Aboriginal Law Student Conference

“Wisdom is not just found in your own communities. Learn from others in the wider world. Bring those learnings back.”

- John Borrows, Aboriginal Law Student Conference 2014

On November 7th, which marked the 250th anniversary of the Treaty of Niagara, the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law was pleased to host the first Aboriginal Law Student Conference. The event welcomed over 200 law and non-law students, educators, members of the legal community, and guest speakers and panelists from across the country, facilitating discussion about the Aboriginal law landscape and what’s on the horizon.

Keynote speaker Professor John Borrows, of the University of Victoria Faculty of Law, delivered the first talk of the day, much to the delight of our law students as his texts are mandatory reading during their first year. Borrows conveyed a thought-provoking message about Anishinaabe Law and Constitutionalism through storytelling.
Opening remarks were delivered by Dean Lee Stuesser, followed by greetings brought forth by Chief Gaogian Morrisseau, Fort William First Nation, and Tim Pile, Métis Nation of Ontario.

The conference began with an opening prayer, drum, and smudge ceremony led by Elder Isabelle Mercier.

Jean Teillet, of Pape Salter Teillet LLP, spoke about 'Aboriginal Law: Where are we and where are we going? Where do the Métis fit?' She noted that “Resistance is the only thing that is working in Canada to challenge colonialism, thus creating Aboriginal law”.

Sugarbush Field Trip

“An Indigenous conception of education might be one that is taught on the land” – Douglas Sanderson, Aboriginal Law Student Conference.

11 law students joined Professor Karen Drake and Professor John Borrows on a field trip to Fort William First Nation to gather Anishinaabe teachings from the sugar bush.

On behalf of the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law, we would like to extend our gracious appreciation to all who made the Aboriginal Student Law Conference possible – The Law Foundation of Ontario, The Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Mining & Exploration, Lakehead University, the Indigenous Law Students’ Association, the speakers, panelists, and facilitators, and all who attended.

A full recap of the conference can be found on our website at www.lakeheadu.ca/academics/departments/law/aboriginal-law/law-conference
Dean’s Message

Greetings from the Dean,

We are now at the end of our second year and are busy preparing for the third and final year of our program. With the Integrated Practice Curriculum (IPC) the third year students will be spending an entire semester in placement with law firms. We are particularly pleased that many of our students found placements in smaller communities in the North and throughout rural Ontario.

The response of the legal community to the IPC and placements has been overwhelming. We had many more placement positions available than students. What is especially gratifying is that the placement lawyers seem eager to take on the mentoring and educational responsibilities that are entailed in a placement.

The IPC experiment is new. Challenges there will be. However, it certainly is off to a good start.

Sincerely, Lee Stuesser, Dean of Law

Recent Faculty Publications & Research

2015 Dean Stuesser recently completed along with Justice David Paciocco the 7th edition of their text, The Law of Evidence (Irwin Law), which is part of the Essentials of Canadian Law series.


2015 Canadian Abortion Politics: Twenty-Five Years After Morgentaler, Chapman, Frances E. & Penny Light, Tracy, chapter in monograph, “Functionally Inaccessible: Medical, Legal and Historical Perspectives on Abortion”


Faculty Appointment

The Bora Laskin Faculty of Law is pleased to announce the appointment of Miriam Cohen, as an Assistant Professor, commencing July 1, 2015.

Miriam comes to us from the International Court of Justice in The Hague, where she has worked as a staff lawyer since January 2011. Prior to this, Miriam worked at the International Criminal Court and at an international law firm in Montréal. Miriam is currently completing her doctoral studies with Leiden University, having received the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies award for doctoral studies. She will defend her thesis entitled “Civil dimensions of international criminal justice” later this year.

Miriam received her Master of Laws (LL.M.) from Harvard Law School in June 2009, [recipient of the Frank Knox Memorial Fellowship and John Peters Humphrey Scholarship] a Master of Laws (LL.M.) from Cambridge University, UK in June 2008 [public international law and criminal law] and [recipient of The Right Honourable Paul Martin Sr. Scholarship] as well as both a Master of Laws (law and technology and business law) and LL.B. from the Université de Montréal, 2010 and 2006 respectively.

Miriam’s primary teaching and research interests include human rights, environmental law, public and private international law, international criminal law, alternative dispute settlement, international organizations, criminal law and procedure and comparative law. Miriam’s publications have appeared in law journals in Canada, the United States and Brazil. Miriam is a member of the Quebec Bar since 2009.
The winter term has seen a variety of speakers visit and provide noon-hour presentations to our students.

The Debwewin First Nation Jury Review

November 18th, 2014 – The ‘Debwewin First Nation Jury Review Implementation Committee’ discussed the recommendations made last year by Justice Iacobucci, speaking about progress thus far and future plans.

Aboriginal Education Initiative

January 15th, 2015 – Dr. Carlana Lindeman, Education Program Director; Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative, addressed the status of the Initiative and what is being done to realize its goals.

‘Walk a Mile’ Film Screenings

January 19th, February 2nd & 12th, March 2nd, 2015 – Michelle Derosier, Thunderstone Pictures, Inc., presented the ‘Walk a Mile’ film in four installments, and facilitated discussions after each screening.

Eugene Meehan

March 10th, 2015 – Eugene Meehan, QC, delivered a workshop to students about “Strategic Legal Writing: Preparing Persuasive Documents”.

Brian Greenspan

March 13th, 2015 - Brian Greenspan, QC, led 1L and 2L discussion sessions about appeals advocacy as part of their Professional Responsibility and Civil Practice courses.

Jason Madden

March 19th, 2015 – Jason Madden, Pape Salter Teillet LLP, presented the students with “An Update on Métis Legal Issues”.

Dr. Frances Chapman

March 24th – Dr. Frances Chapman, a member of our faculty, spoke to students about her research exploring “Brainwashing and the Battered Woman: Involuntary Servitude and Intimate Relationships”. 
Our students have been keeping busy, hosting and participating in a number of events this term.

**Winter Feast**

Students enjoyed a Winter Feast potluck lunch at the end of November. Organized by the Indigenous Law Students’ Association, the event also collected food, clothing, and supplies for the Beendigen Women’s Shelter.

**Toy Drive**

The students also ran a toy drive, collecting items for donation to the Toys for Tots holiday campaign.

**Career Development Sessions**

Annet Maurer, Student Services, presented helpful noon-hour information sessions to students about resume and cover letter writing, as well as networking effectively. Additional sessions covering “dress for success” and financial planning were also offered.

**Flip Your Wig**

Once again our students participated in the “Flip Your Wig for Justice” campaign, which aims to raise awareness of access to justice issues in Ontario. The students planned a week of events including pizza sales, bingo night, and noon-hour talk about the new Lakehead Legal Clinic.

**Aboriginal Perspectives**

In February students were invited to attend two mock Restorative Justice Circles, facilitated by Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation, illustrating familial tradition and the incorporation of beliefs, values, customs, and practices of the community into the justice process. Students also attended an Aboriginal Law Career Symposium, hosted by LSUC, which featured discussions and networking with lawyers and representatives from the Aboriginal Initiatives Counsel.

**Mental Health Awareness Recess**

In association with Lakehead University Student Affairs, this event was held to launch The Ontario Law School Mental Health Initiative “Recess”. A panel discussion included two local lawyers, in addition to Orlando DaSilva, President of the Ontario Bar Association, who chose to attend the inaugural event here at our school. Representatives from Student Health and Counselling, the Student Success Centre and Bora Laskin Faculty of Law also addressed the students.
Legal Aid Office Updates

Lakehead University’s Faculty of Law is currently developing a Student Legal Aid Clinic. We have been very busy designing a program specific to Lakehead’s innovative legal curriculum, as well as the needs of the Thunder Bay community.

Once open in June, the clinic will allow second and third year law students to assist members of the Thunder Bay community with real legal issues in selected areas of practice. To be eligible for service, prospective clients must meet financial eligibility guidelines set out by Legal Aid Ontario and they must be resident in the city of Thunder Bay or Fort William First Nation.

Initially, students will have carriage of files in the area of minor (summary conviction) criminal offences and more serious provincial offences, primarily under the Highway Traffic Act. We are targeting the service gap that currently exists for people charged with a criminal offence, who would qualify financially for legal aid, but whose matter is not serious enough to qualify for a certificate. As the clinic program expands, we anticipate adding Residential Tenancy and Small Claims Court matters to our repertoire.

Placement Update

6 Crown Offices across northern Ontario taking 10 students: Kenora, Dryden, Thunder Bay, Sudbury, North Bay, Kapuskasing

18 firms/offices in Thunder Bay and Fort William First Nation taking 29 students

2 unique firms in Toronto: Lake Ontario Waterkeeper – environmental law firm & Olthuis, Kleer, Townshend (OKT Law) – Aboriginal law firm


List of Tutors, Clinicals, Contract Lecturers

The Bora Laskin Faculty of Law would like to extend thanks to the local tutors, clinical leaders, and contract lecturers who lend their time and insight to improving our students’ educational experience.

Tutors
- Michael Hargadon
- Robert Kozak
- AnnMarie Stilla
- Jordan Lester
- Johanna Maki

Clinicals
- Dan Newton
- Steve Wojciechowski
- Robin Clinker
- Derek Noyes
- Rodi-Lynn Rusnick-Kinsky
- Duncan Macgillivray
- Kimberley Gagan

Contract Lecturers
- Duncan Macgillivray
- Don Shanks
- Lorne Firman
- Brian Babcock
- Nicole Rea
- Brian MacIvor
- Peggy Smith (Lakehead faculty)
- Jamie McGinnis

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**Women in Law Luncheon**

Members of the Women in Law Club were so pleased to host Madam Justice Pierce at a luncheon held in the John Andrews Foundation Boardroom. It was a pleasure to have her visit and share words of advice and experience.

**Cam Malcom CAELS**

This past February, together with my colleague Therin Rhaintre, we attended the 2015 CAELS conference in Calgary on behalf of the Faculty of Law’s environmental society, LUELSA. CAELS is a networking project devoted to connecting environmental law students from across the country. The annual conference is an opportunity for students, professors and practitioners to discuss current issues in Canadian environmental law. Conference highlights included the future of hydraulic fracturing in Canada and liability for extreme weather events affected by climate change. Our presence at the conference sent a strong message that Lakehead students are interested and committed to environmental law. Hopefully the day when we host our own CAELS conference isn’t too far off!

**Law vs. Med Games**

The Faculty of Law participated in the 2nd Annual ‘Law vs. Med Games’ at the end of February. Law students competed in volleyball, dodgeball, basketball, and trivia events against students from the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, in support of the Dew Drop Inn. Ultimately, Team Law was victorious for a second year and $358 was raised for this great cause.

**Law Ball**

The Law Ball was held on March 7th at the Italian Cultural Centre – an annual event that is the highlight of the semester. Katy Comisso, VP Operations, and the Social Committee worked tirelessly to make this event spectacular, hosting students, faculty members, tutorial leaders and guests for an evening of great food, laughs, and dancing.

**Lutsen Ski Trip**

The Lakehead Law Ski and Snowboard Club held their first trip at the end of January at Lutsen Mountain Resorts and a great time was had by all who attended.

**ILSA Brunch**

On February 24, ILSA hosted a delicious lunch of Pancakes and Odamin, which raised $409 for the Fort William First Nation Sugar Bush Fund.
Dr. Arthur Valentine Mauro

The Bora Laskin Faculty of Law wishes to celebrate Dr. Arthur Mauro and thank him for his contribution to building the Faculty.

Prominent lawyer and businessman, Dr. Arthur V. Mauro, OC, OM, was Lakehead University’s 7th Chancellor. Born on February 15, 1927 in Thunder Bay, Ontario, Dr. Mauro studied law at the University of Manitoba and was called to the Bar of Manitoba in 1953. Until 1969 he practiced law, specializing in transportation and communication law.

Dr. Mauro has had an illustrious career. In 1967, he was appointed Chairman of the Royal Commission on Northern Transportation, and in 1969 became a senior executive with Great Northern Capital Corporation. From 1972 to 1976, he was President and Chief Executive Officer of Transair Limited, and joined the Investors Group in 1976 to become its President, Chief Executive Officer, and Chairman. He served as Chancellor of the University of Manitoba from 1991-2000 and from 2009 through 2012 he served as Chancellor of Lakehead University.

Dr. Mauro received an Honorary Doctor of Commerce degree from Lakehead University in 1997. In 1987, Dr. Mauro was made a Member of the Order of Canada and was later promoted to Officer in 1992. In 2004 he was awarded the Order of Manitoba.

In 2011, Dr. Mauro Chaired the Chancellor’s Task Force, which focused its efforts on securing the provincial funding necessary to support the operation of what is now the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law.

Charter Moot Competition

The second annual Lakehead Law Charter Moot was held on March 20th. With our faculty, local practitioners, and 2L students acting as judges, each 1L student represented a case as both respondent and appellant. After two rounds, the highest ranked students - Katherine Linton and David Spence - argued in the Paterson Auditorium before Justice Pierce, Justice Platana, Dr Frances Chapman and their peers.

Both presented compelling cases. Ultimately, David Spence was selected as this year’s winner.