“Vision and Values”

Message from Dean Rosato

Recent articles in the media have questioned the value of a legal education from a number of perspectives. In particular, it has been asserted that law schools have not taught law students the skills that they need to be practicing lawyers. Those articles could not have been referring to NIU Law, which always has been proud of producing lawyers ready to practice and serve their communities.

That tradition continues in the ways we have expanded and deepened our experiential learning program over the last few years. Professor David Taylor continues to direct our skills program, including our intense and focused trial advocacy program; he also supervises judicial externships. Associate Dean for Student Services Lenny Mandell runs our ambitious second-year moot court competition, and law school in October 2011 as Director of Clinics, has brought her energy and expertise working with the clinical faculty at the Zeke Giorgi Legal Clinic, supervising civil externships, and planning additional clinical opportunities to train our students and provide access to needed legal services. Building on his experience, Professor Larry Schlam has acquired a new set of responsibilities as Director of Pro Bono Opportunities, including the launching of an attorney-student pro bono mentoring project this Spring.

As a result of these efforts, this semester 45 NIU Law students are getting valuable practice experiences throughout the region, from Rockford to Chicago. In addition, students are learning fundamental skills in the Lawyering Skills and Trial Advocacy courses. This semester we are proud to add former Justice and Cook County State’s Attorney Jack O’Malley to our talented group of professors teaching Lawyering Skills. Our academic excellence fee (which funds many of the experiential learning programs) also has made it possible for our students to participate in additional moot court and trial advocacy competitions across the country.

These are just a few ways that we are building success for our students and alumni. Follow us on your email, the web, Facebook, and LinkedIn to keep up with developments at the law school!

All the best,

Dean Rosato
International and comparative issues. Regulation, with a particular focus on corporate law, M&A and securities research interests include securities regulation, and her teaching and research interests include corporate law, M&A and securities regulation, with a particular focus on international and comparative issues.

U.S. Corporate Finance Team in the following law school, Professor of International Law and Politics. School of Law, where she was an her J.D. from New York University Securities Regulation. She received F fellow and received his J.D. in 1981. worked cooperatively with the states. The cooperation between the federal states have used their authority responsibly, and federal agencies have along with the federal agency. While critics of state enforcement of federal law claim that such concurrent authority will result in over-enforcement alongside the federal agency. For the past three decades, Congress has passed consumer protection statutes that allow for state attorneys general to enforce the federal law alongside the federal agency. While critics of state enforcement of federal law claim that such concurrent authority will result in over-enforcement or even enforcement contrary to the federal law, Widman’s study was the first to examine what in fact has happened historically. She concludes that states have used their authority responsibly, and federal agencies have worked cooperatively with the states. The cooperation between the federal agencies and states in the use of concurrent enforcement power was the most striking finding in that it greatly minimizes the fear that the laws will be enforced inconsistently.

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Zeke Giorgi Legal Clinic has been changing lives for a decade, both for the clients it serves and the students who work there. Since opening in 2001, the clinic has enrolled 274 students who have worked on more than 2,000 cases primarily on behalf of the elderly or victims of abuse. The Clinic is named in honor of Edolo “Zeke” Giorgi, who served as a member of the Illinois House of Representatives for the 67th District from 1965 until his death in 1993. Representative Giorgi was instrumental in bringing the College of Law to Northern Illinois University. The Clinic stands as a tribute to his legislative efforts on behalf of young people and education, as well as his deep commitment to providing assistance to his local constituents.
Chessicks Build Bridge to the Bar Scholarships

Following law school graduation, most students still have one more major hurdle to conquer - to pass the bar exam. Following discussions with Dean Jennifer Rosato, Dr. Kenneth C. Chessick ('84) and his wife Ellen identified this as an area of support in which they felt they would have the most positive impact when they created the Kenneth and Ellen Chessick Bridge to the Bar Scholarship Fund.

The Bridge to the Bar scholarships are intended to help raise the bar passage rate of NIU Law graduates by offering recipients financial support while preparing for the exam. This year, five students each will receive $5,000 and will be selected for the scholarship by a committee based on financial need, evaluation of student applications, and demonstrated benefit from the scholarship. Recipients must be graduating students who will be taking the bar exam for the first time following graduation. The number of scholarships will increase over the next two years.

Cherilyn Murer ('78) Delivers Final Lecture and Extends Gift for Professionalism Series

To ensure that the lawyers of tomorrow are not only technically skilled but also are ethical legal practitioners, Cherilyn ('78) and Michael Murer have extended their sponsorship of the lecture series “Introduction to the Legal Profession: History, Culture, and Values.”

Launched this past fall, the series exposed first-year students at the College of Law to legal scholars and luminaries from across the country to discuss the importance of professionalism in their careers. Topics included attorney-client privilege, representation of unpopular clients, potential conflicts of interest, ethical decision making, and the moral implications of business and legal decisions.

Several presentations were followed by a “Continue the Conversation” dinner or reception to allow students the opportunity to further discuss the topic with attorneys.

Marla Dickerson Lecture on Public Interest
- presented by -

Professor Michael A. Olivas
Immediate Past-President of AALS & William B. Bates Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of Houston Law Center

“Lessons Learned about the Legalization Debate, or Why Comprehensive Immigration Reform is in the Public Interest”

Monday
April 16, 2012
3:00 p.m.

Francis X. Riley Courtroom
Swen Parson Hall

Reception immediately following in Marshall Gallery

1 hour MCLE credit
Achieving the Mentoring Trifecta

Legal educators and legal professionals know that mentoring is essential to success at every point in a lawyer’s professional career. We also know that the rewards of mentoring not only benefit the mentee, but also the mentor. NIU Law is seeing those benefits pay off for both in our 1L mentoring program. Not satisfied with this success, two more mentoring programs will be launched at the law school this academic year.

The 1L mentoring program began in 2010 as a pilot program initiated by the NIU Law Board of Visitors and its Chair John Monical, with the modest goal of matching twenty-five first-year law students. Ninety-three student-attorney matches were made, which allowed most of the first-year class to learn first-hand about a lawyer’s life, to get their questions answered, and to attend meetings and even court appearances with their mentors.

Mentor Rachel Hoag (’05, left) received the 2011 Mentor of the Year award. She was nominated by her mentee Kristin Good (’13), who participated in the 1L Mentoring Program.

NIU Law is also a provider for the Lawyer to Lawyer Mentoring Program organized under the auspices of the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism. Along with other providers (including other law schools and bar associations), NIU Law will facilitate mentoring for newly graduated attorneys who will receive guidance in areas such as ethics, civility, and professionalism.

Probably the most ambitious mentoring program will be the Pro Bono Mentoring Program, which will be launched in Spring 2012. Through this program, students will be matched with attorney-mentors for a very important purpose: to serve those in need of legal services. The program is a win-win proposition for mentor and mentee: the mentor has a law clerk to assist on the case, and the mentee gets experience, guidance, and (hopefully) a desire to perform pro bono service throughout his or her professional life. It is a wonderful way for the law school to “practice what it preaches.”

Several program providers to partner with the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism’s new Lawyer to Lawyer Mentoring Program spoke at the formal announcement. Pictured (from left): David Rolewick, former Commission Chair; Jayne Reardon, Executive Director, Illinois Commission on Professionalism; Colleen McLaughlin, President, DuPage County Bar Association; Brad Pollock, President, DuPage Inns of Court; Mike Baima (’09), Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren, Rockford, IL; Hon. Janet Holmgren (’85), 17th Judicial Circuit; and Dean Jennifer Rosato.

Law Review Symposium

Friday
April 20, 2012
9:15 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.

The NIU Law Review will hold its 21st annual symposium, “The Mortgage Foreclosure Crisis: A Discussion of Current Issues, Trends, and Solutions” on Friday, April 20, 2012. This symposium will look at the causes, effects, and future impact of an unprecedented number of foreclosures and related issues on our legal system and economy.

5 hours MCLE for full day. Half-day and group discounts available.

Visit www.niu.edu/law for details and online registration.
Juvenile Justice Symposium

“Youth Justice: Young and in Trouble,” was held on March 1, 2012. The symposium gathered experts in the fields of education, law, and child advocacy to discuss juvenile justice issues in the wake of a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision, *J.D.B. v. North Carolina* (2011). This decision held that age is a relevant factor in determination of custody for a minor.

Moot Court Celebrates 30 Years

A truly momentous occasion took place on March 3, 2012 as the Thirtieth Annual Prize Moot Court Competition concluded with a final round of arguments. The final arguments dealt with the removal of immigrants from the United States and citizenship transmission issues.

Race NljUdicata: 5K Run/Walk

Saturday
April 21, 2012
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Join us for our third annual 5K Run/Walk!
The competition is already gearing up to claim the top prizes for the overall fastest runners, fastest alumni, and special Dean’s Team Challenge. Afterwards, a catered BBQ lunch will be waiting!

Runners, Sponsors, and Volunteers are all needed!

Visit www.niu.edu/law for details and online registration.
NIU Law congratulates the following alumni in the judiciary recently appointed to the positions of chief and presiding judge.

John “Jack” Elsner, a member of the first graduating class from the NIU College of Law in 1978, was installed as chief judge of the 18th Judicial Circuit of Illinois on December 5, 2011. Judge Elsner began his career on the bench when he was appointed an associate judge in 1991.


Robbin Stuckert (‘90) became the first female presiding judge for DeKalb County, Illinois, on December 1, 2011. Judge Stuckert became the first female judge in DeKalb County when she was appointed an associate judge in 2001, and also the first female circuit judge for the county when she was appointed in 2003.
A Look Back at NIU Law Receptions

Young Alumni Reception - August 12, 2011
Bonton Martini Lounge in Lombard, IL

NIU Law Reception - August 31, 2011
Acquaviva Winery in Maple Park, IL

Soldier Field Showdown in Chicago, IL, on September 17, 2011

NIU Law Reception - October 27, 2011
Jim's Steakhouse in Peoria, IL

Huskie Watch Party - December 2, 2011
Goose Island in Chicago, IL

NIU Law Reception - December 9, 2011
ISBA Mid Year Meeting in Chicago, IL
Calendar of Events

April
16   Dickerson Lecture on Public Interest
     3:00 - 4:00 p.m.
     Riley Courtroom
     NIU Law

20   Law Review Symposium
     9:15 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.
     Riley Courtroom
     NIU Law

21   Race NJUDICATA
     10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
     NIU Law

May
2    NIU Law Reception
     5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
     The Department Restaurant
     Joliet, IL

20   NIU Law Reception
     4:30 - 6:00 p.m.
     Holiday Inn-Capitol
     Washington, D.C.

21   U.S. Swearing-In
     8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
     U.S. Supreme Court Building
     Washington, D.C.

26   Commencement
     2:00 p.m.
     NIU Convocation Center
     DeKalb, IL

June
8    NIU Law Golf Outing
     12:00 - 7:30 p.m.
     River Heights Golf Course
     DeKalb, IL

Please visit www.niu.edu/law for updated event information.
Be sure to join us on Facebook and LinkedIn!