

NEXUS

UNB LAW ALUMNI MAGAZINE



SUMMER & FALL 2025 | unb.ca/nexus

A portrait of The Honourable Gérard Vincent La Forest, C.C., K.C. He is an elderly man with white hair, smiling slightly. He is wearing a dark pinstripe suit jacket over a light blue shirt and a dark tie with light blue and white diagonal stripes. A small Canadian flag pin is visible on his left lapel.

Remembering
***The Honourable Gérard
Vincent La Forest, C.C., K.C.***

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Marin'.

Michael Marin, K.C.
Dean of Law

Dean's Message

UNB Law is embedded in society

The last six months have been among the most consequential in the recent history of UNB Law. In May, we publicly launched the *Where Leaders Are Made Campaign*, the most ambitious fundraising initiative that UNB Law has ever undertaken. The same evening, we hosted an unforgettable Gala Dinner where we celebrated our Faculty's great history and promising future.

These events demonstrated the remarkable goodwill that UNB Law enjoys from its alumni, faculty, staff, students, the legal profession, governments, and the wider community. This is perhaps our greatest asset. Everyone associated with UNB Law knows that it's a special place. Our contributions to society far exceed our small size and reach far beyond our region. The fact that nearly \$14 million has already been raised is proof that what UNB Law stands for and what it offers have tremendous value, and people are ready to invest in it.

One of the reasons that this Campaign is resonating is that it's about enhancing the core values of UNB Law. Our fundraising priorities, and our move to the Justice Building, reflect the priorities that our Faculty has held for generations. This is not about changing UNB Law; it's about giving UNB Law the resources it needs to realize its full potential.

Our \$23 million goal focuses on maintaining UNB Law's intimate learning environment, augmenting our career-ready curriculum with cutting-edge experiential learning opportunities, ensuring that the increased quality of our program doesn't come at the expense of its financial accessibility to all qualified students, and promoting research and teaching that's engaged with the world around us.

This month, I'll be speaking at the Canadian Association of Provincial Court Judges National Education Conference and AGM, which is being held in Fredericton. I was invited to speak about UNB Law's vision for legal education. This is a big topic, but it's

“For me, Gérard La Forest’s legacy represents our Faculty’s greatest values and aspirations. A person from humble beginnings, he reached the pinnacle of achievement through a combination of hard work, talent, humility, mentorship, and a passion for justice.”

pretty simple, actually. The UNB Law model of legal education is one that is *embedded* in society. In other words, we aren’t separate or above the needs of our community—our goal is to find solutions to societal problems and to train people who will carry on that mission for generations to come. At the same time, we aren’t just focused on immediate concerns; we’re also anticipating what’s around the corner.

A great example of UNB Law’s embeddedness is the work that my dedicated and brilliant faculty colleagues are doing on AI and legal pedagogy. You can read more about it in this issue. Over the summer, they put a great deal of thought into how a law school committed to training useful and adaptable lawyers should use AI in its program. In doing their important work, my colleagues consulted with leaders in the legal profession, which speaks to their dedication to the idea of embeddedness. The result is an incredibly thorough, creative, and practical report that will shape not just what we do on this pressing issue at UNB Law, but also influence how legal education more broadly responds to the challenges and opportunities of AI.

Just as we’re engaged with what’s happening today and thinking about what may happen tomorrow, UNB Law continues to cherish its history. In fact, it’s the legacy of our greatest people who inspire us every day to carry on with our important mission. On June 12, 2025, UNB Law lost its intellectual giant, the Hon. Gérard V. La Forest, who passed away at the age of 99. It is most fitting that the cover story of this issue of *Nexus* is dedicated to his extraordinary contributions to Canada, New Brunswick, and UNB Law.

For me, Gérard La Forest’s legacy represents our Faculty’s greatest values and aspirations. A person from humble beginnings, he reached the pinnacle of achievement through a combination of hard work, talent, humility, mentorship, and a passion for justice. And that incredible journey started right here at UNB Law. Today, more than seven decades after Gérard La Forest’s graduation, we are still the place where

a brilliant and ambitious young person from a small town takes their first steps toward greatness. We should never stop being that law school.

We also continue to draw inspiration from the amazing things that our alumni are doing with their UNB Law degrees. I’m very pleased that this issue of *Nexus* features stories on five graduates who are making their mark in practice, business, and the charitable sector. Each of these graduates embodies UNB Law’s emphasis on leadership. Their desire to solve important problems, ability to spot and seize opportunities, and interpersonal skills reflect the qualities that we hope to instill in our students.

Speaking of leadership, I want to welcome Prof. Benjamin Perryman to his new role as Acting Associate Dean. He is stepping in for Cathy Cotter, who is on a well-deserved one-year sabbatical. Prof. Perryman is an accomplished legal scholar and practitioner. In addition to being a Trudeau Scholar and publishing influential works in his field of constitutional law, Prof. Perryman is a skilled human rights adjudicator and has represented marginalized people in significant *Charter* cases. I’m very grateful to be working closely with Ben this year, and I know UNB Law will benefit from his experience and good judgment.

In closing, I hope you’re proud of your connection to UNB Law. Since becoming Dean over five years ago, this has been one of my most important goals. That’s because, as lawyers, where we went to law school is part of our professional identity. If your law school does things that are worthy of pride, then by extension, they will make you proud too. And when we’re proud of where we came from, we have the confidence to go wherever life will take us. During this transformative period in UNB Law’s history, I urge you to take pride in your law school and contribute to the achievement of its full potential.



PHILIP MILLEY

IS DRIVING GLOBAL IMPACT WITH THE MASTERCARD FOUNDATION

When Philip Milley (JD'13) walked into UNB Law more than a decade ago, he never imagined his legal career would one day touch millions of lives across the globe. Today, as Director of Legal and Compliance at the Mastercard Foundation—one of the largest foundations in the world—he helps steer programs that advance education, expand financial inclusion, and open pathways to dignified, fulfilling work for young people in Africa and Indigenous youth in Canada.

"I am fortunate to work at an organization where the legal work is directly tied to improving lives," Milley says. "It is not abstract. Every contract we sign, every partnership we enable, has the potential to change the trajectory of someone's future. I have been able to work on some of the most complex, significant and impactful work that any Canadian organization has engaged in."

The path to charity and not-for-profit law—a lesson in taking chances

Milley's path to one of the most influential legal roles in international development is a lesson in recognizing opportunity and a willingness to step into the unknown. After graduating in 2012, he began his career in private practice at Stewart McKelvey in St. John's, NL, working across a variety of areas: insurance litigation, marine law, administrative and federal court matters, employment issues, corporate work, and arbitrations.

Then came the call that changed everything. A lawyer he had met years earlier at UNB Law was looking for an in-house lawyer in the little-known field of charity and not-for-profit law.

"I was torn," Milley recalls. "It was a great opportunity in a unique field, but also scary. I did not know if I was closing the door on private practice, and that is a big concern early in your career. At the time, the Law Societies of Canada did not even recognize charity/not-for-profit law as a practice area."

Milley spoke with a managing partner, who approved a temporary leave of absence. He moved to Ontario, got licensed, and began the in-house role.

"I took this big step, and it was one of those pivotal decisions in my life. I was advising the Canada Revenue Agency on its charity law policies and regulations under the *Income Tax Act* and pursuing other very interesting opportunities. Stepping into something so unfamiliar was daunting—but also incredibly exciting."

In 2016, opportunity came knocking again. Milley joined the Canadian Council of Christian Charities (CCCC) as Associate Director, Legal Affairs. At the time, the four Cs was the largest association of charities in Canada, representing over 3,400 organizations.

"I had the opportunity to appear before the Supreme Court of Canada twice, doing interventions; to work on advisory groups with the CRA; to consult on amendments to Ontario's trust legislation; and to publish extensively on the law of charities and not-for-profits."

Building a legal department from the ground up

By 2018, Milley's growing reputation in charity and not-for-profit law had caught the attention of the Mastercard Foundation. The organization was in the midst of a bold expansion, launching transformative initiatives across Africa and Canada. Despite being one of the largest philanthropic organizations in the world, it had no in-house legal department, relying entirely on external counsel.

"I was the second lawyer they hired," Milley says. "We had to build the processes, policies, and team to support operations on a global scale. One of the biggest challenges was earning trust—helping colleagues understand the role of legal, how we can offer support, how we are not the department of 'no,' but an enabler to making an impact."

The Foundation was scaling up immensely in terms of asset values, headcount, and jurisdiction. Under Milley's guidance, the sole Toronto office evolved into a legal department spanning seven jurisdictions across Africa—Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal, Kenya, Rwanda, Ethiopia, and Uganda. Outside of the operational growth, the Foundation also launched its ambitious goal: to enable 30 million young Africans to access dignified and fulfilling work and 100,000 Indigenous youth in Canada to complete their education and transition to meaningful work aligned with their traditions, values, and aspirations.

Today, Milley's role is about more than managing legal risk—it is about enabling the Foundation's mission as a means of relieving poverty and advancing education.

"No two days look the same," he

explains. "My job is to guide the organization toward its goals in a compliant way. That might mean handling litigation, negotiating major projects, navigating conflicts of laws and complex multi-jurisdictional issues, or sitting down with our programs, impact teams, and partners to design initiatives that achieve our philanthropic objectives while staying within regulatory boundaries."

This also means overseeing, quite literally, billions of dollars in philanthropic programming.

"Recently, I supported the creation of an asset management corporation to help manage our US\$50 billion endowment and direct those resources into strategic investments," Milley says. "This work is essential—it underpins our ability to sustain and expand the programs that are making an impact around the world."

His work has taken him across the globe—advising on projects, collaborating with partners, and representing the Foundation in discussions with international bodies such as the European Union, the African Union, and even heads of state.

"It is very diverse. One day I could be meeting a young person we are supporting through education, and the next I am working with global leaders to get a project off the ground."

On a recent trip to Africa, Milley met with colleagues across the Foundation's offices—sharing guidance and support—before visiting rural communities to see firsthand how their programs are transforming lives.

"In rural Rwanda, I visited a woman-led cooperative, talking with farmers tending a small plot of land we are helping sustain. I listened to their stories and challenges, learning how we can better respond to their needs. My role blends leadership and law, but at its core, it is about one thing: supporting young people to create real impact—improving their livelihoods and contributing to their communities."

Saving Lives and Livelihoods

One of the Foundation's most high-profile initiatives under Milley's leadership was *Saving Lives and Livelihoods*, a \$1.5 billion partnership with Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC). Launched in 2021, the initiative aimed to secure and deliver COVID-19 vaccines across Africa, strengthen health systems, and prepare for future pandemics.

"This was development work at its most urgent," says Milley. "We were negotiating with manufacturers, navigating multiple jurisdictions, and doing it all under incredible time pressure—because every day, every week mattered."

The initiative ultimately procured tens of millions of vaccine doses and helped improve public health infrastructure across the continent. For Milley, it was a clear example of how legal expertise can be a force multiplier for impact.

"I am particularly proud of *Saving Lives and Livelihoods*," he shares. "At the height of the pandemic, we worked to ensure vaccine access and equity for over 65 million Africans. I traveled across the continent, from major cities to rural communities, seeing last-mile delivery firsthand. Our work meant collaborating with the African Union, the African Vaccine Acquisition Trust, manufacturers like Johnson & Johnson and Moderna, and the UN to coordinate logistics across all member states. It was challenging but deeply rewarding—helping save lives in real time."

While much of the Foundation's work is in Africa, it also runs significant programming in Canada, with Indigenous youth and communities. Milley highlights initiatives that support education, entrepreneurship, and the revitalization of language and culture.

"In both contexts, it is about unlocking potential," he says. "Whether it is a young person in Nairobi starting a business or a student in Regina accessing post-secondary education



that integrates Indigenous knowledge, the aim is the same—to remove barriers and create opportunities.”

Managing this dual focus requires a legal team adept at switching contexts—from African commercial law to Canadian charity law, often in the same day. It also means constant adaptation to shifting global realities, from political change to economic instability to climate-related disruptions.

“As lawyers, we are inevitably a support function, and being able to get that much closer to the work is so critical to understanding how your advice can be delivered.”

For Milley, that connection to the work recently came to life during travels across Atlantic Canada, where he saw firsthand the projects the Foundation has been supporting in partnership with Indigenous communities. The trip included collaboration with fellow UNB alumnus Frank McKenna (LLB’74) and the McKenna Institute, the Joint Economic Development Initiative, and Ulnuoweg Education Centre. Together, they are working to enable thousands of Indigenous youth access to education and employment programming opportunities.

The experience was especially meaningful for Milley because it brought him full circle.

“I was at the ground floor of that project years ago, pre-pandemic, visiting the communities on the East Coast and then again this past year seeing how the work has grown, how there’s been so much positive impact,” he said. “It is so touching to hear from the people that we are supporting how impactful the work is—particularly as someone who studied and lived on the East Coast. It was even more important and meaningful.”

Looking forward: Navigating an evolving legal landscape

Milley does not shy away from the realities facing international development. He is acutely aware of the forces making life harder for those his work aims to help. Climate change, for example, is disrupting the livelihoods of smallholder farmers across the African continent. Without certainty in their crops, there is no certainty in their next paycheck. Adding to this are government cutbacks to international development funding—setbacks that ripple across entire sectors.



“There are so many headwinds right now,” Milley explains. “International organizations are facing funding crunches. The global political climate affects trade, and that in turn drives markets. In many places, if someone does not have a source of livelihood that enables them to care for their families and contribute to their communities, they are in a very difficult position—whether that is in Indigenous communities in Canada, across the African continent, or elsewhere.”

Despite this sobering landscape, Milley remains hopeful. He has seen firsthand how collaboration can magnify impact and how shared vision can push through even the strongest headwinds.

“There are so many organizations working well together,” he said. “I think there is a great opportunity for governments to help align how philanthropic dollars are used. Everybody is optimistic about wanting to do the right thing.”

That optimism, he believes, needs to be matched with modernization. Much of the legal framework guiding international development, philanthropy, and charitable work is rooted in centuries-old thinking—literally.

“International development, philanthropy, the law of charity—it is still rooted in 19th-century thinking, with case law dating back to the 1601 *Statute of Charitable Uses*. We need to develop the law so organizations and individuals trying to make a difference can do it in a way that is responsive to 21st-century realities. As we rethink what it means to apply the law in a meaningful way, I think there is much growth ahead that can deliver real impact for individuals.”

For Milley, it always comes back to people. He has met countless individuals brimming with talent and ambition who simply need a fair chance.

“One of the things I have learned in the work that I do is that those we support are oftentimes just seeking an opportunity,” he reflects. “They are brilliant. They are hardworking. They just do not have the chance to leverage that—to acquire education or find a source of dignified work.”

It is that belief—that opportunity is the bridge to transformation—that keeps Milley focused.

“The headwinds will continue, but if we are driven by our values and steadfast in our strategies, young people will benefit—whether it is here in Canada or around the globe.”



Non Nobis Solum: Not for Ourselves Alone

Dahlia Chahine

on leading with purpose, and giving back

When Dahlia Chahine (JD'25) crossed the stage at UNB's 196th Encaenia this spring, she did so with pride, purpose, and a record of achievement that spoke volumes. Among the top students in her class, Dahlia earned her JD with distinction—an academic accomplishment matched only by her deep commitment to student life. Widely regarded by her peers as a natural leader, she made a lasting impact on the UNB Law community through her tireless involvement, thoughtful leadership, and unwavering dedication to service. Her contributions were formally recognized with her induction into the prestigious Sir Howard Douglas Society—an honour reserved for students who exemplify academic excellence, leadership, and community engagement.

Taking a chance on UNB Law

Born and raised in Halifax, NS, Dahlia earned her undergraduate degree in Business Administration with Honours at Acadia. After graduation, she returned home and worked as a paralegal, where her fascination with the legal world quickly grew. That experience inspired her to write the LSAT and pursue law school. Convention might have pointed her toward Dalhousie, close to home and familiar—but something about UNB Law stood out, something urged her to take a chance on a place she'd never even visited.

"UNB Law is a small school, and I've always thrived in small-school environments," shares Dahlia. "The sense of community here cannot be beat."

What surprised her most about UNB Law was how many doors opened once she arrived. From internships to student government to advocacy groups, she found opportunities to learn and lead at every turn.

"UNB Law's focus on experiential learning really stood out for me. I'm such a big advocate for these types of opportunities; they not only shaped my experience at law school but also my career trajectory."

One of the most transformative experiences of Dahlia's time at UNB Law came after her first year, when she applied—on a whim—for an internship with Public Prosecutions. Although she wasn't sure criminal law was for her, she (again) followed her instincts.

"I went from being unsure about criminal law to discovering a real passion for it," she says. "Through the internship, I found a mentor, gained courtroom experience, and eventually secured both a summer job and my articling position."

This internship program provides students with an opportunity to develop an understanding of the role of the Attorney General as a prosecutor by working with the staff of the Director of Public Prosecutions. Students are exposed to prosecutorial ethics, advice to investigators, pre-charge screening, disclosure issues, trial issues, sentencing and dealing with witnesses and victims.

"It's a truly unique opportunity. You go to court and observe real proceedings and debrief with the prosecutor both before and after," says Dahlia. "I was also really fortunate to work with Patrick McGuinty (LLB'18) and be able to observe his work at the Court of Appeal. He is so deeply interested in helping students who are passionate about criminal law; he really takes you under his wing."

The internship led to Dahlia working with McGuinty as a summer student

after 2L. She credits the UNB Law community for making that experience possible.

"I don't think another law school could have given me the same kind of access to mentorship. Our size and location—that's something really special about UNB."

A voice for her peers

Dahlia's leadership journey didn't begin in law school—it's been part of her story for years. Her involvement in student government dates back to middle school and continued through her time at Acadia, where she served as the student representative on the university's Board of Governors. So, it was no surprise that when she arrived at UNB Law, she hit the ground running, serving as a Faculty Council representative in both 1L and 2L.

"I think some people are just really drawn to it. Faculty Council was a position that I felt had real, meaningful impact behind it—you're in a room with people who can actually do something about the issues you bring forward. That was a really important space for me to feel like an advocate for everyone else in my year, and a space where sometimes student views can be missed."

In her final year of law school, Dahlia was elected Vice President of the Law Students' Society (LSS), where she again served her community with distinction. In this role, she guided students through the formal recognition of new clubs and societies, championed student-led initiatives, advocated on behalf of her peers, and stepped in wherever she was needed. When UNB Law's annual charity auction needed someone to take the lead, Dahlia didn't hesitate, stepping up and organizing one of the most successful student-run fundraising nights ever.

"It was one of those moments where you really feel the power of community. We had so many generous donations from the public and from our professors. We filled the room, over 100 students came out and raised over \$7,700 for the Women in

Transition House and the Fredericton SPCA."

Feminist legal advocacy in action

In addition to her work with the LSS, Dahlia played a key role in expanding the impact and presence of the Feminist Legal Association (FLA) at UNB Law. After serving as an executive member in 2L, she stepped into the role of co-president in 3L, alongside classmate Marina Luro (JD'25).

"Marina and I really saw this as the opportunity to be involved in something greater than ourselves, greater than the law school. Something that would affect all of us in the legal community."

Their mission was clear: create engaging and thought-provoking programming that connected students to broader conversations in the legal world. In short, challenge, educate, and empower. And they delivered. From a self-defence class for women to a breakfast fundraiser for Grace House, to annual golf lessons designed to break down barriers in the legal profession—the FLA created space for advocacy, learning, and empowerment.

Their year culminated in a landmark event: the return of the *Law Needs Feminism Because...* conference, a national initiative that had gone dormant during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We wanted to bring it back in a way that felt meaningful," Dahlia explains. "We wanted to do something bigger; to make an impact on the student body as leaders of the FLA and put a focal point on why we are here and why our group exists."

The conference was a resounding success, drawing over 100 attendees and sparking dynamic conversations at the intersection of law and women's rights. The event featured a powerful lineup of speakers, including Dr. Suzanne Zaccour, Director of the National Association of Women in the Law; Dr. Rashmee Singh (University of Waterloo), a leading academic in feminist legal theory; and Justice

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Sudaba Yameen, a former judge from Afghanistan and a fierce defender of women’s rights.

“To see a room filled not just with women, but with men, parents, and people from across the community—it reminded me that this work matters,” reflects Dahlia. “That’s how cultural shifts begin.”

For Dahlia, the *Law Needs Feminism Because...* conference, and others like it, serve to highlight the structural and hidden challenges faced by all women in society.

“These are critical discussions,” she explains. “As women in law school, we need to understand not just our own barriers, but also those faced by the marginalized communities we’ll represent—communities that experience higher rates of violence and discrimination. There are deep structural issues, and by starting these conversations, we can push for collective action, policy change, and ultimately a broader cultural shift. A conference like this is a powerful place to begin.”

Reflecting on the event’s success, Dahlia emphasized the collaboration and community spirit that made it all possible.

“It was a true team effort and incredibly inspiring to see so much of the legal community rally behind this initiative. We couldn’t have done it without the support of our sponsors—the Faculty of Law, the UNB Alumni Association, Stewart McKelvey, McInnes Cooper, and the CBA New Brunswick Branch—or our amazing FLA team. Jasmine Kour, Caroline Fischer, Julia Evans, Taylor Gorman, and Ashlee Morgan were some of the most incredible people I’ve ever worked with.”

Honoured as a Sir Howard Douglas Scholar

As a Sir Howard Douglas Scholar, Dahlia has now joined an exclusive group of just over 300 UNB graduates to receive the honour since its establishment in 2006. The news of the award came as a big surprise—but a deeply meaningful one.

“UNB is filled with incredible students doing amazing things, across all faculties,” she says. “To be recognized not just for academic performance, but for the work I’ve done outside the classroom—it meant the world to me.”

The honour also validated the values she’s held since childhood: leadership, service, and standing up for what matters.

“It was the perfect way to end law school—and a reminder to carry that energy forward into my career.”

As she begins her articling with Public Prosecutions in Fredericton, Dahlia is keeping her next steps open. But one thing is certain—she won’t be saying goodbye to UNB Law anytime soon.

“For me, leadership and advocacy aren’t just about the titles or the accomplishments, it’s about the day-to-day work of showing up, caring and contributing meaningfully to the community, and I feel like that’s the approach I’ve tried to take throughout law school and it’s an approach that I’ll continue to try to take as I move into my career. I know I’m not saying goodbye to UNB Law when I graduate because of the impact it’s had on me. I feel a pull to stay involved and try to give back as much as I can to this place because it’s given me more than I could have ever imagined.”

Dahlia’s journey at UNB Law is a testament to the Sir Howard Douglas Society’s guiding principle: *Non Nobis Solum: Not for Ourselves Alone.*

A portrait of an elderly man with white hair, smiling, wearing a dark pinstripe suit, a light blue shirt, and a dark tie with blue and white stripes. A small red and white flower pin is on his lapel. The background is dark grey.

Remembering
***The Honourable Gérard
Vincent La Forest, C.C., K.C.***
1926 - 2025

On June 12, 2025, the Honourable Gérard Vincent La Forest, C.C., K.C. (BCL'49), former Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, passed away peacefully at the age of 99, surrounded by his daughters in the comfort of his home.

Fondly remembered for his humble beginnings as "the boy from Grand Falls," Justice La Forest was a towering figure in the UNB community, one of Canada's most respected jurists, a brilliant legal scholar, and a devoted public servant.

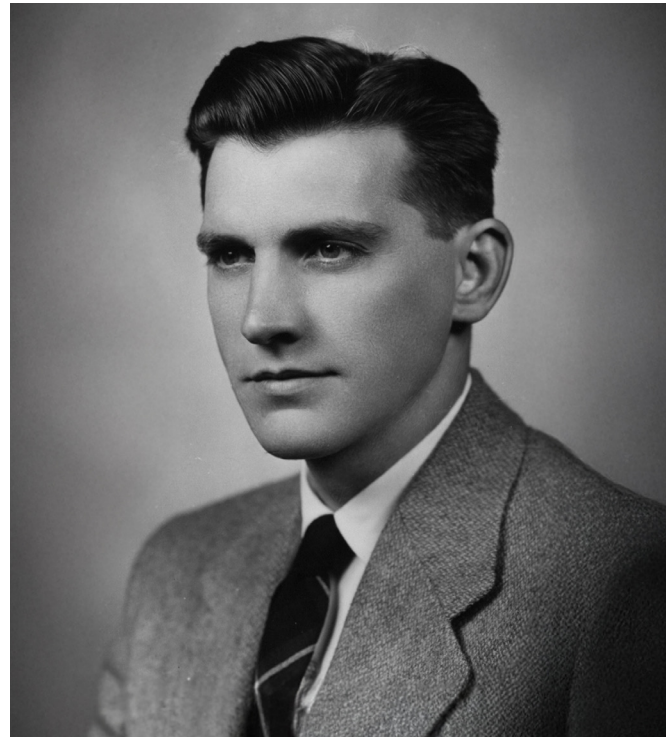
In the days following his passing, tributes poured in from across the country. Among them, the Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin, P.C., C.C., former Chief Justice of Canada, who shared: "[Justice La Forest] possessed one of the finest legal minds I have ever encountered, shaped by a deep understanding of Canada's dual legal traditions and marked by clear thinking, wisdom and creativity. He played a seminal role in shaping the jurisprudence that defined the new *Charter* era. La Forest was a great jurist and great human being. He may have left us, but he lives on the words of the judgments he authored and in the memories of those who knew him."

A commitment to scholarship

Born on April 1, 1926, to parents J. Alfred La Forest and Philomène Lajoie, Justice La Forest was the youngest of their twelve children. He left home to pursue his undergraduate studies at St. Francis Xavier University, later earning his Bachelor of Common Law from UNB Law in 1949. That same year, he was called to the bar of New Brunswick. A man of quiet ambition and extraordinary intellect, he set off for Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar—only the third UNB Law grad ever to hold this distinction—earning a B.A. in Jurisprudence (1951) and subsequently an M.A. (1956). He later received an LL.M. (1965) and a J.S.D. (1966) from Yale University.

After a brief return to his hometown to practice law, Justice La Forest's path led him to Ottawa in 1952, where he joined the federal Department of Justice. Three years later, he moved to Saint John to serve as legal advisor to K.C. Irving in Irving Oil. But it was the chance to explore the law at its deepest level—and to inspire the next generation of lawyers—that ultimately drew him to academia. In 1956, he joined the University of New Brunswick Faculty of Law as an Associate Professor, earning promotion to Professor in 1963. For more than a decade at UNB Law, he shaped the minds of hundreds of students through teaching, mentorship, and scholarship. In 1968, he moved west to become Dean of Law at the University of Alberta, a role he held until 1970.

In remembering the life and legacy of his former professor and colleague, Prof. (retired), Karl Dore (BCL'67) remarks: "'Gladly wolde he lerne, and gladly



teche.' These famous words from Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* (1387) capture the essence of Gérard La Forest and his life's work in the academy, in government, and on the bench. I can personally attest to this, having had the great good fortune to be one of his many students. Gérard V. La Forest was a man for the ages."

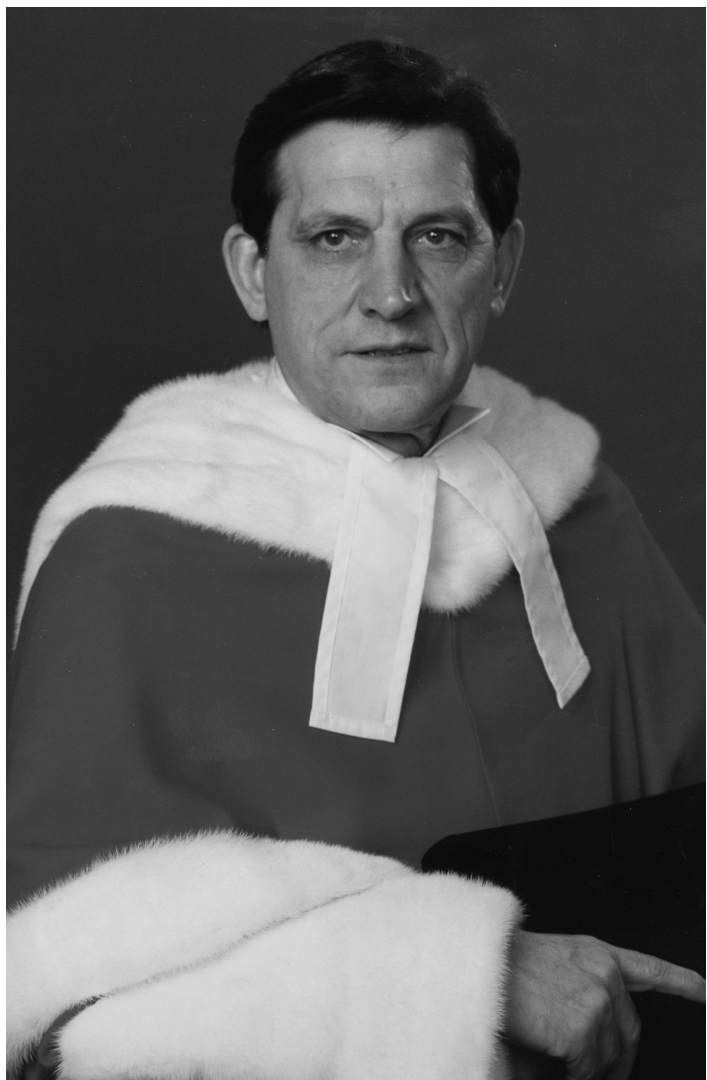
Return to government and the road to Canada's top court

Justice La Forest returned to public service in 1970 as Assistant Deputy Attorney General of Canada, a post that placed him at the heart of a nation in transition. Over the next four years, he played a pivotal role in constitutional reform, helped establish the Canadian Human Rights Commission, and advanced negotiations on Indigenous land claims.

In 1974, he embraced a new challenge, joining the Law Reform Commission of Canada. Over the next five years, he was instrumental in shaping the federal government's efforts to modernize family and criminal law. During this period, he also took a leave from the Commission to serve as Executive Vice-Chairman of the Canadian Bar Association Committee on the Constitution (1977–78).

He then moved back into academia, taking up the post of Professor of Law and Director of the Legislative Drafting Program at the University of Ottawa (1979–81). During this time, he also served as Chairman of the Special Enquiry into Kouchibouguac National Park (1980–81).

In 1981, Justice La Forest was appointed to the New Brunswick Court of Appeal, where he served with great distinction for four years.



"I enjoy writing judgments, particularly where one can move the law forward for the better ... [W]henver I come across a case where the law can be refashioned for the public good and private justice, I shall continue to do so—with relish!"

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His obituary notes that "his jurisprudence was groundbreaking in many areas, including constitutional law, human rights, extradition, privacy, and public and private international law, and he was regularly cited throughout the common law world. One of his judgments is the only Canadian case included in a recent British text entitled *Landmark Cases in Private International Law from 1750 to 2021*."

"Justice La Forest's contributions to Canadian law were transformative," says the Hon. Rosalie Silberman Abella, retired Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada. "He was on the Supreme Court at the beginning of the *Charter*, and he was an important brain on the team at that time. He made significant contributions in the area of equality with the *Eldridge* decision, which was pioneering—and, if I'm not mistaken, the first time the Court applied *Andrews* in a way that truly protected equality rights."

Prof. Alope Chatterjee shares Justice Abella's praise of *Eldridge*. When Prof. Chatterjee first arrived at UNB Law, he had the good fortune to have an office next to Justice La Forest, who was then UNB Law's Distinguished Legal Scholar in Residence.

"I was teaching Constitutional Law, and his landmark 1997 judgment in *Eldridge v. British Columbia* was on the syllabus. In *Eldridge*, a unanimous Supreme Court of Canada ruled that deaf patients had a right to sign-language interpretation when medically necessary. The judgment was, in many ways, ahead of its time and was a jurisprudential tour de force. It traversed the domains of *Charter* application, adverse effects discrimination, s.1

"Justice Gérard V. La Forest's contributions to Canadian law were both deep and enduring," recounts the Honourable Marc Richard, Chief Justice of New Brunswick. "From his earliest days on the bench at the New Brunswick Court of Appeal, he brought to every decision a rare combination of intellectual rigour, clarity of thought, and practical wisdom. His judgments often illuminated complex legal principles in ways that were both precise and accessible, earning him the respect of jurists, practitioners, and scholars alike."

On January 16, 1985, Justice La Forest reached the summit of the Canadian judiciary with his appointment to the Supreme Court of Canada, where he proudly served his country for 12 years until his retirement in 1997.

Justice La Forest was candid about the kind of judge he aspired to be. As Philip Girard observed in his article *The 'Atlantic Seat' on the Supreme Court of Canada: An Endangered Species?* (Osgoode Hall Law School of York University), La Forest outlined his judicial philosophy in a lecture delivered soon after his appointment to the Supreme Court. "I enjoy writing judgments, particularly where one can move the law forward for the better . . . [W]henver I come across a case where the law can be

justification, and constitutional remedies. In a masterful judgment, Justice La Forest brought these various components of the Constitution into alignment in a manner that provided meaningful *Charter* justice to persons with disabilities. As a result, the judgment is a cornerstone of Disability Law in Canada. Justice La Forest's judgment in *Eldridge* is my favorite case to teach, and I am glad I had the chance to tell him so when we were office neighbours."

"I happen to really like his dissent in the *PEI Reference*," shares Justice Abella. "I thought he was very perceptive and principled in his approach. He was brave and not afraid to either lead the way as part of a team or lead the way from the side as a dissenter. Where he was really luminous was in private law. He created the field of extradition, recognition of foreign judgments, and *forum non conveniens*, which are hugely important areas of law. We couldn't get to where we are now without his footprints. He led the way."

Stephen Penney, Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Alberta, had the honour of clerking for Justice La Forest during the 1996–97 term. He was thrilled not only to clerk at the Supreme Court of Canada but also to work with a jurist he deeply admired. Though initially intimidated by Justice La Forest's intellect, he quickly found him gracious, patient, and kind.

Reflecting on his clerkship, Prof. Penney pointed first to witnessing Justice La Forest's work on the *Provincial Court Judges Reference*. "His impeccably reasoned, solitary dissenting opinion is a model of judicial humility and stands as an enduring rejoinder to the majority's unbounded conception of the 'unwritten' Constitution."

He also shared a more personal highlight: a lunch Justice La Forest and his wife Marie hosted at their Ottawa home. Prof. Penney recalls, "their affection for each other and devotion to their daughters was immediately apparent. Of all his remarkable accomplishments, this is undoubtedly the most important."

Chancellor Wade MacLauchlan (LLB'81) remembers Justice La Forest as kind and supportive, especially during his time as Dean. As a young law professor at Dalhousie and director of the federal Common Law-Civil Law Exchange Program, MacLauchlan invited Justice La Forest to speak to students in 1987. After a lively exchange on comparative law and reform at the Supreme Court, the two spoke privately.

"While I was very much his junior, in both age and professional experience, he was open and reflective. We spoke about the well-known backlog—at the time—of Supreme Court cases awaiting decision.

Justice La Forest observed that some members of the Court (unnamed) struggled to decide high-stakes matters. He said, 'I don't have trouble with that. I enjoy making up my mind.' Almost a decade later, as Justice La Forest neared the end of his 12.5 years on the Court and I had been dean at UNB, we knew each other quite a bit better. In a conversation about his leading opinions for the Court, he said, "I've had two big decisions redefining [a particular area of law]. I need one more to finish the job."

Task Force on Aboriginal Issues

In 1999, Justice La Forest co-authored the *Report of the Task Force on Aboriginal Issues* with the Hon. Graydon Nicholas (LLB'71), C.M., O.N.B., LL.D. From May 1998 to March 1999, the two served as co-facilitators of the Task Force, holding more than 60 meetings across New Brunswick to foster dialogue and confront the systemic barriers facing Indigenous communities. They engaged widely—meeting with First Nations leaders, elders and youth, Aboriginal women, the Aboriginal People's Council, the Union of New Brunswick Indians, the MAWIW Council, the Native Loggers Association, as well as representatives from the forest industry, environmental groups, professional organizations, and all levels of government. The Task Force also received numerous written submissions from Indigenous communities and other groups and individuals, ensuring a broad and inclusive record of voices.

"Gérard and I experienced mutual respect as we traveled tirelessly and listened to the voices of First Nation leaders. A significant moment was when a woman at Eel River Bar told us of a disabled child whose health needs required him to be airlifted to Halifax. Both the federal and provincial governments refused to help. Justice La Forest reminded the provincial government that such services were enjoyed by the military at CFB Gagetown, which was on federal property. The child was helped. It was an honour and privilege to get to know him and to work with him. Each time we saw one another, we would both smile and say, 'We wrote a great Report.' May you rest in peace my friend, and continue to look after your family from above as we celebrate your life here on Mother Earth."

Beyond the bench: guidance and expertise in retirement

Following his retirement from the Supreme Court of Canada in 1997, Justice La Forest joined Stewart McKelvey as counsel and remained counsel for 22 years. Far from being simply retired, as counsel to Stewart McKelvey, he carried on his life-long work in the law by providing advice, opinions and counsel on numerous important national, international and

constitutional issues to law firms, provincial and federal governments and agencies on diverse issues such as human rights, privacy, national and international taxation, language rights, the scope of federal and provincial powers, international and interprovincial boundary issues, including ocean boundaries, and Indigenous rights issues. His advice and counsel on international conflict of laws questions was sought by law firms across Canada and in the United States.

In remembering Justice La Forest's enduring influence on both the profession and the people around him, Frederick McElman, CM, K.C. (LLB'78), Partner with Stewart McKelvey and long-time friend, reflects: "Beyond this continuing passion for and activity in the law, Justice La Forest also actively mentored younger (and some not so young) lawyers and students within the firm, generously providing his advice and counsel on the law, the history and meaning of law and the importance of the lawyer's role in shaping the law. His interactions with younger lawyers were always thoughtful and practical, reflecting his previous role of university legal educator. Throughout his time with Stewart McKelvey, Justice La Forest always expressed interest in how lawyers could contribute to the development of the law through practice. Stewart McKelvey benefited greatly from Justice La Forest's role as counsel for more than two decades, and the benefits of his contributions to the development of new lawyers at the firm will carry on for years. He will be greatly missed."

Honouring La Forest's impact

Justice La Forest's list of accomplishments and honours is as long as it is remarkable, reflecting a career that left an enduring influence on Canada's legal landscape. His intellect and achievements have been recognized around the world.

He was named King's Counsel in New Brunswick in 1968. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, a Fellow of the World Academy of Art and Science, and he has been awarded honorary doctorates from eight universities, including the University of New Brunswick, where he received a Doctor of Civil Law (D.C.L.) in 1985.

"On the very special occasion of UNB's bicentennial in 1985, each Faculty was asked to choose one outstanding individual for an honorary degree," recounted Prof. Dore "The Law Faculty's choice was The Honourable Gérard La Forest. In my citation for his degree, I said that Justice La Forest stands out as the most distinguished graduate in the entire history of our School. Justice La Forest was also the finest scholar in the history of our School."

On October 8, 1992, to mark the 100th anniversary of the faculty, the UNB Law Library was officially renamed

in honour of the Honourable Gérard V. La Forest—a space that has become a cornerstone of academic life for generations of students. His portrait keeps a watchful eye over the space, a quiet reminder of the dedication, intellect, and integrity that law demands.

In 1998, after Justice La Forest's retirement from the Supreme Court of Canada, UNB Law organized a symposium to celebrate his career and contributions. Judges, lawyers, and scholars gathered from across Canada and beyond, and the proceedings were later published as a book-length collection by the Supreme Court of Canada Historical Society (DeLloyd Guth, ed., 2000).

Chancellor MacLauchlan remembers the closing moments: "Gerry [as he was known by most of those present at the symposium] was the last to speak. He started out by responding to those who had spoken about his multifaceted career. He reminisced about a cartoon strip character from his youth called 'Mr. Available,' who was willing to take on all jobs. Justice La Forest joked that the title 'Mr. Available' might be used to describe his career."

On November 16, 2000, he was invested as a Companion to the Order of Canada by Canada's 26th governor-general, Adrienne Clarkson. His citation reads: As Justice of the New Brunswick Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada, he brought keen analytical skills and a sense of compassion to legal decisions affecting the lives of millions. He is a constitutional expert and was an important member of the Law Reform Commission of Canada and, most recently, the Federal Task Force on Human Rights Legislation. His career, characterized by his great concern for the importance of privacy in modern society, has had an enduring influence on the institutions with which he has been associated.

In 2001, the Canadian Council on International Law (CCIL) acknowledged his deep contributions to the application of international law in Canada by awarding him the Read Medal, the CCIL's highest distinction.

In March 2012, the La Forest Rare Books Reading Room was officially opened in the law library, ensuring the preservation of our historic legal collections for the benefit of future generations of law teachers, researchers, and scholars, as well as members of the Bar and the Judiciary.

To mark the occasion, UNB Law Professor David Bell (LLB'80) remarked, "[The La Forest Rare Books Reading Room] houses and displays print works and memorabilia from one of 20th-century Canada's great judges and one of UNB's most distinguished alumni. The Law Faculty is honoured to recognize in this way not only Mr. Justice La Forest's career but especially all that he's done, over many decades now, for UNB's law program and our students."

“He loved his family. He was unabashedly devoted to his wife and children. Everybody knew they came first. His humanity was the core of who he was.”

His greatest commitment: family

When he retired from the Supreme Court of Canada on 30 September 1997, Gérard and Marie, his cherished wife of 49 years, returned to their beloved New Brunswick. Shortly after their return, Marie fell ill, and Gérard devoted himself to caring for her at home until her passing in 2002.

Throughout his life, Justice La Forest never failed to acknowledge the profound influence of his family. At his Swearing-in at the Supreme Court of Canada on February 12, 1985, he spoke movingly about his wife, Marie, and the impact she had on his life:

“[T]he strongest influence in my life has been my wife, Marie. A product of a loving and accomplished family, the Warners, I found that happy combination of German with Scottish and Irish and a saving touch of French quite irresistible, and I still do. Her wisdom has avoided many mistakes, her strength and courage have helped us overcome many of the vicissitudes of life, and her ability (not yet, it must be said, wholly perfect) of overlooking my deficiencies have been a constant source of support. I owe her more than lies within the power of words to express. Her greatest gift to me has been our five daughters—Marie, Kathleen, Anne, Elizabeth, and Sarah. The presence of all of them here makes this happy moment complete. Three have done me the honour of following the path of law. Whether the others will follow remains to be seen. I wouldn’t want people to think that’s all we can do.”

La Forest’s children grew up in a house where education, public service, and commitment to family were the central tenets that shaped the paths they would go on to follow.

A lasting legacy

Over the course of his extraordinary career, Gérard La Forest shaped the direction of Canadian law at every level. He will be remembered for his deep intellect, integrity, and unwavering commitment to justice, reflected in the hundreds of judgments, articles, and

reports he authored. Through this body of work, he will continue to inspire generations of UNB Law students and scholars, as well as jurists the world over.

“Gérard La Forest was UNB Law’s intellectual giant and the most influential jurist to graduate from our institution,” said Michael Marin, Dean of Law. “As we mourn his passing and extend our condolences to his family, we also reflect upon with great pride and admiration his contributions and ties to our Faculty.”

The measure of La Forest’s influence and stature is perhaps best captured in the words of Justice Abella, who reflects: “He loved law. He loved—with humility—being able to contribute to the expansion of justice because he was a very fair and humane person, not just a jurist. You can’t have one without the other. And there was his friendship with Gordon Fairweather [a fellow 1949 grad], who was the same kind of statesman in the legal system—transcendently humane and courageous and committed to Canadian values. They had a partnership that was New Brunswick teaching Canada how it should think about justice. He loved his family. He was unabashedly devoted to his wife and children. Everybody knew they came first. His humanity was the core of who he was. He was the same in his judicial life and his personal life—a modest, kind, and compassionate scholar.”

Gérard La Forest’s legacy is written not only in the law but in the ideals he embodied and instilled in others. His memory will remain a source of inspiration for generations, carried forward by all who had the privilege to learn from him, work alongside him, or be guided by his example. We extend our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and all those whose lives he touched.

A portrait of Ted Flett, a man with a beard and glasses, wearing a blue checkered suit jacket, a white shirt, and a red tie. He is smiling and looking directly at the camera. The background is a light blue gradient.

Ted Flett

on law, activism, and finding your path

Growing up in Dundas, Ontario, a small town outside Hamilton, Ted Flett (JD'16) seemed destined for the medical field. His father was a family doctor, his mother a nurse, and both of his sisters pursued health sciences. Ted, however, had different ambitions. Politics and media fascinated him far more than lab coats and stethoscopes. After completing a political science degree at McMaster, he enrolled in journalism at Toronto Metropolitan University (then Ryerson), eventually carving out a successful career in public relations.

By his early thirties, Flett was leading major tourism campaigns for Visit Britain's New York office, promoting the UK during events like the 2011 Royal Wedding and the 2012 Olympics. Yet, despite the high-profile work, he felt restless. The buzz of marketing no longer gave him the satisfaction he craved. He began to imagine a career with a deeper impact.

"I'd arrived at a point where, as much as I enjoyed the work, I felt that trying to get more TV coverage, longer articles, and into newsprint wasn't turning my crank to the extent that it had previously. I was craving

something more stimulating, searching for something that would give me more satisfaction."

That search led him to law.

Finding a home at UNB

Flett hadn't planned on moving east. When he applied to law school, timing wasn't on his side. He wrote his LSAT too late to be considered by Ontario schools. UNB Law, however, was one of the few programs still accepting applicants. He planned to spend a year in Fredericton before transferring closer to home. But within weeks, he knew he wasn't leaving.

"I used to be a competitive figure skater, and I competed once in Fredericton, and that was one of only two times I'd been to the city prior to attending UNB. The whole city came out to watch the competition, which does not always happen in Ontario, so I'd already gotten a strong community feel from Fredericton."

At UNB, the same sense of community was palpable. Flett quickly abandoned any thought of transferring.

“I became more comfortable with being seen as an activist and being asked my position on issues—answering questions—as an activist.”

He built lasting friendships and connected with professors who shaped his professional path.

“I have great memories of Catherine Cotter (LLB’02), who taught me the basics I still use today—like always italicizing the style of cause! I had Anne La Forest (LLB’84) for property law. Her description of advocating on behalf of a client and being in a courtroom really inspired me. Hilary Young, who taught torts, had such a steady, methodical approach to breaking down the law. She introduced me to defamation—an area that fascinated me as someone who loves writing and journalism—and that interest has carried into my practice. And George Filliter (LLB’78), who taught employment law, which is my jam. He’s really a big part of the reason why I chose it.”

His 3L internship with the Hon. Justice Barbara Baird (LLB’76) at the Court of Appeal was equally formative, exposing him to courtroom deliberations and offering him an early taste of how the law worked at its highest levels.

“Justice Baird was still a new appointee at the time and was incredible. She took me into all the court’s deliberations she could and even gave me a voice at the table. I barely knew the law, yet she asked my opinion and unpacked it with me. Her personal story as one of the first women political leaders in Canada—something that fascinated me as a political junkie—was riveting. I found her empathetic and compassionate, always mindful of how her decisions would affect people.”

But it wasn’t just academics that shaped him.

Reviving OUTLaw

Perhaps the most defining part of Flett’s UNB experience was his role in reviving—and leading—OUTLaw, the advocacy group dedicated to supporting 2SLGBTQIA+ law students and community members. When he arrived, the club was inactive. The absence made him pause—was this a place where he needed to downplay his identity? He did the opposite. Instead of hiding or retreating, he opened up—asking questions. He discovered that the Law Students’ Society wanted to bring the club back; they just needed someone to take the reins.

“They put a piece of paper in front of me and told me that if I could get 10 signatures, OUTLaw would

be back. I didn’t know many people in my class, but I mustered the bravery to say to a few of them, ‘Hey, I’d like to create this club,’ or ‘I think there’s a need, would you want to sign this?’”

He got the signatures. Within weeks, OUTLaw was back, and within the year, it was the largest law student organization on campus. The timing gave the initiative extra urgency: in 2013, Scott Jones of Nova Scotia had been paralyzed in a hate-motivated attack. For Flett, it underscored the need for visibility and advocacy. The incident was a grim reminder that safety and visibility for queer people must not be taken for granted.

“I was really affected by that incident, so close to home. I had this sort of angst and storm brewing, and that also motivated me and inspired me to resurrect OUTLaw.”

For Flett, OUTLaw became more than a student group—it was a vehicle for advocacy and community-building and an important part of his own personal journey.

“The advocacy work I did on behalf of OUTLaw was also part of my own coming out journey. I was out and comfortable in my sexuality and sexual orientation by the time I was at UNB, but I had never taken that next step to strongly advocate on behalf of my peers and allies. That was hugely satisfying, not just the work, but the support for it from the community—it still gives me goosebumps when I think about it.”

The work not only energized the student body but also shaped Flett’s own understanding of activism. He had once seen the word “activist” as a bad word, conjuring images of shouting protests and flag burnings. At UNB, he came to appreciate that while activism takes many forms, including disruption sometimes, it can also mean thoughtful advocacy, building coalitions, and creating space for conversation. It was a lesson that would carry into his professional life.

“I became more comfortable with being seen as an activist and being asked my position on issues—answering questions—as an activist.”

From Bay Street to building his own firm

After graduation, Flett began his career at Borden Ladner Gervais LLP (BLG) in Toronto. On Bay Street, he honed his skills in employment law and wills and

estates, and he was encouraged by the firm's progressive attitude and thoughtful approach toward pro bono work. But the size and hierarchy of the firm left him wanting more autonomy and more direct impact.

Mentorship helped him take the leap. One of his most important guides was fellow UNB alum Rory Barnable (LLB'01), who reassured him that building an independent practice was possible—and necessary—given his passions.

"Rory was one of the people who encouraged me to pursue plaintiff-side work, knowing I was less interested in helping wealthy corporations hold onto their money. He said, 'Why don't you join my shop? I'll share some of my files with you, and you can start building your own client base—you'll be off and running.' I wouldn't have taken that plunge without Rory. To this day, I still go to him for advice on files, practice management, and running a law firm."

That encouragement and guidance ultimately led Flett to his current role as co-managing partner of the boutique employment law firm Zubas Flett Liberatore Law LLP. For Flett, employment law is more than contracts and terminations. It's about identity. Growing up as a gay man in the 1980s and 90s meant navigating exclusion—from marriage, from parenthood, from basic recognition. The AIDS crisis loomed over his adolescence, a constant reminder of vulnerability and stigma. Against that backdrop, work became a vital anchor of identity and belonging for Flett.

"It was a pretty bleak, scary time. I think a lot of gay men, me included, defined ourselves by our work and our profession—the Monday to Friday, 9 to 5. I was pouring myself into my work to feel as though I was a contributing member of society, and to feel as though I had a fulfilling life because marriage and having kids likely wouldn't be on my horizon. Employment law is such a gratifying area for me to practice, because I appreciate firsthand how we define ourselves by the work that we do, and when there is unrest or termination in our employment relationships, those hit home really hard."

That perspective fuels his practice today and informs how he sees his clients. A wrongful dismissal isn't just about lost wages—it's about dignity. A case of discrimination isn't just a workplace conflict—it's a challenge to someone's humanity.

His cases, unfortunately, reflect persistent systemic problems. He has seen a rise in workplace discrimination, particularly against trans employees, amid broader economic anxieties. More troubling still is the structural barrier of access to justice: the expense and delay of litigation often force vulnerable clients to settle rather than fight. Flett worries that this erodes fairness. "If it's expensive for the average Canadian to get into a courtroom, then it's particularly expensive for a disadvantaged Canadian who experiences systemic discrimination," he stresses.

Still, the challenges persist. He has seen an uptick in transphobic discrimination at work, coinciding with rising anti-LGBTQ rhetoric in the U.S. Though Toronto is relatively safe, Flett worries about complacency. "It's not that far away," he cautions. "Drive an hour outside the city, and the picture changes."

Advocacy in practice

Outside his firm, Flett channels his legal skills into pro bono work and community advocacy. In Toronto, he mentors 2SLGBTQIA+ youth through Friends of Ruby, a non-profit offering free counselling, housing, and social services. He offers confidential guidance to those navigating workplace discrimination or signing their first employment contracts.

"This is a disadvantaged group, so finding employment and negotiating their first employment agreement or understanding what they're signing can be a little foreign for them, so I advise those individuals and help them wherever they are at on their personal journey, which varies significantly. I try to assist them on the employment element of that so that they have knowledge of what they're getting into, and they know how to activate their rights and hold employers accountable for whatever obligations the employer has."

He also provides pro bono counsel to the Canada Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, advising on matters that support and advocate for LGBTQ+—owned businesses and their allies across Canada.


Advice for the next generation

Looking back on his journey—from PR campaigns in New York, to law school in Fredericton, to the courtroom battles of Toronto—Flett is clear-eyed about the demands of law and the responsibilities that come with it. For students eager to combine their careers with activism, his advice is pragmatic: walk before you run.

"Law is a long run – it's a marathon, not a sprint," he says. The early years of practice, he emphasizes, should be about mastering the fundamentals: understanding the law, serving clients, and building confidence. Only then can lawyers make their most effective contributions to social justice causes.

"Once you have something significant that you can parlay into a social justice need and activism, then do it at that point in time, once you feel ready and a bit more comfortable."

At his core, Flett still sees himself as both a lawyer and an advocate—a professional who thrives in the courtroom but who also believes in listening, nuance, and community-driven solutions. It's a balance he has carried from his days of reviving OUTLaw at UNB to his work today in Toronto. And it's a reminder that the most enduring activism often begins in small, local acts of courage.



Students navigate a (mock) disaster

It's February 2028. A catastrophic winter storm has paralyzed New Brunswick, Quebec, and Eastern Ontario, surpassing even the devastation of the Great Ice Storm of 1998. Over 120 millimetres of freezing rain have fallen in just 100 hours, encasing the region in ice and disarray. Roads are impassable. Cell service is down. Power grids have collapsed, with full restoration expected to take weeks.

Begin simulation.

This was the scenario confronting students in Professor David Matyas' new *Law of Disasters and Emergencies* course. Designed as an immersive, experiential learning opportunity, the course pushes students beyond the traditional classroom experience—challenging them to anticipate legal complexities, adapt under pressure, and make critical decisions in real time.

The course unfolds along two parallel tracks: one focused on substantive law, the other on a practical simulation. On the first day of class, students are divided into four mock law firms—a medium-sized family law firm, a small private law firm specializing in torts and property law, an established criminal law firm, and a national corporate/commercial firm.

"Students step into the role of firm partners," explains Prof. Matyas. "They conduct hazard and vulnerability assessments, build risk-planning scenarios, and develop contingency plans tailored to the size, location, and staffing of their firms. They have to think about their staff, their clients, the courts, and other professionals and services with whom they interact. It all leads up to a two-day, end-of-semester simulation where they're forced to 'lawyer' their way through a novel disaster. How well they do depends largely on the strength of the plans they've built."

When students begin the simulation, they know nothing about the disaster scenario ahead. The first wave of challenges they face are internal to the day-to-day operations of their firms. How do you function without power? What happens when servers are inaccessible and client files are inaccessible? How do you communicate with clients and colleagues when mobile phones are suddenly unavailable? In an instant, the basic infrastructure of legal practice is thrown into chaos, and students must figure out how to adapt.

“I was interested in understanding the law that enables emergency responses. It made it clear that it is not just the law in these circumstances but the operation of firms and courts during an emergency that matters.”



From there, students begin to face external challenges. “We saw this play out acutely during COVID-19—courts were forced to change their operating procedures, issuing novel practice directives related to, for instance, social distancing, online hearings, and electronic filings,” shares Prof. Matyas. “Students may have heard about these issues in the abstract, but the simulation forces them to confront the complexity and urgency of running a legal practice while court procedures are rapidly changing.”

As the simulation unfolds, new developments emerge that require students to engage with substantive areas of law. Clients come to them with urgent legal questions, and ultimately, they must plead those issues before a judge in a mock courtroom.

“We had a scenario for the torts law firm involving a property development on Fredericton’s north side,” Prof. Matyas shares. “With the freezing rain causing ice jams on the Saint John/Wolastoq River, the city planned to divert floodwaters away from downtown Fredericton, which would have put those properties at risk. The firm representing that area was asked to bring a motion for an interlocutory injunction to stop it. The family law firm faced a case where one spouse sought an emergency protection order due to domestic abuse. Meanwhile, the corporate-commercial firm wanted a provision within one of their contracts declared

a *force majeure*. Each firm dealt with distinct, substantive legal challenges tailored to the kinds of clients they represented.”

Prof. Matyas was particularly impressed by the collaborative mindset students brought to the simulation, an approach he had emphasized throughout the course.

“It was fascinating to watch,” he says. “Several of the mock firms formed reciprocal partnerships so that, in the face of the emergency—and with careful attention to their professional and ethical obligations—they could share resources and infrastructure. This was exactly the kind of thinking we encouraged in class: to learn from one another, to borrow ideas, and to recognize that in a crisis, it’s not only okay, but often essential, to look to what your peers are doing.”

On day two of the simulation, things got even more challenging when the federal government declared a state of emergency. Students, who were in the midst of responding to client questions, had to shift their focus to the operation of the *Emergencies Act*. All four law firms were retained collectively by the provincial government to challenge the declaration of the Act in front of a judge (played by the Faculty’s own Prof. Maria Panezi)

“We did a deep dive over several lectures into the different provisions and the operation of the *Emergencies*

Act, classic statutory interpretation,” explains Prof. Matyas. “But suddenly, through the simulation, they are reading the same provisions with whole new eyes, and an intensity completely distinguishable from how they first read those provisions. It was great fun to watch.”

For third-year student Marina Luro (JD’25), the simulation—and the course more broadly—transformed her understanding of how law intersects with disasters and emergencies.

“I learned that it is not just about humanitarian and government action,” she shares. “There are everyday private law issues, such as tort and property, that play a critical role during a crisis. It also taught me that the law isn’t always about responding but also preparing ahead of time and addressing underlying structural vulnerabilities in society to help mitigate the harm caused by crises. I was most surprised by how much space there is for the law and legal professionals in disaster response—the myriad ways that lawyers can help mitigate effects to communities they serve and help respond when disasters occur.”

Jacob Powning (JD’25) was drawn to The Law of Disasters and Emergencies due to his background as a volunteer firefighter.

“I’ve been involved on the ground when people’s lives are radically disrupted by unexpected events,” he



says. “I was interested in understanding the law that enables emergency responses. It made it clear that it is not just the law in these circumstances but the operation of firms and courts during an emergency that matters.”

Reflecting on the broader implications of what he learned, Powning emphasized the importance of preparedness grounded in legal continuity. “For me, it became clear that in order to be truly prepared for emergencies, including international security breakdowns, we need to normalize all manner of possible disasters as a cyclical part of life so that we are in the best position to deal with them without needing to suspend the rule of law.”

Developing the course

The inspiration for the course grew out of Prof. Matyas’s own experience working as a technical advisor on disaster resilience for a humanitarian organization. When he eventually transitioned into law, he began to see clear connections between the two fields.

“I started noticing overlaps between these worlds, and ultimately opportunities where a risk-centred outlook could help law students prepare both substantively and operationally for the disasters and emergencies of the future,” he explains. “We’re living in a moment of environmental and geopolitical stress—one that is trending toward greater precarity. Law has a significant role to play in these challenges. I wanted to develop a course that would help students anticipate those risks, prepare for them, and respond with clarity and purpose.”

Outside of the simulation, the course lectures aim to equip the students with a broad and critical understanding of the laws of disasters and emergencies. In addition to his own lectures, Prof. Matyas welcomed several guest lecturers engaged in the study and practice of disasters and

emergencies. These guests included UNB Law’s own Prof. Benjamin Perryman—who gave a lecture on the Canadian constitutional framework for responding to emergencies—Misha Boutilier—a former counsel from the Public Order Emergency Commission—Brandon Chung—who represented the Canadian Civil Liberties Association in one of the cases that followed the Government’s emergency declaration—and Prof. Payam Akhavan—this year’s Ivan C. Rand Memorial lecture, who joined the class for a fireside chat about climate change litigation before international tribunals.

For Prof. Matyas, the course works to bring the content of these lectures to life through simulation.

“It’s something I think a lot about with my teaching—how to create opportunities for play, and the relationship between play and pedagogy. What I love about the simulation is that it creates this space outside the ‘ordinary life’ of the lectures, but that absorbs students intensely in themes, puzzles, and constraints that feature centrally within those lectures.”

Ultimately, the course equips students not only with legal knowledge but with practical tools—and the confidence to use them in unpredictable, high-pressure situations.

“As lawyers, our students are going to have a key role to play in engaging with the legal and operational challenges of the disasters and emergencies of the future,” Prof. Matyas observes. “This course is a recognition that disasters aren’t just theoretical—they will shape the legal landscape our students inherit. We’re looking to equip our graduates with the competencies to lead through those challenges.”





TEACHING EXCELLENCE

Paul Warchuk's people-first approach

When Prof. Paul Warchuk received the 2025 UNB Law Teaching Excellence Award at the spring graduation dinner, he wasn't thinking about accolades or recognition. He was thinking about people—the students who fill his classroom, the colleagues who support him, and the community that makes his work meaningful.

"It's always nice to be recognized," he says, reflecting on the moment. "But for me, the more meaningful part is thinking about the people who put in the time and wanted to get me recognized—the people who wrote in, and encouraged others to write in. It makes you feel part of a community. It makes it feel like people care about you."

For Prof. Warchuk, teaching isn't just about imparting legal knowledge—it's about relationships. Whether it's catching up with graduates over lunch or seeing students as they head off to clerkships in Ottawa, he finds deep satisfaction in the support, encouragement, and connection that flows both ways in the classroom.

"I think it's pretty transparent to students when you actually care about them or take things seriously," he explains. "It's different from thinking, 'Teaching is just part of my job,' and then doing the bare minimum."

Prof. Warchuk's teaching philosophy has evolved over time, shaped by both experience and reflection. When he first arrived at UNB Law, his approach was similar to that of many new professors: rooted in his own specialty, with the instinct to transfer as much of that knowledge as possible to his students. But the reality of student needs soon changed his perspective.

"Students come with very different goals. Some people, let's say in administrative law, might want to become the administrative law master—and that's great. It makes me super excited. But then there are a lot of people who just need the credit. Maybe they're never going to work in administrative law, maybe they're never even going to practice law. You can't just teach to the top 10% of the class. It's important to open the classroom to the other 90% as well."

"UNB is truly fortunate to have one of the brightest young minds in Canadian administrative law, sharing his expertise with the lawyers of tomorrow."

Flexibility became the cornerstone of his approach. Optional assignments, class recordings for students balancing multiple responsibilities, and the freedom to chart individual paths within a course all reflected his commitment to accommodating diverse goals. His aim is to make the material accessible to everyone, ensuring that all students leave with the core competencies and tools they need, while also giving those who want to push further the opportunity to do so, without forcing the entire class beyond what they need.

Innovation in teaching, Prof. Warchuk explains, isn't about inventing new methods—it's about responding to students and creating an environment where learning can thrive. For him, that means leaning into his own strengths and favouring a casual, approachable style over a formal, professorial one. Central to his philosophy is striking the right balance: overly regimented classrooms can intimidate, while too much informality risks losing focus. His goal is a middle ground—structured enough to stay on track, yet relaxed enough to encourage questions, especially from students who might otherwise stay quiet.

"I lean toward a relaxed atmosphere," he explains, "but it's not without structure. We still go through the readings, still work through the material. It's just about making space for learning without the fear or rigidity that can shut people down."

Even in the rigour of law school, Warchuk finds ways to make learning memorable. One of his favorite stories involves a contracts class, a windowless room, and a creative twist: the meme wall.

"We were in Room 14, and I said, 'Look, the 1Ls are in all their classes in the same room. We need to spruce this place up, make it more conducive to learning.'"

The result was a wall filled with contract-related memes, a playful learning exercise that built camaraderie among the 1Ls. As one student shared in their nomination letter, "Lamenting the lack of contract law memes available on the internet, [Prof. Warchuk] encouraged students to develop their own memes that explained the law of contracts. It was a friendly challenge that my classmates and I embraced with enthusiasm. Each week, we would add a new meme to the wall, and, between classes, students would gather around to inspect new additions. What felt like a fun diversion turned out to be something more—a complement that helped them better understand a new area of law."

Coaching the Laskin Moot was another standout moment for Prof. Warchuk. For years, he had always been in the spotlight as a mentee—coached, prepped, and supported by others. Suddenly, he found himself on the other side of that dynamic: "I was in a supporting role—the students were my team, and I was just sitting on the back bench, fingers crossed, hoping for the best," he remembers.

The experience marked a turning point: no longer the junior lawyer being guided, he had transitioned into the role of mentor, proud to step back and celebrate the achievements of his students.

"As my moot coach, he went far beyond the expectations of his role," shares Alexandra Guitard. "He dedicated countless hours to help us prepare, offering insightful feedback and guidance during practice sessions. What truly set him apart, however, was his ability to keep morale high when stress should have prevailed. In the lead-up to the competition and during the competition, when tension and pressure were building, Prof. Warchuk kept the mood light, encouraging, and positive. His ability to balance preparation with moments of levity

ensured that we stayed focused and motivated, even in the face of challenges. His unwavering support and genuine care for his students' well-being left a lasting impression on all of us."

Fostering a supportive and inclusive learning environment is central to Warchuk's teaching as well. He strives to make himself available outside of class and provides structured support during exam periods, offering review days and Teams calls to field last-minute questions.

"He offers extensive office hours, detailed exam reviews, and extra resources, demonstrating his unwavering commitment to student success," shares Julia Raposo (JD'25). "While preparing for my administrative law exam, Prof. Warchuk extended his office hours to accommodate meeting with me numerous times to answer my questions and ensure I felt set up for success."

Prof. Warchuk has relied on the mentorship of his colleagues to help guide his methods. "You can do it alone, but it would take a lot more time, and you'd make more mistakes. Mentorship is a shortcut to refining your craft. Teaching will change a lot over time. You're never going to get it right the first time. You must be open to feedback and turn to colleagues who've been through it before."

Ultimately, Warchuk's impact in the classroom is measured not just by what he teaches but by how he inspires. In a nomination letter for his award, a group of students captured this sentiment:

"Faculty are the single most important expenditure for any university; they are, after all, a university's most important investment. UNB is truly fortunate to have one of the brightest young minds in Canadian administrative law, sharing his expertise with the lawyers of tomorrow."

MAKING HISTORY LAUNCHING

WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE

THE CAMPAIGN FOR UNB LAW



On May 16, 2025, the Wu Centre played host to a defining moment in the history of UNB Law. Alumni, faculty, students, and members of the wider legal community gathered to celebrate the public launch of Where Leaders Are Made—the most ambitious fundraising campaign in the history of the Faculty. Guided by campaign cabinet co-chairs and event emcees, Lydia S. Bugden, K.C. (LLB’91) and Vaughn MacLellan (LLB’95), the launch event was both a celebration of progress and a strong statement of intent. UNB Law formally announced its \$23 million campaign goal and shared the incredible news that more than half of that target—\$13.7 million—has already been secured. It was a powerful beginning to a campaign that promises to shape the future of legal education in New Brunswick and beyond.

Support from the highest levels

UNB President and Vice Chancellor Paul Mazerolle has been one of UNB Law’s most dedicated champions, whose steady support and encouragement have energized the campaign from the very beginning. At the launch event, he set the tone with his opening remarks that underscored how UNB Law’s vision aligns seamlessly with the University’s broader strategic goals.

“The future of UNB Law is unequivocally one of the university’s—indeed one of my—highest priorities. I’m convinced that the bold strategic plan that the Faculty of Law is currently embarking on will re-establish UNB Law as one of the top five law schools in Canada. We’re excited about that. We know it’s possible and we want to support it. This means that UNB Law has a major contribution to make not only to its own future but also to the university’s strategic vision, UNB Toward 2030... As President, I am determined to see UNB Law succeed”

In his address, Dr. Mazerolle highlighted the Faculty’s expansion of experiential learning—through the Legal Clinic, and plans for the new Legal Observatory and Canada’s first virtual reality law lab—as a direct contribution to the University’s pillar of transformative education for the future. He pointed to UNB Law’s deep engagement with the legal community, its commitment to Truth and Reconciliation initiatives, and its focus on student wellness and mentorship as clear examples of impact and people-centered excellence. Looking ahead, he noted, the move to a modern, accessible, and technologically advanced Justice Building in downtown Fredericton embodies the University’s goal of creating sustainable, integrated institutions, ensuring UNB Law remains a dynamic home for future leaders.

“When we invest in a bright future for UNB Law, we invest in ourselves.”

Major gifts fuel momentum

The launch was also an opportunity to celebrate an extraordinary series of new commitments to the campaign. The law foundations of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland and Labrador have pledged more than \$1.4 million to strengthen scholarships for students from their provinces.

The Hewitt Foundation, one of Canada’s largest private charitable foundations, has joined with a \$2 million gift to help renew the Justice Building as UNB Law’s future home. Established in 2017 following the sale of Hewitt Equipment and Atlantic Tractors and Equipment, the foundation is dedicated to sustainable change in Quebec and Atlantic Canada.

Individual donors have also stepped forward in inspiring ways. Over the past year, UNB Law announced on social media the \$1 million commitments of alumni Earl Brewer (LLB’74) and Wayne Carson (LLB’90). At the launch, they were joined by a third graduate making a historic \$1 million contribution: former Dean and current Chancellor Wade MacLauchlan (LLB’81). The Chancellor’s generosity stands among the largest alumni gifts ever made to UNB Law, and his remarks at the event underscored his commitment to advancing the faculty’s vision:

“It has never been more important for UNB Law to stand out in our region and country, to show new leadership in legal education and research around the core values that have always been our hallmark...With this campaign, we pay it forward to support future generations of law students and to make UNB Law an even more outstanding leader in legal education. When we invest in a bright future for UNB Law, we invest in ourselves.”



The Hon. Graydon Nicholas and his wife, Beth, followed Chancellor MacLauchlan with an announcement of their own: a donation of more than \$200,000 to establish the Hatchette and Nicholas Law Scholarship for Indigenous law students. The scholarship, created in memory of Beth’s brother, Rick Hatchette (LLB’81), and their son, Michael Nicholas, is valued at \$10,000, with \$6,000 awarded in the first year and \$4,000 in the second year, based on academic achievement.

“I’ve had the privilege of serving in many rewarding positions during my lifelong mission to raise awareness about the rights of Indigenous peoples, due in large part to UNB Law. Beth and I want to pass that opportunity on to future generations of my people. The study of law is important in understanding and in utilizing Indigenous legal principles while gaining the knowledge to navigate the Canadian legal system. It provides a foundation to advocate for Aboriginal rights, treaty rights, self-determination, and to reclaim sovereignty as nations. It prepares us to address colonial legacies and to promote reconciliation. More importantly, a background in law empowers indigenous leaders and communities.”

Alumni leadership powering the campaign

At the heart of Where Leaders Are Made is a distinguished campaign cabinet whose leadership, generosity, and vision are driving the initiative forward. Led by co-chairs Bugden and MacLellan, the campaign cabinet brings together leaders from across the legal profession, business world, and public service, including Wayne Carson (LLB’90), Simone Cole (LLB’06), Janet Hoyt (LLB’84), Lawson Hunter, C.M., K.C. (LLB’70), Thomas Isaac (LLB’91), H. Wade MacLauchlan, C.M., O.P.E.I. (LLB’81), Patrick McNally (LLB’11), David O’Brien, K.C. (BBA’71, LLB’73), and Michael Sherrard (LLB’90).



"They are lead volunteers opening doors for our dean, our president, and our campaign staff," Bugden reflected on her colleagues' contributions. "They energize us and spread the word through their personal and professional networks. They devote their time, talents, and energy to making the campaign an overwhelming success. 100% of our cabinet have made financial commitments to the campaign and together our contributions total \$2,711,939.72."

We have two exceptional co-chairs in Lydia Bugden and Vaughn MacLellan, who've championed our law school for decades through thick and thin. The other members of the campaign cabinet, who represent four decades of UNB Law graduates, are among our finest. They bring a proven track record of getting things done and a deep commitment to our institution.

Four pillars shaping the future of UNB Law

At the launch event, it became clear that the Where Leaders Are Made initiative is about more than fundraising—it's a vision for the future of UNB Law. Central to that vision are four strategic pillars, each representing an essential investment in the Faculty, its students, and the broader communities it serves. Together, they form the foundation for an ambitious \$23 million effort that will transform legal education in Fredericton and beyond.

SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS

Campaign goal: \$5,000,000

UNB Law is defined by its close-knit learning environment, where small class sizes foster mentorship, collaboration, and rigor. To ensure that every talented student can access this experience, regardless of financial means, the campaign aims to increase needs-based scholarships by at least \$200,000 annually. This investment will open doors for an additional 50 students each year, strengthening equity and accessibility in legal education.

ENHANCING THE CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE

Campaign goal: \$5,000,000

The acquisition of the Fredericton Justice Building offers a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reimagine the learning spaces of UNB Law. Plans include fully accessible classrooms, a simulated courtroom, and Canada's first virtual reality law lab. These innovations will create a dynamic environment where theory meets practice, preparing students for the realities of a rapidly evolving profession.

EXPANDING EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Campaign goal: \$8,000,000

UNB Law is renowned for its “career-ready” curriculum, grounded in timeless fundamentals and enriched by practical training. With support from the campaign, the Faculty will expand its Legal Clinic, develop new internship opportunities, and establish the UNB Legal Observatory—bringing real legal proceedings into the classroom and ensuring students graduate ready to lead.

DRIVING RESEARCH THAT ADDRESSES SOCIETAL CHALLENGES

Campaign goal: \$5,000,000

As a law school with deep roots in community and policy, UNB Law is uniquely positioned to tackle pressing challenges such as sustainable development, reconciliation, and access to justice. This pillar will launch a new Master of Studies in Law degree, fund legal research chairs, post-doctoral fellowships, and graduate scholarships, and provide seed funding for transformative projects that bridge research and impact.

“In launching this campaign, we’re not selling a dream that was conceived in the ivory tower,” said Dean Marin. “We’re moving to the next phase of realizing the concrete objectives that we set together. And that’s why this campaign is resonating...And no law school in Canada is better placed to tackle the challenges facing the legal profession and the administration of justice than UNB Law. That’s because our vision is rooted in embedding legal education and research in the world around us.”

Together, we can make history

The success of Where Leaders Are Made is built on the passion, commitment, and generosity of a community united by a shared belief in the power of legal education to shape the future.

“We are turning to our graduates, to our friends, to government, and to the philanthropic community for demonstrated belief in and support of UNB Law,” said Dr. Mazerolle.

Every gift strengthens our students, classrooms, and research, ensuring UNB Law continues to produce leaders who make a difference in New Brunswick, across Canada, and beyond. With a goal of \$23 million, this campaign will support the people, places, and programs that will define the next century for UNB Law. Together, we can affirm our place among Canada’s top law schools and ensure that UNB Law remains—now and always—a place where leaders are made.



“This campaign starts with high expectations,” added the Chancellor. “Let’s exceed them...Take our turn to pay it back—to the best of our ability—to the law school that has done so much for us, and pay it forward for the future beneficiaries of this campaign.”

Dean Marin closed the launch with a call to action that underscored both the remarkable progress already achieved and the work still ahead:

“The total contributions to date are twice the cumulative value of gifts to UNB Law in its entire history,” said Dean Marin. “In other words, in the last three years, we have raised double what UNB Law raised in the preceding 130. But we can’t stop there. If we’re going to realize UNB Law’s enormous potential, we need to do more...There’s lots more work to do, and there is little glory in making it part of the way. If you believe in our vision and the work we do, then please join this campaign by contributing what you can. Together, we’ll realize UNB Law’s full potential.”

To give or learn more, visit:
unb.ca/lawcampaign

Alumni UPDATES

Stay up to date on the latest accomplishments of our alumni—King's Counsel designations, partnership announcements, judicial and government appointments, distinctions and awards!



'94

SUSAN GUNTER (LLB) was selected as the Ontario Trial Lawyers Association's Distinguished Trial Lawyer Award Honouree. A partner at Toronto litigation firm Dutton Brock LLP since 2002, her practice focuses on professional and products

liability, casualty, and property claims. She is recognized in The Best Lawyers in Canada for Products Liability Law, Insurance Law, and Personal Injury Litigation.

MARK SCOTT, K.C. (LLB) was appointed to the Nova Scotia Provincial Court. Prior to his appointment, Judge Scott served as Chief Crown Attorney of Appeals and Special Prosecutions. Over his career, he conducted more than 150 criminal appeals before the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada.



'96

FRANCES WOOD (LLB) was appointed to the Superior Court of Justice of Ontario, Family Court, in Kitchener. A founding partner at Wood Gold LLP in Mississauga, Justice Wood has practiced primarily family law, along with estate and civil litigation, for the past 24 years. She was appointed a Deputy Judge of the Small Claims Court in 2011, has served as a Dispute Resolution Officer in the Region of Peel since 2010, and in 2023 received the Joel Kuchar Award for Professionalism and Civility.

'97

ALANNA TAYLOR, K.C. (LLB) was appointed as Managing Partner of the Cox & Palmer Prince Edward Island office. With more than two decades of experience, her practice includes litigation, family law, adoptions, child protection, and adult protection. She has also been appointed by the Government of Prince Edward Island as a Children's Lawyer and Parenting Coordinator.

'98

LAUREN CHAFE, K.C. (LLB) was appointed King's Counsel in Newfoundland and Labrador. She has been with Legal Aid Newfoundland and Labrador since 2006, becoming area director of the St. John's office in 2011 and Deputy Provincial Director – Legal Services in 2014, the position she holds today.



'99

SHELLEY WOOD, K.C. (LLB) was appointed King's Counsel in Nova Scotia. A partner at Stewart McKelvey in Halifax, she specializes in insurance law and personal injury litigation. She is consistently recognized by Lexpert and Best Lawyers in these areas.

'00

COLIN FELTHAM, K.C. (LLB) was appointed King's Counsel in Newfoundland and Labrador. A partner with Roebathan McKay Marshall, his practice focuses on civil litigation, victims' rights, and legal advocacy. He serves on the Law Society of Newfoundland and Labrador's disciplinary adjudication panel and insurance committee and is past chair of the CBA – Newfoundland and Labrador health law section.

HEIDI MARSHALL, K.C. (LLB) was appointed King's Counsel in Newfoundland and Labrador. She spent more than a decade at Legal Aid Newfoundland and Labrador in roles including staff solicitor, duty counsel, and deputy area director. In 2016, she joined the Family Litigation Unit with the Department of Justice and Public Safety, becoming manager in 2023.



IAN PATEY, K.C. (LLB) was appointed King's Counsel in Newfoundland and Labrador. A partner with O'Dea Earle, his practice focuses on litigation, labour and employment, and criminal law. Elected a bencher of the Law Society of Newfoundland and Labrador in 2015, he later served as president and chaired several committees. Since 2020,

he has served on the Council of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada, where he chairs the finance and audit committee and is a member of the litigation and continuing legal education committees.

'02

SCOTT N. LATIMER (LLB) was appointed to the Ontario Superior Court of Justice. He previously served as a judge of the Ontario Court of Justice, where he was active in judicial administration and chaired committees focused on judicial education and access to justice for Indigenous persons. Before joining the bench, he practiced at the Crown Law Office – Criminal in Toronto and as an Assistant Crown Attorney in Peel Region.



'03

MICHELLE KELLY, K.C. (LLB) was named the 2025-2026 President of the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society. A partner in the Halifax office of Cox & Palmer, her practice includes complex commercial litigation and insurance defence. She has been a strong advocate for equity, diversity, and inclusion, and has worked to address gender-based discrimination and harassment in the legal profession.

'07

SHANNON W. DAVIS (LLB) was appointed as Justice of the Court of King's Bench of Alberta in Grande Prairie. Prior to this appointment, Justice Davis served as a front-line prosecutor and, most recently, as Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor. He has also contributed to community initiatives, including serving on the Alberta Justice Mental Health Committee, the Grande Prairie Drug Treatment Court Leadership Committee, the Caribou Child and Youth Centre Leadership Committee and other vital programs.

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Submissions may be edited for space.

STEPHEN WAYCOTT

AND THE ART OF SEEING OPPORTUNITY

On his first day of law school, Stephen Waycott (LLB'04) heard a warning from his professors: the study of law would permanently alter how students saw the world. "We would forevermore filter everything we hear and read and see through our legal background and knowledge," he recalls. The words proved prophetic. Waycott's career has since taken him from private practice to government policy, and now into one of the most complex regulatory environments in the world: nuclear energy.

Along the way, he has also cultivated a parallel passion—wildlife photography—that requires its own way of seeing. In both law and photography, he has found that success depends on the same combination: technical mastery paired with creativity.

A career powering New Brunswick

Waycott has been part of New Brunswick's energy story for decades. He first worked at the Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station in the 1990s as a power plant operator, long before he entered law school (he still retains his qualification as a Power Engineer). After law school and several years in private practice, he transitioned into government, becoming Director of Electricity and Nuclear Energy for the province. There, he led major files, including the 2013 restructuring of the province's electricity market and the drafting of a new *Electricity Act*.

"It was an 18-month project that brought government, NB Power, and external advisors together to reverse the competitive electricity market and return NB Power to a single, vertically integrated utility. My role was to research options, recommend solutions to the Minister and Cabinet, lead the team through legislative drafting, and serve as the main liaison with NB Power and outside counsel. It was long, demanding work—but deeply fulfilling."

That policy work set the stage for his return to NB Power in 2013 and a career that has been defined by roles that bridge technical operations

and regulatory oversight. As Nuclear Regulatory Affairs Manager, he represented the utility and Point Lepreau before the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) and industry groups. While not strictly a legal role, his training at UNB proved invaluable in interpreting complex regulations and advocating effectively. Later, as Director of Corporate Regulatory Affairs—a position later expanded to include Corporate Compliance—he led the team presenting NB Power's cases before the New Brunswick Energy and Utilities Board (EUB), navigating quasi-judicial proceedings with the same rigor as a courtroom.

In 2023, he stepped into his current position: Senior Nuclear Counsel. The role brings together every part of his professional background. He is the first point of contact for legal issues relating to NB Power's role as a nuclear owner and operator—procurement, regulatory interpretation, environmental and labour issues, or matters involving prescribed nuclear information. The work requires Secret-level federal security clearance and frequent communication with nuclear industry peers and regulators.

"Running a nuclear power plant has all the same issues as any other large power plant," Waycott explains, "but also has an additional layer of regulatory complexity that colours everything you do."

Waycott's work is all about bridging two worlds. He ensures suppliers and contractors meet NB Power's stringent nuclear requirements, while also keeping regulators fully informed about how the utility is meeting those standards.

"This is not always easy or obvious," he explains, "as the CNSC is generally an outcome-based regulator, meaning a regulatory requirement might be 'operating staff must have sufficient rest periods between shifts to maintain proper operational focus,' rather than being prescriptive and stating exactly how many consecutive hours or days staff can work. So, there is very often an element of convincing the regulator, through facts and



"The perfect photograph is one that not only achieves technical and artistic excellence but also invites the viewer into a story unfolding within the frame."

evidence and calculations, that we are meeting their requirements. This can be challenging at times."

That complexity demands not just technical expertise but persuasive advocacy. Here, his UNB Law training has been indispensable.

"Principles of statutory interpretation apply just as much to nuclear regulations as any other," he says. "I feel like my legal background and training, combined with my years spent in the technical, operational, and managerial roles I've had, allow me to understand the regulatory framework more holistically than many of my colleagues."

Looking ahead at New Brunswick's energy future

Nuclear energy, Waycott explains, has a unique role in New Brunswick's future. "Point Lepreau is the largest single electrical generator in the province and provides about one third of the electricity that we use in New Brunswick, and it does so without releasing any greenhouse gases or other airborne pollution."

The challenge is predictability. Renewable sources like wind and solar are cleaner and often cheaper, but they aren't always available on demand—the grid can't rely on them around the clock. As Waycott puts it, "our bulk electrical system requires steady, predictable, and dispatchable sources of energy in order to operate and keep the lights on."

Waycott explains that reality is pushing the industry toward a new model. Instead of massive single

reactors, the future lies in small modular reactors (SMRs)—units roughly one-third the size of Point Lepreau's reactor that can be built in multiples. The advantage is flexibility: when one is offline for maintenance, others continue producing power, spreading both the risk and the cost.

"The future of nuclear electricity generation is moving away from very large units that are extremely expensive to build. Instead, focus is being placed on smaller, more standardized nuclear reactors that are generally known as small modular reactors, or SMRs."

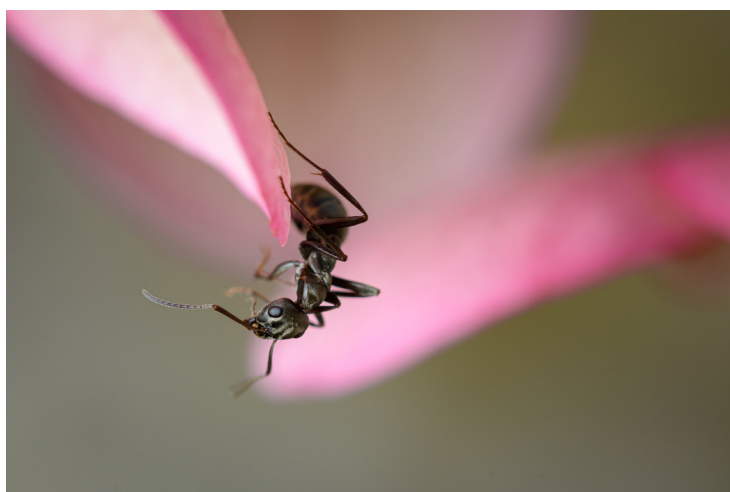
At NB Power, Waycott is part of the team advancing this shift. The work, he says, is demanding but energizing.

A passion for photography

When Waycott isn't busy navigating nuclear oversight and helping shape the future of energy in the province, he can be found knee-deep in a marsh or crouching at the edge of a vast field, camera in hand, silently waiting for the perfect light—and the perfect subject.

Photography has been part of his life since childhood, when his parents gave him his first Kodak Instamatic box camera. In high school, he became the yearbook photographer with his first "real camera," a 35mm SLR. The passion persisted, though it ebbed and flowed as life became busier.

"I grew up in a very rural setting, and I've always been interested in wildlife and nature. Around 2015,



I decided that this hobby was something I wanted to pursue more than just casually, so I bought a second-hand telephoto lens and started to get serious about wildlife photography. It's been a never-ending journey of honing my skills and improving my camera equipment ever since."

Waycott's process blends instinct and preparation. Sometimes he sets out with a shot in mind; other times, he simply heads into the woods to see what presents itself. Often, memorable moments happen by chance. He recalls finding a pond one spring morning where Eastern Painted Turtles had emerged from brumation (the turtle version of hibernation) by the hundreds.

"I found the pond on a warm April morning, with the sun streaming through the trees that lined the pond and literally dozens and dozens of turtles covering every fallen tree, rock, and anything else sticking out of the water as they soaked up the warmth from the morning sunshine. I got so many great photos that day, and it was such an amazing thing to experience."

Waycott explained that most of his photography comes from moments of opportunity rather than carefully pre-planned shots. When he scouts a location, it's rarely about capturing an image right away; instead, he returns later, seeking out new possibilities revealed by shifting light at dawn or dusk, or by the changing seasons when different wildlife might appear.

"When I do find something to photograph, all the years of training and experience tend to kick in to make sure the camera and lens settings are appropriate for what I'm shooting, and then my focus is almost entirely on what I see in the viewfinder and capturing the moment in the most technically precise yet artistically and aesthetically pleasing manner."

He has countless favourite images—each tied to a species, a place, or a moment—but resists choosing just one. For Waycott, photography is more than capturing a striking image—it is the art of precision meeting imagination. The perfect photo, he explains, begins with technical mastery: the animal's eyes in razor-sharp focus, exposure balanced so that both light and shadow reveal their depth, and a composition that feels dynamic, even surprising. Yet technical brilliance alone is not enough.

"A good photo will contain all those elements," he says, "but a great photo will also tell a story. What is the animal doing—hunting, courting, pausing in a moment of contemplation? The perfect photograph is one that not only achieves technical and artistic excellence but also invites the viewer into a story unfolding within the frame."



Like the legal world, wildlife photography requires discipline, but it also calls for imagination.

"In law, a technically astute lawyer will know the best way to approach and paper a transaction, but those who can also think outside the box will bring additional value. In photography, a strong technical photographer will have perfect exposure and pin-sharp focus, but if they aren't creative when composing or editing the image, the photo will fall flat. In both cases, you need to possess both elements in order to go from good to great."

Balancing a demanding legal role with a serious creative practice takes perspective. "Without my career and my job, I would not be able to afford the privileged life that I have, nor the specialized, expensive equipment that allows me to pursue my hobby. On the other hand, having this hobby that connects me to my surroundings and to nature and allows me a creative outlet is what keeps me sane and grounded."

Stephen Waycott's story is not about two separate pursuits but a shared way of seeing. Whether drafting legislation, interpreting and applying regulatory requirements, or capturing the eyes of an osprey through a lens, he approaches the work with the same mix of discipline and artistry.

For him, law and photography are parallel crafts: both require patience, both demand precision, and both—when practiced at the highest level—create something enduring.

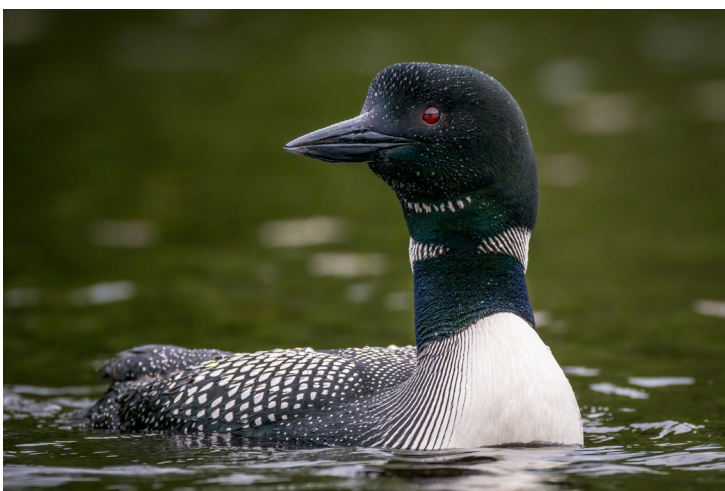
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Where passion meets purpose

Ceilidh Feetham's pro bono journey

Ceilidh Feetham has long been driven by a commitment to advancing the rights and well-being of women. When she arrived at UNB Law, joining Pro Bono Students Canada (PBSC) felt like a natural extension of that passion. Focused on improving access to justice, Ceilidh has played a key role in developing legal resources for women facing sexual violence and barriers to reproductive healthcare.

This spring, Ceilidh's dedication was recognized nationally when she was named the 2024–25 recipient of PBSC's Chief Justice Richard Wagner Award for the UNB chapter. Established in 2019, this prestigious award program celebrates and recognizes PBSC's outstanding student volunteers from across the country who have demonstrated exemplary leadership and commitment to PBSC's mission of providing free legal support to people and communities facing barriers to justice.

Ceilidh first discovered her love for the law and pro bono work through Toronto Metropolitan University's (TMU) Law and Business program, where she held a position with the pro bono business law clinic in her final year of study.

"It was my first time working with clients in a legal capacity," Ceilidh observes. "That's when I realized how meaningful pro bono work can be. It's not necessarily charity—there are so many ways it can make a real impact, even in the business context."

Ceilidh was accepted to law schools across Ontario and Eastern Canada. She chose UNB for a few very specific reasons...and the hype was real.

"What I heard about UNB Law is how much grit the students have—how community-oriented they are," she says. "You get more face time with faculty, and more hands-on opportunities because the student body is smaller."

Ceilidh's first PBSC project in 1L was a research initiative with the Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada, which culminated in a paper titled Restricting Anti-Abortion Speech – Legal Strategies and Caselaw. The paper serves as a case study examining how municipalities can potentially block anti-abortion messaging and advertising from public infrastructure without triggering a Charter challenge.

"I was coming to UNB Law from Toronto, where I knew there had been a recent spike in incidents of violence against women on public transit, so I wanted to look at how perpetuating messages that tend to be against women's rights to choose, impact public safety in an environment where they might already face a particular risk to their physical and mental safety."

Her paper focuses primarily on administrative and constitutional law, examining the recent decisions involving municipalities across Canada in addressing the issue of anti-abortion advertising.

"I learned that anytime a decision of this nature is made, there's a risk of infringing on freedom of expression or freedom of religion rights. It was interesting to see how municipal decision-makers are expected to balance those rights against important public policy objectives. It was a challenging but incredibly rewarding paper to write."

Making the law work for survivors

In Ceilidh's second year with PBSC, she worked on Sexual Violence New Brunswick's (SVNB) public legal education project with 2L classmate Naomi Pinno. SVNB offers resources to individuals who have experienced sexual assault and/or sexual violence. The organization works to lead systemic and social change to further its mission of having communities free of sexual violence.

The branch that Ceilidh and Naomi were working at had recently started its own independent legal advice clinic with lawyers representing clients pursuing legal action in response to

incidents of sexual violence. The pair contributed to a survivor resource project, aimed at improving access to legal information for survivors of sexual violence.

"Our goal this year was to draft resources that allowed claimants to maximize their limited time with a lawyer—to ensure that their time together is spent on the more complex aspects of the case rather than going over the ancillary information that can be learned through accessible resources."

The pair created four different resources for SVNB, including an informational leaflet outlining how police collect, use, and store data from a claimant's cell phone, and the claimant's rights and obligations; an FAQ brochure explaining evidence and records disclosure provisions under the *Criminal Code* in the context of criminal trials; a resource compiling information on why the Crown may choose against pursuing criminal charges in cases of sexual violence, including alternative legal action available to claimants; and finally, a self-assessment tool for individuals who think they may be experiencing sexual harassment in the workplace, which allows individuals to collect their thoughts and reflect on what they have been experiencing through a checklist. This final tool also breaks down whether there are any essential steps for individuals to consider before speaking to a lawyer.

"Our work supported both survivors and legal professionals by developing materials that clarified key aspects of the legal process. This work contributes to broader efforts to improve legal accessibility and survivor support within the justice system."

How PBSC shapes perspective

Although Ceilidh already appreciated the value of pro bono work before law school, she found that engaging in it as a law student offered a distinct and eye-opening perspective.

"When you're going through the standard law school curriculum,

it can feel very theory-oriented—you're reading caselaw and learning complex concepts and sometimes writing your 100% final. It's easy to feel disconnected from the way the law works in practice and the bigger picture, so to speak."

Participating in PBSC was a reminder of why she wanted to pursue law. It marked a shift—from learning in the abstract to applying that knowledge in meaningful ways.

"It's a rewarding shift—getting the opportunity to actually apply the knowledge you build. You come to fully appreciate that there are real people who need access to this information, and many of them can't possibly be expected to make sense of a dense case or a lengthy statute."

When asked if she would ever consider incorporating pro bono work into her future career as a lawyer, Ceilidh explained that inquiring about pro bono work is consistently on her list of questions to ask during job interviews.

"By studying the law, you're part of a pretty narrow portion of the population that can grasp an integral function of society. I've always felt that I should use that knowledge to benefit others, so for me, anywhere I go, it's integral that some element of pro bono work is part of what I do."

Ceilidh wants to encourage students, especially new students, to find ways to get involved at UNB Law.

"The amazing thing about PBSC is that you don't need to be a lawyer or a legal professional to be able to make a meaningful contribution. Law school can be overwhelming, and it's easy to get caught up in all the reading and studying. But through opportunities like this, you not only learn so much, you also build relationships and gain perspectives that you wouldn't get from the classroom alone. It's important to take those chances to learn in different ways and connect with different people, because they're incredibly valuable to everyone involved."



ChatGPT



Meta AI



Gemini

AI in action

This image was generated by CHAT-GPT

How UNB Law is preparing students for the future of the profession

The legal profession is evolving faster than ever. Artificial intelligence is no longer a distant fantasy—it's reality, changing how lawyers research, analyze, and practice law. Through the AI and Pedagogy Committee, UNB is taking the first steps to embed AI directly into the curriculum, giving students hands-on experience with the tools that are transforming the profession. The result? Graduates who aren't just learning the fundamentals of law, but who are also being equipped to thrive in an AI-assisted legal world.

The committee—made up of Professors Norman Siebrasse, Argyri Panezi, and John Kleefeld, along with Technology Coordinator David Anderson—has a clear goal: to create a roadmap that ensures UNB Law can both produce AI-ready lawyers and continue teaching effectively in an AI environment.

For Prof. Siebrasse, the AI shift was sudden, but significant, marked by the release of ChatGPT-4, the large language model developed by OpenAI.

"With GPT-4, AI leapt from being 'a better Google' to something fundamentally different. We began to hear more about the profession's use of AI in practice. What we're hearing is that: 'AI won't replace lawyers, but lawyers with AI will replace lawyers without AI.' The point is, this isn't speculative—it's already happening in practice, and it's only going to accelerate as the technology keeps improving."

The committee acknowledges that three years from now, when UNB Law's current 1L class crosses the stage at graduation, AI will be even more deeply embedded in the profession. That means preparing students now for a world where practicing law will almost certainly mean practicing law with AI.

"AI won't replace lawyers, but lawyers with AI will replace lawyers without AI."

The committee's work is focused on five broad themes: AI and assessment, AI and pedagogy, AI in the practice of law, implementation, and external leadership.

AI and assessment

The committee sees this as the most immediate challenge. Certain assessment formats, such as in-class, closed-book exams, remain largely unaffected. But traditional take-home essays and papers can now be easily generated with AI. That raises a pressing question: how can professors assess student work in a rigorous way?

"That doesn't mean you don't give a take-home paper," explains Prof. Siebrasse. "Maybe you give a take-home paper and say, we expect you to use AI. We want you to use AI, but that doesn't mean it's going to be easier. It's going to be harder because the very minimum we expect is an AI-generated paper. Maybe that paper would have gotten a B years ago, but with today's AI tools, that's going to be a D. AI is going to raise the bar on papers."

The committee is also exploring new approaches, like evaluating the quality of a student's prompts and their use of AI tools. Their goal is to maintain integrity and rigor in assessment, while acknowledging the reality of AI. For example, in Prof. Kleefeld's legal writing course, a student who had never used generative AI expressed interest in trying it for a capstone project.

"Her project was a motion for a derivative action, a special type of procedure in corporate law," shares Prof. Kleefeld. "I encouraged her to do successive prompting to draft a fact scenario, refine it until it was sufficiently robust, and prepare the initial draft of the motion and supporting affidavit."

The student then analyzed and further refined the scenario and the draft documents, and after finalizing them, submitted everything along with a link to the dialogue with ChatGPT and her analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of this approach.

"Initially fearful of AI, this student is now a convert to its beneficial uses in law practice," Prof. Kleefeld observes.

AI and pedagogy

For the committee, AI isn't just something to defend against—it's a tool that can enhance teaching and strengthen knowledge transfer. Prof. Siebrasse, for

example, plans to incorporate AI into his Foundations course to support retrieval practice.

"Research shows retrieval practice is a very effective way of learning. Students often just re-read their notes. Instead, I'll encourage them to feed their notes into AI, ask it to generate practice questions, and then quiz themselves. That's a more active, durable way of retaining material. AI can also help us generate practice problems with variations, or even assist with grading, which in turn allows us to give more feedback and create more opportunities for active learning."

AI in the practice of law

UNB Law has always been a school that prepares students for practice, and practice is changing. Lawyers are already using AI, and that adoption is only going to accelerate. Part of the committee's work is to identify the skills students will need to succeed in an AI-assisted profession. This involves engaging with practitioners to understand how AI is being used today—whether in case analysis, drafting, or research—and exploring the related challenges, such as privacy, confidentiality, and ethics.

"It's a matter of how we teach, and what we teach," observes Prof. Siebrasse. "There's a whole research project there of figuring out how the profession is using AI in order to figure out what we need to teach the students to get them ready for AI-assisted practice. So that's part of the project, the committee will connect with practitioners to find out how AI is being used and how it might be used."

Implementation

Big ideas only matter if they make it into the classroom. For the committee, that means figuring out how to turn AI teaching strategies into everyday practice—developing the resources to put those ideas into action.

In Prof. Siebrasse's words: "A number of us on faculty are very keen on AI, but not everyone has the time or inclination to focus on it—and that doesn't mean they're rejecting it or being Luddites. It just means we need to make it easier for them to use. Developing strong AI pedagogy takes work, and refining it takes even more. Our job is to package that in a way that makes it simple for faculty to adopt—creating training, resources, and examples they can plug into their courses. Helping colleagues adopt AI in a way that works for them is one of the trickiest but most important pieces."

"My hope is that integration becomes so seamless that a student can come here, engage with the curriculum as designed, and graduate ready to thrive in a profession where AI is part of the landscape."

External leadership

For decades, UNB Law has been at the forefront of legal research and innovation. With AI reshaping the profession, the faculty sees an opportunity not just to keep pace with industry, but to lead—by graduating students ready to drive this transformation from day one.

"Imagine a small firm in New Brunswick wanting to use AI but not having the time to sort it out," says Prof. Siebrasse. "If they hire a UNB Law grad who can say, 'Here's how you do it,' that makes our students incredibly attractive."

The committee is also focused on continuing professional education for the bar—helping practicing lawyers understand how to implement AI responsibly, while navigating its legal and ethical boundaries.

Challenges and Other Considerations

As the committee considered the role of AI in New Brunswick's legal landscape, one theme quickly emerged: the importance of language. Professor Argyri Panezi explains that because legal practice is fundamentally rooted in language, the use of AI-powered tools for translation carries particular weight in bilingual and multilingual jurisdictions.

"As AI-powered tools for text-to-text translation continue to evolve and expand in the legal field, it is crucial to consider their implications for bilingual (and multilingual) jurisdictions. In New Brunswick—and Canada more broadly—careful thought must be given to how automated translation and interpretation technologies are/will be used, particularly to ensure the integrity of legal language is preserved in both English and French. The Committee is committed to exploring these questions in depth and collaborating with students to develop innovative solutions moving forward."

As much promise as AI holds for the profession, the committee is realistic about the challenges it brings—both in terms of skills development and professional responsibility. For future lawyers, the first hurdle is building confidence without complacency. Students need to be familiar enough with AI that they not only know it can "hallucinate," but also develop judgment about when to rely on it and when to dig deeper.

Ethics and professional responsibility are also central concerns. Questions such as whether client information

can be uploaded into a web-based AI tool are, at their core, issues of confidentiality and competence.

"The balance here is largely a matter of applying and adapting the existing rules—primarily around confidentiality, but also competence—to the AI context," notes Prof. Siebrasse. "The principles are already there; we just need to interpret them for this new environment."

Despite these concerns, the opportunities are undeniable. AI has the potential to be a "competence multiplier," helping lawyers deliver work faster, at lower cost, and with greater efficiency. And because law is such a language-driven discipline, the profession is especially well-positioned to benefit from the strengths of large language models.

Still, not all consequences will be positive. Traditionally, junior lawyers built their skills through research and memo-writing, tested and refined under the supervision of senior lawyers. AI threatens to disrupt that apprenticeship model, performing much of the work that once trained new graduates. That raises a pressing question for the profession: if junior lawyers no longer develop those foundational skills on the job, how will they grow into the senior lawyers of the future?

"This is the million-dollar question," explains Prof. Siebrasse. "If junior lawyers don't get the chance to develop those foundational skills, how do they grow into the senior lawyers of the future? That, to me, is the unanswered question."

Looking ahead, the committee is optimistic that UNB Law will rise to the challenge. The forthcoming report on AI policy and integration will outline how the school plans to harness AI as a seamless and innovative part of legal education.

For Prof. Siebrasse and the committee, the goal is clear: "What matters is that students are immersed in AI-assisted learning as part of their everyday work. Just like they learn the law by writing assignments, solving problems, and testing ideas, they'll learn the strengths, weaknesses, and limits of AI by actually using it in those contexts. My hope is that integration becomes so seamless that a student can come here, engage with the curriculum as designed, and graduate ready to thrive in a profession where AI is part of the landscape."

...*Navigating the future of finance*

A conversation with Stacey Hoisak

From Bay Street to fintech start-ups, from the rise of cryptocurrency to the cutting edge of digital payments—Stacey (Nice) Hoisak (LLB'98) has built a career defined by adaptability and innovation. Today, she leads legal and compliance for one of Canada's foremost companies in white-label payments and banking-as-a-service solutions. NEXUS caught up with Hoisak to reflect on her time at UNB, the twists and turns of her career path, and the exciting, ever-evolving landscape of the fintech sector.

Can you tell me about your experience at UNB Law? What inspired you to pursue a legal education, and why did you choose UNB?

I really loved my time at UNB Law—it has such a close-knit community, full of supportive professors who took the time to challenge and mentor us. I was drawn to law because I've always been interested in the analytical side of things and problem-solving, and I wanted to explore how to apply that to complex issues. It also helped satisfy my love of reading, writing, and critical thinking. UNB Law felt like the right fit because of its strong reputation, small class sizes, and the opportunity to really build lasting relationships with both faculty and peers. I had also done my undergrad in Science at UNB, so I knew that I loved Fredericton and wanted to stay there.

Did you find the transition to law school difficult, coming from a science background?

In those first few weeks of law school, I felt a little out of place. I think I might have been the only person in my section with a science degree, and I had moments of imposter syndrome and self-doubt. The shift from labs and experiments to

casebooks and legal arguments felt overwhelming at times, and I questioned whether I could really do it. The welcoming and supportive professors really helped me find my place and settle in.

Looking back, I think if I had gone to a larger law school, I might have gotten lost in the crowd. But at UNB, I was able to build relationships with my professors right from the start, which made me feel much more at home.

Were there any specific moments or experiences that had a significant impact on you?

One of my favourite experiences was in trial practice with Prof. Bladon. He made everything engaging and fun. We held moot courts and trial exercises, even recruiting friends from other classes to act as witnesses. It was a challenging but rewarding class, and I loved every minute of it.

I also really enjoyed both corporate finance and tax law with Prof. Bird (BCL'67). He was tough—very tough—but also very fair. I was used to earning A's across the board, so when I got a C+ on his tax law exam, I couldn't believe it. After reviewing my answers, I went to his office to



“I’ve always been fascinated by innovation,
and fintech is where law, technology,
and finance all collide.”

discuss a few of the questions. He told me, “If you can explain why you think you’re right, I’ll listen.” We ended up debating for an hour and a half, and he ultimately agreed with me on two of the three questions, raising my grade to a B+. That willingness to listen and to treat the exchange as a real debate was an incredibly impactful experience.

What did your career path look like after law school, beginning with your time at Stikeman Elliott?

I honestly had no plans to move to Toronto—or even leave the Maritimes. I assumed I’d stay close to home. But during recruitment week, Stikeman was one of four firms that came to campus to hire summer students. They interviewed me, took me out to dinner, and really won me over. I began to think of Toronto as an adventure. I didn’t know anyone there, but that kind of leap has always appealed to me. So, I took the chance. I joined Stikeman as a summer student after my second year, had a fantastic experience, and was invited back first as an articling student and then as an associate. Looking back, it was an incredible foundation for my legal career.

What kind of work were you doing as a young associate on Bay Street?

When I was articling, I had the chance to work on a bit of everything. Once I became an associate, I focused on corporate law, which quickly narrowed into M&A and securities work. At that time, there was a lot of public M&A activity, so that became the core of my practice.

That experience sparked a strong interest in securities law, and with Stikeman’s support, I completed my Master’s Degree in securities law while continuing to practice. One of the highlights of that period was working in-depth in the field of income trusts, which was just emerging in Canada. My mentor, Simon Romano, was a pioneering legal innovator behind the structure, and I was fortunate to work closely with him. For a few years I did a great deal of income trust work until the tax rules changed, and then we worked on unwinding them!

It was a demanding environment, especially with the long hours expected of young associates in private practice, but the people made all the difference. I felt incredibly lucky to be surrounded by colleagues I genuinely enjoyed working with.

From there, I transitioned into in-house roles, including at a small FinTech start-up called Alpha Exchange, and then private equity with Birch Hill Equity Partners and various other General Counsel roles, mainly in the FinTech space.

What led you to the decision to move in-house?

It was a combination of factors. At that point, I was a senior associate considering whether to pursue partnership. I had also just returned from my second maternity leave, so balancing work and family was on my mind. But what really drew me in a new direction was my growing interest in the business side of things.

Over seven years of working on deals,

I became key counsel to a couple of clients and developed a deep understanding of their businesses. I realized I enjoyed engaging with the strategy, operations, and overall business challenges as much as, if not more than, the legal aspects. After some reflection and conversations with many mentors, I decided to pivot toward a role where I could combine my legal expertise with a hands-on involvement in business strategy. That decision ultimately set the stage for the next phase of my career, where I could contribute at both the legal and strategic levels.

What first drew you to fintech, and how has your role evolved?

I’ve always been fascinated by innovation, and fintech is where law, technology, and finance all collide. My first role after private practice was with a fintech startup, Alpha Trading Systems was a small company in the sense of the number of employees, but probably the smartest group of people I’ve ever worked with in one place. The company’s goal was ambitious: to build a new stock exchange that could compete with the TSX. It was backed by major Canadian investment dealers, so there was a lot at stake.

I focused primarily on the regulatory and commercial law aspects, helping the company navigate the approval process. We secured regulatory approval, launched successfully, and within about a year had captured roughly 20% of the market share. At that point, the TSX decided to acquire us. I then spent about a year and a half working on the acquisition

"A big part of the role is ensuring we can innovate responsibly while maintaining trust with our clients and regulators."



and integration, which was a great outcome for both sides.

How has your role evolved over the years?

Early on, my role was very hands-on—structuring deals, working with regulators, and supporting rapid growth. Over time, it's evolved into more leadership and governance, balancing innovation with risk management.

I understand you served as CEO of Coinsquare, a Canadian cryptocurrency exchange. Can you tell me about this role and some of the unique aspects of crypto?

Every part of that experience was unique. When I joined Coinsquare, I actually knew very little about crypto, which was part of the appeal. I was approached about the role of general counsel, met with the team several times, and ultimately decided to take the leap because I wanted to learn.

The company had already run into regulatory challenges before my arrival. To be fair, the whole crypto

industry at the time was a gray area—regulations were unclear, and many companies were navigating untested waters. About six months after I joined, Coinsquare reached a settlement with the securities commission. As part of that, the CEO and two other senior executives stepped down, leaving the board to find replacements. Because of my background as a lawyer—and because the company needed credibility with regulators, shareholders, and banking partners—I was asked to step in as interim CEO. It was only supposed to be for a month, but that first month was a whirlwind, and grew into a one-year role. My focus was on rebuilding trust with regulators, shareholders, vendors, banks, and employees, while also providing stability and reassurance to the team.

The group that stayed on at Coinsquare, along with the new board and executive members we brought in, was outstanding. It was truly the ultimate team effort. You don't realize the strength of the people around you until you're in a crisis, and everyone really came together

to save the company. Looking back, it was undoubtedly the most stressful year of my career—there wasn't even a learning curve, it was vertical. But it was also the greatest crash course in crisis management and resilience I could have imagined. I'm really grateful to have been given the opportunity to help lead the company through that period, and I wouldn't change it for the world.

Can you describe your current role as General Counsel and Head of Compliance at Berkeley Payment Solutions?

Berkeley is a Canadian fintech company that operates mainly in the payments space—things like prepaid cards and related solutions. The company has actually been around for about 20 years. It's relatively small and tightly run, fully Canadian-founded and owned. You won't typically see the Berkeley name on prepaid or gift cards, even though those products are everywhere now. That's because the company works behind the scenes, providing white-label

solutions for partners. Essentially, Berkeley powers the infrastructure while the client's brand is front and centre.

I joined as their first in-house lawyer. Until then, all of the company's legal work had been handled externally, and while outside counsel did a great job, Berkeley was growing and expanding. They wanted someone who could not only handle legal work internally, but also really learn the business and contribute at the executive level—particularly on strategy. That combination of law and business was exactly what I was looking for.

My day-to-day involves everything from contract negotiations and regulatory reviews to advising the executive team on strategy and risk. A big part of the role is ensuring we can innovate responsibly while maintaining trust with our clients and regulators. It's been a great fit. The leadership team is smart, collaborative, and genuinely kind, which makes a huge difference. I've been with Berkeley for about a year now, and it's been an excellent opportunity to continue working at the intersection of fintech, law, and strategy.

In your mind, what are some of the most pressing legal and regulatory challenges in fintech today?

In the space I'm working in now, there's a lot of focus on open banking and real-time payment rails. Both have been on the radar of Canadian regulators and the federal government for quite some time, and industry groups have noted that Canada has fallen a bit behind other G7 countries on open banking in particular. So, that's something that we're watching really closely.

Another area we're watching closely is privacy law. New legislation to modernize PIPEDA was expected to come into force with Bill C-27, then dropped off the table with the change in government. It is unclear if and when it will be back on the agenda, but if it arrives, enhanced privacy and data protection requirements will have a major impact on companies like ours.

Most recently, the *Retail Payment Activities Act* introduced a new framework of requirements for payment service providers such as Berkeley. Its central goal, like much of the regulatory activity in fintech, is consumer protection. Privacy remains a huge priority, but regulators are also conscious of the need to balance protection with innovation so as not to stifle growth in the industry. So far, I think they've managed that balance reasonably well, and it will be fascinating to see how it continues to evolve.

What key changes or innovations have transformed fintech during your career?

Beyond open banking and payments regulation, two shifts stand out. The first is the mainstreaming of digital assets. Since the early 2010s, cryptocurrencies and now stablecoins have gone from niche to front-page news, driving new regulatory frameworks worldwide. It's been fascinating to watch the space change dramatically, with periods of enthusiasm, skepticism, and renewed interest. The second is the rise of embedded finance and API-driven services, which have transformed how people access payments, credit, and other finance tools.

For me, both of these underscore the importance of balancing innovation with accessibility. Financial technology has enormous potential to serve underrepresented groups—the underbanked, or those who struggle to meet the strict requirements often needed to open a bank account or transfer money online. At the same time, regulators need to ensure that new systems don't create avenues for money laundering or other risks.

Finding that balance—between robust protections and broader access to the financial system—is one of the central challenges in fintech. And it's also one of the most exciting opportunities.

Looking ahead, what trends will have the biggest legal implications?

AI in financial services, stablecoins and digital currencies, and global payments are at the top of the list. They each carry their own legal implications. AI in financial services raises questions of bias, explainability, and liability. Stablecoins and digital currencies challenge existing securities, banking, and payments laws. And cross-border payments—especially in a fragmented regulatory environment—will require harmonization on AML, data protection, and consumer rights. Together, these will define the next decade of fintech law.

How do you balance innovation with compliance?

It's about embedding compliance into product design, working hand-in-hand with leadership, technology, and product teams so the guardrails are clear early, not bolted on later. I always advocate using a risk-based approach, which helps align regulatory expectations with business goals. Most importantly, when legal and compliance are seen as partners, not blockers—and when there's open dialogue with regulators—innovation and compliance can reinforce each other.

How receptive have regulators been? What could improve that relationship?

Regulators are becoming more open, but there's still room for dialogue. Greater collaboration and sandboxes where companies and regulators can experiment safely are helpful. We do have a lot of interaction with both regulatory groups and advocacy groups, and I feel like there is a true desire on both sides to continue to work together to bolster innovation.

Data privacy and cybersecurity—what's most effective?

Best practices include privacy-by-design, regular training, and strong governance. Creating a culture where employees understand privacy isn't just legal's job—it's everyone's responsibility—is key.

What is one thing you wish the public understood better about data privacy?

I think the key is understanding the risk you take when you over-disclose or don't pay attention to what you're agreeing to. And it's not easy, companies often bury their privacy policies and make it difficult to opt out. That's one of the things new privacy legislation in Canada will likely address by requiring clearer and more accessible options.

We live in an age of convenience and instant gratification. Most of us—myself included—are guilty of just clicking “accept” to move forward. The problem is that every time you do, you're giving away some of your personal information. And once it's out there, there's no getting it back.

If I could give one piece of advice, it would be: take a moment before you click. Check what you're agreeing to. As privacy laws evolve and offer stronger protections, those protections only work if you take advantage of them.

As a woman in leadership, what unique challenges have you faced?

It's certainly been a journey, and so much has changed over the years. From my earlier leadership roles to now, I've seen a real evolution—not just in the industry, but in myself as a leader.

Earlier in my career, as a woman in leadership, I often felt the need to project extra confidence, and that could be met with labels like “overly assertive.” Those moments reflected broader biases that many women in leadership still encounter.

What I've learned over time is the importance of balance. Strength and empathy are not opposites—they complement one another. You can lead with confidence and decisiveness, while also showing humility and genuine care for the people around you. That balance has become central to my own leadership style, and I think it's what makes leadership not only effective, but sustainable.

What are you most proud of in your career, and what's next?

I think what I'm most proud of comes down to two things. First, I've never been afraid to branch out into something new. Time and again, I've trusted my instincts and followed opportunities that felt right—even when they meant stepping into unfamiliar territory. That flexibility, adaptability, and resilience have led me into some fascinating roles where I've learned a tremendous amount.

Second, I'm proud of the impact I've had on the people and organizations I've worked with. I've had the privilege of helping to build strong companies and, just as importantly, of mentoring others. Early in my career, I had incredible mentors who shaped the way I thought about leadership, and I've always tried to pay that forward. Even with relatively small teams, I've made it a priority to help people grow, develop, and find their own paths. At the end of the day, I hope I've managed not just to contribute professionally, but also to be a good person along the way. Looking ahead, I want to keep building on that foundation: taking on opportunities where I can help organizations scale responsibly, while continuing to support and inspire the next generation of leaders.

In Memoriam

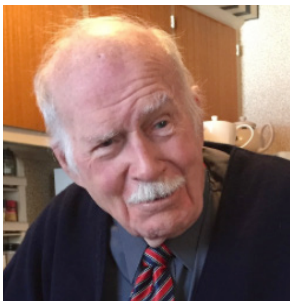
Obituary excerpts shared from Paradise Row Brennan's Funeral Home & Crematorium, Dignity Memorial, Humphrey Funeral Home A.W. Miles-Newbigging Chapel Limited, Britton Funeral Home, Arbor Memorial, Carnell's Funeral Home, Chipman Funeral Home, MacLean Funeral Home Swan Chapel, McLaren Funeral Service, The Ottawa Citizen, Oromocto Funeral Home, Humphreys' Funeral Home, Passage Funeral Co-op Ltd., Adams Funeral Home Ltd., Castle Fallsview Funeral Home, and York Funeral home & Miramichi Valley Chapel.



Lucille Kerr (BCL'54)

1931 - 2025

[Lucy] earned her Bachelor of Law degree at UNB after completing her BA at Dalhousie. Her professional endeavours included teaching medical law to nursing students and developing Nova Scotia's new land titles system (LRIS) with her mentor, Charles MacIntosh. A remarkable and classy lady in the most admirable way, Lucy was the essence of pride and dignity. She loved living her life the way she thought a life should be lived. She was admired by her community and always remained loving and generous to her friends and family.



G. Keith Allen, Q.C. (BCL'60)

1936 - 2025

After earning his Law degree and being admitted to the New Brunswick Bar in 1960, Keith embarked on a distinguished legal career that spanned over 60 years. He worked for several years at the law firm of Ralph Freeze and also lectured part-time at UNB's Law School. In 1970, he achieved his master's degree at Osgoode Hall (York University in Toronto) and then returned to Fredericton to join the law firm of Hoyt, Mockler, Allen & Dixon as a partner. Over the years, Keith practiced law as a member of various law firms, including McInnes Cooper and Peters Rouse, until his retirement in 2022.



Alan Drummond Reid, K.C. (BCL'65)

1942 - 2025

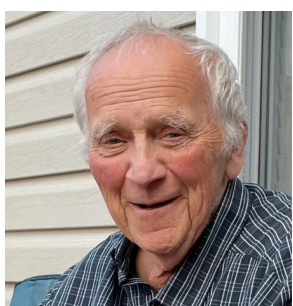
With a career spanning more than four decades, Alan shaped Canada's legal landscape as a professor, a constitutional and law reform counsel, a commissioner of the Law Reform Commission of Canada, a partner at a leading Canadian law firm, a private practitioner, and ultimately, as General Counsel for a major Canadian charitable organization. His contributions to the legal profession were recognized in 1983 when he was appointed Queen's Counsel (now King's Counsel), and in 2015, he was honored as a life member of the New Brunswick Bar.



J. J. Michael Eagan (BCL'66)

1940 - 2025

Born on January 5, 1940, Michael was the cherished older son of the late Joseph Victor and Annis Beatrice Eagan. Michael is survived by his beloved wife Maureen Sheran, loving brother Peter, son David, grandson Xylo, and sister-in-law Margaret Duda. Michael will be deeply missed by his family, many friends and all who knew and respected him. His memory will live on in our hearts.



Bernard Alphonsus Cullinan (BCL'68)

1943 - 2025

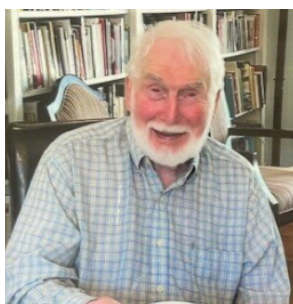
Bernard was born and raised in Saint John; he was the youngest of his large family. Graduating from Saint Mary's University and the University of New Brunswick Law Program, Bernard excelled and continued with his passion, leading to a fulfilling career as a lawyer. He was known for his kind and generous nature; those who knew him will smile, remembering his great sense of humour. He enjoyed spending time with his family and friends, special trips to Grand Manan, Fundy National Park, Halifax, and Prince Edward Island, and coffee with friends. Above all else, he was a loving husband, father, and granddad.



Wendell J. Maxwell, K.C. (BCL'68)

1940 - 2025

After graduating from high school, [Wendell] majored in history at Gordon College, a Presbyterian university outside of Boston. While at Gordon, he won the World Deputation Scholarship for studies in South America. June 1960 took him to the jungles of Ecuador to work with missionaries for the summer. In 1962, he graduated from Gordon, entered theological college, but decided this was not what he wanted. He entered UNB and graduated from Law School in 1968. He began practicing law in Moncton with his mentor, Douglas MacFarlane.



Frank Alexander Rodgers (BCL'68)

1937 - 2025

After high school, Dad left Newfoundland and, within a few years, had joined the RCMP. The dashing RCMP Officer met his future wife at The Cabin restaurant in Fredericton, NB, in 1960. While Dad was working as an RCMP Officer, he admired the Crown Prosecutors and Dad decided he wanted to be a lawyer. With two children (at that time), Dad went to University for a Business degree and then a Law degree from UNB. After University and a short time as a Crown Prosecutor in St. John's, NL, Dad and his family moved to Saint John, NB, where he worked for the city as the City Solicitor for 27 years. Retiring in 1996.

In Memoriam



The Hon. Hugh Hendry McLellan (LLB'69)

1948 - 2025

Hugh was born on May 25, 1948, in Saint John and attended Rothesay Collegiate School and the University of New Brunswick. In 1969, he joined his father, Hendry, in the practice of law as McLellan & McLellan. Hugh enthusiastically continued to practice law in Saint John until 1986, when he was appointed as a Judge of the Court of Queen's Bench of New Brunswick, Trial Division, in Woodstock. He returned to Saint John in 1994 and served as a judge until his retirement in 2023. He thoroughly enjoyed the variety of his work, presiding over cases in both official languages and in every corner of the province.



Allan Joseph William Furlong (LLB'71)

1942 - 2025

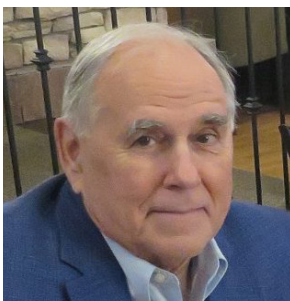
Allan grew up in Rouyn-Noranda...His first experience in government affairs occurred when he worked for the Treasury Board of the Government of New Brunswick as a Budget and Management Analysis for 2 years. The job piqued his interest so much that he returned to university to attend Law School, where he received a LLB degree. Allan met his wife Mary, while attending UNB, and they were happily married for 56 years at the time of his passing. Shortly after graduating Law school, Allan and Mary left New Brunswick and moved to Oshawa, Ontario, where Allan joined the law firm of Salmers and Furlong.



Joanne Elezena McLeod (LLB'71)

1939 - 2025

Joanne was the first disabled person to graduate from UNB with a law degree, and was later called to the Queen's Council. She was the first woman in Canada to be appointed Executive Director of the Canadian Paraplegic Association, the NB Division. After obtaining her law degree, Joanne joined the Department of Justice, and was the first woman appointed Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court of NB, now known as the Court of Appeal.



Michel C. Leger (LLB'73)

1948 - 2025

[Michel] devoted his professional life to the practice of law and most recently served as the Chairperson of the New Brunswick Assessment and Planning Appeal Tribunal. Michel was a pillar of his native Shediac community. He generously gave his time to many causes over his lifetime. A Multiple Paul Harris Fellow Rotarian, he served as Mayor of Shediac from 1980 to 1995. His passion for public service extended deeply into the healthcare sector, where he served in various volunteer capacities—including board member and Chairperson at institutions such as the Dr. Georges-L.-Dumont Hospital, the CHU Dumont Foundation, Partenaire Dumont Inc., and many other provincial, national, and international healthcare organizations.



Sqn. Ldr. Gardiner Melvin Turner, AFC, K.C. (LLB'73)

1933 - 2025

Born in Oswestry, England, in 1933, Mel lived a life of remarkable achievement and adventure. As a 17-year-old, he joined the Royal Air Force, having been inspired as a child by an "excellent view over the airfield ...where we saw a wide variety of small aeroplanes, mostly trainers such as Miles Masters and Magisters, but sometimes, very exciting, a Spitfire or a Hurricane". He went on to become an esteemed test pilot on B squadron and was awarded an Air Force Cross in 1968...In the 1960s, Mel made the life-changing decision to move to Canada, where he transitioned from the skies to the courtroom. Embracing a new challenge, he pursued a career in law, becoming a trusted advisor to many in his community through his work and many volunteer commitments. His intellect and integrity earned him the respect and admiration of colleagues and clients alike.



Tobias Francis McDonald (LLB'75)

1951 - 2025

[Toby] was a highly respected member of the Newfoundland Bar Association, having practised law for more than 50 years. He played a key role in the development and construction of the Law Society of Newfoundland's Law Building and Library. He was named (Queen's) King's Counsel in 2004. As a former Bencher of the NL Law Society, he was the recipient of the Gordon W. Stirling Distinguished Service Award. He received an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from Memorial University and was admitted into the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador in 2006.



Joyce Annie Astle (LLB'76)

1932 - 2025

Driven by a profound sense of purpose, Joyce returned to her studies while raising four school-aged children. She earned a BA in Psychology (1973) and a Bachelor of Law (1976) from the University of New Brunswick. After being called to the bar in 1977, she practiced law until retiring due to health in 1986. Her tireless advocacy and warmth touched countless lives through community leadership and volunteer work.



Bruce D. Hatfield, K.C. (LLB'77)

1952 - 2025

It is with heavy hearts that we announce that Bruce D. Hatfield, 72, passed away on Saturday, January 18, 2025, at the Dr. Everett Chalmers Hospital in Fredericton. He was predeceased by his parents, Frederick and Kathleen Hatfield, and by his brother, Robert (Bob) Hatfield. Bruce is survived by his loving wife, Lucie; his siblings Brian (Connie) Hatfield

In Memoriam

of Fosterville, Michael (Martha Musgrove) of Ottawa, Ont., Rachel (Allan) Nesbitt of Lower Brighton and Mary Hatfield of Somerville; his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Pauline (Claude Cormier) Richard of Dieppe, Gilles (Pierrette) Richard of Fredericton, Diane (Roger) Gauvin of Dieppe, Guy (Rachel) Richard of Moncton.



Gary Andrew Miller (LLB'77)

1948 - 2025

[Gary] had a great mind for criminal law, but, to hear him tell it, he kind of stumbled into it, finding himself flying solo in the courtroom one day while articling. He excelled at reason, rhetoric, and oratory—despite the anxiety it engendered—and he could connect with clients, witnesses, and juries alike. He had a fighting spirit that was admired in the courtroom, though perhaps less so by the nurses and medical staff of the Dr. Everett Chalmers Regional Hospital who cared for him over the last nine months as he made the rounds through the units, from 4SW to 3SW to 4E to 3E. (You have our deepest, sincerest thanks for the compassion you showed him.)



Richard Lawrence "Rick" Roach (LLB'78)

1954 - 2025

Rick was a hard-working, loyal, genuine, and honest man. He gave of himself and expected nothing in return. This was reflected in his work as a lawyer and involvement in his community of Oromocto. Rick served many community organizations, including being a founding member of the Oromocto Public Hospital Foundation and the Ruffed Grouse Society, a charter member of the Oromocto Rotary Club, Director and Chair of the Town's Planning Advisory Committee, Jobstart, and the Oromocto Community Residences, Director for the Oromocto Helpline, and Legal Council for the Oromocto Legion Branch building reconstruction. He also served in the Office of the Judge Advocate General (reservist) for 16 years, retiring as the Atlantic Commanding Officer for reserve deputy judge advocates (Lieutenant-Colonel).



Rosemary K. Losier (LLB'80)

1955 - 2025

Born in Ottawa, Ontario, on October 7, 1955, [Rosemary] was the daughter of the late Dr. Barry and Marion (Steele) Losier. Rosemary was a Lawyer for many years. She earned her law degree from the University of New Brunswick (UNB) in 1980 and opened her own practice in her hometown of Chatham. She lived her life with kindness, curiosity and joy. She was passionate about helping the community and advocating for mental health issues. She was involved with Big Brothers & Big Sisters, Caring Friends, and other local organizations.



The Honourable Terri A. MacPherson (LLB'92)

1966 - 2025

The death occurred peacefully at her late residence on Monday, January 13, 2025, of The Honourable Terri A. MacPherson, retired Justice of the Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island, age 58 years. Daughter of the late Wayne and Irene MacPherson. Beloved sister of Angela (Dean) Smith and Darren (Christine) MacPherson. Proud aunt and second mother of Alexander, Rebecca (Andrew), Charlotte (Seth), and Cameron. Fondly remembered by her step-mother, Evie MacPherson, special aunts and uncles, Dawn (Clarence) Wigmore and Bev (Michael) Holman, and a vast circle of friends and family by her choice.



Jody McNeill (LLB'96)

1968 - 2025

[Edward Joseph 'Jody' McNeill] completed his Degree in Law in 1996 and was admitted to the Bar in New Brunswick that same year. He first practiced at the Law Firm of Stewart McKelvey in Fredericton before returning home and being admitted to the Bar in Nova Scotia in 1998. He practiced with Mac Mac and Mac, Daley and DeMont and opened a private practice prior to joining the Nova Scotia Public Prosecution Service in 2006 as a Crown Attorney. Jody was a talented and well-respected prosecutor, rising to the level of Senior Crown Attorney and achieving 25 years of service with the Barristers Association of NS and more than a decade of service as a member of the Board of the Nova Scotia Crown Attorneys Association (NSCAA) prior to his illness leading to the early end of his career in the fall of 2022.

In addition to the above alumni, the Faculty of Law also lost a talented and dedicated former librarian, Jeanne Marie McGrath.



Jeanne Marie McGrath

1940 - 2025

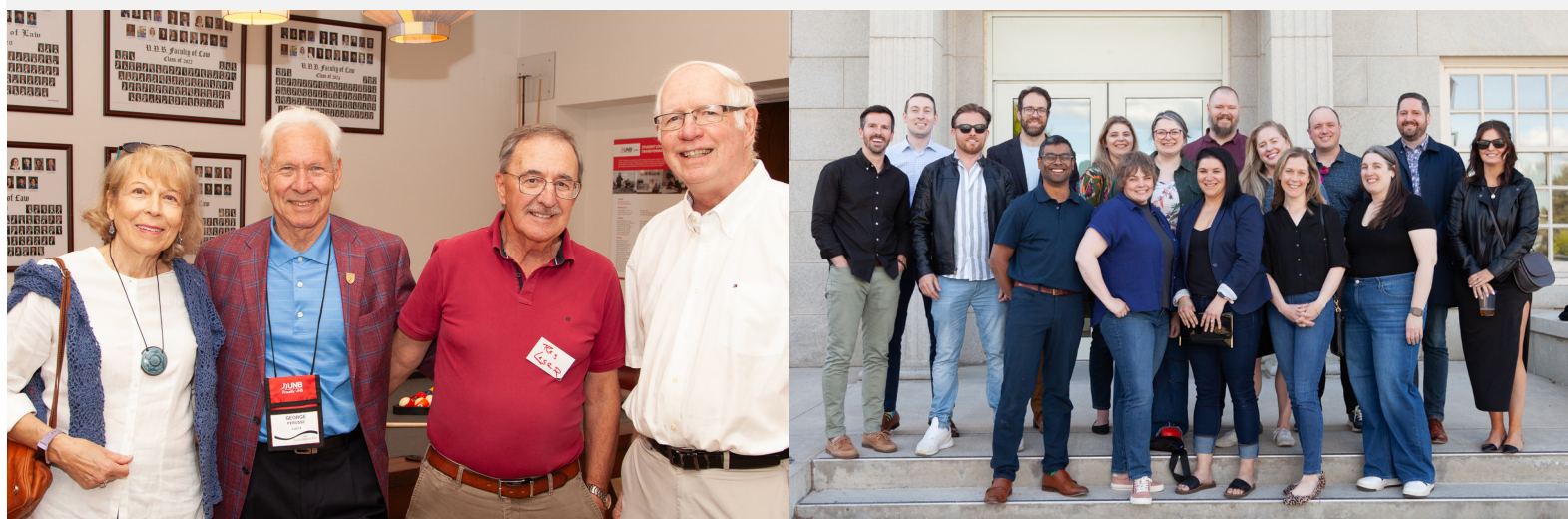
Jeanne was blessed to have cultivated deep, family-like friendships with multiple generations of people she encountered. She was a proud and caring mother, and grandmother, and enjoyed a career as a librarian, first at Park Street School, in Nashwaaksis, and then for many years at the Law Library at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton.

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If you would like to get involved at UNB Law, please contact lawdean@unb.ca.





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Thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue