

Spring
2016
Issue 22



LES PENDENS



UNIVERSITY
of ILLINOIS
at
SPRINGFIELD

Legal Studies Department



LES Pendens

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Upcoming Events

Spring 2016
Registration
Finals Week

Legal Studies Department Office

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

LES Welcomes New Faculty to the Department



Eugene McCarthy is joining the Department of Legal Studies from the University of California, Berkeley, where he received his Ph.D. in legal rhetoric. Prior to pursuing his doctorate at Berkeley, Professor McCarthy earned a J.D. from the UCLA School of Law and practiced as an attorney at a prestigious international law firm. Professor McCarthy also holds an M.A. in English literature from Pennsylvania State University and a B.A. in philosophy and English from Rutgers College.

Professor McCarthy has taught and advised students at Berkeley, UCLA School of Law, and Pennsylvania State University. His courses range from legal writing and reasoning to political theory and world literatures. Professor McCarthy's research is interdisciplinary, drawing from legal theory, legal history, American literature, science and technology studies, and theories of human identity and personhood. His current book project, *Corporate Personhood(s): Novel Persons in American Law, Society, and Literature, 1870-1914*, examines the origins and repercussions of corporate personhood in American law, history, and culture.

Next Fall Semester, Professor McCarthy will be teaching Law and Literature (LES 454) and The American Constitution and Civil Liberties (LES 416). Professor McCarthy is thrilled to be joining the UIS community and looks forward to meeting the Legal Studies students on campus in August.

Don't forget to "Like" the Legal Studies Department on Facebook!



Also in this issue:

Spring 2016 LES events

IIP's 15 year Anniversary

Grad Student Reflections

Summer & Fall 2016 Courses



What happened during the Spring 2016 semester?

“Making a Murderer” Forum Hosted by the Illinois Innocence Project



On February 24th, Legal Studies students and professors participated in a forum sponsored by the Illinois Innocence Project on the Netflix special “Making a Murderer.” This 10 part program has grown popular for its portrayal of two individuals, Steven Avery and Brendan Dassey, who were convicted of crimes of which they may be innocent.

“Our forum for the series, 'Making a Murderer' appeared to be a great success!” said LES student Faith Hook.

“We had over 30 people present and eager to discuss the issues of Steven Avery's case.” Dr. Gwen Jordan, current Chair of LES, and IIP staff attorney Lauren Kaeseberg led the discussion. This open-ended forum gave people the opportunity to ask questions regarding the complicated aspects of Avery's case. Additionally, the audience learned about some of the issues the Illinois Innocence Project deals with on a daily basis, including: DNA evidence, witness misidentification, and the interrogation process.

Dr. Sikka’s Workshop on the National Inquiry into the Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women

On Tuesday, March 1st, Dr. Anette Sikka, Assistant Professor of Legal Studies, discussed her experience facilitating a workshop for Canada’s Congress of Aboriginal Peoples on the issue of how a national inquiry into the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls should be designed. The issue of missing and murdered Aboriginal women has gained significant recognition in Canada over the past 15 years. Over 1100 Aboriginal women have gone missing or were found murdered and many of their cases have remained unsolved, their killers unidentified.

Dr. Sikka’s workshop was the first phase of the inquiry design process and resulted in a policy paper that was submitted to the Government of Canada. She discussed the issue of the missing and murdered women, and the future of the inquiry process as it unfolds over the next two years across Canada.





Illinois Innocence Project Celebrates 15th Anniversary with Defenders of the Innocent Event

On April 30th, the ninth annual Defenders of the Innocent Event sold out, with over 400 people in attendance at the President Abraham Lincoln hotel. The event raised over \$100,000 of the \$500,000 needed by the end of 2016 to sustain current operations of the IIP, including costs for DNA testing and other forensic science.

Keynote speaker Kirk Bloodsworth, the first death row inmate to be exonerated by DNA evidence, spoke about his experience of being incarcerated and eventually exonerated. Bloodsworth served nearly nine years in prison, maintaining his innocence the entire time.

The Illinois Innocence Project's most recent exoneree, Teshome Campbell, spoke at the event as well. Campbell served nearly twenty years before his release in late January. He thanked the IIP for their involvement in his exoneration.



Twenty exonerees joined keynote speaker Kirk Bloodsworth on stage



Teshome Campbell



Many LES students work for the IIP and participated in the event

UIS students visit Menard Correctional Center

Early this semester, Dr. Sikka led a trip to Menard Correctional Center for her Law and Inequality students. Menard is a maximum security prison for adult males that also houses a limited number of medium security inmates. While there, the group got the chance to hear the warden and a number of correctional officers describe an average day at Menard.

“We had very limited interaction with the inmates at the prison, but we saw the places they sleep, eat, work, and get medical treatment,” said Nella Coleman, an LES student. “In Law and Inequality, we learned a lot about mass incarceration and the prison visit complemented the course well. Personally, I consider the Menard visit the most valuable out of class activity of the semester. It helped refine my passion for criminal justice reform and led me to an opportunity to spend the summer volunteering for the assistant warden of programs.”

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LES Students Meet Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor

In the beginning of March the UIS Pre-Law Society and Pre-Law Center co-sponsored an event which allowed roughly twenty students the opportunity to attend a lecture by Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor. Professor Deborah Anthony accompanied the group. The students seized this rare opportunity, during a pivotal moment in the history of the United States Supreme Court, as the lecture occurred shortly after the death of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. Each of the UIS students who attended were able to briefly meet the Justice during her book signing.

LES student Payton Roberts said, "I am so thankful to attend a university that makes opportunities like this possible and continues to push to incorporate invaluable life experiences such as this one into our curriculum."



Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor

Legal Studies Alumnus



Rodney Perry

Mr. Perry, one of our distinguished legal studies alumni, graduated from Western Michigan University Cooley Law School on January 24, 2016. He sat for the Illinois bar exam on February 23-24, 2016. With his concentration in constitutional law and civil rights, Mr. Perry wants to practice public interest law or work for an Innocence Project.



Spring 2016 Legal Studies Graduates

We are excited to feature one of our Legal Studies' students, Michelle Morfey, who will be graduating from the Master's Degree program at the end of this semester.



Michelle Morfey

What was your favorite Legal Studies Memory?

As a Legal Studies online student, I have so many great memories; classes, people, as well as great professors. However, I would have to say that my favorite memory was also my most challenging – in order to be effective, (and pass) LES 402, I had to come to campus as opposed to taking the class online. I drove 3 hours round trip every Monday – in the end, my most challenging class ultimately gave me the most reward – I loved being in class, being a part of the college experience, but most of all, I loved being on campus. Although there were times I didn't leave the Brookens library well into evening, the drive home was never a bother as it was *my time* to think and reflect. While it was one of the hardest semesters in my academic career, it ultimately defined my overall success in the program.

How has the Legal Studies Master's Degree Program helped you accomplish professional and/or academic goals?

As an employee of the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign in the Department of Economics, I have the pleasure of working with a diverse group of individuals. My experience with the legal studies program has further enhanced my ability to not only relate with our students from a student perspective, but I am able to stand on my own intellectually with the professors in my department. My legal studies degree has given me a well-rounded education that has given me the tools to work effectively and efficiently in contract negotiations, financial documentation, purchasing, and university policy and procedures.

What do you plan to do after graduation?

My career will remain the same – I love my job as an assistant in the Department of Economics at the University of Illinois. However, I will be a little lost after I graduate without a syllabus to guide me. I plan on spending more time with my grandbabies, jump into some great James Patterson books, and just enjoy my accomplishment.

What advice would you give to new or current students in the Legal Studies Master's Degree Program?

Try your best to always give 100%.... Know that failures and disappointments are nothing more than doors to better opportunities. Nothing worth having is ever easy and hard work, never hurt anyone. Try to make decisions, not what ifs, and no matter what you do, find your passion then run like hell with it!!!

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Summer Courses Offered

LES 474: Law of Evidence

This course will be taught by Professor Deborah Anthony. It will deal with the basic study of rules of evidence for non-lawyers working in lawyer-support or investigatory situations that require basic evidentiary knowledge. It will provide practical knowledge of problems faced in investigations with a view toward evidentiary sufficiency and possible admissibility in hearings or trials.

LES 480: International Criminal Law

This *new* course will be taught by Professor Anette Sikka. It covers the history, theory, and practicalities of the international criminal law system. This is a burgeoning area of both politics and law with new developments unfolding regularly. Dr. Sikka worked for the United Nations for several years as a consultant in Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq, and Afghanistan. She will introduce students to both theoretical and practical aspects of international criminal law. The course will feature prominent guest speakers on the topic and will offer advice and guidance for students interested in working in the international criminal, human rights, or humanitarian fields.

LES/ECCE: Conviction of the Innocent

This course will be taught by Professor Gwen Jordan. It involves a multi-disciplinary examination of the conviction of innocent people for serious crimes they did not commit. It will examine policies that contribute to wrongful convictions and explore alternative solutions that could minimize the chances of convicting innocent people. This course fulfills an Engaged Citizenship Common Experience requirement at UIS in the area of U.S. Communities

FALL 2016 COURSE SCHEDULE POSTED ONLINE

COURSE TITLES OF FALL 2016 CLASSES	Credits	Instructor	Day	Time	Location
LES 201: Introduction to the American Political System—A	3	Jason Pierceson	TBA	TBA	Online
LES 201: Introduction to the American Political System—B	3	Magic Wade	M/W	12:00 pm— 1:15 pm	TBA
LES 202: Introduction to the American Legal System—A	3	Tessica Dooley	W	10:00 am— 12:30 pm	TBA

COURSE TITLES OF FALL 2016 CLASSES	Credits	Instructor	Day	Time	Location
LES 307: Law and Society—A	3	Riaz Tejani	M	10:00 am— 12:30 pm	TBA
LES 354: Philosophy of Law—A	3	Deborah Anthony	T/R	12:00 pm— 1:15 pm	TBA
LES 376: Trial Advocacy—A	3	TBA	R	6:00 pm— 8:30 pm	TBA
LES 401: Legal Research and Citation—A	4	Tessica Dooley	W	6:00 pm— 9:30 pm	TBA
LES 401: Legal Research and Citation—B	4	Anette Sikka	TBA	TBA	Online
LES 415: The Supreme Court and Judicial Politics—A	3	Jason Pierceson	R	2:00 pm— 4:30 pm	TBA
LES 415: The Supreme Court and Judicial Politics—B	4	Jason Pierceson	R	2:00 pm— 4:30 pm	TBA
LES 416: The American Constitution and Civil Liberties—A	3	Eugene McCarthy	T/R	10:00 am— 11:40 pm	TBA
LES 416: The American Constitution and Civil Liberties—B	4	Eugene McCarthy	T/R	10:00 am— 11:40 pm	TBA
LES 454: Law and Literature—A	3	Eugene McCarthy	TBA	TBA	TBA
LES 454: Law and Literature—B	4	Eugene McCarthy	TBA	TBA	TBA
LES 476: Immigration and the Law: The Regulation of World Travel—A	3	Anette Sikka	M	2:00 pm— 4:30 pm	TBA
LES 476: Immigration and the Law: The Regulation of World Travel—B	4	Anette Sikka	M	2:00 pm— 4:30 pm	TBA
LES 488: ECCE: Conviction of the Innocent—A	3	Lawrence Golden	T	6:00 pm— 8:30 pm	TBA
LES 488: ECCE: Conviction of the Innocent—B	4	Lawrence Golden	T	6:00 pm— 8:30 pm	TBA
LES 491: Policy Reform for Wrongful Convictions—A	3	Gwen Jordan	TBA	TBA	Online
LES 491: Policy Reform for Wrongful Convictions - B	4	Gwen Jordan	TBA	TBA	Online
LES 501: Introduction to Graduate Legal Studies—A	4	Deborah Anthony	TBA	TBA	Online
LES 513: Seminar in Politics and Law—A	4	Riaz Tejani	TBA	TBA	Online