



University
of Manitoba

Faculty of Law

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

JULY 2023—JULY 2024

ROBSON HALL
FACULTY OF LAW

224 Dysart Rd.



University
of Manitoba

| Faculty of Law

ALUMNI MAGAZINE 2023–2024

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From the Dean's Desk

Updates of new initiatives



Photo credit: Dr. Amar Khoday

Welcome to the 2023-2024 edition of the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Law Alumni Report. As we carry through our 110th year as Manitoba's law school, I am pleased to share with you some of the initiatives we have undertaken over the past year and what you can look forward to in the coming months.

We understand the importance of bridging the gap between education and practice. In Fall 2024, our 1L students will be eligible for the concurrent Juris Doctor (JD) and Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree program. This unique opportunity allows students to pursue this valuable combined experience without leaving Manitoba.

Clinical learning is one of our strengths. For 2024-2025, most of our 3L students have applied for externships, choosing from a diverse range of options including the University of Manitoba Community Law Centre (UMCLC), Manitoba Law Reform Commission (MLRC), Legal Help Centre of Winnipeg (LHC), L. Kerry Vickar Business Law Clinic, Public Interest Law Centre (PILC), Indigenous Community Legal Clinic, Manitoba Department of Justice, Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF) and the Law Library Hub. Additionally, the Judicial clerkship program will now be included in our externship program, providing valuable hands-on, for-credit opportunities with the Provincial Court, Manitoba Court of King's Bench,

and the Manitoba Court of Appeal. We are proud to announce the opening of the Manitoba Legal Clinic for the Arts, providing specialized legal support to the arts community, and we are also preparing to open an International Human Rights Clinic. Together with Legal Aid Manitoba, we are partnering on a new Prison Law Clinic. Our clinical program is strengthened by our two Legal Counsel: Yvan Larocque and Faculty of Law alum **Allison Fenske [LLB/2007]**.

Our JD program, under Associate Dean and Faculty of Law alum **Dr. Jennifer Schulz [LLB/1994]**, introduced three new concentrations: Private Enterprise and the Law, Criminal Law, and Law and Society, in addition to our existing Access to Justice in French concentration. Our bilingual program grows stronger each year.

We have enhanced our curriculum to align with Call to Action #28 and the MMIWG Calls for Justice. Our students now receive education on Residential Schools, Indigenous culture, and history, guided by our esteemed Elders-in-Residence. We also proudly hosted our first annual Interdisciplinary Journal of Indigenous Inaakonigewin in Fall 2023, fostering academic and community engagement on Indigenous Legal Orders.

Our career and professional development services team with Faculty of Law alum **Trina McFadyen [LLB/2000]** continue to expand their impressive suite of services, placing over 98% of students in articling positions, clerkships, and other opportunities, and preparing them for life beyond the University of Manitoba.

Alum **Natasha Brown [LLB/2005]** continues to lead in the Access to Justice portfolio, recently coordinating the inaugural Access to Justice Forum which brought together Manitoba-based A2J-related organizations to catch up with each other May 6 to 7, 2024.

Our faculty regularly present for continuing education programs for the judiciary and collaborate with the Manitoba Bar Association and the Law Society of Manitoba.



We are pleased to introduce a course-based option for the Master of Laws (LLM) program, offering greater flexibility for our students. As well, the LLM program is now open to graduates of JD, LLB or cognate degree programs (e.g. legal studies, philosophy of law, legal history etc.) These important updates to the program took place under the leadership of Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies, Dr. Donn Short.

The Desautels Centre for Private Enterprise and the Law continues to provide advanced educational experiences and recently released a [State of Business Report](#). The Centre partnered with the MLSA Business Law Group to host the annual Art Braid Cup, a business law-oriented competition which honours its namesake.

Faculty of Law alum Dr. **Mary Shariff [LLB/2002]** has taken on the role of Director of the Master of Human Rights Program and under her leadership we anticipate significant growth in the human rights curriculum and improved clinical experiences for students.

We proudly announce the upcoming launch of two micro-diploma programs in Canadian Public Law and Canadian Private Law, for Internationally Trained Lawyers (ITLs). The programs are designed so that ITLs who are also students enrolled in one of our two master's degree programs, (LLM or MHR), can take these micro diplomas at the same time should their schedules allow.

Finally, on behalf of the Faculty of Law, I extend deepest gratitude to the Manitoba Bar Association, the Law Society of Manitoba and the Manitoba Law Foundation for their continued support. We are thankful to all of our alumni engaged and involved in these legal community organizations for their support. We strive to foster a strong relationship between alumni and the law school, aiming to be a lifelong partner in legal learning and support throughout everyone's professional journeys. We want the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Law to be a lifelong intellectual home for our alumni.

With warm regards,

Dr. Richard Jochelson
*Dean of the Faculty of Law
University of Manitoba*

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...I extend deepest gratitude to the Manitoba Bar Association, the Law Society of Manitoba and the Manitoba Law Foundation for their continued support.

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Faculty of Law announces 2023 Alumni Award recipients

Celebrating three accomplished UM Law graduates



Originally published March 25, 2024 on [UM Today News](#).

by **Christine Mazur**

To celebrate the achievements of graduates, the Faculty of Law created the Faculty of Law Alumni Awards which are presented annually in three categories: Outstanding Alumni Award, Emerging Leader Award, and the Trailblazer Award.

The **Outstanding Alumni Award** honours a UM Law alum recognized for outstanding professional achievement in their legal career and who has shown dedication and commitment to the betterment of the legal profession while exhibiting the qualities of integrity and professionalism.

The **Emerging Leader Award** honours a UM Law alum who has graduated within the last 10 years. This alum has shown dedication and commitment to the legal profession, and has the qualities of integrity, professionalism, and leadership in their time practicing law.

The **Trailblazer Award** honours a UM Law alum who has excelled in a career outside the traditional practice of law. This alum is a person of integrity and has demonstrated leadership and service to the community.

Congratulations to the winners of the 2023 UM Law Alumni Awards:

- **Bradley Regehr, K.C. [LLB/96], Outstanding Alumni Award**
- **Heather Wadsworth [JD/15], Emerging Leader Award**
- **Dr. Brent Roussin [BSc/96, MD/00, JD/09, MPH/11], Trailblazer Award**

The awards were presented at the annual UM Law Spring reception in April.

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD

Bradley D. Regehr, K.C. [LLB/96]



**Bradley Regehr, K.C. [LLB/96],
Outstanding Alumni Award**

Bradley D. Regehr, K.C. is a member of the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation in Saskatchewan and a survivor of the Sixties Scoop. Called to the Manitoba Bar in 1997, Regehr has worked on a wide variety of legal matters, including aboriginal law, corporate/commercial law, civil litigation and administrative law. Regehr continues to provide advice to a wide range of clients including First Nation and corporate clients. He has appeared in the Manitoba Court of King's Bench and Manitoba Court of Appeal, as well as the Federal Court of Canada, Trial Division and the Federal Court of Appeal.

Regehr was part of the legal team that successfully defended a challenge to a First Nation's tax laws under the *First Nations Fiscal Management Act*, the first litigation involving that statute. He also acted for a First Nation which became a partner in a major hydro-electric project, advising and acting at all stages of the project as well as appearing before both the Clean

“

Mr. Regehr is a role model in the legal profession, for both students and the community at large. His calm, quiet demeanor serves to amplify his ability to comfortably converse with judges, lawyers, students and the public. Mr. Regehr has and continues to be a mentor to young lawyers generally, and specifically for young Indigenous lawyers. He is extremely generous with his time, and always willing to engage with young lawyers to assist with the development of their careers. Over the past 20 years, Mr. Regehr has made significant contributions to social justice and to the affairs of Indigenous communities. He has dedicated more than two decades to working on Indigenous issues and has seen how the perseverance and resistance of Indigenous Peoples is strengthening Canadian society.

”

— **Nominator and fellow UM Law alum
Ian Scarth [LLB/10]**

Environment Commission and Public Utilities Board during the regulatory processes and continues to be involved in the post-construction stage of the project. Regehr has and continues to advise First Nations on land claim matters and has also advised numerous First Nation clients on implementation issues involving

both land claim and flooding agreements. He was involved in the litigation and settlement concerning the disposal of the Kapyong Barracks in Winnipeg which has resulted in those lands being set apart as a joint reserve for all seven Treaty 1 First Nations. He has been involved in arbitrations and litigation concerning the Manitoba Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement, Saskatchewan Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement and flooding agreements.

Regehr was the first Indigenous lawyer to hold the office of President of the Canadian Bar Association. His tenure was during a particularly challenging time with the global COVID-19 pandemic and discovery of unmarked graves at residential schools across Canada. During his tenure as President, he made the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action his personal priority.

Regehr also served a two-year term as President of the Manitoba Bar Association, the first Indigenous lawyer to hold that office and the first lawyer since 1946 to hold the office for two years.

In 2021, he joined the Indigenous Advisory Group for Waterloo Indigenous Student Centre at the University of Waterloo and in 2023 became Chair of the Advisory Group.

In January 2022, Regehr was appointed King's Counsel by the Province of Manitoba.

He is part of the Board of the United Way of Winnipeg and has been involved in eight productions of The Lawyers Play.

Brad's advice to current law students is to remember to give back to the profession – whether through the CBA or the Law Society or the Faculty of Law or anywhere you can advance the rule of law, access to justice and a strong profession.

EMERGING LEADER AWARD

Heather Wadsworth [JD/15]



Heather Wadsworth [JD/15], Emerging Leader Award

Heather L. Wadsworth was called to the bar in 2016, trained in Collaborative Family Law and Mediation, and now practices Family Law exclusively at Amica Law Corporation as a Lawyer and Mediator. She has also served as a sessional instructor at the Faculty of Law, University of Manitoba since 2019.

Wadsworth volunteers in many ways throughout the Manitoba legal community, giving presentations on Family Law to the Manitoba Bar Association and mentoring and coaching law students in competitions, and through the MBA's mentorship program. She has been a committee member and more recently a co-chair for the MBA's Mid-Winter Conference Planning Committee. Wadsworth continues to volunteer with the Legal Help Centre as she has done since she was a law student.

As a law student at Robson Hall, Wadsworth won no less than three class prizes for top marks in Family Law courses. As a competitor in moots and competitions, she won first place at the local and national levels of Negotiation Competition, and advanced to place fifth in the International Negotiation Competition for Law Students in 2015.

“

Ms. Wadsworth embodies characteristics that other lawyers and future lawyers would aspire to have, Ms. Wadsworth is one of the most genuinely kind people I have met. She never hesitates to offer assistance or support, regardless of whether it's for a close friend, colleague, or even a complete stranger. This kindness and desire to help people is also evident through her dealings with her clients, who are very clearly her top priority professionally and whom she never fails to zealously advocate for. Through her various mentorship roles, Ms. Wadsworth frequently engages in candid conversations with students and junior lawyers about the realities of practicing law, particularly as a woman, which from the perspective of a junior lawyer, is invaluable and often difficult to find. It is clear that Ms. Wadsworth understands the importance of this type of guidance for young lawyers and prioritizes providing it.

”

— **Nominator and fellow UM Law alum Alyssa Cloutier [JD/20]**

Heather's advice to current law students is, *“Being true to yourself is how you'll find fulfillment in the law.”*

TRAILBLAZER AWARD

Dr. Brent Roussin

[BSc/96, MD/00, JD/09, MPH/11]



Dr. Brent Roussin [JD/09],
Trailblazer Award

Dr. Brent Roussin is the Chief Provincial Public Health Officer for Manitoba and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Community Health Sciences at the University of Manitoba. He holds a Bachelor of Science [1996] a Doctor of Medicine [2000], and a Master of Public Health [2011] all from UM. In between all that, he also obtained a Juris Doctor [2009] at Robson Hall.

According to fellow UM Law alum (and fellow medical practitioner), **Dr. Davinder Singh [JD/23]**, Roussin has spent his entire career exemplifying and promoting the values of excellence, integrity and diversity. Singh shared that Roussin decided to complete a second medical residency, in Public Health and Preventive Medicine, and enter law school which helped him gain a greater understanding of the social determinants of health, and opportunities to influence those determinants, particularly for underserved Manitobans. Despite the incredible political and public pressure associated with being the Chief Provincial Public Health Officer during the pandemic, Roussin never strayed from his ethical obligations as a physician, civil servant, or a Faculty of Law graduate.

With the rise of the COVID-19 pandemic, Roussin became the public face of Manitoba's response, during which time he demonstrated his tremendous leadership skills. Roussin's calm approach helped inform and guide Manitobans during one of our most difficult periods in recent memory. He made himself available for near daily press conferences for almost a year, answering questions for the public as best as possible given the information at the time. Roussin used his knowledge of the law when considering using the emergency powers from the Public Health Act, which he helped successfully defend in court when challenged.

In addition to all the demands on him in this heavy public role, he continued to serve as a community family physician, staying connected to the community and seeing first-hand, the health needs of citizens and the impacts of public health programs.

In 2021, he was awarded Physician of the Year by Doctors Manitoba, the highest honour bestowed on a physician in Manitoba.

In his first CPPHO report released in 2022, titled **"Healthy Communities: A Role for Everyone,"** Roussin highlighted the health gaps faced by racialized people in Manitoba, and those living with lower incomes. He also used this platform to promote the message that "[h]aving a more equitable society and improving access to education, justice, employment, housing, wealth and other social and structural determinants of health benefits us all."

When asked for what advice he would share with future law graduates, Roussin shared the following:

"It is truly an honour to receive this award. I was so privileged to study under such distinguished faculty. I often reflect on my time at Robson Hall. The time I spent there continues to shape me as an individual and my career. During the often-challenging years of study, I encourage students to ensure that they find time to reflect upon and enjoy their journeys through law school."

"As a public health physician navigating the intersection of health and the law, this award recognizes the role we all can play in striving for a more healthy and equitable society. In our pursuit of justice, we should always keep equity and reconciliation at the forefront. Our studies and professions provide us with the tools

and frameworks to advocate for a more fair and just society."

"I continue to be grateful to the faculty at Robson Hall and my fellow classmates, and I admire those now pursuing training in this distinguished profession." ■

“

Very few people take on the challenge of completing both medical school and law school. Both are challenging and time-consuming programs. Dr. Roussin is one of these few. He has used his knowledge of the law to improve the population's health in Manitoba, and has blazed a trail that I hope to follow. I can think of no one more worthy of this award than Dr. Roussin.

”

— Dr. Davinder Singh [JD/23].



University
of Manitoba

| Faculty of Law

2024 Alumni Awards

Launched in Spring 2022, the Faculty of Law Alumni Awards celebrate the achievements of UM Law graduates. Recipients are nominated by alumni and the selection committee is made up of alumni. The Faculty of Law does not participate in the nomination process. Alumni may self-nominate or nominate a fellow alum who demonstrates a high degree of professionalism in one of three categories:

Outstanding Alumni Award – Honours a UM Law alum recognized for outstanding professional achievement in their legal career and who has shown dedication and commitment to the betterment of the legal profession while exhibiting the qualities of integrity and professionalism

Emerging Leader Award – Honours a UM Law alum who graduated within the last 10 years. The alum has shown dedication and commitment to the legal profession, and the qualities of integrity, professionalism, and leadership in their time practicing law

Trailblazer Award – Honours a UM Law alum who has excelled in a career outside the traditional practice of law. This alum is a person of integrity and has demonstrated leadership and service to the community

NOTE: Alumni who were previously nominated and did not win will have their nominations stand for the 2024 Alumni Awards.

Nominations open in September 2024. Please consider nominating yourself, a classmate, or a member of the profession who went to Robson Hall.

For more information, contact: law.alumni@umanitoba.ca

Jurists of Robson Hall



2024 Jurists of Robson accepting their award at the Spring reception (from left to right: Erin Wilcott, Justice Freda Steel, Justice Diana Cameron, Peter Kingsley, K.C., Ian Scarth and Leah Kosokowsky.

The *Jurists of Robson Hall* designation recognizes members of the legal community for their extraordinary service and commitment to the Faculty of Law through teaching or other contributions.

Eleven new Jurists were named in 2023-2024 and announced at the April 3, 2024 Spring reception:

Justice Freda Steel [LLB/1975]

Cy Fien [LLB/1975]

Jeffrey Palamar [LLB/1984]

Justice Diana Cameron [LLB/1988]

Leah Kosokowsky [LLB/1990]

Harvey Sectar, C.M., O.M. [LLB/1992]

Peter Kingsley K.C. [LLB/1994]

Michael Koppang [LLB/1995, LLM/1997]

Ian Scarth [LLB/2010]

Erin Wilcott of the Manitoba Law Foundation

Michelle Falk of the Manitoba Bar Association

To see a complete list of all named Jurists of Robson Hall over the years, please visit the [Faculty of Law website](#).

Alumni Class Notes



1970s

Joseph Barnsley [LLB/1972] appointed King's Counsel

Frank Lavitt [LLB/1979] appointed King's Counsel

1980s

James Edmond [LLB/1981] appointed to the Manitoba Court of Appeal

Fay-Lynn Katz [LLB/1982] appointed King's Counsel

Michael Richards [LLB/1989] appointed King's Counsel

1990s

Glen Joynt [LLB/1993] appointed King's Counsel

Steven Kohn [LLB/1994] appointed King's Counsel

David Wright [LLB/1994] appointed King's Counsel

Kenneth Mandzuik [LLB/1996] appointed King's Counsel

Bradley Regehr, K.C. [LLB/1996] winner of the UM Law Outstanding Alumni award

Maureen McGuire [LLB/1997] appointed to the Alberta Court of King's Bench (Edmonton)

Sarah Innes [LLB/1998] appointed to the Manitoba Court of King's Bench

Katherine Bueti [LLB/1999] appointed King's Counsel

Jennifer Jones [LLB/1999] retired from professional women's curling

2000s

Grant Driedger [LLB/2001] appointed King's Counsel

Laurelle Harris [LLB/2001] appointed King's Counsel

Jeremy Akerstream [LLB/2002] appointed King's Counsel

Anne Turner [LLB/2002] appointed to the Manitoba Court of Appeal

Sofia Mirza, K.C. [LLB/2003] appointed to the Independent Advisory Board for Senate Appointments

Geraldine Wiebe [LLB/2003] appointed King's Counsel

Sandor Sajnovics [LLB/2004] appointed Commissioner of the Canadian Energy Regulator

Michelle Bright [LLB/2005] appointed to the Provincial Court of Manitoba

Dr. Brent Roussin [JD/2009] winner of the UM Law Trailblazer Alumni Award

2010s

Heather Wadsworth [JD/2015] winner of the UM Law Emerging Leader Alumni Award

Tracy Schmidt [JD/2019] elected as the MLA (Manitoba) for Rossmere

2020s

Chimwemwe Undi [JD/2020] recipient of the 2024 University of Manitoba Distinguished Alumni Award

LET'S STAY IN TOUCH

We would love to hear from you! Share your news, stories, and advice with fellow alumni and current students!

Keep your Contact Information up to Date

Our alumni are spread over 30 countries around the world. Be sure to [update your contact information](#) so we can keep you posted about alumni events, lifelong learning opportunities, updates from the school, news and achievements of your fellow alumni, and ways that you can volunteer or help current law students.

Follow us on Social Media

Connect with us through social media on [Instagram](#), [X](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

Share Your Stories

We would love to hear from you: what have been up to; where has your law degree has taken you; what interesting work are you doing; what advice do you have for law students? Please contact us at law.alumni@umanitoba.ca



Plan Your Class Reunion!

Reconnect with former Robson Hall classmates! Consider organizing an Alumni Reunion - in two simple steps.

Step 1: Pick a Reunion Representative from among your classmates who will act as the primary contact.

Step 2: The Reunion Rep will work directly with UM's Alumni Relations contact Lynn Ferguson:
Phone: 204-474-7881 **Email:** lynn.ferguson@umanitoba.ca

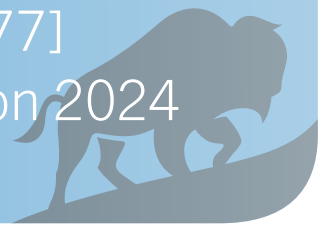
Lynn will:

- ~ Provide the class rep with updated class lists of contact information
- ~ Offer guidance and support in reunion planning as required, including helping with reunion communications
- ~ Assist with the coordination of any audio/visual requirements, including hosting an online reunion
- ~ Help facilitate faculty tours
- ~ Other assistance as needed

That's all there is to it! Your reunion can be as elaborate or simple as you want.

Contact the Faculty of Law for more information about reunions: law.alumni@umanitoba.ca

Marion Ironquil Meadmore, C.M. [LLB/1977] given highest honour at Spring Convocation 2024



Marion Ironquil Meadmore was among five individuals bestowed with honorary degrees at the University of Manitoba's Spring Convocation, 2024

Excerpted from a story originally published in UM Today on June 6, 2024

by UM Today Staff.

This **Spring Convocation** the University of Manitoba celebrates the achievements of over 4,300 graduands and recognizes the distinguished achievements of five honorary degree recipients who have made our province and country better.

The honorary degree is the highest honour UM can bestow upon an individual for achieving pre-eminence in science, culture, scholarship, or public service.

Marion Ironquil Meadmore has spent her life championing ideas of Indigenous nationhood, while creating organizations that inspire Indigenous Peoples to regain equality and economic independence in the wake of colonialism.

This journey began when she was a University of

Manitoba student, new to the city, far from Peepeekisis First Nation in Saskatchewan where she grew up. She went to an “Indian conference” at the Legislature and heard white social workers complaining about Indigenous Peoples. Frustrated and upset, she and others decided to create the Urban Indian Council of Winnipeg.

Soon after, she co-founded the Indian and Métis Friendship Centre and the National Indian Council of Canada, which has since split to become the Assembly of First Nations and what is now the Métis National Council. She also organized a conference that led to the formation of the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood and the Manitoba Métis Federation.

In 1970 she co-founded Kinew Housing, Canada’s first non-profit housing corporation that has brought safe, affordable housing to urban Indigenous Peoples. Around this time, she studied law at Robson Hall and upon graduating, opened the first all-female law firm in Winnipeg with three others. While practicing law, she organized conferences and workshops to educate new lawyers, students and Indigenous leaders about the constitution and new ideas of “nationhood.” She also founded the Indian Liberal Caucus and what is today called the Indigenous Bar Association.

A member of the Order of Canada, Ironquil Meadmore also received the Distinguished Alumni Award (Lifetime Achievement) from UM in 2015. ■

In Memoriam

Since the publication of the last Alumni Magazine in Fall 2023, the Robson Hall community lost a number of cherished alumni. We hold their memories dear and celebrate their accomplishments.

Gordon Charles Pollock [LLB/1952]
Died Sept 17 2023

Arthur Mauro, KC [LLB/1956]
Died August 4, 2023

Murdoch MacKay, KC [LLB/1955]
Died July 18, 2023

The Honourable Walter Scott Wright [LLB/1955]
Died February 27, 2024

Honourable Charles Huband [LLB/1955]
Died June 14 2023

Honourable Theodore Lismer [LLB/1958]
Died June 17, 2023

Paul Herbert Bromley [LLB/1959]
Died Jan 4 2024

Donald Robert Frederick Orchard [LLB/1961]
Died June 9 2023

Samuel Issac Wilder, KC [LLB/1965]
Died September 6, 2023

Bernarr Ivan Klapman [LLB/1966]
Died November 12, 2023

Alvin Ronald McGregor, KC [LLB/1967]
Died July 10, 2023

Nestor Dmetro Bodnarchuk [LLB/1970]
Died July 4 2023

Robert Steven Nozick [LLB/1970]
Died June 13 2023

Thomas John Wood [LLB/1971]
Died May 26, 2023

Honourable Robert Maxwell Carr [LLB/1971]
Died July 10, 2023

Arnold Arthur Goodman [LLB/1974]
Died January 21, 2024

Bruce Ivor Mellon [LLB/1974]
Died April 8 2024

James Ramsay [LLB/1975]
Died September 29, 2023

Bryan F. Hagel [LLB/1976]
Died April 26, 2024

Paul Frederick Lasko [LLB/1975]
Died June 20 2023

David R.T. Pfau [LLB/1978]
Died February 14, 2024

Dunlop (Denny) Kells [LLB/1979]
Died Oct 27 2023

Reverend Gregory George Parker [LLB/1980]
Died June 6, 2023

Honourable Sylvia Jean Guertin-Riley [LLB/1980]
Died June 23 2023

Robert Alexander Reimer [LLB/1981]
Died February 17, 2024

Patricia (Patti) Fitzmaurice [LLB/1984]
Died February 29, 2024.

Donald James Dacquisto [LLB/1985]
Died July 5, 2023

Heather Mary McLaren [LLB/1987]
Died March 25, 2024

Patricia Louise Fraser [LLB/1987]
Died July 4, 2023

Roxroy West [LLB/1990]
Died December 16, 2023

Heather Mary McLaren [LLB/1987]
Died March 25 2024

Ariel Gliner [LLB/2012]
Died June 11, 2024

Gerald Nemiroff [UM Law Professor]
Died June 2024



Remembering Professor Gerald Nemiroff



Professor Gerald Nemiroff. Faculty of Law yearbook, 1985.

Excerpted and edited from a story originally published in UM Today on June 13, 2024

by Christine Mazur

Retired Faculty of Law professor, Gerald Nemiroff passed away on June 6, 2024. Known to colleagues as “Gerry,” he taught at the Faculty of Law from 1968 to 2008, serving as Associate Dean from 1977 to 1982.

....

Good at mathematics and physics, he nearly became a meteorologist, but ended up in law “because there were more spaces,” than applicants at the time, as he told Dr. Bryan Schwartz in an interview for the *Manitoba Law Journal*.

Nemiroff practiced insurance law in Quebec, but after completing his LLM he decided to pursue an academic career. Hired by late Dean Cliff Edwards, “who was snapping up every LLM he could find for Manitoba’s law school”, Professor Nemiroff taught Insurance Law and Negotiable Instruments, which he said he found

“interesting and challenging and quirky.” Later, he also taught Contracts.

In Nemiroff’s interview with the *Manitoba Law Journal*, it was noted that despite University policy that a professor can only win the Stanton Award for Teaching Excellence once in their career, Nemiroff’s students in his last year of teaching (2007 – 2008) asked the University to bend this policy, writing:

“Gerry Nemiroff is somewhat legendary at Robson Hall...”

“A good law professor doesn’t just tell you what the state of the law is, or how the law has developed. They teach you how to find the law and more importantly they teach you how to use the law...”

“...It wasn’t until my third and final year of law school that I learned how to properly read and understand a case. It was in Gerry’s [sic] Nemiroff’s Insurance Law class where I began to understand how to argue the law.”

Please learn more about Professor Gerald Nemiroff in the [Manitoba Law Journal](#). ■

“

A good law professor doesn’t just tell you what the state of the law is, or how the law has developed. They teach you how to find the law and more importantly they teach you how to use the law. ...

”



HOMEcoming 2024: ENGAGING IN ECONOMIC RECONCILIATION

For its 2024 Homecoming event, the Faculty of Law invites Alumni to join us for our second annual conference of the Interdisciplinary Journal of Indigenous Inaakonigewin.

SEPTEMBER **20** **9AM - 5PM**
FRI

The conference is open to students, faculty, practitioners and the public and offers an opportunity for the University of Manitoba to host, engage with, debate, and discuss scholarly and artistic works related to Indigenous peoples and the law.

This year's conference will be co-hosted by the Manitoba Law Foundation, the Law Society of Manitoba, the Manitoba Bar Association, Faculty of Law Alumni Outreach, and current faculty. The conference will bring together academics, legal community, Indigenous community leaders, and business partners, to discuss Indigenous Economic Reconciliation.

The panelists will include First Nations and business partners to discuss several projects ongoing in Manitoba. Academics will present to fill in theory and history behind the need for Economic Reconciliation. The first day of the conference will be available for online attendance, and to register through the Law Society of Manitoba portal. Angie Bruce, VP Indigenous, will be opening the conference with a Keynote talk.

Investment and return

L. Kerry Vickar helps law students learn the practice of business law



UM Alum **L. Kerry Vickar [LLB/1980]** (centre) officially opens the business law clinical space named in his honour surrounded by law students; clinical instructors **Nick Slonosky [LLB/1979]** and **Yvan Larocque** (left of door) and Dean of Law **Dr. Richard Jochelson** (right of Vickar). Photo by Mike Latschislaw.

Excerpted and edited from the [October 27, 2023 UM Today story](#).

by **Christine Mazur**

Faculty of Law alum **L. Kerry Vickar [LLB/1980]** got to witness a return on his investment in-person on September 26, 2023 when he visited and officially opened the L. Kerry Vickar Business Law Clinic. Vickar's gift to the Faculty of Law has transformed a dingy basement storage room into a state-of-the-art experiential learning space for law students to engage in the hands-on practice of business law.

While the L. Kerry Vickar Business Law Clinic has existed as a for-credit course taken by students at the Faculty of Law since 2014, the Clinic has not had until now its own dedicated office space.

"Clinical learning is at the heart of our law school's mission, and the L. Kerry Vickar Business Law Clinic is a testament to the significance of this approach," said Dr. Richard Jochelson, Dean of the Faculty of Law. "This state-of-the-art facility has reshaped a once neglected space into an invaluable hub for experiential

education. We extend our deepest appreciation to Mr. Vickar for his unwavering commitment to advancing clinical learning. The clinic equips our students with hands-on, practical experiences, ensuring they are well-prepared for the challenges of legal practice. It is an investment in the future of legal professionals, enhancing their skill sets and nurturing the qualities that will define their success in practice."

"Lawyers practice law in law firms, not classrooms," said Clinic instructor **Nick Slonosky [LLB/1979]**. "During the pandemic, we were forced to reimagine the Clinic and students met clients online using video conferencing technology and the power of the internet which is exactly what lawyers were doing in practice. Now that we are back to life in-person, with thanks to Kerry Vickar, we have an actual teaching law firm space right in the law school where students can learn by doing just as if they were in a law firm. This gives students the opportunity to learn far more about practicing law than ever before and will make them even better prepared for the real world when they graduate."

While visiting the space, Vickar was impressed with how the former storage area had been reimaged into



Vickar stands at the centre of the new re-imagined clinical space he was instrumental in creating. Photo by Mike Latschislaw.

a welcoming, well-lit, professional office environment complete with large and small conference rooms, two offices, an area containing six workstation cubicles with locked, secure filing cabinets, and an open lounge area for brainstorming. Additionally, two state-of-the-art sound-proof meeting booths line one wall where students can engage in confidential virtual meetings with clients.

After touring the Clinic, Vickar joined 22 students currently enrolled in this year's business law externship course, in the Faculty Lounge for lunch. Several Faculty of Law alumni also joined the group and shared stories about how their training at the Clinic helped prepare them for legal practice.

Alexandra Broggy [JD/2022] said participating in the Clinic when it was offered in Fall 2021 was "really the only practical transactional experience I had received in all of law school."

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Broggy also pointed out that because the Clinic uses Clio, a cloud-based legal practice management software used by many professional law firms and by the current articling student Practice Readiness Education Program (PREP), she and her cohort were able to start their articles already familiar with the software.

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Second year student Lisa Haydey noted how students' knowledge of corporate law had grown exponentially over the summer working at the Clinic when, fresh out

of their first year of law school, they were called upon to help a client incorporate a not-for-profit organization from start to finish. The students filled out forms, drafted Articles of Incorporation, by-laws, minute books, and discussed with the client how to organize their corporation. "It's amazing to think back on it now because we had just finished our first year of law school, we had not taken a corporations class, I'm not sure we all knew what a corporation was at the time, and within four

months, we are incorporating not-for-profits, for-profit businesses, federally, provincially, it's incredible," said Haydey. "Everything we learned was so directly applicable to serving, to helping our community."

"Working at the Clinic didn't just prepare us in terms of substantive law or how to be lawyers. It taught us about the kind of lawyers and professionals that we want to be."

The visit ended with a question-and-answer session with current business law clinic students asking Mr. Vickar questions about his business life experiences. Vickar encouraged this next generation of business law problem-solvers to be true to themselves and follow their hearts in whatever they learn and do in life after law school.

"Ensuring that today's law students get hands-on practical experience was one of my top motivations when making this gift" said Vickar. "While reminiscing about my own law school days with former Dean and UM Chancellor Emeritus **Harvey Secter [LLB/1992]**, he asked me "What didn't you learn in law school?" I immediately thought of my inexperience in working with clients and drafting agreements and documents for them and sincerely wished I had those experiences under my belt before I graduated. So it's important to me to ensure that law students can now get that critical experience before they get out there into the real world." ■

Moot Report 2024: A season of excellence

'Spirit' awards and fourth-best oral argument recognition follow mooters home



Manitoba Laskin Moot team 2024: Jayden Wlasichuk (3L); Zeynep Fattah (2L); Tanys Bjornson (coach); Maia Bacchus (2L); and Kirsten Nynych (2L) [Missing from the photo are researcher, Ashley Slagerman (3L) and coach, Tamara Edkins (Justice Manitoba)]

Original story published April 23, 2024 in UM Today.

by **Christine Mazur**

The 2024 Moot season held another year of excellent learning opportunities for law students and resulted in several triumphs for the Manitoba moot teams. Awards won included the Spirit of the Laskin Award, the Spirit of Negotiation Award for the French stream of the Canadian National Negotiation Competition (CNNC), and recognition for the fourth-best mooter in the all-French language Bastarache moot.

The Spirit of the Laskin Award seems to follow Manitoba law students home to Robson Hall fairly often, since they have won it no less than four times in the past seven years. The recipient team is chosen by all participating teams and is given to the team best embodying the principles behind the Laskin which include congeniality, camaraderie, hard work, and commitment to bilingualism. Jayden Wlasichuk (3L), Zeynep Fattah (3L), Maia Bacchus (2L), Kirsten Nynych (2L) and researcher Ashley Slagerman (3L) made up the Spirit-winning Laskin team.

Éric Gagnon (3L) and Seth Lozinski (3L), both students in the Access to Justice in French concentration at

Robson Hall, won the CNNC (French stream) spirit award while Brent Tichon (2L), also in the A2J French concentration, was recognized as the fourth-best mooter for his oral arguments at the French language Bastarache moot.

Manitoba students competed in a total of 10 national moot competitions in 2024, including:

- MacIntyre (Western) Cup Moot (February 9 – 10, Edmonton, AB)
- Gale Cup (February 9 – 10, Toronto, ON)
- Jessup Moot (February 22 – 24, Ottawa, ON)
- Fox Moot (February 23 – 24, Toronto, ON)
- National Family Law Negotiation Competition (February 27 – 29, Online)
- Laskin Moot (February 29 – March 2, Calgary, AB)
- Bowman Tax Moot (March 1 – 2, Toronto, ON)
- Canadian National Negotiation Competition (March 1 – 2, Montreal, QC)
- Kawaskimhon Indigenous Moot (March 8 – 9, Kamloops, BC)
- Bastarache Moot (March 22 – 23, Ottawa, ON)

[Read the full story in UM Today.](#) ■



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The Faculty of Law is grateful for the work of the Practicing Professional instructors who help to educate the next generation of lawyers.

Tamra Alexander
Doug Brown
Natasha Brown
John Burchill
Michel Chartier
Ruvimbo Chimutsa
Rory Churchill-Henry
Tarik Daoudi
Myles Davis
Silvia De Sousa
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Virginia Torrie
Robert Tyler
Heather Wadsworth
Michael Walker
Jonathan Woolley
Judge Raymond Wyant
Celyna Yu

The Faculty of Law cannot educate the next generation of lawyers without its close network of practicing professional instructors and volunteer coaches and judges. The Faculty extends deepest thanks to all those who give their time to teach and mentor law students.

2023-2024 Highlights



GRAND OPENING—The L. Kerry Vickar Business Law Clinic officially opened its doors on September 26, 2023. Robson Hall graduate and generous donor **L. Kerry Vickar [LLB/1980]** was on site to formally open the wonderful new clinical space located in the lower level of the law school. The law school's many clinical opportunities will benefit from the re-invented learning space.

◀ **Stephanie Levene, Associate Vice-President, Alumni and Donor Relations; L. Kerry Vickar, Dr. Richard Jochelson, Dean of Law.** Photo by Mike Latschislaw.

CELEBRATING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

— Robson Hall was delighted to welcome Jim and Sandra Pitblado on September 26 to celebrate the law students named to the Dean's Honour List and who were awarded Pitblado scholarships.



PITBLADO LECTURES—The Faculty of Law was pleased to be the site of the November 2023 Pitblado Lectures, and as always happy to partner with the Law Society of Manitoba who ran a wonderful event. It was an informative and engaging day discussing artificial intelligence in the legal practice.

◀ **Dr. Katie Szilagyi presents on AI laws to a full house at the 2023 Pitblado Lectures.** Photo by Christine Mazur.

MEET THE EMPLOYERS—Robson Hall hosted twenty-one Manitoba employers (55 lawyers) over the noon hours on January 30 and February 1, giving law students the opportunity to connect with employers who participated in the most recent articling recruit.

FEDERAL COURT—On November 8 we welcomed alum and Federal Court Justice **The Honourable Roger Lafrenière [LLB/1982]** who spoke with students about clerkship opportunities.

HURRY HARD—The Robson Hall Curling League continues to thrive. This year well over 100 law students, staff and faculty hurried hard at the St. Vital Curling Club. A glance through old yearbooks reminds us of how many members of Manitoba's legal community forged lasting friendships over crashing rocks and sweeping brooms. Thanks to student organizers **Ashley Rees [JD/2024]** and student Peter Frejek for continuing the grand tradition of Robson Hall curling. Now that she is retired, maybe we can convince Robson Hall alum **Jennifer Jones [LLB/1999]** to guest star in the law school league?



VISITS FROM SUPREME COURT JUSTICES

—Robson Hall was honoured to have The Honourable Justice O'Bonsawin and The Honourable Malcolm Rowe visit (February 6 and March 28, 2024 respectively)

◀ The Honourable Justice O'Bonsawin met with members of the Manitoba Indigenous Law Students' Association before speaking to students and faculty. Photo by Christine Mazur.

DINNER WITH WOMEN JUDGES—With the generous support of the International Association of Women Judges Canadian Chapter, Robson Hall hosted a roundtable discussion and sit-down dinner between Robson Hall students and members of the Manitoba Court on March 25. A special thanks to **Chief Justice Rivoalen**, **Judge Margaret Wiebe [LLB/1985]**, **Judge Catherine Carlson [LLB/1986]**, **Justice Diana Cameron [LLB/1988]**, **Justice Connie Petersen [LLB/1996]**, and **Justice Kim Berthaudin [LLB/2003]** for sharing your experiences and advice.



Meet a Few Members of the JD Class of 2024



JAYDEN WLASICHUK

- ▶ *President of the Manitoba Law Students Association*
- ▶ *Articling at Borden Ladner Gervais in Calgary*

“There were so many amazing memories in law school so I will say that my favourite was finally getting to see the legendary John Irvine in person! Being in his Torts class over Zoom was one thing, but it was always a treat to see him walking the halls in his overalls and rubber boots”

RAVEN RICHARDS

- ▶ *Manitoba Indigenous Law Students Association (MILSA) VP Internal (First Nations)*
- ▶ *Articling at Saunders DeLaronde Law*

“What do I wish I had been told before my first day of law school? You belong here.”



DIANA GUTIERREZ

- ▶ *Competed at The Hague Inter-University Law Debate Tournament (3rd place team finish)*
- ▶ *Articling with Calgary Regional Prosecutions*

Favourite memory of Robson Hall: “[W]inning the curling league in 1L with people I consider best friends for life. The curling league provided the relief I needed from school by giving me one night a week where I wasn't stressing or talking about law and instead hanging out with friends and talking to students from every year.”

SETH LOZINSKI

- ▶ *Part of the OUTLaws student group that created and hosted the “Queersay Evidence: 2SLGBTQ+ Perspectives on the Law in Manitoba” conference*
- ▶ *Articling with Legal Aid Manitoba*

“I’ve always been passionate about advocating for the rights of marginalized communities and law school was an opportunity for me to build on those skills. I’ve been fortunate at Robson Hall to gain hands-on experience throughout my degree to support community initiatives in Manitoba.”



MATTHEW LONDON

- ▶ *Student editor for the Desautels Review*
- ▶ *Clerking for the Tax Court of Canada*

Favourite Robson Hall class: “Securities with **Don MacDonald [LLB/1983]**. Not only did I gain practical knowledge, but each class began with relevant real-world securities news.”

DOMINIQUE GIBSON

- ▶ *MILSA VP External (Métis) and part of the French concentration*
- ▶ *Articling with Fillmore Riley*

Favourite memory of Robson Hall: “Either the Indigenous Bar Association (IBA) conferences or the Bastarache Moot. I was able to attend the IBA annual conferences to represent the Manitoba Indigenous Law Students Association, and it was a great way to make connections with Indigenous lawyers and law students from around Canada!”





CHIKODI AGU

- ▶ *Internationally trained lawyer (LLB & LLM) who practiced law for 10+ years in Nigeria*
- ▶ *Articling with IG Wealth Management in Winnipeg*

“I was drawn to law school because, as an internationally trained lawyer seeking licensure in Canada, I had the choice between self-study or attending classes in law school. Opting for the latter was undoubtedly the best decision I made, paving the way for my successful journey in the legal profession.”

MELINDA MOCH

- ▶ *MILSA VP Internal (Métis)*
- ▶ *Articling at MLT Aikins in Winnipeg*

“My two greatest dreams in life were to have hordes of children, and to become a lawyer. I attended college and worked first as a legal assistant and then a paralegal for nearly 20 years while raising my five amazing children, and then entered law school as a mature student in my late 30s. I honestly wouldn’t change it for the world.”



KALI FAINGOLD

- ▶ *Faculty of Law Valedictorian*
- ▶ *Articling at Thompson Dorfman Sweatman*

“I really loved my immigration law class as well as my labour and employment law class, however I would say my favourite class was my King’s Bench Clerkship where I got the incredible opportunity to work at the courthouse and assist judges with their cases.”

KEELIN GRIFFIN

- ▶ *Faculty of Law Gold Medalist, 2024*
- ▶ *Articling at the Public Interest Law Centre (Winnipeg)*

Keelin was drawn to the legal profession in order to do work that was “interesting, complex and challenging” that would also allow her to work with and for people in order to make meaningful change.



What's Next for the Class of 2024?



Class of 2024. Photo by Mike Latschislaw.



77

students will article in Manitoba for 2024-2025 with seven students going to rural Manitoba communities

25

students will article in provinces outside of Manitoba

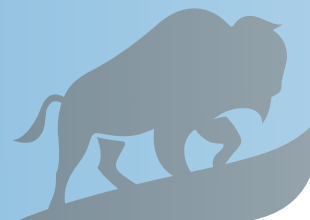
- 8 to British Columbia
- 14 to Alberta
- 3 to Ontario

2

students are clerking, one at the Tax Court of Canada and one at the Alberta Court of Appeal.

If you are an employer looking to hire a summer or articling student, please contact Trina McFadyen, Director of Professional Development, at 204-474-6154 or trina.mcfadyen@umanitoba.ca

Faculty of Law announces major changes to LLM program



The University of Manitoba has approved changes to the Faculty of Law's Master of Laws (LLM) program. Graduate program applicants starting their studies in September of 2025 will have the opportunity to complete either thesis or course-based LLMs. As well, applicants are no longer required to have a Juris Doctor (JD)

or Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree, but rather can apply with a non-law degree relevant to their proposed research area.

Please [read the full story](#) about these exciting changes to the LLM program in the UM Today News published July 9, 2024.



MASTER THE LAW

Complete a Master of Laws (LLM) degree at the University of Manitoba



The LLM offered by the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Law is ideal for those wishing to deepen their legal knowledge, research and practical skills, advance to a PhD, or undertake a career in research, policy work or legal practice. Focus your research in one of the following streams of study:

Human Rights

Business

Indigenous Studies

Law and Society

Criminal Law

Public Policy

The University of Manitoba has approved changes to the Faculty of Law's Master of Laws (LLM) program. Graduate program applicants starting their studies in September of 2025 will have the opportunity to choose to complete either thesis

or course-based LLMs. As well, applicants are no longer required to have a Juris Doctor (JD) or Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree, but rather can apply with a non-law degree relevant to their proposed research area.

[LLM Program Info](#)

[Apply Online](#)

Applications are Due December 15

Meet a Graduate of the Master of Laws Class of 2024!



JOEL LEBOIS [LL.M/2024]

- ▶ First graduate of the Master of Laws program to write his thesis entirely in French
- ▶ Called to the Manitoba Bar in 2009
- ▶ In-house counsel at the University of Manitoba's legal department
- ▶ Thesis title: *"Les modes substitutifs de résolution des différends en matière de violence à caractère sexuel ou de discrimination chez les institutions post-secondaires au Manitoba"*
- ▶ LLM Thesis Advisor: Professor Lorna Turnbull

Joel wanted to deepen his knowledge of the law in the area of post-secondary institution complaints processes, and was drawn to UM Law which would allow him to complete his degree in French. "I was thrilled when Robson launched the [Concentration in Access to Justice in French] program, and saw an opportunity to celebrate that and participate in Robson's French common law culture by completing my thesis in French."

[Read more about Joel's research.](#)

Congratulations to all those who earned their Masters of Law degree from the Faculty of Law! ■



“

Just as we seek to show prospective JD students the value of completing the A2J in French program, I also wanted to be an example of that at the graduate level.

”

Dr. Mary Shariff named Director of Master of Human Rights program



Excerpted from a story originally published on June 28, 2024 in UM Today.

by Christine Mazur.

The Office of the Dean of Law, University of Manitoba has announced the appointment of **Dr. Mary J. Shariff [LLB/2002]** as the Director of the Master of Human Rights (MHR) program effective July 1, 2024, for a five-year term.

“Dr. Shariff brings a wealth of experience and a distinguished record of academic and professional accomplishments to this role. Her extensive expertise, leadership and vision will enhance its academic excellence and foster a dynamic learning environment,” said Dr. Richard Jochelson, Dean of Law. “Her work ethic, deep compassion for the rights of all living beings, and curiosity for researching different areas of human rights-related laws make her a matchless force to drive this program forward for its next exciting chapter.”

“I am absolutely delighted and honoured to take on the role of Director of the MHR Program,” said Shariff. “As Director, my goal is to build on the strengths of the program and our University community to provide students with educational opportunities and experiences that will inspire and support their creativity and enthusiasm for human rights and social justice.”

“My aspiration is that our MHR students and graduates will take their passion, knowledge and skills to serve and make our communities places for all to thrive. By continuing outreach and building relationships with community partners and stakeholders (e.g. the Canadian Museum for Human Rights) and other University of Manitoba centres and programs (e.g. the Centre for Human Rights Research, the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, Peace and Conflict Studies and the Arthur V. Mauro Institute for Peace and Justice), the MHR program itself will

actively participate in this same vision, increasing MHR student opportunities at the same time.”

Shariff recalled the words of the late Dr. Arthur V. Mauro when he announced the endowment of the Chair in Human Rights and Social Justice, a key part of the MHR program: “This city [Winnipeg], to me, represents the best that people can do when good people come together with goodwill and seek solutions... Education and research are fundamental if we are to carry on what this city has become.”



Dr. Mary Shariff has been named Director of the Master of Human Rights program.

Shariff has been a valued member of the Faculty of Law at the University of Manitoba since 2007, where she currently serves as a Professor and has previously held several leadership positions, including Associate Dean (Academic, JD Program) and Associate Dean (Research and Graduate Studies). ■

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