

# NEXUS

UNB LAW ALUMNI MAGAZINE



**CELEBRATING**  
*our champions*

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# Dean's Message



Michael Marin, K.C.  
Dean of Law

The theme of this issue of Nexus is the most important during my time as Dean. For any organization to be successful, it needs champions, people who share its values and who are willing to devote their time and money to help it thrive. This is especially true for universities, which are notoriously strapped for cash and hard to manage.

You can have the most visionary leader, the most cooperative faculty, and the most devoted staff, but without influential people in your corner, progress will not happen. Without your champions, your lofty plans and big dreams will stall at the implementation stage, gummed up in the morass of institutional bureaucracy and politics. It's your champions that cut through the friction and help you get things done.

About four years ago, shortly after I became Dean, I got advice along these lines from a UNB Law graduate. They were much more familiar with universities and public institutions than I was. "Whatever you do," they said, "engage our alumni. They're an untapped resource and the key to unlocking UNB Law's full potential."

When people ask me about the progress we've made over the last four years, I often reference this advice and remark how spot-on our wise graduate was.

You see, I attribute much of our recent success to the passionate support of key alumni, some of whom we're celebrating in this issue. Of course, many other people have contributed to our trajectory, including faculty and staff. But, as I observed, we internal players depend on an external team to share our vision and will it into reality. At UNB Law, we're incredibly fortunate to have the most enthusiastic alumni of any Canadian law school.

As Ted Flett (JD'16) noted in a recent article in Canadian Lawyer Magazine, being a UNB Law graduate is something distinctive and special. There aren't a lot of them, so their affinity for each other and their law school is intense. And over the last four years, we've benefited tremendously from their support.

In this issue, you'll read about the extraordinary contributions of Earl Brewer (LLB'74) and Sandy Kitchen-Brewer, who I'm privileged to call mentors and friends. What I admire most about Earl and Sandy is that when other people focus on pointing out problems, they get busy finding solutions. For years, New Brunswick lagged the rest of Canada without a school meal program, so Earl and Sandy built kitchens and distributed food all over the province to solve that problem. After they did the heavy lifting, the provincial government got on board and now kids all over New Brunswick learn on a full stomach.

***“Celebrating our champions—our amazing graduates—isn’t just an occasional affair; it is now part of UNB Law’s culture. Engaging our alumni is a source of institutional pride and power. It also gives meaning to who we are as an institution. It must remain a top priority.”***

A few years ago, Earl took an interest in UNB Law’s Strategic Plan. While some people thought we were being too ambitious or that we’d have to wait our turn to become a priority, Earl silenced the naysayers by making the largest donation that a graduate has ever made to UNB Law. His \$1 million leadership gift has inspired others to follow him and lent credibility to the Faculty’s aspirations.

Another champion is Janet Hoyt (LLB’84), who I consider the “O.G.” of our alumni team. You see, Janet was there six years ago when we started working on UNB Law’s Strategic Plan. She served as the alumni representative on our Strategic Planning Committee. As a member of the UNB Board of Governors and a pioneer in lawyer talent development, she brought influence and credibility to our work. Janet also introduced me to some of UNB Law’s most prominent alumni, who then joined the effort themselves. Janet is what some in the business community call a “super connector” and people like her are rare and invaluable to organizations. She is a most deserving recipient of the Ilsa Greenblatt Shore Distinguished Graduate Award.

Another UNB Law graduate who was honoured recently is Jamie Petrie (LLB’94); Jamie received the UNB Alumni Award of Honour. Jamie has had a remarkable legal career, holding senior leadership roles in some of New Brunswick’s most important organizations. As Chief Legal Officer at NB Power, Jamie is at the centre of decisions affecting one of the cornerstones of our Province’s economy. Despite his demanding

day jobs, Jamie has been a non-stop champion of his alma mater. And every time I see him, he’s hopeful and optimistic and has a big smile on his face. In addition to boosting UNB Law’s message, people like Jamie give us confidence to carry on when times get tough.

There are dozens more UNB Law graduates who have been instrumental in UNB Law’s revival. We’ve profiled some in previous issues of Nexus and we’ll profile more in future issues. But the message I want to leave you with is that UNB Law is proud of and grateful for its alumni.

In addition to driving the Faculty of Law’s growth and development, our graduates are a source of inspiration, and they’re living proof of our institutional aspirations. To illustrate this, let me share a recent highlight for me, which was attending the reception for the Class of 1974’s 50<sup>th</sup> reunion.

This is a remarkable group of people, which includes many judges, business leaders, senior public servants, and even a premier. Their professional accomplishments made me so proud to be part of the UNB Law community. Then I watched and listened to these leaders shake hands with and thank their former professors, Karl Dore and Dick Bird, who attended at the invitation of their former students. “I want you to know that the way you taught us really set me up for success,” one member of the class told them.

It was a moving series of interactions, obviously a testament to the talent and dedication of two of UNB Law’s

legendary educators. But it also said something about UNB Law as an institution—that our mission and our values aren’t just words, they come to life through the transformative experiences of our students and the contributions they go on to make as graduates. In so many ways, UNB Law is defined and shaped by its alumni, and we have every reason to continue to foster our special relationship with you.

To this end, over the last several years, we’ve added resources to our budget for hosting alumni events and reunions. In addition to the 1974 reunion, in May, the Faculty of Law held receptions in honour of the classes of 1994, 1999, and 2014. We now have a team that can help with all aspects of organizing a class reunion.

Also in May, I travelled across the country, meeting graduates in Toronto, Calgary, and Vancouver. This fall, we’ll be hosting alumni events throughout Atlantic Canada. We’ve also reoriented Nexus to focus more on alumni stories, and our popular podcast series showcased nearly a dozen UNB Law graduates.

Celebrating our champions—our amazing graduates—isn’t just an occasional affair; it is now part of UNB Law’s culture. Engaging our alumni is a source of institutional pride and power. It also gives meaning to who we are as an institution. It must remain a top priority.





# A lifetime of impact

## Earl Brewer & Sandy Kitchen-Brewer receive honorary degrees

From healthcare to the arts, business to education, food security to social innovation, Earl Brewer (BA'70, LLB'74) and Sandra (Sandy) Kitchen-Brewer (BA'94, MA'08) are dedicated to improving the lives of their fellow New Brunswickers. Their long-standing commitment to their community was recognized this past May, as the pair each received an honorary doctorate of letters at the University of New Brunswick's 195<sup>th</sup> Encaenia Ceremony.

"It is with immense gratitude and humility that I stand here today," said Earl, addressing the room of dignitaries, UNB representatives, graduates and their families at the Richard J. CURRIE CENTER. "I am moved by the privilege of having my wife stand with me here on this stage today."



Sandy, speaking on behalf of herself and Earl, delivered a heartfelt message, sharing the guiding principles that shaped their path to success and happiness. She urged graduates to never underestimate the power of luck and to embrace curiosity, highlighting its transformative power in their personal and professional lives: “Earl and I have both made careers out of asking questions—lots and lots of questions. And let me tell you, curiosity isn’t just good for solving cases, building buildings, or conducting research. It is the key to lifelong learning and personal growth. So, keep asking why. Keep exploring new ideas, and never ever lose sight of the wonder of the world around you.”

The pair acknowledged that nothing meaningful is earned without help and to always give credit where credit is due—to the mentors, colleagues, friends and family who helped along the way. In closing, they reminded graduates of one of the most basic principles that contributed to their own success: to be a good person.

“It sounds simple, doesn’t it?” said Sandy, “but it isn’t. In a world that can sometimes feel chaotic and divided, kindness and decency go a long way. No matter the career you’re pursuing, or in your everyday life, never lose sight of the importance of empathy, integrity and compassion. When you are faced with decisions in life always lead with being a good person.”

### ***Fighting food insecurity, promoting arts and culture, and improving healthcare***

Social activists, philanthropists, business leaders, and staunch community supporters, Earl and Sandy have left an enduring mark on the Province of New Brunswick and beyond—doing so with modesty and authenticity. In 2009, they established the Brewer Foundation, initially to provide educational funding for students showing strong academic skills but with no economic means to attend a post-secondary

institution. Since its inception, the Brewer Foundation has provided significant financial support to countless community initiatives.

A few years ago, Earl and Sandy set out on a far-reaching (and perhaps their most important) mission, to ensure that no child in New Brunswick would be hungry at school. At the time, New Brunswick was the only province in the country not to have a school food program. They have invested in breakfast, lunch and snack programs that support kids at more than 100 schools from the Acadian Peninsula to Saint John. In doing so, they raised awareness of food insecurity among children in New Brunswick—the “silent pandemic,” as Sandy calls it—kids not having enough to eat, let alone healthy options. Sandy has observed that the students who participate in school food programs as volunteers are learning empathy, and they will be the ones to carry on this work in the future. Thanks to their leadership on this issue, the Government of New Brunswick joined the effort in 2022, expanding support for hungry kids in our province.

Earl and Sandy have made significant contributions by devoting their time, skills, and connections to various social and cultural institutions as well. Ardent patrons of the arts, they began the Studio Watch Emerging Artist award program in 2006 with the Beaverbrook Art Gallery to increase the exposure of young, upcoming artists in New Brunswick, giving them an opportunity to be celebrated, excel in their field, and advance to the next step in their career. The Emerging Artist Award is in its 18<sup>th</sup> year. In addition, Earl served as a board member of the Beaverbrook Art Gallery, where he played an active role in the Gallery’s recent expansion.

Earl has also dedicated his time and expertise as director of New Brunswick Investment Management Corporation (now known as Vestcor Inc.), director of the Atlantic Salmon Federation, and board member





*This historic gift has established the Brewer Scholarship, which fosters academic excellence in the Faculty of Law. This renewable award is valued at \$27,500, making it the largest at UNB Law other than the Beaverbrook Scholarship.*

of the Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation, UNB Alumni Council and the UNB Board of Governors, not to mention the recently established Dean's Advisory Council at the Faculty of Law. He also served as one of Sweden's Honorary Consuls in Canada. And he has been involved in the development and management strategy for the University woodlot.

Sandy manages the Brewer Foundation. She is deeply committed to healthcare. A former research associate at the National Research Council of Canada, she co-chairs Women4Women Fredericton Inc., an initiative to establish a women's health clinic in Fredericton, which will address gaps in healthcare for women through trauma-informed and interdisciplinary approaches. In addition, she serves on the board of the Lahey Clinic Canadian Foundation, which helps create unique training opportunities for physicians and nurses, and cross-border collaborations. A quiet but effective social innovator, she is the co-author of papers on community intermediaries, those who serve as links between government agencies and citizens seeking their support.

### ***Doing good business***

Earl has established himself as a pioneer in the world of Canadian real estate. He is the former Chair of the Board of Greenarm Corporation and co-founded PlazaREIT, a publicly traded company that owns and manages retail properties across the country. Locally, Earl is known for contributing to the preservation and revitalization of downtown Fredericton. He is a developer with a conscience, constructing new and award-winning buildings with thoughtful consideration of materials, scale and use, while also preserving heritage. His buildings have helped shape Fredericton's downtown core, maintaining its past while revitalizing its future. But what truly distinguishes Earl professionally is his sterling reputation, built on the highest ethical standards in business and law.

### ***Giving back to UNB Law***

The Faculty of Law has been the beneficiary of substantial support from the Brewers for scholarships, and most recently, as lead donors to the Faculty of Law campaign. In January 2024, we proudly announced a \$1,000,000 gift from Earl—the largest donation ever made to UNB Law by one of its graduates.

"My time at UNB Law was crucial in my career success," said Earl. "I believe the study of law enables us to become problem solvers and make a real difference in our society through good works and public service. It is an honour, and indeed a duty, to give back."

This historic gift has established the Brewer Scholarship, which fosters academic excellence in the Faculty of Law. This renewable award is valued at \$27,500, making it the largest at UNB Law other than the Beaverbrook Scholarship. It will support three UNB Law students per year, recognizing their outstanding academic achievement and leadership potential. Furthermore, a portion of Earl's gift will also help optimize the learning spaces in UNB Law's new home, the downtown Justice Building.

***"Earl and Sandy have made transformative contributions that have created opportunity and improved the lives of people across the region, and right here at UNB Law," said Dean Marin. "It was especially meaningful to see them receive this honour jointly. Earl and Sandy share the same values and I think that is why they make such a formidable team, much deserving of UNB's highest honour."***

The Faculty of Law congratulates Dr. Earl Brewer and Dr. Sandy Kitchen-Brewer on their honorary degrees and thanks them for being such remarkable role models for our community.



# CELEBRATING **Janet Hoyt** A LEGAL INDUSTRY PIONEER

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**J**anet Hoyt (LLB'84) has built an extraordinary reputation throughout Canada as a pioneering force in the legal profession. She has devoted over half of her 40-year career to helping others reach their full potential. Her innovative work, compassion, selfless nature, and strength-based approach to career success have positively impacted the lives of many lawyers. Janet's outstanding contributions to the profession, impeccable record of public and community service, and long-standing commitment to UNB and the Faculty of Law have earned her the 2023 Ilsa Greenblatt Shore Distinguished Graduate Award.

## ***The path to Bay Street***

Even though Janet has not lived in New Brunswick since she graduated from law school, she is quick to call herself "a proud New Brunswicker." She has always considered the province "home" and staying connected to it has been very important to her. Janet was born and raised in Fredericton and spent most of her teenage summers hanging around her father's law office—so it was not all that surprising when she followed in his footsteps in hopes of practicing together.

"I thought I had a plan but as we know, plans can unexpectedly change. The day I started law school was also the day my father was sworn in as a judge, so that was it for that. Make no mistake, I was so proud of him, but it did leave me pondering 'now what?'"

Upon graduating from law school, Janet went on to article and establish a successful legal practice in Halifax, NS. Another unexpected move in 1994 took her to Toronto.

"If you had told me back then that I would end up living and working in Toronto, I would have said you were crazy. I thought I would only be there for 2- or 3-years max, and here I am 30 years later [laughs], but it has been a great journey."

Janet joined Torys as their full-time Director of Professional Development in 1998. Torys was the first firm to establish this unique role.

*“My best days were when someone knocked on my door and asked if they could speak with me. I was coaching long before I even knew about executive coaching.”*

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“On reflection, I think it was my involvement in the Canadian Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Division (YLD) that landed me the job. I graduated from UNB Law in 1984, in the depths of a deep recession, and jobs were scarce. I was one of the lucky ones who got an offer after articling but the stress and duress of young lawyers trying to navigate the market, having no guidance and support, was something I dedicated time and resources to during my tenure with the YLD, and I am still passionate about these issues 40 years later.”

Janet spent 16 “wonderful” years at Torys transforming the professional experience for its lawyers through innovative talent management, work allocation practices, and leadership training. Her initiatives in recruitment and retention, mentoring, and career development set benchmarks that transformed how legal professionals are nurtured and supported, not just at Torys but elsewhere. During her tenure at Torys, Janet became a trusted coach to many.

“My best days were when someone knocked on my door and asked if they could speak with me. I was coaching long before I even knew about executive coaching.”

### *The move to coaching*

Janet’s commitment to mentoring and coaching has been the cornerstone of her career. She volunteered as a Career Mentor in the Top 200 program with the Ted Rogers School of Management at Toronto Metropolitan

University and she has acted as a volunteer coach for the Young Women in Law Association, an initiative to encourage and promote the retention of women in law. Again, not surprising to those who know her, Janet decided to devote all of her time and energies to coaching. In 2014, she obtained a graduate diploma in Executive Coaching from Royal Roads University in Victoria and is recognized today as one of Canada’s foremost legal coaches.

“I have been so fortunate in my career. It did not evolve as I thought it would as a young lawyer in Halifax, but I ended up doing what I was meant to do. Not everyone can say that, so I am very thankful.”

Janet’s primary client is McCarthy Tetrault, one of the only law firms in North America to establish an independent and confidential coaching service for its lawyers.

“The response has been terrific and there are so many benefits, specifically for lawyers who aren’t very good at lifting their heads from their desks. Asking for help, and seeking some guidance or coaching, is a strength, not a weakness. The practice of law is very rewarding, but it is not without its challenges. Being able to have candid, confidential, and safe conversations with someone outside the organization is powerful and, in some instances, transformative. On the flip side, I am also in the unique position of having some influence internally, there is a huge value-add for all. I am surprised other firms have not copied the model.”

### *Challenges facing the legal profession*

Janet’s concerns about the evolving landscape of the legal profession are deeply rooted in her years of experience and observations. She advocates for a balanced approach that prioritizes mental health and work-life balance.

“The practice of law, for the most part, continues to be practiced the same way it has been for decades (some would say centuries). We have to pay attention to the reasons behind high attrition, and the toll that stress, burnout, addiction, and mental health episodes are taking on lawyers and their families. The time has come.”

Despite the immense challenges of the pandemic, Janet found a silver lining: it gave many people a moment to pause and reflect on how they want to live and work.

“I can attest that lots of self-reflection was happening. I was never busier. As we emerged from this period of contemplation, there’s been a collective shift towards wanting more intentional and satisfying professional lives, particularly among the younger generation of lawyers. They want to ‘work to live’ unlike many of us older folks who ‘lived to work’ and I applaud this. They are smart, they take great pride in their work, and they are ambitious, but they want to live and work differently than many of us did.”

Janet also acknowledges the growing concerns about the implications of AI in the legal field, particularly its





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potential impact on job security. She remains positive, viewing AI not as a replacement for lawyers but as a tool to strengthen their roles while transforming the business of law.

“AI is going to disrupt the traditional billable hour model, and it is going to significantly change how we work. It is going to enhance rather than replace the work of lawyers. That is my hope. The question then becomes how will lawyers take advantage of these efficiencies, the gift of time. I am hopeful that an increasing number will choose to approach their careers with mindfulness and purpose. Life offers no rehearsals, so we must craft our professional journeys with intention, embracing the opportunities for change and growth, and remaining optimistic about the future of the legal profession.”

### *Developing UNB Law’s strategic plan*

Janet’s service to UNB and the Faculty of Law has been constant and exemplary. Since 2016, she has served on the UNB Board Governors, stepping into a leadership role as Vice-Chair in 2023. She has served UNB Law faithfully as a member of the Heritage Law Campaign Cabinet in the early 1990s, and more recently as a member of the Law School’s Strategic Planning Committee. For fourteen months, this small group engaged the UNB Law community and developed a plan for the next decade. Janet was at the heart of this work.

“I think every organization needs a plan and a great leader to rally the troops and to execute on it and Dean Marin is delivering in spades—the launch of the legal clinic and the impact it is having in the province, the incredible new additions to the faculty which will reduce class sizes and enhance the curriculum and student experience, increased student support, the move to the new building downtown. The list goes on and we most certainly have the right leader at the helm.”

Janet remains a champion of UNB Law during this turning point in our history. As a member of both the Dean’s Advisory Council and Campaign Cabinet, she is helping make the UNB Law Strategic Plan a reality.

### *Ilsa Greenblatt Shore Distinguished Graduate Award*

Janet has earned the admiration of her peers at UNB and across Canada and has served UNB with distinction. UNB Law is incredibly proud and grateful for the many contributions Janet has made to its success and to the success of graduates who have followed in her footsteps. In recognition of this, Janet was presented with the 2023 Ilsa Greenblatt Shore Distinguished Graduate Award at the graduation dinner in May. Dean Marin perhaps best summed up UNB Law’s debt to Janet with the following words:

“Janet Hoyt is one of the heroes of UNB Law’s revival. So much of what our students now enjoy—our legal clinic, expanded career services, wellness advising, more professors, and more courses—stemmed from Janet’s work on the strategic planning committee. And it wasn’t just ideas that Janet contributed to that effort. After our report was done, she lobbied ferociously for its approval and implementation by the Board of Governors. She introduced me to many of UNB Law’s most influential alumni and helped us earn their trust. Because of her, we now have an all-star team in UNB Law’s corner.”





# *Elise Hamill*

*recognized for work  
advancing migrant justice*

**E**lise Hamill is the 2023-24 recipient of the Pro Bono Students Canada (PBSC) Chief Justice Richard Wagner Award. Elise was recognized for her leadership and outstanding volunteer work with the Madhu Verma Migrant Justice Centre, a non-profit committed to the advancement of migrant justice and supporting migrants with precarious status in New Brunswick. Elise sat down with Nexus to discuss her passion for pro bono legal work and work with the Migrant Justice Centre.

## *Can you begin by telling me a little bit about yourself?*

I was born and raised in Paris, Ontario. I graduated from the University of Ottawa with my Hons. Bachelor of Political Science. I am now heading into my third and final year at UNB's Faculty of Law. In my free time I love camping, hiking, and going for bike rides on the Fredericton trails!

### *What was it about UNB Law that drew you in?*

I've also always wanted to explore Canada's Atlantic provinces. I thought that law school would be a really great opportunity to move to a new province and explore all that the east coast has to offer! I was also drawn to the smaller class sizes and the opportunity to get to know my classmates and professors. I knew that this would be important to me because my favorite classes in university were not the 200-person lectures, but rather the 12-person seminars where you had the opportunity to collaborate with and learn from your peers. When I saw that UNB Law prided itself on having these small class sizes and an intimate learning environment, I knew that that UNB would be a great fit for me!

### *What drew you to join UNB Law's PBSC chapter?*

I thought that it would be a wonderful way to get involved in the fight for access to justice. Working with the Madhu Verma Centre was a very welcoming place, and I am so grateful for their flexibility and kindness after a chaotic first couple of weeks of the semester caused by an apartment fire. I knew after my first meeting with my supervisor, that working with the Madhu Centre would be a great learning experience and introduce me to a community of people who deeply care about issues related to migrant justice.

### *I'm sorry to hear. It must have been an incredibly challenging time for you.*

Honestly, with everything else going on around me, I enjoyed just diving into the PBSC assignments. Working on projects that really mattered was a welcome distraction amid all the chaos. The support that I received from those at the Madhu Centre was just phenomenal throughout my time volunteering for them; I'm eternally grateful for that.

### *Was migrant justice something you have always been interested in?*

The Madhu Verma Migrant Justice Centre was assigned to me by the PBSC Coordinator—and I feel so lucky to have been matched with such an interesting project! I had been doing some work with the Red Cross' Immigration Detention Monitoring Program, I think that is part of why I was matched with the Madhu Verma Centre. My PBSC placement perfectly reflected my areas of interest—working with vulnerable people and advocating for better policies and systems that affect them.

### *Can you tell me a bit more about your work with the Red Cross?*

Of course! Essentially, we perform wellness checks with detainees. We meet with them and ensure that they are being treated properly while being detained. We look at whether they have adequate food and clothing, and whether they are being treated fairly and humanely. Based on the outcome of the interview, we may write a report, do a follow-up interview, or contact the detention center directly if there are concerns.

### *You are working with people who may be at their lowest point in extreme and difficult circumstances. This must have been a challenging experience.*

It is difficult to hear the stories of people who have been detained and of their ill-treatment while at these facilities. Ultimately our goal is to protect them and be advocates for their wellbeing.

### *The Madhu Verma Migrant Justice Centre certainly sounds like an ideal placement for someone with your background. Can you tell me about the various projects you worked on with the Centre?*

Sure. The Madhu Verma Migrant Justice Centre is primarily concerned with helping migrant workers, underserved migrants, refugee

claimants, international students, and people without status. Much of the work done at the Migrant Justice Centre is at the intersection of immigration, international and human rights law.

I was involved in several projects throughout my placement.

One project I was involved in was research on Canada's legal obligations to gender-diverse youth. This research was collected to help the Justice Centre develop a case to become interveners on Policy 713 and to represent gender-diverse international students or refugee students who are attending school in Canada.

We also looked at the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration study that was examining the effects of closed work permits on migrant workers in Canada. The position of the Madhu Verma Migrant Justice Centre is that this type of work permit is particularly harmful to the worker because they are tied to a single employer in a defined employment sector. If the worker is being mistreated, they can easily be returned to their country of origin. The Migrant Justice Centre is advocating for open work permits for all migrant workers, which would allow workers to seek different employers and types of work in Canada. Researching the parliamentary committee's work on this issue was a great opportunity to learn more about the actions that the government is taking to address the issue of mistreated migrant workers in Canada, but also how industries that rely on migrant labour have a significant role in maintaining the status quo.

Another project that I took on involved reviewing cases that relied on humanitarian and compassionate grounds as an avenue to permanent residency after all other options had been exhausted. Doing this research gave me insight into the hurdles associated with meeting the demands for an exception based



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on humanitarian and compassionate grounds. It also deepened my appreciation for the challenges faced by individuals seeking protection in Canada.

These are just a few of the interesting projects that I was able to work on during my time with the Madhu Verma Migrant Justice Centre.

*Wow. It sounds like quite a diverse set of projects.*

I think one of the major benefits of the PBSC program is exposing students to a diverse and challenging set of legal problems. In my experience, every week there was a new task and a new issue. As I mentioned earlier, this placement was very intersectional. We saw immigration law, refugee law, human rights law, and even a bit of employment and labour law.

*How has your PBSC experience shaped your law school experience and your values as you enter your final year of study?*

On a practical level, the research and writing skills used to produce the memos, briefs, and reports are very useful skills that will continue to be incredibly beneficial going forward. In terms of my goals for the future, I am now considering a career in immigration and refugee law, as a direct result of my exposure to this area of law.

I will certainly be pursuing pro bono work for the rest of my career. It’s so important to give back to your community and to make sure that you’re using your law degree to increase access to justice, particularly for vulnerable people.

*How did you feel when you heard you were receiving the Chief Justice Richard Wagner Award?*

I was surprised and deeply humbled to be selected for this award. It means a lot to me to see my work with the Migrant Justice Centre acknowledged. I want to thank my placement supervisors, Aditya Rao and Avery Judson, for their guidance and support. This was not strictly a research project. Each week, I was given the opportunity to learn about this critical area of the law and make a small contribution that was meaningful to the work of the Migrant Justice Centre.

*Are there any final thoughts you would like to share?*

There’s a lot of responsibilities that come with a law degree. It is our job as future lawyers to make sure that people have access to legal representation. The law can be inaccessible for so many people, especially newcomers who may not understand their rights, know the language, or fear repercussions for speaking up about mistreatment. We need to be there for them. Providing free legal services is just one of many things we can do to support temporary foreign workers, immigrants, and refugees to Canada.

To any law students who may be considering PBSC, I urge you to apply. You will explore interesting areas of the law that you may not have considered. It might just spark an interest that can totally change your career path. No matter what your placement, the skills you will learn will enhance your ability to succeed in class and will be invaluable to your future career.





# PROUDLY UNB

## *Jamie Petrie recognized for leadership & service*

**T**his spring, the University of New Brunswick Associated Alumni named their 2024 Proudly UNB Awards recipients, and a familiar face from UNB Law took home the top honour. Jamie Petrie (LLB'94) was presented with the prestigious Alumni Award of Honour by Associated Alumni President Jennifer Sutherland Green (LLB'99) at the awards gala in April.

A talented and natural leader, Jamie has shown a tremendous amount of love and admiration for his alma mater. As you will read, his journey embodies the spirit of dedication and excellence that defines UNB's alumni. His impressive career trajectory, coupled with his extensive contributions to both UNB and the broader Fredericton community, make him a deserving recipient of this prestigious award.

### *Deep roots at UNB Law*

Jamie graduated from UNB with a Bachelor of Business Administration and was valedictorian of the Class of 1990. Despite vowing never to enter the "family business," he eventually followed in his father, mother, and brother's footsteps—J. Gordon Petrie, Q.C. (LLB'64), Connie Petrie (LLB'85), Hon. Justice Richard Petrie (LLB'90)—and obtained his law degree in 1994 as a Beaverbrook Scholar. He obtained a Master of Laws from Duke University in 1995 and articulated with Bennett Jones LLP in Calgary. He returned to Fredericton, joining Petrie Richmond Goss, a labour and employment boutique that later became part of Stewart McKelvey in January 2000. He served as partner at Stewart McKelvey until his departure in February 2004.



***“To this moment, I still don’t believe I’ve earned it, so I’m going to keep earning it for the rest of my life.”***

“One of my professors, Brian Bruce, had a permanent impact on my life and trajectory. He was a huge personality in labor and employment law in New Brunswick and well-known and respected arbitrator. I worked for him as a summer student during my law school career, and that hugely influenced my path following graduation, including my decision to teach employment law at UNB for seven years.”

### ***A career at the forefront of real-estate innovation***

Jamie joined Plaza Retail REIT in March 2004. It was with Plaza that Jamie would cut his teeth in a legal career at the intersection of business and the law. Joining the company during its infancy, he and his colleagues worked to develop and expand the revolutionary retail development and ownership model into one of Canada’s top real estate investment trusts. Jamie spent 17 years of his legal career dedicated to the success of Plaza. He was their first lawyer in Atlantic Canada, became Corporate Secretary, and ultimately served as Executive Vice-president, COO, and General Counsel.

And it was a wild ride...

“I think one of the most amazing accomplishments but also one of the most challenging parts was the growth. We went from having 20 properties to over 278 across Canada. We were scrambling to keep up with that growth and to see the share value go up. They were very exciting times!”

These retail properties included large enclosed shopping centres, strip malls, and standalone retailers, including the rapidly growing Shopper’s Drug Mart chain.

“Shoppers Drug Mart had a new program that would transform their small, quaint stores into the massive 20,000+ square foot monoliths that we know today. They wanted to run that program right across the country, and Plaza was lucky enough to be one of their preferred developers.”

Jamie attributes much of Plaza’s success to its focus on relationship-building and a simple mantra: “Do what you say you’re going to do.”

“This was one of our core values. We built these incredible, long relationships with Sobeys, Canadian Tire, Bulk Barn, and Dollarama, among others. We continued to grow as these retailers grew. It was an incredible learning opportunity for my legal career.”

Jamie was heavily involved in Plaza’s \$325M acquisition of KEYreit, a premier small-box retail property owner in Canada. He was a member of the negotiations and deal team that brought the two publicly traded companies together, KEYreit on the Toronto Stock Exchange and Plaza on the TSX Venture Exchange. With the deal, Plaza graduated to the TSX.

“Legally, it was incredibly challenging. There was the regulatory side, employment issues, corporate/commercial, and financing issues. It was day and night—the best legal education you could get. In the end, it was a great thing for Plaza and for KEYreit shareholders. I’m so proud of that transaction, although I was just one of many people involved.”

In his 17 years with Plaza, the one project that stands out most for Jamie is the Shoppes at Galway development outside St. John’s, Newfoundland. Lawyer and former Premier Danny Williams, K.C. was seeking a co-developer for a massive property



for retail, residential, and industrial development. Proposals came in from developers across the country, including Plaza.

"We were competing with major retail developers—huge companies. We ended up being the ones selected. I think Danny was impressed by us and loved that we were the only Maritime-based developer. This was by far our largest development ever, 100+ acres of retail, very similar to the Corbett Centre in Fredericton."

It was a mega project by all standards, with one of the lynchpins of the development being Newfoundland's first and only Costco.

"When I left Plaza, I think that was the busiest Costco in the world in terms of sales per square foot. It was a real coup to bring Costco to that site, which, of course, kicked off all sorts of other developments. I think that project stands out in terms of the length of time, the complexity of the deal, and the highly successful result. It was such an exciting time to be part of that company, and it still is today because they continue to grow. They were formative years, and I think all of us that experienced it look back with nostalgia."

### **Trading in retail development for the energy sector**

After 17 years with Plaza, Jamie made the move to the energy sector, joining NB Power as Chief Legal Officer (CLO).

"I loved Plaza. It was a great team with incredible managers and owners, and it was a tough decision to leave. The Chief Legal Officer position at NB Power was a coveted in-house counsel position and the opportunity of a lifetime for me. I thought if I don't take this chance now, I may never have this opportunity again."

Jamie's new life as CLO is as varied as it is challenging. His management duties fall well beyond just the legal team. He oversees the Crown

corporation's supply chain and procurement divisions as well as the massive 1,200+ fleet of vehicles that includes everything from line trucks to ATVs to pick-ups and vans...and even a military-grade off-road "tank" to access the most difficult forest terrain. Jamie also manages NB Power's real estate group and facilities team that include the downtown head office, operations centres across the province, fleet, inventory and warehousing facilities, and more.

"I also oversee our internal energy management and field services group which is concerned with the energy efficiency of our own assets. This group ensures that our generation plants, office buildings, and operating centers all really act with utmost energy efficiency. It's important that we walk the talk."

Jamie leads a corporate legal team of nine lawyers—all UNB Law grads. He describes a day in the life for him and his team as a "never-ending stream of legal work," where time management and balance are crucial.

"It's a huge company with almost 3,000 employees and it's the provincial utility. It truly is a fantastic place to work because no two days are the same. We see Indigenous matters, corporate/commercial, thefts and other criminal matters, customer service issues and lawsuits, litigation both for and against, regulatory matters, energy efficiency issues and all manner of contracts. It's a busy legal team and I couldn't be luckier to have them and their strong and varied expertise."

### **Giving back to his community**

Jamie is a lifelong volunteer, who has made immeasurable contributions both professionally and personally to the Fredericton community and UNB. According to Jamie, he's unsure where exactly his desire to volunteer came from, but once he got a taste of what it's like to give back, it became addictive.

"It's just been a fulfilling way that I've lived my life. You get more than you give; that is a mantra of volunteerism, especially if it's something that's near and dear to your heart."

Jamie has held several leadership roles within the community. He spent nearly a decade volunteering with the Fredericton YMCA, where he served on the Operating Board, including a term as President, as well as their Endowment Board.

"The YMCA is really where I cut my teeth on getting to know volunteerism up close and personal, and it opened up so many doors to new relationships. Those experiences will stick with me for the rest of my life."

His connections made at the YMCA led him to the Fredericton Community Foundation, a non-profit that supports over 100 charitable organizations focusing on areas such as arts, culture and heritage; the environment; food security; housing; health and wellness; and literacy and education. Jamie sat on the board for many years and eventually served as chair. He remains a member of the Foundation's Honorary Council.

"This is an incredible organization and a highly undervalued entity in our community. It's part of the Community Foundations of Canada—over 200 across the country. It creates endowments to create this beautiful, never-ending loop of financial support. They do so much good."

Next, Jamie turned his sights to UNB. Wanting to give back to his alma mater, he became a member of the Alumni Council, elected and appointed graduates who represent the over 100,000 members of the alumni constituency. He spent many years with this group, organizing events and fundraisers and helping alumni connect and strengthen their bond with UNB and each other.

According to Jamie, one of his most rewarding contributions has been his ongoing work on the Beaverbrook





Scholars Awards Committee, which is made up of past recipients such as himself. Above all, he relishes the opportunity to watch the Beaverbrook family grow.

“It’s been such an incredible experience, particularly the selection committee duties—getting to hear these incredible stories of resilience. You’re changing someone’s life completely. Then, it’s the excitement of seeing these individuals graduate and grow into unbelievable community leaders, business leaders, medical leaders, and, of course, leaders in the legal community. They give back, they join our committee. It’s an incredible cycle.”

### ***Receiving the Alumni Award of Honour***

Jamie was stunned when he heard that he was receiving the Alumni Award of Honour. Having been on the Alumni Council, he knows the award and past recipients well.

“To this moment, I still don’t believe I’ve earned it, so I’m going to keep earning it for the rest of my life.”

Looking out over the crowd of supporters, friends, and family, Jamie shared what this award means to him.

“The three years spent at law school were some of my happiest and most rewarding of my life. I do want to acknowledge and thank my wife of 30 years. None of my success in business, law, volunteering or even family life could have happened without her never-ending love and support. The award of honour also hits home as I truly believe it is an honour for those of us to be in a position to give back to our communities to help, lead worthy charities in the goal of improving their community and the world, to make it a better place.”

With this award Jamie has joined a group of over 240 other PUNB winners including fellow law alum Chief Patricia Bernard (LLB’99), who was presented with a 2024 Alumni Award of Distinction. Chief Bernard was recognized for her tireless work in securing the largest, federal land claim settlement in Maritime history awarded to the Madawaska Maliseet First Nation. You can read more about Chief Bernard’s work in our 2021 Spring/ Summer issue ([unb.ca/nexus](http://unb.ca/nexus)).



# UNB LAW STUDENTS

*to clerk at FCA, NBCA, FCC & TCC*

UNB Law students continue to make their mark across Canada, securing prestigious clerkships at some of the nation's highest courts. This spring, six students accepted clerkships at courts including the Federal Court of Appeal, the New Brunswick Court of Appeal, the Federal Court, and the Tax Court of Canada.

## *Federal Court of Appeal*

Jacob Stoddard, who is entering his third year at UNB Law, will clerk for Hon. Justice David Stratas at the Federal Court of Appeal (FCA).

"I decided to apply for clerkships for a few reasons: the opportunity to work alongside a judge is fascinating; I think my communication and research skills make me well-suited for the role; and I enjoy working for the public sector and feeling like my work contributes to the public good."

Jacob plans on returning to New Brunswick following his clerkship to pursue a career in labour and employment law. He is excited by the prospect of this unique mentorship opportunity with one of Canada's top jurists.

"I look forward to working on important administrative and other public law cases with the court, as I have a particular interest in this area. I'm hoping to develop my legal skills by working through complex and difficult problems, and I think appellate court is a great place to do so."



*“I decided to apply for clerkships for a few reasons: the opportunity to work alongside a judge is fascinating; I think my communication and research skills make me well-suited for the role; and I enjoy working for the public sector and feeling like my work contributes to the public good.”*

Jacob will begin his clerkship in 2025, following graduation. Recent alumna Maggie Washington (JD’24) is set to begin her clerkship with the FCA later this summer.

### ***New Brunswick Court of Appeal***

Julia Belanger, who just completed her second year of study, will clerk under the supervision of Chief Justice Marc Richard and his team of eight Justices at the New Brunswick Court of Appeal (NBCA) in 2025.

“I knew that I wanted to clerk because I love the practical aspects of applying the law and the nerdiness of constant learning. What I’m most interested in right now is seeing how trial judge decisions and discretion are treated at the appellate level. This past year, I’ve studied quite a few cases where courts of appeal made decisions on intervention and discretion to trial judges. I want to see that process play out in real-time.”

Julia explained that her decision to apply to the NBCA ultimately stemmed from a visit by Chief Justice Richard to her Legal Advocacy class in first year.

“He took the time to answer all our questions; his honesty and transparency solidified for me that I wanted to work under his supervision. I got to know some of the other Justices through conversations following lectures hosted by the law school. I knew it would be the right fit for me.”

### ***Federal Court of Canada***

Jason Foster, entering his third year, and recent graduate Joshua Perl (JD’24) will both join the Federal Court of Canada (FCC) as clerks. Jason will clerk for UNB Law alumna Hon. Justice Ann Marie McDonald (LLB’93), while Joshua will clerk for Hon. Justice Elizabeth Heneghan.

“I’m interested in litigation,” said Jason. “A clerkship offers an excellent opportunity to observe different litigation styles and see how judges reach their decisions. I am hoping to learn a lot about judicial review and administrative law. I also look forward to meeting the other clerks. Former FCC clerks almost unanimously note the close and collegial environment at the court.”

Joshua shares his colleague’s excitement.

“The mentorship opportunities are unique at the Federal Court as it’s the only court in Canada that pairs

clerks with a single judge. I’m excited to learn what styles of advocacy resonate with judges, and which do not. I am deeply grateful to my faculty mentor Prof. Norman Siebrasse. He was instrumental in my journey. His deep understanding of the application process and his guidance on how to best prepare my application materials were invaluable.”

Prior to his clerkship, Joshua will complete his articles at Collett Read LLP, a criminal defence firm in Hamilton, Ontario. Jason will spend this summer working back in his home province of Nova Scotia at the Halifax office of McInnes Cooper.

### ***Tax Court of Canada***

For the third straight year, two UNB Law students are off to the Tax Court of Canada (TCC). Third-year student Michelle Chippin and recent graduate Noah Yao (JD’24) are both heading to Ottawa to clerk at the TCC in August 2025.

Michelle, who worked in accounting prior to law school, shared that she is excited for the opportunity to work with multiple judges from the court, and to see the different decision-making processes and methods of the top minds in the tax world.

“I have a bit of an unusual path to law school. While studying for my CPA and working, I really fell in love with tax. I think the way the field has evolved and the diverse ways to interpret the *Income Tax Act* really make tax a unique and creative field.”

She is thankful for the extensive support she received UNB Law’s Career Services Officer, Martha McClellan, who supported her application and connected her with the UNB Law alumni network, who helped guide her.

“Martha put me in touch with an alum who had previously clerked at the TCC. Speaking to him gave me a better grasp on what to expect from clerking and the application process. Once I decided to apply, I spoke with several other alumni who clerked or were clerking at the TCC. They helped me understand the application process and how to stand out. All of them were extremely encouraging and generous with their time. Without the aid of the UNB alumni I don’t know if I would have even applied, and I doubt I would have received the clerkship.”



# UNB Law Wins

## Canadian National Negotiation Competition

Third-year law students Isaac Corey (JD'24) and Abigail Lander (JD'24) were crowned first place at the 2024 Canadian National Negotiation Competition (CNNC) hosted by the Business Law Platform, McGill Faculty of Law, in collaboration with McGill's Sustainable Growth Initiative (SGI). The pair competed with teams from law schools across Canada to secure their spot at the International Negotiation Competition later this summer.

"I was stunned," said Isaac. "Even though we were well prepared by our coaches and each round felt like a success, the competition was stiff, and the judges were difficult to read. It took a couple of weeks for the reality of our success to settle in. I'm very grateful for all the effort that others put into our development, and I attribute our success to strong coaching, intense study, and plenty of practice."

### *Competition focused on alternative dispute resolution*

Founded in 2017, the CNNC brings together students from Canadian law schools to showcase their negotiation, communication, and lawyering skills in realistic simulations of two-party and multi-party negotiation scenarios. For the last two years, the CNNC has had both an English-speaking stream and a French-speaking stream,

making it a truly national competition. Each university is invited to enter two teams in each language stream.

The CNNC is structured in three rounds, with teams of two students representing clients seeking to secure multi-issue agreements. The first two rounds involve two teams; the third round is a multi-party negotiation, where three or four teams negotiate a single agreement. Each team is given a set of general facts about the scenario as well as a set of confidential facts that contain more details on their "client's" context and priorities. This year, all three rounds related to the potential development of a "next-generation" manufacturing plant to make batteries for electric vehicles. The clients comprised the battery manufacturer, a chartered bank, a coalition of government actors, and a land trust. Issues for negotiation included regulatory approvals, tax breaks and other financial incentives, job creation, and plant siting. These highly topical issues reflected SGI's interest in hosting the competition.

"We really focused on what the other party would be looking for and any potential points of tension or conflict," said Abigail. "At the competition, we asked a lot of questions, using a strategy called investigative negotiation, to discover the other party's priorities and interests. We were well-prepared but certainly had to think on our feet once at the negotiation table to get a





favourable outcome. I find this aspect of unpredictability to be the most interesting and engaging part.”

The competition is unique; unlike a trial or appellate style moot, where a more adversarial approach can be effective, the CNNC focuses on interest-based negotiation, which requires a conversational style in which each side is trying to build a negotiating relationship while at the same time protecting and advancing its own side’s information and interests.

“What makes this interesting from a competitive standpoint is that the twin goals of building a relationship and securing a beneficial agreement often conflict,” said Isaac. “A beneficial agreement pleases the client, but a strained relationship undermines the stability of that agreement and decreases the likelihood of the agreement being implemented.”

In this area, the second UNB Law team, comprised of second-year students Paige Chisholm and Peter Janson, shone. They won the award for Best Communication for Relationship-Building. For Paige, the multi-party negotiation was the most challenging aspect of the competition, and building trust was the key to their success.

“At times, you are working just to get a word in, and to ensure that you aren’t being teamed up on by the other parties. We knew that overly tense, positional negotiations were

significantly less productive than a collegial approach. Our focus was on working together against the problem at hand, rather than working against each other.”

Paige sees great value in honing the art of negotiation, adding, “while many law students will be engaged in trials or appellate level courtroom scenarios, every single student will be involved in negotiations—often, and in different areas of their lives. Being aware of how to conduct a productive negotiation is a widely used, but under-practiced skill.”

The team co-coaches Carolyn Suley (JD’19) and Renna Eliakis (JD’20) were elated but in no way surprised by the students’ success at the CNNC. “Isaac, Abigail, Peter and Paige are all extraordinary team players and showed unwavering support for each other at the competition,” said Carolyn. “While they mastered the theory and skills of interest-based negotiation through their training, the student’s work ethic and team chemistry set them apart and drove their ultimate achievements at the CNNC. It was such a privilege and a pleasure for us to coach such exceptional students.”

### *Next stop, Brazil*

Winners of the CNNC English-speaking stream and French-speaking stream are both eligible to compete at the International Negotiation Competition (INC). As winners of

the CNNC English-speaking stream, Abigail and Isaac will be one of two teams representing Canada at the 2024 INC that will take place July 10 to 14, 2024, in the city of Manaus, Brazil. Additionally, Paige and Peter will be travelling to Brazil as alternates for Team Canada. All of the students are anxious to bring the lessons learned from the Canadian competition to South America.

“We are reviewing our feedback forms from the judges to improve upon any areas where we consistently scored low,” said Abigail. “We are also researching cultural norms for some of the other countries participating in the competition so that we can consider cultural differences as we strategize for Brazil.”

For Isaac, the most significant lesson he will bring to the international competition is the importance of adaptability.

“Each round of negotiation felt different,” said Isaac. “New facts, new faces, and different negotiation styles were presented each time we sat down at the table and success is only possible if you adapt. Everyone has their preferred approach, but the teams I met who were most effective were those that spoke with me rather than at me.”

Carolyn will also be travelling to Brazil as coach and is looking forward to seeing the student’s further challenge themselves at the INC, adding, “the INC will be such a unique chance for the students to continue to develop their negotiation skills at an international level, competing against colleagues from around the world. The team has discussed the magnitude of the opportunity to not only represent Canada, but UNB, on an international stage and look forward to making everyone proud.”

The Faculty of Law congratulates Abigail, Isaac, Paige, and Peter on their impressive performances at the CNNC, and we thank their dedicated coaches, Renna and Carolyn. Please join us in wishing Abigail and Isaac good luck in Brazil!



# CELEBRATING Reunion Weekend

**T**his June, we welcomed the Class of 1974 back to UNB Law to celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> reunion year. This incredible milestone was marked with a special reception in the newly renovated student lounge. It was a wonderful afternoon of reconnecting, storytelling, sharing memories and laughs—all capped off with a special 50-year pin ceremony.

In addition to our golden grads, we also hosted special events for the 94, 99, and 2014 classes. The dance floor and the foosball table were rocking... some things never change!

These celebrations were part of UNB's Reunion Weekend, a new spring tradition that brings together UNB alumni from across Canada (and beyond) to enjoy great company, delicious food, and fond memories. Stay tuned for information on next year's reunion weekend scheduled for June 12-15, 2025 ([unb.ca/reunionweekend](http://unb.ca/reunionweekend)).

## *Plan your UNB Law class reunion*

Between the law school's Public Engagement Office and UNB's Alumni Office, we offer comprehensive services to make your reunion planning seamless. This includes:

- Access to the law school facilities
- Class lists and contact information
- Connecting you with retired and current professors
- Registration page setup
- Coordination of photography services, catering and liquor licenses, and audio/visual equipment
- Nametags and swag bags
- Accommodations blocks at local hotels
- And more!

Contact Ed Bowes, our Manager of Public Engagement ([ed.bowes@unb.ca](mailto:ed.bowes@unb.ca)) to start booking your reunion.







# Alumni UPDATES

*Stay up to date on the latest accomplishments of our alumni—King’s Counsel designations, partnership announcements, judicial and government appointments, distinctions, awards, and even a new member of the Moncton Wildcats!*



**'93**

**KEVIN KILEY, K.C.** (LLB) was recognized as one of Atlantic Business Magazine’s 2024 Top 50 CEOs for a fourth consecutive year. In addition to this honour, Kevin was also announced as the winner of Managing Partner of the Year at the 2024 Canadian Law

Awards alongside Allan Ritchie with Loopstra Nixon LLP.



**'95**

**AMY CROSBIE** (LLB) was appointed King’s Counsel in Newfoundland and Labrador. Crosbie is a Partner at Curtis Dawe Lawyers, where her primary litigation practice includes natural resource and energy Law, construction law, media law, and family law.

**'96**

**REBECCA SATURLEY, K.C.** (LLB) was appointed King’s Counsel in Nova Scotia. Saturley is a Managing Partner with Stewart McKelvey in Halifax, where her client base includes large national companies, owner-managed businesses, and non-profits.

**KRISTA FORBES, K.C.** (LLB) was appointed King’s Counsel in Nova Scotia. Forbes is the Managing Lawyer for the Halifax North Office of Nova Scotia Legal Aid, where she manages the family law section.



**'99**

**CHIEF PATRICIA BERNARD** (LLB) received the Proudly UNB Alumni Award of Distinction. Chief Bernard was recognized for her tireless work in securing the largest federal land claim settlement in Maritime history, awarded to the Madawaska Maliseet First Nation.



'03

**SHANNON MASON** (LLB) was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia's Family Division in Sydney. Justice Mason brings extensive experience in family and child protection law to the bench.

'08

**JOHN MACLEAN** (LLB) received the Legal Team of the Year Award on behalf of the Legal and Constitutional Law Division of the Nunavut Department of Justice. In March 2023, MacLean was named the first Senior Legal Counsel in the Nunavut Department of Justice.



'11

**PETER HICKEY** (JD) was appointed Vice-President of National Programs Group at DKI Canada, a leader in sustainable property restoration solutions, providing services to insurance, commercial, and residential clients. In this role, Hickey oversees DKI Canada's accounts for specialized clients.

'13

**MATT MCEWEN** (JD) was named Partner at Cox & Palmer in Halifax, NS. McEwen's litigation practice focuses on construction disputes, contractual disputes, real property issues, consumer liability, shareholder disputes, oppression claims, mechanics' liens, professional negligence, and financial matters.



'15

**EDWARD CHOI** (JD) was elected as a Bencher of the Law Society of Ontario. Earlier this year, he was named Partner with Metcalfe, Blainey & Burns LLP (MBB Law) in Markham, where he specializes in civil litigation and dispute resolution.

**LEAH GOOD** (JD) was named Partner at Cox & Palmer in Fredericton. Good maintains a family law and general litigation practice, representing clients in custody disputes, marital property, divorce proceedings, and common law separations.



**CAROLINE MCAVITY** (JD) was named Partner at Cox & Palmer in Saint John. Caroline's practice is focused on corporate and commercial law. She works with individuals, business owners, and financial institutions, advising on a broad range of matters including commercial financings, mergers and acquisitions, private equity investments, corporate reorganizations, and succession and estate planning.



'16

**TAYLOR MACDOUGALL** (JD) was appointed General Manager and Director of Hockey Operations for the Moncton Wildcats. Before joining the Wildcats, Taylor served as the Director of Legal Affairs and Co-Lead Negotiator for the Roy Sports Group.



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UPDATE YOU WOULD  
LIKE SHARED IN NEXUS?**

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

*Submissions may be edited for space.*



# Maria Panezi

## DEFINES TEACHING EXCELLENCE

When Prof. Maria Panezi isn't busy publishing cutting-edge research in internationally renowned science journals or spearheading UNB Law's Trade Law and Carbon Pricing Lab, she can be found in her favourite place at UNB Law—the classroom. Her dedication to education and passion for teaching have not gone unnoticed. Recently, Prof. Panezi was honoured with the 2023-24 Teaching Excellence Award, a testament to her exceptional contributions to student learning.

"I am honoured and touched to receive this award. I feel so lucky to get to do what I love and to have fun while I'm doing it!"

Prof. Panezi says she owes a debt of gratitude to her mother, a retired teacher whom she learned so much from about teaching and the pursuit of education.

"I learned so much from her and saw all of these teaching concepts in action since I was a kid. She never gave me an answer, never. She always directed me to the book or the source that had the answer; she directed me to the method."

### *A teaching philosophy built on empathy and openness*

Since joining UNB Law in 2019, Prof. Panezi has established herself as UNB Law's resident expert on all things related to international trade. Her research focuses on the interaction between national strategies on climate change and World Trade Organization (WTO) law. She teaches contracts, jurisprudence, and, of course, International Trade law.

"My teaching philosophy begins with empathy. I always try to actively listen to what my students have to say, both in and outside of the classroom."

Her teaching paradigm demonstrates a unique understanding of the Socratic method. Being Greek and having read Plato in the original, the Socratic Method holds a special meaning for Prof. Panezi.

"The ancient word *maieutiki*, is the Greek word for 'the art of midwifery.' Socrates applied this word to teaching, he was assisting his students



*“There is space for every voice to be heard in her classrooms, and she guides discussions in such a way that her students feel both heard and, more importantly, listened to.”*

give birth to the truth. Socrates as the midwife, so to speak. The idea is that the truth wants to come out, and we help the truth come out, not through interrogation, but through interaction and asking questions.”

Prof. Panezi urges her students to engage. She facilitates discussion and encourages students to share their thoughts and opinions, all with the understanding that there is no such thing as a stupid question. She borrows the concept from French philosopher Jacques Derrida’s *The University without Condition*.

“Derrida discusses entering the classroom unconditionally; you have no expectations, and nothing is off the table. Nothing is not to be asked; nothing is not to be examined. There is no better way to learn.”

For Prof. Panezi, all of this would mean nothing without preparation. Her mantra, the 4 P’s: “preparation prevents poor performance.”

“There’s no such thing as too much preparation; I prepare ad nauseam. I will never go to class and wing it; that is not a thing in my vocabulary. But as we all know, nothing ever goes to plan, so you must be ready to change things up on the fly and go off script.”

### **Student-led nominations**

Part of what makes this award so meaningful is the fact that nominations are submitted by the students. In Prof. Panezi’s case, a large group of upper-year students who’ve enjoyed her inclusive and innovative teaching throughout their law school experience.

“Professor Panezi has the unique and rare ability to facilitate conversations about dense legal theory in an incredibly inclusive way,” shared Susan Ivimey (JD’24) “There is space for every voice to be heard in her classrooms, and she guides discussions in such a way that her students feel both heard and, more importantly, listened to.”

“She believed in me and my abilities, even before I did, in my first year,” said Julia Belanger, who is now entering her third year. “She encourages students to explore their own perspectives, while also facing their

own biases and the opposing views of colleagues. She offers a safe space for student to bring their questions during her office hours, or a place to go when the stress of school becomes overwhelming.”

Prof. Panezi also has the support of her colleagues. Award finalist Prof. Nicole O’Byrne shared that Prof. Panezi “exemplifies the best traits of an educator: empathy, knowledgeability, and enthusiasm. Her teaching styles inspire her students and colleagues. This recognition is well-deserved (and overdue!).”

### **Mentorship beyond the classroom**

Outside the classroom, Prof. Panezi leads UNB Law’s Trade Law and Carbon Pricing Lab, an initiative funded by the New Brunswick Environmental Trust Fund that examines international law, specifically international environmental law and international trade law, to combat climate change.

“It was an incredible research project. I worked with 17 student research assistants on carbon pricing. I was like a kid in a candy store [laughs]. Working with these students on the report has been one of the most rewarding parts of the job.”

Prof. Panezi and her team produced the report *Supporting a Green Economy through Trade Law*, which explains how international trade parameters can impact provincial and federal carbon pricing legislation in the context of the *New Brunswick Climate Action Plan*.

Prof. Panezi also shares her expertise as a moot coach for the Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition and provides extensive support and guidance for students as they explore their career options before and after graduation.

“I will support any direction a student wants to take in their professional lives and offer advice. I write many reference letters and follow up with employers. I have students who are five years out who I support and provide reference for and make calls and try to get them hired because that’s what they deserve. Our law school is a community, and that community does not end the day people graduate.”



## Championing access to justice

Catching up with Julia Belanger,  
PBSC Program Coordinator

As Julia Belanger steps into her third and final year at UNB Law, she continues to lead the UNB chapter of Pro Bono Students Canada (PBSC) with dedication and passion. Now in her second year as the Program Coordinator, Julia is spending her summer connecting with non-profit organizations to develop impactful projects that tackle access to justice issues across multiple areas of law.

"I really enjoy the opportunity to collaborate with these organizations and to seek out interested lawyers—who are equally passionate about access to justice—to supervise our student volunteers this upcoming year."

Come fall, Julia oversees the promotion and recruitment process, matching eager law students with organizations and supervisors to tackle a range of access to justice barriers.

The projects address issues for seniors, the wrongfully convicted, Indigenous communities, reproductive rights, and environmental conservation, to name a few.

### *A calling to promote equity*

Julia's interest in helping underserved communities began long before her law school days. She was searching for a way to incorporate these values into her education and career.

"I was always interested in promoting the rights of people who were disadvantaged and have always felt strongly that equity is essential in society."

Her passion for promoting equity led her to study Victimology during the pandemic, where she observed the underfunding and lack of





resources in many client-based programs. This experience inspired her to pursue law school—where she found PBSC.

“Pro Bono work is one of the answers for the access to justice issues facing organizations such as Victim Services and many others,” said Julia. “This work can help alleviate the burden on frontline workers and promote fairness within the justice system. For partner organizations, pro bono work can make the difference between being able to tackle a barrier or provide client services and not being able to do so.”

By facilitating PBSC projects, she aims to support these organizations in providing essential services that would otherwise be impossible due to budget, time, or resource constraints.

“It’s a mutually beneficial partnership—students gain experience and learn from experts, while organizations receive key help that advances their work. It’s a beautiful thing.”

### ***Highlights from the 2023-24 PBSC program***

The 2023-24 PBSC program at UNB saw significant achievements under Julia’s leadership. One standout project was the expansion of the Imprint Trans ID clinic. Partnering with the Université de Moncton Chapter, the Imprint Youth Association, and McInnes Cooper, the clinic provides

virtual assistance for individuals seeking to change their identification to match their true selves. Originally a local project, the clinic expanded online during the pandemic to serve the entire Maritimes, and this past year, it extended its reach to French-speaking individuals in New Brunswick.

Another highlight was the partnership with Inclusion Canada, an organization dedicated to advancing the full inclusion and human rights of people with intellectual disabilities and their families. The PBSC team worked with Inclusion Canada to study how disabilities are handled within case law. Kurt Goddard, the Executive Director of Legal and Public Affairs at Inclusion Canada, spoke to PBSC volunteers at the Faculty of Law, fostering connections that promise to lead to more projects focused on accessibility issues in New Brunswick.

### ***Looking ahead: Plans for the 2024-25 PBSC program***

In addition to the continuation of many deep-rooted partnerships, Julia has ambitious plans for growth for the upcoming year of programming—specifically, the development of a program in victim services.

“I would like to find a victim service agency that could use our help. Last year, I attempted to create a project in this area, but many non-profits don’t

have the resources to facilitate such projects,” she explains. “It’s the irony of the situation—some of the agencies most in need of help don’t have the capacity available to take on any extra facilitation work.”

Despite this challenge, Julia remains hopeful about finding the right organization and supervisor to make this project a reality. Additionally, she is inspired to develop a project addressing accessibility issues in New Brunswick, motivated by witnessing a friend’s struggles with everyday tasks many take for granted.

“Pro bono work is not only about helping the community but also about shaping the future of the legal profession. Volunteer work should be part of every lawyer’s career. It allows students to see the importance of this work and develop a passion for it. Additionally, PBSC projects offer valuable experiential learning opportunities, helping students develop research and client service skills that are incredibly helpful for their law school work.”

### ***Getting involved***

For students interested in getting involved, Julia will be distributing the project booklet in September, hosting an information session, and providing all necessary application information. Students can also visit the PBSC website or email Julia ([probono@unb.ca](mailto:probono@unb.ca)) for more details.

“Alumni and community members can also play a significant role in PBSC. We are looking for non-profit organizations that could benefit from legal research, public education, or client-services help. Lawyers willing to supervise projects are also needed.”

Organization and individuals interested in getting involved in the 2024-25 program can connect with Julia at [probono@unb.ca](mailto:probono@unb.ca).

“We are working to develop new projects by the end of July, so the sooner, the better. I look forward to hearing from you!”



# HILARY YOUNG

## *named university research scholar*

UNB Law's Professor Hilary Young was recently named a University Research Scholar at the 2024 President's Awards. This award recognizes Prof. Young's exceptional scholarship and internationally acclaimed research in the areas of defamation, tort, and health law.

"It was gratifying to be recognized for my research contributions. When I first started as a scholar, I struggled to know what made for good research subjects, and the learning curve was steep. Now, I see research topics everywhere. Just reading the newspaper generates ideas."

Prof. Young's research tends to centre on complex policy issues around free

speech and reputation, around ensuring appropriate remedies, and, increasingly, access to justice.

"I love that legal research involves solving stimulating puzzles but can also have significant real-world effects. The combination of fun work and potentially impactful results is incredibly motivating. Having the luxury of time to delve deeply has allowed me to work with others to contribute to better laws or better access to justice."

The project that the University Research Scholar Award will fund looks at the increasing use of defamation law to combat speech that is offensive but doesn't





necessarily harm reputation. According to Prof. Young, the law has been used to express disdain for bigoted speech, for example, but has also been used as a weapon against those who call out others' bigotry, as in the recent *Hansman v Neufeld* case at the Supreme Court. Prof. Young will use the examples of bigoted speech and counterspeech to review what it means for something to be defamatory.

"While over the centuries this would have included exposing someone to hatred or ridicule—which both bigoted speech and counterspeech arguably do—the modern approach is grounded in harm to reputation. This is because reputational harm, but not offence, justifies defamation law's restriction on freedom of expression. I'll work on developing a theory of what it means to be defamatory and show that modern courts are often not focusing on reputation, despite claiming to."

Prof. Young's nomination was led by Prof. John Kleefeld and co-signed by a group of UNB Law colleagues.

"Hilary is an incredible asset to our law school," said Prof. Kleefeld. "Her research is cited by courts nationwide, influencing legislation and making a tangible impact. She is a valuable mentor to junior colleagues in the faculty and is a fine example of teaching excellence combined with research prowess. Nominating Prof. Young was an easy decision."

### ***Award citation presented by David MaGee, Vice-President (Research)***

*Dr. Hilary Young, a respected figure in UNB's law faculty, specializes in defamation, tort and health law. Her research has left a significant mark on legal scholarship and reform globally. Notably, her expertise in defamation law has garnered attention, with her works cited by esteemed courts including Canada's Supreme Court. Hilary's influence extends beyond academia; she's actively engaged in law reform projects across Canada and internationally.*

*Furthermore, Hilary's efforts have led to tangible legal changes, such as the adoption of a model law for removing non-consensual intimate images from the internet in New Brunswick and PEI. Her contributions to tort law and health law are equally notable, culminating in co-authoring leading legal treatises and publishing in reputable journals.*

*Her commitment to research is underscored by consistent external funding and numerous conference presentations over the past decade. Hilary is not only an accomplished scholar but also actively engages in public legal education, collaborating with various organizations and contributing to media discussions on legal issues, including COVID-19 vaccination mandates.*

*Moreover, she plays a pivotal role in mentoring junior colleagues, providing guidance on grant applications, facilitating scholarly discussions and contributing as a peer reviewer. Hilary's multifaceted contributions enrich both the academic and public spheres of law.*



## *Intensive Trial Advocacy at UNB Law*

**T**his spring, 32 lawyers from diverse legal backgrounds gathered at UNB Law to sharpen their courtroom skills through the Intensive Trial Advocacy Program (ITAP). The group included in-house counsel, crown prosecutors, and associates from across Atlantic Canada, with some participants traveling from as far as Saskatchewan.

The week-long academic program is designed to train lawyers in basic trial techniques applicable to civil, criminal, and administrative law hearings and trials. The format is based on those developed in the United States by Professor James Seckinger of the National Institute for Trial Advocacy, and Notre Dame Law School and adapted to Canadian court practices and procedures. The course materials have been developed by Professor James E. Lockyer, K.C. (LLB'75) of the Faculté de droit of the Université de Moncton.

### *Beginning with the basics*

ITAP is structured with roughly 70% experiential learning and 30% traditional classroom instruction. The program began with a series of classroom-based discussions led by Lockyer and his team of leaders: Bruno Gélinas-Faucher, who recently joined UNB Law as an assistant professor, Laura Cutler of Fawcett Cutler Lawyers, and Crown Prosecutors, Renée Roy and Patrick McGuinty (LLB'18).

Discussions began with courtroom basics: how (not) to irritate a judge; competence and negligence; confidence and courtroom movement; primacy and recency; witness preparation; and

facts versus conclusions, to name a few. This was followed by an in-depth examination of questioning techniques for both direct and cross, objection drills, introduction and use of exhibits, components/procedure for impeachment of both evidence and of a witness, direct and cross-examination of an expert witness, and opening statements.

"I enjoyed the 'book learning' sessions," said Bionca Bastarache, an Associate with Canty Lutz Grant. "They gave us a good idea of the teachers' expectations once we were on our feet. These short learning sessions made me feel more prepared and not just thrown into the deep end."

### *Hands-on learning*

The cornerstone of ITAP is its focus on "learning by doing." Following the classroom sessions, the group broke into sections of 8 to put these lessons into action through performance workshops. Using two fictional cases that formed the basis of the week's learning, participants delivered opening and closing arguments, performed cross and direct examinations of witnesses and expert witnesses, introduced exhibits, and made objections—all under the guidance and critique of team leaders and guest instructors.

Recent UNB Law grad Jake Bryden (JD'23), who is currently completing his articles with NB Power, found this hands-on learning experience challenging but ultimately a transformative experience.





"It was intimidating at first, but by the end of the week, I was looking forward to standing up and practicing my skills. The feedback often came in the middle of a cross or opening statement. When the instructors stop and correct you right away, bad habits are cut off at the source. The correct habits are then formed and developed. Important advice that was given to me by an instructor, 'lean into your discomfort.'"

A critical element of ITAP's performance sessions is providing the opportunity to see oneself perform. Throughout the week, workshop sessions were video recorded, and participants engaged in individual critique, having their performance reviewed by a member of the guest faculty. These experienced trial counsel and judges answered questions and provided detailed feedback for improving skills and technique.

This group of guest instructors included Chief Justice Marc Richard of the New Brunswick Court of Appeal, Justice Kathryn Gregory of the New Brunswick Court of King's Bench, Judge Mary Jane Richards, of the Provincial Court of New Brunswick, Patrick Hurley, K.C. (LLB'76), trial lawyer with Connors Stilwell, and Chantal Thibodeau, K.C., Partner with Fidelis Law, to name a few. Several of these guest instructors stayed for Q&A sessions with the full group following the day's activities.







"Having guest judges providing us with feedback was an incredibly valuable experience," said Derek Vihvelin (JD'15), a Practice Leader and Lawyer with TD Insurance. "It was an opportunity that one would never otherwise get. Who better to give insight on what a judge thinks of your advocacy skills than a judge themselves?"

Bastarache echoes her colleague's remarks, adding: "It was nice to not only get critiques but to also hear when I was doing something right. I could then focus on what I needed to improve."

The week culminated in a full day of simulated trials, where participants had the opportunity to showcase their newly acquired advocacy techniques and skills. Working in two-person teams, they presented their cases in a realistic courtroom setting, applying everything they had learned throughout the program. This final exercise not only reinforced their practical training but also provided an immersive experience that mimicked the intensity and pressure of actual trial proceedings.

"I believe ITAP should be a mandatory program for lawyers every 5 years," said Samantha Goodine (JD'18), New Brunswick Public Prosecutions. "I equate it to an advocacy boot camp—it is designed to give you the strongest foundation and builds you up from that. Much time is spent on the basics, which people tend to ignore or push to the side. The program eliminated my bad habits and sharpened my skills. I am sure the Judges I'm appearing in front of now are thankful I did it!"

### ***A partnership for the future***

The ITAP program represents a newly forged partnership between New Brunswick's only law schools. UNB Law and the Faculté de droit de the Université de Moncton will offer this specialized training in both French and English on alternating years. The French program will be held at UdeM in 2025. Stay tuned for program updates and registration info.



# *In Memoriam*



**Brian Winslow Kempster (BCL'62)**  
1932 - 2023

Brian graduated from Saint John Vocational School in 1949, where he earned a gold medal for the fastest typist in the province that year. He completed the first part of his Bachelor of Arts studies at Sir George Williams University in Montreal, Quebec, and completed his Bachelor of Arts at the University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, NB. He earned his Bachelor of Law at UNB in 1962 and completed the Osgoode Hall Bar Admission course in 1964. Called to the NB Bar in 1962 and to the Ontario Bar in 1964, he first practiced law with a specialty in civil litigation in St. Thomas with the Hennessey, Kempster & Gunn Law Firm (1964-1976), and went into private practice (1976-2004). He continued his practice in Ingersoll, since 2004 until he retired in 2017.



**Gordon Frederick Gregory, K.C. (BCL'63)**  
1938 - 2024

Gordon was a law partner in the firm Guss, Taylor & Gregory Saint John from 1963 to 1971. In 1971, he was appointed Deputy Attorney General and Deputy Minister of Justice for the Province of New Brunswick. He held this position until 1987. In 1987, he left government and went into private practice with Athey & Gregory Law in Fredericton, later becoming Athey, Gregory & Dickson. He retired from the practice of law in 2013.

When Gordon joined government, he believed it would only be for a few years, after which he would return to his much-loved City of Saint John. Instead, he remained with the Department of Justice for 17 years, having become committed and dedicated, along with so many of his colleagues, to evolving and professionalizing the Department of Justice and Attorney General. He was a passionate advocate for governance according to foundational principles and the rule of law. Gordon and those who worked closely with him are credited with having designed and implemented our current justice system in New Brunswick.



**The Hon. Wallace Somerville Turnbull, K.C. (BCL'63)**  
1938 - 2023

Wallace was a lawyer for 25 years in the city of Saint John. He practiced with Clark, Drummie & Associates prior to serving as a judge for 20 years on the New Brunswick Court of Appeal.

Wallace was very active in contributing to his community and his varied interests. He was the Chairman of the board of the Turnbull Home in Saint John for 55 years. He served on the Board of Governors at RNS school and was a Director for Ports Canada. He was also very active with the Progressive Conservative Party, New Brunswick Labor Relations Board, and various causes for those having intellectual disabilities. He was an avid angler and enjoyed golf and skiing.



### ***Graham J. Sleeth K.C. (BCL'68)***

**1944 - 2024**

Graham continued his education as a young man at the University of New Brunswick, later graduating from the Faculty of Law. Graham became a member of the Law Society of New Brunswick in 1968. As of 2018, he became a Life Member of the Law Society of New Brunswick, following 50 years of exemplary practice as a lawyer in the province. Graham practiced in all the courts in this province and in the Supreme Court of Canada.

Graham's oldest friends recall that he was recruited out of university by the Federal Government into what they believed to be "some kind of spy" program, which sounds entirely plausible for Graham, who remained tight-lipped about the experience. During this time, Graham worked for what was then known as Foreign Affairs in Ottawa. Knowing Graham's particular dash and flair and his old-world sensibilities, for any of those who knew him well, it is entirely believable that, for a time, Graham may have been a spy in post-Cold War Canada.

Lured away from Ottawa and back to New Brunswick, Graham first practiced law with Associated Attorneys in Saint John, New Brunswick, where he worked diligently under the tutelage of brilliant senior attorneys. Ultimately, Graham worked as a Crown Prosecutor in many important New Brunswick cases over a prosecution career spanning close to 30 years. Graham completed his legal practice many years later after acting as defense counsel in cases referred to him by Legal Aid. He was extremely generous, putting to use his brilliant courtroom skills to the benefit of the courts and the community at large over his entire career as a lawyer.



### ***Joseph C. Robichaud K.C. (LLB'71)***

**1940 - 2024**

From working in Goose Bay NL to horseback on Parliament Hill as a Constable-in-training with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Ottawa ON, Joe began his long career as a Lawyer and was admitted to the New Brunswick Bar Association on June 1, 1971, where he then practiced law in Richibucto, NB until his retirement at the age of 69.

Prior to his admission to the Bar Association, in the late 60's, Joe taught at the Richibucto High School in which, during his teaching tenure, organized the first 773 Air Cadets Squadron and was the Commanding Officer from 1967-69.

During his career as Lawyer/Notary, Joe was nominated to Queen's Counsel in 1990. He also participated with many committees and amassed many certificates of appreciation including a Commendation from the Governor General of Canada in 2007.



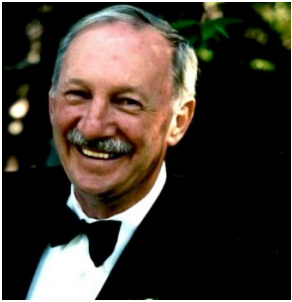
### ***Robert Gordon Durno (LLB'72)***

**1947 - 2024**

Robert attended Cedarbrae Collegiate Institute before pursuing his undergraduate degree at the University of Western Ontario, later attending the University of New Brunswick Law School. After graduating, Bob managed a successful law practice with his friend, Mike Shea, for many years. Bob is survived by his wife, Colleen; his sons, Chris (Carli) and Jonathan (Breanne); his daughter, Shannon (Bruce). He was adored by his grandchildren, Sloane, Miller, Pierce, Bobby, and Maddie. Bob is also survived by his siblings, Donna Chapman (John), and Doug Durno (Joanne); as well as his many nephews. Bob will be remembered as a larger-than-life character who bestowed his quick wit and endearing sense of humour upon all those who knew him. He was happiest making people laugh and enjoying an occasional "cleansing ale" with his dear friends at the Scarboro Golf Club, pubs in the Beaches and at his cottage in Muskoka.



# *In Memoriam*



***Ronald Ashley Gordon (Gordie) MacNab, K.C. (LLB'72)***  
***1945 - 2024***

Gordie was born in St. John's on March 18, 1945. He was educated at Bishop Feild College, St. John's; Trinity College School (TCS), Port Hope Ontario; Colby College, Waterville, Maine, and received his law degree from the University of New Brunswick in 1972. He was called to the Bar of Newfoundland and Labrador in 1973.

Gordie was a lifelong Cleveland Browns, L.A. Dodgers, and Detroit Red Wings fan. He was a wine enthusiast and loved to share a good vintage with his buddies. He loved the peace and tranquility of the Gander River; landing a salmon was a bonus. He loved golf and the ski slopes with family and friends and, most of all, the time spent at his treasured Hogan's Pond, creating memories with his children and grandchildren.

Gordie will be remembered for his kindness, warmth, generosity, and loyalty to his family and friends. He will be remembered as a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and brother, and most of all, he will be remembered as a genuinely good man who was well and truly loved and who will be forever missed.



***Jonathan Howard Marler (LLB'73)***  
***1949 - 2024***

Born in Montreal, Jonathan moved to England at just three months old. He attended Stout's Hill School in Gloucester and Malvern College in Worcestershire. Following in his older brother's (David) footsteps, Jonathan returned to Canada to go to university, firstly obtaining a BA in English literature at Bishop's University in Lennoxville, Quebec. He won the John Basset Memorial Scholarship in Law and pursued his legal studies at the University of New Brunswick, earning his law degree in 1973. Jonathan was admitted to the New Brunswick bar in 1973 and the Ontario bar in 1975. He established a successful practice in Toronto and enjoyed his time living on Centre Island. In 1983, he moved his family and practice to Oakville, where he managed a highly active firm until his passing.

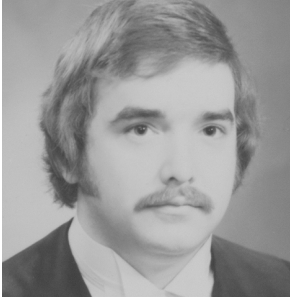


***Ivan F. Ivankovich (LLB'75)***  
***1946 - 2024***

Called to the bar in Ontario in 1977, Ivan briefly served as an Assistant Professor with his alma mater, UNB. He and fellow graduate, Anne McLellan, had both heard about the University of Alberta and accepted teaching positions. They remained friends for many years.

Shortly after moving to Edmonton, Ivan met Suzanne Mah, a talented and bright young lawyer. She was the first Chinese Canadian woman to graduate from Law at the U of A and the first woman on the Alberta Human Rights Commission. She was deeply involved in pro bono work. And she was a companion to Ivan, who shared Ivan's joie de vivre and love for travel and wine. During the short course of their marriage, they travelled the world together. Suzanne introduced Ivan to Lake O'Hara, which would remain Ivan's favourite place in the world. Ivan tragically lost Suzanne at 36 years old after a fight with cancer. Suzanne's family embraced Ivan after her death, and later embraced Ellen as well.

Ivan continued to excel as a professor at the University of Alberta. He was honoured with awards for teaching excellence from both the undergraduate and graduate student associations. He published articles that would be cited in numerous law journals and at trial and appellate level courts, including the Supreme Court of Canada.



**Robert L. Mellish Sr. (LLB'76)**

**1952 - 2023**

Bob's professional journey began at the Moncton law firm Forbes Radford DeBow in 1976, where he was made partner. The family relocated to Halifax, NS, in 1981, as Bob pursued an MBA at Dalhousie University, which he completed in 1983. Bob then joined the Halifax law firm Daley Black & Moreira, where he became a senior partner.

Throughout his career, Bob remained deeply involved with the legal community, maintaining memberships in both the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick Bar Associations. His legal journey saw him transition through significant mergers, working for Patterson Palmer (2001-2004) and subsequently Patterson Law (2004-2014). In 2014, Bob embraced a new challenge as General Counsel at the Halifax engineering firm CBCL, a position he held with distinction until his retirement from the law in 2021.

Throughout his professional life, Bob's generous spirit found expression in various charitable endeavors and organizations. He held a special place in his heart for his role as Chairman of the Abilities Foundation as well as his service to St. John's Ambulance, for which he was made an Officer of the Order of St. John.



**Thomas Joseph "Tom" LeRoy (LLB'78)**

**1952 - 2024**

Tom was born and grew up in Saint John, New Brunswick. He spent most of his adult life in Toronto. A graduate of the University of New Brunswick Law, Tom was called to the New Brunswick Bar in 1978 and to the Ontario Bar in 1981.

After spending several years in banking, he found his true passion in the courtroom as a criminal defence lawyer, appearing regularly in the Ontario Court of Justice and the Superior Court of Justice.

In 2003, he was asked to join Legal Aid Ontario to create a province-wide program to manage serious, high-cost cases. In later years, much of his work concentrated on helping those with mental illness who found themselves at odds with the criminal justice system. Tom took an abiding interest in nurturing young lawyers. He found immense satisfaction in their professional growth and success.



**Wayne Edward Jennings (LLB'80)**

**1950 - 2024**

After graduating UNB Law school in Fredericton, Wayne practiced law as a respected legal aid lawyer in both NFLD and BC. There, he served with skill and devotion to many families in need of compassionate and competent lawyering. After retiring, Wayne moved back to the Maritimes with his wife of 23 years, Beryl McKiernan. He had long dreamed of returning to the East Coast to be close to family and to the culture, charm, and music of the East Coast he loved so much.

Wayne remained passionate to the end of his days about all things to do with music, poetry, art, storytelling, literature, movies, and history. The list of his interest and curiosity seemed endless. But music gained a greater focus in his final years. He taught himself to play 12-string and acoustic guitars, until he could play a flawless 'Classical



# *In Memoriam*

Gas'. He then moved on to learning and playing piano. He chose songs for a music playlist to play at his bedside while in palliative care. Leonard Cohen had to be top of the list and we all sang along to "Farewell Marianne." Wayne loved to travel to sunny, warm destinations and to play cards with the 'Boys' who included his brothers and friends. And he always loved sharing his highly embellished stories about retrieved memories we shared as family. How we loved him. He was generous, empathic, and wise to the end.



***J. Christopher Young (LLB'84)***  
***1959 - 2023***

The true magnitude of Christopher's impact on our community and on the people he loved is difficult to capture in words. Throughout a distinguished legal career that spanned over 30 years of dedicated service, Christopher helped so many people through some of their most challenging days.

He was admired for his incredible work ethic, with his peers often commenting that he was actually two lawyers crammed into one, and for being a gifted and creative problem-solver. But Christopher's greatest gift was his ability to connect with people and to make them feel like they had someone in their corner. He was a true professional who worked tirelessly for those that placed their trust in him. He genuinely loved his work and those he worked with, especially his staff, who gave so much of their time and energy to support him.



***Shirley Dianne Churchill (LLB'14)***  
***1972 - 2024***

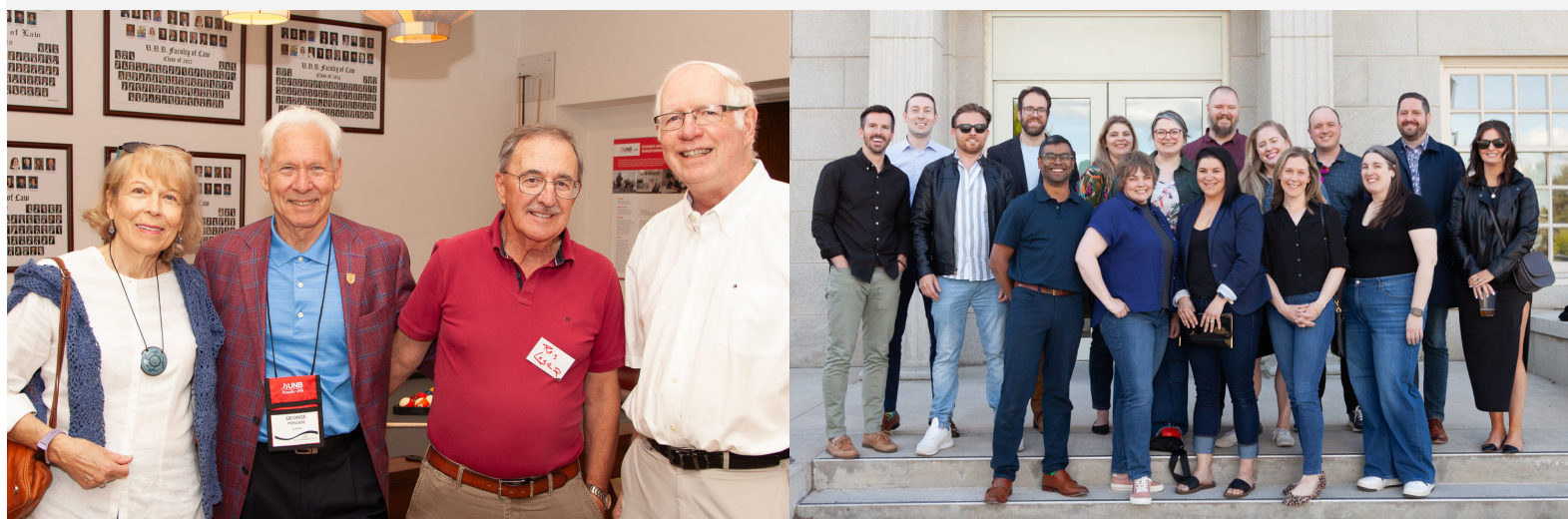
Dianne was born in Corner Brook, Newfoundland and Labrador, on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 1972, before making her home in Moncton in 1993. From pilot to VooDoo club manager to teacher to lawyer, Dianne's resilience, kind ways, and work ethic allowed her to accomplish many things she put her mind to. She was a multi-instrumentalist, playing clarinet in the Codiac Concert Band, a singer, an actress, and board member of more than a few committees. Dianne's bright spirit left fond memories in the countless wonderful people she crossed paths with, and a sincere heartfelt hug goes out to all that have known her on behalf of the family.

# 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).





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*Thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue.*