

Diversity Dean Gets Down to Business



Assistant Dean for Diversity and Community Relations Adrian Jones (center) meets with students and law school administrators to discuss Americans with Disabilities Act issues on campus. Jones, the law school's first dean for diversity, began work at UF this semester.

Some people might have trouble describing, in concrete terms, just what it is that a diversity officer does. Adrian Jones has never had that problem.

"This job requires you to be a peacemaker, a firefighter, a negotiator and a teacher," he said. "It's the kind of position that puts all of your talents to their fullest use."

Jones is in his first semester as assistant dean for diversity at the Levin College of Law – where he is charged with building a welcoming, nurturing, and

inclusive campus community and providing mediation of diversity issues on campus. He is the first person to hold the job, which places UF among a small number of law schools with a dean-level position devoted to diversity issues.

"I'm impressed with the Gators," Jones said. "One of the things that impresses me most is the proactive approach the administration is taking on diversity issues."

Jones comes to UF from the State University of New York at

Buffalo's medical school, where he served as director of multicultural affairs. He is a 2004 graduate of SUNY-Buffalo's law school.

He faced a trial by fire almost as soon as he arrived on the UF campus in August. With preparations well underway for Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's Sept. 9 visit to campus, Jones was tasked with distributing tickets to O'Connor's lecture to students. The job had hundreds of students lining up outside the door of his office just a few

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A Word From the Dean: On Respect for Others

The recent controversy over a cartoon – which I personally found to be insensitive and repugnant – in *The Independent Florida Alligator* demonstrates what can happen when people engage in dialogue without respect for the sensitivities of others.

As I stated in my comments on community and collegiality in the Aug. 23 issue of *FlaLaw* (online at <http://www.law.ufl.edu/news/flalaw/pdf/flalaw-050823.pdf>), it is important that our law school set an example for the rest of campus on how these conversations should be conducted.

I urge students, faculty and staff at the Levin College of Law to take responsibility for the social climate on our campus and elsewhere – to continue to treat each other with respect and in a spirit of collegiality – regardless of differences in our backgrounds or our deeply held beliefs.

As legal professionals, we are expected to deal responsibly with conflict, and it is incumbent upon us to respect opposing beliefs and viewpoints even as we debate issues openly and vigorously.

— Dean Robert Jerry

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Scholarship Deadline Friday

The Foley Minority Scholarship Program awards \$5,000 to a first-year minority law student at any of eight selected law schools. The scholarship is to be applied to tuition, books, fees and other expenses incidental to law school attendance. Applications, available in the Center for Career Services, must be returned by Sept. 30.

Pick Up Those Papers

Students who have not picked up their Legal Writing or Appellate Advocacy papers from Spring 2005 can obtain the papers in the communication folders located in the lounge outside the Legal Research and Writing offices in Bruton-Geer Hall.

Give to Community Campaign

The University of Florida's Community Campaign, which allows UF employees to give to their favorite local charities through payroll deduction, officially kicks off today with a goal of raising \$1 million.

If you work for the law school, you have probably already received your pledge card. Please fill it out and return it to Marilyn Henderson by Oct. 21. For more information, contact Associate Professor Mark Fenster at fenster@law.ufl.edu.



CAREER SERVICES

Hints to help you in the legal profession

Out-of-State Job Search

An out-of-area employment search is more challenging than a local search, and requires you to use additional marketing efforts and search strategies. If you are interested in clerking out-of-state next summer or gaining a position after graduation, there are steps you need to take to be competitive. The key to a successful out-of-state job search is to prepare early in your law school career and to be resourceful.

Timing: Check the websites of law schools in your geographic area of interest and see if they list the firms who will be interviewing, along with the dates of on-campus interviews. To compete with the local applicant pool, you will need to target your mailing to reach those firms before, or at the same time as, the local OCIs are occurring.

Also consider arranging an internship, externship or volunteer opportunity for the summer in the city of your choice, to get involved and to make contacts. Government agencies often sponsor summer programs. These programs require independent research and typically have early application dates.

Be Prepared to Demonstrate Your Connection: Assess how you will demonstrate your commitment or connection with the geographic area you are interested in. Potential employers tend to be leery of out-of-town applicants, and will be less likely to hire a person who can't show a link to, or interest in, the local area. Let them know that you grew up in the area, or that you have relatives living there. Employers will be looking for these ties on your



resume and cover letter, as well as during the interview.

Develop Your Network: Re-establish any contacts you may have in the area. Let them know you are interested in relocating and ask them to keep you in mind if they become aware of opportunities. You also can contact Career Services for the names of alumni mentors in many cities. Consider getting a student membership to the local bar association. Try to get on the local bar's mailing list for events or periodically check their website for news.

Research Employers: Run a search on www.martindale.com using the following search parameters: "UF law alumni," city desired, and perhaps practice area. Career Services also has employer directories of government agencies and public interest organizations, along with the *NALP Directory of Legal Employers*. While it is true that the directory contains predominantly large law firms, most firms have websites that list their recruiting information and contacts. Employers routinely consider submissions from interested law students from outside the area or from law schools they don't visit.

Conduct Outreach: Schedule a visit over a break or during the summer. If you are able to spend some time in the area, see if there are any scheduled Continuing Legal Education (CLE) seminars, bar receptions, speaker programs or events that you can attend to meet practitioners. Look for volunteer judicial internships to enhance your credentials while bringing you in contact with the local bar. This also may provide a path to a coveted judicial clerkship upon graduation that can segue into a larger firm position upon completion of your term.

Begin Early: You do not want to miss out on opportunities because you were unaware of the timing process.

New Face in Career Services

Career Services welcomes triple-Gator Dexter Smith as the new assistant director for career services. Smith most recently served as director of legislative services for the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. He begins work this week, and will handle the Career Services Program Series and assist with externships.

Federal Career Opportunities

Thinking about a career with the federal government? Join lawyers who have worked in the federal system Tuesday, Sept. 27, at noon in room 285D to find out about abundant opportunities in this area. Guest speakers will include Professor Mike Seigel, former prosecutor with the United States Attorney's Office and a former special attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice's Organized Crime and Racketeering Section; and Assistant Professor Mary Jane Angelo, who worked for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of General Counsel, for five years. This event is co-sponsored by Westlaw.

Beyond OCI

Fact: Most legal positions are not gained through OCI. Whether you participated in OCI or not, come to "Beyond OCI: Exploring All Your Options" and learn how to use all the tools and resources available to enhance your ability to land that ideal summer or permanent position. Co-sponsored by Lexis, the event will be held Wednesday, Sept. 28, at noon in room 285B.

Career Opportunities in Estate Planning

Explore estate planning, a high-demand practice area, with Assistant Professor Lee-ford Tritt at 10 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 29, in the faculty dining room. As an estates and trusts associate at the New York City firms Davis Polk & Wardwell and Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCoy, Tritt

worked on estate, tax and property matters. Refreshments will be provided by the Estates, Trusts and Elder Law Society.

One Quick Question

Let Career Services answer your questions about pro bono, resumes, cover letters, deadlines, externships, OCI, job searches, interviews or other career-related topics Thursday, Sept. 29, from 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Career Services table outside the former Media Services area.

Upcoming Deadlines

The last day to apply for the Congressional Research Service's Law Recruit Program for 3Ls is **Oct. 1**.

Students have until **Oct. 10** to apply for the U.S. Department of Transportation's Attorney Honors Program for 3Ls and recent graduates.

For more information on upcoming career deadlines, contact Career Services at 273-0860.

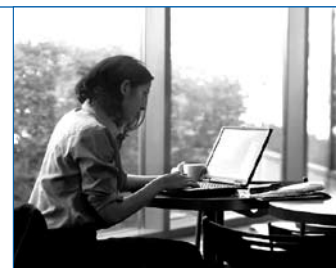
Network, Relax at Minority Mentoring Picnic

Are you planning to spend this weekend relaxing and having fun — or networking and building your career? You can do both at the Second Annual Minority Mentoring Picnic, scheduled for this Saturday in Amelia Earhart Park in Hialeah.

Created by Miami lawyer John Kozyak, the event is intended to encourage diversity in the legal profession by giving minority law students a chance to meet and network with lawyers and judges in a relaxed, informal environment. Last year's event drew more than 400 lawyers, law professors and students.

The picnic features music, a wide variety of food, a volleyball tournament and more. Prominent members of various minority-oriented, voluntary bar associations will be there, as well as Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Barbara Pariente and Justice Peggy Quince.

Students are welcome to bring their families to the event. Student groups will be organizing rides to Hialeah for the picnic. For more information and to RSVP, contact Yasbel Cardenas of Kozyak, Tropin & Throckmorton, P.A. at (305) 728-2928 or at yc@kttlaw.com.



Research Workshops Start Today

Learn how to use secondary sources and digests in a series of legal research workshops beginning today, Sept. 26. These classes, which meet at the library's Reference Desk, are useful both to 1Ls and to experienced students seeking to brush up on their research skills. The class schedule is as follows:

Secondary Sources

Monday, Sept. 26

2 p.m.
3 p.m.
4 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 27

2 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 28

2 p.m.
4 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 29

2 p.m.
4 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 1

1 p.m.

Finding Case Law

Tuesday, Sept. 27

3 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 28

3 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 2

2 p.m.

If you have any comments or suggestions, e-mail Electronic Services Librarian Maryellen O'Brien at obrien@law.ufl.edu.



EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Loans for Bar Exam Expenses

Wondering where you will come up with the money to pay for your bar exam expenses? There are private loan companies who will make bar exam loans to students in their final year of law school. These loans can be used for living expenses while studying for the bar, exam prep classes and other bar-related expenses. You may borrow as little as \$1,000 or as much as \$11,000. For more information, contact the lenders directly at:

Access Group
800 282-1550
www.Accessgroup.org

Key Education Resources
800 539-5363
www.Key.com/educate/grad

LawLoans
800 984-0190
www.Salliemae.com

Apply for 2006 Clinics

It's almost time to apply for Spring 2006 clinics. The process begins Oct. 3, with applications available on the Student Affairs website. Completed applications are due by 5 p.m. Oct. 10. Selections will be announced Oct. 17. For more information, contact Sarah Carswell at carswell@law.ufl.edu.

Vigil for Katrina Victims

Gator Hurricane Relief, a joint effort between Student Government and the University of Florida, will conduct a candlelight vigil honoring all those who have been affected by the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina. The vigil will take place Thursday, Sept. 29, on the north lawn of Reitz Union at 7:30 p.m. Law student Jared Hernandez (2L) is coordinating SG relief efforts and can be reached at gawain@ufl.edu for further information.

ACS Speaker Series Begins

The American Constitution Society's "Constitution in the 21st Century" speaker series begins Tuesday, Sept. 27, at noon in the Bailey Courtroom, with Professor Michael Allan Wolf's presentation on eminent domain in the wake of *Kelo v. New London*.

Federalists Tackle Eminent Domain

The Federalist Society will host a discussion of *Kelo* at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 27 in the Bailey Courtroom. Clark Neily, senior attorney for the Institute for Justice, will be featured speaker.

Students Launch New Law Journal

A group of UF law students are launching a new journal to explore issues of intellectual property, international trade and other areas of law related to one of Florida's major industries — entertainment.

The newly formed *Entertainment Law Review* will tackle First Amendment concerns, employment issues and other matters arising from entertainment and media law. Founding member Edward Lyman said the journal will likely publish its first issue in Spring Semester 2006. Journal members are currently seeking submissions from scholars in this growing field of law.

"The journal is an excellent opportunity for students to explore areas of the law such as contracts, intellectual property, international trade, employment, and various others by researching a subject that truly interests them," Lyman said.

Members of the new journal's executive board include Sergiu Gherman, Jasmine McNealy, Amanda McLernan, Courtney Barclay, Heather French, Amanda Groover, Aaron Cook, Cecilia Bidwell, Kevin Sobel, Joseph Wals, Allison Hunt, Web Melton, Max Eggleston, Michelle Leyva, Kimberly Chamberlin, and Valerie Brennan.

To become a general board member, or submit an article, e-mail editor@entlaw.org or find the journal on Westlaw/TWEN for more information.

JMBA Meeting Today

The John Marshall Bar Association meets today, Sept. 26, at 7 p.m. in room 285C. Everyone is welcome to attend.

APIL Begins Activities

The Association for Public Interest Law will hold its first meeting of the semester Wednesday, Sept. 28, at 5 p.m. in room 345. The group will hold elections and discuss plans for the year. Pizza will be served. For more information, contact Dina Finkel at dfinkel@ufl.edu.

Democrats to Meet

The Law School Democrats will hold a general meeting today, Sept. 26 at 5:30 p.m. in room 382, with a roundtable discussion on the topic, "Why are you a Democrat?"

Write-On Competition Begins

The Journal of Technology Law and Policy will kick off its Fall 2005 write-on competition with an informational meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 28, at 5 p.m. in room 355A. Write-on packets will be distributed at that time. All third-, fourth-, and fifth-

semester students are invited to attend and compete. If you are unable to attend the meeting, a writing packet will be available for download at <http://grove.ufl.edu/~techlaw/writeon.html>. For more information contact Ed Quinones, uf_jtlp_student-works@yahoo.com.

Bring the Lion Home

UF law students have the chance to win \$1,000 in scholarship funds, plus a trip to Tallahassee to meet the Florida Supreme Court, through The Florida Bar's Professionalism Essay Contest. Entrants must submit an essay primarily and specifically dealing with professionalism, possibly with an emphasis on ethics or substantive law. The essay must clearly identify an issue, problem or opportunity, and should suggest solutions. Essays are limited to approximately 2,400 words, and will be evaluated on caliber of theme, creativity, writing style and compliance with the Uniform System of Citations.

The winner of the contest will bring home the Lion of Justice Trophy, which travels each year to the winner's alma mater. Students have until Feb. 1 to submit their essays. For more information, contact Student Affairs at 273-0620.

Honor Committee Seeks Students

LL.M. students interested in joining the Law School Honor Committee should submit a resume and a statement of 100 words or less, to ufhonorcommittee@hotmail.com. The deadline

for submissions is Friday, Sept. 30 at 5 p.m. Students who submit their information will be contacted directly regarding interview times.

Student Fundraising Pays Off

Law students have raised \$2,270 — and counting — to help victims of Hurricane Katrina. Almost half of that money was raised during "Party With a Purpose II," a sequel to the student-organized Spring 2005 fundraiser for tsunami victims. Organized by the Asian/Pacific American Law Student Association, the event was co-spon-

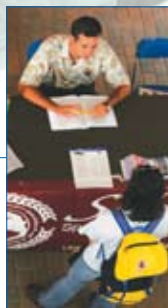
sored by the John Marshall Bar Association, the Association for Public Interest Law, the Criminal Law Association, the Military Law Students Association, the Law Association for Women, the Black Law Student Association, CaribLaw, the Jewish Law Students Association and the International Law Society.

Fundraising continued last weekend at the field day sponsored by the American Bar Association's Law Student Division. Check future issues of *FlaLaw* for updates on the fundraising effort.



Fair Showcases Student Organizations

The Marcia Schott Courtyard filled with tables last Wednesday, as various law student groups recruited new members into their ranks. To find out more about the law school's wide variety of student groups, go online to <http://www.law.ufl.edu/students/organizations/>, call Student Affairs Coordinator Noemar Castro at 273-0620 or contact student group representatives.



Library Closes for Game Days

The Lawton Chiles Legal Information Center will close on days when home football games are being played. Home game days include Oct. 8 (Mississippi State), Nov. 5 (Vanderbilt) and Nov. 26 (FSU).

The closure is due to the scarcity of parking on game days and the university's drive to reduce building utility costs.

Classes at Law School on Homecoming Friday

Classes will be held on the law school campus until 1 p.m. on Oct. 7, the Friday before Homecoming. Like the rest of the UF campus, law school offices will be closed Friday afternoon.

Panel to Take On Censorship

Several UF professors and artist Arnold Mesches — who was spied on by the Federal Bureau of Investigation for 26 years — will participate in a panel discussion on censorship in the name of national security.

Titled “From Mesches to Kurtz: From McCarthyism to Anti-Terrorism,” the panel will explore McCarthy-era surveillance of politically-involved artists such as Mesches; the actions of the Johns Committee, which persecuted gay professors and students in Florida’s university system; and the FBI investigation of artist Steven Kurtz, who uses microbes and laboratory equipment to build art installations.

Other speakers at the event include:

- University of South Florida Professor Emeritus Charles Arnade, who was a target of the Johns Committee
- Affiliate Law Professor Bill Chamberlin, who will discuss the Freedom of Information Act
- Chesterfield Smith Professor Fletcher Baldwin, who will discuss the Patriot Act

The discussion will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, Sept. 30, in the Chesterfield Smith Ceremonial Classroom (room 180).

Student Works to Curb Human Rights Abuses in Peru

Law student Ray Dieppa spent the summer in South America, helping in the prosecution of Peruvian soldiers accused of human rights abuses.

Dieppa worked with Peru’s Institute for Legal Defense, or IDL, a non-governmental organization dedicated to curbing corruption in the Latin American nation.

“Peru is an incredible place for anyone who wishes to study or work in international law,” said Dieppa. “This is a country which only a few years ago was plagued by civil war, terrorism, and large scale human rights abuses. It was fascinating to work in a place where these issues were day to day reality and not just a part of history.”

Dieppa was among several UF students selected to participate in the UF International Center’s (UFIC) World Citizenship Program. Each year the program, headed by UFIC Dean

and former U.S. Ambassador to Peru Dennis Jett, awards fellowships to students from an array of disciplines to work and live in countries across the developing world.



Dieppa

The program sent Dieppa to Lima, where he spent the summer working with a team of IDL attorneys and former military officers, urging the government to use the country’s civil code to prosecute military members accused of crimes against civilians.

“Unfortunately, in Peru soldiers often commit crimes like robbery and murder knowing they won’t be tried in civilian courts,” said Dieppa.

Dieppa said much of his work involved doing research in both English and Spanish and providing summaries of that research in Spanish to IDL lawyers. He

also advised IDL on issues related to American foreign policy and political culture.

More exchanges like Dieppa’s IDL internship may be in the works, thanks to the law school’s newly created Law and Policy Issues in the Americas Program.

Part of the Center for Governmental Responsibility, the new program will do research on topics related to rule of law throughout the Americas and will provide technical support to judicial reform efforts throughout the region.

Program director Meredith Fensom, recently returned from a Fulbright fellowship in Chile, said the program will forge more student exchanges between UF and Latin American institutions.

For more information on the Law and Policy in the Americas Program, or on student exchanges in Latin America, contact Fensom at fensom@law.ufl.edu or 273-0835.

Diversity from Page 1

weeks after he started work.

“As it turns out, it was a great introduction to campus,” he said. “As you can imagine, I got to meet many of the students face-to-face and I got to see how the law school works under pressure.”

While handling that challenge, Jones also was working on a curriculum for diversity training for incoming law students. And now that the dedication is over, he is delving into the core mission of his job.

“Right now, I’m taking the pulse of the campus,” he said. “I’ve been

meeting with student groups, individual students and administrators, trying to get a feel for the situation here.”

People tend to think of a diversity officer as someone who plays referee in race-based disputes, but Jones sees his real mission as simpler — and broader — than that.

“When you say ‘diversity,’ people think black, white and Latino, but it’s much more than that,” he said. “It’s about people from different backgrounds and different experiences coming together to form a community — in this case,

a community of citizen lawyers.”

Jones said he expects to act as mediator when disputes arise between individual students or groups on campus, regardless of the nature of the dispute. He said he also can serve as a contact point for students who have Americans with Disabilities Act issues.

Jones is seeking input from students from all backgrounds on community-building issues at the law school. To contact him, call the Office of Student Affairs at 273-0620.



PEOPLE

SCHOLARSHIP & ACTIVITIES

Scholarship & Activities

James J. Freeland Eminent Scholar in Taxation **Paul McDaniel** was a participant in an International Tax Conference in Rust, Austria in July. Tax scholars from Europe and the U.S. met to discuss current issues in international taxation. McDaniel's paper, "A Critique of Tax Expenditure Accounting in Selected OECD Countries," will appear in a Festschrift for Professor Nils Mattson of Uppsala University in Sweden.

Samuel T. Dell Research Scholar **Winston Nagan**, a fellow of the World Academy of Art and Science, has been invited to give a presentation at the academy's annual congress in Zagreb, Croatia in November. He has also been invited to give a presentation at Yale Law School's Society for the Policy Sciences, where he serves on the board of directors. With former Senior Fellow **Craig Hammer** and Junior Fellow **Adam Artigliere**, he drafted two amicus briefs for the Second Circuit Court of Appeals in New York regarding compelling issues in ongoing apartheid litigation. Nagan published "The Global Challenge To Legal Education: Training Lawyers For A New Paradigm Of Economic, Political And Legal Cultural Expectations In The 21st Century" in 11 *ILSA Journal of Int'l & Comp. Law* 1 (2005) (with Professor Danie Visser).

Assistant Professor **Christopher Peterson** testified before the Jacksonville City Commission's Government Operations, Oversight & Human Services Committee on Sept. 19. He spoke

about a proposed ordinance that would limit interest rates charged to military personnel who take out payday loans.

Professor **William Page** presented his paper "The Ideological Origins and Evolution of Antitrust Law" Sept. 19 at New York University's Colloquium on Market Institutions and Economic Processes.

Stephen C. O'Connell Professor **Christopher Slobogin** gave a talk on "Virtual Searches" at the National Conference on Science, Technology and the Law in St. Petersburg Sept. 13. Slobogin presented draft standards on mental disability and the death penalty to the ABA's Criminal Justice Standards Committee in Washington, D.C., Sept. 18. He participated in the University of Florida's Sept. 21 Constitution Day panel.

David H. Levin Chair in Family Law **Barbara Bennett Woodhouse** gave the inaugural lecture Sept. 22 at Harvard Law School's Child Advocacy Project. Her topic was children's emerging rights and the role of universities in fostering high

quality multidisciplinary advocacy for children.

In the News

Dean **Robert Jerry** was quoted in a Sept. 15 *Florida Bar News* article about diversity issues at law schools across Florida.

Assistant Professor **Christopher Peterson** was quoted in a Sept. 18 *Arizona Republic* article about the boom in payday lenders in Arizona. The Associated Press did its own version of the story, which ran Sept. 19 in *The Tucson Citizen*.

Samuel T. Dell Research Scholar **Winston Nagan's** editorial "Explain Yourself, Judge Roberts," appeared in *The Tampa Tribune* on Sept. 15 and *The Gainesville Sun* on Sept. 16.

Professor **Steven Willis** and Tulane University law student **Kevin Reed** were the subject of an article in the Sept. 20 issue of *The Gainesville Sun*. Willis opened his home to Reed, who is one of more than 30 New Orleans students who are studying at UF in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

Alum, Research Fellow Goes to World Bank

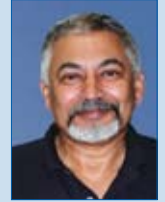
UF law alumnus and Senior Research Fellow **Craig Hammer** — a recent graduate who co-authored a number of papers with Professor **Winston Nagan** — has been hired as a Junior Associate at the World Bank.

Hammer will work with the Program to Develop New Bank Practices in Civic Engagement, Empowerment and Respect for Diversity, which manages a number of the organization's experimental projects. He received the call from the World Bank last Monday, Sept. 19, and reported for work two days later. While the pace of the hiring was swift, Nagan said, it did not come as a complete surprise: Hammer had worked as a consultant for the organization over recent months.

"Craig does bang-up research, and once they got the chance to work with him, I think the people at the World Bank recognized his talent," Nagan said.



McDaniel



Nagan



Peterson



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Slobogin



Woodhouse



Jerry



Willis

College of Law Administration

- Robert H. Jerry, II, Dean
- George L. Dawson, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
- Stuart R. Cohn, Associate Dean for International Studies
- Lyrissa Barnett Lidsky, Associate Dean for Faculty Development
- Michael K. Friel, Associate Dean & Director, Graduate Tax Program
- M. Kathleen "Kathie" Price, Associate Dean for Library and Technology
- Gail E. Sasnett, Associate Dean for Students, Professionalism and Community Relations
- J. Patrick Shannon, Associate Dean for Administrative Affairs
- Linda Calvert Hanson, Assistant Dean for Career Services
- Jennifer Cope, Interim Assistant Dean for Students
- Adrian Jones, Assistant Dean for Diversity and Community Relations
- J. Michael Patrick, Assistant Dean for Admissions
- Donald J. Hale, Senior Director of Development and Alumni Affairs
- Debra D. Amirin, Director of Communications
- Tim Lockette, Editor, *FlaLaw*
- Linda Johns, Graphic Designer
- Kristen Hines, Photographer

Send Us Your News

FlaLaw is published each week school is in session by the Levin College of Law Communications Office. Submit news of interest to the law school community by 10 a.m. Tuesday for the following Monday's issue to FlaLaw editor Tim Lockette at lockette@law.ufl.



Counseling: A Tune-Up for Your Mind

BY NICOLE STERN

People have many ideas about counseling and the process of change. In this article, I hope to bring to light how counseling



Stern

can be used and what it can do for those who decide to use it.

One view is that counseling is like a tune-up for your mind. Just as people would take their car to the mechanic if the tires were out of alignment, people may see a counselor if they are experiencing something that makes it difficult to "drive" their mind or body.

People often seek professional counseling if they are dealing with any number of life circumstances. Some examples of common situations for which people may see a counselor include: relationship difficulties, sleeping or eating problems, feelings of being stressed or sad, adjustment issues, self-esteem, feelings of being out-of-control, and many other situations that life can present to a person.

When people go to a professional counselor, they are likely to have different fears and expectations of the experience. Some have the idea that they will come into the office and lie on a couch while the counselor "picks at their brain" in the old Freudian psychoanalytic way. Others are hesitant because they do not like the idea of a "stranger" knowing their intimate and personal business, and think they should figure things out on their own. Still others think that when they see a professional counselor, the counselor will listen to their problems and give them the solution so they can move on with life. All of these ideas are perfectly understandable, but none is quite true.

Seeing a professional counselor is something that can be done by any person at any stage of life with just about any type of personal problem. It can be done sitting or lying on a couch, if there is one.

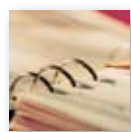
Hesitation in not wanting a stranger to know intimate and personal details is completely understandable. Be assured that

whatever is discussed with your counselor is confidential information. The only limit to that confidentiality is the counselors obligation to act when he or she believes a client is likely to harm themselves or others.

Don't expect a counselor to "fix" your problems. You are the expert on your own life. The counselor's expertise lies in the ability to act as a sort of mirror that helps reflect back to you whatever you present as the problem experienced, in order to help you see the situation in an objective way, so solutions are easier to perceive and achieve.

The process of counseling may involve an individual, family, or group working together through a therapeutic relationship to bring about change.

The Board of Bar Examiners does not mind you seeking counseling to help you deal with the problems that life may present. They want you to take care of yourself so you can be mentally healthy and able to practice law.



CALENDAR

September

26 **JMBA Meeting**, 7 p.m., room 285C

Law School Democrats, 5:30 p.m., room 382

27 **ACS Speaker Series with Prof. Michael Allan Wolf**, noon, Bailey Courtroom

Careers with the Federal Government, noon, room 285D

Federalist Society with Speaker Clark Neily, 3 p.m., Bailey Courtroom

28 **APIL Meeting**, 5 p.m., room 345

JTLP Write-On Begins, 5 p.m., room 355A

Beyond OCI: Exploring All Your Options, noon, 285B

29 **Career Opportunities in Estate Planning**, 10 a.m. faculty dining room

One Quick Question, 10:30 a.m.-noon, 244BG

Vigil for Hurricane Victims, 7:30 p.m. north lawn, Reitz Union

30 **From Mesches to Kurtz**, 1 p.m., Chesterfield Smith Ceremonial Classroom (room 180)