# Annual Report Office of Vice Dean Research 2007

### Introduction

The Office of the Vice Dean Research (the *Research Office*) consists of the Research Facilitator, Sonya Nigam (who is also the Research Facilitator for Civil Law) and the Vice Dean Research, Tony VanDuzer. The role of the Research Office is to encourage and support the successful engagement of Common Law faculty in research. Its specific responsibilities include support for faculty applying for research related funding, submissions for awards for faculty related to research, and Canada Research Chair (*CRC*) nominations and renewals, managing requests for conference travel funds and participating in the selection of internal faculty research awards, like the Borden Ladner Gervais Research Fellowship. The Vice Dean Research is also a member of the Research Commission of the University. Both the Vice-Dean Research and the Research Facilitator attend the monthly meetings of the University's Committee of Vice and Associate Deans, Research.

Most of the day-to-day work of the Research Office falls to the Research Facilitator. In the case of some research funding applications, faculty members do the majority or even all of the work preparing the application. In many other cases, the Vice Dean Research and, more frequently, the Research Facilitator are involved in grant applications from the conception of the research idea, through successive drafts of the application to the preparation of the final submitted application. For awards, the Research Facilitator typically works closely with the nominee to prepare the supporting documentation and collect letters of support. She also works with Faculty and Central Administration communications officers to provide research story ideas and review stories. In addition, the Research Facilitator manages the Common Law book display case in the Brian Dickson Law Library.

## Overview of 2007

#### Introduction

2007 was an extremely busy year for the Research Office. Activities related to SSHRC Standard Research Grants and other traditional funding programs increased and several new kinds of grant applications were undertaken by faculty requiring varying degrees of support from the Research Office. As well the Research Office assumed responsibility for applications for a number of research awards. The expansion of the work of the Research Office reflects both increasing engagement by faculty in major funded research activities as well as growth in the number of faculty members.

# Research Funding<sup>1</sup>

The Research Office began the year with a seminar on SSHRC Standard Grant applications that provided an analysis of how the Common Law Section did in the 2006-7 competition and strategies for greater success. One outcome of the seminar was a more structured internal review process for internal Standard Grant applications under which applicants were encouraged to prepare their applications early enough to permit them to be read by an external assessor as well as the Vice Dean Research and the Research Facilitator. Nine (9) individual standard grant applications were submitted in October through this process.

The Research Facilitator was intimately involved in a number of other major research funding applications in 2007. She played a large role in the applications for two SSHRC Community-University Research Alliance Grants (CURA) – one international and one domestic – to support research networks involving academics and community organizations. She played a major role in a Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) – Leader's Opportunity Fund application. CFI grants are for infrastructure (i.e. space and equipment) to support a program of research and require the preparation of a detailed budget including work and materials estimates. The Research Facilitator coordinated the successful CRC application for Teresa Scassa. She assisted with two CRC renewal applications. She also played a more limited role in supporting major funding applications for a SSHRC Strategic Clusters Research Grant.

A number of other major grant applications were made by faculty with respect to which the main role of the Research Facilitator was to provide information on funder requirements and assistance with the significant administrative burden associated with such applications.

Though the results from many of the 2007 grant applications are still pending, several grants have been awarded. These include: a SSHRC Conference Grant; a SSHRC Research Development Initiative Grant and a SSHRC Grant received by the University of Ottawa Law and Technology Journal to support open access journals; a Canadian Foundation for Innovation grant under the Leader's Opportunity Fund program; a REALpac grant and a number of Foundation for Legal Research grants.

In addition, faculty and researchers affiliated with the Common Law Section were awarded a number of research contracts in 2007 totalling \$743,690 from a variety of sources including the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada, the Maytree Foundation, the United Nations Environment Programme, Industry Canada, Justice Canada, Heritage Canada, and the Law Foundation of Ontario.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Details of the grants applied for by Common Law Section colleagues are listed in Annex 1 to this Report.

# Research Awards<sup>2</sup>

Several applications for awards for faculty submitted last year through the Research Office were successful in 2007, including the University's Award for Excellence in Education (Denis Boivin) and the Law Society Medal (Martha Jackman). This year the Research Facilitator coordinated applications for several important prizes for faculty members, including the David W. Mundell Medal, the Killam Prize, the SSHRC Gold Medal, the SSHRC Laskin Fellowship and the University's Excellence in Research Award.

#### Other Activities

Both the Research Facilitator and the Vice Dean Research attend regular meetings of the Committee of Vice and Associate Deans Research. The Research Facilitator also meets frequently with her counterparts from all the other faculties of the University. The Vice Dean Research is the Common Law Section representative on the University's Research Commission. The major activity of this body in 2007 was to participate in the reform of the University's internal research funding programs. The Vice Dean Research also participates in the committees established to decide on the winners of some faculty research awards, like the Borden Ladner Gervais Research Fellowship, and some student scholarships, such as the Jordan Watt Scholarship.

The Vice Dean Research was the co-chair (with Michael Geist) of the Common Law Section Retreat in April 2007, which looked at the challenges and opportunities associated with the Section becoming an "Open Access" law school. One of the outcomes of the Retreat was a commitment of the Research Office work toward the creation of a web-based repository for faculty scholarship.

In October 2007, the Vice Dean Research became the Common Law Section's contract point for the University's Centre for Leadership. In that capacity he coordinated the development of a roster of mentors for junior faculty. In November, the Vice Dean Research became the Common Law Section's representative on the Research Advisory Board of the Law Commission of Ontario.

Finally in 2007, the Research Office had preliminary discussions regarding how to improve the Research pages on the Common Law Section Web site. Revisions will be implemented in 2008.

## **Looking Ahead to 2008**

Priorities for this year include revising the research pages on the Common Law Section web site to provide more useful and up to date information for faculty seeking research support, including

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information about the services of the Research Office, internal Common Law Section Funding, internal University Funding and external funding opportunities.

A longer term objective is to create a repository of Faculty scholarship. The Vice Dean Research will be developing a plan in this regard in consultation with the Chief Librarian of the University. It is expected that the repository will be in place before the end of 2008.

Finally, the Research Office proposes to develop a more coordinated strategy for putting colleagues forward for awards. This has been done on an *ad hoc* basis in the past and our goal is to ensure that applications are submitted each year for the many awards for which Common Law Section colleagues are worthy candidates.

Annex 1
Summary of Common Law Grant & Prize Applications in 2007

| Type of Application                    | Number of Applications |
|--|------------------------|
|  | Applications           |
| Grants                                 |                        |
| SSHRC Standard Grants                  | 9                      |
| SSHRC Strategic Cluster Grant          | 1                      |
| SSHRC Research Development Initiatives | 1                      |
| SSHRC Management Grant                 | 1                      |
| SSHRC Aid to Open Access Journals      | 1                      |
| SSHRC Conference Grant                 | 1                      |
| SSHRC Community-University Research    | 1                      |
| Alliance Grants (CURA)                 |                        |
| SSHRC Community-University Research    |                        |
| Alliance Grants (CURA) - International | 2                      |
| SSRC Laskin Fellowship                 | 1                      |
| SSHRC International Opportunities Fund | 1                      |
| Canadian Institutes of Health Research | 1                      |
| (CIHR) Standard Grant                  |                        |
| Canadian Foundation for Innovation     | 1                      |
| (CFI) – Leader's Opportunity Fund      |                        |
| Canada Research Chairs – renewal       | 1                      |
| Foundation for Legal Research          | 3                      |
| REALpac                                | 1                      |
| U of O – Initiation of Research/New    | 1                      |
| Directions (IRND) Grant                |                        |
| U of O – Interdisciplinary Initiatives | 1                      |
| Grant                                  |                        |
| <b>Total Submitted</b>                 | 28                     |
| Prizes                                 |                        |
| Law Society Medal                      | 1                      |
| Killam Prize                           | 1                      |
| David W. Mundell Medal                 | 1                      |
| Royal Society of Canada Fellowship     | 1                      |
| U of O – Excellence in Education       | 1                      |
| U of O – Excellence in Research        | 1                      |
| Total Submitted                        | 6                      |
| 1 Otal Submitted                       | U                      |