



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DEAN — STEPHANIE BALL

As I write this message, we are in week 14 of working off campus – the equivalent of a full semester! Durham College has had to address unprecedented challenges during this time to enable our students to continue to learn and to complete their courses and programs.

In class learning has been replaced with online learning and with it, there have been challenges to meet. We have been fortunate that our students were able to access this new method of learning and if not fully embrace it, survive it as we navigated the end of the semester.

Our faculty, as always, have been exemplary role models for our students as they also had to adapt to the changes and continue to support and encourage our students. In collaboration with coordinator Kathleen Stewart, our team rose to meet the challenge and continue to do so.

We are missing some of our usual activities on campus, such as Open House and of course, Convocation. But, we continue to offer alternative methods of adapting to our new circumstances, and are focused on supporting our faculty and students as they enter a more virtually focused educational experience.

I do wish to acknowledge and thank our field placement hosts who have been so helpful in assisting our students with completing their field placement requirements. I am hoping that your support will continue as we move forward.

Stay safe and healthy!

Stephanie Ball

FROM THE PROGRAM COORDINATOR - KATHLEEN STEWART

“The times, they are a changin’”. I’m certain Bob Dylan had other things in mind when he wrote that song, but it’s an apt observation right now.

The end of the winter term was an incredible time of disruption and change for students in the midst of their studies and field placements courtesy of a world-wide pandemic. On a week’s notice, where possible, learning was taking place remotely, and it took many forms as everyone was pushed to their limits – faculty and students alike. For the most part, courses were either being delivered synchronously through a new platform called the Virtual Classroom or asynchronously via DC Connect, the college’s learning management system.

The transition was not without its challenges as the inequities in access to technology and other resources became very apparent, very quickly. It brought into sharp focus just how incredibly important campus spaces and resources are to helping address disparities for learners. Through a massive effort by everyone, many of these challenges were overcome or workarounds were found.

We were fortunate that the vast majority of students in field placement had completed their hours when the provincial shutdown happened. A huge shout out goes to all of the agencies who found alternate work at home arrangements for students who had hours to complete. Thankfully, our students did not join the ranks of ‘stranded’ students who are still in the process of trying to complete their programs.

So now what? Until such time as things return to some semblance of normalcy, we are shifting and readying to continue to work remotely in the fall and doing everything we can to prepare students to do the same. We will have had more time to adapt to the technology that is available to us and to support each other. The college is working to prepare resources to assist in the transition and to help everyone continue to manage their wellness and their education.

We welcomed several new members to our Program Advisory Committee, many of whom are alumni and introduce you to them in this issue. We are so fortunate to have great connections and relationships with our graduates well beyond their time at the college.

I hope you enjoy this opportunity to connect through Legal Reflections and that you are all staying well and staying safe.

Kathleen Stewart

2020 LEGAL CAREER PREPARATION AWARD WINNER

For the 14th straight year, students in the Law Clerk Advanced program have raised funds for student bursaries through their work in the Legal Career Preparation course.

Full-time students in the final semester of the program who have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher are eligible to apply for the bursary known as the Legal Career Preparation Award. Unlike many bursaries that have financial need as the primary requirement, this award recognizes students who demonstrate strong employability skills throughout their time at Durham College.

Recipients of this award have successfully demonstrated the following:

1. A strong commitment to their education as evidenced by regular attendance and active, quality participation in class
2. Essential employability skills including strong written and verbal communication skills, an ability to meet deadlines while producing quality work, consistently demonstrating initiative and a high degree of professionalism
3. Strong interpersonal skills including the ability to work collaboratively with others in a positive and productive manner, the ability to adapt to change, resolve conflict, and solve problems in a team environment

Congratulations to this year's recipient, Taylor Wray. Taylor has a strong interest in pursuing a career in litigation having completed an extensive placement at Blaney McMurtry LLP, but is open to experiencing any area of law.



CO-OP IS A GO!

In the last two issues of Legal Reflections, we have shared the development of a Co-op option for the Law Clerk Advanced Diploma program and it's finally here! Students entering the program in September 2020 will have the option of applying for the Co-op stream during their first academic semester.

Co-op positions are limited and the process of securing a work term is competitive. It doesn't get any more 'real world' than that! Students who qualify for Co-op will be eligible to complete two four-month, paid work terms totaling 840 hours. Work terms take place May to August between year 1 and 2, and again between year 2 and 3 giving students the opportunity to deepen their learning and apply the knowledge and skills they are developing in their courses.

The college's Co-op Office manages all elements of the program on behalf of students and employers. If your office is interested in learning more about the Law Clerk Advanced Co-op program and the benefits of participation, please visit <https://durhamcollege.ca/about/co-operative-education>

ALUMNI UPDATE – KAYLY MACHADO

It is always wonderful to hear from alumni and every so often, I will receive an email from a graduate telling me about their amazing legal career. Often, the email contains an admission of one kind or another that something they thought was 'fluff' when they took the law clerk program turned out to be true and invaluable. These are joyous moments for a professor who worries about students understanding the importance of so called 'soft skills'- now more aptly referred to as called critical employment skills!

In 2016, we profiled a 2011 graduate of the LCAD program, Kayly Machado. Kayly was working successfully supporting a partner in a busy litigation practice and seizing opportunities to continue her education. In 2017, she made a decision with the support of her employer to return to school full time to pursue a degree and become a lawyer.

In the process, she taught insurance law on a part-time basis in the law clerk program at Durham all the while working at her firm part-time and going to school full-time!! She is now well on her way to becoming a lawyer at U of T's law school.

I was delighted to hear from Kayly in January that she and her school partner had won U of T's Client Consultation Competition – no surprise to me! They were scheduled to represent U of T at the national competition hosted by the University of Victoria in British Columbia mid-March when CoVID reared its ugly head resulting in the cancellation of the competition.

The competition requires the demonstration of legal knowledge, but the emphasis is on essential employability skills as 'clients' (actors) cry, get angry, go off track and do, well, all the things clients do! And this is where the email comes in. She said (and I quote) "I probably openly mocked the soft skills part of the [LCAD] program at least once, so I thought I should tell you that I've since learned it really does matter!".

Kayly is one of the most hard-working and intelligent young women I've had the privilege to teach over the years, and I have no doubt she and her partner would have mopped the floor with their competitors had CoVID not interfered with the competition schedule!

Keep up the amazing work Kayly, and thanks ever so much for the email!

ALUMNI PROFILE – VANESSA CAMPIGOTTO

After attending an open house at Durham College (DC), I enrolled in the Law Clerk Advanced Diploma program in 2014. It became clear to me that the program opened up doors to promising job opportunities. This motivated me to work hard and take advantage of the various extracurricular and professional development opportunities at DC. While completing my studies, I volunteered and got involved with the DCWorks program. These extracurricular opportunities, paired with the in class learning, allowed me to further develop professional and interpersonal skills that allow me to thrive in a legal environment.

I completed my third year placement at an insurance defence litigation firm in Toronto and was fortunate to receive a job offer from them following the completion of my studies. Additionally, after connecting with some recruiters at an annual networking event organized by my program at the College, I accepted an invitation from Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg LLP (Davies) to attend an interview. I am grateful for the academic and professional tools I gained from the Law Clerk Advanced program at Durham College – without which I would not have decided to become a corporate law clerk at Davies, a seven-sister business leading law firm.

In 2017, I began my career at Davies working as Legal Assistant Floater providing administrative support to lawyers in all practice areas of the firm. I was in this role for six months until I was offered a permanent spot supporting two partners practicing competition law and two associates practicing corporate law. I worked alongside these lawyers for just over two years and thoroughly enjoyed my time. I developed strong working relationships and felt integral to helping the lawyers manage their practice. The lawyers provided me with positive feedback and steadily increased my clerical responsibilities. I was grateful for this invaluable experience and felt ready to further develop my career at Davies.

I came across a job opening for a Securities Support Clerk at Davies. I felt very suited to the job and decided to apply. Following the recruitment process, I was offered the position and took on the role in January 2020. My responsibilities include reporting to a structured notes team and providing clerical support to lawyers. I routinely manage a high work volume while simultaneously supporting a demanding practice. My job allows me to be self-directed, interact directly with clients, and overcome challenges daily. I am constantly gaining new knowledge in a unique practice area.

I am fortunate to have the opportunity to work with exceptional lawyers at Davies and look forward to what my future holds. I feel grateful to have a strong network of individuals who are invested in my success and would not be where I am today without the sage advice and guidance of my amazing professors at DC, mentors and colleagues. My advice to students of the Law Clerk Advanced Diploma program is to explore all open opportunities available to you and not limit yourself to only what feels comfortable. Challenges are what change us and allow us to grow in ways that are unimaginable.



A FOND FAREWELL TO FACULTY

The Law Clerk Advanced program bids a fond farewell to two full-time faculty: Lesley Wagner & Peggy Hinan.

Peggy has anchored the automated law documentation and legal accounting curriculum for law clerk students for many years. She has also led the Office Administration – Legal program team and provided valuable support to the paralegal program team.

Lesley has led the corporate law and wills/estates law curriculum for many years, and served as both the program coordinator and field placement coordinator for the program. In addition, she has taught/supported several other programs including 911/EMCC, Court Support Services and the Office Administration – Legal program.

They will both be missed by everyone!



FROM LESLEY

August 31st marks the start of the next chapter in my life - retirement. After nearly 35 years, I am off to discover some more happiness and joy.

Over my career, I have had the honour of working with wonderful people, from Minden Gross LLP to Goodmans LLP and finally here at Durham College, where I spent the past 20 years.

Colleagues and students at DC have made a significant contribution to my career and it has been a pleasure to work with each of them.



DURHAM'S CAREER DEVELOPMENT OFFICE IS HERE FOR YOU!

As businesses cope with the financial challenges brought on by the pandemic through layoffs, wage reductions and hiring freezes, it is important now more than ever for graduates to access career supports and call upon skills and strategies developed in the Law Clerk Advanced program! If you're a recent graduate, you may recall all of the resume and cover letter development as well as the networking and interview strategies you were exposed to in your courses. If it's been a while and you need a refresher, look no further.

An oft overlooked FREE resource to students, alumni and employers alike is [Durham College's Hired portal](#). This web site offers so much more than job postings!

Students & Graduates – Log in to the site and book a Career Development appointment for

- Career coaching
- Cover letter, resume, and interview support
- LinkedIn profiles, networking and digital brand development
- Virtual mock interviews

In addition, there are numerous workshops you can attend virtually right now. Once you log in to the site, check out the Events/Workshops calendar for great sessions such as

- Acing Your Virtual Interview
- Optimizing Your LinkedIn Profile
- Crafting an Effective Cover Letter
- Networking in a Virtual World

...and so much more. There have even been open sessions called 'Ask Me Anything Career Related'!

EMPLOYERS

Registering for a free account allows you to self-manage job postings and target specific program graduates. What are you waiting for?



CONNECTING INDUSTRY AND EDUCATION: PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Colleges have always been wonderful places where hands-on practical learning has successfully prepared students for careers and life! One of the many things that helps ensure curriculum reflects what employers want and need now and in the future is our Program Advisory Committee.

Each program/program cluster that is Ministry funded has a PAC consisting of industry stakeholders and partners (8 - 10 members), college faculty and administration (2 - 4 members), and student representatives (3 members for the LCAD program). PACs play a vital role in connecting industry to education and the Law Clerk Advanced program has a very strong PAC history. The committee meets twice a year to discuss trends and developments in both worlds and to provide input into decisions that will impact the ongoing development of the program.

Though being an alumni is not a requirement, alumni have always been active PAC members for the Law Clerk Advanced program. Currently, members serve for a 3-year term and can serve two consecutive terms.

We owe a great deal of thanks to all past PAC members, some of whom served for more than 20 years prior to limitations being placed on terms!

CURRENT LCAD PAC MEMBERSHIP

Chair – Bobbie-Jo Brinkman (Alumni) Law Clerk – Insolvency, Restructuring & Litigation Thornton Grout Finnigan LLP	Karen Gough (Alumni 2010) Law Clerk Carnevale Law Office
Kathy Anderson Manager, Corporate Services Bennett Jones LLP	Angela Helliwell (Alumni 2009) Law Clerk – Securities Gowling WLG
Jochen Bobris (Alumni 2014) Law Clerk Thomas Gold Pettingill LLP	Jenaya McLean (Alumni 2016) Junior Law Clerk – Financial Services Aird & Berlis LLP
Jennifer Deck (Alumni 2012) Alumni Law Clerk Aurora Cannabis Inc.	Melanie Williams (Alumni 2003) Barrister & Solicitor Law in Motion Professional Corporation
Alexis Fitzjohn Manager, Corporate Services Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP	Amanda Zenga (Alumni 2015) Court & Client Representative/ Interjurisdictional Support Orders Clerk Ontario Superior Court of Justice - Family
	Tabitha Nesbitt Student Representative – 3rd year Interests: civil litigation & criminal law