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Archives



Jordi Kushner (2L) pitches a kickball during Thursday's Tritt vs. Siebecker kickball game. The game, played by "The Fiduciaries" and "The Hostile Kickovers," ended in a tie.

UF Law again ranked as Florida's only top tier law school



U.S. News & World Report rankings of the nation's top graduate schools released today once again place the University of Florida Levin College of Law as Florida's only top tier law school.* UF Law is 47th overall, and 24th among all public law schools. Its Graduate Tax Program is 3rd

overall and continues to rank 1st among publics. Its Environmental Law Program is tied for 7th among public universities and 16th overall. Peer and lawyer/judge assessment scores place UF Law in the top 40 on both counts: 38th overall and 17th among publics in peer assessment, and 39th overall and 18th among publics in lawyer/judge assessment.

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Distinguished alumni to be recognized at commencement



The University of Florida recognizes Distinguished Alumni as graduates who have excelled in his/her chosen field or have performed outstanding service for the university. It is gratifying to note that nearly 30 percent of all UF's Distinguished Alumni honored since the inception of the program have been Levin College of Law graduates. We

Upcoming Events

- [Challenges & Opportunities in Financial Services Law April 19](#)
- [ELULP career development strategies April 21-22](#)



Career Development

Read the CCD BUZZ each week for a quick synopsis of programming, recruiting, networking and volunteer and "SHIP" opportunities available to you.

CCD BUZZ

Send Us News

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

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Fredric G. Levin College of Law



are extremely proud to honor and recognize three UF Law alumni with 2010 University of

Florida Distinguished Alumni Awards.

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CGR symposium addresses free press issues in the Americas



Freedom of expression and the right to access information must be protected as basic components to a free and democratic society, said experts at the annual Center for Governmental Responsibility symposium on Thursday. This year's symposium, "Threats to Freedom of Expression, Freedom

of the Press and Access Laws throughout the Americas," addressed the benefits, challenges and current status of these issues from several different perspectives. Professor Jon Mills, dean emeritus and director of the Center for Governmental Responsibility introduced and facilitated a panel of experts as they each made separate but complimentary presentations on the topic.

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UF Law grads honored with 2010 Young Alumnus Awards



The University of Florida Alumni Association, Inc. has established the Outstanding Young Alumni Award to recognize alumni who are 35 years of age or younger and have distinguished themselves in their profession and community. The Levin

College of Law is proud to announce two UF Law graduates, J. Grier Pressly III and Gregory S. Weiss, recognized this year as Outstanding Young Alumni.

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Students celebrated for pro bono work and community service



Law students who exhibited their dedication to public service through pro bono and community service work were awarded with certificates of recognition at a ceremony in the Rare Book Room on Thursday. Students who volunteered 35 hours or more to the Pro Bono Project or

Community Service Project were recognized. "We wanted to throw this party for you to show how much we appreciate what you do, over and above your legal curriculum," said Kristen Bryant, coordinator of the projects and assistant director for Career Development. "To dedicate volunteer time on top of that is incredible."

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Center for Governmental Responsibility Fellows make a difference with public service



The Center for Governmental Responsibility (CGR) Public Interest Law Fellowship program is a cooperative effort between The Florida Bar Foundation and CGR that began in the mid-1980s and provides low-income and indigent citizens with valuable legal assistance. The fellowships are financed by the foundation from Interest on Trust Accounts (IOTA) and more than \$700,000 has been provided to help pay for the practical legal education of selected third-year law students. These students, supervised by licensed attorneys, gain hands-on experience as advocates for the poor and serve non-profit and government agencies such as Florida Institutional Legal Services, Southern Legal Counsel, Three Rivers Legal Services, the State's Guardian ad Litem program and the Eighth Circuit public defender's office. Included as part of the students' nine-month commitment are projects to promote to the law school and greater community awareness of poverty issues and public interest, and a required course in poverty law. Read each Florida Bar Foundation Public Interest Law Fellows' article to learn more about their experience:

- [George Eppsteiner](#)
- [Camila Pachon](#)
- [Amber Seay](#)
- [Olga Shraybman](#)
- [Kimberly Thomas](#)
- [Melissa Welsh](#)

Five law students inducted into UF Hall of Fame



Five UF Law students will be inducted into the UF Hall of Fame this week for their outstanding achievements and contributions to the University of Florida. Since 1921, the University of Florida Hall of Fame has recognized seniors and graduate students who have consistently demonstrated an outstanding commitment to improving the University of Florida through campus and community involvement, participation in organized campus activities, and scholastic achievement. It is one of the most prestigious honors awarded to students by the Division of Student Affairs at the University of Florida. Please join us in congratulating Michael Brevda, Clay Carlton, Matt Michel, Allison Sirica and Sam Warfield on their dedication to the university.

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Town hall meeting with deans shows progress



When you hear “town hall meeting” these days, the image that pops into your head might be angry people yelling at each other in a futile attempt to be heard. But the town hall meeting hosted by JMBA on Tuesday was far from it, as several deans of the law school, including Dean Robert Jerry, had a

friendly talk with students about how to improve the law school. Jerry started the discussion by sharing the recent results from the February Bar exam, which were much improved from last year’s results. The pass percentage for UF first-time takers was 81.1 percent (30/37) against an overall pass rate of 72.2 percent (586/812).

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Ronner analyzes Florida’s ban on gay adoption



The state of Florida has the dubious distinction of being the only state in the country where homosexuals face a categorical ban on adoption. This issue has been the subject of much discussion and debate, and St. Thomas School of Law Professor Amy Ronner visited campus on

Friday to present her upcoming article in the UF Journal of Law and Public Policy, as part of the JLPP speaker series. The article examines the issue through the doctrine of insane delusion. This doctrine doesn’t often come up in regards to family law, but Ronner said it “tends to come up a lot in wills and trusts, when individuals seek to invalidate wills on that basis.”

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Faculty Scholarship and Activities



The UF law faculty is comprised of highly accomplished scholar-teachers who bring remarkable experience and knowledge to the classroom. Keep up with what they’re writing about and saying each week in FlaLaw by reading about their scholarship and activities, as well as their media

appearances.

[Faculty scholarship & activities »](#)

Upcoming Events

Challenges & Opportunities in Financial Services Law April 19

Come hear Professor Ronald H. Filler, director of the Center on Financial Services Law at New York Law School, on April 19, at 1 p.m. in HOL 270, discuss current legislative and regulatory reforms facing U.S. and global financial institutions, employment opportunities in the financial services industry, and the LL.M. in

financial services law program at New York Law School. Professor Filler's presentation will be followed by a Q & A session.

ELULP career development strategies April 21-22

The Environmental and Land Use Law Program has arranged two conference calls next week with UF Law alumni to help graduating students develop job search and career development strategies targeted in these fields. The first call, on Wednesday, April 21, at noon will feature UF Law alums who are employed with three key federal agencies working on environmental issues: U.S. Department of Justice, Environmental Protection Agency, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. On Thursday, April 22, at noon the call will feature UF Law alums working with private law firms in Tampa and Myrtle Beach, SC, and one working for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in Tallahassee. Take advantage of this opportunity to hear from these alums and ask questions. To register to participate, e-mail Lena Hinson at elulp@law.ufl.edu.

News Briefs

Matt Walker new media relations manager for UF Law



Please welcome Matt Walker, our new media relations manager in the Office of Communications, to the law school. Matt brings years of journalism experience to the position, and has worked as a writer, reporter, columnist and magazine editor in Florida, Georgia and California. Matt will be responsible for running a vigorous reactive and proactive media relations program, including planning and implementing publicity programs, writing and disseminating press releases, and writing for UF LAW magazine and other publications. Please contact Matt (mlwalker@law.ufl.edu, 273-0653, 287 Holland Hall) to let us know about your contacts with the media and to arrange for publicity for your event, program or scholarship. Matt replaces Scott Emerson, who left the law school for a full-time position with the USDA. Scott was a tremendously valuable resource for the college, and helped us to account for 25 percent of the University of Florida's overall top media hits.

Law school intramural basketball team wins championship



The law school's intramural basketball team "Operation Repeat" won the intramural graduate league finishing the season 11-0, beating the fraternity champions (60-51) and the men's competitive team champions (61-59) to capture the All-Campus Men's Championship. This was the first time the law school has won the All Men's Campus Intramural Championship. Team members from left to right are: Robbie Shields (2L), Manny Ramirez (2L), Bhavik Patel (2L), Martin Strauch (3L), Kimon Korres (2L), Jordi Kushner (2L), Rishi Parikh (2L), and Andy Layden (2L).

JLSA hosts Rabbi Goldman and elects new board



Rabbi Berl Goldman, director of the Lubavitch-Chabad Jewish Student Center, recently spoke with students from the Jewish Law



Students Association about topics in Jewish law. Also, JLSA recently elected its new 2010-2011 board: President, Jay Levin; Vice-President, Alan Meyerson; Secretary, Jen LeVine; Treasurer, Ben Friedman; VP Communications, Brittany Jacobs; VP Social, Adam Hersh; VP Community Service, Eric Feld; and VP Community Affairs, Jacob Rimon.

Gators in London visit Supreme Court



UF Law students studying in London this spring had the opportunity to tour the new Supreme Court building and learn about the differences between the U.S. Supreme Court and the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom. They also spoke with law clerks and learned how their role in the court system differs from American clerks; most notably, they play no role in writing opinions. In the photo, from left to right: Colin Blackwood, Brooke Skaggs, Amelia Williams, Allie Slavens, Amrita Singh and Alexis Cooper.

Summer research assistant needed for criminal law project

Needed: 2L/3L summer research assistant for criminal law project. Please submit brief cover letter and resume to Professor Katheryn Russell-Brown or call (352) 273-0912.

Environmental law research assistant needed

Professor Flournoy is accepting applications from students to work as a research assistant this summer for 10-15 hours per week during May and June. The research will focus applying insights from the social sciences to environmental law. It may include collecting and summarizing materials from fields such as behavioral economics, environmental psychology, sociology, and management. Interested students should e-mail Professor Flournoy a C.V. and unofficial transcript, along with a short cover e-mail highlighting any relevant coursework, research or other experience in social science. The deadline for applications is Monday, April 26.

FJIL congratulates Miredys Gonzalez, Jennifer Thomas and Shaza Quadri

The Florida Journal of International Law would like to congratulate Miredys Gonzalez and Jennifer Thomas, winners of the 2009-2010 *Shelley Smith* Best Edit Awards. FJIL would also like to congratulate Shaza Quadri, winner of the 2009-2010 Best Note Award. Quadri's note currently titled, "An Analysis of the Effects and Reasons for Hazardous Waste Importation in India and its Implementation of the Basel Convention" will be published in Volume 22, Issue 3 of FJIL this December.