\textbf{NIU LAW DOCKET}\protect\footnote{January 26, 2015 \hspace{1cm} Volume 35 \hspace{1cm} Number 18}

\textbf{THIS WEEK:}

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Monday, Jan. 26 &  \\
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Tuesday, Jan. 27 &  \\
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Wednesday, Jan. 28 & \textbf{How to Get an RA/GA Position, 12:00-1:00 p.m., Riley Courtroom (Room 170)} \\
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Thursday, Jan. 29 &  \\
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Friday, Jan. 30 &  \\
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\textbf{GRADUATE/RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS INFORMATION PANEL}

\textit{Attention 1Ls:} Please mark your calendars for \textbf{Wednesday, January 28 at noon in the Riley Auditorium} and come hear information on how to apply for GA/RA positions, as well as other positions throughout the university. 3L students who currently have GA and RA positions will be on hand to discuss their positions. Bring your lunch!

\textbf{MAKING TRACKS WITH DEAN ROSATO PEREA}

As all of you know, applications in law schools have been declining significantly since 2010. Nationally (and at NIU Law), applications have dropped 50\% over the last four years, and another 10-15\% decline is anticipated next admissions cycle.

Led by our admissions team, we have been working relentlessly and strategically to admit and recruit another class of wonderful students, who will add to our community and be successful lawyers and leaders. This year we started "The Chicago Initiative," to more actively recruit students in Chicago -- including interviews, informational programs, receptions, and alumni visits for potential students. We now have a recruiting
office at 73 West Monroe, so it is easy for Chicago-based potential students to get to know us without coming out to DeKalb. We are also working on ways to make the transition to DeKalb and back to Chicago as easy as possible -- including expanded externships, networking and job opportunities, and more information about transportation and housing options.

Especially in this time of declining applications, we need everyone's help to bring in the next class--faculty, alumni, and students. You can help us in many ways: for example, participate in the upcoming admissions survey/focus groups to let us know which recruiting initiatives were most (or least) effective, contact an admitted student if we ask you to help, and encourage your friends and colleagues to go to law school and especially NIU Law!

Please let me or the admissions staff know of your suggestions to improve recruiting of future students.

Have a wonderful weekend,

Dean Rosato Perea

PLANNING AHEAD

Federalist Society 2015 Annual Student Symposium: The University of Chicago Law School's Federalist Society Student Chapter will host the 34th National Federalist Society Student Symposium on February 20 to February 21, 2015. A banquet will be held on the eve of February 21, 2015. The theme for the Symposium is "Law and Innovation." The registration fee for members is $10 for the symposia and $40 for the banquet. If you are interested in attending or would like more information, please contact the Federalist Society at NIUFederalists@gmail.com or visit http://www.fed-soc.org/events/detail/2015-annual-student-symposium.

OPENING FOR A VOLUNTEER INTERN - WINNEBAGO COUNTY COURT IN ROCKFORD

Attention all 2Ls and 3Ls: The 17th Judicial Circuit Court is accepting applications for a volunteer legal intern for the Winnebago County Domestic Violence Coordinated Courts Division (400 W. State St., Suite. 215, Rockford, IL 61101). The intern will work directly with the Domestic Violence Coordinated Courts Division staff and Judiciary under the supervision of Presiding Judge Rosemary Collins and Project Manager Jessica Maveus, J.D. The intern will assist with research projects related to domestic violence and family law and will also work on the development and implementation of two Department of Justice/Office on Violence Against Women grant-funded projects (the Domestic Violence Coordinated Courts and the Justice for Families Domestic Violence Mentor Court Initiative); the Domestic Violence Coordinated Courts in pro-se Order of Protection proceedings; and a special project on “after-hours orders of protection.” In addition, the intern will

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help plan and facilitate local training events on domestic violence, intimate partner sexual assault, and custody and visitation. Additional projects, such as participating in OVW sponsored webinars and teleconferences, and compiling and evaluating statistical data may also be assigned. Interested applicants should submit a résumé and cover letter to Jessica S. Maveus, J.D. at jmaveus@wincoll.us. Please note that applicants will be expected to submit to a background check and agree to comply with the 17th Judicial Circuit Court’s Code of Professional Conduct.

**EXTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

*Attention 2Ls and 3Ls!* A Federal Public Defender Office Externship is available for the Spring 2015 semester in Rockford, Illinois. This externship does not require a 711 license, but does require a commitment of twelve hours a week in return for three pass/fail course credits. As an extern, you will research and write memoranda, motions and briefs for pre-trial and post-conviction issues and sentencing hearings. You will be supervised on-site by Federal Public Defenders Paul Gaziano and Kristin Carpenter. In addition, you will attend and observe various court proceedings. Clinical Professor Paul Cain will be the faculty supervisor with whom you will meet on a regular basis to discuss your experience.

In order to apply for this externship, please submit the following documents to Paul Gaziano at Paul_Gaziano@fd.org:

1. a cover letter explaining your interest in this position;
2. your resume; and
3. a writing sample (maximum length -- 10 pages).

The above materials should be submitted in Word or PDF format as attachments to your e-mail. After a review of the submitted documents, Mr. Gaziano’s office will contact selected candidates to arrange for an interview. If you have any questions about the application and selection process or the externship itself, please contact Professor Cain at pcain@niu.edu.

**RESEARCH ASSISTANT NEEDED**

Wendy Vaughn, Clinical Associate Professor, seeks a full-time Research Assistant for Spring 2015. The Research Assistant will receive a full-tuition waiver for Spring 2015 and will not be required to come to the clinic in Rockford. Meetings regarding research assignments will be arranged with Professor Vaughn on Monday afternoons on campus, or at other agreed upon times. To apply, please send a cover letter, resume, and an unofficial transcript to Professor Vaughn at wvaughn@niu.edu or fax them to 815-962-9984. In order to expedite the application process and the tuition waiver, please apply as soon as possible.

**PRO BONO OPPORTUNITY** Express yourself on the issue of resolving the tension between minority communities and the police. Be part of the solution! The University of Missouri is sponsoring a writing competition for students that looks at the events in Ferguson (and elsewhere) from a dispute resolution/conflicts resolution perspective. Submissions must bear some relationship to the upcoming Missouri Law School symposium entitled “Policing, Protesting, and Perceptions: A Critical Examination of the Events in Ferguson” from the perspective of civil rights, police-community relationships, police
perceptions of individuals, protests and/or civil disobedience. Although the deadline is relatively soon, the submissions themselves can be quite short, as indicated below and on the competition website. The prize money is also substantial, which you may appreciate!

Submissions must be in English and should be between 2,500 and 3,500 words in length. The style of the paper will be that of a long “op-ed” (opinion editorial) piece. However, the strongest submissions will include references to legal authorities as necessary. Any citations should appear in the body of the submission and will be included in the total word count. If you are interested, and would like more extensive details on (1) the nature of the topics requested for the competition, (2) further details of style and content, and (3) the submission addressee, please contact Professor Schlam at lschlam@niu.edu.

FROM THE LAW LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Welcome back everyone! We hope that you had a relaxing break and are having a great start to your Spring 2015 term. Please let us know if there is anything that we can do to make your studying and research more comfortable in the law library. We always look forward to assisting you with any research requests at the reference desk. You should never hesitate to e-mail us or stop by if you are struggling with a research issue or sources while conducting research this term.

There are several new updates that we would like to bring to your attention for the spring semester:

- The law library has slightly revised hours and is now open at 7 a.m. for any early morning studying (Monday-Friday) and at 8:30 a.m. on Saturdays. Please take advantage of these new hours and consult the schedule for the complete spring hours.

- E-mail us! The law library also has a new virtual reference service. Please e-mail your questions to lawreference@niu.edu, and a reference librarian will promptly reply to your research requests during our regular reference hours.

- Please enjoy the new books and periodicals display as you enter the law library. We offer comfortable seating near the books and journals, so you may peruse recent issues at your leisure. Finally, we have a slightly renovated arrangement of seating and public terminals at the entrance of the law library for more open space. Happy reading!

As always, please let me or any law librarian know if you have any questions throughout the spring term or concerns about law library services. We look forward to assisting all of you with your research endeavors. I wish you a productive and prosperous 2015 with intellectually stimulating and rewarding research!

~ Professor Kuehl

OFFICE OF BUDGET AND RECORDS
May 2015 Graduates:

Applying for graduation is a two-step process, which must be completed between February 2, 2015 and February 20, 2015. First, you must see Julie (SP285) to complete a “Statement of Candidacy.” It is preferred that you call ahead (753-1620) or email (jmahoney@niu.edu) to make an appointment. At your appointment, you will be given instructions on the second step that must be completed for graduation. Remember: the deadline for both required steps is February 20, 2015!

Reimbursement Process:

- **Purchases**: For purchases on behalf of NIU College of Law events: Expenses must be approved by the Office of Budget & Records before purchase is made. NIU Accounting reimbursement procedures change occasionally, so to ensure your reimbursement will be able to be processed, please contact us even if you have prior permission of faculty or staff member.

- **Travel**: For reimbursement for travel on behalf of NIU College of Law, you will need the approval of the Dean before the travel occurs. You must also see Julie (SP285) or Christina (SP280A2) before travel occurs to ensure that your reimbursement will be processed with appropriate required documentation.

Office of Admissions and Financial Aid

**Information Regarding Scholarships and Writing Competitions**: Each year, there are a number of opportunities for students to obtain additional financial assistance to help pay for the costs of attending law school. In particular, many scholarships and writing competition prizes are available, and the number of students applying for many of them is often low (increasing the chances of success for individual applicants). For a list of these scholarship and writing competitions, see the file that is being e-mailed along-side this week’s edition of the Docket and is made available in separate copies on tables on the first and second floor of the law school. Do not miss the many opportunities available this Fall, as indicated in those listings. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid at 815-753-8595 or lawadm@niu.edu or stop by Room 151.

Other Administrative Announcements
All students are reminded that official communications from the College of Law and the university are sent to students’ e-mail numbers. Be sure to check daily for those communications and arrange to have them automatically transfer to your personal e-mail account, if appropriate to ensure prompt attention to official notices and requests. **Please note that you are responsible for the contents of these official communications whether or not you have read them, and failure to read and respond promptly may lead to adverse consequences.**

Winter Weather Alerts: Winter closing information is available on the university web site and is updated as weather conditions change. The university urges all students, faculty and staff to use caution and personal judgment in their travels to and from campus during winter months and to dress appropriately for protection from cold temperatures and wind chills.

The university also provides detailed (and often entertaining) weather forecasts from university meteorologist, Gilbert Sebenste, on a regular basis during the semester. To see what information is available and subscribe for regular weather updates by e-mail, you should go to [http://weather.admin.niu.edu/contact/subscribe.shtml](http://weather.admin.niu.edu/contact/subscribe.shtml).

Academic Policies and Procedures: The Student Handbook continues to undergo extensive revisions and in the future will be limited to academic policies and procedures. Until those revisions are completed and (where relevant) approved by the faculty, all academic policies in the 2012 Student Handbook continue to remain in effect, except as modified or expanded in addenda posted after July 2012 or in notices and other communications distributed to the students. It is anticipated that the new edition of the Student Handbook will be issued in spring or summer 2015. Information about other policies, procedures and personnel is available from the departments involved and on the NIU Law web site.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITY: Do you need something to make your resume “stand out” at an interview? Impress NIU alums you meet at law firms? Not sure yet that you will enjoy the practice of law and would like a “back-up” plan? Need something to relieve stress for an hour or two each week while on campus? Then audition for the SCHLAM-TONES, the premiere a cappella vocal group at NIUCOL. If playing an instrument or singing in any context has left you with a good sense of pitch, rhythm, harmony – and the ability to “carry a tune” – contact Professor Schlam at lschlam@niu.edu for an informal audition. Due to present openings, preference will be given to basses, baritones and second tenors, but all potential singers, male or female, with these skills should audition.
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The Docket is published every Monday by Associate Dean Kathleen Coles