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Leading Through Collaboration: A Tribute to Distinguished Professor Barbara Cosens

Dylan R. Hedden-Nicely

University of Idaho, College of Law, dhedden@uidaho.edu

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V. LEADING THROUGH COLLABORATION: A TRIBUTE TO DISTINGUISHED
PROFESSOR BARBARA COSENS

by Donald Burnett, Dylan Hedden-Nicely & Anastasia Telesetsky

Anastasia Telesetsky, Professor of Law

Professor Barb Cosens walks in two worlds—she is both a scientist and a lawyer, striving to locate new spaces for transdisciplinary thinking. Arriving at the College of Law in 2004 after serving as a leading mediator in Montana on multi-party water resources disputes, Professor Cosens dedicated herself to the mission of University of Idaho to contribute to innovative thinking, lead community engagement and provide transformative education. Her legacy has touched students, residents of the Northwest, and the broader policy community.

She has brought great innovation to the curriculum and dedicated mentorship. Primary to that goal was her understanding that complex environmental issues require interdisciplinary solutions. She partnered with faculty members from across campus in the science and engineering departments, forging partnerships to provide an integrated water resources management and policy curriculum known as “Waters of the West” (WoW) to enhance graduate education. The curriculum brings together law students and graduate students in team-taught courses and in collaborative, science-based investigations of water basin issues. Professor Cosens has helped to fund and mentor numerous graduate students through a National Science Foundation, “Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship” (IGERT) grant.

Her work within the College of Law has likewise been transformative. Working with her colleagues and several of her students, Professor Cosens formed the Natural Resource and Environmental Law program. That program has provided almost a hundred students with the opportunity to take specialized environmental law courses, write an environmental law thesis, and participate in environmental internships. Professor Cosens’ students have universally praised her ability to teach effectively. Many of her students have gone on to take on leadership positions in government, academia, and non-profits.

Recognized by University of Idaho as a University Distinguished Professor, Professor Cosens is one of foremost authorities in the United States and North America on the Columbia River Treaty and the relationship between law and resilience. In 2009, through her leadership of the Universities Consortium on Columbia River Governance, she organized at the University of Idaho a historic interdisciplinary symposium on the renegotiation of the Columbia River Treaty. Her work has continued to be influential in this area as she works with policymakers to amplify the voices of indigenous peoples and honor indigenous lifeways.

She is a prolific and high impact scholar. Her writings on resilience and the law have been internationally recognized. She has published in widely read journals including *Sustainability* and *Ecology and Society*. In 2016, she was selected to be a Distinguished Scholar at the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center.

Working in a collaborative team of scientists and lawyers, she explored the linkages between resilience and law across six water basins in a paradigm shifting project on “Social-Ecological System Resilience, Climate Change and Adaptive Water Governance.” Her work has been impactful for practitioners as well including establishing a database on Indian water rights settlements for the Department of the Interior’s Indian Water Rights Office.

Professor Cosens has blazed a legacy trail for the University of Idaho College of Law with her teaching and scholarship. Her colleagues admire her success as a role model for students and as a creative thinker in the academy. For her colleagues, perhaps the most important contribution of Professor Cosens to the law school has been her compassion for others and her enduring friendship. Professor Cosens always finds time for meaningful connection and her warm engaging presence will be deeply missed as she begins the next phase of her dynamic journey.

Dylan Hedden-Nicely, Associate Professor of Law, Director, Native American Law Program

Much of my life as I now know it can be traced back to a single discussion I had with Barbara Cosens sometime in the spring of 2008. I was twenty-three years old and traveling around the northwest to visit law schools, and she graciously agreed to sit down with me. The subject-matter of the discussion—the law school, the University of Idaho’s environmental and natural resources law curriculum, the newly developed concurrent degree program with the University’s Water Resources Program, and other opportunities—are not what stick out in my memory. What I remember is Barb—her quiet confidence, her kind brilliance, and her warmth. Because of that short meeting, I came away with the firm conviction that I wanted to study at the University of Idaho and I have never regretted that decision. Indeed, it was that decision which set into motion the series of events leading to my penning this letter today as Barb’s Colleague on the faculty at the College of Law. From her work as a lawyer, mediator, and scholar, Barb’s career has been prolific. However, I believe my story demonstrates Barb’s most enduring legacy: the straight line between Barb and the myriad lawyers and scientists all over the country that work every day to make our communities a better place.

Barbara Cosens was born to lead the University of Idaho College of Law’s natural resources and environmental law curriculum into the twenty-first century. Raised in California’s Strawberry Valley, Barb spent her adolescence walking the trails of the Sierra Nevada. She came to love that place—its land, waters, plants and animals. But as she gazed west, toward the State’s central valley, she also came to realize the complexity of our society’s interrelationship with the natural world. Indeed, those same waters of the Sierra from which she drew spiritual and emotional sustenance were relied upon by the farmers of California—and by extension, the entire world—for economic and physical wellbeing. Barb has dedicated her life to finding common ground in this fraught and complex field.

Barb first took her collaborative philosophy to Montana, where she served as lead negotiator for the State’s Federal Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission. In that role, she worked with state personnel, the United States, Indian tribes, and local stakeholders to develop comprehensive settlements of the reserved water rights appurtenant to federal lands throughout the State of

Montana.⁸ Kim Gottschalk worked across from her during this era, serving as attorney for the Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation. He remembers Barb's "professionalism, competence, sense of perspective, judgment, patience, and congeniality during a difficult process."⁹

Barb is universally praised for her commitment to excellence during these negotiations. As Dave Amman, a Montana State hydrologist who worked with Barb during this time put it, "Just getting the job done, or even just done right, is not enough. Barb always strived to create products of excellence, knowing that this work would be around for a long time."¹⁰ His favorite anecdote comes from their effort to develop an estimate of the extent of groundwater recharge to the springs and geyser systems at Yellowstone National Park. As he put it: "After much debate, someone suggested that the line should be drawn to reflect an average of everyone's opinions, to which Barb objected, 'Science is not done by consensus!'"¹¹

Barb was instrumental in developing comprehensive solutions to complex water resource problems. Her focus remained on creative and mutually beneficial ways for federal, tribal, and non-Indian communities throughout Montana to build water security. Pam Williams, Director of the Interior Secretary's Indian Water Rights Office credits Barb for helping to develop solutions that "quantified tribal rights, provided funding for tribal water infrastructure and protected existing non-Indian water users. These settlements provided, and continue to provide, certainty to all affected water users and have allowed tribal and non-Indian economies to grow."¹²

⁸ Those settlement negotiations she led included Yellow Stone and Glacier National Parks, the Big Hole National Monument, the Little Bighorn National Monument, Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area, as well as Red Rock Lakes, Benton Lake, and Black Coulee National Wildlife Refuges. Finally, she served as chief negotiator for the quantification of the reserved water rights of the tribes of the Fort Belknap and Rocky Boy's Reservations. She also led the effort to implement the compacts negotiated on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation and Fort Peck Reservation, and served in a supporting role in negotiations the Blackfeet and Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes water compacts. Finally, she played a role in innumerable other negotiations related to many national forests and wildlife refuges within the State of Montana.

⁹ Email from Kim Gottschalk, Attorney, Native American Rights Fund, to Dylan R. Hedden-Nicely, Associate Professor of Law, University of Idaho (March 5, 2020) (on file with author).

¹⁰ Email from David Amman, Hydrologist, State of Montana Water Rights Compact Commission, to Dylan R. Hedden-Nicely, Associate Professor of Law, University of Idaho (Feb. 26, 2020) (on file with author).

¹¹ Email from David Amman, Hydrologist, State of Montana Water Rights Compact Commission, to Dylan R. Hedden-Nicely, Associate Professor of Law, University of Idaho (Feb. 26, 2020) (on file with author).

¹² Email from Pamela Williams, Director, Secretary's Indian Water Rights Office, to Dylan R. Hedden-Nicely, Associate Professor of Law, University of Idaho (March 5, 2020) (on file with author).

The most important result of Barb's work during this time, however, is the new era she helped to usher into Montana, using water rights negotiations as a vehicle for bringing communities closer together. Generally, these negotiations are ripe for conflict. The parties invariably become entrenched and the stakes devolve into a zero-sum game measured in gallons of water won and lost. Those representing the state in these discussions serve as leaders to the entire non-Indian community. Unfortunately, the traditional relationship between tribes and states has been adversarial and many states have taken this posture in recent water rights cases. The result is relationships between communities—often frayed before—become irreparably broken. As lead negotiator for the State of Montana, Barb flipped this script, choosing instead to be a collaborative partner with Montana's tribes. The process built trust, focusing on the common goal of seeking to ensure water security for everyone within the State. As a result of her leadership, water rights negotiations in Montana served not as a source of conflict, but as a bridge that formed the basis for a lasting relationship.

Barb brought her commitment to collaborative excellence to the University of Idaho when she joined the faculty in 2004. Many of the College's best students over the past decade came to Idaho specifically to study under Barb. Students like Marie Calloway Kellner, now the Conservation Program Director at the Idaho Conservation League have said, "It's not too strong a sentiment to say that [Barb] is why I attended the U of I College of Law."¹³

Barb's students have universally praised her teaching. Greg Haller, currently executive director at Pacific Rivers, notes that Barb was his favorite professor because "her mastery of the subject matter, her real world experience, and her good nature made going to her classes a special treat . . ."¹⁴ Carmen Thomas Morse, now an attorney at the United States Department of the Interior remembers that "Barb Cosens was the best instructor I had the pleasure of learning from during my U of I law school education. She made complicated concepts simple and easy to understand. That is not to say her courses or exams were easy, for her exams were very challenging."¹⁵

Barb committed herself to supporting her students to succeed both in the classroom and after graduation. One such student, Shanna Knight remembers Barb as a

wonderfully supportive teacher, both praising work done well, and asking great questions that lead us to our own answers. I'm very grateful to Barb for giving me a chance to work my first summer in law school on the Columbia River Treaty scenario

¹³ Email from Marie Calloway Kellner, Conservation Program Director, Idaho Conservation League, to Dylan R. Hedden-Nicely, Associate Professor of Law, University of Idaho (March 5, 2020) (on file with author).

¹⁴ Email from Gregory Haller, Executive Director, Pacific Rivers, to Dylan R. Hedden-Nicely, Associate Professor of Law, University of Idaho (March 5, 2020) (on file with author).

¹⁵ Email from Carmen Thomas Morse, attorney, United States Department of the Interior, to Dylan R. Hedden-Nicely, Associate Professor of Law, University of Idaho (March 5, 2020) (on file with author).

development process, which led me to increasing my knowledge of the Basin and developing relationships with indigenous environmental stakeholders. I still value and carry forward these relationships in my work today with economic development in Indian country.¹⁶

Matt Janz, now an assistant attorney general with the Washington Department of Ecology, remembers waiting to learn his fate after presenting his master's thesis defense:

After sitting for, in my hazy recollection, [what seemed to be] two to three weeks, Barb came out. She walked over to me and paused with a serious look on her face. She paused for, [what seemed to be] easily, two to three hours before laughing and shaking my hand; my thesis had been approved. . . . Barb was the face of one of my very favorite days at the U of I.¹⁷

Barb's teaching philosophy included a healthy dose of practicality. Her students, most of whom plan to practice on the practical side of natural resources law, appreciated this approach. Although these students "enjoy the legal philosophical discussions so many law school classes employ," they "also appreciate those special times when what you learn in school turns out to be directly applicable to work or life." Barb was always able to appropriately strike this balance. Marie Calloway Kellner recalls

Barb's water law class was Idaho specific, and included lots of Idaho cases and current real life scenarios. When I finally got the chance to practice water law a few years after graduation, and I started sinking my teeth into conjunctive management practices and Snake River flow management, Barb was one of the first calls I made to say thank you for teaching things in class that were directly relevant to my work.¹⁸

Finally, she has served as a role model to her female students as they embark on careers on the cutting edge of both law and science—fields traditionally dominated by men. Marie Calloway Kellner credits her for being "a role model to

¹⁶ Email from Shawna Knight, Staff Attorney, Lewis & Clark Law School Small Business Legal Clinic, to Dylan R. Hedden-Nicely, Associate Professor of Law, University of Idaho (March 5, 2020) (on file with author).

¹⁷ Email from Matthew Janz, Assistant Attorney General, Ecology Section, Washington Office of the Attorney General, to Dylan R. Hedden-Nicely, Associate Professor of Law, University of Idaho (March 5, 2020) (on file with author).

¹⁸ Email from Marie Calloway Kellner, Conservation Program Director, Idaho Conservation League, to Dylan R. Hedden-Nicely, Associate Professor of Law, University of Idaho (March 5, 2020) (on file with author).

me as a strong woman leader. She still is. I am incredibly thankful to know her.”¹⁹ Carmen Thomas Morse remembers,

As a ‘non-traditional’ student, she inspired me because she came to law after studying and working in a science-based field. She showed me that it was possible not only to engage in the study of law as a ‘second career,’ but also to succeed in practicing law.

Meghan Carter, now a deputy attorney general with the Idaho Department of Water Resources, remembers that Barb was always

bold, straightforward, and incredibly generous with both her time and support. I’ve always looked up to her as an example of a great lawyer and as a role model for female practitioners. She’s always made an effort to keep tabs on former students and provide encouraging words. I will be forever grateful to have her as a teacher, mentor, and friend.²⁰

Donald Burnett, Dean and Professor of Law Emeritus, past Interim University President

During his tenure of deanship, Dean Emeritus Burnett joined faculty colleague Elizabeth Brandt in nominating Professor Cosens to be designated a University Distinguished Professor. Excerpts of Dean Burnett’s letter supporting the nomination are reproduced here in Professor Cosens’ honor:

National and International Recognition. Professor Cosens is one of foremost authorities in the United States and North America on water resource and environmental resilience issues. When she picks up the telephone and calls other leading scholars and policy-makers in these fields, they readily take her calls. For example, although she gives well-deserved credit to others, she was the pivotal figure in shaping the historic symposium in 2009 on renewal of the Columbia River Treaty – one of the world’s most important transnational legal frameworks for natural resource management, multi-sovereign governance, and sustainable economic development. The symposium attracted scholars and policy-makers from this hemisphere and elsewhere, including China. The symposium was the organizing event for creation of the Universities Consortium on Columbia River Governance. Professor Cosens was a leading force (and “laboring

¹⁹ Email from Marie Calloway Kellner, Conservation Program Director, Idaho Conservation League, to Dylan R. Hedden-Nicely, Associate Professor of Law, University of Idaho (March 5, 2020) (on file with author).

²⁰ Email from Meghan Carter, Deputy Attorney General, Idaho Department of Water Resources, to Dylan R. Hedden-Nicely, Associate Professor of Law, University of Idaho (March 5, 2020) (on file with author).

oar”) in establishing the Consortium, which includes interdisciplinary faculty from the University of British Columbia, University of Washington, University of Idaho, and other Northwest universities. In a related initiative, Professor Cosens soon will undertake an approved sabbatical research project that is expected to entail collaboration with the Stockholm Resilience Center at Stockholm University. Within the United States, Professor Cosens has earned widespread recognition as a preeminent mediator of complex, multi-party water resources disputes involving the federal government, many state governments, Native American tribes, and private interests. Her preeminence has brought great credit -- and credibility in high places -- to the University of Idaho.

Superior Record of Scholarly Achievement. Professor Cosens’ cross-border reputation rests not only on her collegial ability to summon diverse experts into a collective enterprise, but also on the quality and quantity of her own scholarship. She edited and authored a key chapter of the forthcoming book (Oregon State University Press) based

upon the Columbia River symposium. She co-edited and contributed to another book . . . on the *Winters* doctrine -- the foundation of Native American treaty-based water rights. (Professor Cosens is one of North America’s leading authorities on tribal water resource issues.) Her other . . . publications include book chapters and law review articles published by the University of Arizona Press, the University of Utah Journal of Land Resources and Environmental Law (featuring her as a Wallace Stegner Young Scholar), Natural Resources Journal, Idaho Law Review, Environmental Law, Journal of Environmental Law & Litigation, and other publications well chosen to reach academic and policy-making audiences. She also has organized or made recent presentations at major scholarly and professional conferences throughout the western United States, including the American Bar Association centennial conference on the *Winters* doctrine, and the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Institute’s program on inter-basin transfers of water.

Breadth and Depth of Teaching – with Excellence. Professor Cosens is an outstanding teacher, not only in law but also in science-based areas of water and natural resources policy. More than any other individual at the University of Idaho – and perhaps first among faculty members at other Western research universities – she has forged a partnership between law and science in developing the integrated water resources curriculum

known as “Waters of the West” (WoW). The curriculum brings together law students and graduate students in team-taught courses and in collaborative, science-based investigations of water basin issues. Through the efforts of Professor Cosens, the University of Idaho now has a distinctive array of concurrent degree opportunities combining the J.D. with various Masters and Ph.D. degrees in water resources management and policy. Moreover, Professor Cosens is an extraordinary teacher in the classroom. In addition to the observations contained in Dean Brandt’s letter, I can attest from my own evaluations that I have found her particularly open to pedagogical experimentation, adept at uses of demonstrative materials and real-world illustrations, and effective at bringing guest experts with multiple perspectives into the classroom. Her passion for natural resources subjects, especially water law and policy, is obvious to the students. For her classroom excellence, as well as for her interdisciplinary enrichment of our curriculum, I was pleased in 2008 to present her the College of Law’s William and Joan Boyd Award for Excellence in Law Teaching.

University Service and Service Addressing the Needs of One or More External Publics. . . . Professor Cosens has served on water and natural resources law-related national committees of the American Bar Association, on regional water drainage interdisciplinary study teams, and – as mentioned above -- a mediator of complex water disputes in many states. She has given invited testimony to the Idaho Legislature on water policy issues. Closer to home, her interdisciplinary law/graduate student research teams have illuminated issues for management of surface and ground water resources in the Palouse Basin and the Lapwai Creek Watershed. Within the University of Idaho, she has been one of the founders and participants in governance of the visionary WoW program and has served on, or chaired, committees in the College of Natural Resources and the Environmental Science program, while also serving on University-level committees including the University Research Council. At the College of Law, her service has included active membership in our Admissions Committee and Faculty Appointments Committee (very time-consuming assignments), along with our Strategic Planning and Outreach Committee. Her service in all respects has been exceptional. . . .

* * *

All three of the authors here note that the retirement of Barbara Cosens marks the end of an era at the College of Law. The gap she leaves behind will be impossible to fill. But there is no doubt the College—the entire University—is a better place because of Barb Cosens. There is no doubt that our society is a better

place because of Barb Cosens. We, all of your colleagues, former students, and friends, honor you for a life well lived.

Additional Comments from Faculty, Staff & Students

Owen Moroney '14

Congratulations on the retirement Professor Cosens! Thank you for your inspirational teaching at the University of Idaho College of Law. I often think back to your classes and very much appreciate the knowledge you imparted. It has been very helpful throughout my legal career. Have an awesome retirement!

Julie Poynsenby, Ph.D. Candidate

I met Barb through signing up for a special topics class she offered last Fall. My Major Professor insisted I sign up for two reasons, firstly the topic was relevant to the work we were doing with the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, and second, because Barb Cosens is amazing. You really shouldn't let this opportunity pass by, and I know her class will be inspiring. It was sound advice. The class was indeed relevant, enjoyable and included a wonderful trip to BC and the Columbia Basin Transboundary River Conference. I often think about the time our group spent in BC, gathering interviews from conference delegates and listening to some thought-provoking commentary from First Nations and Native American representatives. It was a wonderful experience and all down to Barb's vision for the course.

Barb is inspiring and everyone I have spoken to has something wonderful to say about her. As the only student in the class who was not studying environmental science or water resources, I never once felt out of place or the odd one out. Barb is a skilled educator, enigmatic and engaging, with the ability to explain the most complicated legal documents and environmental law by including powerful anecdotal stories that bring the cases to life.

I am so glad that I decided to take my MPs advice and be part of Barb's class. It really was inspiring and yes, Barb is amazing, and I am excited and honored that she is part of my Doctoral committee.

Rebecca Witinok-Huber '19

It's difficult to put into words the impact that you have had on my doctoral education and UI experience. I'm sure the same will be true as I move forward with my career. From the initial IGERT interview, you saw my potential and have worked over the past 3.5 years to support me in every way possible and to help me see and express that potential. You have worn many hats during my time at UI from major professor, mentor, and cheerleader, to friend, guide, legal counsel, therapist, you name it. Not to mention, as we both know, working across disciplines and with community partners adds an element of difficulty and uncertainty. You stepped up to the challenge and also helped me push the boundaries with my research and writing. I also know that I was the first, and last, student that you were the sole doctoral advisor for. Like everything else you do, you gave it 110%. My success, despite the challenges of completing fieldwork in a post-conflict developing country

with little programmatic support, is a testament to you, to your support, leadership, compassion, and guidance. You saw me as a whole person, and therefore knew when I needed to be pushed and when I needed extra support and empathy. Thank you for mentoring me with grace, humor, and humility. I am a better researcher, educator, and human being for having worked with you. Congratulations and have fun in retirement.

Amanda Stahl, WSU student

To Prof. Cosens: congratulations and many thanks to you. I cannot imagine what I would be doing now without your training and guidance on interdisciplinary research, resilience scholarship, and intersecting law with ecology! I hope to continue our conversations. Best wishes for a wonderful retirement.

Alycia Bean, Ph.D. Geography

Professor Cosens has been instrumental in my education. She went out of her way to give me access to water law courses necessary for my interdisciplinary degree. She has been a role model for a positive, healthy and successful professional. I am extremely grateful to have been a student during her tenure!

Vivi Gonzalez, Current student

Professor Cosens has been one of the best educators that I have had. Her passion and knowledge made me eager to learn Property Law. She made the class so enjoyable and engaging every day. She is such a genuine individual and I am so lucky to have been able to take a class by her. I wish her the best in her future endeavors!

Elowyn Yager

Congratulations Barb! I wish you a relaxing and fun retirement! I only wish we had lived in the same city so that we could have interacted more frequently. Best--Elowyn Yager

Carmen Thomas Morse '10

The conspiracy began in Property Law. After class one day, fellow student Moira Ingle and I were discussing how fantastic the professor, Barb Cosens, was, especially her ability to clearly and thoroughly explain complex issues. That conversation led to others, as Moira and I got to know each other. Moira and I wondered why, with professors like Barb Cosens, the University of Idaho School of Law did not offer a Natural Resources certificate or specialization like the University of Vermont and Lewis and Clark law schools did. We agreed that the University of Idaho certainly appeared to have high caliber professors teaching natural resources classes.

After a few conversations, we decided to research the requirements for a natural resources certificate or emphasis. I compiled the course requirements for both the University of Vermont and Lewis and Clark and developed a list of courses available through the University of Idaho that were similar. I approached Barb with the two lists and asked what she thought it would take for the U of I law school to adopt a natural resources certificate or emphasis program. Although she did not know what would be required, she enthusiastically embraced the concept. She

recommended a few changes to the lists, and we were off. Using her boundless energy and keen mind, she guided the nascent emphasis program through the maze of university and law school approval. I don't know what Barb had to do to shepherd the program through the process. I attended only a single meeting of the law school faculty, who seemed supportive of the program.

Months later and after the addition of a Native American Law emphasis, the University of Idaho College of Law announced the inception of both a Natural Resources and Environmental Law and a Native American Law emphasis program. Both were available, for the first time, to the graduating class of 2009. When I received my transcript the following year, I was proud and happy to see it reflect the Natural Resources and Environmental Law emphasis. Every student whose transcript notes either of these emphasis areas owes Barb Cosens a debt of gratitude for championing the program to its fruition.

Now for some remarks about Barb's teaching ability, which is simply unsurpassed. I hold three degrees from three different universities and count Barb among the absolute finest professors that I have had the privilege to study under. I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to learn from her and, although I am saddened at the thought that future U of I law students will not have the same pleasure in learning Property and Water Law under her guidance or have the chance to experience the special torture of Barb's take-home exams, I am very, very happy to know that all of Barb's time will soon be her own.

Barb was also inspirational to the non-traditional law students who were interested in natural resources, like Moira and I. There seemed no limit to what she could do: from being an excellent instructor, to assisting in developing a dual-degree program and then implementing that program, to championing a natural resource and native American law emphasis programs, to being a prodigious and international water law scholar. And she always seemed upbeat and energetic, no matter how many irons she had in a seemingly impossibly overcrowded fire. Thank you, Barb, for your excellent teaching, mentoring, and guidance, and showing me and others what is possible in a "second" career. Many happy trails, Barb, and congratulations!

All my best wishes for continued good health and many fun adventures,

Ashley McDermott '17

Professor Cosens - I have nothing but admiration and deep appreciation for who you are as a teacher and a friend, for your support and care during those long four years I was getting my J.D. and P.S.M., and for being such a positive influential mentor. Thank you so much. That school is going to miss your expertise and passion for education! Thank you for being there for me when I needed it most and the biggest thanks for sending me to Ecuador with my soon-to-be husband, haha! I hope you thoroughly enjoy retirement, travel often, and experience life to the fullest! You deserve every moment of it! Best of Wishes.

Patrick Johnson '16

There are many scholars who have devoted their lives to thoughtfully transforming their field of study in profound ways. There are others who have spent their time zealously mentoring and advocating for their students. Somehow, Professor Cosens has been able to jointly accomplish these tasks with kindness, humility, and dedication. Her contributions to the field of water governance and her efforts to promote the integration of law and science in education are too extensive to briefly summarize. The ripple effect of these contributions will be felt for decades to come, and Professor Cosens should be professionally cherished for her work in these fields. Despite the thousands of hours that were required to make such valuable contributions, Professor Cosens has kindly served as a mentor to many young people, finding time for long-winded students attempting to find their way in the world. Professor Cosens patient mentorship has changed the trajectory of many lives. I speak from experience. Professor Cosens will never truly understand how significantly she altered the direction of my professional and personal life. She has earned some rest in the mountains, though I suspect that she will be unable to rest for long. Whatever the next chapter brings for Professor Cosens, I am hopeful that it is fulfilling and provides her with joy. She is a legend in her field and will forever be a friend. Thank you, Professor Cosens, for all that you have done and for the person that you are.

Stephen R. Miller, Professor of Law

Professor Cosens was a mentor to me from the moment I walked onto campus. From her, I learned a vision of legal education imbued with ideals: that law and science can be allies; that the environment needs a champion; that colleagues across locations can work together as one. The humanity with which she approached complex questions encouraged others to move beyond long-held beliefs. She will be remembered for championing needed change and building institutions as necessary as her idealism. I will miss her greatly.

Lucy Page Chesnutt '14

Professor Cosens: I do not think my law school experience, nor my legal career to this point would be the same without your positive influence. Your attentive listening ear, guidance, encouragement, kindness, and promotion is something that I am so very grateful for.

I wish you all the best in retirement and the next phase of life. Congratulations on an exceptional career where you have been such a wonderful influence on so many lives, many thanks for your encouragement, guidance, and investment in student success, and may the best adventures be yet to come!

Carolyn Todd, Staff

Barb: Barb was like a breath of fresh air to me when she arrived at the College of Law. Right from the start she was involved in programs that weren't law-school-specific, and she was always friendly and engaged with both staff and faculty. She encouraged me (and Maureen) to try our hand at the Palouse Sprint Triathlon, and I'm still hoping to start swimming someday because of her example.