

Faculty of LAW

NEWSLETTER
SUMMER, 2017

THREE MANDATES OF THE FACULTY OF LAW CURRICULUM

Aboriginal-
Indigenous Law

Natural Resources
Environmental Law

Small Practice
with IPC

An Exciting 2016-17

Welcome to the Faculty of Law Newsletter for 2016-17! We have had a great fourth year at the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law with lots of news to share as you will see within these pages. At the end of 2016, we celebrated the graduation of the Charter Class! In September, our graduates attended for the first time the Law Society of Upper Canada Call to the Bar and we were so proud of them! Now, we are preparing for our second set of graduates who will continue the tradition of exemplary law graduates entering the legal profession.

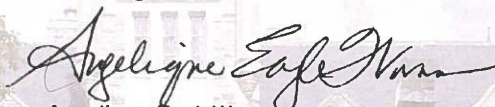
We have grown our student services and staffing at the law school this past year to enhance our delivery of the legal program. Upon the recommendation of our Aboriginal Advisory Committee, we have in place the new Director of Indigenous Relations. We have also brought on board the position of Director of Student Services and Skills to better equip our students and support our innovative Integrated Practice Curriculum (IPC). Please take a moment to read about our distinguished faculty members who are highlighted for their engagement in innovative research, scholarship and teaching. All of these dedicated individuals contribute to our level of excellence and innovation.

On behalf of the law school, I have had the great pleasure of meeting many of our legal community supporters at law school events, receptions and conferences. We are very thankful for our close connection with the Thunder Bay Law Association and the jointly coordinated events, such as the Welcome to the Legal Profession Ceremony at the Courthouse; the Annual Soccer, Basketball and Hockey Games against our law students; and many others. There has been such a wonderful outpouring of support both in the North and throughout Ontario for our law students. This has been especially true with our Practice

Placements. We continue to have far more opportunities than students to fill those opportunities. Thank you to all of those serving as supervisors for the Practice Placements and making the experience so enriching and based on practical legal competencies.

As the 2016-2017 academic year comes to a close, we can look back at the big strides we have taken and the exciting times that are ahead.

Warm regards,



Angelique EagleWoman
Dean and Professor of Law



Inaugural Graduating Class of 2016
— Thank You —



Lakehead
UNIVERSITY

BORA LASKIN
Faculty of
Law

Community Legal Services

New Review Counsel

It's been a busy year at Community Legal Services. In a few short months we will be celebrating our second anniversary of delivering free legal service to low income individuals in the Thunder Bay community. We have grown so much in that time. We recently welcomed our third lawyer to the clinic. Joanna Goldenberg joined us as Review Counsel in March 2017. Joanna is a graduate of the University of Toronto Faculty of Law. She was called to the bar in 2008. Her primary area of practice has been criminal defence work and most recently she was employed with Kitikmeot Law Centre in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut. Joanna will be supervising clinic files in the areas of criminal law, provincial offences and tenant rights applications.



Staff, lawyers and student volunteers came together at the ID clinic held March 3. Front row are: Amanda Gallo, Cassandra Kelertas, Casandra Gravel, Rodi-Lynn Rusnick-Kinisky (Senior Review Counsel, LUCLS); middle row: Lindsay Kein, Erin Kearney, Katie Remington (3L ID clinic organizer); and back row: Michael Lucifora, Kimberley Gagan (Director, LUCLS), Claire Littleton (Counsel, Kinna-Aweya Community Legal Clinic).

ID Clinic

In March of this year, we partnered with Kinna-aweya Community Legal Clinic to host an ID clinic. Lack of official government ID is a barrier for many individuals. Without proper identification many people cannot access appropriate community support, or benefits such as housing, food banks, income support, education and employment. Space for this joint venture was generously provided by Anishnawbe Mushkiki. Seven law students, mostly first years, volunteered their time to help numerous community members fill out applications for birth certificates. The demand for this important service exceeded our capacity and we are hoping to hold another ID clinic again before the end of 2017.

Expansion of Services

But this is not the end of our great news. We are currently in the process of launching our services into the municipality of Greenstone. We would like to thank Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic who have offered to let us use space in their Geraldton satellite office, from time to time, in order to allow us the opportunity to expand our services in to that community.

OTLA Cup

Each year lawyers from the Ontario Trial Lawyer Association (OTLA) support the development of trial skills, civility and professionalism amongst law school students by organizing the OTLA Cup. Law schools from across Ontario compete in a simulated trial which covers all aspects of a real court case.

This was a historic year for the OTLA Cup. It marked the cup's 25th anniversary and the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law's first entry in the competition. The trailblazing team consisted of students Amber Bonnell, Ryan Venn, April Snow and Jillian Kellar.

The OTLA Cup rotates amongst Ontario cities and is presided over by a local judge, with OTLA members making up the jury.

This year the moot was held in Toronto with the Honourable Mr. Justice Firestone presiding. Competition was tight as all the participants were extremely well prepared and with the University of Windsor's Faculty of Law ultimately bringing home top prize.

Lakehead team coaches Daniel Lester and Jeff Moorley of White Macgillivray Lester LLP applaud this pioneering team who showed skill, dedication, and confidence in their preparation and performance. They made a great first impression on behalf of Lakehead.

Kawaskimhon Moot Team

In partnership and with the financial support of the BMO Financial Group, the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law's Kawaskimhon Moot team travelled to Calgary, Alberta on March 8, 2017 to participate in the moot hosted by the University of Calgary's Faculty. The Bora Laskin Faculty of Law was represented by second-year student Tahnee Caraballo of Garden River First Nation. The other member of the moot team, Kailey Doxtator, was unable to attend due to illness, though she was integral to the research and writing of Bora Laskin Faculty of Law's position paper.

This year's moot problem dealt with the timely issue of negotiations for a pipeline crossing Aboriginal territory in the province of New Brunswick. The Lakehead team represented a ctional Mi'gmaq First Nation. Our table (New Brunswick) was the only one to reach an agreement, due in no small part to the clever negotiation talents of our team, reports Gilbert Deschamps, Director of Indigenous Relations.

Tahnee Caraballo did an outstanding job presenting our negotiation position and impressed many of the other team members with her knowledge and eloquence. It was a huge challenge to be a one-person team. Some of the other teams had four students. It was a great opportunity to meet other law students from across the country, Deschamps says.

Next year's moot will be hosted by McGill's Faculty of Law in Montreal.



Faculty of Law students Christina Comacchio and Emily Delaney were joined by coach Gil Labine, left, in Toronto on Feb. 10-11, 2017 for the Arnup Cup, an annual trial advocacy competition for Ontario law schools sponsored by the Advocates' Society.

Small Town Boy Makes a Big Difference for Future Leaders in Law



For three decades, David H. Gordon was committed to helping others. Born in Sudbury, Ont., David dedicated his life to the legal profession, practicing as a Senior Partner at McCarthy Tétrault for over 35 years where he was also a tireless mentor to young attorneys.

Today, David's legacy continues to impact future law leaders through the D.H. Gordon Foundation Law Award. Established in 2013 by the D.H. Gordon Foundation in his memory, the prestigious \$10,000 award is awarded annually to one student from the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law on the basis of academic excellence and financial need, with the hope of making law school more accessible and affordable.

Through the generosity of donors like the D.H. Gordon Foundation, the Faculty of Law has been able to recruit and retain highly qualified and diverse students. These gifts are a special investment in our law school, and instill in our students a sense of confidence, pride and encouragement.

"Having been selected to receive the D.H. Gordon Foundation Award, the financial costs of pursuing my studies has been significantly reduced, which has enabled me to devote more of my time to focus on my studies and academic activities. This award has inspired me to believe that I can move forward with my dreams and make them a reality."

-Amanda Somek, JD Graduate 2017
Bora Laskin Faculty of Law

A photo of David is proudly displayed in the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law to help inspire and call to attention the value of listening, learning and working hard: driving forces exemplified throughout David's life and practice.

YOUR WILL IS A GIFT



"We included Lakehead University in our will because we believe in the transformative power of education."

Dr. Bill Heath
Professor Emeritus, Lakehead University

Ms. Betty Heath
Lakehead Alumna

Creating a will is arguably one of the most important things you can do for yourself and your family. Not only can a will protect those you care for, it can also detail how you would like your estate managed.

A gift in your will to Lakehead University can provide future financial support to a student, create a lasting legacy and provide significant estate tax benefits.

For information call
Lee-Anne Camlin, Philanthropy Associate
(807) 346-7792
Email: rlcamlin@lakeheadu.ca

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



Dr. Ryan Alford
Assistant Professor

Dr. Alford received his doctorate in public, constitutional, and international law from the University of South Africa. He recently published a book based upon his research, *Permanent State of Emergency:*

The Demise of the Rule of Law in the United States, through McGill-Queens University Press. Publishers Weekly called this book a “timely and prescient debut . . . starkly argues that America is no longer a rule-of-law state . . . What could have been a dry legal text is instead a lively, informative, and at times very frightening history . . . Alford’s utterly reasonable and objective study is a compelling, important call to restore democratic balance.”

Additionally, Dr. Alford recently published articles in the *Journal of Parliamentary and Political Law*, the *National Journal of Constitutional Law* and the *Review of Constitutional Studies* discussing accountability for modifications to constitutional conventions, Bill C-51 and its corrosive effect on the rule of law, and the desirability of asserting parliamentary control over decisions to deploy the Canadian Forces.

He also presented sections of his forthcoming book *The Rule of Law in Canada* at conferences in Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto.

Dr. Alford enjoys teaching law students, especially first-year students, and is looking forward in particular to teaching constitutional law to first-year students in the coming academic year.

David Blaikie

Assistant Professor

David Blaikie taught Torts and Civil Practice in the 2017 winter term (he was on a leave of absence in the fall). He completed the second edition of the volume on the law of damages in Halsbury’s *Laws of Canada* (LexisNexis). David also helped organize a conference for jurists in Kochi, India in May 2017, working with Judge Sandra Oxner (retired) and Dr. Madhva Menon of the National University of India Law School. The conference is in support of a book on lawyers and social justice (to be published by Oxford University Press), and he is a contributing editor.

He continues to sit as a board director of the St. Andrew Soup Kitchen in Thunder Bay, and the Johnson Scholarship Foundation in West Palm Beach, Florida.

David joined the Faculty of Law in July 2014 and he teaches in the areas of evidence, torts, civil procedure, professional responsibility and alternative dispute resolution.



Dr. Mariette Brennan
Associate Professor

Dr. Mariette Brennan received her PhD from Osgoode Hall Law School, York University, in 2011 and worked as an assistant professor at Bond University’s Faculty of Law (Australia). Dr. Brennan joined the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law as a founding faculty member in July 2013. She received tenure and a promotion to associate professor in 2016. She also serves as an assistant professor at the

Northern Ontario School of Medicine, and is a core member (member knowledgeable in law) on the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre’s Research and Ethics Board.

Dr. Brennan primarily researches in the area of health law and constitutional law. In the fall of 2016, she began a project with Dr. Lori Chambers (Women’s Studies, Lakehead University), Dr. Elaine Wiersma (Health Sciences, Lakehead University) and the Ontario Dementia Advisory Group; focusing on the legal and human rights of people living with dementia. This project has been funded in part with a grant by the Law Foundation of Ontario.

Dr. Brennan’s other upcoming research project, in conjunction with assistant professor Miriam Cohen, focuses on citizenship rights and statelessness. Following a conference presentation at the Canada 150 Conference in Ottawa, the project will culminate in a formal academic paper assessing the constitutionality of Canada’s laws on citizenship revocation.



Dr. Frances E. Chapman
Associate Professor

Dr. Chapman worked with Dr. Mariette Brennan to put the Foundations course online in the summer of 2016. She was a reviewer on several academic papers, finished a chapter on abortion in an upcoming monograph, and authored a lengthy book review on the potential for a “parent-partner status” in family law.

In addition, she submitted several papers including one with Professor Jason MacLean called *Au Revoir, Monsieur Big?* Confessions, Coercion and the Courts, dealing with “Mr. Big” sting operations.

She published a paper with former student Lauren Tarasuk called *Slender Man On Trial: Has Social Media Taken the Minds of the Young?* and authored another paper in the U.S. called ‘Butcher of Women’: ‘Abortion Tourism,’ Canadian Abortion Access and the Cautionary Case Study of Kermit Gosnell.

Dr. Chapman delivered some guest lectures for Professor Daniel Dylan in his Professional Responsibility class in the Winter semester. In June she will attend a Canadian Association of Law Teachers conference to discuss the future of legal education.

Dr. Chapman was admitted to the Bar in 2003 after having completed her Juris Doctor at the University of Western Ontario, and her undergraduate degree at the University of Waterloo. Dr. Chapman completed her Master of Laws degree at Western Ontario while teaching part-time at Fanshawe College. She then moved to Toronto to complete her PhD in law at Osgoode Hall Law School at York University. Frances finished her PhD in 2009 while teaching full time at St. Jerome’s University at the University of Waterloo.

Her areas of interest are in criminal law and focus on defences, including brainwashing, automatism, duress, necessity and mental disorder. She focuses particularly on wrongful convictions, violence against women and domestic violence.



Miriam Cohen

Assistant Professor

Miriam Cohen pursued her research and teaching in her main areas of expertise: international law and Canadian public law. She has taught courses in Canadian criminal law, constitutional law, public international law and international criminal justice.

First-year students participated in a mock bail hearing and criminal law moot, pleading for both the Crown and Defence, and constitutional law students had to make oral submissions concerning Charter breaches. In the public international law course, students negotiated an international treaty, and in the international criminal justice elective course students made submissions for the defence, prosecution and victims in an ICC Moot Court.

Professor Cohen also had a productive research year, with publications in the areas of human rights and reparations for international crimes. She received a competitive Canadian Bar Association Law for the Future Fund, a prestigious Foundation for Legal Research award and a Research Development Fund grant, in support of research projects for which she will hire Law students as research assistants.

She continued to serve as rapporteur to an Oxford University Press multi-year research project and as director of the Children's Aid Society. Finally, her legal advice was sought in an international case, representing a state seeking reparations for internally wrongful acts.

Prior to joining the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law in July 2015, Professor Cohen served in legal advisory roles at the United Nation's International Court of Justice in The Hague and at the Appeals Chamber of the International Criminal Court.



Karen Drake

Assistant Professor

Over the past academic year, Karen Drake had two articles published in peer-reviewed journals: one in the *Osgoode Hall Law Journal* (<http://digitalcommons.osgoode.yorku.ca/ohlj/>) and one in the *McGill Journal of Law and Health* (<http://mjhl.mcgill.ca/volumes.php>). She currently has a third

peer-reviewed article forthcoming in the Canadian Bar Review.

During the 2016-17 year, Professor Drake gave nine presentations at conferences and at other law faculties, including a keynote address for Lancaster House's Human Rights and Accommodation Conference in Toronto. She also conducted three training sessions on Anishinaabe law: one for faculty members at Windsor's Faculty of Law, one for approximately 50 federal Department of Justice lawyers, and one for the staff and Commissioners of the Ontario Human Rights Commission. In addition, she co-organized a workshop which was hosted by the Indigenous Bar Association in Vancouver and funded by a SSHRC grant. She is currently co-editing a book comprising the papers presented at the workshop, entitled *Redefining Relationships: Indigenous Peoples and Canada*.

Finally, over the past year, Professor Drake was appointed a commissioner of the Ontario Human Rights Commission, a commissioner with the Métis Nation of Ontario's Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government, and as vice chair of Lakehead University's Research Ethics Board.



Daniel Dylan

Assistant Professor

Daniel Dylan is excited to have completed his first year of teaching at the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law.

"Each of the courses I taught presented their own challenges, but all were overcome and

students are well-poised to move forward into upper year courses as well as their legal careers," he says.

Next year he will be teaching a course titled *Intellectual Property Law & Indigenous Traditional Knowledge*, which reflects one dimension of his scholarly interests and expertise. His other interests are environmental, natural resources and animal law.

"I hope to teach courses in these areas as well, as the Faculty continues to grow," he says.

In May 2017, he is set to present a paper which deals with indigenous intellectual property law issues at Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Canada's "Symposium on Genetic Resources, Biodiversity, and Indigenous Traditional Knowledge." In June 2017, the University of New Brunswick Law Journal will publish a paper he authored on the complicated intersection among natural resources, administrative and constitutional law in Nunavut.

"I look forward to continuing to teach Contract Law and Legal Research & Writing to the incoming first year class, Evidence Law to the second year class, and welcome all students to the Faculty in the fall 2017," he says.

Law Library a Full Resource Centre

The Bora Laskin Faculty of Law Library opened in September 2013, but it's only been since last summer that it has been fully staffed.

Librarian Debra Gold splits her time between the main campus and the Law Library at the historic PACI building. Library Technician Julie Wright is on-site full-time and available to assist staff and students, along with a group of law student circulation workers.

The Law Library offers a mix of digital and print items. It boasts more than 7,000 volumes in its print collection, primary sources such as laws and statutes, as well as law-related books. The collection has a particular focus on Aboriginal law, Natural Resources law, and materials suitable for rural and small town lawyering.

Located in the building's original library, the spacious Law Library can accommodate up to 100 people in fixed seating. A mezzanine level consists of 20 study carrels, three small group study rooms, and an instructional lab.

The Law Library has compiled a vast digital resource. The list includes online access to Litigator, Lexis Advance Quicklaw and HeinOnline, among others.

"Research assistance, help locating items not available in the library, and search tips are just a few things we offer," Gold explains.

Indigenous Relations

Aboriginal law is a cornerstone of the curriculum at Lakehead University's Bora Laskin Faculty of Law. Along with mandatory courses on Indigenous Legal Traditions and Aboriginal Law, faculty bring to life Aboriginal culture and history through experiential learning in courses on Aboriginal Perspectives and through its speaker series and other events.

Most of this work is undertaken through the office of Gilbert Deschamps, Director of Indigenous Relations.

Deschamps' experiences includes legal practice focusing on family and criminal law. He also served as a policy analyst for several Indigenous-focused companies. He was also a band councillor at the Red Rock First Nation (Lake Helen Reserve) of Ontario.

The aim to work closely with local Aboriginal community leaders led to the signing of an Aboriginal Protocol Agreement in 2013 to "establish a strong, meaningful and respectful working relationship regarding the Faculty of Law."

The agreement brings together leaders from Nishnawbe Aski Nation, the Union of Ontario Indians, Grand Council Treaty #3, and the Métis Nation of Ontario on a semi-annual basis to discuss issues relating to Aboriginal perspectives of the law.

As part of Lakehead's Aboriginal Cultural and Support Services, an Elder-in-Residence program is in place to provide individual and group support.

Students can come by to speak one-on-one with the Elder or join in on a group discussion at the Aboriginal Resource Centre & Lounge.

The visiting Elder in Residence program has featured Beatrice Twance-Hynes, Sam Achneepineskum, Ma-Nee Chacaby and Gerry Martin.

Distinguished Speakers

Along with instruction from knowledgeable faculty, the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law also welcomes distinguished members of the legal profession to meet and speak to the student body and community at-large.

On Nov. 7 and 8, 2016, the Harold G. Fox Distinguished Lecture series was launched with the inaugural speaker, Dr Lloyd Axworthy. First, a public lecture was held where Dr. Axworthy offered his perspective on the future of Criminal Law, the International Criminal Court and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. Second, a round table was held on the subject of "Canadian Indigenous Issues and their Impact on Global Politics." The event featured Dr. Axworthy, along with Lakehead President Brian Stevenson, and Dean Angelique EagleWoman.

Axworthy is former Minister of Foreign Affairs and past President of the University of Winnipeg.

The event was made possible by the Harold G. Fox Education Fund.

On March 31, 2017, Senator Kim Pate addressed a luncheon at the John N. Paterson Auditorium. Pate is a nationally renowned advocate who has spent 35 years working in the legal and penal systems of Canada, with and on behalf of some of the most marginalized, victimized, criminalized and institutionalized — particularly imprisoned — youth, men and women.

A member of the Order of Canada, Pate was appointed to the Senate of Canada last November.

On Feb. 15, 2017, the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell gave a well-attended public lecture.

The Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, and former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, Dowdeswell drew upon her eclectic public service career spanning provincial, federal, and international borders to speak on the subject of The Crown and Reconciliation in 2017.

The list of speakers over the past year also includes: Chief Justice George R. Strathy (Nov. 29, 2016); and Law Society of Upper Canada Treasurer Paul Schabas (Oct. 28, 2016).



Angelique EagleWoman, Dean and Professor of Law at the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law, welcomes the Right Honorable Chief Justice Beverley MacLachlin of the Supreme Court of Canada, right, to the inaugural lecture for the newly-established Bora Laskin Distinguished Lecture Series.

Supreme Court Chief Justice Delivers Inaugural Lecture For The Newly-established Bora Laskin Distinguished Lecture Series

On April 3, 2017, the Faculty of Law had the great honour of welcoming the Right Honorable Chief Justice Beverley MacLachlin of the Supreme Court of Canada. The Chief Justice delivered the inaugural lecture for the newly-established Bora Laskin Distinguished Lecture Series. The topic of the lecture was "Delivering Justice in Canada's North." In her remarks, the Chief Justice focused on making justice accessible in remote communities and particularly for Indigenous people of the North. Her words inspired those in attendance and demonstrated her deep commitment to ensuring fair, just judicial processes for all Canadians. The PACI Paterson Auditorium was filled to capacity, with an overflow room also in use, for the attendance of nearly three hundred for the event.

Charter Class Alumni



Ryan Green

Ryan Green is still amazed by everything that has happened since his first day at law school.

Growing up in the East End of Thunder Bay, law school and the opportunity to become a lawyer didn't appear possible. "Simply put, Lakehead University changed my life and provided me a remarkable opportunity – the chance to help people in this community," he says.

With a commitment to advancing access to justice and experience in human resources and academic advising, he made the decision to compete for one of the coveted spots within the inaugural class. Even now, after graduating he is "still astonished to have been accepted."

The challenge of starting law school while in his thirties and with three-year-old twins was daunting. Added to the challenge "was the welcome arrival of my third daughter during second year!"

Nevertheless, a can-do attitude saw him succeed and he is "thankful for the opportunity to have been there in the beginning, and having learned alongside a group of amazing students."

Ryan wasted no time after his call to the Bar on Friday, Sept. 23; the following Monday, he had his own law practice.

Ryan Green Law Office is a criminal law defence practice that keeps him very busy working throughout Thunder Bay and the region.

His work consists of attending court for early morning bail hearings, meeting with clients and conducting trials while building his business. "Most of the week, I return to my office after court to work well into the night, but I'm happy to do it!" he says.

Ryan plans to work with local law students and help those, who like him, lacked professional connections or legal experience.

"I am especially thankful for the support I received while studying at the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law," he says. "I was practice-ready because of the dedication of all those who built our

school. I am indebted to the patient lawyers at the Faculty's legal aid clinic and many local lawyers who helped me become a lawyer capable of solving the real-world problems faced by so many in the north."

Elysia Petrone Reitberger

When Elysia Petrone Reitberger decided to return to her hometown and attend law school, she was inspired by its focus on Indigenous and Environmental/Natural Resources law and that the program was geared to people who wanted to practice in the north.

As a member of the Charter class, she found the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law met all her expectations.

"Over the three years, I learned so much and took some really great courses," Elysia says. "It was a special time in my life not only because of the knowledge I gained and the experiences I had, but also because it affected my career path and my worldview."

The daughter of well-known members of the Thunder Bay legal community, Elysia was also able to further connect with her indigenous heritage by studying at a school where aboriginal law was a priority.

"My favourite courses were Anishinaabe Constitutionalism with Aaron Mills, and Karen Drake's class on Indigenous Legal Traditions. They were an eye-opener to our multi-jural legal system and I especially enjoyed learning about Indigenous laws during a class visit out on the land."

While assignments and readings kept her very busy, Elysia and her colleagues were still able to launch both the Indigenous Law and the Lakehead Environmental Law student associations. Highlights of their work include: organizing a rally at the Thunder Bay Police station to speak out against police checks and racial profiling, and filing applications to participate in the NEB's review of the Energy East pipeline.

In the winter of her third year, Elysia secured a placement with Falconers LLP in the Thunder Bay office. Falconers is a firm that specializes in human rights and public interest litigation and represents various First Nation organizations in Northern Ontario.

"At that time, the First Nation youth



Inquest was in full swing in Thunder Bay," Elysia notes. "It was a great experience to participate in the largest multi-death inquest in Ontario's history. I was able to prepare cross-examination memos and work on making draft recommendations."

She returned to Falconers as a student and after successfully passing the bar exams, she is now employed there as a lawyer.

"Bora Laskin Law School definitely prepared me for this job," she says, "and I am thankful to be part of a firm doing interesting work that I am passionate about."

Larissa Speak

Larissa Speak grew up in Thunder Bay and completed an undergraduate degree at Lakehead University, majoring in English literature. She continued her studies at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario.

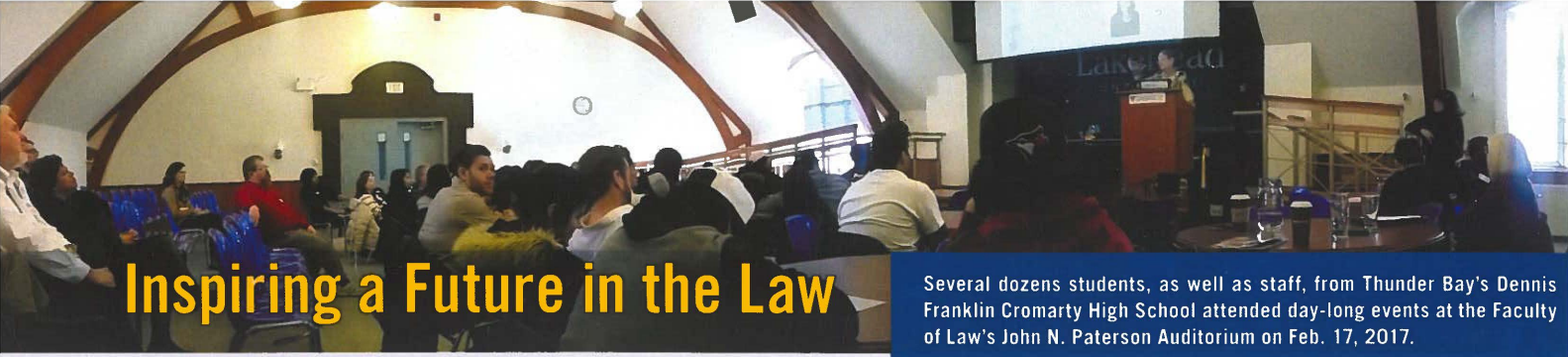
"After finishing a Master's degree at Queen's, I found myself at a crossroads," she says. "I could continue with my studies in English literature in Kingston, where the city hugs the shoreline of Lake Ontario and windmills crowd the horizon in the distance. But I felt the tug of my hometown, where even the massive lakers in the harbour look small against the backdrop of Lake Superior."

A few years later, she found herself climbing the steps of the former PACI as part of the charter class at the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law. Under the leadership of Dean Lee Stuesser, the charter class blazed the trail for future students, now known affectionately as "Little Laskins." For Larissa, the program delivered on its mandate to prepare students for practising law in Northern Ontario.

"I left the program with a firm grasp of legal practice in Ontario and with a keen interest to continue learning about indigenous laws and practices," Larissa says.

Larissa was the top student in the graduating class of 58 and was called to the bar on Sept. 23, 2016. She is completing a clerkship at the Superior Court in Thunder Bay, which gives her the unique opportunity to work closely with judges of the Superior Court and to observe the lawyers of the local Bar in the courtroom.

"My office is on the sixth floor of the new courthouse," Larissa says. "I only have to turn my head towards the window to see the chilly expanse of Lake Superior."



Inspiring a Future in the Law

Several dozens students, as well as staff, from Thunder Bay's Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School attended day-long events at the Faculty of Law's John N. Paterson Auditorium on Feb. 17, 2017.

DFC Law Day

February 17, 2017

Students and staff from Thunder Bay's Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School (DFCHS) enjoyed a full day of learning and activities at DFC Law Day which took place Feb. 17, 2017.

After an Elder's opening prayer, attendees were welcomed by Angelique EagleWoman, Dean and Professor of Law at the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law. Dean EagleWoman shared her personal story of growing up in an impoverished and difficult environment both on and off of her home reservation. She spoke to the students about drawing upon her Dakota spirituality to attain an education that led to her career in law.

Presentations were made by Dr. Peggy Smith and Jerri-Lynn Orr on Aboriginal Initiatives/Gateway Program/Native Access

Program; Joy Nieminen, Native Nursing Entry Program; and Truth and Reconciliation Chair Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux.

DFC students and students from the Law program then went to the PACI Gym for guide groups.

Information sessions were also held. They included: Know Your Rights with Police and Ontario Human Rights. Later they participated in a Moot Court Exhibition, with faculty member Dr. Ryan Alford.

DFCHS is located in Thunder Bay and hosts high school students from many different Sioux Lookout District First Nations.

DFCHS was established by the parents and elders in the Sioux Lookout District and is operated by the Northern Nishnawbe Education Council.

Student Experiential Learning Opportunities

Criminal Law Moot

First-year students (1L) in the criminal law course participated in a criminal law moot, representing both the Crown (round 1) and Defence (round 2) in a fictional criminal negligence case. Finalists pleaded the case in front of Superior Court Justice F. Bruce Fitzpatrick and the law school community in the audience.

The 1L criminal law moot is part of the Integrated Practice Curriculum and has become a tradition at the Faculty of Law where students learn advocacy skills and how to build a case by analysing both sides of the argument.

Civil Practice Tutorials

The Civil Practice course is a key part of the Integrated Practice Curriculum at the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law. In the fall lecture portion of the course the focus is on learning the rules of civil procedure and in the winter the focus is on advocacy skills.

Throughout the year, students meet in workshops (groups of 5 or 10) with instructors who are practicing members of

the bar. Using a hypothetical fact situation that will eventually be the basis for a mock civil trial, the students learn how to draft pleadings, affidavit of documents, motion record, a factum and book of authorities. The workshops in the winter term teach the basics of trial practice, including opening and closing arguments and the examination of witnesses. The course culminates in a four-hour mock trial, with students working in groups of two, representing either the Plaintiff or the Defendant.

Ontario Justice Education Network High School Day

October 7, 2016

On Oct. 7, 2016, the Ontario Justice Education Network (OJEN) partnered with the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law to host the Thunder Bay Law Symposium for several dozen grade 11 students.

This full day of interactive sessions included a tour of the law school, a mock traffic court, a mock law school lecture, police fitness testing, and a session on murdered and missing indigenous women.

Students from five high schools across Thunder Bay attended.

Angelique EagleWoman, Dean and Professor of Law at the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law, welcomed the students. Presentations were made by Assistant Professor Miriam Cohen and Gilbert Deschamps, Director of Indigenous Relations.

Email: law@lakeheadu.ca

Web: law.lakeheadu.ca

Twitter: @LawLakehead



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BORA LASKIN
Faculty of
Law