

NIU Law Named in National Rankings

NIU Law Ranks in the Top 20 for Best Value

NIU Law was ranked thirteenth among the Top 20 law schools in the nation based on value by preLaw magazine, sister publication of the National Jurist, as part of their 2010 Best Value Law Schools study. NIU Law was the only public school in the Chicago metropolitan area to make the Top 20. The study ranked the top sixty schools, both public and private institutions, out of the nearly two hundred American Bar Association-approved law schools in the United States.

NIU Law Ranks in the Top 10 for Diverse Faculty

NIU Law was ranked among the Top 10 law schools for having the most diverse faculty by the Princeton Review, as published in its 2011 edition of Best 172 Law Schools. Ranked ninth in the nation, this is the sixth year since 2005 that NIU Law has been named on this prestigious list. Nearly 40 percent of the full-time faculty are people of color and 40 percent are women.

“Making Success Happen”

Message from Dean Rosato

It is hard to believe that I am halfway into my second year as Dean. Last year I was “Making Tracks” meeting hundreds of alumni throughout the region, and this year we are “Making Success Happen,” with the strong commitment of our community of alumni and friends at NIU Law. It is terrific to see more and more alumni engaged (and reengaged) with the law school as mentors to over ninety of our 1L students, as members of the Board of Visitors and Alumni Council, as presenters at student events and guest speakers in some of our classes, and as generous donors. Our students benefit immeasurably from this involvement of our alumni and friends.

This year we have made success happen by reaching out to the community in more meaningful ways—ways that will help the law school continue to build on its many strengths. For example, the Board of Visitors will be forming working groups to provide feedback on areas such as fundraising, career placement, and outreach. The faculty has been working on enhancing the educational experiences for our students by expanding their opportunities to engage in experiential learning, including more opportunities for moot court and trial advocacy, pro bono service, and externships. Many alumni treasure (and still use) the skills they learned as students at NIU Law, and we want to continue to offer those valuable experiences to our students.

I look forward to seeing you at the Riley Lecture - this year given by alumna Cheryl Murer ('78), the PILS Auction, the 5K, or the Law Review Symposium on Human Trafficking.



18th Annual
Francis X. Riley
Lecture on Professionalism
- presented by -
Cherilyn Murer ('78)



April 1, 2011

3:00 p.m.

**Francis X. Riley
Courtroom
Swen Parson Hall**

- Followed by -

16th Annual
Public Interest Law Society Auction

A favorite tradition and major fundraiser at the College of Law is the annual Public Interest Law Society (PILS) Auction. Bidding for the silent auction begins at 5 p.m. and the live auction at 7:30 p.m.

A complimentary dinner buffet and open bar will be available during the event.

PILS encourages and welcomes your support by donating an item for the auction. Ad space is also available in the auction booklet.

Donations are tax-deductible.

You may contact PILS at niupilsauction@gmail.com or 815.753.0589.

Which Way Home
Law Review Symposium
on Human Trafficking
April 14-15, 2011

Thursday, April 14
Egyptian Theatre
DeKalb, IL
7:30 p.m.

Attend a free screening of the Oscar-nominated documentary, *Which Way Home*, followed by a Q&A with Attorney Sara McDowell, who represented the children in the film.



Friday, April 15
NIU Holmes Student Center
9:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Attend the day-long symposium with distinguished presenters. Alumni and group discounts available. Transportation between Elburn Metra Station and NIU provided for registrants. 6.5 CLE hours.

Visit www.niu.edu/law for details and registration.

Zeke Giorgi Clinic Receives Community Peace Award

The Northern Illinois University College of Law's Zeke Giorgi Legal Clinic received the 2010 Partner in Peace Award bestowed by the Violence Prevention Coalition (VPC) in honor of the Clinic's dedication, leadership, collaboration, commitment, and innovation in violence prevention efforts.

Located in downtown Rockford, Illinois, the Clinic was established in 2001 to provide NIU Law students the opportunity to receive hands-on practice of law under the supervision of experienced and highly qualified attorneys and provide quality representation that is both respectful of and responsive to their clients.

As a tribute to his legislative efforts on behalf of young people, education, and his local community; the Clinic is named in honor of Edolo Joseph "Zeke" Giorgi, who served in the Illinois House of Representatives for the 67th District from 1965 until his death in 1993.



Clinic attorneys Paul Cain (left) and Wendy Vaughn accept the 2010 Partner in Peace Award on behalf of the Zeke Giorgi Legal Clinic.

Alumni in the Judiciary Honored at Judges' Reception



Alumni in the Judiciary were honored at the NIU Law Judges' Reception on September 29, 2010 at Gibson's in Chicago. NIU Law now has 73 alumni on the bench with the recent additions of Hon. David Akemann ('78), Hon. Thomas L. Doherty ('86), Hon. Carmen Goodman ('95), Hon. Michael Jansz ('85), Hon. David Kliment ('84), Hon. James McAdams ('95), and Hon. Michael Risinger ('97). During the reception, Judge Patricia Martin ('85) was presented with the prestigious 2010 Resolution Systems Institute (RSI) Service to the Community Award for her extraordinary leadership and contributions to the field of alternate dispute resolution in Illinois.



Pictured from left: RSI Advisory Board member Kent Lawrence, Former NIU Law Dean and RSI Executive Committee member James J. Alfani, Dean Jennifer Rosato, Hon. Patricia Martin ('85), and RSI Executive Director Susan Yates.

NIU Law Seeks 2011 Reunion Committee Members

If you are member of one of the following classes, please be sure your contact information, including email, is updated so you will receive reunion information in 2011.

30 years - Class of 1981 20 years - Class of 1991 10 years - Class of 2001
 25 years - Class of 1986 15 years - Class of 1996

Reunion committee members are needed to provide input, contact fellow classmates, and help raise money for the College of Law. Committee meetings will be held via conference calls. If you would like to be a member of your class reunion planning committee, please contact Melody Mitchell, Director of Alumni Events and Public Relations, at mmitchell@niu.edu or 815.753.1027.

Alumni Council Seeks Nominations for Alumni Awards

The NIU Law Alumni Council is accepting nominations for its 2011 Alumni Awards program of outstanding NIU Law graduates who deserve special recognition. Recipients will be honored at the Golf Outing on June 10, 2011.

Award categories are: Young Alumnus Award, Alumnus of the Year Award, Outstanding Service Award, and the Distinguished Service Award.

Nominations will be accepted through **April 22.**

Visit www.niu.edu for more details on the outing and award nominations.

Alumni Council Welcomes New Executive Board

President
J. Matthew Pfeiffer ('00)

First Vice President
Kenya Jenkins-Wright ('03)

Second Vice President
Brent Eames ('09)

Secretary
Heather Johnson ('02)



Save the Date 7th Annual Golf Outing and Awards Dinner

Friday, June 10, 2011
 12 p.m. - 8 p.m.
 River Heights Golf Course
 DeKalb, Illinois

**HELP US CLOSE THE COURSE
 AGAIN THIS YEAR!**
At least 100 golfers are needed.

The outing raises funds for the Alumni Council Scholarship, which is presented to a graduating student at commencement. Prize and hole sponsorship opportunities are available.

**Office of Alumni Events &
Public Relations**

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
Fax: 815.753.4501
E-mail: lawalums@niu.edu
Website: www.niu.edu/law**

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2011 Calendar of Events

March

- 30** *NIU Day in Springfield* hosted by the NIU Alumni Association, 5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., Governor's Mansion, Springfield, IL. Register at www.MyNIU.com or call 815.753.1452.

April

- 1** *18th Annual Riley Lecture on Professionalism*, 3 p.m., Riley Courtroom, NIU Law.
16th Annual Public Interest Law Society Auction, 5 p.m., Marshall Gallery, NIU Law.
- 2** *BOV Annual Meeting*, 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m., NIU Law.
- 15** *20th Annual Law Review Symposium*, 9 a.m. - 4:45 p.m., NIU Holmes Student Center, DeKalb.
- 16** *Race NIjUdicata-NIU Law 5K Run/Walk & BBQ*, 9:45 a.m., NIU Law.

May

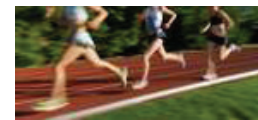
- 29** *Class of 2011 Commencement*, 2 p.m., NIU Convocation Center, DeKalb.

June

- 10** *7th Annual NIU Law Golf Outing*, 12 p.m. - 8 p.m., River Heights Golf Course, DeKalb. Help us Close the Course!

2nd Annual Race NIjUdicata

NIU Law 5K Run/Walk



Saturday, April 16, 2011

9:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Spring is fast approaching,
which can only mean one thing. . . .

Time for our second annual 5K Run/Walk!

The competition is already gearing up to claim the top prizes for the overall fastest runners, fastest alumni, and special Dean's Team Challenge.

*Afterwards, the grill will be fired up
for the first great BBQ of the season!*

**Runners, Sponsors, and
Volunteers are all needed!**

Visit www.niu.edu/law for more details.