

Announcements

Welcome—Assistant Dean for Career Services

The School of Law is pleased to welcome our new Assistant Dean for Career Services Jennifer Franklin. If you haven't had a chance to meet her yet, feel free to stop by her office in the Career Services Center in Room 104, or contact her by email at jdfranklin@siu.edu. Read more about Dean Franklin [here](#).

Health Law Course and Program Offerings, and Health Law & Policy Semester-in-Practice Program

Informational Session for Rising 2Ls and Rising 3Ls

If you are interested in learning more about the various health law courses offered here at the School of Law, as well as about other opportunities, including the **Health Law & Policy Semester-in-Practice Program***, there will be an Information Session at 12:00 noon on Tuesday, Feb. 14, in Room 202. If you are interested in information, but cannot attend, contact either Professor Basanta at basanta@law.siu.edu or Professor Mekel at mmekel@law.siu.edu.

*Health Law & Policy Semester-in-Practice Program

This program provides participating 3L students with a hands-on opportunity to learn about health law and policy. While earning up to a full semester of law school credit, students will work full-time (Monday through Thursday) as externs under the supervision of Illinois attorneys at designated sites, such as a hospital or health system, the SIU Medical School, or a health-related governmental agency. The externship constitutes up to 9 hours of credit. For more information, contact Professor Mekel (mmekel@law.siu.edu).

To apply, please submit: a cover letter stating your interest and qualifications; your resume; and your transcript. These materials should be turned in, in hardcopy, to Bonnie Miller by (or before) March 5.

Missouri Bar Exam Information Sessions for 1Ls and 3Ls

On **February 9**, the Missouri Board of Law Examiners will present information regarding the Missouri bar exam to 1Ls and 3Ls. The **1L presentation** will be at **12:00 noon**, and the **3L presentation** will be at **1:00 p.m.** Both presentations will be in **Room 104i**.

The presentations will be interactive via video conferencing. If you are a 1L and plan to take the Missouri bar at some point after graduation, you should come to the presentation to learn about applying early and locking in a lesser fee. If you are a 3L and plan to take the Missouri bar first in July, or as your second bar in February, then you should attend the presentation where you will learn information about the Uniform Bar Exam, transferring scores and other aspects of the Missouri bar.

Please contact Assistant Professor Twinette Johnson at tjohnson@siu.edu should you have any questions.

Public Service Loan Forgiveness

The U.S. Department of Education recently released its Public Service Loan Forgiveness employment certification procedure and forms. Read more at the Equal Justice Works [website](#).

Submit an Item

Send your announcements for the next issue of *Letter of the Law* to aruiz@siu.edu

Upcoming Events

2/16

Hot Legal Topics

"Anti-Discrimination Laws & Religious Organizations: The Supreme Court's Recent Decision in the Lutheran School Teacher Case"

6:00—7:00 p.m.
Room 102

[More info](#)

3/28

Ryan Bioethicist-in-Residence Rebecca Susan Dresser

"When Seriously Ill Patients Make Bad Treatment Decisions"

5:00 p.m.
Courtroom

[More info](#)

Student Organization Events

Bake Sale

2/14

10:00 a.m.— 1:00 p.m.

The **Student Animal Legal Defense Fund** will host a Valentine's Day Bake Sale with all proceeds benefitting a local animal shelter. Be sure to bring some change for some sweet treats and to support a great cause on Valentine's Day!

5k Run/Walk

3/25

1:00 p.m.

The **SBA Community Service Committee** is hosting its second annual "Run from the Law (School) Run/Walk 5k" to benefit Equal Justice Works. Registration forms and training plans can be found above the student mailboxes and can be returned to Meg Madden's (3L) mailbox. For more information and updates, visit our Facebook page!

Congratulations & Thank You

Asylum and Refugee Law Moot Court Team

Congratulations to our asylum and refugee law moot court team on an excellent showing this weekend in their national competition in Sacramento, CA. **For the third year in a row, SIU won the best brief award!** The award was presented to the 2L team of Brent Colbert, Mitchell Martin and Craig Miller.

Both the 2L team and the 3L team of Jesse Hodiernne, Stavri Vako and Rebecca Warren won both their preliminary rounds. However, only the 2L team advanced to the semifinal rounds, perhaps because of their higher brief score. The 2L team then won their semifinal round, advancing to the quarterfinals where they lost to the team that won the entire competition. All of the students represented SIU extremely well and are to be commended for their hard work.

Many thanks to everyone who judged preliminary rounds and who worked with these students on their writing and analytical skills. We are clearly doing a good job given that SIU has won awards in this competition every year since we started competing four years ago.

Immigration Detention Project Grant

Congratulations to Professor Buys and law student volunteers with the Immigration Detention Project. The Illinois Equal Justice Foundation is supporting the Project with \$2,800 to defray costs associated with providing legal information to immigration detainees at the Tri-County Detention Center in Ullin. Buys said the program, which began in 2005, sought increased funding this year due to the significant increase in the number of detainees. There are between 250 and 260 detainees during each visit, she said. [Read more](#)

Publications & Presentations

Assistant Professor Twinette Johnson and **Associate Professor Sue Liemer** were invited to speak at a workshop for experienced academic support professionals that explored Beyond IRAC: The Cognitive and Emotional Aspects of Law Study and Practice. The workshop was sponsored by the Law School Admission Council (LSAC) and took place at the University of Memphis on February 4. They led the ending plenary session on Curricular Reform Efforts that Support Outcome Measurements.

On January 29, the *ABA Journal* on-line featured the Legal Writing Prof blog, www.lawprofessors.typepad.com/legalwriting, as its blawg (law blog) of the week. **Professor Liemer** started that blog in 2005 and is currently one of its co-editors and contributors.

The University Museum invited **Professor Liemer** to participate in its Patrons' Favorites exhibit, by selecting an item from the museum's archives for the exhibit and writing about her response to the item. If you want to see what she chose, the exhibit will be on display at the University Museum, www.museum.siu.edu, until April 18.