

2009 Mission Award Winners Announced

The School of Law community celebrated its distinctive mission and those who embody it at its annual Mission Award celebration in March.

Excellence in Professional Preparation

This award recognizes those who provide practical skills, theoretical legal education and mentoring from a faith-based perspective to prepare students to become accomplished servant leaders in the practice of law.

- Dave Bateson, director, Mentor Externship
- Nora Fitzpatrick, assistant dean for administration
- Sara Sommarstrom, Minnesota Justice Foundation representative
- Pete Surdo and Tayari Garrett

Scholarly Engagement and Societal Reform

This award acknowledges those who have worked to expand knowledge about law and society and participate in the improvement of legal institutions and other organizations, particularly exploring the intellectual integration of faith into the study of law, professional ethics, public policy and social justice.

- Chris Clark, 3L
- Nicole Concordia, 3L
- Nate Dahl, 3L

Service and Community

This award honors those who have worked to create a diverse School of Law community dedicated to supporting and serving each other, the law school's mission, and local, national and global communities, as well as those who promote and participate in service programs designed to address the needs and improve the conditions of the disadvantaged and underserved.

- Luann Hudson, administrative assistant
- Ted Litzner, building service worker
- Kasii May, 1L
- Laura Orr, 2L

Living the Mission Awards

This award is given to one student from



Law Students Help Minneapolis Resident Virginia Pilarske Keep her Home

Virginia Pilarske, 81, is back in her 1880s house on South Elliot Avenue in Minneapolis, thanks to the students and staff of the Interprofessional Center for Counseling and Legal Services. Her case was referred to the center from Adult Protection Services. Pilarske's house had been condemned and slated for demolition because it was structurally unstable and did not have running water for the last seven years. But Pilarske, a machine operator at Honeywell until she retired in 2007, wanted to stay in the house that had been her home since 1972.

Law students Emily Lundbohm, Samantha Mohns, Casey Schultz and Sara Sitzmann worked with the city of Minneapolis to stop demolition and to secure a contractor who would renovate the house. Social work students assisted Pilarske with other needed services.

Pilarske's home now is safe; it has been rewired, reroofed and resided. Running water has been restored and everything is in working order.

"I can't wait to garden," Pilarske said. "I'll plant impatiens, geraniums and marigolds. And, I'll put up my clothesline again."

each class who best exemplifies the School of Law's mission by his or her activities in and outside the classroom.

- Danny Lyskowski, 1L
- Amber Barnett, 2L
- Graciela Gonzalez, 3L

Alumni Living the Mission Award

- Loddy Tolzmann '05

Dean's Award for Teaching and Research

- Julie Oseid, associate professor

Dean's Award for Teaching for Adjuncts

- The Hon. Ann Alton, Hennepin County District Court Judge

Dean's Award for Scholarship

- Rob Vischer, associate professor