

Class of 2014 Celebrate Commencement and Hooding



Seventy six UM Law students participated in the commencement and hooding ceremony on May 24th at the George and Jane Dennison Theatre on the UM campus. American Bar Association president James Silkenat addressed the graduates, reminding them that there are still parts of the country where legal services are not accessible to people who need them most. Silkenat encouraged the graduates to “be proud, do good,” and work to serve their communities. John Newman delivered the student address and the Class of 2014 also paused to remember Chris Tucker, a classmate who was killed last October in a motorcycle accident. The new graduates celebrated with family friends at a

reception at the Law School.

Munro Interim Dean; King-Ries, Gagliardi Associate Deans

In late May, Provost Perry Brown appointed longtime UM Law faculty member Greg Munro as Interim Dean of the School of Law while a nationwide search continues for a permanent dean. Professor Andrew King-Ries will be joining the administrative team for the next academic year as the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor Elaine Gagliardi will become of Dean of Students.



Class of 2015 Contributes 400 Hours of Pro Bono Service

The Class of 2015 contributed some 400 hours of legal service to the Missoula community this year as part of pro bono project in the Professional Responsibility Course taught by Professor Jordan Gross. Students were required to contribute four hours to any organization that met pro bono guidelines, and students donated their time to groups ranging from the Montana Innocence Project to the Rocky Mountain

Elk Foundation. Many students exceeded the four-hour requirement, and said the project benefited students as much as it benefited the community. One student said it reminded her of why she chose to attend law school. The project was inspired by a 2010 [report](#) from the Montana Justice Foundation that showed 18,499 low-income households reported having at least one “civil legal need,” and of those, 77.1 percent said they did nothing to address their legal needs.

First-Year Student Honored for Volunteer Work

In early May, first-year UM Law student Jeff Wilson was one of two UM students to be named an Outstanding Student Volunteer by the [UM Office for Civic Engagement](#). Wilson, from Missoula, was recognized for his work with CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocates) of Missoula. The other award winner was Travis Tikka, and they were two of 16 students nominated for the recognition. Students were nominated for the awards by the local agencies and nonprofits with whom they volunteered.

UM Law Students Spend Summer Across the Country, Around the World

The summer of 2014 finds 2L and 3L students working, learning and serving across the country and around the globe. **Kaitlyn Lamb (2L)** will be working for the U.S. Senate Indian Affairs Committee in Washington, D.C. while **Kathleen Steinhoff (3L)** will be working in the Consumer Protection Division in the Northern Mariana Islands. **Hannah Cail (2L)** accepted an internship with the Department of Interior Solicitors Office in Boise, Idaho and **Rosanna Balasabas (2L)** is set to work with the 7th District Attorney’s Office in Colorado. **Andrew Vigeland (2L)** found a unique opportunity with the federal court and will be spending his summer at Mammoth in Yellowstone National Park. **Catrina Clausen (2L)** is working with the National Wildlife Federation. **Jeff Wilson (2L)** will start with Montana Legal Justice. **Greg Trangmoe (3L)** is traveling to Washington, D.C. to work with a private law firm there. **Patrick James VanDuinen** and **Stephanie McKnight** will spend the summer in Alaska, with VanDuinen with the district attorney’s office in Fairbanks and McKnight with a private firm in Anchorage. **Spencer Gales** and **Daniel Knutson** will be working in the Los Angeles area with the Superior Court of California. Many other students will be interning with private law firms, courts, and county attorneys offices throughout Montana and other students are taking advantage of study abroad programs in either Chile or China.

Summer Classes Offered for CLE

Lawyers who attend earn 14 CLE credits per course. Names of those attending for CLE credit will be submitted to the State Bar of Montana. Attorneys who are not already enrolled for academic credit, must pay \$375 per course to earn CLE credit. [Click here to download CLE registration form.](#)

Registration and payment can be made on the first day of the course via credit card or check made payable to The University of Montana School of Law. Courses have a varied numbers of seats open for attorneys. Attorneys may register up to the first day of class. **Attendance at all sessions is required for full CLE credit**