



Pre-Law Center Presents John Peter Altgeld Forum

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On March 27th, the Pre-Law Center presented the John Peter Altgeld Forum 2007. This year's topic was "Judicial Campaigns and Judicial Elections," featuring *James Sample*, Counsel at the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University, *Kent Redfield*, Interim Director UIS Institute for Legislative Studies, *Margo Alpert*, Counsel at the Illinois Campaign for Political Reform, and the coordinator, Professor *Dennis Rendleman*, Director of the PLC. The Forum started with Mr. Sample's presentation about overview

of changes in judicial campaign, especially in the increase of TV ads sponsored by interest groups. Showing some examples of attacking ads, Mr. Sample made a few points on how those negative ads of candidates made by the opposing candidates would mislead voters.

Following Mr. Redfield's talk about the current Illinois campaign finance law, Prof. Rendleman showed a video he took during an interview with Fifth District Appellate Judge, James Wexstten about his experience in the

judicial campaign. In response to Judge Wexstten's concerns about the transparency of judicial campaign, Ms. Alpert talked about a proposed bill, the Judicial Campaign Reform Act (Senate Bill 222), which creates public finance programs for judicial campaigns. The Forum successfully ended with a documentary movie *Benched* about the heated election for Illinois Supreme Court Judge in 2004. The PLC thanks faculty and students for attending and supporting the Forum.



"LES Pendens"

Pendens (pèndènz) is a Legal term meaning pending or in progress. A les pendens is a lien.



Mr. Sample presents the current tendencies in the judicial campaign strategies



Video showing of an interview with Fifth District Appellate Court Judge, James Wexstten



Mr. Redfield and Ms. Alpert update the Illinois judicial campaign legislation

Request for LES Alumni!!

Unfortunately, the Department has lost contact with many alumni due to address changes etc. We would like to keep in touch with our students after their school years are over. If you are still in touch with your

classmates, who are not getting this newsletter, please tell them to drop us a line. Please know that the Alumni bulletin board is there for all of you to communicate with each other. The Alumni Bulletin

Board is accessible from the Department website. If you have any problem with logging in to the bulletin board, please let us know.



This Year's LES Graduate Seminar

Students are finishing up their degree in this semester with closing seminars. LES graduate students in LES 504: Graduate Seminar, taught by Prof. Pierceson, are conducting research on a controversial legislative piece, the Military Commissions Act of 2006, which authorizes the special military tribunals to try suspects of 9/11 terrorist attacks. Each student has chosen an individual topic related to the Act and is writing a research paper on it. Individual topics include the legislative history,

judicial response, executive power, and so on. Asked the reason why he's chosen this overall topic, Professor Pierceson said because it was a very contemporary issue with many different angles such as the executive power and the reaction of the judiciary. Those various aspects within the issue enable students to take different approach to examine one statute. Prof. Pierceson further stated that since the statute was new, there had not been much scholarly

scrutiny of it, which was another reason behind his choice of the MCA. He hopes to see not only the observation of current situation but also the future perspective through the students' academic works.

Students are going to present their papers on May 1st (Tue). The presentation will be from 6-8 pm at PAC F. It will be open to public. Please come and hear this year's LES Master Projects!!

Upcoming Event

May 1st (Tue) 6-8 pm PAC F
LES Graduate Students master's project presentation

May 7th-11th
Finals week

May 12th (Sat)
Commencement

June 11th (Mon)
LSAT exam
--Regular registration by May 8th / Late registration (by mail) by May 9-15th / Late registration (online and by telephone) by May 9-18th

The Dept. calendar is also available at <http://webtools.uiuc.edu/calendar/Calendar?callId=1079>

LES Summer 07 Classes (as of 04/09/07)

LES 201: Intro. to the American Political System (Mon/Wed 6-8:30 pm)
Instructor: Miller, T

LES 419: Environmental Law (Online)
Instructor: Section A- Keele, D/ Section B- Sherrill, J

LES 446: Family Law (Online)
Instructor: Ford, N

LES 451: Law Film and Popular Culture. (Online)
Instructor: Rendleman, D

LES/POS 462: International Law and Organizations (Online)
Instructor: Crocker, A

LES 478: Substantive Criminal Law. (Tue/Thu 6-9:30 pm)
Instructor: Larson, R

Summer Classes begin first week in June.

Congratulations LES Students on the Fall 06 Dean's list!!

They are the undergraduate students who took at least eight graded hours in the fall semester and obtained a GPA of at least 3.75.

- Lauren Scott
- Victoria Wei Yan
- Anica Malabanan
- Amy Elhoffer
- Tressa Hartman
- Mary Buchanan
- Nathan Frisch
- Kara Standefer
- Sarah Wellard
- Brett Walker

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