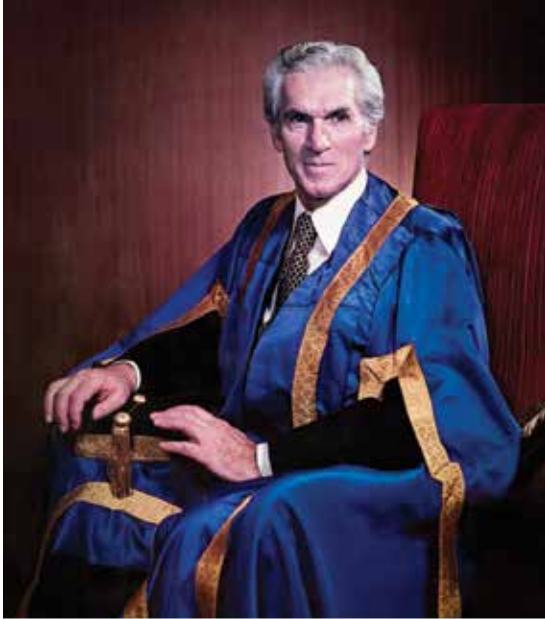




Lakehead  
UNIVERSITY

BORA LASKIN  
Faculty of  
Law

## FALL 2014 NEWSLETTER



The Faculty of Law is named in honour of Lakehead University's second Chancellor, The Right Honourable Bora Laskin, in recognition of his fight for human rights, his drive in reforming legal education in Ontario, and the pivotal role he played laying the groundwork for the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

**LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY**  
is proud to announce the naming of the  
**BORA LASKIN FACULTY OF LAW**



# Dean's Message for November 2014 Newsletter

Dear All,

Last month the Faculty of Law was officially named the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law.

We are indeed privileged to name the Faculty of Law after one of Canada's greatest legal minds, Chief Justice Bora Laskin, and grateful to the Laskin family in allowing us to do so. It is fitting that the law school bears the Laskin name. He was born and raised in Thunder Bay and he, like us, forged a new path in legal education in Canada. Students and staff will wear the Bora Laskin name with honour and pride.

This newsletter is devoted to our donors. The Faculty of Law was created at the behest of the community and its mandate is to

serve our communities. In turn, the local community has been most generous in its support and we have managed to raise nearly 3 million dollars. You will see the power of giving as you walk through the halls of the law school, see the improvements and see the enthusiasm of our students.

I personally want to thank each and every donor and I also want to thank the members of the Faculty of Law Task Force, who were instrumental in achieving so much.

To all thank you.

Lee Stuesser  
Dean of Law



## Bora Laskin (1912 - 1984)

### *Former Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Canada*

Many attributes come to mind when we think of the former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada (1970 – 1984), Bora Laskin:

- champion of law reform
- the embodiment of wisdom and fairness
- respected scholar and mentor
- trusted colleague
- a great Canadian.

Bora Laskin was born in Fort William, Ontario (now Thunder Bay) on October 5th, 1912. He attended Fort William Collegiate Institute and with exceptional marks, was able to enter directly into second year of the honour law undergraduate program at the University of Toronto, in 1930 at the age of 17. Graduating with his BA in 1933, an M.A. (U of T) in 1935, while articling and preparing for entrance to the bar, and his LL.B. from Osgoode Hall Law School in 1936. He then went on to obtain an LL.M. from Harvard in 1937.

When Laskin returned to Toronto, he faced the anti-semitic attitudes of the day and was unable to find a job either teaching or practicing law because of his Jewish heritage. He initially took a job doing summaries of legal cases for the Canadian Abridgment.

Laskin began teaching in the undergraduate program at U of T in 1940, and then joined Osgoode Hall teaching staff in 1945. In 1949, Laskin, together with Caesar Wright and John Willis at U of T, began the transformation from an undergraduate law program into a professional law faculty.

The University of Toronto was his intellectual home.

Bora Laskin possessed tremendous energies and intellectual ability. He had an extraordinary grasp of vast areas of law. Despite the fact that he taught at all year levels, he still had energy to publish numerous articles and books, edit law reports, sit on various university committees and frequently acted as placement coordinator for students, having kept in close touch with the practising profession. His recommendations were invariably accepted by law firms.

Bora Laskin was appointed to the Ontario Court of Appeal in 1965 (first Jewish Justice) and later the Supreme Court of Canada in 1970, becoming Chief Justice in 1973. (He was the youngest member to both appointments.) Laskin was uniquely qualified to lead change within the Court, presiding over it during a time when it evolved to become an important branch of government.

He was a civil libertarian who believed that law, like society, was not static but dynamic and, that the doctrine of “stare decisis” had its limitations in the changing visions of passing years.

It should be noted that Bora Laskin was Chancellor of Lakehead University from 1971 – 1980 and that the Faculty of Education Building at Lakehead University was named after Bora Laskin in 1982.

It is fitting that Ontario's (Canada's) newest law school should be named after this great Canadian who was born and raised in our community.

# Orientation Week



## ***Orientation***

The Faculty welcomed its second cohort of 60 students on Tuesday, September 2nd, 2014. A series of Orientation events and special lectures were planned to kick off the year.



## ***Welcome to the Profession Ceremony & Reception***

The 2nd Annual Welcome to the Profession Ceremony was held at the new Consolidated Court House. Addressing the students were Madam Justice Helen Pierce, Senior Regional Justice, Superior Court of Justice, Mr. Justice Marc Bode, Senior Regional Justice, Ontario Court of Justice, Mr. Gordon Filmore, President of the Thunder Bay Law Association and Mr. Ross Murray, Ex-officio Bencher, Law Society of Upper Canada. The Ceremony was followed by a Reception for students, their families and the profession.



## ***Dean's BBQ***

The 2nd Annual Dean's BBQ was hosted by Dean Stuesser and his wife Linda. Despite already heavy reading assignments, the students managed to enjoy some great food and networking with fellow law students.



## ***Ice Bucket Challenge for ALS***

To end the week our own Dean Lee Stuesser stepped up for the Ice Bucket Challenge!

# Ontario Court of Appeal Visit

The Faculty of Law was honoured to be visited by 19 Justices from the Court of Appeal for Ontario on the morning of September 30th, as part of their semi-annual judicial outreach.

Students participated in Breakout Sessions on topics including Professionalism, Aboriginal Issues, Advocacy and Criminal Appeals.



*Justices of the Court of Appeal for Ontario with Faculty in the Law Library.*



*Justices of the Court of Appeal for Ontario with faculty, staff and students in the John N. Paterson Auditorium.*

# Speakers Series

In the Fall Term we were fortunate to have three speakers visit our school and deliver noon-hour talks to the students.

September 22nd, 2014 – Stan Beardy, Ontario Regional Chief for the Assembly of First Nations, delivered an insightful talk about aboriginal issues which examined historical frameworks alongside contemporary issues and challenges.

October 2nd, 2014 – Bill Mullins-Johnson shared a powerful presentation to mark the first 'International Wrongful Convictions Day', detailing the painful story of his experience with the Canadian legal system as a wrongfully convicted man who spent twelve years imprisoned.

October 20th, 2014 – Byron LeClair, Director of Energy Projects for Pic River First Nation, presented an informative session about aboriginal economic development and sustainable energy, utilizing the hydro-electric projects currently established in Pic River as models for future development potential.



*Ontario Regional Chief Stan Beardy and Dean Lee Stuesser*



*Bill Mullins-Johnson receives a standing ovation from students*



*Bill Mullins-Johnson delivers his talk*



*Byron LeClair speaks about aboriginal economic development*

# Summer 2014 Employment

Over 60% of our 1L students held law jobs in the summer of 2014. Some of their experiences are detailed below. If you are interested in hiring a 1L or 2L student in the summer months please contact Annet Maurer at [ajmaurer@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:ajmaurer@lakeheadu.ca).

## **Ayoub Ansari**

*1L Summer Law Student, Legal Aid Ontario – Sioux Lookout*



“Working as a 1L Summer Law Student at Legal Aid Ontario was an eye-opening experience. I was based in Sioux Lookout, but traveled to Dryden, Kenora, and Pikangikum. My first fly-in remote community, Pikangikum First Nation, was an experience unlike any, as it put the struggles of First Nation communities into context. I have travelled on a Judge’s Plane, attended a

swearing-in ceremony of our newest provincial court judge and networked with lawyers practicing in Northern Ontario. I have gained great insight into Northern issues from judges, crown attorneys, court staff, court interpreters, police officers and community members.”

## **Whitney van Belleghem**

*1L Summer Law Student, Hook, Seller and Lundin – Kenora*



“As a summer student at Hook Seller and Lundin [in Kenora]...had the opportunity to attend discoveries, family court, and appear before a Justice of the Peace to request a subpoena. These opportunities have helped to clarify the realities of a legal career, especially in the context of small town private practice, and exemplify some of the practical aspects of what we have been learning

during classes... I had never flown on a small charter plane. The realities of a traveling court sunk in as we boarded the plane and the court reporter lugged her bag of recording equipment on board. For me it illustrated just how many people and how much effort is required to orchestrate a single day of court proceedings in a remote northern community.”

## **David Pierce**

*1L Summer Law Student, PM Law Offices – Thunder Bay*



“This past summer I was employed with PM Law Offices; a small criminal law practice in Thunder Bay. The summer was very enjoyable and provided an eye-opening look into the pace of private practice. Each day has different tasks... and a lot of them. Throughout my time at PM Law I have conducted disclosure review, prepared sentencing

memos, and attended court as agent for my employer to remand matters and set dates for trials, bail hearings, and preliminary inquiries. In addition, I’ve been fortunate to observe my employer conduct bail hearings, guilty pleas, and client management activities such as intake interviews and debriefings.”

## **Warren Mouck**

*1L Summer Law Student, Legal Aid Ontario – Kenora*



“I was given the opportunity to fly into Pikangikum First Nation to observe first appearance court and some guilty pleas, and there were far too many names on the docket for a community of 2500. One observation I made was that it seems inequitable to impose criminal sanctions when, from pure numbers and statistics, it is a virtual certainty that crime

is going to occur and we have done nothing as a society to address it... Working as a student at legal aid in Kenora has been a great experience albeit an eye-opening one. It is very clear that underlying social problems are what bring many people before the justice system over and over and over again. There are no obvious answers, except to say that a collaborative effort by everyone involved in the justice system is essential.”

# Faculty of Law Hires Director for Student Legal Aid Clinic



Dean Lee Stuesser of the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law is pleased to announce that Kimberley Gagan has been selected as the Founding Director of the Student Legal Aid Clinic, which will be located at the law school. Kimberley brings with her over 17 years of legal experience in Thunder Bay. She articulated in Thunder Bay after obtaining her law degree from Queen's University

and worked in private practice until 2000, when she joined the Crown's Office. For the last 14 years she has worked as an Assistant Crown Attorney. She knows the legal community and the local community as a whole. She currently serves on the board of directors of a number of community and charitable organizations: The Lymphedema Association of Ontario, Kairos Community Resource Centre and Child and Community Resources. Kimberley is entrusted with founding the Faculty of Law's student legal aid clinic, which is a key pillar of the law school program. The student legal aid clinic is funded by Legal Aid Ontario and is intended to serve low income and disadvantaged people in need of legal representation.

## Scholarships, Prizes, & Awards Recipients

### *1st Year Prize Recipients*

**Laressa Speak** – Sandy Zaitzeff 'Zee Prize' for 1st Place Standing, Dean's Honour Roll (Picherack Family), D.H. Gordon Foundation Award, Course Prize in Contract Law

**Lauren Tarasuk** – Sandy Zaitzeff 'Zee Prize' for 2nd Place Standing, Dean's Honour Roll (Picherack Family), Jack Peacock Memorial Award, Course Prize in Property Law, Course Prize in Foundations, Erickson Course Prize in Torts

**Kaleigh Dryla** – Sandy Zaitzeff 'Zee Prize' for 3rd Place Standing, Dean's Honour Roll (Picherack Family), Watkins Course Prize in Constitutional Law

**Emily Morris** – Dean's Honour Roll (Picherack Family), Jack Peacock Memorial Award, Labine Course Prize in Criminal Law

**Katy Commisso** – Dean's Honour Roll (Picherack Family), Jack Peacock Memorial Award

**Julia Tousaw** – Dean's Honour Roll (Picherack Family), Northwestern Ontario Law Association Award, Ptak Course Prize in Native Canadian World Views & Law

## Aboriginal Student Law Conference

The Bora Laskin Faculty of Law is proud to present the Aboriginal Student Law Conference on November 7th. On the 250th anniversary of the Treaty of Niagara, we look to explore the "Aboriginal law landscape: What's on the horizon?" The conference features a compelling agenda of speakers and panel discussions. We look forward to welcoming law students, non-law students, community members, and regional guests. A full recap of the event will be featured in our next newsletter.

## Student Placements

We have been very appreciative of the support that firms across Ontario have given us by offering placement positions for our 3rd year students. There are some very interesting and unique placement opportunities. The first 3L students will be on their placements beginning in September 2015, and the second half of the class will begin in January 2016.

**Mark Longo** – Dean's Honour Roll (Vince Mirabelli)

**Hannah Gladstone** – Course Prize in Professional Responsibility

### *Scholarship and Bursary Recipients*

**Adam Fiddler** – Advocates' Society Scholarship

**Samantha Ramage** – Advocates' Society Scholarship, Canadian Association of Woman's Judges Scholarship, Ryquart Aboriginal Law Bursary

**Therín Rhaintre** – Annie Childs Foundation Entrance Scholarship

**Scott Mainprize** – Ryquart Aboriginal Law Bursary

**Shawn Bell** – Ryquart Aboriginal Law Bursary

**Ryan Green** – Gertrude Lahti Bursary

**Josh Szajewski** – Ralph Joseph Meshake Bursary, and Reszler & McKeigan Bursary

# \$3,000,000.00 HAS BEEN RAISED through the efforts of the Faculty of Law Task Force; a group of skilled, experienced and enthusiastic volunteers:

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John B. Laskin

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## Scholarships, Bursaries, Awards and Prizes

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