We've started off 2016 with a bang. Beginning this year and based on your input, you'll be receiving three types of publications from your alma mater:

- A new separate Supporting Excellence magazine, will be bundled with the November issue of the including the annual Honour Roll of Donors, published and mailed in the spring.
- This exclusive digital magazine will be delivered to your inbox four times a year.

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Our annual print alumni magazine, full of feature stories and alumni profiles, will be published and mailed in the spring.

A new separate Supporting Excellence magazine, including the annual Honour Roll of Donors, will be bundled with the November issue of the Queen's Alumni Review.
Advocacy Institute co-founders saluted nationally

Alumnus Owen Rees and Professor Grégoire Webber of Queen's Faculty of Law have been awarded one of Canada's most prestigious civilian honours.

Rees, Law'02, a partner at the highly regarded Toronto boutique litigation firm Stockwoods, and friend Webber, the Canada Research Chair in Public Law and Philosophy of Law, received Meritorious Service Medals at a ceremony in Ottawa on Dec. 11. The medals, established by Queen Elizabeth II to recognize "highly professional acts that are of considerable benefit ... to the nation by civilians," were presented by Governor General David Johnston, Law'66, LLD'91.

Rees and Webber were honoured for their contributions to the legal profession, primarily their work in launching the Supreme Court Advocacy Institute. This independent non-profit agency, which is celebrating its tenth anniversary in 2016, has been instrumental in improving the quality of legal advocacy in Canada.

"In our legal system, vigorous, well-prepared, and effective advocacy is of service to the courts in presenting fully the various sides of the issues that come before them," says Chief Justice of Canada Beverley McLachlin. "We welcome the [Institute]'s contribution to the Supreme Court of Canada and to the public by providing both novice and experienced counsel with a forum in which to refine their advocacy."

Rees and Webber, both Montrealers, met in 2003 while clerking at the Supreme Court of Canada – Rees for Justice Louis LeBel, Webber for Justice Ian Binnie. "When Owen and I attended hearings on the cases for which we'd prepared legal briefs for the judges, some times we thought that the Court could be getting more assistance from counsel," says Webber.

Rees and Webber were aware of the Supreme Court Institute (SCI), a Georgetown University law school-based program that promotes awareness of issues of importance to the United States Supreme Court. The centrepiece of the SCI's activities is a moot court program that offers lawyers the opportunity to test-drive legal arguments they intend to make in their submissions to the Supreme Court.

"We wondered if there was room for a similar initiative here in Canada," says Rees. "If so, we knew it would have to be purpose-built for Canadian needs. That meant it had to be low-cost, accessible to all, and national in its scope."

With help and encouragement from Justice Frank Iacobucci, the Institute was born; Iacobucci, who was about to retire from the bench, agreed to serve as its chair. "I didn't hesitate to support [the program]," recalls Iacobucci.

"My reasons were simple. First, the aim of the proposal was to improve oral advocacy before the Court, which would be to the benefit of clients, the Court and the legal profession for their involvement. Second, Owen and Grégoire were law clerks in whom my colleagues and I had confidence and who were ideal to create and organize the Institute."

Not surprisingly, the initiative garnered enthusiastic support from Canada’s legal community. And that support has only continued to grow in the years since 2006. When the first moot court sessions were held in 2007-2008, they took place in Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal. Today, the Institute sends out invitation letters to every lawyer who's granted leave to appeal to the SCC, and the moot courts now are staged in major cities across the country. At first, about 20 per cent of eligible lawyers availed themselves of the opportunity to take part in the sessions. In 2014-2015, that number was close to 50 per cent.

“We wanted to make sure the program would be free and available to any lawyer who’s scheduled to argue a case before the SCC,” says Webber. "Some of the larger firms in Canada and various federal and provincial Justice departments have their own in-house programs; however, we felt there was a real need for a non-partisan program that would be available to lawyers from smaller firms and cities across the country and wouldn’t be seen as just a central-Canadian initiative. In that sense, the Institute helps level the legal playing field."

Rees echoes those words. "Grégoire and I saw the Institute both as a vehicle to help promote advocacy skills and as a way for us to give back to the legal profession and the Court," he adds. "Being awarded a Meritorious Service Medal obviously is a special honour, but we’re really accepting it on behalf of the many people who have helped set up the SCAI and make it a success – in particular Frank Iacobucci and all of the talented advocates who selflessly volunteer their time and legal expertise when they act as advocacy advisors during practice sessions or serve on our national and regional committees."

— KEN CUTHBERTSON
Emerging scholars in business and criminal law appointed

Hiring three junior scholars, Queen’s Law continues to expand its research and teaching capacity. Nicolas Lamp, Gail Henderson and Lisa Kelly will all begin tenure-track appointments in July.

“These are three outstanding faculty appointees,” says Dean Bill Flanagan. “They will greatly strengthen our teaching and research in a variety of areas, including international economic law, business law and criminal law.”

Nicolas Lamp completed his PhD in Law at the London School of Economics and Political Science in 2013. His doctoral thesis investigated the origins and implications of the discourses, practices and techniques that shape international law-making in the trade context. He received the 2012 Francis Lieber Prize for outstanding scholarship in the field of the law of armed conflict from the American Society of International Law. Previously, he worked as a Dispute Settlement Lawyer at the Appellate Body Secretariat of the World Trade Organization.

Lamp has been with Queen’s Law since 2014, serving a two-year appointment as an assistant professor. He will continue to teach Contracts and International Economic Law and to be involved in the World Trade Organization.

Gail Henderson graduated as the Gold Medallist from Osgoode Law School in 2005. She served as a law clerk for Justice Louise Charron of the Supreme Court of Canada and practised commercial litigation and corporate law from Osgoode Law School in 2005. She served as a law clerk for Justice Marshall Rothstein of the Supreme Court of Canada. She articled with the Department of Justice in Ottawa.

Henderson, who has been an assistant professor at the University of Alberta’s Faculty of Law since 2013, will be teaching business law at Queen’s.


She has been a Trudeau Scholar and held numerous distinguished fellowships, including a 2014-2016 post-graduate fellowship with the Centre for Reproductive Rights and Columbia Law School in New York City.

Previously, Kelly completed a JD at the University of Toronto and served as a law clerk for Justice Marshall Rothstein of the Supreme Court of Canada. She articled with the Department of Justice in Ottawa. This fall at Queen’s, she will be teaching Criminal Law and Evidence.

Faculty hiring for 2016 is still in progress. Joining these appointees will be a Queen’s National Scholar in Labour and Employment Law, and a school first. On Feb. 16, Dean Bill Flanagan announced the inaugural holder of the David Allgood Professorship in Business Law: Professor Mohamed Khimji of Western Law.

Watch for a story about this leading expert in intermediated securities, corporate law and commercial transactions in the spring issue of Queen’s Law Reports Online.

Record-setting gift by Law’80 bolsters Queen’s business law program

The business law program at Queen’s keeps growing stronger. Raising $250,000 for the Law’80 Scholar in Business Law fund, the Queen’s Law class of 1980 not only created the largest class gift ever for a single initiative, but also achieved the highest class fundraising participation rate. They met their ambitious target when back on campus for their 35th anniversary at Homecoming 2015.

Fundraising chair Greg Piasetzki, Law’80, made the presentation to Dean Bill Flanagan during the reunion dinner on Oct. 24. “The gift was a way to show our appreciation, in a tangible way, for the many and varied opportunities that our Queen’s Law education offered to each of us,” says Piasetzki. “We hope our gift, by enriching the academic program at Queen’s, will provide current students with the same opportunities that we have had.”

The Faculty intends to use the Law’80 Scholar in Business Law fund to attract a leading scholar in the area. The income from the fund will be used to support the Law’80 Scholar’s research activities, including inviting visiting business law scholars from around the world to come and spend some time at Queen’s. “I am delighted that Law’80 has decided to direct its support towards strengthening the business law program at Queen’s Law, a major area of strategic priority for the Faculty,” says Dean Flanagan.

Three years ago, Law’80 became the first class to surpass its goal, which at the time was $150,000. In 2013, a new two-year goal of an additional $100,000 was set. To kick-start the new campaign, Piasetzki, together with fundraising committee members George and Lynne Frank, Colin Jackson, Justice Mike Emery and Steve Trumper, and classmate Dawn Jetten, collectively pledged $50,000 to match gifts received.

Being tops in class giving for a specific initiative and in participation is due to the strong sense of fellowship and camaraderie among Law’80, and the enthusiasm and hard work of the fundraising committee, claims Piasetzki.

“I know we have all appreciated the opportunity provided by our class gift campaign and our recent reunions to reconnect, rekindle old friendships and enjoy again some of the camaraderie that existed during our law school days.”

— LISA GRAHAM

Law’80 classmates with Dean Bill Flanagan (back row, far right) at their Homecoming dinner held in the Donald Gordon Centre, where their $250,000 cheque was presented.

— ANTHONY FUGH
Professor Pardy gets ‘ecolawgical’ with new book

In his newly published book, *Ecolawgic: The Logic of Ecosystems and the Rule of Law,* Professor Bruce Pardy has a lofty ambition. He attempts to answer “the most difficult legal questions”: How can the law protect against arbitrary exercise of state power used to pursue self-interested ends, be they good or bad, and avoid imposing one group’s priorities over others? Are there standards that are natural, unquestionable, true and independent of human preference? Is there a non-arbitrary, uniform principle on which the law can be based?

Pardy’s answer to these questions is an original one: to take the logic of natural ecosystems and apply it to law and governance.

His main theory is that ecosystems provide insight about how the law should work. “Government policies and legal regimes try to dictate outcomes,” he says. “However, in reality, governments cannot control markets or ecosystems.”

But they certainly try, he explains. Modern environmental law authorizes officials to address problems one situation at a time: Should this industrial facility be permitted to pollute? Should that mining site be rehabilitated? How much of this hazardous substance is to be permitted in plastic bottles? How many wolves should live in the park?

The same, he continues, can be said in the economic realm, where governments subsidize manufacturing facilities and sports stadiums, bail out troubled banks and car manufacturers, create programs to counter poverty, spend public money to create jobs, provide funds to support specific towns or regions, maintain marketing boards for agricultural products, subsidize the development of alternative energy technologies, and in many other ways.

“These strategies,” he asserts, “are designed to provide governments with the ability to manage commercial activity and the economic behaviour of its citizens.”

Pardy argues that legal decisions should emanate from a system of governance, and that isolated, instrumentalist legal commands are not compatible with the operation of law as a system. Ad-hoc answers, on a case-by-case basis, are an affront to legal principles, he explains, much in the same way that “attempting to control the behaviour of butterflies is to the nature of an ecosystem.”

In his conclusion Pardy sets out his “Ecolawgic Manifesto,” a 10-point platform for ecosystems, markets and the rule of law that reconciles individual autonomy, free markets and environmental protection.

Despite the high ambitions for this book, it is an accessible one for new scholars and experienced academics. “I didn’t want to write an impenetrable academic tome,” he says. “My goal was to write a concise book that could be easily read, with a clean and bracing style.”

It is not surprising that Pardy has written such an innovative and inspired book. Recently described by Alberta Law Dean Paul Paton as “an iconoclast and one of Canada’s leading thinkers on environmental law,” Pardy writes frequently on environmental governance, ecosystem management, water policy, climate change and environmental liability issues, and spent almost a decade as an adjudicator and mediator on Ontario’s Environmental Review Tribunal.

—— TRISH APPELYARD

New guide brings ‘style’ (and clarity) to Canadian legal writing

Are there 4 appeals or four appeals? When do you use [sic] if your quote contains an error? Should you write “shall” instead of “will”? The answers to these, and many other legal writers’ questions, can be found in the *Canadian Guide to Legal Style,* the first reference guide in Canada for legal writers, authored by the editorial board of the *Queen’s Law Journal* (QLJ). The *Style Guide* was originally created in 2012 as an internal document for QLJ editors to ensure consistency in grammar and writing style. The board decided to publish the guide with Carswell to address the lack of a publication geared towards writing style necessary for the Canadian and legal contexts.

Over the next two years, they conducted research and compiled contents for their new publication. After examining best practices from other guides such as the *Chicago Manual of Style,* the authors tailored the rules to what they believed to be the best fit for legal writing in Canada. And as QLJ editors, they are experts in the field, having seen and reviewed hundreds of legal essays and papers.

The authors hope that using the guide will help ensure clarity, in addition to increasing the consistency and speed of legal writing. Writers should save time as they are able to quickly search and find answers to their stylistic questions in the relevant context.

The *Style Guide,* published in September 2014, is designed to be used by all Canadian legal writers, including academics, practitioners and students. All Queen’s Law students are now trained to use it.

For those of you who are wondering about the answers to the questions at the beginning of this article, they are found at pages 9, 26, and 30 of the *Canadian Guide to Legal Style.* (In short, four, when the mistake changes the meaning of the quote and use “will.” There are always exceptions, but don’t worry, those are also covered in the *Style Guide.*)

The Canadian Guide to Legal Style is dedicated to the memory of Professor Bernie Adell, a long-time faculty advisor to the Queen’s Law Journal and former Editor-in-Chief of the Canadian Labour and Employment Law Journal, who passed away in 2014. The inscription reads: “In memory of Professor Bernard Adell, our teacher, our mentor and our first guide to legal style.” To order a copy of the *Style Guide,* visit the *Carswell website.*

—— TRISH APPELYARD
New colloquium on legal and political philosophy premieres at Queen's

Last fall saw a new course for upper-year students added to the Queen’s Law curriculum: the Colloquium in Legal and Political Philosophy. The Colloquium is a joint initiative of the Faculty of Law, the Department of Philosophy and the Department of Political Studies.

The Colloquium focuses on the areas of legal and political philosophy through a schedule of guest speakers who will join the students in the course every other week for a two-hour workshop.

Speakers included Kimberley Brownlee (Warwick), Sherry Colb and Michael Dorf (Cornell), Thomas Christiano (Arizona), John Gardner and David Miller (Oxford) and John Oberdiek (Rutgers).

The goal of the Colloquium is to promote closer collaboration between legal, philosophical and political studies by bringing together students and faculty from these overlapping disciplines to engage in rigorous intellectual discussions. The conveners, Professors Jean Thomas and Grégoire Webber, say “the Colloquium offers students a rigorous opportunity critically to engage with some of the very best legal and political philosophers.”

This Colloquium is the flagship activity of the Program in Law, Ethics and Public Affairs and is made possible through funding from the Canada Research Chair in Public Law and Philosophy of Law.

— TRISH APPLEYARD

First-year law students introduced to ethical challenges in the legal profession

Legal ethics and professional responsibility have become increasingly important not only in legal education but also in the professional lives of lawyers and judges. Thanks to McCarthy Tétrault LLP, new Queen’s Law students got an overview on the topic from experts representing different aspects of the profession.

As part of the McCarthy Tétrault LLP Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility Program, PhD in Law candidate Tom Harrison, Law’01 (Arts’99), a McCarthy Fellow and the program director, organized a panel discussion on Sept. 11. Professor Art Cockfield, Law’93, was moderator to the panel that included:

- Justice Brian Abrams, Law’96, of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice in Kingston.
- Michele Leering, Executive Director of the Community Advocacy and Legal Centre in Belleville, and a PhD in Law candidate at Queen’s.
- Professor Allan Manson, a national expert in criminal law and a former judge.
- Malcolm Mercer, a partner and counsel with McCarthy Tétrault, and a bencher with the Law Society of Upper Canada.

“The panelists agreed that access to justice is a key challenge for the legal profession,” says Cockfield, “and that ethical practice and good lawyering go hand-in-hand.”

The panel discussion was just a warm-up for the program’s major event: the Annual Lecture to be held early in 2016 featuring Justice Thomas Cromwell, Law’76, LLD’10 (Mus’73), of the Supreme Court of Canada.

— LISA GRAHAM
Queen’s Law hosts international conference on constitutional culture

On Oct. 2 and 3, Queen’s Law hosted “Constitutional Culture: Identities, Texts, Institutions,” a packed two-day conference that showcased Queen’s talent and attracted speakers from around the world.

The conference was co-organized by Professor Tsvi Kahana of Queen’s Law and Professor Yishai Blank of Tel Aviv University’s Buchmann Faculty of Law, as part of a broader ongoing co-operation between the two law schools. Generously supported by the Jeremy and Judith Freedman Family Foundation, the conference included six panels with more than 30 speakers, commentators and chairs from Queen’s, Tel Aviv, the UK, University of Toronto and top U.S. law schools. Professor Mark Tushnet of Harvard served as rapporteur.

The lively discussion unpacked the notion of constitutional culture both at the theoretical level and in topical case studies, looking at judicial activism, LGBT rights, religious freedom, immigration and sex equality. The presentations and debate that followed gave up-and-coming scholars a chance to engage with leaders in this field, creating an atmosphere at once world-class and intimate.

Kahana was pleased with the conference’s interdisciplinary nature, noting, “the topic of constitutional culture (rather than constitutional law) allows for a multi-disciplinary and comparative discussion of the way cultures address constitutional issues and shape constitutions.”

A particular highlight was the keynote address by Reva Siegel of Yale Law School. A capacity crowd of students, faculty and alumni filled Wallace Hall to hear her speak about how constitutional culture enables communities to disagree, focusing on reaction following the U.S.’s Obergefell gay marriage decision.

“I’m happy that we succeeded in bringing in so many leading scholars from so many leading institutions, and facilitated a conversation that will continue,” says Kahana.

— EMILY LIEFFERS

Professor Robinson shares expertise on international justice with Australian scholars

Professor Darryl Robinson spent a week last October at the Australian National University in Canberra, giving three presentations. His visit was hosted by the Centre for International Governance and Justice as part of the “Festival of International Law,” which examined new research directions in international criminal scholarship.

On Oct. 14, Robinson delivered a masterclass on the topic “What is the Underlying Theory of Crimes Against Humanity?” to graduate students from various disciplines. Outlining how different doctrinal positions in current controversies actually reflect different implicit conceptions of what a crime against humanity is, he highlighted that multiple conceptions are legally plausible and have different moral and political implications.

The masterclass was supported by an Australian Research Council Laureate Fellowship. Two days later, Robinson gave a keynote address on “A Better Conversation about International Criminal Law.” He canvassed recurring arguments in the field, and suggested that some of the current stalemates in the discourse could be transcended by more textured debate. “A better conversation that might generate better insights,” he urged.

Additionally, he led a workshop for academics, together with Professor Gerry Simpson of the University of Melbourne, on teaching and writing on international criminal justice.

Robinson’s visit to Australia has been very helpful for his own research. “I was grateful for the chance to interact with established and new scholars doing cutting-edge work,” he says. “The discussions with scholars who employ many different scholarly perspectives have enriched my appreciation of this dynamic field.”

— TRISH APPLEYARD
Queen’s hosts symposium on 20th anniversary of landmark Supreme Court ruling

The Centre for Law in the Contemporary Workplace (CLCW) at Queen’s tackled a Supreme Court of Canada decision that spawned two decades of controversy about the role of labour arbitration in adjudicating workplace disputes involving unionized employees. On Oct. 30–31, the CLCW presented the “One Law for All?” Has Weber v. Ontario Hydro transformed Collective Agreement Administration and Arbitration in Canada?”

“Weber v. Ontario Hydro is one of the most influential but also one of the most baffling decisions ever issued by the Supreme Court of Canada in the field of labour arbitration,” says Elizabeth Shilton, CLCW Senior Fellow and symposium organizer.

The time had come to explore the case more deeply, she explained. “Prior to this decision, virtually all labour lawyers would have advised their client to take claims like Weber’s to court rather than to arbitration. In Weber, the Court held that it had no jurisdiction over the dispute because it arose ‘in its essential character’ from the collective agreement and, therefore, belonged within the exclusive jurisdiction of a labour arbitrator.” Ever since, labour practitioners, courts and arbitrators have been trying to figure out where the jurisdictional lines should be drawn. Scholars and practitioners have argued over whether the decision has been primarily helpful or harmful. Some have claimed that it raises barriers to access to justice, and question whether arbitrators had the capacity to deal with the plethora of new issues that were typically dealt with through the courts.

The event addressed the key issues that have been identified since 1995 and offer a diverse range of perspectives and approaches to the problems raised by Weber. Academics, practitioners, arbitrators and government policy-makers identified practical questions and challenges. The insight gained from this symposium will form the basis for deeper scholarship.

Papers from the symposium will be published by Irwin Law in a volume dedicated to Bernie Adell.--- TRISH APPLEYARD

Queen’s Legal Aid (QLA) is expanding all of its services and broadening its outreach initiatives in Kingston and the surrounding area thanks to additional funding from Legal Aid Ontario (LAO). In January, LAO announced it would provide an additional $100,000 annually for each of the seven student legal aid services in the province. QLA will use the resources to expand its current services, launch new outreach initiatives, and improve the learning experience for law students.

“Thanks to the increased investment from Legal Aid Ontario and the Ontario government, we will have additional capacity to provide legal services to low-income residents of Kingston and the surrounding area, and students at Queen’s and St. Lawrence College,” says Dean Bill Flanagan.

The areas of practice at QLA include relatively minor criminal offences, serious provincial offences, landlord/tenant disputes, provincial social assistance, Canada Pension Plan appeals, Small Claims Court and Criminal Injuries Compensation Board claims. With the funding increase, QLA will expand to handle applications and appeals to the Ontario Human Rights Commission and represent clients in employment law cases.

In addition, QLA will move forward with new services including public legal education outreach initiatives aimed at advising local residents of their legal rights and helping them avoid unnecessary legal interventions. The overall QLA program will grow with the training of new caseworkers, the hiring of a new review counsel, and making use of technology to enhance the legal learning process for students and clients.

“Law students working at QLA under the supervision of review counsel receive invaluable hands-on experience,” says Jana Mills, Law’92, Review Counsel.

“They take pride in providing high-quality legal services to members of our community who could not otherwise access their rights. Under the umbrella of Queen’s Law Clinics, QLA looks forward to the expansion of services this new funding permits.”

Established in 1971, QLA recently co-located to the LaSalle Mews building in downtown Kingston with the Faculty’s other law clinics: Business Law, Elder Law, Family Law, and Prison Law.

Queen’s is a leader in providing excellent experiential learning opportunities through its clinical programs. Last year, the Faculty launched the Queen’s Family Law Clinic with the financial support of LAO.

When each clinic reaches its target enrolment, 100 upper-year students – approximately 50 per cent of the class – will have the option to earn academic credit from a clinical law course every year. Furthermore, more than 70 students volunteer annually with QLA. Visit Queen’s Law Clinics for more information.
Equity-seeking group members continue to face barriers to entering the legal profession. But they are also leading the way in breaking down these barriers. In an informal conversation with Queen’s Law students on Dec. 1, Dhaman Kissoon, Law’89, of Kissoon and Associates, and Frank Walwyn, Law’93, a partner at WeirFoulds LLP, shared their experiences as racialized lawyers and offered practical advice to students on how to be themselves and succeed in the legal profession.

One point the speakers impressed upon students was the fact that the characteristics that made them diverse was also what made them marketable. Walwyn, for example, was able to build a stronger practice by building on his connections in his Caribbean homeland and his ability to practice law in many countries in the Eastern Caribbean.

Kissoon also spoke highly of his experience with his firm, saying he had never felt his status as a black lawyer ever held him back, or that he ever felt discriminated against or treated differently by other lawyers due to his colour. Diversity, for him, has been a competitive advantage and not a hindrance.

Kissoon spoke about how he relies on his back- ground in his criminal practice. Having to experience life through the lens of a racial minority, he is aware and sensitive to different cultural practices and how they impact upon a person going through the criminal justice system. As a criminal lawyer, he must understand and keep abreast of culture or he may miss a case in front of lawyers and judges provides an insight into what such a career will be like that simply cannot be reproduced through any non-practical form of education," says Professor Chris Essert, Chair of the Moot Court Committee.

The renovations have increased seating capacity and added mobile furniture to make the room easily adaptable for many uses. State-of-the-art audio/video technology supports presentations and records moot practice sessions so mooters may review and then refine their performances. A mobile Skype cart to enable off-site coaching has also been added, as well as a new podium.

Students describe their mooting experiences as both fun and as one of the best ways to prepare for a legal career. “The experience of arguing a case in front of lawyers and judges provides an insight into what such a career will be like that simply cannot be reproduced through any non-practical form of education,” says Professor Chris Essert, Chair of the Moot Court Committee.

“The Moot Court Room renovations will improve our students’ experiences in mooting by providing an environment that allows them to better prepare for competitions against other schools,” he adds. “The various new technologies and types of equipment will make our practices more like actual competitions.”

For more photos of the upgraded Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP Moot Court Room, check out our Facebook page.

— LISA GRAHAM
New scholarship to commemorate Christopher Riggs, a pre-eminent lawyer in administrative law

Christopher Riggs, QC, Law’67, was part of the creation of Hicks Morley in 1972 with the five named partners (Robert Hicks, Colin Morley, Fred Hamilton, Bruce Stewart, Tom Storie) and Harvey Beresford, Law’67. He received many awards and distinctions throughout his long career, which spanned five decades. He was named a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and was a recipient of an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Guelph in 2013.

One of the country’s leading lawyers in Labour and employment law, in addition to administrative law, Riggs was universally respected by his colleagues, the judiciary and opposing counsel. Many of the seminal workplace law cases decided in Canada over the past 25 years, including McKinney v. University of Guelph SCC 1990, and Eaton v. Brant County Board of Education SCC 1995 were cases that Riggs argued.

He was managing partner of the firm from 1994 to 2002 and was a mentor and role model to a younger generation of lawyers during his tenure.

"Through his strong leadership, Chris was able to cement our reputation as the leading human resources law and advocacy firm in the country," says Shamie.

"He ran his practice and the firm with the highest degree of integrity, intelligence and wit. Those who dealt with him came to love and respect him not only as an advocate but for his personal qualities." — IRISH APPLEYARD

Christopher Riggs, 1942–2016

Queen’s offers $35,000 fellowship in insurance law

PhD applicants to Queen’s Law who wish to study insurance law will be eligible for a $35,000, three-year fellowship under the supervision of Professor Erik Knutsen. This fellowship includes a $30,000 scholarship and a $5,000 Research Assistantship. The area of study will be on a topic related to Knutsen’s SSHRC-funded research project “Floods, Fires, Crashes: Resolving Post-Disaster Insurance Coverage Conflicts in Canada.”

During his time in private practice, Knutsen saw the problems of unpredictability when generic insurance policy provisions are applied to real-life losses. He says that this unpredictability is “difficult for insurers and policyholders alike” and can result in unfairness and costliness for accident victims. This is especially true for claims arising from large-scale catastrophes. For example, many families impacted by the 2013 Alberta floods had uncertain insurance coverage because their policies defined the word “flooded” in unsuspicious ways.

"My work involves exploring the boundaries of what insurance law is and should be," he says. "The new project aims to be a major Anglo-American work on the law of insurance policy interpretation.”

Knutsen and the fellowship holder will use comparative legal research from Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom to create a new framework for understanding the subject. Knutsen intends to use this framework to recommend reforms to insurance policy interpretation principles so that disputes reach a fairer, more predictable, and more commercially sensible resolution. The research may also prompt insurance companies to deliver fairer and more efficient products so average readers can better understand their own policies.

The successful PhD applicant will have an opportunity to work intensively on a comparative law project in an academic field that is largely untapped in Canada. Knutsen says the field is exciting because it is so “wide open” and because “there is room for creativity and thinking outside-the-box.” The student will engage directly with theoretical issues to develop the new insurance law framework by directly engaging with theoretical accounts of insurance law, contract law and tort law. Knutsen says this work will be especially valuable to students interested in pursuing a career in academia. Furthermore, the student will have the opportunity to co-present findings and to present his or her own research to Canadian and international academics and practitioners. This contact will expand the junior researcher’s professional network.

As Knutsen says, “Insurance is pervasive in Canadian society.” Now, his new project will give a doctoral student a unique opportunity to better the ways in which insurance law affects the lives of Canadians.
SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS:
RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

Former Law Students’ Society President leads national support sponsorship program

Jackie Swaisland, Law’06, knew she had to use her expertise as an immigration lawyer to help people caught up in the biggest refugee crisis since World War II. After being contacted by other lawyers asking what they could do to assist, she got an idea to compile a list of those who were willing to work pro bono with private refugee sponsorships. This initiative blossomed into the Refugee Sponsorship Support Program and Swaisland is its national coordinator.

The program puts legal practitioners who want to help in touch with potential refugee sponsors. It also offers in-person training on how to handle the sponsorships, a complicated and difficult process. So far, more than 1,000 lawyers and 150 law students across the country have signed up and over 900 have received this training.

Seeing legal professionals commit themselves enthusiastically to this cause inspires Swaisland. “This project has provided me with the ability to assist, in a small way, those who have been displaced from their home country and are living in dire circumstances,” she says. “It has also given me the opportunity to work with other lawyers and committed community groups who are donating their time even though they themselves are incredibly busy.”

Lawyers can still get involved. Sign up at refugeessp.ca.

Students help refugees settle in Kingston

Law’16 students Jess Spindler, Rosa Stall, Kaisha Thompson and Lauren Wilson have come together to welcome Syrian refugees to Kingston. They created the Queen’s Law Refugee Support Program after receiving training through the Refugee Sponsorship Training Program. Their program is self-funding and helping refugees resettle in the community. Through their online campaign, they raised more than $1,896. Dean Bill Flanagan has been a key supporter in the students’ efforts and the program is supervised by Professor Lisa Kerr.

“We are prepared to assist with any tasks and want to continue to reach out as more refugees arrive in the future.”

Peter is the first of three Syrian refugees who have been formally sponsored by a group of Queen’s faculty, staff and alumni to arrive in Kingston.

For more information about how to assist, visit the program’s Facebook page or email Jess Spindler at jess.spindler@queensu.ca.

— ANNE CRAIG

Students’ rivalry benefits refugees

A Grey Cup personal wager evolved into a larger campaign to benefit Syrian refugee families coming to Kingston.

Adam Sadinsky, Law’16, and Ian Moore, MPA’14/Law’16, placed a personal wager on the 2015 Canadian Football League title game. Instead of money exchanging hands between the winner and loser, though, they decided to donate the money to the local Refugee Relief Fund operated by the United Way of Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington.

“One other students and faculty heard about the wager, they wanted to donate as well,” says Sadinsky.

“This was a perfect opportunity for students to get together for a common cause,” adds Moore. Sadinsky and Moore were also featured in Canadian Lawyer Magazine.

— ANTHONY PUGH
FEBRUARY 2016 - 21

After spending two years as criminal counsel in Iqaluit and surrounding communities, Sue Charlesworth, Law’81, returned home to Kingston and her post as Senior Review Counsel at Queen’s Legal Aid (QLA) last September. Queen’s Law Reports interviewed the clinic director about her experiences serving citizens in northern Canada.

QLR: What interested you in serving as criminal counsel in Nunavut?

SC: My early career was as a criminal lawyer in Kingston working with Terry O’Hara (Law’75) and Joe Bastos (Law’85), and I loved that work. I was thinking about what I could do to get back into court to be sure I was still correct in the supervision/training work I do at Queen’s Legal Aid when I saw an ad in the Ontario Reports for criminal lawyers to work for the Legal Services Board of Nunavut. It was for a two-year contract and at that time my husband’s and my three children were all in university programs and we were pretty sure nothing momentous would happen in their lives while we were away. I was given a two-year leave at QLA to pursue the opportunity.

QLR: What did you do as criminal counsel for the Legal Services Board of Nunavut?

SC: I worked out of the legal aid clinic in Iqaluit – Maligianik Tukisiniavik Legal Services – which provides “duty counsel” work to the 13 communities in the Baffin (Qikiqtani) Region of Nunavut. Duty counsel provide initial services (bail hearings, appearances and guilty pleas) to every accused person regardless of financial qualification before the Nunavut Court of Justice. Accused persons who financially qualify (about 95 per cent of accused) are represented at trials and appeals by the clinic; Maligianik lawyers are usually assigned those files. Accused persons facing life imprisonment have a choice of private counsel, in which case Maligianik lawyers are often junior or co-counsel so there is local contact. I did not get the chance to do a jury trial in Nunavut, but I did many Judge-alone trials and a few appeals to the Nunavut Court of Justice and the Nunavut Court of Appeal. I did manage to get to 10 of the 13 Qikiqtani communities – almost all of them two or more times.

QLR: Who were you working with?

SC: During my two years in Nunavut, there were a total of 10 other criminal lawyers (four of those lawyers graduated from Queen’s and one was a former QLA summer caseworker) and I worked closely with them. Interestingly, the clinic director at Maligianik is also a Queen’s Law grad: Mark Mossey, Law’03. There are also three family lawyers and a civil lawyer. One criminal lawyer was a new call when I started, but most had five or more years of experience in “the South” before coming to Nunavut. Several had already gained many years of experience working in the North.

The staff at Maligianik included Inuit Court Workers, who also served as translators when needed, and many local admin staff who were always happy to share their cultural and local knowledge as well as caribou (tuktu), whale (maktaq) and many local admin staff who were always happy to share their cultural and local knowledge as well as caribou (tuktu), whale (maktaq) and food treats in the coffee room.

On most circuit courts, and usually also during docket weeks in Iqaluit (three weeks a month), there is also one private lawyer working on contract with the Legal Services Board, mainly in case of conflicts. There are only three private criminal lawyers in Nunavut, so the outside counsel was often a criminal lawyer from the South. Those lawyers are a varied and interesting group.

QLR: What did you like best about working and living in Nunavut and travelling to the circuit courts in other communities?

SC: I loved the beautiful land, the way the sun moves so much from season to season, the friendly, kind and thoughtful people of the north and the extreme weather. Circuit courts were fun, in large part because so much work had to get done in such a short time. The court might not return to a community for four or five months (or more if bad weather prevented the court from arriving) so it was important to do as much as possible when you were there.

QLR: How does the work of a criminal counsel in Nunavut differ from that in Ontario?

SC: I had vaguely noticed the Criminal Code provisions that were specific to Nunavut, but hadn’t paid attention to why: Nunavut has a single criminal court, the Nunavut Court of Justice whose judges do both preliminary inquiries and jury trials.

Most of my clients were Inuit and a few times I had to speak to one through an interpreter. Unfortunately, many Inuit are very polite and agreeable and sometimes I’m pretty sure would agree with me without full understanding, but were too polite to admit that was the case.

Obviously, the sentencing issues raised in Gladue and Ipeelee were very important and always had to be referred to. But the most important difference was the lack of services for our clients, whether before or after sentence. There are no in-house drug or alcohol treatment facilities in Nunavut at all – such treatment is only available in the South. Mental health treatment is also problematic: I spoke to one nurse about a client with schizophrenia, but the nurse was only going to be in the hamlet for a month – and had overlapped with the previous nurse only in the airport.

QLR: What is the most important thing you learned about practicing and dealing with clients in Nunavut?

SC: The Inuit are justly proud of their culture, but the modern world has not treated them well. From priests to teachers, there seem to have been many white men who have come to the Territory and spread serious trauma by sexually abusing children. That, along with the Residential School debacle, has left a huge amount of distress in the current generation – it makes you wonder how the society functions at all.

But then every other person you meet greets you and does their best to make you feel welcome, and you do!
Dean Bill Flanagan participated last summer in a “reconciliation trip” to a remote First Nations community in northern Ontario in order to better understand the barriers and challenges facing the youth who live there.

“At Queen’s Law, we are committed to working closely with First Nations communities to enhance our outreach efforts and increase the numbers of Aboriginal students in our programs,” says Flanagan. “This trip offered me an important opportunity to learn more about First Nations people in Canada and help build the Faculty’s capacity to attract, retain and support increased numbers of Aboriginal students.”

The dean made the trip to Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (KI), a fly-in community located 600 km north of Thunder Bay on Big Trout Lake, on the invitation of KI youth leaders. They wanted to open their homes to interested Canadians to spark an honest dialogue about living conditions and to share their pride in the beauty of their culture and land. KI residents have done this in the past, and guests have included Sophie Rhys-Jones, Countess of Wessex, Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne and Ontario Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell.

Flanagan says the trip was personally moving – many of the families are struggling with difficult social issues, including poverty, a lack of opportunity for the community’s youth, and drug and alcohol abuse.

“Although the community faces many challenges, I was also very impressed with the community’s resilience and determination,” he said. “I left with great hope – this is a community that is very proud of its cultural roots with a strong connection to the land. There are also inspirational youth leaders in KI working to make change, as demonstrated in their leadership in organizing the KI Reconciliation Trip.”

During his time in KI, Flanagan stayed as a guest at the home of Chief Donny Morris and his family, and participated in local events, ceremonies and school visits. The dean made the

week-long trip with Law’95 alumnus David Sharpe, a member of the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte, Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory near Deseronto, Ont.

Sharpe is the alumni ambassador for Aboriginal student recruitment for Queen’s Law and president and chief operating officer of Bridging Finance, which provides small- and medium-sized North American companies with alternative financing options. Bridging Finance is also one of the only bridge lenders in Canada to First Nations for infrastructure projects. He also serves as chair of the Board of Governors for First Nations University in Saskatchewan, and has strong connections to Aboriginal causes in Canada, including the Eabametoong Economic Development Corporation, Native Child and Family Services of Toronto and Indspire Institute for Inuit and Aboriginal student mentoring.

“People can read about First Nations communities in newspapers and online, but until they go and see what’s happening, they don’t have the first-hand knowledge that’s needed to speak honestly about the challenges,” says Sharpe. “Those who came on this trip were very moved by the experience. When we landed in KI, several were very emotional, even at this early point. It’s difficult. The future for many there is bleak, and that is shocking to see.”

Sharpe, who is active in recruiting Aboriginal students to Queen’s Law, says education is the best route out of difficult circumstances. However, most children in KI do not finish high school because Grades 11 and 12 are not available at the local school – the youth must travel to Thunder Bay in order to complete their secondary education. Many children are reluctant to leave the community to complete high school and many of those who do travel to Thunder Bay find it difficult to thrive in a program so far away from their support systems at home.

“I really admire Dean Flanagan for making this trip,” says Sharpe, “and I’m proud of Queen’s for all the work the university is doing to improve Aboriginal engagement.”

— WANDA PRAAMSMA

Dean’s trip north helps build ties with First Nations
Queen’s spirit shines bright at Homecoming 2015

Not even the wind and rain could put a damper on Homecoming Weekend 2015. Setting a record for attendance, more than 300 alumni from 11 classes returned on Oct. 23-24 to celebrate their milestone anniversaries.

“Homecoming 2015 clearly demonstrated that the Queen’s spirit is truly alive and well,” says Calgary resident David Hill, CM, QC, Law’65 (Arts’62).

This year’s festivities kicked off with two events on Oct. 23. Members of Law’75 played 18 holes of golf at Smuggler’s Glen in Gananoque in a tournament named in memory of their classmate Fred Delaney. That evening, graduates from all years gathered at the Grad Club, where they reconnected with old friends and made new ones.

The next morning, they toured the recently co-located Queen’s Law Clinics in downtown Kingston and met student caseworkers. “The tour brought back many good memories of working at Queen’s Legal Aid,” says Suzanne Duncan, Law’85, who made the trip from Whitehorse, Yukon. “The new clinic space in the LaSalle Mews is impressively professional. The students’ enthusiasm was evident!”

Hill agrees, calling the Queen’s Law Clinics a “very impressive display of education and community service wrapped in one.”

Some graduates braved the inclement weather to watch the afternoon football game between the Queen’s Gaels and Laurier Golden Hawks at Richardson Stadium. They also took part in an age-old Queen’s tradition at half-time of the Homecoming game: marching around the field with their class, being cheered on by current students. “High-fiving students as I circled the Richardson Stadium field was an incredibly uplifting experience,” says Hill, who joined the university’s distinguished Tricolour Guard as part of his 50th anniversary reunion. “It drove home that today’s students genuinely welcome and respect the students of a half-century earlier.”

Later in the afternoon, Dean Bill Flanagan gave a presentation in Macdonald Hall on new developments at the school before guests toured the upgraded facilities with current students. “Sir John A. Macdonald Hall is a wonderful facility as its most recent iteration will give students a wonderful place to learn,” says Hill. “I felt, upon re-visiting the law school and touring the clinics that Queen’s Law has been in good hands throughout as it has grown not just in size but in quality and community service.”

Remembering one’s law school days is an important part of the reunion weekend. In a new initiative this year, several alumni took the opportunity during the tours to record their favourite law student memories on video. Excerpts of the recordings will be available in an upcoming issue of Queen’s Law Reports Online.

Good times continued to be had by all as alumni filled the Law Library for a cocktail reception before heading to their individual class dinners. “It was interesting to see the variety of paths people have taken with their law degree,” says Duncan. “It was also great to hear about people’s families and to meet some of the next generation who are currently at Queen’s carrying on the tradition!”

Reconnecting with classmates was also a highlight for graduates celebrating their 45th anniversary reunion, says Alf Peneycad, Law’70. “Everybody had such a good time that now we’re talking about our 50th and how we’re going to make it the biggest one of all.”

— LISA GRAHAM
HOMECOMING
2015

<images of group photos>
Ottawa alumni event draws record attendance

The legendary Queen’s spirit keeps growing stronger in the nation’s capital. Dozens of grads filled the reception area of McMillan LLP on Sept. 17 for the annual Ottawa alumni reception. They reconvened, met new fellow grads and caught up on the latest news from their alma mater at the office of a firm that boasts a number of lawyers from Queen’s.

“We have benefitted from the excellent education and training opportunities they received at Queen’s,” said managing partner Ron Peterson, before introducing their newest associate, Kyle Lambert, Law’12.

In addition to enjoying good company, guests were eager to hear Dean Bill Flanagan speak about the most recent developments at Queen’s Law: the Queen’s Law Clinics, which opened in January, marking the Faculty’s unique MIR/JD program.

In addition to enjoying good company and catching up with old friends, alumni were eager to hear the latest news from Queen’s Centre for Law in the Contemporary Workplace (CLCW), the largest workplace law research centre in the country.

Professor Kevin Banks, Director of the CLCW, spoke about the Centre’s research goals and future direction, and Trish Appleby, Associate Director of the CLCW and an MIR/JD graduate herself, updated attendees on outreach initiatives to introduce students to labour and employment law as a practice area.

The program combines a Master’s in Industrial Relations with a Law degree and graduates go on to work primarily in areas of labour and employment law as a practice area.

On a chilly November evening in Toronto, alumni, faculty and staff shared warm memories over wine and canapes about their time at Queen’s Law. The school, together with Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP, hosted this inaugural reunion for graduates of the Faculty’s unique MIR/JD program.

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Alumni, prospective students and Dean Bill Flanagan decked the halls of Shaw Communications on Dec. 3. The school’s annual holiday reception in Calgary was once again filled with good cheer and excitement.

“Dean Bill Flanagan always draws a great loyal, local alumni following and our holiday gathering was no exception,” says Peter Johnson, Law’89 (Artsci’85), Shaw’s Senior VP, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, and co-chair of the school’s Alberta Alumni Council. “It’s easy to have both a fun and informative evening about Queen’s and its dynamic Law School when he comes to town.”

Flanagan did indeed impress the crowd with the latest news from Macdonald Hall: co-locating the Law Clinics, which opened in January, marking the Faculty’s unique MIR/JD program.

Responding to the enthusiastic crowd, Flanagan reflected on how two weeks earlier he had told the new first-year class that the friends and colleagues they were meeting would remain that for the rest of their lives. “I said to them, ‘Just talk to our alumni’ – that is what Queen’s Law is about.”

This was the second consecutive year that McMillan hosted the Ottawa reception. Just 11 months earlier, the Law Faculty cut the ribbon on the modernized McMillan LLP Classroom, which was made possible with the firm’s $180,000 gift. For the 2016 winter term, partner Paul Davis has returned to teach Contested Relations with a Law degree and graduates go on to work primarily in areas of labour and employment law. Only a few students are admitted each year into the program, which began in 1997.

“The MIR/JD program has provided me with the opportunity to supplement my legal studies with further understanding of human resources management, collective agreement administration and labour relations,” says Ryan Plener, MIR’14/ Law’16.

The added bonus of interacting with successful professionals allows me to broaden my knowledge and maintain personal relationships for future years.

For more photos, visit our photo gallery.
As Judy Goldring and Samantha Horn approach the 25th anniversary of their graduation from Queen’s Law, they have one more reason to celebrate: the Women’s Executive Network (WXN) named them both to its top 100 list of Canada’s Most Powerful Women for 2015.

“I believe women have greater opportunity and flexibility as part of the legal profession today than they did 25 years ago,” says Goldring, who was inducted into the WXN Hall of Fame at the Nov. 26 gala in Toronto. This honour is given to women nominated for the fourth time. As Executive VP and Chief Operating Officer of AGF Management Limited, Goldring provides strategic leadership and vision to promote her organization’s operational effectiveness and long-term growth. She was a General Counsel before moving into the operating side of a business. “At AGF, I have seen and helped shape corporate policies to ensure that diversity and women in particular are fairly represented at every level of our organization,” she says. “I can proudly say that women represent 33 per cent of our Board of Directors.”

For the second consecutive year, Horn received her Top 100 Award in the KPMG Professionals category. A partner with Stikeman Elliott LLP’s Toronto office, she practises corporate and commercial law and is co-head of the firm’s Mergers & Acquisitions (M&A) and Private Equity Group.

While Horn would like to see more women in senior and leadership roles in law firms and in the profession, particularly in the M&A field, she notes this is a key issue law firms are continuing to work on and gains have been made. Through speaking roles and her involvement with the American Bar Association, she has taken her message to law students about the benefits of working in corporate law.

Over her years of practice, Horn has also seen changes to the profession that have benefitted many women lawyers. One of these changes is the large degree of flexibility. “The increasing role that technology plays has had (mostly) good influences on the ability to work remotely,” she says. “While attempting to disconnect from work can be more difficult, technology has, on the whole, created more opportunities for flexibility in where and when lawyers work and in being able to balance and schedule multiple commitments.” In addition, she notes the increasing role of in-house counsel. “Many large corporations and banks now have in-house departments that are really their own law firms, creating opportunities for lawyers who choose not to stay in private practice.”

An inspiration to women professionals as is Goldring, Horn says she is most proud of being seen as a role model by her three daughters (ages 16, 14 and 9) as they start to consider their own career choices.

2016 will mark the first major milestone anniversary for Goldring, Horn and their classmates, with a reunion taking place at Homecoming Weekend in the fall.

“I have a lot of nostalgia for Kingston,” says Horn, who spent two years at Queen’s as an undergraduate student in economics before entering law school. It’s also where she met her future husband, Fraser Horn (Sc’89), and since graduation they’ve come back a number of times for reunion visits. “I’m most looking forward to catching up with classmates I haven’t seen in years,” she says about Homecoming 2016, “and also to just wandering around Kingston, going to the market, visiting the university and eating in some of our favourite places.”

“To be able to say that we have been practising law for 25 years is quite an achievement,” adds Goldring. “I am planning to attend the reunion – say hello to many old friends and enjoy Kingston.”

The Queen’s Law community is certainly looking forward to welcoming back Judy Goldring and Samantha Horn, two of the Most Powerful Women in Canada.
Law’85 alum sets priorities as new CBA President

Janet M. Fuhrer, Law’85, had been preparing for the presidency of the Canadian Bar Association (CBA) since she was elected its Second Vice-President in 2013. On Aug. 16, 2015, her ultimate role became official when she received the President’s chain of office at the end of the CBA Legal Conference in Calgary. Over her one-year term, she is leading the organization that represents 37,000 legal professionals and students nationwide. In her multi-faceted position with the CBA, she is advocating for members’ interests within and outside Canada, presiding over meetings of the Executive Officers and Board of Directors, liaising with branches and other constituencies, serving as spokesperson, and providing leadership in many and varied activities.

Read the Queen’s Law Reports interview with Janet Fuhrer as she started in her new role.

Law’84 grad wins Canada’s new top general counsel award

Stephen Sigurdson, Law’84, helped lead a transformative acquisition last year for his company, Manulife Financial. On Oct. 1, 2015, Chambers and Partners recognized his efforts making him the first winner of the Chambers Canada Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Legal Profession: In-House.

In a complicated multinational transaction in a highly regulated industry, Manulife acquired Standard Life Canada for CAD$4 billion. The transaction almost doubled the company’s assets in the group retirement business, bumping its rank up to second place nationally. It also added more than $6 billion in assets to Manulife’s Canadian mutual fund business.

“The deal was a great example of teamwork between in-house and outside counsel,” says Sigurdson. “Our in-house lawyers were front and centre on the transaction and worked seamlessly with our outside counsel – Osler for M&A and Torys on the financing aspects – on a very tight time frame.”

His nominators, both private practitioners and in-house lawyers, were quick to point out his exceptional leadership qualities. “Steve was respectful of the contributions of his colleagues at the table, never undercutting their authority but quietly showing real leadership,” wrote one. “Clearly his team appreciated and respected his guidance.”

“He was calm and positive in negotiations, looking not to win every point, but to find a path that worked for all parties,” said another supporter about how he set the right tone for long-term relationships.”

Now saluted by the publisher of leading global guides to the legal profession, Sigurdson recalls how his alma mater – for which he serves as Dean’s Council Vice-Chair – prepared him for his career. “I’ve come to realize that the practice of law is as much about understanding people and personalities as it is about understanding legal concepts and rules,” he says. “My education at Queen’s Law was a nice blend of both soft skills and legal knowledge.”

Evidently, that’s a winning combination. As one nominator puts it, “If I had to have a GC on my side in a big transaction, it would be Steve.”

Law’79 alumnus succeeds fellow grad to lead Gowlings

A second successive lawyer with a Queen’s background now heads Gowling as the firm’s new Chair and CEO. Peter Lukasiewicz, Law’79, took over from Scott Jolliffe, Law’76, on January 1.

Lukasiewicz has assumed his new role while Gowling and Wragge Lawrence Graham & Co, a leading law firm in the United Kingdom, launch a new international legal practice called Gowling WLG. Lukasiewicz and Jolliffe will both serve on its global board.

“I am very much looking forward to continuing to expand Gowling’s practice across Canada in each of the markets and sectors we serve,” says Lukasiewicz, a managing partner with Gowling since 2013. “At the same time, I am honoured to be leading the first Canadian law firm to co-founded an international law firm, and I look forward to working with my colleagues at Wragge Lawrence Graham & Co.”

Lukasiewicz is one of Canada’s leading commercial litigators and has been repeatedly recognized by the Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory and The Best Lawyers in Canada. He has recently completed a term as president of The Advocates’ Society and has been involved in numerous boards and community organizations.

Jolliffe is delighted with the appointment of Lukasiewicz, with whom he has worked side by side over the last 20 years. “Peter has helped to shape Gowling into the firm it is today, and has been a driving force in our combination with WLG,” says Jolliffe. “With the upcoming launch of Gowling WLG in January, I look forward to continuing to work closely with Peter in my new role on our global board.”

It’s at Queen’s Law where Lukasiewicz met the person who would inspire his legal career: Ian Scott, a future Attorney General of Ontario. Lukasiewicz took two courses from Scott, and went on to become his Chief of Staff and then one of his partners at Gowlings. “Ian served as a role model for me, demonstrating how to combine a passion for the law with service to your community.”

Now Lukasiewicz is prepared to lead his firm. “The enduring hallmark of Gowlings is its people-first culture,” he says. “As CEO of Gowlings, soon to be Gowling WLG Canada, I will ensure that this value is at the centre of everything we do.”

—Lisa Graham
New grad wins provincial family law award named for her Queen’s Law mentor

Katie Hunter, Law’15, may have just graduated last June, but she has already won an award for demonstrating similar qualities to Professor Nick Bala, Law’77. Four months later, she received the Nicholas Bala Award for Excellence in Children & Family Law from the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, Ontario (AFCC-O), recognizing her interdisciplinary achievements in law and social work.

Hunter is “moved and very honored” to receive an award named for her mentor, whose interdisciplinary research has significantly developed knowledge on how legislation and the justice system affect families and children. “Professor Bala’s belief in the importance of fostering children’s empowerment and their right to have a voice in the systems in which they are involved has inspired me,” she says. “He taught me a great deal about how to conduct research in this field, and how to translate kindness and generosity not just into interpersonal relationships but also into research and legal practice.”

While at Queen’s, Hunter co-authored a report on crossover youth – young people who are involved in both the child welfare and criminal justice systems – with Bala and fellow Law’15 classmate Rebecca De Fillipis. The findings of this report, which was commissioned by the AFCC-O and presented at the October 2014 AFCC-O conference, were published in the Canadian Criminal Law Review. Hunter also participated in the 2014 Walsh Family Law Moot, worked at the Ontario Office of the Children’s Lawyer in the summer of 2014 and is now articling with Williams Family Lawyers in Unionville, Ont.

Prior to her legal studies, she completed a Master of Social Work degree at the University of Toronto, where she researched the effect of childhood abuse on adult health outcomes. This experience continues to inform her interdisciplinary perspective to her work today.

What Hunter finds most rewarding about work in family law is the opportunity to assist others. “Family lawyers have the opportunity to collaborate with and guide their clients through the process in a way that ideally has the best outcome for everyone involved.”

Bala himself was happy to learn of his former student’s award win. “With her background in social work, her summer research work on cross-over kids and her great commitment to family law,” he says, “Katie Hunter is a most worthy recipient of this award.”

CBC’s Dragons’ Den is hungry for recent grad’s Hangry

Fabian Raso, MBA’12/Law’13, and Mark Scattolon pitch their business Hangry on the hit show Dragons’ Den, filmed in Toronto and originally aired on Nov. 4.

Fabian Raso, MBA’12/Law’13 (Arts’09), hit it big on the popular CBC show Dragons’ Den. His company, Hangry, closed a deal for $120,000 with three “dragons” last November. Hangry, a skip-the-line restaurant app now targeted at university and college students, allows users to pre-order and pre-pay for meals from any of their on-campus food locations and then notifies them when their order is ready for pickup.

The idea for Hangry actually grew from Fabian’s work at Queen’s. One day, he was running late to class and had to wait in a really long line at a nearby coffee shop. Someone in front of him was ordering complex drinks for a bunch of friends, and he was just trying to order his usual latte. “It suddenly occurred to me that if I could just order ahead and pick up my drink on the way to class, life would be good.” This thought was the basis for his final MBA research paper, a four-month project looking into whether the “now generation” would be willing to pay extra for the convenience of not waiting in long lines.

Raso credits his time in the combined JD/MBA program at Queen’s with instilling him with an ability to “think outside the box, look at a problem in a different light and come up with a solution that hasn’t been done before.” Also, his law degree gives Hangry a luxury that many other small businesses don’t have: in-house legal counsel. In a typical day, Raso may draft a contract, execute a marketing campaign, attend a sales meeting, and then do some coding (he also has an undergraduate Math/Computer Science degree from Queen’s). Legal work is part of every day in his business, such as when he recently hired an employee and was able to draft the employment agreement himself.

Another huge benefit from his time at Queen’s is the network of friends he can now rely on. “I can fall back on classmates who will be friends for the rest of my life and who are always willing to lend a hand, whether it’s to review a document in their area of expertise or make a strategic introduction to a colleague,” says Raso, who left private practice early on in his career. “I know almost everyone in my graduating class and you don’t get that at other schools. Your network is so important.”

Hangry, recently added to the Oxford English Dictionary, means “bad-tempered or irritable, as a result of prolonged hunger.” We’ve all been hangry before. Raso’s business partner, Mark Scattolon is the creative genius behind the name and brand.

Originally, Hangry focused on fast-food restaurants, and had been working on securing a deal with a burrito franchise with many locations across the country. However, Raso says that one of the big outcomes from the Den appearance was to “take the business to the next level.” Since appearing on Dragons’ Den, Hangry has expanded and will have more than 25 campuses up and running across Canada this fall of 2016.

That’s a booming business for a young entrepreneur so soon after graduation.

—ANTHONY PUGH

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Fabian Raso, MBA’12/Law’13, and Mark Scattolon pitch their business Hangry on the hit show Dragons’ Den, filmed in Toronto and originally aired on Nov. 4.
PhD student wins national award for research on mass surveillance and international law

Are emerging transnational technologies such as drone warfare, climate engineering, and mass surveillance legal under international law? That’s the question Jon Weiss, a new doctoral student at Queen’s Law, will be exploring with funding from the Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship. The award, given by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada to support high-caliber graduate student scholars, is valued at $35,000 per year until 2017-18.

Weiss’ proposed dissertation, “Determining the Legality of Emergent Transnational Technologies: Introducing the Theory of ‘Capture’ in International Law,” aims to investigate the intersection of philosophy and international law involved in his topic.

This work comes at a particularly important time. “Canada finds itself in a rapidly changing world order,” explains Weiss, “the dynamics of which are driven in large part by the invention of emergent transnational technologies that outpace developments in our understanding of the social, political, ethical and legal consequences.”

Prior to coming to the Queen’s, Weiss earned his AB Summa Cum Laude from Harvard and a JD and an LLM, both from the University of Victoria. His doctoral work will be an expansion of his LLM thesis, which was also funded through a Bombardier Graduate Scholarship as well as the University of Victoria President’s Research Scholarship.

Jon Weiss, PhD in Law student

Law student’s article spotlights human rights issue impeding entry to profession

Maria Nunez, Law’16, an advocate for persons with disabilities, is now a published author on the topic. Her paper about the impact of the law school admissions process on these individuals appears in the 2015 Canadian Legal Education Annual Review (CLEAR).

In her article, “The Law School Admission Council, the Law School Admission Test, and Barriers for Individuals with Disabilities. Oh My! Leaving the Legal Profession Before Admission?,” she argues that the current LSAT accommodation process discriminates towards persons with disabilities, raising a human rights concern and creating barriers for entry into the legal profession.

“The status quo is that students with disabilities are still not being properly accommodated,” says Nunez. “It remains to be seen what procedural protections will be put in place to ensure that admissions procedures for students with disabilities are equitable.”

Before coming to law school, Nunez worked as an aid for youth and adults with disabilities, and volunteered with various community organizations in Calgary. “Advocating for persons with disabilities is a cause close to my heart,” she says. “I wanted to raise awareness about the fact that many students are deterred from applying to law school because they do not receive adequate disability accommodations for the LSAT, despite ample medical documentation. A strong case exists for systemic discrimination.”

Nunez wrote the paper as part of an independent study project supervised by Professor Beverley Baines, Law’73, who encouraged Nunez to write on a topic that she was passionate about. “It is a very well researched, significant contribution to the issues raised,” says Baines. “I think people in the legal world, including those in all Canadian law schools, need to read it.”

While publishing a paper in law school was not always a goal of hers, Nunez is proud that her article can educate people about some of the contemporary barriers that persons with disabilities encounter when pursuing law school. “Whatever I do in the future, I hope that I will make a positive mark and help people.”

Maria Nunez, Law’16

Law student’s article spotlights human rights issue impeding entry to profession

Queen’s Law Alumni Pub Night in Toronto

Join Dean Bill Flanagan for our first Toronto event of 2016: an enjoyable evening with your fellow alumni!

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2016
6:00 – 8:00 PM
Duke of Westminster (Red Room)
77 Adelaide St West, Toronto
* Cash Bar and Appetizers

RSVP by February 26 to victoria.andreva@queensu.ca or phone 1.800.267.7837 ext. 78149

---TRISH APPLEYARD
Queen’s Law shoots and scores’ at national hockey arbitration competition

It wasn’t the Stanley Cup, but Law’17 students Brad Morris and Conor O’Muirí pulled out a big win on Nov. 7 at the fourth annual Hockey Arbitration Competition of Canada held in Toronto.

Thirty-two teams from 16 universities throughout Canada and one from the United States competed in simulated NHL salary arbitration hearings that involve real NHL players who went through the process with the League this past summer.

For Morris and O’Muirí, two students who grew up playing sports and who still play hockey for the intra-mural Queen’s Law hockey team, “having the chance to combine hockey with our legal training was an awesome opportunity and probably the reason we did so well in this competition.”

Queen’s sent four teams this year, and was very successful with three teams advancing to the quarter-finals, and two teams facing off in the semi-finals. Ultimately, Morris and O’Muirí advanced to the finals and defeated a team from Syracuse University to win the 2015 Hockey Arbitration Competition of Canada.

In this competition, students are given the opportunity to sharpen their oral and written advocacy skills within the specialized context of an NHL salary arbitration proceeding.

The arbitrations are judged by prominent members of the NHL community, including lawyers who have represented clubs in arbitration proceedings; players’ agents such as Don Meehan of Newport Sports, one of the top hockey agencies in the world; and Ian Cooper, an NHL analytics guru who runs a popular hockey analytics website.

Both students also credit their Queen’s Law colleagues for their help going into the finals, bouncing ideas off of them and helping them to find angles to rebut the opposing counsel’s argument. “The competition just reinforced the notion that Queen’s Law is such a strong community,” they said.

“Like most sports fans, we love to debate the merits of player signings,” Morris and O’Muirí said. With this win at the Hockey Arbitration Competition of Canada, they’ll certainly have more credibility when they’re debating this topic with friends and fans in the future.

—TRISH APPLEYARD

Queen’s Law students hit the airwaves with Pro Bono Radio

“You’re on the air!”

Every Thursday morning, Queen’s Law students are live on CFRC 101.9 FM to deliver Pro Bono Radio, a legal issues radio show created, researched and hosted by Queen’s Law students. The 30-minute show is affiliated with Pro Bono Students Canada and features 18 JD students who rotate in groups of three or four to produce episodes about a variety of topics.

Jonathan Nehmetallah, Law'16, is the project leader and a radio talent on the show and says that students can get involved without prior radio experience. “We look for people who are really clever, have great ideas for topics and who can spot a great idea that’s unravelling in the news or has a legal aspect that could be talked about in a fun and engaging way.”

Topics on the show vary widely and put an entertaining spin on various legal and pop culture issues, ranging from gender quotas to the legal systems of the Harry Potter series or Middle Earth. One series considered the legality of love, looking at how love and law intersect as relationships progress from casual dating to marriage, while another asked if music lyrics could be used as evidence in a murder trial.

While Queen’s Law has had a radio show for many years, the show’s current clever, quirky style has only developed in recent years. Pro Bono Radio is also one of the only law student radio shows in Canada to have survived many turnovers of students, living past its founders’ time at Queen’s.

The show is also expanding and trying out new initiatives. Last November, the students recorded an episode live from the student lounge, where they incorporated more interactive audience feedback. They are also working to make their show available as a downloadable podcast online, expanding their reach beyond Kingston.

“Anyone can listen to it, not just other law students or prospective law students,” says Nehmetallah. “It helps us show that lawyers can be creative, multi-dimensional people and that law school can actually nourish that.”

Tune in to CFRC 101.9 FM on Thursdays from 11:30 am – 12:00 pm. Archived shows are also available through CFRC’s digital archives at cfrc.ca, and select episodes at probonoradio.com.

—EMILY LIEFFERS

Tweet tweet!

We’re @queensulaw and using the #queensulaw tag on Twitter!
Leah Thompson, Law’17, will be spending her second consecutive summer in Europe. This year, she completed the Public International Law (PIL) Program at Herstmonceux Castle, the Queen’s-owned Bader International Study Centre in East Sussex, U.K. She has now accepted an offer to intern this summer at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in The Hague, Netherlands.

Thompson’s experiences in one of the Faculty’s Global Law Programs at the Castle led her to this internship. While completing the PIL program, she and her classmates toured a number of different international courts. This sparked her interest in working for the ICTY. “I had studied the tribunal’s work before, but I couldn’t really picture myself working there until I got a chance to speak to its lawyers and interns,” she says. “I remember sitting in the ICTY and thinking I could do this.”

Katrina Gustafson, a PIL instructor and ICTY prosecutor, was one lawyer she talked to at the tribunal. Thompson took the International Criminal Law course co-taught by Gustafson and learned about the tribunal’s complex work interpreting and applying international treaties and its own enabling statute. “Taking specialized courses in public international law made my application more competitive, since I could point to the courses as proof of my demonstrated interest in international humanitarian law and international criminal law.”

The ICTY is an ad hoc court established by the United Nations to prosecute serious crimes committed during the Yugoslav Wars. Thompson will be a Chambers Intern in the Office of the President. In this role, she will assist the judges of the tribunal by doing legal research and drafting memoranda, by helping draft orders and judgments, and by writing reports on court proceedings. Joining her will be a select group of law students drawn from around the world.

The prospect of getting hands-on experience in international criminal law excites Thompson. “Working in the judicial chambers will give me an even better understanding of how these tribunals interpret and apply the law,” she says. “This internship will be an excellent opportunity to test the waters and see if I would enjoy working overseas in the future.”

Thompson is also looking forward to interacting with legal professionals and students from many other nations. “I’ll have an opportunity to build my network among professionals and students in the area of law that I want to practice.”
Get ready to return to Queen’s Law!

Alumni from class years ending in 1 and 6 will be celebrating milestone anniversaries this year. Members of the Class of Law’66 will mark their 50th anniversary by being welcomed into the University’s distinguished Tricolour Guard.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14**

8:00pm: Law grads meet at the Grad Club (cash bar).

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15**

10:00am–noon: Enjoy coffee and muffins with clinic directors and caseworkers at the new Queen’s Law Clinics at 303 Bagot Street in downtown Kingston.

1:00pm kickoff: Football fans can purchase tickets in the summer to watch the Queen’s Gaels play the Windsor Lancers at Richardson Stadium.

5:30–7:00pm: Dean Flanagan hosts a cocktail reception for all alumni in the Lederman Law Library.

**After 7:00pm:** Catch up with your classmates at your class’s private dinner at one of Kingston’s finest venues.

Watch your email and our Homecoming web page for further details.