

**UNIVERSITY COUNCIL**  
**Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships (JCCP)**  
**REQUEST FOR DECISION**

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**PRESENTED BY:** Scott Walsworth, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships (JCCP)

**DATE OF MEETING:** June 12, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Buckwold/Milani Scholar in Commercial Law

**DECISION REQUESTED:** It is recommended by the Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships that University Council approve the Buckwold/Milani Scholar in Commercial Law in the College of Law.

**PURPOSE:** The Buckwold/Milani in Commercial Law Chair will be awarded for demonstrated achievement in advancing the field of commercial law through research and teaching. The Chair will assist the College of Law in recruiting and retaining outstanding faculty who have made sustained contributions to the field of commercial law through their teaching and scholarly work. For purposes of this appointment, commercial law is understood to include creditor and debtor law, insolvency, secured financing, commercial transactions, payment systems, and closely related topics in private law.

The Chair recognizes and seeks to augment and preserve the record of excellence in commercial law established by leading College of Law faculty and alumni through teaching, published writing, law reform, support of continuing legal education, providing commercial law services, and service to the legal profession and the community.

**DISCUSSION SUMMARY:** The creation of the Buckwold/Milani Scholar in Commercial Law has been discussed with, and endorsed by, the donor, the Office of the Vice President Research, the Office of the Vice President University Relations, and the Office of the Vice-Provost, Faculty Relations.

**FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED:** With approval of the University Council and subsequently the approval of Board of Governors, the terms of reference will be implemented immediately.

**ATTACHMENT:** Terms of reference for the Buckwold/Milani Scholar in Commercial Law.



# UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

## **Buckwold/Milani Scholar in Commercial Law**

### **Terms of Reference**

**Purpose:**

The Chair will be awarded for demonstrated achievement in advancing the field of commercial law through research and teaching. The Chair will assist the College of Law in recruiting and retaining outstanding faculty who have made sustained contributions to the field of commercial law through their teaching and scholarly work. For purposes of this appointment, commercial law is understood to include creditor and debtor law, insolvency, secured financing, commercial transactions, payment systems, and closely related topics in private law.

**Accountability:**

All terms of reference must align with the *Guidelines for Chairs and Professorships*

**Chair Type:**

This will be an Enhancement Chair.

**Background:**

The College of Law has a long-standing reputation in the field of commercial law. This reputation was established largely by the work and career of Professor Ronald Cuming, K.C. who retired in 2022 after spending 56 years on Faculty. Professor Cuming was regarded as the leading scholar in his field. He received the title of Distinguished Researcher from the University in 1998 and was awarded the title of Distinguished Professor in 2016. Other College of Law alumni have achieved distinction as commercial law scholars and as lawyers practicing commercial law.

The Chair recognizes and seeks to augment and preserve the record of excellence in commercial law established by leading College of Law faculty and alumni through teaching, published writing, law reform, support of continuing legal education, providing commercial law services, and service to the legal profession and the community.

**Source and Amount of Funding:**

A gift of \$100,000 from Tamara and Bruce Buckwold (\$50,000) and Michael W. Milani, K.C. (\$50,000).

Additional donations may be received upon the completion of the initial five-year commitments, to extend the life of the Chair.

<b>Tenability:</b>	A gift of \$50,000 (from each of the Donors as noted in <b><i>Source and Amount of Funding</i></b> ) will be given upon approval of the Chair.
<b>Selection Committee:</b>	There shall be a Selection Committee established by the Dean, College of Law for the selection of an appropriate candidate.
<b>Chairholder responsibilities:</b>	<p>The Chairholder will be a faculty member in the College of Law and will be an outstanding researcher or an emerging junior scholar who will enhance the research and teaching reputation of the College in the field of commercial law. The funds may be used to support the costs associated with expanding and invigorating the Chairholder's research program such as by covering costs associated with research (e.g., travel and data purchase), disseminating research results (e.g., conference travel) and assisting the Chairholder to develop new courses in the field of commercial law.</p> <p>The Chairholder is to provide a report on their activities biennially. The Chairholder's activities will be an integral part of the activities of the College. For academic purposes, the Chairholder will report to the Dean of the College of Law.</p>
<b>Term of Chair:</b>	<p>The successful incumbent will be appointed for a term of up to five years.</p> <p>At the end of the term, the existing Chairholder may be eligible for renewal, or a new Chairholder may be selected, subject to a renewal of funding from the Donors of the Chair.</p> <p>Determination as to whether the existing Chairholder qualifies for renewal, or a new Chairholder will be selected, will be made by the Dean, College of Law.</p>
<b>Renewal:</b>	<p>All renewals of Chairholders must follow the renewal process outlined in Section 5.0 of the Guidelines for Chairs and Professorships.</p> <p>Chairholder scholarly progression must be reviewed at least biennially. A financial review must occur annually. The Chairholder must submit a final report at the end of their term.</p>
<b>Review:</b>	The Dean, College of Law will be responsible to oversee the Chair.

**Oversight:**

Oversight responsibilities shall include the following:

1. Oversee the activities of the Chair;
2. Oversee management of the fund to ensure compliance with the terms of the trust deed and the on-going financial integrity of the initiative;
3. Approve annual budgets;
4. Receive annual financial statements of the trust fund;
5. Receive and review the biennial scholarly report, the annual financial report and the final report on the activities of the Chairholder; and
6. Provide a copy of the required scholarly, financial and final reports to the co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships.

**Removal of Chairholder:**

Any allegations related to a breach of one or more of the University policies made against a Chairholder should follow appropriate University Policies and procedures related to the nature of the breach. This includes, but is not limited to, policies related to research, financial stewardship, and/or employment. Should the appropriate process conclude and determine that the Chairholder has breached a University Policy or failed to meet an expectation as a faculty member, the provost and vice president academic and vice president research will determine appropriate measures regarding the continuation of the Chairholder which may include termination from the Chair. The final determination will be communicated to the Chairholder, the dean/executive director and the chair of the Management Committee (if applicable).

**Disestablishment or Relinquishment:**

The Chair position will be discontinued when donor funds are expired. If, before the end of the 5-year term, the Chairholder resigns, retires, or otherwise leaves the College of Law or relinquishes the Chair, then the position will be considered vacant and a call may be issued for selection of a new Chairholder to serve any remaining portion of the term.

**Eligible Expenditures:**

The total amount available annually will be \$20,000. Chairholders will receive an annual stipend of \$15,000 for a period of five (5) years. \$5,000 of the annual amount shall be allocated to a program of research through the hiring of student research assistants or in such other manner as may be agreed upon by the Scholar and the Dean of the College of Law.

**Unspent Funds:**

At such time that the Chair ceases to be in existence, any unspent funds will be used for research in commercial law in the College of Law.

**Insufficient Funds:**

Should there be insufficient funds to cover the costs of the Chair, the excess cost will be covered by the College of Law.

If circumstances make the Chair no longer practical or desirable, the Management Committee, in consultation with the Donors, will recommend to University Council and the Board of Governors of the University of Saskatchewan, changes to the Chair. These recommendations will maintain, as much as is reasonably possible, the Chair's spirit and general intent as identified in its statement of Purpose.

The creation of this Chair is subject to approval of both University of Saskatchewan Council and University of Saskatchewan Board of Governors.

**The College of Law recommends acceptance based on the above terms.**



Martin Phillipson  
Dean, College of Law

May 9, 2025

Date

**The Office of the Vice-Provost, Faculty Relations recommends acceptance based on the above terms.**

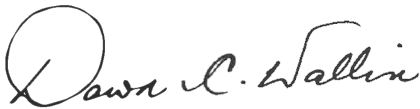


Scott Walsworth, PhD  
Vice-Provost, Faculty Relations

May 12, 2025

Date

**The Office of the Vice President, Research recommends acceptance based on the above terms.**



Dawn Wallin, PhD  
Associate Vice President, Research

May 12, 2025

Date

**Approved and accepted on behalf of the Board of Governors of the University of Saskatchewan.**

Cheryl Hamelin  
Vice-President, University Relations

Date