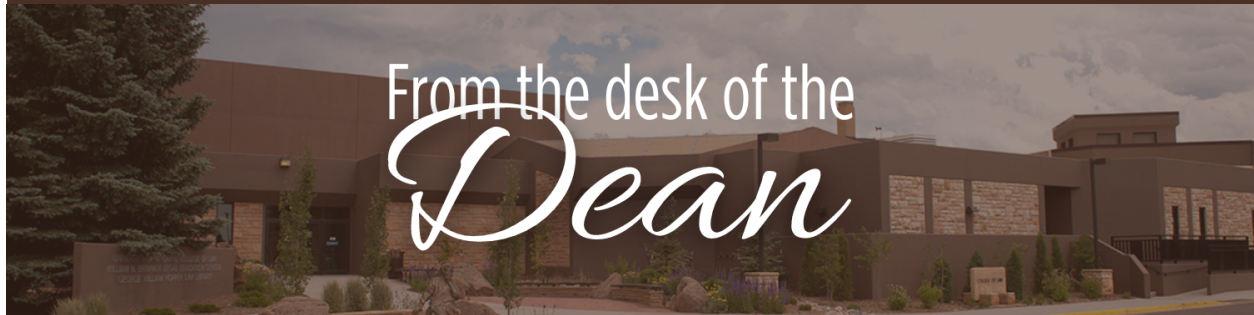




UNIVERSITY
OF WYOMING

College of Law



Dear alumni and friends,

The summer is over, and we're welcoming the law school class of 2025 to our campus in Laramie. I wanted to take this opportunity to share some of the highlights of the last year and what's in store for 2022–23.

I am proud to say that the College of Law in 2021–22 was, once again, ranked among the best law schools in the nation for overall value, practical training, and environmental law. It has always been our goal to ensure that our law school is affordable to students and that we excel in those areas important to the state.

COLLEGE RENOVATION AND EXPANSION

The major highlight of last year was the legislature's and the university's support for and approval of the renovation and expansion of the College of Law. Thank you to all of those who have donated to the project and for the efforts made by several members of the College of Law Advisory Board and the Wyoming Bar to realize this beautiful and fully equipped space for our students. Construction is scheduled to begin this November and is expected to be completed in the summer of 2024. We have been working hard to prepare for this project and the upcoming academic year.

THE YELLOWSTONE SYMPOSIUM

The culminating event of this past year, however, was the 150th Anniversary of

Yellowstone Symposium hosted by the College of Law and the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody. The symposium featured prominent figures from the National Park Service and elsewhere within the Department of the Interior—including Yellowstone Superintendent Cam Sholly—as well as from numerous Yellowstone-associated Native American tribes. They were joined by a host of academics, scholars, scientists, and other participants who gathered to explore the goals, successes, and shortcomings of the park over the past 150 years and to look to the future by examining key issues it now faces. The Wyoming Law Review is set to publish a special issue commemorating the 150th anniversary of Yellowstone National Park that will dovetail with and memorialize many parts of the symposium.

WELCOME NEW FACULTY

This fall, we are welcoming a new member to the College of Law faculty, Autumn Bernhardt. Professor Bernhardt's work focuses on public lands, Indigenous environmental stewardship, constitutional law, and cultural resources. She has taught for over a decade and served as Assistant Tribal Attorney for the White Mountain Apache Tribe and Colorado Assistant Attorney General in the Federal and Interstate Water Unit. Most notably, she served as counsel of record in U.S. Supreme Court litigation related to an interstate water dispute between three states and worked on the San Francisco Peaks litigation. Her scholarship has been featured in six book collections and numerous journals and magazines and will also appear in the forthcoming Wyoming Law Review. Professor Bernhardt will be teaching Indian Law, Appellate Advocacy, and Legislation, among other courses.

ABA ACCREDITATION

In October, we will be welcoming the American Bar Association's Accreditation Site Visit Team to Laramie and have been working diligently to prepare for this important visit. Our faculty and staff came together this summer to evaluate our program, to highlight our strengths, and to identify areas for growth. During this time of self-reflection, we are particularly pleased with the relationships our faculty have with our students, for the progress we've made in developing a strong scholarly community, and for our commitment to providing legal services to the state of Wyoming and beyond.

NEW INITIATIVES

We have launched several major initiatives this coming year as well. The 3+3 Accelerated Degree Program in collaboration with the School of Energy Resources will be kicking off this fall, providing undergraduate students who have declared a major in

energy resource management and development the opportunity to complete their bachelor's and the JD law degree in six years instead of the traditional seven. In addition, the College of Law will be introducing the Firearms Research Center this year under the direction of Professor George Mocsary. The FRC is dedicated to supporting original groundbreaking research in all areas involving firearms, including law, history, technology, social sciences, economic development, and recreation. The FRC will serve as a resource for academics, practitioners, and the public on the role of firearms in society, both past and present.

Moreover, the College of Law has expanded the number of opportunities for its students to earn course credit with external organizations. Of particular note is a new externship collaboration with the Western Legal Resource Center, where law students can engage in legal work in the areas of farming, ranching, forestry, dairying, mining, and land developments as well as small local governments, water and irrigation districts, and other entities dependent on natural resource use and development.

AND MORE...

Yes, we have been busy, and there is still more to come! This fall, we are welcoming one of the most diverse classes in our law school's history, and we celebrated distinguished alums and others who have contributed so much to the College of Law through the years at our Fall Honors Banquet. Award recipients include the Honorable Greg Phillips (Judge, Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals), Ray Hunkins, Steve Easton (former Dean of the College of Law), Jack Speight, Professor Christopher Mueller, Gina Guy, the Honorable Margie Meacham, and Frank Trelease (former Dean of the College of Law). We've also launched two new faculty searches in the areas of Business and Technology Law and Legal Writing. Finally, UW Giving Day, our annual celebration of giving back, takes place October 19-20 noon to noon during Homecoming week.

Your support of the College of Law makes all of this possible! Thank you again for all that you do for our outstanding institution!

Yours,



Klint Alexander
Dean, UW College of Law