Congratulations to the Champions in the 2015 Mock Trial Competition!  Kudos to Chelsea Selvey, Stephanie Wiggins and Finalists Candice Patrick and Dayshon Wagner, as well as all who competed in the semi-final, quarter-final and preliminary rounds.

**THIS WEEK:**

**PILS Pizza Sale:** On Monday, November 9, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Thurgood Marshall Gallery, the Public Interest Law Society is selling pizza. Please come support our organization and grab a quick, delicious lunch!

**Innocence Project Event:** The Illinois Innocence Project, in conjunction with the College of Law, will host an event at Swen Parson Hall on Wednesday, November 11, from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. in the Riley Courtroom (Room 170). The event will feature a presentation from Angel Gonzalez, who spent 21 years in prison after being wrongly convicted of rape in 1994. Mr. Gonzalez will talk about his case and how the Innocence Project helped him be exonerated. He will be joined by attorneys from the Innocence Project, as well as current NIU Law students who are working with the Project as externs. They'll cover such topics as improper police action, false confessions, "Touch DNA" analysis and the intersection of criminal and immigration law. Finally, they will let you know how you can get involved with the Innocence Project through an externship. Lunch will be served and a reception will follow. All are welcome.
Invitation to Book Discussion. The College of Law and NIU Common Reading Experience invite you to participate in a book discussion group on NIU’s Common Reading for 2015-2017. This year’s book is Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson. The discussion group will meet in Altgeld Hall Room 100 on Thursday, November 12, 4:30-5:30 p.m., and Thursday, November 19, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Students, faculty, staff, and community members are all welcome.

Black Law Student Association: Join the NIU Law Black Law Student Association on Thursday, November 12, in the Thurgood Marshall Gallery from 12:00-2:00 p.m. for BLSA’s annual Thanksgiving Dinner. Enjoy home-cooked comfort foods and stuff yourself until you need a nap. Perfect for anyone who won't be able to spend Thanksgiving with their family — or who's just really hungry! A portion of the proceeds will go to Hope Haven homeless shelter in DeKalb. Tickets for a plate are available for $10 from any BLSA member in the law school from November 2-9, and limited tickets will be available at the event. Don't wait. This event is hugely popular, so don't miss out!

Support Our Troops Student Event: NIU Law student organizations PAD, JILS and CLS will be sponsoring an event with proceeds to go toward the U.S. military in honor of Veterans Day. The event will take place on Saturday, November 14, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in Sycamore, Illinois with stops at PJ's Courthouse Tavern, MVP Sports Bar, Hink's Bar and Grill and Ski's All-American Pub. T-shirts for the event will be available for $15 for sizes S-XL and $20 for XXL and XXXL. Contact Laura Gaden for more details.

INTERESTED IN A JUDICIAL CLERKSHIP?

Securing a federal clerkship can be a daunting task for even the best law students. Anyone interested in clerking should not miss this rare opportunity to attend a Demystifying the Judicial Clerkship Application Process and Experience webinar on Wednesday, November 18, at 11:30 a.m. Hear candid advice from prominent federal judges about:

- Ways to make oneself the most attractive candidate for a clerkship
- How judges evaluate law school grades, writing, resumes, recommendation letters, and other less obvious considerations
- How to best navigate OSCAR and the increasingly unpredictable clerkship application process
- What one might expect during a clerkship interview and how to prepare accordingly
- The skills and experiences one might expect to take from a clerkship experience

Students will also be able to hear about the ABA’s Judicial Clerkship Program and the ABA Section of Litigation’s Judicial Intern Opportunity Program, which are programs to place law students in judge’s chambers. Attendees must register via the registration link: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3547232688914482689
THINKING ABOUT TAKING A CLINIC THIS SPRING?

The clinical faculty and students will be holding a clinic information meeting Wednesday, November 18, at noon in Room 150. Pizza will be provided. As part of the COL’s experiential learning program, NIU Law offers these clinical courses: the Civil Justice Clinic, the Criminal Defense Clinic, the Foreclosure Mediation Clinic, and the Health Advocacy Clinic. The 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 spring. 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, Associate Professor of Law and Director of Clinics, amaddali@niu.edu; Paul Cain, Clinical Professor, Criminal Defense 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

CAREER OPPORTUNITY AND DEVELOPMENT:

Career Corner: Be sure to read the Career Corner bulletin published regularly by the Office of Career Opportunities and Professional Development. If you have not been receiving emails with the bulletin, contact Becky Leneau at rleneau@niu.edu.

LAW LIBRARY:

Introducing the Law Library Resource of the Week Challenge! Each week the law library will highlight a resource of the week. The first student in each class (1L, 2L, 3L) to accurately complete the challenge associated with the resource will receive a sweet treat and be highlighted on the library digital display. The resource questions may appear on the digital display, in the Docket or on the law library web site.

OFFICE OF BUDGET AND RECORDS:

May 2016 Graduates: An email has been sent to you from our office containing graduation course requirement/credit check information. Additional information regarding the process for applying for graduation is included. Please read it carefully.
Reimbursement Process:

- **Purchases:** For purchases on behalf of NIU College of Law events, expenses must be approved by 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.

ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Grading Policy: The NIU Law Faculty has approved the following policy for courses with more than 30 students:

- In all first-year courses with more than 30 students, the mean grade shall be between 2.70 and 2.90 inclusive.

- In all upper-level courses with more than 30 students, it is strongly suggested that the mean grade be between 2.8 and 3.2 inclusive. In addition, a minimum of 15% of the grades in all such courses shall be A- or above, and a minimum of 25% of the grades shall be B+ or above.

Individual exceptions may be granted to the above requirements by the associate dean upon a satisfactory showing by the instructor that student performance in a particular class deviated significantly from the norm.

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