



## “Vision and Values“

### Message from Dean Rosato



As I begin the third year of my deanship at NIU Law, I feel so much pride at what we have accomplished and all that we aspire to achieve. At the University and law school, we are working to grow in directions

that are consistent with our strengths and core values embodied in our mission. The University, under the leadership of President John Peters, is leading the Vision 2020 initiative, which will guide the University in becoming the most student-centered public research university in the Midwest. At the law school a similar evolution is taking place, as we move forward on the strategic plan, which prioritizes goals such as continuing to improve student quality and diversity, developing area(s) of distinction, and increasing resources to the law school.

In this evolution, we will continue to take great care to keep the values and traditions that define us, especially preserving the collegial community we have built among our alumni, faculty, and students. Communication is key, so I have expanded my communication to the alumni through regular Facebook postings on the NIU Law Alumni Facebook page. The best connection is a personal connection, so I hope to see many alums at Homecoming, Reunions, and other events.

Some of our new initiatives – such as the first-year professionalism program funded by Cherilyn and Michael Murer – engage our students in dynamic conversations with alums and other leaders of the bench and bar. Expanding experiential learning opportunities for our students (through clinics, externships, and pro bono opportunities, for example) not only are effective ways to train our students, but also improve access to justice for vulnerable populations in the surrounding community. I look forward to hearing from you and what you think makes NIU great!

All the best,  
Dean Rosato

## College of Law Launches New Professionalism Series for First-Year Students

“Introduction to the Legal Profession: History, Culture, and Values“ is a new and innovative program created for first-year students. This program is being funded through the generosity of Cherilyn (‘78) and Michael Murer, whose dedication to professionalism is infused throughout the series.

The new program will further integrate professionalism into the law school curriculum, in response to the growing recognition that law students (and lawyers) need more guidance in professionalism to further the highest values of the profession. The program will consist of five lectures featuring nationally recognized legal practitioners and scholars discussing cutting-edge issues.

Several lectures will be followed by a “Continue the Conversation“ dinner or reception, where practitioners-facilitators will engage with first-year students in small groups to encourage discussion on the issues presented in the lecture. Students will benefit from hearing the perspectives of practitioners who understand these issues of professionalism and have grappled with applying them in practice.

The first lecture, held on Wednesday, September 7, addressed attorney-client confidentiality issues in general and took an in-depth look into the nationally publicized and highly controversial Alton Logan case. Subjects of the subsequent lectures will include representing the unpopular client, featuring Professor Randall T. Coyne, The University of Oklahoma College of Law; moral consciousness and effective advocacy, featuring Professor Geoffrey Hazard, University of California Hastings Law School; panel on ethical danger zones, moderated by Professor David Taylor, NIU Law; and the program will conclude featuring Cherilyn Murer (‘78).



Cherilyn Murer (‘78)



The first lecture featured attorney Dale Coventry, one of the lawyers who represented a client who admitted to a murder for which Alton Logan was found guilty in 1982. Due to the attorney-client privilege, Coventry was not able to reveal the information until after his client’s death in 2007.

## College of Law Welcomes New Faculty



*Morse Tan*



*Amy Widman*

NIU Law welcomed Associate Professor Morse Tan and Assistant Professor Amy Widman to the NIU Law faculty this fall. Professor Tan previously served on the faculties of the University of Texas School of Law, the University of St. Thomas (MN) School of Law and as a founding professor of the first American Juris Doctor program in Asia. He is considered a leading legal scholar on North Korea and is teaching bioethics and public international law.

Following law school, Professor Widman clerked in the Southern District of New York and was a fellow at NYU's Center for Environmental and Land Use Law. For the past 6 years, Professor Widman has worked as the Legal Director at the Center for Justice & Democracy, a non-partisan consumer advocacy group. Her areas of expertise include Torts, Administrative Law, and Legislation.

Additionally, Anita Maddali (not pictured) has been appointed as assistant professor and director of clinics for the College of Law. Professor Maddali most recently worked at DePaul University College of Law, where she developed and managed a Poverty Law Clinic. She will begin on October 1.

## Moot Court XXIX

### Kosic and Ali Emerge Victorious at NIU Law Annual Prize Moot Court Competition



Robert Kosic ('12 left, standing) and Ibrahim Ali ('12) became Moot Court champions of NIU Law's 29th Annual Prize Moot Court Competition, held on Saturday, March 5, 2011. Competitors argued the constitutionality of the absence of an affirmative defense of reasonable mistake of age, and the proper conditions for supervised release following a conviction for engaging a minor in producing pornography.

This year's distinguished bench were (seated from left) the Honorable Gary S. Feinerman, United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois; the Honorable Michael S. Kanne (presiding), United States Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit; and the Honorable John W. Darrah, United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois.



*Professor Luna (center) leads symposium speakers (from left) Professors Chin, Stock, Bustamante and Kessler in a panel discussion.*

## Immigration Enforcement: Laws and "Outlaws"

Nearly 200 attendees participated in the half-day symposium on immigration and homeland security law held at the College of Law on March 3, 2011. *Immigration Enforcement: Laws and "Outlaws,"* featured distinguished guests including keynote speaker Lt. Col. Margaret Stock, University of Alaska Anchorage; and panelists Professor G. Jack Chin, University of Arizona; Professor Celeste Gonzalez de Bustamante, University of Arizona; and Professor Bridget Kessler, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.

The symposium concluded with an extended panel discussion open to the audience, which was moderated by NIU Law Professor Guadalupe Luna.



## Alumni and Friends Enjoy 7th Annual Golf Outing

*Pictured from left: Alumni Council President J. Matthew Pfeiffer ('00), Dean Jennifer Rosato, and alumni award recipients Chief Justice Thomas L. Kilbride, Public Service Award; Hon. Ron Matekaitis ('85), Distinguished Service Award; Diana M. Law ('04), Young Alumna of the Year Award; Karen Wilkerson ('97) accepted the Outstanding Service Award for the late Hon. Renee L. Robinson ('93, pictured below); Rachel Hernandez Hoag ('05), Mentor of the Year; and Alumni Council Awards Committee Chair Stacey Mandell ('96).*

The 7th Annual NIU Law Golf Outing and Awards Dinner provided excitement both on and off the course. Following days of rain and a flooded golf course, the outing had to be canceled and rescheduled for the first time in its history. As luck would have it, heavy morning rains on July 22, the rescheduled day of the outing, created some anxious moments until the sun finally came out moments before the shotgun start!

It turned out to be a good day as golfers enjoyed the greens, award recipients were recognized, and attendees won some great raffle gifts. Most importantly, though, we raised money to support the \$1,000 Alumni Council Scholarship given each year to a graduating student.



*Other award recipients included (from left): Mark Gilwit ('78), Alumnus of the Year Award; Mrs. Betty DeGunther, Honorary Alumna Award; and Hon. Renee L. Robinson ('93, posthumous).*

## Join us for Homecoming Weekend 2011

### Friday, October 14, 2011

6:00-9:30 p.m.

#### **SBA Casino Night**

NIU College of Law, Marshall Gallery  
Tickets are \$20 in advance/\$30 at the door and includes live music, complimentary hors d'oeuvres, gambling chips, soda, beer, and wine.  
Contact SBA at [sba.niu@gmail.com](mailto:sba.niu@gmail.com)

### Saturday, October 15, 2011

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

#### **1L Mentoring Program Kick-off Reception**

Brief reception for mentors and mentees to meet at the College of Law, Marshall Gallery.

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

#### **Tailgate Party with the Dean**

Free Food & Drinks at the College of Law Tent in AlumniVillage (near the stadium).

2:30 - 5:30 p.m.

#### **Western Michigan vs. NIU**

Purchase tickets in the College of Law section.  
Tickets are \$8 each and available on a first-come basis.

6:00-8:00 p.m.

#### **Class Reunion Receptions**

Classes of 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006  
College of Law, Marshall Gallery

Help us plan accordingly. To RSVP for tailgating and/or purchase football tickets in the College of Law section, contact the Office of Alumni Events and Public Relations at 815.753.9655 or email [lawalums@niu.edu](mailto:lawalums@niu.edu) by October 8th.

Visit [www.niu.edu/law](http://www.niu.edu/law) for any updated details.

## Save the Date



*Alumni are pictured outside the U.S. Supreme Court Building during our trip in 2010.*

## May 21, 2012

Join the NIU Law Alumni Council and take part in the United States Supreme Court Swearing-In Ceremony on Monday, May 21, 2012 in Washington, D.C.

Space is limited to 25 participants and will be reserved on a first-come basis. Start planning now for what has been called "an experience of a lifetime."



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*College of Law*

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**Swen Parson Hall, DeKalb, IL 60115**

**Be sure to check our website  
for updated event information. Also, join the NIU  
Law Alumni Facebook group.**

**Melody Mitchell, Director  
Jacob Imm, Asst. Director  
Phone: 815.753.9655**

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# **2011** *Calendar of Events*

## **October**

- 14** *SBA Casino Night*, 6-9:30 p.m., Marshall Gallery, NIU Law.
- 15** *Mentor-Mentee Kick-off Reception*, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Marshall Gallery, NIU Law.
- 15** *Homecoming Tailgate & Game*, Western Michigan vs. NIU. Tailgate at the College of Law tent in Alumni Village near the stadium, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Kickoff at 2:30 p.m. Email lawevents@niu.edu or call 815.753.9655 for game tickets in the NIU Law section. Tickets are \$8.
- 15** *Class Reunions: Classes of 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006*, 6-8 p.m., Marshall Gallery, NIU Law. Visit website for details.
- 27** *NIU Law Reception*, 5-7 p.m., Jim's Steakhouse, 110 SW Jefferson, Peoria, IL.
- 28** *Class Reunions: Classes of 1981 & 1986*, 6:30-9:30 p.m., Weber Grill, Lombard, IL. Visit NIU Law website for details.

## **November**

- 16** *Zeke Giorgi Legal Clinic 10-Year Anniversary Celebration*, 5-7:30 p.m., Zeke Giorgi Legal Clinic, Rockford, IL.

## **December**

- 9** *NIU Law Board of Visitors Reception (held during ISBA Mid-Year meeting)*, 4:30-6 p.m., Chicago Sheraton, Chicago, IL.

### **Save The Date**

## **Zeke Giorgi Legal Clinic 10-Year Anniversary Celebration**

**November 16, 2011  
5:00-7:30 p.m.  
Zeke Giorgi Legal Clinic  
Rockford, IL**

### **Special Guests include:**

**Illinois House of  
Representatives Speaker  
Michael J. Madigan**

**NIU President John J. Peters**

**Barbara Giorgi Vella ('92)**

Visit [www.niu.edu/law](http://www.niu.edu/law) for more details.