the mergers and acquisitions of phone companies to determine whether these transactions were in accordance with the Telecommunications Act. This division performs this task through the use of policy advocacy and market analysis. While this division was not like other legal jobs, the work performed is vital to the telecommunications industry and was something in which I could easily engage.

My work at the FCC varied from week to week. At times, I was source and cite checking rules that would go before the Office of the General Counsel and, subsequently, the commissioners of the FCC. I also performed substantial work with bureau economists to analyze the market to understand where companies were working and whether their presence was promoting or hindering competition.

Although I did a fair amount of research in the Federal Register and case law, the most fascinating research was not always legal research. In completing a project related to the effects of broadband deployment, I researched press releases, analyzed revenue and expenditures and tracked legislation that was all related to the FCC’s broadband deployment. This information was helpful when advocating policy, as it showed how this program has worked since its implementation and the changes it allowed across the United States.

My internship at the FCC was my first experience working in the federal government, as well as my first exposure to the telecommunications industry. I thought it was very important to go into the experience with enthusiasm and willingness to do whatever was put before me. Although I had a few projects that were not the most stimulating, it was clear that everything I was asked to do contributed to an overall goal that would eventually have a large impact on the citizens of the United States.

My advice to any student seeking an internship in any area is to use your resources as much as possible. Furthermore, one of my “less exciting” projects allowed me to take a trip to watch a House committee hold a hearing on the topic. Willingness to produce satisfactory work product, regardless of the task assigned, helped make the most of my experience and created a favorable impression.

My plans for my future career were well influenced by my experience at the FCC and in Washington, D.C., in general. I am attempting to use my network and the connections I made while in D.C. to allow me to work in the area in some capacity in the future. Additionally, my internship allowed me to appreciate the role and impact of working in public policy, which is now another option I am considering.

Overall, my advice to any student seeking an internship in any area is to use your resources as much as possible. The more I used the resources available to me, the more likely I was to understand and achieve my goals. I would recommend every law student spend time in Washington, D.C., as well as explore areas of law in which you may not have thought you had an interest.

Furthermore, the graduates of UNM School of Law are more than willing to help any law student, regardless of their area of expertise, and failing to use this resource is severely limiting to any law student’s chance at furthering their legal career.

Editor’s Note: Winston has accepted a position at SaucedoChavez, where he will focus on commercial litigation and government and regulatory affairs.
NM Homeowners Receive Help on Mortgage Debt

The halls and classrooms at the University of New Mexico School of Law were abuzz for a few days during spring break, but the people going in and out of them were not law students heading to class. Instead, they were New Mexico citizens seeking and receiving assistance to their questions about their own mortgage debt.

In a first-of-its-kind event in New Mexico, the four-day Helping New Mexico Homeowners weekend provided, at no cost, detailed information about financial literacy, foreclosure basics and possible solutions to avoid foreclosure to anyone who walked in the door. By the time the event had ended on March 18, more than 250 people had received assistance.

A confusing issue

Leading the student volunteers was Sophie Martin (’13), who became interested in the foreclosure problem during a 2011 summer internship with an Albuquerque lawyer whose practice includes foreclosures. Her hard work helped develop the homeowners weekend, which brought to the UNM law school staff from five banks, housing counselors from across New Mexico and lawyers. Other UNM law students who worked on the event were Shannon Crowley (’13), Jeff Mitchell (’14), David Pumarejo (’13), Sabrina Salvato (’14) and James Simenmeyer (’13).

In New Mexico, about 9,000 people have gone through foreclosures in each of the past few years, according to the New Mexico Attorney General’s Office.

“Reports indicate that as many as 85 percent of New Mexico homeowners lose their homes by default because they never respond to the foreclosure complaint,” said UNM School of Law Professor Nathalie Martin, whose academic focus includes financial literacy and bankruptcy. “Foreclosure is a confusing and emotional situation under the best of circumstances, and too many people either are just giving up or are trying to navigate the process without any help. As a result, families are losing their homes when they might be able to keep them.”

Professor Martin, who holds the Frederick M. Hart Chair in Consumer and Clinical Law, was also instrumental in putting together this event, which resulted in real-world help for homeowners. For the past few years, she has been collaborating with a small group of Albuquerque lawyers, including Thomas, on foreclosure issues.

Finding a solution

The event began on Thursday, and consisted of a full day of classes for lawyers, housing professionals and the general public. UNM law students taught an initial overview class required of all participants. From Friday through Sunday, HUD-certified housing counselors, consumer educators and bankers met with the individual homeowners.

Participating banks were Bank of America, Wells Fargo, Citimortgage, Chase and Bank of Albuquerque/Oklahoma. Unlike similar events across the country, at the Albuquerque event the banks’ mortgage counselors were qualified to make on-the-spot decisions for the homeowners.

In addition to helping homeowners, students gained valuable experience. “In over just a weekend I learned so much about how foreclosure works, mostly from the people going through it who have been forced to become experts,” said Sophie Martin.

Beyond rewarding

Brian Thomas (’97), who took his first foreclosure case 10 years ago and now handles about 50 such cases a year, was pleased with the results of the law school event, which included a number of loan modifications.

For Sophie Martin, the experience was beyond rewarding. In addition to assisting with all aspects of organizing the weekend, including coordinating a group of five student volunteers, she built a website, which received high praise from the participating bankers. The website will continue to be updated and serve as an ongoing resource for homeowners.

“From the student perspective, this was a reminder that even when we are in practice, it is important to give back,” she said. “The law school has been trying to teach us that being a lawyer is not just a life of profit, but it’s also a life of service.”
Native Lawyers Who Argued Before High Court Celebrated

The first 13 Native American lawyers to argue before the U.S. Supreme Court were celebrated in a unique symposium at the University of New Mexico School of Law in March. During the day-long event, 12 of the 13 lawyers, seven of whom are graduates of the Pre-law Summer Institute at the American Indian Law Center, discussed and reflected upon their experiences at the court.

The event titled, The First Thirteen — Personal Reflections of the Argument, was conceived by Dale White (Mohawk), one of the 13. He has practiced in the field of Indian law for 30 years. In his role as the symposium’s master of ceremonies, White interviewed the lawyers in small groups. He asked them about their cases, the preparations for their arguments, the day of the argument itself and its impact on their careers and on the field of federal Indian law.

The participants came from across the country and Alaska to participate in the symposium. They are judges, law professors, Native American advocacy lawyers, tribal and federal officials and lawyers serving Native people and tribes.

In addition to White, the 12 history-making lawyers in attendance were James Anaya (Purepecha and Chiricahua Apache ancestry), Raymond Cross (Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara), Heather Kendall-Miller (Athabascan), Rodney Lewis (Gila River Indian Community), Melody McCoy (Cherokee), Marilyn Miles (Kickapoo), Terry Pechota (Rosebud Sioux), William Rice (Keetoowah Cherokee), Martin Seneca, Jr. (Seneca Nation), Jeanne Whiteing (Blackfeet Nation) and Susan Williams (Sioux). Missing was Arlinda Locklear (Lumbee).

The symposium was sponsored by the Law & Indigenous Peoples Program at the University of New Mexico School of Law, the American Indian Law Center, the New Mexico Indian Bar Association and the Indian Legal Program at the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law at Arizona State University.
Students Learn by Doing in Evidence/Trial Practice

Every fall semester, Professor Barbara Bergman leads students in a unique learning-by-doing opportunity when she combines two law school staples into one course: Evidence and Trial Practice.

This six-credit course is not for the faint-hearted. Evidence and Trial Practice, or ETP as it is called, prepares students for life as a trial lawyer. “They live and breathe this class,” said Bergman, who also is associate dean for academic affairs at the University of New Mexico School of Law. “The goal is to teach them the rules of evidence and how they work, and then they have to apply the rules every week in small group breakout sessions.”

The students are guided through each stage of a trial, from preparing opening statements to examining witnesses during a trial to closing arguments. Throughout the semester, they work on the same case file. To help make it as realistic as possible, the students are expected to dress for court and the courtroom exercises are held in the mock trial rooms at the law school.

“What makes this class effective is that each lesson builds on the previous lesson, requiring students to understand the rules of evidence and apply them in a trial setting,” said Bergman. “By learning the underlying rationale behind the rules, they are able to respond to objections and make persuasive arguments to the court.”

Adjunct faculty indispensable

Such a detailed hands-on learning experience would not be possible without the assistance of 16 adjunct professors, all practicing trial lawyers or judges, many of whom took the class as UNM law students. Even the highest level of the state’s judiciary was represented last fall by Supreme Court Justice Edward Chavez (’81), a member of the adjunct faculty.

Another adjunct from last fall, Carlos Obrey-Espinoza (’01), enjoyed the challenges and rewards from returning to his alma mater as a teacher. “It is one thing to know how to conduct a trial, but something completely different teaching someone else how to do it correctly,” he said. “The students made tremendous progress during the semester, and it is always enjoyable to see how far they come from the first class where they are mostly timid and unsure to the final trial where they go into the courtroom with bravado and confidence.”

The final trial

The culmination of the trial practice component of the course occurs on the Saturday before Thanksgiving when the entire class of up to 64 students appears for trial at the Second Judicial District Court in downtown Albuquerque. Chief Judge Ted Baca permits the class to use the courthouse for the entire day.

Most law schools offer evidence and trial practice as separate courses, but, in 1972, Professor Leo M. Romero, at the urging of former Dean Fred Hart, saw the value of combining the two subjects into one course so students could immediately put into practice the concepts they were learning.

“The summer before I joined the UNM law faculty, I attended the very first National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA) training program. NITA changed the way trial advocacy is taught by focusing on simulated trial exercises that students perform, followed by constructive critiques by experienced trial lawyer/teachers,” said Romero, who currently is NITA’s board chair. He taught the course until the late-1980s, at which time he moved into law school administration. At that time, Bergman took over the course and has been teaching it ever since.

“Being able to watch the students as they struggle at the beginning to learn the evidence rules and trial techniques and then develop their skill and confidence as the semester progresses makes this one of the most rewarding classes I have ever taught,” said Bergman. “Besides, I get to keep learning as well from the tremendously talented adjunct faculty who make this course possible.”
Thomas Benton Catron had just suffered defeat at the end of the Civil War and was looking for a new life in 1866 when he headed west from his home in Missouri. He had fought for the Confederates during the war and followed other Confederate veterans to the Territory of New Mexico.

When he opened his law practice in Santa Fe that year, little did he know he was establishing a tradition that would continue nearly 150 years later.

Not long after the University of New Mexico School of Law opened in 1947, another Catron family tradition was set in motion: In 1951, John Catron, Thomas B. Catron's grandson, became the first family member to graduate from the state's new law school. He joined his older brother, Tom, who had earned his law degree from Stanford Law School, in the family practice. In 1973, Fletcher R., Tom's son, earned his J.D. from the UNM School of Law, and in 2010, Fletcher's daughter, Julia, followed suit, becoming the third Catron to graduate from the UNM School of Law.

The Catron family's longtime dedication to the law in New Mexico is simple: They were instrumental in transforming New Mexico from a territory into a state and in developing its legal system, and most certainly they will be part of New Mexico's future.

A growing firm

Thomas B. Catron III, now the firm's most senior member, considered teaching before he decided to follow his father, Fletcher, into law. Tom became the second member of the firm in 1951. At this time, Tom's uncle, Charles, was nearing the end of his service as a justice on the New Mexico Supreme Court; he retired the following year. Through the years, additional associates have come and gone, but the firm has remained small; today Catron, Catron, Pottow & Glassman has six lawyers.

The firm's members practice in the areas of law that most interest them. Tom, John and Fletcher enjoy trust, probate and estate planning work. John and Fletcher are members of the prestigious American College of Trust and Estate Counsel. When he turned 65, Tom gave up litigation. "I enjoyed going to court, but I worried too much about my clients," he said. "I couldn’t turn it off at the end of the day. I remember one client saying I was more worried than they were.”

The Catron Family Scholarship was established in May 2012 through generous gifts made by John S. Catron (’51), Fletcher R. Catron (’71) and Thomas B. Catron III. The annual scholarship will be awarded to an incoming New Mexico law student with a well-rounded undergraduate experience who has demonstrated academic proficiency and financial need.
UNM tradition

John Catron was studying engineering at UNM when it became clear he did not have a knack for math or science. After three years, he enrolled in the university’s new law school. He remembers attending classes in barracks that had been moved from Bruns Army Hospital in Santa Fe as temporary quarters.

Because he knew he wanted to practice law in New Mexico and would most likely join the family firm, he never considered any school other than UNM School of Law. John especially liked his criminal law class with Dean Alfred Gausewitz, and also was impressed with Professor Henry Weihofen. Twenty years later, his nephew, Fletcher, also had classes with Weihofen.

When he graduated in 1951, John headed to Las Vegas, where he worked as an assistant district attorney for the next two years. He joined the firm in 1953, occupying a corner office with a private balcony overlooking the Santa Fe Plaza. For the next 35 years, he conducted a general civil practice from that office, concentrating mostly on real estate, wills and trusts and litigation.

In the late 1980s, the Catrons built their own office building near St. Vincent Hospital. They had grown tired of battling the Plaza building’s decaying infrastructure, including an elevator that became stuck with Tom inside when a water pipe burst. With water slowly filling up the elevator, he worried he might drown. Luckily someone heard his cry for help and got him out before that happened. They relocated, taking the original floor-to-ceiling bookcases with them to the new building, where they still command the library.

Loyalty and longevity

After earning his undergraduate degree from Stanford University, Fletcher Catron chose the UNM School of Law over Cornell, attracted to what he considered more interesting course offerings. He was impressed with his professors and especially liked the small classes and easy access to those professors.

“It was easy to learn when I could have a significant discussion with a professor in class,” he says. “And once I got into practice, when I compared myself to other lawyers from higher-ranked schools, I found that my legal education had been better.”

Fletcher has enjoyed working in a firm where, with most members being related to each other, they have to get along. Business decisions are made by consensus; no one is in charge, they all are. Support staff also seem to enjoy working for the Catrons; one legal assistant has been with the firm for 40 years and their administrative assistant for 30 years.

Julia Catron found her way to the law as a way to help her community. She had returned home to be close to her family after earning a bachelor’s degree from Boston University and was teaching English to immigrants. The more she saw her students struggle with immigration issues, the more convinced she was of the value of a law degree. Like her father, she appreciated the small, hands-on classes at the UNM School of Law and the connections to the New Mexico legal community.

“As a young lawyer, I have lots of questions and people remember me as a law student,” she says. “They have been very helpful.”

Julia never intended to join the family firm, figuring she wouldn’t fit in, but after being coaxed by Michael Pottow, who practices with the Catrons, she came aboard in 2011. As the newest associate, she is called upon to handle a wide range of matters, from healthcare directives to family law, and she also gets to pursue her passion of immigration law.

The next Catron won’t be eligible for law school for 15 years or so, but if he chooses the profession, it’s a good bet he might be roaming the halls at the UNM School of Law. It’s also a good bet he will be influencing the legal landscape of New Mexico.
For nearly four months, beginning in late fall 2011, every Wednesday morning, Emeritus Professor Robert Desiderio entered a virtual classroom, addressing students across the Atlantic Ocean in Kosovo. To prepare for the weekly lecture, he turned on his laptop and positioned himself in front of the computer's camera. The 35 students enrolled in the course, Business Economics for Lawyers, were all participating in a cutting-edge one-year LL.M. program at the University of Pristina. For two hours, Desiderio relied on Skype to connect him to the classroom thousands of miles away.

Sometimes, Emeritus Professor Ted Parnall (67) checked in to see how things were going. Parnall was partly responsible for the new program at the Kosovo university. In 2010-2011, he helped design the innovative international teaching experiment as part of a commercial law project put into place by Washington, D.C.-based Checchi and Company for the United States Agency for International Development.

“Legal education in Kosovo has followed a rote lecture style with not much interactive teaching,” he said. “This program is intended to fill that vacuum, so that graduates will have practical legal skills to contribute to the Kosovo business community.”

In the class, Desiderio talked about accounting, basic business economic principles and financial statements. Students, all required to have an English proficiency, were encouraged to ask him questions. A Kosovar professor co-taught the 15-week course and was available to assist the discussion. Desiderio also encouraged students to email him questions in between classes. In light of the prohibitive cost of textbooks, Desiderio discovered an online accounting textbook that included work sheets so he could keep track of his students’ progress.

“The most exciting part about this was being able to teach internationally without being present,” he said. “It was also exciting to teach students who have had little exposure to the subject matter.” In December, mid-way through the semester, Desiderio paid a visit to the class and enjoyed meeting his students in person.

Given how well the distance-learning experiment worked, he envisions a day when students at the UNM School of Law could be the beneficiaries of the expertise of international legal scholars.

Professor Sergio Pareja had always felt comfortable with his command of the Spanish language, until he stood in front of a classroom of students at the Universidad Rey Juan Carlos (URJC) in Madrid, where he spent the past year as a visiting professor.

During the fall semester, he built relationships with faculty members and presented guest lectures to Spanish law students on United States law topics, mostly focusing on legal history and administrative law.

“These were very large lecture classes, and my guest lectures were always in Spanish,” he said. “Although I speak Spanish well, I found teaching law in Spanish to be quite a challenge, and I spent hours and hours preparing to guest lecture.”

During the spring semester, in addition to guest lecturing, he designed and taught his own seminar entitled, Overview of U.S. Law. Pareja prepared his own class materials for the seminar, which covered topics typically taught during the first year of law school in the United States. Topics included everything from common law, constitutional law, contracts, torts, taxation and wills and trusts.

Although he officially taught this course in English, at the beginning of every class he presented a review of each previous class lesson in Spanish. He wrote the exam in English, but students could
write their answers in either English or Spanish or a combination of the two. Seventeen students enrolled in the seminar, which also was popular among faculty members. Two professors attended nearly every class and others sat in to learn about subjects in which they were interested.

Pareja was invited in connection with a student-faculty exchange agreement between the University of New Mexico and URJC. While he was there, he worked on a renewal agreement between the two universities.

During his sabbatical year, he also completed the fourth edition of Federal Income Taxation of Business Enterprises: Cases, Statutes, Rulings, along with an accompanying teacher's manual. He is one of three authors of the casebook.

Pareja was joined in Spain by his wife, Mary, and their two daughters, who attended regular Spanish schools. They became accomplished sightseers, spending many weekends and school breaks exploring Europe, even traveling to Morocco.

Carol Suzuki Pursues Scholarship in Japan

Cultural aspects that come into play when families are faced with end-of-life issues are the focus of Professor Carol Suzuki's current scholarship. She combined this concentration with her Japanese heritage during a six-week trip to Japan last year.

"I have been interested in end-of-life planning issues and, as a clinician, I was also interested in seeing how Japan's new clinical law programs were developing," she said.

Suzuki met with law professors, made presentations at a selection of law schools and spoke at the Japan Clinical Legal Education Association's annual meeting in western Japan. At the meeting, she discussed how clinical law programs can respond to disasters to help affected communities.

In Tokyo, where her cousin lives, Suzuki visited with the Shihoushoshi Lawyers Association. With her cousin serving as interpreter, Suzuki learned that in Japan, family members typically make end-of-life decisions for the elders, and that rather than laws, the country relies on guidelines to ensure the elders' rights are protected.

Also in Tokyo, she visited the Institute of Contemporary Asian Studies on Temple University's Japanese campus, where in a discussion with a group of physicians, law professors and lay people, she learned of the challenges many families face.

"Some of these people had experiences of loved ones dying in the United States and were concerned about how to honor the wishes of their loved ones in the Japanese culture where family members make the decisions for that person," said Suzuki. "Even the Japanese doctors thought a patient should be more empowered in making those decisions."

Among the dozen schools she visited across Japan were Aoyama Gakuin University Law School, where she presented a lecture, and Hokkaido University School of Law, where she taught an undergraduate comparative law class.

Throughout her conversations, Suzuki was impressed with the thoughtful concerns of both medical and legal practitioners over how to ensure patient autonomy within Japan's culture and system of end-of-life decision-making.

"Japan is struggling with how to meet the needs of the elderly, much as the U.S. is," she said. Suzuki's next step is to put together a paper comparing the two systems.

Suzuki was the recipient of a Dean's Award for Distinguished Law School Service, which helped fund her trip.
Tom Popejoy ('71) was attracted to THE ZOOKEEPER'S WIFE because it appealed to his love for animals, something that grew from spending hours on his family's ranch near Raton as a child. The nonfiction story by Diane Ackerman centered on the showpiece Warsaw Zoo before and during the 1939 Nazi invasion of Poland, which marked the beginning of World War II in Europe. To tell the story, Ackerman relied on the diaries kept by Antonina Zabinski, the wife of Jan Zabinski, the zoo's director. Popejoy especially enjoyed reading about the relationships the Zabinski family had with the zoo's animals. In the book, photos show Jan carrying a lynx, and their young son, Ryszard, with a pet badger. After the Germans moved many of the animals to zoos in Germany, the Zabinskis began hiding Jews, some of whom slept in the animals' cages.

Popejoy especially enjoyed reading about the relationships the Zabinski family had with the zoo's animals. In the book, photos show Jan carrying a lynx, and their young son, Ryszard, with a pet badger. After the Germans moved many of the animals to zoos in Germany, the Zabinskis began hiding Jews, some of whom slept in the animals' cages.

Popejoy also was impressed by both Antonina's writing and humor, especially when faced with the horrors of the war, and he also enjoyed Ackerman's ability to turn Antonina's narrative into such an engaging book.

“It's rare for a story like that, of something that happened some 73 years ago, to have such a great source in the diary,” he said. “It was both heartrending and funny.”

Margaret Harrington, UNM School of Law staff member and a confessed voracious reader, recommends CUTTING FOR STONE, the first novel by Stanford Medical School's Abraham Verghese. The novel is set primarily in a small hospital compound on the outskirts of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The familiarity of having grown up there himself is revealed through the wistful nuances, detailing the intimate daily rhythms no visitor could capture as comprehensively, or as lovingly.

The protagonists — identical twins, Shiva and Marion, are East Indian by ancestry and cultural upbringing, though raised in Addis Ababa. The birth was a surprise to all, as "The everyday miracle of conception had taken place in the one place it should not have: in Sister Mary Praise Joseph's womb."

The boys are orphaned in the first chapter and parented through young adulthood by the doctors and staff of "Missing" (the Mission Hospital). Family difficulties and the increasingly volatile political climate under Emperor Haile Selassie cause twin Marion to flee to America to continue the family vocation — surgery — while Shiva stays and practices medicine in Addis Ababa.

"The story is beautifully written and captivating, the character development was sophisticated and the plot kept me up way too late," said Harrington. "Far from being formulaic, this unique novel broadened my understanding of a culture I know little about. The beginning is a bit slow, but the small effort to get past the first few chapters is well worth it. I highly recommend it."

Three years ago, several UNM School of Law alums, along with other Albuquerque lawyers, formed a book group. The alums are, Dawn Branch ('02), Melanie Fritzsche ('96), Monique Salazar ('95) and Libby Washburn ('98). The group meets monthly and reads fiction and nonfiction. They have had guest lecturers, made tamales together and even taken road trips together. For example, after reading A CONFEDERACY OF DUNES, they visited New Orleans, and after a biography of Millicent Rogers, they visited Taos and the Millicent Rogers Museum.

The group just finished BORN TO RUN by Christopher McDougall, a fascinating portrayal of ultra marathoners — full of interesting characters, amazing athletic feats and an indepth discussion of the science behind running. The book includes a glimpse into the lifestyle of the Tarahumara people of Mexico's Copper Canyon, a group historically known for long distance running. The book features Micah True, also known as Caballo Blanco, who recently died in the Gila National Forest in New Mexico. The group determined that this thoroughly enjoyable book is for runners and non-runners alike.
Connecting Students & Alumni in Professional Network

By Heather Harrigan, Assistant Dean for Career Services

The New Mexico legal market has weathered the economic downturn better than many larger markets. To ensure we maintain this stability, leadership at the UNM School of Law has decided to proactively invest in Symplicity™, a web-based career services management system designed to enhance professional development for students and alumni.

Symplicity™ is a one-stop-shop for career services, offering an online job board, a resource library, employer database, recruiting program management tools, a professional development calendaring system and individualized job search strategies.

As a public institution, our resources are limited and the caseload for our Office of Career Services is 37 percent higher than the national average. In order to effectively serve our students and alumni in a competitive market, we must use systems that create efficiencies. Symplicity™ is designed to do just that.

Symplicity™ will improve students’ ability to conduct effective job searches as they incorporate its tools with the tried-and-true elements of a comprehensive job search: (1) do your research; (2) submit persuasive, well-written, error-free application materials; and (3) prepare for and execute at the job interview. Symplicity™ can assist students in these tasks, and can also be integral in connecting them with the single greatest source of opportunity: a professional network.

Nationally, nearly three times as many 2011 law school graduates found their first post-graduate jobs through networking as compared to either formal recruiting programs or a job posting. In a legal community as closely knit as New Mexico’s, developing and managing a strong alumni and professional network is all the more important.

Through Symplicity™, we are developing just such a professional network. This network, the UNM Law Advisor Directory, is designed to serve several purposes that will benefit our students and alumni beyond the immense inherent value of the network.

Students will be encouraged to make direct outreach to advisers participating in the UNM Law Advisor Directory in the practice areas and geographies that interest them. Students will be able to receive advice on how best to position themselves to enter the field (e.g., relevant professional associations, publications, classes, externships and law clerk positions, etc.).

Equally important, students will learn how to develop, maintain and grow a professional network. This is not a job search strategy. This is a professional development skill essential to a successful career for most professionals. Research indicates that law school applicants tend to be more introverted than the general population. Without guidance, the idea of direct outreach to attorneys can seem painfully uncomfortable to many law students. For this reason, the UNM Law Advisor Directory will be an extremely powerful advising tool that is a friendly introduction to the process. Students will be more inclined to conduct outreach with a list of alumni and friends of the law school who have already volunteered to participate in this kind of dialogue with them.

The adviser’s role in the UNM Law Advisor Directory, while minimal in terms of a time commitment (perhaps two to three brief meetings a year), can make a meaningful impact on the professional development of our students, increase their post-graduate marketability and likelihood of establishing a satisfying career. We hope you consider participating in this exciting and rewarding initiative.

Alumni will be formally invited to participate in the law school’s new UNM Law Advisor Directory, powered by Symplicity™, via a series of communications beginning in late August 2012. Our goal is simple – to connect students and alumni with their single greatest source of opportunity: an interactive, alumni and friend-based professional network.

To participate in this web-based career services management system, alumni and friends of the law school will be asked to complete a brief survey. This information will then be made available in a password-protected, searchable format shared by registered UNM Law students and participating alumni and friends.

We are excited by the promise of the UNM Law Advisor Directory for it will provide ongoing dynamic and enjoyable interactivity between our alumni and students. Friends of the law school are also encouraged to contact us with their interest in participating.

For more information on the UNM Law Advisor Directory project, please contact Heather Harrigan, assistant dean for career services or Hannah Farrington Parker, assistant dean for advancement, communication & relations at the UNM School of Law at 505.277.2146.
Ron Friedman (’71)

Forever Grateful

“I met Susie in 1967, a couple of weeks after I got back from serving in Vietnam, in the U.S. Army’s Signal Corps. She was teaching at Penn State. We didn’t get serious about our relationship until 1970. I was in my final year of law school at UNM. She moved to Albuquerque and stayed with a friend and then got a job teaching with APS. That April, we realized we wanted to get married and decided to do it as soon as I finished law school.

“We wanted to marry in Albuquerque because we loved New Mexico and it had been transformational for me. The little UNM Alumni Chapel was welcoming. We married on June 4, 1971. It was a small wedding, with family and our close friends. Graduation was on June 6 and two days later I started the bar preparation course.”

On a blue-sky June afternoon, Ron (’71) and Susie Friedman walked down the aisle of the UNM Alumni Memorial Chapel, and in front of their three children and other family members, they renewed their wedding vows. Judge Linda Vanzi (’95) of the New Mexico Court of Appeals officiated at the June 4, 2011 ceremony, which took place almost to the hour of the Friedmans’ wedding, held on the same date 40 years earlier, inside the same chapel.

Vanzi met the Friedmans a few months earlier when they were touring the Court of Appeals Pamela B. Minzner Law Center. They were in Albuquerque to plan their renewal ceremony. After Ron told the judge how he arrived at law school, Vanzi was so touched that she eagerly accepted an invitation to prepare a special ceremony for the couple.

“Susie and I had lost our parents within a 13-month period. Our families had been getting together at funerals, so this was a chance to have a happy event,” said Ron.

Taking a chance

Friedman was without direction or focus when he arrived at the UNM School of Law in the fall of 1968. He had returned a year earlier from the Vietnam War to a hostile environment among his graduate-school classmates at Penn State.

“I was 24, had received a Bronze Star for my Vietnam service and didn’t understand how I was a threat to them,” he said. He began pretending he had never served, but he continued to feel unsettled, not sure what to do. At the invitation of an uncle who lived in Santa Fe, Ron headed west for a visit. His uncle also suggested he check out the idea of going to law school. With nothing to lose, Ron drove to Albuquerque and met with Professor Fred Hart, who was then directing admissions at the UNM School of Law.

“Fred gave me less than a 10 percent chance of making it through law school, based on my record,” said Ron. But Hart, who had one more seat to fill in the incoming class, offered it to Ron. Elated, Ron flew home to Pennsylvania, packed his bags and returned to Albuquerque in time to start classes a week later.

Building confidence

Law school gave Ron exactly what he needed. “For the first time in my life, I met the challenges given me,” he said. He discovered that he enjoyed studying, and he embraced the discipline and the contemplation of the law. He even made the dean’s list a couple of times and was the top student in
When he earned his degree in 1971, he was one of 57 classmates who graduated from an incoming class of about 100.

“Albuquerque was a refuge. This was a time of riots and social unrest in response to the Vietnam War. Just being disciplined and getting through law school was the greatest accomplishment of my life,” he said. “It gave me the confidence to focus my energies and decide what I wanted to do.”

After four years with White, Koch, Kelly & McCarthy in the firm’s Taos office, he and Susie returned to his hometown of State College, Penn.

Ron quickly discovered an interest and proficiency in real estate law. He also established the first title insurance agency in State College. As his expertise in real estate law grew, he began writing real estate books, culminating in 2006 with the fifth edition of LAUNDER PENNSYLVANIA REAL ESTATE LAW, the go-to book of real estate law in the state. Every year, he writes a supplement for the book, which is often cited by Pennsylvania appellate courts. He considers this the highlight of his career. He also has written five more books, including a novel.

In 2011, Ron retired from his law practice and turned his energy to volunteering with various State College nonprofits. He was recently appointed by the Pennsylvania Bar Association to the Real Estate Council, a group of 15 real estate lawyers chosen from the state's 5,000 real estate lawyers who review legislation and offer advice on real estate issues.

A personal decision

Ron has never forgotten the life-changing role the UNM School of Law played in turning his life around, and in 1986, when his law practice was firmly established, he began contributing to The Ronald and Susan Friedman Endowed Faculty Excellence Award, which he endowed in 1997.

“We feel that this award helps the school recruit the best faculty possible,” he said. “And without good faculty, a school can’t attract good students.”

Ron considers his philanthropy personal. “I’ve learned in life that you give for yourself. I give to the UNM law school because it’s the right thing for me to do, to support something that gave me a chance in 1968. I hope other graduates would recognize the school did the right thing for them too.”

“..."I’ve learned in life that you give for yourself. I give to the UNM law school because it’s the right thing for me to do, to support something that gave me a chance in 1968."...”

IN MEMORIAM

Peter Gallagher (’51)  Elizabeth Love Anderson (’71)  David Meilleur (’07)
Stewart Rose (’54)  James Blackmer (’73)  Mary Miller (’07)
Edward Walterscheid (’69)  Jackie Rashleger (’93)

To read complete obituaries, go to lawschool.unm.edu/alumni and click on In Memoriam.
Terry Aguilar ('09) Leading Pueblo of San Ildefonso

Terry Aguilar ('09) was only 26 the first time he was given a leadership role at the Pueblo of San Ildefonso. The year before, he stood up and had been critical about how things were done at the pueblo. “I thought I could change the world,” he said. The next thing he knew, he was appointed lieutenant governor, a position he held until being appointed governor a year later, in 1999. He quickly realized that he couldn’t change the world, at least not quite as fast as he would have liked, especially in a traditional community.

He worked a few more years in tribal government, before leaving to pursue other opportunities, one of which included earning a J.D. at the University of New Mexico School of Law in 2009. In February 2012, Aguilar was elected governor for a three-year term.

New territory

Now, with the support of his tribal constituents, Aguilar is leading his pueblo into new territory. In 2011, the pueblo adopted a new governing agreement, which provides the governor with authority to oversee the operations of the tribe. The agreement provides for a council and judicial branch of the government. Separate leaders oversee the pueblo’s traditional life. Key in the new agreement is that, for the first time, women have an opportunity to be involved in tribal government.

In his new role, Aguilar has begun working to protect the way of life of the pueblo’s 700 members and, at the same time, to improve their lives. A week after the election, he took the bar exam, which he had been unable to master. This time he passed, culminating years of perseverance and commitment to a better life for himself and his pueblo.

Setting the stage

Aguilar left San Ildefonso in 1989 to join the U.S. Navy. He served on the U.S.S. Midway during Desert Storm. After seeing how a college degree brought status in interactions between a college-educated officer and an older enlisted man, Aguilar headed to UNM after being honorably discharged from the Navy in 1991.

He spent his final year at UNM interning for U.S. Sen. Jeff Bingaman, returning to New Mexico in 1997 to work for the Pueblo of Ohkay Owingeh as a coordinator in the pueblo’s Department of Education. In 2002, he went to work for the Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council, initially as community resource director and later as the council’s executive director.

“In all of these jobs, I realized it was the attorneys who were running the tribes; even as governor I always had to ask the advice of our lawyers before making a decision,” he said.

In 2006, after completing the Pre-Law Summer Institute at the American Indian Law Center, Aguilar enrolled in the UNM School of Law. Right away, he could see that he wasn’t well-prepared for law school and that he would have to work much harder than his classmates to keep up.

“That’s what I enjoyed most,” he said, “the challenge of knowing that my peers were so far ahead of me. I knew I’d be competing against them in the work place, so I worked very hard in school. Professor Laura Gómez was my favorite professor because she was hard on me and helped me push myself.”

Following graduation, Aguilar began studying for the bar. It defeated him for a few years, which is not surprising because his attention was else-

where: on his pueblo’s collapsing political structure—he worked behind the scenes for years to develop a more effective governing system.

Aguilar also had been appointed a judge pro tem at the Pueblo of Pojoaque. When he was offered this position, he was reluctant, considering his minimal legal experience: “It was hard when I had to make a decision about someone’s life.” But his colleagues, Judge Frank Demolli and Judge Edie Quintana, closely monitored his work and continued the unbending encouragement that Gómez had provided.

The work begins

“Now the work begins,” said Aguilar, who is relieved to have the bar exam behind him and the future of his tribe ahead of him. For the first time since he left home at 18, he is back living at San Ildefonso.

“My community has always supported me and now I owe it to my pueblo to give back,” he said. “Everything I’ve done, I’ve taken the challenge and I hope young pueblo men and women will take the initiative to get a post-secondary education. If I can do it, anyone can do it.”

“In all of these jobs, I realized it was the attorneys who were running the tribes; even as governor I always had to ask the advice of our lawyers before making a decision.”
Ann Hooker Clarke couldn’t get enough of the outdoors growing up on the edge of Santa Fe. As a young girl, she and a friend would load up a red wagon and play pioneer women, hauling the wagon to their own campsite under the stars. On family picnics to see construction sites of interest to her father, Van Dorn Hooker, who became the University of New Mexico Architect, she was always collecting rocks from the nearby arroyos. After her junior year at West Mesa High School, Clarke was off to college at the University of New Mexico and then transferred to Colorado College, where she couldn’t decide between biology and geology as her major. That was until she met Estella Leopold, daughter of renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold, during a field trip to Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. Estella was a paleontologist who drove a yellow Mercedes sports car, one of a handful of women geologists at the time.

A driven student

Clarke was a voracious reader, a driven student and a curious traveler. She earned her undergraduate degree in geology at 19 and went on to the University of Oregon, where she obtained a double master’s two years later, in 1974. Her third master’s degree came in 1981, in forest science, from Yale University. Along with her love of the outdoors, throughout her life she has carried a relentless desire to learn more – about regional planning, economics, cartography, forestry, environmental science, budgets.

She has held high level positions in the U.S. Forest Service, the Federal Aviation Administration and, since 2000, with NASA, where she recently became assistant director of operations at its Ames Research Center in California. Along the way, Clarke returned home to attend the UNM School of Law, seeking to study under Professor Al Utton. She was lead articles editor for the Natural Resources Journal and earned a Natural Resources certificate.

“At this time environmental policy was still evolving and the most interesting questions were being resolved in the courts,” she said. She earned her J.D. in 1992, the same year she was awarded a doctorate from Yale in forestry and environmental sciences.

Building a “green” career

During law school, Clarke worked in Washington, D.C. on a legislative internship with the Society of American Foresters. She attended every legislative panel on conserving the old growth forest in the Pacific Northwest as habitat for the endangered Northern spotted owl and more than 60 other threatened species, listening to every perspective. The following year, in 1991, she worked for the Forest Service on its spotted owl legal and policy teams. By the time she graduated, the Forest Service was downsizing and Clarke soon moved to the FAA, where she worked on various projects that involved environmental regulations and policies, including the Grand Canyon National Park overflight rule. During this time, a number of issues were emerging that involved NASA and tribes, around the proposal of a spaceport in southern New Mexico. Vehicles launched from the spaceport would fly over tribal and public lands and Clarke was involved in the discussion about commercial licensing rules and policy surrounding this new venture.

In 2000, she transferred to NASA in Washington, D.C. and subsequently served as executive officer to the NASA chief scientist before transferring to the Ames Research Center in 2006 to be back “out West.” She was chief of the environmental management division at Ames until her recent promotion.

“Each of these federal agencies has been marvelous to work with and I have used my law degree in every job I’ve had,” said Clarke. “The courses I took at UNM in constitutional, administrative and legislative law have been crucial to understanding what was going on in the agencies.”

A bridge between agencies

In her new position, she covers complex and controversial issues requiring knowledge of environmental compliance, real property, airfield operations, protective services, logistics, and acquisitions, drawing even more on her UNM law training and prior experience.

“Throughout my career, I’ve tried to have a vision of being a bridge between regulatory agencies and resource management agencies,” she said. “If I can facilitate that dialogue, then I’ll feel that I’ve succeeded.”

To read more alumni profiles, go to lawschool.unm.edu/alumni and click on Alumni Profiles.
1973

Petra Maes, chief justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court, received the 2012 Spirit of Excellence Award from the American Bar Association Commission for Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession.

1974

Peter Johnstone has been elected secretary of the UNM Foundation Board of Trustees. He practices law in Albuquerque and serves on the UNM School of Law Alumni/ae Association Board of Directors.

1975

M. Christina Armijo, a judge on the U.S. District Court in New Mexico, was presented with the 2011 Henrietta Pettijohn Award by the New Mexico Women's Bar Association. Armijo was honored for her outstanding achievements in advancing women in the legal profession. The award is named in recognition of Pettijohn, who was the first woman to be licensed to practice law in the Territory of New Mexico. She began practicing law in 1892 in Las Vegas, which coincidentally is Armijo’s hometown.

1976

Lynn Slade, a shareholder at Modrall Sperling, has been elected to the American Law Institute. He was named the 2012 Lawyer of the Year in both Native American Law and Natural Resources Law in Albuquerque by Best Lawyers in America and was Lawyer of the Year in Energy Law – Albuquerque in 2011.

1978

James McKay received a brevet promotion to the rank of brigadier general in 2011 retirement ceremonies at the New Mexico Army National Guard headquarters. His retirement marked 33 years of combined active duty and reserve service, for which he received a number of medals and the Silver Star. He successfully "un-retired" to become general counsel with the New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department.

1980

Thomas Griego was named executive director of the New Mexico Public Employee Labor Relations Board in 2011. Previously, he practiced labor and employment law in the Albuquerque area.

1981

Jonathan Rothschild was elected mayor of Tucson in 2011. Previously, he was managing partner of the Tucson firm of Mesch, Clark & Rothschild from 2001-2011. He focused his practice on business law, employment law, real estate law and estate planning. Prior to joining the firm in 1983, he served as a law clerk for U.S. District Court Judge Alfredo Marquez of the District of Arizona.

1984

Janice Paster has been named chair of the National Hispanic Cultural Center Foundation’s Board of Trustees.

1986

David Campbell is a Foreign Service officer at the U.S. Embassy in Port Louis, Mauritius, an island in the Indian Ocean. A major part of his job is to coordinate with U.S. Department of Defense associates in Europe, the Middle East and Africa that monitor Somali-based ships that attack merchant vessels and hold their crews and cargo for ransom. He left a position as Albuquerque Chief Administrative Officer in March 2011 to join the Foreign Service, a lifelong dream.

Gary Gordon has been elected chair of the UNM Foundation Board of Trustees. He also serves on the Board of Trustees of Albuquerque Academy.

James Sanchez has been appointed to the bench in the 13th Judicial District. Previously, he was a trial attorney in Valencia County.

Fermin Rubio has been appointed to the Board of Regents of the New Mexico Military Institute. He is vice president of the James Polk Stone Community Bank in Roswell and a past president of the NMMI Alumni Association.

We want to hear from you!

It's easier than ever to stay in touch with us.

We invite you to visit the UNM School of Law website, tell us what you are up to and provide your up-to-date contact information. We can’t keep you in the loop unless we can reach you!

Go to lawschool.unm.edu/alumni and click on Update Your Information. You will also find Class Notes on this page.
1987
David Skinner has been appointed a judge for the New Mexico Workers’ Compensation Administration. Previously, he practiced in the area of New Mexico workers’ compensation law for more than 25 years.

1988
Joey Moya has been appointed chief clerk of the New Mexico Supreme Court. Previously, he was chief counsel for the Supreme Court. He replaced Kathleen Jo Gibson, who retired after 25 years with the court.

Samuel Winder was appointed to the Second Judicial District bench in 2011. Previously, he prosecuted violent crimes with the U.S. Attorney’s Office in New Mexico and practiced with Modrall Sperling before opening his own practice in 2009.

1989
Darcy Bushnell, director of the New Mexico Water Ombudsman Program at the Utton Transboundary Resources Center, was appointed to a new Statewide Alternative Dispute Resolution Commission in 2011. The mission of the commission is to reduce the burden of increasing caseloads on the courts through strengthening and improving court-annexed ADR and to increase public access to adequate and affordable ADR programs.

Jacqueline Cooper has been appointed chief public defender for the State of New Mexico. She joined the Public Defender’s Office in 1991 and went on to become the office’s felony team supervisor. In 2006, she was named the statewide director of the Mental Health Division.

Anna Aragon (’78), Joel M. Carson III (’97), Nancy Franchini (’97) and Ray Vargas (’98) were appointed to the New Mexico Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission in early 2012. Aragon, of Las Vegas, has had her own law practice since 1984. Carson, of Roswell, serves as general counsel for Mack Energy Corp. Franchini is a shareholder in the Albuquerque firm of Gallagher, Casados & Mann. Vargas formed Garcia & Vargas in 2005 and represents individual rights.

John Feldman was appointed coordinator of the Alternative Dispute Resolution programs at the UNM School of Law in early 2012. In 2011, he was appointed to the New Mexico Supreme Court Statewide Alternative Dispute Resolution Commission. He was named to the new commission for his career-long involvement in ADR and mediation. Feldman led the Career Services Office at the UNM School of Law from 2002-2011. He has taught as an adjunct professor in the UNM School of Law’s mediation program since the 1990s.

1992
Steve Taylor has been promoted to senior vice president and counsel for public policy at United Way Worldwide in Alexandria, Va. He oversees United Way’s federal government relations and supports local United Ways in their state and local public policy advocacy.

1993
Thomas Briones has been elected chairman of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. He is owner of Briones Business Law Consulting in Albuquerque. He also serves on the boards of Central New Mexico Community College Foundation, the Hispanic Philanthropic Society of United Way of Central New Mexico, WESST and the Center for Civic Values.

Seth Sparks has received the highest Martindale-Hubbell peer rating. He is a director at the Roddy Law Firm where he practices in the areas of trucking litigation, insurance bad faith, professional liability and product and general liability.

1994
Chris Holland, a lieutenant colonel in the New Mexico Army National Guard, served a year in Afghanistan, returning in April 2012, as commander of Company C, 1-171st Aviation Regiment. Charlie Company is a medical evacuation unit that saved lives on the battlefields of Helmand Province by transporting the wounded in UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters. Holland practices with Sutin, Thaye & Browne.

David Johnson has been selected a fellow of the American Bar Foundation. He is a name partner with Bannerman & Johnson in Albuquerque.

1995
Susan Allen has become the first Native American woman to serve in the Minnesota Legislature. She was sworn in to the beat of a drum circle in the chamber of the House of Representatives. Allen, who also is the first openly gay Native American woman to serve in any Legislature nationwide, represents a diverse south Minneapolis House district with a high poverty rate.

Virginia Dugan was elected as a Region V Representative to the American Bar Association’s Family Law Section Council. She also was selected as a Southwest Super Lawyer for 2012 and was listed in the 2012 edition of the Best Lawyers in America. Dugan is a shareholder with Atkinson & Kelsey.

Brett Loveless has been named to fill a vacancy in the criminal division of the Second Judicial District Court. Previously, he was a deputy district attorney and assistant supervisor in the court’s Crimes Against Children division.

Deborah Mann has been named the New Mexico state chair for the Council on Litigation Management. She is special counsel in the area of health law at Bannerman & Johnson.

Linda Vanzo, a judge on the New Mexico Court of Appeals, received the 2012 Justice Mary Walters Award. The annual award is presented by the Women’s Law Caucus at the UNM School of Law to a woman in the legal community who displays a pioneering spirit. Vanzo joined the Court of Appeals in 2008 after serving on the Second Judicial District Court for four years.

Gregory Williams has become counsel with the Albuquerque firm of Peifer, Hanson & Mullins. He focuses his practice on general litigation, employment, auto dealership defense and media law.

Donna Trujillo Dodd (’93) has joined with Matthew Torres (’01), Cody O’Brien (’07) and Matthew Sanchez (’09) to form Trujillo Dodd, Torres, O’Brien & Sanchez, an Albuquerque law firm. Doing business as The Family Law Firm, the partners focus their practice on family law, criminal defense and personal injury.
1996
Steffani Cochran was named the Chickasaw Nation’s 2011 Dynamic Woman of the Year. The award honors Chickasaw women who have made significant contributions to the Chickasaw Nation and served as role models to other Chickasaw women. Cochran was appointed vice chair of the National Indian Gaming Commission in 2010. Previously, she was special counsel for Indian Affairs in the New Mexico Attorney General’s Office and general counsel for the Pueblo of Pojoaque.

Lori Lein has been promoted to general counsel of the Alabama League of Municipalities where she is responsible for advising municipal officials and employees from more than 400 member cities and towns. She also works closely with the league’s state and federal legislative agenda and is a frequent speaker on issues relating to municipal law in Alabama.

Ramona Mangiona was sworn in as chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands in late July 2011. She had served as an associate judge with the Superior Court for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) since 2003. Her appointment to the federal bench marked the first time a CNMI citizen has served on the federal bench in the Northern Mariana Islands in late July 2011. She had been promoted to share­holder in the Albuquerque firm of Browne tax law.

1997
Jeff Albright was selected as a 2012 Southwest Super Lawyers. He is a partner at Lewis and Roca, where his practice focuses on commercial litigation, insurance defense, and government affairs. Previously, he had served as an associate judge with the federal district court judge in the District of New Mexico since 2002. Previously, he had served as an associate judge with the federal district court judge in the District of New Mexico since 2002.

1998
Morris Chavez and Christopher Sautedo opened SautedoChavez in 2011. The firm focuses on commercial litigation, insurance defense and government affairs. Previously, Chavez was the New Mexico Superintendent of Insurance and Sautedo was in private practice.

Hans Voss was elected 2012 president of the New Mexico Board of Bar Commissioners.

1999
Michael Kaemper has become of counsel with the Rodey Law Firm. He focuses his practice on products and general liability defense. He is listed in The Best Lawyers of America for his expertise and experience in railroad law.

Erin Langenwalter has become an associate with Lewis and Roca, where she focuses her practice on commercial litigation and employment law.

Marc Lowry has been promoted to partner at Rothstein, Donatelli, Hughes, Dahlstrom, Schoenberg & Bienvenu. He works in the firm’s Albuquerque office, where he focuses on criminal law.

2000
Paul Spruhan, with the Navajo Nation Department of Justice, published a chapter in the book, The INDIAN CIVIL RIGHTS ACT AT FORTY (UCLA 2012), a collection of essays that provide for the first time a summary and critical analysis of how Indian tribes interpret and apply the provisions of the act in today’s world.

2001
Jason Bousliman has become a partner with Lewis and Roca. He focuses his litigation practice on commercial contract disputes, creditors’ rights in bankruptcy, collections and construction law. He is past president of the Albuquerque Bar Association.

Donna Mower has been appointed a judge in the Ninth Judicial District. Previously, she had worked in the district’s District Attorney’s Office.

Shanon Riley has been appointed a judge in the New Mexico Workers’ Compensation Administration. She had been an assistant district attorney in the First Judicial District and prior to that spent three years as the general counsel for the Department of Military Affairs.

2002
Kasey Daniel has joined the State Bar of New Mexico as managing attorney for the Lawyer Referral Program. She previously was the State Bar’s director of public and legal services and worked in private practice.

April White was promoted to share­holder in the Albuquerque firm of Yenson, Lynn, Allen & Wosick, where she focuses her practice on insurance coverage/bad faith and civil rights/constitutional law.

2003
Samantha Adams, a shareholder at Modrall Sperling, has been selected as a 2012 Woman of Influence by the Albuquerque Business Weekly as a 2012 Woman of Influence. She is president of the UNM School of Law Alumni/ae As­sociation.

2004
Tiffany Oliver Leigh received the CLE Crest Award, presented annually for the top young lawyer presentation, for her presentation at the 2011 Collaborative Law Symposium. She is an associate in the Albuquerque firm of Little, Gilman, Tepper & Batley.

2005
Susan Wood Bruckner is head of the Sutin, Thayer & Browne tax law division. Her practice focuses on New Mexico taxes, including planning and audit defense, and business law. She also assists with Sutin’s bond practice.

2006
Denise Chane is has become an associate in the Rodey Law Firm. She focuses on health law and medical malpractice defense.

Kristina Martinez has become an associate with Rothstein, Donatelli, Hughes, Dahlstrom, Schoenberg & Bienvenu. She focuses her practice on civil litigation. Previously, she was a litigator in Holland & Hart’s Santa Fe office, where she represented clients in a variety of complex civil matters.


Information about your class reunions will be coming soon from your reunion committees.
2007

Barry Berenberg has joined Modrall Sperling as an associate. He concentrates his practice on insurance defense, commercial litigation, real estate, intellectual property and general torts. Previously, he was a solo practitioner in Albuquerque. Before that, he clerked for Associate Justice Edward Chavez (81) of the New Mexico Supreme Court.

Jennifer deGraauw has become an associate with Little, Gilman-Tepper & Batley, where she focuses her practice on complex family law matters.

Jake Garrison has become an associate with the Turner Law Firm in Albuquerque. The firm’s primary areas of focus include litigation and transaction work in the areas of real estate, business, commercial, contracts and entity formation and maintenance.

Richard Hatch has become an associate in the Rodey Law Firm. He focuses his practice on medical malpractice defense litigation, health law, wrongful death, product liability and general insurance defense. Prior to joining Rodey, he practiced in the areas of medical malpractice and general insurance defense litigation.

Antonia Roybal-Mack has opened Roybal-Mack Law. She focuses her practice on employment law and general civil litigation. In 2010, she received the New Mexico Hispanic Bar Association’s Outstanding Young Attorney Award.

Jason Wexler has become an associate with the Albuquerque firm of Aldridge, Grammer & Hammar. He focuses his practice on business transactions, commercial litigation and creditor’s rights, real estate law, guardianships and conservatorships and all phases of estate planning.

2008

Kristina Fisher was selected as the 2011 Young Nonprofit Professional of the Year by the New Mexico Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals and the Young Nonprofit Professionals Network of Central New Mexico. Fisher is associate director of Think New Mexico, a think tank dedicated to improving the quality of life for New Mexicans.

Jeremy Harrison joined the Albuquerque office of Modrall Sperling in 2011. He focuses his practice on civil litigation for local and national businesses, governmental entities and local public schools. Previously, he clerked for two years for Judge Cynthia Fry (81) of the New Mexico Court of Appeals and one year for U.S. District Judge James Parker.

Stephen Lane has become an associate in the firm of Keleher & McLeod. He focuses his practice on civil and commercial litigation. Previously, he worked as a public defender.

Robert Lucero received the 2012 Outstanding Young Lawyer of the Year Award from the State Bar of New Mexico. He has joined the Board of Directors of the University of New Mexico School of Law Alumni/ae Association. In 2011, he graduated from the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce Leadership Albuquerque program. Lucero is a member of the Rodey Law Firm’s Business Department where he practices in the areas of real estate, land use and finance law.

Robert Sanchez has become an associate with the Rodey Law Firm. He focuses his practice on professional liability and insurance defense.

2009

Steven Armstrong has joined the District Attorney’s Office in the Third Judicial District. After earning his J.D., he went on to receive an LL.M. in litigation and dispute resolution from George Washington University Law School, graduating with highest honors in 2010. Before returning to New Mexico, he worked in the general crimes section of the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Washington, D.C.

Esteli Juarez Boyd has joined the Lynn Perl law firm, where she focuses her practice on family law matters. Previously, she worked for Enlace Communitario, where she provided family law and domestic violence legal aid services.

Heather Jaramillo has joined Albuquerque Business Law. Her practice focuses on civil and commercial litigation. Jaramillo is a member of the New Mexico Hispanic Bar Association’s Outstanding Young Attorney Award.

Joseph Montaño has been promoted to assistant district attorney with the Felony Crimes Division in the Second Judicial District Attorney’s Office. He has been involved in more than 61 trials since June 2010.

Stormy Ralstin has become an associate in the firm of Pregenzer Baysinger Wideman & Sale. She focuses her practice on fiduciary litigation, estate planning, guardianships, conservatorships and elder law.

Ryan Sanders has joined the firm of Allen, Shepherd, Lewis, Syra & Chapman. He practices in the areas of insurance defense, general litigation and worker’s compensation.

Michael Smith has become an associate with Keleher & McLeod, where he focuses his practice on civil and commercial litigation.

Shona Zimmerman has joined the Albuquerque firm of Silva & Gonzales. She focuses her practice on employment law, business and commercial litigation.

2010

Chad Yazzie has completed an LL.M program in Switzerland. His thesis was titled, “International Tribal Finance: A Domestic Assessment of Tribal Finance and a Proposal for Globalized Bond Financing.”

2011

Aida Medina Adams has joined the Rio Rancho office of the Jeff Diamond Law Firm.

Sebastian Dunlap, Corinne Hale, Rachel Pascetti and Jennifer Salazar have joined the Albuquerque firm of Allen, Shepherd, Lewis, Syra & Chapman. Dunlap focuses his practice on medical malpractice, construction defect, worker’s compensation and personal injury. Hale focuses her practice on insurance defense, commercial litigation and worker’s compensation. Pascetti focuses her practice on insurance defense, worker’s compensation and general liability. Salazar focuses her practice on insurance defense and general litigation.

Heather Hansen has become an associate with Keleher & McLeod. She practices in the areas of civil and commercial litigation.


Matthew Zamora has become an associate in the Albuquerque firm of Sapien Law. He focuses his practice in the areas of personal injury litigation, worker’s compensation, insurance claim settlements and criminal defense.
For more up-to-date events at the UNM School of Law, please go to lawschool.unm.edu

SCHOOL OF LAW HAPPENINGS • 2012

August 15-17
Orientation for the Class of 2015.
First-year students are welcomed to the UNM School of Law during three days of familiarizing activities. First day of classes is August 20.

September 5
Dean’s Circle Reception. Donors will gather in the dean’s suite at the UNM School of Law for an evening social event. Special invited guest is new UNM President Robert G. Frank. Save the Date!

September 19
Annual Scholarship Donor and Recipient Recognition Luncheon. Honoring our loyal and generous scholarship donors and the impact they make on our students’ lives.
Memorial for Former Professor Ann Scales. Tentative time, 4 p.m. Save the Date.

October 5
Re-Modeled Clinic Unveiling Open House. Save the Date!

October 5-6
UNM School of Law Hosts the Mountain West Regional Clinical Conference.

October 19
Distinguished Achievement Awards Dinner. Anne Bingaman, Richard Giverolo (’68), Professor Ted Parnell (’67) and Wendy York (’82) will be honored with the 2012 award for their accomplishments and dedicated service to the legal profession. Reception at 6 p.m., dinner and awards presentation at 7 p.m. UNM SUB Ballroom. Make a reservation today at: http://lawschool.unm.edu/alumni/events/2012/daad.php or contact Melissa Lobato at lobato@law.unm.edu.

Fall 2012
UNM School of Law Class Reunions: