

nexus

THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO FACULTY OF LAW ALUMNI MAGAZINE
SPRING/SUMMER 2014

Family Matters:

Does breaking up have
to break the bank?

PLUS:

Academic Shift
Hat Trick
Convocation



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PHOTO BY RAINA + WILSON

Redefining changes

Hard to believe yet another fantastic year at the Faculty of Law has drawn to a close. We've been characteristically busy with exciting, thought-provoking and issue-raising conferences and events that highlighted the global research expertise of our stellar faculty, alumni and student body.

We know the impact of this great law school reverberates well beyond our campus. Our "See Yourself Here" annual open house drew a record crowd of more than 170 enthusiastic students from diverse communities across the GTA, keen on learning more about careers in law. Our scholars measured the public pulse with conferences and panels on pressing issues such as the *Bedford v. Canada* decision, diversity on corporate boards, the Fair Elections Act and LGBTQ human rights.

We celebrated our Distinguished Alumnus Award winners, the Hon. James Farley and Linda Rothstein, for their outstanding contributions to the legal profession, and hosted the 20th annual Aboriginal Kawaskimhon Moot. Always innovating, we launched another unique program, the LLM in Health Law, Ethics and Policy. And we closed out our event season with a terrific Convocation, as the Class of 2014 set off on myriad career paths across Canada and around the globe.

Some of them may take up family law, and advance the transformation in the family bar. We tracked down several alumni taking novel approaches to untangling family law complexities, and you can read about them in "Family Matters" (p. 16). Also in this issue, we're keen to update you on our new 1L curriculum, reporting and admissions policies in "Academic Shift" (p. 10) and we touch base with former dean, Mayo Moran, in "Exit Interview" (p. 8). We cheered loudly and proudly when we landed a decanal "Hat Trick" (p. 22) in the spring, and caught up with alumna and Métis advocate Jean Teillet in a fascinating conversation, "Recap" (p. 14).

The energy around the law school continues to ramp up. The machines are humming louder at the Jackman Law Building site: steel frames go up, and the caissons drill down. Take a break now and then to catch it all on our live webcam, found on our Faculty of Law homepage. But not before you read about your classmates and this great law school in *Nexus*.

On behalf of the Faculty of Law, I wish you and yours a wonderful summer. See you in the fall!

JUTTA BRUNNÉE
INTERIM DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF LAW

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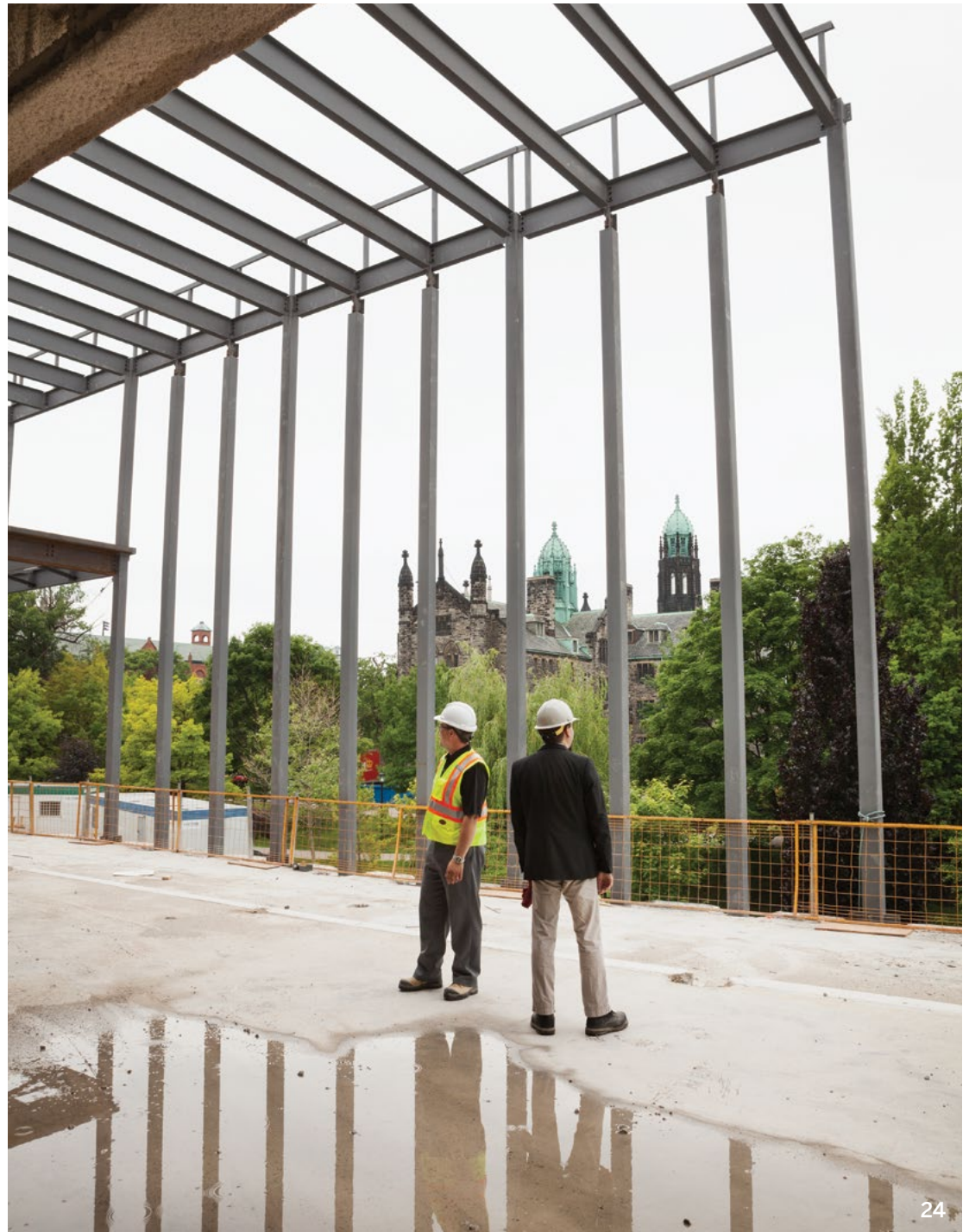
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WRITER, "FAMILY MATTERS," P. 16

Cynthia Macdonald is a freelance writer and broadcaster based in Toronto. She is a regular contributor to the *University of Toronto Magazine*, as well as numerous other campus publications. Her criticism and writing on social issues has appeared in such publications as *Explore*, *Chatelaine*, the *Toronto Star*, the *Globe and Mail*, *enRoute* and many others.



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Patrik Svensson is an award-winning illustrator based in Gothenburg, Sweden. His work includes editorial and advertising clients such as *The New Yorker*, *Wall Street Journal* and Starbucks. Before entering the design industry, Patrik studied creative writing among other communication-related subjects, and storytelling is still a vital part of his work as an illustrator.



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WRITER, "NO FAIR: THE FLAWED
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EXIT INTERVIEW WITH
**DEAN MAYO
MORAN**

The first woman dean, and one of the longest to serve, leaves behind a new building, groundbreaking programs and a reenergized law school curriculum, as she takes up the provost and vice-chancellor role at Trinity College

BY LUCIANNA CICCOCIOPPO
PHOTOGRAPHY BY RAINA + WILSON

LC: DO YOU REMEMBER THE MOMENT YOU RECEIVED THE JOB OFFER FOR THIS DEANSHIP?

MM: I was sitting in a café in Yorkville, with [Prof.] Karen Knop, a colleague and friend, and the search consultant phoned. And I picked up the phone, and she said: “Mayo, sit down. You’re about to make history.” I remember exactly where I was sitting. It was quite incredible.

LC: WHAT DID YOU TACKLE FIRST?

MM: We ‘launched’ me first. I was well-known in the law school, but I think it took a lot of people by surprise that I was named dean. While I was a professor, I wasn’t particularly externally engaged. And I was the first woman. So I think we felt it was an opportunity to say ‘Hey, I’m here.’ We celebrated with faculty, staff, students and alumni. Prof. Ernie Weinrib, who had been my doctoral supervisor, spoke about what it was like to have his student become his boss. Then I did a huge ‘listening’ tour, and I spent a couple of months meeting with every faculty member, every staff, and all the student leaders. I went to virtually every law firm. I invited in smaller firms and clinics. I went to the Department of Justice and the Ministry of the Attorney General. I went across the country and to many other places including London, New York, Hong Kong and Los Angeles to meet alumni, employers and prospective students. It was an amazing experience. I said: “Here’s who I am, and here’s what I care about—tell me what you think I should know, and care about.”

LC: HOW DID YOU USE THAT INFORMATION?

MM: It was incredible. I really got a picture of what the whole extended law school community cared about, what they would like to see enhanced, and where they thought there was an opportunity to do more. More than anything, people were happy that I was eager to connect with them. The time that I spent building those relationships has been really important to me as dean.

LC: DO YOU FEEL YOU’VE ACCOMPLISHED EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO OVER YOUR TWO TERMS?

MM: I think it’s probably my nature to be more aware of what is still left to do but when I step back, I do think that we have accomplished many things that will make a difference. The building is obviously a huge thing. When I see the massive steel beams going in for the new space, it just makes me so happy (I love the webcam, by the way! I know so many people who are addicted to it). It’s going to make such a difference to the life of this Faculty. And doing accessibility work for the Ontario government also really brings home to me how wonderful it’s going to be to have space that’s not only beautiful but also accessible. It also matters so much to me that I was able to get the David Asper Centre for Constitutional Rights off the ground. In the five years since we started it, it has dramatically changed the landscape of constitutional debate in the country and more broadly. I’m also so proud of the quality and calibre of our students. I am really proud of the significant work we

have done on how we do outreach to students, recruit and admit students and most important, how we support our students when they come. At a time in legal education where most law schools are seeing a decline in applications, ours are going up, as are our employment numbers. I'm also very proud of the many ways we've found to improve the program. In fact, just before I finished as dean, I was delighted that we introduced a major overhaul of the all-important first-year program. Of course I'll always have 20 more ways I'd love to improve the place. So no, I don't think I'll ever have accomplished everything but I'm pretty happy with the things we've accomplished and done together as a law school.

LC: WHAT DID YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT BEING DEAN?

MM: I'd say two things: I really loved being able to think of something and make it happen, such as the David Asper Centre. When we started to think about 'Wouldn't it be great to have a centre like this?', David Asper stepped in with outstanding support. And now I see it thriving, intervening in cases such as the Supreme Court of Canada's Bedford decision. That's a really, really wonderful feeling. It's made a difference not just to me personally, but to the court and how it thinks about things, what students can weigh into, the connection between the constitutional bar and the academy. The Internationally Trained Lawyers Program is another example of this.

It is also a great privilege to get to spend your time with such amazing people—alumni, students, faculty and staff. It's a fantastic community, full of incredibly interesting people doing interesting and amazing things. I loved connecting with all of these parts of the community and being an ambassador for the law school. That is part of the job that sometimes people find tiring but I loved it. I always get really energized by how interesting people are. One of the total joys of this job is that the graduates are so great, and I was able to interact with people that I never in my wildest dreams thought I would. For example, [alumnus] Paul Martin called me to say 'I won't be at your farewell party, but thank you for everything you've done for the law school'.

LC: WHAT WAS THE MOST CHALLENGING PART OF YOUR JOB?

MM: The budget. Finances are always the most challenging part for academic leaders. We compete with the best places in the world and it's so important that we're able to offer the best legal education in the world in Canada instead of elsewhere. But we compete with far fewer resources. I've spent an enormous amount of time as dean trying to figure out how to get more resources, how to use the resources we have as creatively as possible, how to do more with less, and how to fulfil the aspirations of faculty, staff and students. It is a constant struggle to find ways to make a place like this work.

It's important to be vigilant about all aspects of the program and ensure that it is excellent and accessible, which in my mind go hand in hand. Concern with tuition levels is understandable and natural. We have worked hard to monitor every aspect of the program—how many applications we receive, the gender balance, the diversity, the economic diversity, what students do after graduation. And we do a lot of outreach including free LSAT prep courses and other programs for students who are economically disadvantaged so that they have the opportunity to go to law school. We don't take any of this for granted and I'm thrilled to see the rate at which talented students take up our offers. Believe it or not, last year about 98 percent of people who had offers from us and from other places in

Ontario, chose us. And part of the reason they come here is that job opportunities are incredible—our articling rate is about 96 percent. Last year, more than half of first-year summer jobs were given to U of T law students. And we have back-end debt relief; we're the only law school in Canada to offer this. That means if you graduate with debt, and don't make a lot of money, we have relief for that. We're fortunate to have had fantastic support in the form of a great financial aid program and building that going forward will be really important.

LC: WHAT'S YOUR ADVICE FOR THE INCOMING DEAN?

MM: Enjoy it. It's a challenging job. There are days you're ready to pull your hair out. But it's such an interesting job because of all the policy decisions, how legal education is changing, what our grads are doing all over the world, and how you can move the place forward. I think it's an incredible privilege to be able to shepherd a place like this. And so, I would try not to get lost in all the little things and enjoy the fact that it's an incredible role. When I became dean, [alumnus and former dean] Rob Pritchard was the first one to call me, as usual, and he said: 'Congratulations Mayo, you just got the best job in the academic world.' And I think he was right.

LC: SO WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO LEAVE THE FACULTY OF LAW?

MM: I was almost done my second term and am one of the longest serving deans in the modern law school. I feel I've accomplished most of what I came here to do and I believe it's important to have transitions in leadership. Renewal enables someone else to come in and say 'Now I'm going to take a fresh look at what I can do here'—I think that's healthy for institutions. And so when Trinity College approached me, I felt I had done what was really important for me to do. Trinity looked like a wonderful opportunity that I didn't want to pass by. I love working with students, and I like great institutions so I thought it was a really great chance to do something at another jewel in the U of T family.

LC: THE FACULTY OF LAW HAS A STRONG RELATIONSHIP WITH TRINITY COLLEGE. TELL US MORE ABOUT THIS.

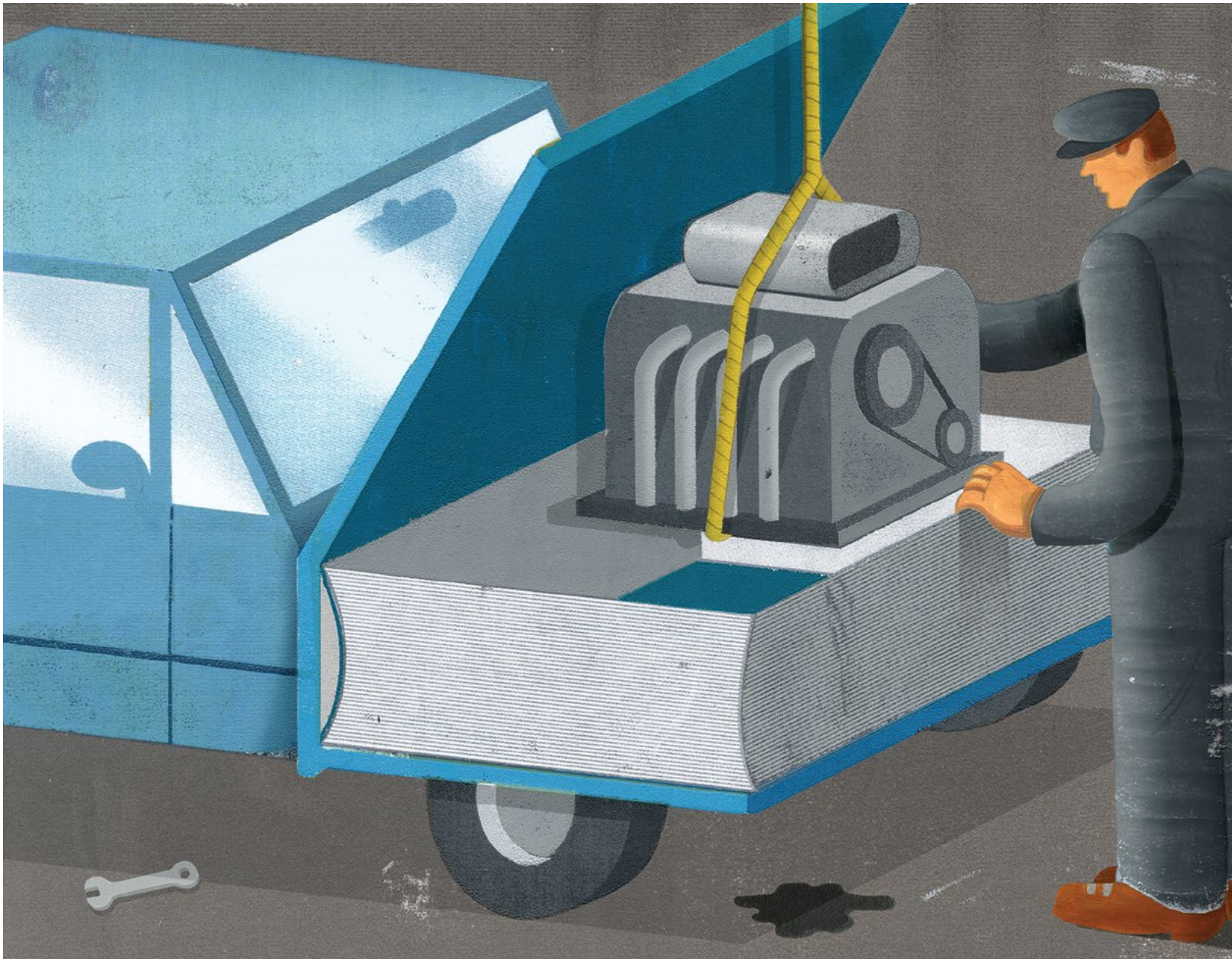
MM: One of the reasons why I thought about Trinity is we have so many amazing law graduates who are from Trinity, like our alumnus Bill Graham, who is the chancellor at Trinity. He chaired the search committee for Trinity's provost. There are really, really strong links between the two institutions. Both have incredible traditions of academic excellence. Finding ways in the midst of such fiscal challenges to build and support that excellence is so central to what I most care about that Trinity seemed like a natural move after law. I'd like to have a big Faculty of Law-Trinity event with the dual grads because so many law grads that I knew contacted me when I was named provost and I had no idea they were Trinity College grads. I'm going to look to find ways to ensure that relationship is strengthened.

LC: ANY FINAL WORDS?

MM: It's been such an incredible, incredible privilege. Thank you for trusting me with your law school. 🙏

Read the full version of the Exit Interview:
www.law.utoronto.ca/nexus/moran


ACAD



EMMIC

The move to a new
1L curriculum,
holistic admissions
process and modified
grading system

SHIFT



Recent University of Toronto law grad Thomas Wagner is busy preparing for life as a lawyer, but he's calm compared to how he felt in first year law school. Back then, Wagner found himself juggling seven full courses, hauling a stack of books home every day—all in preparation for a do-or-die end-of-year evaluation.

"It was a crazy way to live," he recalls. "The whole year of work came down to the last two weeks. You'd have a lineup of three-hour exams, each worth 100 percent of your grade. It was more pressure than you'd ever felt, you were competing with the smartest people you'd ever met, and these were the hardest exams you'd ever seen. They mean everything."

To make matters more stressful, there were December "practice" exams, the results of which you needed to snag a summer job. "There was no time to rest," he says.

In his final year, Wagner wanted to help make the transition to law school easier for future students, so he joined the Standing Curriculum Committee, a

group struck by then-Dean Mayo Moran, SJD 1999, to review the law school's 1L curriculum.

The committee was chaired by Prof. Ben Alarie, JD 2002, associate dean of the first year program, and Prof. Ian Lee, LLB 1994, associate dean of the JD program. Composed of administrators, professors and students, including Brendan Stevens, then-president of the Students' Law Society (SLS), it engaged in consultations and dialogue about what was and wasn't working for students. Specifically, it addressed student feedback about the rigorous, and often stressful, first year workload and set out to restructure the 1L curriculum to reduce law school stress.

After much review and debate, the committee wrote its report, and its recommendations, which will apply to all first year law students this fall, were approved by Faculty Council in February. The changes mark a progressive step in legal education and make the University of Toronto Law School even more appealing to candidates who may have considered other top North American law schools, such as Harvard or Yale.

THE NEW 1L CURRICULUM INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING FEATURES:

Incoming law students will enroll in a new two-week Legal Methods Intensive course in August to kick start the first year program and ease the entry into law school.

First year students will move to a semestered system, drastically reducing the stress of six 100 percent final exams.

A new substantive 1L Research and Writing graded course will replace the more specialized Administrative Law, which will be moved to the upper year program.

In addition to the 1L curriculum overhaul, the Faculty of Law has made changes to the admissions process and to the grading system that are also designed to help law students learn more effectively. Alarie is excited about these changes in the air at the law school—from the application process to the grading system, right through to exams.

First on the agenda is working towards a greater focus on a diverse and well-rounded class of first year students. With a move toward a more holistic approach to applications, the selection process now takes into account life experience more than ever before, Alarie explains.

The committee starts by studying hard data—which former students, and from which universities and programs, do best at law school? Then comes “the soft side” of applications—what life experience each person can bring to the law school.

To flesh that out, each candidate must write a personal statement and biographical sketch. At least three members of the committee read both, independent of marks. The result is a total admission score with academic strength weighted at 2/3 and life experience at 1/3, so high grades can never overcome a weak or hastily written life story.

“Numbers are no longer enough to get into law school,” Alarie says. “We are interested in what you’ll bring to the class—academics, diversity, experience, thoughtfulness, writing ability, creativity. We are assembling a first year class that has the ‘It’ factor. It’s more than marks.”

That diversity of experience, however, can create an uneven playing field for incoming students, Stevens points out. That’s because some university programs—political science, for instance—prepare you for law school better than, say, an undergraduate degree in music or math.

And if you’re the first in your family to pursue higher education and you don’t know any lawyers, you may have no idea what you’re getting into, Alarie adds.

The committee created the new “entry” course in August to combat this problem. The two-week Legal Methods Intensive will be an ungraded credit course that runs alongside orientation. Now, instead of starting school with a bang right after Labour Day, there’s a chance to learn the basics—reading cases, writing a summary, studying the structure of the courts, and more.

“It’s a relaxing start to first year where students can get

acclimatized to law school and get to know each other and their profs without all the stress and frenzy,” Stevens says.

Stress won’t hit the roof once law school begins, either, now that 1L courses will be taught in a semestered system, Wagner says. It’s perhaps the biggest, most encompassing change for U of T law students going forward.

Instead of the seven full-course load ending with as many as six 100 percent exams, 1L students will now take five core courses per year, all of which are offered in each semester: Constitutional, Contracts, Criminal, Property and Torts.

Each student takes one of these courses as a full-year “small group” class (as determined by the associate dean of first year to balance the demographics, gender, and academic profiles of each small group), while the other four are split into two in first semester, and two in second. A new, expanded Legal Research and Writing course rounds out the first semester while Legal Process, Professionalism and Ethics follows in second.

Alarie explains the new process on the law school’s YouTube channel, UTorontoLaw, in a video designed to help students understand the 1L curriculum. Students can also follow his U of T Law Tumblr page to get updates on school life: <http://84queenspark.tumblr.com/>.

It’s not the first time semesterization has been on the table at the law school, but it is the first time it has gained majority approval, says Lee. In fact, Alarie says the debate on the issue started as far back as the 1970s.

The greatest objection was concern that students would lose the “plurality of learning”—the ability to make natural connections between law subjects taken simultaneously. But the gains of semesterization far outweigh this possibility, according to Stevens.

“Student mental health is at risk at the law school, especially at the end of the year, and we have to protect it,” he says, noting that reducing the number of final exams to two or three in each semester will go a long way toward alleviating stress. It will also help students retain information long-term.

“Even students who do exceptionally well on exams report that jumping from one course to the next in such a short time is not conducive to absorbing the material on a meaningful level,” he notes. “Now they will be able to engage more deeply in fewer subjects at once. You can focus more on less.”



At the same time, there are substantive changes to the first year program. The more specialized Administrative Law course, which proved to be a struggle for many first year students, will move to the upper year program. That leaves room for an expanded Legal Research and Writing course, which used to be taught as a weekly ungraded seminar.

“Students have been demanding more instruction to equip them with the skills they need to write papers and exams, and to flourish in summer jobs. A graded, substantive course in first year will really complement learning in the other courses,” Stevens says.

Plus, the year-long small group course, the hallmark of which is a small class size of only 16, remains, giving students a sense of continuity with their professor and peers.

As students learn, they will be marked according to a new grading system as well—one that has been introduced incrementally and will apply to all JD students as of September. Natalie Lum-Tai, the incoming SLS president, has been subject to the new grades for the past two years.

Replacing traditional letter marks graded on a curve, the new system changes the performance labels to a modified honours/pass/fail system. This change was made after a review of peer law schools throughout North America, a data-driven assessment of grading practices and consultation with faculty and students.

“There were concerns with the old system because each class had to have an overall average to maintain the curve,” Lum-Tai explains. “In order to reward students with As, a professor had to give out more Cs, even if meant lowering a B-student’s grade. Basically, you were punishing the weaker students so you could reward the stronger ones—just to maintain the class average.”

Why not just bump up the average? “That would make our alumni’s grades look very weak in comparison with a new, inflated system,” Alarie says.

The new system is not constrained by quotas. Instead, it provides guidelines to instructors setting out a reasonable distribution of grades in classes of varying sizes.

In any class, a maximum of 15 percent of students can receive High Honours, 30 percent Honours, 55 percent Pass with Merit, and there is no requirement for a Low Pass, although it is available. The guidelines set forth a range of possible distributions, with smaller classes having more flexibility than larger ones.

The new labels indicate achievement in a group of excellent students, Alarie says. Work produced “in the middle” of that group—Pass with Merit—indicates a strong performance. Therefore, the system rewards the largest number of students with this respectable grade, while still identifying elite and substandard performances.

The new system works particularly well in a small class setting, Lum-Tai points out, because professors can be more lenient with the number of High Honours they hand out. Because instructors have discretion, they are not as constrained by the curve and there’s a greater likelihood of higher marks, she says, noting that the evaluation for mootings will be on a credit/no credit basis.

Although universities such as Yale Law School, Berkeley’s Boalt Hall, Stanford Law School and Harvard Law School employ similar grading systems, the new language will take some getting used to, Lum-Tai says. “The school has made a huge effort to communicate the grading system to recruiters and employers but I’ve heard stories where an interviewer has scratched out the new grades on a CV and written the letter equivalent.”

It remains to be seen how all of these changes will play out, but the stakeholders are optimistic—especially because the consultative process they engaged in was so robust.

“Being part of this process was one of my most meaningful experiences at law school,” says Stevens. “We all put a lot of time and thought into how to improve student life.”

According to Lee, the participants were careful to be respectful of diverse views. “We provided a space where faculty, who care about what goes on in the classroom, could come together with students in a forum where we all listen to each other,” he says. “What we want is for everyone at the law school to be comfortable that all points of view were carefully considered.”

And they were, Stevens says, noting that the committee heads did an excellent job as leaders by actively listening as opposed to asserting their views. They took time to engage the faculty and students so that the changes were responsive to the community voice.

“This is a pilot project but it was well thought out,” Wagner says. “The main goal was to help students to learn more effectively and we achieved that by focusing on their experience.”

“The process opened people up to the realization that change at the law school was necessary. It’s typical of our profession that change is sometimes difficult to embrace, but when the status quo isn’t working, at some point, you have to take a leap of faith,” Stevens says. “And here you have it. Times are changing.”

Recap

BY JEAN TEILLET, PARTNER,
PAPE SALTER TEILLET LLP
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHELLE YEE



Twenty years after launching the Kawaskimhon Aboriginal Moot, Jean Teillet, LLB 1994, LLM 2008 is still working on her 'roses'

One of the things that I have adopted is the idea of giving roses. Wherever I go, whatever institution I'm in, wherever I am, I believe that one should give back. I think of it as gifting roses. I did that when I was a law student. I decided that I'd give a rose to the school every year.

When I first came into the law school, I saw the big brass plaque that was hanging in the lower rotunda of Flavelle Hall, which contained several quotes from the Torah. One of the lines was something like 'There shall be one law for you and the stranger among you.' I remember seeing that on the very first day of law school and thinking, 'That's not right. That's not what Aboriginal people think about law.'

I also have a fine arts background, so I'm a big believer in symbols. I started talking to the other Aboriginal law students about putting another symbol up in the law school to show that there is another way to look at this.

We arranged for the belt keeper from the Haudenosaunee, which is what most people know as Six Nations, to come up and talk to us about the Two Row Wampum belt. This is an Aboriginal symbol of two legal systems working side by side. We asked him whether we could create a replica belt and hang it in the law school and he thought it was a wonderful idea.

I did the beading of the belt. Another student, Marty Bayer, brought the hawk feathers and the birch bark frame and deer skin hide from Manitoulin Island. We gave it in a ceremony to the law school dean at the time, now Justice Robert Sharpe. That was the first rose.

The second year, we were trying to communicate with other law schools and the Indigenous Bar Association, and I decided that the Native Law Students Association needed a logo and letterhead. I designed the graphic, the one with the turtle, now morphed into the new logo you see today. I went to a friend of mine, who is a graphic artist, and had letterhead made and somewhere in the depths of U of T, there must still be NLSA letterhead. That was the second rose.

The third rose was the Aboriginal Moot. There was a lot of Aboriginal law cooking in the courts at that time.

The first section 35 of the Constitution Act case had just come down in the year before I got to law school, so it was a hot topic.

The first case we did was *Delgamuukw v. British Columbia*, [1997], which was a big Aboriginal land title case. At that time, it had just come down from the BC Court of Appeal, had been granted leave to appeal by the Supreme Court of Canada, but it hadn't been argued there yet. Everyone agreed that it was a good case to argue, so that became the first case argued at the inaugural Kawaskimhon Moot.

Patrick Macklem was wonderful and Kent Roach helped us out as well. I thought that the faculty generally were incredibly supportive.

I'm always fascinated to watch how they do, especially the students who seem so quiet and shy and then stand up and argue so beautifully. It also gives me a chance to head them off at the pass sometimes, too, to say 'Don't ever do that. Do *not* ever do that again. I'm not criticizing; I know why you did it and lots of lawyers try and do it but judges hate it. Don't do it.' It's better to make these mistakes in an educational setting than in court.

I don't like the "First" part in First Nations, although it's not very political to say that. I object to it because it really undermines the Inuit. Why are the First Nations first and the

Inuit aren't? I know why they are doing it. They're trying to establish a priority claim over the rest of Canada, but I don't think that it is really very helpful.

We have more than 50 Aboriginal peoples in this country from coast to coast to coast. The Métis Nation is just one of those people, primarily located from the upper Great Lakes and stretching west to the Rocky Mountains. So not down here in the Toronto area, but north and around. Just follow the fur trade routes. That's where they started and that's where they are still today.

The Métis Nation is in the news on the Prairies almost on a daily basis. I was surprised to the reaction to *Powley* [2003]. We actually made the front page of the newspapers in Toronto, in the *Toronto Star*. **The case was about moose hunting [without a licence]. I mean really, who cares in Toronto? Most people in Toronto have never even seen a moose.** I was shocked that it got in the press at all, but it was a big story. I really was astonished by the reaction.

It's still the foundational case and it has proved to be a pretty good foundation. It's great that it came out of Ontario because if it had come out of the prairies, Ontario would have carried on with its old idea that there are no Métis people here, which is what they argued all the way up.

But Ontario couldn't say that anymore so it's fundamentally changed the way government, federal and provincial, deal with Métis people in Ontario. We always like to joke and say that before *Powley* we couldn't even get the janitor to talk to us in government. That's an exaggeration, but not much of one.

We had a big decision just recently that came down in April from the Federal Court of Appeal. That was the *Daniels* case. They have now sought leave to appeal from the Supreme Court of Canada. I think it will be granted leave, but we don't know yet.

The question was whether Métis and non-status Indians are a federal responsibility or not. In other words, did they come within section 91 (24) of the Constitution? Section 91(24) is the head of power that says 'Indians, and Lands reserved for Indians'. So the question is who's an Indian, for the purpose of federal jurisdiction?

The trial judge said both Métis and non-status Indians were within 91(24) and we didn't disagree with his finding but he tried to define Métis in a completely illogical way that would just create chaos. So I did intervene at the Federal Court of Appeal on behalf of the Métis Nation of Ontario. The Court of Appeal agreed that the Métis are federal jurisdiction. That's good. They also clarified the Métis definition problem. That was good for the Métis, but they said they weren't going to make any findings with respect to non-status Indians. They said the very idea of a non-status Indian was too vague, too broad for them to deal with. The problem is that it's a negative definition, which is unhelpful because essentially, every Canadian is a non-status Indian. That will be one of the issues on appeal.

Also I think the federal government will object to any addition to their responsibilities, which they have been denying since the 1980s. It's an important decision because currently we have what we might call jurisdictional football, or 'hot potato'— which is a continuation of 'We don't have them, you have them. Oh, no, *you* have them.' You get the picture.

Read the full conversation online: <http://uoft.me/Nexus-Teillet>



FAMILY MATTERS

Does breaking up have to break the bank? How our alumni—and students—are changing family law

BY CYNTHIA MACDONALD
ILLUSTRATION BY PATRIK SVENSSON

When Catherine Lemieux’s relationship ended and she was deprived of her children, she had no idea she’d end up representing herself in court

But unable to afford a lawyer, she realized she’d have no choice but to go it alone. “I would rather have solved it amicably, but that wasn’t a possibility in this case,” says the mother of two, who is currently completing a PhD in religion at the University of Toronto. “I found myself forced into the legal system, and it was very scary.”

Lemieux initially borrowed money to retain a lawyer, but in the course of time that money ran out. Over the next four years, she and her former partner appeared before a dozen judges, resulting in six volumes of court documents. “You figure out how the filing works, what the basic rules are. I wasn’t always composed and professional,” she says wryly.

In the end, she received a satisfactory outcome and was permanently reunited with her kids. “But I don’t necessarily advise other people to go through it,” she says of self-representation. “Their case might be very different than mine.”

Other people, however, do go through it. Depending on the jurisdiction, more than 70 percent of litigants in family law cases can be self-represented. Couples who can’t agree on custody or finances naturally turn to the traditional family justice system as a last resort for help. It’s an experience that can be a financial nightmare for those who aren’t wealthy.

Few litigants qualify for legal aid, but neither can they afford to pay a lawyer hundreds of dollars an hour. Consequently, many end up representing themselves—an arrangement that has contributed to a massive court backlog, as judges routinely attempt to explain rules of procedure to people with no formal legal training.

“Family law is in crisis,” says veteran practitioner Phil Epstein, LLB 1968, co-founder of Epstein Cole LLP, “and not just because of self-represented litigants. There’s a lack of resources in terms of courtrooms, judges, mediation facilities. By its very nature, family law requires early intervention and there aren’t enough services to provide that.”

These crises are of long standing, and not restricted to Canada alone. Jurisdictions around the world have sought different ways to deal with the problem: from mandatory pre-court mediation in Britain, to government-funded “family relationship centres” in Australia.

In 2013, the Report of the Action Committee on Access to Justice in Civil and Family Matters, chaired by Supreme Court Justice Thomas Cromwell, recommended more than 30 ways in which the system could be changed. These included having a specialized family court, increasing legal aid, and extending the unified family court system across the country. But such changes require financial resources and political will at both federal and provincial levels—something that’s been lacking for a very long time. “I’m not optimistic that any present government is prepared to do what’s necessary,” says Epstein wearily.

So without adequate government support, today’s family lawyers find themselves in a perpetual state of innovation. Where possible, they’ve reduced society’s reliance on the old, combative divorce model, due to the financial and emotional costs it invariably exacts, most particularly on children. Various forms of consensual dispute resolution (CDR) have taken the place of this model, including mediation and arbitration. This century has seen an especially strong rise in collaborative family law. In this process, each party is represented by a separate lawyer, and all four sign an agreement at the outset that negotiations will be conducted outside the courtroom.

But while such welcome trends keep divorcing couples from taking up court space, they’re still too expensive for many middle income clients. In fact, they’ve resulted in what former Chief Justice of Ontario Warren Winkler called in 2011 a “two-tiered” justice system—those who can, seek arbitration and those who can’t, sit and wait for their day in court to represent themselves.

And justice isn’t usually on the public’s radar until a crisis affects them personally. So while some argue that access to justice is a core part of fundamental rights, many focus their concerns on inequalities in health care and education, while overlooking those in the legal system. [The Faculty of Law highlighted the access to justice issue, and proposed solutions, when it launched the year-long Middle Income Access to Civil Justice Initiative in 2010, which included family law. Read about it here: <http://uoft.me/a2jproject>]

‘UNBUNDLING’ IS NOW PART OF THE LEGAL LEXICON

Yet there may be another reason, in addition to the cost, in the staggering rise in self-represented litigants: the “do-it-yourself” culture that’s arisen in the wake of the Internet.

“We have a culture of people who are used to doing things on their own,” says former family lawyer Nikki Gershbain, LLB 2000. “We fill out our own tax returns, write our own wills, and buy or sell our own houses without an agent. Now on the one hand that’s an amazing thing...but what worries me in this context is that family law is highly specialized. It’s not something lawyers dabble in; most lawyers who practice family law only practice family law. So people would really benefit very much from the advice of someone who knows what the law is, and how to get them through the system.”

Jonathan Kline, JD 2007, a family lawyer practising in Toronto, also points out that the DIY culture has given rise to a great number of self-employed individuals, whose complicated financial picture can present messy exceptions to the government’s support guidelines.



Even with the limited on-site help provincial governments have provided for “self-reps,” such as duty counsel or a series of Family Law Information Centres, litigants can get frustrated by the lack of depth and continuity these services offer.

Sharon Silbert, JD 2009, a CDR specialist based in St. Catharines, Ontario, provides on-site mediation as part of her practice and hears the frustrations about the provincial services on a regular basis. “People tell me that they can’t ever get the level of assistance they need, because their interactions with these people are so brief. [The service providers] are never going to be in a position to fully understand what’s going on in the case, or be able to provide more than snippets of information.”

That’s why some lawyers now offer “unbundled” or partial services to clients who don’t wish to pay for full retainers. “The introduction of the Internet, combined with runaway legal costs, have contributed to more people deciding to purchase unbundled legal services,” says Epstein. “What you’re going to see in the future is a dramatic increase in these services.”

Rather than assuming responsibility for every aspect of the case, the unbundled lawyer acts as a sort of legal coach for his or her client. Kline is an enthusiastic proponent of unbundling, using the word “tailored” to describe his own downtown practice. “I try to treat each case as brand new,” he says, “Every situation is different, and a new strategy is always required.”

And yet, unbundling is still very much a grey area. “What I’ve envisioned with it, and what I’ve actually done, have been very different,” Kline says. He worked with one client who only wanted to pay for certain services until the case became too complicated, at which point they switched to a more traditional retainer. Providing informal pro bono advice is one thing. But to be partially on the record and partially not is a tricky area. “It’s so hard to do halfway.”

Still, if an efficient unbundling model can be worked out, Kline is in favour of it: it puts the client in the driver’s seat of his or her own case, and is very cost-effective. “As long as the client knows that, at this point, what they’re getting into is experimental,” he adds.

Silbert also hails the advent of greater client participation in family law. “With respect to handling complex legal issues, people may not be able to handle things on their own. But at the same time I question the assumption that a third party, such as a judge or even a client’s own lawyer, is going to be in a better position than clients to say what’s best for them. Clients are the ones whose lives are being turned upside down; they’re going to have to live with the outcome. So doesn’t it make sense that they take more of a role in determining what that outcome is?”

Family lawyer Jason Murphy, LLB 2002, who practices law at Christie/Cummings in Collingwood, Ontario, is strongly considering unbundling. He thinks it could be an empowering

solution for intelligent, motivated clients. But he notes it could also be a potential minefield. “We’re giving advice, but we don’t have the same control over the implementation,” he says. “So from a liability perspective it’s scary, especially if you’re a small practitioner.”

Will the advent of unbundling mean that family lawyers earn a great deal less money? Not necessarily, says Murphy, especially if the practice attracts a large number of self-represented clients who otherwise wouldn’t be paying lawyers anything at all. “For me it all starts with happy clients, who are going to spread the word that they got helpful advice,” he says.

Murphy adds that in the current environment, clients paying full retainers to their lawyers are also suffering court delays. “We’re doing them a favour as well by thinking outside the box, because we’re making the system more efficient.”

The unbundled services model reduces, but does not eliminate legal costs: it has the potential to serve many but not all clients. Litigants who live in poverty, have very complicated cases, or who experience barriers related to language or mobility still need effective representation and often cannot get it.

Kline frequently sees cases where one side can afford a lawyer and the other cannot; the power imbalance, he says, is the real injustice. Realizing how limited their options are, many people actually give up entirely on seeking redress and merely “lump it,” settling for unfair solutions to their custodial or financial problems.

BRING IN THE STUDENTS

Seventeen years ago, however, a radical new solution to this problem came into being: leveraging the talents of Canadian law students. The award-winning Family Law Project of Pro Bono Students Canada (PBSC) began in response to a 1997 speech by Ontario family court judge Harvey Brownstone, who suggested that students were a valuable resource that could be tapped to alleviate some of the problems he and his colleagues were experiencing.

These days, the Family Law Project annually recruits some 160 law students across the country. Working under the supervision of family lawyers, they help clients draft legal documents and navigate the complex family court system. The program has been such a success that Brownstone himself has said that Toronto’s North York court would “implode” without the presence of PBSC volunteers.

PBSC itself was founded at the University of Toronto in 1996 by then-dean Ron Daniels, LLB 1986. It now operates chapters in 21 law schools in Canada. In addition to the Family Law Project—its biggest—the organization gives approximately 1500 additional students the chance to work in other areas of the law, whether in courts, tribunals or community services.

The program also appears to be creating what Gershbain calls a “cultural shift” in how students perceive their careers. “Our surveys show that 80 percent of students plan to do pro bono work after they graduate, which is amazing.”

“While Canadian lawyers have always done pro bono on an ad hoc basis, it wasn’t until Ron Daniels—with the support of the Law Foundation—created PBSC, that organized pro bono programs were introduced in this country,” says Nikki Gershbain, the group’s current national director.

So too did the Faculty of Law’s Downtown Legal Services expand its services, with the addition of a family law division in 2005.

Last academic year, 19 DLS students assisted 55 family law clients, either as volunteers or for a course credit, says executive director Lisa Cirillo—and those numbers are expected to increase, thanks to additional funding from Legal Aid Ontario to upgrade the supervising staff-lawyer position to full-time.

While the American Bar Association requires law schools to provide pro bono opportunities for students, no such obligation exists in Canada. In fact, Gershbain says, even today pro bono isn’t universally supported by the legal profession. Despite decades of underfunding for legal aid programs, some advocates continue to worry that the delivery of pro bono services could prompt governments to shirk their own responsibilities to underserved litigants.

But governments weren’t stepping up. In her sunny office in one of the rambling old century homes that line Toronto’s Queen’s Park Crescent, Gershbain seems a long way from the cool precincts of traditional family law where she started out. With fewer than five staff, PBSC is most decidedly a shoestring operation, but one whose members exude passion and purpose. “I love my job!” Gershbain declares.

PBSC offers rigorous, on-the-job training to students, as well as the opportunity to make contacts in the working world. And for the past three years, they’ve had a waiting list of 700 students.

“PBSC can’t keep up with the demand for our placements or for our services. Seven hundred students on a wait list is 700 fewer lawyers exposed to the value of pro bono, and 700 fewer opportunities to support vulnerable people in our communities,” says Gershbain. “I know all the Canadian law schools value their involvement with PBSC, and our goal is to one day be able to offer these learning opportunities to every law student who wants a placement.”

The program also appears to be creating what Gershbain calls a “cultural shift” in how students perceive their careers. “Our surveys show that 80 percent of students plan to do pro bono work after they graduate, which is amazing,” she says. “When I was a student, it never would have occurred to me to ask if I could do free work. Now students ask all the time. If every lawyer took that professional obligation seriously, we could have a large impact on filling the gaps.”

Clearly, Gershbain wants all interested law students to take advantage of her program. Unfortunately, PBSC is in the midst of a funding crisis. Her former boss Phil Epstein is currently chair of a \$650,000 campaign to keep it going. “This program helps the public, it helps the court and it helps the young lawyers who are involved,” he says. “It’s a win-win-win for everybody concerned.”

The lead supporter of the campaign, he’s had success encouraging fellow family lawyers to donate. “We’ve had some outside help as well, but it’s primarily lawyers who are stepping up to the plate and in some cases making a significant contribution. It’s good to see they support the cause and are willing to see the program grow.”

Gershbain knows that PBSC and other pro bono organizations can’t solve the problem on their own; they help, but never as much as is needed. “As the Cromwell Report has noted, there has to be a comprehensive and holistic response to this problem,” she says. “If we’re really going to address it, government has to step in and we have to look at this issue systemically, not just at what stopgap measures we can put in place.”

Family law remains one of the most challenging areas of the bar to work in. Administrative headaches aside, its stresses are unique and profound: emotions run high and society’s most vulnerable citizens—children—are very often involved. Though the field is becoming less adversarial, it still suffers from an image problem: a recent study of student perceptions of family law was titled “Not with a ten-foot pole”.

But those who do practice find it uniquely energizing, despite the challenges. “A family law proceeding is usually the most important interaction with the law that people will ever have, so the stakes are high,” says Murphy. Silbert agrees: “Family law is where the law intersects with real people in their day-to-day lives. It’s something a lot of people are going to face.”

And while some of the lawyers interviewed for this story stressed that the only way of truly solving these problems would be through prevention—changing society’s overly romantic notions of marriage, and teaching children better conflict-resolution skills to prepare them for it—they also admit to the utopian nature of such solutions.

Until then, “people are always going to get divorced, and no-fault divorce is pretty much a value that we share. So what can you do?” says Gershbain.

Not everything, but quite a lot, as the creative and iconoclastic new breed of family lawyers is proving every day. ↩

Prof. Brenda Cossman co-chairs the first human rights conference at World Pride

Plenary celebrates achievements, highlights work yet to be done

As the recently retired prime minister of Iceland, Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir is likely accustomed to addressing crowds larger than those that fit in Convocation Hall. And yet, in opening the first public plenary of the World Pride Human Rights Conference at the University of Toronto, she said that despite being known as the world's first openly lesbian head of government, this was her first speech at an LGBTI (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex) event. The admission was met with thunderous applause.

In her introduction to the panel, law professor and conference co-organizer Brenda Cossman, LLB 1986, told the audience while Canada has much to be proud of, including its pioneering approval of gay marriage, there is still progress to be made, particularly in continued advocacy for transgender rights, LGBTI youth, and two-spirit identities. Cossman, director of the university's Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies, is herself a leading scholar in the field and an activist for the community.

The daily public plenaries featured "pathbreakers" whose advocacy example are pivotal to the LGBTI community. This first presentation set a standard—in addition to the former PM, participants included Icelandic novelist Jónína Leósdóttir (Sigurðardóttir's wife), activist Edith Windsor (most recently famous as the winning plaintiff in the 2013 landmark discrimination case for spousal benefits), and Justice Harvey Brownstone, who is the first openly gay judge in Canada.

Sigurðardóttir reflected on the struggles she had in common with the LGBTI community, especially the fact that she'd "had to hide her feelings" for a decade and a half, and the gratitude she felt towards activists in Iceland who helped to motivate change in the 1990s. While she and her wife started living together in 2000, they will only celebrate their four-year wedding anniversary this week. The couple changed their status the day after marriage was legalized in Iceland.

Recalling the few ugly letters she received alongside the many supportive ones, Sigurðardóttir addressed the road ahead for LGBTI activists, quoting unsettling statistics about the number of countries that maintain anti-gay laws and sentences as extreme as death by public stoning. "Progress is extremely slow in too many countries." She ended her address by grasping Leósdóttir's hand and raising it in victory, to the first standing ovation of the afternoon.

"Hi, I'm the wife," said Leósdóttir to laughter and applause as she took to the podium after Sigurðardóttir. She proceeded to detail the couple's story, as described in her recent memoir, *Jóhanna and I*, a title she chose because she was unable to say the phrase publicly for most of their relationship. She recounted the very



PHOTO BY SARA-MARNI HUBBARD

AT THE PARADE: FACULTY OF LAW STUDENTS, STAFF AND ALUMNI SUPPORTED THE 2014 WORLD PRIDE EVENT

ordinary process by which the couple fell in love, divorced their then-spouses, and raised their three boys together.

Brownstone asked the woman he called "the Rosa Parks of gay rights" how it felt to be back in Toronto. He was referencing Edith Windsor's 2007 trip to marry her partner of 40 years Thea Spyer, who was dying of multiple sclerosis. He officiated at their ceremony. Brownstone's conversation ranged through the recent court case, the wedding planning, the documentary, and her comfort level with being a role model ("I love it," she answered to applause).

Windsor encouraged "mainstream gays" to continue to fight for those who still struggled. In particular she echoed the need for continued action for transgendered people, noting that their struggle is not just over marriage licenses but birth certificates. ↗

Read the full story online: <http://uoft.me/WPHRC2014>

Hat Trick

Three alumni, in as many months, were appointed law school deans this year: Sujit Choudhry, LLB 1996, Gillian Lester, LLB 1990, and Paul Paton, LLB 1992

They join a notable group of alumni deans that currently includes William Flanagan (Queen's University Faculty of Law,) Timothy Endicott (Oxford University Faculty of Law) and Carl Stychin (The City Law School, City University). Up for grabs: dean of the University of Toronto Faculty of Law—we'll keep you posted on that one.

Here's a look at University of California Berkeley, Columbia and University of Alberta law schools' newest deans.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY JOEL KIMMEL



Sujit Choudhry

Dean of University of California, Berkeley, School of Law

Previously: Cecelia Goetz Professor of Law, New York University Law School

So you're moving to California, from New York. What are you looking forward to most?

The beautiful weather.

What are your goals in the first 90 days?

In the first 90 days, my goal is to meet with faculty, students, staff and alumni and learn as much as I can about the school, and to engage in an active listening exercise on three themes—equality of opportunity, academic excellence and innovation, and globalization. Our agenda for my deanship will emerge from that process.

Will you be teaching a course?

I plan on teaching, but won't this year. I will probably teach Constitutional Law or run a workshop series on Comparative Constitutional Law and Politics.

How will your U of T Law degree and JD experiences shape your role as dean?

Profoundly. Like UC Berkeley, the U of T is one of the world's great public universities. Much of what I learned about the special mission of a public law school was at the University of Toronto.

What are the critical issues facing law students today?

Our students will increasingly pursue careers outside of the law, in business, government, and the non-profit worlds. Within the law and outside

the law, they will experience frequent career changes. Our students will have to constantly reinvent themselves. The new normal is that there is no normal.

Most important case to watch in the near future?

At some point in the next year or two, the United States Supreme Court will rule on the constitutionality of a state constitutional ban on same-sex marriage. There is a flood of District Court judgments that have struck down same-sex marriage bans. This is a sea-change in American constitutional law and constitutional culture that would have been unthinkable a decade ago. The courts are following massive social change in public opinion on this issue.

Most important landmark legal case in the last decade?

Citizens United. Because it struck down restrictions on third party expenditures supporting or opposing individual candidates in an election campaign, it has fundamentally altered the legal terrain for campaign finance in American politics.

Favourite legal movie?

A Few Good Men

When you were a kid, what did you really want to be when you grew up?

A professor. Really.



Gillian Lester

Dean of Columbia Law School (effective Jan. 1, 2015)

Previously: Acting Dean, Alexander F. and May T. Morrison Professor of Law, Werner and Mimi Wolfen Research Professor, University of California, Berkeley, School of Law

So you're moving to New York. What are you looking forward to most?

Being in such a spectacular global hub of legal, cultural, and intellectual life. And I can't wait to live close to my family and friends in Toronto!

How did you prepare for the interview process?

I read a lot and talked to as many people as I could about Columbia. I also thought deeply about my own values and how they might fit with Columbia's future.

What ran through your mind the moment you received an offer?

I was euphoric and humbled.

What are your goals in the first 90 days? In your term?

First 90 days: a lot of listening to the faculty, alumni, students, and staff to discover what excites and what challenges them. Much of what follows in my term as dean will be inspired by what I learn.

Will you be teaching a course? If yes, which one?

Not right away, because my plate will be full! I love teaching Contracts and Employment Law, though, so it may be impossible to stay away for long.

How will your U of T Law degree and JD experiences shape your role as dean?

Indelibly. U of T Law School

is a shining exemplar of how to combine uncompromising academic excellence, training the best lawyers in the country, a strong sense of community, and sustained commitment to public engagement, both domestic and global.

What are the critical issues facing law students today? Facing the legal profession?

The market for lawyers and legal services is in an intensely dynamic phase. Law students must see themselves as entrepreneurs whose legal training will make them versatile problem-solvers, ready to apply their skills in a range of sectors and jobs.

Most important landmark legal case in the last decade?

Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission (2010), in which the United States Supreme Court interpreted freedom of speech to include corporate political campaign spending—and banned limits on such spending. Its constitutional and practical importance is enormous.

Favourite legal movie?

My Cousin Vinny

When you were a kid, what did you really want to be when you grew up?

My mother was a teacher and my father was a lawyer. I emulated both. Lucky thing for me I found the perfect job.



Paul Paton

Dean of University of Alberta Faculty of Law

Previously: Professor of Law and Director, Ethics Across the Professions Initiative, University of the Pacific

So you're moving to Edmonton. What colour is your parka?

Green and gold, of course! (U of A's colours).

What ran through your mind the moment you received an offer?

It's actually rather personal. My Ukrainian grandparents immigrated to farm country northeast of Edmonton in the late 1800s. It was difficult, to say the least. My mother didn't have the chance to finish high school, first staying home to help on the farm, then heading to work in the war plants in Toronto. To return to Alberta a generation later as dean of the preeminent law school in the province and in Western Canada is a tribute to their sacrifice and determination.

What are the critical issues facing law students today? Facing the legal profession?

My research and writing in legal ethics over the last decade has focused on regulation of the profession, multidisciplinary practice, the changing role of corporate counsel, and alternative business structures in comparative perspective, so I'm very directly attuned to the fundamental transformation in the way legal services are being delivered and the impact that has on lawyers, law students, consumers and the public. Big and small firms need to be ever more attuned to ensuring access to justice,

and to providing consumers with a greater range of options for meeting their legal services needs affordably. For law students, two primary issues are debt loads and ensuring that legal education prepares them for new career paths and opportunities outside the traditional law firm model.

Most important landmark legal case in the last decade?

In Canada, the decision in *Schachter*, a case on which Lorne Sossin and I had the chance to work as summer students for the late Brian Morgan and Larry Ritchie at Oslers. The way in which the decision framed constitutional remedies under the Charter, and "reading in", set out the contours of the "dialogue" between courts and Parliament and the stage for what even now is still unfolding, as recent events have amply demonstrated.

Favourite legal movie?

Legally Blonde (Can I admit that publicly?)

When you were a kid, what did you really want to be when you grew up?

I thought that being a teacher of some sort would be neat. Guess it kind of worked out! ↩



RENAISSANCE RISING

Interested in viewing the renewal project's construction site?
Contact Sean Ingram, sean.ingram@utoronto.ca



PHOTOGRAPHY BY
GORDON HAWKINS



Fasken Martineau

For many alumni, their time at law school was an important and formative part of their lives, dingy lockers and airless classrooms notwithstanding. So it's not surprising to hear excitement about the renewal project during the construction tours now being given inside the rising Jackman Law Building.

"When I first walked through, I was reminded of the incredible location for the new building," says Sarah Armstrong, JD 2004. "I had seen the plans but touring the project site gave me a great sense of how the Jackman Law Building complements the amazing green space that surrounds it, with Philosopher's Walk on one side and Queen's Park on the other."

Colleague Andrew Alleyne, LLB 2002, says he was "impressed by the ambitious nature of the project ahead."

With more than 75 U of T law alumni in the Fasken Martineau offices, the Faculty of Law plays an important role among partners and associates, says Armstrong. The firm enjoys a longstanding relationship with the law school including its generous gift to the Downtown Legal Services clinic, and now continuing with support for the physical space transformation.

Says Alleyne: "Our alumni reunion helped us reconnect with our classmates. It brought us back to the law school, and brought home the argument for a renewed physical space. We wanted to give back to the students we hope will be the future lifeblood of firms such as Faskens." ↖



FACULTY OF LAW RENEWAL CAMPAIGN

As at June 18, 2014

FIRM GIFTS

Bennett Jones LLP
Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP
Borden Ladner Gervais LLP
Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP
Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg LLP
Dentons Canada LLP
Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP
Gilbert's LLP
Goodmans LLP
Lax O'Sullivan Scott Lisus LLP
Lenczner Slaght Royce Smith Griffin LLP
Lerners LLP
McCarthy Tétrault LLP
McMillan LLP
Norton Rose Fulbright Canada LLP
Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP
Paliare Roland Rosenberg Rothstein LLP
Stikeman Elliott LLP
Torkin Manes LLP
Torys LLP

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BMO Financial Group
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Bekhzod Abdurazzakov
Gesta A. Abols
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Akazaki
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Aniz Alani
Ben Alarie
John Alati
Don Allen
Michael S. Allen
Andrew Alleyne
Jeffrey Alpert
John D. Alton
Karim Amlani
Anita Anand
Meg Angevine
Philip Anisman
Deborah C. Ansell
Jonathan H. Ansell
Naim Antaki
Todd L. Archibald
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Robert P. Armstrong
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Dany and Lisa Assaf
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Joan M. Barrett
Patrick G. Barry
Allan Barsky
Theodore Batchler
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Coming up in a future issue of *Nexus*

Somebody's watching you:

Is online privacy an oxymoron? What happens to all your digital data? Is it time for a North American version of the 'right to be forgotten'?

Not your grand-dad's law firm:

How has your law practice changed in the age of technology, outsourcing and cut-backs? Are you ahead of the curve, or redesigning your own curve?

We're researching alumni working on these issues and more. Email us with your suggestions at: nexus.magazine@utoronto.ca

Letters to the Editor:

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Incoming: Top UofT student picks Faculty of Law

BY ELAINE SMITH

Shan Arora graduated from the University of Toronto Scarborough with a 4.0 average and two notable awards—and he's attending the Faculty of Law in September.

The honours bachelor of science graduate, with a double major in economics and mental health studies and a minor in French, is the recipient of the John Black Aird Scholarship for the top student at all three U of T campuses, as well as a Governor General's Silver Medal for his standing as one of the university's most academically outstanding graduates.

"I knew objectively that I'd done well, but I wasn't expecting to hear that I was first overall," said Arora. "When I got the call, my mom was so happy for me, she was crying."

The Governor General's Academic Medals recognize the outstanding scholastic achievements of students in Canada, at the high school (bronze), undergraduate (silver) and graduate (gold) levels. Distinguished Canadians such as Pierre Trudeau, Tommy Douglas, Kim Campbell, Robert Bourassa, Robert Stanfield and Gabrielle Roy have received Governor General Medals.

Arora has also been busy outside the lecture hall. He co-authored a research article for publication with Assistant Professor Elizabeth Dhuey. As president of the Ontario Young Liberals in Oak Ridges-Markham, Arora worked on the importance of political engagement with other young adults.

He chose UTSC over Trinity College four years ago and said the Scarborough campus "was a really good transition from high school, because it's small, so you do see the same people in the halls. It's a close-knit community...It made learning easier, because I had more time and more supports to focus on it."

He starts a joint, three-year JD/MA in economics in August. And in the meantime, Arora has other activities to keep him busy, working as a teaching assistant for two UTSC economics courses this summer and joining a Governing Council tribunal that adjudicates academic grievances. ↖



PHOTO BY KEN JONES

Forty-three Cambodian daughters

How a business trip
launched a legal education
recruitment program—
and full scholarships—for
disadvantaged rural women

BY LUCIANNA CICCOCIOPPO
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFF KIRK



Chuck Gastle's 2006 business trip to Cambodia turned out to be about much more than enacting intellectual property statutes and assisting the country to meet its World Trade Organization obligations.

On a visit to the Royal University of Law and Economics in Phnom Penh, he and his wife Ruth met Marnie Ryan, an American "with a personality larger than life." She told them about a program she started to assist young impoverished girls to attend the university.

They were conversing in a make-shift moot court room—and Gastle, LLB 1985, saw some of the students had moved in to live under the dais, so desperate were the girls to remain enrolled.

"On the spot, we sponsored a student. By the end of the day, it was two students. By the time I got to the airport, it was four students. By the time I got back to Toronto, it was five students. So that's how CLEW started."

CLEW is the Cambodian Legal Education for Woman fund that grew from that initial meeting. Gastle officially turned it into a charity in 2012, now co-chaired by Ruth. For high-achieving rural girls facing a futureless farming life, CLEW provides tuition, room and board, and a support network before and after graduation from Cambodia's top four-year undergraduate law school.

"If you read the international development literature, it says: educate women. It all does," says Gastle. "Why? Because the money stays in the family. But what they say is, get them into elementary school and into secondary school. It says nothing about university."

CLEW connects with international charity Plan Cambodia, which refers rural girls to the scholarship program. Students must write their final high school exams, must be from a disadvantaged

family ("If they have a steel roof, they don't qualify") and must go through an interview process as part of the criteria.

It costs about US\$1200 per year to fund each student, and his firm Bennett Gastle pays all the administrative costs so that every dollar raised (from an annual dinner, a June golf tournament and online donations) funds the charity.

Bennett Gastle purchases computers, provides Internet access and pays an office salary in Cambodia, while a partnership with LexisNexis provided about 2,000 books and free databases for the law library.

"We're making a difference, and if we can do this, what about other firms that are 100 times the size we are?" says Gastle.

CLEW has 26 alumni to date—but while the women receive law degrees, they are not lawyers. Firm partner and CLEW co-chair Elizabeth Bennett-Martin says it's difficult to get licensed. CLEW is working on that.

"It's not enough just to support them through university," says Gastle. "Cambodia is a 'who-you-know' country."

Gastle and Bennett-Martin however proudly list off their success stories: Rathana now works on land reform policies in what is effectively the Cabinet of the Cambodian government; Sopal works at a women's shelter in Siem Reap, and shares her story to support recruitment; Champa helps farmers reclaim and register their land; and Sreynang is taking a course with the United Nations in Geneva, growing her skills to become a spokesperson for Cambodia's Indigenous peoples.

Adds Gastle: "People say we're giving back. That's nonsense. We get far more out of it than we put into it. I haven't got just three daughters—I have 46." ↩

No fair: The flawed Elections Act



BY YASMIN DAWOOD, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF LAW
ILLUSTRATION BY GARY NEILL

The government's controversial Fair Elections Act (Bill C-23) has received near-universal condemnation for undermining Canadian democracy since its introduction in February this year. In its original incarnation, the Bill impaired voting rights, reduced political participation, injected partisan bias in election administration, increased the influence of money in elections, diminished transparency and accountability, and seriously undermined the integrity and fairness of the electoral process.

In response to widespread criticism—from Elections Canada, academics, experts, media commentators, citizens, and the opposition parties—the government excised some of the worst features of the Bill. Despite these revisions, the Bill is still flawed in various ways. It was nonetheless passed by the House of Commons in a 146 to 123 vote. The Bill was passed by the Senate and ushered into law in June.

In March, I co-authored an open letter to Prime Minister Harper and the Members of Parliament with five colleagues across the country (Professors Maxwell Cameron, Monique Deveaux, Genevieve Fuji Johnson, Patti Lenard, and Melissa Williams) in order to express our profound concern that the Fair Elections Act would seriously damage Canadian democracy. The open letter was signed by more than 160 professors at Canadian universities who study the principles and institutions of constitutional democracy, including 16 past presidents of the Canadian Political Science Association. It was published in the *National Post* (“Don’t Undermine Elections Canada,” March 11, 2014) and *Le Devoir*.

I was subsequently invited to testify about the Fair Elections Act before the House of Commons committee studying the Bill. A few weeks later, we co-authored a second open letter to Prime Minister Harper and the Members of Parliament calling for the withdrawal of this “irremediably flawed” Bill. The open letter was signed by more than 460 academics across the country and was published in the *The Globe and Mail* and *La Presse* on April 23rd.

A couple of days later, the Minister for Democratic Reform, Pierre Poilievre, announced various amendments to Bill C-23. These amendments responded to many of the concerns raised by experts, citizens groups, opposition parties, and our open letters.

For example, Bill C-23 applied a gag order on the Chief Electoral Officer by preventing him/her from communicating with voters about any topic other than how, where, and when to vote. A gag order was also placed on the Commissioner of Elections, who is responsible for ensuring compliance with the election rules. The amendments partially lifted the gag order by permitting the Chief Electoral Officer and the Commissioner to speak freely with the public and with one another.

Bill C-23 also created the actuality and appearance of partisan bias in the electoral process. It provided that central poll supervisors would be selected by the winning party, thereby violating the norm that the electoral process ought to be strictly neutral. The Bill also established a “fundraising loophole” that

exempted certain expenses from the spending limits for political parties. This loophole would have increased the influence of money on politics in addition to providing the governing party with an electoral advantage. The government removed both of these features from the Bill.

Another serious problem with Bill C-23 is that it prohibited the use of vouching to establish the identity and address of eligible voters—a change that would have disenfranchised tens of thousands of voters, and, in particular, would have disproportionately affected seniors, students, low income individuals and First Nations citizens. In its amendments, the government provided a partial solution by permitting voters who lack address identification to sign a residence oath.

Despite these hard-won amendments, the Fair Elections Act is still flawed. The most significant problem is that Bill C-23 fails to provide the Commissioner with the power to compel witness testimony—an essential power that is required to effectively investigate electoral fraud. Without this power, investigations into electoral fraud (such as the robocalls affair) will be seriously hampered if not aborted. In addition, political parties are not required to provide receipts for their electoral expenses even though they are reimbursed over \$30 million at taxpayer expense.

The Bill retains a partial gag on Elections Canada by prohibiting it from engaging in advertising campaigns to increase voter turnout. Experts have also raised concerns that voters will be disenfranchised and that turnout will be reduced. The Bill has retained the ban on the use of Voter Information Cards (VICs), even though pilot projects run by Elections Canada demonstrated that VICs made it easier for certain groups such as students, seniors and First Nations citizens to vote. Other provisions in the Bill impair the independence of Elections Canada.

The rules of democracy must be neutral and non-partisan. If there is one thing that the controversy over the Fair Elections Act has revealed, it is this: the fairness and neutrality of our electoral rules depends a great deal on the process by which these rules are drafted. By engaging in a unilateral effort to change the electoral rules, the government departed from a long-standing political practice in Canada whereby electoral reform was based on widespread consultation with the political parties, citizens, experts and Elections Canada. It is my hope that future governments will return to this laudable practice, thereby safeguarding the fairness and legitimacy of our democracy. ↩



with Joanna Rotenberg, JD/MBA 2001, Chief Marketing Officer and Head of Strategy, BMO Financial Group

On technology, teamwork and career twists and turns

BY KAREN GROSS
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON GORDON

KG: What are some of the top deals you've worked on—and which one makes you most proud?

JR: My work at McKinsey and Co. and BMO has been more project or long-term oriented and less transactions oriented. But my greatest point of pride came only six months into my time at BMO, when we purchased a large regional Midwestern bank called Marshall and Illsley, or M&I. I was a major part of the deal team leading the assessment of strategic fit.

KG: How did that impact your career and the future of BMO?

JR: Our acquisition of M&I had a great impact on the bank—basically doubling BMO's footprint in the US. The deal instantly transformed us into a major contender in US banking, in a time when others were just beginning the long recovery from the financial crisis. It also taught me a lot about how our senior teams could rally together in times of critical decision making—and reaffirmed I'd made the right decision to join BMO.

KG: What would you say is the toughest part of your job?

JR: As soon as you think you've solved one problem, something else will come up, whether it's problems with people or problems with initiatives—because things never go quite as planned. People don't tend to bring me problems that are easy to solve. It's about having that resilience and the agility to be able to tackle issues that are brought to me, not always having all the facts to tackle them but then feeling confident that we're managing them quickly and in a good functional way.

KG: Can you give me an example of a difficult issue that's come across your desk recently?

JR: Every large corporation is dealing with scarce resources. As you know, these days businesses' competitive advantage comes from technology. It's really just technology and people. That's what businesses are. So this is the time of the year where we really tackle our technology allocations, and there are a lot of good ideas out there. You have to decide where to allocate the funds. It's all about making the tradeoffs that you think are right for the bank, and right for the customer.

KG: How do you think banking strategy will change over the next few decades?

JR: While there are many forces at work in banking, undoubtedly the biggest one is that customers are now used to interacting digitally in many other spheres. The biggest change will occur as customers look to make more financial decisions and transactions online. We have to learn from other categories and be where our customer wants us to be—without losing the best parts of the experience we deliver as humans today.

KG: What's a typical workday like for you?

JR: It starts with my three children. They are basically my wakeup call. A morning in our household is quite a busy morning, getting the kids ready for school and, at the same time, seeing what's

happened overnight in the world of the iPhone. The day tends to get pretty frenetic from there. An average day would be packed with meetings from 8 am until 6 pm. It would be everything from meeting my team to talking about new initiatives, to board sessions, to getting out and hearing what clients have to say. It's a busy day, but it's generally exciting and no two days are alike. The day is pretty much bookended with the children again. I always make sure I get home in time to put them to bed. I'm always prioritizing because in my role as a mom and as an executive of a bank, it's all about prioritizing.

KG: You do a lot of work out in the Toronto community, in addition to your work at the bank. Why do you do it?

JR: I'm involved in the Mount Sinai resources committee for the board, and also am pretty involved with the U of T Rotman School of Management as well. I do it for a couple of reasons. I think it's just great to get out of the office, and be involved in how other organizations think. I had all three of my children at Mount Sinai, so I obviously deeply care about outcomes there. And Rotman was one of my alma maters. Organizations where I have an emotional connection, want to see them succeed, feel like I can give something back, get to network with people who are part of the broader community fabric, and have a chance to think differently about issues. It's a great way to re-energize.

KG: How similar or different is your career from the way you imagined it would be when you were in school?

JR: I could not have predicted the twists and turns my career was going to take. When I was in school, I assumed that I would stay in the legal space and be at a Bay street firm. So it's significantly different from where I thought I was going to be.

KG: How do you think you ended up where you are?

JR: I think I was just open to different possibilities. I enjoyed law, but what I enjoyed most was teamwork. What I was most interested in were strategic elements of the work. And I found that there were other jobs that could let me do the things that I liked about working at a law firm, but let me focus on some of the more strategic aspects. And that would be the biggest piece of advice I would give to anybody, is just have that openness to think about different possibilities, and see where they take you.

KG: What are the most important lessons you learned in the JD/MBA program?

JR: When I think about what the law school taught me in particular, it was being able to craft an argument, have logical reasoning, and strengthen your written communication to make your point even stronger. So, the principles of advocacy, of a well-crafted argument, and how far that could take you in any role you play, whether it's my day to day job, or even as a mother. And also, the network was such a big part of it. Some people with whom I'm still very close today are people from law and business school. ↩

Read the full Q & A online: law.utoronto.ca/nexus/rotenberg





PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFF KIRK

CONVOCATION 2014

Under a big blue sky, more than 200 graduates of the Class of 2014 celebrated the end of their law school career on June 6th with family, faculty and friends. Former dean Mayo Moran gave her last law convocation address, and alumnus Ron Daniels, president of John Hopkins University, and former dean of the Faculty of Law, received an honorary degree. Justice Frank Iacobucci called him “an individual, who through an extraordinary list of accomplishments and achievements is rightly regarded as one of the very best academic leaders in the world of post-secondary education.” As is the tradition, the graduating class and guests were treated to a Convocation lunch and award event, featuring valedictorian Sarah Rankin, and the Hail and Farewell address by Profs. Jim Phillips and Hamish Stewart. Prof. Martha Shaffer received the Mewett Award for teaching excellence, as selected by the graduating class.

1974

BARRY LEON, LLB, received the 2013 Award for Outstanding Contribution to Diversity in Alternative Dispute Resolution from the CPR International Institute for Conflict Prevention and Resolution. The award ceremony was earlier this year in South Carolina. The International Institute for Conflict Prevention & Resolution (CPR) is an independent nonprofit organization of global corporations, law firms, scholars, and public institutions dedicated to the principles of commercial conflict prevention and alternative dispute resolution.

1976

MICHAEL WOODS, LLB: As a graduate of the University of Toronto Law School, I always enjoy receiving my copy of *Nexus*. Needless to say, the articles by and about all our distinguished alumni make me very proud and grateful to be a very small part of such a rich tradition. Last fall, I withdrew as partner at Heenan Blaikie LLP. I was with the firm's Ottawa office for seven wonderful years. Not quite ready to retire, I have launched an international trade law boutique with my good friend, Gordon LaFortune: Woods, LaFortune LLP. I was honoured with the 2013 Award of Excellence for International Law last June from the Ontario Bar Association. [Read more about Michael Wood in a special Class Note here: <http://uoft.me/Nexus-Woods>]

1977

WILLIAM R. C. HARVEY, LLB, a professor emeritus in the Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto, LSUC (ret'd) received the Canadian Bioethics Society's Lifetime Achievement Award for 2014 in recognition of his outstanding contributions to teaching, clinical ethics, and research. The CBS committee particularly highlighted Prof. Harvey's pioneering teaching in bioethics.

1981

DALE DARYCHUK, JD: I was recently appointed as a Queen's Counsel in recognition of my work with Access Pro Bono, a leading organization for the promotion and provision of pro bono legal services in Canada.

1983

JONATHAN CHAPLAN LLB is executive director and senior general counsel at the Competition Bureau Legal Services (Justice Canada).

1984

DAVID MATLOW, LLB: I am a partner at Goodmans LLP in Toronto, specializing in corporate securities and private equity. I own the world's largest collection of memorabilia relating to Theodor Herzl, the founder of the Zionist movement and the visionary of the State of Israel. I have exhibited my collection across Canada, and in 2013 produced *My Herzl*, a documentary film which informs people about Herzl's work and inspires them to pursue their dreams. I have been the commissioner of the Herzl Cup, Goodmans' annual ball hockey tournament, since its foundation in 1991. This year, I am the co-chair of Toronto's campaign for the United Jewish Appeal, which raises funds to help improve the condition and future of the Jewish people in Toronto, Israel and elsewhere.

1989

JOEL GOLD, 1989: I recently received an email from classmate Mitch Eisen regarding a referral and was shocked to realize how old we are getting! I am prompted by it to send this update. I moved from Vancouver to the southern interior of B.C. in 2000, after 10 years at the criminal defence bar, and joined the Crown in Kamloops. I prosecute major criminal cases and environmental offences. The fairly mild, dry winters have us indulging in great skiing

(real mountains) 45 minutes from town and the warm, dry lengthy spring-summer weather began in April, putting me back on my mountain bike, including for commuting to work through one of our city's wilderness parks. The deer in our yard have been joined by foraging bears out of hibernation, which means we can no longer put the garbage out the night before the truck comes. My sons are almost 21 and 18, and my magical daughter is 11. My lovely wife, Nuala, wisely retired from law a few years ago, after many years practicing in the horror that is family law. At the time of this writing we had just celebrated the Exodus from Egypt with our local community and I extend wishes of freedom and renewal to you and yours and to those struggling around the planet. All the best. Joel.Gold@gov.bc.ca

CHRISTOPHER A. TAYLOR, LLB: My new collection of short fiction, *Travel Light & Other Stories*, was recently reviewed in Kirkus Reviews (<http://bit.ly/1mCuYRi>) and was described as "meditative and moving short fiction". You can find it here: <http://bit.ly/1mK0tMC>

1990

CHRIS RICKARDS, JD: I was appointed Queen's Counsel by the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta in February 2014 and I am currently the president of the Central Alberta Bar Society and the chair of the board of the Central Alberta Pro Bono Clinic. I'm the managing partner at my law firm, where I have been practicing for the last 22 years and have built up a very busy civil litigation practice. Cycling is still my passion and I am pleased to be one of the organizers of the Tour of Alberta, a world class cycling event which had its debut in the province in 2013. You can e-mail me at crickards@shaw.ca.

1991

JANET HOLMES, LLB: After spending a couple of years down the hall from David Gaukrodger (also Class of 1991) at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris, I moved to New

York City with my husband Miles and joined Moody's Investors Service just as the financial crisis began to unfold in mid-2007. Currently, I am a senior vice-president in Moody's government and public affairs team, which helps the company anticipate and address the evolving regulatory environment for credit rating agencies. In my spare time, I volunteer as a wildlife rehabilitation assistant at the Wild Bird Fund (www.wildbirdfund.org), New York City's only rehabilitation facility for injured wildlife. I also volunteer as a photographer for Mighty Mutts (www.mightymutts.org), a no-kill rescue organization that works to save stray dogs and cats in the city. If you don't have enough cute animal photos in your news feed, you're welcome to check out my work at www.frogoutofwater.smugmug.com.

1994

TYCHO MANSON, JD: I wanted to let you know that after more than six years as in-house counsel at Quebecor Media Inc., I joined Chernos Flaherty Svonkin LLP early in 2014 as counsel. I practice in the areas of general civil litigation and media law.

2003

RUSS BROWN, LL.M. AND S.J.D. 2006: I was appointed to the Court of Appeal of Alberta in March 2014, having served on the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta since February 2013. I had previously been associate professor and associate dean of graduate studies at the University of Alberta law school. Since 2008, I had also been associate counsel to Miller Thomson LLP. I have fond memories of graduate studies at the University of Toronto, and in particular of the friendships made among my fellow LL.M. candidates in 2002-03. Heidi and I are enjoying life with our two sons, Gavin and Cameron.

TIM WILBUR, JD: I have been in legal journalism since I was called to the Bar in 2004. I am currently managing editor of *Lexpert* magazine. In addition to editing the magazine, I have an active role in *Lexpert* events, including the Rising Stars, Zenith

Awards, and Dealmakers, which are run with *The Globe and Mail*, Deloitte, and Thomson Reuters Markets. Like all media, *Lexpert* is also increasingly publishing information in digital forms, and I have worked on various projects in this area recently.

2004

JENNIFER BONNEVILLE, JD: I was recently promoted to Of Counsel in the law firm of Steptoe & Johnson LLP in its Los Angeles office. As a member of the litigation department, I work on toxic tort, mass tort, products liability and mass tort litigation. My practice focuses on the defense of chemical and energy company product suppliers in personal injury, property damage and medical monitoring litigation across the country.

ALEX LISZKA, LL.M.: I married my Canadian girlfriend Wendy in September 2007, moved from London, UK to Toronto in August 2010, bought a home in Toronto in February 2012, welcomed the birth of my Canadian son Jasper in January 2013...became a Canadian in April 2014! Oh Canada...



2006

MEGAN LANGLEY-GRAINGER, JD: After almost nine years of summering, articling, and working as an associate at Bereskin and Parr LLP (with a focus on trademark prosecution and litigation), I made the move in-house. As of May 2014 I joined Coca-Cola Ltd. as legal counsel, working directly with the company's marketing team on

packaging, advertising and promotional matters, trademark matters, and regulatory issues. Feel free to reconnect: mlangleygranger@coca-cola.com.

2007 & 2008

HESSAM GHADAKI, JD 2007, AND TODD ORVITZ, JD 2008, trained together for five months and completed the recent Memorial Hermann Ironman Texas on May 17, 2014. Todd is now a city of Toronto lawyer and Hessam is corporate counsel to a real estate development company, Times Group Corp.



2010

MOLLY LEONARD, JD, opened a law firm in Mississauga soon after articling. At DPLS LLP, she and her two partners practice family, civil, and criminal law. In October they hired their first associate, a 2012 Faculty of Law graduate, and they hope to continue expanding.

Send your Class Notes to:

nexus.magazine@utoronto.ca

Back to school after Bay Street

BY CHANTELLE COURTNEY,
ASSISTANT DEAN OF ADVANCEMENT



PHOTO BY PETER FURNISH

After six months of getting to know incredible alumni one-on-one, attending several neighbourhood events, and experiencing a number of firsts—my first Distinguished Alumnus Award dinner, first alumni meet-and-greet in the UK, and first Convocation season—I knew taking on this role was the right choice at the right time.

The Faculty of Law is on the cusp of a remarkable new chapter, one that builds on the transformative renewal project and its jewel, the Jackman Law Building, and on our truly exceptional faculty, students and alumni.

The warm reception I received upon my arrival was heartfelt and real. So too is the extraordinary enthusiasm with which our faculty, students and staff tackle the numerous academic, extracurricular and outreach programs at this great law school. It is an incredible time to step into leadership here—to engage alumni in raising awareness about the Faculty of Law’s far-reaching impact.

I look forward to meeting more of our outstanding students, with every incoming class. It was a privilege to work with them as summer and articling students in my previous firm roles. At

the Faculty of Law, I have the opportunity to engage with future alum as busy and active law students: undertaking challenging academic work, contributing to journals, organizing panels, serving the public with invaluable pro bono efforts, and more.

It is impressive to see how connected and loyal U of T law alumni are. In a profession known for the demands of the billable hour, alumni are still very willing to volunteer their intellectual capital and time to their alma mater, whether as adjuncts, panelists, alumni association members or mentors.

Please feel free to connect with me about how you want to contribute. I am interested in your insights about your law school and how we can continue to engage effectively with the broader legal profession, from the corporate world to public interest and social justice endeavours.

From my family to yours, here’s wishing you a wonderful summer! ↩

Email Chantelle at: Chantelle.courtney@utoronto.ca

Follow her on Twitter: [@CCourtneyUofT](https://twitter.com/CCourtneyUofT)



THANK YOU!

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A WEEKEND WITHOUT LAWSUITS OR SUITS OF ANY KIND

Join us for **Fall Reunion 2014** and spend time with other lawyers—not working for a change. A variety of non-billable activities are on the agenda.



If you graduated in a year ending in 4 or 9, save the dates for Law Reunion 2014, October 24–26. We have a lot planned, including Sunday brunch.



FALL
REUNION

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For more information on Reunion and specific class events, visit the law school website at law.utoronto.ca/alumni.

Have fun. It's the Law.