“Student Engagement: The Ultimate Goal”
Message from Dean Jennifer Rosato

As you know, engagement was the main theme of this past academic year: engagement of NIU Law with the University, community, and alumni. And this engagement is focused to achieve the most important goal -- student-centeredness -- which is a priority of the University’s Vision 2020 plan as well as at the College of Law. The ultimate goal is to be engaged for students: to enhance their experiences, their preparedness, and their marketability.

The first essential way that we engage students is by mentoring them thoughtfully and with care from orientation to graduation. Our 1L mentoring program, now in its successful third year, allows students to learn about practice first-hand and learn essential skills such as networking and resume writing. Our faculty members are also generous and effective mentors, preparing our students in so many ways, such as overseeing student projects; supervising research assistants; advising moot court, trial advocacy, and client counseling teams; and working through vexing professionalism issues. The measure of their success is the high praise that our faculty receive from alumni, everywhere I go.

A second essential way that we engage students is by providing them with experiences that prepare their hearts and minds for the ever-changing world of practice. NIU Law has always known that meaningful skill development and ethical training begin in law school. We also ensure our students have valuable hands-on experiences available to them in a variety of contexts – our clinical and externship opportunities have almost doubled in the last five years, and have expanded to include experiences in business, in politics, and in representing populations with great need for access to justice, including exonerees and migrant farm workers.

A third way that we engage students is to offer programs that enhance the depth of their experiences and opportunities. This year we are offering for the first time four certificate programs, in criminal practice, civil advocacy, international law, and business law. We are currently working with other Colleges on joint initiatives, including accelerated degree programs.

Thanks to all of you who touch our students’ lives, in the myriad ways that you do.

All the best,
Dean Rosato
Illinois Supreme Court Listening Conference held at NIU Law

The Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice held a listening conference at the College of Law on May 1, 2013. The program featured Chief Justice Thomas L. Kilbride and Justice Robert R. Thomas of the Illinois Supreme Court along with other distinguished judges and attorneys. Focused on improving access to justice, the Commission is actively engaged in conversations across Illinois to hear about problems confronting the poor and vulnerable as well as possible solutions.

Certificate Programs Expanded to Include Business and International Law

Two new certificate programs in Business and International Law have been added to the curriculum - in addition to current certificate programs in Criminal Practice and Civil Advocacy. Each of the new programs require the completion of 18 credit hours from the combination of basic, capstone, and elective track courses. In addition, the business law program allows students to choose from three specialized tracks of General Business Law, Commercial Law and Bankruptcy, or Intellectual Property. Students will receive the certificate notation on their law school transcripts.

Juvenile Justice Clinic Serves Community

In Fall 2012, the Zeke Giorgi Legal Clinic expanded its program to include a Juvenile Justice Clinic. The Clinic covers a wide range of juvenile cases, giving law students the opportunity to represent youth in delinquency proceedings and youth who are involved in school expulsion proceedings. Clinic representation extends to include every step of the process, from initial hearings, motion hearings and trials to sentencing, post-disposition, petitions, and appeals. The new clinic is supervised by Clinical Associate Professor Paul Cain.

NIU Law Wins “Lawyers Feeding Illinois” Competition

NIU Law won the Best Law School category in “Lawyers Feeding Illinois,” a food and fund raising drive and competition held recently by the Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA) to benefit people in Illinois who are facing hunger. Led by the NIU Law Student Bar Association (SBA), Christian Legal Society, Delta Theta Phi, and the ISBA student division, the College of Law raised over $900 and 103 pounds of food items.

(From left:) Danielle Hirsch, Executive Director of the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice (ISCCATJ); Justice Robert R. Thomas; Dean Jennifer Rosato; Chief Justice Thomas L. Kilbride; and Jeff Colman, Chair of the ISCCATJ.

ISBA President John Thies (left) and Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan (far right) present SBA President Dan Porter (3L), SBA Vice President Emily Perkins (2L), and Dean Rosato with a plaque for winning in the Best Law School category.
President Baker Visits Zeke Giorgi Clinic

Rockford area alumni and friends welcomed incoming NIU President Dr. Douglas D. Baker and his wife Dr. Dana Stover to the Zeke Giorgi Legal Clinic on May 23, 2013. Dr. Baker spent the day in Rockford visiting with community and business leaders. Following the discussion, which centered on the Clinic and community engagement, Dr. Baker also toured the Clinic. Dr. Baker became NIU’s 12th President on July 1, 2013.

Cherilyn Murer (’78) Delivers Final Lecture and Extends Gift for Professionalism Series

On March 27, 2013, Cherilyn G. Murer (’78) delivered the closing lecture as part of the Murer Lecture Series on Professionalism. Cherilyn, Chair of the NIU Board of Trustees and President/CEO of Murer Consultants, Inc. and her husband Michael are the series’ major sponsors.

This year’s programs included topics such as attorney-client confidentiality issues, accessing justice for homeowners, and a panel on ethics. The Murers also announced their continued support of the series for a third year.

NIU Law Engages in Collaborative Health Care Program

NIU Law hosted “Interdisciplinarity: How Can This Approach Help Resolve the Most Complex Health Care Issues of Our Time?” on October 29, 2012 at the NIU-Naperville campus. This ground-breaking workshop was jointly planned and implemented by the NIU Colleges of Business, Engineering, Health & Human Sciences, and Law to explore important strategies for applying interdisciplinarity to health care issues such as patient safety, compliance, and patient satisfaction.

NIU Law Named a Top 50 School for Diversity

NIU Law was named as one of the top 50 most diverse law schools in the nation by the National Jurist magazine. NIU Law made the list as part of the publication’s “Most Diverse Law Schools” article in its November 2012 issue.

Professor Silver Delivers Riley Lecture on Professionalism

Professor Carole Silver, Indiana University (Bloomington) Maurer School of Law, presented the 20th Annual Francis X. Riley Lecture on Professionalism on April 5, 2013. Her lecture, “Re-contextualizing Professionalism,” considered professionalism issues in the context of globalization and changes brought about by advances in technology.
Dean Rosato Honored for Diversity Efforts and Excellence in Leadership

Dean Jennifer Rosato was honored with a Vanguard Award from The Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois on April 17, 2013 at the Standard Club in Chicago. The Vanguard Award recognizes lawyers, judges and institutions who champion diversity, making the law and the legal profession more accessible to and reflective of the community at-large. In addition, Dean Rosato received the Excellence in Leadership for Education and Advocacy Award presented by the National Latina/o Law Student Association in October 2012.

Schlam Appointed to State Commission

Governor Pat Quinn appointed Professor Lawrence Schlam to the Illinois Guardianship & Advocacy Commission. The Commission protects and enforces the rights of individuals with mental illness, developmental disability, or physical disability through three separate divisions - the Office of State Guardians, Legal Advocacy Services (LAS), and the Human Rights Authority.

Schmall Retires

Professors Robert Jones, Leona Green, Lorraine Schmall, and Laurel Rigertas celebrated Professor Schmall’s 24 years of teaching at NIU Law. She was honored by fellow faculty and staff members on May 9, 2013.

Vaughn Receives Pioneer in Peace Award

Hon. Rosemary Collins (left) presents Clinical Assistant Professor Wendy Vaughn with the 2012 Pioneer in Peace Award in commemoration of a career rich in devotion to the prevention of violence on behalf of the Violence Prevention Collaborative in Rockford, IL.

Professor and Former Student Drive Patent to the Finish Line

Professor John Walton, who teaches intellectual property, business organizations, pretrial, and entertainment law, can now add inventor and patent holder to his list of credentials. Professor Walton was featured on a recent episode of Jay Leno’s Garage to demonstrate his patented invention of a new universal jack stand.

Inspiration for the device came from his love of race car driving and being on the track in his own car at an amateur Porsche Club. He first drafted a Provisional Patent Application for the jack stand in March 2008. With the help of brothers Mike (‘09) and Greg (‘96) Chinlund from the Chicago law firm Marshall, Gerstein & Borun LLP, Walton completed the final patent application in March 2009 with the final patent issued on May 22, 2012.

Above: Professor Walton poses with Jay Leno after appearing on a recent episode of Jay Leno’s Garage. Right: Professor Walton is pictured with Mike Chinlund (‘09), who helped complete the final patent application for his universal jack stand.

Dean Rosato is pictured with her Vanguard Award nominator Federico Rodriguez, president of The Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois and Cook County State’s Attorney Anita Alvarez.
**Prize Moot Court Competition Renamed Lenny B. Mandell Moot Court Competition**

After 31 years of service, Associate Lenny Mandell retired June 30, 2013. As a tribute to his leadership, dedication, commitment to excellence, and personal sacrifice, a resolution was issued by Dean Rosato renaming the Prize Moot to the **Lenny B. Mandell Moot Court Competition**. In addition, alumni Austin Bartlett (’00) and Bob Meltzer (’85) donated the lead gift in establishing the new **Lenny B. Mandell Moot Court Scholarship** for students.

**Law Review Symposium**

The NIU Law Review held its 22nd annual symposium on April 19, 2013. The program drew speakers from across the nation to discuss issues of surveillance and privacy; issues of both legal practice and law enforcement as framed by the landmark cases *US v. Jones* and *ACLU v. Alvarez*; as well as the Illinois Eavesdropping Act.

**NIU Law Hosts 2013 ABA Regional Client Competition**

One of the morning panels featured (from left): NIU Law Professor Emeritus Jeffrey Parness; Babak Siavoshy, Clinical Teaching Fellow, University of California Berkeley School of Law; Kane County State’s Attorney Joe McMahon; Andrew Bashi, Executive Director, Chicago Committee to Defend the Bill of Rights; and Trevor Timm, co-founder and Executive Director, Freedom of the Press Foundation.

Former NIU Law Dean Len Strickman and Dean Rosato paid tribute to retiring Associate Dean Mandell during the Commencement ceremony.

Austin Bartlett (’00) and Bob Meltzer (’85) donate the lead gift and announce the creation of the Lenny B. Mandell Moot Court Scholarship.

Moot Court Champions Amanda Wielgus (2L) and Anthony Gough (2L) are with the final bench of (from left) Michael A. Scodro, Solicitor General, Office of the Illinois Attorney General; Chief Judge Michael P. McCuskey, U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois; and Magistrate P. Michael Mahoney, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

Professor David Taylor gives instructions to teams participating in the 2013 American Bar Association Regional Client Counseling Competition held at the College of Law on February 9, 2013.
The College of Law held its 10th Annual Minority Alumni Reception hosted by Dean Rosato and alumnus Vincent Cornelius ('89, far right) on February 19, 2013 at Carnivale in Chicago. During the reception, Cornelius presented his inaugural Breaking New Ground Award to the Honorable Chrystel L. Gavlin ('96) and the Honorable Rene' Cruz ('95) for embodying the diversity and excellence that NIU Law aspires to achieve.

The NIU Law Alumni Council honored two of its most generous donors on Friday, December 14, 2012. Kenneth ('84) and Ellen Chessick were honored at an NIU Law Reception hosted by Dean Jennifer Rosato and the NIU Law Board of Visitors during the Illinois State Bar Association’s Midyear Meeting. Ken received the Alumnus of the Year Award and Ellen received the Honorary Alumna of the Year Award.

The NIU Law Alumni Council honored Maureen Josh, DeKalb County Circuit Clerk, with its Public Service Award for extraordinary support and service to the NIU College of Law. The reception was held in the newly renovated DeKalb County Courthouse on March 6, 2013.
Alumni to Lead Illinois State Bar Association

Richard Felice ('79, pictured right) and Vincent Cornelius ('89) will soon head the Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA), the largest bar association in the state. Felice, who is currently President-elect, will take over the 32,000 member organization in 2014-15. Cornelius, who was recently elected as the third vice president, will take over in 2017-18. Cornelius will make history as the first African American president of the ISBA.

Ryan Dowd ('03) Receives Outstanding Alumni Award

Ryan Dowd was honored as the 2013 Outstanding Alumni of the Year for the College of Law for his commitment to public service. Dowd has served as Executive Director of Hesed House since 2004, becoming only its second executive director. Hesed House, a comprehensive homeless resource center, is the second largest shelter in Illinois, and the largest shelter outside of Chicago, serving more than 1,000 homeless individuals annually.

Honoring Alumni in the Judiciary

NIU Law held its Judges’ Reception at the historic Gibsons Steakhouse in Chicago on November 7, 2012. The event was extremely well-attended, with over 150 judges, alumni, students, faculty, and friends of the College of Law.

The Number of Graduates in the Judiciary Continues to Rise

Congratulations to the following alumni recently appointed to the bench:
- Hon. Leonardo Castro ('92)
- Hon. Rene’ Cruz ('95)
- Hon. Timothy J. Cusack ('89)
- Hon. Chrystel L. Gavlin ('96)
- Hon. John C. Redington ('90)
- Hon. John Benjamin “Ben” Roe IV ('00)
- Hon. Bradley J. Waller ('88)

Out of nearly 3700 alumni, NIU Law now has over 86 judges that serve or have served throughout the state and across the country.

CLASS REUNIONS

being held for the
November 15, 2013 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Harry Caray’s Lombard, IL
Additional details to be posted at www.niu.edu/law
We are looking for 4-5 alumni from each class to serve on their class reunion committee. If you are interested in serving or have any questions, please contact
Melody Mitchell at mmitchell@niu.edu or 815.753.1027.
2012-2013 Snapshots

Over 100 runners and walkers participated in Race njUdicata: 5K Run/Walk
April 20, 2013

Casino Night at NIU Law
October 12, 2012

NIU Law Reception in Peoria, IL
October 16, 2012

Legal Prep Academy Visits NIU Law
November 14, 2012

Homecoming at NIU
October 11, 2012

Judges' Reception in Chicago, IL
November 7, 2012

NIU Law Reception (ISBA Mid-Year)
December 14, 2012 in Chicago, IL

Motion for a Speedy Finish takes the top team prize for the fourth year in a row. Pictured with Dean Rosato (from left):
- Alex Geocearis ('11)
- Matt Jakobsze ('11)
- Eric Leninger ('10)
- Rob Hanauer ('11)
- Omar Salguero ('12)

The Dean's Team included (from left):
- Claudia Kliment ('84)
- Professor Robert Jones
- Dean Rosato
- Katie Haskins Becker ('11)
- Professor Mark Cordes
Courtroom as Classroom
with Chief Judge James R. Holderman
March 21, 2013 in Chicago, IL

Alumni at the Orange Bowl
January 1, 2013 in Miami, FL

Minority Reception in Chicago, IL
February 19, 2013

NIU Law Reception in Sycamore, IL
March 6, 2013

Golf Outing at River Heights Golf Course
June 7, 2013

NIU Law Reception in Sycamore, IL
March 6, 2013

Class of 2013 Ceremonial Hat Toss

2nd District Illinois Appellate Court
March 6, 2013 at NIU Law

1L Resume Workshop in Chicago, IL
Hosted by John Monical (‘94)
March 21, 2013

First Place Team:
Oran Cart (‘15), Glenn Sowa (‘83),
Matt Pfeiffer (‘00), and Reggie Carter.

Courtroom as Classroom
with Chief Judge James R. Holderman
March 21, 2013 in Chicago, IL

2012-2013 Snapshots
1978

James Glasgow received an award from the Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women’s Network for his work to protect victims of domestic violence.

Robert Handley was elected to the ISBA Assembly for the 18th Circuit.

Hon. Anthony Iosco retired from the bench in November 2012.

Dean Maragos was elected to the Board of Directors of the Hellenic Bar Association of Illinois.

Hon. John A. Wasilewski (ret.) was elected to the ISBA Assembly for Cook County.

1979

Richard D. Felice is President-Elect of the ISBA.

Michael Steelman was honored as the 2013 Illinois Banker of the Year by the Illinois Bankers Association.

1980

Dave Neal was appointed Special Prosecutor by the Illinois State’s Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor.

1981

Hon. Mary Beth Bonaventura was appointed Director of the Indiana Department of Child Services.

1982

Ronald Wittmeyer was elected 1st Vice President of the Northwest Suburban Bar Association and received its Excellence in Public Service Award.

1985

Hon. Ron Matekaitis was elected Circuit Judge to the newly-created 23rd Circuit Court in DeKalb County, IL.

David Olson was included in the 2013 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in the area of Employment Benefits (ERISA) Law.

1988

Chris Nickels was named as a Top 100 Litigator in South Carolina by the American Society of Legal Advocates.

Hon. Bradley J. Waller was appointed an associate judge in the 23rd Judicial Circuit in DeKalb County, IL.

Hon. Charles Weech was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to the Special Supreme Court Advisory Committee for Justice and Mental Health Planning.

1989

Hon. Leonardo Castro was appointed district Court Judge in the Second Judicial District of Minnesota on June 1, 2012.

Jeff Lenkov won his case at the California Supreme Court - Nalwa v. Supreme Court.

Scott Pyles is the new president of the Will County Bar Association.

Susan W. Rogaliner was elected to the ISBA Assembly for the 16th Circuit.

1990

Hon. John C. Redington was appointed an associate judge of the 15th Judicial Circuit of Illinois.

1992

Steven A. Andersson was elected to the ISBA Assembly for the 16th Circuit.

1994

Colleen G. Thomas was elected to the ISBA Assembly for the 16th Circuit.

1995

Hon. Rene’ Cruz was appointed and became the first Latino associate judge in the 16th Judicial Circuit of Illinois.

Rich Lenkov was named to the Advisory Board of Legal Prep Charter Academy, Chicago’s first and only legal-themed charter high school. He also became the first President of the newly-formed Greater Chicago Chapter of the Claims and Litigation Management Alliance (CLM).

Rhonda L. Rosenthal was elected to the ISBA Assembly for the 22nd Circuit.

1996

Hon. Chrystel L. Gavlin was appointed and became the first African American associate Judge in the 12th Judicial Circuit of Illinois.
Dick B. Williams was elected to the ISBA Assembly for the 10th Circuit.

1997

Hon. Melissa Olivero was appointed as an Administrative Law Judge by the National Labor Relations Board.

1999

Greg Madden was promoted to Chief, contracting with the Federal Supply Schedule Service of the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs National Acquisition Center in Hines, IL.

Jamie Resch, Senior Deputy Attorney General at the Nevada Attorney General’s office, won a case before the United States Supreme Court - Nevada, et al., Petitioners v. Calvin O’Neil Jackson.

Sonni Williams was promoted to the Interim Corporation Counsel position for the City of Peoria, IL.

2000

Matt Pfeiffer started his own firm, Pfeiffer Law Offices, P.C. in Naperville, IL. He handles a broad range of civil litigation, arbitration, mediation, and transactional matters.

Hon. John Benjamin “Ben” Roe IV was appointed Resident Circuit Judge of the 15th Judicial Circuit of Illinois.

2002

Brad Antonacci made partner at Heyl Royster Voelker & Allen in Rockford, IL.

Alice Johnson was appointed Executive Director of the Illinois Nurses Association, the largest nursing union in Illinois.

Andrew Keyt made partner at Heyl Royster Voelker & Allen in Peoria, IL.

2003

Ryan Dowd was named the 2013 Outstanding Alumnus for the College of Law.

Kenya A. Jenkins-Wright became President of the NIU Law Alumni Council. She was also elected to the ISBA Assembly for Cook County.

Julie Proscia was selected as one of “40 Illinois Attorneys Under 40 to Watch” by the Law Bulletin Publishing Company.

2004

Amy Colby opened her own practice, Amy Colby Law Firm, in Gonzales, LA after four years as Executive Counsel for the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services.

Tim Conklin made partner with The Foster and Buick Law Group in Sycamore, IL.

2005

Ryan Armour made partner at Cassiday, Schade LLP in Rockford, IL.

2007

Julie A. Neubauer was elected to the ISBA Assembly for Cook County.

2008

Lauren Buchanan opened her own firm, Lauren A. Buchanan & Associates PC, in Chicago, IL.

2009

Brian Covert opened a new law office in Warrenville, IL focusing on foreclosure defense, loan modification, and short sales.

Craig Boston was hired as an Assistant State’s Attorney in DuPage County, IL.

2010

Shannon Stoker (Wapole) released her first book, The Registry.

2011

Katherine Haskins Becker started Haskins Becker, P.C. in Wheaton, IL, concentrating in the areas of Divorce and Family Law.

Send your Alumni on the Move announcements to lawalums@niu.edu and visit www.niu.edu for posts of more alumni news.
2013 Calendar of Events

August
14 Rockford Reception, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Zeke Giorgi Legal Clinic, Rockford, IL

September
19 Alumni Awards Reception
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., University Club
Chicago, IL

October
12 Homecoming
1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., Tailgate with the Dean
4:00 p.m., Kickoff: Huskies vs. Akron Zips
DeKalb, IL

November
15 Class Reunions
6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m., Harry Caray’s
Lombard, IL

December
13 NIU Law Board of Visitors Reception
(held during ISBA Mid-Year)
4:30 - 6:00 p.m., Chicago Sheraton
Chicago, IL

Please visit www.niu.edu/law
for updated event information.
Be sure to join us on Facebook and LinkedIn!