

UBC | FACULTY OF LAW

Wednesday, July 06, 2011

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Message from the Dean

Dear Friend of UBC Law:

Greetings from UBC Law. I am pleased to send you this year's "Year in Review" letter, which reviews highlights of the past year at UBC Law. This year's letter will be different in two ways. First, it is being sent via email because we are trying to be mindful of our budget and the environmental impact of our communications. Second, in addition to the usual summary of events and activities for the year, you will see the initial reports from the first few months of implementing our new strategic plan.

The [UBC Law Strategic Plan](#) was adopted by our Faculty Council in December 2010 after more than a year-long process of planning and consultation. Thanks to those of you who were able to participate in the planning process. The final plan benefited from a broad range of feedback we received from our alumni and others in the legal community, which was provided through emails and roundtable discussions in the summer and fall of 2010. Our strategic plan identifies four priorities – Teaching and Learning, Research, Internal Community and External Community – and establishes specific actions and projects within each of those categories. Over the next five years we will report to you, the UBC Law community, about our progress in attaining our goals, beginning with this letter.

There are many ways to stay up-to-date with UBC Law, including following us on [Twitter](#), liking us on [Facebook](#), and joining the UBC Law Alumni [LinkedIn](#) group. If you know friends or colleagues who didn't receive this email, please feel free to forward it and encourage them to update their contact information by emailing alumni@law.ubc.ca.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. We welcome your feedback and ideas. Please feel free to contact me directly at lawdean@law.ubc.ca.

Very truly yours,



Mary Anne Bobinski, B.A., J.D., LL.M.
Dean and Professor

2010-11 in Review

A New Home for UBC Law



The building project continues to be on time and on budget, with the occupancy date scheduled for mid-August. The UBC Law Library will be closing in mid-July to allow adequate moving time so that the Law Library will be ready to open when faculty and staff move into the new building on August 22, 2011.

The official opening ceremony will be on the morning of **Friday, September 23, 2011**. **Professor Stephen J. Toope**, President and Vice-Chancellor of UBC, and other members of the UBC community will welcome the **Rt. Hon. Beverley McLachlin, PC**, Chief Justice of Canada, and other honoured guests to celebrate this special occasion.

We are grateful to the **Law Foundation of British Columbia** for providing matching funds for the generous donations from law firms, UBC Law alumni, and other members of the legal community that made this project possible. Thanks to you, we have less than \$250,000 to raise to reach our fundraising goal of \$24 million.

A photo gallery of the construction progress can be found [on Flickr](#).

Honouring Founding Dean George Curtis



The legacy of founding Dean George Curtis will be honoured in the new Law building through the **George F. Curtis Dean's and Student Government Suite**. Located on the second floor, the Suite will house deans and administrative offices as well as offices and meeting space for the Law Students' Society. The suite reflects both Dean Curtis's extraordinary achievements as the founding Dean of the Faculty as well as his emphasis on the close connections between faculty and students. [Read more . . .](#)

Recognizing Outstanding Alumni



In April, over 350 people attended the [UBC Law Alumni Association's](#) annual Law Alumni Achievement Awards dinner. The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to **Morley Koffman, QC**. Awards of Distinction were given to **William Berardino, QC** and **Lisa Vogt**. **Katrina Pacey** received the Young Alumna Award and **Professor Emeritus Charles Bourne** was honoured with the Faculty Award for Research. [Read more about the award winners . . .](#)

In the past year, members of the UBC Law community were also recognized by the [UBC Alumni Association](#) for their contributions to the profession and the community. **Marvin Storrow, QC** received a Lifetime Achievement Award in November. At that same dinner, **Professor Dennis Pavlich** received the Honourary Alumnus Award in recognition of his outstanding service and commitment to UBC. [Read more . . .](#)

Events that Inspire



The Faculty and broader community again benefited from many distinguished guest lecturers, panelists, and conference participants this year. Highlights included:

- An engaging on-campus talk with the **Rt. Honourable Kim Campbell, PC, CC, QC**; ([Watch it on YouTube](#))
- The *Marlee Kline Lecture in Social Justice* with **Ruthann Robson** from City University of New York;
- A lecture on human rights given by the **Honourable Michael Kirby, AC, CMG**, former Justice of the High Court of Australia;
- The *J. Donald Mawhinney Lecture in Professional Ethics* with the **Honourable Justice Michael Code**; and
- The National Centre for Business Law *Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP Senior Visiting Scholar*, **John Braithwaite**, Professor, Australian Research Council Federation Fellow at the Regulatory Institutions Network, Australian National University.

Today's Students, Tomorrow's Leaders



Judicial clerkships are amongst one of the most prestigious and competitive employment opportunities available to recent graduates. This year 17 UBC Law students have secured judicial clerkships. [Read more . . .](#)

This year's *Honourable Frank Iacobucci Entrance Award in Law*, for an entering student who has achieved good academic standing, has been actively involved in student government and/or community programs and faces either financial or systemic challenges accessing a legal education was granted to **Dustin Paul**, a former Criminology student at SFU, where he received the Terry Fox Gold Medal Award. [Read more . . .](#)

Graduating student **Isabel Henkleman** received an *HSBC Emerging Leader Scholarship*, a university-wide award for students with outstanding academic performance, who have also demonstrated a commitment to leadership and community involvement. [Read more . . .](#)

The 2011 *Law Society Gold Medal Award*, for the student with the highest cumulative grade point average over the three years of law school, was presented to J.D. graduate **Kate Bond** at the May 26th congregation ceremony at UBC. [Read more...](#)

Shirley Smiley was the recipient of this year's *Raymond G. Herbert Award* which is given to the individual considered to be the best all-round graduating student. [Read more...](#)

Research Excellence

This summer, [four top students](#) will have the opportunity to work on ground-breaking research under the leadership of **Professors Janis Sarra, James Stewart, Janine Benedet**, and **Dennis Pavlich**.

Professor Pavlich, this year's recipient of the [George Curtis Award for Teaching Excellence](#), will spend part of the summer at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem as UBC Law's inaugural participant in the UBC Law Hebrew University [Faculty Exchange program](#). This year the Faculty also established a Faculty Exchange program with [Melbourne Law School](#).

Professor David Duff recently received the annual CALT (Canadian Association of Law Teachers) Prize for Academic Excellence. The award honours exceptional contribution to research and law teaching by a Canadian law teacher in mid-career.

In June, **Professor Doug Harris**, who serves as Nathan T. Nemetz Chair in Legal History & Associate Dean Graduate Studies & Research, received the bi-annual Saywell Prize for Constitutional Legal History in Toronto from the [Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History](#). The prize, named in honour of Professor Jack Saywell, recognizes Doug's book - [Landing Native Fisheries](#) - as the best book in Canadian legal history, published in 2009 or 2010, that makes an important contribution to an understanding of the constitution and/or federalism.

Assistant Professor Benjamin Perrin was the recipient of a [2011 Distinguished Academic Award](#) from the Confederation of University Faculty Associations of British Columbia (CUFA BC). In the past year, Professor Perrin also [met with Prime Minister Harper](#) to make the case for a national action plan to combat human trafficking in Canada as part of his [Campaign to End Modern-Day Slavery](#).

In 2011, **Professors Natasha Affolder** and **Gordon Christie** were awarded Killam Faculty Research Fellowships. Of the nine award recipients at UBC this year, two are from Law - a tremendous achievement and source of pride for the Faculty. [Read more . . .](#)

Recent PhD graduate **Ireh Iyioha**, whose dissertation was supervised by Dean Bobinski, [won](#)

[an international competition for her paper](#) on the conflict between cultural norms and health laws. She argued that using criminal law to promote public health objectives sometimes fails to produced desired behaviour changes.

Highlights from the Strategic Plan Report

The strategic plan for UBC Law has been developed to help guide the Faculty over the next five years (2010-2015) with concrete commitments to better meet the needs of students, faculty, staff, alumni and members of the legal community. All these key stakeholders played an important role in the development of this plan and we are grateful for their continued support, feedback and guidance as we implement the [UBC Law Strategic Plan](#).

Over the next five years, the Dean will make an annual progress report available to the UBC Law community. Highlights of this year's activities are below.

Action Item: Ensure Student Access to Legal Education, Regardless of Financial and Other Barriers

The Faculty remains committed to attracting the strongest students to UBC, to enhancing student financial aid, and to working with others to encourage graduates to pursue careers focused on underserved populations.

This spring the Faculty established two new full-tuition scholarships. The **Lawson Lundell LLP Entrance Scholarship** joins a prestigious list of [donor-funded entrance awards](#) that recognize academic excellence and help the Faculty attract the best and brightest law students in Canada. [Read more . . .](#)

The **Hilda Janzen Memorial Award in Feminist Legal Studies**, created by Sonia Wall in memory of her aunt, will be granted annually to a male or female student in good academic standing who has demonstrated leadership in feminist issues and faces financial or systemic barriers to accessing or continuing a legal education. [Read more . . .](#)

Another new initiative this year serves both to facilitate freedom of career choice and address the issue of access to justice in British Columbia. With leadership from **Jim Taylor, QC** and **The Law Foundation of British Columbia**, the Faculty is working to establish the **Beverley McLachlin Legal Access Award** to be awarded to graduating UBC Law students who choose articling positions in rural and aboriginal communities, smaller urban centres, and public interest or social justice organizations. [Read more . . .](#)

Action Item: Expand and Improve Course-Based Master's Programs

In May 2011, the Faculty welcomed the first cohort to our new **LL.M. Common Law** program, a year-long, course-based professional program that provides foundational training in the common law and in Canadian law for foreign trained or non-common law trained lawyers. The program, unique in Canada, offers students the opportunity to complete a master's degree in Law while also working towards the course-work requirements for the practice of law in Canada. [Read more . . .](#)

Action Item: Engage Community Volunteers to Enhance Research, Teaching and Learning Opportunities at UBC Law

In 2010, the Faculty established the [UBC Law Dean's Advisory Council](#). This group was created to provide strategic advice and direction to the Faculty and has a rotating membership, with members serving terms of one to three years. The Faculty and Council were greatly saddened this year by the loss of inaugural member [Don Brenner, QC](#), who also served as Chair of the [National Centre for Business Law Dean's Advisory Council](#).

There are many ways to be involved with the Faculty of Law, including participating on the [UBC Law Alumni Association Board](#), volunteering as a mock interviewer with the [Career Services Office](#), acting as a judge for first-year moots, and becoming a mentor through the [Centre for Feminist Legal Studies](#).

If you are interested in volunteer opportunities at UBC Law, please contact **Janine Root, Senior Alumni Relations Manager**, at jroot@law.ubc.ca or 604-822-2584.

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[Join UBC Law on Facebook](#) and stay up-to-date on the latest happenings at the Faculty or simply reconnect with your former classmates.

Other ways to stay connected:



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Life of a law student: [UBC Law Student Blog](#).



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