I am pleased to introduce our newest faculty members and visiting faculty at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. Three of our visitors from last year—David Akerson, Rhonda Brownstein and Genevieve Boarman—will remain at Denver Law for the 2011-2012 academic year.

As evidenced by their biographies, these new members of the Denver Law community are highly accomplished as scholars, teachers and practitioners, and we are thrilled that they have joined us.

Martin J. Katz
Dean and Professor of Law

Denver Law Strategic Plan 2010-2015

The University of Denver Sturm College of Law engaged in a strategic planning process from July 2009 through May 2010. Pursuant to our strategic plan, we continue our 5-year plan to add 10 new tenure-track faculty members with two excellent new hires last year, including Professor Nancy Leong from William & Mary. With our class-size reduction fully implemented this year, our student-faculty ratio is 12.4 – and improving each year.

The strategic planning process was designed to provide a deep understanding of the changing environment for legal practice and legal education. To that end, we reached out to our key stakeholders: the practicing bar, the judiciary, consumers of legal services, alumni, faculty, students, staff and university administration. We also researched national-level changes in legal education and the practice of law.

Based on this data, we built a strategic plan that permits us to meet the changing needs of the legal community and embrace the calls for reform in legal education while building upon our core strengths. By doing so, the Sturm College of Law will be a leader in the future of legal education.

View the plan and join the discussion online:
WWW.DENVERPLAN.COM

New Appointment
Associate Professor Laura Rovner named New Clinical Programs Director and Yegge Chair

Denver Law Professor Laura Rovner has been appointed as the next Ronald V. Yegge Clinic Director. Professor Rovner received her J.D. from Cornell Law School, her B.A. magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Pennsylvania, and an LL.M. in Advocacy from Georgetown University Law Center. At Georgetown, Professor Rovner was a clinical teaching fellow in the Institute for Public Representation, where she supervised students on civil rights matters involving race, gender, disability and national origin discrimination. Professor Rovner served with distinction as interim director of Denver Law’s Clinical Programs on two occasions, and in numerous other service positions at the law school and she has been deeply involved in developing and implementing the law school’s strategic plan. Professor Rovner is highly respected by her peers in the clinic, the community of clinicians nationwide, and the bench and bar.

New Faculty
Assistant Professor Nancy Leong

Course: Constitutional Litigation Seminar

Professor Nancy Leong graduated magna cum laude from Northwestern University before attending Stanford Law School, where she graduated with distinction and was a member of the Stanford Law Review. After earning her law degree, Professor Leong clerked for Judge Kermit Lipez of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. Prior to joining the University of Denver faculty, she was an assistant professor at the William & Mary School of Law, an adjunct professor at the Washington College of Law American University in Washington D.C., and a visiting scholar at Georgetown University Law Center. She also practiced First Amendment law with Americans United for Separation of Church and State. Professor Leong’s scholarship and teaching focus on constitutional rights, antidiscrimination law and judicial decision making. Her work has appeared in the American University Law Review, Boston University Law Review, Northwestern University Law Review, Stanford Law Review, and the peer-reviewed Journal of Legal Education, among others.
Denver Law New & Visiting Faculty

New Faculty

Assistant Professor Justin Pidot
 Courses: Environmental Law, Property

Professor Justin Pidot graduated with high honors from Wesleyan University before attending Stanford Law School, where he graduated with distinction and was editor-in-chief of the Stanford Environmental Law Journal. Professor Pidot clerked for Judge Judith W. Rogers of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Prior to joining the University of Denver faculty, he was an appellate litigator at the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, where he presented arguments in more than a dozen federal appellate cases and acted as the staff attorney on two cases before the United States Supreme Court. Professor Pidot also completed a fellowship at the Georgetown Environmental Law & Policy Institute. His scholarship and teaching focus on environmental law, natural resources law and federal courts. Professor Pidot’s current research examines the unique procedures federal courts use to assess their own jurisdiction.

Patty Powell, Lecturer
 Academic Achievement Program & Bar Success Program

Patty Powell received her B.A. from Oberlin College and her J.D. from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. She practiced law for twelve years in the Denver, Colorado region, and worked as a litigator in both the public and private sectors, including the Colorado Attorney General’s Office, the Denver District Attorney’s Office and a large corporate law firm. After leaving the active practice of law, Powell served as director of Career Services and assistant dean of Student Affairs at Denver Law, as well as assistant dean of Career Development at the University of Colorado Law School. After spending four years consulting in the area of diversity and inclusiveness in the legal profession, she has recently returned to the Sturm College of Law as a lecturer in the Academic Achievement and Bar Success Programs.

Visiting Faculty

Professor Stephen Daniels
 Course: Law and Society

Professor Stephen Daniels is on leave from the American Bar Foundation in Chicago, Illinois, where he is a senior research professor. During the 2010-11 academic year, he served as the director of research at the University of Denver’s Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System (IAALS). Professor Daniels holds a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison; his research focuses on law and public policy and the various aspects of the American civil justice system. He has written on the delivery of legal services, trial courts, juries, plaintiffs’ lawyers, and the politics of civil justice reform, including the areas of medical malpractice, products liability and punitive damages. Professor Daniels is co-author (with Joanne Martin) of Civil Juries and the Politics of Reform, and author or co-author of numerous articles in law reviews and social science journals focusing on law and public policy. He is currently working, with William Sullivan (director of Educating Tomorrow’s Lawyers at IAALS) on a major survey of innovation in legal education.

Professor Jorge Esquirol
 Courses: International Business Transactions, Latin American Law

Jorge Luis Esquirol is a visiting professor at the Sturm College of Law for the fall 2011 semester. He is professor of law at Florida International University, where he was a founding faculty member and founding director of International Programs (’02-’09). Professor Esquirol’s previous positions include associate professor at Northeastern University School of Law (’97-’02), director of academic affairs at Harvard Law School’s Graduate Program (’92-’97), associate at the law firm of Shearman & Sterling in New York City (’90-’92), and law clerk to the Honorable Stanley Marcus in Federal District Court in Miami (’89-’90). He was a resident scholar at the Université de Paris X, Nanterre, France in fall 2001, a visiting professor at the University of Miami School of Law in spring 2002, visiting research professor at Brown University’s Watson Institute for International Studies in spring 2008, and a visiting researcher at the Constitutional Court of Colombia in fall 1998. Professor Esquirol has a J.D. and an S.J.D. from Harvard Law School and a B.S.B.A. in Finance from Georgetown University.
Visiting Faculty
Professor Larry Sanders
Environmental Law Clinic

Professor Larry Sanders supervises students in Denver Law’s Environmental Law Clinic. Professor Sanders is currently on leave from Emory University School of Law, where he has taught and supervised students in the Turner Environmental Law Clinic since 2002. At the Turner Clinic, Sanders facilitated student-attorney participation in judicial and administrative venues, such as the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Prior to teaching at Emory, he founded and directed RiverLaw at the South Yuba River Citizens League in Northern California. During this time, Sanders was lead counsel for environmental organizations in a landmark proceeding before California’s State Water Resources Control Board, which established minimum in-stream flows and temperature criteria for protection of threatened salmon on the Yuba River. Professor Sanders has extensive litigation experience under the Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Clean Water Act and other federal statutes. In addition to environmental matters, Professor Sanders frequently lectures on the topic of legal ethics and professional responsibility. He received his JD from the University of Oregon School of Law in 1994, and his BA from the University of Chicago in 1989.

Professor Deborah Zalesne
Courses: Contracts, Sales and Business Associations

Deborah Zalesne is a tenured professor of law at the City University of New York School of Law where she teaches in the areas of contract, corporate and commercial law. She earned a B.A. from Williams College, a J.D. from the University of Denver College of Law, and an LL.M. from Temple Law School, where she was an Honorable Abraham L. Freedman Fellow. Prior to teaching, Professor Zalesne practiced law with a firm in Denver, Colorado, and clerked for Colorado Supreme Court Justice Gregory K. Scott. She is a member of the boards of Beyond the 11th, a charitable organization devoted to supporting disenfranchised widows in Afghanistan, and Iris House, a community-based organization that serves women infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. Professor Zalesne has published numerous articles on sexual harassment, gender discrimination and poverty law. Her current scholarship focuses on pedagogy and learning theory and she is co-writing a book, forthcoming with Carolina Academic Press, entitled, Teaching To Every Student: Explicitly Integrating Skills And Theory Into The Contracts Class.

Lawyering Process Professor Deborah Borman
Course: Lawyering Process Program

Professor Deborah L. Borman is from Chicago, Illinois, and previously taught on the faculty at Northwestern University, DePaul University College of Law and the John Marshall Law School. Prior to teaching, she served as a career clerk in the Illinois Appellate Court and as an Assistant Illinois Attorney General in the Consumer Fraud Bureau. Professor Borman is an assistant editor of the Journal of the Legal Writing Institute, a contributing editor to the 9th Edition of Black’s Law Dictionary, and she presents at national legal writing conferences on the use of improvisational theatre games to practice oral advocacy.