



## The Milk Man

Rahim Talib ('00) finds the grass is greener outside traditional legal practice.

## Mary Mouat ('87), QC

Dean's Cup recipient reflects on hard work, finding balance, and law library carrels.

## Should you swap your LLB for a JD?

Decisions, decisions...

## Alumni Vistas

Updates and alumni news.





# VISTAS

*Vistas is produced by UVic Law at the University of Victoria, British Columbia. The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of UVic Law or the University of Victoria.*

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**University  
of Victoria**

Law

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# Message from the Dean

**DONNA GRESCHNER**

Professor and Dean  
UVic Law, University of Victoria



UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

Donna Greschner, Dean of Law.

Each morning when I drive or bike to the law school I travel alongside the links, the coastal land that connects the sea with the hills. It reminds me not only of the physical location of your alma mater, nestled in the rain forest just a few minutes' walk from the ocean, but also the philosophy and practice of the law school.

Since its inception UVic Law has focused on studying law in context, an approach that involves drawing connections between laws and societies, and fusing the wisdom of conventional legal studies with the insights of different disciplines and practices. From the beginning, it has also been a strong and caring community, connecting people with different experiences, values and interests to produce an excellent legal education for students who become you, alumni.

This new publication will keep you linked with each other and your law school. You are the permanent members of the UVic Law community, and I am looking forward to meeting more of you, either through these pages or in person. Hearing your stories about your student days connects me to the history of the law school. I love learning about what the law school was like when you were here.

Meeting you is also inspirational. When I listen to what you are doing now — your careers and families, the different paths that you have taken and the diverse activities in which you are engaged — you inspire me to ensure that the law school continues to provide an outstanding legal education. Getting to know alumni (and alumni-in-training, aka students) is one of the best parts of being Dean. **N**

# Alumni Relations: Stay Connected

## ERIN HALLETT

Alumni Relations Officer  
UVic Law, University of Victoria

I joined UVic Law last April in the newly created position of Alumni Relations Officer. Since then, I have spent my time connecting with some of the Faculty's nearly 3,400 alumni. It's an exciting task and I have had the pleasure of getting to know many alumni over cups of coffee, e-mail exchanges, firm visits, LinkedIn connections, and alumni events.

Inevitably, when I meet alumni, the question I get asked is, "What do you do in your job?" Simply put, my job is to foster an ongoing relationship between you and the law school. Graduates are forever connected to the Faculty. The Faculty offers you many opportunities, from networking to professional development, and can even help you with career planning through the Law Careers Office. You can also host and hire current students in co-op and articling positions by connecting with the Law Co-op Office.

UVic Law depends on you to raise awareness of the law school and its graduates

throughout the legal community across Canada and around the world. The law school has a tradition of academic excellence that is the result of a collaborative learning environment. UVic Law looks to you to advance these founding traditions and propel the law school into the future.

Your relationship with UVic Law will change as your professional and personal life develops. The law school wants to hear about your memories, your personal and professional accomplishments, and how you wish to stay engaged with the school. As UVic Law continues to increase its social media presence with groups on LinkedIn and accounts on Twitter, we hope that it will become easier to stay connected with the Faculty.

I invite you to contact me and to share your stories. I look forward to meeting many more of you and bringing you together with both your former classmates and the law school. 📍



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**Erin Hallett**, Alumni Relations Officer.

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# Milk Man

Eyebrows were raised when Rahim Talib ('00) walked away from a promising career in corporate M&A practice at Borden Ladner Gervais LLP in 2003. But it wasn't just his departure from one of Canada's biggest law firms that surprised many: it was the direction he was taking. With no relevant experience, the class of 2000 alumnus was about to assume ownership over Meadowfresh Dairy, a tiny, old-school milk business located in Port Coquitlam.

BY JOHN LEE



**W**ith most believing he'd made a huge mistake, Rahim embarked on a journey that promised pitfalls, complications and a steep learning curve.

Almost a decade later, the reinvented company — which processes, packages and distributes niche dairy products across Western Canada — has enjoyed years of exponential growth and has increased its workforce from 9 to 47. When Talib reflects on his experience, he credits his UVic Law background as being one of the untold secrets of his business success.

Recently, we had the chance to sit down with Talib and ask him a few questions about his career choice, his experience at UVic Law, and what he has planned for the future.

**Q: Why did you make the leap from law to business?**

**A:** My father always said we had business in our blood but that we should also get an education and become professionals. It's an insurance policy — if you're educated, you'll always be self-sufficient.

**Q: But why a dairy?**

**A:** I didn't dream of being in this business! But when I saw this opportunity, I put everything I had into acquiring the company. Meadowfresh had been profitable but I had a gut feeling I could improve it — and I really felt I had to try my hand at business. The problem was I had no idea how to run a dairy and was in over my head.

**Q: What was the initial reaction to your move?**

**A:** Everyone thought I was nuts. My mother had reservations and my law firm mentor thought it wouldn't be intellectually stimulating. The worst response came from the accountants. We had an awful first year and they said we'd bought a lemon — that really pissed me off and motivated the “you know what” out of me.

**Q: What did you have to learn quickly?**

**A:** Everything! We had to build a vision for the company and then find the right people to move forward. And there were big questions around what to invest in and how to increase efficiency — I had no choice

but to learn how to deal with problems like these on the fly.

**Q: What was your biggest mistake?**

**A:** After three years, we decided to launch a retail yogurt drink — you see them all the time now. The problem was we weren't set up for retail and, crucially, we didn't have federal certification, which meant we couldn't sell outside British Columbia. It was a dumb move and we lost a lot of money on this project, but I learned a valuable, humbling lesson: focus on what you're good at and grow that.

**Q: What did you learn at UVic that has helped you run Meadowfresh?**

**A:** How to be open-minded and work hard, as well as the business-related tools of contracts and negotiation. I remember having butterflies in my first week at UVic Law, but it's been a tremendous foundation for pursuing life's challenges — it was my most valuable training ground for running this business and it gave me the confidence to make a move like this. And on a personal level, it was also an amazing three years of my life!

**Q: What were your favourite subjects?**

**A:** Contract law and tax law were great. Torts class was hard work but also fun. Property law and secured transactions were black clouds of fear for me but I ended up doing quite well by working hard. Even those areas I wasn't going to practice in were fascinating and gave me perspectives I wouldn't otherwise have. I also really appreciated the collaborative and supportive approach encouraged by the school.

**Q: What is the value of staying connected to UVic Law alumni?**

**A:** The connections I made during my time at UVic are a special bond. I'm now linked to some amazingly talented people around the world.

**Q: What advice would you give a new UVic Law graduate?**

**A:** First, I would congratulate them! Then, I'd tell them to establish themselves somewhere and work very hard because the first few years are critical in developing



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**Rahim Talib** ('00), President and CEO  
Meadowfresh Dairy Corporation  
Port Coquitlam, BC  
[meadowfresh.ca](http://meadowfresh.ca)

your life and career. It's also vital to be open-minded — a legal education can open doors to many other careers.

**Q: What's next for you?**

**A:** We want to build, grow and leverage the company. We now have the ability to have a presence across the country, so perhaps multiple plants throughout Canada will be part of the future for us. And although I love this industry, I'm entrepreneurial enough to be open to additional opportunities. **N**

# Find UVic Law Alumni on LinkedIn



As many of our alumni know, the invariable passage of time coupled with the twists and turns of life can make it incredibly difficult to stay in touch with fellow law school graduates. Although there are reunions and other functions that occasionally bring alumni back together, the day-to-day demands of a professional career can make it difficult to remain up to date with former classmate as the years pass. It was the recognition of this problem that motivated the creation of the UVic Law Alumni Group on the popular social networking website LinkedIn.

For any alumni who have not yet made the transition to social media, LinkedIn is a social networking site that aims to better facilitate the processes of business networking. It's akin to Facebook for professionals. Although not as ubiquitous as Facebook, LinkedIn is the ninth most popular website in Canada and the third most popular social networking site in the world. Furthermore, it is aimed specifically at professionals who are interested in augmenting their business contacts and is, therefore, appropriate for lawyers. The UVic Law Alumni Group is our attempt to carve out a small niche within the greater LinkedIn community that is exclusively for our alumni.

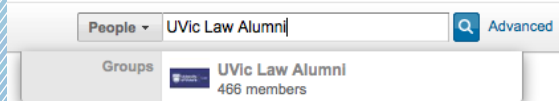
We are proud to announce that, thus far, the Group has been a terrific success with over 490 members registering from various graduating classes. Currently, there are alumni linking-in who are practicing in countries as diverse as Norway, Australia, Bermuda, the United States, the UK and Guyana. In addition, the Group has become popular as a forum for rich conversation between members. Over 50 conversation threads are presently open and discussed by various alumni. These conversations run the gamut from fun, to thought provoking and practical.

Vistas is pleased to see the interaction of so many alumni. We hope you will take the opportunity to reconnect with your UVic colleagues.

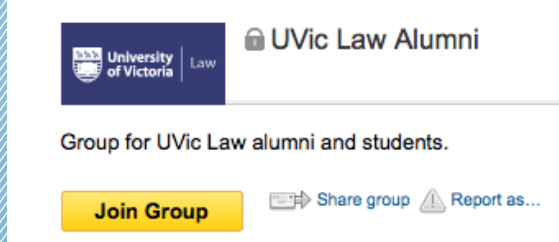
You can join the conversation by creating a LinkedIn profile and requesting to join the UVic Law Alumni Group. You'll be joining a multi-generational community of individuals united by the shared experience of having spent three great years at UVic Law.

## Join the group in two easy steps:

### Step 1: Search for UVic Law Alumni (Group).



### Step 2: Click on Join Group.




Just recently, a popular conversation thread on the LinkedIn Group focused on the conversion of LLB's to JD's, prompting the infographic on the following page.



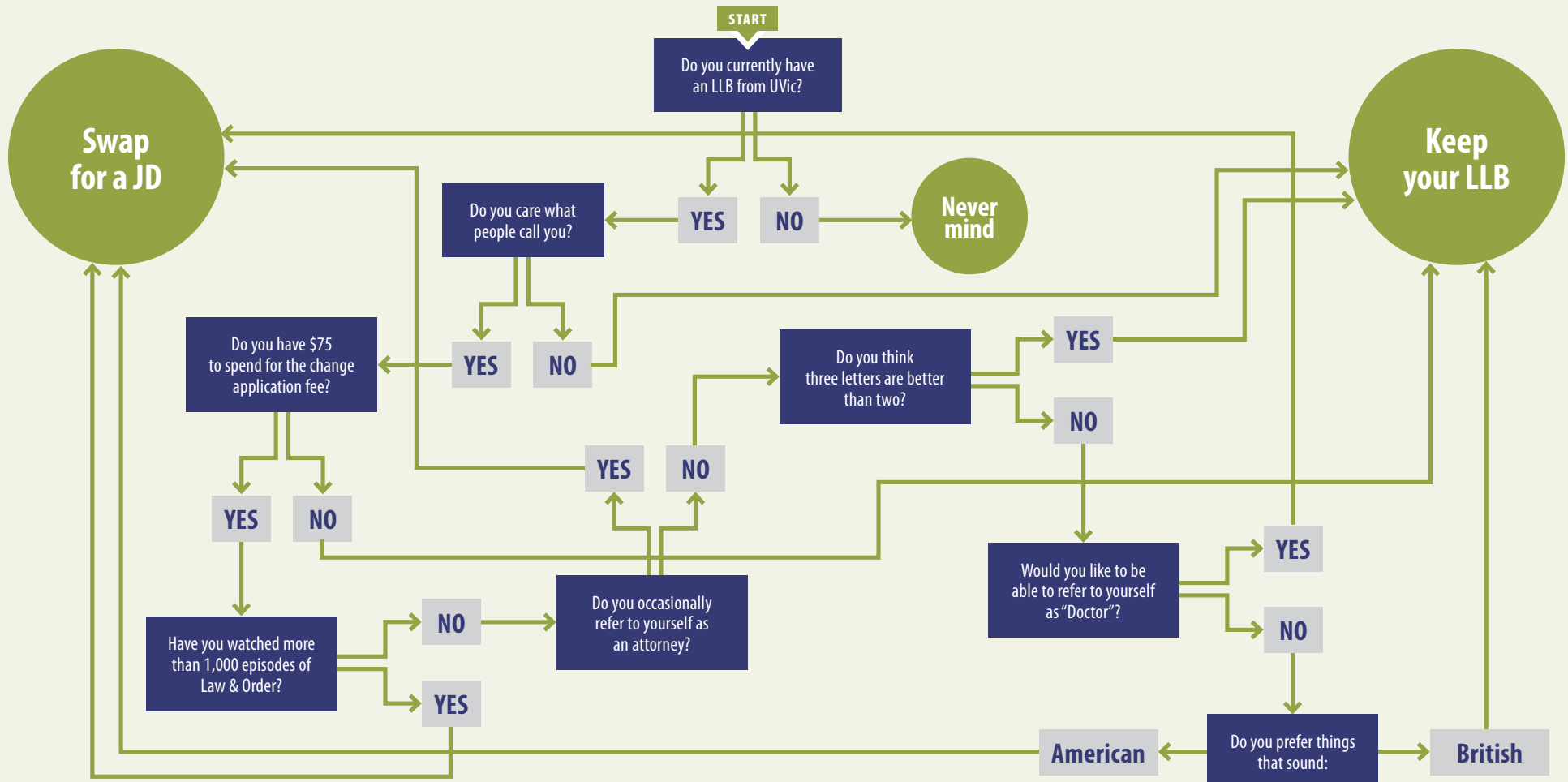
# Should You Swap Your LLB for a JD?\*

In 2010, UVic Law changed the designation of its primary law degree from LLB to JD. If you are an alumnus who holds an LLB from UVic, you can apply to change the name of your degree to Juris Doc-

tor (JD) by converting your LLB degree parchment to a JD degree parchment. Should you? Use this handy chart to help you decide. 

\* Applications for replacement parchments are handled by the Office of the Registrar and there is a fee for this service. The Registrar has posted an application form on its website (under the "Replacement Degree" heading): <http://www.registrar.uvic.ca/undergrad/convocation/convocation.html>

**Need help?**  
Email Erin Hallett at [lawalum@uvic.ca](mailto:lawalum@uvic.ca)





# Mary Mouat ('87), QC

Mary Mouat ('87), QC is every bit as accomplished as her December 2011 Queen's Counsel appointment suggests. Mary was called to the Bar in 1988, and currently has a successful law practice in Victoria that focuses exclusively on family law. She represents her clients both in and out of court, works as a mediator, and is an active member of the Victoria Collaborative Law Group.

BY ERIN HALLETT



**M**ary has an unfailing commitment to her community and the law school. She has a strong sense of social responsibility and believes in giving back to and engaging with her colleagues and neighbors.

Beginning with her involvement at the Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Centre, Mary has served on numerous boards. From 2008 to 2010, she was chair of the Board of Governors, Law Foundation of BC.

Over an Americano coffee, Mary recalls how her legal education originated not in a red-hot desire to practice law but rather an accident in timing.

**Q: Why did you decide to become a lawyer?**

**A:** "Chance, unemployment and a challenge... I didn't take a traditional path to university or law school. I graduated [from UVic] with a Bachelor of Education in 1982. After graduating, I worked in a high school as an aid and subbed, as there were no teaching jobs in Victoria. I wrote the LSAT in 1984. My older brother had told me that UVic was a good school and I wasn't likely to get in just because I applied. That statement, which of course I saw as a challenge, ensured I did. Privilege also played a part in my decision. I am Canadian, middle-class and had a family that expected success. Having an education was also an expectation in my family... Expectations are important, people either live up or down to them."

**Q: What is your most memorable UVic Law experience?**

**A:** While negotiating with professors for the use of non-gender specific language is an amusing recollection, studying in the library carrels remains a lasting memory. Mary recalls the space as having a sense of studiousness and an atmosphere that was conducive to learning. "It was like being in the zone. But you had to get out of there by the middle of November and March or the collective palpable exam anxiety, became overwhelming... I also loved the social aspect of law school — we argued about everything!"



Mary Mouat and Donna Greschner with the Dean's Cup.

UVIC PHOTO SERVICES

**Q: If you could change one thing about your UVic Law experience, what would it be?**

**A:** "I would have applied to clerk. The program was just starting in Victoria when I was in school so it wasn't well known. I also wish that there had been a co-op program as I think that is a wonderful way to learn."

**Q: What were your favourite subjects at law school?**

**A:** "Family law and, believe it or not, Tax."

**Q: Who was your favourite professor at UVic Law?**

**A:** "Maureen Maloney. She was (and is) funny, articulate, and smart. She had it together — sort of the Diana Riggs of law... Sandra McCallum, John Kilcoyne and Don Caswell were also great role models. One of my favourite teachers was Professor Bob Howell — he was an excellent teacher."

**Q: Why did you make the decision to practice law in Victoria?**

**A:** "I articled for a small firm in Sidney and when I didn't get hired after articling, I didn't plan to practice law. Then Donna Iverson [Victoria lawyer] needed someone for two months. I thought I was going to hate practice and even worse, I thought I wouldn't be any good at it. Donna was and is an excellent example for a young lawyer. She has a great work ethic, wonderful

client management skills and high expectations of herself. This inspires the best in others."

**Q: What are some of the challenges you have faced?**

**A:** "For the first four to five years, I worked my ass off — and in retrospect, know that working hard pays off. It helps you get better faster. Law students going into private practice need to understand that they are small business owners. That means you are responsible for everything from insurance to advertising, paying your staff, and advising clients. My partners and I have always tried to run our business by asking how we would want to be treated. The high road is not always the easiest and at the end of the day, you always want to have acted with integrity."

**Q: How else is your legal education valuable to your daily life?**

**A:** "It's taught me how to communicate with all different types of people. My default communication style is not logical and my legal training has helped me present things more logically (sometimes, according to my business partner!)"

**Q: What do you love most about being a lawyer?**

**A:** "Freedom."

**Q: If you had one wish for the future of the legal profession, what would it be?**

**A:** "I worry that the profession is losing young people and particularly women. For the first five to six years of private practice, when you are building your practice, there is no work life balance. It only comes after you develop professionally. This reality can be particularly difficult for women who are, given their age, wanting to have children. I didn't have my own children and made the time necessary to build a practice. Once women leave the profession, they seem reluctant to return. I think the secret to having balance for women is to have a quarter-time practice option. Young female lawyers — actually all young lawyers — need networks and formal and informal mentoring relationships. The profession has to find ways that allow new lawyers to meet their potential."



**Q: What is your proudest accomplishment?**

**A:** “I’ve received lots of gifts in my career and the two recent ones, the Dean’s Cup [Mary was awarded the 2011 Dean’s Cup] and Queen’s Counsel appointment are something to be proud of and I’m grateful for receiving them... Being a part of the Law Foundation was also an incredible gift. And I couldn’t do what I do or what I have done — I couldn’t say yes to so many opportunities — without the partner I have in law and the partner I have in life. Loving relationships — be it with parents, grandparents, friends, or partners — are the foundation of life. I think my proudest accomplishment is that I am still married to the same person whom I lived with in law school, Don Miller, and have been business partners with Colin Robinson for 22 years.”

**Q: What has been the most difficult thing to achieve?**

**A:** “Balance, in all senses... I had a moment in my life when it seemed easier to go back to work than it did to be at home. When you have that moment, you know you need more balance. Find something that fits you, whatever it is. Developing my artistic side has been fundamental in finding balance. Finding balance is a dance, sometimes we stumble and sometimes we move with grace. A lot of that comes from, and requires, practice.”

**Q: What is your advice to new graduates?**

**A:** “Initially, private practice requires longer and harder hours than you want to work but it does pay off. Do it long enough to be good at it before you decide if you like it or not. Find a support network and make time to have holidays. The first few years are lonely. At the end of your first five years, your perspective will be different. But if you are unhappy, for God’s sake do something else. Don’t let fear define you. You can do anything with a law degree and do not have to be trapped in a job you hate.”

**Q: Why do you think it is important for UVic Law alumni to stay connected to the Faculty?**

**A:** “When you first graduate, you need to stay connected for support. It’s akin to ‘leaving home’ support.

The faculty provides you with professional safety and connections, such as the Careers Office and the Co-op Office. As your career progresses, your support group, your safety net, comes from your professional colleagues. As you gain confidence and expertise, it is time for you to ask the law school how you can help. Get involved in mentoring opportunities and sessional teaching. At the end of the day, your grave stone isn’t going to say ‘she worked 80 hours a week’ and to get to be ‘loving wife, good friend and strong supporter of the community’ takes work, and work is always easier with friends.” **N**

**2012 Dean’s Cup Winner: Don MacDonald (’80)**

In the next issue of *Vistas*, we will be profiling 2012 Dean’s cup winner **Don MacDonald** (80). Don is a senior partner at Bordner Ladner Gervais LLP (BLG) in Vancouver and works in the areas of commercial litigation, municipal law and expropriations. To learn more about Don’s contributions to UVic Law and his experiences in the legal profession, make sure to check your inbox for the next edition of *Vistas*.



**Don MacDonald** (’80) at the 2012 Dean’s Cup Event.

# Let Alumni Relations Help Plan Your Reunion

**R**eunions are an opportunity to rediscover your UVic Law experience and to reconnect with your former classmates.

Alumni Relations wants to be a part of your reunion planning experience. Whether your class chooses to reconnect at the law school or in the city that is home to the majority of your classmates, Alumni Relations is here to provide support. Possible ideas for reunion events include pub nights, law school and law library tours, panel discussions with notable alumni and receptions with favourite Faculty members.

Alumni Relations can help coordinate your reunion by identifying your classmates, offering event planning support, providing archival materials and mementos, publicizing your reunion in alumni communications and on the UVic Law website. Alumni Relations can also help your class apply for a grant of up to \$1,000 through the university’s central Alumni Relations branch to contribute towards the cost of your reunion.

For assistance in planning your reunion, contact Erin Hallett, Alumni Relations Officer at [lawalum@uvic.ca](mailto:lawalum@uvic.ca) or 250.853.3518. **N**

## 2012 Reunion Years

- 1982 – 30 year
- 1987 – 25 year
- 1992 – 20 year
- 1997 – 15 year
- 2002 – 10 year

## 2013 Reunion Years

- 1983 – 30 year
- 1988 – 25 year
- 1993 – 20 year
- 1998 – 15 year
- 2003 – 10 year



# REAL BC: Small Communities, Big Opportunities

**A**lumni practicing in smaller communities know that there is something uniquely engaging about practicing law in rural Canada. However, in a 2011 survey of British Columbian law students, 70% of those surveyed indicated that they intended to practice in the metro Vancouver area. This is alarming considering the diverse legal needs of rural BC and the aging population of legal practitioners in small BC communities.

The issue is being addressed proactively via the Canadian Bar Association's REAL BC Initiative — an initiative jointly funded by contributions from the Law Foundation of BC, the Law Society of BC, and the Canadian Bar Association (BC Branch). REAL stands for Rural Education and Access to Lawyers. Its goal is to live up to its name, by facilitating the involvement of law students in established rural and suburban BC law firms. Further, REAL hopes to support lawyers practicing in settings beyond downtown Vancouver and open doors for young lawyers interested in seizing the exciting opportunities that exist in the under-served areas of the province.




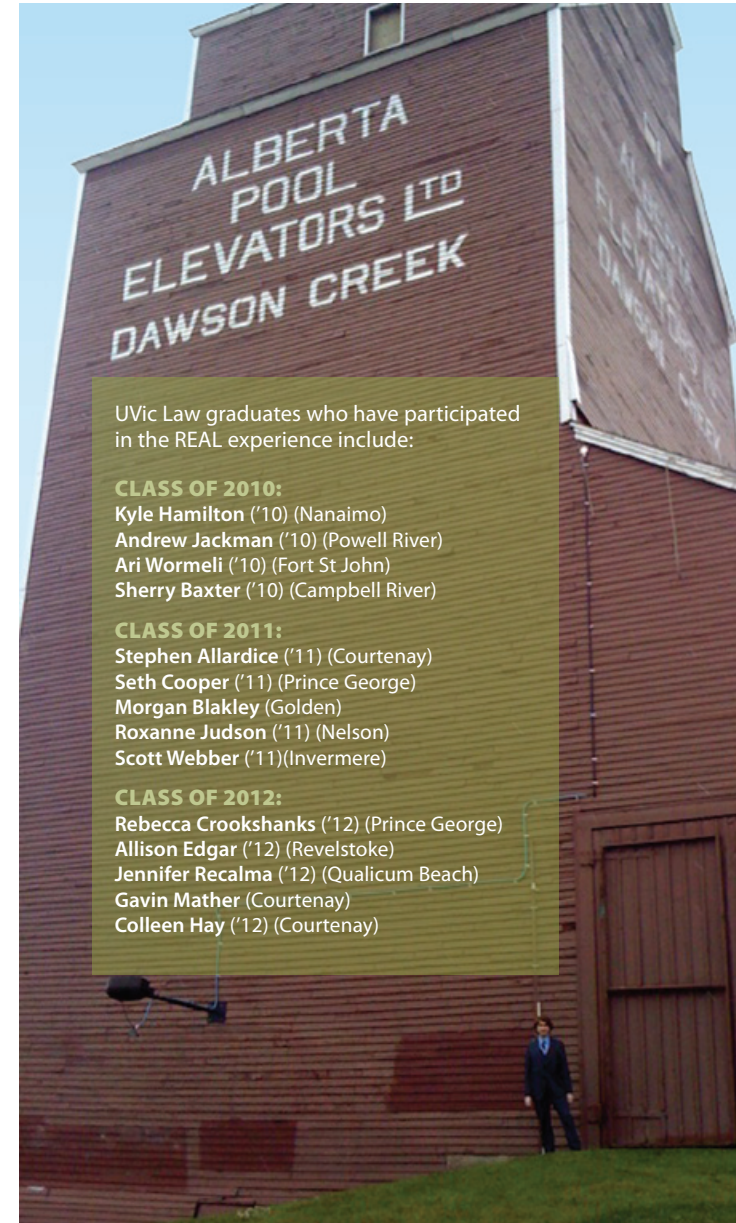
Ari Wormeli ('10).

“REAL has a history of successfully funding second year law students student summer placements. Funding is provided to either partially or fully cover the students summer salary depending on the specific needs of the firm and the region that firm represents.”

REAL focuses its resources on four key measures intended to better enable rural firms and interested law students to find one another. The first is the funding of second year summer student placements in small communities throughout British Columbia. The second is educational and promotional support to market rural regions to law students and new lawyers. The third is the Regional Legal Careers Officer's support for students interested in practicing in rural communities. The fourth is providing professional support to law firms and practitioners with recruiting, hiring and retaining students and new lawyers in rural and small communities.

Now in its fourth year, REAL has a history of successfully funding second year law student summer placements. Funding is provided to either partially or fully cover the student's summer salary depending on the specific need of the firm and the region that the firm represents. REAL works closely with firms and students throughout the summer placements and aims to create lasting connections.

To take part, interested UVic Law alumni may contact the Regional Legal Careers Officer, Michael Jakeman at [realbc@bccba.org](mailto:realbc@bccba.org) or 250-580-2829. 



# Building Blocks: News from the Development Office



**KRISTA SHEPPARD**  
Development Officer  
UVic Law, University of Victoria

**A**lumni and friends support UVic Law in a myriad of ways. Recently, the Faculty has received a number of generous gifts from alumni and friends. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their support.

## BENNETT JONES LLP, CALGARY

UVic Law alumni who work at Bennett Jones have established a new endowed scholarship: the **Bennett Jones LLP Alumni Entrance Scholarship**. The scholarship will be awarded for the first time in the 2012-2013 academic year to students entering UVic Law with high academic standing.

When asked about the impetus behind the gift, partner **Jason Roth** ('99) said that the alumni thought

it was time they gave back to their alma mater. "We want to help the law school continue to attract the best students and we thought the entrance scholarship was an effective way to assist UVic," says Jason.

## GREG NASH ('81)

UVic Law would also like to thank **Greg Nash** ('81) of **Nash & Company** in Vancouver, who has established named endowments supporting scholarships and bursaries including the **Nash & Company Entrance Scholarship**.



**Greg Nash** ('81).

## RON WIGHAM ('81)

The largest single donation from an alumnus in the school's history was recently received from **Ron Wigham** ('81), who donated over \$100,000 to the law school.

The gift will be used to match the contributions of alumni and friends who establish new endowed entrance scholarships at the law school. With 1:1 matching money already available thanks to the Law Foundation of British Columbia, new endowment contributions for entrance scholarships will now be quadrupled because of Ron's generous gift.

## MCCARTHY TÉTRAULT LLP MOOTING FELLOWS INITIATIVE LAUNCHED WITH \$105,000 GIFT

UVic Law is pleased to announce a gift of \$105,000 for its oral advocacy and moot program from **McCarthy Tétrault LLP**.

The funding will support a number of **McCarthy Tétrault LLP Mooting Fellows**, who will take a lead role in organizing the Faculty's moot program over three years. The Fellows will provide support and training in oral advocacy to students in moot competitions. As well, lawyers from **McCarthy Tétrault** will assist the law school's moot teams, join classes as guest speakers and act as mentors to students engaged in moot.

"We're delighted to be working alongside UVic Law in the Mooting Fellows program," says **Herman Van Ommen** ('84), partner and Co-Chair of **McCarthy**



**Colin Perry** ('98), **Kelsey Drozdowski** ('02), **Deirdre Sheehan** ('01), and **Jason Roth** ('99).



**Herman Van Ommen** ('84), **Morgan Camley** (Queen's '05), Friend of UVic, and **Matthew Peters** ('94).





**Tétrault's** Recruiting Committee. "Our lawyers look forward to supporting UVic law students in developing their advocacy skills and in their mooting initiatives."


"Students will benefit greatly from **McCarthy Tétrault's** vision in helping us create the Mooting Fellows initiative," says Dean Donna Greschner. "Moots enhance the legal skills of our students and prepare them for a wide variety of careers."

Students at UVic Law successfully compete in annual regional, national and international mooting competitions. In 2011, the UVic team was named the top Canadian team at the Philip C. Jessup International Moot.

**McCarthy Tétrault** has been a dedicated supporter of UVic Law for many years. The **McCarthy Tétrault Mooting Fellows** program reflects the firm's ongoing commitment to excellence and innovation in legal education.

## 2011 UVIC LAW DONOR ROLL

A full listing of our wonderful supporters in 2011 can be viewed on the (newly available!) online Donor Roll: <http://law.uvic.ca/alumni/supporting/documents/FacultyofLawDonorRoll2011.pdf>

For more information about giving back to UVic Law, contact Krista Sheppard, Development Officer, UVic Law at [lawdev@uvic.ca](mailto:lawdev@uvic.ca) or 250.472.5627. 

## Sound Bytes

**O**n February 20, 2012, the **Honourable Justice Thomas Cromwell** spoke about "Access to Justice" at this year's F. Murray Fraser Lecture in Professional Responsibility. The lecture is named in honour of the law school's founding Dean. Following his speech, Justice Cromwell presented the 2012 Ann Roberts Humanitarian Award to UVic Law student **Julie DeWolf** ('13). He also visited several classes and met with students in clinical programs. The Honourable Justice Thomas Cromwell was appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada in 2008, after spending 11 years on the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal.

**B**oth UVic Law men's and women's student teams defeated the UBC Law teams in rugby matches for the Slaughter Cup. The Slaughter Cup began in 1985, with a victorious UVic team that included **Jay Thompson** ('85), **Clarence DeBelle** ('85), current law prof **Chris Tollefson** ('85) and the late Lieutenant Commander **John Slaughter** ('85), in whose memory the Cup is named. After a decade-long hiatus, the Slaughter Cup tradition was revived in 2011 by **Trevor Cunningham** ('12), a gifted rugby player who coached and led the men's team in 2011 and helped organize the first women's match in 2012.

**U**Vic Law students won the People's Choice Award in the world's first Twitter Moot, which took place on February 21, 2012 and was organized by West Coast Environmental Law. By taking part in the Twitter Moot, second year UVic Law students **Jenn Cameron** ('13) and **Mathew Nefstead** ('13) proved that the formalities of court can exist in the most contemporary of mediums. Although we might be centuries away from actual cases being tried in the Twittersphere, the Twitter Moot provided insight into how traditional legal debate can interface with the modern world of social media. Nefstead and Cameron were tasked with arguing on behalf of the Province of British Columbia in the environmental case, *West Moberly First Nations v. British Columbia*, and competed against four other teams hailing from UBC, Osgoode, Dalhousie, and the University of Ottawa.



# Alumni Vistas: News and Updates

## The 1970's

**Jack Woodward ('79)** was appointed QC in December 2011. Jack is a leading Aboriginal law lawyer and the author of *Native Law* (Carswell, 1989), the leading text on native law in Canada. In practice since 1979, Jack was an instructor and adjunct professor of native law at UVic for close to two decades. He founded the Victoria firm Woodward & Company LLP in 1988 and practices there today.

## The 1980's

**Lorne Carson ('80)** received a listing in *Expert Lawyers* in October 2011 in the areas of banking and financial institutions and project finance. Lorne is a partner practicing in the Business Law Department at Osler Hoskin & Harcourt LLP (Calgary).



**Robert Lapper ('81), QC,** was appointed CEO of The Law Society of Upper Canada effective February 1, 2012. Prior to Rob's appointment, he was Deputy Minister of Labour for the province of British Columbia. Rob also served as the Assistant Deputy Attorney General for seven years.

## The 1980's

**Kim Pullen ('81)** is the proprietor of Church & State Wines with wineries in Oliver and Brentwood Bay, British Columbia. Church & State's 2009 Coyote Bowl Syrah was recently awarded the Red Wine of the Year at the Wine Access, Canadian Wine Awards.

**The Honourable Chief Judge Thomas (Tom) Crabtree ('83)** was recognized for his professional achievements and leadership at UVic's Distinguished Alumni Awards during the University's annual Alumni Week in February. Tom was appointed Chief Judge of the Provincial Court of British Columbia on April 8, 2010, for a term of 5 years.



**Allan Seckel ('83), QC,** was appointed CEO of the British Columbia Medical Association (BCMA) in October 2011. Prior to his appointment, Allan was Deputy Minister to the Premier of BC and Deputy Attorney General.

**Brad Caldwell ('84)** was appointed to the Transportation Appeal Board in February 2011. Brad works as a sole practitioner in Vancouver and focuses on maritime and fisheries litigation, aboriginal litigation and general commercial litigation.

## The 1980's

**Terence Wright ('84)** was appointed as a BC Provincial Court judge in February 2012 and serves in Smithers. Terence was born in Terrace and practiced law in his home community for over 25 years. He focused on criminal, family and civil litigation as an associate with Warner Bandstra Brown.

**Ronald James Herperger ('85), QC,** was appointed QC in December 2011. Robert practises wills, estates and trusts at FH & P Lawyers LLP in Kamloops.

**The Honourable Marion Ruth Buller Bennett ('87)** was recognized for her professional achievements and leadership at UVic's Distinguished Alumni Awards during the University's annual Alumni Week in February. Marion is the first First Nations woman to be appointed to the Bench at any level in British Columbia.



**Susan Mehinagic ('87)** was appointed Chair of the Board of Governors of the University of Victoria in August 2011. Susan has been on the Board of Directors of the Queen Alexandra foundation since July 2007 and was recently made a member of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Internet Registration Authority.





## The 1980's

**Mary Mouat ('87), QC**, was appointed QC in December 2011. Mary is a family law practitioner with the Quadra Legal Centre in Victoria.



**Rita Andreone ('88), QC**, was appointed QC in December 2011. Rita is a Law Society bencher and a partner and senior corporate, commercial solicitor with Lawson Lundell LLP in Vancouver. She is also a founding member of the firm's Northwest Territories' office.

**Mary-Ethel Audley ('89)** is proud to have a daughter in 4th year Mechanical Engineering at UVic. Mary-Ethel works for the Ministry of Transportation and teaches part-time at Royal Roads University.

## The 1990's

**Bruce Jordan ('93)** owns Sea Cider Farm and Ciderhouse ([seacider.ca](http://seacider.ca)) on the Saanich Peninsula with his wife, Kristen Jordan, a former international development aid worker. Sea Cider is a traditional, artisan ciderhouse that sells its products to more than 100 establishments and retailers on

## The 1990's

Vancouver Island and the mainland. Bruce and Kristen embrace a business philosophy of sociability, sustainability and community involvement.

**Joanna Harrington ('94)** began a three-year term as Chair of the Alberta Press Council in September 2011. Joanna is a professor at the University of Alberta's Faculty of Law.



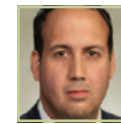
**John Currie ('95)** received a listing in *Lexpert Lawyers* in October 2011 in the areas of property development and project finance. John is a partner in the Real Property & Planning Group at McCarthy Tétrault LLP (Toronto).

**Georald Ingborg ('97)**, a partner with Fasken Martineau (Vancouver) Securities and M&A practice, was named one of "Canada's Rising Stars — Leading Lawyers Under 40" by *Lexpert* magazine. Georald made partner at 33 and recently advised BHP Billiton Canada on its acquisition of Athabasca Potash for \$331 million. Georald is an active member of the firm's Student Committee, acts as a mentor for students and associates, and volunteers with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.



## The 1990's

**Sunil Joneja ('97)** was made a partner at Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP (Calgary) in May 2011. Sunil practices in the financial services group at Gowlings and acts for both lenders and borrowers on bilateral and syndicated lending transactions with a particular focus on the energy industry.



**Shafique Mohammed ('97)** established his own law firm, Dominion Law Group, in March 2011. The firm focuses on personal injury and is located in Surrey, BC.

**Carlos MacDonald ('98)** was recently appointed Registrar of the Victoria Land Titles Office. The Land Title and Survey Authority of British Columbia (LTSA) is a statutory corporation formed in 2005 responsible for administering the land title and survey systems of BC.

**Kay Melbye ('98)**, a partner with the Victoria law firm Brown Henderson Melbye, is the 2012 president of the Victoria Bar Association.



## The 2000's (on next page)

## The 2000's

**Liza Chamzuk ('00)** was made a partner at Lawson Lundell LLP in February 2012. Liza practices in the area of pension and employee benefits and advises boards of trustees and other sponsors of pension and employee benefit plans.



**Christine Kowbel ('00)** was made a partner at Lawson Lundell LLP in February 2012. Christine practices environmental and aboriginal law and provides advice in respect to project development, environmental assessment, permitting, operational matters and acquisition and sale of industrial projects.



**Jennifer Woznesensky ('01)** was made a partner at Harper Grey LLP in February 2011. Jennifer is the assistant chair of Harper Grey's insurance group and has spent most of her career focusing on complex bodily injury claims.



**Jennifer Spencer ('02)**, a partner with Miller Thomson's Vancouver office, was named one of Canada's Leading Lawyers Under 40 by *Expert* magazine. She has also received Pro Bono Law of BC's Lawyer of the Year Award.



**Karrie Wolfe ('04)** recently designed the lighting for Langham Court Theatre's revival of *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Karrie practices with the provincial Attorney General's office, focusing on constitutional and administrative law.

**Lindsay LeBlanc ('05)** was appointed to the Board of Governors of the University of Victoria in November 2011. Lindsay is a former treasurer of the CBA Young Lawyers, Victoria Subsection and former president and treasurer of the University of Victoria Native Law Students Association.

**Jennifer Smith ('08), LLM**, received her LLM from UVic Law in October 2011. Her thesis was titled *Sustainable Governance in Voluntary Forest Carbon Standards*.



**Christina Spence Proteau ('08)** qualified for the 2011 US Women's Open after winning the BC Amateur title in May 2011. Proteau was born and raised in Port Alberni and learned to play golf at the Alberni Golf Course. She is one of 25 amateurs to have qualified for the tournament.

**Christopher Mackie ('08)** a Victoria defence lawyer, will appear in Blue Bridge Repertory Theatre's upcoming productions of *Of Mice & Men* and *Little Shop of Horrors*. For tickets visit [bluebridgetheatre.ca](http://bluebridgetheatre.ca). Christopher was a professional actor before attending law school in 2004.

**Harpreet Nirwan ('09)** joined the Surrey Office of Nordel Law Group in February 2011 where he works as a general litigator.



**Nancy Sandy ('11), LLM**, recently received her LLM from UVic Law. Her thesis was titled *Reviving Secwepemc Child Welfare Jurisdiction*.



**Jessica Vliegenthart ('11)** will represent Canada in the upcoming London 2012 summer Olympics as a member of the women's wheelchair basketball team.



**Nguyen Van Cuong ('11)** completed his PhD at UVic Law in July 2011 and was appointed Deputy Director of the Institute of Legal Sciences, Ministry of Justice of Vietnam in January 2012.

## In Memoriam

### **Norma Shier ('85), October 1, 2011**

Born and raised in Colonsay, Saskatchewan, Norma attended the University of Saskatchewan before pursuing a law degree at UVic. Norma first practiced law in Whitehorse, becoming partner with Cable Veal Austring Kilpatrick and then established her own practice. Norma was the Yukon's National Representative to the CBA and a member of the Gender Equity Committee for the Law Society of Saskatchewan. She returned to Saskatoon in 2002 and worked first for the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission and finally as a mediator for Corrections Canada.



# 10 Ways to Stay Connected (or Reconnect)



**1** Update your contact information. Send your address, employment, name changes and e-mail to Erin Hallett, Alumni Relations Officer at [lawalum@uvic.ca](mailto:lawalum@uvic.ca) or 250.853.3518.

**2** Volunteer to speak with current students about your career and your experience as a UVic Law graduate.

**3** Volunteer to organize your Class Reunion. 2012 reunions include **1982** (30 year), **1987** (25 year), **1992** (20 year), **1997** (15 year) and **2002** (10 year). Upcoming 2013 reunions: **1983** (30 year), **1988** (25 year), **1993** (20 year), **1998** (15 year) and **2003** (10 year).

**4** Share your professional achievements and personal milestones with the law school. They will be featured in an upcoming edition of *Vistas*.

**5** Join the UVic Law Alumni Group on LinkedIn. Invite your former classmates to join the group, participate in discussions and post your own discussion items.

**6** Contact the Law Careers Office and let them know about employment opportunities in your area or at your law firm. Contact Alison Cowan ('06) or Stephanie Mitchell ('05), Law Careers Officers at [lco@uvic.ca](mailto:lco@uvic.ca) or 250.472.4719 for further information.

**7** Contact the Law Co-op Office and hire a Co-op student. You can also volunteer to share your experience as a Law Co-op student with current students. Contact Francine Proctor ('01), Law Co-op Coordinator at [lawcoop@uvic.ca](mailto:lawcoop@uvic.ca) or 250.721.8196.

**8** Start a UVic Law Alumni Group in your hometown.

**9** Work with other alumni at your office to establish an Alumni Scholarship or Bursary.

**10** Submit an idea for an article for a future issue of UVic Law's *Vistas*.



# The Long View: Clerking at the Supreme Court of Canada

For law students, few things are as prestigious as being invited to clerk at the Supreme Court of Canada. Each year, law students from across the country apply for the coveted opportunity of working with one of the nine Justices. Despite stiff competition from the various schools across the nation, UVic Law is proud to have produced more than thirty Supreme Court of Canada clerks. This tradition will continue as three graduates and another soon-to-be graduate of UVic Law, **Emily Lapper** ('10), **Brian Bird** ('11), **Mila Shah** ('12) and **Jessica Gagne** ('13) respectively, will be heading to Ottawa over the next two years.

“I am most excited about the opportunity to work with and learn from Canada’s top legal minds — including both the Justices and the other clerks.”

—MILA SHAH ('12)

Emily graduated from UVic Law in 2010 as a star student and has spent her time away from UVic working as an associate in the Dispute Resolution and Litigation Group at Bull Housser Tupper LLP. Emily already has some experience clerking for the British Columbia Court of Appeal.

Brian, who graduated in 2011 and was the recipient of numerous scholarships and accolades, believes that the time he spent at the University of Victo-



Emily Lapper ('10).

## UVic Alumni who have clerked at the Supreme Court of Canada

### 1970s

Wendy Rubin, QC ('78)

### 1980s

R. Vick Farley, QC ('80)

Sheridan Scott ('81)

William Murphy-Dyson ('82)

Lauri Ann Fenion ('83)

Martha O'Brien ('84)

Peter Behie, QC ('85)

Ron Skolrood ('86)

Frank Falzon, QC ('87)

Freya Kristjanson's ('87)

Sandra Foweraker ('88)

Nicola Marotz ('88)

Lori Price ('88)

### 1990s

Neena Sharma ('90)

Donna Jordan ('91)

Lori Assheton-Smith ('93)

Karen Moore ('94)

Richard Cameron ('97)

Denise Oliver ('97)

Rob Dean ('98)

Paul Guthrie ('98)

Roy Millen ('99)

Brock Martland ('99)

### 2000s

Jay Nelson ('00)

Jeff Van Hinte ('01)

Ben Berger ('02)

Morgana Kellythorne ('03)

Rajwant Mangat ('03)

Michael Medeiros ('04)

Madeleine Redfern ('05)

Jeanette Ettel ('05)

Devyn Cousineau ('06)

Jennifer Bond ('06)

Christine Joseph ('07)

Joana Thackeray ('08)





**“I’m looking forward to the intellectual challenge, the hard work, the chance to delve deep into some of the key legal issues affecting Canada and getting a behind-the-scenes look at how the Supreme Court of Canada functions.”**

—JESSICA GAGNE ('13)

ria will greatly inform his experience in Ottawa. “I am grateful that I had the opportunity to take a variety of courses at UVic Law from fantastic professors,” says Bird. “I am certain that the holistic legal education that I received at UVic has helped prepare me for my clerkship at the Supreme Court.”

Mila, who graduates in 2012 as the gold medalist, is quick to point out that a portion of her success can be credited to UVic Law stating, “I can attribute many of my achievements to the support of the faculty, the staff, and my peers.” When asked about what she is most looking forward to Mila replies, “I am



**Brian Bird** ('11).

most excited about the opportunity to work with and learn from Canada’s top legal minds - including both the Justices and the other clerks,” adding, “I am also looking forward to being exposed to cutting-edge legal issues and learning about a wide variety of legal areas.”

Jessica, a stellar student, couldn’t agree more with Mila and mentions that she’s “looking forward to the intellectual challenge, the hard work, the chance to



**Mila Shah** ('12) and **Jessica Gagne** ('13).

delve deep into some of the key legal issues affecting Canada and getting a behind-the-scenes look at how the Supreme Court of Canada functions.”

Candidates for Supreme Court Clerkships are selected based on a combination of criteria including: letters of recommendation, academic background, language skills and legal and personal experience. The clerkships last for one year and require that new graduates research points of law, prepare memoranda of law, and generally assist Supreme Court Justices in the

**“I am grateful that I had the opportunity to take a variety of courses at UVic Law from fantastic professors.”**

—BRIAN BIRD ('11)

work of the Court.

The best of luck to Emily, Brian, Mila and Jessica on having secured such a rare opportunity to strengthen their legal education. **N**

# Share your Vistas

Vistas is always interested in receiving story ideas from UVic Law alumni. Although we are unable to guarantee the inclusion of materials that are sent to us, we are deeply interested in shining a spotlight on the stories that you, the alumni, care about.

If you know of a UVic Law graduate who could be profiled or have other interesting story ideas or materials worth highlighting, please feel free to contact us at [lawalum@uvic.ca](mailto:lawalum@uvic.ca).

## Errors? Omissions?

*If you spot something incorrect in Vistas please accept our apologies. If you send the corrected information to [lawalum@uvic.ca](mailto:lawalum@uvic.ca) we will happily publish the correction in the next issue of Vistas due out in November 2012.*



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