MAKING TRACKS

It seems like a short time ago that I drove my Honda Civic and left Philly behind in my rear view mirror to come to a university, law school, and community that was all new to me. I leave NIU this summer with so much pride in what we have accomplished together, and with a family that I will always cherish. I know that we have not done everything that you hoped that we would do, and can always do better, but the law school is in a better place in many ways than it was six years ago.

Over the last few weeks, I have been humbled by the appreciation that I have received from students, faculty, university citizens, and alumni. They have told me some of the ways the law school has improved that they appreciate -- and I hope will continue to be built upon in the future, years after I have gone. Some use the word "legacy", but that feels way too grandiose and overstates the impact any person can make. I like to think more like "cookie crumbs" that the community can follow and make paths that lead NIU Law to a better place in the future.

Some of my favorite comments include:

• you always had an open door to listen or to put together a "game plan" to achieve our goals;
• you have engaged the alumni more than any other dean has ever done;
• we finally are going to have carpet, after 20 years;
• you have reached out to create collaborations across the university;
• NIU is now understood as a Chicagoland school;
• you have helped make the law school sustainable;
• you have supported the faculty in their scholarship;
• I will miss the chocolate, the free lunches, the birthday parties....
NIU will always have a special place in my heart, and I will bring the dedication to students, the pride of the students in their law school, the sense of family, and the commitment to excellence and community, with me wherever I go. Thank you.

May 1, 2015

All my best,
Dean Rosato Perea

UPCOMING EVENTS AND DUE DATES

**Invitation to Alton School Cases Re-enactment:** All members of the NIU Law community are invited to attend a special program being sponsored by the Illinois Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission, led by Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice Rita B. Garman and Justice Anne M. Burke, on **Monday, May 4, at 6:00 p.m. at the Feinberg Theater, 610 South Michigan Avenue, in Chicago.** On that date, a re-enactment of the Alton School cases and a panel discussion will take place, revolving around the legal struggles of Scott Bibb, an African American fireman, to place his children in a school close to home rather than sending them to a more distant segregated school. General admission tickets ($10) to the event are available at [http://alplmfoundation.tix.com/Event.aspx?EventCode=742015](http://alplmfoundation.tix.com/Event.aspx?EventCode=742015). For more information, visit [www.historyontrial.org](http://www.historyontrial.org).

**Mothers Memorial Scholarship Campaign:** The NIU Center for the Study of Women, Gender & Sexuality is making Mother’s Day gift giving easy! When you make a contribution to the Mothers Memorial Scholarship, Austin Sawicki Memorial Scholarship, Women’s Studies Foundation, or LGBT Studies Foundation, we will send your honoree a unique card letting her know that you’ve contributed in her honor. On this Mother’s Day, consider a gift that will give back to the NIU community. Just complete and return the donation form ([http://www.niu.edu/wgs/MothersDay.shtml](http://www.niu.edu/wgs/MothersDay.shtml)) to Reavis 103. **We recommend that you send in your donation form by Monday, May 4, so that your card arrives on time.** Call 815.753.1038 or email wgs@niu.edu for more information. **NOTE: $5 minimum per card to cover costs. Remaining proceeds will benefit your chosen fund.**

**Clinic Applications Due:** Thinking about taking a clinic this summer or fall? As part of the COL’s experiential learning program, we offer the following clinical courses: the Civil Justice Clinic, the Criminal Defense Clinic (Fall 2015), the Foreclosure Mediation Clinic, the Health Advocacy Clinic, and the Juvenile Justice Clinic (Summer 2015 only). These clinics offer students the chance to work with actual clients in a variety of settings on litigation, transactional and alternative dispute resolution matters. The Clinic Application for summer and fall is available on the College of Law [website](http://www.niu.edu/). **Priority Deadlines:** The summer clinic application priority deadline has passed. The fall clinic application priority deadline is **Thursday, May 21, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.** Applications will be accepted after the priority deadlines on a rolling basis if space is available.

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,
Law Review Write-on Competition: Competition materials were released on Wednesday, April 29, and will be due by Friday, June 12, at 6:00 p.m.

NIU Law 11th Annual Golf Outing: NIU Law will host its 11th Annual Golf Outing on Friday, June 5, at River Heights Golf Course. Registration and lunch begin at 11:00 a.m. with a shotgun start at noon. For more information, please contact Melody Mitchell at mmitchell@niu.edu.

RA Position Available: Professor Kuehl is accepting applications for a Research Assistant to conduct research for her during the Summer 2015, Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 terms. A full-time position (16 weeks) or two half-time positions (if two RAs are hired) and associated tuition waivers will be available. Please send your resume and a brief letter of interest to: hkuehl@niu.edu. Interviews will be conducted during the first week of May. Thanks in advance for your interest, Professor Kuehl

AWARDS:

2015 APPLE Awards: Seven NIU Law students have been named as APPLE Outreach Assistants and will receive full or partial stipends to serve as voluntary judicial law clerks during the summer. Initiated in 2009, the APPLE program (Applied Professional Practice Learning Experience) provides highly qualified students the opportunity to serve as voluntary judicial law clerks for federal or state judges. Through these clerkships, outreach assistants are given a wonderful opportunity to learn about the judicial system, the roles of judges and lawyers within that system, and professionalism. This year’s APPLE award recipients are Zachary Bock; Ashley Davis; Rachel Krmenec; Ryan Lee; Monique Perkins; Adam Weaver; and Wendi Werren.

2015 Bar Preparation Grants: This year, Dean Rosato Perea approved funding for nine bar preparation grants to be awarded to members of the graduating Class of 2015 who are taking the Illinois bar examination in July. Five of the grants were for $5000 and four were for $2000; the goal in each case was to allow graduates to devote full time and attention to preparing for the bar exam by helping to ease the stress of financial concerns. The winners of the 2015 NIU COL Bar Preparation Grants are Alexis Aranda; Oran Cart; Marife Hernandez; Christian Hall; Beverly Jones; Stephanie Kirk; Renee Keane; Danielle Sipiora; and Jawuan Sutton.

Congratulations to all award and grant recipients!
FROM THE LAW LIBRARY

**Digitalized Exam Files:** Attention All Students: The College of Law past exam files are now digitized and archived through Blackboard. You may access them on the law library’s webpage at [http://www.niu.edu/law/library/index.shtml](http://www.niu.edu/law/library/index.shtml). The past exams are also still on reserve in the law library, and you may request the print version of past exams at the circulation desk. Best of luck with your final exams!

**Renovations:** Our law library renovations have begun and will continue until the end of June. The North Wing of the law library is the first section to be closed off for the carpeting project. While the North Wing is being renovated, the South Wing will be the primary location for quiet study during the final exam period, and we will have clear signs to direct you to areas for quiet study and inform everyone regarding the enforcement of the noise policy ([http://www.niu.edu/law/library/policies.shtml#noise](http://www.niu.edu/law/library/policies.shtml#noise)).

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:**

**Rescheduling Exams:** The deadline for petitions to reschedule examinations has passed and no exams may be deferred past the regularly scheduled examination date except in the case of extraordinary circumstances that are beyond a student’s control and that will not recur. Notification of the extraordinary circumstances must be given to the Associate Dean for Student Affairs as soon as possible, followed by a formal written request for a deferred examination supported by documentation of the extraordinary circumstances. Based on the required documentation, the associate dean will determine whether to grant written approval and under what conditions. A deferred examination
normally must be taken within three weeks following the close of the regular examination period, and a fee may be charged for each deferred exam. A student who fails to take an examination when scheduled, and who has not received written approval for a deferred examination, will receive a failing grade. Petition forms are available on the NIU Law web site under “Current Students – Forms” or from Lisa Hoebing in Room 276.

**Summer Schedule Registration.** Registration is now open in MyNiu for the NIU College of Law Summer Session for 2015. Current first-year students who wish to register for summer school will need to familiarize themselves with the registration process in MyNiu. Instructions are available at [http://erptraining.niu.edu/erptraining/myniu-sa/studentcenter.shtml](http://erptraining.niu.edu/erptraining/myniu-sa/studentcenter.shtml). Part-time, first-year students who will have less than 25 hours at the end of this semester must see Dean Coles to discuss registration for summer classes. Please remember that no students can register themselves for clinics or externships — you need to contact the supervising faculty member. If you have any questions, please contact Dean Gaebler in person or at dgaebler@niu.edu.

**DEANS’ FAREWELL**

With both pride and sadness, we say farewell to the graduating Class of 2015. We wish you all the best of luck in the future and hope you will come back to visit the law school often.

For all other NIU Law students, we wish you a very happy and restful summer vacation. The faculty and staff look forward to seeing you again next fall.

Deans Rosato Perea, Gaebler and Coles

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