

# NEXUS

UNB LAW ALUMNI MAGAZINE



## UNB LAW'S NEW HOME

*A historic announcement for the Faculty of Law*

# CONTENTS



## **15** *David O'Brien receives Ilsa Greenblatt Shore Award*

## **27** *Oceans of Love: Remembering Suzanne Crawford*

## **23** *Navigating the corporate landscape: A conversation with Simone Cole*



- 02** *Dean's Message*
- 04** *Michael Ladha recognized for his in-house leadership*
- 07** *Michelle Kelly recognized as a changemaker*
- 11** *UNB Law's new home*
- 17** *Jacob Powning is forging a unique path*
- 21** *Welcome Paul Warchuk*
- 25** *UNB Legal Clinic sees success and growth in first year of operation*
- 29** *Alumni updates*
- 31** *Wade MacLauchlan installed as Chancellor of UNB*
- 33** *The Hon. Gladys J. Young receives Proudly UNB Alumni Award of Distinction*
- 35** *Welcome David Matyas*
- 37** *Hon. William Henry Harrison Moot Court Competition*
- 40** *Tina Madore honoured with Distinguished Service Award*
- 42** *In Memoriam*

# Dean's Message



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Marin'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael Marin, K.C.  
Dean of Law

In the last issue of Nexus, in referring to UNB Law's recent successes, I wrote: "Stay tuned; the best is yet to come." I was of course foreshadowing—perhaps at the risk of jinxing it—our Justice Building Project, which was not yet finalized, but had been in development for nearly a year. The reason I was so confident in the outcome, despite many ups and downs along the way, is the outstanding people, many of them UNB Law alumni, who helped get this deal done—the largest public investment ever in a Canadian law school.

Further in this issue, you can read about the transformational impact that our renovation of and relocation to the Justice Building in downtown Fredericton will have, not just on UNB Law, but the administration of justice in New Brunswick and legal education in Canada.

This is a long-term project that is not without its risks. Like any major capital project, it may take longer and cost more than expected. In our case, the project is contingent on the completion of the new Fredericton Courthouse (a project that has seen its own setbacks), as well as the continued support of all three levels of government. Despite these complexities, I want to share with you why I am so confident in the outcome.

The project was not my idea. In the spring of 2022, I felt like we had hit a wall in terms of the implementation of our Strategic Plan. We had spent a year working with an architect to figure out how to adapt our existing building to accommodate our plans for the future. The price tag was a staggering \$32 million and that would still leave unaddressed several key issues like making the Law School accessible to the legal profession and members of the public. I was advised that there was no realistic prospect of raising that kind of money for this project, whether from the public or private sector.

Then I met with a UNB Law graduate, and everything changed. In a move that probably didn't inspire confidence, I told them about how we'd run out of space, we wouldn't be able to achieve our goals in our existing building, and we had no hope of renovating it or building a new one. We also needed to invest in our academic mission—a graduate program, legal clinics, research centres, enhanced student services—but space was the limiting factor and it risked devouring all conceivable resources.

"Don't worry Michael," said the alum. "UNB Law will get a beautiful building and you'll still have money for academic excellence." I thought my friend was just trying to cheer me up.

A few weeks later Jane and I had dinner with the alum and their spouse. It was the spouse who floated the idea of moving to the Justice Building. At first, I thought it was a strange idea. Anyone close to the courts in New Brunswick knows that the Justice Building is in a terrible state, prone to flooding, full of asbestos, infested with pests,

inaccessible, and outdated. “That’s an interesting option,” I said, smiling politely.

The next morning, I took my girls to their dance class, which coincidentally takes place in the back of the Justice Building. After dropping them off, I looked at this large, majestic building from a new perspective. Could this really be UNB Law’s new home?

It has all the space we need; it’s within close walking distance of the new courthouse, the legislature, government agencies, and legal employers; it would be easily accessible to the clients of our legal clinic; it would bring the law school closer to the legal profession, making it a resource for lawyers and judges; it would give students, faculty, and staff more options for dining and socializing; it has stunning views of the river in all three directions; and it was built as an institution of higher learning—the Normal School in 1876—and then housed the courts, so UNB Law would harness its original design and unify its historical purposes. Aside from the building’s condition, the concept made a lot more sense than I initially thought.

And since the building’s future was a problem for both the Province and the City, and the federal government was focused on infrastructure investments with a climate change adaptation angle, there was an opportunity to align interests for government funding. Maybe the Justice Building’s problems were actually an opportunity...

Apparently, conversations along these lines were already underway within the Government of New Brunswick. A few weeks later, I received a call from the Hon. Jill Green (BScE’95), then Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure. Minister Green said she heard we were struggling with our existing space and asked me what I thought about moving to the Justice Building once the courthouse was completed. I said that I was open to the idea, but not without a major renovation, which was likely way beyond our means. We agreed to continue the conversation.

The next step was to get the President’s blessing before going any further. One of the things I appreciate most about Dr. Mazerolle is his ambition. He wants to do big things for UNB and he’s not afraid of being unconventional or taking calculated and strategic risks. (These qualities are quite rare among university presidents.) The UNB Law graduate and I met with Dr. Mazerolle and floated the idea. “That’s an iconic project, a once-in-a-century opportunity for UNB,” he said without hesitation.

Despite Dr. Mazerolle’s positive reaction to our pitch, I was concerned because he had never been inside the Justice Building and wasn’t aware of all its problems. So, we arranged a tour for him. Our guides took us into parts of the building that likely shortened our lifespans; it was that bad. I thought for sure we had lost the President. “So, what do you think, Paul?” I asked sheepishly. “Let’s do this,” he said.

It was a remarkable commitment to our Faculty on Dr. Mazerolle’s part. The University has many opportunities and this one wasn’t straightforward a year ago; it still isn’t today. But he was willing to bet on us and for that we are very grateful.

Shortly after the tour, we had a meeting with representatives from all three levels of government, including the Hon. Dominic LeBlanc (LLB’92), then federal Minister of Infrastructure and Communities. We reached an agreement in principle to pursue the project. But UNB would have only eight months to determine whether the project was viable and put together a fully costed proposal.

That we met this tight timeline is attributable to the many highly skilled and devoted people who rallied around the “once-in-a-century” opportunity. They include the members of the Dean’s Advisory Council; Mary Jane Adams, UNB’s Associate Vice-President (Capital Planning and Operations); Ali Ferris, UNB’s Associate Vice-President (Finance); and Jacques Pinet. In

addition to Minister Green, the Hon. Ted Flemming (LLB’78), New Brunswick’s Minister of Justice and Attorney General, was a champion of the project at the provincial level, as was Mayor Kate Rogers (BA’92, MA’95) at the City of Fredericton. All these people, and many more, deserve our admiration and appreciation for their confidence in UNB Law.

The reason I am so optimistic about the culmination of this project, despite its complexity, is the story of how it came to be, the one I just told. Making the Justice Building UNB Law’s new home wasn’t the idea of one person, one faculty, or one government. It was a bi-partisan effort, endorsed by all three levels of government, with the full backing of UNB, and enjoying the strong support of alumni, faculty, staff, students, and the community. It is one of those rare ideas that just makes sense to everyone who takes the time to think about it.

On June 28, 2023, the project was announced, including major financial commitments by the federal and provincial governments—\$45.6 million in total. As a result of this historic investment, UNB’s cost is projected to be \$16.6 million, half of what renovating the existing building would have cost for 30,000 more square feet and a prime downtown location.

Since the announcement, and the national media coverage it received, a few of my counterparts at other law schools have asked me how we pulled it off. In my view, the Justice Building deal is an achievement that reflects the uniqueness of UNB Law as a community. I’m referring especially to the strong affinity of our graduates for their alma mater, our history of service and connection to the province, and our pragmatic and collegial approach to problem solving. These defining qualities converged with an opportunity to make history.

These are the same qualities that will drive the Justice Building project to completion. And these qualities will endure for generations to come in our new home.



## Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers in Canada

Michael Ladha recognized for his in-house leadership

**M**ichael Ladha, K.C., ICD.D (LLB'09) has had an impressive climb to a top leadership position within the Canadian energy sector. Appointed at just 39 years old (now 41), he serves as Vice President, Chief Legal Officer & Corporate Secretary for Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro, the crown-owned utility responsible for generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity across the province and beyond.

A native of St. John's, Michael is the son of two physicians. He joked that his parents pushed him to go into sciences to follow in their footsteps. After two years in biochemistry, he shifted gears and graduated with his business degree from Memorial University. Eager to continue his education, law school became the logical next step.



*“We are quite fortunate here in Newfoundland and Labrador. With all the hydroelectric resources that we have, our generation is already more than 90% renewable, so we don’t have as far to go in terms of becoming Net Zero.”*

“I was focused on the East Coast. I was interested in being in a smaller town and consciously chose to attend UNB. It was known for its foundational legal education—the basics of law. That was highly regarded by the law firms in St. John’s.”

After his second year of law school, Michael was hired by St. John’s-based firm Curtis Dawe. He joined the firm as an associate upon graduation and spent the next seven years practising in the areas of insurance, real estate, and corporate/commercial.

“I was passionate about corporate/commercial work. I latched on to a senior partner, Aubrey Bonnell, K.C. and learned an incredible amount through his mentorship. I became drawn to in-house. I wanted to be part of the business, not just working on a single discrete issue and then moving on.”

Michael joined Newfoundland & Labrador Hydro in 2015 as Legal Counsel and rose steadily through the ranks. In his current role, Vice President, Chief Legal Officer & Corporate Secretary, he is responsible for the oversight of all legal issues, managing the entire legal team, and interfacing with external legal counsel.

“We are actually a group of sixteen companies. Governance is also a big part of what I do, dealing with those sixteen Boards of Directors almost on a daily basis.”

Other significant aspects of his role include the management of access to information requests/privacy matters and supply chain and procurement. Over the years, he has seen nearly the entire business, rotated through a number of senior leaderships roles focusing on commercial matters, human resources, and environmental and safety management.

### *The changing landscape of the Canadian energy sector*

The energy sector is going through a once-in-a-generation transformation. From potential underutilized clean fuels such as hydrogen, electrification, the transition to electric vehicles and heat pumps, and the Government of Canada’s push to Net Zero by 2035, the lives of all Canadians will be affected.

“We are quite fortunate here in Newfoundland and Labrador. With all the hydroelectric resources that we have, our generation is already more than 90% renewable, so we don’t have as far to go in terms of becoming Net Zero.”

For Michael, the challenge facing his province—and his utility—is the level of development needed to meet the unprecedented growth in demand that will come with electrification and the push to Net Zero.

“Our CEO has been out on the speaking circuit, and she’s often quoted as saying that we need to double our electrical system in the not-too-distant future to be able to serve the growth that’s coming. That’s a big challenge for the organization.”

He foresees an unparalleled build-out of the electricity system in Canada to achieve those targets. For provinces like Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, which still rely heavily on fossil fuels, the switch to renewables such as wind, solar, and small nuclear reactors, needs to happen quickly and in a big way. But it’s not just a change of infrastructure that is needed; it’s also a change in thinking about how we live.

"We are currently engaged in the build-out of electric vehicle charging infrastructure across the province. With electrification, more and more of our lives are going to depend on electricity. If the power goes out, it will matter more than it already does today, and we're conscious of that. Reliability will be a critical aspect of the plans for future systems."

From Michael's point of view, Newfoundland and Labrador is uniquely positioned to be a leader in renewable energy. With significant undeveloped resources, mostly hydroelectric and wind, he sees a clear path towards Net Zero.

### **Leadership, volunteerism and mentorship**

Michael is in a unique leadership position. He is the youngest member of the executive team and has adopted a leadership style that relies on empowerment and accountability.

"I'm here to make sure that the department is helping our business achieve its strategic priorities, and to advise the Board and CEO. I'm not here to make all of the day-to-day decisions. Our excellent lawyers are the experts in their different areas of law. Although we are a team, I also like to say that they need to be fiercely independent in their work."

He believes this approach allows his team to feel better connected to their work.

"We do really interesting work here. I believe it's one of the best and most interesting places to work in the province, and people need to be able to see themselves in that work, in those files. They need to be able to make those decisions."

His leadership expands beyond business and into his community. Throughout his career, Michael has remained committed to supporting and amplifying the voices of others. This commitment stems from his own experience as a visible minority and member of the LGBTQ+ community.

"It's so important to me that we embrace diversity. And I believe it is critical for a business to succeed. We need diversity of thought and diversity of leadership."

Michael brings this point of view to his extensive volunteer work. He served as a Director of the AIDS Committee of Newfoundland and Labrador for six years, has held various positions within the provincial branch of the CBA from 2012 to 2017, is an Elected Bencher of the Law Society of Newfoundland and Labrador, sits on the Chapter Executive of the NL Branch of the Institute of Corporate Directors, is a

judge for the Canadian Law Awards, and is a Director of the Canadian Bar Insurance Association/Lawyers Financial.

"I think a big part of my success to date stems from my board work and the organizations that I volunteer with. I urge students and recent grads to get involved in this kind of work as early as possible in their careers."

He also attributes a large part of his successful career to the incredible support systems he has found along the way, specifically his mentors and to those who put their faith in him to lead.

"I'm grateful for Aubrey; he helped to develop my legal background. And for Geoff Young, K.C., my mentor at Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro. He was with the company for 35 years and was an encyclopedia of institutional knowledge. Also, my current CEO, Jennifer Williams and our Board. I am grateful every day for their trust. They have allowed me, at this relatively early stage in my career, to serve as their Chief Legal Officer."

Michael was surprised when he heard he had been named to Canadian Lawyer's list of *Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers*. He had been encouraged to submit his name for consideration by a colleague and did not expect to be chosen. He shared his belief that it is important—especially for young lawyers—to put your hand up. Whether it be for an award, a new position or a new challenge in your existing role, embrace and confront potential feelings of imposter syndrome. There is an element of self-promotion that goes along with success. Michael was also named as one of *Canada's Top 40 Under 40 Business Leaders* in 2021 and had similar feelings about that recognition. While he does relish the awards and recognitions he has received throughout his career, there is one moment that stands out as the highlight.

"My father passed away suddenly about a year ago. He was a forensic psychiatrist and was often called into court as an expert witness due to his specialized expertise. He spent much more time in court than I ever have as a lawyer and he was well known and respected by the legal community. When I was appointed as Queen's Counsel (now King's Counsel), my father was beyond excited and proud because of his strong connection to the legal community. I'm so grateful that I got to experience that moment with him before he passed."



## Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers in Canada

Michelle Kelly recognized as a changemaker

Over the course of a distinguished 20-year legal career, Michelle Kelly, K.C. (LLB'03) has devoted herself to championing equity, diversity, and inclusion and working tirelessly to address gender-based discrimination and harassment. Michelle was recently recognized for her impactful work, being named one of Canada's *Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers* by Canadian Lawyer Magazine. She was honoured in the "changemakers" category, which celebrates lawyers who have been leaders, innovators, or catalysts for positive change within the legal profession.



***“I had a wonderful experience in Ontario, but it gave me the feeling that universities were these big institutions, and you’re only there to learn. Then, I landed at UNB. It was pure magic, and it really did show me that universities aren’t just institutions; they can be families.”***

“I was very surprised to be honest. I remember reading through the bios of the other finalists in my category and just saying ‘wow.’ It really is amazing just to be nominated alongside these incredible humans.”

Michelle was nominated for the award by her Halifax firm, Cox & Palmer. She joked that her family took over from there.

“Don’t underestimate the power of my family. My husband is originally Jamaican and immigrated here 10 years ago. I think between Greg getting all of Jamaica to vote for me and my parents getting all of PEI to vote for me, Canadian Lawyer was forced to recognize me.”

As you will read, Michelle embodies the humble quality of many UNB Law grads.

### ***Discovering a passion for advocacy***

A native of Summerside, PEI, Michelle grew up in a small city with big aspirations. She attended Queen’s University for her undergrad, and it was while in Kingston that she had her ‘aha moment’ and decided to attend law school.

“An interesting aspect of living in Kingston is that there are several prisons near by. I did a tremendous amount of volunteer work in the penitentiaries, and that’s what led to my realization that I wanted to go to law school to try and affect change. It really is an eye-opening experience to see how incarcerated individuals live.”

Despite thoroughly enjoying her four years at Queen’s, Michelle, a true Maritimer, knew she needed to return to the East Coast for law school.

“I had a wonderful experience in Ontario, but it gave me the feeling that universities were these *big* institutions, and you’re *only* there to learn. Then, I landed at UNB. It was pure magic, and it really did show me that universities aren’t just institutions; they can be families.”

Upon her arrival at UNB Law, Michelle was seeking to continue her advocacy work, searching for new

opportunities to support marginalized groups and to give back. It was a chance meeting with librarian Melinda Renner that pushed Michelle towards the issue of women’s rights.

“Melinda invited me to help with the work she was doing with women’s reproductive rights with the Morgentaler Clinic, which led me to join the Women and Law Society. Through this work, I really started to see the way women were being treated in society, and that set me on the journey to fight for women. Melinda, if you are reading this, you are a force; you set me up for being the true feminist that I am today.”

### ***Building positive spaces for women within the firm***

After three incredible years at UNB Law, Michelle joined Cox & Palmer (then Cox Hanson O’Reilly Matheson) in Halifax. She has remained with the firm for her entire career. One of the first initiatives she spearheaded after joining the organization was promoting a more inclusive environment in-house. Along with fellow young associate—and classmate—Robin Aitken (LLB’04), Michelle set out to redefine networking within the firm.

“Robin and I recognized that many of these networking events—Superbowl parties, golf events—were geared towards men, and as a result, were mostly populated by men. We set out to create a networking experience that women would gravitate towards and participate in.”

The pair introduced their first ‘Cloud Nine’ event, a spa trip for female lawyers and clients. For Michelle and Robin, it was all about changing the dynamics of networking so that it was more inclusive. Their events have evolved over the years, but the goal has remained the same; create spaces where everyone feels comfortable and welcome.

“We started way back when Robin and I were new associates, and it’s permeated the last 20 years of my career.”

## **Addressing gender-based discrimination and harassment in the legal profession**

Michelle has played a pivotal role in addressing gender-based discrimination and harassment in the legal profession through her work with the Gender Equity Committee (GEC) for the Nova Scotia Barrister's Society. She became chair of the committee at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March of 2020.

"In 2019, our committee had put out a survey to all members of the profession in Nova Scotia. The report that came back—I think was about 120 pages—contained some of the most detailed and specific accounts of both discrimination and harassment faced by a number of our members in the profession."

Michelle and her fellow committee members were emboldened by the information; they owed it to their members to take significant action. At the time, the Federation of Law Societies had begun making amendments to the model code of conduct—a guide that then each jurisdiction can implement. Michelle chaired a subcommittee of the GEC tasked with a word for word review of the proposed changes.

"They were doing quite a good job, being very detailed even in just defining what is gender-based discrimination and what is sexual harassment. One thing that stood out for me was the idea that you cannot treat men and women differently under a parental leave policy. It's not for the Law Society or a firm or anyone to decide who should be the primary caregiver of a child. It's important that we recognize that families look differently. There may not be a dad, there may not be a mom, and it doesn't make it any less of a family."

Michelle and her colleagues pushed back on language, providing alternate wording based on a trauma-informed lens. Much of their work has made the final code of conduct document.

"We did not accept the wording *holus bolus*. For example, the code states 'submission to behavior cannot be seen as consent.' There are certain words that are trigger words, and submission is one of them. We proposed the wording 'acceptance of' as opposed to submission to try and make it more appropriate to any reader, and especially those who have experienced this type of behavior."

## **Work with the Mass Casualty Commission**

Michelle served as Lead Counsel Document Management for the Mass Casualty Commission, the joint public inquiry created to examine the April 18-19, 2020, mass casualty in Nova Scotia. In the weeks

following the tragedy, Michelle felt a ground swell of interest within the community and the province for a public inquiry.

"This was all happening during the Desmond Fatality Inquiry. I had sat as the President of the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women while that tragedy happened. I was very familiar with some of the circumstances, and I had perceived links between the two—both involving violence against women at the heart of the tragedy. As things started to progress, I wanted to make sure that a gender lens was being applied."

Cox & Palmer was approached to offer litigation support services, which included the gathering, organization, and release of documents.

"It morphed into something much greater. A public inquiry is much different than regular litigation in that this is in the public eye and transparency is at the forefront. We quickly saw that we were dealing with the most graphic and sensitive of materials."

Michelle was brought on as the lead for document management. Over 90,000 documents with over 600,000 pages came through her office for processing. She was tasked with reviewing these documents for sensitive material. Working with a homicide detective, she pored over each document, line for line, to determine their importance to the narrative and their potential to re-traumatize the public. Sensitive information not relevant to the narrative was omitted, and sensitive information imperative to the inquiry was summarized in a way that was consistent with the original document, but trauma-informed to ensure that the story was being told but in a way that was appropriate for public consumption. All said, Michelle worked on the documents for nearly two years.

"Again, it was imperative to be trauma-informed so that we weren't re-traumatizing anyone—whether it was someone who you know was a family member, lived through the mass casualty, someone who watched it unfold, or someone who had had a similar experience. We wanted to make sure everything was desensitized so that minimal further trauma would be caused."

## **A family connection to advocacy**

Michelle's commitment to advocacy has deep personal roots. Ten years ago, her husband Greg immigrated to Canada from Jamaica through a spousal sponsorship. She worked endlessly to ensure a smooth transition to life in Canada. Navigating this process was an overwhelming experience. Advocating her husband's immigration to Canada and confronting the barriers

***“Because of your position in society you are going to have the ability to affect change. People listen to you. You are going to be able to have a voice that others don’t. We as lawyers must take that privilege very seriously and we must use it to help those who don’t have the same voice that we are blessed with.”***

that new Canadians face served as the catalyst for her personal and professional mission—which was compounded with the birth of her daughter, Zoe.

“It just opened my eyes to what we can do as individuals, what we can force private entities to do as good stewards of the community, and what we can force government to do. It was very personal how I started on the journey, but it’s become so much more than just me, Greg, and Zoe.”

Changemaker is just one of the many titles that has been bestowed upon Michelle during her career. Soon, she will go by Coach. She is looking forward to continuing her work in promoting gender equity, this time, on the soccer pitch with her daughter.

“I have a seven-year-old and she is the biggest soccer fan in the entire world. It’s very easy to see the way sport treats women and men differently, and it is hurting my heart.”

Michelle has signed up for the Telus *She CAN Coach* program, a national coach recruitment, development, and training project designed for women.

“I think how women coach is very different than how men coach. I think our young girls deserve the opportunity to see themselves in their coach. It’s all about making sure girls have the same space that boys have in sport. Even slight language shifts really help create space for our young girls to feel the same type of empowerment that sport provides our young boys.”

### ***Final thoughts for those hoping to make a difference***

For Michelle, it’s important for the next generation of legal professionals to be agents of change. She urges students and recent grads to recognize the immense privilege that comes with a law degree, and to use this privilege for good.

“Because of your position in society you are going to have the ability to affect change. People listen to you. You are going to be able to have a voice that others don’t. We as lawyers must take that privilege very seriously and we must use it to help those who don’t have the same voice that we are blessed with.”

Another key piece of advice she shares for students is to always be on the lookout for what interests them; search for the causes that they are passionate about. They may come as a surprise, from a simple conversation with a stranger.

“I am thankful to Melinda Renner, who all those years ago helped me find my voice. Twenty years later, I still have a serious amount of passion about making the world a better place for everyone, but especially for women.”



# UNB LAW'S NEW HOME

## *A historic announcement for the Faculty of Law*

**T**hanks to the largest ever public investment in a Canadian law school, the UNB Faculty of Law is moving to the Justice Building in downtown Fredericton. This historic announcement was made in late June by UNB President Paul Mazerolle, The Hon. Dominic LeBlanc (MP), Premier Blaine Higgs, and The Hon. Ted Flemming, New Brunswick Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

The \$62M project will transform this historic property into a state-of-the-art facility for legal education, legal assistance, public engagement, and policy-oriented and community-based research.

“By relocating downtown, within walking distance of the courts, the Provincial Legislature, government agencies, law firms, public interest organizations and businesses, UNB Law students will see the law in action all around

them,” said Dean Michael Marin. “They will be interacting every day with the people they serve and benefiting from the informal learning that provides. The Faculty of Law and the University will serve the City and Province like never before.”

### *Historic commitments from the Federal and Provincial governments*

Addressing a room of distinguished guests, members of the New Brunswick judiciary and bar, government officials, alumni, and law students, Minister LeBlanc announced the historic pledge from the Federal government.

“Infrastructure Investments are key to powering communities. Not only are they important to the well-being of Canadians, they also are important to our economy. They create good jobs. They support communities big and small across the



*“This can and should be a very public, accessible space for the community of Fredericton, for the legal community, for the Department of Justice officials, for jurists, for judges.”*

country. And they obviously help in our collective fight against climate change. So, that’s why today I am very happy to announce that the Government of Canada is investing \$24.9 million to rehabilitate Fredericton’s Justice building to become the new downtown home of UNB’s Faculty of Law.”

Minister LeBlanc added, “this can and should be a very public, accessible space for the community of Fredericton, for the legal Community, for the Department of Justice officials, for jurists, for judges. This can be a downtown economic and social driver for the City of Fredericton and the Province of New Brunswick, and that’s why I’m so excited that the Government of Canada can be a part of this success.”

Premier Blaine Higgs echoed the Minister’s praise for the project, announcing the provincial government’s own significant contribution toward the project.

“We’ve found a new purpose for one of the province’s most historic buildings,” said Higgs, “while giving UNB an incredible space for educating the next generation of New Brunswick leaders. And I think there’s such an opportunity for education to take part right downtown. With a downtown location The Faculty of Law will also be able to provide important services to the public, including the UNB Legal Clinic, which offers free legal representation. I’m pleased to announce that our government will be investing along with the federal government and others as it goes forward \$20.7 million towards this project.”

### ***Expanding legal education in New Brunswick and beyond***

The renovation of this historic building will have a transformative impact on legal education and research, embedding these endeavours in the

community they serve. It will also contribute to the economic development and architectural heritage of the City of Fredericton and New Brunswick. For UNB Law students, the project will provide state-of-the-art classroom facilities. Exceptional learning environments enhance learning opportunities by enabling a broader range of courses and teaching methods, and enhance the institution’s reputation for excellence.

In its new home, the Faculty of Law will expand by nearly 30,000 sq. ft., providing much-needed space for new graduate programs, expanded student services, and research centres. This means more classrooms, conference/meeting rooms, study spaces, lounges, and dedicated wellness and spiritual rooms.

Relocating downtown will also enable community engaged research, in which legal scholars and practitioners partner with civil society to tackle pressing social and economic issues. In doing so, the project will orient UNB Law’s considerable expertise, resources, and connections to serving the public, reinforcing this commitment in its graduates and the legal profession.

### ***Creating a hub of experiential learning***

UNB Law aspires to offer Canada’s most innovative experiential learning opportunities, where students are empowered to actively participate in the administration of justice. A hallmark of the UNB Law Strategic Plan is the creation of a Legal Observatory. Inspired by the medical school operating theatre, this will be a tribunal room with an adjoining classroom separated by a one-way mirror and linked with an audio feed. The Legal Observatory will house real legal proceedings, giving students and researchers a front row seat for the operation of the justice system. The Legal Observatory will serve the community by providing badly needed hearing



## ***Providing financial and social benefits for the city and province***

The Justice Building project will also result in substantial economic and social benefits beyond UNB Law. With its projected 350 students, faculty, and staff at the time of completion, UNB Law will become one of the largest occupants in the downtown core. Together with the revitalization of Officers' Square and the Imagine Fredericton municipal plan underway, this project fits with the priorities of our community. The expanded footprint of the Law School will create spaces for world-class conferences and symposia, bringing visitors from all over to the capital city. As a result, the project is expected to sustain an increase in annual GDP of \$9.7 million and 325 new jobs upon completion.

## ***Addressing environmental issues***

This project will bring the Justice Building's systems and spaces up to modern standards, including the electrical system, lighting, technology, and heating and cooling, all with an emphasis on energy efficiency, sustainability, and the preservation of cultural heritage.

A crucial aspect of this renovation is a commitment to climate change adaptation, incorporating measures to fortify the building against current and future flood events. Additionally, new HVAC systems will yield a substantial environmental benefit, reducing the building's annual emissions by an estimated 30 percent.

## ***Prioritizing accessibility***

UNB Law's strategic plan emphasizes that law school must be accessible to all qualified students—and this extends to the design of its physical spaces. Incorporating accessible and inclusive design principles into all aspects of the project is paramount in fostering equity, diversity, and inclusion within legal education. The top-to-bottom renovation will allow

space for administrative tribunals and other legal proceedings right downtown.

Moving to the Justice Building will also allow the Faculty to create a permanent home for the UNB Legal Clinic. Launched in 2022, the Clinic provides free legal services to people who cannot afford a lawyer and whose needs are not covered by legal aid. As you will read in this issue (see p. 25), since opening its doors, the Clinic has seen an extraordinary demand for its services. A permanent home in the downtown will make the Legal Clinic more accessible to the community it serves.

In addition to these initiatives, the move will also provide space for a host of other existing and proposed clinics, including the Tax Law Clinic, the Sport Law Clinic, and the Business Law Clinic, as well as a Virtual Reality Law Lab that will train law students through simulations enabled by advanced technology.

"I believe that universities exist to change the world—to make life better

for people," said UNB President Paul Mazerolle. "This historic move for our Faculty of Law will bring us closer to the people we serve, enabling community-based research into the justice system, free legal services for marginalized people, and public education to foster engaged citizenship."

## ***Bringing the Law Library downtown***

This move will see the Gérard V. La Forest Law Library—the largest of its kind in the province—become a central resource for the legal profession, the judiciary, and government. This critical aspect of the project will deliver a fully renovated, state-of-the-art library facility with unparalleled views of the Saint John/Wolastoq River, a setting that will inspire students and scholars to reach their full potential. In its new downtown location, the Law Library will also foster public legal education, dialogue, and collaboration within civil society.

# The Four Homes of the Law School



**Provincial Building**  
**1894 – 1953**



**Beaverbrook House**  
**1953 – 1959**



**Somerville House**  
**1959 – 1968**



**Law Building**  
**1968 – PRESENT**

the engineers, architects, and designers to work with accessibility at the forefront, ensuring that all students can take full advantage of the opportunities that UNB Law offers.

“This is so much more than a matter of moving ‘off the hill’ and onto flat ground,” said Associate Dean Catherine Cotter. “This is an opportunity to engage with all stakeholders and work with accessibility specialists to create a fully accessible environment where every student, professor, employee, and visitor has the opportunity to thrive.”

## *Looking forward*

The renovation of the Justice Building is a long-term project that will be completed within the next five years. It is expected that the courts will relocate to their new building within the next two years, after which UNB Law will begin construction of its new home. Between now and then, the Faculty is committed to engaging with all stakeholders to ensure that the project meets the needs of students, faculty, staff, and the community and that vital links between the Faculty of Law and the UNB Fredericton campus are preserved.

“The Justice Building project will enable the realization of UNB Law’s strategic plan,” said Dean Marin. “This historic project will help us attract and retain the best students and professors. It will make the law school a hub for community engagement. It will give our people access to all that downtown Fredericton has to offer, while boosting the local economy, preserving architectural heritage, and adapting to climate change.”





## *David O'Brien receives Ilsa Greenblatt Shore Award*

The Faculty of Law is proud to announce that David O'Brien, K.C. (LLB'73) is the latest recipient of the Ilsa Greenblatt Shore Distinguished Graduate Award. Named in honour of the late Ilsa Greenblatt Shore, a former UNB Board of Governors chair and graduate (BA/BEd'71, LLB'79), this award recognizes the outstanding achievements of UNB Law alumni in the legal profession, public service, business world, and community—locally, nationally, and globally.

David was nominated for the award by fellow UNB Law grad, Lydia Bugden, K.C. (LLB'92), who shared the following words of praise for her long-time friend: "David has long been at the forefront of UNB-educated lawyers who are working to increase the Faculty of Law's educational capabilities and impact upon New Brunswick and Canada. In his decades of service to the law, David has been both a model and a champion for students at UNB."

### *A career of leadership, excellence, and service*

David O'Brien is twice a graduate of UNB, receiving a BBA in 1971 and an LLB in 1973. He earned a Master of Science in Business Administration from UBC in 1974. David went on to have a successful career as corporate counsel and executive in multiple industries including aviation, fish processing, and food processing. The bulk of his career was spent at McCain Foods Limited, a leading Canadian business with a presence in over 160 countries and a global team of over 20,000. Over the course of 25 years at McCain, David held progressively senior roles including Counsel, Assistant Vice-President, Vice-President Risk Management, Managing Director of MF Holdings, and finally, Vice-President and Group Treasurer. In the latter role, he worked in Geneva and was responsible for the company's Global treasury functions.



David's service to the legal profession has been outstanding and it reflects how highly regarded he is as a lawyer and business leader. For nearly 20 years he was an active member of the Canadian Corporate Council Association, serving as its National President in 2001 and 2002. In 2007 he received the RVA Jones Corporate Counsel of the Year Award. In addition, David served in a number of leadership roles with the Canadian Bar Association, including as a member of the National Board of Directors, the National Finance Committee, and as National co-chair of the Canadian Legal Conference Steering Committee. For 14 years, David was Director and Secretary of CBA Financial Services Corporation. He was appointed King's Council in 2002 and became a life member of the Law Society New Brunswick earlier this year.

David's commitment to the development of UNB has been unwavering. For over 25 years, he has lent his considerable experience and wisdom to the institution and has long been a champion of the Faculty of Law. He joined the UNB Board of Governors in 1997. During his tenure, he chaired every major committee of the Board including executive, audit, investments, finance, nominating and the list goes on. He was Chair of the Board of Governors in 2002 and 2003. In recognition of this exemplary service to the Board, David became Governor Emeritus in 2007.

David has contributed significantly to UNB Law's strategic vision as one of its early architects and supporters through the Dean's Advisory Council. He continues to shape the future of legal education as a valued member of the UNB Law Campaign Cabinet.

### ***An unwavering commitment to UNB Law***

David received the honour at UNB Law's Academic Awards Night in November. As Dean Marin addressed the crowd, he recounted the first time he saw David in action at a meeting of the Board of Governors in 2020. Marin was Associate Dean at the time and had led the development of the UNB Law Strategic Plan. At this meeting, there would be a vote on the proposed plan. David was the first person to speak.

"David set the tone in his calm and eloquent remarks," said Dean Marin. "He described the Board of Governors as the steward of the University's assets and that, unfortunately, it had neglected one of its most defining assets, our law school. As a result, he told the Board that there was now a debt to be repaid and that it owed our Faculty its full support."

Dean Marin described David's speech as part of a defining moment for the Faculty of Law. In the end, the Board voted unanimously in favor of the strategic plan.



***"David was at the center of this defining moment," added Dean Marin. "Everything that's happened in the last three years, our legal clinic, Canada Research Chair, expanded student services, our new professors, our new building project, it started at that meeting. Today, UNB Law is a top priority for the University. David truly is one of the heroes of UNB Law's renewal."***

In his remarks, David shared two pieces of advice with the crowd of students, alumni, donors, and friends. First, his belief that a legal education, with its strong roots in reason, is the finest education that one can receive.

"An education in reason will serve us all well throughout our lives, no matter where we go, and no matter how we earn our livings, we will always look at the challenges we confront, the advice that we will provide, the decisions that we will make, through the lens of reason. We will always be the man on the Clapham omnibus, and that's an incredibly useful education, a privileged education."

Second, he acknowledged that the reason he and so many before and after him were able to attend and graduate from UNB Law, is due to the ongoing generosity that makes a legal education possible.

"[UNB Law] exists not through a miracle, but rather because of those that came before us. We received our education because those that came before them cared enough to provide that opportunity. It's now my generation's turn to care enough about those who are following us and in fullness of time it will be your turn to care enough. We're privileged to receive a legal education, and especially a UNB Law education and this is generally the case in life that privilege is accompanied by a responsibility."



© 2016 J A K E P O W N I N G

# *Artistry to advocacy*

## Jacob Powning is forging a unique path

**A** renowned swordsmith, accomplished illustrator, and Beaverbrook scholar, Jacob Powning's life has been a captivating blend of artistry and academic pursuit. He recently sat down with Nexus to share his remarkable journey as a professional artist and the intriguing path that led him to UNB Law.

*Can you begin by telling us a bit about your background? Where did your interest in becoming an artist come from?*

I grew up in a little village in rural New Brunswick. Both of my parents are artists, my father a sculptor and my mother a writer, so it was kind of the family business. I went to the Nova Scotia

College of Art and Design for a couple semesters and then just went straight into working as a professional artist. This work led me increasingly into academic work—writing and research. Eventually, I went to university and did a Philosophy degree and Master of Interdisciplinary Studies in Philosophy and History and then law school, where I am now.

*What are the various artforms or media that you work in?*

I've worked extensively in bronze casting, from very small pieces up to architectural size archways. I've also worked extensively in bas-relief wood carving and reconstructing ancient insular and Northern European wood carving styles. I've done significant



*“I was fascinated and passionate about mythology and storytelling, and I ended up connecting with a fantastic community online, people that were trying to figure out how to reconstruct ancient European swords.”*

work as a professional swordsmith—reconstructing swords from the Iron Age using traditional forging techniques. More recently, I’ve done quite a bit of illustration, watercolour and digital illustration including concept design for a video game.

*I understand that most of your time as a professional artist was spent creating swords. What drew you to swordsmithing?*

I guess it seemed like a good idea when I was a kid. I went to school in Vermont, and there was a forge there. It just seemed like the coolest thing—to heat up steel and hit it with a hammer. It just made sense [laughs].

*Was there already an established community of swordsmiths? Or was it difficult to find other artists specializing in this craft?*

I was fascinated and passionate about mythology and storytelling, and I ended up connecting with a fantastic community online, people that were trying to figure out how to reconstruct ancient European swords. I was kind

of at the beginning of the movement. There were only three or four other people who were contemporary professional swordsmiths in the European tradition before me. I also met people in the American bladesmithing community who were doing knife making and trying to figure out how to reverse engineer some of the techniques involved in making Viking and Celtic swords. From there, I started to develop my body of work. I travelled to Scandinavia, Germany, Alaska, California, presenting my work at bladesmithing and blacksmithing conferences.

*Can you walk me through your creative process of designing and building a sword?*

It starts out with extensive research—going to museums and documenting swords. Using calipers, a pencil, and vellum, I would trace the exact outline of the blade, taking a series of measurements all along the blade to the hilt. It involves a lot of drafting—doing very detailed drawings and taking photographs.

*What about the physical forging process?*

For a couple projects, we smelted the steel from iron ore, which was what they did in the Iron Age. But mostly, I would take bars of prefabricated steel, stack them, heat them in a forge and hammer them together so they fuse. Then, fold it a bunch of times until you have 500 layers of steel and forge that into a blade. You are left with this beautiful wood grain pattern in the steel, which you can manipulate by adding extra bars. Then, you make the handle, which is called a hilt. I would usually cast the parts of the hilt in metal. I would carve them out of wax, make a mold, melt the wax out, and pour liquid bronze into the mold. When it hardens, you have this metal piece that might be very intricately carved. I would make a scabbard—a kind of sheath—out of wood and leather, and that would be carved and have metal fittings.

*How long is this entire process?*

Often, these pieces would take more than 700 hours of work to produce.



*Incredible. Were you mostly making recreations of ancient swords, or were you also designing original works?*

It was a mixture of the two. I did create a lot of my own work that was closely inspired by historical pieces, but what I was trying to do was create objects that people from a particular time period would have recognized as part of their material culture. As if the sword came from one of their dreams or it was a mythical object but from that time period. I did a lot of playing with the craft as a storytelling device to create a little artistic world.

*Were the swords that you were creating specifically for clients?*

Mostly, I didn't do commissions, but I did sell all of my work. I sold them all over the world. They went to China, Cyprus, and all over the United States, Europe, Britain and Canada.

*Did you have any of your swords displayed in exhibitions?*

Early in my career I had a piece displayed in a museum exhibition of international bladesmiths in Macao, China. At the very end of my career, I made a sword for an exhibition at The Deutsches Klingensmuseum, which is a sword Museum in Solingen, Germany. They purchased it, so it's in their permanent collection.

*Are there any accomplishments that stick out most from your time as a professional artist?*

I made some really amazing lifelong friends—other swordsmiths with really similar interests. Being so fascinated with ancient culture, probably just the opportunity of getting to go and actually handle an original artifact. I had the opportunity to document swords at the British Museum in London. I got to go and take 2,000-year-old artifacts out of the storeroom, hold them, measure them, trace them, and then go home and make a reconstruction of the swords. That was definitely one of the high points of my swordsmithing career.

*Are your days of hammering steel over?*

I did what I had set out to do. I spent a good chunk of time exploring and mastering the craft, and then I was ready to try something new. One of the interesting things about the work is it became more and more about doing research, which eventually led to university. A lot of this work is tedious—like sanding a piece of steel for 90 hours. I was doing this and listening to podcasts on philosophy, audio books of Oxford lectures on philosophy. I was ready to do something that was just more intellectual.

### *So, you were off to UNB for your Philosophy degree?*

Well, actually, what happened first was I had gotten quite a large web following. I was well known within that little world of bladesmiths—well known enough that I had companies trying to copy my work and then use my name to sell knockoffs. I had to hire a lawyer to write a cease and desist to a Canadian company that was selling swords that were substantially similar to my work. I was doing a lot of writing at the time because writing was a big part of how I marketed myself. When I read the cease-and-desist letter, I thought, “this is an incredible piece of writing.”

### *So, the law school seed was planted?*

It was just a little hint of something that I thought I might be able to do. Becoming a lawyer seemed like a fascinating job, and it kind of became the plan. I looked at what would be a good degree that would not only be interesting, but that would also be helpful with law. Philosophy, they often say, is good for doing the LSAT. It was a subject that I already found very interesting.

### *While your swordsmithing days may be over, I understand you are still involved in illustration?*

Yes, it's something that I continue to do and enjoy. I've been drawing since I was a little kid, I never stopped. There's something really pleasurable about distilling what you see into a picture. I've been doing a lot of watercolor illustrations because I just love the combination of watercolor and ink. There's this kind of moody character that you can get.

### *Where do you find the inspiration for your illustration work?*

For much of my illustrative work I find going for walks in the woods and seeing trees and the landscape really inspiring—just going outside. I enjoy other illustrators work, and I'm inspired by that. Allen Lee, for example, he's a one of the illustrators that was involved in the *Lord of the*

*Rings* concept art for the films. He does these really beautiful pencil drawings and watercolor illustrations that I've always been really inspired by.

### *What is it that you find so interesting about studying the law?*

I think law is just a really fascinating profession. You don't ever get to the end of it. There are always new things to learn; it's constantly evolving and changing. I'm really fascinated with how society reacts to changing circumstances, and the law is one of the fundamental ways that society regulates change.

### *You are currently a research assistant working with Dr. Argyri Panezi in the Legal Innovation Lab. Can you tell me a bit about this work?*

We've been working on a report for the CIAJ Access to Justice Summit that Dr. Panezi's Legal Innovation Lab co-hosted at the end of the summer. That's a lot of writing and editing. I'm currently researching AI and copyright law and liability. I find that very interesting; it intersects with art. AI is now autonomously producing art where you can input a prompt, and it spits out a very human-like image in 30 seconds. It's fascinating, and it has significant implications for copyright law.

### *You certainly bring a unique perspective to the AI debate. What do you see as the biggest issues as it relates to AI and art?*

It's just not clear what happens when AI autonomously creates a substantially similar copy of an artist's work because it's not clear that AI can infringe. AI can't create original works because it's not a person, so there are a number of issues around how you assign liability in the case of an infringement. Don't get me wrong, it's an amazing tool that has the capacity

to increase human creativity, provided that we develop a smart way of dealing with situations where AI might harm people. For example, infringing an original work and artists losing economic value. I don't know the answers, but I'm enjoying studying this emerging field of the law. I'm paying close attention.

### *I am wondering if there is a particular area of the law you find most interesting?*

I'm interested in different areas of law, particularly private law. I find contract law really interesting because a contract is like a simulacrum of a human interaction. It's almost like a contract is its own little piece of art, where it imitates a human relationship. So, I find that really interesting, and I also find copyright law fascinating.

### *Do you see yourself specializing in an area of the law linked closely to artists and their work?*

The process of litigating and writing arguments and interviewing witnesses in the context of having a theory of the case, I find all of that is a fascinating creative process in itself. So, I'm not necessarily going in the direction of art law. It's more that law is its own kind of art and craft that I'd like to master.



# Paul Warchuk

expands UNB Law's administrative  
and constitutional prowess

**D**r. Paul Warchuk, an expert in administrative and constitutional law, recently joined the Faculty of Law as an Assistant Professor. With one full semester under his belt, Prof. Warchuk sat down with Nexus to delve into his academic journey, research endeavors, and initial reflections on his experience at UNB.

Prof. Warchuk received a JD from Queen's University, graduating at the top of his class as the Gold Medalist. Eager to continue developing his expertise in public law, he set off for the Federal Court of Appeal, where he served as law clerk for Justice David Stratas, a respected authority in administrative law.

"That was a really great experience. Justice Stratas brought me along to bench and bar events and introduced me to an incredible public law community. I applied for grad school, and he was instrumental in that—helping with applications and writing generous reference letters."

Prof. Warchuk received an LLM from Harvard Law School, where he studied as a Frank Knox Memorial Fellow. While at Harvard, it was an unforeseen issue with course registration that led to a new research trajectory.

"I was interested in studying admin law and public law, but unfortunately—I guess fortunately

in hindsight—I didn't get into the courses I wanted. I was scrambling and enrolled in a couple of really niche history offerings, Ancient Athenian Law, Medieval English Law, American Legal History, and the American Constitution between 1815 and 1861."

Warchuk completed his master's thesis, which examines the history of the Federal Courts in Canada. Armed with a newly minted interest in legal history, he travelled to the UK to study the origins of administrative law at the University of Cambridge, where he held the Hollond Whittaker Research Studentship.

"My doctoral thesis question essentially centered around why courts began conducting review of these administrative decisions. Why did courts get involved in this sort of thing when it's not really in their purview, and it's not something we see courts doing outside of common law systems."

This topic led to innumerable hours in the archives reading handwritten 17<sup>th</sup> century decisions—all in a special language known as law French.

### *Joining the Federal Department of Justice*

With the onset of the pandemic in 2020, Warchuk returned to Canada, where he continued to work on his thesis part-time. He joined the Federal Department of Justice as Counsel, working in the centre of expertise for constitutional, administrative, and international law.

"Our group got to hear a lot of interesting and difficult legal issues. Each department has their own legal counsel, but when there's a complicated question or a question that has importance across multiple departments, these issues will be referred to a centre of expertise."

Prof. Warchuk's practice with the federal government was split 50-50 between advisory and litigation files. He enjoyed the opportunity to see both sides of the system, the

constructing of new legislation and policies, and their repercussions or challenges. One of the most enjoyable aspects of the position was the ability to collaborate with like-minded colleagues who shared his interest in dissecting thorny legal issues.

"Working with the DOJ was a fascinating job. One of the difficulties—and this is actually part of what drove me back to academia—was the limitation on what I could write about outside of the office. The perfect opportunity came up at UNB, and after interviewing, it seemed like a really good fit for me."

Prof. Warchuk joined UNB Law on July 1, 2023, and he began teaching in September. Despite joining the faculty just a few short months ago, he already feels a strong connection to the students and the law school. He shared that he regularly has students stay after class or attend office hours to discuss course material, explore broader legal questions, and discuss career possibilities and advice.

In the classroom, he employs a more casual and lighthearted teaching style for his first-year classes to promote participation and dialogue. Student-led discussion is a cornerstone of his pedagogy.

"I want to have more of a conversation and be more honest and upfront. Once the traditional barriers are broken down, you're freed to have a discussion on an equal footing. I want students to feel comfortable to speak and ask questions."

### *Examining the history of administrative law in Canada*

Having now completed his PhD, Prof. Warchuk is looking forward to continuing his research pursuits at UNB Law. He is working on several projects related to Section 96 Courts—Provincial Superior Courts. The first project looks at the mythology around these courts and how much of the jurisprudence, according to Warchuk, is based on misunderstandings about the history

of these courts, their jurisdiction, and the role that these courts should play.

"The Supreme Court has developed a lot of case law that protects the jurisdiction of these courts. It says these courts are special and unique in our legal system for various, in my opinion, invalid reasons. But the Court says they're special and therefore their jurisdiction has to be protected and we can't remove certain things from the jurisdiction of Superior Courts. This stifles our ability to reform the justice system and improve access to justice."

Prof. Warchuk is also examining the constitutionality of privative clauses, statutory provisions in legislation that oust the jurisdiction of courts. His particular focus surrounds the judicial review of administrative decision makers and to what extent legislatures can insulate administrative decisions from the oversight of Section 96 Courts.

### *A 'sweet' welcome to the classroom*

As our readers can see, Prof. Warchuk has had a winding journey to the UNB Faculty of Law. His initial impressions of the law school can be best encapsulated by the following anecdote, which beautifully captures the spirit of collegiality that defines UNB Law.

"One day, I arrived at class, and an anonymous student had left a sweet potato on my lectern. There was a note attached saying, 'the only thing sweeter than this sweet potato is Professor Warchuk's administrative law class.'"

Naturally, Prof. Warchuk took the sweet potato home, and roasted it in the oven.

"I took a picture of my roasted sweet potato and put it in the slide deck of my next lecture, along with a thank you to whoever supplied me with my healthy side dish for that evening's chicken dinner."

A professional portrait of Simone Cole, a woman with shoulder-length brown hair, smiling. She is wearing a grey and black patterned zip-up jacket over a white top. Her hands are clasped in front of her.

# *Navigating the corporate landscape*

*A conversation with  
Simone Cole, Vice-  
President, General  
Counsel at Choice  
Properties*

**I**n a candid and insightful interview, Simone Cole (LLB'06) tells the story of her remarkable journey from UNB Law student to business executive at Choice Properties, one of Canada's preeminent Real Estate Investment Trusts (REIT). A model of leadership and resilience, Simone reflects on her experiences, offering valuable insights into the legal profession, forging a path to the boardroom, and the transformative power of mentorship.



## *From Ontario to New Brunswick and back again*

Like many UNB Law grads before her, Simone was drawn to the East Coast in search of a tightly knit academic community. Having graduated from both Mount Allison University and St. Thomas University, the opportunity to remain in her new ‘home away from home’ for law school was compelling.

“New Brunswick will always have a big part of my heart; I lived there for the better part of a decade, and UNB Law was a natural choice. I wanted a small, exceptional law school. I remember meeting Dean La Forest when I was touring schools, and it immediately felt like the right place for me.”

Simone began her legal career in private practice with Torys LLP. After summering and articling with the firm, she joined as an associate, working in the dynamic corporate department working on major M&A transactions.

“I admittedly did not go to law school with a plan to work on Bay Street, but I was drawn to the unique learning opportunities that a large Bay Street firm offered.”

A couple of years into her career in private practice at Torys, Simone received a call that a large Canadian company was looking for an in-house corporate lawyer. She interviewed with George Weston Limited, the parent company of Loblaw Companies Limited and Choice Properties and she was hired on.

“That was 14 years ago. I came in as a young lawyer, and since I joined, I’ve had the distinct pleasure of working at several parts of this amazing Group of Companies, including at George Weston, Loblaws, Weston Foods and now Choice Properties. While at George Weston, we undertook some transformational projects for the Group of Companies. In 2013, we created Choice Properties through an initial public offering. In 2014, Loblaw Companies purchased the Shoppers Drug Mart business.”

In 2017, Simone moved to the operational side of the business, joining Weston Foods as Vice-President, General Counsel and Head of Compliance of its North American food manufacturing division.

“We had 30+ plants across Canada and the US in a very dynamic food manufacturing environment.”

Simone managed teams in both Canada and the US, dealing with all legal aspects of food manufacturing. She oversaw significant commercial contracts, labour and employment issues, intellectual property, and significant real estate matters.

“That role touched on so many areas of the business and law and it was an incredibly rich development experience.”

## *Moving into her current role with Choice Properties*

In 2021, George Weston sold Weston Foods, but Simone had the good fortune of staying within the Weston Group of Companies. Before the sale transaction closed, she moved over to the Choice Properties and accepted her current role as Vice-President, General Counsel and Secretary.

“My legal focus shifted to all things real estate—acquisitions, dispositions, development and real estate financing. We buy and sell a lot of real estate; we do a lot of leasing—we’ve got thousands of leases. And we also have major development projects.”

## *On leadership and mentoring*

Simone’s approach to leadership is one of support and collaboration. She believes a good leader is someone who can build a team and empower her team members to lead and be experts in their fields.

“When you start out, you push yourself to know everything and to try and have mastery over every variable. But as you get more senior, you have to build a strong team of people to

help you lead the legal function. Their success is critical to your success.”

Simone also believes in strong connection between mentorship and leadership opportunities as a critical aspect of career advancement. Her advice is simple, find people who will sponsor you.

“You need to put your head down to learn and work, but to stretch the opportunities, you need to build relationships. Find those people who will invest in you and then you invest like hell in the people who join your team.”

Simone is investing in the next generation of black women and women of Caribbean descent as they begin their legal careers. She has set up a law scholarship at UNB in honour of her grandmother, Veronica Mondesir, to promote and recognize diversity in the Faculty of Law.

“It’s personal to me, as a biracial woman. I have opportunities that my mother didn’t have, and my mother had opportunities that her mother didn’t have. It’s important that we keep investing in people who’ve been historically or systemically left out. We need to let them in, and there’s nothing more impactful than education.”

Simone has found an incredible amount of success since graduating from UNB Law. There’s been no shortage of memorable moments throughout her incredible legal career, the creation of the REIT and initial public offering, the \$12.4 billion purchase of Shoppers Drug Mart, and the historic sale of Weston Foods, to name a few. For Simone, it’s something else that stands out as the ultimate career highlight.

“I can tell you without a doubt, the thing I’m most proud of is the people and relationships that I’ve developed. Relationships with those who gave me a chance to grow and flourish, and those who I’ve supported throughout their own journeys.”



# *UNB Legal Clinic*

## SEES SUCCESS AND GROWTH IN FIRST YEAR OF OPERATION

**D**espite being open for just over a year, the UNB Legal Clinic has emerged as a powerful resource in improving access to justice, not just in the City of Fredericton but throughout province. Since opening its doors in September of 2022, the clinic has answered hundreds of inquiries and provided legal support for well over 100 clients in need.

Jeannette Savoie, Supervising Lawyer for the Clinic, has seen a remarkable demand for services, specifically surrounding tenancy.

“We’re seeing a lot of issues with evictions, especially around large rent increases, renovations, or landlords claiming they are changing the use of the premises—also, unreasonable house rules and lease requirements.”

A disturbing trend that Savoie notes is the frequency with which these issues seem to be faced by the immigrant population, international students, and other newcomers.

“Statistically, we are seeing a lot of tenancy and employment issues involving newcomers to Canada. It is a very disappointing trend to see, but we’re here to help guide them and help them to exercise their rights.”

The clinic has also been engaged with small claims, social benefits, and some family law issues not covered by legal aid.

“Sometimes, it’s as simple as answering a question,” said Savoie, “to give the person some guidance on their next steps.”

The clinic has now seen 17 students rotate through the program. For Savoie, her first order of business is always to get to know these students and understand their backgrounds so she can play upon their strengths and expertise.

“We’ve got students with really diverse work backgrounds and skillsets—experience in business, social work, insurance law or tenant relations. I try to put their skills to work for our clinic to maximize the benefit to our clients.”

### *Research initiatives to support access to justice*

Savoie and her team have partnered with Prof. Argyri Panezi’s Legal Innovation Laboratory to look at expanding e-filings to lessen the burden on the provincial court system. The pilot project they are currently exploring looks at e-filings for simple divorce proceedings. The research teams are looking at creating an algorithmic questionnaire for non-contested divorce applications.

“This would be for people who have essentially dealt with children, support and property, and it’s just a matter of getting the divorce so they can move on with their lives. These folks still need to access the justice system and have their case reviewed by a judge, and that takes a lot of time and a lot of resources, which the court doesn’t have. If we are successful, it could open the door to more extensive e-filing services, removing some of the burden on the courts.”

## Expanding operations beyond Fredericton

While the clinic's primary target is to provide services for the greater Fredericton area, an important goal for Savoie is to expand the clinic's operations beyond the city through outreach clinics. An early partnership was established with the Saint John Newcomers Centre (SJNC), an organization that provides support as new arrivals integrate into the city.

"We've done in-person and virtual clinics with the SJNC. We've dealt with a lot of different issues, immigration and refugee issues, family law, and again, employment and housing. We've also had to help file complaints against various police forces for conduct."

The clinic also regularly serves Miramichi and the surrounding communities through a partnership with Harvest House, a non-profit mission that seeks to help those in need through programs in addiction recovery and housing. The Clinic has also partnered with the Miramichi Transition House to support women and children who are victims of domestic violence and/or intimate partner abuse.

Two students have had the opportunity to practice their legal skills by doing all the preparatory work, examining clients, and pleading the case before adjudicators in Small Claims Court. To our knowledge, it is a first for UNB Law students in New Brunswick to be able to carry files from start to finish, under direct supervision of the Clinic Supervising Lawyer. More small claims actions have been started by the students and are in the final phases of preparation.

Savoie would like to see the clinic expand its coverage into provincial offenses, with students acting as agents under her supervision. She would also like to see more opportunities to partner with the Department of Social Development, providing pre-emptive support to families in the child protection system.

"When I practiced in Yellowknife, they'd have me provide informational support before the department got involved. I would advise clients on their options prior to child protection's involvement. This led to fewer apprehensions. It's not about taking on a role that's being filled by another service provider but filling in the gaps."

There is also potential for the clinic to become more involved refugee claims. Savoie and her student clinicians have already tested these



waters after being approached by the New Brunswick Refugee Clinic to support their efforts processing 150 refugees who were sent to Fredericton from the Roxham Road crossing in Quebec. The students were trained and volunteered their time to support refugee claimants.

Finally, Savoie hopes to establish a formal partnership with the Université de Moncton Faculté de droit to expand services into even more regions of the province, including for francophone clients. She has been in early talks with a Moncton law professor who was tasked by the Dean of Law to research potential opportunities.

The first year of operation has been a big learning curve for Savoie and her team, with the most pressing challenge being the need for more meeting space. In late November, the clinic moved its operations from the Fredericton Downtown Community Health Center to larger office space at 527 Queen Street.

"We're so grateful to the folks at the community clinic who shared their space with us as we got the legal clinic off the ground. Our new location will enable us to be more efficient with our bookings and allow us to better serve our clients."

The Faculty of Law would like to thank the New Brunswick Law Foundation (NBLF) for their continued financial support of the UNB Legal Clinic. Additionally, we thank the friends and family of the late Donald A. MacBeath, QC. This group generously established the MacBeath Fellowship, that supports students through their summer placements.



# Oceans of Love

## REMEMBERING SUZANNE CRAWFORD

In the spring of 2023, the UNB Law community said goodbye to Catherine Suzanne Crawford (LLB'82), a beloved wife, daughter, mother, sister, and aunt. Known affectionately as Suzanne, she was a tremendous friend to so many and the model for a life committed to helping others. Heather Crawford, Suzanne's younger sister, graciously shared moments that capture the essence of Suzanne's beautiful life.

Suzanne was born in 1957 in Toronto and raised there. She carried with her a profound connection to the Maritimes that spanned her entire life. Her parents, Beatrice and Purdy Crawford, were from the Five Islands area on the Bay of Fundy. Heather fondly remembers endless family summers in Nova Scotia.

"We used to visit for a few weeks at a time, and then my mother bought the old homestead—a 200-year-old house—from her great uncles. Once that happened, we would spend whole summers there with our cousins, uncles, aunts, and grandparents."

As a teenager, Suzanne worked at the Victoria Park Pool in Truro. After high

school, she followed in her father's footsteps, studying liberal arts at Mount Allison University in Sackville, NB. After earning her undergraduate degree, Suzanne once more embraced her father's influence, enrolling in law school. In 1982, she proudly graduated from UNB Law, and practiced corporate law in Halifax. She eventually made the move back to Toronto and worked as in-house counsel in the real-estate and financial sectors. It was while in Toronto that Suzanne met her husband, Dr. Paolo Renzi, courtesy of a serendipitous blind date orchestrated by a mutual friend.

"It's a funny story," shared Heather. "Paolo was in Montreal; Suzanne was in Toronto. He drove there to Toronto to meet her on a blind date. This was before the internet and cell phones. He showed up early, and she came to the door with a towel on her head. I guess the rest is history."

Their connection was undeniable, and their relationship blossomed, prompting Suzanne to relocate to Montreal. It was there that they tied the knot and joyfully welcomed their two children, Robert and Evelyne, into their loving family.

# *“I always say that she was a rising tide that lifted all boats. That was Suzanne, oceans of love.”*

---

“She devoted herself to her children and just adored them. They were her pride and joy. After they left home, she spoke to them nearly every day. She was a huge support network for them, always.”

## ***Dedication to giving back***

Suzanne is remembered for her thoughtfulness and compassionate nature towards others. She had an unwavering dedication to improving the lives of women, children, and those less fortunate.

“She did so much volunteer work, including pro-bono legal work in the not-for-profit sector. It was this work that really defined the last 20 years of my sister’s life.”

Suzanne shared her time, talent, energy, and expertise with non-profits across Canada, including the University Women’s Club of Montreal, an organization dedicated to the advancement of women; the NOVA in Montréal (Victorian Order of Nursing), an organization offering healthcare, personal and social support in homes and communities across Nova Scotia and Ontario; and the Viennese Ball of Montreal, an annual fundraiser supporting youth education, healthcare, and social causes. Suzanne also donated her time and legal expertise to the Mothers Matter Centre, a Vancouver-based national organization serving socially isolated and low economic status mothers and their families. In the latter part of her career, she served as a volunteer director and board members for Shediak-based Uresta, a start-up operated by Canadian female entrepreneurs.

Suzanne was also a strong advocate for the advancement of post-secondary education and generously gave back to Mount Allison as both a member and former Chair of the Board of Regents. She helped shape the institution as a volunteer and donor involved in several significant fundraising campaigns.

## ***A warm and welcoming soul***

Heather remembers Suzanne as someone who effortlessly made friends and connected with people in a deep and meaningful manner. Whether it be in the Maritimes, Toronto, or Montreal, people were drawn to her easy, warm, and patient disposition.

“When she was in palliative care, we made a WhatsApp group called ‘we love Sue,’ and it just kept growing. She had so many best friends. She was that kind of person where everyone put their hand up and said she was my best friend; no she was my best friend.”

Suzanne was known for her world class ability to spout off little known facts about anything and everything—history, science, you name it. For this reason, she earned the nickname “Cliff” in honour of the mailman “know-it-all” from Cheers. She was ahead of the curve in her love of science-fiction, a “Trekkie” and Star Wars fan before it was fashionable. Suzanne was very connected with nature and loved flowers. She enjoyed a stroll with her sister through the garden, sharing the Latin names of the various plants that grew. Suzanne had a keen attention to detail that always amazed her sister.

“She would be able to focus on the minute details, but the flip side—and the funny side—is that sometimes she’d lose the big picture. I remember one Christmas; she wanted a particular set of lights—the perfect set. She’d gone everywhere and finally found them. The house looked exquisite. We all arrived on the train from Toronto, and my mother asked about the turkey. Suzanne looked at us and said, ‘oh, I forgot about the turkey.’”

As the eldest among six siblings, Suzanne took on the role of not just an older sister but also a role model, as Heather fondly reminisces.

“She would always go that extra mile to be a good person and to do the right thing, even when it wasn’t convenient. That’s the legacy she has left with me. I ask myself, is this what Suzanne would do? Am I treating this person the right way? Am I doing the right thing?”

Suzanne was known for her beautiful parting words, “oceans of love.” A heartfelt phrase she borrowed from her grandmother and used to sign every letter and card.

“That is her heart, and her heart was always on the Bay of Fundy—seeing that ocean ebb and flow. I always say that she was a rising tide that lifted all boats. That was Suzanne, oceans of love.”

Suzanne is greatly missed by her devoted husband, Paolo Renzi, adored children Robert and Evelyne, revered mother Beatrice, cherished sisters Heather (Larry Ritchie), Mary (Frank Pallotta), Barbara (Ed Babin), Sarah (Paul Takeda) and admired brother David (Julia Holland), loved in-law’s (Gildo and Marcelle Renzi) and esteemed brothers-in-law Dani (Nathalie Jutras) and Sylvain (Kary Solis) as well as 20 beloved nephews and nieces. She was predeceased by her father Purdy Crawford.

# HERE IS WHAT SOME OF

# *Our Law Alumni*

## HAVE BEEN UP TO SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE

Stay up to date on the latest accomplishments of our alumni—King’s Counsel designations, the Order of New Brunswick, judicial and government appointments, distinctions, awards, and even an appearance on Jeopardy!

### 2023 King’s Counsel

Congratulations to the nine 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

- Melanie L. Cassidy, K.C. (LLB’03)
- Jeffery Richard Fulton Delaney, K.C. (LLB’87)
- L. Paul Elliott, K.C. (LLB’97)
- Bruce D. Grant, K.C. (LLB’95)
- Donald V. Keenan, K.C. (LLB’95)
- James L. Mockler, K.C. (LLB’91)
- Kent Robinson, K.C. (LLB’78)

#### Prince Edward Island

- Gary S. Scales, K.C. (LLB’92)
- Paul M. Kiley, K.C. (LLB’98)

#### ’71

**JOANNE E. MCLEOD, K.C.** (LLB) has received the Order of New Brunswick, the highest honour bestowed by the province. She was recognized for her lifelong advocacy and dedication to improving the quality of life for people with disabilities within her community, throughout the province, and across the country.



#### ’84

**JANET HOYT** (LLB) was appointed Vice-Chair of the University of New Brunswick’s Board of Governors. Hoyt is a lawyer, legal consultant, and leadership development coach. She practiced law for many years, first in Halifax,

then Toronto, and was one of the first full-time talent management professionals on Bay Street. She has over 35 years of experience in the legal profession, counselling and coaching countless lawyers on career opportunities and career advancement.

**JOHN M. MCNAIR** (LLB) was appointed to the Senate of Canada. McNair served as general counsel and corporate secretary to Service New Brunswick and has been actively involved in community service through his work on the boards of multiple non-profit organizations.

#### ’93

**KEVIN KILEY, K.C.** (LLB) was named to Atlantic Business Magazine’s list of Top 50 CEOs for the third consecutive year. Kiley is the Managing Partner with McInnes Cooper, leading an integrated team of over 425 members in seven locations in key economic centers across the Atlantic Canada.

#### ’95

**STEPHANIE HICKMAN, K.C.** was appointed Judge of the Supreme Court of Newfoundland & Labrador, Family Division. Prior to this appointment, Justice Hickman served as chair of the Regional Board of Cox & Palmer and a partner in its St. John’s office. She spent her entire professional career with the firm and had a thriving construction, commercial, and energy practice.

#### ’96

**FRANCES WOOD** (LLB) was recognized with the Joel Kuchar Award for Professionalism and Civility by the Ontario Bar Association. The award honours one member each year who has consistently demonstrated exemplary commitment to the ideals of professionalism and civility in the practice of law. Wood is a Partner at Wood Gold LLP where she practices civil litigation and family law in the Region of Peel.

'99

**DAVID G. CONWAY** (LLB) was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador, General Division. Prior to this appointment, Justice Conway worked in-house as a labour lawyer with the Registered Nurses' Union of Newfoundland and Labrador. In 2017, he was appointed Chairperson of the Newfoundland and Labrador Labour Relations Board. Following the completion of his term as Chairperson in 2022, he acted as a labour arbitrator, adjudicator, and independent legal counsel.



'02

**THE HON. JUDGE AMY SAKALAUSKAS** (LLB) was recognized by The International Association of LGBTQ+ Judges for her work increasing membership and strengthening the Association's international presence. Judge Sakalauskas has served on both the Education

Committee and the membership committee for the association and is in the second year of her term as Vice-President. She is scheduled to take over as President in the Summer of 2024.

'04



**DIANNE D. RIDEOUT** (LLB) has joined the employment and labour group at Cassels Brock & Blackwell in Vancouver. Prior to joining the firm, Rideout worked at boutique law firm Harris and Company LLP for 12 years before joining McMillan LLP in 2020.

'05



**MORGAN A. PETERS** (LLB) was named CEO of the Fredericton Chamber of Commerce. Peters has been a policy and advocacy leader within the New Brunswick business community and throughout the chamber network nationally. He will assume the role of CEO effective December 31, 2023.

'06

**MICHAEL J. MELVIN** (LLB) was named President of the Fredericton Chamber of Commerce. Melvin has been a board member at the chamber since 2018. During that time and in preparation for the role, he has been heavily involved in the chamber's activities, particularly in relation to advocacy and immigration support efforts.

'07

**SARAH PRICE** (LLB) has been appointed Assistant Deputy Minister of Industry Development and Aquatic Operations with the New Brunswick Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries. Prior to this appointment, Price served as Executive Director of Working NB.



'12

**JOHN GROVES** (JD) appeared on Jeopardy. The Labrador-born lawyer from Forteau finished in second place. His Final Jeopardy question: Billy Joel said, "I think the one time I didn't write the music before the lyrics" was for this 1989 hit, "and I think it shows." Grove correctly

answered: What is "We Didn't Start the Fire?"

'13

**PHILIP MILLEY** (JD) was named to the Top 10 30 somethings 2023 - in-house counsel by the Association of Corporate Counsel. Milley is the Director Legal and Compliance at the Mastercard Foundation, one of the world's top philanthropic foundations. He leads a diverse team of nine legal professionals across Canada, Ghana, and Kenya.

**DO YOU HAVE AN  
UPDATE YOU WOULD  
LIKE SHARED IN NEXUS?**

**SUBMIT YOUR NEWS TO  
NEXUS@UNB.CA**

*Submissions may be edited for space.*



# Wade MacLauchlan

## Installed as Chancellor of UNB

On Thursday, October 19, 2023, H. Wade MacLauchlan, CM, O.P.E.I. (LLB'81) was officially sworn in as the seventh modern day Chancellor of the University of New Brunswick. The oath of office was administered by Her Honour Brenda Murphy, Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick, and Dan Mills, New Brunswick's Deputy Minister of Post-Secondary Education, Training, and Labour during the 69<sup>th</sup> Convocation.

Addressing the crowd of distinguished guests, deans, faculty members, and a sea of new graduates, Chancellor MacLauchlan shared advice from Lord Beaverbrook's 1947 graduation address, "do your part, and be the best you can be."

He emphasized the enduring significance of these words, originally heard by students whose studies were interrupted to serve overseas during the Second World War. Now, these words resonate for students whose lives and academic pursuits have been disrupted by a global pandemic, economic uncertainty, and the escalating instability of the geopolitical landscape worldwide.

"Our greatest concern must be for the cruel impact of war and conflict on innocent civilians,"

asserted the Chancellor. "When it comes to doing our part, we can start by counting our blessings to live in peace and democracy. To have an education and be part of a great University."

Chancellor MacLauchlan urged students to recognize and embrace the great challenges we face today: Truth and Reconciliation, climate action, income inequality and economic opportunity, health and wellness, education, and defending and strengthening democracy. He reminded the class of 2023 that in doing so, they should never forget our everyday responsibility to look after and look out for each other. In his address, he shed light on another pressing concern that has increased steadily since the onset of the pandemic: mental health and loneliness.

"These are complex problems. They call for attention and resources. They call for research and innovation. Not least, they call for us to look out for and look after each other. When we think about doing our part and being the best we can be, we can start by asking each other 'how are you today,' and do it in a meaningful way. We can offer a smile, a helping hand, a pat on the back. We can cheer each other on. We can look out for signs of distress and respond as best we can. We can work together to build a strong and resilient Community."



## *Greetings from fellow UNB Law graduates*

Two members of the UNB Law alumni family were present to deliver official greetings and welcome Chancellor MacLauchlan back home: Dr. Aldéa Landry, CM, P.C., K.C. (LLB'79) and Graydon Nicholas, CM, O.N.B., LL.D. (LLB'71).

Speaking on behalf of the worldwide UNB alumni community, Dr. Landry shared the following words of welcome: "I have confidence that—guided by your insight and passion for learning, innovation and inclusion—great things will emerge for UNB during your term. Your track record as a proven agent of change is without a doubt an indication of what the future holds."

The Hon. Graydon Nicholas, representing Indigenous peoples and communities of New Brunswick, echoed this message adding, "Our Indigenous peoples and communities welcome you and look forward to working in partnership with you in meeting the challenges that lie ahead. May your term of office be characterized by success, achievement, and good works. That is the heart of good leadership."

### *An incredible career of service and leadership*

Chancellor MacLauchlan brings to his new position an impressive career that truly defines leadership. His diverse roles as a Canadian legal expert, academic, university administrator, politician, and community leader are a testament to his versatility and influence.

From 2015 to 2019, he served as the 32<sup>nd</sup> Premier of his home province of Prince Edward Island. Prior to his political career, Chancellor MacLauchlan held the distinguished position of the longest-serving President of the University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI) and was later appointed as President Emeritus of UPEI in 2012.

Currently, he chairs the Independent Advisory Board for the Supreme Court of Canada Judicial Appointments,



a role of great national importance. Additionally, he has played pivotal leadership roles in various national and regional organizations, such as the Muriel McQueen Ferguson Centre for Family Violence Research at UNB.

Chancellor MacLauchlan's strong ties to UNB have deep roots. He began his academic journey at UNB Law as a Beaverbrook Scholar and received the Lieutenant Governor's Silver Medal upon graduation. After completing his law degree, he obtained a Clerkship at the Supreme Court of Canada. His academic career commenced in the 1980s when he served as an Assistant and subsequently Associate Professor at Dalhousie University. He later returned to UNB, assuming the role of Dean of Law from 1991 to 1996, during which he led the establishment of a \$1.5 million heritage fund that continues to support UNB Law students to this day.

In 1993 and 1994, Chancellor MacLauchlan chaired the University's Faculty/Staff component of UNB's venture campaign, which resulted in a successful \$40 million initiative. From 1997 to 1999, he played a crucial role as the founding director of UNB's multidisciplinary Centre for Property Studies.

"Chancellor MacLauchlan's remarkable career exemplifies the qualities of a genuine leader," said Dean Michael Marin. "UNB is incredibly lucky to have him as Chancellor; I am incredibly lucky to have him as a friend. I have benefitted greatly from his guidance and support throughout my work in developing the UNB Law strategic plan and during my time as dean."

Chancellor MacLauchlan is immensely positive about the strategic vision and direction of the university.

"The priorities that UNB has laid for the next decade are clear and well thought-out. This is a very good time for the University of New Brunswick; there's a real feeling of momentum and what I call a happy confidence throughout the entire operation. It's going to look different; it's going to feel different, and that sense of growth and momentum is equally evident on both campuses. The changes that are being implemented now toward a one University model are timely, and UNB's leadership at all levels is very strong."



# The Hon. Gladys J. Young

## Receives Proudly UNB Alumni Award of Distinction

The Hon. Gladys J. Young (LLB'72) has been honoured as a 2023 recipient of the Proudly UNB Alumni Award of Distinction. Gladys received the award in recognition of her trailblazing career and outstanding service to the legal profession in New Brunswick and beyond.

When Gladys attended UNB Law, the landscape was markedly different. In a graduating class of over 60 students, she was one of only five female law students. Despite their small numbers, these women were a formidable force.

"I take great pleasure from the fact—pride really—that we all pursued a career, which was not the expectation at the time. Many believed we would get a degree and 'go home with it.' Cherrill Shea, Janette Blue, Maureen Whelly, Lynda Farrell—we all practiced."

In 1972, Gladys became the first woman in New Brunswick to be named a provincial crown prosecutor, serving the Gloucester

and Restigouche counties covering Bathurst, Campbellton, Caraquet, Tracadie, and Shippagan. She also served as a federal crown attorney responsible for prosecuting offenses under Federal Legislation, such as the *Narcotics Control Act* and *Income Tax Act*.

*"This was obviously quite novel at the time," shared Gladys. "There was a lot of skepticism because it was in the criminal field. There was the concern that a female would find it difficult to prosecute some offenses effectively, such as sexual assaults, for example."*

For the next five years, Gladys served the courts throughout the North Shore, primarily in French.

"People in the area, for the most part had never dealt with a woman lawyer, particularly in the field of criminal law. It was so unusual, as a matter of fact, that I was not always referred to by my name, but sometimes was called *la créature*—the creature."

*“It is a wonderful and deeply appreciated recognition, especially for a foot soldier, so to speak. I always felt that I was just labouring away in relative obscurity. The courtroom was where I was most comfortable, it was where I spent so much of my time.”*

---

For a short period, Gladys left the Department of Justice and went into private practice with her brother. She ran the practice in Bathurst while he covered Tracadie. She then returned to the DOJ as a regional crown for Northeastern New Brunswick, serving Campbellton and Bathurst. In 1984, she became a member of the Canadian Sentencing Commission in Ottawa. The Commission, made up of prominent judges, lawyers, and researchers, published a comprehensive report, *Sentencing Reform: A Canadian Approach*, recommending significant reforms to Canadian sentencing laws and practices.

Gladys was appointed to the Provincial Court of New Brunswick in 1986. As a bilingual travelling judge, she spent the next nine years serving the northern—mostly francophone—communities. In 1995, she was appointed as Justice of the New Brunswick Court of King’s Bench (Queen’s Bench at the time), where she presided over trials in both the Family and Trial divisions for the judicial district of Restigouche. She served the court until her retirement in 2015.

***“I was with Queen’s Bench for 17 years. It was challenging handling both divisions. For many years, I was the only sitting judge for the bailiwick. Often times, the lawyers who appeared before me were specialists in their field. As a generalist, it was demanding to adjudicate on such a full gamut of legal issues.”***

In addition to her judicial duties, Gladys had a keen interest in the advancement of continuing legal education, and she lectured future law enforcement officers at Holland College in Prince Edward Island, senior police investigators at RCMP headquarters in Fredericton and enforcement officers within other provincial departments. Gladys also lectured law students in the New Brunswick Bar Admission Courses at the University of New Brunswick and in French language Bar Admission Courses at l’Université de Moncton. At the judicial level, she taught newly appointed judges with the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice and was a faculty member at numerous conferences presented by the National Judicial Institute and the National Federation of Law Societies.

“Continuing education was really my second passion. When I had the occasion to lecture, whether it was at J Division, Holland College, or with enforcement officers with Natural Resources and the Department of Fisheries, I always did. I continued this work during my time on the

bench. I realized that continuing legal education applies at every stratum. I was a part of the education committee for the Provincial Court, and when presenting at the national level, I was speaking to jurists from across the country. This work enhances the understanding of the judicial system, the court process, and the underpinnings of judicial decisions.”

Speaking at the spring Proudly UNB Alumni Awards dinner, Gladys’ former classmate and lifelong friend Cherrill Edwina Shea (LLB’72) shared the following kind words.

“Gladdie had ambition, purpose and tremendous drive. She was a trailblazer for women in the law. She has devoted herself to a lifetime of public service. Gladys has unending curiosity and a commitment to lifelong learning. She has core values that are inalterable—Gladdie believes in the fundamental value of all people, the necessity to action based upon the facts and study, the related necessity of freedom of expression and the critical importance of fairness to everyone. I believe her tenacity, integrity, and professional excellence have helped to pave the way for and to inspire those that have followed in her footsteps.”

Gladys herself was surprised but honoured to receive this recognition from her alma mater.

“It is a wonderful and deeply appreciated recognition, especially for a foot soldier, so to speak. I always felt that I was just labouring away in relative obscurity. The courtroom was where I was most comfortable, it was where I spent so much of my time.”

One thing that stands out for Gladys is her incredible connection to her community.

“My friends and colleagues from across Canada were always absolutely amazed by the fact that I was able to stay in this area, with such a small population, for 26 years as a judge. To go out in the community, function, and interact with everyone. When I left the house, I would frequently meet someone who had been affected directly or indirectly in a positive or negative way by my work. However, never once was I subjected to critical remarks. I think this really speaks to quality of our community here in Northern New Brunswick.”



# DAVID MATYAS

*is bridging the worlds of law,  
international development and  
humanitarian assistance*

UNB Law's faculty complement continues to grow as David Matyas joins the Faculty as an assistant professor on January 1, 2024. He brings with him a wealth of knowledge and practical experience in the law of international humanitarian assistance, the law of disasters, and public international law.

Originally from Ottawa, Matyas graduated with a Master's degree in international development from Oxford. He then embarked on the first leg of his career, as a Technical Advisor in disaster risk and vulnerability in London, England. This work took him across the African Sahel, with regional postings in Niamey, the capital of Niger, and the Senegalese capital of Dakar.

"It was, in many ways, a dream job. But I had this itching feeling that, as much as I loved my work and my colleagues, I couldn't get at some of the more intractable challenges that I was seeing in the field. The study of law seemed like a way to develop a critical toolkit for confronting these issues."

So, after four years in the sector, he decided to go back to school to study law. He received BCL/LLB degrees from McGill University, graduating first in his class as the Elizabeth Torrance Gold Medalist.

"I came to really love the study of law. It resonated with how I think and approach problems. I applied

for a clerkship because I was really drawn to gnarly legal puzzles, and the Supreme Court seemed like the place where you get to deal with the most pressing—gnarliest—puzzles in the country."

He found no shortage of complex problems while clerking for the Hon. Rosalie Silberman Abella, and it was during that year that he decided to pursue a new goal; to finding a way to combine these different aspects of his professional life.

"I wanted to put the lawyer in me in conversation with the humanitarian practitioner and thought that a PhD could give me the opportunity to research the relationship between law, international development, and international humanitarian work. That's how I ended up at Cambridge."

Prof. Matyas is a Gates Scholar and PhD candidate in the Faculty of Law at the University of Cambridge, where he is studying the various mechanisms by which legal regimes impact and influence the work of humanitarian actors.

"I'm interested in organizations like the International Committee of the Red Cross or Doctors without Borders and how different laws, international and domestic, shape their ability to provide assistance."

Prof. Matyas is taking a multi-methods approach to this research. His doctrinal work looks at the hard

*“UNB just felt like the right place for me. Intimate and dedicated to teaching with a strong footing in practice.”*

laws of humanitarian assistance found in treaties, peace agreements, case law, and statutes, examining them further through a series of qualitative interviews with the national and regional directors of humanitarian organizations. These interviews were conducted during fieldwork in Nairobi, Kenya.

“The interviews kind of snowballed, and I ended up speaking to humanitarians in other countries including Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Yemen and bringing all these different perspectives together to understand how they see how laws influence and shape their ability to provide relief.”

### *Reflections on his work in West Africa*

For Prof. Matyas, it was his work in West Africa that was the most formative in shaping his academic path. While stationed in Niger, he worked on disaster resilience projects, designing policies and programs to improve the ability of various populations to face food insecurity, flooding, and issues related to conflicts. One particularly important project he worked on while in Niger was the development of a nationwide early warning system for food insecurity.

“It was fundamentally participatory; we engaged different actors and populations. The project employed an innovative qualitative approach that got us data that the government and UN agencies were then able to use in rolling out their programs at the national scale.”

He also worked on the first mobile-based cash transfer system for urban refugees in Niger. According to Prof. Matyas, cash transfers are

an increasingly popular tool in humanitarian assistance because they empower affected populations (who live in areas with access to functioning markets) to purchase what they actually need rather than items that humanitarians may think they need. The use of mobile phones also had the additional benefit of allowing these individuals to stay in touch with family back home, get news updates, and information on upcoming distributions.

“The highlight of my time in West Africa was getting to work with fantastic development and humanitarian practitioners who had devoted their careers to improving their countries. It was one thing to talk about development and humanitarian programs theoretically in classrooms in Oxford, but my biggest teachers were really my colleagues in Niger and Senegal. Among other things, they brought home to me the importance of keeping academic work grounded in practice, which actually, was one of the things that drew me to UNB.”

### *Approach to teaching and the move to UNB*

Prof. Matyas has taught at McGill, Osgoode Hall, and the University of Cambridge. He finds the most enjoyment in the classroom when he can incorporate experiential activities into his teaching. One example he shared was a short course on disasters and the law he ran at McGill. During that course, he built out a scenario where students had to design risk plans and hazard forecasts for a hypothetical law firm. The course culminated in a one-day simulation that included a novel disaster that students were asked to navigate.

“These are fantastic learning opportunities. Students are put in a position where they face real-world problems. By that stage in the course, they’re equipped with a set of legal tools to draw upon, but the real learning comes from deploying those tools in innovative and creative ways to confront different challenges. Importantly, these are also the times that I learn the most as a teacher. When I throw out a hypothetical, I’ll have a hunch as to how the students might solve these problems, but at the end of the day, they bring fresh eyes and perspectives which always surprise me.”

Prof. Matyas admits he had his eye on UNB for quite some time.

“In law school, I kept reading these incredible journal articles coming out of the UNB Law Review—articles by path-breaking scholars like Anne La Forest. Despite being a small school, the calibre of scholarship was exceptional.”

He saw parallels between UNB Law’s reputation and his undergrad experience in McMaster’s interdisciplinary Arts and Science program, a degree which focussed on small classes, rich pedagogy, and a deep sense of community.

“UNB just felt like the right place for me. Intimate and dedicated to teaching with a strong footing in practice. When I came for my on-campus interviews, those intuitions all proved true. My wife spent most of her life in Nairobi, Kenya. So, although Fredericton is a very different world from the one she grew up in, when she saw how excited I was about the prospect of joining the UNB community, she said, ‘we have to go!’”



# Hon. William Henry Harrison

## Moot Court Competition

Continuing a longstanding fall tradition at UNB Law, second-year students Emma Funston-Clarke, David Comeau, Kyle Cullen, and Julia Raposo faced off in the 61<sup>st</sup> installment of the Hon. William Henry Harrison Moot Court Competition. The annual event showcases and celebrates the four students who received the highest grades in the oral advocacy component of the first-year moot program.

The mooters presented arguments in the fictional case of *Reynolds v Mikah*, a family law matter centering around the relocation of a child to another province. To outline the case details, the mother, who moved with the child, provided the father with the legal notice required by way of a relocation letter. Despite the father responding informally via text message, saying he was opposed to the relocation, he did not follow the precise format of the form prescribed by the *Divorce Act*. The mother then moved with the child. Upon learning this news, the father brought an emergency application to bring the child back home, which was ultimately denied because of the father's failure to use the form.

The father appealed that decision on the ground that the applicable provision of the *Divorce Act* violated his right to security of the person under s.7 of the *Charter*. The father argued that the legislation was overbroad and arbitrary because it allows the relocation of a child based on a technicality, rather than the child's best interests, and further that it provides a judge with discretion to waive the formal requirements of the notice letter, but not those of the response letter. The father argued that the infringement was not justified under s.1 of the *Charter*.

Kyle and Julia appeared as counsel for the appellant, while David and Emma represented the respondent. Both teams acknowledged the strong guidance and support they received from Prof. Jane Thomson, who organizes the Harrison Moot and wrote the problem.

"Julia and I spent a lot of time discussing the case we planned to make, ensuring that it was cohesive and covered all of the legal issues," said Kyle. "Prof. Thomson was very supportive and guided us through the family law concepts that we were seeing for the first time, she truly enabled us to build our arguments with confidence."

"Prof. Thomson's advice allowed us to really understand the strengths and weaknesses of our positions," added David. "During the prep stage, I spent most of my time trying to anticipate questions that the panel might ask."

The mooters had their work cut out for them, appearing in front of a panel of sharp legal minds, all of whom graduated from UNB Law: Hon. Justice Kathleen Quigg (LLB'89), of the New Brunswick Court of Appeal, Hon. Justice Nathalie Godbout (LLB'94), of the Court of King's Bench, and renowned trial advocacy expert, Prof. James Lockyer, K.C. (LLB'75).

"It was a privilege and such a unique and valuable experience," said Julia. "It brought an exciting challenge knowing we were mooting in front of judges with such a high-level knowledge of family law."

"There were certainly moments when the judges' questions caught me off guard," said David. "Within the first few minutes, I had to abandon



*“I was amazed by the strong advocacy skills exhibited by all four mooters,” said Justice Quigg. “They were all extremely well prepared. It is hard to believe they are only starting their second year of law school.”*



my main argument and move on to something completely different. Ultimately, I think the panel really challenged us to think quickly and adjust our arguments on the spot.”

The four mooters presented their oral submissions incredibly well. Following the submissions, the panel withdrew for deliberation to determine the top performances.

“I was amazed by the strong advocacy skills exhibited by all four mooters,” said Justice Quigg. “They were all extremely well prepared. It is hard to believe they are only starting their second year of law school.”

“They demonstrated such poise and calm throughout their arguments, even when put on the spot with a tricky question or comment from the bench,” added Justice Godbout. “They were also respectful of each other’s position while advancing their own, a skill that most judges welcome in a courtroom.”

In the end, the Harrison Shield was presented to Emma Funston-Clarke and Kyle Cullen. When asked how it felt to be recognized with this honour, Kyle attributed much of his success to his partner.

“Much of my performance is owed to my moot partner, Julia Raposo. When preparing our case, she challenged every argument I made and forced me to find a way to answer tough questions. I would not have been awarded the Harrison Shield without her. She opened our arguments and set the tone. It made me feel much more at ease when I took to the podium.”

“Being awarded the Harrison Shield was an honour,” shared Emma. “This experience exemplifies one of the many incredible opportunities offered to students to interact with members of the legal community and learn practical skills outside of the classroom.”

### *Advice for students*

All three of the judges were gracious enough to share some sage advice with Nexus readers—advice that will, perhaps, help guide our current 1Ls as they begin their quest for the Harrison Shield.

“Have a strong opening statement and an equally strong conclusion,” advises Justice Quigg. “Give an overview that captures the essence of the appeal in order to interest the judges. Provide a roadmap to assist them in understanding the points you are going to make. After you have made your points, conclude by telling the court why it should adopt your position. What you should really be trying to do is help them draft the decision.”

Justice Godbout places critical importance on controlling the speed of the oral submission.

“My advice is always to slow down and get comfortable with silent pauses. Judges take notes and welcome the opportunity to digest the point you’ve just made before moving on to the next one. Slow and steady wins the race.”

Finally, for Prof. Lockyer, the key to success is to remind yourself that it is not a lecture or a speech, and to always avoid the urge to simply read from your notes.

“In an appeal you want to engage the members of the judiciary in a formal conversation about the principals at play and persuade them that your position is the correct one. I urge students to try to encourage questions, because a question is a window into the mind of the judge. And answer any questions immediately and completely. To me that the recipe for success.”



# TINA MADORE

*Honoured with Distinguished Service Award*



To say that Tina Madore is “Proudly UNB” would be an understatement. Over her 19+ years with the university, she has epitomized the values of our institution—she is hardworking and dedicated, respectful and collegial, and most of all, kind and caring. Tina’s exceptional performance and outstanding contributions to the university have earned her well-deserved recognition as a 2023 President’s Distinguished Service Award recipient.

With friends, family, and colleagues in attendance at the spring awards ceremony, Tina shared the following words of thanks: “It means so much to me to be recognized for doing a job that I absolutely love. When I drive on the UNB campus, I am filled with a sense of pride. When I walk into the UNB Law building, I get a larger sense of pride. When a student walks into my office and calls me by name, that just blows me away. We’re a small faculty, but we’re a large family.”

For the first 15 years of her career at UNB, Tina worked for the Communications and Marketing Offices. In the early days of her

career, Tina was the voice of UNB, working the switchboard to connect callers with various departments. She was the warm and welcoming first point of contact for the university. She served as administrative support for the department offering her expertise in the areas of budgeting, planning, and logistics, to name a few. During this time, she developed an impressive reputation as a diligent, reliable, kind-hearted, and energetic professional.

In September 2019, Tina joined the Faculty of Law as the Dean’s Assistant, a role she has embraced with the same undeniable passion and care. Despite the competing demands on her time, Tina is always one of the first to volunteer to help when any of our students, staff, or faculty need support with a project or event. She can be counted on to attend and support our many annual events at UNB Law, such as Awards Night, Grad Dinner, the Viscount Bennett lecture, and the Rand lecture. No matter how busy she may be, Tina is always quick to genuinely ask, “what can I do to help?”

*“This award is a testament to Tina’s unwavering commitment to not just the Faculty of Law, but the entire university,” said Dean Marin. “Her dedication goes beyond the ordinary; she is an incredible asset to our law school.”*



When most of the University community was working from home due to COVID-19, Tina was the first staff member to return to regular in-person work in the Law Building. As a result, she became the primary drafter of our COVID-19 operational plans and she took on the responsibility of all in-person tasks at the Law Building, including many tasks that fell outside the scope of her usual role. Tina is also an avid financial supporter of UNB Law, and she was one of the first donors to support the renovation of our student lounge. Tina’s enthusiasm and pride for UNB Law is infectious and inspiring.

On top of her strong work ethic, Tina’s colleagues across campus and within UNB Law adore her. She is friendly and kind to everyone. She shows up to work every day with a smile on her face and a positive attitude. She exudes warmth and genuinely cares about her colleagues, students, and alumni. Tina plays a big role in the positive morale at UNB Law. She is always aware of her colleague’s life milestones (good and bad), ensuring there is always a card or thoughtful gift. Most of the informal gatherings at UNB Law are organized by Tina, and she always takes the extra time, attention, and care to ensure that our events and workspaces are welcoming and festive.

Tina is the heart of UNB Law. Her endless contributions and tireless commitment to the University and the Faculty of Law make her a worthy recipient of this honour.

*“This award is a testament to Tina’s unwavering commitment to not just the Faculty of Law, but the entire university,” said Dean Michael Marin. “Her dedication goes beyond the ordinary; she is an incredible asset to our law school.”*

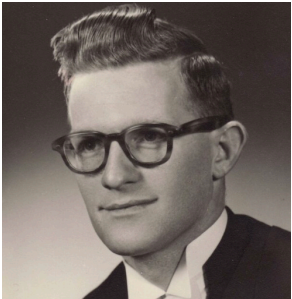
# *In Memoriam*



## ***Joseph Edward Bérubé (BCL'57)***

**1929 - 2023**

Joe graduated from the University of Ottawa. Upon completion of his BA, he returned to New Brunswick to study law at UNB in Saint John. There, he met the love of his life, Helen, with whom he would spend the next 65 years. Joe practiced law in Sarnia, Ontario, as well as Grand Falls and Edmundston, NB, until he was appointed a New Brunswick provincial judge in 1965 at the age of 36. Joe held this position until 1976, when he was appointed Ombudsman for the Province of New Brunswick. He would hold this position until his retirement in 1993, becoming the province's longest-serving Ombudsman. Joe received an honorary Doctor of Laws from St. Thomas University in 1991 and was a past president of the NB Provincial Court Judges Association and the Canadian Association of Provincial Court Judges.



## ***The Hon. Murray Francis Cain, K.C. (BCL'58)***

**1933 - 2023**

Murray, or Murph to his friends, followed his father's footsteps into the profession of law. He received his secondary education at the University of Ottawa High School and went on to the University of New Brunswick, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in 1956 and a Bachelor of Civil Law in 1958. He and Joan were married in 1958, settling in Fredericton and over the next six years, they grew their family, welcoming five children. Murray enjoyed an accomplished and distinguished career. He practiced law in various firms, including establishing a practice with his father in 1968. He served as Registrar of the Supreme Court of New Brunswick from 1978 until 1983 and Registrar of the Courts of Appeal and King's Bench from 1983 until 1987. In 1987, he was appointed Judge of the Provincial Court of New Brunswick. His appointment to the Bench led Murph and Joan to relocate to Rothesay, and later Quispamsis. Murray was appointed King's Counsel in 1973, and in 2002, he was awarded the Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee Medal in recognition of his public service and contributions to his community.



## ***Paul Auffrey (BCL'68)***

**1944 - 2023**

Paul will be sadly missed by his loving wife, Jeannine; his children: Marie-Josée Auffrey (Lou Giannone) of Toronto, and Jean-François Auffrey (Natacha Ouellette) of Bouctouche; his grandchildren: Philipe, Zachary, Charlotte, and Antony; his brother-in-law, Marcel Richard; two sisters-in-law: Annette Auffrey, and Rose-Marie LeBlanc; as well as several nieces and nephews.

Paul practiced law for several years, was a member of the Knights of Columbus and had a great passion for genealogy.



***Myron "Bill" William Fenton (LLB'69)***

**1938 - 2023**

Bill was a proud graduate of Rothesay Collegiate school, where he made many lifelong friends. He and his loving wife Patricia (Curry) celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in April 2022. For the first 25 years of their marriage, they resided and raised their family in Fredericton, NB, where he practiced law after graduating from the University of New Brunswick Faculty of Law. Their desire to be closer to family brought them back to his hometown of Bedford in 1987. His sense of community landed him on the Board of the Metropolitan Authority, which at the time oversaw both municipal transit and waste resources. He later became the Chairman where he served until the amalgamation of HRM.



***William J. McNichol (LLB'70)***

**1946 - 2023**

Bill was a lawyer for his career, and in retirement was able to spend time with his family that he loved dearly...Bill was loved by so many and played such an important role in the lives of those he touched. While his girls were in school, he took in several of his daughters' friends and treated them as his own. A man who would take the shirt off his back for anyone who needed, forsaking his own needs for the love of others. He will be deeply missed by all who were fortunate enough to have called him a friend.



***Paul Harrison Blanchet (LLB'71)***

**1938 - 2023**

Paul was president of the University of New Brunswick's graduating class of 1961. With his degree in Civil Engineering, he worked for several years in the pulp and paper industry in Kapuskasing, ON; Rexdale, ON; Neenah, Wisconsin; and Saint John, NB. He was admitted to the Law Society in 1971 after he obtained a LL.B. from the University of New Brunswick the same year. He worked for several decades as a lawyer in the New Brunswick Department of Justice and in private practice in the areas of labour arbitration, construction, and civil litigation law. Paul served in the Algonquin Regiment in Ontario, in the 1<sup>st</sup> Royal New Brunswick Regiment, and on the 1<sup>st</sup> Royal New Brunswick Regiment Advisory Board. He retired with the rank of Major.



***George R. Richmond, K.C. (LLB'71)***

**1945 - 2023**

A member of the Ontario and New Brunswick bars, George was a renowned lawyer in the province of New Brunswick, practicing labour law for more than 50 years and earning his Kings Counsel (K.C.). A proud graduate of both the History programme (B.A.) and Law School (L.L.B) at the University of New Brunswick (UNB). George maintained an academic interest in both history and French language, completing courses during his years in Fredericton.



***Dwight Allaby (LLB'73)***

**1947 - 2023**

Dwight attended UNBSJ (BA'71) and UNB (LLB'73). After his graduation in 1973, he was admitted to the Law Society of New Brunswick, and he returned to Saint John, where he continued to practice law for 50 years and raise his family. Dwight's love of the outdoors led to many adventures fishing and sailing on the waterways of New Brunswick. He enjoyed many summers camping with his family at Kouchibouguac, passing on his love of the outdoors to all his children. His love of the water led him to become a lifetime member of the Renforth Boat Club. Dwight was also committed to giving back to the city he called home and was a long-serving chair of the Saint John Parking Commission and an active member of the Saint John Y Service Club for over four decades. He volunteered with the Alzheimer Society of Saint John sharing his knowledge of estate planning and elder law. In his later years, Dwight was a strong advocate for disability awareness and accessible spaces.

# *In Memoriam*



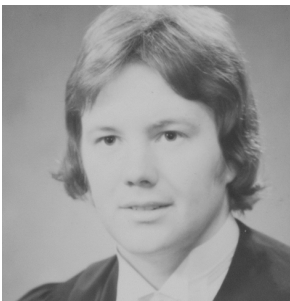
***Pierre Tremblay, c.r. (LLB'73)***  
1943 - 2023

Pierre was an avid athlete, from jogging to completing marathons, skiing—especially with his boys. He was a dreamer and had many passions, sailing being at the top of the list. He also liked cars, politics and was an avid reader. He was interested in all world events and kept up to date. His devotion to his community was well known and consumed many hours of volunteer work. He occupied leadership roles as President of his student counsel, President of the Caisse Populaire Ste-Famille, the development of Trails New Brunswick, the building of the Bathurst Marina, of which he was the first commodore, Port of Belledune, President of the NB Law Foundation. Pierre was a fierce defender of the linguistic rights of the Acadians. He chose to defend his clients in French in front of unilingual English Judges; those choices required courage 30 years ago, but he was perseverant in everything he undertook.



***Donald William MacLean (LLB'74)***  
1939 - 2023

Don was born in Moncton and graduated from St. FX University in 1960. He worked in Ottawa for the Department Bureau of Statistics as a statistician. He went on to attend law school at the University of New Brunswick and became a dedicated arbitrator and vice-chairman of the Public Service Labour Board in Fredericton. In addition to his work in the legal profession, he owned and operated R. D. MacLean & Co. Ltd. in Moncton for 20 years, was a lawyer for 50 years, and was an active member of the Knights of Columbus. He also served as a town councillor in Shediac.



***Allison Herbert Whitehead, K.C. (LLB'76)***  
1952 - 2023

A devout family man, proud grandfather, and friend, Allison (Al) built a law practice over 47 years on Fredericton's Northside - Whitehead Miles and Allen...Through the years, good times and mischief followed Al through grade school, hockey, baseball, fishing, and hunting, STU & UNB Law School, Liberal conventions, and his camp in Juniper. He was a man of few hobbies; work, the Yankees, work, 45's, work, and red wine, yet each vice brought him joy, close friendships, and family. Anyone who knew him, knew he played hard and worked harder. A lover of life, family-first, and a fighter, he will remain with us forever through our memories and everlasting life lessons.



***John Murray (LLB'77)***  
1951 - 2023

John, a remarkable individual known for his intelligence, kindness, and thoughtfulness, leaves a legacy of compassion and dedication. He cherished his 40-plus years as a lawyer, finding great fulfillment in his profession and making a lasting impact on the lives of his clients. John's departure has left a void in the legal community and the hearts of those who had the privilege of knowing him. John's commitment to his work was unparalleled. Through his extensive knowledge and exceptional communication skills, he established genuine connections with those he represented, many of whom became close friends. John's ability to provide reassurance and address concerns with the utmost care and professionalism exemplified his character and dedication.



***Howard Allan Spalding, K.C. (LLB'78)***

**1943 - 2023**

Howard was raised in Lowe Farm, Manitoba, and he met his wife and biggest supporter, Donna, while working in Toronto. In 1969, they began to grow their family. They had a son and then adopted six more children over the years. Together, Howard and Donna returned to school as mature students and attended the University of New Brunswick. Howard, upon graduating from UNB Law, began practicing law in Saint John, New Brunswick. He was a special friend to his clients and was often paid with gifts such as baked goods, livestock, bird houses or paintings, likely to the bewilderment of his law partners.



***Gregory S. Sinclair (LLB'79)***

**1952 - 2023**

Greg was a proud retired partner of the law firm Stewart McKelvey, practicing litigation. He graduated from the UNB Faculty of Law in 1979 and was admitted to the Bar of New Brunswick that same year. He was recruited by McKelvey Macaulay Machum and practiced there as an associate and partner for his entire career. He developed an expertise in workers' compensation law and became an acknowledged expert in that field. He was frequently called upon as an instructor for the New Brunswick Bar admission course and was often invited to speak at continuing legal education courses for lawyers over the years. The door to his office was always open and young lawyers could always count on him for advice and help. Also, an excellent athlete, Greg was the driving force behind the firm's various sporting events - especially firm golf tournaments. Greg was a good friend to everyone in the firm; especially loved by members of the staff who valued his candour, kindness, consideration, and sense of humour.



***Mary Frances (Roach) MacDonald (LLB'84)***

**1946 - 2023**

Although her educational ambitions were delayed due to illness in her youth, Mary Frances went back to school as an adult with small children, first obtaining her B.A. from what is now Cape Breton University, and then earning a law degree from the University of New Brunswick. After completing her education, she returned home to Cape Breton to practice law. Aside from her years at law school, Mary Frances was a lifelong resident of Glace Bay. She enjoyed talking about her children, preparing nice meals, entertaining friends, and hunting for a good bargain. She was also a long-time member of the Catholic Women's League (CWL).



***Myrna Anne Richards (LLB'92)***

**1941 - 2023**

Myrna continued her role as a trail blazer and role model when she fulfilled a lifelong dream and attended University of New Brunswick Law School. Admittedly, one of the older students, she nonetheless made friends and admirers of her fellow students and professors alike. She loved everything about the law and excelled in her practice, articling with Stewart McKelvey, working with David Lutz, and finally opening her own practice. She was a fierce advocate for her clients and a kind advisor for all those who sought her counsel. She was equally respected during her time as Vice-Chairperson of the New Brunswick Labour and Employment Board and as a representative on the Premier's Council on Health.

# *In Memoriam*



In addition to the above alumni, the Faculty of Law also lost a talented and dedicated instructor, François Michel Beaulieu.

***François Michel Beaulieu***  
**1966 - 2023**

François grew up in Edmundston where he graduated from Polyvalente A.M. Sormany. After completing a Bachelor of Business Administration (B.B.A.) from l'Université de Moncton in 1988, he worked for the family business A.A. Beaulieu Limited for six years before returning to Moncton with Manon to complete a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) at l'Université de Moncton in 1997. Francois was called to the NB Bar in June of 1998, and started his law practice at the firm of Clark Drummie. During his time at Clark Drummie, François completed a Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Alternative Dispute Resolution at Osgoode Hall Law School in 2006. Through this Master's Degree, François discovered a new purpose, a deeply rooted passion and a different outlook on the practice of law, which he set out to share with others. Drawing from that passion and his innate comprehensive professional skills, François developed a negotiation course in both official languages which quickly became part of the LL.B. offering at the UNB and Université de Moncton Law Schools. He then spent 18 years (until his passing) teaching the art of negotiation and sharing his passion for conflict resolution with NB law students.

*Obituary excerpts shared from McAdam's Funeral Home, Kennebecasis Community Funeral Home, Telegraph-Journal, Donald K. Walker Funeral Directors, Humphreys' Funeral Home, Brenan's Funeral Home, Elhatton Funeral Home LTD., Frenette Funeral Home, York Funeral Home, Arbor Memorial, Globe and Mail, V.J. McGillivray Funeral Homes, Reid's Funeral Home.*

# GET INVOLVED

## UNB LAW IS YOUR LAW SCHOOL

Do you have a story idea for Nexus? Would like to tour the building and see what's changed? Are you and your classmates hoping to host a reunion at the law school or an alumni event in your hometown? Interested in establishing a class scholarship or exploring other donation options? Hoping to volunteer with a student group or society? Or just looking to learn more about our vision for the future of UNB Law? We want to hear from you!

If you would like to get involved at UNB Law, please contact [lawdean@unb.ca](mailto:lawdean@unb.ca).



## KEEP IN TOUCH

Follow UNB law on Facebook and Twitter

 /unblaw  @unblaw

Follow the Law Library on Facebook and Twitter

 /UNBLawLibrary  @UNBlawlibrary

Remember to update your contact information with UNB Alumni by visiting:

**UNB.CA/ALUMNI/UPDATES**

*Editor & Creative Director: Ed Bowes*

*For comments or story ideas, or to receive a print copy, email us at [nexus@unb.ca](mailto:nexus@unb.ca)*

*Thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue.*