



ON THE FRONT COVER

MARY ANNE BOBINSKI, DEAN OF THE UBC FACULTY OF LAW

By Janis Sarra

Following a global search by the University of British Columbia for a new law dean, Mary Anne Bobinski joined the UBC Faculty of Law in July 2003 as dean and professor of law. Members of the British Columbia legal profession and judiciary assisted in the search process; what impressed all of them was Dean Bobinski's dedication to legal teaching and research, her extensive administration experience and her strong history of building links with members of the profession. One year later, faculty, students and members of the profession have benefited from her incredible energy and enthusiasm. UBC Faculty of Law has 700 students in its LL.B., LL.M. and Ph.D. degree programs, and Dean Bobinski has worked with the faculty, the profession and the community to ensure that the law school provides the best legal education possible.

To accomplish this goal, Dean Bobinski has set out the following seven core objectives for the Faculty of Law: to provide students with a solid foundation in the law; to continue building upon the diversity of UBC's curriculum by adding courses in emerging fields such as e-commerce, intellectual property, business law, Aboriginal rights and international trade; to further integrate new technologies into teaching and learning, as well as to infuse practical skills training in advocacy, dispute resolution, legal research and writing, problem solving and ethics into the curriculum; to ensure that students are exposed to empirical, theoretical and critical perspectives on the law; to continue attracting the best teaching and research faculty in the world and ensure that their research initiatives have an impact on scholars, practitioners and policy-makers at the national and interna-

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tional level; to continue building strong links with members of the profession; and to marshal the resources necessary to support all of the foregoing initiatives.

Dean Bobinski's commitment to excellence in teaching and research is reflected in her own academic background. She holds an LL.M. (with honours) from Harvard Law School (1989); a J.D., *summa cum laude*, from the Faculty of Law and Jurisprudence, State University of New York at Buffalo (1987) and B.A., *summa cum laude* (psychology, June 1982), State University of New York at Buffalo. She taught at the University of Houston Law Center from 1989 to 2003 and was named John and Rebecca Moores Professor in September 2002, teaching courses in torts, health law, health legislation, e-health law, health law and the constitution, reproductive health law, HIV and the law, health care reform, legal analysis and legislation. She also served as faculty editor for the *Houston Journal of Health Law and Policy*.

Dean Bobinski has also conducted research and written extensively in her field. Her co-authored and co-edited books include *Health Care and Ethics*, 6th ed. (Rockville, MD: Aspen Publishing 2003); *HIV Law and Policy* (Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 2002); *Medical Ethics: Analysis of the Issues Raised by the Codes, Opinions and Statements* (Washington, DC: BNA Press, 2001) and *AIDS: Cases and Materials* (Richmond, VA: John Marshall Press, 1995). Other publications include "Health Disparities and the Law: Wrongs in Search of a Right" (2003) 29 *Amer. J. L. & Med.* 363; "Legal Issues in Hospital Infection Control" in *Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Control* (Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins, 1999) and "Genetic Information, Legal, ERISA Preemption, and HIPAA Protection" in *The Encyclopedia of Ethical, Legal, and Policy Issues in Biotechnology* (New York: John Wiley & Sons, 2000). She was principal investigator in major research studies, including "Bioterrorism Analysis", Texas State Department of Health; "Texas Multicultural Regional Community Tobacco Studies", University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston; and "Medical Records, HIV Testing, and Financial Information: A Summary of Federal and State Laws in Region VI", sponsored by the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services. In 2003, Dean Bobinski was Merck Visiting Faculty Scholar, Seton Hall Law School. She continues to present papers nationally and internationally on public health, health care financing/ERISA, HIV legal and ethical issues, confidentiality in medical records, bioethics, reproductive health law, and disability law and insurance.

Dean Bobinski has maintained close ties with the legal profession and the health community throughout her career. She is admitted to the bar in New York State (1988), before the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit (1988) and the Southern District of Texas (1991). She previously served as judicial law clerk to the Honorable Max Rosenn, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit (1987-88) and practised as a summer associate with Phillips, Lytle, Hitchcock, Blaine & Huber, Buffalo, N.Y. (1986) and Magavern & Magavern, Buffalo, N.Y. (1984-85). While at the University of Houston Law Center, she served on numerous state and local boards, including the Newborn Screening Advisory Committee, Texas State Department of Health; the Health Law Coun-

cil of the Texas State Bar Association and the Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution in Medicine Advisory Committee of the A. A. White Dispute Resolution Institute. Since coming to the UBC Faculty of Law, Dean Bobinski has spoken at numerous Canadian Bar Association (B.C. Branch) meetings, met with over 40 B.C. law firms and conducted outreach activity with numerous law firms throughout the rest of Canada. In addition, as the UBC Faculty of Law representative, she attends at meetings of the benchers of the Law Society of British Columbia. Her aim throughout these meetings has been to foster dialogue between the profession and the faculty concerning legal education, to recognize the contribution of members of the profession to the faculty's educational mission and to strengthen the links between them as a necessary step in reaching the goal of providing the best legal education possible.

Dean Bobinski worked in a number of senior administrative posts before coming to UBC. From 2001 to 2003, she served as director of the Health Law and Policy Institute for University of Houston Law Center, where she was responsible for externally funded research projects, health law curriculum, publications and administration. The health law program consistently ranked first in the annual *U.S. News & World Report* rankings during her tenure. From 1998 to 2000, she was senior associate dean for academic affairs, University of Houston Law Center, and from 1994 to 1998 was associate director for J.D. programs, Health Law and Policy Institute, University of Houston Law Center. In addition, Dean Bobinski was an elected member of the University of Houston Faculty Senate Executive Committee and chair of its Legislative and Community Relations Committee. Although her role as dean of one of Canada's largest law schools is more than a full-time job, she also serves as a member of the UBC Senate and on the Finance and Legal Committee, Law School Admissions Council (LSAC).

Dean Bobinski and her partner, Holly Harlow, have long enjoyed exploring British Columbia, and they love living in Vancouver with their 18-month old daughter, Anna. Among other passions, they enjoy hiking, bicycling and walking their dogs.



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