

# University of Missouri-Law

September 2007

Issue 3

## 2007 Events Schedule September/October

**Wednesday Sept. 26**  
*Pi Alpha Delta Blood Drive.* From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Law School lounge area.

**Tuesday Oct. 2**  
*Federal Society Speaker.* Nick Capaldi will speak on the topic, "Why the Rule of Law is Not Taught in American Law Schools." This event qualifies for general Professional Perspectives credit, and will be held from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Courtroom.

**Wednesday Oct. 3**  
*2L Judicial Clerkship meeting.* Attendance satisfies one Career Development Credit. See accompanying newsletter article for more details.

**Monday Oct. 8**  
*Judge Lawrence Mooney.* The Eastern District Court of Appeals justice will speak at 1 p.m. in Room 7.

**Friday Oct. 12**  
*Dispute Resolution Symposium.* This symposium is hosted by the Center for Dispute Resolution. To be held from noon to 5 p.m. Watch your e-mail for more details.

**Monday-Wednesday Oct. 15-17**  
*BOA Client Counseling Competition.*

## 2L Newsletter:

Hello 2Ls! We hope that your semester is going well. As it continues to get busier, please remember you must attend one Professional Perspectives event, and one Career Component event by the end of the fall semester. Several options are listed in this newsletter, but keep your eyes peeled for others that appeal to you. As always, let us know if you have any questions.

### Business Communication Seminar offered students professional and electronic advice

On September 19, nearly 60 students received tips on business communication from a panel of experts. Much of the advice focused upon the use of email and a consideration of its risks. Paul Maguffee, an attorney with the University's General Counsel's Office, and Dan Nelson ('92), a partner with Armstrong Teasdale, discussed that e-mail is discoverable in law suits, that there is no expectation of email privacy, and that there is no control over to whom an email may be forwarded.

Professor Danny Sokol discussed e-mail drafting issues, including the use of "cc" and "bcc," and advised students to keep anything out of an e-mail that they would not feel comfortable announcing in a crowded room. Both Sokol and Dr. Joseph Mazza, of the MU Department of Communication, discussed how word usage can set the tone of an e-mail and stressed that a reader cannot discern vocal cues, such as humor or sarcasm, in a typed message.

Each panelist stressed the importance of face-to-face interaction and noted that e-mail is not always the best means of communication (for example, when delivering bad news to a client). Regarding oral communication, Mazza advised students to consider their "audience" and to pay special consideration to word choice, vocal tone, and body language.

Professor Rigel Oliveri urged students to sound professional when speaking with attorneys and to avoid youthful mannerisms and phrases that may detract from the serious nature of the students' work. Mindful of a situation in which a young male summer associate asked a senior female partner to make him coffee, Oliveri also advised students to treat all members of the office with respect and to avoid

stereotyping co-workers. The panel also advised students to call attorneys and clients "Mr. " or "Ms." until the attorney or client specifically asks to be called by his or her first name.

Perhaps the biggest tip of the presentation focused on professionalism. While it is easy to adopt a casual way of speaking, writing, and addressing others, attorneys should be mindful of a casual demeanor's effect on others. As members of a profession, attorneys should strive to present themselves as thoughtful, courteous, and hardworking. It is therefore always appropriate to adopt a measure of formality a step above what might be expected (one attorney likened it to wearing a suit jacket while others are in shirtsleeves).

Attorneys can always become a step less formal as they develop relationships with clients and fellow lawyers, but it is difficult to become more formal if others perceive the attorney to be brash or careless.

### Interested in a Judicial Clerkship?

On October 3, members of the faculty Judicial Clerkship Committee and students who have served as judicial clerks will provide a Judicial Clerkship Overview to interested 1L and 2L students. First-year students may learn more about clerkships from 1-1:25 p.m. in the Courtroom.

These programs will prepare students for the Gibson Judicial Clerkship Forum to be held on October 31. This year, the Forum's featured speakers

are the Honorable Duane Benton of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit and the Honorable Nanette Baker of the Missouri Court of Appeals, Eastern District. Their clerks, Megan Dunn ('07) and Fibbens Koranteng ('07) will also be present to discuss the judicial clerkship experience.

Judicial clerkships are an excellent way to learn more about trial and appellate procedure. Clerkships also provide many ways to use and strengthen your research and writing skills. Whether you are committed to pursuing a clerkship or just considering a variety of options, we urge you to attend the both the overview and the Gibson Judicial Forum.

Attendance at the Judicial Clerkship meeting will satisfy one Career Component credit.



## 2Ls: How to plan for next summer

Each year, approximately 75 percent of students find summer jobs outside of the on-campus interview process. If you are thinking about where to work during the summer after your 2L year, please join us for a "2L Timeline" program at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 26. We will discuss how to contact firms and agencies to inquire about summer possibilities, and we will also talk about externship options with a variety of governmental and not-for-profit agencies. The program will be in the Courtroom, and attendance satisfies a Career Component credit.

Remember, too, that Dean Wilson Setser and Ms. Follett are available for individual coaching and career counseling throughout the semester. Career plans are not "one-size-fits-all," and it is so important to find the career path that is right for you. Stop by Room 103 and make an appointment to discuss your own specific path and ways to turn your goals into reality.

As you think about your plans for next summer, plan to attend our office's 3rd Annual Small Firm and Public Interest Expo on Thursday, March 6, 2008. Last year, nearly 60 attorneys from government entities, not-for-profit agencies, and firms of less than 25 lawyers attended this event. We anticipate an even larger turnout this spring. This will be a great way to network with lawyers who typically do not participate in OCI.

## Are you interested in Labor and Employment Law?

The Missouri Bar's 6th Annual Labor & Employment Law Symposium will be Friday, October 12, at the Courtyard by Marriott in Columbia. As it did last year, the Missouri Bar has graciously agreed to allow law students to attend any session free of charge. Any 2L or 3L with an interest in labor/employment law is encouraged to attend.

The program begins at 9:20 a.m. and ends at 4:30 p.m. A complete schedule is available in the Office of Career Development. Feel free to attend as your class schedule permits. We need to let the Missouri Bar know how many students to expect, so please RSVP to the Career Development Office by noon on October 4 if you plan to attend. You may email your RSVP to [folletta@missouri.edu](mailto:folletta@missouri.edu).

Students who attended last year's event received practical information in this growing field of law. They also appreciated the opportunity to network with practitioners.

Lunch will be provided to the attorneys attending the program. Students may also attend lunch at a cost of \$15 per person. The Missouri Bar asks that interested students pre-pay for lunch. Please see Ms. Follett for more details.

The Courtyard by Marriott is at the AC Exit of Highway 63, next to the Bennigan's Restaurant. Dress for the event is business casual.

Additionally, The School of Law will be co-hosting a Labor & Employment Luncheon in Kansas City's Hyatt Regency Crown Center on October 24. Limited student seating is available. The luncheon will feature Ron Meisburg, the General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board in Washington, D.C. Earlier in his practice Meisburg was associated with the Washington, D.C. firm Ogletree, Deakins (which has an office in Kansas City). His law degree is from the University of Louisville.

If interested, please contact Dean Wilson Setser or Ms. Follett, and please see either with any questions.

## Emory University to host Public Interest Law Conference

EPIC, the Emory University Student Public Interest Group, is sponsoring a public interest law conference to be held at Emory Law School in Atlanta on Saturday, October 13, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Students from all schools are invited, and there is no registration fee.

The fourth annual conference entitled "Diversity and Division: Unifying for the Public Interest," will feature U.S. Representative David Scott of Georgia's 13th Congressional District. Congressman Scott will give the keynote address updating attendees on House Bill 916, the John R. Justice Prosecutors and Defenders Act of 2007, which promotes a loan repayment program for law school graduates who commit to serve as criminal prosecutors or public defenders. The Conference also will feature four panels and two workshops.

Panel topics include:

- Nation Building and Developing Constitutions
- Right to Die: The Legal and Ethical Issues of Euthanasia
- Mental Health, Privacy and Outpatient Commitment Post-Virginia Tech
- Law and the Media

Additionally, the workshops will cover:

- Innocence Matters: Freeing Troy Davis from Georgia's Death Row
- How to Fund a Public Interest Career

For more information and registration instructions visit the EPIC Web site at [www.law.emory.edu/epic](http://www.law.emory.edu/epic), or contact Linus Chen a second-year student from Emory at [www.lychen@emory.edu](mailto:lychen@emory.edu). Please let Dean Wilson Setser or Ms. Follett know if you plan to attend this program.

## NYU-University of Singapore Legal Exchange Program



In May 2007, New York University School of Law and the National University of Singapore launched a program designed to allow students from around the world to experience two educational arenas, and earn Master of Laws (LL.M.) degrees from both a leading U.S. institution and a leading Asian law school. The inaugural class was comprised of students from 23 countries across six continents.

This dual-degree program offers an NYU degree, the LL.M. in Law and the Global Economy, with optional specializations in either:

- U.S. and Asian Business and Trade Law; or
- Justice and Human Rights.

Additionally, students will pursue concurrently an LL.M. degree from the National University of Singapore. Thanks to a generous donation marking the inception of the Singapore program, a number of scholarships are available for students who enroll in the

program, which is known informally as NYU@NUS.

Based at the National University of Singapore, classes taken as part of the NYU degree are taught predominantly by NYU professors in residence, with students also benefiting from collaborative teaching by faculties from both institutions. Professors Lewis Kornhauser, Stephen Choi, Joseph Weiler, and Philip Alston,

along with other members of NYU's outstanding and dedicated faculty, were among those teaching in program's inaugural year.

In addition to the academic program — which is in all respects as rigorous as its counterpart in New York — students are able to apply for internships with law firms, corporations and government entities located in Singapore. Students are also able to take courses in Shanghai as part of a joint degree program between the National University of Singapore and East China University of Politics and Law.

The application deadline is December 1, 2007, for enrollment in May 2008. Further

information, updated admissions information, application instructions, and videos of current students can be found at: [www.NYUNUS.org](http://www.NYUNUS.org).

### **Congratulations to the 2007 BOA Negotiation Winners**

We would like to congratulate the 2007 Board of Advocates Negotiation Competition winners Ryan Westhoff and Jay Atkins, and second place finishers Steve Voorhees and Craig Flanders. We applaud all of your hard work and wish you the best of luck at the Regional Negotiation Competition later this semester.

BOA will next be hosting the Client Counseling Competition in October. Watch your e-mail for more details.

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