**Utah**

So, do you think you’re smarter than your professor—at least, in topics not related to the law? As part of a fundraiser called “Stump the Professor,” students at Brigham Young University Law School recently had a chance to find out. The $5 ticket charge, to raise money for local shelter The Center for Women and Children in Crius, covered entry, lunch, and submitting one question on anything from science to pop culture. Additional questions were $3 each, and buying one additional question also allowed the student to vote for the professor he or she would like to see as team captain. At press time, the event had yet to take place, an online ad showed a professor and the question “She knows her First Amendment rights, but does she know Who’s on First?”

**Arizona**

Arizona State University’s Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law has broken ground on its new home, the Arizona Center for Law and Society, which is scheduled for completion in summer 2016. The new location, in downtown Phoenix, was chosen to put students just steps away from the state’s judicial, political, and economic centers. Currently, the law school is located in Tempe. Besides the law school, the new building will house two think tanks, multiple cross-disciplinary centers, and something the school believes is a first in the nation: a teaching law firm associated with the school, similar to a teaching hospital in the medical profession. Once it opens, the nonprofit ASU Alumni Law Group will hire at least 30 recent ASU Law graduates to work under supervision by at least five more experienced attorneys to provide legal services to low- to moderate-income clients at below-market rates.

**Hawaii**

Hawaii is known not just for its beauty, great weather, and beaches, but also for its focus on the environment. With that in mind, next fall, the University of Hawaii at Manoa’s William S. Richardson School of Law will offer a new energy law program, including a course called Renewable Energy and Climate Change. Associate Professor Shalanda Baker is working with community stakeholders such as the Public Utilities Commission and Hawaiian Electric Co. These stakeholders, Baker says, are committed to a sustainable energy future and to developing more renewable energy. Baker believes Hawaii is “the best place in the world to be” if you’re interested in energy and related policy—a field where lawyers are in demand.

**Illinois**

Northern Illinois University College of Law has a new Health Advocacy Clinic at Hesed House, a homeless shelter based in Aurora, Illinois. The clinic, a partnership between the law school, the shelter, and health-care and social-service agency Aunt Martha’s Health Center, aims to holistically address homeless and low-income clients’ multifaceted needs by integrating legal services into a medical setting. After a year spent building the necessary foundation, the clinic is now in operation, with three NIU Law students assisting Clinical Assistant Professor Colleen Baracs. The students interview and counsel clients, draft legal documents, and advocate at public aid offices. Soon, they will begin representing clients at formal hearings. This is the fourth clinic for NIU Law; the others focus on civil justice, juvenile justice, and foreclosure mediation.

**Kentucky**

To address sweeping changes in the legal profession due to technology, the economy, and consumer demand, the Northern Kentucky University Salmon P. Chase College of Law has opened its new W. Bruce Lundstrum Academy for Law, Business & Technology. The inauguration of the new center drew experts on law-and-technology-related innovation from other law schools, businesses, and the judicial branch. The academy is an honors program aimed at developing “Renaissance lawyers for the Information Age” by enhancing the traditional curriculum with a focus on legal technology, quantitative methods, leadership, informatics, and other skills considered critical to the future of the practice of law and business.

**Texas**

In recognition of its city’s prominence in the oil and gas industry and the increasing need for lawyers in that field, South Texas College of Law in Houston is establishing its region’s first Oil & Gas Law Institute. The initial director of the institute, visiting Associate Professor Christopher Kulander, has professional experience in the oil and gas industry as well as in law. The institute will focus on developing students’ skills in petroleum-related transactional, title, and regulatory practice and on making the 3L year more specialty- and practice-driven. The institute will seek to place its advanced students in the legal departments of oil and gas companies across Houston.