

## Law School Alumnus Donates \$800,000 for Scholarships at UM



The University of Montana School of Law has announced the largest outright gift in its history from Alexander “Zander” Blewett III and his wife, Andy, of **Great Falls**.

The \$800,000 gift will create the Blewett Scholars Fund, providing three scholarships to incoming students who have first earned bachelor’s degrees from Montana State University in **Bozeman**. Each scholarship will pay for half of the recipient’s School of Law tuition and be renewable for the duration of the three-year program. ([Read more](#))

## UM Law Dean Search Continues

The search for a new dean for the University of Montana School of Law continues. Provost Perry J. Brown and President Royce C. Engstrom, working with the law dean search committee, identified a high-caliber first choice for its deanship who was set to accept until he was nominated to a high-level position in the Obama Administration. With great regret, the candidate was unable to come to Montana at this time. As a result, Provost Brown has decided to continue the current search and, if need be, appoint an interim dean when Dean Russell will formally conclude her tenure as dean and return to teaching and writing as a member of the faculty.

## Update on UMSL Competition Teams

### UM Environmental Law Moot Court competes at Pace Environmental Law Moot Court Competition



UMSL's Environmental Law Moot Court Team participated and advanced to the quarterfinal round at Pace Law School's National Environmental

Law Moot Court Competition, held in White Plains, NY, February 20 – 22, 2014. The team of Kristine Akland, Alana Brown and Katelyn Hepburn was one of 27 teams out of 78 to advance based on brief score and oral argument performance. ([Read more](#))

### UM Jessup International Moot Court team finishes in Top Ten



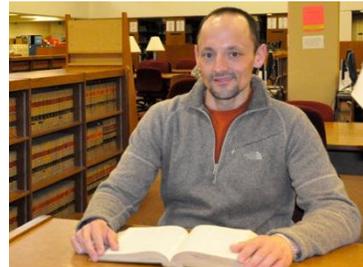
The UM Jessup International Moot Court team, comprised of 3Ls Morgan Shaw and Mark Handelman and 2Ls Ross Keogh, Zach Patten, and Greg Trangmoe, placed 4<sup>th</sup> in a field of 19 teams

competing in the preliminary rounds of the Pacific Regional Jessup. Their memorials placed 5<sup>th</sup>. They were defeated in a close match in the elimination rounds by the University of Washington. The University of California-Davis won the competition;

University of Denver was the runner-up. The Pacific Regionals, hosted by Lewis & Clark, are noted as one of the most challenging Jessup regionals. The UM Law School team ranked higher than many larger schools, including the University of California-Davis, UCLA, Berkley, University of Arizona, and Santa Clara. Please join us in congratulating the team. They represented you well!

### UM Law's NALSA's Moot Court team represents exceptional legal writing

Dustin Kuipers' and Dan Knudsen's NALSA moot court brief placed second out of 75. William & Mitchell placed first. Kuipers and Knudsen beat out briefs from the University of Kansas, Seattle, Arizona State, Oklahoma, Tulsa, Wisconsin, Michigan, Hawaii and Columbia to name a few. Although the team did not advance to the final rounds, they did an exceptional job of representing this law school and its legal writing program. For more on the 22nd Annual NNALSA Moot Court Competition, [click here](#).



While in Oklahoma for the NALSA Moot Court competition, Dan Knudsen was notified that he was selected to

participate in the 2014 ABA Business Law Clerkship program. During his clerkship this summer, Dan will clerk for a federal judge, who is yet to be determined.

## Fall Recruiting at the University of Montana School of Law

Applications to law schools around the country have suffered a dramatic drop over the past three years and every indication is that they will drop again this year. Overall applications fell 10.9% in 2011, an additional 12.5% in 2012, and another 17.9% in 2013 (as of

8/8/2013). The number of LSAT takers this past June fell 4.9% from the year before and most of the summer and fall LSAC Forums have shown a substantial decrease in attendance by prospective law school applicants.

Many law schools have slashed enrollment by 30 – 40% and are struggling to stay afloat. While the University of Montana School of Law has weathered the storm so far, and actually saw a 12% increase in applications between 2012 and 2013, we continue to work hard on our recruiting efforts. Students, faculty, and the admissions director have traveled to Chicago, D.C., Houston, New York, Alaska, and eastern Washington, and will soon be travelling to law school fairs and LSAC Forums in Los Angeles, Atlanta, Colorado, Utah, Arizona, Oregon, Washington and Idaho to recruit top students for the law school class entering fall of 2014.

In this difficult time, it is more important than ever before to spread the word about the University of Montana School of Law. We embrace our alumni support and encourage you to talk to prospective law students about our program and the unique culture here at UM. We also have exciting opportunities for alumni living in recruiting areas to attend law school fairs with our representatives or host open houses for alumni and prospective students to share their experience. For more information, email Lori Freeman, Director of Admissions at [lori.freeman@umontana.edu](mailto:lori.freeman@umontana.edu).

## Student Section



### 3L Shannon Hathaway selected to receive MT Justice Foundation Champions of Justice Award

As a third year law student at the University of Montana, Shannon Hathaway is a huge advocate for the involvement of students in pro bono and civic engagement. The President of the Montana Public Interest Law Coalition and an officer with the Student Bar Association, she works tirelessly to promote the opportunities and need for law students to become involved in public interest law. Shannon has recently joined the WMBA Pro Bono Committee as a student liaison. ([Read more](#))

## Faculty Row



**Professors Eduardo Capulong, Anna Conley, and Andrew King-Ries** presented a series of workshops in Vietnam this summer and fall. Sponsored by the Institute for Policy, Law, and Development, the People’s Police University and the U.S. Embassy of Vietnam. Professors Capulong, Conley, and King-Ries spoke on U.S. models for access-to-justice and pro bono programs, clinical legal education, criminal defense, and civil rights litigation. The conference, Legal Aid for Marginalized Peoples, was attended by legal scholars, lawyers, law professors, community activists, and law enforcement. The exchange was made possible by the UM Mansfield Center. Professor Capulong visited Ho Chi Minh City; Professor Conley, Hanoi; and Professor King-Ries, Da Nang.



## China Program 2014

The University of Montana, Gonzaga University and University of South Dakota Law Schools are teaming up with Southwest University of Political Science and Law in Chongqing and the Shanghai International Studies University in Shanghai to offer a study abroad in China opportunity for UMSL students through courses taught by experienced, top quality faculty from each participating U.S. and Chinese school. Spanning a four-week period in the summer, the program will focus on comparative law, allowing law students to study firsthand the Chinese economic, legal, and political systems. The program curriculum consists of three courses: Comparative Antitrust and Consumer Protection Law; Comparative Environmental & Renewable Energy Law; and Comparative Business Organizations Law.

### Upcoming Events [\(please visit the UM Law Calendar of Events\):](#)

Spring Interview Weekend	March 21-22
MT Innocence Project with Peter Neufield	March 26
OUTLaws Family Law Panel (2.5 CLE, including 1.5 ethics)	March 27
Law Week	April 7-11
Board of Visitors and Clinical Board of Visitor's Meetings	April 10
Supreme Court Hearing	April 11
State Bar Board of Trustee's Meeting	April 11
Baxter Symposium	April 14
Barrister's Ball	April 26
<a href="#">2014 Advanced Trial Advocacy (registration is now open)</a>	May 26-30

For more information on these stories and upcoming events, please contact  
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