THIS WEEK

**Monday, March 2**

**Tuesday, March 3**

**Wednesday, March 4**
- 1L Professionalism Program, 4:00-5:15 p.m., Riley Courtroom
- SBA Trivia Night, 6:30 p.m., Marshall Gallery

**Thursday, March 5**
- Bar Review, 9:00 p.m., Molly’s

**Friday, March 6**

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**Come Watch the Moot Court Finals!** All are welcome to attend the Final Round of the 33rd Annual Lenny Mandell Moot Court Competition this Saturday, February 28, at 10:30 a.m. in the Riley Courtroom.

**1L Professionalism Program:** On **Wednesday March 4, from 4:00 to 5:15 p.m** in the **Riley Courtroom**, Margaret Benson, the Executive Director of Chicago Volunteer Legal Services, will be talking about pro bono work. This program will be followed by a reception with drinks and appetizers in the Marshall Gallery.

**SBA Trivia Night:** Trivia Night will be held on **Wednesday March 4, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.** in the **Marshall Gallery**. Everyone is encouraged to participate and to team up with faculty. We will also provide drinks and snacks! The winning team members will receive tickets to Barristers’ Ball.

**Joint Bar Review:** The Federalist Society and The Professionalism and Ethics Society are sponsoring "Bar Review," a night of real-world study and socializing for law students. Please join them on **Thursday, March 5, at 9:00 p.m.** at Molly’s Eatery & Drinkery in DeKalb.

**Environmental Law Society (ELS):** The ELS will be collecting used ink cartridges, old batteries, and pop tabs to make sure that these items are properly recycled, or as in the case of the pop tabs, donated. Please deposit any such items in the ELS-labeled coffee cans in the student lounge, the library, and
under the TV near the Normal Road entrance. Thank you for your assistance with our goal of promoting recycling within Swen Parson.

PLANNING AHEAD

Admissions Office Focus Groups: Greetings from the Office of Admissions! On **Wednesday, March 18 from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. in Room 150**, we will be hosting a focus group to further learn about your experience with the NIU Law admissions process. Participants will be entered into a drawing for one of two $50 gift cards. To attend the focus group, please give our office a call at **(815) 753-8595** or email us at lawadm@niu.edu.

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 25, 2015:** An Ethics Panel Discussion will be followed by a dinner in the Marshall Gallery.

- **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 held in Altgeld Hall and will be followed by a dinner there.

- **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 there.

All sessions are scheduled from 4:00 to 5:15 p.m.

MAKING TRACKS WITH DEAN ROSATO PEREA

February 27, 2015

Happy Friday! It's hard to believe that it is almost March, and Spring Break begins the end of next week.

As some of you know, one of my community projects this year is to serve on the ISBA Task Force on Legal Education and Student Debt, chaired by Justice Ann Jorgensen. The purpose of the committee is to put together a set of recommendations for law schools to help students become more ready for practice when they graduate. The committee includes leaders, judges, and lawyers from across the state who want to make sure that law schools are responsive to the changing needs of practice and that law students are able to reduce their debt by being employable in decent-paying law-related jobs after graduation. I have noticed for some time that there is a growing gap between what law schools teach and what practitioners expect from graduates and that
there is no longer the time or resources to "apprentice" lawyers the first few years of practice as was the usual bridge to practice in years past.

Law schools have been doing more in expanding experiential learning (including externships and clinics), integrating skills throughout the curriculum, and providing more opportunities to build written and oral communication skills. I just completed compiling for the committee all of the ways that the Illinois law schools teach skills, technology, business and ethics throughout their curriculums. I look forward to seeing the committee's recommendations on how we can further "bridge the gap" between law schools and practice.

Let me know if you have your own suggestions, from your perspective and experiences as a current student. What courses and programs have seemed the most (or least) useful to prepare you for practice? I believe in having a strong foundation (in critical thinking, complex problem-solving and bar courses), but also rich field experiences that bring together your coursework, skills, and ethical judgment in meaningful ways.

I am proud to be a member of the committee, and even prouder that the ISBA President Rick Felice, an NIU Alum, is making this issue one of the themes of the year. I am most proud that two of our students, Amanda Beveroth and Shaina Kalanges, are the reporters to the committee and making a strong positive impression at all the meetings and hearings we have had as part of the committee's work. Stay tuned for the final recommendations!

Dean Jennifer Rosato Perea

FROM THE LAW LIBRARY

Changes in Location. Please note that the shelves in the hallway to the library’s North Wing no longer contain books for the taking. That area now contains a collection of books intended for use in the library only. If you have taken books from those shelves, please return them. There should be a “Self-Help Collection” label above the call number label.

Books for the taking are now on shelves to the right of the public computer in the library’s entrance area.

OFFICE OF BUDGET AND RECORDS

May 2015 Graduates:
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. 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.

**OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

IF YOU SMOKE OUTSIDE SWEN PARSON. . . .

PLEASE BE SURE TO BE AT LEAST 15' AWAY FROM ENTRANCES, EXITS, OPEN WINDOWS AND VENTILATION INTAKE VENTS

IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE SMOKE FREE ILLINOIS ACT

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!

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The Docket is published every Monday by Associate Dean Kathleen Coles