



PETER A. ALLARD SCHOOL OF LAW

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

[COVID Research Projects](#)

[Mental Health & the Legal Profession](#)

[From Podium to Screen: Pandemic Teaching](#)

Meet the New Dean

Incoming Dean Professor Ngai Pindell
shares his thoughts on teaching,
leadership and his new role.





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Message from the Dean *Pro Tem*



“Only connect.” – E.M. Forster, *Howard’s End*

I T HAS BEEN MY PRIVILEGE to serve this past year as Dean *pro tem* of the Allard School of Law. This fall, we were pleased to learn that Professor Ngai Pindell has been appointed as the new Dean. Our team of Associate Deans, senior staff and I are working closely with him to ensure a smooth transition as he settles into his new role.

After more than a year of remote teaching and learning, faculty, staff and student leadership have worked hard to return safely to in-person learning and activities. We were delighted to welcome our new class of 200 incoming first-year students at Orientation, and also to offer a special 2L Orientation program for our second-year students, many of whom had yet to visit Allard Hall. We also have a number of new faculty members who joined our professorial ranks during the pandemic, and who had yet to meet their colleagues in person. The pandemic has definitely made it more challenging for members of our community to connect – to forge the kinds of friendships among classmates or lively scholarly conversations among faculty – that are so essential to the Allard Law experience.

We have also learned many lessons about the ways in which technology can help us come together more effectively. A number of our regular lectures and events had excellent attendance online, allowing us to connect with alumni from across the country and around the world. Our legal clinics were able to serve clients without the need to travel to their offices, and some of our students had their first introduction to the profession through online and telephone court appearances. I had the experience in late 2020 of appearing as intervener counsel at the Supreme Court of Canada via Zoom. The experience of appearing in court from home while my family slept – Ottawa hearings begin very early for BC counsel – and then signing off to wake them for school and make breakfast is not one I will soon forget.

It is fitting that the theme of this issue of the alumni magazine is “connection,” given the ways in which we have had to reimagine and relinquish our connections with others over the past months. The urgency of other kinds of connections has continued to press on us as well – reconciliation between settler Canadians and Indigenous peoples is a kind of connection, as is our connection to the natural world in the face of a climate emergency. Lawyers doing their best work connect with clients to help them resolve disputes and achieve their goals. I hope that each of you will continue to find ways to stay connected with us as part of the Allard alumni community. [A](#)

Yours truly,

JANINE BENEDET, QC (Class of '93)

Dean *pro tem* and Professor, Allard School of Law



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MEET NGAI PINDELL:

Q&A

with Allard Law's New Dean

Photography by Macy Yap



What are you looking forward to most about your new role at Allard Law?

It's an honour to have been chosen as Allard Law's next dean. The faculty are internationally recognized scholars on a broad range of issues, including Indigenous and Aboriginal law. Alumni are leaders across Canada in the bar and on the bench. And the school's location in Vancouver provides an excellent opportunity to make an impact in North America and beyond.

On a more personal note, the dean interacts with a lot of people, and I'm looking forward to getting to know students, faculty, staff, alumni and the broader Allard Law community. After working remotely for over a year, it's refreshing and exciting to talk with people face to face, albeit many masked faces. I've missed the casual, everyday interactions that foster community and remind all of us in the law school community why we love teaching and working together.

What draws you to administration?

I'm grateful for the support and encouragement institutions have provided me as a student and a faculty member. Working in administration allows me to pay that debt forward. Writing and teaching are rewarding activities – you get the opportunity to dive deeply into a specific area of law

This fall, Professor Ngai Pindell was appointed as the new Dean of Allard Law. He joins the law school from the William S. Boyd School of Law of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where he served as a professor, member of the Dean's Advisory Committee, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Vice Dean. He's researched and taught in areas including property law, affordable housing, community development and local government law. In this Q&A, he shares some of his thoughts on his new role, what first drew him to practice law and Vancouver's housing affordability crisis.

and policy. But serving as an administrator allows me to take a more expansive look at legal issues and legal education. I have the opportunity to problem solve at the individual and institutional level, helping faculty find their scholarly voice, students explore new career opportunities and helping the law school better serve the community.

What has been your favourite class to teach at law school?

Property law has been my favourite class to teach by far. Property explores legal relationships between people and legal relationships between people and land or objects. The distribution of property communicates a lot of information about a community's values. Current property distributions are neither random nor necessarily earned, but they have a tremendous impact on people's life experiences. The law school's presence on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Musqueam people is one of many examples of complicated property relationships that a property class attempts to analyze and understand.

In my class, I focus both on the rules of property and the impact of those rules on society. I want students to be thoughtful about how access – or lack of access – to

property impacts people's lives. For example, COVID recently demonstrated that access to property is a public health issue, as families and communities struggled with what it meant to work, worship and attend school from home.

How would you describe your approach to leadership?

I believe good leaders are good listeners. It's important to take the time to listen to people's stories to better understand the context and history of issues. Only then can you establish a vision that moves people and an institution forward in a thoughtful and responsible way. Good leaders also set clear agendas and remove barriers to allow others to be successful.

What first attracted you to the legal profession?

I remember writing in my admissions application that I was applying to law school to learn how the world worked. While I may not have gotten all of the answers I was looking for, I have always valued the role of law in providing a structure for personal and professional interactions. As a young law school graduate, I hoped to use the power of law to transform lives and communities as a community development lawyer in Baltimore,

Maryland. We left many communities better off than we found them, but we did not transform the city overnight. Progress takes time and dedication, and the law can be a critical component of change.

One of your areas of research is in affordable housing, and Vancouver is a city with a severe housing affordability crisis, on many levels. What has your own research into this question shown you?

I do not know enough about the details of the city's housing market to go into specifics about Vancouver, but I can make some general observations about affordable housing. It does not get built unless public authorities plan carefully for it and provide a mix of carrots and sticks to developers and communities to build and accept it. Affordable housing planning also needs to be integrated with transportation and environmental planning. Last, I've seen several creative, successful combinations of market-rate and subsidized units in the same building or the same cluster of buildings. Integrating affordable housing with market-rate housing can be an effective strategy in dense, urban environments. [A](#)

Holman Wang (LLB '05) is a lawyer, children's author and illustrator. His art combines needle felting, scale-model set making and photography. His work has been featured in *The New York Times*, *People*, and *The Guardian*. Holman's latest creations are *Great Job, Mom!* and *Great Job, Dad!* (Tundra Books).

Holman's illustration *Librarian* is featured below. "Art is inherently about connection," Holman says. "In *Librarian*, kids see a cozy scene that speaks to their world. But hopefully I'm connecting with adults in a different way, with little nods to our childhoods that create irony and humour."



Mental Health & the Legal Profession

Three Lessons from the Pandemic by Marlis Silver Sweeney (JD '11)

I T CERTAINLY DIDN'T FEEL like an opportunity to take stock of mental health in the legal profession, as provinces around Canada declared states of emergency and firms and companies across the country sent lawyers to work from home with little notice. Parents juggled legal practice with toddlers on their laps, law students were thrust into online classes, and few had a sense of their physical, mental or economic health going forward. But reflecting back, those in the know say the pandemic provided us with some important lessons about lawyer wellbeing.

Lesson 1 – Lawyers Felt Relief Diverging from Traditional Practice Models

Derek LaCroix (BPE '71, LLB '74), the Executive Director of the Lawyers Assistance Program (LAP), says his clients felt “relief” at the beginning of the pandemic, particularly those who were already stressed with childcare obligations or who favoured alternative practice styles. He notes there was an acceptance at the beginning of the pandemic that parents could take time to look after their children and people could run their legal practices from home instead of putting in facetime at the office 12 hours a day. “Several clients stopped having to see me,” he says, noting the increased flexibility alleviated some of their stressors.

“I did hear both in the firm and from the profession more generally there were people who liked working from home,” says **Brook Greenberg** (LLB '96), a partner at Fasken and chair of the Law Society Mental Health Task Force. “People find being in the office stressful, so working from home was actually quite preferable for them.”

Lesson 2 – Mental Health Awareness Is on the Rise

Within the first year of the pandemic, Anna Kline – the in-house Student Well-being Counsellor at Allard Law – held over 550 sessions with students.

“Anything that was there before that people had, COVID exacerbated an amazing amount,” she says. Kline says the uptick in her appointments with students was a good thing when it came to the wellbeing of the profession more generally.

“The amount of people who are now so cognizant about mental health I think is huge. The very fact that I've had so many counselling sessions, meaning that people are not afraid to come in and ask for help, I think is great,” she observed.

She says the ability for people to take it slow, take care of their physical health and nutrition and practice self-care to stay at lower physical risk for COVID are also valuable skills for the future when it comes to protecting mental health.

For his part, Greenberg has observed that people are more willing to talk about their mental health, since “everybody's trying to deal with these unexpected, unanticipated and highly disruptive changes.” He notes that people seem “freer and less ashamed to say it's having an effect on them,” and says he hopes that will continue.

Lesson 3 – Personal Connections Are Integral to Maintaining Wellbeing

Even though mental health awareness within the profession is on the rise, LaCroix says that when everyone is working remotely, there can be people “slipping through the cracks who are quite distressed.”

“Because there isn't a lot of interaction, they can hide it in a Zoom call,” he explains. Over the course of the pandemic, LAP received fewer requests for intervention. “We're in silos and we're separated, so it's not as obvious” when someone is in distress, says LaCroix. He notes that mental health issues “happen in a disconnect and/or those things happen and then we disconnect more,” creating a “vicious loop.”

Greenberg says that for him, it was all the informal interactions he missed the most, which can play an important role in succeeding at work. “You don't really realize how important they are until you don't have those.” [A](#)

A Human-Rights Approach to Homeless Encampments

by Jennine Punzalan (JD '21)



“I hope to use my research for legal and policy reform – especially for our most vulnerable community members.” — Dr. Alexandra Flynn

ALLARD LAW PROFESSOR Dr. Alexandra Flynn’s research focuses on law and cities and their governance – who runs them, who influences decision-making, and the effects of those decisions, especially on the most vulnerable. “Within that, I try to let the research questions find me,” she says.

The pandemic has led to many questions about the role of cities. Tent encampments proliferated as a result of COVID-19, as cases spread in shelters, where physical distancing was nearly impossible. At the same time, encampment evictions continued. This crisis has led to an urgent new research focus for Dr. Flynn, who is currently one of the investigators on a SSHRC-funded project focused on homelessness and human rights. In partnership with The Shift, an organization founded by former UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing Leilani Farhi, the team aims to mobilize The Shift’s National Protocol on Homeless Encampments in Canada. The protocol provides guidance for governments and other stakeholders on adopting a human-rights-based response to encampments.

Focusing on Canadian cities, the project team has been developing a database that can help track federal, provincial and municipal decisions related to tent encampments. The team has also focused on ensuring that municipal governments take a human-rights approach to encampments, which includes recognizing the right to housing as well as protection from discrimination and forced evictions. A human-rights approach also prioritizes permanent housing options and respect for Indigenous rights, reflecting the disproportionate impact of the housing crisis on Indigenous people.

The project has been a big part of Dr. Flynn’s past year. Together with Dr. Estair Van Wagner (Osgoode Law), Dr. Flynn has advocated for municipalities to uphold their obligations as human-rights actors. “By ratifying the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights in 1976, Canada undertook international obligations to uphold economic, social and cultural rights,” she says.

Dr. Flynn and Dr. Van Wagner have also collaborated on a report outlining the legal obligations of the City of Toronto. “It’s taking the protocol and operationalizing it in the context of COVID and Canada’s largest city,”

Dr. Flynn says. “We hope to extend the analysis to other municipalities.” Their priority, from a research perspective, is to gain a better understanding of the experiences of those living in encampments.

The work is not without challenges – in particular the difficulty of moving municipal government forward for progressive change. However, it’s been a fulfilling experience for Dr. Flynn. “It’s one of those areas you wish you didn’t have to do research in,” she explains. “I hope that our work can support The Shift and other organizations supporting vulnerable people.”

Dr. Flynn says the project reminds her of why she went into academia in the first place: “I hope to use my research for legal and policy reform – especially for our most vulnerable community members.” [A](#)

Indigenous Jurisdiction & Emergency Disaster Response

by Jennine Punzalan (JD '21)



“I’m interested in how society can govern itself democratically and in accordance with the rule of law, even through crisis.” — Jocelyn Stacey

JOCELYN STACEY, Associate Professor and Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Professional Programs at Allard Law, works closely with First Nations on legal issues related to disasters, emergency powers and Indigenous jurisdiction. “I’m interested in how society can govern itself democratically and in accordance with the rule of law, even through crisis,” she says.

Through her research, Professor Stacey hopes to better understand how the law makes communities more or less vulnerable to disaster – and she studies disasters because they can reveal legal patterns and processes that otherwise remain out of sight. In partnership with the T̓silhqot’in Nation, her recent SSHRC-funded project investigates the T̓silhqot’in Nation’s experiences of COVID-19 and the jurisdictional challenges that emerged when the Nation led its own public health emergency response.

The project team’s report, *Dada Nentsen Gha Yatastig/T̓silhqot’in in the Time of COVID*, documents how the Nation led its own coordinated response to COVID-19 through the exercise of T̓silhqot’in law and jurisdiction. “One of the strengths of the work is how it centres Indigenous, and specifically

T̓silhqot’in, perspectives on the pandemic,” says Professor Stacey. “The report shows how the Nation’s COVID-19 response was grounded in the intergenerational knowledge and experience of past epidemics.”

The report also demonstrates how the T̓silhqot’in Nation’s pandemic response was undermined by provincial and federal policies and procedures. When the Nation developed a strategy for food deliveries to the community in an effort to reduce community members’ risk of exposure to COVID-19, staff were delayed for hours trying to get approvals for a forklift rental to deliver the emergency food supply. “An important theme is how – despite considerable progress from BC and Canada – the exercise of T̓silhqot’in jurisdiction is undermined in subtle but pervasive and grinding ways,” Professor Stacey explains. “We heard from staff very clearly about the taxing and unnecessary burden of having to continually navigate and negotiate shifting colonial policies.”

The report also outlines specific recommendations for how all levels of government can adapt their policies and practices to support T̓silhqot’in jurisdiction and begin to address the wide-ranging

and profound impacts of the pandemic on the T̓silhqot’in people, as well as other Indigenous peoples across Canada.

“I think there’s so much that’s valuable in this report,” says Professor Stacey. “We were capturing events almost as they unfolded in real time, and so it’s an important snapshot or time capsule of the beginning of the pandemic. A period of time that, at least to me, feels like a bit of a distant memory now.”

The next stage of the project focuses on implementing the report’s recommendations and those of a previous research collaboration on the 2017 wildfires. The research team will be supporting staff and T̓silhqot’in citizens to help ensure this learning is translated into long-term change – in terms of both the Nation’s internal governance and how it engages with BC and Canada.

Professor Stacey says that working on this project has been an incredibly meaningful experience: “It’s an immense privilege working with the T̓silhqot’in Nation, learning from the Nation and participating in a small way in the Nation charting its own course for the future. The best part of this project, for me at least, is building a connection with people and place.” [A](#)

From Podium to Screen

How Allard Law Professors Handled the Transition to Online & Hybrid Learning

by Chris Cannon

IN MARCH 2020, campuses across Canada closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In-person teaching at UBC was no longer possible, but classes had to continue.

Students and instructors alike were thrown into the world of online learning, with just a few short days to cram for a whole new way of learning and teaching. More than one year on, we asked a few of them about how they adapted and what lessons we might carry into the future.

Douglas Harris

When UBC first determined that in-person teaching was no longer possible, we were told mid-week that the classrooms would be closing and that we would be shifting to online teaching by Monday. I think my initial reaction may have been “How? How do we do that?” I hadn’t heard of Zoom or Collaborate Ultra, but on Monday we were using them to create virtual classrooms.

I was pushed to think about my teaching and to be much more conscious of the choices I make as an instructor. But to be honest, I think a year of teaching primarily in an online format helped me see the full value of in-person teaching and learning. As good as the online platforms are, they are still intermediaries between teacher and learner, and their limits are most apparent in group settings. It’s not possible to create the same immediacy, spontaneity and dynamism of in-person learning in the online world. Perhaps most tellingly, I find the pleasure of being together is muted.

I don’t think this is just longing for how things used to be, but a genuine appreciation of the power of being together in a place, and of paying attention to that place as an integral part of learning.

Samuel Beswick

It was my first time teaching at Allard Law – and my first time fully teaching my own curriculum – when we moved teaching and learning online. In some ways, that might have helped make my transition to online teaching slightly smoother. I didn’t have any prior years to compare to, and since I was starting from scratch, I could design my Torts course with the online environment in mind.

I wanted to emulate the classroom environment, using the Socratic method of teaching for my course, and to help students feel connected to the class, even though physically we were separated. I expected it to be a challenge to manage back-and-forth conversations with in-person and online students simultaneously.

Fortunately, it ended up being a more than manageable challenge – thanks to the powerful technology and superb IT assistance we had keeping us all connected together in the classroom, wherever we were. I found my students tuned in to class engaged and keen to participate. They were also happy to help keep myself and each other informed when we suffered the occasional internet lag or power cut. Despite the social distancing, it was an enjoyable and memorable start to my teaching career.

Anne Uteck

My initial reaction to remote teaching was that we “newcomers” to online learning have a daunting task ahead. First, how can an upper-year course be re-designed for remote learning when I rely so heavily on an interactive classroom? The result was not ideal, but better once I found my groove with online engagement in the classroom and students joined to help replicate the classroom experience through Mediasite. Second, having the option to use a hybrid model of online and in-person teaching was exciting and scary. It stopped being scary and became exciting...and fun.

Online learning can be effective. This is especially true when we are able to make use of the online tools and functions to enhance remote learning. I think many of us have learned the value of blended learning – greater collaboration with colleagues, better meeting the learning needs of *all* students, and the opportunity to explore and test pedagogy outside our comfort zones.

I was really lucky to have consistent in-person attendance for my hybrid classes, so that tells me that students want the opportunity for in-person instruction. While I support some level of remote learning if done effectively, I saw first-hand the value for students of being in person, not the least of which was building community, especially important in the first year of law school. [A](#)

Zoe Si (JD '13) practiced law for a number of years and now spends her days making children's books, cartooning and writing for *The New Yorker*, freelance illustrating and drawing comics of everything in sight. Reflecting on the theme "Connection," Zoe says,

"Drawing and sharing my cartoons allows me to connect to the world around me. Especially in the past year, it helped to make my small quarantined life feel much larger than it was."



UBC Innocence Project

RIGHTING WRONGS

& Training the Next Generation of Lawyers

by Heidi Wudrick



FOR NEARLY 15 YEARS, the UBC Innocence Project has been investigating claims of wrongful conviction in British Columbia. The Project brings together Allard Law students and supervising lawyers to review case files from investigation through to appeal – a process that can take more than 10 years. There have been a few recent wins, and many of the program’s alumni say it’s changed how they see their role as lawyers.

Building the Project from the Ground Up

Tamara Levy, QC, co-founder and director of the Project, says the idea to start an Innocence Project at UBC came to her while teaching a course on advanced evidence, which reviewed topics commonly identified as causes of wrongful convictions – eyewitness identification, confessions and jailhouse informant testimony. She took her idea to her friend and colleague Professor Nikos Harris, QC (LLB ‘95), who, coincidentally, had also been approached by a group of law students who were interested in starting an innocence project. The group formed a committee and began to think about a model that would work for UBC.

In 2007, the program launched with just three cases. Their client base has since grown, but Levy says they've never been inundated with applications. "On average, it takes 8 to 12 years to review and work a case through a system of exoneration. If someone is only sentenced to 3 or 5 years, it's sometimes not worth their effort to pursue a claim of wrongful conviction," she explains. That means, in practice, the Project tends to accept only homicide files, which come with much longer sentences.

"It's a long process," says Levy, but they've had some recent successes. In November 2020, the UBC Innocence Project helped clear the name of Tomas Yebes, who had been wrongfully convicted of murdering his two sons in 1983. A month later, Gerald Klassen was released on bail after new expert evidence called into question evidence from his original trial. Klassen had spent more than 25 years in prison for first-degree murder. "I hope that with these and potentially a few more exonerations, we're able to shine a light on why these wrongful convictions occur," says Levy.

Levy points out that the work can be challenging – and at times tedious. "In the most egregious case I can recall, we had 14 bankers' boxes of materials that were just thrown at us," she says. "After a trial, lawyers can be so tired and worn down, they just throw everything in a box. We sometimes have to do a lot of file re-organization to try to make sense of what we have to review and what we still need to get." Despite the challenges, Levy says she's continually impressed by what her students manage to accomplish. "They do way more work than they get credit for."

Ian Bownick is an Allard Law student who completed the program last year. He says studying law can leave you feeling detached, but the program has given him a greater understanding of the many dangers and challenges prisoners face. "My work with the project will absolutely inform the sense of empathy I can bring to dealing with clients in the future," says Bownick.

"Getting Hooked"

Many of Levy's students say they find the work not just rewarding, but fascinating. "I tell the students, you'll never again get exposed to 18 really interesting homicide files at once in your career. They get hooked on the whodunit," she explains. Whether or not her students practice criminal law, Levy says the lessons they learn will stay with them: "One thing I tell them in orientation is that I want them to come out of this program with an inquisitive mind. To never accept the evidence at face value, to always ask questions

shows the syndrome has been "dramatically overdiagnosed," and symptoms considered to be proof of the syndrome can have other causes. "Prior to this shift in the scientific landscape, many people, most often parents and caregivers, were convicted of shaking a baby to death based on faulty forensic science," she says.

Tony Paisana (JD '10), now a partner at Peck and Company, worked with the project as a student and has since returned as a supervising lawyer. He says there's a desperate need for lawyers to take on post-

"Having the opportunity to play a part in correcting individual miscarriages of justice, as well as exposing, reforming and educating on the systemic dysfunction of the criminal justice system, continues to be the most meaningful work that I do." — Alexandra Ballantyne (JD '16)

about it, to make sure it's reliable." But while many students go on to practice law in other areas, she says, some stay hooked.

Alexandra Ballantyne (JD '16) is one such former student. She's been involved with the project as a student, a contract staff lawyer, a supervising lawyer and a volunteer. "It sounds cliché, but I knew I wanted to be part of the project for as long as they would have me," she says. "Having the opportunity to play a part in correcting individual miscarriages of justice, as well as exposing, reforming and educating on the systemic dysfunction of the criminal justice system, continues to be the most meaningful work that I do."

As a staff lawyer on the project, Ballantyne developed a framework for evaluating possible wrongful convictions in shaken baby syndrome cases – where it's believed infants or toddlers were injured or died as a result of forceful shaking. She says new research

conviction review work because "there is simply no one else that can effectively do the job of overturning these troubling cases." For Paisana, working with students and seeing their excitement is both "incredibly rewarding" and a chance to help lay the foundation for future lawyers.

Getting Involved as an Alum

Levy encourages alumni to get in touch about opportunities to get involved with the Project – whether or not they practice criminal law. "You just have to have an inquiring mind," she says. "Be willing to learn about the causes of wrongful convictions, sort through masses of documents and think critically about the evidence in the case, constantly questioning whether and where the trial could have gone wrong." [A](#)

Creative Connections

After more than a year of physical distancing, alumni **Dawna Mueller**, **Heather Sorenson**, **Zoe Si** and **Holman Wang** shared their art on the theme “connection,” here and on pages 6 and 11.



DAWNA MUELLER (LLB '93) is an environmental photographer and speaker whose work ranges from covering the adverse effects of climate change in the Polar Regions and the Swiss Alps, to the current issue of logging and deforestation of old growth trees on Southern Vancouver Island. Dawna is trained as a Climate Reality Leader with

Al Gore's Climate Reality Foundation and is currently pursuing a Master of Photography Degree at Falmouth University, in the UK. She combines her photography with her advocacy in raising awareness of ecosystems at risk and creates visual narratives connecting humanity to nature. **PICTURED ABOVE:** *The Last Stand is Falling*, 2021.



HEATHER SORENSON (JD '21) grew up in North Vancouver and is Cree from the Michel First Nation. Her paintings blend landscapes with traditional Cree art forms. *Aniskômhokikewin* is inspired by beadwork done by her great, great grandmother. When considering the theme, Heather thought of the importance of the connection between generations and the power that connection commands. In this piece, the trees denote her generation, the stars represent previous generations and the flowers symbolize future generations.

PICTURED LEFT: *Aniskômhokikewin*, 2021.

Allard Law's Career Services Office on

Empowering Students & Staying Connected with Alumni

ALLARD LAW STUDENTS' summer or articling position is typically their first law job – and for some, their very first office job. We spoke with **Jennifer Lau** (LLB '08) and **Jayne Rossworn**, Directors of Allard Law's Career Services Office (CSO), about how the CSO supports students and how alumni can engage with the office.



Jennifer Lau (LLB '08)



Jayne Rossworn

How have job prospects been recently for students and graduates looking to land their first law job?

JENN: The job market is great. Our JD Class of 2020 both sought and secured a record high number of articling positions, and the JD Class of 2021 is on track to match or exceed that. We're also seeing a higher volume of articling job postings now than pre-pandemic – which was already a very strong job market. Our office supports students in all aspects of their law-related job search, for all types of employers.

What support were students and graduates turning to your office for when they began working remotely due to COVID?

JAYNE: Most students are very tech savvy, so in that respect it wasn't really an issue. We coached students about the importance of showing flexibility and adaptability, and about how to stay connected with supervisors and develop strong relationships with their new colleagues in a virtual setting.

What other types of advice are students looking to the CSO for?

JENN: Students have questions about how candid to be about their identities, goals, strengths and values when applying for jobs. This generation of students wants to bring their whole, authentic self to work – they don't want to hide parts of their identity in order to get a job. It's really refreshing, as is the trend of employers changing their recruitment strategies to address unconscious bias and recruit more diverse candidates.

What are some recent developments at the CSO that you're excited about?

JAYNE: We recently launched VMock, custom software that uses machine learning and predictive analytics to review students' resumes and suggest improvements based on our specific law resume standards. While the majority of students still meet one on one with a CSO advisor for a resume review,

VMock has allowed us to better leverage our team of career advisors, who are all experienced lawyers.

The virtual environment has also led to innovation. For example, our annual Vancouver legal employer office tours went virtual in 2020 and 2021. The silver lining was that employers outside of Vancouver could participate, so students were exposed to employment possibilities they might not have thought of before.

How can alumni continue to engage with the CSO after they graduate?

JENN: Recent alumni can access one-on-one CSO career advising for 20 months after graduation. All alumni can access job postings and career resources for life through Allard Careers and Events (ACE).

Alumni can also share their expertise with students. That could be anything from one-on-one mentorship, speaking on a career panel, profiling your career path in one of our handouts, or attending a virtual or in-person networking event.

For alumni who are looking to hire a law student or a lawyer, our job posting service is completely free. If alumni need advice in terms of best practices for recruitment, we're happy to help. Think of us as the HR Department that you never knew you had. [A](#)

Get in touch with the CSO team to learn more. careers@allard.ubc.ca or allard.ubc.ca/CSO

Good Reads

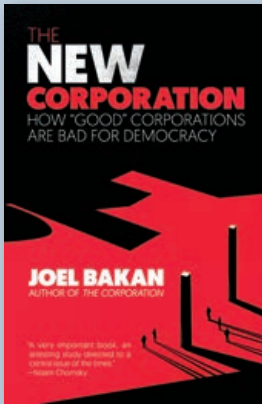
Looking for an addition to your reading list?

Allard Law professors **James Stewart** and **Carol Liao** shared their thoughts on why you should pick up two new books by Allard Law faculty.

The New Corporation:

How “Good” Corporations are Bad for Democracy

(Joel Bakan, Allen Lane, 2020)



JAMES STEWART: Twenty years ago, Professor Joel Bakan wrote one of the most important books critiquing corporations and their significance in society. *The Corporation*, and the much-lauded film of the same name, argued that not only do many corporations comport themselves in ways that satisfy the definition of psychopathy, their internal logic drives them to this type of pathologically asocial behaviour. Bakan’s *The New Corporation* eloquently argues that big

business’s attempt to paint itself in more socially responsible terms has acted as a smokescreen, the true purpose of which is to obscure our perception of an acceleration of the same psychopathic logic.

The societal consequences of this ruse are dire. Instead of humanizing the corporation, the “new socially responsible business” discourse has increased inequality, facilitated the violent unravelling of communities through addiction and poverty, undermined democracy at home and abroad and pushed us to a point of no return environmentally far faster. *The New Corporation* is an alarming read, but it also offers avenues to redress the troubling trends it so expertly reveals. In both these dimensions, this book is crucial reading for all those who care about justice, human flourishing and environmental sustainability. Like its predecessor, the book will be seminal for generations to come.

James Stewart is a Professor at Allard Law who has spent the past twenty years working in international criminal justice, as either a practitioner or a scholar. His research is principally focused on the responsibility of commercial actors for international crimes.

From Ideas to Action:

Governance Paths to Net Zero

(Dr. Janis Sarra, Oxford University Press, 2020)



DR. CAROL LIAO: Dr. Janis Sarra has never shied away from complex problems or the hard work that comes with helping to solve those problems. Climate change is an urgent and existential threat to humanity, and governments’ mitigation plans are not sufficient to prevent the most devastating effects of global warming. We have also been slow to acknowledge the disproportionate harms placed by the warming climate upon Indigenous peoples, racialized communities and women.

Plenty of books convey the direness of the challenge, but Janis, importantly, provides guidance on how to move forward. As a public educator, Janis is also a bridge builder, and interwoven within this book are principles of fairness and equity. She provides a clear call to action for directors and officers, pension fiduciaries, investors, governments and institutions. She fills in the knowledge gap between climate science and governance and systematically lays out the pathways to get us where we need to go – to a net-zero carbon economy, as soon as possible. [A](#)

Dr. Carol Liao (LLB '03, LLM '10, PhD '16) is an Associate Professor at Allard Law, Director of the Centre for Business Law, UBC Sauder Distinguished Scholar, and Principal Co-Investigator of the Canada Climate Law Initiative. Her research focuses on corporate law and governance, sustainability and business ethics.

Communities Building Legacies

“As mentor and colleague, [Wesley Pue] was an unfailing enthusiast with a seemingly inexhaustible capacity to create opportunities for others.” — Douglas Harris (LLM '98)

THROUGH commemorative community giving, our alumni are establishing legacies for individuals

whose lives and work have made an indelible impression on the law school and the legal community. By spearheading in-memoriam initiatives and encouraging their peers to give, they are creating vital financial support for students while honouring a beloved colleague, friend or family member.

Here, some of our in-memoriam organizers share what inspired them to take the lead on commemorative community giving.



W. Wesley Pue

W. Wesley Pue Memorial Fund

“WES WAS A TEACHER, a mentor, a colleague and a friend. As teacher, he steered me towards scholarly work that would animate my scholarship for years. As mentor and colleague, he was an unfailing enthusiast with a seemingly inexhaustible capacity to create opportunities for others. And as friend, it was simply a pleasure to be in his company.”

But it also seemed important to recognize the extraordinary contributions that Wes made to the academy. Wes's contributions to the graduate program at Allard Law were transformative; his work at UBC Press, including the creation of a book series, helped to establish the university as a hub of law and

society scholarship; his leadership of national and international scholarly associations built extraordinary communities of scholars; and his work in the central administration at UBC Vancouver and Okanagan reflected a deep commitment to public post-secondary education.

It also seemed important to mark just how much Wes is missed and remembered.”

Douglas Harris (LLM '98), established the W. Wesley Pue Memorial Fund in Law together with Karin Mickelson (LLB '88) and W. Wesley Pue's family.



Allard Law Class of 1984

Steven Volrich Memorial Bursary

"STEVE VOLRICH WAS a friendly but rather shy, private guy with an amazing bright smile. All of us knew him, but what we didn't all know at the time was that Steven was battling stomach cancer while attending law school. I was privileged to have become his friend and helped him through the rigours of law school exams. I met all his family members. His mother adored him; his father was so very proud of his son; and his little sister looked up to him just like any little sister would. As time went on, I realized how sick he was; however, he never complained or looked for sympathy. He confronted his illness with humour and courage. We all graduated law school, but tragically, Steven was never called to the bar along with the rest of us, since the cancer eventually took his young life during articles. His family was devastated. I wanted to honour and preserve his memory, so with his family's permission, I set about establishing the Class of 1984 Steven Volrich Memorial Bursary to help those struggling with any form of disability or illness while attending law school. In the face of such great adversity, Steven graduated with the law school class of 1984; I wanted to help others facing similar challenges do the same. My classmates continue to honour Steve's memory by contributing to the Bursary at our reunion events, where we honour him and our other colleagues who have since passed on."

Diane Bell, QC (LLB '84), established the Steven Volrich Memorial Bursary together with Jane Shackell, QC (LLB '84), Anne Giardini, OC, OBC, QC (LLB '84), Jackie Morris (LLB '84) and Steven Volrich's family.

Irene M. Stewart Memorial Award

"FRASER LITIGATION GROUP WAS inspired to establish a scholarship in Irene Stewart's name because she was such an exceptional lawyer for a career that spanned nearly five decades.

Irene specialized in corporate and commercial law. Lawyers in this field do not receive the attention and accolades given to lawyers in other fields, and Irene never sought out personal recognition, but their importance cannot be understated. It is often forgotten that practitioners of corporate and commercial law are essential to the functioning of our economy.

"Irene was exceptional for her brilliance as a lawyer, her incredible work ethic and her unwavering commitment to her clients." — Barry Fraser (LLB '77)




Irene M. Stewart

"...I set about establishing the Class of 1984 Steven Volrich Memorial Bursary to help those struggling with any form of disability or illness while attending law school."

— Diane Bell, QC (LLB '84)

In particular, the complexity and sophistication of our modern business would not be possible without the services of lawyers like Irene.

Irene was exceptional for her brilliance as a lawyer, her incredible work ethic and her unwavering commitment to her clients. She achieved the highest standards a lawyer can attain, and she continued to practice at that level to her final day. She was also especially caring, compassionate and generous, as her clients, colleagues and friends will attest.

Irene was an icon of the legal profession and cherished by those that had the privilege of knowing her. Having Irene's name on a scholarship will make it particularly special for anyone who is fortunate enough to receive it." 

Barry Fraser (LLB '77), established the Irene M. Stewart Memorial Award in Law together with Irene M. Stewart's family.

Class Notes

1960_s

Marvin Storrow (LLB '62) was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws by the University of Victoria.



Leonard Doust, QC (LLB '66) received the Law Society of British Columbia's 2020 Law Society Award for lifetime contribution made by an exceptional member of the Law Society.



1970_s

The Honourable Lynn Smith, OC, QC (LLB '73) was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada for her extensive and pioneering contributions to the Canadian legal system as a lawyer, academic and judge.



barbara findlay, QC (LLB '76) was the recipient of the CBABC 2020 Georges A. Goyer QC Memorial.

1980_s

QC Designations in 2020:

Bruce Ralston (LLB '80)
Karen Martin (LLB '84) ¹
Tom Fellhauer (LLB '87) ²



The Honourable Judge John Milne (LLB '80) was re-appointed to the Provincial Court of British Columbia.



The Honourable Justice Peter G. Voith (LLB '80) was appointed a Justice of Appeal of the Court of Appeal for British Columbia.

Judith Sayers (LLB '81) was sworn in as Chancellor of Vancouver Island University.



The Honourable Justice Ian Caldwell (LLB '84) was appointed to the Supreme Court of British Columbia.

The Honourable Judge Victor Galbraith (LLB '89) was appointed to the Provincial Court of British Columbia.

The Honourable Judge Carmen Rogers (LLB '89) was re-appointed to the Provincial Court of British Columbia.

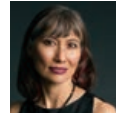
1990_s

QC Designations in 2020:

Brook Greenberg (LLB '96) ³
Patrick McGowan (LLB '97)
Michael Bain (LLB '98) ⁴



Terri-Lynn Williams Davidson (LLB '95) was named one of *Canadian Lawyer Magazine's* Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers of 2020 in the Changemakers category.



The Honourable Judge Andrea Davis (LLB '93) was appointed to the Provincial Court of British Columbia.

The Honourable Judge Emmet Duncan (LLB '98) was appointed to the Provincial Court of British Columbia.

2000_s

Kimberley Robertson (LLB '02) has been appointed as a master to the Supreme Court of British Columbia.



QC Designation in 2020:
Ryan Dalziel (LLB '03)

2000_s cont'd

Named on the 2020 Lexpert Rising Stars list, recognizing leading lawyers under 40:

Elizabeth Burton (LLB '04) ⁵
Lindsey Galvin (LLB '06)
Nicholas Hooze (LLB '06) ⁶
Vivian Kung (LLB '06) ⁷
Peter Danner (LLB '07)
Joel Morris (LLB '10) ⁸



Courtney Daws (LLB '04) received the YWCA Women of Distinction award in the Reconciliation in Action – Indigenous Ally category.



The Honourable Justice Ardith (Walpetko We'dalx) Walkem (LLM '05, LLB '95) was appointed to the Supreme Court of British Columbia.

Jonathan Conlin (JD '11) was recognized as one of *Business in Vancouver's* 2020 Forty Under 40.



Vanessa Werden (JD '11) was included in *On-Site Magazine's* 2020 list of top forty professionals under 40 in Canadian Construction.

Message from the Alumni Association President



TO PREPARE THIS LETTER,
I reviewed my speaking notes for the President's Report at the Alumni Association's 2020 Annual General Meeting, in January 2021. As I write this many months later, 2020 seems a generation ago. I'm sure many of you share this

sentiment. To start off my report, I had written, "*Well, 2020 was pretty normal...*" [Emphasis added – that's a law joke].

This little quip generated some laughter and broke the ice, but obviously, 2020 was a year unlike any other, and as I write this, 2021 is giving it a run for its money. As you'll have read on page 10, instructors and learners rose to the challenge of remote teaching and learning. Orientation activities were also impacted by the pandemic, with the incoming class of 2023 being welcomed virtually. I had the pleasure of speaking at the 1L orientation and was so pleasantly surprised at the zeal and enthusiasm of the incoming students and also their incredible adaptability to the changing learning environment.

The Alumni Board has continued its work to build community through meaningful engagement. We have undertaken multiple card-writing initiatives, offering messages of encouragement and congratulations to the incoming 1L students and graduating 3L class, welcoming them to the law school and the alumni community, respectively. We also hosted 15 virtual dinners for students as part of our Student, Alumni & Community Dinner series and have recently launched a student engagement coffee series. Events like this are so vital to staying connected to our fellow alumni. The pandemic has underscored in my view the fundamental human need for connectivity.

Presenting the Alumni Achievement Awards is always a highlight for our Association, and we were pleased to showcase our 2020 award winners through a series of inspiring videos. The awards recognized five outstanding alumni: Leonard T. Doust, QC (Lifetime Achievement Award), Tricia Smith CM, OBC (Alumni Award of Distinction), Dr. Natasha Affolder (Alumni Award for Research), Adrienne Smith (Outstanding Young Alum Award) and Michael Bain, QC (Community Award – a new category). We were also delighted to see a previous Lifetime Achievement Award winner, the Honourable Madam Justice Lynn Smith, OC, QC, appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2020, as well as Mr. Doust's being celebrated in the wider legal community with his portrait on the cover of the *Advocate*. We look forward to recognizing a new group of exceptional alumni with the next cycle of awards and celebrating all that they have accomplished.

On a Zoom call the other day, someone noted there is no going back to normal, there is only going forward. I share that sentiment. Let's continue to move forward, and do so together with the comfort and confidence of knowing that we have an incredibly strong alumni community and incredibly strong and resilient law students and faculty. [A](#)

A stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kinji Bourchier'.

KINJI BOURCHIER (LLB '99)

President, Allard School of Law Alumni Association



ALLARD HALL

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whose generous support and leadership enable us to remain one of the world's great centres for legal education and research.

Your donations enrich our academic programs and experiential learning opportunities and support crucial student financial aid and groundbreaking faculty research. This list recognizes donors who made a gift between April 1, 2019, and March 31, 2020.

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Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy in the Honour Roll. If an error is noted, please accept our sincere apologies and get in touch at 604 822 0123 or by email at alumni@allard.ubc.ca.

Rise Women's Legal Centre



Due to limited legal aid funding allocated to family law cases, many women in BC are unable to access legal counsel. In 2016, Rise Women's Legal Centre was established by UBC and West Coast LEAF to help meet this need.

"Rise helps fill a small part of the enormous – and gendered – access to justice gap in family law while providing Allard Law students with meaningful experiential learning opportunities as they assist low-income women in family

law matters," says the President of Rise's Board of Directors and Allard Law professor, Debra Parkes. Allard Law students have the opportunity to complete a full term of their legal education at Rise.

Rise serves self-identified women and gender-diverse persons all over BC, providing them with legal information, advice and representation. Rise offers a family law articling position, as well as an incubator program for new lawyers looking to launch a family law practice. Rise also conducts

groundbreaking research, including the recent report *Why Can't Everyone Just Get Along? How BC's Family Law System Puts Survivors in Danger* – an in-depth study of the needs of survivors of family violence and how they can be better met by BC's family law system.

In 2021, Rise marks its fifth anniversary. Get in touch to learn more about how you can support Rise's vital work: alumni@allard.ubc.ca.



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