



Special Interest Articles:

- John Peter Altgeld Forum
- New Faculty
- Summer Courses
- Upcoming Calendar and Events.



"LES Pendens"

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



Pre-Law Center Presents John Peter Altgeld Forum

On March 25th, the Pre-Law Center presented the John Peter Altgeld Forum 2008. This year's topic was "Constitutional Convention: Pro or Con-Con?" featuring Mary Lee Leahy and John Alexander, both delegates to the 1969 Constitutional Convention, and UIS LES professor Emeritus Frank Kopecky, author of *Understanding the Illinois Constitution*.

Kopecky noted three issues that may give cause for a new Constitution: school funding, legislative redistricting, and the way that the governor is elected. As Kopecky noted, "Illinois is number forty-nine in the

amount of state aid to schools as far as equality goes. And redistricting has become so partisan." He also mentioned that holding a Constitutional Convention, by inviting change, may prove risky.

Leahy agreed with Kopecky that a Constitutional Convention was not the answer to Illinois' problems. She commented that a Constitutional Convention would not be any different from the gridlock seen in the capital, and thought that issues such as school funding could be solved by state representation and by the governor. Alexander pointed out that the reason state legislators don't like

the idea of holding a convention is because when new people enter the political arena they change the rules to which legislators are familiar. He said, "New people are more likely to run for delegates to a constitutional convention than to run for state legislature." In the end, Alexander echoed Kopecky's hope for new member participation in the political world. He said, "maybe every generation should look forward and reevaluate the government...[a]s times change, maybe it is time to change things."

LES Welcomes New Faculty



The LES Department welcomes its newest faculty, Suzanne Borland.

Professor Borland received a B.A. in political science (with a minor in speech communication and pre-legal studies) from Eastern Illinois University in 1991. She received a J.D. from the University of Illinois College of Law in 1994. She is a member of the Illinois State Bar, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit Bar, and the bars of the Central and Southern Illinois federal district courts.



LES Welcomes New Faculty (con.)

She served as an Assistant Attorney General for the Illinois Attorney General from 1995-1998 and from 2000-2002. Her practice areas included criminal appeals and civil litigation, with a primary focus of defending civil rights and employment cases.

She was a full-time visiting assistant professor in legal studies from 1998-2000, and has been an adjunct professor since 2004. Her teaching currently concentrates on "Legal Writing and Analysis" and "Law and Society", and any other courses that improve students' writing skills! Jury trials were her favorite part of practicing law, and still fascinate her, so she hopes to focus her research on that topic.

She is married with two children and enjoys boating, movies, karaoke and travel.

Upcoming Events

May 5th-9th
Finals week

May 10th (Sat)
Commencement

June 16th (Mon)
LSAT exam
--Regular registration by
May 13th / Late registration
(by mail) by May 14-20th /
Late registration (online
and by telephone) by May
14-23rd

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



LES Summer 08 Classes

LES 201: Intro. to the American Political System
Instructor: Jason A. Pierceson

LES 419: Environmental Law
Instructor: John S. Sherrill

LES 446: Family Law
Instructor: Deborah Anthony

LES 451: Law Film and Popular Culture.
Instructor: Rendleman, D (section A and B)

LES 478: Substantive Criminal Law.
Instructor: Larson, R

Summer Classes begin first week in June.

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