

LSU Law

Monthly Highlights – December 2017

Please check the online calendar for meetings and events scheduled at the Law Center: [LINK](#)

LSU Law News -- [LINK](#)

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### **FALL GRADES**

December 11 @ 9 AM – Moodle opens for Fall course grade entries

January 4 @ 10 AM – Moodle closes for Fall course grade entries

Note: Students in upper-class courses will be able to see their grades via their myLSU account approximately one hour after the grades are posted in Moodle. All grades in first year courses will not be released for students to see on their myLSU accounts until **all** first year grades have been entered.

- Law Center Holiday Celebration – Dec. 13 @ 4 pm, LSU Foundation Bldg.  
RSVP: <https://www.law.lsu.edu/forms/17-holiday/>
- Winter Break: Dec. 25 – Jan. 2 Law Center Closed; Law Center re-opens January 3
- December 6 @ 11:30 am – Faculty Meeting
- AALS Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA: Jan. 3-7, 2017
- Apprenticeship Week: Jan. 8-12
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: Jan. 15 – Law Center Closed
- Classes Begin: Jan. 16

### **Faculty Highlights**

- Professor Keith Hall will serve on a panel that addresses the topic “Cutting Edge Issues in Competing (Mineral) Property Rights” for a program sponsored by the ABA Section of Litigation’s Environmental & Energy Litigation Committee in Denver, Colorado on December 6, 2017.
- Professor Wendell Holmes and Professor Emeritus Glenn Morris have published the second edition of their treatise, Volumes 7 & 8, Louisiana Civil Law Treatise: Business Organizations (Thomson Reuters 2nd ed. 2017).

## **Legal Writing**

On October 2nd and 3rd, Marlene Krousel, Annie Scardulla, and Heidi Thompson presented at the United States Fifth Circuit Bar Association's Appellate Advocacy Seminar, which was co-hosted by the Law Center. Marlene and Heidi presented on effective brief writing. Annie presented on ethics. Kathy Simino contributed to the materials on brief writing."

## **Law Clinic Highlights**

### **LSU Parole & Reentry Clinic**

This semester, students in the LSU Parole & Reentry Clinic assisted 18 offenders before the Louisiana Committee on Parole. Twelve of those offenders were granted early release and have returned to their community.

All of the Clinic's clients were serving significant sentences with most serving life as habitual offenders. Four of the Clinic's clients are serving life sentences for crimes they committed when they were children, and three of those clients received early release on parole.

### **Immigration Law Clinic**

This semester the eight students in the Immigration Law Clinic worked with 48 foreign-born individuals from thirteen different countries in matters ranging from petitions for asylum to applications for naturalization. By the semester's end, six students will have appeared before the New Orleans Immigration Court eight times, one student will have appeared before the New Orleans Asylum Office, another before the New Orleans U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Office, and another before the Jefferson Parish Juvenile Court. Immigration Law Clinic Students submitted over twenty applications and motions to USCIS and before the Immigration Court.

As part of the Clinic's service-learning component, students from the Clinic volunteered at Catholic Charities annual Citizenship Day; made presentations to newly arrived refugees from Burma and immigrants who served as translators for our troops in Afghanistan about their rights and impending immigration legal process; and trained other law students for and administered an Adjustment of Status (Green Card) Clinic for ten refugees and one Cuban entrant.

### **Prosecution Clinic**

This semester the six Special Assistant District Attorneys of the Prosecution Clinic dedicated more than 1100 hours working at the East Baton Rouge Parish District Attorney's Office. They represented the State of Louisiana by appearing in court for a number of proceedings including, misdemeanor trials, misdemeanor and felony pleas, felony motion hearings, grand jury presentations and several other court proceedings. They were involved in reviewing cases for possible prosecution, interviewing victims and police officers, and negotiations with seasoned defense attorneys.

The students assisted in the preparation of some major jury trials and were able to observe every stage of the process. Additionally, the students were invaluable by assisting the office in a flurry of Montgomery cases that required the review of extensive DOC records as well as old police reports and court transcripts. These experiences displayed their ability to exercise their prosecutorial discretion in a fair and impartial manner.

They especially enjoyed the opportunity to tour the Louisiana State Police Crime Laboratory and learn firsthand some of the issues regarding the collection, processing and presenting of forensic evidence. That coupled with meeting Diesel, one of the few “facility” dogs in Louisiana, who provides support for child victims and witnesses as they go through the criminal justice process, made this semester a very educational one for the students.

### **Civil Mediation Clinic**

This semester the Student Mediators of the Civil Mediation Clinic conducted five mediation conferences at Baton Rouge City Court and 1 mediation at the Law Center.

The mediations at City Court were disputes regarding Small Claims cases with a jurisdictional limit of \$5,000 and resulted in 4 resolutions with 5 voluntary dismissals (one on a Reconventional Demand).

The mediation conducted at the Law Center involved a contractor/homeowner dispute with the contractor being represented by an attorney. After a 6.5 hour mediation the participants reached a resolution that avoided the filing of a \$33,000 law suit. The attorney involved expressed that she was "very impressed with the professionalism of the Student Mediators" and intends to refer other cases to the Civil Mediation Clinic.

Overall the Student Mediators had an 83% resolution rate for the semester. The Student Mediators were also invited to attend the 10th Annual LSBA-ADR Section Dispute Resolution Seminar with nationally renown trainer Lee Jay Berman from Los Angeles ("Harnessing the Power of the Master Mediator"). Additionally, the students "shadowed" professional mediators with Perry Damph Dispute Solutions.

### **Juvenile Defense Clinic**

The five students in the Juvenile Defense Clinic represented 8 young people in East Baton Rouge Parish Juvenile Court. These young people faced matters in 17 different juvenile petitions, in which they were charged with a total of 34 felony, and 21 misdemeanor delinquent acts. While three of the clients still have trials pending, we were able to successfully resolve the other matters favorable to our clients. Among the successes this semester were two rulings in which our motions to suppress physical evidence were granted upon our showing violations of our clients' 4th Amendment rights. We were able to get a dismissal of an arson case due to our investigative efforts and our effective advocacy. We were also able to successfully negotiate for the dismissal of an armed robbery charge in exchange for a misdemeanor plea. Our Student-Attorneys once again provided exemplary service to our clients, and gained great first-hand experience in frequent appearances before the juvenile court. While advocating zealously for our clients, the Student-Attorneys had significant productive interaction with professionals from various entities within the juvenile justice system, and once again, the Student-Attorneys were recognized for being eminently capable, highly professional, and always well prepared.

## **United Way**

Brenda Salassi is the Law Center's coordinator for the LSU United Way Campaign. The campaign will run until December 5<sup>th</sup>. Donations may be made online through Workday or by pledge card. Please contact Brenda Salassi ([bsalassi@lsu.edu](mailto:bsalassi@lsu.edu) or 578-8262) for more information or to obtain a pledge card.

### ***To give using the Workday system:***

Log on to Workday using your myLSU credentials. Click on the **Benefits** portal which will take you to a screen where you can click to **Change Benefits**. From the **Benefit Event Type** drop-down menu, select **United Way Contribution** and **Elect or Waive** your contribution. There is a box to check the legal notice for your electronic signature. Then, **Submit**. Contact Brenda Salassi if you need help to make your pledge through Workday.

***The next LSU Law Monthly Highlights will be distributed on January 5.  
Please submit any items for inclusion by January 4.***