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The University of Wyoming College of Law at 100: A Brief History

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THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING COLLEGE OF LAW AT 100: A BRIEF HISTORY*

*Klint W. Alexander***

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I. INTRODUCTION

The year 2020 marked the Centennial Anniversary of the University of Wyoming College of Law. For one hundred years, Wyoming's only law school has

* The first 75 years, as recounted in the beginning of this essay, is derived, in part, from The Honorable Michael Golden's *History of the University of Wyoming College of Law: The First Seventy-Five Years*, 31 LAND & WATER REV. 1 (1996) with additional insights from the author.

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stood the test of time and made a significant imprint on the state's history and landscape. The College of Law has been the center of legal education in Wyoming and the launching pad for many prominent people in politics, law, and business during the last century. Individuals like Thurman Arnold, J.J. Hickey, Robert Hamilton, Al Simpson, William Brimmer, James Barrett, Frank Trelease, George Hopper, Mike Sullivan, April Brimmer Kunz, and Marilyn Kite, among others, have contributed to the College's distinct national reputation and its unique story as a frontier law school in the United States. This brief history provides a snapshot of some of the college's people, contributions, and progress during its first one hundred years.

II. JUSTICE AND LEGAL TRAINING ON THE WYOMING FRONTIER: THE EARLY YEARS

In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Homestead Act and the Morrill Land Grant College Act into law, paving the way for westward expansion, the creation of a Wyoming Territory, and the establishment of a land-grant University to serve the State of Wyoming.¹ The Homestead Act attracted many new farmers, ranchers, merchants, railroad workers, lawyers, judges, and even outlaws to the territory searching for a better life. The Morrill Act, sponsored by Senator Justin Morrill of Vermont, set aside 30,000 acres of public land for new western states to create colleges to “benefit the agricultural and mechanical arts” and make education accessible to all people regardless of socio-economic, ethnic, or geographical circumstances.² This was the first significant law enacted by Congress to promote public higher education, resulting in the growth of land-grant colleges across the United States. The Wyoming Territory, part of the new west, established the University of Wyoming in 1886, using land-grant funds. Four years later, Wyoming gained statehood, and the delegates of the state convention, keeping with the spirit of the second Morrill Act of 1890, wrote that the University of Wyoming would be “equally open to students of both sexes, irrespective of race or color.”³ The University of Wyoming embraced the need for vocational training in agriculture and mechanics, but made the liberal arts curricula the core of the institution's focus. This was consistent with “The Wisconsin Idea” brought to Wyoming by John Wesley Hoyt, the University of

¹ See Homestead Act, Pub. L. No. 37-64 (1862) (repealed 1976). The Homestead Act, which allowed American citizens to claim 160 acres of surveyed public land, was in effect until 1976 and led to the settlement of approximately 270 million acres (10 percent of U.S. land) by Americans. *The Homestead Act of 1862*, NAT'L ARCHIVES, www.archives.gov/education/lessons/homestead-act (last visited Apr. 15, 2021) [<https://perma.cc/R47P-7RGU>].

² See Morrill Act of 1862, 7 U.S.C. §§ 301–309. The Act was called “An Act Donating Public Lands to the several States and Territories which may provide Colleges for the Benefit of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts.” *Morrill Act (1862)*, OURDOCUMENTS, www.ourdocuments.gov/print_friendly.php?flash=false&page=&doc=33&title=Morrill+Act+%281862%29 (last visited Apr. 21, 2021) [<https://perma.cc/656A-AZ3R>].

³ See Morrill Act of 1890, 7 U.S.C. §§ 321–329; see also WYO. CONST. art. VII, § 16.

Wyoming's first president and advocate of the land-grant mission.⁴ Hoyt studied both law and medicine, taught chemistry, and also served as governor of the Wyoming territory.⁵

Before 1920, there was no law school or legal training center in Wyoming. The law was taught elsewhere, mostly east of the Mississippi River, and was left to men who had been born, raised, and educated in places other than Wyoming.⁶ Chief Justice Charles N. Potter, for example, received his LL.B. from Michigan Law School in 1873 and moved to Cheyenne in 1876.⁷ Potter was a member of the Wyoming Constitutional Convention and served as a justice on the Wyoming Supreme Court for more than three decades.⁸ Justice Fred H. Blume, a German native, received his bachelor's degree from the State University of Iowa (now the University of Iowa) and "read the law" under the tutelage of a small-town lawyer in Iowa before moving to Sheridan, Wyoming in 1905.⁹ In 1921, after serving several years in the Wyoming legislature, Blume was appointed to the Wyoming Supreme Court, where he served for 42 years. Blume read extensively about the history of Western civilization and became especially interested in Roman law. While serving on Wyoming's Supreme Court, he spent numerous hours translating the *Codex Justinianus* (the Justinian Code) into English and building an extensive library of approximately 2,300 volumes.¹⁰ The Blume Collection today is housed at the University of Wyoming College of Law.

Perhaps the most important figure in Wyoming's early history was a lawyer by the name of Thurman Arnold. Arnold was born in Laramie in 1891 and received his law degree from Harvard. He practiced law in Chicago for a brief stint and

⁴ "Inspired by state Academies of Science that were springing up across the country, especially in the frontier states, a group of Wisconsin scholars and civic leaders led by John Wesley Hoyt met to organize a formal association [called The Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters] to encourage investigation and disseminate views of the various departments of science, literature and the arts." *Academy History*, WIS. ACAD. OF SCIS, ARTS & LETTERS, www.wisconsinacademy.org/about-us/history (last visited Apr. 15, 2021) [<https://perma.cc/GJ6R-PEYY>]. "While science was at the heart of the Wisconsin Academy, the founders understood the value of the breadth of liberal arts disciplines, and embraced the arts and letters as well." *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ See Michael Golden, *History of the University of Wyoming College of Law: The First Seventy-Five Years*, 31 LAND & WATER L. REV. 1, 2 (1996).

⁷ *Student Profile: Charles Nelson Potter*, UNIV. MICH. L., www.law.umich.edu/historyandtraditions/students/Pages/ProfilePage.aspx?SID=1313&Year=1873 (last visited Apr. 17, 2021) [<https://perma.cc/QD43-M6S3>].

⁸ See PROGRESSIVE MEN OF THE STATE OF WYOMING 458–60 (A.W. Bowen & Co., 1903); Golden, *supra* note 6, at 5.

⁹ Michael Golden, *Journey for the Pole: The Life and Times of Fred H. Blume, Justice of the Wyoming Supreme Court*, 28 LAND & WATER L. REV. 195, 202 (1993).

¹⁰ See *Annotated Justinian Code*, UNIV. WYO., www.uwyo.edu/lawlib/blume-justinian/ (last visited Apr. 17, 2021) [<https://perma.cc/5R4H-Z3MU>].

served during World War I before returning to Laramie to join his father's law practice in 1919. At that time, Arnold recognized that the absence of a law school in Wyoming caused many aspiring judges, attorneys, and political leaders to leave the state to pursue their legal education, and many never returned. Arnold believed that the establishment of a law school in Wyoming was a necessity and critical to the State's political, economic, and social future.¹¹

III. THE FOUNDING OF A LAW SCHOOL IN WYOMING

In January 1920, several University of Wyoming students, with Arnold's support, filed a petition with the Board of Trustees, requesting the creation of a law school.¹² The Board supported the request and approved the opening of a law school on September 21, 1920.¹³ The Board appointed Harrison C. Dale as acting director of the new law school.¹⁴ Arnold, Albert W. McCollough,¹⁵ and Volney Jean Tidball¹⁶ were the first instructors at the new law school. Arnold taught Property and Torts, McCollough taught Criminal Law and Agency, and Tidball taught Legal Practice and Procedure. Tidball was remembered by his students mainly for his early morning classes. The three students enrolled in the first class at the law school were Forest Dukes, Edward Madden, and Michael Wind.¹⁷ These pioneer students attended classes in Science Hall on the University's campus and were given access to Arnold's and McCollough's libraries at their law offices in Laramie.¹⁸

In 1921, Arnold sought support for the law school from the Wyoming Bar Association at its annual convention. He told the members:

The new generation of lawyers . . . will either have to be born in this state, or they will have to come here from beyond our

¹¹ See SPENCER WEBER WALLER, THURMAN ARNOLD: A BIOGRAPHY 35–38 (2005).

¹² See Golden, *supra* note 6, at 2.

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ *Id.* Dale apparently served but a brief time, as the record reflects that L.H. Van Houten and Henry J. Peterson also served that first year as acting directors.

¹⁵ McCollough was a University of Chicago law graduate and served as city attorney for Laramie from 1917 to 1923. *McCullough, A. W., (Albert W.), 1882-1941.*, SNAC, snaccooperative.org/view/59232755 (last visited April 16, 2021) [https://perma.cc/S2FY-KA2L]. He also practiced law with Nellis E. Corthell and his son, Morris, in Laramie, both of whom also lectured at the law school. Today, the law firm of Corthell & King, LLP is still in business in Laramie.

¹⁶ Judge Tidball served as the district judge in Laramie from 1913 to 1949. Albany County Bar Association, *Memorial Tribute to Volney Jean Tidball – Judge of the District Court of the Second Judicial District*, 4 WYO. L.J. 69, 69 (1949). Prior to his judgeships, he practiced law with the Downey law firm in Laramie for several years.

¹⁷ Golden, *supra* note 6, at 2; Enrollment Records of the University of Wyoming College of Law, Class of 1923 (on file with the University of Wyoming College of Law Registrar Office).

¹⁸ See Golden, *supra* note 6, at 3, 4.

borders, where they will not be versed in the traditions and in the peculiar conditions which surround the practice of law in this state. That is a condition which is of great interest to this bar, and that is a condition which fortunately has now been changed by the introduction of our new law school.¹⁹

That same year, the law students established the Potter Law Club to enhance the educational and social experience of students in the law school, to assist the moot court program, and to invite lawyers and judges to speak at student gatherings.²⁰ The club was named in honor of the legendary Justice Charles N. Potter and is the main student social club at the College of Law to this day.

In 1922, Arnold, noting the importance of acquiring a dean for the new law school, hired E.F. Albertsworth to serve in this role. Under Dean Albertsworth's leadership, the College of Law made its first significant strides to establish itself as a credible legal education center. The college graduated its first class in 1923 and obtained its accreditation from the American Bar Association (ABA), which allows graduates to take any state bar exam in the nation.²¹ Albertsworth only served one year as dean before handing over the reins to Harold Shepherd, who served as acting dean for a few months.

In 1923, the Board of Trustees hired J. Gerald Driscoll as the College of Law's second dean, and he served in this capacity for three years. During Driscoll's tenure as dean, enrollment increased from three to four students per class. One of those students was Glenn Parker ('24), who became the first University of Wyoming law graduate to serve as a state district court judge and as a Supreme Court justice in Wyoming.²² Other notable alumni to graduate from the College of Law during Driscoll's time as dean included Carl Arnold ('26) and James McClintock ('26). Carl Arnold, Thurman's brother, would eventually become dean, while McClintock opted for a career as a cattle rancher near Cheyenne.

Dean Driscoll oversaw the college's first facility move from Science Hall to the third floor of the Aven Nelson Library Building on the main campus. The third floor of the Aven Nelson building consisted of space for a dean's office, a moot courtroom, and some faculty offices. A law library began to take shape, too, as the University appropriated money for the purchase of a National Reporter System, law textbooks, and law reviews, among other sources. The University's

¹⁹ Golden, *supra* note 6, at 2.

²⁰ Golden, *supra* note 6, at 5.

²¹ *ABA-Approved Law Schools by Year*, AM. BAR ASS'N, www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_education/resources/aba_approved_law_schools/by_year_approved/ (last visited Apr. 15, 2021) [<https://perma.cc/7X27-CXY8>].

²² WYOMING BLUE BOOK 35 (Virginia Cole Trenholm ed., vol. III, 1974).

library staff managed the growing collection of the law library until the law school moved into its own facility three decades later and hired its own library staff.²³

Following Driscoll's resignation in 1926, Charles Kinnane was appointed dean of the College of Law and served in this role until 1933. Kinnane was a law and economics expert who joined the law faculty in 1923 and shepherded the law school through the late 1920s and the Great Depression era (1929–1933). Some of those who graduated from the law school during Kinnane's deanship included George Guy ('27), Hazel Bowman Kerper ('28), and Alfred Pence ('29). Hazel Bowman Kerper, building upon a tradition of "Wyoming firsts" among women started by Louisa Anne Swain in 1870, was the first woman to graduate from the College of Law.²⁴ Following graduation, she moved to Texas and taught criminal justice and sociology as an associate professor at Sam Houston State University (SHSU). Today, the Criminal Justice Center at SHSU houses a courtroom named after her—the Hazel B. Kerper Courtroom.

In 1927, Thurman Arnold left Laramie to become dean of West Virginia's Law School. He then taught at Yale and in 1937 was appointed Assistant Attorney General by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to direct the Department of Justice's Antitrust Division. Described as having "created the modern Antitrust Division," his "vigorous enforcement" of the antitrust laws was an important development in the nation's commercial practices.²⁵ In 1943, he was appointed judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, but he much preferred the practice of law.²⁶ He left the federal bench after two years and co-founded the law firm of Arnold & Porter, which would grow to become a widely recognized global law firm.²⁷ On one occasion, he returned to Laramie to give the commencement address at the University of Wyoming. Referring to his time in Wyoming, he said:

²³ Golden, *supra* note 6, at 5.

²⁴ Louisa Anne Swain was the first woman in the United States to vote in a general election, casting her ballot on September 6th, 1870, in Laramie, Wyoming. Wyo. State Hist. Soc'y, *Who Cast the First Vote?*, WYOHISTORY.ORG (July 28, 2019), www.wyohistory.org/encyclopedia/who-cast-first-vote [<https://perma.cc/9DUW-P5AZ>]. Esther Hobart Morris was the first woman in America to serve as Justice of the Peace, serving a nine month term as justice in South Pass City, Wyoming in 1870. *See generally* KATHRYN SWIM CUMMINGS, *ESTHER HOBART MORRIS: THE UNEMBELLISHED STORY OF THE NATION'S FIRST FEMALE JUDGE* (2019). Wyoming had the first female court bailiff—Mary Atkinson—in Laramie, in 1870; the first all-woman jury; and became the first state to elect a female governor, Nellie Tayloe Ross, in 1924. *See* Annie Todd, 'Equal Rights': Wyoming was First State to Grant Women the Right to Vote Decades Ahead of 19th Amendment, USA TODAY (Aug. 27, 2020), www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/equal-rights-wyoming-was-first-state-to-grant-women-the-right-to-vote-decades-ahead-of-19th-amendment/ar-BB17VPTT [<https://perma.cc/GYR9-4M85>].

²⁵ *Thurman Arnold Project at Yale*, YALE SCHOOL OF MGMT., som.yale.edu/faculty-research-centers/centers-initiatives/thurman-arnold-project-at-yale (last visited Apr. 16, 2021) [<https://perma.cc/7H9Y-7BJA>].

²⁶ *See* Spencer Weber Waller, *The Short Unhappy Judgeship of Thurman Arnold*, 3 WYO. L. REV. 233 (2003).

²⁷ *See* William Kolasky, *Thurman Arnold: An American Original*, 27 ANTITRUST 89 (2013).

Those of us who leave it will always feel the pull to come back. It has a beauty that is only fully revealed to those who have lived here. And I like to think that its winds and its winters produce an independence of action and thought that those who live in the hard life of cities and of more organized communities never know.²⁸

Arnold died in 1969 and is buried in Laramie.

IV. THE COLLEGE OF LAW TAKES OFF

Following the stock market crash of 1929, enrollment doubled at the College of Law, though female enrollment remained low. The classes of 1930, 1931, and 1932 graduated twelve, nine, and six students, respectively. The increase in law students was unpopular with the Wyoming Bar, which consisted of approximately 200 actively practicing lawyers at the time.²⁹ Times were tough economically and the prospect of an influx of young law graduates competing for law jobs in the local market did not sit well with the legal community. Graduates of the law school during The Great Depression included Winston S. Howard ('30), Rodney Guthrie ('31), John J. Hickey ('34), and Joseph B. Sullivan ('34, the father of Michael J. Sullivan).³⁰

In 1933, Carl Arnold was selected as the fourth dean of the College of Law. Carl Arnold graduated from the College of Law in 1926 and after a brief stint at Yale Law School returned to Laramie to teach Constitutional Law. He then served as dean from the end of the Great Depression to the outset of World War II (1933–1941).³¹ Throughout this period, the law school expanded its facilities, its faculty, and its library collection, but the school never had a class size larger than twelve students.³² Graduates of the College of Law during this period included Archie McClintock ('35), Joseph Spangler ('35), William H. Brown ('37), Jerry

²⁸ WALLER, *supra* note 11, at 38.

²⁹ Golden, *supra* note 6, at 9.

³⁰ Winston S. Howard was a partner at Sherman & Howard, a Denver law firm, for most of his career. See *Winston Howard*, DENVER POST, <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/denverpost/obituary.aspx?n=winston-howard&pid=17486224> (last visited Apr. 21, 2021) [<https://perma.cc/U7E8-29JM>]. Rodney Guthrie practiced law in Sundance, Wyoming and was appointed to the Wyoming Supreme Court by Governor Stan Hathaway in 1972, where he served on the bench until 1978. *Rodney Guthrie*, ORLANDO SENTINEL (June 11, 1991), www.orlandosentinel.com/news/os-xpm-1991-06-11-9106110205-story,amp.html [<https://perma.cc/U6AJ-YUHY>]. John J. Hickey, born in Rawlins, served as Wyoming's Governor, U.S. Senator, and judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit.

³¹ See WALLER, *supra* note 11, at 37.

³² The law library collection reached 12,500 volumes. Golden, *supra* note 6, at 11.

Housel ('37), John Raper ('37), Vernon G. Bentley ('39), John Ilsley ('39), and Jim Zaring ('39).³³

While serving as dean, Carl Arnold worked in President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Administration in the general counsel's office of the Federal Communications Commission from 1935 to 1937, traveling back and forth between Laramie and Washington, D.C. Shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941, Dean Arnold took a leave of absence from the College of Law to serve as an attorney with the Maritime Commission in Washington, D.C. He died suddenly that same year at the age of 45.

From 1940 to 1943, enrollment decreased at the College of Law due to men enlisting in the armed services.³⁴ There were fourteen graduates in the Class of 1941, including William N. Brimmer, David N. Hitchcock, James L. Simonton, Gerald A. Stack, and Robert R. Rose, Jr. Brimmer received the Bronze Star for his heroic service in World War II and then became a prominent oil and gas lawyer in Rawlins and Cheyenne.³⁵ Rose later served as solicitor for the Department of the Interior and as Chief Justice of the Wyoming Supreme Court. The number of graduates in the Classes of 1942 and 1943 fell to six before the College of Law was forced to temporarily close its doors.³⁶

Robert S. Hamilton, the nation's leading expert on public school law, was appointed dean in 1941 after serving on the law faculty for several years. Hamilton wrote the nation's leading textbook on public education law and sought to educate administrators on tort liability, compulsory attendance, saluting the flag, student discipline, loyalty oaths, and other laws so there would be less need for lawsuits against school districts across the country.³⁷ "Administrators," Hamilton once

³³ Archie McClintock, born in Sheridan, was appointed to the Wyoming Supreme Court by Governor Stan Hathaway in 1973, serving until his retirement until 1981. He also served as Wyoming Attorney's General from 1982 to 1986. *Former Attorney General, Supreme Court Justice Dies*, CASPER STAR TRIB. (Dec. 3, 2004), trib.com/news/state-and-regional/former-attorney-general-supreme-court-justice-dies/article_c6498976-2f6d-5f7b-9eba-8d05f5c387f6.html [https://perma.cc/R752-XH9D]. John Raper practiced law in Sheridan, Wyoming and also served as Wyoming's Attorney General and a district court judge before being appointed by Governor Hathaway to the Wyoming Supreme Court in 1974. *John F. Raper (Wyoming Supreme Court)*, COURT LISTENER, www.courtlistener.com/person/6101/john-f-raper/ (last visited Apr. 16, 2021) [https://perma.cc/7FND-CXXX]. He served on the Wyoming Supreme Court until his retirement in 1983. *Id.*

³⁴ Golden, *supra* note 6, at 12.

³⁵ Robert H. Henry, *Wyoming Law School Building Dedication: William N. Brimmer Legal Education Center*, 10 WYO. L. REV. 193, 195 (2010).

³⁶ Golden, *supra* note 6, at 12.

³⁷ See generally ROBERT R. HAMILTON & PAUL R. MORT, *THE LAW AND PUBLIC EDUCATION* (1959).

remarked, “need a sort of traffic light—red to warn them of danger spots, green to say go ahead. We are on our way to rescuing many.”³⁸

Hamilton’s education and training as a school administrator carried over to his leadership and effectiveness as a law school dean as well. He and his faculty colleagues—McCullough, Tidball, and G.R. McConnell—steered the law school through the early years of the Second World War, but enrollment decline coupled with security concerns about the war in the Pacific forced the law school to close its doors from 1944 to 1945.³⁹ Notwithstanding these challenges, Dean Hamilton managed to recruit several talented young faculty members, including Eugene Kuntz (a nationally prominent oil and gas law expert), Frank Trelease (a preeminent scholar in the field of water law), and E. George Rudolph (a tax law specialist).

After the war, college and law school enrollments increased dramatically across the nation due to the passage of The Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944 (G.I. Bill).⁴⁰ Enrollment after the two-year shut down of the College of Law skyrocketed to seventy-eight students in 1947, ninety students in 1948, and approximately ninety-five students in 1949. Notable alumni of the college during that period included Dick Bostwick (’47), Frank P. Hill (’47), Joe Maier (’47), Charles Kepler (’48), Jim Barrett (’49), Don Chapin (’49), and Ed Herschler (’49).⁴¹ Kepler was an adventurer, scholar, and prominent lawyer in Wyoming who received the Purple Heart during World War II.⁴² “Through his work with the Paul Stock Foundation, [he] was instrumental in granting hundreds of scholarships to . . . students, and grants to the University of Wyoming.”⁴³ During a speech he gave to UW law graduates in 2007, he offered the following

³⁸ *Education: Law for Schoolmen*, TIME (May 21, 1951), content.time.com/time/subscriber/article/0,33009,859208,00.html [https://perma.cc/2KY5-CZN7].

³⁹ Golden, *supra* note 6, at 12.

⁴⁰ The G.I. Bill (The Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944, Pub. L. No. 78-346, 58 Stat. 284) was enacted after World War II to assist military veterans returning from the war by providing a range of benefits, including scholarship and financial aid to attend undergraduate and graduate school. *See G.I. Bill*, HISTORY (June 7, 2019), www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/gi-bill [https://perma.cc/C6TC-GNRN]. During the decade following the war, enrollment at colleges and universities increased by 2.2 million and an additional five million used the benefits to pursue some kind of employment training. *See generally* GLENN C. ALTSCHULER & STUART M. BLUMIN, THE GI BILL: A NEW DEAL FOR VETERANS (2009).

⁴¹ Don Chapin started the law firm Crowell & Chapin P.C. (which later became Crowell, Chapin & Dixon) in Casper where he practiced law for over 60 years. *2018 College of Law Honors Banquet*, U. WYO. COLL. L. (Mar. 23, 2018), https://uwyolaw.wordpress.com/2018/03/ [https://perma.cc/2LKP-8F6R]. Ed Herschler served as Governor of Wyoming from 1975 to 1987.

⁴² *Charles George Kepler*, CASPER STAR TRIB. (July 20, 2012), trib.com/lifestyles/announcements/obituaries/charles-george-kepler/article_8c2d7f5a-d2a2-11e1-9082-001a4bcf887a.html [https://perma.cc/YKN9-4VED].

⁴³ *Id.*

advice: “If the judge gives you twenty minutes, take ten, and if the judge gives you thirty minutes, take fifteen.”⁴⁴ Judge Barrett had a distinguished career as Wyoming’s Attorney General and a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. He is remembered for landing a plane after the pilot died mid-flight and for his role as counsel for the University of Wyoming during the “Black 14” lawsuit in 1969.⁴⁵

By the 1950s, the College of Law was bustling in terms of intellectual activity and student enrollment was at an all-time high. The faculty consisted of giants like John Rames, Frank Trelease, Glenn Parker, and Harold Bloomenthal. Students who graduated during the early 1950s included Richard Downey (’50), John Ellbogen (’50), Joe Geraud (’50), Walter Urbigkit (’51), Bob Sigler (’52), Gerry Spence (’52), W.J. “Jack” Nicholas (’52), Bob Sturgis (’52), Paul Tobin (’52), and Margie Meacham (’54). Gerry Spence, in particular, would go on to become a heavy-hitter trial lawyer, successfully representing some of the most fascinating people in high-profile cases, including Imelda Marcos, the estate of Karen Silkwood, Randy Weaver following the Ruby Ridge incident, and Miss Wyoming in the famous lawsuit against Larry Flynt and Penthouse Magazine.⁴⁶ Jack Ellbogen from Worland was a successful oil magnate and the benefactor of the John P. Ellbogen Foundation, which has supported educational programs at the University of Wyoming for decades.⁴⁷ Bob Sigler was a prominent Torrington

⁴⁴ See *Charles George Kepler*, BILLINGS GAZETTE (July 15, 2012), billingsgazette.com/life-styles/announcements/obituaries/charles-george-kepler/article_6f72a378-fe58-5f33-8bf0-58628e804d1e.html [https://perma.cc/7W3K-PQVU].

⁴⁵ See *Former Wyoming Attorney General, Judge James Barrett Dies*, CASPER STAR TRIB. (Nov. 8, 2011), trib.com/news/state-and-regional/former-wyoming-attorney-general-judge-james-barrett-dies/article_f5b67271-113c-5bce-bdf3-d7f5e4b1e179.html [https://perma.cc/ZW8H-P6MQ]. The “Black 14” was a group of African-American UW football players who were kicked off the team for wanting to wear armbands on game day against Brigham Young University to protest the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints’ policy forbidding African-American priests. See David Potter, *Halftime Recognition Puts Cap on “Week of Healing” for Wyoming’s Black 14*, CASPER STAR TRIB. (Nov. 23, 2020), trib.com/sports/college/wyoming/football/halftime-recognition-puts-cap-on-week-of-healing-for-wyomings-black-14/article_69f37240-e96a-5081-8b7d-62bdb8c3d751.html#:~:text=The%20Black%2014%20were%20members,%20Dday%20Saints%20racial%20policies [https://perma.cc/CC5J-Q7TD].

⁴⁶ See *Gerry L. Spence, Partner*, SPENCE, www.spencelawyers.com/attorneys/gerry-l-spence/ (last visited Apr. 15, 2021) [https://perma.cc/X42X-KGZX]. Gerry Spence practiced law in Wyoming for over 50 years and was regarded as one of the greatest trial lawyers of the twentieth century. See *id.* In 2009, he was inducted into the American Trial Lawyers Hall of Fame, and in 2013, “he received the Lifetime Achievement award presented by the American Association for Justice.” *Id.* He is a founding member of The Spence Law Firm, LLC in Jackson, Wyoming and the founder and former director of the nonprofit Trial Lawyers College in Wyoming, which has provided continuing education to trial lawyers around Wyoming and the nation. *Id.*

⁴⁷ See *UW, Ellbogen Foundation Create First Endowed Deanship*, UW NEWS (Dec. 16, 2020), www.uwo.edu/uw/news/2020/12/uw,-ellbogen-foundation-create-first-endowed-deanship.html [https://perma.cc/8WJK-8ACK].

attorney who served the legal needs of residents in rural Wyoming, Nebraska, and surrounding states for more than fifty years. In honor of his legacy as a small-town lawyer, a scholarship was created in his name for College of Law students who demonstrate a desire to practice law in rural Wyoming.⁴⁸

The influx in students during the 1950s prompted calls for a larger law school facility. In 1953, Hamilton successfully led an effort to build a new law school building on Iverson Avenue.⁴⁹ The new facility featured a tiered classroom on the second floor and a law library on the north side of the building. Bas reliefs carved by UW sculptor Robert Russin adorned each side of the building's entrance.⁵⁰ The legendary Al Simpson, who graduated from the College of Law in 1958 and served in the United States Senate, described the bas reliefs as follows:

One is of a man down on his haunches with a chisel and hammer - that represents man-made law - and the other is of Moses receiving the tablets . . . The legs of the man with the hammer are those of Jay Mulvehal, a teammate of mine on the UW basketball team that went to the NCAA quarterfinals in Corvallis (Ore.) in 1952-53. Russin saw him playing basketball and asked him to come to his studio to model the legs for the sculpture. He was the perfect specimen, and we were very proud those were his legs.⁵¹

The construction of a court room in the new facility allowed law students to train and practice their trial skills for the first time in a simulated court room setting. Moreover, the larger library space required a full-time law librarian to manage the collection. George E. Trowsdale was hired that year as the college's first Law Librarian to oversee that collection.⁵² At a ceremony to open the new facility, Dean Hamilton remarked:

Today, the College of Law finds itself at the end of one era, and at the beginning of another. The first was characterized by the struggles of a small, young school for recognition in its state and throughout the nation. Such recognition has been attained, but it has not come quickly or easily. . . . With this day a new era

⁴⁸ See Bob C. Sigler, CASPER STAR TRIB. (Sept. 11, 2005), trib.com/news/state-and-regional/obituaries/bob-c-sigler/article_c7ab3acd-11bb-5e68-ad27-7153b7347f41.html [<https://perma.cc/GB4H-7BDD>].

⁴⁹ Golden, *supra* note 6, at 15.

⁵⁰ See Phil White, *A Glorious Building: Impending Demise of Old UW Law School Facility Evokes Memories*, CASPER STAR TRIB. (Aug. 20, 2007), trib.com/news/state-and-regional/a-glorious-building/article_70b2ac39-002d-5ead-b488-2a7ae6243d4d.html [<https://perma.cc/3V3W-4RKS>].

⁵¹ *Id.*

⁵² Golden, *supra* note 6, at 16.

dawns for the College. For the first time it has a home of its own. Its new quarters are commodious and ideally designed for law school purposes. The court room makes possible expanded work in trial practice. For the first time in many years, the entire library is arranged for most convenient use by faculty and students.⁵³

However, the new facility was built before the Americans with Disabilities Act and had no elevator. Over a decade later, a wheelchair-bound student named Tom Bickel managed to attend classes for three years in the building and graduate with a law degree. As recalled by one of Bickel's classmates, Hugh McFadden, "Bickel's classmates were always happy to carry him up or down as need be."⁵⁴

The post-war student boom subsided by the late 1950s and the College of Law's enrollment hovered at about sixteen students per class for several years. Among the notable alumni who graduated during those years were Leonard Lang ('55), George Hopper ('56), Carl Williams ('56), Al Simpson ('58), Jim Applegate ('58),⁵⁵ Wade Brorby ('58),⁵⁶ Bob Guthrie ('59), and Elizabeth A. "Betty" Kail ('59). While each of these graduates went on to become giants in their own right as jurists, elected officials, attorneys, and corporate leaders, one in particular, Betty Kail, was the second woman (after Esther Hobart Morris in 1870) to serve as a judge in Wyoming.⁵⁷ Al Simpson, who served in the United States Senate from 1979 to 1997, once remarked about his time at the College of Law that he never felt lacking in a solid education, even when compared to the "big boys from the Ivy League schools."⁵⁸

In 1959, Hamilton invited his former professor and mentor at Yale Law School, U.S. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, to the University of Wyoming to speak to the University's faculty and students. The next year, he retired after three decades of service as professor and dean at the College of Law. He was the longest serving dean in the College of Law's history. Among

⁵³ *Id.* at 15.

⁵⁴ White, *supra* note 50.

⁵⁵ Jim Applegate, a beloved attorney from Cheyenne, served as minority leader in the Wyoming House of Representatives and was the co-founder of the Cheyenne law firm of Hirst & Applegate, LLP.

⁵⁶ Wade Brorby, a well-regarded Gillette attorney, was nominated by President Ronald Reagan to the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit in 1987; Judge Brorby replaced Judge James E. Barrett on the Bench. *Wade Brorby*, BALLOTPEdia, ballotpedia.org/Wade_Brorby (last visited Apr. 16, 2021) [<https://perma.cc/T9NV-CB7W>].

⁵⁷ In 1981, Betty Kail became the first female County Court Judge in Fremont County, and in 1982, she was the first female District Court Judge (Ninth Judicial District) in Wyoming history. See Katie Kull, *State Exhibit to Highlight Successes of Women in Law*, AP NEWS (Jan. 10, 2018), apnews.com/article/0b6f1ec9f42e4289b4d069e6d07b15dd.

⁵⁸ See Mary Angel, *Centennial Celebration University of Wyoming College of Law: Reflections from Distinguished Alumni*, WYO. LAW., Aug. 2020, at 17.

his many accomplishments, he is perhaps best remembered for his leadership in shepherding the law school through the World War II period and for elevating the College of Law's reputation in the field of education law. His book, *The Law and Public Education*, was the leading law textbook in the field for two decades, and it contributed enormously to educational policy development throughout the United States.⁵⁹

Following Hamilton's retirement, Frank J. Trelease assumed the role of dean at the College of Law in 1960 and led the law school through one of the most challenging decades of the twentieth century. At the time, the American people were consumed with the social and cultural shift brought on by the "hippie" generation and the Civil Rights Movement, and extraordinary political events such as the Cuban Missile Crisis, the assassination of JFK, and the Vietnam War. Trelease, raised in Colorado, earned degrees from the University of Colorado in 1937 and 1938, and his J.S.D. from the University of Wisconsin in 1962. Prior to embarking on his thirty-five-year career at the University of Wyoming, he worked in private practice in Denver and taught law at the University of Colorado.

Trelease was invited by Hamilton to join the University of Wyoming law faculty as an assistant professor in 1942. He taught Torts and Water Law, and was popular with the students, many of whom were subjected to his rigorous application of the Socratic Method and a "Trelease grilling."⁶⁰ As one former colleague described it, "Frank's methods reflected his belief that as lawyers his students would find no friends in the courtroom."⁶¹ He was known for throwing blackboard erasers in class when students were unprepared, and sometimes asking these students to "walk the long mile."⁶² One of Trelease's former students, Mike Sullivan ('64), recalled his experience with Dean Trelease:

We all went in not knowing the curriculum, what the practice of law was going to be and we were scared to death . . . All of us will remember the dean of the college saying, "Look to your right. Now look to your left. At least half of you won't be here when the semester is over." That put us all at risk in the same position, and we became very good friends.⁶³

Sullivan, after surviving Trelease's class, would go on to become Governor of Wyoming for two terms and U.S. Ambassador to Ireland under President Bill Clinton.

⁵⁹ See HAMILTON & MORT, *supra* note 37.

⁶⁰ Golden, *supra* note 6, at 17.

⁶¹ George A. Gould, *Tribute to Frank J. Trelease*, 22 LAND & WATER L. REV. 287, 287–88 (1987).

⁶² George A. Gould, *A Salute to Frank J. Trelease*, 18 PAC. L.J. vii (1986–1987) (reprint of a farewell speech given by Professor George A. Gould in honor of Frank J. Trelease).

⁶³ See Angel, *supra* note 58.

Trelease's primary academic interest was water law, where he gained international recognition as a leading authority.⁶⁴ "He was the principal draftsman of the underground water statutes of Wyoming and was retained to draft the first water law code for the state of Alaska enacted in 1966."⁶⁵ The United Nations employed Trelease as a consultant on water law matters for the governments of Jamaica, the Philippines, and Swaziland, and he worked as a consultant to the National Water Commission in 1969.⁶⁶

Prior to becoming dean, Trelease spearheaded the establishment of the *Wyoming Law Journal*, a student-run journal with the goal of improving legal education at the university and serving the Wyoming State Bar. The *Wyoming Law Journal* was published from 1946 until it was changed to the *Wyoming Land and Water Review* in 1966. For nearly three decades, the *Wyoming Land and Water Review* was produced as a hybrid journal, publishing articles, comments, and case notes of particular concern to the Wyoming lawyer and in the specialty area of natural resources law, where the college was nationally recognized.⁶⁷ During the mid-1990s, the *Wyoming Land and Water Review*, again, changed its title to the *Wyoming Law Review*, which publishes articles, essays, comments, and notes in all law fields twice a year to this day. The top-performing students in each first-year law school class are awarded the opportunity to serve on the *Wyoming Law Review*.

As dean of the College of Law from 1960 to 1971, Trelease advanced the law school in many ways. In addition to bringing national and international recognition to the University in the area of water law, he doubled the size of the student body and the faculty, increased the Law Library's collection to over 40,000 volumes, and established the first three legal clinics at the College of Law. Regarding enrollment, the head count jumped from the fifties to well over a hundred students during the 1960s.⁶⁸ Graduates of the Trelease era included Tom Lubnau ('60), Richard Day ('60), James Birchby ('60), Larry Yonkee, ('61), James Watt ('62), Fred Miller ('62), Duane Buchholz ('63), John Kruse ('63), Perry Dray ('64), Alan Johnson ('64), Jack Speight ('65), Richard Day ('65), David Nicholas ('66), Gerald Bloomfield ('66), Harry Johnston ('67), Tom Day ('67),

⁶⁴ See *2020 Honors Banquet*, UNIV. WYO. COLL. L. (March 4, 2020), uwyo.law.wordpress.com/page/3/ [<https://perma.cc/P7UZ-B3D2>]; see also White, *supra* note 50.

⁶⁵ *2020 Honors Banquet*, *supra* note 64.

⁶⁶ *Id.*

⁶⁷ Golden, *supra* note 6, at 20.

⁶⁸ Enrollments in 1960, 1961, and 1962 were 51, 59, and 58 students, respectively. Golden, *supra* note 6, at 18. "Then, in 1963, with a first-year class of [47 students], enrollment exploded to [83 students]. A still larger explosion occurred in 1964, when the first-year class mushroomed to [64 students, bringing] the total enrollment to [104 students]. That number held steady in 1965; but in 1966, enrollment jumped to [121 students]. The trend continued as the decade closed, with enrollment in 1970 setting a record at [150 students]." *Id.*

John Macpherson ('67), Alva Connelly ('67), Joe Meyer ('67), Larry Jorgenson ('67), Michael Golden ('67), Ray Hunkins ('68), and John Murphy ('69), among others. Golden, who served on the Wyoming Supreme Court from 1988 to 2012, described his time at the College of Law as similar to the movie "The Paper Chase," the story of a Harvard Law School student who was subjected to a Trelease-style "grilling" during his first year Contracts class taught by Professor Kingsfield (played by the actor John Houseman).⁶⁹

Several notable figures taught at the College of Law during Trelease's time as dean as well, including Joe Geraud, Hal Bloomenthal, Larry Averill, George Rudolph, John Rames, Stanley Henderson, Glen Shellhaas, Catherine E. Mealey, and Mary Francis "Ricky" Blackstone. Geraud, a native of Riverton, taught natural resources law at the college from 1955 to 1969 and, along with Trelease, helped build the college's reputation as one of the preeminent natural resource law programs in the country.⁷⁰ Ramos was the editor of the *Law School News*, first published in 1956, which was the news source for events, happenings, and gossip at the law school for nearly two decades. Mealey, who was hired as the Law Library Director to replace Trousdale in 1962, became the first female professor at the College of Law.⁷¹ She was in charge of the legal research and writing program and taught these and other subjects until her retirement three decades later. Mealey was later joined by Ricky Blackstone on the faculty in 1969. Blackstone was the first woman to both graduate from the College of Law and serve as a professor at the college.⁷²

Shellhaas and Rames directed the Defender Aid Program, the college's first legal clinic and the only student-staffed law school program of its time to serve the entire state. The Defender Aid Program was established in 1965 with funding from the Ford Foundation to provide legal assistance to indigent persons accused

⁶⁹ *Id.* at 17. Mike Golden, a Casper native grew up playing baseball with Dick Cheney. DICK CHENEY, IN MY TIME: A PERSONAL AND POLITICAL MEMOIR 24 (2011). He received his J.D. from the University of Wyoming and an LL.M. from the University of Virginia School of Law. *Thomas Michael Golden: Outstanding Alumnus 2015*, UNIV. WYO., www.uwyo.edu/as/outstanding-awardees/2015/golden-thomas-michael.html (last visited Apr. 17, 2021) [<https://perma.cc/3PB5-UY3W>]. In 1988, he was appointed as a Justice in the Wyoming Supreme Court where he served until 2012. *See id.* From 1994 to 1996, he served as Chief Justice of the Wyoming Supreme Court. *Id.* In June 2011, he authored a unanimous decision allowing a same-sex couple to obtain a divorce despite the illegality of same-sex marriage in Wyoming at the time. *See* Joan Barron, *Wyoming Supreme Court Reverses Same-Sex Divorce Ruling*, CASPER STAR TRIB. (June 7, 2011), trib.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming-supreme-court-reverses-same-sex-divorce-ruling/article_56d136c9-ea3c-54c6-b5db-39b9fb28a48.html [<https://perma.cc/X9CX-KXRS>].

⁷⁰ *See* Katie Roenigk, *Geraud in UW Distinguished Alumni Group for Homecoming*, LANDER J. (Oct. 13, 2013), thelanderjournal.com/story.php?id=9547&headline=geraud-in-uw-distinguished-alumni-group-for-homecoming [<https://perma.cc/CX38-QAXM>].

⁷¹ *See College of Law - Dean's Annual Report - 1962-1963*, 18 WYO. L.J. 138, 140–41 (1964).

⁷² Peter C. Maxfield, *Tribute to Mary "Ricky" Blackstone*, 35 LAND & WATER L. REV. xi–xx (2000).

or convicted of crimes.⁷³ The program was timely in that the U.S. Supreme Court had just decided the landmark case of *Gideon v. Wainwright* in 1963, which held that defense counsel must be provided to criminal defendants who cannot afford an attorney under the Constitution.⁷⁴ Through the years, the clinic has represented thousands of inmates in state and federal prisons seeking post-conviction relief and has partnered with the Rocky Mountain Innocence Project to seek exoneration for those who have been falsely accused of a crime.⁷⁵

With the early success of the Defender Aid Program, the College of Law was well-positioned to expand clinical opportunities to students interested in criminal prosecution and civil litigation as well. In 1966, the Defender Aid Program was expanded to allow students to work with prosecutors in criminal cases. Six years later, the Prosecution Assistance Program was established as its own independent legal clinic. In 1970, the Legal Services Clinic was established to provide students the opportunity to work with indigent clients and prison inmates on matters of civil concern. Professor Harold Bloomenthal served as the Director of the Legal Services Clinic, which was located in downtown, Laramie. The creation of these three clinics would set the College of Law on a fifty-year-long path to becoming a nationally recognized school for practical training.

V. THE NEXT FIFTY YEARS: BEYOND A SMALL, RURAL WYOMING LAW SCHOOL

By 1970, the College of Law had survived the first fifty years in existence as a small, rural law school serving Wyoming. Thurman Arnold had achieved what he set out to do in 1920: create a law school for the next generation in Wyoming, for Wyoming. At this point, the college was on the map and began to attract national attention for its pioneering work in the areas of education law, water and natural resources law, and clinical training with one of the nation's first defender aid programs. The state of the college was strong as it entered its next semi-centennial era, and it was a good time for a transition in leadership.

In 1971, Trelease stepped down from the deanship to resume his role as a professor. He remained on the law faculty for another six years before taking a faculty position at McGeorge Law School in California, where he finished out his career. In 1977, he received an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree, *honoris causa*, and the title Dean Emeritus from the University of Wyoming. In 2020, he was posthumously awarded the Thurman Arnold Distinguished Non-alumnus Honor for his thirty-five years of service as a professor and dean at the College of Law.

⁷³ Golden, *supra* note 6, at 19. The first director of the Defender Aid Program was Professor Glen Shellhaas. *Id.*

⁷⁴ *Gideon v. Wainwright*, 372 U.S. 335 (1963); *see also* Henry, *supra* note 35, at 199.

⁷⁵ *See A Look at the Defender Aid Clinic*, UNIV. WYO. COLL. L. (Apr. 25, 2018), [uwyolaw.wordpress.com/2018/04/25/a-look-at-the-defender-aid-clinic/](https://www.uwyolaw.wordpress.com/2018/04/25/a-look-at-the-defender-aid-clinic/) [<https://perma.cc/4YRQ-THKW>].

He once said that “a law professor had the best job in the world—except for grading exams.”⁷⁶ According to George Gould, a long-time colleague and friend, “[Trelease] found a way to get paid for that which he would have done for free, and he made the most of it.”⁷⁷

Trelease’s students during the early 1970s were beneficiaries of the law school’s rise in prominence, leading some to make significant marks of their own in the legal and business professions. These individuals included Fred Dilts (’70), Ed Moriarty (’70), Bob Schuster (’70), Terry Mackey (’70), Frank Mendicino (’70), Daniel Burke (’70), Terry Rogers (’70), Tom Maxfield (’70), Frank Peasley (’70), Tim Bommer (’70), Frank Neville (’70), Larry Abrahamson (’70), Brent Kunz (’71), Paul Galeotos (’71), John Pappas (’72), Mike Murphy (’72), Dave Palmerlee (’72), Terry O’Brien (’72), Michael Burke (’72), Kermit Brown (’73), and Don Prehoda (’73).

Several new faculty joined the college during the 1970s as well, including Gerald Gallivan (1970–1996), Jack Van Baalen (1974–1993), and Harvey Gelb (1979–2012), adding breadth and depth to the college’s transactional and experiential learning programs. Gallivan ran the Defender Aid Program for more than two decades, providing students with the opportunity to argue before the Wyoming Supreme Court. Van Baalen taught Contracts and Commercial Law and had a reputation of being a tough instructor. According to one of his former students, “Socrates would have had no quarrel with this twentieth century disciple who led the wide-eyed and earnest through agonizing dissections of what some of us thought could be a simple ‘yes’ or ‘no’ answer.”⁷⁸ Gelb, who joined the faculty in 1979, taught Business Organizations, Business Planning, and Securities Regulation for thirty-two years. He also served on the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws and as liaison to Wyoming’s Committee on Corporate Laws near the end of his career.

From 1971 to 1979, Ernest George Rudolph served as dean of the College of Law, overseeing the transition to its current facility on Willett Drive. Rudolph, a Michigan Law graduate, joined the University of Wyoming law faculty in 1953 and taught Tax Law, Mortgages, and other upper-level courses.⁷⁹ He was an outstanding scholar and instructor, receiving numerous teaching awards for making fairly mundane courses, like Tax Law, interesting. His treatise, the *Wyoming Law of Real Mortgages*, was a standard reference work for Wyoming lawyers, and he also wrote extensively on Wyoming local government law.⁸⁰ He

⁷⁶ Gould, *supra* note 61, at 290.

⁷⁷ *Id.*

⁷⁸ See Nick Murdock, *A Tribute to Professor Jack Van Baalen: A Teacher and Friend*, 30 LAND & WATER L. REV. 3, 3 (1995).

⁷⁹ George Gould, *Tribute to George Rudolph*, 23 LAND & WATER L. REV. 344 (1988).

⁸⁰ *Id.*

was an avid fisherman who cherished the serenity of isolated fishing holes in southern Wyoming, but he was not fond of Colorado fishermen intruding on Wyoming's rivers. He once remarked that "one would have a fine city if Denver and Albuquerque were combined and moved to Albuquerque."⁸¹

Rudolph believed that the mission of the law school was to prepare students to function competently and serve the public interest as Wyoming lawyers and judges.⁸² Several students of the Rudolph era took this message to heart, eventually becoming some of the most influential members of the Wyoming bench and bar today. Those members included William Hill ('74), Marilyn Kite ('74), Michael Hildebrand ('74), Tom Nicholas ('74), William Sullins ('74), Terry Tharp ('75), Paul Hickey ('74), Richard Honaker ('76), Warren Bergholz ('76), Larry Lehman ('76), Elizabeth Pendley ('76), Alan C. Johnson ('77), E. James Burke ('77), Nick Murdock ('77), John Dunn ('78), John Housel ('78), Keith Kautz ('78), Becky Noecker ('79), Phil Nicholas ('79),⁸³ Steve Kline ('79), April Brimmer (Kunz) ('79), Bruce Asay ('79), Sharon Fitzgerald ('79), and Wade Waldrip ('79).

What Rudolph did not expect during his term was an influx of female law students looking to join the legal profession. Between 1971 and 1974, female enrollment quadrupled from fourteen to forty-six at the College of Law. One of those women was Marilyn Kite ('74), who would later become the first female appointed to the Wyoming Supreme Court in 2000.⁸⁴ Justice Kite was one of seven women in her law class that brought the total number of female law graduates since 1920 to thirty-one. Ten women graduated in 1976, and several more in 1977, including Gay Woodhouse who eventually became the first female Attorney General for Wyoming. In 1979, April Brimmer Kunz earned her law degree and, continuing in the tradition of Wyoming women firsts, became the first female president of the Wyoming Senate in 2003.⁸⁵ Specifically, she and her mother, the late Marian Rochelle, for whom the Marian H. Rochelle Gateway Center at the University is named, donated the funds for the now iconic "Breakin' Through" statue by artist D. Michael Thomas outside the center, which features a

⁸¹ *Id.*

⁸² Golden, *supra* note 6, at 20.

⁸³ Phil Nicholas, a 1979 graduate of the College of Law, is a former Wyoming State Senator from 2005 to 2017. He served as Senate president from 2015 to 2017 and as majority floor leader from 2013 to 2015.

⁸⁴ *See* Kull, *supra* note 57.

⁸⁵ "After law school, [April] went on to clerk for U.S. District Judge Ewing T. Kerr and to serve [] in the Wyoming House of Representatives from 1985–86 and 1991–92 and the Wyoming Senate from 1993–2004. In the State Senate, she served as majority floor leader and vice president before being named the first female president of the Wyoming Senate in 2003." *Medallion Service Award Winner: April Brimmer Kunz*, UWYO MAGAZINE (Sept. 16, 2020), www.uwyo.edu/uwyo/current/22-1/alumnews/medallion-service-award-winner-april-brimmer-kunz.html [<https://perma.cc/D8L4-KK44>]. In 2020, April was awarded the University of Wyoming's Medallion Service Award. *See id.*

female rider on a horse breaking through a wall. In the words of Kunz, “‘Breakin’ Through’ symbolizes the power of education and a meaningful degree from the University of Wyoming It stands in recognition of the contributions of women—past, present and future—to Wyoming, the Equality State.”⁸⁶

With enrollment reaching an all-time high during the early 1970s (topping out at 212 students), Dean Rudolph implemented a new admissions policy and lobbied for a new law school facility to accommodate the influx. The new admissions policy capped enrollment to seventy-five students per class, a figure that future deans have come to accept to this day.⁸⁷ In the spring of 1974, the Board of Trustees approved the construction of a new, much larger law school building on Willett Drive. It took three years to build the facility, which consisted of six classrooms that could accommodate 300 students, twenty faculty offices, and a library of 125,000 volumes with space for library staff.⁸⁸ The bas reliefs and the “COLLEGE OF LAW” letters above the entrance of the old facility were incorporated into the new facility.⁸⁹ The terra cotta letters over the entrance played a part in a story told about Trelease by Richard Barrett and several lawyers from different classes:

During the Socratic dialogue which characterized first-year classes, at some point a student would express indignation about the result in a case, arguing “it was unjust or unfair.” Trelease would then command the student to leave the class, go down and read the inscription over the entrance and report back. When directed to share with the class what the student had seen, the student would reply, “it just says College of Law.” Trelease would then say, “It doesn’t say ‘College of Justice,’ does it?”⁹⁰

E. James Burke was among those who graduated during the year the new facility was completed. Burke’s career as a jurist included twenty-four years as an attorney in private practice, three years as a district court judge in Cheyenne, and fourteen years as a Justice of the Wyoming Supreme Court—four of which he served as Chief Justice. Justice Burke is remembered for his role in creating a program called “The People’s Law School” to provide the public with a better understanding of the legal system and the lawyer’s role in it. He also was instrumental in helping to establish the Wyoming Center for Legal Aid (later

⁸⁶ *Id.*

⁸⁷ Enrollment since 1972 has averaged approximately 75 students per class, but there is no longer a mandatory cap.

⁸⁸ Golden, *supra* note 6, at 21–22.

⁸⁹ See White, *supra* note 50.

⁹⁰ *Id.*

renamed Equal Justice Wyoming) and the Ewing T. Kerr Chapter of the American Inns of Court.⁹¹

In 1979, Rudolph stepped down from the deanship and returned to his role teaching tax law in the classroom. He was followed by Peter C. Maxfield (1979–1987) who served eight years as dean. Maxfield joined the law faculty in 1969, a few years after earning his law degree from the University of Denver Law School. He taught extensively in the tax law area as well as Federal Indian Law, Oil and Gas Law, Property, and Legal Research and Writing. His publications included books in the tax and Indian law fields, as well as writings on other topics. He earned accolades from other law schools during his time as dean, receiving distinguished professorship honors from the University of Kansas School of Law in 1984 and the University of Tulsa College of Law in 1987.⁹²

As dean, Maxfield sought to bring recognition to the law school in new areas. He once joked that he wanted the College of Law to be “a law school that the football team could be proud of.”⁹³ He created the law school’s first joint degree program (the JD/MBA degree), increased grant support for faculty research and scholarship, and spearheaded the college’s effort to attain an Order of the Coif chapter, a prestigious national scholastic society.⁹⁴ He also hired several new outstanding faculty members at the College of Law, including Ted Lauer (1980–2004), Mary “Dee” Pridgen (1981–2019), and Joel Selig (1983–2011). Lauer ran the Prosecution Assistance Clinic Program and also served as Associate Dean from 1982 to 1986. Dee Pridgen, a consumer protection law expert, taught on the faculty for 38 years, the longest serving faculty member in the college’s history.⁹⁵ Selig, an insufferable opera fanatic, taught Civil Procedure, Evidence, and Conflict of Laws for twenty-five years, and spent many years litigating employment discrimination cases against the federal, state, and local governments, including a case which he argued at the U.S. Supreme Court.

⁹¹ See *Justice James E. Burke Retiring October 8, 2018*, WYO. JUD. BRANCH (Sept. 17, 2018), www.courts.state.wy.us/news/justice-e-james-burke-retiring-october-8-2018/ [<https://perma.cc/4B85-G5VZ>].

⁹² Harvey Gelb, *Tribute to Peter C. Maxfield*, 34 LAND & WATER L. REV. vii (1999).

⁹³ *Id.*

⁹⁴ See *Constitution*, ORDER OF THE COIF, orderofthecoif.org/constitution/ (last visited Apr. 15, 2021) [<https://perma.cc/X2EF-VQ97>]. “[The *Order of the Coif’s* purpose] is to encourage excellence in legal education by fostering a spirit of careful study, recognizing those who as law students [graduated in the top ten percent of their class], and honoring those who as lawyers, judges and teachers attained high distinction for their scholarly or professional accomplishments.” *Id.* at Section 2.2. Eighty-six out of approximately 220 law schools are *Coif* members. *Member Schools*, ORDER OF THE COIF, orderofthecoif.org/member-schools/ (last visited Apr. 15, 2021) [<https://perma.cc/NXE4-FC3F>]. See Appendix A for a list of Honorary Order of the Coif members from the University of Wyoming College of Law.

⁹⁵ See *Faculty Highlight: Professor Pridgen Nominated for Women of Influence Award*, UNIV. WYO. COLL. L. (June 25, 2018), uwyo.law.wordpress.com/2018/06/25/faculty-highlight-professor-pridgen-nominated-for-women-of-influence-award/ [<https://perma.cc/G9K6-X3F6>].

Several students who graduated from the College of Law during the Maxfield era became recognized leaders in law, politics, and the judiciary in Wyoming. Dave Freudenthal ('80) and Matt Mead ('87) served two consecutive terms each as Governor of Wyoming between 2002 and 2018. Greg Phillips ('87) and Nancy Freudenthal ('80) were appointed to the federal bench from Wyoming, with Phillips appointed judge on the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals in 2013 and Freudenthal appointed the first female U.S. District Court judge for the District of Wyoming in 2010.⁹⁶ Two current justices on the Wyoming Supreme Court—Michael Davis ('80) and Kari Jo Gray ('87)—were law students during the Maxwell era, and Pete Michael ('85) served as Wyoming's Attorney General from 2013 to 2020. Other notable judges, legislators, and prominent attorneys who earned their law degrees during Maxwell's deanship included Randal Arp ('80), Nick Deegan ('80), Greg Dyekman ('80), Warren Lauer ('80), Michael Liebman ('80), Larry Wolfe ('81), Ann Rochelle ('81), Dave Kinsky ('82), Randall Luthi ('82), George Powers ('82), Rick Thompson ('82), "Wild Bill" McKellar ('82), Frank Bellinghiere ('83), Tom Campbell ('83), Michael Greer ('83), Bill Schwartz ('83), Cheryl Ranck Schwartz ('83), Bill Simpson ('83), Phelps Swift ('83), Stuart Day ('84), Tom Lubnau ('84), John Metzke ('84), Pete Mounsey ('84), Michael O'Donnell ('84), Colin Simpson ('85), Catherine Hansen-Stamp ('85), Bob Nicholas ('85),⁹⁷ John Masterson ('86), and Brad & Kay McKim ('86).⁹⁸

Maxfield was involved in Wyoming political roles as well during his time as dean. He served as Governor Mike Sullivan's planning coordinator in the 1980s and as a state senator during the 1990s.⁹⁹ He stepped down as dean in 1987 but continued teaching on the law faculty until he retired in 1996.¹⁰⁰ Maxfield's immediate successors were Richard Morgan, who served a short stint as dean from 1987 to 1990 before moving on to Arizona State Law School,¹⁰¹ and Bob Keiter (1978–1993), who served as acting dean in 1990 while the search for a new dean was conducted. Keiter taught Constitutional Law, Federal Courts, Administrative Law, and Natural Resources Law from 1978 to 1993. He also supervised the Wyoming Legal Services Clinic from 1978 to 1983. He received the Thurman

⁹⁶ Judge Freudenthal became Wyoming's first female District Court Chief Judge in 2011 and served in that role until 2018. See *Wyoming First Lady Confirmed as First Female Federal Judge in State History*, BALLOTPEdia (May 6, 2010), ballotpedia.org/Wyoming_first_lady_confirmed_as_first_female_federal_judge_in_state_history [https://perma.cc/GBQ2-X2SR].

⁹⁷ Bob Nicholas graduated from the College of Law in 1985 and has served in the Wyoming Legislature since 2011. He is currently the Chairman of the Joint Appropriations Committee and the House Appropriation Committee.

⁹⁸ Kay McKim is the daughter of Bob Sigler.

⁹⁹ Gelb, *supra* note 92, at viii–ix.

¹⁰⁰ *Id.* at ix.

¹⁰¹ Several notable individuals graduated during the brief Morgan era, including Jim Belcher ('88), Becky Hellbaum ('88), Bill Hiser ('88), Tim Newcomb ('88), Scott Ortiz ('88), Tom Quinn ('88), Debra Wendtland ('88), Kate Fox ('89), John McKinley ('89), and Michael Rankin ('89).

Arnold Distinguished Supporter of the Law School Award in Laramie on April 5, 2019.¹⁰²

In 1990, Arthur Gaudio was hired as dean of the College of Law. He was a recognized property law expert and editor of the *American Law of Real Property*. Under Gaudio's leadership, the College of Law grew in terms of stature, enrollment, and fundraising. As an active member of the ABA, he elevated the College of Law's reputation nationally by helping to establish a uniform system of accrediting law schools throughout the United States. The college hired two female professors, Deb Donahue (Public Lands, Indian Law, Environment & Natural Resources Law, and Administrative Law) and Elaine Welle (Contracts, Bankruptcy, Secured Transactions, and Securities Regulation), who both would go on to teach at the college for more than twenty-five years. Student enrollment also increased during the 1990s, exceeding two hundred students, and the student body became more diverse. Notable graduates during the Gaudio era included Fred Hartmeister ('90), Hampton O'Neill ('90), Lynne Boomgaarden ('91), Jonathan Botten ('91), Tom Harrington ('91), Monty Barnett ('92), Brad Bonner ('92), Roger Cockerille ('92), Mel Orchard ('92), Drew Perkins ('92), Scott Skavdahl ('92), Dona Playton ('93), Michael Greear ('93), Kelly Rankin ('93), Cody Balzer ('95), Keith Gingery ('95), and Jason Tangeman ('96).

In 1992, the number of women enrolled at the College of Law exceeded the number of men for the first time in the college's history.¹⁰³ The slogan "The Equality State" had finally lived up to its reputation at the college sixty-four years after Hazel Bowman Kerper graduated with her two other male classmates. The library collection, too, surpassed 150,000 volumes, and new technologies, such as Westlaw and LexisNexis, were introduced, transforming the way legal research was taught in law school and practiced in law firms. The Law Library was supervised by Professor Tim Kearley who joined the College of Law as Director in 1993 and served in that role until 2014.

Dean Gaudio's real strength as a dean, however, was fundraising. He created two new endowed professorships and shepherded the College of Law through a major facility renovation, the George W. Hopper Library addition, which was funded by private donations and a state match. George W. Hopper was a prominent attorney and 1956 graduate of the College of Law who served as Chancellor of the Potter Law Club and as Editor-in-Chief of the *Wyoming Law Journal* during his time in law school. He helped establish the *Omicron Delta Kappa* national student leadership honorary society.¹⁰⁴ Following graduation, he

¹⁰² See Appendix B for a list of all of the Thurman Arnold Award recipients in the College of Law's history.

¹⁰³ In 1992, enrollment of women-to-men was 52%-to-48%. See Golden, *supra* note 6, at 21.

¹⁰⁴ See *Library Information*, UNIV. WYO. COLL. L., www.uwyo.edu/lawlib/libraryinfo/#bio (last visited Apr. 15, 2021) [<https://perma.cc/MR5X-QHLS>].

practiced securities law in Denver and taught Securities Regulation in the 1960s at the College of Law. Following his death in 1986, Sally Hunter Hopper, his widow, and Carl M. Williams, a classmate and one of the founding fathers of the cable industry, contributed to the costs of the law library addition in his name, which was completed in 1993. A bronze bust of George Hopper, created by sculptor George Lundeen, is on display in the library.

In 1996, Gaudio stepped down as dean to take a two-year position with the ABA as Deputy Consultant for Legal Education before returning to the law faculty. In reflecting on his time as dean, he presciently remarked in regard to the trend of declining state support for public higher education that:

“UW is best described as state-assisted, not state supported. I put a lot of emphasis on donations to enhance the law school We will have to continue our fundraising efforts. The state isn’t going to solve their financial problems any time soon. Every dean, from now on, will have to worry about raising money.”¹⁰⁵

At the same time as Gaudio’s resignation, Gerald Gallivan and Pete Maxfield announced their retirements from the faculty. Gaudio described the changes at the College of Law as “Happenstance, the natural order of things Things don’t happen in a smooth pattern.”¹⁰⁶ Until about 1991 there were very few people who left the UW College of Law. And, since then, it has basically been the result of retirements.¹⁰⁷

Professor John Burman was chosen to replace Gaudio in 1996 on an interim basis until a new dean was hired. Burman wrote for the *Wyoming Lawyer*, taught Torts and Legal Ethics, and directed the Legal Services Program from 1989 to 2013. He was widely respected and beloved by the Wyoming legal community for his work serving Wyoming’s children and families and was the recipient of numerous service awards, including the Gerald R. Mason Professionalism Award for exemplary services to the people of Wyoming and the Thurman Arnold Distinguished Supporter of the Law School Award for outstanding contributions to the College of Law and the legal community. Burman’s familiarity with the College of Law and the state’s legal community enabled him to lead the college through a critical transition period until the next dean was appointed.

¹⁰⁵ Jim Tiemann, *UW College of Law Undergoes Changes (June 1996)*, WYO. LAW., Mar. 2019, digitaleditions.walworthprintgroup.com/publication/?i=577175&article_id=3345101&view=articleBrowser [<https://perma.cc/F4GM-ASV5>].

¹⁰⁶ *Id.*

¹⁰⁷ *Id.*

In 1998, Jerry Parkinson was hired to serve as the twelfth dean of the College of Law. Parkinson was the second-longest serving dean in the College of Law's history, after Hamilton. Before joining the faculty in 1998, Parkinson practiced law in Portland, Oregon and was a law professor and Associate Dean at the University of Oklahoma Law School. At Wyoming, he taught Civil Procedure, Civil Rights, Sports Law, and an Education Law seminar. His commitment to teaching Education Law, in particular, stemmed from a desire to continue the College's strong tradition in this area established by Dean Hamilton fifty years earlier. His Sports Law class was a new edition to the curriculum and was one of the more popular classes. From 2000 to 2010, he served in a volunteer capacity as Coordinator of Appeals for the NCAA Division I Committee on Infractions, and handled 28 appeals, including 22 oral arguments, on behalf of the NCAA.¹⁰⁸

During Parkinson's deanship, the College of Law expanded and grew in several respects. Two new joint degree programs were established, the JD/MA in Environment & Natural Resources and the JD/MPA in Public Administration. In addition, three new endowed professorships were established, enrollment reached an all-time high of 230 students, and the number of full-time faculty grew with the hiring of Dianne Courselle, Step Feldman, Jim Delaney, Sam Kalen, and Noah Novogrodsky.¹⁰⁹ The college also created a Domestic Violence Clinic program under the direction of Dona Playton and an International Human Rights Center with its own clinic, supervised by Professor Novogrodsky. The creation of the International Human Rights Center, a human rights clinic, and an expanded international law curriculum was an important step forward for the college, establishing, for the first time, research and practical training opportunities overseas for Wyoming students and faculty. Noteworthy accomplishments by the International Human Rights Clinic include litigating a path-breaking maternal mortality case before the Constitutional Court in Uganda, investigating trafficking and modern-day slavery in the Southeast Asian seafood industry, and successfully representing dozens of asylum seekers in the United States.¹¹⁰

¹⁰⁸ See *College of Law Kicks Off Hundredth Anniversary Year with Centennial Speaker Series*, UNIV. WYO. COLL. L. (Feb. 10, 2020), www.uwyo.edu/law/news/2020/02/parkinson-centennial-speaker.html [https://perma.cc/F4ES-RN8D].

¹⁰⁹ Three of the newly created endowed professorships were funded by Carl Williams, a graduate of the College of Law and long-time supporter of the College of Law. The professorships include The Carl Williams Professorship of Law & Social Policy; The Carl Williams Professorship of Law & Ethics; and The Carl Williams Professorship of Law & Social Policy.

¹¹⁰ See *Clinic Highlight: International Human Rights Victory*, UNIV. WYO. COLL. L. (Nov. 24, 2015), uwyo.law.wordpress.com/2015/11/24/clinic-highlight-international-human-rights-victory/ [https://perma.cc/E67A-XLBT]; see also *International Human Rights Clinic Makes Major Headway on Ugandan Women's Health Rights Case*, UNIV. WYO. COLL. L. (Apr. 28, 2020), www.uwyo.edu/law/news/2020/04/intl-clinic-uganda.html [https://perma.cc/S33T-U4KW]; *International Human Rights Victory on Eritrean Asylum Case*, UNIV. WYO. COLL. L. (Sept. 7, 2016), uwyo.law.wordpress.com/2016/09/ [https://perma.cc/7FCG-RZHT].

Dean Parkinson's signature achievement was the creation of the William N. Brimmer Legal Education Center in 2009. William Brimmer was a 1941 graduate of the College of Law who specialized in oil and gas law during his career in Rawlins and Cheyenne. "The \$4.5 million center was funded with \$2.25 million in private support from 48 donors and \$2.25 million in state matching funds" raised between 2007 and 2009.¹¹¹ The single largest gift was \$1 million from philanthropists Marian Rochelle (Brimmer's wife) and her daughter, April Brimmer Kunz.¹¹² The Brimmer Center is the College of Law's largest classroom, a 3,767-square-foot facility featuring a multi-dimensional space that can be configured as a high-tech courtroom or a lecture hall seating more than 160 people. Additional features include a jury deliberation room, judge's chambers, a secure holding area for detainees, and a sound booth. Since 2009, the Brimmer Center has provided students with a state-of-the-art courtroom setting to simulate trial experiences while also serving as a functional courtroom for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, the Wyoming Supreme Court, and the Wyoming Second Judicial District.

University of Wyoming President Tom Buchanan, who spoke at the dedication ceremony for the Brimmer Center, said:

"The University of Wyoming has been home to a college of law since 1920, but we haven't revitalized the learning environment for our law students since the current building was constructed in 1977 We are pleased to provide UW law students with a learning center that will truly enhance their educational experience."¹¹³

The Brimmer Center was the last "state-assisted" facility project at the College of Law. Buchanan went on to add, "This project underscores the major impact the matching funds provided by the state legislature and the governor have had on the University of Wyoming. We hope the momentum will continue."¹¹⁴

Alongside of the opening of the Brimmer Center was the unveiling of an iconic sculpture at the College of Law, the statue of Socrates—the "Barefoot of Athens." In 2009, Marian Rochelle and April Brimmer Kunz employed the artist Jerry Palin to design a sculpture of the "father of the Socratic Method" for the college.¹¹⁵ In a letter to Judge Robert H. Henry, Chief Judge of the United

¹¹¹ *UW Dedicates State-of-the-Art Legal Facility*, UNIV. WYO. (Sept. 25, 2009), www.uwyo.edu/uw/news/2009/09/uw-dedicates-state-of-the-art-legal-facility.html [<https://perma.cc/SA7N-6J2W>].

¹¹² *Id.*

¹¹³ *Id.*

¹¹⁴ *Id.*

¹¹⁵ *Id.*; see also Henry, *supra* note 35, at 200.

States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, who also spoke at the dedication ceremony of the Brimmer Center, Palin wrote:

Thanks to Mrs. Rochelle, the University of Wyoming Law School will be able to enjoy the father of the “Socratic Method” right in its midst. Socrates, the ancient Greek thinker, laid the early foundations for western philosophical thought. His method involved asking probing questions in a give-and-take manner, which eventually led to the truth. This method of learning the truth is used daily in the law school as a way of discussing complex topics to discover the underlying issues of the subject and speaker. Socrates (469–399 BC), as I learned after reading and evaluating different sculptures of him, was a short, homely man whose trademark was his bare feet and his unkempt appearance. Although he professed no extraordinary wisdom, established no school and founded no sects, his influence on the course of philosophy through his most famous pupil, Plato, is incalculable. I was very honored to be asked to create this work. It gave me the opportunity to work in my style and be sensitive to two artists I admire, Rodin and Degas. As I’ve always said, art is there to show us where we’ve been.¹¹⁶

The sculpture of Socrates still graces the front entrance of the College of Law to this day.

The Parkinson era ended in 2009 when he stepped down as dean and returned to the law faculty. He continued to teach at the college as the William T. Schwartz Professor of Law and served on numerous University committees until his retirement in 2016. After eighteen years of service to the University and the College of Law, he returned to Portland, Oregon to be closer to family. In 2020, he returned to the College of Law at the invitation of the law school to kick off the College’s Centennial Anniversary Speaker Series with a talk about his new book on NCAA infractions and the current ethical dilemmas in collegiate athletics.¹¹⁷ The talk was the last live presentation at the college before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, forcing the law school to cancel all events and go online for the remainder of the year.

In 2009, Steve Easton was selected as Parkinson’s successor. Easton, a North Dakota native and Stanford Law graduate, was a former federal prosecutor,

¹¹⁶ Jerry Palen, *Letter to Judge Robert H. Henry*, Sept. 24, 2009, in Robert H. Henry, *Wyoming Law School Building Dedication: William N. Brimmer Legal Education Center*, 10 WYO. L. REV. 193, app’x A (2010).

¹¹⁷ See *College of Law Kicks Off Hundredth Anniversary Year with Centennial Speaker Series*, *supra* note 108.

appointed by President George W. Bush to serve as U.S. Attorney for the District of North Dakota from 1990 to 1993. Easton joined the Wyoming Law faculty in 2009 after teaching at the University of Missouri Law School for eleven years. He was a scholar of trial practice and taught Trial Advocacy, Evidence, Legal Ethics & Professional Responsibility, among other courses. During his four years as dean of the College of Law, enrollment remained steady (despite a decline in law school applications nationwide due to the aftermath of the 2007–2008 Financial Crisis), the number of full-time faculty exceeded 20 members, and clinical and experiential learning opportunities for students increased significantly. Among those who joined the faculty were Mike Duff, a former labor lawyer, Darrell Jackson, who directs the Prosecution Assistance Program, Mark Glover, a former New York Trusts and Estates lawyer, and Michael Smith and Ken Chestek, who currently run the nationally recognized Center for the Study of Written Advocacy Program.¹¹⁸ Deb Person, too, replaced Tim Kearley as the Law Library Director in 2014.

In 2013, The Center for Law and Energy Resources in the Rockies (CLEER) was created under the supervision of Professor Sam Kalen to conduct research, expand learning opportunities for students and practitioners, and provide a platform for exploring and engaging in meaningful public policy debate on energy and natural resources policy.¹¹⁹ Kalen, a leading scholar in the field of environmental and natural resources law, joined the College of Law faculty in 2009 and teaches courses on the subjects of environmental law, energy and natural resources law, public lands, Indian law, and administrative law. He currently serves as the Associate Dean at the college.

In 2013, Easton resigned as dean of the College of Law amidst a controversy involving a new University president's effort to investigate the academic focus of the law school and its role in the state. At the time, there was a trend among state legislatures in more conservative-leaning states to question the allegedly "liberal" disposition of some public law schools, and a concomitant push to intervene in law school affairs as a result.¹²⁰ Dean Easton and the College of Law encountered pressure by President Bob Sternberg during his short tenure to answer for these concerns in connection with the direction of the College of Law. At a "town hall meeting" held at the College of Law in November 2013, Easton and Sternberg

¹¹⁸ See *Center for the Study of Written Advocacy*, UNIV. WYO. COLL. L., www.uwyo.edu/law/centers/cswa/index.html (last visited Apr. 15, 2021) [<https://perma.cc/M9V9-S5F4>].

¹¹⁹ See *UW Launches Center for Law and Energy Resources in the Rockies*, WYOFILE (Apr. 19, 2013), www.wyofile.com/uw-launches-center-for-law-and-energy-resources-in-the-rockies/ [<https://perma.cc/5TTZ-3JXE>].

¹²⁰ In 2010, *The National Jurist* reported on a study attempting to quantify the number of left-leaning law schools, concluding that law schools hired a higher number of openly left-leaning professors than conservative ones. Mike Stetz, *10 Most Liberal Law Professors*, NAT'L JURIST (Dec. 14, 2016, 12:20 PM), www.nationaljurist.com/national-jurist-magazine/10-most-liberal-law-professors [<https://perma.cc/H25M-MPA2>].

debated the matter in an impromptu open forum, and both men ended up submitting their resignations as a result of the affair.¹²¹ It was later discovered that Sternberg sought to pressure the dean to align the college's focus more with the state's energy-based culture.¹²² Easton defended the College of Law's integrity and the principle of academic freedom in this controversial historic moment. Ironically, a few years later, a 2015 Harvard study revealed that the University of Wyoming College of Law was ranked the third-most conservative law school in the nation behind Brigham Young University and Ave Maria law schools, and ahead of Regent University Law School founded by Pat Robertson.¹²³

Following Easton's return to the faculty in 2013, he continued to pursue his interest in trial practice and developed new, creative ways to enhance the college's experiential and practical training program. He founded the Summer Trial Institute at the college, a trial practice training course that involves leading trial attorneys from the state teaching law students how to operate in a court room.¹²⁴ This program is part of the Trial Practice program at the college and is offered in collaboration with the American College of Trial Lawyers and the American Board of Trial Advocates.¹²⁵

In 2015, Easton also took the lead in coordinating and directing an extraordinary event each year at the College of Law known as the Spence Law Firm Historic Trial. The Spence Historic Trial, funded by the law firm founded by Gerry Spence, is a fictional mock trial that is created from the facts of a chronicled historic event. The College of Law, in collaboration with the Spence Law Firm, created the annual Historical Trial to educate students and the general public about important historical legal events in Wyoming. From 2015 to 2019, Professor Easton directed five Spence Law Firm Historic Trials at the Brimmer Legal Education Center. The trials included *State of Wyoming v. Amos W. Barber* (regarding the Johnson County Cattle War) on October 29, 2014; *U.S. v. John Wilkes Booth* (regarding the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln) on April

Another study - which tracked federal political donations - showed most lawyers also have liberal views. "American lawyers lean to the left of the ideological spectrum," the study said. See David Lat & Elie Mystal, *Liberal Bias in Legal Education: Does it Exist? Does it Matter? An ATL Debate*, ABOVE THE LAW (July 21, 2010), abovethelaw.com/2010/07/liberal-bias-in-legal-education-does-it-exist-does-it-matter-an-atl-debate/?rf=1 [<https://perma.cc/CUK2-HQQ9>].

¹²¹ Elie Mystal, *Chaos at the Law School Leads to Ouster of University President*, ABOVE THE LAW (Nov. 18, 2013, 3:01 PM), abovethelaw.com/2013/11/chaos-at-the-law-school-leads-to-ouster-of-university-president/?rf=1.

¹²² *Id.*

¹²³ See Brittany Cruz-Fejeran, *Most Liberal and Conservative Law Schools*, NAT'L JURIST (Oct. 6, 2015, 9:41AM), www.nationaljurist.com/prelaw/most-liberal-and-conservative-law-schools [<https://perma.cc/UDT4-6TSD>].

¹²⁴ *Summer Trial Institute*, UNIV. WYO. COLL. L., www.uwyo.edu/law/experiential/summer-trial/index.html (last visited Apr. 16, 2021) [<https://perma.cc/XJ4Y-8RRG>].

¹²⁵ *Id.*

11, 2016; *Emi v. Kawai* (regarding the incarceration of Japanese-Americans at the Heart Mountain Relocation Center in Cody) on April 10, 2017; *United States v. Meriwether Lewis and Silas Goodrich* (regarding the theft of a canoe from the Clatsop Tribe during the famed Lewis & Clark Expedition) on March 27, 2018; and *Lee v. Union Pacific* (regarding the Rock Springs Massacre of 1885) on April 3, 2019. Professor Easton's commitment to traditional trial practice and training students for the courtroom was a hallmark of his years of service and leadership at the College of Law. In 2020, he departed the College of Law to become the president of Dickinson State University in North Dakota, his undergraduate alma mater.

From 2013 to 2015, the College of Law was led by Acting Dean Jacquelyn Bridgeman while a search was undertaken for Easton's replacement.¹²⁶ Bridgeman joined the College of Law's faculty in 2002 and taught several courses through the years, including Torts, Employment Law, Family Law, and Sports & Entertainment Law. She broke two important barriers at the College of Law when she was appointed the first female and African American to serve as dean in the college's history.¹²⁷ During this interim period, the college hired several new young faculty members and established the Environment, Energy and Natural Resources (EENR) Clinic under the auspices of CLERR. The EENR Clinic provides third-year law students with classroom instruction, simulated experiential learning exercises, and supervised legal practice experience to prepare them to practice in the areas of energy, environment, and natural resources law. With the addition of its seventh clinic, the College of Law became one of the few law schools in the nation to guarantee a clinic opportunity to all of its students before graduation.

In an effort to restore public confidence in the College of Law following the Easton/Sternberg incident, Bridgeman testified before an interim committee of the Wyoming legislature in late 2013.¹²⁸ She explained to the committee that the law school was going through a national accreditation process when Sternberg notified Easton of the creation of a "law school task force" made up of non-university members.¹²⁹ She described the law school as responsive to the state's needs, offering a broad range of courses and legal clinics that serve the state and resemble other energy-focused law schools in the region, like the University of

¹²⁶ See Jacquelyn Bridgeman to Lead the College of Law at the University of Wyoming, J. OF BLACKS IN HIGHER EDUC. (Nov. 15, 2013), www.jbhe.com/2013/11/jacquelyn-bridgeman-to-lead-the-college-of-law-at-the-university-of-wyoming [<https://perma.cc/G6FT-VG5Y>].

¹²⁷ *Id.*

¹²⁸ See Gregory Nickerson, *UW Law School Says It Meets Needs of the State, Energy Industry*, WYOFILE (Sept. 16, 2014), www.wyofile.com/uw-law-school-says-it-meets-needs-of-state-energy-industry-university-of-wyoming-college-of-law [<https://perma.cc/8VSS-GQ3L>].

¹²⁹ *Id.*

Oklahoma.¹³⁰ The meeting, and other subsequent conversations, helped to mend fences and dispel lawmakers' misconceptions about the College of Law's focus and direction, paving the way for the hiring of the next dean, who was a product of both the academic world and the private sector.

In July 2015, Klint Alexander was hired by the University of Wyoming to serve as the College of Law's fourteenth dean. Alexander, a graduate of Yale, Cambridge, and the University of Virginia School of Law, came to Wyoming with two decades of experience working for the federal government and two major southeastern law firms. He also served as a lecturer in law and political science at Vanderbilt University and the University of London. During his first five years as dean, enrollment at the College of Law remained steady, the first certificate program was established in the area of energy, environment, and natural resources law, a new Entrepreneurship and Business Law practicum was created, and the number of endowed scholarships at the college increased significantly. Alexander has continued the tradition established by Hamilton and Parkinson of teaching Education Law at the college and uses his book *University Law* by West Academic Publishing in the course.

In 2016, the College of Law and the University endured a major budget cut due to a decline in coal and oil prices in Wyoming.¹³¹ The decline in energy prices and decreased revenue from coal production followed more than a decade of strong economic winds in Wyoming due, in part, to the fracking boom.¹³² Between 2016 and 2020, several faculty members retired or resigned, including Jerry Parkinson, Steve Easton, Deb Donahue, and Dee Pridgen. Diane Courselle passed away after taking the Defender Aid Clinic to new heights. However, the college had previously hired several new young faculty members to shore up the curriculum, including Melissa Alexander (Civil Procedure, Health Law, and Bioethics), Jason Robison (Environmental Law, Water Law, and Federal Courts), and Danielle Cover (Remedies and the Civil Legal Services Clinic). A few years later, the college hired Lauren McLane (Criminal Law, Criminal Adjudication, and the Defender Aid Clinic), George Mocsary (Corporations, Agency & Partnership, Securities Regulation, and the Entrepreneurship & Business Law Practicum), and Jerry Fowler (Immigration Law, Antitrust Law, and the International Human Rights Clinic) to build upon the college's strong clinical focus and the accomplishments of those outstanding professors who preceded them.

¹³⁰ *Id.*

¹³¹ See Rick Seltzer, *Wyoming's Wild Ride*, INSIDE HIGHER ED (Sept. 16, 2016), www.insidehighered.com/news/2016/09/09/university-wyoming-faces-more-budget-crunch [<https://perma.cc/62R9-4BJB>].

¹³² See Gregory Nickerson, *Wyoming Budget Keeps Cuts, Boosts Salaries and Local Government*, WYOFILE (Feb. 11, 2014), www.wyofile.com/wyoming-budget-keeps-cuts-boost-salaries-local-government/ [<https://perma.cc/ZV6F-VRYJ>].

In 2019, in response to the Governor's request that the University do more to help Wyoming diversify its economy, the College of Law established the Entrepreneurship and Business Law Practicum as part of its clinical and experiential learning curriculum. Under the direction and supervision of Professor George Mocsary, the practicum provides law students with a thorough understanding of law practice management, develops competency in business and entrepreneurship counseling from a legal standpoint, and assists clients looking to start a small business in Wyoming or move their business to Wyoming. The practicum works closely with the University of Wyoming's Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship and the Technology Transfer Office to train students and assist faculty in creating companies and jobs for Wyoming. In its first semester, the students in the practicum assisted in the formation of several new companies in Wyoming.¹³³

In 2020, the College launched its Centennial Anniversary fundraising campaign to raise funds for the construction of a clinic facility addition at the main site and to recognize those alumni, professors, and leaders who have made an impact during the college's first one hundred years. The expansion of the college's clinical and experiential learning program in recent decades has prompted calls for the construction of a new wing on the northwest side of the building to house the college's clinics and practicums. Currently, most of the college's live-client clinics are housed in an annex facility located across Grand Avenue, several blocks from the law school building.¹³⁴ During the college's most recent accreditation review in 2013, the ABA's Site Visit Team noted the problem of having the law school divided between two facilities in town, and the inadequacies of the annex facility in providing effective legal services.¹³⁵ The University's Board of Trustees approved the exterior design of a new clinic facility addition at the main law school site in September 2019, and the project moved forward to shovel-ready status in 2020. The plan to construct new clinic space is expected to result in an increase in both enrollment and student participation in clinical work at the college, thus helping to meet the legal community's need for legal representation throughout the state. The clinic facility addition is to be named in honor of Alan K. Simpson (Class of '58), whose career and contributions as a U.S. Senator, Wyoming attorney, and supporter of the University have helped define the state's and the University's image worldwide for more than half a century.

¹³³ See *UW Law Practicum to Support Wyoming Entrepreneurs and Startups*, UNIV. WYO. (Aug. 13, 2019), www.uwyo.edu/uw/news/2019/08/uw-law-practicum-to-support-wyoming-entrepreneurs-and-startups.html [<https://perma.cc/Q776-LR6Y>].

¹³⁴ Four of the University of Wyoming College of Law's legal clinics and practicums are housed in the UW Office Annex located behind the UniWyo Credit Union building south of Grand Avenue and approximately 15 minutes (walking distance) from the main law school building.

¹³⁵ During the ABA's 2013 site visit to the College of Law, the site visit team noted the College of Law's lack of available space in the main building for clinics and the inconvenience of requiring law students to travel to a separate location across campus to participate in the clinics. REPORT ON UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING COLLEGE OF LAW, AM. BAR ASS'N 49–50 (2013).

VI. CLOSING OUT THE CENTURY

As the College of Law's first century comes to a close, it is important to note that the college is recognized by major journals and ranking organizations for its affordability, small size, and reputation in the areas of environmental law, family law, legal writing, and practical training.¹³⁶ With its low tuition and low faculty to student ratio, the college is considered a "Best Value" law school and one of the ten most affordable law schools in the nation.¹³⁷ Moreover, since the establishment of the Defender Aid Program in 1965, the college has expanded the number of clinics and experiential learning opportunities for students significantly. Today, six clinics and two practicums are available to provide students with hands-on practical experience and in-depth legal training opportunities in multiple subject areas. Areas of experiential study include Energy, Environment and Natural Resources; Family and Child Legal Advocacy; Civil Legal Services; Defender Aid; Prosecution Assistance; Estate Planning; Entrepreneurship and Business Law; and International Human Rights. In the 2019–2020 academic year, more than 120 students participated in the college's clinics and practicums, totaling more than 18,000 hours and over \$3.5 million of free legal service for indigent Wyoming citizens across the state.¹³⁸ As a result, the clinical program at the College of Law has a sterling reputation with the Wyoming bench and the bar. The Wyoming Supreme Court, too, has strongly advocated for the College of Law's continued role in providing free legal services to the state's indigent population as docket loads have increased and resources to public defenders and legal aid attorneys have been reduced in recent years. At the end of 2020, the college had raised approximately \$5 million in private funds to support the construction of the new facility addition. The cost of the project exceeds \$20 million, and the college, for the first time in more than a decade, has approached the state legislature for capital construction support. With this support, the College of Law will be transformed, once again, facility-wise for a more experiential and technological century in legal education.

¹³⁶ See *University of Wyoming College of Law Rakes in Accolades for High Employment, Best Value and Top Law School for Family Law*, UNIV. WYO. COLL. L. (Sept. 16, 2020), www.uwyo.edu/law/news/2020/09/2021-accolades.html [<https://perma.cc/QFQ9-W67T>] [hereinafter *University of Wyoming College of Law Rakes in Accolades*]; see also *UW College of Law and Legal Writing Program Ranked in U.S. News & World Report*, UNIV. WYO. COLL. L. (Mar. 12, 2015), www.uwyo.edu/law/news/2015/03/us-news-ranking.html [<https://perma.cc/J988-PLZF>]; *UW College of Law Honored as a Best Law School for Practical Training 2016*, UNIV. WYO. COLL. L. (Feb. 4, 2016), www.uwyo.edu/law/news/2016/02/practical-training-2016.html [<https://perma.cc/A2EE-EP5E>].

¹³⁷ See *University of Wyoming College of Law Rakes in Accolades*, *supra* note 136.

¹³⁸ \$3.5 million is a conservative estimate of the amount of free billable time students spend working on actual legal cases in the college's clinics and practicums each year. Six students per clinic x 20 hours a week x 36 weeks (fall, spring & summer terms) x six clinics = 25,920 hours worked. Assuming a conservative billable hourly rate of \$150 per hour, a reasonable estimate of the amount of free legal services performed by UW College of Law students, excluding time spent by faculty supervisors, is \$3,888,000.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 was an unexpected disruption for the college and the University. During that tumultuous year, the impact of the pandemic consumed state governments, colleges and universities, and, of course, law schools, forcing the shutdown of events and a move to online legal education. At the University of Wyoming College of Law, the 2020 Honors Banquet was cancelled along with many planned events leading up to, and including, the Centennial Anniversary gala dinner. The graduating class of 2020 had to receive their diplomas online due to restrictions on social gatherings, and the Simpson Center clinic facility project was placed on hold due to the pandemic. The pandemic was an unfortunate ending to an extraordinary one-hundred-year journey that began in the Laramie law office of Thurman Arnold. That journey, however, despite its last year, was a great success and deserves to be celebrated along with the people and progress it produced during the past century.

VII. CONCLUSION

The Centennial Anniversary of the University of Wyoming College of Law was an important milestone for the law school, the University, and the State of Wyoming. The College of Law has produced the vast majority of Wyoming judges and attorneys throughout the state's history, which is exactly what Thurman Arnold envisioned a hundred years ago. The college has produced national and international leaders and scholars, who have put Wyoming on the map globally and brought recognition to the University. Moreover, the college has served as an example for other institutions to emulate when it comes to public service and promoting equality, justice, and progress in society. The next one hundred years will bring many challenges for Wyoming's law school and legal education in the United States. May the college's future leaders, faculty, staff, students, and alumni rise to meet these challenges the way the previous generations have.

APPENDIX A

ORDER OF THE COIF

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

COLLEGE OF LAW

Honorary Members:¹

1985	Archie G. McClintock	2003	Nancy D. Freudenthal
1986	Winston S. Howard	2004	Jeffrey A. Donnell
1987	Sherrow Glenn Parker	2005	Gregory C. Dyekman
1988	William H. Brown	2006	Michael Golden
1989	Charles G. Kepler	2007	Carol W. Statkus
1990	Teno Roncalio	2008	E. James Burke
1991	Robert R. Rose, Jr.	2009	Paul J. Hickey
1992	John F. Raper, Jr.	2010	William Hill
1993	James E. Barrett	2011	Rebecca Noecker
1994	Elizabeth A. Kail	2012	Ann M. Rochelle
1995	Lawrence A. Yonkee	2013	Robert M. Schuster
1996	Richard V. Thomas	2014	Gerry Spence
1997	Jerry W. Housel	2015	Terry Mackey
1998	William A. Taylor	2016	Catherine MacPherson
1999	Michael J. Sullivan	2017	Nick Murdock
2000	Marilyn S. Kite	2018	Tim Beppler
2001	Frank R. Nelson	2019	Mike Murphy
2002	Alan B. Johnson	2020	Jack Speight

¹ Section 5.4 Honorary Members.

a) A Chapter may elect to honorary membership in The Order a member of the legal profession who enjoys high distinction for scholarly attainments, but no Chapter shall elect more than one honorary member in any Coif electoral year.

APPENDIX B

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING COLLEGE OF
LAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONAWARD RECIPIENTS AT HONORS BANQUETS
(1998–PRESENT)

Year	Distinguished Alumni (Living)	Distinguished Alumni (Posthumous)	Thurman Arnold Award (distinguished supporter of the College of Law)
1998	Archie McClintock	Jerry Housel	
1999	Gerry Spence		
2000	Donald N. Sherard		
2001	Winston S. Howard		
2002	James E. Barrett		
2003	Charles Kepler (JD '48)	William H. Brown (JD '36)	
2004	Honorable Alan K. Simpson (JD '58)	George J. Millett (JD '37)	
2005	Honorable William A. Taylor (JD '59)	F. Stewart Blunk (JD '40)	
2006	Joseph R. Geraud (JD '50)	Honorable Robert R. Rose (JD '41)	
2007	Honorable Michael J. Sullivan (JD '64)	Honorable G. Joseph Cardine (JD '54)	
2008	Honorable Marilyn S. Kite (JD '74)	Honorable Teno Roncalio (JD '47)	
2009	Carl M. Williams (JD '56)	Harold E. Meier (JD '59)	
2011	Honorable Betty Kail (JD '59)	Lawrence A. Yonkee (JD '61)	
2012	Honorable Michael Golden (JD '67)	Honorable Joseph F. Maier (JD '47)	Honorable Stanley K. Hathaway
2013	Terry W. Mackey (JD '70) William R. Jones (JD '51)	Thomas S. Smith (JD '59)	Honorable Clarence A. Brimmer Professor John M. Burman
2014	Honorable Barton Voigt (JD '79)	Honorable John J. Hickey (JD '34)	Houston G. Williams

APPENDIX B, continued**UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING COLLEGE OF
LAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION****AWARD RECIPIENTS AT HONORS BANQUETS
(1998–PRESENT)**

Year	Distinguished Alumni (Living)	Distinguished Alumni (Posthumous)	Thurman Arnold Award (distinguished supporter of the College of Law)
2015	Honorable Alan B. Johnson (J.D. '61)	Warren Lauer (J.D. '80)	Honorable Judge William F. Downes
2016	Greg Dyekman (JD '80)	Dick Bostwick (JD '47)	William Trine Charles Abourezk
2017	Honorable William U. Hill ('74) Perry Dray ('64)	Bob Sigler ('52)	Jerry R. Parkinson
2018	Honorable Wade Brorby ('58)	Donald E. Chapin ('49) James L. Applegate ('58)	Diane Courselle
2019	Paul Hickey ('75) Honorable E. James Burke ('77)	Richard E. Day ('60) Honorable Larry L. Lehman ('76)	Robert Keiter
2020	Greg Phillips ('87)	Gina Guy ('75)	Frank Trelease Steve Easton