



Dear Vandals,

October was another busy month filled with celebrations and new experiences.

We hosted the Fall Law Advisory Council Meeting in Moscow, with 10 members attending in person. These meetings are the perfect opportunity to work through issues affecting the College of Law. I am thankful for the Council and their commitment to our great college.



I was then able to attend the 1889 Gala, where alumni Curtis Coulter '87 was recognized. The event was amazing. I enjoyed hearing the countless memories and success stories from some of Idaho's most loyal donors. Seeing the difference their contributions have made, through current student testimonials, brought the messaging full circle.

We then moved on to my first Bellwood Lecture, the largest endowed lecture series at the University of Idaho. This year we were thrilled to host Judge Sara Hill of the Northern District of Oklahoma. Judge Hill, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, served as the Cherokee Nation's Attorney General prior to being appointed to the federal bench.

Judge Hill's lecture provided us with the unique opportunity to showcase our strong relationship with regional tribes as well as our amazing [Native American Law \(NAL\) Program](#). The mission of our NAL Program is to recruit, matriculate, and launch Native Americans and other students that seek to work in Indian country. I am proud to say that this program has grown rapidly in the past few years and is currently one of the strongest of its kind in the Northwest.

We began the day with an engaging panel discussion on the role of attorneys in Indian Country. Judge Hill was joined by Chairman Chief Allan (Coeur d'Alene Tribe), Chairman Shannon Wheeler (Nez Perce Tribe), and Vice-Chair Curt Holmes (Kalispel Tribe). Each of these panelists spoke at length about their experiences with lawyers and the

legal system. Each provided a different perspective but echoed the importance of understanding the interrelationship between tribal law, federal law, and state law for modern lawyers in the West.

We continued that conversation at our luncheon event. Colleagues from the Native American Student Center, as well as faculty and student leaders, joined us in the beautiful ICCU Arena. There, Professor Dylan Hedden-Nicely provided us with an update on the NAL Program. Professor Jessica Millward presented on our new Tribal Clinic, and Professor Julie Leavitt presented on the priorities of the NAL Program moving forward. Third year student Arman Entezar (Coeur d'Alene Tribe) also spoke to the audience about his experience studying law at the University of Idaho.

The afternoon's lecture was a pleasure to experience. I was fortunate to be joined by University President Scott Green, Idaho Supreme Court Justice Colleen Zahn '95, '00, and Moscow Student Bar Association President Erin Howey on stage. Judge Hill is an exceptional speaker and legal mind. Her wealth of knowledge on Tribal Law and relations was moving. I am very thankful for Judge Hill for joining us for the 2024 Bellwood Lecture.



If you missed the event, Judge Hill's lecture can be [viewed here](#).

This incredible event would not have been possible without the efforts of our amazing faculty and staff. Professor Hedden-Nicely, Professor Millward, and Professor Leavitt were instrumental in securing Judge Hill as a guest and supporting the full day of activities. Our events team, Christy Becker and Caroline Lehner, was tremendous throughout the planning process and executed each event flawlessly. Our development officer, Stephanie Ballis, stepped in to help coordinate throughout the lead-up and during the event. Thank you to the Vandal Family for coming together in support of such an important moment for Idaho Law and the Moscow community.

Moving into next month, I will attend the annual Idaho Business Review's Leaders in Law and Excellence in Finance event on November 21 in Boise. This year's [list of honorees features several Vandals](#), including current Professors Geoff Heeren and Stacy Etheredge. I look forward to celebrating their successes with them in person.

Best,

Aviva Abramovsky
Dean and Professor of Law



IN THE NEWS

[Susan Park named John Elorriaga Endowed Professor](#) – Park named endowed professor at Boise State University College of Business and Economics

[Intellectual Property Attorney Alexandra Hodson Named Rising Star By Her Alma Mater](#) – Hodson recognized by College of Law faculty

[Anne Henderson Haws Receives University of Idaho College of Law](#)

[Rising Star Award](#) – Henderson Haws recognized by College of Law faculty

[UI reports largest freshman class in school history](#) – College of Law enrollment up nearly 8%

HOLIDAY PARTY



Join Dean Abramovsky and Idaho Law at The Lively from 5-7 p.m. MST on Thursday, December 12 for the annual College of Law Holiday Party. Please [RSVP through the link provided](#).

Connect with us!



About First Monday

Borrowing from a popular name for commencement of the U.S. Supreme Court's annual October term, this electronic newsletter connects the College of Law with alumni and friends on the first Monday of each month. "First Monday" reflects the College's Idaho-style collegiality, its sense of professional calling, and its pride in the extended family that sustains this remarkable institution.