From the Dean

I am pleased to announce that this fall we have begun a new approach to getting out the word about all of the interesting things going on at the law school.

First of all, we have added news items to our main webpage, and we are archiving those items so you can always find them on the website, even after they have been replaced with more up-to-date news. We are including lots of photos from reunions, the Distinguished Achievement Awards Dinner and events around the school, all of which can be viewed later on. Please check out our website at lawschool.unm.edu and let us know what you think!

Also, we will begin sending you the Docket, a brief email newsletter highlighting some of our most exciting news, and we plan to send that out every month. At the same time, we are reducing the number of issues and the size of UNM LAW, hoping you will check the website to see what’s going on at the school. UNM LAW will now come out twice a year, but the news will continue to flow onto the website and in emails. If you would like to receive the Docket, but we don’t have your email address, please let us know.

We are very excited about these changes and hope that by offering you more ways to keep in touch with what’s going on at the law school, we will all stay more connected. I welcome any feedback on these changes at scarnecchia@law.unm.edu.

In this issue, we are publishing an Honor Roll of Donors, and I would personally like to thank everyone who contributed to the law school last year. With your financial support, we were able to accomplish a great number of things that otherwise would have been impossible.

On a final note, the UNM School of Law was once again named the top law school in the country for Hispanic students by Hispanic Business magazine. I am very proud of this accomplishment and thank the faculty, staff, and especially the students for their hard work.

Best wishes for a festive holiday season,

Suellyn Scarnecchia

UNMLAW

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AUTUMN 2007
From the Alumni Board President

As president of the UNM School of Law Alumni/ae Association, it is my pleasure to welcome you to this issue of UNM LAW. Our alumni association is strong and I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to each one of you for contributing your time, talent and dollars to the school. You have responded to our call to participate and for that we are greatly appreciative.

The association takes on many roles throughout the year. First, we hold a number of fundraising events that support student scholarships and the general operations of the school. Through our Distinguished Achievement Awards Dinner, the annual golf tournament and our reunion activities, we connect our alumni back to the school and always welcome your participation.

Our association is also active in the recruitment of new students to the school. We assist Dean Scarneccia and the school’s admissions committee in recruiting top-notch students who might otherwise attend another law school.

As we move into the new school year, I call upon each of you to become more involved in the law school. Consider making an annual contribution to the Dean’s Fund or volunteer to coach a moot court team. You are the natural extension of our law school family and a valuable part of our university community. Our students learn not only from their professors and their peers but also from you.

I am always available to talk about the alumni association and how we can assist in the mission of the school, or feel free to contact any of the board members.

Sincerely,

Henry Narvaez
President

Padilla Named Director of the American Indian Law Center

When Helen Padilla left the UNM School of Law in 1997 with an Indian Law Certificate and her J.D., she knew she would never be far from the field of Indian Law. Last summer, she became director of the American Indian Law Center (AILC).

“There is a tremendous amount of opportunity for the AILC to provide development and training to tribes nationwide,” she says. “I’ve worked for different tribes and see a need for more training, from tribal code drafting to training in very basic legal and sovereignty issues.”

She also envisions the AILC helping to develop tribal court systems and train tribal judges and she would like to continue her work of fostering tribal-state work groups and relations.

Padilla earned a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in business administration from UNM. A graduate of the Pre-Law Summer Institute, AILC’s flagship program, where she also was a teaching assistant, Padilla looks forward to being involved with the future of Indian Law and working to keep the program fresh and current.

To view a more comprehensive profile, go to lawschool.unm.edu and click on news archives.

Correction

In the Spring issue of UNM LAW, Shawn Cummings was misidentified. He was named ninth best oral advocate in the ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition in Washington, D.C. We regret the error.

Reunion Weekend: “Everyone’s a Lobo! Woof! Woof!”


On Saturday, the alums attended a tailgate party and the Homecoming game in which Brigham Young University slipped by UNM by a score of 31-24. The theme for Homecoming weekend was “Everyone’s a Lobo! Woof! Woof! Woof!”

For more photos, go to lawschool.unm.edu and click on news archives. The photos are in October archives.
Student Guidebook Helps Demystify Law School

A year ago, when James Moffitt was a first-year law student, he noticed a “rite of passage” that many of his classmates endured during their first semester, before they had found their place at law school. Feelings of isolation and a sense of being overwhelmed were common as the students adapted to a new way of learning.

As a way of giving back to the 1Ls who will come along behind him, last spring Moffitt and a dozen of his classmates began an effort to demystify law school for incoming students. He invited his classmates to contribute advice for 1Ls to help them survive their first few months of law school. The result of their efforts was a 48-page red-bound Student Guidebook that was included in this fall’s orientation packet for entering law students.

A number of UNM law students wrote chapters in the guidebook, led by Kristina Fisher’s “Seven Tips for Surviving Law School”. The first tip advises against dropping out after the first week: “Take a deep breath – we’ve all been there, no matter how brilliant they look, everyone around you is feeling the same way.”

“We really wanted to provide a way to let the 1Ls know who they can talk to, that they aren’t alone in feeling stressed out,” says Moffitt, who was a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy before enrolling in law school. “Most of the comments we have received is that 2Ls and 3Ls wish they had something like this when they were 1Ls.”

Moffitt hopes the guidebook will always be a work in progress and that future classes will build on it. To complement the guidebook, Moffitt and his contributors plan to sponsor “Comfortable Conversations” this fall for first-year students, where they will be encouraged to talk about themselves and who they are outside of law school.

DeAnza and Joseph Valencia: Siblings and Classmates

Growing up in Farmington, the oldest of three children, DeAnza Valencia never could have imagined that one day she would be classmates with her younger brother, Joseph. Considering there are eight years between them, she was out of the house before he had made it through grade school.

But last August, when she entered her second year at the UNM School of Law, so did Joseph, who had transferred from the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law at Arizona State University after his first year.

“It’s really nice to have him here,” says DeAnza, who spent the first week showing him around and introducing him to her friends. “At the end of the day, there is nothing like having my brother here, knowing what I’m going through.”

Joseph and DeAnza are in the same classes together: Business Associations and Constitutional Rights. While they happily share notes, they draw the line at studying together.

“We have different study habits and Joseph prefers to study alone most of the time,” says DeAnza. “Maybe we will try studying together closer to finals.”

But they can often be found going out to Rudy’s for barbecue or somewhere else for lunch.

Both siblings earned their undergraduate degrees at New Mexico State University and DeAnza went on to ASU’s School of Justice and Social Inquiry for a master’s. Both also worked for U.S. Sen. Jeff Bingaman and DeAnza worked for the Arizona House of Representatives and the New Mexico Senate.

They both envision their legal education allowing them to made a direct impact on society: Joseph as a criminal prosecutor and DeAnza in public interest law. And they both plan to remain in New Mexico.

The family connection doesn’t stop with them; their first cousin, Maria Martinez, is a 3L. But Joseph and DeAnza are pretty sure their youngest brother, Andrew, won’t be following them: he is happily working in the insurance industry in New York City.

Already, Joseph can see why his sister loves the UNM law school. “Everyone is supportive and it feels like more of a community than a school system,” he says. “And my sister is here.”
School of Law Welcomes Class of 2010

Members of the Class of 2010 began their law-school career in mid-August with two days of orientation activities. A total of 112 students make up the entering class, of which 49 percent are female and 39 percent are minorities. Dean Suellyn Scarnecchia opened orientation with a welcoming talk. After being introduced to key administrators and staff, the students and their families were treated to dinner during which the students received pins that signified their introduction to the legal profession. U.S. District Judge James Browning offered some comments of encouragement.

For online statistics of the Class of 2010, go to: http://lawschool.unm.edu/admissions/about-students/index.php

Case Spurs Scott Aaron to Help Form Nonprofit

In his after-hours job at the Standridge Law Firm, Scott Aaron, a 3L, was involved in a case that sent him down an unexpected path to becoming a major organizer of a new nonprofit, Families Against Confinatory Child Support.

The case involved child support in a high-income child-custody case. During his research for the firm’s client, Aaron discovered what he thought were gaps in New Mexico’s child support guidelines, which created an unfair burden to high-income parents.

Lawyers in his firm agreed, and in the lawsuit involving their client, they have challenged the constitutionality of the state’s child support guidelines. The case is still pending in state district court.

To Aaron, the client in the lawsuit and others, the inequities in the New Mexico guidelines seemed so egregious that they decided to form a nonprofit last summer with a goal of educating others nationwide about these guidelines, which are different state-by-state. They put up a website (facconline.org) that they hope will serve as a tool for networking with others around the country and drawing attention to the issue. Aaron serves as treasurer.

“We are interested in finding a balance in the guidelines that would meet the needs of the child and be fair to both parents,” he says.

For Aaron, who is expecting his first son in January with his new wife, classmate Amara Aaron (formerly Bustos), working to modify a small section of the law has been exciting.

“Law school has made me aware of the different avenues I can use to effect change: the courts and the Legislature, for example,” he says. “Before I came to law school, the only thing I knew was to protest; now I know where to focus attention to make a change. It’s cool.”
In Print
Marsha Baum wrote When Nature Calls, which examines the law related to weather disasters in the United States. The book, published by Greenwood Publishing, looks at specific cases, legislation and administrative legal action.


Carol Suzuki wrote “Unpacking Pandora’s Box: Innovative Techniques for Effectively Counseling Asylum Applicants Suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder”, which appeared as the lead article in the Hastings Race and Poverty Law Journal (vol. 4, Spring 2007).

On the Go
Marsha Baum spent five weeks last summer as a visiting scholar at the University of Tasmania, with whom the UNM School of Law has an exchange program. While there she spent time researching Australian disaster relief. In the fall, she presented a talk titled, “The Weather Made Me Do It: The Evolution of Weather Data as Evidence and Alibi”, at the National Weather Conference in Reno, Nev., and she gave a workshop on copyright issues facing editors and authors to the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy in Denver.

Kip Bobroff was one of three legal scholars invited to participate in the Rules Harmonization Project, a new initiative of the Navajo Nation’s Judicial Branch. The project will explore methods of conforming Navajo rules of court toward the fundamental laws of the Navajo people, recognizing that western-style dispute resolution methods often rely on principles deeply opposed to traditional methods of settling a dispute.

Sherri Burr spoke on “Race and Racism in the New Millennium” at both Eastern New Mexico University in Portales and the Lea County Museum in Lovington on May 1.

Denise Fort presented an analysis of the United States’ response to climate change as measured by legislative action in August at the Oxford Roundtable in England, where the discussion centered around global warming and sustainable development. At a Colorado Springs conference in September she chaired a panel titled, “Use of Aquifers for Storage in Other States,” a topic she is addressing as a member of a National Research Council committee. The committee is completing a book on sustainable underground storage.

Eileen Gauna was a member of a panel titled, “Environmental Justice and Climate Change,” which was sponsored by the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute in Washington, D.C. The panel was organized by U.S. Rep. Hilda Solis of California and included Patricia Romero Lankao, one of the scientists on the International Panel on Climate Change.

Antoinette Sedillo Lopez and Gloria Valencia-Weber gave a presentation titled, “Immigration Stories in the U.S. and Mexico: The Rhetoric and the Realities,” at the Once Upon a Legal Time: Developing the Skills of Storytelling in Law Conference in London in mid-July. Their presentation described immigration stories that circulate in the media and throughout the public on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border. The July conference was sponsored by the City Law School of City University in London and the Legal Writing Institute.

Alfred Mathewson presented “Teaching a Sports Law Seminar with a Free Agent Negotiation Exercise” at the Colloquium on Sports Law Scholarship and Teaching at the Marquette University Law School in September. The following week, he spoke on “Commercialization and the Arms Race in Collegiate Athletics” at a symposium at West Virginia University College of Law. The symposium was entitled “Reversing Field: Examining Commercialization, Labor and Race in 21st Century Sports Law.”

Margaret Montoya was a panelist at the second annual Meet the Press – Cancer and Social Injustice in the U.S., an August discussion of how cancer disproportionately affects certain populations in New Mexico and across the country.

Ted Parnall returned to Afghanistan, where he is helping to improve the competence and knowledge of the country’s legal professionals. In Kabul and Herat he taught commercial law concepts to Afghan judges and Ministry of Justice officials. In January, he will return to Kabul and teach company law to law professors and law students.

Leo Romero discussed recent developments in judicial selection during a presentation at the Judicial Conclave in June and at the State Bar’s annual convention in July.

Carol Suzuki has been named planning committee chair of the Association of American Law Schools’ 2008 Conference on Clinical Education. The theme of the conference is “Reflecting on Our Work and Vision: Risks, Mistakes and Opportunities” and will take place in May 2008 in Tucson.

Peter Winograd has been elected to a second two-year term as secretary of the American Bar Association’s Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar. He is also a public member of the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, the medical school accrediting body appointed by the Association of American Medical Colleges and the American Medical Association.

Honors and Recognition
Sherri Burr received second-place and a third-place award for her entries in the National Federation of Press Women 2007 Contest.

New Hires
Megan Argo teaches Legal Research, Reasoning and Writing.

Marcia Baker supervises the law student research pool at the Law Library and provides reference service to faculty, students, the Bar and the public.

Louis Caldera is adding four new courses to the curriculum, including Corporate Governance, and Legislative Process and Advocacy in the fall semester.

Barbara Creel (’89) is teaching in the Southwest Indian Law Clinic.

Ernesto Longa works in the Faculty and Public Services Department of the Law Library and he teaches Advanced Legal Research and contributes to collection development.

See complete profiles at http://lawschool.unm.edu/faculty
Laura Gómez Unveils New Book

In her new book, released Oct. 5, UNM Law Professor Laura Gómez traces the origins of Mexican Americans as a racial group in the United States, paying particular attention to shifting meanings of race and law in the 19th century.

Manifest Destinies: The Making of the Mexican-American Race explores the paradox of Mexican Americans’ legal racial status as “white” with their non-white position in American society.

The 288-page book, published by New York University Press, spans the disciplines of law, history and sociology, revealing how the construction of Mexicans as an American racial group proved central to the larger process of restructuring the American racial order from the Mexican War (1846-48) to the early 20th century.

Manifest Destinies focuses a great deal on New Mexico history, since two-thirds of all Mexican Americans in 1850 lived in present-day New Mexico (the remaining one-third was divided between California and Texas). Gómez draws on her expertise in the fields of law, history, and sociology to explain why New Mexico remained in political limbo as a federal territory for so long before gaining statehood in 1912.

In addition to serving as associate dean for faculty development at the UNM law school, Gómez is appointed to the College of Arts and Sciences’ American Studies Department, the only UNM professor who serves on both faculties.

Book Signings and Public Lecture
Dec. 6, 6 p.m.
National Hispanic Cultural Center
Dec. 14, 5:30 p.m.
Collected Works in Santa Fe
Dec. 5, 5:30 p.m.
SUB, Santa Ana rooms A and B
Professor Gómez presents the UNM Center for the Southwest’s 2007 Richard Etulain Lecture. Her topic will be, “Manifest Destiny’s Legacy: Race in America at the Turn of the 20th Century.”

Professorships and Awards

Dean Suellyn Scarneccia has announced the recipients of the 2007-2008 chairs, professorships and awards, recognizing the important scholarship, teaching and service activities of the UNM law faculty.

Chairs
Lee and Leon Karlitz Chair: Ted Occhiolino
Henry Weihofen Chair: Jim Ellis, Rob Schwartz

Professorships:
Dickason Professorship: Chris Fritz
Dickason Professorship: John LaVelle
Dickason Professorship: Alfred Mathewson
Regents’ Professorship: Gloria Valencia-Weber
Regents’ Lecturer: Erik Gerding

Awards
Alumni Association Award: Antoinette Sedillo Lopez
Ronald and Susan Friedman Faculty Award: Barbara Bergman

Former UNM Law Professors Remembered

Leo Kanowitz, a former UNM law professor whose writings were the first to examine legal discrimination against women, died in August at his home in Berkeley from complications of diabetes and heart failure. He was 81. Kanowitz was on the law faculty at UNM from 1966-1972, during which time he wrote the landmark book, Women and the Law: The Unfinished Revolution, in which he shaped the dialogue about sex discrimination at colleges and in Congress. At the time, the book was considered the most important work in the field and remains a classic today. A year after the book came out, in 1970, Kanowitz testified in favor of the Equal Rights Amendment at Congressional hearings, calling it a step in the right direction, but not a cure-all for the problems associated with sexual discrimination. He followed his seminal book with nine more on the law, including, Sex Roles in Law and Society – Cases and Materials (1973) and Women and the Law with Equal Rights: The Male Stake (1981).

State Supreme Court Justice Pamela Minzner, the second woman to sit on the state’s highest court and the first to serve as chief justice, died in late August after a recurrence of cancer. She was 63. 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. She is remembered as a tireless jurist, a trailblazer for other women, a much-loved law professor, thoughtful, unpretentious and courteous to everyone who appeared before her in court. “She always made you think you knew more than she did, which wasn’t true,” said Fred Hart, UNM law professor emeritus. “She always made you think you were more important than she was.”

In Memoriam

Charles Barnhart
Renee Black
Perry Kohn
Nicholas R. Pica

To read complete obituaries, please go to lawschool.unm.edu and click on Alumni & Giving, then click on In Memoriam.
**Deborah Armstrong** Leads Aging Department

Not long after she earned her bachelor’s degree in physical therapy from the University of Michigan in 1975, Deborah Armstrong began a commitment to home health care that has driven her career. As a physical therapist at St. Joseph’s Regional Health Center in Hot Springs, Ark., and then as clinical director at Community Rehabilitative Services in Phoenix, she saw a vital need for improvement in elder care.

“I like old people and I was bothered by the loss of power and control they have over their lives in care centers,” she says. “If they are in their own homes, they still are in charge.”

She moved to Silver City and then Santa Fe, where she joined Presbyterian Medical Services in 1991. For the next 10 years, in a variety of positions, which included establishing a home health agency in Santa Fe, she became more and more frustrated with regulations and laws that didn’t make any sense. Fed up and with the financial support of Presbyterian, she went to law school to gain more skills that she hoped to apply to her work in elder and long-term care.

After earning her J.D. in 2001, Armstrong intended to return to the health-care field, but instead joined the New Mexico Agency on Aging, which now is the Aging and Long-Term Services Department, to oversee its elder rights programs. Within three years, she had been appointed to run the agency, which had recently been elevated to a cabinet-level department.

She has thrived on the daunting role of running one of the state’s fastest growing departments – the staff has grown from 40 in 2004 to more than 300 and her budget has increased from $35 million to about $300 million, including additional responsibilities for Medicaid programs.

Armstrong credits her staff and support from the governor’s office for keeping things running smoothly while she works to move the department forward. She has established a number of new programs, including a Medicaid long-term care program, an aging and disability resource center and “Mi Via,” a nationally recognized home and community-based care program in Santa Fe, in which participants can tailor their services to meet their needs.

“**What I like about this job is that I have lots of interaction with seniors and people with disabilities around the state,**” she says. “**I get to see and feel and touch the people we serve.**”

**A Conversation with Deborah Armstrong**

Q: What was your favorite class in law school?
A: Health Law and Bioethics

Q: Who was your favorite professor?
A: Rob Schwartz

Q: What is the last book you read?
A: *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* by J.K. Rowling

Q: What is one law you would like to see changed?
A: The Medicare Part D law. It is too complicated and has too many gaps and hidden costs.

Q: What is the strangest thing that has happened in your career?
A: I have never practiced law, but I use my legal education in operating the department and every day I spend at the Legislature.

Q: What do you like best about your job?
A: That I can make an impact in the long-term care system and program development that will affect older citizens.

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**Lemuel Martinez** Tackles Crime in 13th District

Growing up in Albuquerque, Lemuel Martinez knew from a young age that he wanted to become a lawyer. But he had other things to do first.

After graduating from the University of Southern California in 1978, he spent more than a year working and traveling in Europe, earned a master’s degree at St. John’s College in Annapolis, Md., and taught middle and high-school students, both in Santa Fe and at Laguna Pueblo. He also earned a master’s in education at the University of New Mexico.

At Laguna, Martinez thrived on the culture. “I didn’t know anything about Native Americans when I grew up, and I learned as much as my students did,” he says. “I still go back for feast days and it is nice to be accepted and remembered.”

He also experimented with different ways to reach his students and instill in them a lifelong excitement about learning. For example, he discovered that teaching world history through art history captivated them. As athletic director and coach of football, basketball and women’s soccer, he taught them about teamwork, self-sacrifice and achieving a goal. “When your body is in top shape, so is your mind,” he says.

But after 10 years, it was time for law school. He earned his J.D. in 1995 and has been with the 13th
Norman Hodges: 44 Years on the Bench

For Norman Hodges, a Silver City native, a career in the law was a natural. His father, Joseph, practiced law for 50 years, including 16 as Silver City district attorney, and his older brother, Joseph Jr., also was a Silver City lawyer.

In fact, after Hodges earned his J.D. from the University of New Mexico School of Law in 1951, he returned to Silver City and joined his father and brother in practice for a year before joining the Lordsburg law office of Verne Payne, who later became a U.S. District Judge. Hodges went on to serve his community as district attorney for six years before being appointed to the bench in the Sixth Judicial District in 1963.

Since then, he has never ventured far from a courtroom dais in Grant, Luna or Hidalgo counties. He retired from the bench in 1987, but Hodges has continued to work as a judge tempore ever since. After 44 years of overseeing juries and deciding cases, not much surprises him anymore.

A few highlights:

In 1980, he sent the ex-Grant County sheriff and two of his deputies to prison for operating a burglary ring in Silver City. The sheriff wasn’t part of the ring, but he saw his deputies dressed in black, ready to go out on the job and didn’t report it.

In the mid-1970s, Hodges held unconstitutional a state law that offered no alternatives to death for first-degree murder convictions. His ruling was overturned by the New Mexico Supreme Court but upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court. As a result, the Legislature was forced to change the law, requiring mitigating factors be considered in sentencing for first-degree murder.

Open range laws took a hit in Hodges’ courtroom when a 12-person jury found against a Lordsburg-area rancher whose cow was killed by a motorist. The state Supreme Court upheld the jury determination.

Hodges also played a key role in a number of water rights rulings pertaining to the Mimbres Basin, which eventually made their way to the U.S. Supreme Court as United States v. New Mexico. In 1978, the high court affirmed Hodges’ ruling, which was a victory for state-over-federal control of water.

“I continue to hear cases because it helps keep my mind alert and I enjoy the interesting cases.”

Norman Hodges

A Conversation with Norman Hodges

Q: What was your favorite class in law school?
A: I can’t remember that far back.

Q: What was your least favorite class?
A: Library research, but I got to be pretty good at it.

Q: What is the last book you read?
A: The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid: A Memoir, by Bill Bryson

Q: Who is your favorite U.S. Supreme Court Justice?
A: Sandra Day O’Connor

Q: What do you like about being a judge?
A: The authority to decide a case.

Q: What is the strangest thing that ever happened in your courtroom?
A: I sentenced a young man to five years in the state penitentiary. He said, “Thank You,” and I said “You’re Welcome.”

Q: If you weren’t a judge, what would be your dream job?
A: A trial lawyer and general practitioner

Q: What do you do in your spare time?
A: I swim three times a week, I belong to two bridge clubs and I go out for enchiladas once a week, red chile, medium-hot.

A Conversation with Lemuel Martinez

Q: What was your favorite class in law school?
A: Water Law with Em Hall

Q: Who was your favorite professor?
A: Ted Occhialino. I either came prepared for class or I didn’t come at all; he was ruthless.

Q: If you weren’t a lawyer, what would be your dream job?
A: A college professor in art history or architecture.

Q: Who is your favorite U.S. Supreme Court Justice?
A: Sandra Day O’Connor

Q: What is the strangest thing that ever happened in your courtroom?
A: We were retrying a man in a murder trial, but couldn’t find the original witnesses. So we put people on the stand to read the original testimony and try to recreate the atmosphere, which we couldn’t do. It was like being in the Twilight Zone; we lost the case.

Q: What do you like best about your job?
A: I like fighting for victims.
**CLASS NOTES**

1957
Alfonso Sanchez has won numerous medals in the Senior Olympics, in events including the shot put, 800-meter, 400-meter and 100-meter runs, and the long jump, continuing a competitive tradition from his undergraduate years as a track-and-field letterman at UNM. He also plays a lot of golf and spends time fixing up the cabin at his northern New Mexico ranch. He started a memorial for the soldiers killed in the Battle of Glorieta Pass during the Civil War. Sanchez lives in Santa Fe, walks every morning and still takes on pro-bono cases.

1969
Charles Daniels has been appointed to the New Mexico Supreme Court. Graduating first in his law school class, he has spent more than 30 years with the Albuquerque firm of Freedman, Boyd, Daniels, Hollander, Goldberg & Ives.

1971

1973
Charles Blackwell, director of the Native Affairs and Development Group in Washington, D.C., received the Department of Commerce National Director's Legacy Award for Lifetime Achievement in Minority Business Development in September. A member of the Chickasaw Nation, he serves as Chickasaw Nation ambassador to the U.S.

Malcolm Shannon, Jr. writes that in the 36 years since graduating from the UNM School of Law in 1971, he has been fortunate to live the promise made one day in Professor Malcolm Sharp's Contracts class: as a lawyer he has had the opportunity to draw upon every bit of knowledge he has ever possessed.

Since graduation, he has held legal or management positions with a wide variety of companies. In the 1970s, he co-founded ILS Labs, which was engaged in practical-focused research. He spent 15 years as counsel for General Atomics, a high-tech company best known for manufacturing the Predator unmanned aerial vehicle. As one of his duties, he was involved in the program for movement and processing of decommissioned Russian nuclear warheads that are blended-down for fuel for nuclear power plants.

Henry Rivera has received the Friend of Spanish Broadcasting award from the Independent Spanish Broadcasters Association. He also is listed in the International Who’s Who of Regulatory Communications Lawyers and as one of Washington, D.C.'s “Super Lawyers” for 2007.

1977
Elizabeth Whitefield has been named to fill a new judicial position on the Second Judicial District's Family Court. Prior to her appointment, she practiced family law for more than 25 years, most recently as a partner with Keleher & McLeod. She is a co-founder of the New Mexico Women's Bar Association.

1979
Steve Comeau has rejoined Meyner's & Co. as director of the Albuquerque firm's litigation and business valuation department.

William Parnall has been named to the Children's Court bench in the Second Judicial District. A solo practitioner for the past 20 years, he has a history of representing juvenile clients and has worked as a court-appointed attorney in federal court.

1981
Kevin Gover has been named director of the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. He will take over on Dec. 2. He has been a law professor at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University and is a former assistant secretary for Indian Affairs.

Robin Dozier Otten has received the National Association of Women Business Owners' 2007 National Public Policy Advocate of the Year Award. She is a founding member of Women Impacting Public Policy and the Prosperity Project in Albuquerque. Otten is president and CEO of RDO Strategic Consultants, an Albuquerque public issues consulting firm.

Cate Stetson and Jana Walker ('87) have been selected as two of seven “Southwest Super Lawyers” in the field of Native American Law. Both are with Stetson Law Offices in Albuquerque and are certified as specialists in Federal Indian Law by the New Mexico State Bar. Super Lawyers is an offshoot of Law & Politics magazine, which, through a systematic process determines outstanding lawyers in 48 states across the country.

John Thal has been elected to a one-year term as president of the National Association of Railroad Trial Counsel. He is a partner in the Albuquerque firm of Atkinson & Thal.

1984
Sheryl Saavedra (Jimenez) has opened a new office in Roswell. She will continue to practice family law.

1985
Charlie Brown has been appointed to a new judicial position in the criminal division of the Second Judicial District. He has been a solo practitioner since 2004, but prior to that, he was a deputy district attorney in the 13th Judicial District. He also spent three years as an assistant U.S. Attorney in Alaska.

1991
J. Richard Brown has been appointed to the bench in the Fifth Judicial District. Previously, he worked as a trial lawyer and managing attorney in the state Public Defender's Office in Carlsbad.

1993
Paulette Hartman-Dufour concentrates on family law in her Albuquerque solo practice. Last spring she married Brian Dufour in Santorini, Greece. She has two grown children; a daughter who was married in June and is a Denver schoolteacher, and her son is attending a technical institute in Phoenix.

A.J. Salazar is serving with the U.S. Army on his second deployment to Iraq. He is working with the Central Criminal Court of Iraq in Baghdad, prosecuting insurgents for crimes
committed against coalition forces and the security of Iraq. Back home, he is chief deputy district attorney with the First Judicial District.

1994
Kristie Bair has been elected president of the board of directors of Advocacy, Inc., a non-profit that serves at-risk children throughout New Mexico.

David Johnson has become special counsel in health law at the Albuquerque firm of Bannerman & Williams. He represents health-care organizations in operational, regulatory, transactional and litigation matters.

Laurel Knowles has joined the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer as an attorney for the Lower Rio Grande adjudication. Previously, she worked for the New Mexico Public Defender Department and at New Mexico Legal Services. She also was co-publisher of the Santa Fe Reporter.

1995
Virginia Dugan has been designated a “Super Lawyer” by Super Lawyers, an offspring of Law & Politics magazine. She is a shareholder with Atkinson & Kelsey in Albuquerque.

1998
Will Steadman is New Mexico division president of SunCal, a California company that owns and plans to develop more than 55,000 acres in Albuquerque's West Side. Steadman is a West Side native who has been a real estate lawyer and midfielder for the now-defunct New Mexico Chiles professional soccer club.

1999
Sharon Pino has been appointed as the state’s Domestic Violence Czar by Gov. Bill Richardson. In that role, she is the governor’s point person working with state agencies, the judiciary and the public to fight domestic violence in New Mexico. Previously, she was in private practice in Santa Fe, specializing in domestic relations and domestic violence.

2000
Jennifer Foote has joined the Harvey Law Firm in Albuquerque. Previously, she spent five years as a public defender in Santa Fe and Albuquerque.

LaDonna Giron has been named to the New Mexico Adult Parole Board to a term ending June 30, 2009.

2001
Lisa Olewine has become a fellow of the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys. For the past four years, she has been president of the Adoption and Foster Care Alliance of New Mexico. Certified as a child welfare law specialist by the National Association of Counsel for Children, she practices only adoption and children’s law at the Olewine Law Office in Albuquerque.

John Ziegler has become a principal in the Albuquerque firm of Conklin, Jenke, Woodcock & Ziegler. He focuses his practice on employment litigation, personal injury litigation, general litigation and insurance coverage matters.

2002
Bryan Davis has joined the Albuquerque firm of Bannerman & Williams as an associate in healthcare and commercial litigation. He handles all aspects of liability insurance defense litigation. He serves on the American Bar Association Health Law Section’s Programs Committee, which oversees the section’s CLE and speaker programs.

2006
Witter Tidmore has opened a solo practice in Santa Fe. He focuses his practice on family law, including divorce, paternity, custody and support, and is also involved in collaborative divorce practice and estate planning.

2007
Bret Blanchard and Jennifer deGraauw have become associates with the Albuquerque firm of Wolf & Fox.

Gina Constant has joined the Rodey Law Firm as an associate, focusing her practice on copyright and trademark law. She is a registered patent agent with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. She brings more than 20 years of business experience to her practice, including two years as a process engineer at a nuclear-chemical processing plant and 14 years with Intel. Constant also ran a small health care business.

New Loan Forgiveness Law Aids Public Interest Lawyers

When President George Bush signed the College Cost Reduction and Access Act in late September, he made it easier for law students to pursue careers in public interest law. And he made Professor Emeritus Peter Winograd very happy.

A provision of the new law will greatly reduce the standard monthly payment on a federal education loan, and after 10 years of steady payments and steady public interest work, the loan’s remaining balance will be forgiven altogether.

“Our hope is that a graduate who spends 10 years in a low-paying public interest job will stay with it after the loan is forgiven,” says Winograd, who was one of the key supporters to move the bill through Congress. “This now makes it possible for people with their hearts set on public interest employment to be financially able to undertake such work.”

Winograd, along with Philip Schrag, a law professor at Georgetown University, helped draft the bill and then lobbied for it as leaders of the Government Relations and Student Financial Aid Committee of the American Bar Association’s section of Legal Education and Admission to the Bar. Winograd chaired the committee and Schrag was vice chair. They and others spent nearly five years working on the bill.

The new law applies to all graduates, including lawyers who work in government, public interest law services or for a 501(c)(3) corporation. The law will go into effect completely by July 1, 2009, but recent qualifying graduates can begin their 10-year countdown on Oct. 1, 2007.

For details on the law, see Professor Schrag’s recent article at www.law.georgetown.edu/news/documents/Forgiveness.pdf.
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This report reflects gifts of $250 and more received by the UNM law school between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007. Membership into the Dean’s Circle begins at the $1,000 level of giving. We extend a special thank you to all of our Dean’s Circle members. Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this honor roll of donors. Please notify Bill Uher, director of development and alumni affairs, of any errors at uher@law.unm.edu.

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Distinguished Achievement Awards

Hundreds of alumni and friends turned out to honor UNM Law Professor Michael Browde, Randi McGinn ('80), Andy Schultz ('84) and the memory of Walter Martinez ('55) at the 14th Annual Distinguished Achievement Awards Dinner in mid-October. Henry Narvaez ('74), president of the UNM School of Law Alumni/ae Association, served as master of ceremonies. In celebration of the UNM School of Law's 60th anniversary, memorabilia was displayed on every table.
November 29
MALSA Arts, Crafts, and Music Night
MALSA invites anyone to showcase their arts and crafts, food and musical talents at this first-ever event. Artists from inside and outside the law school are welcome.
5:30-9:30 p.m.
UNM School of Law Forum
Jacob Gallegos: gallegia@law.unm.edu

April 12, 2008
Fighting for Justice Banquet
MALSA presents its 13th annual banquet during which a person or group is honored for increasing access to legal services to underserved people.
6 p.m. cocktails • 7 p.m. dinner
Hotel Albuquerque
Connie Quintero: quinteco@law.unm.edu

April 12
NRJ Symposium on New Mexico land grants
Land grant scholars, lawyers and university professors will present their research on the legal issues surrounding New Mexico’s Spanish and Mexican land grants during this day-long symposium sponsored by the Natural Resources Journal
UNM School of Law
Kristina Fisher: fisherkr@law.unm.edu

May 17
Commencement
1 p.m.
UNM School of Law back patio

For a more up-to-date list of events, visit lawschool.unm.edu