

Introducing You to the New Dean of the Faculty of Law: Iain Scott

By *Alexandra
Papaiconomou*

As many of you already know, Western Law has recently undergone a major change. Dean Ian Holloway's term at Western ended at the end of the last academic year, after which point he assumed the position of Dean of Law at the University of Calgary. That left a vacancy at Western law that has now been filled by Dean Iain Scott.

Dean Scott was born in Parry Sound Ontario. He completed his undergraduate degree in Political Science at Yale University. He then attended Queen's University to complete his LLB. While attending Law school, Dean Scott was unsure as to his career path; he was uncertain as to whether he would practice law. What he was sure of was that he was going to be involved in the corporate world as he was highly interested in business.

While articling at a firm in Toronto, Dean Scott decided that practicing law was the right fit for him. He worked as a corporate commercial lawyer for the firm of Tilley, Carson and Findlay until 1988 when that firm consolidated with the firm now known as McCarthy Tetrault LLP. At that point, many smaller firms consolidated with larger firms as the corporate clientele wished to work with firms that offered a wider range of legal services than the smaller firms could provide to them, particularly litigation and tax support. In his practice, Scott was involved with banking, mergers and acquisitions, and other corporate commercial ventures. He was the Chief Executive at McCarthy Tetrault until 2010.

Dean Scott continued working as a Corporate Commercial lawyer for McCarthy Tetrault until his retirement earlier this year. He was not prepared to stop working, but did not have academia in mind as his next career pursuit. What appealed to him about the position of



“What appealed to him about the position of Dean at Western Law was the opportunity to further the international contributions that this University and program can make in terms of academics and other contributions that lawyers are uniquely qualified to make.”

Dean at Western Law was the opportunity to further the international contributions that this University and program can make in terms of academics and other contributions that lawyers are uniquely qualified to make. He views those contributions as vital for our Law program to maintain and improve its standing on the world stage.

In terms of his vision for Western under his direction, Dean Scott would like Western Law to become a destination of choice for both faculty, staff, and students. He views this as an opportunity for Western Law to raise the stakes, and to increase our profile in the world. For that to occur, our faculty will need to be promoted, new faculty will need to be attracted to Western Law, money will need to be raised, and the curriculum will need to be reviewed. In terms of the curriculum, Dean Scott would like, amongst several other things, to include leadership skills and client and project management skills as part of the program.

Dean Scott would like to wish all students well in their academic pursuits, but would also like to remind us that we should feel privileged to be receiving the education and opportunities that are offered to us at Western Law. He reminds us that that privilege is accompanied with a responsibility to conduct ourselves as professionals and to give something back to our communities, if not the world. He would like to see us improve the world around us since we have been uniquely placed in a position to make positive change in other's lives.

I am certain that I speak for all students, staff, and faculty when I extend our warmest welcome to Dean Scott, and wish him great success in his tenure as our Dean. I imagine that we are all looking forward to the new directions that Western Law will take under his leadership. ♦

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London Has Changed

By: Adam Richardson

Much has occurred over the summer in the City of London. Before students settle in, they should know what changed in their city this past summer. The main changes occurred in the areas of construction, finance, and sports. Each of these developments have produced positive and negative results for the year.

At the University, the Richard Ivey School of Business essentially completed 'Phase 1' of their new \$80 million building. They will be putting the finishing touches on the building throughout the fall term. There was additional construction off-campus as well, with the City of London spending \$11.5 million to widen the century-old Canadian Pacific Railway Bridge along Sarnia Road. The City has also invested heavily in green energy. London is constructing a \$20 million biomass plant on Green Valley Road called Harvest Plant. It will be able to power 1,500 homes and handle 60,000 tonnes of food waste a year.

Unfortunately, construction is still in full force across the city under the 'Renew London' program. This program essentially employs workers to repair

water mains, sewers, roads, and curbs throughout the city. With 34 active projects and 38 upcoming projects, traffic will be as congested as ever. The good news is that the water main replacement program will help conserve energy in the future.

Much investment in the City of London occurred over the summer. There is a new partnership between UWO, the City of London, non-for-profit organizations, and local industries to produce a global-leading site for water treatment technology. The goal is to create new market opportunities in Southern Ontario. \$20 million will be spent throughout London, Waterloo, Guelph, Hamilton, and Toronto areas to make this happen.

Investments into academics on campus were also made. UWO is receiving \$2.9 million in research grants for the study of fatal neurodegenerative disorders, such as Alzheimer's. The University will be one of nine universities to share this grant. Also, the Physical Plant formally changed its name to Facilities Management on July 1st, reflecting a change in the focus of their services.

While there was substantial investment in the City over the summer, there were also some budgetary setbacks that hopefully will not impact student life too much.



London City Hall

Photo Courtesy of Ruth-Anne Avruskin

Due to a change in Canadian accounting standards, the City of London and Western Fair stand to lose millions in slot-machine revenue next year. This real loss will hopefully not impact too greatly upon public services enjoyed by the student body.

As for sports, Hollywood has returned to London with the signing of Max Domi

to the London Knights. Max Domi, son of Toronto Maple Leaf's Tie Domi, is the new star centre and should produce a more successful season for the Knights than last year, when they finished eighth.

These are just some of the changes which students coming back to London should be informed of. ♦

University Of Western Ontario Law Finds Student Animal Legal Defense Fund Chapter

Group Becomes the 172nd Law School Chapter Working to Promote Field of Animal Law under Auspices of the Non-Profit Animal Legal Defense Fund

For immediate release:
September 1, 2011

London, ON – University of Western Ontario Law School has partnered with the Animal Legal Defense Fund to create a student chapter of the national non-profit group, whose mission is to protect the lives and advance the interests of animals through the legal system. With the Animal Legal Defense Fund's support, students at the school's new chapter will join the ranks of hundreds of other student chapter members nationwide, taking on projects such as: advocating for the addition of animal law courses to curriculums; hosting speakers, debates, panels, and conferences; writing law review articles for journals dedicated to animal law; tabling on campus to raise awareness about animal issues; and volunteering to do legal research and writing for local law firms.

In 2000, only nine law schools offered courses in animal law; today, the list has grown to over 125. The first Student Animal Legal Defense Fund (SALDF) chapter was established in 1992 at Lewis & Clark Law School; 15 years later, there are more than 170 chapters at law schools throughout the U.S. and Canada, at top

schools including Yale, Harvard, Stanford, NYU, and Northwestern. Students interested in joining University of Western Ontario's SALDF chapter should contact chapter president Teri Muszak at tmuszak@uwo.ca.

What is animal law?

More and more law students and attorneys are looking to use their degrees to protect and advance the interests of animals, and to recognize that, despite animals' legal categorization as "property," there are special relationships between humans and animals that the law should account for. Animal law is a combination of statutory and case law in which the nature – legal, social or biological – of nonhuman animals is an important factor. Animal law encompasses companion animals, wildlife, animals used in entertainment and animals raised for food and used in research. Animal law permeates and affects most traditional areas of the law – including tort, contract, criminal and constitutional law.

"SALDF chapters are an instrumental part of a growing national movement towards recognizing the important body of law known as animal law," explains Animal Legal Defense Fund Executive Director Stephen Wells. "An SALDF chapter can be a powerful forum on campus for education and scholarship aimed at understanding this area of law and the impact it has on animals. Most importantly, SALDF chapters are in a unique position to powerfully advocate for changing laws to better protect animals."

The Animal Legal Defense Fund was founded in 1979 with the unique mission of protecting the lives and advancing the interests of animals through the legal system. For more information, please visit www.aldf.org. ♦

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Orientation Week 2011

By Terrah Smith

This year the UWO Faculty of Law welcomed 175 first year students and 25 exchange students to the school. The new crop of scholars was introduced to the faculty, the building, and most importantly, each other, during a week of events organized by the Orientation Week Committee.

The unofficial kickoff of the week began Monday night with a football game at TD Waterhouse Stadium. A group of 90 people braved the unseasonably cold weather to cheer on the boys in purple tights. The crowd's persistence paid off as the Mustangs won the game.

The next day, the new students gathered bright and early at the law building for Welcome Day. Armed with coffee, students spent the morning listening to speeches from some of the faculty's most integral members, including Dean Iain Scott, who joined the law school this year. It was then time to take care of business and get Actus photos, pay SLS fees, and purchase books.

Warned by the Dean of the uphill challenge ahead, students were at least mentally prepared for the long lines and expenses that awaited them. Luckily the



O-Week BBQ
Photo Courtesy of Western Law

next stop was a BBQ, so the day ended with a breath of fresh air.

That evening, students packed Molly Bloom's to enjoy some cheap pitchers and live music. The dance floor was busy

and people became fast friends over their shared love of 90s rock. The bar stayed crowded until closing time when people wandered out to partake in late night

adventures.

On Wednesday the new law recruits showed their competitive edge at Games Day. The hula-hoop musical chairs and tug-o-war were the favourite events.

The Spirit Award went to Group I who hollered and hooted their way to the top.

Thursday saw students getting dolled up for a semi-formal dinner at the Hilton. The highlight of the evening was watching the Dean don his cowboy hat during speeches. Yee-haw! A close second was playing with the plastic barnyard animals found on every table. The after party took place at Tap House and lasted well into the night. The Dean attended for a few drinks, and some of the toys made an appearance too.

The final event was Graffiti Night at Jim Bob's. People quickly became intimate as they tested out their artistic skills on each other's shirts. Not a shirt left the bar untouched. It was an epic finale to a week of fun activities.

Orientation Week proved to be a great way for newcomers to Western Law to settle into the school. Just days before, many students entered the law school not knowing anyone. By the week's end, everyone had a handful of friends and a lifetime of memories. The bar has been set for next year. ♦

2011-2012 Guide of the Year

By Adam Richardson

Are you new to London? Do not remember what you did last year? Grab your scissors, cut this article out, and post it on your fridge. Here are events to watch out for throughout the year.

September is a busy time as a student in London. In addition to "Orientation Week" events, London is bustling with things to do. Take advantage of the weather and walk down on Richmond Street to explore the many shops and stores London has to offer. At night, both clubs and pubs are lively and ready to enjoy. Consider visiting Jacks, Mansion, Barking Frog, Barneys, Ceeps, Up on Carling, Friday Knight Lights, Tap House, and others.

During the September and October months, students if they so desire, can participate in various opportunities at Western Law. There are many options, such as joining law clubs, Community Legal Services, Pro Bono Legal Aid, Western Business Law Clinic, Student Law Society, and intramural sports. There is also an opportunity for students to become involved with the *Amicus Curiae* and to submit articles to the paper. October also marks the beginning of the On-Campus Interview (OCI) Process, which proceeds through mid-November.

Block September 29th to October 2nd as time off in your calendars because it is Western Homecoming! Watch for football, parades, fairs, club admission, and great food.

On October 6th, Ontarians will vote in the provincial election. If you are a resident of Ontario – you are eligible to vote. Make sure to register with Elections Ontario so your voice is represented in our future provincial government.

November is always an enjoyable time of year as it marks the beginning of Movember! Guys, would you like to help conquer cancer? Put those razors away and grow your

'stache! It is also the commencement of "December Exam Study Mode." Libraries begin operating under extended hours schedules and seats become scarcer. In fact, this year, there will be a trial in place in the Law Library to prevent "s.n.a.i.l.s." (Student's Not Actually In Law School) from occupying space in the library. Additionally, it would be wise to consider joining moot competitions in order to gain more exposure and experience in various legal fields.

In December, there is not much to do other than write your exams and go home for the holidays. But if you decide to stay in London, remember to visit the surrounding parks and downtown core to partake in community events – and there is even a ski hill about five minutes outside the city, in Byron.



The January term is unique to Western Law, and as such, we enjoy our own January schedule. Make sure to take part in the winter Denning parties to maintain your relationships with fellow students. When the rest of Western's student body returns January 9th, participate in 'Frost Week' events at night to reintegrate into the student body. After January term, Law students enjoy a reading week to relax and prepare for the spring term.

Spring term is shorter than the fall term, and it flies by. Make sure to go to the Dennings during February and March because you will miss them when they are done. This point of year contains several moots to participate in, and also

marks the end of Pro Bono Legal Aid projects and Community Legal Services. Spring term, however, is not only about the academics. The largest party of the year, AEPI's Splashbash, is held annually in March. This party is the final 'hurrah' of students before they get serious about exams (although Law students are always serious about their work).

Once April begins, exam mode is in full force again – similar to December but more intense. But the good news is that April is far away, and there are plenty of events and dates that will keep students busy until then. ♦

Community Legal Services: Western's Legal Aid Clinic

By: Scott Pearl: Supervisor, CLS

I think the new Dean said it best at our open house in September, "the next thirty years of your life will be marked by great reward and great frustration." I am paraphrasing generously of course, but whatever his exact words were, there is no doubt this truism applies to law school. There is also no doubt that it applies to spending even a short time working at Community Legal Services. So please allow me to introduce us to you, and tell you why the frustration is worth the reward.

We are a law firm, tucked away between the floors housing room 38 and administration. We are funded by Legal Aid Ontario, supplying legal services to those in poverty and yet still unable to qualify for Legal Aid for one reason or another. We are necessary because of Ontario's patchwork system guarding the right to legal counsel. We simultaneously provide clinical education, and clinical help to the public and University and College students.

Some of us, myself included, are student supervisors, working here full-time over the summer, and fed Tassimo coffee to stay energized for the rest of the school year. You will often spot us in purple shirts, or in suits. Some of us are caseworkers, taking one of the three clinical courses available to upper-year students. Some of us are first years, interviewing potential clients, and shadowing upper-years to see how it is all done. Some of us are lawyers, licenced to take on liability and to come up with the advice that students cannot provide. Finally, two of us are admin staff, who without our whole clinic would be in shambles.

The lawyers who supervise the work the students conduct are: Doug Ferguson, Margaret Capes, Jason Voss, and Sue Latta. When entering the clinic,

clients are greeted by the admin Staff, Lynn and Viv. The clinic employs a part-time Articling student, James Melnick. The Student Supervisors this year are: Liz Ferris, Julia Brown, Jennifer Foster, Chris Mamo, Jacqueline Cole, Jake Aitchison, Scott Sobering, Scott Pearl, Joey Hogan, and Luigi Perzia.

I mentioned great reward, and for students, the reward is in what you learn by doing. We touch files, bill hours, meet with clients, serve documents, and appear before judges and tribunal chairs. Our resident lawyers give all the legal advice, but it is we, the students, who execute it – and we execute it well. We may lack experience, but we make up for it by being more prepared than anyone else. We often frustrate our adversaries, by simply remembering to dot every "i" and cross every "t." Often, it is enough to win the day.

We do not just learn though, we share what we learn with others, through the Public Legal Education Project provided in partnership with Pro Bono Students Canada. It is not uncommon to find a few of us down at the Salvation Army explaining to others their rights as tenants, speaking to troubled youth about criminal or employment law, or generating articles about consumer rights to appear in community newspapers around the province. Knowledge is power, and the more our fellow members of the community know, the more likely they will be able to help themselves when a problem arises. They will also be less likely to make incriminating statements to the police or have their rights violated.

Now I did mention frustration? Clients can be frustrating at times. But it is easy to forget clients are only people, vulnerable to the same faults all of us suffer from, and going through hardships most of us law students only read about in the

paper. The law can also be frustrating. Sometimes it is hard to find the perfect case, sometimes it is painful to be up until three o'clock in the morning researching, and sometimes judges make decisions we do not like. It happens.

Every now and then though, we will help an innocent person avoid a nasty criminal charge, we will help someone get their money back from a fraudster, or we will help a victim of unimaginable crimes receive just compensation. I am not saying we are saints. But I am saying the ultimate reward is in knowing you actually helped someone, or at least tried as hard as you could. It makes the frustration seem trivial. It makes you remember why you wanted to become a lawyer. ♦

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Lawyers of Community Legal Services at Western Law.
Photo courtesy of Western Law

Wong in Kong: Studying Abroad on Exchange

By: *Evelyn Wong*

After two years of law school and being confined to the law building, being away from the buzz of the new school year is a bit weird. So let me just say: Hello 1Ls! Good luck 2Ls! And I miss you 3Ls!

Instead of adding to the morning lineup at Chambers for coffee, I'm currently halfway across the world on exchange at the University of Hong Kong (HKU). Although this isn't my first time in sweltering hot Hong Kong (in fact, I've been here during both 1L and 2L summers now), it is a completely different experience to be here for *school*. Be it the CDN\$2 lunch/dinner sets in school canteens, taking elevators to get to your classes, getting into the habit of picking up readings from our "pigeon holes" (aka our individual mailboxes), or just adjusting to a whole new campus, everything is different. In some ways, starting at HKU has felt like first year all over again - what with not knowing any of the local laws, getting lost and being unable to find classes, and lining up for student card processing. Most of all though, this experience so far has been very reminiscent of the excitement and eagerness I felt on the first day of 1L to meet everyone else in my program. Considering this will be my last year of school ever (at least for now), it is great to re-experience these feelings all over again.

Besides the social aspects of exchange, the academic

experience has also been great. Legal education here is taught quite differently. Granted, while I'm not taking any of the case-heavy courses like Contracts or Torts, I have yet to be assigned a full case to read for class. Instead, the focus here seems to be more on academic journal writings, with only brief references to cases for illustration. Being away also means getting the chance to take courses not traditionally offered by law schools in Canada. Considering that business law is increasingly



*In front of the famous Peak View of the Hong Kong skyline with our HKU students.
Photo courtesy of Evelyn Wong*

about working with global businesses and markets, my courses in China Trade Law, Chinese Intellectual Property Law, and Mandarin language classes are great for introducing me to the language and legal regime of a country that Canadian businesses are increasingly

interested in expanding into. My Insolvency Law course, although with some focus on issues in the local Hong Kong market, is readily transferable to the Canadian system as well (especially considering that the professor is from Canada). Finally, given the fact that Hong Kong has a very large and prominent financial market, my course in Regulations of Financial Markets is shaping out to be one of the most interesting courses I have ever taken. The unravelling and explanation of what led up to the global financial crisis of 2008 is not only interesting, but it is also really painting a vivid image of the role of regulations in incentivizing businesses, investments, and opportunities worldwide. All in all, taking courses with focuses outside of the Canadian legal environment is opening my eyes to different perspectives, and hopefully, legal solutions also.

With everything being so exciting and interesting so far, the first month has gone by really fast. Although sometimes I feel like I never want to leave, there is one thing that I miss significantly about Western Law: our small group system. While I don't know for sure whether local students are placed into small groups in their first year, exchange students here are largely left to fend for themselves within this foreign school environment. The only benefit is that it's easy to spot other exchange students here, unlike in multicultural Canada. In a cultural environment so different from home, with so many different places to explore, it's nice to be able to band together and create our own small group. I still wish Group F was here with me though! ♦



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The Quest for the Purple Shirt

By: Jonathan Thoburn

As another hectic school year came to an end, most UWO Law students returned home to relax and enjoy the upcoming summer months. However, students who were able to secure jobs at the school, quickly realized that we (I say we because I too was working at the school) may never get away from the confines of the Josephine Spencer Niblett Law Building. Fortunately, we found a way to escape, if only for an hour a week, through the extensive intramural program offered during the summer months at Western. Law students participated in three intramural teams this summer: the *Supreme Court of Pain* beach volleyball team, the *Motion to Strike* three-pitch softball team, and the *Beauticians* slo-pitch softball team. All of these very talented teams set out this summer with one goal in mind, to bring home the elusive Purple Shirt. For those of you who are unaware, a set of Purple Shirts is awarded to each member of an intramural team who wins the championship of their sport. It has been argued that the UWO Intramural Purple Shirt is harder to win than the Stanley Cup, the Super Bowl, and the World Cup...combined. As expected,

all of the 'Law Teams' cruised into the playoffs, but unfortunately, none were able to feel the Downy soft caress of a Purple Shirt against their skin. Of the 'Law Teams' participating in intramurals this summer, the *Beauticians* were the closest in this quest. After posting a phenomenal record of 9 – 1 in the regular season, they were granted a bye into the semi-final where they made quick work of the opposing team. With the Purple Shirts on display at the diamond, the *Beauticians* were unable to secure the victory in what team captain, and gold-glove third baseman, Blake Pronk called "the biggest disappointment of his lifetime." I too was heartbroken as I watched my opponent's dawn the Purple Shirt that has eluded me for the past three years during intramurals.

I hope to break my own personal losing streak during the upcoming school year as I will be playing both hockey and flag football. For those of you entering 1L, you will be glad to know that the Student Legal Society (SLS) does a great job of getting all willing students involved in intramurals. Significant amounts in funds are granted each year to help subsidize the cost of participating in the intramural program – which always helps after students have already faced another tuition hike. There are sports that suit all interests, from the more popular sports like

hockey and baseball, to some lesser known athletics in futsal ("a skilful variation of indoor soccer") and inner-tube water polo.

There are quite a few benefits to joining an intramural squad aside from the obvious physical exercise. Intramural sports allow you to free your mind from the nagging stressors of law school, and they are also a great way to meet people. Most of the law school teams are comprised of students from all three years so you are able to network with people who might otherwise never get a chance to meet during your time at school.

If you are interested in playing on a law intramural team keep your eyes peeled for the sign up board outside of Chambers in mid-September. I hope each of you join team this year, even if you have never played that particular sport before. There are varying skill-levels in each sport so do not feel like you need to be a varsity athlete to compete. Law school is an entirely new experience so why not embrace it and take a shot at a sport you have never played before? I guarantee you will love it! And who knows, if you are lucky enough you might come away with the most coveted piece of clothing at Western. ♦

Work-Workout Balance in 1L

By: Jonathan Thoburn

"Work-Life Balance." This seems to be a generic catch phrase used by Bay Street firms to try and entice you into working at their lavish offices. Whether or not this ideal balance is attainable while in the work force is a debate I cannot speak to, but it definitely can be managed while at school. In particular, there are many ways to remain physically active during your ever fluctuating and demanding first year schedule.

If you have not already heard, 1L can at times be a rough experience. After going through the application process, including the dreaded LSAT (multiple times for some), 1L students often feel like the worst is behind them. Then they discover that 1L offers a new set of problems, starting with a class schedule that exceeds that of most

undergrad programs. Add in volunteering at legal clinics, participating in moots, and the vast amounts of reading. Not surprisingly, it is hard to find time to maintain your physical fitness.

Speaking from my personal experience, I can tell you that it is very easy to let your regular physical activities slip from your rapidly expanding 1L schedule. This especially rings true as exam season approaches and you often find yourself spending more time in the library and the line at Tim Horton's than you do at home. However, this routine can and should be avoided!

Law school is a stressful journey; there is no way around it. Countless studies suggest that high levels of school-related stress are positively correlated with high levels of health complaints. This is something that we aspiring

lawyers must be wary of as we set out in this field. A study published in *Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise* found that in their US and Canadian subjects, higher levels of physical activity were associated with lower levels of the symptoms associated with anxiety and depression. This result seems to suggest that physical activity is a great tool to help mitigate life's stressors.

Beyond feeling good about yourself and staying healthy, taking time away from your studies to exercise is a great way to clear your mind of any upcoming 100% finals that may be lingering on the horizon. Students often fall into the mentality that any time spent in the gym is time that could and should be spent in the library. I would argue that there is a point in your studies where you are met with diminishing returns. It is at this point where instead of staring blankly at your property text trying to determine if there is a 'shifting executory interest in fee simple', I suggest heading to the gym for an hour. You will leave the gym feeling refreshed and clear headed, as you make the short walk back to your textbooks.

An article in the *Journal of Legal Education* suggested that law schools should do a better job of encouraging their students to maintain their physical health. Although I can see some merit in this submission, we as professional students need to take control of our own lives. In a few years' time when we enter the 'real world', there will not be anyone around to help push us through the doors of the gym. Learning to live a healthy and well-balanced lifestyle begins now, at law school.

Western has all the facilities one would need to break out of the library and start establishing that very lifestyle. The recently renovated UWO Recreation Centre offers a number of classes that appeal to everyone. Whether you want to blast your glutes during the 'Rock Bottom' class, or simply tone your core at "Ab Attack", the Recreation Centre has something for you. These classes come free with your membership which you have already paid within your tuition, so you may as well make the most of your money!

So, during 1L if you find your daily workouts consist of doing curls in the library with your Constitutional text and the Black's Law Dictionary, I suggest you head over to the gym immediately. ♦

AMICUS CURIAE

WESTERN LAW'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Meet the Editors



Ruth-Anne Avruskin – Co-Editor-in-Chief

Ruth-Anne is in her third year at the University of Western Ontario. She graduated from Queen's University with an Honours Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies and Political Studies. She also holds a diploma in Criminal Psychology and Behaviour. She is involved extensively in the Western Law community; she is president of the Western Chapter of CLAIHR, an Executive Member of the Western Environmental Law Association and is involved with Pro Bono Students Canada. Her legal areas of interest include Human Rights, Environmental Law and Aboriginal Rights.



Alexandra Papaiconomou – Co-Editor-in-Chief

3L Alexandra Papaiconomou has an extensive background in writing; evidenced by her Master's degree in History and undergraduate studies. With regard to her responsibilities as Co-Editor-in-Chief, her passion for justice, equality, fairness, and truth-seeking are integral aspects of her work. Influenced by her experience as a child of immigrants to Canada, she strongly believes that all voices need to be heard, and that there is much to be learned from those with different life experiences. For her, advocacy is not only comprised of advancing the interests of others, but also empowering those individuals to advocate for themselves in the future. Her academic interests run the gamut from social justice to corporate law. She Chairs the Diversity Committee, and wishes she had more time to take on further projects within the school.



Evelyn Wong – Managing Editor

I'm a 3L working on Amicus remotely until January term as I am currently away on exchange in Hong Kong. I look forward to meeting all the 1Ls when I return - just look for the shortest girl in school in January. Until then, if there is anything I can help with, in particular, if you have any questions about doing international internships or exchanges, feel free to send me an e-mail!



Adam Richardson – News Editor

My name is Adam Richardson and I am your news editor! I am a concurrent student with the Richard Ivey School of Business and Western Law, and this year is my first year working with Amicus Curiae. As this is my fifth year in London, I like to keep up-to-date with campus and city news - and I this year I would like to keep everyone informed about news at Western so that they feel a stronger connection to our school.

I look forward to another great year with Western Law!

Meet the Editors Page 2



Ryan Venables – News Editor

As a former police officer with the York Regional Police, Ryan has embarked on an advanced legal education after a five year policing career and experiencing all sides of the legal system. As a police officer, Ryan was involved in numerous investigations and was selected for York Regional Police's Public Order Unit (Riot Squad).

Following his policing career, Ryan completed a portion of a Master's of Arts (MA) in Journalism from the University of Western Ontario.

In his spare time, Ryan actively volunteers with the Special Olympics of London as a soccer and indoor soccer coach. Additionally, Ryan is an avid professional scuba diver and underwater photographer. He has visited St. Lucia, Grand Cayman, Aruba, Curacao, and Mexico/Cozumel on underwater photography trips.

However, Ryan's passion also lies with his dogs. Ryan trains and competes with his two Belgian Malinois' (Shepherd), Indi and Mako, in French Ring throughout Canada and the United States.



Terrah Smith - Cultural Editor

Prior to coming to law school at UWO, I studied Humanities at Carleton University in Ottawa. I spent a lot of time reading classic works by some of Western society's greatest thinkers, such as Aristotle, Friedrich Nietzsche, and Bertrand Russell. I also attended my fair share of music nights, poetry readings, and gallery tours. It was a little bit of a hippie program. As a London native, I am happy to return to the Forest City. I hope to remain in the city after graduation and practice family law. My position as the Family Law Program coordinator for this year has cemented my interest in family law. In addition to this passion, I have always been involved in journalism. I have wrote articles for various publications and I maintained a fashion blog for some time. I look forward to being involved in Amicus this year as I know that we will have a lot of interesting subjects to cover.



Jonathan Thoburn – Sports Editor

Jonathan Thoburn is a Toronto native who studied Criminal Justice and Public Policy (CJPP) at the University of Guelph. While attending U of G Jonathan was the President of the CJPP Club and also volunteered for the Legal Resource Room. After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts Honours, Jonathan worked as a court reporter in Toronto for Network Reporting and Mediation and also spent four months backpacking through South-East Asia. In his spare time Jonathan plays for the law school intramural hockey team and is an active participant in the law squash ladder. Jonathan has also been volunteering for the Lawyers Feed the Hungry Program in both Toronto and London for the past two years.

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