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UNM Law Connect

January 2021

Student News



2L Samuel Taub creates eviction tracking tool that will benefit vulnerable New Mexicans

Samuel Taub used his unique skill set to create a powerful analytic tool designed to reveal the effects of eviction policies in New Mexico. Under the direction of Professor Elizabeth Elia, Taub and a team of research assistants collaborated with UNM SOL Clinic students to collect and aggregate eviction data—but the work was slow-going and tedious. The team would sift through the New Mexico Secured Odyssey Public Access (SOPA) online application system to find filings related to evictions. Sam



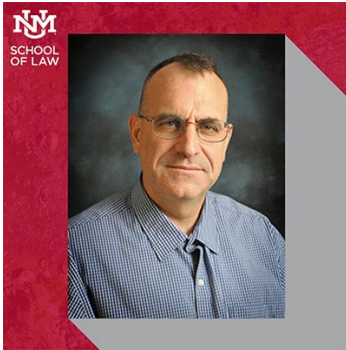
UNM Law students receive State Bar of New Mexico Judicial Clerkships

Congratulations to 2Ls Lauren Chavez, Denisse Enriquez, Cody Jeff, Amber Morningstar Byars, Huong Nguyen, and Natalie Saing who will participate in the State Bar of New Mexico's inaugural Judicial Clerkship Program. The students will partner with a member of the Young Lawyers Division for mentorship, participate in a professional development boot camp, and work closely with a Supreme Court Justice and a judge from the Court of Appeals. Our thanks to NM Supreme Court Justice David

used his knowledge of software design to streamline the process. The tool will be used by lawmakers, the press, and anyone else concerned with understanding evictions in NM. To read more, please visit [here](#).

Thompson, the New Mexico Supreme Court, the Young Lawyers Division, and the Committee on Diversity in the Legal Profession for creating this opportunity.

Faculty News



Professor Josh Kastenberg

[Professor Josh Kastenberg](#) has become a go-to expert for many international, national, and local media and news outlets. Professor Kastenberg has appeared on KOB-TV, Global News Toronto, and the BBC World News. He has recently been quoted in the Albuquerque Journal; The New York Times; and The Mainichi, a Japanese newspaper. To see Professor Kastenberg's tv appearances, visit the UNM Law Media Appearances section on our [YouTube channel](#).



Professor Cliff Villa

[Professor Cliff Villa](#) was recently elected to the Association of American Law School's Environmental Law Executive Committee. In mid-December, Professor Villa launched a website (www.environmentaljusticebook.org) to promote teaching and continual learning in civil rights and environmental law. The website is a companion to his co-authored book ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: LAW, POLICY & REGULATION, 3RD EDITION (2020).



Professor Christine Zuni Cruz

[Professor Christine Zuni Cruz](#) retired on December 31. Please join us in wishing Professor Zuni Cruz a fond farewell and all the best in retirement!

Alumni News



UNM Law alumna Deb Haaland makes history, selected as interior secretary-designate

President Joe Biden selected New Mexico Congresswoman, and UNM alumna, Deb Haaland ('06) to serve as the interior secretary. If confirmed, she will become the first Native American to hold a cabinet position and will be the second-highest-ranking enrolled Native American ever to serve in the federal government. Haaland is no stranger to shattering glass ceilings. In 2019, she was one of the first two Native American women elected to the House of Representatives.



UNM Law Alumna Judge Julie Vargas Appointed to the New Mexico Supreme Court

New Mexico Court of Appeals Judge Julie Vargas ('93) was appointed by fellow UNM Law alumna Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham to the New Mexico Supreme Court. Judge Vargas was elected to the Court of Appeals in 2016 and has taught Appellate Decision-Making as an adjunct professor at the UNM School of Law. Vargas will take the seat left empty by fellow UNM Law alumna Justice Judith Nakamura ('89), who retired in December 2020.

Donor News

\$17,000 Anonymous Gift to Marshall Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project

Directed by UNM Law alumna Lalita Moskowitz (2019) and supported by faculty advisor Professor Maryam Ahranjani, the UNM chapter of the Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project received a generous donation from an anonymous donor who has contributed over \$40,000 to its work. Through UNM School of Law's Marshall-Brennan chapter, upper-level law students teach constitutional rights courses to high school students in culturally-diverse, high-poverty New Mexico public schools. The class culminates in a local moot court competition, and winners join high school students from chapters all over the country for a national competition in Washington, D.C. For more information on Marshall-Brennan and how you can support it, [visit here](#).

Upcoming Events



Social Justice Book Club

All students, staff, faculty, and alums are invited to participate in the book discussions listed below. You are welcome to participate in any or all of the discussions – no need to commit to all three. If you would like to purchase an extra copy of the books to give to students and staff, donations can be made through the UNM Foundation using [this link](#) (please indicate “Social Justice Book Club” in the comments box at the bottom of the donation page).

Thursday, January 28th at 6:00 PM

Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://unm.zoom.us/j/91460123063>

Meeting ID: 914 6012 3063

Passcode: 440667

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,91460123063# US (Houston)

+16699006833,,91460123063# US (San Jose)

Wednesday, February 24 at 7:00 PM

Are Prisons Obsolete? By Angela Davis

Register by emailing [Professor Elizabeth Elia](#)

Thursday, April 1 at 6:00 PM

Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents by Isabel Wilkerson

Register by emailing [Professor Elizabeth Elia](#)

One of our students has arranged for a 20% discount at [Page 1 Books](#) (corner of Eubank & Juan Tabo) for anyone who asks for the UNM SOL Book Club Book at the front desk. You can shop in person, use curbside pick-up, or have your books mailed to you.

To sign up for any of the above Social Justice Book Club events, please email [Professor Elizabeth Elia](#).

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