Summer 2004

The Dean's Newsletter (Summer 2004)

Osgoode Hall Law School of York University

Patrick J. Monahan

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ny great institution needs to always be looking ahead and Osgoode Hall Law School is no exception. As you know, we have had a particularly fine year at the Law School with a number of significant accomplishments including our ranking in Canadian Lawyer as the best law school in Ontario, our students’ victory in the Willem C. Vis International Arbitration Moot in Vienna, Austria in April and the outstanding performance of our faculty in the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) annual grants competition. In that regard, Osgoode faculty members Jinyan Li, Roxanne Mykitiuk, Obiora Okafor, Lisa Philipps, Ben Richardson, Robert Wai and Stepan Wood received one-quarter of the SSHRC standard research grants awarded to law professors in Canada this year. We are also very pleased that the Law School has just been awarded a Canada Research Chair in a national competition under the auspices of the SSHRC. Professor Peer Zumbansen, an internationally-recognized German legal scholar, will be joining the Law School this fall as the holder of a Research Chair in comparative Corporate Governance.

Of course, we cannot afford to rest on our laurels and for that reason I want to initiate a strategic planning process for the Law School in the coming academic year. You may recall that my predecessor, former Dean Peter W. Hogg, developed a strategic plan for the Law School in 2000. Most of the 89 recommendations in that plan have been implemented over the last four years and it is time for us to develop a new plan that will see us through the remainder of the decade. This past year we already initiated a comprehensive review of our curriculum as well as our admissions policy. This fall I plan to integrate those reviews into a broader strategic planning process for the Law School. The aim of the strategic planning process is to ensure that Osgoode remains at the forefront of Canadian legal education. We need to make sure that we are providing the right legal training to meet the needs of today’s students and their future employers. I believe it is important to recognize that the study of law is becoming increasingly internationalized and our students need the tools to be successful not only in Canada but in other jurisdictions around the world. Our goal, therefore, must be to raise Osgoode’s reputation and profile on the international stage and that will be one of the objectives that I hope will guide our strategic planning.

We will be producing a series of discussion papers over the fall on various topics including curriculum and admissions, which will culminate in an open forum for faculty, students and staff to be held in January 2005. I am particularly interested in involving our alumni in a meaningful way in this process and I would welcome your thoughts as to the future direction of the School. If you are interested in making a contribution to the January forum, please e-mail me at lawdean@osgoode.yorku.ca.

Underlying the strategic planning process will be our renewed commitment to the importance of being a great law school with all that that implies. There is a kind of momentum one feels at Osgoode these days that is propelling us forward in a steady and strong fashion. Like paddling a canoe, it is a matter of finding a balance in legal education. It’s not always smooth sailing but, when the wind’s at your back and everyone is pulling together, the journey is a pleasure.
The Osgoode student team of Christopher Hickey, Fiona Hickman, Jonathan Holt, Gregory Smith, Stephen VanderStoep, Tais Zaharchuk, and Associate Dean Janet Walker (team advisor) won the Willem C. vis International Arbitration Moot in Vienna, Austria in April, which featured teams from 48 countries. It was the first victory by a Canadian team in the 11-year history of the moot.

Dean Patrick Monahan presented the 2004 Dean's Gold Key to 10 graduating LLB students in recognition of exceptional leadership, commitment, and enthusiasm. They are Andy Astletoe, Brockie Harlan Fortin Hickman, Alexis Levine, John McKechnie, Melissa Montemurro, Denise Robertson, Althea Roman, Merel Veldhuis and Ngai Ip.

First-year Osgoode student Michelle Dagnino, 23, was chosen by Maclean’s magazine as one of the “Brightest and Brighest” young Canadians as well as the 2004 YWCA Young Woman of Distinction.

Allison Youngman (LLB ’04, LLM ’05), a senior partner at Silberman Elliott LLP in Toronto, received the YWCA Toronto Women of Distinction Award 2005 for Community Leadership.

Osgoode shot to bust in Ontario – and second in Canada – in the annual Canadian Lawyer ranking of law schools. University of Calgary’s law school was No. 1. The University of Toronto Faculty of Law held at No. 2.

Professor and York University President Emeritus Harry Allen was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Windsor in his 85th honorary degree.

Professor Allan Hutchinson, Associate Dean (Research and Graduate Studies), was elected to the Royal Society of Canada for exceptional contribution to scholarship.

Professor Mary Jane Masson received the Canadian Association of Law Teachers (CALT) Award for Academic Excellence, University of Windsor’s Walter L. Gordon Research Fellowship in recognition of outstanding research, and an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the Law Society of Scotland.

Professor Obinna Obiaku was awarded a Canada-U.S. Fulbright Fellowship, as was Dajna Scott (LLB/MES ’09), a visiting doctoral researcher in the Hauser School of Law.

Professor Robert Van received a Joan Metnet Fellowship for the 2004-05 academic year to pursue research at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy.

Professor Cayrs Craig was awarded the David Watson Memorial Award for the best contribution to legal scholarship for her article, “Labour, Labour and the Limiting Author’s Right: A Warning against a Locavore Approach to Copyright Law,” in Volume 22 of the Queen’s Law Journal.

Professor Cayrs Craig, Reba McCarthy, Paramjit Preet, received curriculum development awards from the Centre for Innovation Law and Policy at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law.

Professor Cary Watson was given the Samuel E. Gates Litigation Award by the American College of Trial Lawyers for significant contribution to the improvement of the litigation process.

Professor Stephan Wood was chosen as the Law Commission of Canada’s Virtual Scholar in Residence for an eight-month period.

For full details, visit our Web site www.osgoode.yorku.ca and click on “Welcome to Osgoode”.

Peter Cory (LLB ’50) Installed as York’s 11th Chancellor

Peter deCarteret Cory, former Supreme Court of Canada justice and distinguished international jurist, was installed as the 11th chancellor of York University on Saturday, June 12 during convocation ceremonies at the Glendon campus.

“This is truly a great honour to be here today,” said Cory in his address. “I will try to fulfill the trust that you have placed in me.”

Cory who studied at Osgoode Hall Law School and was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1966, is highly sought after by government and international leaders for his legal and public policy expertise. In 2002, he was appointed commissioner by the government of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland to investigate six controversial murder cases involving alleged collusion by political parties.

It was November 2003 and Marcia Nelson, who had graduated from Osgoode’s LLB program in June of the same year, still hadn’t found an articling position. She had been searching for work for almost a year without any luck. In the meantime, the 29-year-old Brampton, Ontario native had completed the Bar Admission Course and done some legal research for a sole practitioner but an articling job still eluded her.

Marcia Nelson’s luck changed. Chantal Morton, director of Career Services at Osgoode, called her as well as some other students to say that the small (12 course) Toronto law firm of Steinberg Morton Frymer was looking for an articling student. The firm conducted interviews and Nelson was hired for a 10-month period of articles from January 12 to November 12, 2004. She expects to be called to the Bar on Nov. 25.

“As far as I’m concerned, I said yes,” said Nelson, recalling the firm’s offer to hire her for the articling period. “It’s been an exceptional experience. I get work from pretty much every lawyer in the firm. You name it, I do it.”

Marcia Nelson, who graduated as a master’s student from Osgoode the same year as Nelson and is now an associate at Steinberg Morton Frymer, says the firm regularly receives applications from candidates at Osgoode although they also consider applicants from other law schools if approached. The firm, which hires a maximum of two articling students a year, looks for people with life experience who have the confidence and maturity to work independently. “We value efficiency,” said Tzimas, recalling the firm’s offer to hire her for the articling period.

“We’re very grateful to have them,” said Tzimas, adding that Osgoode students “are full responsibility” to work alongside the ministry’s full-time counsel on a variety of high-profile cases.

What’s more, this is one way of “giving back” to legal education and the legal profession. “Every articling student has to have a mentor.” Tzimas observed.

“We’re helping to set the foundation for their careers.” Interested in finding out more about hiring an articling student? Call or e-mail Chantal Morton, director of Career Services at Osgoode, at 416-781-8638 or cmorton@osgoode.yorku.ca. Prospective employers can also post positions on the Career Services Web site (www.osgoode.yorku.ca/careers) and receive a publication of the résumés of students available to retain.
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the 2001-2002 academic year as a Jean Monnet Fellow at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy. He has also been visiting professorships at the University of Idaho College of Law and at Osgoode.

Author of numerous books and articles, his current research in private law focuses on Corporative Company Law and the implications of national differences on the Constitution of the Firm.

Zumlearn, who is co-editor of the German Law Journal, the first and only online English language report on developments in German and European jurisprudence, will have links to the York University Centre for Public Law and Public Policy housed at Osgoode. He will also make important contributions to the Canadian Centre for German and European Studies, which York shares with its partner university, the Université de Montréal.

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Friends of Ireland and the United Kingdom, urging judicial inquiries

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of the six articling students that the Ministry hired in 2003 were Osogo graduates.

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We’re helping to set the foundation for their careers.” Interested in finding out more about hiring an articling student? Call or e-mail Chantal Morton, director of Career Services at Osgoode, at 416-785-5483 or cmorton@osgoode.yorku.ca. Prospective employers can also post positions on the Career Services Web site (www.osgoode.yorku.ca/careers) and receive a public listing of the resumes of students available to article in 2004.

www.osgoodealumni.ca
Postal Information Goes Here

Osgoode/Schulich Alumni Speakers' Series

Osgoode Hall Law School and the Schulich School of Business are pleased to invite all alumni and friends to attend the 2004 Passport to Excellence Breakfast Series.

Date: Wednesday, September 22, 2004
Presenter: Howard S. Black (LLB '83)
Company: Minden Gross Grafstein & Greenstein LLP
Topic: Estate Planning Essentials

When working on estate planning, individuals start thinking about planning for the future, but many, estate planning simply involves drawing up their Will. While a properly prepared and current Will is certainly the cornerstone of any estate plan, it’s just one part of the larger estate planning process. Join us for an informative session on the essential information you should consider when you start making estate plans. The basics of choosing an executor, power of attorney, the benefits of charitable giving and other tax planning strategies will also be reviewed.

Place: The Ontario Club, Commerce Court South, 5th Floor, Toronto
Time: 7:30 am (Registration, Hot Buffet Breakfast)
8:00 am (Presentation, Q & A to follow)
Cost: $25.00 per person; $30.00 at the door
On-line Registration: http://www.schulich.yorku.ca/passport

Dear Fellow Alumni:

It is my pleasure to announce to you that Atul Tiwari (LLB '87) will succeed me as President of the Osgoode Hall Law School Alumni Association as of the September 21, 2004 Annual General Meeting. I am sure all of you know that Justice Dennis O'Connor (LLB ’64), who was to succeed me, is heading the Maher Arar Inquiry and had to withdraw his acceptance of the position. But the Alumni Association has never been in more capable hands. Atul, who has served as Vice-President of the Alumni Association for the past three years, will bring a fresh and forward-thinking outlook to the Law School and its alumni. Atul is currently the Managing Director in the Mutual Fund and Investment Management area of the BMO Private Client Group and I know the Law School will make good use of his business savvy and management skills. I want to wish Atul and the rest of the Board of Directors good luck in the coming years, and thank the Law School for the wonderful opportunity to represent such an exceptional group of alumni for the past three years.

It has been my pleasure.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Madam Justice Sandra Chapnik (LLB ’76)
President, Osgoode Hall Law School Alumni Association

Notice of the Annual General Meeting of the Osgoode Hall Law School Alumni Association

The fourth Annual General Meeting of the Osgoode Hall Law School Alumni Association will be held on Tuesday, September 21, 2004 at the Professional Development Program of Osgoode Hall Law School of York University, 1 Dundas Street West, Suite 2602, Toronto, ON at 5:30 p.m. Copies of the agenda will be available in advance through the Advancement Office (416) 736-5638 or alumni@osgoode.yorku.ca. All alumni are welcome.

Ann Mathews Nunez: 1st Memorial Lecture – September 14th, 2004
Speaker: Professor Michelle Le Baron, University of British Columbia
Professional Development Program Centre, 1 Dundas Street West, Suite 2602
5 pm – wine & cheese will be served
Cost: $50 ($50 tax receipt will be issued)
RSVP to the Advancement Office:
Tel: 416-736-5353 Email: alumni@osgoode.yorku.ca
All alumni are welcome.