THIS WEEK:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday, February 9</th>
<th>SBA Clothing and Toy Drive – all week in Marshall Gallery</th>
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<td>Tuesday, February 10</td>
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<td>Wednesday, February 11</td>
<td>Student Portal Meeting, Noon, Chessick Courtroom</td>
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<td>Thursday, February 12</td>
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<td>Friday, February 13</td>
<td>Valentine’s Day on Saturday! ♥♥♥♥♥♥</td>
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<td>University of Missouri Writing Competition Deadline, 11:59 p.m.</td>
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**Student Bar Association Clothing and Toy Drive**: Give a Little Bit of Love this Valentine’s Day! The SBA is having its first Annual Clothing and Toy Drive to benefit Hope Haven and Goodwill. Clean out your closets of clothes and toys you don’t use and donate them! As part of the drive, the SBA is creating customized baskets for each resident of Hope Haven. The rest will be donated to Goodwill. Our goal is to donate 500 items, and each item is one point towards our goal. Progress toward the 500-item goal will be announced via posters outside the classrooms and in the Marshall Gallery. Once we meet our goal, everyone that donated gets free pizza!

To get your free pizza, make sure that you write your name and year on a piece of paper and place it in the bag with your donations. **The donation box is in the Marshall Gallery from now until Friday, February 13.** Please do not include used undergarments (underwear, bras, or socks), and make sure items of clothing are washed or dry-cleaned. Thank you in advance for your donation!

**Student Portal Meeting**: **Attention all Student Leaders:** This is a reminder that Ivan Matosevic, NIU Law’s IT Coordinator, will be holding a series of committee meetings for the new Student Portal. The meetings will be held on **Wednesday, February 11, 18, and 25 at 12:00 p.m. in the Chessick Courtroom.** If you wish to provide input on the operation and features of the portal on behalf of your organization and its members before it’s too late, please make time to attend!
PLANNING AHEAD:

Appellate Court Arguments: The Illinois Appellate Court for the Second District will convene and hear oral arguments in the Riley Courtroom on Tuesday, February 17, at 9:30 a.m. and at 10:30 a.m. Oral arguments will be followed by an informal question-and-answer session. A reception will then be held at about 12:00 p.m. in the Marshall Gallery. Case summaries and briefs are available at the front desk of the law library.

12th Annual Minority Reception: Dean Rosato Perea and alumnus Vincent Cornelius ('89) will host the 12th Annual Minority Reception on Wednesday, February 25, at Cantina Laredo (508 N. State Street, Chicago) from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. During this year's reception, the Honorable Thaddeus Wilson ('94) will receive the Excellence in Service and Leadership Award. Bus transportation will be provided with enough student interest. Please RSVP to Melody Mitchell mmitchell@niu.edu by February 18 if you plan to attend and need transportation.

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 NIFederalists@gmail.com or visit http://www.fed-soc.org/events/detail/2015-annual-student-symposium.

1L Professionalism Program: Please save the date for the following sessions in the 1L professionalism program, which are mandatory for all first-year students:

• Wednesday, March 4, 2015: Margaret Benson, Executive Director of Chicago Volunteer Legal Services will be talking about pro bono work. This program will be held in the Riley Courtroom and will be followed by a reception with drinks and appetizers.
• Thursday April 9, 2015: Professor Nancy Levit, one of the authors of “The Happy Lawyer: Making a Good Life in the Law” will be speaking. Please note that this program is on a Thursday instead of a Wednesday in order to accommodate the speaker’s schedule. The program will be followed by a dinner.
• Wednesday April 15, 2015: Cherilyn Murer ('78), President and CEO of Murer Consultants, Inc., will be speaking. Cherilyn, along with her husband, Michael Murer, generously fund the 1L professionalism program each year. This program will be held in Altgeld Hall and will be followed by a dinner.

All sessions are scheduled from 4:00 to 5:15 p.m. A fourth session will be announced soon.

MAKING TRACKS WITH DEAN ROSATO PEREA

I hope that most of you are back in the swing after the blizzard on Monday - I'm sure a much-appreciated extra weekend day for most everyone after Super Bowl Sunday!
As you know, we have a new Governor in Illinois who is making sure -- from the beginning -- that funding is limited to essential expenses and that state-funded organizations are accountable for what they spend. The Governor has issued some specific executive orders, and he is reviewing spending for the rest of fiscal year 2015, as well as for fiscal year 2016 (which begins July 2016).

Although general budget restrictions have not been directly imposed on the academic units, I am prudently going forward on essential spending (with guidance from the state and the University), and holding everyone accountable (including faculty and staff) for the current level of spending. In that way, if restrictions are necessary, we will have the best and real-time sense of where every dollar is spent, and what are and should be our priorities. And we may need to justify that spending to other constituencies, including the university, legislature, and governor's office. Fortunately, we have in place the academic excellence fee, which generates revenue directly for the College of Law and ensures the sustainability and quality of the academic program (including course offerings, experiential learning, student professional development, bar pass programs, and co-curricular programs).

I will keep you posted on any changes at the law school affected by funding, or any other reason. Please let me or any of the associate deans know if you have any questions in the meantime.

All my best,
Dean Rosato Perea

**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](http://example.com). 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 [lschlamsiu.edu](mailto:lschlamsiu.edu). Papers must be received no later than 11:59 p.m., Central time, on February 13, 2015.
**FROM THE LAW LIBRARY DIRECTOR**

*Important Library Access Information:* In October 2014, the library activated the card access door for evening access to the law library. If you have still not obtained your new NIU OneCard, please do so in order to have evening access to the law library. To obtain the new card, go to the OneCard office in the lower level of the Holmes Student Center, identify yourself as a law student and ask for the prox card. The office is aware of this upgrade and has a list of all students. As long as you have your current working NIU OneCard there should be no charge associated with upgrading to a new prox card. If you do not have your NIU OneCard, the OneCard office will charge you a $25 lost card fee. Once you have received your card, please contact Professor Clarke at tclarke@niu.edu and provide her with your name and the six-digit number on the back of your card. If you have any questions regarding these instructions, please see Professor Clarke.

If you have already obtained your card and are able to access the law library in the evening, you do not need to contact Professor Clarke. To see if your card works, wave your card in front of the card sensor during regular library hours. If the light turns green, the card works; if the light turns red, please send me the appropriate information so that we can take steps to correct the problem.

As always, 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.

~ Professor Kuehl

**Computer Lab Hours:** The computer lab will be unavailable at the following times this week while the Basic Legal Research workshops are in session:

- February 10: 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.
- February 11: 9:00 - 9:50 a.m., 11:00 - 11:50 a.m., 2:00 - 2:50 p.m.
- February 12: 1:00 - 1:50 p.m.

**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!**
Under NIU Law’s standard procedures, a Dean’s Certificate is prepared for all graduates by the Office of Budget & Records (Christina and Julie). After review, the certificate is then signed by Dean Rosato Perea and is sent directly to the Illinois Board of Admissions to the Bar (IBAB). For students applying to the Illinois bar, this process will be completed in June, after the law school has verified that graduates have fulfilled all requirements for graduation and do not have a hold on their university accounts. You do not need to, and in fact cannot, include the dean’s certificate in your original application to the bar. If you are applying to take the bar exam in a state other than Illinois and that state requires a form similar to the Illinois Dean's Certificate, then you will need to provide a copy of that form to the Office of Budget & Records in ample time so that it can be completed and sent in accordance with whatever deadlines are set by the state in question.

**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**

**College of Law and University Communications:** All students are reminded that official communications from the College of Law and the university are sent to students’ Z 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.

**Continuing Disclosure Obligation:** All students are reminded that in order to comply with state bar examiners’ character and fitness requirements for admission to the bar, there is a **continuing obligation to disclose immediately** any and all circumstances and events occurring after the date of submission of an application for admission until the date of graduation, which may bear on a student’s character and fitness to join the Bar. This information includes, but is not limited to, circumstances surrounding the questions asked on the College of Law application for admission. For questions about the continuing disclosure obligation, please contact Associate Dean Coles. To obtain disclosure checklists for continuing disclosures of events occurring during law school enrollment (or for supplemental disclosures if relevant information was not included on a student’s original application for admission), please contact Lisa Hoebing in Room 276.

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The Docket is published every Monday by Associate Dean Kathleen Coles.