

**PUBLIC DRAFT 9/7/04**

**UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO SCHOOL OF LAW  
STRATEGIC PLAN 2004  
A FIVE YEAR PLAN**

**INTRODUCTION**

As New Mexico's only law school, our goals are:

- To educate and train students to become excellent lawyers, especially those from New Mexico, who will enrich local, tribal, national and international legal communities after graduation, maintaining our tradition of providing open access to the profession.
- To make legal education more broadly available by educating practicing attorneys and non-lawyers in New Mexico.
- To focus our resources on some of New Mexico's most pressing legal needs through educational, research and service programs of national and international prominence.

These goals track the University's overall vision:

- To offer New Mexicans access to ... high quality educational, research and service programs;
- To serve as a significant knowledge resource for New Mexico, the nation, and the world; and
- To foster programs of international prominence that will place UNM among America's most distinguished public research universities.

*- The Strategic Plan of the University of  
New Mexico (Vision Statement)*

We are advantaged in our pursuit of these goals by the University of New Mexico's strategic location:

- New Mexico's diverse demographic profile provides UNM the opportunity to create an exceptionally rich learning environment characterized by a wealth of different ideas considered from a multitude of perspectives.
- UNM is near an international border; the associated cultural, political, historical, economic, and social relations provide a foundation for a natural international orientation.
- New Mexico's high-desert location, accompanied by the surrounding mountains, the Rio Grande Valley, and other natural features provides a laboratory for environmental, water, health, and other research and educational opportunities.

*- The Strategic Plan of the University of  
New Mexico (Strategic Advantages)*

To meet our goals, we plan to pursue the following objectives and to formally review and evaluate our initial progress by the 2005-06 school year:

**I. Educate and train excellent lawyers. (See UNM Strategic Plan: Strategic Advantage on Vital Academic Climate)**

**A. Recruit and admit a diverse student body, largely drawn from New Mexico, with strong potential for success in the legal profession. (See UNM Strategic Plan: Strategic Direction on Diversity)**

Employ a broad range of recruitment efforts to encourage the pursuit of legal careers and to encourage application to the UNM School of Law by students from New Mexico. Review the Law School's admissions policy and process with a focus on seeking applicants with a strong potential for success in the legal profession who will together form a diverse student body.

**B. Successfully aid graduates in securing employment, including public interest employment, both within and outside of New Mexico.**

Develop multiple contacts with employers in and beyond New Mexico to increase opportunities for our graduates, increase public interest opportunities for graduates with an emphasis on meeting the need in New Mexico for more public interest lawyers, and develop opportunities for students to gain practical experience in significant legal communities outside of New Mexico, including Washington, D.C.

**C. Strengthen the curriculum to teach and train excellent lawyers.**

Expand and evaluate the new first-year curriculum, strengthen the legal writing and research program, and review and develop recommendations for the second and third year curriculum that build on our first year innovations. In particular, we will have all of the first year legal research and writing curriculum taught by professional legal writing instructors.

Strengthen the clinical program's capacity to train law students, and work to improve access to justice for underserved communities within the State of New Mexico.

Strengthen and expand interdisciplinary teaching, scholarship and service among programs within the School of Law and with other UNM Schools, Departments and Programs. (See UNM Strategic Plan: Strategic Direction on Diversity)

Nurture and strengthen the intellectual life of the School of Law through lectures, programs, and improved support of faculty scholarship.

**II. Extend the School of Law’s educational reach to lawyers and non-lawyers. (See UNM Strategic Plan: Strategic Direction on Public Responsibility)**

**To raise revenue for the Law School, to expand our role in the University of New Mexico, and to expand our service to the State of New Mexico, consider implementing some or all of the following strategies:**

- Increase the number of law school courses open to nonlaw UNM students;
- Increase the number of law faculty members teaching undergraduate or nonlaw graduate courses;
- Increase the number of continuing legal education (CLE) courses sponsored by the School of Law or taught by faculty members each year; and
- Increase the number of attorneys participating in the School of Law’s Access to Justice Network.
- Offer a series of courses or a curriculum for non-lawyers interested in legal education who are not pursuing a J.D. degree
- Extend the JD program beyond Albuquerque
- Explore the viability and possible focus of offering one or more graduate law degree (LLM).

**III. Focus the School of Law’s resources on areas of law with special significance to New Mexico. (See UNM Strategic Plan: Strategic Direction on Public Responsibility and Areas of Marked Distinction)**

In each of the following areas, assuming our core curriculum and staffing needs are met, we plan to:

- increase faculty and administrative strength,
- offer a specialized course of study for students,
- coordinate with related law school community outreach programs,
- develop interdisciplinary teaching and projects,
- explore the possibility of creating an LLM program,
- support collaboration across these areas of specialty

**A. Natural Resources Law**

**B. Indian Law**

**C. Global and International Law with an emphasis on Mexico, Latin America and Spain**

**D. Community and Economic Development Program**

**III. Strengthen the School of Law’s ability to support the strategic plan. (See UNM Strategic Plan: Strategic Direction on Resources and Management Systems and Support Functions)**

- A. *Increase funding for new library acquisitions by \$250,000 per year.***
- B. *Increase funding available to students to make law school and a variety of career choices more affordable and accessible by \$250,000 per year.***
- C. *Increase funding for development of faculty scholarship by \$150,000 per year.***
- D. *Increase funding for technology staff and equipment by \$100,000 per year.***
- E. *Increase external sources of funding, including public and private grants, private gifts, and government funding.***
- F. *Strengthen administrative and staff support.***