THIS WEEK:

**Student Bar Association:** Pancake Breakfast — 1Ls, please join the SBA and the Legal Writing Professors on **Monday, April 6, from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. in the Marshall Gallery** for breakfast. The legal writing professors are excited to cook you breakfast in celebration of the completion of the Appellate Brief!

**Law Review:** Informational Meeting — Any 1L or part-time student who has completed a minimum of 30 credit hours and is interested in joining the NIU Law Review is encouraged to attend an informational meeting on **Wednesday, April 8, at noon in the Riley Courtroom.** Jimmy John's will be provided! If you cannot make the meeting but have questions you would like answered, please contact Maureen Dowling (mdowling713@gmail.com) or Rikkilee Moser (rmoser117@gmail.com).

**1L Professionalism Program:** Professor Nancy Levit, one of the authors of “The Happy Lawyer: Making a Good Life in the Law”, will be speaking on **Thursday April 9, from 4:00 to 5:15 p.m. in the Altgeld Hall Auditorium.** 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.

**Student Bar Association:** Barrister's Ball — Tickets are now available for the annual Barrister's Ball on **Saturday, April 11, from 7:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. at the Kishwaukee Country Club.** Pre-tickets are available for purchase for $30 (individuals) and $50 (couples) at the following link: [https://niusbacasinonight.ticketbud.com/niusbabarristersball2015](https://niusbacasinonight.ticketbud.com/niusbabarristersball2015). Only individual tickets are...
available at the door and they are $40. Transportation will be provided to and from Swen Parson Hall and the Country Club starting at 6:45 p.m. Please visit the Facebook event page or ask any SBA member if you have any other questions.

**Environmental Law Society Recycling Program:** The ELS is continuing to collect 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

**Summer and Fall Externship Informational Meeting:** Come learn about externship opportunities for summer and fall 2015 on Monday, April 13, from noon to 1:00 p.m. in Room 170. Hear from faculty and students about ways you can earn course credit for unpaid work with a state's attorney, public defender, judge, or government /non-profit organization. Students will be there to talk about how externing has helped them to develop real legal skills, work with clients and lawyers, and build a professional, legal network. Applications will be available and you will have an opportunity to ask questions at the meeting. If you have any questions in the interim or after the meeting, please contact Professor Sheila Maloney at smaloney@niu.edu. **Pizza and pop will be served!**

**1L Professionalism Program:** Please save the date for the last session in the 1L professionalism program, which is mandatory for all first-year students. At that session, 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 on Wednesday April 15, from 4:00 to 5:15 p.m. in Altgeld Hall and will be followed by a dinner.

**Student Bar Association:** Please reserve space on your calendar for the End of the Year Class Party to be held on Monday, April 27, from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. Everyone — please join us for pizza, beverages, and announcements of the 3L Class Speaker and Class Agent and Professor of the Year. **All 3Ls — your hat toss photo will be at 12:30 p.m.**

**Law Review Symposium:** Please join the NIU Law Review for its annual symposium on Friday, April 17, from 9:00 to 2:30 p.m. This year’s symposium, entitled *Medical Marijuana Legalization, A Growing Trend: Social, Economic and Legal Implications*, will have a total of 10 speakers that present on three panels and one featured speaker. The event is free to all students unless they also want to join for lunch and then the registration fee is only $15. For more information and to register, please visit the Symposium website: [http://www.niu.edu/law/organizations/law_review/symposium_2015/index.shtml](http://www.niu.edu/law/organizations/law_review/symposium_2015/index.shtml).
CLINIC OPPORTUNITIES

Thinking about taking a clinic this summer or fall? The clinical faculty and students will be holding a clinic information meeting on Monday, April 6, at noon in Room 170. As part of the COL’s experiential learning program, we offer the following clinical courses: the Civil Justice Clinic, the Criminal Justice Clinic, the Foreclosure Mediation Clinic, the Health Advocacy Clinic, and the Juvenile Justice Clinic. These clinics offer students the chance to work with actual clients in a variety of settings on litigation, transactional and alternative dispute resolution matters. This meeting will provide an overview of each clinic. Current and former clinical students will discuss their clinical experiences, and the faculty will explain the clinic application process for summer and fall. Lunch will be served.

Please do not hesitate to contact a member of the clinical faculty if you need any additional information about one of the clinics: Anita Maddali, Assistant Professor of Law and Director of Clinics, amaddali@niu.edu; Paul Cain, Clinical Professor, Civil Justice Clinic and Juvenile Justice Clinic, pcain@niu.edu; Wendy Vaughn, Clinical Associate Professor, Civil Justice Clinic, wvaughn@niu.edu; Colleen Boraca, Clinical Assistant Professor, Health Advocacy Clinic, cboraca@niu.edu; Alan Boudreau, Visiting Clinical Assistant Professor, Foreclosure Mediation Clinic, aboudreau@niu.edu

RESEARCH ASSISTANT OPPORTUNITY: Professor Widman is looking for a part-time research assistant for next year (2015-2016). Applicants should be willing to do some work over the summer (with hours during the academic semester accordingly reduced). This position is especially suited to students who have some experience and/or interest in administrative law, federal courts, and legislation. Preference will be given to students who have taken at least one of the above classes. I expect some of the work to require knowledge and experience with the Bluebook Citation form. Please submit a current resume (including your year, current GPA, and class rank, if known), a law school transcript (unofficial is fine), and a brief letter of interest to Professor Widman by noon on Thursday, April 9. Applications must be submitted in hard copy, not electronically, and may be left in the mailbox attached to my office door if necessary.

MAKING TRACKS WITH DEAN ROSATO PEREA

Overall, this week and last week, the administrative team and I have been working on a number of issues, including:

• admitting/recruiting the new class in advance of the deposit deadline of April 15;

• considering applicants for summer bar grants:

• BF Fellowship selection (for Rockford clinic next year)/fundraising;

• job placement of members of the Class of 2015, including solicitation of alumni and other friends of the law school to help our students get jobs;
• working with faculty on revisions of the 1L curriculum, including more feedback, two short foundational courses in the first semester, and a small section of one first-year class (of approximately 25 students);

• hiring new faculty;

• course and budget planning for next academic year;

• completing reports for University program review, AALS membership;

• planning end-of-year events;

• PR for NIU Law, including Facebook and Twitter ads, and information about career opportunities for prospective students and employers;

• statewide work with other Illinois deans to lessen impact of bar cut score increase and prepare practice-ready lawyers in the state of Illinois (I am a member of the task force and have collected and summarized information from all the law schools in the state).

Also, at the end of last week, I attended in DC the AALS Membership Review Committee, which reviews all the law school members for their compliance with core values, including excellence in scholarship and teaching, governance, and diversity. It is a prestigious national committee, so it gives NIU Law some national profile. I have also been preparing for a seminar on April 14, as part of the “Transform Rockford” initiative.

Have a wonderful weekend,
Dean Rosato Perea

SPECIAL FACILITIES UPDATE:

We know that the condition of the facilities are a concern of students (and the rest of the community), so we have worked hard over the last few years to get needed upgrades in place, such as the furniture in the Marshall Gallery and hallways. One limitation we have had is that the condition of the roof (and regular leaks) did not make certain renovations feasible. That roof was replaced last summer as a University capital project that was three years in the pipeline. This renovation will enable some much-needed upgrades finally to be made to the library space.

According to the facilities department inspection that was just completed, the student lounge issue is unrelated to the broader roof issue and has been resolved, so that room is usable again. We will keep the lounge in the library for the remainder of the semester and continue to consult with the SBA (and other students) to determine which room (290C or the former space) makes most sense going forward. Thanks for your patience throughout these moves. It is hard to believe that five and a half years ago I donated my office soft furniture to upgrade the student lounge!
Over the summer we are planning –

- a library upgrade, including new carpeting throughout, and some furniture upgrades;
- new smart podiums in two classrooms;
- three new wireless access points so that students have better access where they use wireless more frequently; and
- a new refrigerator for the student lounge (whatever the location).

FROM THE LAW LIBRARY

Renovations: Our law library renovations will be beginning in the next few weeks in the North Wing and will continue until the end of June. We will carefully notify students through announcements and signage throughout every step of the renovation process. The renovation should not be noisy because they are installing carpet. We are also currently planning to create zones of study spaces based on where they are installing carpet and will clearly identify the quiet study spaces with adequate signs. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. The renovations will be finished well before the Bar exam at the end of July (so please be sure to take advantage of the newly renovated space this summer!).

Survey re Library Hours: We are planning to send out a student survey soon about your preferred weekend hours during the summer. Please give us your feedback through this brief survey and indicate your hour preferences for Saturdays and Sundays! We will strive to accommodate your preferred study times on those weekend days. Thanks and Happy Easter, Heidi

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.
OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Change in Scoring of the Illinois Bar Examination Announced: Based on advocacy of the Illinois law deans, the Illinois Supreme Court recently decided that the minimum score to pass the bar examination (the cut score) will increase by only two points in July 2015 (rather than by four points, as previously announced). The cut score will then increase another two points in July 2017. Going forward, a dean of an Illinois law school will be appointed as an ex officio member of the Board of Admissions to the Bar.

Schedules for Summer and Fall: We are working hard on the schedules for summer school and for next fall. Negotiations with faculty for summer courses are nearly complete, and I hope to have the summer schedule available by Friday, April 10, and certainly no later than Monday, April 13. Registration for the summer session will open shortly after the schedule becomes available.

The summer session will begin on Monday, May 18 and, with the exception of externships and clinics will be completed (including exams) by the end of June. I expect that classes will be scheduled from approximately 9:00 to 11:00 and 11:00 to 1:00 on Mondays through Thursdays.

The schedule for fall is a bit more complicated. At this point, we have not yet completed our hiring of new faculty who will start next fall. We are also still trying to identify which faculty will be involved in teaching two new first-year courses and additional sections of other first-year courses as required by changes to the first-year curriculum approved by the faculty at the last faculty meeting. I am hopeful that we will have these issues resolved in the very near future and that I can publish a fall schedule by Friday, April 17, or at least some time during the week of April 20. Once the fall schedule is available, I will schedule informational meetings with opportunities for students to discuss course selection before the end of classes. Given that the schedule will most likely not be available before April 17, however, we intend to hold fall registration immediately after the end of exams as we did last year.

Dean Gaebler

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The Docket is published every Monday by Associate Dean Kathleen Coles