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Running For Catherine: Honoring a Classmate One Mile at a Time



When 22-year-old Catherine Barclift was killed while training for the Feb. 24 Five Points of Life Half Marathon, her classmates at the University of Florida's Levin College of Law were left both stunned and filled with grief. Now a group of more than 50 of her classmates and friends have signed on to run in her honor in that same race that's sponsored by LifeSouth Community Blood Centers, with an effort they've dubbed "I'm Running for Catherine." Alex Perrin and Justin Leak, who are both first-year law students and were classmates of Barclift, have helped organize the effort. Leak says he didn't know Catherine—Cat to her friends—personally, but he could see the impact her death on Nov. 6 had on his fellow students. Barclift was struck and critically injured as she was running home to her apartment and died the following day. "I was out for a run and I thought we needed to do something to honor her," Leak says. "I thought 'She was preparing for a half-marathon, why don't we run in her honor'."

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Career Services: *The CCS Buzz* Gives You The Latest On White House Internships, Summer Clerkships



Learn about placements available in the White House Internship Program and the secrets to a successful summer clerkship in this week's issue of *The CCS Buzz*, your source for a quick synopsis of programming, recruiting, networking, volunteer, and "SHIP" opportunities available to you. *The CCS Buzz* can be found in *FlaLaw OnLine*, via a link on your Symplicity homepage after you log in, or you can pick up a hard copy in Career Services at 244 Bruton Geer Hall. Click below to download *The CCS Buzz*, your weekly guide to what is important to your career and professional development:

- [The CCS Buzz](#)

UF Law will be hosting military recruiters on campus during the month of February. To read the Levin College of Law's statement regarding nondiscrimination and military recruiters click below.

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Career Spotlight: Winifred L. Acosta NeSmith



UF Law alumna Winifred L. Acosta NeSmith (JD 95) may practice in Tallahassee, but she still stays true to her roots in the small North Florida town of Live Oak. Her busy schedule as the assistant U.S. attorney of the Northern District of Florida did not stop Acosta NeSmith from visiting her hometown to be honored for her many contributions back to the community. Last March she was honored by Mayor Garth "Sonny" Nobles with the Live Oak "key to the city" and a proclamation. She is believed to be the first African American to receive this honor. She also received numerous other awards from her high school, church, family and civic organizations. "If we are moved with compassion, our time, talent and/or treasures will touch more lives than we can ever imagine for longer than we could ever imagine," said Acosta NeSmith in her keynote address at a banquet benefiting the Boys and Girls Club of Suwannee County.

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To submit news for the upcoming issue of *FlaLaw Online*, email flalaw@law.ufl.edu, call 273-0650, stop by Communications in 287 Holland Hall, or mail to P.O. Box 117633, Gainesville, FL 32611-7633. Deadline is 10 a.m. Tuesday for the following Monday's issue.

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Families In Transition Lecture Series Continues With Talk by Angela Mae Kupenda Feb. 19



The Center for Children and Families 2007-08 lecture series, "Families In Transition," continues at noon Tuesday, Feb. 19, in the Chesterfield Smith Ceremonial Classroom (180 Holland Hall) with a presentation by Angela Mae Kupenda, professor of law at Mississippi College School of Law School. Kupenda's talk, "Learning from Family Law to Address America's Family-Like Race Dysfunction," is co-sponsored by the Center for the Study of Race and Race Relations. A scholar of family law issues and critical race theory, Kupenda (pictured left) will be speaking on the relationship between family law and communities of color, using as her framework the analysis of relationships of abuse developed by domestic violence scholars. Kupenda is the second of four talented scholars with multidisciplinary expertise to address critical issues in family law at the law school during the academic year.

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Inaugural UF Sports Law Symposium, "From the Locker Room to the Board Room," Kicks Off Friday



The University of Florida Entertainment and Sports Law Society, in conjunction with the Law College Council, the Sports and Entertainment Business Society, and the Undergraduate Sports Management Club, will host the inaugural UF Sports Law Symposium: From the Locker Room to the Board Room, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday, Feb. 8, in the Auditorium of the UF Reitz Union. This event is free and open to all UF students. Panels and speakers will run throughout the day and guests may come at any point during the event and stay as long as they like. The purpose of this event is to give students a 360-degree view of the world of sports from the time an athlete is recruited out of high school, to their college career, to their decision to go pro, and to their life after sports. To accomplish this, we will be having four panels: coaches, players, agents, and sports executives, as well as two keynote speakers. These panels will feature an open Q&A format so students will have ample opportunity to ask questions to all of our panelists.

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Student Blends Passions for Media and the Law in Pursuit of Dual Degrees



Many law students get overwhelmed when just trying to balance their law school classload during the semester, and not many students can handle the pressure of pursuing a master's degree on top of their JD curriculum, but second-year law student Adrienne Biddings is doing just that. North Carolina native Biddings, 23, is simultaneously pursuing her master's degree in mass communications and JD, planning to graduate in May 2009. Her passion for pursuing two graduate degrees in such a short period of time came from her interest of the media and her future goal of working within media law.

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Whitman Discusses Land Owner Who Was Ordered To Pay \$2.3 Million For Clearing Forest Without Permit



UF Law Visiting Professor Dale Whitman (pictured left) recently was quoted in the [Tallahassee Democrat](#) in an article discussing a Leon County landowner, Johnny Petrandis II, who was ordered by a judge in September to pay a \$2.3 million fine—the largest ever awarded to Leon County—for contempt of court involving his clearing more than 60 acres of high-quality forest in 2004 without a permit. The judge in the case is holding a hearing to determine whether the cost of the environmental damage can be documented and whether Petrandis can pay. This case is being compared to someone getting pulled over for a

speeding ticket but claiming they can't afford to pay it and being left with a warning. Whitman said it's not the same as arguing a speeding ticket because traffic fines are set in statute. Courts have a lot of discretion to issue contempt of court fines but it is not unlimited. "You can hurt, but you can't kill—so to speak—financially," he said. "You have to give an award that is commensurate with the individual's ability to pay." Keep up with what UF Law faculty are saying in the media and writing about in scholarly publications in *FlaLaw Online's* weekly updates on Faculty Scholarship & Activities.

• [Faculty Scholarship & Activities](#)

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News Briefs

Student Teams Compete in CSRRR Griot Race, Law & Justice Oral Competition Feb. 23



Ten teams of students will compete in the Center for the Study of Race and Race Relations' Griot Race, Law & Justice Oral Competition on Saturday, Feb. 23, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., in the Chesterfield Smith Ceremonial Classroom (180 Holland Hall) at the University of Florida Levin College of Law. The Griot Oral Competition is designed to support the development of legal oratory and research skills in defense of racial equality and justice. The team finishing in First Place will be awarded \$2,500, with \$1,500 going to the second place team and \$1,000 to third place. Breakfast and lunch will be provided, and the law school

community is encouraged to come and support these teams of students. For more information contact the CSRRR at: csrrr@law.ufl.edu or 352-273-0614. To download a pdf of the competition flyer, click [here](#).

UF Trial team Holds Spring Intramural Tryouts



The award winning University of Florida Trial Team is currently holding intramural tryouts to select new members. Thirty-seven second-year law students began the competition in the first round on Jan. 28. There will be two additional rounds, and the new members will be announced after the third round on Feb. 10. The Final Four competition will be held Friday, Feb. 15, at 10 a.m. in the Chesterfield Smith

Ceremonial Classroom (180 Holland Hall) and is open to all students and faculty. The Trial Team would like to extend a special invitation to all 1Ls to attend the Final Four competition. It is a great way to see the Trial Team in action and what they do.

Deadlines Approaching for Summer and Fall Externships

The deadline for Summer and Fall externship applications is Feb. 13, at noon. A completed Externship Preference Form must be submitted with applications. For more information on the externship program go to <http://www.law.ufl.edu/programs/externships.shtml>. The Levin College of Law's Externship Program offers a "real world" experience not found in the classroom and exposes students to a variety of opportunities in the legal profession, while they earn academic credit. Placements are available at government agencies; in judges' chambers; and with nonprofit legal institutions. Externships help students develop the practical skills, poise and confidence necessary to be effective practitioners in the courtroom and the law office, and expose them to particular areas of interest. Externships also provide insight into professional responsibility and the operation of the legal system. Additionally, the externship experience enhances the legal resume, and provides important networking opportunities

Fall 2008 Financial Aid Renewal Reminder



For those of you who have not already done so, now is the time to apply for aid for the 2008-2009 academic year. Students are encouraged to apply electronically using FAFSA/Renewal FAFSA on the web since it can save you processing time and has a built in editing format to reduce errors. Just go to FAFSA/Renewal FAFSA on the web at <http://www.FAFSA.ed.gov> and follow the

instructions on the site. After applying via FAFSA/Renewal FAFSA on the web, you can check the status of your application and/or make corrections online. You will need to use your Federal Access Code (PIN) to complete the renewal electronically.

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