Joseph Arvay '74
Canada’s Crusading Civil Rights Lawyer
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An Extraordinary Year

This has been a year of remarkable achievement by our students, faculty and staff alike. Among these outstanding achievements, Professor Robert Solomon was appointed a Distinguished University Professor and our student moot team coached by Professor Valerie Oosterveld won the Canadian Championship round of the Jessup International Law Moot. All of us can take pride in these accomplishments.

“Hard work isn’t always enough, but when it is coupled with creativity, vision and initiative, our students and graduates are able to expand their career opportunities.”

The success of Western Law may also be measured by the many contributions of our extraordinary alumni. The alumni featured in this issue not only exemplify both individual accomplishment and dedication, but also demonstrate the expanding range of careers and interests to which a quality legal education may lead. This is an important message for our students. World economies remain unstable and job markets continue to reflect this uncertainty. Sometimes hard work isn’t always enough, but when it is coupled with creativity, vision and initiative, our students and graduates are able to expand their career opportunities. A law degree is a foundation that provides almost limitless opportunity. Recognizing these opportunities, whether in a business context or for societal benefit, is a challenge for us all, but one that our Western law graduates are more than prepared to meet. The ongoing support of our alumni is critical to Western Law’s continued success. So many of you have been unfailingly generous with your time, energy, expertise and resources, in order to best utilize this support and to recognize an exceptional level of financial commitment, we’ve launched a new initiative called the Dean’s Circle. We recognize the many contributions of these colleagues, friends and alumni later in the magazine.

During his exemplary 40 years at Western, Robert Solomon has achieved a synthesis of teaching, research and service that Western Law Dean W. Iain Scott called “virtually unmatched.” In April, Solomon’s impressive career was honoured with the 2013 Distinguished University Professorship.

Solomon’s work in the fields of addictions, health care and impaired driving law has had a concrete impact at Western, across Canada and internationally. Over the years he has worked in areas ranging from graduated driver licensing, zero blood alcohol concentration (BAC) limits for young and novice drivers, lower criminal BAC limits, administrative license suspensions, random breath-testing, testing of hospitalized impaired drivers, impaired driving enforcement practices, insurance, criminal procedure and sentencing.

His work, which has influenced more than 300 legislative amendments in the last decade alone, is held in high esteem by various institutions internationally. Solomon has also served the Western community, helping develop campus alcohol policies, which have spread across Canada. He has served as the national director of Legal Policy with MADD Canada since 1998 and, on the home front, served as Law’s Associate Dean (Academic) for six years.

To honour Solomon’s extraordinary career, Western Law has established the Robert M. Solomon Scholarship in Tort Law, which will be awarded annually to a full-time student who has attained the highest standing in Torts. For more information please visit: www.westernconnect.ca/solomon
NEW CENTRE FOR FINANCIAL INNOVATION LAUNCHED

Western Law has joined forces with experts from the departments of Economics, Applied Mathematics, Statistical & Actuarial Sciences and the Ivey Business School to form Western’s new interdisciplinary Centre for Financial Innovation and Risk Management.

The Centre will receive $330,000 in funding over three years under Western’s Interdisciplinary Development Initiatives Program to engage in research, outreach and other initiatives aimed at addressing the challenges that led to, and emerged from, the 2008 global financial crisis. Leading the project are Western professors Stephen Sapp, Jim MacGee and Matt Davison, along with Western Law’s Christopher Nicholls.

“The creation of this Centre is very timely,” says Nicholls. “Financial innovation offers many rewards, but the financial market illis of the past several years have also revealed the potential dangers of increasingly complex financial tools. Blame for the global financial crisis has frequently been placed on an insufficient understanding of the consequences of the rapid advances in financial innovation. But it’s a complicated story. We need a forum for rigorous study and analysis of the new financial world order. Deep understanding of these complex issues calls for specialized knowledge from many different fields. Combining expertise through this new Centre will help us develop a better ‘big picture’ view of the financial industry and the global economy.”

As Jim MacGee of Western’s Economics Department explains, “People trained in different disciplines would each have their own way of approaching risk management issues. What we’re trying to do with courses and the centre is to find ways to integrate these approaches into a coherent way of thinking about these problems.”

DALLAIRE PROVIDES LESSONS OF HOPE AT PENSA LECTURE

Senator Roméo Dallaire brought lessons of hope and an inspiring call to action at the 2012 Claude and Elaine Pensa Lecture in Human Rights at Western University.

Dallaire, who commanded the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) during the 1994 Rwandan genocide, spoke on ‘The Will to Intervene’, to an overflow audience at the Faculty of Law in November.

Dallaire gave a provocative and thoughtful speech and asked the question “is humanity to thrive or just survive the future?”

“The aim is not just survival, it is to maximize potential and to have hope and to thrive. We can influence humanity to thrive.”

His book on that experience, Shake Hands with the Devil: The Failure of Humanity in Rwanda, was awarded the Governor General’s Literary Award for Non-Fiction in 2004.

“Poverty is the main catalyst, the force multiplier of rage in the world,” Dallaire said.

“We’ve entered a new world disorder,” he said. “It’s an era of significant ethical, moral and legal dilemmas in the field, and we haven’t figured it out.”

Dallaire told the mostly student-aged crowd to volunteer in a developing country. That experience would let them “hear and taste and feel what is happening to 80 percent of humanity.”

Since 2006, Harrison Pensa LLP has partnered with Western Law to bring the Claude and Elaine Pensa Lecture in Human Rights to Western and the London community.

The lecture series honours Claude Pensa’s longstanding career as well as the commitment he and his late wife, Elaine, shared in the area of human rights.

WESTERN LAW WINS JESSUP MOOT

The Western Law Jessup moot team of Jonathan Preece, Tori Crawford, Natasha Petersen, Hunter Forman and Daniel Levine won first place in the Canadian rounds of the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition held in Kingston March 6-9.

As Canadian National Champions, the team advanced to the Jessup International Rounds in Washington D.C. on March 31-April 6, where they competed against the top 100 national champion Jessup teams from around the world, chosen from over 600 law schools worldwide.

In the preliminary rounds, Western Law won all but one match, losing only to last year’s global Jessup champion school (Moscow State University) in a close moot. They then progressed to the advanced rounds, where they were eliminated in another close match against the University of California-Hastings. Their excellent performances left them ranked 22nd in the world for their Memorials (facta) and 25th in the world for their oral arguments.

COXFORD LECTURE EXPLORES MEANING OF ARBITRARY GOVERNMENT

Professor Timothy Endicott, Dean of the Faculty of Law at Oxford University, spoke on “Interpretation and the Rule of Law” at the 5th annual Coxford Lecture at Western Law in March.

Dean at Oxford since 2007, Endicott is one of the world’s leading public law legal theorists and writes on jurisprudence and constitutional law with a special interest in law and language.

In his lecture Endicott argued that the job of interpretation is to determine the effect of a legal instrument rather than the intention behind it. He explored the meaning of arbitrary government and drew on precedents from the Supreme Court of India and the Supreme Court of Canada, arguing that the interpretive role of judges is in tension with the rule of law but it is not inconsistent with it.

The annual public law lecture series is generously supported by Stephen Coxford ’77, Chair of the Board of Governors of Western University.

The Coxford lectures are published annually in the Canadian Journal of Law and Jurisprudence.
ANNA DOLIDZE
Professor Alan Young, a constitutional and criminal lawyer at Osgoode Hall and self-professed “constitutional demolition man,” discussed his Charter challenges to Canada’s marijuana and prostitution laws last October.

The Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin enthralled a full house on October 26 with recollections of her judicial career and the journey that led her to Chief Justice on Canada’s top court.

University of Minnesota’s Professor Antony Duff, an internationally renowned expert on the philosophy of punishment, examined the distinctions and overlaps between the wrongs of criminal law and the wrongs of tort, and how they are reflected in the underlying structure of those areas of law.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS AT WESTERN LAW

Professor Matt Mitten, Director of the National Sports Law Institute at Marquette University Law School in Milwaukee, discussed “Sports Law: Why it matters” to a full house at Western Law on January 10. “Sport is a microcosm of society; it’s human performance at its best and worst,” he said. Canada’s Consul General Roy Norton described the long and winding diplomatic road to Canada’s successful bid for a new international crossing between Ontario and Michigan in his talk “A new bridge to Michigan: Policy-making and diplomacy—outside the box” on January 21.

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LAW STUDENTS HELP KEEP TENANTS FROM EVICTION IN LANDLORD DISPUTES

Six Western Law students are successfully jumping in on short notice to help disadvantaged tenants stay in their homes, through Western’s Eviction Prevention Project. And they’re representing clients who would otherwise be evicted.

The project began last summer when Margaret Capes, Review Counsel for Western’s Community Legal Services and Pro Bono Students Canada faculty advisor, realized that tenants were often unassisted in the hearing room. By October 2012, she had the project up and running. Today, specially trained students are now attending the Landlord and Tenant Board, often within two weeks of receiving a file referral and meeting with the client.

“Losing your home is one of the worst things that can happen to you,” reflects Maeve Byrne, one of the six core team members on the Eviction Prevention Project.

Byrne recalls an older client who had difficulty understanding her lease agreement and fell behind on her rent. “She had nowhere to go,” Byrne recalls, “but the landlord was taking a hard stance and wanted to evict her.”

With Byrne’s help, the client and landlord were able to come up with a reasonable payment plan that allowed the client to pay off her arrears. The project has helped 45 clients since its launch. While the team has a strong success rate, part of their role is to provide clients with a reality check by preparing them for the possibility that they could be forced out of their homes within two weeks. But every step of the way, clients know they have someone in their corner trying to help them stay in their homes.

Western conferred an honorary Doctor of Civil Law, honoris causa (DCL), upon McLachlin in recognition of her distinguished career as one of Canada’s great judicial leaders.

Your degrees will enable you to take up the work,” McLachlin told the graduates, noting their training at Western has prepared them well for a life of advancing Canada’s sociopolitical and economic landscape.

Professor Lynk said McLachlin has been an exemplary judicial leader throughout her career.

“Chief Justice McLachlin has redefined and embraced the role of a modern judicial leader. Beyond her leadership at the court, she gives dozens of speeches a year across Canada and around the world, engaging Canadians in an active conversation about their court. In this busy part of her job, she explains the court’s work, demystifies what it is that judges do and talks about the rule of law as one of our greatest common goods in a democracy,” Lynk said.

McLachlin said graduates will learn to anticipate and respond to all the challenges ahead of them.

“There’s so much more work to be done, so much to be understood, so many people to be helped.”
Pretty impressive for someone who came across the opportunity by “accident.” In 2009, a law school colleague working at a major law firm in London, England, confided that he was losing business to other law firms. “My friend had a problem common to lots of lawyers at big law firms,” says Bogart. “He would lose business to other law firms because his firm was very conservative and inflexible.” Bogart, who after graduating from Western Law worked as a trial lawyer at the prestigious Manhattan firm Cravath Swaine & Moore LLP, says that clients increasingly want lawyers to have “skin in the game” by charging less up front and sharing in the rewards of the outcome. “That’s not how the economic model of his law firm worked,” Bogart says of his friend. It was unwilling to take on these arrangements. His friend suggested that since Bogart—who before law school had worked as an investment banker with JP Morgan—knew about financing, maybe he could come up with a solution.

At the time, Bogart was running Churchill Ventures Limited, a publicly-traded venture capital firm that invested in media technology companies. Previously, Bogart was executive vice president and general counsel to media conglomerate Time Warner and was one of four “founding fathers” of the firm. But managing litigation wasn’t about hitting home runs. “It’s about producing a sustained set of profits over time,” he says. Bogart likens the financing model to that of private equity returns. So out of 10 investments two might be flops, six perform somewhere in the middle and two need to hit the ball out of the park. Like regular investing, his portfolio is diversified across geography and different types of litigation.

Burford Capital’s average investment is $8 million and a minimum investment is between $1.5 and $2 million. Since 2009, the company has committed more than $373 million to 46 investments. Bogart says the model is attractive to organizations that don’t want to finance litigation out of their cash flow. But managing litigation isn’t about hitting home runs. “It’s about producing a sustained set of profits over time,” he says. Bogart likens the financing model to that of private equity returns. So out of 10 investments two might be flops, six perform somewhere in the middle and two need to hit the ball out of the park. Like regular investing, his portfolio is diversified across geography and different types of litigation.
Turning a Page

BY SUSANNA EAYRS

It looks like something out of a storybook. Set in a renovated Victorian row house in downtown east Toronto, the Children’s Book Bank is a wondrous place, with a huge fireplace, high ceilings, loads of comfy nooks to curl up in, and of course books, piled high on the well-stocked shelves. But there is no cash register; the books are free and the experience for children in the community is priceless.

The Children’s Book Bank is the brainchild of Kim Beatty LLB ’83 who practiced litigation law in the Toronto area for two decades before retiring to found the registered charitable organization in 2007. Over the past five years the Book Bank has given away in excess of 400,000 books and the store sees around 180 people a day, and up to 300 a day in summer months. The storefront charity provides free books and literacy support to families and children in the nearby low-income Toronto neighborhoods of St. James Town, Moss Park and Regent Park. There is no means testing or memberships – Beatty believes it’s important to create a comfortable, safe environment and not build any barriers to access.

“Many of the families we serve are new Canadians and the Book Bank provides a welcoming entrée into Canadian society for them,” she says. Beatty has had a fruitful and varied legal career. After graduating from Western Law in 1983 she finished a Master of Law degree at the University of Cambridge. She then wrote the bar exams for both Massachusetts and New York while her husband was studying at Harvard. Returning to Toronto in 1987, she started at Strathy Archibald & Seagram and later left that firm with some of the partners to create the small litigation boutique Porter, Posluns & Harris.

“It was just a ton of fun,” Beatty recalls. “We did a lot of libel and slander cases and interesting commercial litigation and appeared regularly before many tribunals and all levels of court.”

After eight years the partnership broke down and she began doing contract work which allowed her the flexibility to raise her two sons. She spent six years working with Brian Greenspan on the large, well-publicized case that saw the attorney Tom Baker acquitted on charges of tax evasion and money laundering.

But after practicing law in Toronto for 20 years, Beatty, now in her late 40s, found herself reflecting on what to do with the next chapter of her life. “I really love the law and reading the law – but did not love practicing the law,” Beatty says candidly. “I found the cynicism embedded in the system to be very upsetting.”

So Beatty turned the page.

Throughout her career she often asked herself the question, “What am I doing with my brain that will help make the world a better place?”

The answer to that question was the Children’s Book Bank.

“Children’s books have always held a special place for me,” she says. “When my kids were little they had millions of books and I fantasized about opening a children’s bookstore.”

Her experience organizing book drives at her children’s school helped fuel the idea for starting a book charity instead.

“There were families that had so many books they didn’t know what to do with them all, and at the same time there was such a need for books.”

As many brilliant ideas are, it was a simple one. “We know that book ownership is incredibly important to children’s literacy skills; we also know that low-income families don’t buy books,” says Beatty.

“So we took those pieces and connected the supply of books with the demand.”

“...the fact that I am a lawyer takes me far down the road. I know how to problem-solve, to advocate and communicate effectively on so many issues.”

Children who visit the Book Bank can take home one book per visit, enabling a child to build their own library – something Beatty says is critical for reading confidence and successful literacy.

The book bank gives away an average of 250 books a day and distributes books across Toronto through their Books Beyond Berkeley Street program.

Now, after being in operation for five years, Beatty has seen kids grow up with the Book Bank. “It’s thrilling to see the impact it’s had on their lives.” She’s watched kids blossom into voracious readers and high academic achievers with the help of resources that would otherwise have been dormant in someone’s basement or garage.

This fall a student from the community will be hired to work in the Book Bank. It’s a full circle that Beatty is very proud of.

“We’ve given these kids book ownership and now we can give them their first part-time job and the experience of influencing younger children to read.”

Even though Beatty is not actively practicing law, she says she is using the “soft skills” she learned at law school and from her career every day.

“The fact that I am a lawyer takes me far down the road. I know how to problem-solve, to advocate and communicate effectively on so many issues.”

“I’ve had so many wonderful stories and experiences here which gives me great joy – something that was missing in my law practice.”

“Law was fun in an intellectual way – but this gives me a tingling happy feeling – something I never experienced practicing law.”

“I feel so lucky to have that now.”

To learn more about how you can help support the Children’s Book Bank, please visit childrensbookbank.com

A passion for literacy and giving back led Kim Beatty ’83 to start the Children’s Book Bank in Toronto.
Joseph J. Arvay Q.C. '74, has already cemented his reputation as one of Canada’s leading constitutional and civil rights lawyers, but he expects that his biggest case before the Supreme Court of Canada is yet to come.

Arvay, who graduated from Western Law in 1974, has successfully argued several high-profile cases that have redefined the legal rights of Canadians in many areas: gay rights, freedom of speech, drug use and aboriginal rights. Last June, he appeared before the Supreme Court of Canada in a closely watched case involving the constitutionality of Canada’s prostitution laws. That hearing made national headlines, as will the court’s eventual opinion. When it comes to picking cases, Arvay is a lawyer who swings for the fences. And one of the most critical cases of his career is now in the courts. The B.C. Court of Appeal will soon rule on Carter v. Canada (Attorney General), a case involving the legality of physician-assisted suicide that Arvay argued before the court in March 2013. Whatever the outcome, he fully expects that case to progress to the Supreme Court.
“I’d like to be remembered as the lawyer who persuaded the Supreme Court of Canada to strike down the laws prohibiting physician-assisted dying,” he says. “It’s almost certain it will go to the Supreme Court of Canada.”

Arvay may now rank among the elite of Canada’s Charter litigators, but his legal career has rather humble beginnings. As a kid growing up in Welland, Ontario in the 1960s, Arvay’s first legal hero was the only lawyer he knew—the fictional TV lawyer Perry Mason. While there were such things as constitutional lawyers, they spent their days arguing about some pretty dull things, like whether milk production should be regulated by the provinces or the federal government. A civil rights lawyer may challenge police action, but the scales were tilted against the accused. But the arrival of Charter litigation in the early 1980s would challenge many things and profoundly change Canadian society. It would also help make Arvay one of Canada’s most formidable courtroom giants. His professional profile might be large, but in person, Arvay is anything but intimidating. He’s soft-spoken and comes across as very easy-going. The real-life Arvay is a lawyer for the little guy. “People who know him by reputation are often disarmed when they meet him because they expect sort of a blustery, forceful, egotistical kind of guy,” says Craig Jones, a B.C. lawyer and law professor who knows Arvay well. “He has a healthy ego, no question. But he doesn’t force himself upon people. He does a lot more listening than talking.”

Arvay came to Western as an undergrad in the late 1960s for simple reasons. His sister was going there and, as a small town kid, he was delighted by the pastoral campus and the grey stone buildings. He took a variety of courses in undergrad, and as he approached graduation, he found that his career options were limited. He’d always been a good arguer so he decided to give law school a shot. He loved it and was immediately captivated by the law. “It didn’t take me long to know that I had found what I wanted to do,” he recalls. “It was instantaneous once I finally understood that law is a way to help solve problems using the force of one’s intellect or power of persuasion.”

After graduating from Western Law, Arvay tried his hand at academia. He obtained an LLM from Harvard University, and then taught at the University of Windsor law school in the late 1970s. Still thinking about his TV hero, he took a year off to work as a criminal lawyer but he soon realized that criminal law would not be his forte. So he moved west in the early 1980s to take a job as a constitutional lawyer with the B.C. government. The Charter was about to arrive; yet he didn’t instantly recognize how interesting it would make his legal career. Young lawyers might dream of changing the world. That may sound naïve or far-fetched, yet for a lawyer in the 1980s, the Charter made this possible. You could suddenly sue the government for anything. You might not always win, but if you do, you score a precedent that changes society forever. This annys some: Why not leave social change to the legislature? Not Arvay. He’s quite content to see governments pass errant laws or ignore important social issues. “I love what I do. I like the fact that governments behave badly. That gives me something to do.” But Western Law professor Bradley Miller, who appeared against Arvay in Charter litigation, cautions that if constitutional litigation looks black and white, it’s because the process encourages—even demands—oversimplification. “It helps to remember that lawyers, including Joe, are always acting for clients. Those clients—and Carter is a very good example—are often frontal for groups that have tried and failed to persuade the legislature to change a statute in their favour. But when a law is struck down, everyone who had been protected by that law now loses its protection,” says Miller.

“I can be very serious about this,” Arvay says. “It’s a very powerful tool. You can roll back democracy if you want to.”

DREW HASSELBACK IS LEGAL POST EDITOR OF THE FINANCIAL POST.

Cover Story

"Law is a way to help solve problems using the force of one’s intellect or power of persuasion."
class in international law at Western sparked a passion for the Foreign Service that set Jon Allen ’76 on a public service career path spanning more than 30 years.

Allen came to Western Law from Winnipeg and immediately found himself in the middle of a dynamic and interesting group of students.

“We had a wonderful time, we were a bit wild but all very excited to be in law school,” Allen recalls.

David Johnston, who was Dean of the law school at the time, taught Allen corporate law. The student and professor were to cross paths years later, but this time as Ambassador and Governor General.

“I had the pleasure of working with the Governor General and accompanying him on an official trip to Brazil,” says Allen. “We joke that Johnston taught me corporate law and I went into diplomacy, and he was a corporate lawyer who became a diplomat.’”

After Western Law, Allen gained a Masters of International Law at the London School of Economics and began the next phase of his career in the Department of Foreign Affairs doing international trade, human rights and humanitarian law.

It was the start of a long and successful career in the diplomatic service.

In addition to postings abroad in Mexico City (1983 to 1985) and New Delhi (1989 to 1992), Allen spent much of his early career in the Legal Bureau, where he represented Canada in disputes under the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, and in various international forums.

He held senior positions at the Canadian Embassy in Washington from 1997 to 2006, giving him a front row seat to both the Clinton and George W. Bush administrations and allowing him to “get a real sense of the Canada-U.S. relationship at its core”.

He served as Canada’s ambassador to Israel from 2006 to 2010, arriving in Tel Aviv at the end of the second Lebanon war.

Allen calls that posting “interesting and challenging”. The second Gaza war took place while he was there and the embassy organized the evacuation of 50 Canadians and 200 other internationals from Gaza at the height of the conflict.

Israel-Canada relations took on a higher profile during the Harper administration, and during Allen’s four-year tenure there were 12 Canadian ministerial visits to Israel, three of them by foreign ministers.

Allen was appointed Canada’s Ambassador to Spain in October 2012 and hopes to encourage stronger bilateral commercial and cultural relations between the two countries.

“Canadians and Spaniards don’t know each other very well,” says Allen. “There wasn’t much immigration to Canada and we have a lot to learn from each other.”

Allen says there are major construction projects in Canada being built by a number of Spanish engineering companies and in Spain, Bombardier has played a key role in the Spanish railway industry.

Culturally too, there are strong ties. The Asturias Prize, Spain’s prestigious literature prize, was awarded to Canadian novelist Margaret Atwood in 2008.

And the Canadian architect Frank Gehry has transformed the industrial Spanish town of Bilbao with his celebrated Guggenheim Museum.

Allen says there are many reasons for law grads to go into the public service.

“It’s working for the public good and provides a real contribution,” he says. “You are representing your country sometimes in very difficult situations, and you have to bring your skills to bear and defend your country’s interest. It’s fascinating work, and it can have a real impact.”

Our Man in Madrid

Jon Allen ’76, Canada’s Ambassador to Spain, has held numerous high-profile posts in diplomatic service.

Our Man in Madrid

Jon Allen ’76, Canada’s Ambassador to Spain, has held numerous high-profile posts in diplomatic service.
Professor Erika Chamberlain, along with fellow Western Law professor Robert Solomon, released “Drug-Impaired Driving in Canada: Review and Recommendations for MADD Canada” in November 2012. The study calls for the Canadian government to work toward introducing roadside saliva screening to test for the most commonly-used drugs. Drug-impaired driving is a growing problem in Canada but remains dramatically under-enforced. Although the Criminal Code was amended in 2008 to allow for enforcement by a “Drug Recognition Evaluation” or DRE, this process is costly and time-consuming, and fails to identify the vast majority of drug-impaired drivers. It has also been questioned by the courts because it only establishes that a driver had a drug in his or her system, when the criminal offence requires proof that a driver’s abilities were impaired.

Because of similar difficulties, Australia and a number of European countries are moving to saliva testing instead of the DRE method. Similar to a roadside breath test for alcohol, the saliva test results are not admissible in court, but act as a screening mechanism that would precipitate further testing by police.

Roadside saliva testing would allow the government to target commonly-used drugs that have been shown to impair driving-related skills, and establish a prohibited concentration similar to the blood-alcohol limit. Providing for roadside testing would increase the detection rate of drug-impaired drivers, and thereby enhance deterrence. Like most changes to enforcement practices, Chamberlain expects that roadside testing of drivers for drugs will give rise to challenges under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. She and Solomon have discussed these issues in the Criminal Law Quarterly and in a presentation given to the International Conference on Alcohol, Drugs and Traffic Safety in Brisbane, Australia.

“Drug-impaired driving is a growing problem in Canada but remains dramatically under-enforced.”

Professor Jason Neyers has been doing extensive research in tort law in the area of public nuisance. The traditional understanding of public nuisance is that it is a catch-all tort, modelled on section 80 of the Criminal Code of Canada that protects the public from interferences with its safety, health, property or comfort. Neyers’ project reconceptualizes public nuisance as a more manageable, distinctive and focused tort that exists to protect everyone’s exercise of his or her public rights (such as the right to travel without undue hindrance on public roads or the right to fish in navigable waters).

This research has been funded by grants from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, the Foundation for Legal Research and Borden Ladner Gervais LLP. Neyers has presented versions of these ideas at conferences and workshops around the world, including the Obligations Discussion Group at Oxford, the Moral Values and Private Law conference at King’s College London, the Private Law Theory Workshop at Queen’s, the eighth International Remedies Forum in Prato, Italy, and the Society of Legal Scholars Annual Conference in Edinburgh.

UNDERSTANDING PUBLIC NUISANCE

Professor Erika Chamberlain, along with fellow Western Law professor Robert Solomon, released “Drug-Impaired Driving in Canada: Review and Recommendations for MADD Canada” in November 2012. The study calls for the Canadian government to work toward introducing roadside saliva screening to test for the most commonly-used drugs. Drug-impaired driving is a growing problem in Canada but remains dramatically under-enforced. Although the Criminal Code was amended in 2008 to allow for enforcement by a “Drug Recognition Evaluation” or DRE, this process is costly and time-consuming, and fails to identify the vast majority of drug-impaired drivers. It has also been questioned by the courts because it only establishes that a driver had a drug in his or her system, when the criminal offence requires proof that a driver’s abilities were impaired.

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Three outstanding alumni were celebrated for their achievements in community service, leadership and mentoring, and business acumen at the 2012 Alumni Awards of Distinction Reception held on November 1 at the Trump Hotel in Toronto.

The Community Service Award was presented to Rosemary McCarney ’77. As President & CEO of Plan Canada, one of the country’s oldest and largest charities, Rosemary brings her skill and passion to those who need it most and is truly making a difference in our global community.

Peter Aceto, CEO of ING Direct, was honoured with the 2012 Business Leadership Award for his role as a visionary business leader. Under Peter’s leadership, ING Direct was recognized as one of Canada’s 50 Best Employers for two consecutive years, 2010 and 2011, as well as one of Canada’s Top 10 Most Admired Corporate Cultures in 2011. The Ivan Rand Alumni Award, which recognizes superior contributions to both the Law School and to the Alumni community was presented to Jay Carfagnini, partner and head of the Corporate Restructuring Group at Goodmans LLP. Jay has maintained a strong connection to the school and forged lasting relationships with his fellow alumni. He is a long-time and very proud supporter of the school and gives generously of both his time and means to ensure Western Law continues to be a leading law school in Canada.

“Rosemary McCarney ’77, Peter Aceto ’91 and Jay Carfagnini ’80 have all made a significant impact in their chosen fields,” said W. Iain Scott, Dean of Western Law. “Their successful careers are a testament to the value of a top legal education and we are so proud of their accomplishments.”

Western Law thanks the generous sponsors of this event: Lead Sponsors ING Direct, Avintiv Financial and Manulife Financial, and Platinum Sponsors: ZSA Legal Recruitment, Goodmans LLP, Computershare/Georgeson, Wildeboer Dellelce LLP and Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg LLP.
Extraordinary Giving

BY DEAN W. IAIN SCOTT

Every week, I have the privilege of connecting with alumni, friends, colleagues and donors who are passionate about Western Law, and who want to support our students, faculty and each other to be extraordinary. They are eager to inspire the next generation of our graduates to lead and transform our society for the better. Among these alumni and friends are those who have demonstrated their tremendous support for Western Law by donating $100,000 to the Dean’s Circle. I’m honoured to introduce you to these extraordinary individuals. Their contributions will benefit Western Law priority projects and help prepare our students to be exceptional leaders and inspire our leading faculty to tackle some of the world’s pressing challenges.

Members of the Dean’s Circle will help us raise approximately $1.5 million to fund student scholarships and internships, faculty research and scholarship, and visiting distinguished scholars and speakers, as well as the newly renovated student commons and community clinic spaces in the Law Building.

At Western Law we pride ourselves on the high quality of our students – bright and promising students who have chosen Western Law for their legal education. Through the support of the Dean’s Circle, we will attract more of tomorrow’s leaders and encourage them to strive for excellence in all aspects of their law school experience. By investing directly in our students, the Dean’s Circle will allow these women and men to thrive during their time at Western Law and build on our reputation of outstanding graduates.
In an internationally competitive world, our students also want educational opportunities unequalled in Canada, and on a par with the world’s finest law schools. Through our “Be Extraordinary” campaign, we’re committed to bringing the best legal minds and teachers in the world to Western Law. The Dean’s Circle will help us fulfill that commitment by enabling Western Law to attract the finest legal scholars to teach intensive courses in their special areas of expertise. Our goal is ambitious but, with the generous support of alumni and friends, it is achievable.

As a research-intensive law school, Western Law has an impressive track record of producing first-rate scholarship, with several of our researchers recognized nationally and internationally as leaders in their fields. The support of alumni and friends of Western Law will be invaluable in helping our scholars pursue their research in several important ways. It will enhance our ability to retain top-notch research assistants, allow us to attend scholarly conferences and colloquia, and enable us to continue hosting our own collaborative gatherings of distinguished international scholars.

We are delighted to acknowledge the support and generosity of this distinguished group. We encourage each of you to consider joining with our friends and alumni to ensure the continued success of Western Law.
Western Law has established the following key initiatives for our Be Extraordinary campaign. These programs are designed to enhance the student experience and develop global-ready leaders who will excel in all aspects of law.

**INTERNATIONAL SUMMER LAW INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**
Western Law is establishing a fund to support students interested in completing an international internship to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in the global environment.

**JANUARY TERM PROGRAM AND FACULTY FELLOWSHIPS**
The January Term brings leading practitioners and academics from around the world to engage with Western Law students and faculty in research, training, writing and advocacy.

**MINING LAW AND FINANCE**
Recognizing the vital role Canada plays in the global mining industry and the activity of Canadian law firms in mining law, Western is committed to developing the talent and intellectual leadership to support Canada’s economic engine with a focus on Corporate Social Responsibility.

**STUDENT COMMONS RENOVATION**
We have established a new Student Commons area where students can engage in collaborative study and interact with their professors in an informal atmosphere.

**WESTERN BUSINESS LAW CLINIC**
The Business Law Clinic assists aspiring entrepreneurs by providing small start-up businesses with pro bono legal counsel. At the same time, it creates opportunities for students to learn valuable practical skills in the area of business law.

**SPORT LAW AND BUSINESS**
Western Law is establishing a new initiative in Sport Law and Business under the leadership of Professor Richard McLaren. Our goal is to offer a variety of courses on the multi-faceted aspects of sport. Western Law will also facilitate student internships with sport organizations around the globe.

**CANADA-US LAW INSTITUTE**
This bi-national joint venture between Western Law and Case Western Reserve University School of Law in Cleveland seeks to foster mutual understanding and improved relations between Canada and the United States. Both students and faculty benefit from the lectures and conferences held by the Institute, including the Niagara International Moot Competition.

**THE DEAN’S CIRCLE**
Western Law has created a Dean’s Circle of Donors – a leading group of alumni and friends to support key priorities that enhance the Law Faculty’s mission. The Dean’s Circle will be comprised of a special group of donors that will help raise up to $1.5 Million by committing $100,000 individual gifts. The fund will support a number of key projects including Faculty Chairs, Student Internships and improvements to the law building.

**ADDITIONAL INITIATIVES**
Western Law also seeks funds for student awards, scholarships and bursaries, including support for students travelling on international exchange.

The Faculty of Law is well on its way to raising $25 million to prepare the next generation of leaders in the legal profession.

Sincerely,

Be Extraordinary reflects our intense commitment to continually strengthen The Western Experience: to inspire learning and enhance our academic and research excellence to deliver the right answers to today’s hard questions.

Western Law is recognized as one of Canada’s premier law schools, promoting a broad, interdisciplinary and international experience. Our faculty includes highly respected scholars and experienced lawyers who have made a commitment to helping the next generation of legal professionals.

The Faculty of Law is well on its way to raising $25 million to prepare the next generation of leaders in the legal profession. These funds will support initiatives that expand on the classroom experience, offer meaningful international summer internships and exchange opportunities and bring leading scholars to campus to engage with students and faculty.

Among its campaign priorities, Western Law has also identified the benefits of combining the study of law and business to build innovative, interdisciplinary programs in mining law and finance, law and economics, and corporate finance and securities law.

We invite our friends and donors to help our students and faculty become national and international leaders. Together, we will be extraordinary.

Sincerely,

Geoff Beattie LLB’84
Campaign Chair

Matioula Charitis
Director, External Relations
Faculty of Law
MARGARET BANKS: LIFE WELL LIVED

A $900,000 BEQUEST FROM THE LATE MARGARET BANKS WILL LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY AT WESTERN

By all accounts, the late Margaret Banks was a stickler for detail. The former law librarian at Western could spend three days researching a fact that would end up as just a footnote in a book she was writing. “Margaret was a scholar at heart, and meticulous in her approach,” says Marianne Welch, remembering her close friend. “Her insistence on being absolutely sure sometimes slowed her down, but it didn’t stop her from finishing her work.”

Her resolute spirit is exemplified by Banks’ decision to leave a bequest of more than $900,000 to Western – part of which goes to Law. “She had confidence that Western would use her gift to do good things,” says Robert Stoddart, her lawyer and friend. “Margaret also wanted to show her generous appreciation for everything the University gave her.”

In retirement, she wrote almost every day, poring over her research to produce scholarly books, articles and reviews. “Margaret continued her writing until just before she died [in 2010], but sadly there is one project she didn’t finish – her autobiography,” adds Welch. “She was devoted to her work and to her friends. When she became your friend, she was yours for life. I was blessed to count her as one of my dearest friends.”

Banks completed a PhD in constitutional history in 1953 at the University of Toronto, but she was told no university would hire a female historian. She worked as an archivist for a time, but found it unfulfilling. In 1960 she approached James Talman, the chief librarian at Western, to ask for advice in becoming a librarian. He offered her a job at Western’s law library, becoming the second librarian at the Faculty of Law (even though she didn’t hold a law or library science degree).

With warmth and humour, she assisted law students in their research. In 1971, she wrote a book titled Banks on Using a Law Library to help future and current lawyers navigate legal resources. “Margaret felt they needed to know how to conduct research,” says Welch. “After six editions, the book became the standard in Canada for teaching them how to find what they needed.”

Banks held a faculty appointment at Law – the first female to achieve this position – and another in the department of history. After 28 years, she retired as Western’s law librarian in 1989 to pursue her passion – writing. In her time, she wrote almost every day, poring over her research to produce scholarly books, articles and reviews. “Margaret continued her writing until just before she died [in 2010], but sadly there is one project she didn’t finish – her autobiography,” adds Welch. “She was devoted to her work and to her friends. When she became your friend, she was yours for life. I was blessed to count her as one of my dearest friends.”

EXTRAORDINARY LEGACY

A bequest from the late Margaret Banks is being earmarked to three areas at Western:

• Faculty of Law to support priority projects, including the library
• Western Libraries to support priority needs and provide professional learning opportunities to students or recent graduates
• Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry to support needs in geriatric medicine

This unique internship opportunity provides our students with both real-world insolvency law experience, and the opportunity to make a difference.

CASSELLS BROCK LLP SUPPORTS MINING FINANCE INTERNSHIP

A gift of $30,000 from Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP will renew the Cassels Brock & Blackwell International Internship in Mining Finance for the next three years. This unique internship provides an opportunity for a first-year law student to intern at the head office of global mining company. The student receives a stipend of $10,000, thanks to the firm’s generous support.

“Western Law is very appreciative of the continuing and generous support Cassels Brock has given us over the years to help build a top-tier mining law program that includes this internship opportunity,” says Dean W. Iain Scott.

NORTON ROSE FULBRIGHT CANADA LLP AWARD

Norton Rose Fullbright Canada LLP has generously donated $25,000 to renew the Norton Rose Fullbright Canada LLP Award for the next five years. The award is presented to a student entering the second year of study in the Faculty of Law who has achieved academic excellence in the first year of law school.

“We are very grateful to the ongoing generous support of Norton Rose Fullbright,” says Dean Iain Scott. “Their commitment to the law school greatly enhances the student experience.”

COHEN HIGHLEY SUPPORTS SCHOLARSHIP

Cohen Highley LLP has made a generous donation of $10,000 to establish the Cohen Highley LLP Award. The award will be given to a full-time undergraduate student completing first-year Law who has achieved academic excellence and has demonstrated community involvement in Southwestern Ontario. The annual award is valued at $2,000 and will be made available for the next five academic years.

“Cohen Highley Lawyers takes great pride in being able to offer this scholarship,” says Iain Sneddon, a partner at the firm. “Students represent a great opportunity for our firm. We commend the focus, determination and drive that students show in their commitment to their studies and to the community of Southwestern Ontario,” he says.

NIDHI KANIKA SURI MEMORIAL AWARD

An award has been established to honour Kanika Suri ’12, who died in April 2012. The award will be given annually to a student at Western Law who has demonstrated financial need, as well as a strong community engagement with the law school by helping fellow students.

This award was established with Foundation Western, and was made possible by family, friends and colleagues of Kanika Suri. Suri began her articling term with Fraser Miller Casgrain LLP (now Dentons LLP) in January 2012 where she also summereed. “Anyone who had the good fortune to have known Kanika will no doubt have been impressed with her vibrant personality, her keen sense of curiosity, as well as her dedication to the law,” says Mike Kaplan, Managing Partner.

NIDHI KANIKA SURI MEMORIAL AWARD

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GIVING NEWS

Thornton Grout Finnigan LLP (TGF) has generously donated $30,000 to continue their support of the Thornton Grout Finnigan LLP International Student Internship in Bankruptcy & Insolvency Law for the next three years. The internship supports a student to intern with the World Bank Group in Washington, D.C.

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FACULTY OF LAW DONORS

We would like to recognize the following donors who have given $1,000 or more to Western’s Faculty of Law between May 1, 2012 and April 30, 2013. We also wish to thank those donors who have chosen to remain anonymous and those who have made previous commitments to the Faculty of Law.

Donors of $500,000 or more
W. Geoff Beattie

The Ontario Legal Aid Plan

Donors of $100,000 - $499,999
Jay A. Carfagnini and Karen E. Trimble
Stephen R. Coxford
Kevin Sullivan
William Braithwaite
Perry N. Dellelce
Garth M. Girvan

Donors of $25,000 - $99,999
The Estate of Margaret A. Banks
Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP
Thornton Grout Finnigan LLP

Donors of $10,000 - $24,999
Professor Erika Chamberlain
Wayne P. McArdle
Dr. Kuldeep S. Suri

Donors of $5,000 - $9,999
Adam S. Armstrong
Mark W.S. Bain
Tracy Newkirk Bock
Stephen and Loretta Donovan
Mitch and Leslie Frazer
Norman Groot
Mark G. Lichy
David and Rose Moreau
Christine J. Prudham
Rajat Suri

Donors of $1,000 - $4,999
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Donors of $1,000 - $9,999
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Wildeboer Dellelce LLP
ZSA Legal Recruitment Ltd

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Edward Werner
Stephen Wing
Edward G. Wong

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MATOULA CHARITIS

1966
Graham Scott was appointed Chair of the Institute for Research in Public Policy. He is the president of Graham Scott Strategies Inc. and partner emeritus at McMillan LLP.

1972
Peter Brent was a 2013 finalist in the Canadian General Counsel Award.

1975
Robert Farmer has joined Dickinson Wright as an associate, practising business, corporate, banking and financial services.

1976
William Braithwaite has been elected Chair of Stikeman Elliott LLP.

1977
Rosemary McCarney has been named one of Canada’s 25 most influential women by Women of Influence Magazine.

1979
Richard Fujarczuk has been appointed Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel to the House of Commons.

1980
Graham Scott '80
Barbara L. Legate has been named the Best Lawyers’ 2014 London/Windsor Personal Injury Litigation “Lawyer of the Year.” She has been awarded the H. Bruce T. Hillyer Award for 2012 by the Ontario Trial Lawyers Association.

1980
Jamie Cassels has been selected as the next President of the University of Victoria. He was vice-president academic and provost at UVic from 2001-2010, and before that, dean of law. His five-year term as president began July 1, 2013.

1981
Paul Sommerville has been appointed VP, Regulatory Affairs and General Counsel for Toronto Hydro-Electric Systems Ltd.

1983
Robert Rooney was a finalist for the Canadian General Counsel Award 2013 in Business Achievement.

1984
W. Geoffrey Beattie has been appointed Chairman of Relay Ventures, a Canadian venture capital firm.

1985
Terence Harvey was appointed a non-executive director of Azimuth Resources, a gold and uranium explorer.

1986
William Middleton has been appointed President and CEO of Times Three Wireless, a company that designs, develops and deploys wireless technology.

1987
Kevin Coon was named Managing Partner of Baker & McKenzie’s Toronto office. Kevin is a member of the Labour & Employment Practice and has been with the firm since 1989. He was previously involved in firm management, having served as head of the Toronto Labour & Employment Practice and as the North American representative on the firm’s Global Talent Management Committee.


1988
Margot Ballagh has been appointed Vice-Chairperson of Social Security Tribunal.

Mitchell Kowalski has published a new book entitled “Avoiding Extinction: Reimagining Legal Services for the 21st Century.”

1989
Leslie McIntosh, after 20 years in New Zealand, is leaving her current role of Chief Legal Counsel Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand to take up the post of Senior Counsel Corporate Service with the International Air Transport Association in Geneva.

1990
Dale Ponder is a member of United Way Toronto’s 2013 Campaign Cabinet.

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1993
Mark Morabito has been appointed to the board of directors of Savory Gold, a junior gold exploration company.

1994
Ronald Schmeichel has been appointed President and Secretary of Mira III Acquisition Corp.

1995
Maia Bent was elected as the new Vice-President of the Ontario Trial Lawyers Association.

1996
Mark Burton was welcomed into partnership at KPMG, Advisory.

1997
Robert Clark joined FCT Insurance Company as Director, Business Development-Commercial Division where he manages FCT’s national business development and client relationship for many of the largest commercial real estate law firms.

1998
Sebastien Vezina has been appointed Corporate Secretary of Fancamp Exploration, a junior mining and exploration company.

1999
Mark Redinger has joined Dickinson Wright where he focuses on mergers and acquisitions and corporate and financial advice for Canadian and international funds, as well as private and public companies.

2000
Ritu Bhasin has won Western University’s 2013 Young Alumni Award. Her company, bhasin consulting inc., helps organizations in the areas of leadership development, diversity and the advancement of women. She has also launched Mivoik, an online guide to name pronunciation designed to counter negative impact of hard-to-pronounce names.

2001
Matthew Peters has joined Cassels Brock as a Partner in the Tax Group where he advises on tax issues associated with international tax planning and other tax matters.

2002
Ritu Bhasin ’00

2003
Michael Copeland has been appointed President and COO of The Canadian Football League.

2004
Joni Dobson has been appointed a partner at Legate & Associates LLP in London Ontario.

2005
Deron Waldock has been named Senior Vice President of Aon Hewitt Canada’s legal consulting practice where he practices pensions and benefits laws.

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2002
Major Prem Rawal moved to Ottawa this summer where he continues to serve with the Canadian Military Prosecution Service.

2003
Conrad Druzeta was welcomed into partnership at the law firm of Bennett Jones.

Raivo Uuskivi joined Cassels Brock & Blackwell as a Senior Associate where he focuses on advocacy.

2006
Christopher Cheung has joined Dutton Broock as an associate, practising in the area of litigation.

Irene Kim married Kevin Fritz at the Windsor Arms Hotel in Toronto on August 25, 2012. Irene is former Editor-in-Chief of The Gentlemen magazine, and a columnist and stylist at la cotelette. Kevin is a tax partner at Wildeboer Dellelce LLP and an adjunct professor at the University of New Brunswick, Faculty of Law.

2007
David Beeston has taken on a new position as Special Counsel to the CCO and EVP Business Affairs with the Boston Red Sox.

Rustam Juma recently moved to Deloitte LLP as Legal Counsel.

2008
Erin Rankin-Nash was one of the honourees of the YMCA 2013 Women of Excellence.

2010
Omar Ha-Redeye received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in January.

2011
Patrick Copeland has joined Aird & Berlis in the firm’s Litigation Group.

Kristen Dearlove has joined McCall Dawson Osterberg Handler as an associate in its insurance defence practice.

James Desjardins has joined Aird & Berlis in the firm’s Finance Services Group.

2012
Erin Burns has joined Cohen Highley in the area of Family Law.

Vera Dokter has joined Pacific & Western Bank of Canada as Corporate Counsel.

Jennifer Foster is a Family Law Associate at Lerners LLP.

Dan Hynes is an Associate at Aitken Klee LLP.

Matthew Irish joined McCull Cheetham Osterberg Handler as an associate in its insurance defence practice.

Alexandra Papaiconomou has joined Cohen Highley in the Administrative Law group. Her practice includes Residential Tenancies, Condominium Law, and representation of property owners.

Joseph Van Aseldonk has joined Brown Beattie O’Donovan and will be practicing in their Corporate/Commercial, Real Estate and Wills & Estates Practice Groups.

Sahil Zaman is founder of Closing Folders Inc.

IN MEMORIAM

Professor Yuri Luryi, in December 2012, age 93. Professor Luryi was a scholar on the subjects of Soviet law and the Soviet legal system and a courageous defender of the rights and dissidents in the former Soviet Union.

William C. Hamilton (‘66) a well-known Guelph businessman, past President and CEO of Homewood and former Partner with the law firm of Kerns McKinnon (Miller Thompson); in April 2013.

Robert (Bob) D. Preston (‘69), a partner with Ricketts, Harris LLP; in June 2013.

Amanda Nicole Pulthon Lucas (‘12); in June 2013.
Our Newest Alumni
EXCITING JOURNEY AWAITS CLASS OF 2013

The Class of 2013 proudly walked across the stage and received congratulations from Dean Iain Scott at Western Law’s Awards ceremony held on June 19.

Dale Ponder ’80, Managing Partner and Chief Executive of Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP was the keynote speaker at the ceremony. Newly-minted grads that change takes courage.

“Mistakes and failure can be our most important teachers – as long as you’re willing to learn from them,” she said.

“Don’t short-change yourself and refuse to pursue something because of fear. Have confidence in yourself and your abilities, and go after what you want,” Ponder said.

Ponder has been recognized three times as one of Canada’s Top 100 “powerful women” and was honored as the “top” woman in the professional services category by the inaugural Women of Influence Top 25 Canadian Women in 2012.

Dean Iain Scott congratulated Western Law’s newest grads on their achievement and remarked, “You are entering a profession that affords you a world of opportunity. Each of you has much to offer but, in turn, much will be expected of you. I know you will make significant contributions to both our profession and society.”

Christine Tabbert ’91, incoming President of Western Law’s Alumni Association, officially welcomed the new grads into the alumni community and spoke about the importance of staying connected to their classmates.

“Don’t short-change yourself and refuse to pursue something because of fear. Have confidence in yourself and your abilities, and go after what you want.”

Dale Ponder ’80, Managing Partner and Chief Executive of Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP

Valedictorian Lyndsey Kiser ’13 celebrated her classmates and provided some words of wisdom from the poem “Ulysses” by Alfred Lord Tennyson throughout her inspiring speech.

“I am a part of all that I have met,” she quoted from the poem while reflecting upon the past three years at Western Law. She applauded the class for their level of engagement in the school community “which has helped us build bonds that will endure far beyond graduation.”

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The Special Court for Sierra Leone will soon be closing. You may never have heard of this international court, but it has made an enormous difference. It was created by an agreement between the United Nations Secretary-General and the Government of Sierra Leone in 2002, after the end of a brutal decade-long civil war in the small, but diamond-rich, West African country of Sierra Leone. The causes of the conflict are complex, but many agree it stemmed from widespread corruption within Sierra Leone. The rebel group known as the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) sought to control the diamond-rich areas of Sierra Leone, enlisting civilians as diamond miners. They were joined by the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC). These rebel groups ruled by absolute terror. They chose methods guaranteed to rip apart the social fabric of Sierra Leone. They captured girls and boys — some as young as six years old — to become child soldiers. Through drugs, brainwashing, and fear, they made these children into killers. They amputated arms and legs. They used sexual violence for humiliation, raping captives in public. Girls and women were turned into ‘bush wives’ — sex slaves and forced labourers — to cook and clean on demand. Many of those who survived were ostracized by their own communities.

In 2000, I was a lawyer at Canada’s Department of Foreign Affairs. Then-Minister of Foreign Affairs Lloyd Axworthy asked me and my colleagues to support a request by the Government of Sierra Leone to set up an international criminal tribunal to bring justice and accountability — and hopefully stop the violence — to a country with no working justice system. Canada was a member of the United Nations Security Council at that time, and we worked through that body with the UN Secretary-General to make the new court a reality. It was a difficult endeavour, but I am proud to say that the Special Court for Sierra Leone has successfully tried ten individuals, including Charles Taylor, the former President of neighbouring Liberia. Taylor was convicted at trial of aiding and abetting the rebels in carrying out crimes against humanity and war crimes in Sierra Leone in exchange for diamonds. Leaders of the RUF and AFRC, as well as the pro-government Civil Defence Forces, have also been convicted of crimes such as the recruitment and use of child soldiers, forced marriage, and attacks directed against UN peacekeepers.

The Special Court for Sierra Leone will close down soon after Taylor’s appeals judgment is released this autumn. But an international court can never really close: witnesses who risked their lives to testify must be protected; the prison conditions of the convicted individuals must be tracked; the Special Court’s confidential files must remain confidential; and the Special Court’s public files must be made accessible to Sierra Leoneans and others. Therefore, a skeletal version of the original court, called the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone, will come into existence later this year.

In February 2013, I travelled to Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone, to speak at a conference evaluating the effectiveness of the Special Court. In 2001, when I was there last, Freetown was a shell of a city. Roads were cratered, buildings were shattered and the war-wounded were begging in the streets. In 2013, I came to a thriving city in the midst of a construction boom. I saw hundreds of children walking to school. The Sierra Leoneans attending the conference talked about the crucial role the Special Court has played in securing the current peace in their country: ensuring two rounds of credible democratic elections, prompting laws reforms of outdated laws, and promoting the rule of law over the rule of the gun. Best of all, they told me that they had hope for the future, some for the first time in their lives.

Valerie Oosterveld

The Special Court has played a crucial role in securing the current peace in Sierra Leone and has hope for the future...
Roberta Jamieson (LLB’76) is the first First Nations woman to earn a law degree. A leader and skilled advocate, this woman of many firsts has opened countless doors for Canada’s Indigenous people. And her commitment to change started at Western.

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