

## Gators Bring Home National Title from NBLSA Trial Team Tourney

One Gator team has already brought home a national title from Atlanta. The University of Florida Levin College of Law Black Law Students Association (BLSA) Trial Team earned the national title in Atlanta March 21-25 at the NBLSA Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Competition in Atlanta. The team defeated Georgetown in the semifinals, and Georgia State in the final round.

"We are extremely proud of these students," said UF Law Trial Practice Program Director Jennifer Zedalis. "The competition was tough, but our students worked extremely hard to win the title." The final round was won by Jessica Anderson and Alicia



Pictured clockwise from lower left are Anderson, Warren, Phillips, and Beasley.

Phillips (defense), and the UF Law government team, which also did an outstanding job in the tournament, was made up of Camille Warren and Ronisha Beasley. The students thanked

everyone who helped them, including Zedalis, Dean Robert Jerry, Professors Pedro Malavet, Mike Seigel, Kenneth Nunn and Michelle Jacobs, and others in the local legal community.

"After months of hard work and frustration this has turned out to be an amazing experience that we as a team are very proud of," Anderson said. "The women I competed with are phenomenal litigators and I'm humbled to share this honor with them."

## Faculty to Tackle Law, Science and Politics of Global Climate Change

A report from the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change predicting a dramatic increase in extreme weather, rising sea levels, acidic oceans and deadly heat waves around the world has drawn heavy attention

from the media and public alike in recent weeks. With that in mind, members of the University of Florida Levin College of Law faculty will gather in Holland Hall room

345 at noon Wednesday, April 4, for a brownbag presentation on "Climate Change: An Overview of the Law, Science, and Politics."

Professors Mary Jane Angelo, Tom Ankersen,

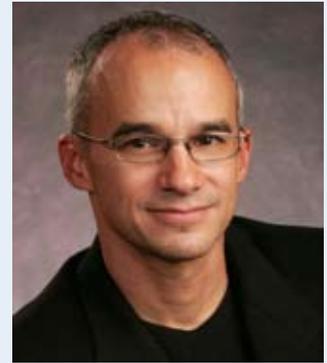
Alyson Flournoy, and Christine Klein will present a quick look at the myriad issues and try to link together the various aspects of the debate, including the state of the science, the international context, domestic policies being considered, and potential impacts for other areas of policy.

"For the first time," Flournoy said, "Congress seems ready to tackle this problem and is holding hear-

ings to really explore the status of what we know and the policies that we might pursue to try to reduce the future impact that our emissions of greenhouse gases will have."



Klein Ankersen Flournoy Angelo



### Haney López to Deliver CSRRR Spring Lecture

Ian F. Haney López, professor of law at the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, and a prolific writer on race relations and law will deliver the Center for the Study of Race & Race Relations Spring 2007 Lecture at noon Tuesday, April 3, in the Chesterfield Smith Ceremonial Classroom. The title of his lecture is "A Nation of Minorities: Race, Ethnicity, and Reactionary Colorblindness." The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Melissa Bamba in CSRRR at 273-0614 or email [bamba@law.ufl.edu](mailto:bamba@law.ufl.edu).



### Open Forum Tuesday on U.S. News Rankings

Attend the open forum at 3 p.m. Tuesday, April 3, in HOL 180 to discuss the latest law school rankings from *U.S. News & World Report* with Dean Bob Jerry and read the Dean's Message in the special insert in this issue of *FlaLaw*.



## Volunteer Celebration Brunch April 12

UF Law's Volunteer Celebration Brunch is set for April 12 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. in the Faculty Dining Room. If you have worked 35 or more hours towards Pro Bono or Community Service Projects, please make sure that you have reported them to Career Services by April 5. RSVPs for the brunch to honor students who will be recipients of the awards are due on April 6.

## Robert Masur Fellowship in Civil Liberties

The Nation Institute is now accepting applications from 1Ls who intend to carry out significant activities during the summer in the areas of civil rights and/or civil liberties for the 2007 Robert Masur Fellowship in Civil Liberties. Proposed activities may include a writing or research project, work with a public interest organization in the areas of civil rights or civil liberties, work on a civil rights or civil liberties law case under the supervision of a faculty member or lawyer, or any other work in the areas of civil rights or civil liberties. Fellowship recipient receives a \$1,000 honorarium. All applications must be postmarked by May 31. For full information, visit <http://www.nationinstitute.org/awards/masur/>.

## Judicial Clerkships

Are you a 2L interested in pursuing a prestigious Judicial Clerkship? You need to begin the application process soon. Next fall will be too late. Join Career Services Wednesday, April 4, at 1 p.m. in HOL 345 to learn about why you should consider a judicial clerkship after graduation, upcoming deadlines, researching vacancies, obtaining letters of recommendation, and about the application process.

# CAREER Services

## Don't Miss Out—Get Ready Now for Fall Recruiting

### Off-Campus Recruiting

If you missed last week's program on Job Fairs and other upcoming off-campus recruiting events, be sure to pick up the handouts available in CCS. Be aware that for some of these events, the student application and resume submission deadline will be in June. Also, it is important to note that the CCS cannot accept late submissions for off-campus recruiting events as the consortium of law schools that hosts the various events establishes and enforces its own deadlines.

### On Campus Interviews

On Campus Interviews begin the week of Aug. 14—one week before classes start—and bidding begins a month earlier, the week of July 10. Prepare now.

- Attend one of the upcoming Symplicity training sessions if you have not already done so. Training is offered on Monday, April 2, at 2 p.m. and on Wednesday, April 3, at 1 p.m., both in room 355C.
- Be sure to sign a new OCI Policies and Procedures Form (effective May 2007)—you will be unable to access Symplicity until you have done so. The form is available during the training sessions, in the CCS, during One Quick Question (Thursdays, 9:45-11:15 a.m., in the Courtyard), and on the CCS website.
- Update your resume to reflect your summer experience and current GPA. You can always have your resume reviewed by one of the professional counselors in Career Services by emailing your resume to [careers@law.ufl.edu](mailto:careers@law.ufl.edu), dropping it off for review within 48 hours, or scheduling an appointment with a counselor. When your resume is complete, upload the current version into Symplicity.
- Update your profile in Symplicity to reflect your current class year and current contact information.

- Don't miss out on important messages from Career Services. Sign up for the career hotline by sending a blank e-mail to [career-hotline-subscribe@law.ufl.edu](mailto:career-hotline-subscribe@law.ufl.edu).

Remember, the current list of registered OCI employers will be sent out on the hotline one week prior to bidding. Keep in mind this list constantly changes, and we will periodically send updates on the hotline. Be sure to research the employers prior to bidding on them, and be ready to begin bidding the week of July 10 for Early Interview Week (interviews the week of Aug. 14).

## Evaluating Law Firm Diversity

Before you make the important decision of where to begin your legal career, learn as much as you can about the law firms that you are considering. One important factor for many job seekers is a firm's record on diversity. Although most firms' promotional materials tout their commitment to diversity, they do not always offer specifics that you, the potential associate, can use in determining whether the work environment is the right fit for you.

*NALP's Directory of Legal Employers* provides detailed information about a law firm's attorneys, including the number of men and women, Black, Hispanic, American Indian, Asian & Pacific Islander, multi-racial, disabled, and openly gay attorneys. It also specifies whether a firm offers domestic partner benefits and what, if any, minority recruitment efforts the firm is undertaking.

You can access this information online at [www.nalpdirectory.com](http://www.nalpdirectory.com) or look through the print version in Career Services. Career Services also has other directories and resources to help in your evaluation including the *Vault/MCCA's 2007 Law Firm Diversity Programs Directory*, *Directory of Minority Judges*, *Minority Law Journal* magazine, and more.

## Consider Cost of Living

As you reflect on your options for summer internships, bar applications, and an

# CAREER SPOTLIGHT

## Sandra Chance (JD 90), UF's Brechner Center for Freedom of Information

eventual career, it is essential to factor the geographic cost of living into the equation. Your paycheck can go much further in some regions as compared to others and it is important that you conduct research on cost of living factors before committing to a geographic area.

Career Services recently compared 10 randomly selected cities in different states to determine how far a \$75,000 paycheck would take you. This example assumes that a student has been offered a \$75,000 position in Charlotte, North Carolina—a city known for a low cost of living and geographically located in the middle of the Mid-Atlantic region where many UF law graduates practice.

To maintain that same lifestyle in 10 other cities, look at how the \$75,000 offer equates. For example, to achieve the same value in Miami, the corresponding offer would need to be \$112,500 to equal the \$75,000 offer in Charlotte because the cost of living is 20.5 percent higher to live in Miami than Charlotte.

### Compared to Charlotte

- Miami \$112,500 (50 percent more expensive)
- Orlando \$90,341 (20.5 percent more expensive)
- Atlanta \$78,409 (4.5 percent more expensive)
- Washington \$121,023 (61.4 percent more expensive)
- New York \$150,852 (101.1 percent more expensive)
- Charleston \$82,670 (10.2 percent more expensive)
- Jacksonville \$82,670 (10.2 percent more expensive)
- Ft. Lauderdale \$115,057 (53.4 percent more expensive)
- Dallas \$76,705 (2.3 percent more expensive)
- Philadelphia \$92,045 (22.7 percent more expensive)

When deciding about where to live and practice, do your own research. A useful tool can be found at <http://www.bestplaces.net/col/>.

If Professor Sandra Chance had her way, every state government would be “in the sunshine.” That is how access advocates describe a government environment that allows public access to courtroom proceedings and government records and meetings. The ultimate goal, Chance said, is government transparency and the public’s right to know.

“First, as citizens, everyone should support freedom of information,” said Chance, executive director of UF’s Joseph L. Brechner Center for Freedom of Information. “We have a right to know about our government and how our government officials are spending our tax dollars. This information allows us to hold our elected officials accountable and protect against government waste, abuse and corruption.”

The Brechner Center is recognized internationally as one of the leading academic institutions dedicated to conducting research and education about open government laws and the importance of transparency in governmental operations and decision-making. Students range from undergraduates and graduate students at the UF College of Journalism and Communications and law students to judges at the National Judicial College. Chance also serves on the advisory boards



of the *Journal of Law and Public Policy*, the Center for Governmental Responsibility, the First Amendment Foundation, and The Florida Bar Media Law Committee.

“While most people think our ‘right-to-know’ laws are for journalists, studies show that businesses are the biggest users of freedom of information laws, so even corporate lawyers find these useful and beneficial,” said Chance, who was named National Teacher of the Year in 2006 by the Scripps Howard Foundation. “Any attorney who works for or with the government in Florida needs to understand the state’s public record and open meetings laws. In fact, anyone who does business with or for the government benefits from government-in-the-sunshine laws.”

—Ana-Klara Hering

### Subscribe to the Pro Bono-Public Interest Listserve

Are you subscribed to the CCS’s Pro Bono -Public Interest Listserve?

For emailed announcements regarding pro bono and public interest law opportunities, fellowships, vacancies and deadlines, subscribe by going to the listserv homepage at <https://lists.law.ufl.edu/mailman/listinfo/pubint-l> or send a blank email to [pubint-l-subscribe@lists.law.ufl.edu](mailto:pubint-l-subscribe@lists.law.ufl.edu).

To unsubscribe from the Pro Bono-Public Interest list, send a blank email to [pubint-l-unsubscribe@lists.law.ufl.edu](mailto:pubint-l-unsubscribe@lists.law.ufl.edu).

### Rocky Mountain Diversity Legal Career Fair

Legal employers attending the 2007 Rocky Mountain Diversity Legal Career Fair, Friday, Sept. 21, in Denver, Colorado, seek to hire law students and 2007 law graduates from culturally diverse backgrounds that have been traditionally under-represented in the legal profession in the Rocky Mountain region.

These include law students and 2007 graduates who are ethnic or racial minorities and/or GLBT. To learn more about this event or for online registration after May 1, go to [www.rmdlcf.com](http://www.rmdlcf.com).

# CALENDAR

## of Events

### Monday APRIL 2

- **Lunch with the Dean**, noon, FDR
- **Symplicity/Fall 2007**, 2 p.m., HOL 355C
- **NCAA Men's Basketball Final**, Atlanta, GA
- **CCS One Quick Question (virtual version)**, 10 a.m.-noon

### Tuesday APRIL 3

- **Open Forum on U.S. News Rankings with Dean Bob Jerry**, Chesterfield Smith Ceremonial Classroom (HOL 180), 3 p.m. (see insert)
- **First day of Passover**
- **Symplicity/Fall 2007**, 1 p.m., HOL 355C
- **CSRRR presents speaker Ian Haney Lopez**, Berkeley law professor and author of books such as *Racism on Trial: the Chicano Fight for Justice*, noon, HOL 180, 1:30 p.m., FDR (see story on page 1)

### Wednesday APRIL 4

- **CCS presentation on judicial clerkships**, 1 p.m., HOL 345
- **Compass Bank presentation on debts/loans**, 4 p.m., FDR
- **ACS lecture presents Douglas Malloy immediately followed by Malloy Reception**, noon, HOL 180
- **Brownbag Presentation, "Climate Change: An Overview of the Law, Science, and Politics,"** noon, HOL 345 (see story on page 1)

### Monday APRIL 9

- **UFPA presents National Philharmonic of Russia with Olga Kern**, 7:30 p.m., Phillips Center
- **CCS One Quick Question (virtual version)**, 10 a.m.-noon

### Tuesday APRIL 10

- **CCS Program: Successful Summer Associate with Quarles & Brady**, 1 p.m., Bailey Courtroom
- **Gator baseball vs. UCF**, 6:30 p.m., McKethan Stadium

### Wednesday APRIL 11

- **ICAIR speaker series presents Margo Bagley UVA law professor**, noon, HOL 345
- **CGR Conference on Legal and Policy Issues in the Americas**, Holiday Inn-West, Gainesville (see brief on page 6)

### Monday APRIL 16

- **CCS One Quick Question (virtual version)**, 10 a.m.-noon
- **UAEM with speaker Robynn Sturm**, 11:30 a.m., BG 136

More information on upcoming events is available through the Levin College of Law's online calendars at:

*[www.law.ufl.edu/calendars](http://www.law.ufl.edu/calendars)*

### Wednesday APRIL 18

- **Pinning Ceremony**, 3 p.m., Rare Book Room



### Thursday APRIL 5

- **Law School Title Examination Workshop**, 4 p.m., HOL 180 (see brief on page 6)
- **ACS Food for Thought lecture**, noon, HOL 345
- **Attorney's title insurance presentation**, 4-7 p.m., HOL 180
- **CCS One Quick Question (live version)**, 9:45-11:15 a.m., Concourse

### Friday APRIL 6

- **Graduate Tax Enrichment Speaker Series presents Len Burman, Sr. Fellow, Urban Institute and Co-Director, Tax Policy Center**, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., HOL 180
- **Faculty Enrichment speaker Lili Levi, University of Miami**, noon, FDR
- **BLSA Grad Send Off**, 7 p.m., Emerson Alumni Hall
- **Gator baseball vs. South Carolina**, 6:30 p.m., McKethan Stadium

### Sat./Sun APRIL 7/8

- Saturday, **Gator baseball vs. South Carolina**, 4 p.m., McKethan Stadium
- Saturday, **Center for World Arts presents Jacare Brazil, Brazilian music ensemble, and Agbedidi Jeliya, West African music ensemble**, 7:30 p.m., University Auditorium
- Sunday, **Easter**
- Sunday, **Gator baseball vs. South Carolina**, 1 p.m., McKethan Stadium

### Thursday APRIL 12

- **Volunteer Awards brunch**, 9:30-11:30 a.m., FDR
- **CCS One Quick Question (live version)**, 9:45-11:15 a.m., Concourse
- **CGR Conference on Legal and Policy Issues in the Americas**, Holiday Inn-West, Gainesville (see brief on page 6)

### Friday APRIL 13

- **Center for Children & Families speaker**, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., FDR
- **Environmental & Law Use Law Program Advisory Board Meeting**, noon to 5 p.m., Bailey Courtroom
- **Open House for Fall 2007 Admitted Students**, noon-7 p.m.
- **Book Award Ceremony**, 3:30 p.m., HOL 180

### Sat./Sun APRIL 14/15

- Saturday, **Gator football Spring Orange & Blue game**, time TBD, Ben Hill Griffin Stadium
- Sunday, **Music Night 2007**, 7 p.m., Dean Jerry's home (see story on page 6)

### Thursday APRIL 19

- **CCS One Quick Question (live version)**, 9:45-11:15 a.m., Concourse

### Friday APRIL 20

- **Spring Classes End**
- **Gator baseball vs. Kentucky**, 6:30 p.m., McKethan Stadium

### Sat./Sun APRIL 21/22

- Saturday, **Reading/final exam period ends**
- Saturday, **Gator baseball vs. Kentucky**, 4 p.m., McKethan Stadium
- Saturday, **UFPA presents University of Florida Opera Theatre La Traviata**, 7:30 p.m., Phillips Center
- Sunday, **Gator baseball vs. Kentucky**, 11:30 a.m., McKethan Stadium



# BRIEFS

## News & Events



### Students Invited to Perform at Music Night 2007 at Dean Jerry's

Students, faculty and staff are invited to attend Music Night 2007 at Dean Jerry's home on Sunday, April 15, at 7 p.m.

This is a small event, so register early. Participation will be on a first-come, first-served basis. To participate, you must bring a dessert and must agree to perform one musical piece (play an instrument, sing a song, etc.; playing in a group is appropriate, too).

Each participant can bring one guest (who is not required to perform). Some faculty will be performing as well. You need to bring your own instrument (unless it's a piano, which is at Dean Jerry's home).

Maps to the dean's house will be provided to participants. To sign up, stop by the Dean's Office and see Doris Perron.



### Scholarship Opportunity

First- and second-year law students with ties to the Jacksonville area are encouraged to apply for the James F. Bailey, Jr. Scholarship.

The scholarship fund is intended for individuals with personal ties to and intent to return to the Jacksonville, Florida, area to practice law after graduating from law school. Recipients will be selected based on their qualifications for the scholarship and not on the law school they attend. Students must be in their first or second year at a Florida law school (public or private) and have a grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.

Deadline for applications is April 30. The scholarship fund will award \$1,000 in financial assistance to each recipient at the Jacksonville Bar Association Young Lawyers Section annual luncheon in July 2007.

Applications are available in the Office of Student Affairs, 164 Holland Hall.

### Pledge to the Spring 2007 Class Gift This Week

The Class Gift Committee has launched the Spring 2007 "License to Bill" Campaign, and the committee needs the help of the graduating class. The class gift is very important to the Levin College of Law. As graduating seniors, this is your opportunity to give back to the school that has given us all so much.

No pledge will be refused, but remember how much the Levin College of Law and the University of Florida has given to you when you are deciding the amount of your pledge.

Pledge forms are available from the Class Gift table in the courtyard or you can pledge online at [www.law.ufl.edu/students/resources/classgift.shtml](http://www.law.ufl.edu/students/resources/classgift.shtml).

For more information, please contact either of the Spring 2007 Class Gift chairpersons, David Sams ([dsams123@ufl.edu](mailto:dsams123@ufl.edu)) or Kemay Jackson ([kemayj@ufl.edu](mailto:kemayj@ufl.edu)).

### CGR Conference on Legal and Policy Issues in the Americas

The Center for Governmental Responsibility's Eighth Annual Conference on Legal & Policy Issues in the Americas will be held April 11-12 at the Holiday Inn-West in Gainesville.

The conference will feature day-long workshops and discussions on selected topics, including Brazilian perspectives on legal and policy issues in the Americas; street crime, organized crime & terrorism; parliamentary reform; new directions in property law and policy in Latin America and the Caribbean; human rights; justice reform; legal education, professional responsibility and ethics; and environment and agriculture.

The conference and workshops are designed to define and develop a research agenda for the 2008 conference, scheduled to be held in Brazil. The conference will examine current legal issues in the hemisphere, while continuing to strengthen partnerships throughout the region.

Collaborators for the conference are CGR, the law faculty at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (PUC-RIO), the Bob Graham Center for Public Service at the University of Florida, the Law and Policy in the Americas Program at the University of Florida and the Florida Journal of International Law.

For more information, contact JoAnn Klein at [klein@law.ufl.edu](mailto:klein@law.ufl.edu) or go to <http://www.law.ufl.edu/cgr/conference/>.

### Law School Title Examination Workshop April 5

Attorney's Title Insurance will present their Law School Title Examination Workshop at the Levin College of Law Thursday, April 5, at 4 p.m. in the Chesterfield Smith Ceremonial Classroom (HOL 180). Philip Holtsberg, manager of the fund's legal education department, will be presenting. Refreshments will be served.

# Top Attorneys Bring Real-Life Experiences to Teaching Business Document Drafting Course

Law students at the Levin College of Law are getting a taste of the life that awaits them at a corporate law firm thanks to a new business document drafting course taught by top attorneys who travel to Gainesville to teach the innovative class.

The course was developed by Professor Stuart Cohn and Daniel H. Aronson, an attorney with Bilzin Sumberg Baena Price & Axelrod in Miami.



Conti

With support from UF Law Dean Robert Jerry, Cohn and Aronson enlisted three prominent business lawyers as adjunct professors: Lou Conti, a partner with Holland & Knight who splits his time between Orlando and Tampa; Gardner Davis, a partner in the Jacksonville office of Foley & Lardner; and Gregory C. Yadley, partner in the Tampa office of Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, and co-chair of the firm's Corporate Practice Group.

"There are very few law schools that offer anything like this," Aronson explained. "There was no precedent for what we wanted to do. We knew Georgetown and NYU offered similar courses, but nobody else had anything close. The heroes are the 20 students who went through a brand new course, four different professors, and a ton of work to do in a nutshell probably what junior corporate executives do over a three-year period in terms of glimpses at and working with the most important area that corporate securities and M&A associates work in."

The two-credit course went well beyond just simple issues of how best to draft a document, Cohn said. Writing assignments included drafting employment agreements and representations and warranties in a merger agreement, among other documents.

"The students very much appreciated seeing top attorneys come in and talk about their experiences," Cohn said. "This wasn't a class with a lot of war stories. It was a class in which they heard these attorneys talk about real-life drafting problems and real-life situations in terms of dealing with clients, finding out exactly what the clients have in mind, and negotiating differences between competing interests."

The course was limited to 20 students, most of whom were in their third year and plan to go into corporate practice.

"Most of these lessons are little microcosms of the things that for years we've been passing along to our colleagues and our junior associates when we try to train them on whatever ad hoc basis we have," Aronson said. "We just tried to string all those pearls together and put them in a cohesive segment."

Feedback from the course has been very positive, and plans are underway for development of additional skills-based offerings in the business law curriculum, including mergers & acquisitions and advanced corporate finance. Aronson said the course allows students to hit the ground running after graduation and distinguish themselves immediately at a law firm.

Conti, who knew Cohn through their work on a number of legislative drafting projects for The Florida Bar, said the students displayed surprisingly good drafting skills throughout the course.

"Most of the young associates in our office keep saying they wish they had something like this when they were in law school, because when you come into practice you literally do not know where to start in many cases, particularly in a transactional practice," said Conti, who previously taught as an adjunct at Widener University and Temple University.

It's easy to look at form documents and see what somebody else has done before, Conti explained, but it takes experience to understand why provisions are there or not there, and how to negotiate the relative tweaking of those provisions. Without a senior lawyer to mentor them and take the time to sit down and explain a lot of the drafting and language issues, he said, young associates typically have to learn business document drafting on "a catch-as-catch-can basis."

"This course is a much more cogent way to get a perspective of all of the issues in a transactional practice, put them in some kind of context and framework, and then hopefully when you go into practice you'll be at a distinct advantage, I think, over students who haven't had this kind of preparation."



Aronson

## Send Us Your News

*FlaLaw* is published each week school is in session by the Levin College of Law Communications Office:

- Jim Hellegaard, Senior Writer, *FlaLaw* Editor
- Debra Amirin, APR, Director
- Kathy Fleming, APR, CPRC, Associate Director, *UF LAW* Magazine Editor
- Kristen Hines, Photographer

To be emailed an early release pdf of *FlaLaw* or to submit news of interest to the law school community (deadline is 10 a.m. Tuesday for the following Monday's issue), email flalaw@law.ufl.edu, call 273-0650, stop by Communications in 287 Holland Hall, or mail it to P.O. Box 117633, Gainesville, FL 32611-7633.

## College of Law Administration

- Robert H. Jerry, II, Dean
- George L. Dawson, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
- Stuart R. Cohn, Associate Dean for International Studies
- Michael K. Friel, Associate Dean & Director, Graduate Tax Program
- Rachel E. Inman, Associate Dean for Students
- Christine Klein, Associate Dean for Faculty Development
- M. Kathleen "Kathie" Price, Associate Dean for Library and Technology
- Gail E. Sasnett, Associate Dean for Students, Professionalism and Community Relations
- John Plummer, Assistant Dean for Administrative Affairs
- Adrian Jones, Assistant Dean for Diversity and Community Relations
- Linda Calvert Hanson, Assistant Dean for Career Services
- J. Michael Patrick, Assistant Dean for Admissions
- Debra D. Amirin, Director of Communications
- Kelley Frohlich, Senior Director of Development and Alumni Affairs

# SCHOLARSHIP & Activities

## William H. Page

**Marshall M. Criser Eminent Scholar in Electronic Communications and Administrative Law**

- Spoke on remedy in the face of technological change during the March 29 sessions for the FTC/Department of Justice's hearings on the implications of single-firm conduct under antitrust laws.



Page

## Michael R. Siebecker

**Assistant Professor**

- Gave talk on First Amendment, Jurisprudence and Corporate Law on March 29 at UF Law. This lecture was part of the American Constitution Society's Food for Thought Lunch Lecture Series.



Siebecker

## Michael Allan Wolf

**Richard E. Nelson Chair in Local Government Law; Professor**

- Presented talk on "Who Really Rewrote the Constitution?" to the American Constitution Society March 26 as part of the Food for Thought Lecture Series.



Wolf

## In the News

### Robert H. Jerry, II

**Dean; Levin Mabie and Levin Professor**

- Prism Insight Southeast Farm Press Online Exclusive, March 20. Quoted in an article about the union between Levin's Conservation Clinic and UF's Extension Service to promote smart growth and sustainability in Florida. He said, "An interdisciplinary approach is vital to successfully managing these areas, and this partnership with the Extension Service will greatly amplify available intellectual and physical resources."



Jerry

## M. Kathleen "Kathie" Price

**Associate Dean, Clarence J. TeSelle Professor**

- Concerning the vote to deny an honorary degree to former Florida Governor Jeb Bush, Price was quoted in the following media outlets: *UPI*, March 23; *Orlando Sentinel*, March 24; *The Gainesville Sun*, March 23; *The Ledger*, March 23; *The New York Times*, March 24; *St. Petersburg Times*, March 24; *ABC News*, March 24, *WXII Ch. 12*, March 24; *Columbus Ledger*, March 24; *CNN International*, March 24; *The Olympian*, March 24; *The Peninsula*, March 25; *South Florida Sun Sentinel*, March 25, March 26; *Concord Monitor*, March 25; *Florida Today*, March 27; *Jacksonville News Online*, March 27; *The (Ontario) Gazette*, March 27.



Price

## Michael L. Seigel

**Professor**

- *Herald Tribune*, March 9. Quoted in story about how Miranda violations cause high-profile confessions to get thrown out of court cases.



Seigel

## Christopher Slobogin

**Stephen C. O'Connell Chair**

- *The New York Times*, March 1. Quoted in a story about a federal judge finding Jose Padilla competent to stand trial on terrorism conspiracy charges. Most incompetency claims in federal court are denied and most defendants found incompetent are clearly psychotic, he said.



Slobogin

## Danaya C. Wright

**Professor, Faculty Senate Chair**

- Quoted in the following newspapers with regards to her involvement in the Faculty Senate's decision to deny former governor, Jeb Bush an honorary degree from UF: *The Gainesville Sun*, March 23; *The Ledger*, March 23; *The New York Times*, March 24; *St. Petersburg Times*, March 24; *The Daily Vidette*, March 26.



Wright

# DEAN'S UPDATE

## *U.S. News & World Report* Rankings

To paraphrase a letter I endorsed along with about 170 other law school deans in the nation, ranking systems are an unreliable guide to the differences among law schools that should be important to anyone trying to compare them. The *U.S. News and World Report* ranking methodology is, in my opinion, an inadequate measure of an institution's true quality. But the reality is that many people use such rankings in sometimes arbitrary ways, and it would therefore be poor judgment for us simply to ignore them.

**“As we anticipated, the college's move to one entering class resulted in a drop in our ranking due largely to statistical anomalies in how *U.S. News* calculates our college's size, but we have remained strong in important indicators such as our reputation among our peers and among judges and lawyers, and we have improved in statistics for employment and bar passage rates.”**

— Dean Robert Jerry

By now, you have no doubt read or heard about the law school rankings contained in the *U.S. News & World Report's America's Best Graduate Schools 2008*. As we anticipated, the college's move to one entering class resulted in a drop in our ranking due largely to statistical anomalies in how *U.S. News* calculates our college's size, but we have remained strong in important indicators such as our reputation among our peers and among judges and lawyers, and we have improved in statistics for employment and bar passage rates.

As I expected would happen and as I discussed in my March 14 memorandum addressed to our important constituencies (available at [http://www.law.ufl.edu/deansmessages/pdf/usnews\\_%20ranking\\_031407.pdf](http://www.law.ufl.edu/deansmessages/pdf/usnews_%20ranking_031407.pdf)), the Levin College of Law's overall ranking in *U.S. News & World Report's America's Best Graduate Schools 2008* dropped from 41st overall last year to 47th overall this year. (We were 45th in rankings released in 2003, 43rd in 2004 and 41st in 2005.) This is largely due to a temporary bulge in our

fall enrollments in 2006 (which affects the rankings released last week) and in 2007 (which affects the rankings to be released in 2008) caused by our ongoing transition from two 200-student entering classes per year to one fall entering class of approximately 400 students. The fall enrollment bulges affect the numbers used in the *U.S. News* formula to calculate student-faculty ratio and other per-student factors, such as expenditures per student. Because we have a temporary deflation in the spring enrollments in 2007 and 2008, an appro-

priate description of the college's size during this transition period would use the average of our fall and spring enrollments in the 2006-07 and 2007-08 academic years, but *U.S. News* declined to do this. This statistical anomaly in the *U.S. News* formula as it applies to our college during this transition period will disappear in the rankings released in 2009.

There are some other aspects of our transition to one entering class that reduce our score in the *U.S. News* weighting formula, and I will discuss these (and other issues) in detail during an open forum with students on April 3 at 3 p.m. in the Chesterfield Smith Memorial Classroom (180).

A number of students have expressed concern that this decline in our ranking reflects a decline in the college's reputation. I disagree. In the rankings just released, our college's reputation rankings among lawyers and judges and among academics are 37th in the nation. Will the current decline in the raw overall ranking affect our reputation in next year's survey? If it is generally understood that there has

been no decline in student body quality from last year to this year (which is, in fact, the case) and that the use of the fall 2006 and 2007 enrollments to describe the size of the college paints an inaccurate picture and distorts the *U.S. News* formula, I do not believe this will happen either. In fact, in addition to the improvements mentioned above, our student body's quality has been steadily increasing, our expenditures per student are up, and we are having success in improving our student-faculty ratio, notwithstanding how these numbers appear in *U.S. News* when fall 2006 and 2007 enrollment is used without taking any account of the much smaller enrollment in the second semesters of those academic years.

At the bottom line, the characteristics of the Levin College of Law that make it a high quality institution have not changed. We have already worked to get this message out to important constituencies, and we will stress these facts to everyone who is interested in our law school for any reason.

If you have any questions about this, please feel free to contact me by email. I also encourage you to attend our open forum on the subject next Tuesday.

— Robert H. Jerry, II, Dean  
and Levin, Mabie and Levin



### **Open Forum on Rankings 3 p.m., Tuesday, April 3**

Dean Robert Jerry will hold an open forum to discuss factors impacting the college's recent ranking in *U.S. News & World Report* at 3 p.m. Tuesday, April 3, in the Chesterfield Smith Ceremonial Classroom (180).