Welcome Back Legal Studies Students!

The Legal Studies (LES) Department at the University of Illinois Springfield welcomes all new and returning LES students! We encourage all new students to focus on course work and exams. With hard work and dedication, you will gradually adapt to the new environment. We are here to help you if you seek it. Please contact your advisor, the faculty and the graduate assistants if you have questions, comments, concerns. Good luck to all Legal Studies Students! We look forward to this busy and wonderful school year! And we hope you all do, too!

Featured Alumnus - Rodney Perry

Rodney Perry is an independent consultant and expert witness in commodity futures and options compliance…and a University of Illinois Springfield’s (UIS) Legal Studies Department graduate! Mr. Perry graduated with his Master’s Degree in Legal Studies from UIS in 2010. He chose the online Legal Studies Master’s Degree Program at UIS as a way to help him professionally, while preparing him for law school. As a former graduate from University of Illinois Champaign Urbana in 1991, obtaining his Master’s Degree from the University of Illinois was an important factor for Mr. Perry. He chose the online Legal Studies Master’s Degree Program at UIS “because it had everything I wanted”. “UIS offered an online program in legal studies; classes were taught by professors and not teaching assistants; the tuition was affordable; and most of all, UIS is a part of the U of I family.”

Today, Mr. Perry serves as an independent consultant and expert witness in commodity futures and options compliance and assists with litigation, arbitration, and settlement discussions. The skills he learned in the Legal Studies Master’s Degree Program have helped him analyze cases and evidence to determine the most effective case theme, strategy and development. In his profession, he also provides investigatory and trial expertise to law firms, futures commission merchants, brokers, traders and customers. Mr. Perry says that the Legal Studies Master’s Degree Program sharpened his legal research and writing skills and provided him with career direction. He says that Program also gave him the skills necessary to succeed in the future, when he plans to attend law school.

Mr. Perry feels the best part of the Legal Studies Master’s Program was the valuable education he received along with the lifelong relationships he has with classmates and professors. He advises future students that the Legal Studies Master’s Degree is a challenge, but that it is “well worth the time and effort”. He says the Legal Studies Master’s Degree “is designed to be difficult because it is a Master’s level program, but with the options of attending classes on campus or online the program is specially designed for students’ success”. He says, “Professors are always available to assist their students, and the student will be successful if he or she dedicates the time and energy necessary for academic excellence.”

Attention all UIS Legal Studies Alumni!!

LES Alumni - We want to share your accomplishments!
If you would like to be highlighted in an upcoming newsletter, please contact Kelly Wajda at lesga@uis.edu.
Meet the Pre-Law Center’s Graduate Assistant

Daniel Fahl, a second-year graduate student in the Legal Studies Department, is serving as the Graduate Assistant for the Pre-Law Center. Daniel graduated from the U of I Urbana-Champaign in May of 2010 with a Bachelor’s degree in Liberal Arts and Science (History Major and Political Science Minor). During his undergraduate student career, he completed an internship with the Illinois State Police and job shadowed a Special Agent with the FBI. Daniel is also a Sergeant in the Illinois Army National Guard, serving as a member of the 766th Engineer Battalion in Decatur.

Daniel lives in rural Palmer, Illinois which is a small farming community in Christian County, near Taylorville. He enjoys reading, hunting, and playing golf and basketball. He also enjoys watching sports of all kinds, especially his alma mater, the Fighting Illini, and the Cardinals.

Meet the New Legal Studies Graduate Assistant

Kelly Wajda is currently serving her first year as the Legal Studies Department’s Graduate Assistant. She graduated from UIS in May 2010 with a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration and a Minor in Management Information Systems. She currently dedicates 20 hours per week performing academic research for the Legal Studies faculty as well as supplying other means of support for them. She also serves on the Department Committee which meets every other week.

Kelly lives here in Springfield but is originally from a town near Rockford, IL (about an hour and a half west of Chicago). She also occupies her time as the Assistant Volleyball Coach at Lincoln Land Community College in town. She enjoys playing volleyball, reading and spending quality time with her friends and family.

Student Reps Elected

During early September, LES students were given the opportunity to nominate and vote for an undergraduate and a graduate representative to serve on the Department Committee.

After calculating the electronic voting records, Ken Cloyd and Daniel Fahl have been elected to represent their peers at the bi-weekly Department meetings.

Contact your representative if you have suggestions or concerns that you would like him to submit for discussion.

Congrats to Fall 2011 Graduates!

We are pleased to congratulate the following students on graduating at the end of the Fall term:

**Michael Thornley**
**LES Graduate Student**
Michael currently commands the Support Services Division of the police department in River Forest, IL. He plans on seeking employment part-time as an adjunct faculty member at a local college or university after graduation.

**Lateshia Adams**
**LES Undergraduate Student**
Lateshia plans on attending Southern Illinois University at Carbondale Law School after graduation. Her plan is to become a juvenile public defender.

### Upcoming Events

**October 7**
Pre-Law Society trip to St. Louis University and Washington University law schools
Email Sean Miller, smill21@uis.edu, Pre-Law Society President, for more information on the trip and the Pre-Law Society’s regular meetings.

**October 15**
Midpoint

**October 26**
Pre-Law Center (PLC) student trip to Law School Caravan at UIUC
Vans will leave UIS at 8:30am and head to the UI College of Law, where students can sit in on a 1st year Criminal Law class and take a tour of the Law Building. PLC will then head to the Illini Union for lunch and the Law Fair, where admissions representatives from over 100 law schools nationwide will be available to meet with pre-law students. Vans will return to UIS by 5:00pm. If you’re interested in attending, contact the Pre-Law Center.

**November 21-25**
Thanksgiving Recess

**December 10**
Last Day of Classes

**December 12-17**
Finals Week

### Legal Studies Department

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[legalstudies.uis.edu](http://www.uis.edu/legalstudies)

**Pre-Law Center**
**PAC 363**
**Phone:** (217) 206-4529
**Email:** prelawcenter@uis.edu
[legalstudies.uis.edu/prelawcenter](http://www.uis.edu/legalstudies/prelawcenter)
**Professor Jason Pierceson Receives Fulbright Grant**

Dr. Jason Pierceson, associate professor of Political Science and Legal Studies and chair of the Political Science Department at the University of Illinois Springfield, has received a Fulbright grant to study the legal and political system in Canada.

He is spending the 2011 fall semester, from September through December, at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, AB Canada, serving as the Fulbright Visiting Research Chair in United States Policy Studies. Pierceson will research the role of courts as policy-makers in Canada, comparing their role to courts in the United States.

“I am looking forward to immersing myself in the Canadian legal and political systems,” said Pierceson. “It is difficult to fully understand a country's political system without spending time in that country, and this affords me that opportunity.”


**Professor Gwen Jordan Scheduled to Speak at Two Conferences**

Gwen Jordan will present her work on Edith Sampson, black women lawyers in Illinois and their civil rights activism from the 1920s-1960s at two conferences this fall. The first is the IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law’s Symposium on Women’s Legal History: A Global Perspective. The two-day program will be held October 13 and 14 at IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law, 565 West Adams Street in Chicago. The symposium is co-sponsored by Chicago-Kent’s Institute for Law and the Humanities and the Chicago-Kent Law Review. Jordan’s talk, entitled And the World Does Move: Black Women Lawyers in the Long Civil Rights Movement, will be presented on the October 14th. The second presentation will be at the American Society for Legal History Annual Meeting in Atlanta on November 13, 2011. Jordan will present ‘Courage, Persistence and Faith’: The Career of Edith Sampson, 1927-1978 as part of a panel she coordinated entitled New Paradigms of Practice: Black Women Lawyers Advancing Justice in the Long Civil Rights Movement.

Dr. Jordan’s work centers on black women lawyers as they began to establish a small, but critical mass in Illinois in the 1920s. Many worked individually and collectively for racial justice and women’s rights. Sampson, one of the groups’ leaders, believed it was essential for black women to become lawyers to lead the fight for justice on behalf of those who stood at the intersection of sex and race discrimination. Sampson, who began her career as a social worker, earned her law license in 1927 and went on to become the first black woman U.S. delegate to the United Nations in 1950 and the first black woman judge in Chicago serving first on the Municipal Court of Chicago in 1962-66 and then on the Circuit Court of Cook County from 1966-78.

**Legal Studies Professor Deborah Anthony Article Published**

Professor Deborah Anthony recently had an article published entitled Tradition, Conflict and Progress: A Closer Look at Childbirth and Parental Leave Policy on University Campuses, 12 Georgetown Journal of Gender and the Law 91 (2011). The paper explores some of the ways in which current university parental leave policies and practices violate practical and ethical imperatives as well as federal and state law, often constituting pervasive yet accepted gender discrimination with serious short- and long-term effects for faculty.

She also has another paper that was recently accepted for publication in the Spring 2012 edition of the Texas Journal of Women and the Law, entitled Caught in the Middle: Transsexual Marriage and the Disconnect between Sex and Legal Sex. This paper investigates the ways in which the law does and should address the disparity when a person's legal sex conflicts with her or his sexual identity in terms of the right to marry. Professor Anthony discusses the limiting methods by which the courts have determined a person's legal sex and the ways in which that affects the legal ability of transsexuals to marry.
Registration for Spring 2012 is quickly approaching. Check Records and Registration’s website for priority and open registration at: www.uis.edu/registration. Please consult with your advisors as soon as possible to ensure that you take appropriate classes!

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<th>Course</th>
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<tr>
<td>LES 201 - The American Political System</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Charles Good</td>
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<td>LES 202 - Introduction to the American Legal System</td>
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<td>LES 403 - Practice Skills: Illinois Civil Procedure for Legal Assistants</td>
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<td>LES 472 - Research Methods for Legal Studies</td>
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<td>Kim Vera</td>
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<td>LES 488 - ECCE: Conviction of the Innocent</td>
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<td>LES 489 - Closing Seminar: Ethics and Current Legal Questions</td>
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