From the Dean

It seems both new and familiar to be back in the dean’s office after 11 years as a faculty member. Some things have changed during that period but many things remain the same.

The “new” includes initiatives started by Dean Suellen Scarnecchia, described in this issue, that have moved the law school forward during her tenure. The “familiar” includes the responsibility of educating our students, the need to increase financial resources to provide the best education we can and the extra duties required of the dean by the judicial selection process.

I have agreed to serve as interim dean for one year. Although much of the focus for the coming year will be on the dean search, I intend to see that the school continues to move forward on Dean Scarnecchia’s initiatives and to ensure that we continue to provide a quality education for our students. Assisting me will be my administrative team of Barbara Bergman, associate dean for academic affairs; Laura Gómez, associate dean for faculty development and research; Antoinette Sedillo Lopez, associate dean for clinical affairs and Carol Parker, director of the Law Library. With our excellent faculty and staff and support from our alumni and friends my job will be made easier.

The search process will begin soon. The provost will appoint the dean search committee before the end of June and the committee should have the announcement of the position prepared and ready to be published by the end of July. The provost’s office has assured me that the search committee will include representatives of all law school constituencies: faculty, staff, students, alumni and the judiciary. I am confident that with the many advantages and attractions our law school presents, we will be able to recruit a pool of well-qualified candidates for the position. I expect that we will have a new dean selected by this time next year.

I am honored to serve as interim dean during the coming year. My experience in my term as dean was positive and rewarding, in part because of the support I received from the greater law school community. I look forward to serving the law school as dean again and ask for your support.

Best wishes,

Leo M. Romero

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To read more news from around the UNM School of Law, go to lawschool.unm.edu and click on news archives.
From the Alumni Board President

Times are changing at the UNM School of Law.

We bid farewell to Dean Suellyn Scarnecchia after five-and-one-half years. The first woman to lead the law school, she has accomplished a lot and has worked closely with the school’s alumni association.

For one, she established the Dean’s Circle, which has provided an avenue for increased giving levels on a regular basis. I am proud to be a member of this esteemed group and encourage everyone to join up. All it takes is a minimum annual donation of $1,000.

We wish her the best in her return to her hometown of Ann Arbor, Mich.

We also welcome a familiar face back at the helm of the school; Leo Romero has agreed to serve as interim dean during a nationwide search for a new dean. We will support Leo and expect to work closely with him this year and do whatever we can to ensure a smooth transition. He is a proven leader and we know he will keep moving the school forward.

The alumni association will provide assistance and input into the selection process and do everything we can to ensure a smooth transition when the new dean is hired.

Our next event is the UNM School of Law Alumni/ae Association Golf Tournament on July 25. This year the tournament kicks off a reunion weekend that will bring together classmates from 11 classes, along with special recognition of everyone who graduated in the 1950s.

I hope to see you at one of these upcoming events.

Sincerely,

Henry Narvaez
President
UNM School of Law Alumni/ae Association

New Zealand Chief Justice to Present 2008 Ramo Lecture

The Right Honourable Dame Sian Elias, chief justice of New Zealand, will present the 2008 Ramo Lecture on International Justice at the University of New Mexico School of Law. The lecture will begin at 5 p.m. on Oct. 23.

As chief justice, Dame Elias is the presiding judge of the Supreme Court of New Zealand, and she assumes the role of acting governor-general, New Zealand’s de facto head of state, when the governor-general is overseas or the position is vacant.

When she was sworn in as New Zealand’s first woman chief justice in 1999, she emphasized that judges must respond to the community, its values, history and its diverse cultures.

Dame Elias was born in London, but moved to New Zealand as a child. She earned an LLB from Auckland University in 1970, obtained a master’s in law from Stanford Law School two years later, after which she returned to New Zealand to join a law firm in Auckland. In 1975, she became a barrister.

In 1988, she was one of two New Zealand women appointed as Queen’s Counsel – the first from that country to be so recognized. For five years she was a member of the New Zealand Law Commission, during which time she took on a special project on Company Law and chaired an inquiry into the health consequences of a major chemical fire. She was counsel for the Māori Council in a landmark case that confirmed the principle of partnership and required Great Britain to take positive action to protect Māori land rights under the Treaty of Waitangi. Returning to private practice, she made frequent appearances in court on behalf of Māori claimants, and took the Manukau Harbour claim to the Waitangi Tribunal. She saw the treaty as cause for real optimism as it was founded on the expectation that justice would be achieved through the law. In 1995, she was appointed to the High Court, which was replaced by the Supreme Court in 2004.

Pamela Minzner Honored with New Chair

The University of New Mexico School of Law has begun a campaign to create a lasting honor and tribute to Pamela B. Minzner, the first woman to serve as chief justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court. She died in August 2007 after a recurrence of cancer.

Funds are being raised to establish the Pamela B. Minzner Chair in Professionalism, which will be awarded to a UNM law professor who exemplifies professionalism inside and outside the classroom. The Chair will last in perpetuity, providing support to the UNM law faculty and ensuring that students will be taught professionalism.

Minzner had been a member of the UNM law faculty for 12 years before being appointed to the state Court of Appeals in 1984. Ten years later, she was named to the Supreme Court.

In 2008, the state Legislature allocated $600,000 in matching funds to help establish the new Chair. Every donor gift will be matched dollar for dollar.

Please go to lawschool.edu/alumni and click on Pamela B. Minzner Chair in Professionalism for information on Justice Minzner and how to donate, or call Carmen Rawls at 277.8184.
Judge Harris L. Hartz of the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals discussed the importance of respect to the Class of 2008 during a Commencement ceremony, ending his keynote address with a little rendition of Aretha Franklin’s legendary song.

During the May 17 ceremony, outgoing Dean Suellen Scarnecchia received an honor from graduate Gail Chasey on behalf of the New Mexico Legislature. Chasey serves in the House of Representatives.

For a complete list of Class of 2008 honors and awards, go to lawschool.unm.edu and click on news archives.
Mock Trial Team Takes Second in Nationals

The UNM School of Law’s National Mock Trial team took home the second-place trophy in the final rounds of the national competition in late March.

The team of Stephen Lane, Heather Massoth and Robert Sanchez, all 3Ls, became the first UNM School of Law team to make it to the championship round of the National Mock Trial Competition. The team defeated Faulkner University law school in the semi-final round in Austin before losing in the finals to returning champions Chicago Kent University law school.

The UNM team of Heather Jaramillo, Athena Spencer and Nate Cobb narrowly missed advancing to the quarterfinal round, after facing extremely tough competition in the preliminary rounds. This was the first time in 19 years that the school sent two teams to the national competition. The students were coached by Steve Scholl (’89) and Brent Bailey.

More than 150 law schools participated in the competition, fielding more than 300 teams. From regional competitions held across the country, including one in Albuquerque, 28 teams advanced to the final rounds, including both UNM teams.

During the regional competition, 20 teams representing 10 schools took over the U.S. Federal Courthouse in downtown Albuquerque for two-and-one-half days. More than 150 alumni, students and friends of the UNM School of Law volunteered their time and talent to serve as judges, bailiffs, scorekeepers and witnesses.

ABA Negotiation Tournament

The UNM team of Seth Fullerton and Kyle Wackenheim took third place in the ABA Negotiation Tournament at Pepperdine University School of Law. A total of 24 teams competed.

Two additional UNM teams competed, each winning at least one negotiation. The teams were Shoshanah Epstein and Brian Close, and Paco Perez and Ed Maze. Their coach was Robert Rambo, a mediator with the New Mexico Court of Appeals.

This year’s topic was family law. In the first round, students negotiated a property settlement agreement and in round two they negotiated a custody agreement. Each side was provided with the same general information on the problem and their own confidential information.

The Alternative Dispute Resolution Student Association sponsored the teams.

Environmental Law Moot Court

The team of Nat Chakeres, Jared DeJong and Josh Eden competed against teams from 70 law schools in the National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition. Chakeres won best oralist in the first round and DeJong was best oralist in the third round. Professor Eileen Gauna was their coach and says, “They were incredibly sharp and well-prepared to argue the six issues in a very complex Clean Water Act and FIFRA (pesticide) problem.”

Health Law Moot Court

Breanon Cole, Phyllis Jankowski, Kevin Pierce and Christina Sheehan competed in the National Health Law Moot Court Competition. Their coach, Mary Behm (’99) says, “Their performances were absolutely stellar. They were extremely poised and were a delightful group in every way.”

NALSA Moot Court

The UNM team of Jacob Keys and Gertrude Lee advanced to the Sweet Sixteen in the National NALSA Moot Court competition at Arizona State University. The team of Terry Aquilar and John Young also competed. More than 50 teams participated.

The teams were coached by Rodina Cave and Dan Rey-Bear, who both work for the Nordhaus Law Firm.

“They certainly impressed the judges and UNM should be proud to be represented by these two teams,” says Cave. “They were tremendously dedicated, committed to the practices, to learning more about the issues and to bettering not just the arguments but their presentation of the arguments.”

National Moot Court

The team of Deborah Stambaugh and Kyle Wackenheim gave an impressive performance at the regional competition in Boston. This year’s problem involved a perplexing confluence of substantive immigration law and administrative law doctrines relating to judicial review. The team was coached by Ed Ricco (’80).
Law Goes Live at an Albuquerque High School

Last semester, the New Mexico Court of Appeals took its show on the road, setting up court in a lecture hall at Valley High School in Albuquerque. A three-member panel consisting of Chief Judge Jonathan Sutin ('63), Judge A. Joseph Alarid and Judge Cynthia Fry ('81) heard oral argument in the case of State v. Hernandez, in which James Hernandez was appealing his conviction of shoplifting more than $250.

Valley students filled the lecture hall, keen to see firsthand the legal profession in action. To help them better understand the proceedings, four first-year UNM School of Law students visited with the Valley students the week prior to the argument, discussing the facts and issues of the case, the trial and appellate process and answering any questions. Prepping the law students and the high school students were three Albuquerque lawyers, led by Lynn Mostoller ('04), an associate at Keleher & McLeod, sole practitioner Tony Jeffries ('75) and Gordon Little ('83), a partner with Little & Turner.

"For high school students to learn about our court system and get exposed to the real thing is very exciting," says Mostoller, who coordinated the event as chair of an Albuquerque Bar Association committee. "And it was great for the lawyers involved to actually see students given a better idea of what the profession is all about."

More appellate arguments have been planned for around the state. Through these live arguments, Court of Appeals judges seek to expose the legal system to students around the state. "No one doubts that education of the public in a positive way about the important role of lawyers and judges in the society is necessary," says Judge Sutin, who was instrumental in organizing the off-site arguments.

Valley High School, which has a legal studies program, was chosen through a partnership with the University of New Mexico School of Law’s Pipeline Project, which encourages minorities to pursue higher education. Volunteering their time were lawyers from the Albuquerque Bar Association and UNM law students Esperanza Lujan, Othiamba Umi, Al Hutchinson and Javier Martinez.

"I was really impressed by the students’ knowledge and enthusiasm about the law as we discussed legal theory and concepts about the court system," says Umi. "Seeing the Court of Appeals for the first time allowed me to connect what I’ve been learning in the classroom to real world justice."

Tanya Campos New Recruitment Specialist

Tanya Campos has joined the UNM School of Law staff as Recruitment and Admissions Specialist. She brings a diverse and extensive set of skills and experiences in student affairs and higher education recruitment.

Campos has worked at UNM for nine years, including six years with the main campus office of Career Services, where she advised graduate students. She also has worked with Accessibility Services, the College Enrichment Program, the Women’s Resource Center and the Dean of Students.

She grew up at Isleta Pueblo and earned her B.A. at Wellesley College. She earned a master’s degree in counseling at UNM and is completing a Ph.D. at UNM with a focus on recruitment and retention of minority and under-represented students in higher education.

"I’m excited to be using my background in higher education student affairs and I look forward to getting to know the students in such a small community," she says.
Pamela S. Karlan, one of the nation’s leading experts on voting and the political process, presented the 2008 John Field Simms/Alumni/ae Association Memorial Lecture last March.

The topic of her lecture, “What Can Brown Do for You?” focused on a current debate about the significance of Brown v. Board of Education. She tied this debate back into one of the most widely cited pieces of legal scholarship ever written, Herbert Wechsler’s 1959 article, “Toward Neutral Principles in Constitutional Law.”

Karlan is founding director of Stanford Law School’s Supreme Court Litigation Clinic, in which students litigate live cases before the nation’s high court. She has served as a commissioner on the California Fair Political Practices Commission and as assistant counsel and cooperating attorney for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

The John Field Simms Memorial Lecture was established in 1954 by Albert Simms in memory of his brother, John, who had served on the New Mexico Supreme Court, as a UNM regent and was a highly respected trial lawyer. The UNM School of Law Alumni/ae Association now donates funds annually to support the Simms lecture series, enabling it to be held every other year.
Scholarship Established to Honor James Quinn

Not long after James Quinn, a popular first-year law student was killed in a tragic bicycle accident last fall, his classmates wanted to make sure he would always be remembered. To honor him, they established the James Quinn Memorial Scholarship and this spring planted an Indian Magic crabapple off the back patio, with yellow marigolds alongside. Quinn’s mother and sister participated in the tree-planting ceremony.

In addition, the City of Albuquerque dedicated a new bike bridge across the Embudo Channel in Quinn’s name. Along with being a serious cyclist, he was interested in natural resources and conservation law.

So far, nearly $8,000 has been raised toward the scholarship, with a goal of having it endowed within three years. To date, the money raised has mostly come from inside the law school: students, faculty and staff. To endow the scholarship, they must raise $15,000.

“We wanted to create memorials consistent with James’ personal attributes,” says Sean Cunniff, a classmate.

Once established, the scholarship will be awarded to an incoming student who shares Quinn’s interests and values.

“James was committed to his beliefs,” says Cunniff. “He limited his personal footprint, riding his bike to school and driving a biofuel car that he retrofitted himself.”

Donations can be made to the James Quinn Memorial Scholarship fund through the UNM Foundation or by mailing a donation directly to: Carmen Rawls, UNM School of Law, MSC 11-6070, 1 University of New Mexico, 87131-0001.

Network Looks to Improve Legal Education

The University of New Mexico School of Law has joined a consortium of 10 law schools nationwide that will look at ways to improve how law schools operate. The network, led by Stanford Law School and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, will address topics ranging from curricula to providing more practical, real-world training for law students.

Several recent reports and discussions have pointed out the challenges law schools face in educating and preparing students to become lawyers. “UNM School of Law will be an active participant in this debate,” says Dean Leo Romero. “We have a lot to offer, including our experience with required clinics and movement of faculty between the clinics and classroom. Our participation will also allow us to learn much from the experience of other schools. This is a great opportunity for our school.”

Spearheading the project is Lawrence Marshall, associate dean for public service and clinical education at Stanford Law School. “We’re hoping to create a significant catalyst for rethinking the idea of legal education for this millennium.”

Other schools participating are: City University of New York School of Law, University of Dayton School of Law, Georgetown University Law Center, Harvard Law school, New York University School of Law, Southwestern University School of Law and Vanderbilt University Law School.
Dean Suellyn Scarnecchia Moves School Forward

Dean Suellyn Scarnecchia arrived at the University of New Mexico School of Law in 2003, the first woman to lead the school. She brought vision, a desire to learn about and serve the legal needs of New Mexicans and the legal community and a plan to promote professional dialogue among students.

In May, she returned to her hometown of Ann Arbor, Mich., to become vice president and general counsel of the University of Michigan, where she will supervise 20 lawyers who practice in diverse areas of law.

She leaves behind a long list of accomplishments, which, she emphasizes, were the result of many people working together.

Following are some highlights:

• Developed a strategic plan. Many items in this plan have already been accomplished and a new strategic plan is in process.

• Established an economic development program. This program grew out of the faculty’s strategic planning process in response to feedback from the business community and Gov. Bill Richardson’s economic development push for the state. A new Business and Tax Clinic was established, new faculty members were hired and more business law classes were added to the curriculum.

• Fundraising Success. The Dean’s Circle was initiated, promoting regular giving at $1,000 or more a year. This group has grown to nearly 100 members.

• Success at the Legislature. The law school received funding to hire a second professor to teach in the Southwest Indian Law Clinic; a $200,000 annual appropriation for the Law Library and $600,000 in matching funds for the Pamela B. Minner Chair in Professionalism.

• Increased Diversity in Faculty. For the first time, more than half of the faculty are women and more than 40 percent of the faculty are from minority groups. Also, the hiring of Laura Gomez, associate dean for faculty development, was the first joint appointment for the law school with another college at UNM. Scarnecchia also made a concerted effort to increase the visibility of more conservative lawyers and judges in the classroom and in other programming.

• Difficult Dialogues Series. Scarnecchia established a new course titled, “Difficult Dialogues,” in which students learned how to publicly and professionally discuss contentious and emotionally charged issues.

“T would like to think that I helped open the school up to more people with a diversity of viewpoints and my hope is that the school continues to promote dialogue among people from all political viewpoints,” she says. “I am very proud of how the students have taken responsibility for their own professional development and I believe they think of themselves more as emerging professionals and less as students.”

Scarnecchia’s outsider perspective brought a fresh approach to the school’s operations. She encouraged faculty and staff to pursue their own ideas for how to improve the school. The result has included an educational pipeline program, a modernized career and student services office and a more streamlined and sophisticated law library.

She will miss the personal relationships she has developed with the faculty, alumni, staff and students and most especially the regular contact with students. While she loved New Mexico, as time passed, she missed her family in Ann Arbor even more, which is what precipitated her return home.

But she is excited about the challenge to learn about more areas of the law and how they relate to the university, and she looks forward to working with Mary Sue Coleman, president of the University of Michigan and a former UNM provost.
Suelyn and New Mexico

Q: What will you miss most about Albuquerque?
A: The blue skies

Q: What is your favorite color, red or green?
A: Green

Q: What did you enjoy most during your time off?
A: Walking to Flying Star along the bosque on the West Side.

Q: How many times did you ride the tram?
A: Maybe six, always with out of town guests.

Q: How many times did you dip your toes into the Rio Grande?
A: Zero. Sorry, rivers and lakes are just more inviting in Michigan.

Q: What about New Mexico would you take back to Ann Arbor if you could?
A: The UNM School of Law
A group of UNM law students went to the head of the class at the South Valley Academy, an Albuquerque Public Schools charter high school, in late February. The law students led discussions about credit cards, payday lending and compound interest during a financial literacy service day.

In classrooms across campus, law students passed out Monopoly money for a dice game that illustrated the differences between payday loans and bank savings accounts and discussed the fine points of credit cards and credit scores. In the school’s computer labs, the law students, as well as UNM graduate student Dan Otter, walked high school students through the basics of saving and demonstrated the magic of compound interest. Other future lawyers shared their own personal stories in an effort to show how going to college and graduate school can lead to a brighter future.

Eighteen UNM law students participated in the service-learning day, which was organized by UNM Law Professor Nathalie Martin and Stewart Paley, a teacher at South Valley Academy. MALSA, the law school’s Business Law Society and the Business and Tax Clinic all participated in the event.

“Following the event, the high school students were still talking about the wonders of compounding and the evils of credit cards,” said Paley. “Many now want to open a bank account, and the chart on salaries has more of them than ever interested in attending college.”

The service day was part of an effort at the UNM School of Law to promote financial literacy in the community. To help with that effort, Wells Fargo recently awarded a $50,000 grant to the law school as part of its own initiative to increase financial literacy among students across the country.

“We can’t wait to expand this program to other schools in Albuquerque, with the help of Wells Fargo and other community sponsors,” said Martin.

Clinic Student Helps Bring Water to Pajarito Mesa

After eight years of hauling water any way they could, residents of Pajarito Mesa, an unincorporated colonia south of Albuquerque, will be receiving their own centralized fill station. The UNM School of Law clinical program was instrumental in making it happen.

After the state Legislature approved $750,000 for the Pajarito Mesa Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association, the group approached New Mexico Legal Aid, which referred them to the clinic, which is where Kristina Fisher took over.

Under the supervision of professors Fred Hart and Nathalie Martin, who was teaching the Business and Tax Clinic, Fisher reviewed a contract the association had received from the Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority, which will be providing the water. She offered a few suggestions, thrilled to be working on a water issue.

Fisher, who came to law school to study environmental law and was editor-in-chief of the Natural Resources Journal, had very little background in business law prior to taking the clinic.

“It was a quick learning experience, figuring out what I need to look for in a contract and feeling comfortable to be able to explain to the group about the provisions and what they need to be concerned about,” she says. “It was great to be able to serve this group that is so underserved.”

Next, the clinic will help the Pajarito association work out an agreement between the association and the individual water users to figure out a pay structure. Water is expected to be pumped to the mesa by next February.
NRJ Symposium Looks at Land Grants

“Land Grants and the Law: A Symposium on the Disputed Legal Histories of New Mexico’s Land Grants” was the title of a day-long symposium organized by the Natural Resources Journal.

The goal of the April 12 symposium was to present and discuss recent research related to New Mexico’s Spanish and Mexican land grants, which have been the subject of social and legal conflict since the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848. This topic exemplifies the core mission of the Natural Resources Journal: to establish a dialogue about natural resources issues that crosses the artificial boundaries separating the discipline of law from those of history, policy and science, and also addresses important issues that have real relevance to policymakers, practitioners and ordinary New Mexicans.

About 90 people attended, including many members of community land grants across New Mexico, a member of the Legislature’s land grant committee, a member of U.S. Rep. Tom Udall’s staff and a group of high school students from Amy Biehl Charter School in Albuquerque.

All the papers presented at the symposium will be available in an upcoming issue of the NRJ, and the presentations will be available on DVD.

Clinic Students Take on Asylum Case

Working on an asylum case in the Community Lawyering Clinic this past spring, three UNM law students learned more than how to research a case; they learned about the higher stakes that can be involved when representing a client.

The case involved a man who had been persecuted by an extremist political party for his religious and political views and was charged with blasphemy, a crime punishable by death in his native country. His case came to the attention of Jenny Landau (’06), who has been providing legal representation to immigrants as part of an Equal Justice Works fellowship with Diocesan Migrant and Refugee Services.

Under the supervision of Landau and Professor Carol Suzuki, who worked on asylum cases prior to joining the UNM clinical law faculty, the students handled every aspect of the case: they filed an amended application for asylum with the El Paso Immigration Court, wrote an accompanying affidavit, a supporting brief and argued the case before a judge in El Paso.

“At the hearing, Blake presented the opening statement, Malone performed a direct examination of their client and Cummings presented the closing argument. Throughout the case’s preparation, the judge graciously accommodated the students’ schedules and even facilitated an impromptu tour of the El Paso immigration detention facility.

“When the judge granted asylum to their client, everybody wept.

“This was a wonderful experience for the students,” says Suzuki. “It was great to be able to take on this important work at the UNM law school and I hope we can work on more asylum cases.”

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Indian Law

Robert Medina Tapped as Zia Pueblo’s First Judge

Robert Medina had a good job working in corporate security when he set his sights on law school as a way to help his community at Zia Pueblo.

Last February, his goal was met when he became the tribe’s first-ever tribal judge trained in the law. After graduation last May, the position became full time and now he is continuing in earnest his efforts to develop a separate judicial system for the pueblo.

Initially, he is holding court in the tribal council chambers, but would like to see a courtroom built eventually.

Another priority is to revise the pueblo’s law and order code: “It is the same one the BIA gave us in the 1960s and is not based on tribal values,” he says.

Medina was a tribal police officer in 2000, the only one with a home phone, when he decided to begin his journey toward law school. He earned two associate degrees at CNM, then a B.S. in criminology at UNM.

At the UNM School of Law, he concentrated on economic development. “Even if we create the best judicial system for our community, we will still need money to operate it,” he says.

“I have gained a good foundation in understanding codes and regulations, which will help me as I create a new tribal code,” he says. “And I know my new laws will be challenged, so I need to be sure they can withstand those challenges.

Medina will work closely with the tribal council in revamping the law and order code, making sure it better reflects the tribe’s values. “I have to live with the tribal members who will come before me, and I will use the judicial system to help with social problems, as well,” he says. “I’m pleased that the dream I had is becoming a reality and I look forward to moving the pueblo forward.”

Francine Hatch Named to Isleta Appellate Court

Francine Hatch has been appointed an associate justice on the Pueblo of Isleta Appellate Court. She joins UNM Law Professor Christine Zuni Cruz (’82) and William Johnson (’90) on the tribal court.

The appellate tribal court was established in 1999 and is continuing to develop rules of procedure and precedent through its decisions. Previously, the Isleta Tribal Council served as the tribe’s appeals court. Johnson serves as chief justice and both he and Zuni Cruz have served since the court’s inception.

‘Having a functioning and independent tribal court system further promotes tribal self-government and I look forward to the many challenges this opportunity presents, especially in developing a body of law that reflects and respects the tradition, culture and needs of the people we serve,” says Hatch.

Hatch, a member of the Pueblo, grew up at Isleta and still lives there with her three children. Prior to law school, she was employed by the Isleta Casino for five years, managing all aspects of the casino operations. Working with tribal government and regulatory bodies, along with outside vendors, opened her eyes to the many challenges involved with economic development in Indian Country.

She often relied on lawyers to work out contracts and also noticed a gap in the perception and significance of sovereignty between tribal members and outsiders. In 2002, she returned to college at the University of Washington to finish up her undergraduate degree with the sole intention of attending law school. At UNM, she diversified her studies in an effort to prepare for the wide range of legal issues tribes face, including classes in Indian and Business law.
Sherri Thomas Builds Indian Law Collection

Sherri Thomas knows that Indian Law is not a straightforward legal field. Its many layers of government and cultural contexts make it unique. She has taken all of this into consideration in her efforts to build up the UNM Law Library's Indian law collection.

Already, she has compiled a broad range of web-based resources that include federal case law, treaties, Native American organizations, publications, along with tribal codes and constitutions. They can be accessed at no cost from the law library's website: lawlibrary.unm.edu, then clicking on Indian Law.

“We can’t look at U.S. Indian law in a vacuum because of how it potentially affects indigenous people around the world,” says Thomas, a 2005 graduate of the UNM School of Law where she earned an Indian Law certificate. “You can’t look at statutes and cases alone. We also need a cultural context.”

She also is making available on UNM’s DSpace trial transcripts of U.S. Supreme Court cases that involve tribal issues, recognizing the significance of witness testimony in Indian law cases.

In her efforts to build the collection, Thomas has begun the slow process of acquiring tribal statutes and codes, beginning with New Mexico tribes and pueblos, and then building outward across the country.

Symposium Focuses on Indian Country Statute

Scholars and practitioners gathered for a day-long symposium on issues facing tribes 60 years after the enactment of the federal Indian Country statute.

Topics discussed during the April event included the history of the law and an overview of doctrines pertaining to the diminishment of Indian country, along with regional issues arising from the statute. Presenters also addressed the role of the attorney as problem-solver and negotiator in resolving jurisdictional issues and jurisdictional implications of the patchwork within Indian country.

The symposium was sponsored by the UNM School of Law, the American Indian Law Center, the Nordhaus Law Firm and the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center.
Faculty News

In Print

Denise Fort is co-author of Prospects For Managed Underground Storage Of Recoverable Water, National Academies Press (2007). The book was published by the National Research Council of the National Academies.

Fort, who has expertise in water quality, groundwater and water resources, was asked to join the panel of experts that prepared the book. She collaborated on a chapter that looked at legal and economic questions of how different jurisdictions determine whether a project to store underground water is viable.

Chris Fritz explores how Americans struggled over the idea that the people would rule as the sovereign after the American Revolution in his book, American Sovereigns: The People And America’s Constitutional Tradition Before The Civil War, Cambridge University Press (2007).

In the 440-page book, he challenges traditional American constitutional history, theory and jurisprudence, which trace the country’s constitutionalism to the 1787 Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. Rather, he examines how debates both before and after the convention revealed Americans struggling to understand how a collective sovereign – the people – could both play the role as the ruler and yet be ruled by governments of their own choosing.

Steven Homer assisted with the third edition of the ground-breaking casebook by Rubenstein, Ball & Schacter, Cases And Materials On Sexual Orientation And The Law, Thomson West (2008). He worked on the first edition when he was a law student at Harvard Law School.

Carol Suzuki has written a chapter in the casebook, Aids And The Law, Aspen (2008). Her chapter is titled, “Issues in Family Law for People with HIV”.

Honors and Recognition

Sherri Burr received two first-place awards in the 2008 New Mexico Press Women Communication Competition. She also received two third-place awards and an honorable mention. The first-place awards were for “Focus on University Candidate’s Positives” in the Editorial/Opinion/Daily Newspaper category and for “Athletes as Television Celebrities” in the Speeches category. The first-place entries will be entered in the National Federation of Press Women Competition.

Marsha Baum’s recent book, When Nature Strikes: Weather Disasters And The Law, received an honorable mention for “a comprehensive treatment of weather and jurisprudence” by the Atmospheric Science Librarians International (ASLI). Published in 2007 by Praeger/Greenwood, it was the first book to discuss the interconnection between weather and the law in the United States in the context of specific cases, legislation and administrative legal action.

Jim Ellis was presented with the Regents’ Meritorious Service Award for his dedication to the students he has taught and mentored, his impact on the legal profession and his tireless defense of the rights of people with mental disabilities in the criminal and civil justice system. The UNM Board of Regents rarely bestows the award, which is given to honor staff and faculty members in recognition of extraordinary and distinguished service to the university.


Ted Parnall was named Business Lawyer of the Year by the Business Law Section of the State Bar of New Mexico.

New Associate Dean

Barbara Bergman is the new Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the UNM School of Law.

On The Go

Margaret Montoya has been awarded CUNY Law School’s Haywood Burns Chair in Civil Rights for 2008-09. The Burns Chair is awarded to “leading figures in civil rights law, selected because they will inspire, empower, and enable a new generation of lawyers in the fight for racial justice.” She will spend the Spring 2009 semester at CUNY.

Margaret Montoya and Christine Zuni Cruz were invited panel members at the inaugural symposium of the Freedom Center Journal, titled, “Reconstructions: Historical Consciousness and Critical Transformation.” The symposium at the University of Cincinnati College of Law explored the uses of history to understand ongoing subordination and to craft strategies for social change.

Ted Parnall completed his fourth assignment in Afghanistan, working all four times for the Afghanistan Rule of Law Project. He presented seminars and worked with judges, law officials and professors in a number of cities, including Kabul, Herat, Mazar al Sharif and Jelalabad.

He also was named the senior legal adviser to a United Nations Development Program (UNDP) project with the Vietnamese Ministry of Justice. Throughout 2008, he will make several trips to Hanoi, working to help advance Vietnam’s new law development strategy.

Christine Zuni Cruz spent a month as the Visiting Wallace S. Fujiyama Professor at the University of Hawai’i’s William S. Richardson School of Law, where she taught the law of indigenous peoples.

She presented a public lecture on traditional and contemporary aspects of the internal law of tribes and the complex interrelationship between the two. During her lecture at the law school, she also discussed the tremendous influence exerted by outside forces on the internal law of indigenous peoples. She also was an invited guest on Hawaii Public Radio’s Think Tech show.

New Hires

Reed Benson will teach water law in the fall and he takes over as editor-in-chief of the Natural Resources Journal.

Theresa Strike works in the Faculty and Public Services Department of the UNM Law Library and is an assistant professor of law librarianship.

See complete faculty profiles at lawschool.unm.edu/faculty
Enjoying Retirement

Professors Michael Browde and Em Hall have retired from the UNM law faculty and are now emeriti professors.

Browde is working on a number of projects outside the law school and this summer will co-teach Discerning the Signs of the Times, a week-long seminar, at Ghost Ranch. He especially enjoys his morning coffee outdoors, visits from his grandchildren and traveling with his wife, Ruth Singer, who also retired this year, from the Utton Transboundary Resources Center.

Hall has continued to serve as editor-in-chief of the Natural Resources Journal and will turn it over to Reed Benson, who is joining the faculty this summer. He is busy with seven writing projects, including a heavily illustrated history of the Rio Grande, and spends the rest of his time in his garden.

In Memoriam

Garrett Flickinger, Longtime UNM Law Professor, Dies

W. Garrett Flickinger, a well-respected professor at the UNM School of Law for 19 years before retiring in 1994, died in April. He was 79.

He would have preferred to make his living in the theater, becoming hooked at the age of 9 when he played the majordomo in "Sleeping Beauty of Loreland", in South Bend. Ind. After realizing he wasn't cut out to be a chemical engineer, he shifted his focus to law, with a fond image of Perry Mason in mind. He earned his undergraduate degree at Yale University and his J.D. in 1953 from the University of Michigan.

He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict. Flickinger spent five years with the New York City law firm of White & Case, interrupted by a stint in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict. After he returned, he turned to teaching, first at Boston University and then moving on to Kentucky University School of Law before joining the law faculty at UNM. Right away, he embraced the collegiality of the faculty and students, finding it a refreshing break from the intense competitiveness of other law schools.

At UNM, he was the resident expert in the areas of property and wills and trusts and served as a mentor to younger faculty teaching these courses. He also contributed his theatrical talents in the classroom and delighted audiences with his performances, writing and direction of entertainment at the annual meetings of the national Law School Admission Council.

He loved the pomp and circumstance of graduations, always representing the law school at the main campus commencement ceremonies. At the law school graduation, he served as unofficial academic attire inspector, assuring that all faculty wore their robes in the proper fashion and had their tassels correctly in place.

At the same time, Flickinger’s views on social issues were very progressive, and at important moments in the law school’s history, he brought to discussions both a strong sense of the past and an innovative approach to the future. He was a staunch supporter of social justice and his work on the admissions committee was especially important to the school and the profession.

Throughout his career, he remained active in theater, performing in summer stock, mostly musical comedies. Following his retirement, he was able to increase his involvement and performed in 35 Music Theatre Southwest productions. His two favorite roles were Joseph Porter in “H.M.S. Pinafore” and the Major General in “The Pirates of Penzance.”
Lynn Slade
Prefers Indian Law

As an undergraduate at the University of New Mexico, Lynn Slade envisioned himself as an economics professor. He majored in economics and minored in political science. When he finally admitted that he was terrible at math, he shifted his direction and headed to law school.

“Law struck me as interesting and open-ended,” he says. “I’m sure my eighth-grade civics teacher at Jefferson Middle School, who first exposed me to law, also played a role.”

After graduating from the UNM School of Law in 1976, Slade joined the firm of Modrall, Sperling, Harris, Roehl & Sisk and has remained there ever since. Having been a member of the National Moot Court team in school, he looked forward to a career as a litigator.

Through the years, his practice has focused on natural resources, environmental, water, oil and gas and Indian law. Most recently, he has increased his work in Indian law, an area that he personally finds fascinating. He chairs the firm’s 10-member Indian law group.

“Early on, I researched a fascinating and insoluble case that involved litigation with the Jicarilla Apaches and Navajos and discovered there were a lot of unresolved issues in Indian law,” he says. “Tribes were just beginning to change the conception of what they were.”

He has been involved in six cases in the U.S. Supreme Court, most concerning tribal jurisdiction over non-members.

“I have enjoyed the complex transactions, being able to reconcile tribes’ desire for sovereignty with my clients’ interests,” he says.

For in-depth interviews, go to lawschool.unm.edu/alumni and click on alumni profiles.

A Conversation with Lynn Slade

Q: What was your favorite class in law school?
A: Federal jurisdiction with Ted Occhialino. It tied together a lot of things from different classes and definitely has done me the most good in practice.

Q: Who was your favorite professor?
A: Joe Goldberg. He was interesting, provocative and entertaining.

Q: What law would you like to see thrown out?
A: The laws defining detainees’ rights at Guantanamo Bay.

Q: What is the last book you read?
A: Founding Brothers by Joseph Ellis.

Q: If you weren’t a lawyer, what would be your dream job?
A: An architect. People, aesthetics, function.

Q: What do you like best about your job?
A: I’ve never been bored a day. The work changes constantly and I’m dealing with problems that are interesting to me.

Cindy Lovato-Farmer
Catches Mentoring Spirit

Cindy Lovato-Farmer wasn’t even out of law school when she argued her first case before the New Mexico Supreme Court. She had taken on the case during her clinical rotation.

“I argued before the Supreme Court one week, graduated from law school the next week and got married the following week,” she says.

Lovato, who was born and raised at San Juan Pueblo, had been planning a career in journalism until she spent a summer working for the Associated Press in Albuquerque. She found that rather than remain neutral at meetings, she wanted to jump up and voice her opinion.

The following year, she enrolled at the UNM School of Law. Throughout law school, she focused on water law, earning her J.D. in 1993. She spent the next two-and-one-half years clerking for U.S. District Judge Martha Vasquez, during which she discovered how much she enjoyed employment law.

She joined the Albuquerque firm of Dines, Wilson & Gross, where she developed an employment law practice, which she continued to build at the Narvaez Law Firm.

Shortly before her daughter was born in 2002, Lovato-Farmer joined Los Alamos National Laboratory in the Employment and Litigation group, which she now heads.
Barbara Shapiro: Teacher, Lawyer, Artist

After growing up in a village on Long Island where nobody locked their doors, Barbara Shapiro headed off for a life filled with degrees and life changes.

After earning her B.A. at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, she went on to Harvard University, obtaining a master’s and Ph.D. in English. For eight years, she taught English literature at the college level, including Colorado State University, a move that convinced her the West was where she wanted to settle.

When her husband, Dan (’77), wanted to add a law degree to his Harvard medical degree, they moved to Santa Fe and he enrolled in the UNM School of Law. Unable to find a teaching job, Barbara became a lobbyist in 1974, trained by Anne Bingaman specifically to lobby the Legislature to fight an effort to repeal the Equal Rights Amendment, which had passed the year before.

After this experience and sitting in on a few classes with her husband at the UNM School of Law, she enrolled, graduating in 1978.

Barbara joined Poole, Tinnin & Martin, where she built a family law practice. When the firm dissolved in 1993, she continued to practice on her own for five more years, until she grew tired of the pace and took on a new challenge that combined her professional talents: writing and family law.

She wrote *Family Law In New Mexico*, and has added updates to it every two years since. With Antoinette Sedillo Lopez, associate dean for clinical affairs – who is doing the primary writing – Barbara is working on a second edition.

In 2001, she embarked upon her third career, taking a landscape design class at UNM, which led her to printmaking, in which she is now immersed. She is on track to receive a B.F.A. in 2009 and her goal these days is to continue to develop as an artist.

A Conversation with Barbara Shapiro

Q: What was your favorite class in law school?
A: Family law. It helped me think as a lawyer.

Q: Who was your favorite teacher?
A: Lee Teitelbaum

Q: Name one law you would like to see thrown out.
A: All old laws dealing with divorce that are fault-based.

Q: Who is your favorite U.S. Supreme Court Justice?
A: William O. Douglas

Q: If you weren’t a lawyer, what would be your dream job?
A: I’ve gone through three professions: teacher, lawyer and now I want to be an artist.

Q: What did you like best about practicing law?
A: Helping people solve their problems in a way they felt they received a fair deal and could move on.

Three years ago, she joined the Board of Directors of the UNM School of Law Alumni/ae Association and enjoys being reconnected to the school.

Throughout her career, Lovato-Farmer has received support from law professors and mentors in the profession. Now, whenever possible, she returns the support to students in northern New Mexico seeking advice on law school.

“Their enthusiasm is catching,” she says. “Mentoring young people only adds to our legal community. After all, students today will be lawyers tomorrow.”

A Conversation with Cindy Lovato-Farmer

Q: What was your favorite class in law school?
A: Property; it made sense to me. The reason why was Em Hall. I loved his teaching style and he was always positive and supportive.

Q: Who was your favorite teacher?
A: Em Hall and Chuck DuMars. They were both very supportive and encouraging.

Q: What is the last book you read?
A: *Lisey’s Story* by Stephen King. It was a book on tape, which is all I have time for; I listen during my commute to Los Alamos from Santa Fe.

Q: If you weren’t a lawyer, what would be your dream job?
A: I love being a lawyer. My dream job would be having no commute.

Q: What do you do in your spare time?
A: I spend time with my 5-year-old daughter and run. I’m training for my first half marathon.
Charles Daniels Named to New Mexico Supreme Court

Charles Daniels has spent more than 30 years representing clients – in criminal defense cases, business and securities litigations, civil rights cases and lawsuits impacting Constitutional law. Last fall, he was sworn in as the newest member of the New Mexico Supreme Court.

“I’ve had a great opportunity to work for justice one client at a time,” he said of his past career. “Now, I have an even more extraordinary opportunity.”

Daniels is the son of Arkansas sharecroppers who never finished high school. He grew up in Albuquerque and after earning a bachelor’s degree in fine arts at the University of Arizona, where he was completing his service in the U.S. Air Force, in 1969 he graduated first in his class at the University of New Mexico School of Law. In 1971, he earned an LL.M. from Georgetown University Law Center as an E. Barrett Prettyman Fellow.

He returned to New Mexico and joined the faculty of his alma mater. He left full-time teaching in 1976 to establish the Albuquerque law firm now known as Freedman, Boyd, Daniels, Hollander, Goldberg & Ives, with two of his former students. He also continued teaching as an adjunct professor at the UNM law school until his appointment to the bench in October.

“Charles Daniels exemplifies the qualities necessary to serve on New Mexico’s highest court,” Gov. Bill Richardson said in a press release.

Daniels also is well known for his interests outside the courtroom – car racing, playing guitar and singing in a band. He is married to Randi McGinn (’80), an Albuquerque lawyer.
Richard Civerolo: Making his Mark by Giving Back

The walls of Richard Civerolo’s office tell a story of a man devoted to his community and profession. On nearly every available space is a framed certificate of appreciation or award from one organization or another. Even he doesn’t know how he found the time to devote to so many interests, on top of running the Civerolo, Gralow, Hill & Curtis law firm.

At 90, he has slowed down some, but he continues to represent clients and counsel his firm’s lawyers on cases, and he serves on State Bar panels.

A Natural Leader

Civerolo grew up in Gallup, the son of a coal miner. At an early age he delivered newspapers on foot because his family couldn’t afford a bicycle and his youngest brother baked bread in an outdoor oven, which he stoked for her. He was the youngest in the family of five boys and one girl. In 1942, he enlisted as a private in the U.S. Army, participated in the invasion of France and served under Gen. George Patton in the Third Army. He was honorably discharged as a captain in 1945.

The military changed his life: he met his wife, Mary Shiavo, when he was stationed at Little Rock, Ark., and also discovered a talent for leadership. He married Mary on a Saturday and the following week he started classes at the University of New Mexico on the GI Bill of Rights. Five years later, in 1950, he earned both a B.A. and LLB, a member of the first graduating class of the new UNM School of Law.

In college, Civerolo already was demonstrating his capacity and devotion to extra-curricular activities. A member of numerous organizations, he is most proud of his effort as president of the Inter-Fraternity Council that led to the commission of the lobo statue that still stands in front of Johnson Center.

During his first year of law school, he attended classes in the north wing of Zimmerman Stadium. To accommodate the second class, a barracks was moved from Kirtland Air Force Base onto campus and became the classroom, with the library and administrative office remaining in the stadium. While a student, he worked for Professor Aric Poldervaart in the law library for $1.10/hour.

When it came time to take the bar exam in Santa Fe, because of his bad handwriting, he was permitted to bring along a typewriter and was seated by himself in the library.

A few days after being admitted to practice, he won his first case before a district judge, representing a client who was seeking lost wages working for a mining company by arguing that his client was really a partner in the business.

Initially, he shared office space with Gino Matteucci and Pete Domenici but as his client base grew, he began bringing in lawyers, building the firm to 30 members at one time. These days, 13 lawyers are members of the firm. He is proud that five former lawyers from his firm have become members of the judiciary.

A Distinguished Career

Civerolo has tried more than 100 jury trials, and has recorded 50 appellate cases in the state and federal court systems. His cases have involved medical malpractice suits, commercial litigation and defending insurance companies. In the early 1980s, he defended St. Vincent Hospital in Santa Fe, one of the named defendants in what was the state’s first HIV case. He also defended St. Joseph’s Hospital, a named defendant in cases relating to radiation treatment of patients who suffered from prostate cancer.

He organized and served as general counsel and on the board of directors of Western Bank for 27 years, and was involved in representing AMREP, one of the first developers of Rio Rancho.

Despite his success in the courtroom, Civerolo prefers to talk about his community activities, especially the more than 40 years working with the American Cancer Society as national delegate, division president, member of the Board of Directors Executive Committee, counsel for the society and honorary life member. He also was commander of the New Mexico Disabled American Veterans, special assistant attorney general for the State of New Mexico from 1962-1970, member and diplomat of the American Board of Trial Advocates, past national president of the American Board of Trial Advocates and fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, among others.

While serving as president of the New Mexico Cancer Society, he was involved in working with the then-Bernalillo County Indian Hospital, establishing a tumor registry and obtaining from the National American Cancer Society an electronic microscope for the clinic that later became the UNM Cancer Center.

He was involved in developing the New Mexico Medical Malpractice Act, has served on a variety of medical committees, and in 1992 became the first lawyer to be honored by the New Mexico Medical Society with a special award. He was also involved in incorporating the Albuquerque Legal Aid Society, the Albuquerque Youth Council, the Albuquerque Fraternal Order of Police, was a charter member of the Albuquerque Bar Association and served as president of the Albuquerque Council of Social Agencies, the predecessor to the United Way.

Civerolo was always of the opinion that the practice of law involved not only representing and counseling clients but being involved in community and bar association matters. “I never would have been able to do the many things I did if I wasn’t a lawyer,” he says. “I always thought the practice of law was not only about representing clients, but that there was a requirement to be involved in the community.”

Four family members have graduated from the University of New Mexico and his son, Paul (’82), is a practicing lawyer in Albuquerque.

This year, Civerolo established the Civerolo Family UNM School of Law Endowment to assist the tuition for a first-year law student who is a New Mexico resident.

Sharing his success is what has driven Civerolo throughout his life. “I am proud that I was able to serve my country in World War II, to be involved in the practice of law and community and bar activities in New Mexico.”
Richard Cole has been elected a shareholder in the firm of Kelcher & McLeod, where he represents clients in environmental, water and utility administrative proceedings and litigation.

Lorenzo Garcia, chief magistrate for the U.S. District Court in New Mexico, was named Outstanding Jurist for 2007 by the American Board of Trial Advocates. He was chosen for his integrity, professionalism and legal scholarship.

Roger Eaton has joined Will Ferguson & Associates, an Albuquerque personal injury firm. Eaton is a former principal in the firm of Eaton, Martinez & Hart.

Rick Beiter has joined the litigation department of the Rodey Law Firm, where he focuses his practice on professional liability, medical malpractice and health law. He has extensive experience representing doctors and other health-care providers before the New Mexico Medical Review Commission. He also has been a mediator in medical malpractice issues.

James Counts has been elected to a three-year term as chief judge of the 12th Judicial District Court. He lives in Alamogordo.

W. Mark Mowery has been selected as a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, one of the premier legal associations in the United States. The college strives to improve and elevate the standards of trial practice, the administration of justice and the ethics of the trial profession. Mowery is a shareholder with the Rodey Law Firm and a member of the firm’s executive committee. He practices in the firm’s Litigation Department with a special emphasis in personal injury, property damage, product liability, medical malpractice claims and general insurance defense. He also has an active mediation practice.

Kerry Kiernan has been named a shareholder at Sutin, Thayer & Browne. He practices in the areas of appellate law, personal injury, commercial litigation and Indian gaming law.

MacDonnell Gordon has rejoined the Rodey Law Firm after two years living outside of New Mexico. He is practicing in the firm’s Santa Fe office, and is a member of the team’s litigation department, focusing on the defense of medical negligence claims, constitutional law and appellate law.

Mary Ann Green has been elected a fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel.

David Iglesias performs law enforcement consulting work for Booz Allen Hamilton’s Albuquerque office. He lives in Santa Fe.

Andrew Schultz has been elected as a member of the American Law Institute. He is a partner in the Rodey Law Firm, where he practices in the Litigation Department and chairs the firm’s complex and high risk litigation practice group.

Daniel Viramontes has been appointed a judge in the Sixth Judicial District. Previously, he was in private practice and served 17 years in the District Attorney’s Office. He lives in Deming.

Sandra Rotruck has joined Sutin, Thayer & Browne, where she concentrates her practice on domestic relations. Previously, she focused on child abuse cases as a prosecutor in the First Judicial District Attorney’s Office.

Frank Sedillo has been inducted into the Albuquerque High School Athletic Hall of Honor.

Hugh Dangler has been named New Mexico’s chief public defender. Prior to his appointment, he was district public defender for north-central New Mexico. He also has been general counsel for the state Regulation and Licensing Department.

Marty Esquivel serves on the Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education. He is a shareholder in the Narvaez Law Firm.

Juan Flores has been selected as the new Archdiocese Legal Counsel for the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. He is a partner in the firm of Sheehan, Sheehan & Stelzner, where he has a litigation practice. He will continue his work with the firm.

Jennifer Stone has joined the Rodey Law Firm’s business department, where she represents hospitals, insurers, medical groups and health-care professionals. Most recently, she worked for the New Mexico Department of Health as general counsel and deputy cabinet secretary.

Rodolfo Parga, Jr., has been elected managing shareholder of the Ryley Carlock & Applewhite law firm, where he practices commercial litigation. He lives in Denver.

Margaret Benny has been appointed court commissioner in the family court division of the Maricopa County Superior Court. Previously, she was an assistant attorney general representing Arizona Child Protective Services. She lives in Mesa, AZ.

Kermit Lopez recently published an historical novel set in 1800s New Mexico, entitled, Cibolero. He is a patent lawyer and partner with the
Sharon Moore has joined the Equal Rights Center, a nonprofit civil rights organization in Washington, D.C., as the new senior project coordinator. She oversees the compliance of disability rights settlements.

1995

Robert Batley has become a shareholder in the firm of Little & Gilman-Tepper, where she practices family law.

Yorgos Marinakis has opened Albuquerque Patent Associates, where he helps clients with patent issues.

1998

Morris Chavez has been appointed to the National Title Insurance Working Group by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. He will lead the group in a study of captive reinsurance arrangements. He is the New Mexico Superintendent of Insurance.

Elizabeth Washburn is president of the American Indian Graduate Center Board of Directors. A member of the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma, she works with the U.S. Department of the Interior, where she specializes in federal Indian law, natural resources and environmental law.

1999

Darcia Carroll has joined the Albuquerque office of Walsh, Anderson, Brown, Schulze & Aldridge, where she focuses her practice on business transactions, construction-related matters and general civil litigation. She brings to the position seven years’ experience representing New Mexico public schools, colleges and other government entities.

2001

Jon Abraham has become a patent agent with Hamilton Brook Smith Reynolds, an intellectual property firm in Concord, Mass.

Vincent Ward has been named chief legal counsel for Gov. Bill Richardson. Most recently, he worked in Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck’s Albuquerque office, but from 2005-2007 he was the governor’s deputy chief legal counsel.

2002

Amy Chavez has become legal counsel with the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department. Previously, she was deputy director of the State Board of Finance.

Patrick Griebel has joined the Albuquerque firm of Sanchez, Mower & Desiderio, where he practices construction law, real estate law and general business litigation. In 2007, he helped establish 310 Solar (310solar.com), a solar contracting and installation firm.

Chris Lee has become a partner in the Albuquerque firm of Lee & Ross, where he represents plaintiffs in a variety of civil litigation areas. Previously, he was an associate with Rodey, Dickason, Sloan, Akin & Robb.

2003

Phyllis Domínguez has been appointed to the New Mexico Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission. She is a prosecutor in the felony domestic violence division of the Second Judicial Court.

Brenda Saiz has joined the Litigation Department of the Rodey Law Firm. She focuses her practice in the areas of product liability, personal injury, wrongful death and insurance defense.

2005

Sharon T. Shaheen has become an associate with Montgomery & Andrews.

2006

Amy Bailey has become an associate with the Albuquerque firm of Wolf & Fox. She focuses her practice in family law, estate planning, child advocacy and litigation.

Jaime Kennedy (Fontaine) has joined Montgomery & Andrews as an associate.

Bruce Puma, CPA, has become an associate in the Albuquerque firm of Swaim, Schrandt & Millet. He focuses his practice on estate planning, business planning, tax probate, guardianship and conservatorship.

Bradley Sims has joined the Las Cruces office of Miller Stratvert.

2007

Minerva Camp has joined the firm of Butt, Thornton & Baxh, where she focuses her practice on commercial and general litigation and workers’ compensation.

Jennifer deGraauw has joined the Albuquerque firm of Atkinson & Kelsey, where she focuses on divorce and custody matters.

Erin Ferreira has become an associate with the Albuquerque firm of Martinez & Hart.

J. Katherine Girard has joined Sutin, Thayer & Brown, where she focuses her practice in commercial litigation, civil law and administrative law.

Margot Sigal has joined the Rodey Law Firm as an associate. She practices in the Litigation Department primarily in the area of complex and high-risk litigation.

Ocean Tama y Sweet has become an associate in the finance practice group of Haynes & Boone. He focuses his practice on the representation of financial institutions and borrowers in commercial loan transactions in the firm’s Dallas office.

Eelin Wideman has joined the Albuquerque office of Miller Stratvert.

In Memoriam

Charles Larrabee (’52)
Donald Martinez (’74)
Craig Othmer (’84)

To read complete obituaries, please go to lawschool.unm.edu and click on Alumni & Giving, then click on In Memoriam.
UPCOMING EVENTS

July 25
Summer Golf Classic
Seventh annual tournament raises funds for scholarships and alumni programs at the law school. Sponsored by the UNM School of Law Alumni/ae Association.
Noon lunch
1 p.m. shotgun start
Entry fee: $125/player, $450/team

July 25-26
Reunion Weekend
Friday golf tournament
Saturday reception and dinner
Hyatt Regency

October 10
Distinguished Achievement Awards Dinner
Annual event honoring outstanding members of the New Mexico State Bar.
6 p.m. reception
7 p.m. dinner
UNM Student Union Ballroom

October 23
Ramo Lecture on International Justice
The Right Honourable Dame Sian Elias, chief justice of New Zealand, will present this year’s lecture.
5 p.m.
UNM School of Law

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