

NEXUS

UNB LAW ALUMNI MAGAZINE



DR. ARGYRI PANEZI

to examine legal innovation in NB & beyond

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Dean's Message

UNB Law is on a roll

There is a real sense of optimism about our Law School. Our graduates continue to excel and distinguish themselves as leaders and innovators. Our faculty demonstrate their excellence in teaching and research at every turn. Our staff show unwavering commitment to our students and academic mission. And our University continues to support UNB Law's renewal, allowing us to invest in the quality of our programs. In this issue of Nexus, you will see more evidence of what I'm referring to.

The cover story features Dr. Argyri Panezi, the Canada Research Chair in Digital Information Law and Policy. Dr. Panezi is UNB Law's first CRC and her appointment marks a bold step forward in our commitment to socially relevant and impactful legal research. As you will read in this issue, her research agenda focuses on e-justice, which refers to the application of technology to improve the administration of justice, including with respect to access and security. Following the pandemic, this is one of the most important and practical areas of legal research.

Dr. Panezi joined UNB Law in January and is already making important contributions to our Faculty and our Province. With her policy-oriented approach, Dr. Panezi quickly connected with judges, lawyers, and public servants to learn about the challenges and opportunities facing the justice system in New Brunswick. She aims to make UNB Law a centre of excellence in the promotion of legal innovation, with the goal of developing best practices that will make the justice system work better for all stakeholders. Her research and approach reflect UNB Law's proud history of scholarship that makes a difference in society.

Another innovator featured in this issue is Mark Coombs (JD '15), CEO and co-founder of Sleepout. Mark is wonderful role model of creativity and determination, qualities he used in securing major investments for his startup company, first from



Michael Marin
Dean & Associate Professor

“The desire of our graduates to see the Law School prosper is a source of motivation for us. Whether serving as mentors for current students, helping us make connections with employers, sharing our story with political and business leaders, or supporting UNB Law financially, the engagement of our alumni is making a difference.”

Sleep Country and then from Arlene Dickinson after appearing on Dragons’ Den. Mark’s story is inspirational. He doesn’t come from a wealthy family. A full scholarship brought him to UNB Law, and he graduated with distinction, an achievement typically reserved for the top three or four students in the class. Mark’s story demonstrates that anything is possible when we focus on our goals and don’t let adversity stop us.

Another UNB Law graduate profiled in this issue, Brenda Goddard (LLB ‘93), also knows about overcoming adversity. In her near 30-year career with the UNHCR, she has been working on the ground in some of the world’s most troubled countries helping people displaced by war, famine, and persecution. Brenda’s dedication to international human rights has meant moving to a new country ever few years and confronting instances of devastating injustice. I’m in awe of this level of commitment to the legal principles we teach at UNB Law. Brenda Goddard’s leadership and public service represent the very best of our institution.

Of course, UNB Law is also known for its friendly and collegial atmosphere and this issue pays tribute to that as well. Last month, we saw the beginning of what I hope will become an annual event—the UNB Law Alumni Hockey Game. This was an initiative of our students and graduates, who organized a thrilling and uplifting event that truly brought the UNB Law community together. At the post-game reception, the feeling of togetherness and pride was palpable, despite the lopsided score. That evening, I told the players that I’m incredibly proud to lead this remarkable institution. And a huge reason for that is the affection that our students and alumni have for UNB Law.

The desire of our graduates to see the Law School prosper is a source of motivation for us. Whether serving as mentors for current students, helping us make connections with employers, sharing our story with political and business leaders, or supporting UNB Law financially, the engagement of our alumni is making a difference. For the third time in four years, one of our students was hired to clerk at the Supreme Court of Canada. In addition, four other students obtained judicial clerkships across the country. And our students are getting summer and articling positions from coast-to-coast.

As we extend our national reach, UNB Law continues to focus on the legal profession and the administration of justice in Atlantic Canada with new initiatives like the UNB Legal Clinic, hosting major legal proceedings like coroner’s inquests, and helping amateur sport organizations investigate allegations of misconduct through a sport law practicum to launch this fall.

UNB Law is poised to affirm its place as one of Canada’s finest law schools. To learn more about what the future holds for UNB Law, check out the video launching our Strategic Plan; you will recognize some familiar faces. That feeling of optimism I mentioned at the outset is translating into real successes for UNB Law. So, stay tuned; the best is yet to come.



A career devoted to **helping the most vulnerable** across the globe

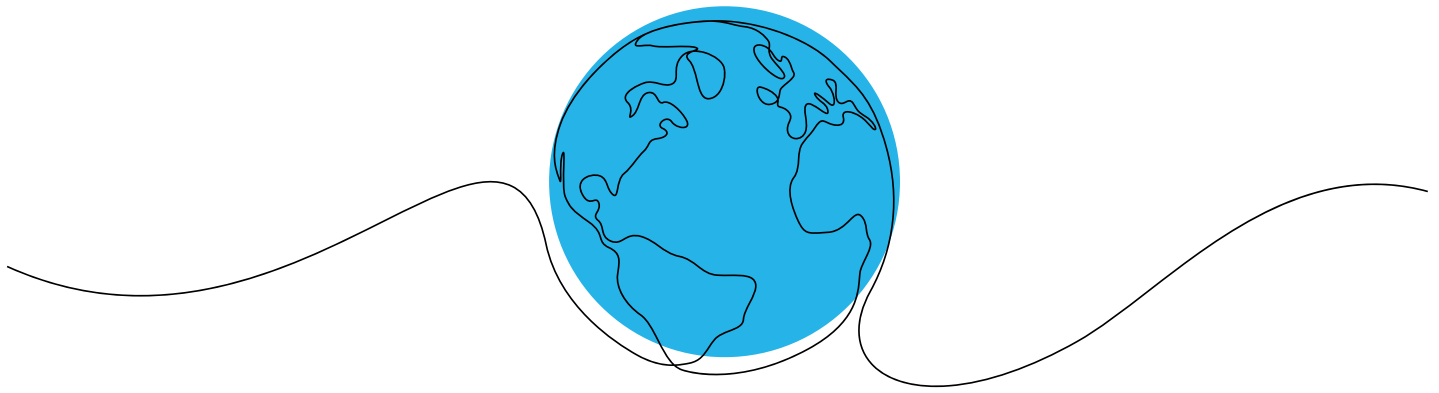
Brenda Goddard (LLB '93) has spent her nearly 30-year career helping some of the world's most vulnerable people as a member of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Her remarkable career with the organization has taken her across the globe, from Macedonia to Switzerland, Turkey to Russia, and beyond.

A native of Grand Bay-Westfield, New Brunswick, Goddard describes her start with the global organization as a chance occurrence.

"It was really a coincidence—being in the right place at the right time. I had finished my law

degree and had an undergrad and MA degree in Soviet and East European studies from Carleton. My interest in Russian history and language took me to Moscow in 1996."

She accepted her first position with the UNHCR as a UN Volunteer, a role that provides young professionals with stipend-paid work while building experience within the organization. Goddard spent the next two years interviewing asylum seekers, providing legal assessments to determine their refugee status using the definition contained in the 1951 Refugee Convention—a well-founded fear of persecution based on their race, religion, nationality, ethnicity, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group.



“At that time, I was mostly working with Afghans, Iranians, Iraqis, and people from all over the African continent to determine if they would qualify as a refugee or not, and if they did qualify, we would support their application before the Russian authorities. We also supported cases in a government appeal procedure. It was one of the most challenging things I have ever done—the situation was very tough for asylum seekers and refugees in Russia.”

Supporting refugees during the Kosovo crisis

The Kosovo Refugee Crisis began in 1999, following the Kosovo War, an armed conflict between ethnic Albanians and ethnic Serbians backed by the government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) that controlled Kosovo at the time. Goddard left Russia for Skopje, the capital of the Republic of North Macedonia to assist with the humanitarian crisis that followed the war. She accepted her first staff position with the UNHCR as an Associate Protection Officer.

“There was a huge refugee movement from Kosovo into Northern Macedonia and Albania in 1999. There were also many people who had become stateless as a result of the earlier breakup of the former Yugoslavia.”

Goddard assisted the return movement of Kosovar Albanians following the end of the conflict, and then worked on issues related to the prevention and reduction of statelessness, including by supporting the authorities with legislative reform. She also helped train government officials on refugee status determination and supported NGOs by providing legal counsel in their work with asylum seekers and stateless persons.

To Geneva, Turkey, and back again

After three and a half years of work in Northern Macedonia, Brenda’s next posting took her to the UNHCR headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, where she assumed the role of Legal Advisor in the Department of International Protection.

“I was in the section on protection policy and legal advice. Again, my legal education was paramount to the work I was doing providing advice and guidance to UNHCR offices around the world on a number of issues including the intersection of international criminal and refugee law.”

Goddard’s work focused on a provision of the 1951 Convention that denied refugee status/protection to individuals who, for example, have committed a war crime, a crime against humanity, or what is called a serious non-political crime.

“We as UNHCR or a government that’s assessing whether someone is a refugee or not must look at what the person has done in their past. Of course, the vast majority of asylum-seekers have nothing in their past of that nature, but it’s something that has to be checked. It’s a provision that is not included in other human rights instruments. The ‘51 convention was drafted immediately after the second world war, and the drafters wanted to make sure that the people who had been responsible for the atrocities of that war would not be protected as refugees.”

She provided training to HCR offices and government agencies on the proper interpretation and application of the provision, ensuring a clear, high standard for use. In addition to this, she also worked on issues relating to the detention of asylum seekers. After marrying and moving to Turkey, in 2009, Brenda brought her expertise to the position of Refugee Status Determination Officer in the UNHCR’s Ankara office. As the unit lead, she managed a team of young professionals who conducted refugee interviews and assessments. She spent four years in this position.

With the onset of the Syrian refugee crisis in 2011, which saw more than 14 million Syrians forced to flee their homes in search of safety, Goddard accepted a position as Senior Protection Officer, again taking on a broad range of responsibilities to support her colleagues and operations in the region.

“I supported our team in Southeast Turkey, monitoring the crisis and assisting the Turkish authorities to ensure

that the needs and rights of refugees were being addressed and respected, and to support NGO partners to provide counselling to Syrian refugees.”

After seven years in Ankara, Goddard completed the circuit, returning to Geneva, this time as a Senior Refugee Status Determination Officer. Her focus shifted to the qualification of Palestinian refugees under the ‘51 Convention, including by supporting UNHCR’s legal interventions before courts and other decision-makers on cases involving Palestinian asylum-seekers. This portfolio required her to collaborate with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), a separate UN agency established in 1949 following the creation of Israel and the exodus of Palestinians from the region.

“I worked closely with the UNRWA, which operates only in Gaza, the West Bank, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon. They have an exclusive mandate for Palestinian refugees within those five areas. Once a Palestinian refugee leaves those areas and is unable to return, they become entitled to protection under the UNHCR and the ‘51 Convention.”

Current role as Deputy Representative

In September 2022, Brenda accepted her current role as Deputy Representative for the UNHCR’s Moscow office, where she supports the management of the office, including all protection activities for the operation.

“The UNHCR Office in Moscow supports asylum seekers in Russia, ensuring they have access to national asylum procedures. We work with a number of legal partners who provide guidance, legal counseling and legal representation to asylum seekers in the Russian Federation.”

Since the February 2022 Russian/Ukraine conflict, Goddard and her team have been monitoring the



situation in the country, conducting outreach missions to different regions where Ukrainian refugees are living to understand the conditions and standards of treatment, and their access to legal rights, including refugee status, temporary protection and other forms of legal stay.

Reflecting on a long career with the UNHCR

Goddard’s career has been fascinating and rewarding but also very difficult. Through her field work, she has visited several refugee camps, and met many people at their most desperate and vulnerable times.

“There have been many heartbreaking cases. Individuals who have faced gender-based violence, or members of the LGBTQ+ community who have faced various forms of persecution in their own countries. In Turkey, I met with Yazidi refugees who had survived attacks by the Islamic State in Iraq—that was very hard. I still get quite emotional when I think about it, especially when talking to children. Even now talking to the Ukrainian

refugees. It can be challenging to maintain your composure when someone’s talking about what they’ve lost and their other hopes for the future.”

But the bad also comes with the good. Goddard recalls the feeling of seeing successful relocations, helping refugees begin their new lives in a new home.

“It is wonderful to see people who we have helped relocate. We had a very big resettlement program in Turkey, where those who qualified as refugees and could not remain in their country of asylum were resettled to Canada, the United States, European countries, Australia, and New Zealand. Refugees are resilient people—they have to be. That’s one thing that you do see that brings hope. These people have been through extraordinary things, but they also have something extraordinary to contribute to the places they now call home.”



Mark Coombs

co-founder of Sleepout, is helping North Americans get better sleep

From a Kickstarter campaign that saw 2,000 customers in just over a month to Dragons' Den and Good Morning America, the last two years have been an absolute rollercoaster ride for entrepreneur Mark Coombs (JD '15). Coombs is a co-founder of Sleepout—a portable blackout curtain that installs anywhere in just seconds.

The product came out of necessity—or more so, frustration. Mark, a (former) sufferer of insomnia, spent years searching for a quality blackout curtain to improve his sleep. Finding nothing that could guarantee a fully darkened room, he decided to take the ultimate leap of faith in 2021, quitting his job to develop and patent a prototype of his own. Battling through a pandemic (and, of course, the usual challenges faced by any entrepreneur), Mark and co-founder Hannah Brennen have taken their idea to market, helping over 20,000 customers get a better night's sleep.

“The investment from Sleep Country was huge for us. This was their first minority investment deal. Before us, they’d only done acquisitions, like Endy and Hush Blankets, massive acquisitions.”

Mark’s path to Sleepout

Like many entrepreneurs before him, Mark’s journey is one of resilience—motivated by a dream of creating a better life for himself.

“I was born in Newfoundland and moved to British Columbia with my mother when I was five. Mom was sick pretty often and we didn’t have very much. It was certainly a hard road for the two of us. I faced a lot of barriers in terms of people thinking that I wouldn’t be able to go to university because of our economic situation.”

Mark graduated from Memorial University in 2012, studying political science and philosophy. He fell in love with Atlantic Canada and decided to stay after graduation. He received a full scholarship to attend UNB Law.

“The scholarship was massive for me. As somebody who came from a disadvantaged background, I don’t know if I would have been able to actually afford law school without it.”

Mark made the dean’s list in each of his three years at UNB Law, graduating with his JD (with distinction) in 2015. From there, he articulated with Moodie Mair Walker LLP in Toronto. While he enjoyed the courtroom experience and the litigation side of things, he was not fond of the billable hour structure of law. Still longing to explore a world of entrepreneurship and business, Mark joined Blue J Legal, a Toronto-based start-up exploring AI prediction for legal technology.

This would be a highly formative experience for Mark. In his time with Blue J, Mark built and managed the full revenue team. He created the framework that grew the company from \$0 to \$1.8M in revenue. He managed channel partnerships with Fortune 500 company distributors for multiple products, and grew total revenues by 382% over 12 months as head of sales.

“I jumped in immediately to start working on product development, but then I just kept taking

on more and more responsibilities. One of the best ways to accelerate learning is just to get involved in a very early-stage company. You get to help to build everything.”

One of Blue J’s key Partners was Thompson Reuters, a leader in legal technology.

“Going to those boardrooms and talking to the VPs, learning about market strategy, going to law firms—on the other side—I was a lawyer that was walking into law firms trying to get them to adopt new technology and fighting all the battles with senior partners. Traveling to Ottawa and meeting the DOJ and the CRA. It was an incredible experience.”

Mark’s next move took him to another tech start-up, Kira Systems, a market leader in artificial intelligence technology for contract/document analysis. Mark led Kira’s financial services initiatives, negotiating significant business transactions.

The aha moment

While Mark’s time with both Blue J and Kira further fueled his desire to start his own business, it wasn’t until the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic that it became clear how this would happen.

“I was suffering from light sensitivity and insomnia that got worse because I was stuck inside all day. I was in a condo in downtown Toronto, where I wasn’t allowed to install my own blackout curtains. Hannah and I were using shower curtain rods with garbage bags. We tried several items from Amazon, but nothing seemed to be effective.”

Mark pulled the back-end sales data from several Amazon products designed to blackout windows. He saw that these items were selling really well, but that the reviews showed customers were not happy with the products—a sentiment he and Hannah shared. That is where they saw their opportunity. They began calling entrepreneurs who had appeared on Dragons’ Den and Shark Tank—anyone whose product was a window covering or that had suction cup technology.

“It was great to speak with these people to gain an understanding of the market and the manufacturing process. Curtis Kennedy helped us a lot in the early days. He is the founder of Vertiball and also a UNB grad and Dragons’ Den alum.”

Mark bootstrapped the operation to be as capital efficient as possible. He knew a pre-order model would be required as the plastic injection molds for the suction cup technology would be a massive expense. In July of 2021, Mark and his team found a manufacturer to mass produce their first product, Sleepout Portable. He launched a Kickstarter campaign and in just 35 days received orders from over 2,000 customers totaling nearly \$300,000. Sleepout was officially born and picking up incredible steam.

Investment from an industry leader and pandemic challenges

Following the huge success of the crowdfunding campaign, Mark began talks with Sleep Country, Canada’s leading specialty sleep retailer. The brand agreed to a 25% stake in Sleepout, providing logistical assistance with warehousing, supply chain and helping build business relationships for rapid growth.

“The investment from Sleep Country was huge for us. This was their first minority investment deal. Before us, they’d only done acquisitions, like Endy and Hush Blankets, massive acquisitions.”

Sleepout’s first big challenge came in late 2021. They faced inventory shortages due to the worldwide supply chain crisis. Originally scheduled for delivery in October, their crowdfunded Sleepout’s would only arrive in January. Mark and his co-founder Hannah Brennen fought hard to manage customer expectations and keep the business flowing during a time of limited sales/pre-orders.

“We started Sleepout at one of the worst times for an e-commerce business. Container costs went from \$2500 to \$18,000, and getting goods landed was almost impossible. It’s those macro events that you just can’t foresee or control. You just have to get scrappy and pick up the phone. We called every freight forwarder, we called in every favor, and Sleep Country helped us to figure out a way to get our container faster because it could have been March had we not done all of that work.”

Thanks to a never-say-quit attitude, Sleepout delivered the 2,000 pre-orders of their flagship product by January and, thanks to some innovative marketing initiatives, went on to close out the year with \$2.7M in revenue.

Pitching to the Dragons

Following in the footsteps of nearly all of their mentors, Mark and Hannah applied to appear on the Dragons’ Den.

“We had spoken to so many people who had been on Dragons’ Den. It’s the show you need to be on if you want to be a big Canadian e-commerce brand. It can really legitimize you and your product. We knew we had to apply.”

While hiking in the Grand Canyon, Mark and Hannah got the call that they would be appearing on season 17 of the hit CBC show to pitch Sleepout to venture capitalists (and Dragons), Arlene Dickinson, Vincenzo Guzzo, Wes Hall, Robert Herjavec, Manjit Minhas, and Michelle Romanow. The pair practiced their pitch feverishly for the three weeks leading up to their May 2022 taping. For Mark, their preparation felt like a throwback to the hours of practice benches before his first-year moot.

“I actually used the exact same technique to prepare for our Dragons’ Den pitch as I did my first moot—the skills I learned at law school. We gathered some of the top people we knew and pitched four or five times in front of them. By the time we got up for Dragons’ Den, just like for the first-year moot, we knew every question they were going to ask. I memorized our income statement and knew every number.”

For their pitch, Mark and Hannah brought two giant windows to the studio and facilitated a curtain hanging competition between Dragons. One would use popular household DIY solutions, the other would use Sleepout.

“We did our pitch 30 minutes before the taping for the entire production team. They told us it had to change; that it was too long. We had to think fast to cut it down. Then they told us that Hannah couldn’t hang the Sleepout curtain; it would have to be Michele Romanow. We agreed that Hannah would be all over her—to teach her how to hang it because that moment wasn’t going to be controlled by us anymore, and we couldn’t afford to have Sleepout installed incorrectly. If it fell, it would have been a huge disaster; we would have been skewered.”

The pair breathed a huge sigh of relief as Michelle nailed the install and won the competition. Next came a solid grilling from the Dragons (over an hour of off-screen time) on the product’s background and history, the design, use cases, and funding and financials. All five Dragons were incredibly impressed by the pair’s knowledge of their numbers,

the company's gross margins and their annual sales totalling over \$1M in just their first ten months. Mark and Hannah received three offers, accepting exactly what they asked for from Arlene, \$225,000 for 10% of their company.

"Being on the show was an incredible experience. The exposure from being on the Dragons' Den has been great for sales and growth, and working with Arlene has been an amazing opportunity."

What's next for Sleepout?

"We have seen so much positive feedback from our customers—people who travel regularly, shift workers, and first responders. We have seen overwhelming support from parents, who want to ensure their children are getting healthy sleep in a pitch-black room. We have become the number one most recommended product by sleep specialists in North America for children."

Growth and innovation remain the primary focus for Mark. Sleepout recently launched their latest product, Sleepout Home, a blackout curtain system designed for installation in the home.

"Business has really gone mad ever since we launched our newest invention, Sleepout Home. We worked really hard last year to reinvent the curtain rod. We have designed—and are working to patent—a rod that tilts 45 degrees upward, towards the wall, to eliminate light bleed and ensure a fully blacked out sleep."

Mark is currently in talks with Good Morning America, which is hoping to bring Sleepout in for its second appearance on the show this summer, promising even more national exposure. He was recently informed by Shopify that Sleepout has reached their top five percent globally for sales, and is receiving regular calls from Amazon to stock the product. Mark is currently working hard to grow the team and expand infrastructure to address the unprecedented consumer demand, and support budding partnerships with leading US retailers in the nursery/baby sector, as well as major UK sleep brands.

"The kind of response we have seen is really the dream for any business. We are looking at massive growth to scale operations. What's next is taking Sleepout fully International, to the US and UK. We're getting messages from all over the world, Europe, Australia, and beyond. The journey is very much ongoing—our story is not finished yet."



"We have seen overwhelming support from parents, who want to ensure their children are getting healthy sleep in a pitch-black room."

Students & alumni clash on the ice



On Saturday, April 1, a group of determined third-year law students faced off against a stacked team of alumni in the UNB Law Alumni Hockey Game. The Lady Beaverbrook Rink was abuzz, packed with rowdy fans who came out to cheer on their friends, classmates, colleagues, and family members.

It was a barnburner. Both teams came out flying, each clearly with something to prove. The alumni team found the back of the net first in the opening minutes of the game and scored their second just a few moments later. The students quickly responded with a goal of their own, making it a 2-1 hockey game.

"We knew right away it was going to be a tough game," said Jake Bryden, organizer and member of the student team. "They were fast, they were skilled, and they moved the puck really well. It was really a high energy atmosphere—the crowd was having fun. You could feel it on the ice."

After two periods of fast-paced (and slightly chippy) action, the alumni team went into the dressing room with a 3-1 lead. Fearing time was running out for a dramatic comeback, Bryden took the opportunity to approach the alumni team to try and negotiate a longer third period.

"I went over to Welton and Washington on the alum side and I said, *look, it's a close game, why don't we go to 20 minutes stop time?* They looked at me, laughed, and said, *not a chance. Some of our guys are going to die if we go past 15 minutes.* I guess I will have to work on my negotiation skills," laughed Bryden. "As I was skating away J. Washington said, *oh, and by the way if you guys do happen to come back and start winning then we'll go stop time.*"

The students would prove to be no match for the experience and composure of the alumni team (perhaps it was superior conditioning or the lack of a looming conflicts exam?). The alumni team lit the lamp three more times in the third, earning a decisive 6-1 victory over the students.

Bringing together both sides

The event came together thanks to the organizing efforts of Jake Bryden, J. Washington, and Mark Welton. Welton is the President of IMAX Global Theatres, a former member of the Reds men's hockey team, and a member of the UNB Hockey Committee.

"I met Dean Marin in Toronto. We were discussing some of the exciting plans for the law school and supporting UNB Law students who were coming to the city. I had mentioned that I played hockey for UNB, and he asked me if I would be interested in helping organize an alumni game. I, of course, said yes, and he put me in contact with Jake, and we started getting things moving."

With ample talent on the student side, Welton faced the challenge of putting the alumni team together. He searched out fellow law grads with a hockey background who might be interested in participating.

"It wasn't easy at first," laughs Welton. "We had a Reds hockey reunion in the fall and actually played a game. I had met a few law alums there, so I started with recruiting former CIS players. I met Steven Pearce (LLB '11) and Ryan Burgoyne (LLB '05) and got in touch with my old law school buddies J. Washington (LLB '92) and Bill Keane (LLB '92). They all picked up one or two players and next thing we knew we had a team."





With Taylor MacDougall (JD '16), one of the alumni team's secret weapons, a last-minute healthy scratch, Welton called up his nephew from the Fredericton Junior Red Wings.

"I cheated a little," said Welton. "He's 20, so that helped us out I think."

Negotiations between Bryden, Welton, and Washington went right up to the trade deadline.

"We knew they had quite a few players who played high-level hockey," said Bryden, "but so did we. We went back and forth, trying to make sure the teams were fair. They negotiated for David Comeau, who played junior. I remember thinking maybe they sandbagged me during the trade talks [laughs]. Like we learn in law school, never underestimate your opponent when negotiating."

An annual event

The alumni hockey game was a fantastic opportunity to bring people together and foster important connections between students and alumni.

"We enjoyed it tremendously," said Welton. "A lot of us grads hadn't seen each other in 25+ years. These young men and women we played against are just great people. They

played a really hard, clean game. We talked to them on the ice—had a lot of banter—and got to connect with them at a reception after at the law school. It was great to meet a bunch of impressive young people who are going to be lawyers and leaders."

After graduation, Jake is heading to NB Power for articles. He will remain in Fredericton and is taking over as GM for the alumni team.

"Our aim is to establish the alumni hockey game as an annual event. We want the word to get out about how great this event was and hopefully get even more players next year. There is potential to have a couple of teams and possibly a round-robin tournament."

The Faculty of Law would like to thank all of the students and alumni—some of whom travelled from outside New Brunswick to play. We would also like to thank the UNB Alumni Office for their generous support of the post-game reception through their sponsorship program. Finally, a thank you to all the fans who made this event a huge success.

Please keep an eye on UNB Law's social media channels and your email for updates regarding next year's game.

OFFICIAL ROSTERS

Student team: Jake Bartlett, Jake Bryden, Nick Currie, Ryan Fancey, Alex Huelin, Makenzie Hill, Graham Manderville, Sean McEwan, Michelle McCabe, Tyler Murphy, Céili Randall, Andrew Sharpe, Sebastien Vella, Duncan Wallace, Logan Walters

Alumni team: Kevin Burke (LLB '93), Mike Breton (LLB '91), Ryan Burgoyne (LLB '05), Mike Byrne (LLB '92), Ben Conoley (LLB '09), Dave Comeau (1L), Paul Ivanoff (LLB '91), William Kean (LLB '92), Daniel Maher (1L), Steven Pearce (LLB '11), Ross Pierce (LLB '91), John Washington (LLB '92), Mark Welton (LLB '92).



DR. ARGYRI PANEZI

*to examine legal innovation in
New Brunswick and beyond*

The New Brunswick legal community has a lot to be excited about as UNB Law welcomes Dr. Argyri Panezi, the Canada Research Chair (CRC) in Digital Information Law and Policy. Dr. Panezi brings a wealth of knowledge in the areas of law and technology and IP law, with an emphasis on digitization, artificial intelligence, and legal innovation.

“This CRC appointment is another big step forward for the strategic growth of the law school,” said Dean Marin, “strengthening our research impact and boosting our national profile. Dr. Panezi’s work is at the intersection

of access to justice and technology. It aims to address societal challenges by influencing public policy. It will be meaningful not only for our institution but for the entire region and the country.”

Dr. Panezi’s research program over the next five years will focus on e-justice, which refers to the use of digital technology in the administration of justice—e.g. electronic filing, electronic discovery, and virtual hearings. Dr. Panezi will build a research team comprised of graduate students and post-doctoral fellows dedicated to identifying best practices in



“The lab will promote interdisciplinary collaboration. It will bring together the province’s various communities along with researchers and scholars from across Canada and around the world.”

e-justice. By leveraging UNB Law’s connections with courts, tribunals, and government agencies, Dr. Panezi’s team will help develop recommendations for improving access to justice while protecting privacy and security.

“In addition to research work and policy implications,” adds Dean Marin, “Dr. Panezi’s appointment also adds to UNB Law’s teaching complement, helping address several of our strategic priorities, including offering more specialized courses, and lowering our student-faculty ratio.”

A collaborative space to examine legal innovation in the region

Dr. Panezi is building a research lab that will focus on legal innovation in New Brunswick and Atlantic Canada—specifically, digitization and accessibility of legal information/assets and communication among members and users of the justice system in national and international contexts.

“The lab will promote interdisciplinary collaboration,” said Dr. Panezi. “It will bring together the province’s various communities along with researchers and scholars from across Canada and around the world to discuss the digital transformation in the Justice sector and design the future of New Brunswick’s justice system.”

Dr. Panezi and her team will begin by analyzing and mapping the current state of innovation in the province and Atlantic region, identifying points and issues that need to be looked at in more detail such as data collection, digitization of judicial or court materials, and communication to the public in terms of judicial processes.

The research will then look forward to how judicial reforms could help both citizens and the province move into the digital age and prepare for future challenges. The team will develop guidelines for process and policy improvements and explore opportunities to innovate these policies.

“Lately, I’m obsessed with the concept of the metaverse and how different our world might be decades from now—changes may come sooner than we think. I just want to see how this old institution—the justice system—is adapting and will adapt in the future to rapid technological changes and the evolving needs of citizens in terms of access to information.”

Technological innovation and access to justice

For Panezi, whose research focus has had a strong focus on access to information and knowledge, the question of technological innovation in the legal field is also a question of access to justice.

“This research will retain my focus on public service institutions and the importance of access to knowledge in the digital age in the justice sector—a topic that I believe has been under-explored. There is an expectation that information should be available online, and this is no different for our older institutions. Having legal information digitized and easily available for citizens unquestionably helps address access to justice.”

The lab will examine the effects of constant technological change and the increasing pressure on the judicial system for efficiency and speed, studying the way these phenomena influence access to justice. Dr. Panezi’s research will also address an issue unique to New Brunswickers.

“There’s an interesting linguistic element that comes into play in a bilingual province like New Brunswick. A large part of this project will also look at the added layer of language requirements as they relate to technological advancements in the judicial sector.”

A Fredericton reunion

If the surname sounds familiar, that’s no coincidence, Argyri’s sister, Dr. Maria Panezi, is UNB Law’s resident expert in trade law, having joined the law school in 2019. When asked how it feels to be working alongside her sister, Argyri replied, “It’s fantastic to be working at the same institution, in the same building as Maria. We’ve crossed paths professionally in the past, when I was studying at Harvard. I was a student, and Maria was a visiting scholar and researcher. I hope we will have the opportunity to collaborate—I just have to convince her that tech is cool.”

Dr. Panezi joins UNB Law as a Tier II Chair, a five-year position, renewable for a second five-year term. Tier II Chairs are recognized as exceptional emerging researchers, acknowledged by their peers as having the potential to lead in their field.

“It is a very exciting opportunity,” said Panezi. “The dream of every researcher is to have this kind of support for their work, and that’s really what the CRC program provides and guarantees.”

About Dr. Panezi

A native of Athens, Greece, Dr. Panezi’s academic career has taken her to several distinguished institutions across Europe and North America. After receiving her law degree (LLB) from the University of Athens, she completed her Master of Laws (LLM) from Harvard Law School. In 2014, she was a Visiting Scholar in Intellectual Property Law at the University of California, Berkeley - School of Law. Dr. Panezi completed her PhD at the European University Institute in Florence, examining, “Libraries in the Digital Renaissance - Law And Policy For Book Digitization.” Prior to this CRC appointment, Dr. Panezi spent three years at Stanford University as a research fellow at the Digital Civil Society Lab, where she explored the notion of critical digital infrastructure with a particular focus on open-source software and the regulation of public infrastructures.



A summer studying at the Peace Palace in the Hague

After completing her first year of law school, Cassidy Smith had the unique opportunity to spend the summer of 2022 studying at The Hague Academy of International Law in the Netherlands. Housed in the iconic Peace Palace, this unique learning experience brings students and practitioners together from around the world to study public and private international law—learning from some of the world’s top legal minds.

Before law school, Smith studied criminology and history, with a focus on 20th century history and war. She graduated Summa Cum Laude from Saint Mary’s University. Smith studied abroad at the beginning of 2020 in Cork, Ireland. Although the experience was cut short by the pandemic, her time in Ireland sparked her interest in international learning.

“It’s fascinating to study outside of North America for the first time. I had profs from across Britain and Ireland who certainly had a different view

of the criminology field. I knew I wanted to pursue other international opportunities. I find international law so interesting because of the historical connections and its constant evolution.”

Eager to learn more about international law, Smith was accepted into the academy after her first year at UNB Law, and joined a group of international Master’s and Ph.D. students for the three-week-long overseas study abroad experience. The program consisted of one over-arching general course, along with specialized week-long supplementary lectures on several topics, all taught by renowned academics, practitioners, and diplomats from various institutions around the world.

“Our general course was on the democratization of international law. We also took courses on the law of the sea, and Islam and international law—studying the many connections between the two. We are so focused on North American and British

law. The opportunity to learn about a system of law that is prevalent in so many parts of the world was eye-opening.”

The most memorable course for Smith was on the decolonization of the Chagos, a decision of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and UN General Assembly that deemed the UK’s detachment of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius and the resulting displacement of its inhabitants unlawful. The course was taught by renowned international lawyer and professor, Philippe Sands.

“It was incredible to learn from great legal minds like Philippe Sands. He took us through the history, the beginning of the decolonization process, and then how the case came to be, and discussed the international proceedings.”

In addition to coursework, the program included several tours, cultural activities, and networking events. Cassidy met several judges from the ICJ, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, who discussed their experience with the Court. A highlight for Smith was the opportunity to attend proceedings at the International Criminal Court (ICC), an international organization and tribunal that investigates and tries individuals charged with the gravest crimes of concern to the international community: genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of aggression.

“We actually got to see proceedings—a cross-examination of a witness. We were able to see the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, which is what the Yugoslavia and Rwanda tribunals have become. We walked through the room where the Yugoslavian leaders were tried. Places I have only seen in textbooks, and here I am touching the glass. It was humbling.”

In addition to exploring the Palace of Justice, Cassidy toured the Egyptian Embassy, and the special mission for Palestine, where she shared a traditional Palestinian meal with representatives and learned more about their work to be more recognized as a nation.

For Cassidy, it was a very busy three weeks full of invaluable networking opportunities inside and outside of the classroom. She connected with members of the United Nations, energy regulators for the UK Government, and several people studying at the world’s top law schools.

“Connecting with people from such different backgrounds is really a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Some of the top people who are working in international law, and also, students who are, for example, working in Ukraine and trying to continue life while also dealing with the war. I spent time with practitioners from South America, and learned about the important work they are doing to support their nations.”



Now, completing her second year of study, Smith has continued her foray into international law, through her recent participation in the Jessup moot and through her coursework.

“I’m taking the international law and organizations course, which is very interesting. We’re focusing not just on the implementation of international law in Canada, but on international law in a broader sense, looking at the ICJ, the PCA, and the various treaties.”

Reflecting on her European experience, Smith said, “It was intense. It was school. But there was also that fantastic element of cultural exchange and non-traditional learning—the elements of learning that do not come from inside the classroom. I cannot say enough good things about studying abroad and these short courses in law. My advice to anyone who is on the fence, or worried that they are going alone, would be just do it, just go.”





Writing the rock

A conversation with Emily Hepditch

Second-year student Emily Hepditch has already made a name for herself as a talented author. She released her first children's book, *Sweater*, during her first year of law school, and in 2020, released her debut novel, *The Woman in the Attic*. The psychological thriller, set on the coast of rural Newfoundland, tells the story of Hannah, who returns home to transition her aging mother into assisted living. While packing her mother's things, Hannah discovers a dark secret sealed within the walls of her childhood home.

The novel won a slew of awards including the 2021 #NL Reads - Love Our Local Author award, Rakuten Kobo Emerging Writer Prize (Mystery), Gold Medal Winner - Independent Publisher Awards (Canada - East - Regional Fiction), and was selected as a finalist for Best First Novel - Crime Writers of Canada Awards.

Emily recently sat down with Nexus to discuss her inspiration, process, and passion for writing.

Can you tell us a little bit about your background?

I always say I grew up in St. John's because I live right on the boundary of the two towns, but I grew up in Mount Pearl, Newfoundland. I went to Memorial University and studied linguistics, psychology, and criminology. I wanted to be a speech pathologist for a long time, but when I got through my linguistics degree, I realized that wasn't the path I was most compelled to follow. As I was preparing to graduate, I really started to concentrate on my writing.

Was writing something you always enjoyed, or was it fueled by a particular experience or moment?

I always knew I wanted to be a writer. I've kept a journal since I was a small child, and always loved to read and to watch TV and movies. I was fascinated by stories and storytelling. As I got older, I started experimenting with creating my own stories. I eventually found the inspiration to stick to a story. It was when I began writing

longer pieces and committed to the journey that I realized how fun it was and realized that I wanted to do it long term.

Growing up in such a scenic landscape as Newfoundland and Labrador, it's no surprise that it's the setting for many of your books. What do you find most unique or inspiring about the land?

St. John's is notorious for being very hilly. You get in your car and drive in any direction for 20 minutes and you're going to find cliffs. Growing up, I was always inspired by the cliffy landscape overlooking the water. It's kind of funny to think about a cliff being a peaceful place, because it is also kind of scary, but it puts things into perspective—how small your problems may be in any particular moment.

When I started writing mysteries, it wasn't so much the land that inspired me, but the way Newfoundland is abandoned in a lot of ways.



Most people have abandoned the small communities for the cities. I remember driving and seeing a saltbox house that was alone and falling apart. I wondered who had lived there. Newfoundland has a barrenness geographically; you have these dramatic cliffs and views that are unbelievable. It has an eerie abandoned sort of history in certain parts. It seemed only natural that the land inspired me to write.

Why is it important for you to write about characters and settings from your home province?

I took a creative writing course when I was at Memorial with a very accomplished and incredible Newfoundland author, Lisa Moore. At that time, I was writing a novel prior to *The Woman in the Attic*, and it was not set in Newfoundland. Nothing I had ever written was really set specifically in Newfoundland. Ms. Moore asked me why I was choosing to do this. My answer was that I wanted to write something that was not just for my home, something that could be anywhere. Moore's advice was, "when you write pretending to

be from a place that you're not, it shows up." She told me, "you won't have the same genuineness as writing something set in your hometown."

I didn't really believe her at first. I decided to keep doing what I was doing. Then, when I wrote *The Woman in the Attic*, something clicked. It was just so natural to write something set in an area that I was from. That's been one of the most frequent comments about my writing. People will say, "oh, you nailed what it feels like to be in rural Newfoundland," or "you nailed what it feels like to be in St. John's." I think that goes back to what Lisa Moore so graciously told me. There's something easier and more natural when writing about your home. Even if I don't set all of my books in Newfoundland, I always want to honor Newfoundland in some way moving forward.

When you're starting a new writing project, what kind of research do you do to prepare?

It depends on the project and depends on what I'm writing about, of course. The direction of the story

informs how much research I need to do. For *The Woman in the Attic*, I was writing about a character who is experiencing dementia. I don't want to give any spoilers, but for a particular reason, I didn't want to be too accurate, if that makes sense. I did research, however, I scaled it back in a very calculated way.

My second novel, *Alone on the Trail*, tells the story of four backpackers who are very misinformed about the trail that they're following. I'm an experienced hiker, but I don't know everything. I certainly don't know a whole lot about overnight backpacking. I researched the hiker's route—the geography and the area. I read posts about people who have done it, but I tried not to make myself an expert as I was writing from the perspective of amateurs who make some very bad mistakes. I did not want little pieces of my own experience to slip in and ruin the plot.

What comes to you first when developing a new story, the plot, or the characters? How does that shape the way you build the rest of the story?

The characters, almost always. My writing is character driven; I like books that are character driven. I read procedurals, but I'm not typically in love with procedurals unless they have a very strong character element. It's definitely the characters that lead the story, and what I'm doing with the characters is what informs the plot.

This is something that I've always been interested in: How do you select the names for your characters?

For some stories, it's completely trial and error. I'm very driven by sound. I want a character to have a name that's catchy, punchy, that stays in your head. A lot of the time, they'll just come to me, and then I'll play with the sounds and the name until I find something that I like. Other times I will literally start a story because a name will appear in my head and not go away. I'm working on a complicated novel right now, it's quite a mess, but the character's name is Nora, Nora Mabrey. The name Nora was in my head for months. I've been working on this book for 3 years, but it's like Nora never went away. I knew because she was sticking around that I had to follow her story. When they don't go away, that's how I know that they're going to drive a full story.

I was reading that you have an interest in illustration. Would you ever be interested in designing the front cover of one of your books?

For *The Woman in the Attic*, I made a fake book cover, printed it out, and pasted it to my wall as inspiration. When the book was published, I jokingly said to my publisher, "here's the fake cover I made to inspire me to finish." He took it and said, "OK, great." My publisher went to the graphic designer, Graham Blair, who is an amazing artist—cannot give them a big enough shout out. Graham recreated the cover I'd made myself almost to a tee. Graham found a house in Newfoundland and was able to make a cover that not just reflected the vision but also represented Newfoundland. Graham's much more talented than I am, so I'm very happy to pass it along into more capable hands, but I would love to try it.

What is your favorite and least favorite part of the publishing process?

My least favorite part of the process is sharing my work. It sounds counterintuitive, but I find sharing what I've written extremely difficult. I don't come across as shy, but when it comes to my work and my writing, I'm very sheepish, I don't like to share it. Overcoming the fear of putting it out in the world is definitely the worst part for me. The few weeks after I finished *Alone on the Trail* were tough. I was convinced it was a bad novel, the worst thing I had ever written.

Once I get over the hurdle of sharing my work, my favorite part seeing the completed book. Going into Chapters and seeing it on the shelf and thinking, "oh my god, that's me." That's pretty cool.

Can you discuss your experience with the publishing industry?

This is a really important question, and actually ties into why I want to be a lawyer. I have a wonderful relationship with my publisher, I love working with them and have had a very positive experience thus far. Unfortunately, this is not the case for many writers.

I had a friend who's a writer say to me, "after what happened to me in my writing and publishing journey, I just don't know if I'm ever going to want to write another book." That was the day I realized I wanted to fight for writers.

So, you see your law degree fitting into your writing career?

Absolutely. Writing is what led me to law school. After publishing my novels, I saw authors and the way their contracts work. That led me to law school because I want to advocate for authors. I'm very interested in intellectual property as a whole, but especially interested in the area of authors rights and the publishing industry. My goal is to someday be a legal academic—I would love to teach law. I would like to research in particular ways that, through regulation, we can promote more contractual fairness in the publishing industry.

Publishing is a weird, unique little industry. Publishers are entirely at the mercy of creators. Without authors there is no publishing industry. Yet, authors are constantly believing that they have to jump at any agreement that is put in front of them. It is a very difficult industry to break into. You have a situation where there is unequal bargaining power because of the way the industry is set up. Authors have little power. You're taking agreements that are offered to you because that's your only option. You have a lot of opportunity for exploitation and for creators to be taken advantage of. As an academic or as a lawyer, I want to help create some sort of solution that makes contracts fairer for authors. Someone that takes the unconscionable clauses out of authors contracts, and helps authors advocate for themselves.

What are your future goals? Where do you see writing taking you next?

I recently signed with the Transatlantic Literary Agency in Toronto. I've been so fortunate for what I've experienced locally, but I'm hoping that we can get my books that are already published into other provinces and into the US.



Writing-wise, my next goal is to finish my current work in progress—a domestic psychological thriller. It’s my biggest piece as an author so far; I’m excited to hand that off to my agent and see if she can find the right home for it.

What does literary success look like for you?

Not to get too corny, but as a person who has wanted to be a writer from the time I was a small child, literary success was just holding a copy of my book in my hands. *The Woman in the Attic* was first released during the pandemic. My publisher set up the office so we could physically distance. This was when I signed copies of my book for the first time. To me, that was the peak of success, it was just that lifelong dream that was suddenly real.

I always promised myself I would never ever make writing about the accolades or the quantitative levels of success. I just feel so grateful and so lucky to have the opportunity to

write and to have people want to read my work. That is success for me, just having this opportunity because you know there’s just so many writers that wait for these opportunities. I never want to lose sight of the fact that I’ve been able to experience my biggest dream.

Thank you for taking the time to tell us about your writing. One final question, what advice would you give to aspiring writers or those who are just starting out?

Don’t quit. Writing is the most infuriating, boring, long, tedious, lonely process in the world. You are alone with your thoughts all the time—frustrated because nothing ever comes out right the first time. You have to write and rewrite, so you’re always frustrated. It’s a waiting game from the time you begin to when you’re a writer. Despite everything that you’re going to face, you cannot quit. As soon as you think it’s time to just hang up your pen, put it away forever,

opportunity could be knocking. You want to be there when the opportunity knocks and you want to be ready.

My second piece of advice is write for yourself. Do not ever let your yourself go to the place in your mind where you’re writing for an audience. You can’t please every reader and that’s OK. Not everybody is going to like your work, and that is OK. You need different opinions; you need different ways of thinking. Write what is true to yourself and write for yourself because that is going to be the writing that is the most authentic. That’s the writing that’s going to connect with people most genuinely.

Emily’s first two novels, *The Woman in the Attic*, and *Alone on the Trail*, as well as her children’s book, *Sweater*, are available for purchase from Flanker Press, and from bookstores across Atlantic Canada.

MARK BROWNE

to clerk at the Supreme Court of Canada



Third-year student Mark Browne has been selected to clerk for The Hon. Justice Suzanne Côté at the Supreme Court of Canada. Mark will begin his one-year term in August of 2024, following the completion of a clerkship at the Ontario Court of Appeal. For Browne, the clerkship represents an opportunity to continue a lifelong commitment to public service.

"Having sat in the legislature and been a part of the executive branch as a parliamentary secretary to a premier and a cabinet minister, I've sat on the inside of two of the three branches of government. The chance to work behind the judicial curtain is an incredible opportunity to learn immensely at the feet of legal giants and contribute to a very strong institution in our country."

The call from the Supreme Court came at a busy time for Browne. He was in Winnipeg preparing for a full day of mooting at the Jessup Moot on International Law. Just minutes away from their first moot on Friday, he and his team were straightening their ties and preparing their final notes when the phone rang. During the preparations for the Jessup, Browne's teammates became accustomed to him stepping out from time to time to take phone calls from former colleagues and past constituents from his time as a Member of Newfoundland and Labrador's House of Assembly. Their immediate reaction to his phone ringing just minutes before the moot was: "Mark, we don't

have time for your phone calls today."

"I, of course, stepped aside and took the call," said Browne. "On the other end was Justice Côté. We had a lovely conversation during which she asked me to come work with her and wished me luck in the moot."

After finishing the call, Mark briefly celebrated with his teammates before entering the moot where he and his partner presented arguments on the fine points of international law for two hours. It wasn't until after it was over that Mark had the opportunity to share the news with the team's coaches, Prof. Panezi and Dean Marin. More celebrating ensued.

"None of this would have been possible without the support of many people at UNB Law, particularly Prof. Jane Thompson, the head of our clerkship committee and my assigned mentor. I would also like to acknowledge my other esteemed referees, Dean Marin, Prof. La Forest and Prof. Perryman, who took time away from their busy work to write reference letters for me. Martha McClellan, our Career Services Officer, also assisted me in assembling my application."

Browne was struck by the Faculty's culture of mentorship and the support

he received from his fellow students.

"I had support from all corners: staff, faculty, and my fellow students. We are all very supportive of each other here at UNB Law and like to see each other succeed. At times, it felt like they were even more invested in the outcome than me. It was incredible to know that everyone was there for me no matter how things turned out."

As a member of a three-person clerkship team, Browne will work in both official languages to provide legal support to Justice Côté as she researches the law and writes her decisions. He has already connected with his fellow clerks for Justice Côté's chambers and is looking forward to developing new friendships and professional relationships in the nation's capital. He considers the opportunity to clerk at Canada's top court to be the ultimate formative experience for a legal career.

"The SCC is at the vanguard of our most pressing legal, economic, and social questions. I'm looking forward to contributing a small part in helping the court address some of those critical issues that impact Canadians. Justice Côté is an incredibly important voice on the Court and has a storied background as a litigator before going to the Bench. As it turns out,

we share a rural background and fishing heritage. She's from the Gaspé Peninsula in Québec and I am from the Burin Peninsula in Newfoundland and Labrador. I'm very much looking forward to developing a relationship with her."

Students also heading to the Federal Court, Tax Court of Canada and New Brunswick Court of Appeal

More UNB Law students will be clerking at courts across the country. Third-year students Kristen Connolly and Sean McEwan have accepted clerkship positions with the Tax Court of Canada, the federal court which deals with matters involving companies or individuals and tax issues with the Government of Canada. Recent graduate John Caldwell (JD '21) will clerk for Justice MacDonald at the Federal Court of Canada.

Second-year student Devon Gallacher is heading to the New Brunswick Court of Appeal, where she will clerk for The Hon. Chief Justice J.C. Marc Richard. An Ontario native, Gallacher completed her undergrad at the University of Guelph majoring in Child, Youth and Family Development with a minor in Criminal Justice. She will begin her clerkship in June of 2024.

"As I entered first-year, I didn't even know what a clerkship was. It wasn't until I attended one of the info sessions—and heard from professors who shared their clerkship experiences—that I realized this was a goal I wanted to work towards."

For Devon, the opportunity to work with a judge and better understand the reasoning behind their decisions is once-in-a-lifetime; a chance to gain insight that would prove helpful throughout a legal career. She echoes her classmate's acknowledgment of the support received throughout the application and interview process.

"Martha was hugely helpful throughout the process. She helped navigate the applications and provided lots of help troubleshooting. My faculty mentor worked tirelessly



with me on my writing samples and on the editing—and re-editing—of my cover letter. Also, I want to thank my referees, Professors Thomson, Bowley and John Bird."

After getting the call for an interview, Devon prepared by organizing a series of practice interviews with classmates and professors who had previously been through the clerkship interview process.

"These practice interviews were very useful; they helped me stay calm and feel prepared. I also did a lot of pacing around my living room, recording myself answering interview questions and listening to them back."

Devon is a member of the UNB Law articling and placement committee. A group that meets weekly with the Career Services Officer to discuss objectives, needs, and career-related opportunities for UNB Law students. The student committee then works as a liaison to their classmates to promote these events and opportunities, encourage participation, and offer support and leadership.

Devon is looking forward to gaining in-firm experience this summer at Gowlings WLG in Hamilton. While her time with the province's highest

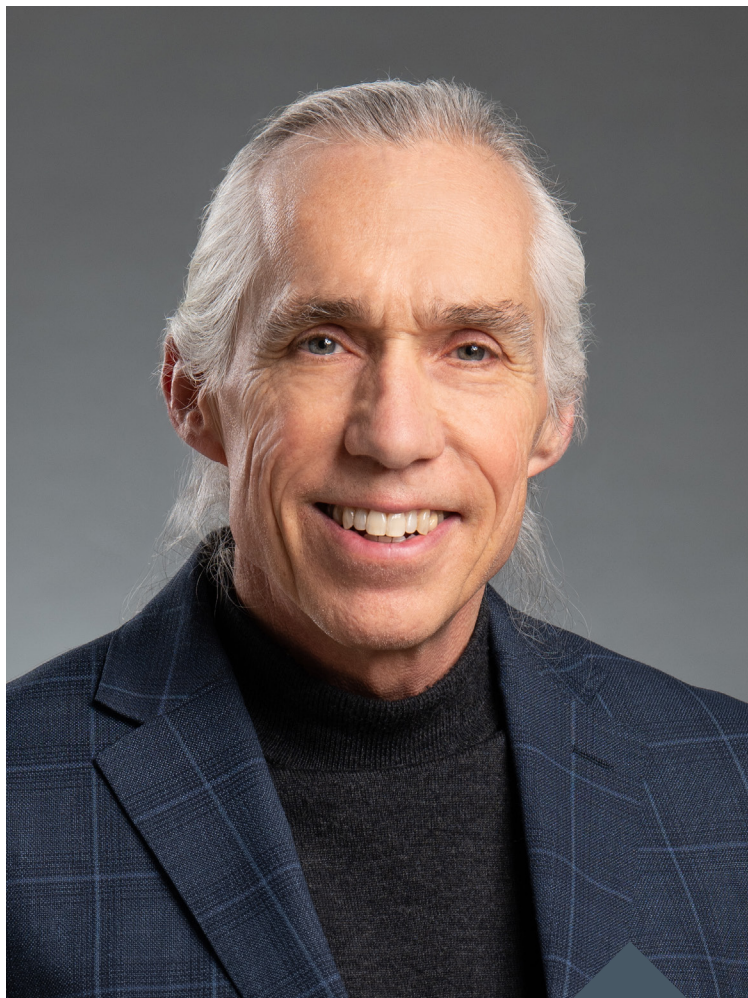
court is still over 12 months away, she is excited to have such a meaningful opportunity on the horizon.

"I'm looking forward to doing research primarily for the Chief Justice, but also for the other judges of the court as needed. We will be dealing with many complex legal issues—problems that could not be settled out of court and that are appealed on a matter of law. It is going to be challenging researching the law at such a granular level. It will also be an opportunity to canvass so many different areas of the law—criminal and family, and there could also be contractual issues or judicial review of administrative action. Working with these great legal minds only furthers my anticipation and excitement."

Congratulations to these impressive clerkship recipients. We would also like to wish good luck to UNB Law students who are set to begin clerkships this August: Patrick Leger (JD '22) and Katherine Peterson (JD '22) will clerk for justices David W. Stratas and Wyman W. Webb at the Federal Court of Appeal; Ben Roizes will clerk for the Federal Court of Canada's Hon. Justice Elizabeth Heneghan; and Daniel Escott (JD '22) and Isaac MacLellan (JD '22) will clerk at the Tax Court of Canada.

Prof. John Kleefeld

on new course offerings, research and dedicated service to UNB



Following his tenure as Dean (2017 to 2020), Professor John Kleefeld has been hard at work developing innovative course offerings for students, researching landmark decisions, and continuing his unwavering service to the University.

Designing career-focused coursework

Prof. Kleefeld has a long-standing interest in legal writing. He began his academic career as the Director of Legal Research and Writing at the University of British Columbia. He is the author of "Write Me a Memo," an academic article that is widely used in legal writing courses. It's no surprise he was approached to design and teach Advanced Legal Research and Writing.

"I've been enjoying it tremendously," said Prof. Kleefeld. "It's a small class of 18. We're doing lots of work that's designed to help law graduates write better, faster and with greater attention to clarity, purpose and audience."

“Prof. Kleefeld is an excellent professor,” said Kaely O’Neill (3L). “Not only is he an extremely skilled writer, but his lessons are clear, and his demeanour is kind and approachable. Most of his lessons are interactive and “work-shop” style, so students have a chance to apply what they are learning as they are learning it. Your future clients, opposing counsel, and judges will thank you for taking this course!”

Prof. Kleefeld has designed the course in two segments; the first focused on litigation/dispute-oriented writing—client advice letters, legal memos, factums, and judgments; the second focused on writing for transactions—contracts, wills, legislation, bylaws, and statutes. This semester, students have been working on dispute-related writing, producing a client opinion letter, a legal memo explaining research to a colleague, and a capstone assignment, where students choose either a factum for an appeal, a case comment, a judgment, or a tribunal decision.

“Some of the students have actually gone to small claims court and have watched cases. They are working with the adjudicator on their written decisions. It has made for a fantastic experiential opportunity.”

For the client opinion letter, Prof. Kleefeld split the class in two based on their choice to write on either family or criminal law. Students were then paired with a classmate from the other area of law to provide feedback.

“The focus behind the assignment is to teach students how to drop the legalese and write in a style that a layperson, untrained in the law, could understand. Students have told me that this was the biggest eye-opener for them. By third year they’re so used

to writing with all the legal jargon that it just rolls off their tongues—without them even thinking about it. This is the challenge.”

Peer-based learning and formative assessment are keystones of Prof. Kleefeld’s pedagogy. Students first work in pairs to provide feedback to each other on their draft assignment submissions. They are then given the opportunity to implement this feedback into their next submission, which is then reviewed and graded by Prof. Kleefeld. They can then choose to incorporate his comments into a final submission for an improved grade. Students are marked on both their work and their ability to provide useful feedback to their peers.

“I think what’s so effective about formative assessment is that you are continually learning from what you’ve done. If you think about it, when you learn music or if you learn to drive a car, that’s actually the way that most people learn. What did I do right? What did I do wrong? How can I improve the next time? Then try it again with the new information you have.”

Ever the innovator, Prof. Kleefeld has also incorporated the new—and potentially game-changing—artificial intelligence chatbot ChatGPT into his coursework. He’s done a presentation,

demonstrating ChatGPT’s potential to both generate new text that lawyers can then modify, and to analyze existing text to improve its readability, to correct grammatical errors, and even to search for technical flaws in content.

“I know there’s been a lot of concern about ChatGPT in academia—it being used for plagiarism. In my view, lawyers are going to be using this technology, there will actually be an expectation that you have the facility to use it, and it is important that we figure out ways to do it ethically.”

In one in-class exercise, students drafted a client non-engagement letter. In this scenario, students had just met with the client who had brought documents that they quickly realized were pseudo law. They needed to advise the client that they could not represent them, and that they were returning the documents. Prof. Kleefeld asked the students to write this letter as quickly as possible and time it. The average for the class was around 10 minutes. Prof. Kleefeld then asked ChatGPT to complete the same task, which it did in around 90 seconds.

“It wrote a very good letter that needed little editing. I even showed them how to prompt ChatGPT to edit the letter it had just written. One of the students then asked, ‘What’s my

role? What's the point in three years of Law School?' The point is that you are now free to do higher level work—to focus your advanced skills on tasks that require more time and effort."

A snail, ginger beer, and beyond

Prof. Kleefeld's latest legal research project focuses on the 1932 landmark decision, *Donoghue v Stevenson*, that established the principle of negligence in tort law and has been influential in shaping the modern legal landscape. Prof. Kleefeld's research aims to shed new light on the impact of the case by studying its global reach.

"This can be thought of as the initial stage of a larger project on how judicial cases are adopted and then transmitted across different jurisdictions over time. Some cases disproportionately influence the law's development. In constitutional law, an example would be the famous *Person's* case, where the court not only advanced women's rights, but also framed the Constitution as a living tree capable of adaptation over time. In the area of tort law, *Donoghue* is such a case—it heralded the modern law of negligence."

For Kleefeld, the influence of *Donoghue* is undeniable. The interesting work comes from measuring this influence—measuring its reach, its reception, its use over time, its influence in a given jurisdiction or across multiple jurisdictions, its use at various levels of court, and its use compared to other influential cases. This project aims to answer these questions and model the data—beginning with *Donoghue* and eventually moving on to other seminal cases.

"Practically the aim is to collect, index, and organize all citations to *Donoghue*, wherever they've occurred, regardless of any field of law to which they relate, and then to depict that data in a form that's very accessible and informative using graphs and an interactive world map. I would then make this data set publicly available for analysis by others."

His work is well underway. To date, Prof. Kleefeld has collected over 3,000 citations from over 50 countries. In 2022, he presented his initial data set at the Law Society of Scotland's *Donoghue v Stevenson 90th Anniversary Conference*. He will resume work on the project this summer, continuing to present and update the research.

In addition to his work on the "immortal snail," Prof. Kleefeld expects to begin his work editing the

fifth edition of *Dispute Resolution: Readings and Case Studies*—a collection of chapters by different authors on conflict analysis, negotiation, mediation, and arbitration.

"These subjects continue to be timely, and some of them, like online dispute resolution, have seen a sea change since the last edition published in 2016. Before the pandemic, we were seeing the start of online hearings and mediations, but, of course, we saw an exponential increase with COVID. Online dispute resolution now can be seen as its own skill set."

Commitment to serving the University

In addition to teaching and research, the third pillar for a faculty member is service to the institution. Prof. Kleefeld has volunteered on countless committees both within the Faculty of Law and for the greater UNB community.

This year, he was a member of the UNB Law admissions committee. His community committee work included acting on the Student Standing and Promotion Committee, an appeal committee that hears from students who are dissatisfied with their grade(s), or who have requested changes to their transcripts due to medical or compassionate grounds. He is also a member of the Dean of Arts search committee.

Outside of the University, Prof. Kleefeld is a member of the Canadian National Negotiation Competition (CNNC) organizing committee. A former negotiation and mediation coach, he now helps handle the logistics of the event, including helping draft the negotiation problems.

Prof. Kleefeld's dedication to his students and contributions to legal research and the University are undeniable. While he acknowledges the merits of all three commitments of a faculty member, there is one that stands out above the rest.

"What animates me the most, what drives me the most, is teaching. For me, there is nothing quite like the feeling you get when you've made a difference—when you see the light go on and you see the enthusiasm. Even after graduation, when students write to tell you something you have done has made a difference in their practice or lives, that's really one of the main things that has kept me going in this career for over 20 years now."

Prof. Jane Thomson

*explores
discrimination in
the private law*



When she's not busy teaching, organizing and coaching moots, and helping UNB Law students secure clerkships across the country, Professor Jane Thomson is studying how Canadian courts deal with the issue of discrimination within the private law.

"We have some pretty strong anti-discrimination legislation and constitutional laws in place in Canada," said Prof. Thomson, "but those only pertain to certain corners of the law. For example, section 15 of the *Charter* only applies when there's a government entity involved. Human rights laws do apply to instances of discrimination between private individuals, but they are restricted to specific legal scenarios such as employment or public accommodations. There are other areas of law that are not subject to these

“We really overhauled the textbook for this latest edition. We did a lot of updating—cutting and adding. I injected a lot on family law because that’s another interest of mine. That was a real pleasure—adding more material about the history of certain family law remedies.”

juggernauts or any other sort of anti-discrimination statutes—this is true in particular for the areas of wills, private trusts, and some contracts.”

Prof. Thomson is interested in how our justice system, and by extension we as a society, ensure that this corner of the private law is not being used as a vehicle to perpetuate discrimination that would not be accepted in any other facet of the law or Canadian society. To what level does that discrimination need to rise for courts to take action, and what action should be taken?

According to Prof. Thomson, in Canada, the main way we address discrimination that falls outside the ambit of the *Charter* and human rights law is a common law doctrine of public policy.

“This is a multifaceted tool that a court can use to quash an otherwise legal operation of the common law if it offends public policy. In Canada, certain instances of discrimination perpetuated within the private law have been found contrary to public policy—why and how this happens is what I study.”

Prof. Thomson is currently working on several papers exploring this concept, including an examination of a recent application by the University of Western Ontario to remove the name of an emeritus history professor from six scholarships due to, as exposed by other academics, his personal, white supremacist views. The matter is currently before the courts.

“Western is afraid that just having this person’s name on the scholarship will tarnish the institution’s reputation and cause harm. It’s a very interesting case as it requires the exercise of a Court’s inherent jurisdiction to alter the terms of a charitable trust.”

Prof. Thomson is co-authoring a paper with Dean Marin examining a series of cases concerned with potentially discriminatory conditions/requirements of some University scholarships.

“These scholarships have discriminatory terms—with eligibility limited to certain races or genders. How are these dealt with? Is it the court’s responsibility to apply the doctrine of public policy? Can a

human rights tribunal deal with the matter? Does the *Charter* apply? These are Scholarships, in some cases, administered by public institutions. Dean Marin has written a paper examining whether the *Charter* applies to Universities, so we’re kind of combining our research interests.”

Invitations to conferences across North America and beyond

Although hampered by the pandemic, Prof. Thomson is grateful for the recent re-emergence of opportunities to present her research at national and international academic conferences and events. This June, she is off to Utrecht University in the Netherlands, for the tenth annual Berkeley Center on Comparative Equality & Anti-Discrimination Law (BCEE) Conference. Prof. Thomson along with co-author Ashleigh Keall of the University of Sussex, School of Law, will present their paper, *Silent All These Years: Public Policy, Expressive Harm, and the Legacy of Christie v York Corporation*.

“We look at the now infamous 1939 SCC decision, *Christie v York*, in which the Supreme Court of Canada declined to find that a Montreal tavern’s “whites only” policy was contrary to public policy. We examine the legacy of this decision, its importance, and why, in our minds, it must be overturned.”

In July, alongside colleague Prof. Greg Bowley, she will present at *Obligations X – Private Law and the State*, the Tenth Biennial Conference on the Law of Obligations in Banff. Their paper, *The Public Limits of Private Justice*, offers an account and justification of the application of the public policy doctrine to aspects of contract law.

Collaborating with property scholar Bruce Ziff

Prof. Thomson met esteemed property scholar Professor Bruce Ziff when he delivered UNB Law’s Ivan C. Rand Memorial Lecture in 2019. The pair hit it off, and have since developed a close friendship, sharing their love of all things property law and collaborating on various projects.



“Bruce is one of my favorite humans. Before the Rand, I only knew him as this very famous law professor. One of those few academics in Canada—right up there with Peter Hogg or Rollie Thompson—who the Supreme Court will just say their name as an academic source. He’s that for property law. It was actually some of his writing that initially got me interested in this area of the law. We share a similar viewpoint.”

While discussing the finer points of a particular case, Prof. Ziff mentioned his upcoming retirement and asked Prof. Thomson if she would join two other academics to take over as a co-author of his renowned textbook, *Principles of Property Law*—the quintessential Canadian text on the subject.

“I was taken aback,” laughed Thomson. “I was at that time, an untenured, very junior professor. Of all the people in Canada to ask, me? I thought it was a joke, but he was very serious.”

While driving Prof. Ziff back to the airport, Prof. Thomson decided that Bruce Ziff’s offer was an opportunity she could not possibly pass up. Prof. Thomson joined Professors Eran Kaplinsky and Malcolm Lavoie, both of the University of Alberta, as co-editors, and their work began.

“We really overhauled the textbook for this latest edition. We did a lot of updating—cutting and adding. I injected a lot on family law because that’s another interest of mine. That was a real pleasure—

adding more material about the history of certain family law remedies.”

In addition to bringing perspectives on family law, Prof. Thomson also infused the text with perspectives from the Maritimes and Atlantic Canada.

“It was really fun being the one Maritimer on the book. Prior editions are really Alberta-focused, but I think I managed to inject a bunch of Atlantic Canadian content.”

The proofs are submitted and the eighth edition of the text is set for a spring release. When asked how it felt to see this project through, Prof. Thomson said, “It’s going to be kind of surreal to have my name on a textbook—again being so junior. My co-authors are full professors. I feel a little bit of imposter syndrome.”

In February of this year, Prof. Thomson was invited to present a paper at the University of Alberta at a symposium in honour of Ziff. It was a fitting way for Prof. Thomson, and a number of fellow academics (and Bruce Ziff fans) to send him off into retirement.

“Bruce retired just as the pandemic hit, so U of A couldn’t really do anything for him. It was wonderful to see so many law profs, constitutional scholars, and just people who loved him come from all over Canada to give papers in honour of him. Some talked about his early life or his teaching methods; others told fun stories. There were folk musicians who played beautiful songs in honour of him, and he gave a really fun speech. The next day—this is like peak nerd—we went on a walking tour of Edmonton to look at the locations of different property law cases mentioned in the textbook!”

With a forthcoming textbook, a slew of papers nearing completion, and a busy summer conference schedule, Prof. Thomson is firing on all cylinders. She has no plans of slowing down, even next year while on sabbatical. In addition to continuing to produce high-profile academic research, Prof. Thomson is spearheading an initiative to host the McKelvey Cup moot (the regional qualifier for the Sopinka) at UNB Law for the first time in over 23 years.

“This is going to be really big. We’re working to set up a rotating schedule for the McKelvey Cup, that will see the competition hosted by all of the Atlantic schools, UNB Law, Schulich School of Law, and Université de Moncton.”

Stay tuned for more on that in our next issue.

HERE IS WHAT SOME OF

Our Law Alumni

HAVE BEEN UP TO SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE

2022/23 King's Counsel

Congratulations to the 14 UNB Law Alumni, who received the King's Counsel designation in recognition of their high level of personal and professional integrity, and for their outstanding contributions to the legal profession.

New Brunswick

- Clarence Bennett, K.C. (LLB '04)
- Catherine Bowlen, K.C. (LLB '84)
- Matthew W. Cripps, K.C. (LLB '91)
- Jamie Eddy, K.C. (LLB '92)
- Lisa Keenan, K.C. (LLB '90)
- Rodney MacDonald, K.C. (LLB '82)
- Christopher T. Titus, K.C. (LLB '83)

Newfoundland & Labrador

- Susan M. King, K.C. (LLB '97)
- Jonathan E. Noonan, K.C. (LLB '04)

Nova Scotia

- Patrick C. Lamey, K.C. (LLB '92)
- Timothy A. McLaughlin, K.C. (LLB '90)

Prince Edward Island

- Andrew Campbell, K.C. (LLB '91)
- Kevin J. Kiley, K.C. (LLB '93)
- Perlene J. Morrison, K.C. (LLB '97)



'80

JAMES LEMESURIER, K.C.

(LLB) was named a Fellow of The College of Labor and Employment Lawyers. His practice with Stewart McKelvey (Saint John, NB) focuses on advising and representing employers on all aspects of employment and

labour relations law. He has particular experience in construction labour relations, police labour relations and discipline, and workplace health and safety law.

'90

MICHAEL G. SHERRARD

(LLB) was named a Fellow of The College of Labor and Employment Lawyers. His practice with Sherrard Kuzz LLP (Toronto, ON) serves both a national and international client base in the public and private spheres. He is the Former Chair of the National Labour and Employment Law Section of the Canadian Bar Association and the Labour and Employment Law Section of the Ontario Bar Association.



'91

LYDIA BUGDEN, K.C. (LLB) was appointed to the Board of Directors of Net Zero Atlantic. Net Zero Atlantic's mission is to lead applied research and contribute to projects that enable the transition of Atlantic Canada's energy system to a carbon-neutral future through collaboration with academia, governments, private sector, Indigenous Peoples and other non-government organizations.

THE HON. MATTHEW CRIPPS (LLB) was appointed judge of the Provincial Court of New Brunswick. Judge Cripps boasts a career spanning over 30 years in the legal field, primarily with the Department of Justice and Public Safety. He most recently served as a hearing officer with the Court of King's Bench.



CHERYL HODDER, K.C. (LLB),

was appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Nova Scotia Barristers Society. Hodder brings 30+ years of legal, governance and executive business experience to this important leadership position. As CEO, she will oversee the regulation of the legal profession and the administration of justice across

the province, including accreditation, ethical standards, professional responsibility, complaints, and practice standards.

'92

KELLY VANBUSKIRK, K.C.

(LLB) was appointed to the Whistleblowing Canada advisory board. In addition to his strong labour & employment practice with Lawson Creamer, Kelly is a part-time instructor at UNB Law, teaching Employment Law & Trial Practice.



'05

JORDAN K. BROWN (LLB) has joined the partnership at Cox & Palmer in Charlottetown, PEI. Brown's practice focuses on corporate & commercial law, real property transactions, and general litigation. He has appeared in all levels of Court within Prince Edward Island.

'08

PATRICIA BEH (LLB '08) was appointed senior advisor to the president, government relations and strategic initiatives for Memorial University. In this role, Ms. Beh is responsible for the development, implementation and evaluation of pan-university, multi-campus stakeholder relations strategies.



'94

CHANTELLE D. MACDONALD-NEWHOOK, K.C.

(LLB) was appointed vice-chair of the Labour Relations Board of Newfoundland & Labrador. Ms. MacDonald Newhook spent seventeen years in the public service in both legal and executive roles with the Government of Newfoundland and

Labrador before establishing her private legal practice in 2022 as a neutral arbitrator, mediator, and investigator.

THE HON. THOMAS J. JOHNSON (LLB) was appointed Judge of the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador. Justice Johnson spent his entire career with O'Dea, Earle, where his practice focused primarily on civil litigation in the areas of administrative law, labour law, employment law, professional liability insurance, and public utilities regulation.

'95

STEPHANIE HICKMAN, K.C. (LLB) was appointed Chair of the Board of Directors at Cox & Palmer. Hickman is a partner in the St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador office. Her practice focuses on construction, commercial, and energy, providing strategic and practical advice to multi-national owners, operators, and large contractors throughout the region. She is also the Chair of the Cox & Palmer Construction Group and a Fellow of the esteemed Canadian College of Construction Lawyers.

'11

TOM KEELER (LLB) has joined the partnership at McInnes Cooper in Charlottetown, PEI. Tom has a broad litigation practice focusing on securities litigation, commercial and insurance litigation, and commercial planning and development matters.

'15

ROBERT MROZ (JD) has joined the partnership at McInnes Cooper in Halifax, NS. Rob's bilingual litigation practice focuses on commercial litigation and insurance defence. He has represented clients at all levels of court in Nova Scotia.

'16

ALLISON PHILPOTT (JD) has joined the partnership at Cox & Palmer in St. John's Newfoundland & Labrador. Her practice focuses on corporate and commercial law in the areas of insolvency, financing, business restructuring, and M&A.

'98

THE HON. THOMAS P. LAUGHLIN (LLB) was appointed Judge of the Court of Appeal of Prince Edward Island. Justice Laughlin was a partner with Stewart McKelvey (Charlottetown, PEI), where he maintained a litigation practice focused in the areas of criminal, administrative, and health law. He served as President of the Prince Edward Island Branch of the Canadian Bar Association and as a member of the CBA's national board of directors, and as chairperson of the CBA's national policy committee.



Introducing the **Black Law Students Association**

Student-led organizations play an important role in helping students succeed in law school and leave prepared for their legal careers. These groups help build a sense of community and create networking opportunities for students. They provide students with opportunities to develop leadership skills, to engage in academic and professional activities that complement the academic curriculum, and to connect with other students with shared interests.

The need for such organizations is perhaps best illustrated by law students who come from historically marginalized groups. The Black Law Students Association (BLSA) plays a vital role in creating a supportive and inclusive environment at UNB Law. Through programming and events, the BLSA provides a platform for

students to connect with each other, share experiences and resources, and advocate for policies and initiatives that promote equity and diversity within the law school—and the greater legal profession.

Briana Hartley (3L) and Kelsey Sibanda (2L) lead UNB's chapter of the BLSA.

"The BLSA was formed to help remove institutionalized barriers facing black Canadians as they move through law school and into the legal profession," said Hartley. "The UNB chapter is focused on promoting black interests and perspectives on campus to encourage black applicants to attend law school and to support black students through networking and social opportunities while at law school."

“The BLSA was formed to help remove institutionalized barriers facing black Canadians as they move through law school and into the legal profession.”

One of the BLSA’s most successful events this past academic year was a collaborative effort with LGBTQ+ student society, OUTLaw. The joint event, *Taking up Space: Being Authentically You in the Legal Profession*, featured speakers Hadiya Roderique and Connie Campbell.

“The panel-led discussion focused on how black and LGBTQ+ law students and grads can confidently enter, maneuver, and thrive in a space where they are considered an outsider or different,” said Hartley. “It was a very important discussion for law students who are preparing to enter the workforce.”

Another important mandate of the BLSA is building awareness and working to address low black enrollment within law schools. The BLSA hosts a law school application clinic, an information session for black students interested in attending law school. They learn about what law school is like and the application process—information related to personal letters and discretionary application processes—all with the goal of getting black students to apply.

“For some, the whole process and even attending law school can be quite intimidating or seem out of reach,” said Sibanda. “We want to show them that if you work hard, study hard, and you have the motivation, then you can do it.”

Connecting with BLSA chapters across Canada

The BLSA is a member of the national chapter, the Black Law Students’ Association of Canada. They are

connected with chapters across the country, whom they communicate with regularly and network with at an annual conference. This national conference provides a platform to discuss current issues within the black community, career development opportunities, and connects law students with inspiring black people in the legal industry. This February, both Hartley and Sibanda attended the 32nd annual national conference in Halifax, NS.

“The conference is all about promoting awareness and fostering engagement with black law students,” said Hartley. “It is a social opportunity, not just networking, but a chance to build a sense of togetherness. There is also the educational element—daily panels featuring black lawyers, academics, and social advocates who work in predominantly black communities.”

Hartley and Sibanda attended a panel on community advocacy presented by a group of community leaders and criminal defense lawyers who discussed ways lawyers can make a difference in black communities. They also attended a panel on abolition and criminal law, a meaningful discussion on criminal law and its disproportionate prosecution of indigenous and black persons.

For Sibanda, attending the national conference was unforgettable.

“As a student, being at a conference with so many inspirational members of our community including students, lawyers, and judges, and hearing stories of their challenges and how they overcame those challenges which lead to their success was incredible.”

In her first year at UNB Law, Sibanda served on the national chapter as a BLSA Canada communications committee member. She provided marketing and communications support and hosted episodes of the BLSA Canada Fireside Chat Series, interviewing Paul Davis, Partner at McMillan LLP and Justice David St. Pierre, of the Provincial Court of British Columbia (Port Coquitlam).

“It was a great experience working with the BLSA national chapter last year. I had the opportunity to work with talented members of the legal community and build meaningful connections with them.”

A call for support

The presence of BLSA at UNB Law is essential in fostering a more diverse and equitable law school and legal community. The BLSA has focused much of its attention on establishing mentorship opportunities for black law students and undergrad and high school students who may wish to pursue a career in law.

“We are really working hard to increase the number of black applicants at UNB Law,” said Hartley. “One of the main ways we are doing this is through community outreach. We are looking for alumni who may be interested in volunteering as mentors for black students, or who would be willing to speak at our events to share their experience and insight.”

If you are interested in getting involved with UNB’s Black Law Students Association, please email Kelsey Sibanda (ksibanda@unb.ca).

WELCOME

to the Faculty of Law

UNB Law is proud to introduce two new staff members who have recently joined the team. Mark Walma has been appointed Manager of Academic Affairs and Student Services, and Nat Perry has assumed the role of Wellness Advisor. These additions to the law school promise to bring a new level of support and expertise to our academic and wellness initiatives.

Mark Walma



Mark holds an LLB from the University of Toronto as well as a Master of Arts in English Literature from McMaster University. Lawyer, author, journalist, human rights specialist, government policy analyst, and most recently, Student Services leader here at UNB, Mark brings a deep and varied experience to the Manager role and will support the Academic Affairs and Student Services team in continuing to provide an exceptional experience for students in the Faculty.

Mark is responsible for the administrative functions related to the Faculty's programs. Together with a team of five support staff—IT support, Wellness Advisor, Career Services Officer, Academic Affairs Coordinator, and General Office Administrator—the Manager ensures that the academic advice and decisions of the Faculty of Law, its Dean, and Associate Dean are implemented.

"I am excited to be given the opportunity to support an exceptional team of people committed to the success of our students and the support of the academic mission of the

“We are here to support students as they face challenges—academic and personal—meeting their needs from the moment they arrive to the moment they graduate and beyond.”

Faculty. We are here to support students as they face challenges—academic and personal—meeting their needs from the moment they arrive to the moment they graduate and beyond. The law school is, in many ways, an independent entity, so we want to make sure that students have people right in the building they can turn to when they need help.”

Mark and the team spend much of their time focused on academic affairs, scheduling tests and exams, supporting students who have to write makeups or have deferred exams, working with the Accessibility Center for accommodations, and much more. In addition to these day-to-day functions, Mark is also taking on several longer-term projects with Dean Marin and Associate Dean Cotter.

While only a few months into his new role, Mark is extremely positive about the direction of the law school.

“There’s this feeling of optimism here—that we’re moving forward with lots of momentum. We have a strong Dean, a strong Associate Dean, and fantastic alumni, students, and faculty. There’s a vision; we know where we’re going and it’s just really exciting. It’s even more special to be working with a group of people who support each other so strongly and are ready and willing to jump in and help out any time.”

Mark’s extensive experience in both law and post-secondary institutions make him an ideal candidate for his new role. After graduating and completing his articles, Mark co-founded Fazakas Walma in the West End of Hamilton, Ontario, where he specialized in real estate, corporate commercial law, and wills and estates. Following his time in private practice,

Mark shifted his focus to serving students in some of Canada’s top universities. He served as the Equity Services Advisor at the University of Western Ontario and later as the Director of Human Rights and Equity at McMaster University. He was recruited to UNB in 2008 to establish the university’s first-ever Human Rights Office. In his most recent position as the Assistant Vice President, Student Services, on UNB’s Fredericton campus, Mark oversaw a wide range of services that supported approximately 10,000 students from UNB and STU, including 1,000 students living in residence. He skillfully managed five divisions with a total of 135 full and part-time staff members.

“I very much enjoyed my work with Student Services. UNB is fortunate to have an amazing group of professionals supporting its students on the Fredericton campus who do extremely meaningful work. That being said, I am looking forward to a new challenge in the Faculty of Law, working with a fantastic team who can focus on a smaller group of students.”

Mark is an avid writer. Working with Emond Montgomery in Toronto, he has published a textbook on advanced residential real estate transactions, and has co-authored textbooks on corporate law, and police power and procedures. Mark also worked with his sister Lynn (an Ontario-based graphic artist and designer) to create the *Abigail Massey at McAdam Station* storybooks for young people that have raised tens of thousands of dollars to support the preservation and refurbishment of the historic McAdam Railway Station in rural New Brunswick.

Nat Perry



Nat brings a wealth of education, training, and experience to her new role, including a Master of Education (Counselling), Life Skills Coaching and Mental Health First Aid certification, Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST), as well as more than six years of experience helping students in various roles here at UNB.

“Supporting those who are ready to make positive changes in their lives is my passion. I’m here to help students who may be facing barriers or struggling with behaviour changes to move forward and achieve their goals.”

In this new role, Nat is responsible for developing and implementing a wellness strategy for the Faculty of Law. Nat creates and facilitates learning activities and workshops to promote student wellness and offers one-on-one coaching and support for students facing challenges in their personal and academic lives, as well as help in navigating the many resources available to students both inside and outside the University.

“My aim is to help our students appreciate the importance of prioritizing health and wellness as they move through law school and in their future practice. Lawyers face unique

challenges, and while managing deadlines and expectations, making time to practice behaviours that support their own healthy functioning is key. By addressing mental and physical health issues, and providing skill-building opportunities for students, we can cultivate a healthier community of professionals, creating better outcomes in both their personal and professional lives.”

Much of Nat’s one-on-one coaching and support work is focused on capacity and skill building, promoting effective problem solving, and accountability coaching. She has already seen significant demand for her services since joining the law school in January.

Sometimes, students just need the opportunity to slow down for a second and get some clarity on what they are trying to achieve and if the things they’re doing are helping them achieve it. We work together, setting achievable goals and charting a course forward. I’ve worked with students who need help navigating conflicts, prioritizing tasks, tackling their perfectionism, and managing their home life and academics. By offering them helpful tools and facilitating meaningful conversations, my goal is to help our students not only succeed here in law school but also thrive in the profession.”

Nat has had a busy few months. She has collaborated with the Associate Dean’s office and the LSS to organize regular yoga sessions at the law school. She has organized a mindfulness experience and hopes to provide weekly meditation sessions. She has created a number of wellness resources, including a SharePoint site that will be launching soon. She is also in talks with a nutritionist to organize

presentations on the mind-body connection of healthy eating and its effects on stress and overall wellness.

Nat is hoping the students themselves will help shape much of the programming that will come in the fall. She plans to launch a student survey to collect feedback on recent programming and to assess what the needs and barriers are for UNB Law students.

“One of the trends I am seeing is students can confuse stress with anxiety. Stress gets a lot of negative press in our society, and it’s easy to get the impression that if you’re stressed then that may mean you’re not handling things the ‘right way’ or that it means your mental health is failing. Sometimes students just need to hear that it’s okay to be stressed it’s an appropriate response to law school. Stress can help us focus, and keep us motivated. It’s when we lose the feeling of ‘this is stressful and we can do this!’ and it turns into ‘this is too stressful, and I can’t do this anymore’ and it transforms into overwhelming—that’s when it becomes a concern. Stress, in many forms, will always be a part of our lives; the key is to practice keeping it manageable.”

Dean Marin sees this new position as a crucial step in UNB Law’s vision to be a student-centred law school and leader in wellness and mental health.

“To become competent and fulfilled legal professionals, students must possess the ability to effectively cope with adversity and cultivate habits that promote both mental and physical wellbeing. We are investing in our students. It is important that they feel supported and have resources available right in the building,” he said.

In Memoriam



Vernon B. Copp, QC (BCL '50)
1927 - 2022

Lieutenant, The New Brunswick Scottish Canadian Army; Captain, The Highland Light Infantry Fusiliers; B.A. University of New Brunswick (1948); Bachelor of Law, UNB Law School (1950); Beaverbrook Scholar (1952); Masters of Law, London School of Economics (1952); appointed to Queen's Counsel (1965); Alderman, Galt City Council (1968-1971); principal legal counsel, City of Cambridge, (1973-2004); second recipient of Coulter Osborne Award, Waterloo Region Law Association (2004).

Predeceased by wife Bernice (nee Green/Nevard) and son Christopher (1956-2019).

Without a wisp of snobbery nor a care for the elevated social status it inevitably bestowed, you took the responsibilities of being a professional very seriously, and tirelessly applied your skills to your community. You sat on countless boards, volunteered with numerous organizations, and built a highly reputable law practice with your loyal partner and dear friend of 50 years, John Cosman. Being awarded the Coulter Osborne Award in 2004 by your peers was a crowning achievement for an admirable professional career. With "integrity, comity and beneficence in professional practice and public life" you "upheld the highest traditions of the profession." The rest is silence.

O, how we'll miss you, Dad.



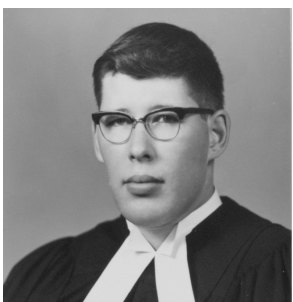
Arthur Samuel Wakim, QC (BCL '62)
1937 - 2022

[Sam] was an assistant Crown Attorney in Toronto, followed by the position of Senior Investigation Counsel at the Ontario Securities Commission. He was employed at Weir Foulds LLP for over 30 years. Although a life-long Conservative, he was known and respected by persons of all political parties and of numerous occupations.

Sam was an only boy with eight older sisters, and as such he was an unwavering advocate for women's education and employment issues throughout his life.

Politics was a part of Sam's DNA. From his early years, he was involved in the Conservative Party as an ordinary member or in leadership roles. In 1962, he was Private Secretary to the Honourable Walter Dinsdale, Minister of Northern Affairs and Natural Resources, under the leadership of Prime Minister John Diefenbaker. During this time, he travelled the northern part of Canada and the DEW Line.

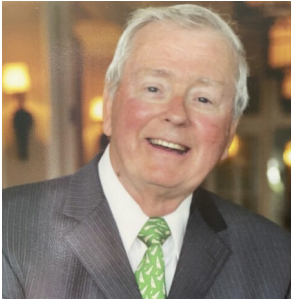
In 1979, Sam was elected as the first M.P. for the new federal riding of Don Valley East. Upon his return to the private sector, he was elected to the boards of directors of leading Canadian institutions such as Canadian Airlines and the Canadian Opera Company.



Peter A. MacNutt, QC (BCL '65)
1940 - 2022

The death occurred at the Dr. Everett Chalmers Hospital on Tuesday, July 26, 2022 of Peter Armstrong MacNutt, Q.C. of Fredericton, age 82 years. Survived by brother James (Barbara) MacNutt, nieces Jane and Carolyn and their children Charlotte and Mark, and Jack and Emma.

Predeceased by his parents, Erskine Keir and Nora Jean MacNutt.



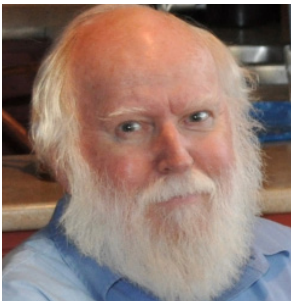
Patrick Gorman, QC (BCL '66)

1941 - 2022

[Pat] was a founding member and senior partner of Gorman Nason Law Firm, where he worked until his retirement. He was appointed as Queen's Council in 1986 and served on the Governing Board of the Barrister's Society and the Saint John Law Society. He was awarded an honorary lifetime membership of the Law Society of NB.

Pat was active in supporting his community. Some of his contributions included being an elected member of the Saint John School Board, President of Simond's Minor Hockey Association, a member of the Rocmaura Board of Directors, a member of St. Ann's Church Financial Committee, and a member of the Knights of Columbus.

He was a devoted husband, father, son, brother, and grandfather. He cherished time with his family, especially Sunday breakfasts. He loved to travel and visited many places around the world with his wife and children.



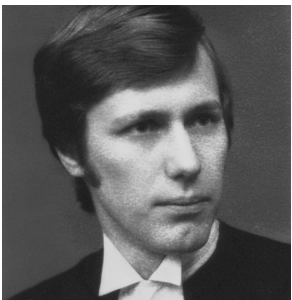
James Darryl S. Innes, QC (LLB '69)

1942 - 2022

Born in 1942, in Moncton, [Darryl] was the oldest son of the late James & Burton (Pike) Innes.

Darryl graduated from Acadia University (BComm 1965), UNB Law School (1969) and soon opened Innes & Bossé Law Firm, where he practiced for his entire career. While best known for his ethical legal practice, he was most at home listening to music (everything from Mozart to John Denver) and walking the land on his Stoney Acres Farm in Elgin.

Darryl was a kind, caring and intelligent man who believed in the importance of community. Few knew of his many charitable contributions to affordable housing, education and legal assistance as well as being a fierce supporter of Moncton Headstart.



Glen J. Larsen (LLB '71)

1945 - 2023

Born in New Glasgow on February 15, 1945, [Glen] was the son of the late Dr. Christian Larsen and N. Eli (Jacobsen) Larsen. Glen graduated from Dalhousie University in 1967 and graduated from the University of New Brunswick, Faculty of Law. He was admitted to the bar June 1, 1970.

Glen is survived by his three boys: Christian (Sheri) of Pennfield, Todd of St. George, and Jeff (Manuela) of Whitehorse, Yukon; his granddaughter: Eli Sandra Louise and his grandson: Jacob Lucas. Glen started his career as a Crown Prosecutor before going into private practice. Glen took great pride and satisfaction from practicing law in Charlotte County.

Glen loved animals, especially dogs. He enjoyed gardening and curling. He had a passion for canoeing and ran the Piskahegan River Company for a number of years.

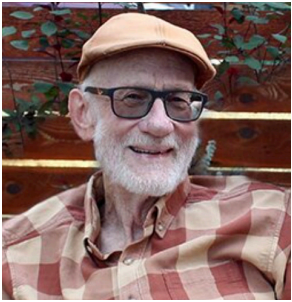


The Hon. T. Denis Lordon (LLB '72)

1946 - 2023

In 1969, Mr. Lordon was admitted to the University of New Brunswick Law School and graduated with his Bachelor of Laws 1972. As a young lawyer Judge Lordon formed the law firm of Martin, Lordon and McKenna with offices in Chatham and Newcastle, New Brunswick. For the next 20 years he was engaged in the general practice of law with a special passion for criminal law. On many occasions he appeared before the Provincial Court, the Court of Queen's Bench and the Court of Appeal. He was also appointed special prosecutor for the Federal department of Fisheries and Oceans. For many years, Mr. Lordon, was a member of the Law Society of New Brunswick and the Canadian Bar Association. As a lawyer and later as a Judge he was often called on to teach young lawyers in the Criminal section of the Law Society of New Brunswick's Bar Admission Course.

In Memoriam



Michael M. Jamison (LLB '74)

1944 - 2022

After graduating from UofA, Mike worked in industry and taught high school before deciding to follow in his fathers' footsteps and study law. He graduated with an LLB from the University of New Brunswick in 1974, returned to Alberta, and practiced law in Calgary until 2011.

Mike enjoyed his career and the many friends he made along the way, but his true passions were family, music, and travel. He was a gifted piano player, playing with many groups and musicians over the years and relishing the excitement, camaraderie, and performances with his fellow musicians. He loved sharing his talent wherever he went and gatherings with family and friends would undoubtedly include sing-alongs and dancing.

Mike was a role model and mentor to his children and grandchildren. He willingly shared his knowledge and encouraged them with love and respect as well as laughter and encouragement. His remarkable memory often left them in awe.



Hon. Benjamin B. Taylor (LLB '74)

1950 - 2022

Former Justice of the Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island, late of Charlottetown, and formerly of Summerside, died on December 9, 2022. Ben was born in Ottawa, Ontario on September 26, 1950, to the late David Taylor and Grace Babbitt Taylor. As his father remained in military service following the Second World War, the family moved around but, Ben spent most of his schooling years in Halifax, Nova Scotia and the one room schoolhouse in Cape Traverse, PEI. He graduated from Englewood High School in 1967.

Ben began his post-secondary education at Prince of Wales College in 1967 and graduated from the University of Prince Edward Island in 1971. He then went on to obtain a law degree from the University of New Brunswick in 1974. When he returned to Prince Edward Island, he soon met Marilyn Kenny and they married in 1975. Ben articulated in Summerside and was called to the bar in 1975. He practiced law with McCabe & Taylor, Campbell McEwen Taylor McLellan, then Taylor McLellan, where he focused primarily on civil litigation. He was appointed Queens Counsel in 1987. He was appointed to the Trial Division of the Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island in 2004.



Walter D. Vail, QC (LLB '74)

1948 - 2022

Falling somewhat short of my goal of living forever. I am survived by my pals and loves, wife Heather (MacDiarmid), daughter Laura Vail (Tom Patterson) and granddaughters Alice, Winnie and Pearl. Also survived by my sisters Penny Dunbar (Doug) and Candy Lambert (Mark) and special "sons" Geoff Vail (Emily) and Mike Vail (Jean), several nieces and nephews. Predeceased by my parents Kip (2000) and Todie (2001) and brothers Chip (1985) and Peter (2003).

A special thanks to my pal Greg Machum and to all my friends and clients.

What a great time I had - it's either all over or on to the next adventure.



William Joseph “Bill” Connell (LLB ’76)

1954 - 2022

[Bill] worked in private practice for many years. He was an advisor to the Honorable Frank McKenna from 1984 - 1989. In 1989, he accepted a position as Vice-President at NB Power. One of his many contributions was the negotiation of a settlement with St. Mary’s First Nation when they burned some transmission poles in protest over power lines crossing their reserve land.

Bill read voraciously and had a keen interest in history, politics and science. He was active in minor hockey and baseball in Fredericton and loved watching his sons play. He had a love of the outdoors and enjoyed the occasional moose or deer hunting trip with friends. In his later years he enjoyed the meetings at the Golden Club as well as his afternoon coffee at Tim’s with friends.

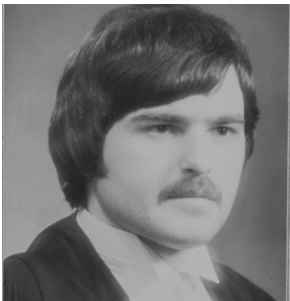


Eugene Raymond Ozon, QC (LLB ’77)

1938 - 2022

[Eugene’s] early career was as a broadcaster with CBC in Corner Brook and St. John’s. With degrees from Memorial University of Newfoundland (M.A.) and the University of New Brunswick (L.L.B), he was called to the Bar in Newfoundland in 1977, practiced law in Corner Brook for thirty years, and became Queen’s Counsel in 2003.

He loved sports, and was a good athlete. He was junior tennis champion for Newfoundland in 1956, played baseball for many years and was the proud recipient of the Buck Tavenor Memorial Trophy in 1985. He played hockey and bowled, was an avid skier, including in the “Old Sam” races, and was a co-founder of the “OTH” badminton group, friends who played and laughed together for decades.



Bernard Robichaud (LLB ’77)

1951 - 2022

Il est toujours difficile de dire au revoir à quelqu’un que l’on aime. C’est donc avec beaucoup de chagrin que nous annonçons le décès de Bernard Robichaud (Caraquet, New Brunswick), survenu le 27 décembre, 2022. Afin de combler votre absence, il est possible de témoigner de sincères condoléances à la famille et leurs proches. Laissez une pensée réconfortante, allumez une bougie en sa mémoire ou envoyez un arrangement floral de votre choix au service funéraire dans la section, ci-dessous. Vous pouvez également y ajouter des souvenirs pour partager les beaux moments vécus.

Il a été précédé dans la mort par : ses parents, Omer Robichaud et Thérèse Gionet. Il laisse dans le deuil : son épouse Mariette; son fils Philippe (Audrey-Ann); et ses frères, René (Mary Ann) et Pierre. Il laisse également dans le deuil plusieurs beaux-frères, belles-sœurs, neveux et nièces.



William Montgomery Thompson (LLB ’77)

1952 - 2022

Bill’s responsibility to his work, colleagues, and clients was his raison d’être. A career of interesting positions culminated with the founding of Thompson & Associates Strategic Consultants Inc. With close to 40 years of experience in economic development, Bill was involved in numerous projects throughout New Brunswick.

Back-room politics was his passion. Bill’s entire life was spent supporting, developing, and promoting the Progressive Conservative Party provincially and nationally. From his position as Executive Assistant to the Hon. Gerry Merrithew in the 70’s to his role as Deputy Minister in the government of Premier Bernard Lord, Bill reveled in the purpose, comradery and value of democratic politics.

In Memoriam

A quick summary of Bill's life would be unfinished without a nod to the period of time Bill spent in his early 30's when he was the founder with his friend Doug Patterson of The 1880 – a restaurant/bar on Sydney Street that has provided years of story-telling and memories. Then on to the Show Room on Union Street for a few years as the night scene in Saint John diminished.



Paul J. Veniot, QC (LLB '80)
1954 - 2022

PJ was a graduate of STU where he was a proud member of the university orchestra, The Thomists. He went on to receive his law degree from UNB in 1980 and had a long and distinguished career as a Crown Prosecutor. He was highly respected and admired by his peers and his achievements in the legal profession were rewarded by his appointment as Queen's Counsel. He was proud to have served as a member of the New Brunswick Law Society, the Child Death Review Committee, as well as Indigenous Peoples Rights.

Music played an integral part of PJ's life. From a very early age he was a passionate musician and member of multiple local rock bands. What a voice he had and he was a superb instrumentalist.



Marvin A. Greenblatt (LLB '81)
1952 - 2022

Born in Moncton, New Brunswick, [Marvin] was the beloved son of the late Mendel and Bessie Greenblatt and the cherished brother of the late Ilsa Shore and Pauline Greenblatt of Ottawa.

Marvin attended the University of New Brunswick and earned his Bachelor of Business Administration, Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Law degrees. He practiced law in Calgary until his retirement.

He will be greatly missed.



Geoffrey Brian Davidson (LLB '93)
1967 - 2023

The passing of Geoffrey Brian Davidson, formerly of Fredericton, NB, occurred on Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at Sunnybrook Health Centre in Toronto, ON. Born on June 13, 1967 in Fredericton, he was the son of Ronald and Lillian (Estabrook) Davidson.

After graduating from UNB Law School, Geoffrey moved to Ontario, where he worked in marketing.

In addition to his parents, Geoffrey is survived by his brother, Peter Davidson of Fredericton; aunts, Anne Murphy (Ernest) of Summerside, Marianne Davidson of Calgary; several cousins.

Obituary excerpts shared from the Daily Gleaner, Telegraph-Journal, Saltwire, The Globe and Mail, McAdams Funeral Homes, Fundy Funeral Home, Hillsboro Funeral Home, Brennan's Funeral Home, Capital Funeral Home, and Marshall Funeral Home Inc.

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Thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue.