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UPCOMING EVENTS

10/19  “Dress for Success” Women in Law  6-8pm
       Al Neuharth Media Center

10/20  Geoff Colvin, Fortune Magazine Senior Editor  6-8pm
       Farber Hall, Old Main, USD Campus

10/21  New Lawyer Swearing in Ceremony  3-6pm
       Capitol Rotunda, Pierre, SD.

11/11  Veterans Day Holiday  No School


11/28  Law School Fall Final Exams Begin (11/28-12/9)  Law School

12/10  Winter Break (12/10-1/3)  Law School

If you have a meeting or other event for the calendar or would like to highlight an upcoming or past event or achievement with a story, please email Cody.D.Raterman@coyotes.usd.edu. All submissions welcome.
VLEG Clinic Brings Legal Access to Veterans West River

On September 16th the Veterans Legal Education Group (VLEG) hosted a Veterans Clinic in Hot Springs, South Dakota. Eight USD Law students trekked across the state to participate in this experiential learning opportunity, supervised by Assistant Professor of Law, Ramon Ortiz. With the help of VA Representative Uzoma Obineche, the clinic assisted over thirty veterans stationed at the Hot Springs Domiciliary, the Fort Meade VA Hospital, and the surrounding area.

Students sat side-by-side with veterans, interviewing them to identify legal issues. After completing the interview, students briefed volunteer attorneys Elizabeth Overmoe (State Bar Representative) and Jason Krause (Dorothoy & Krause) about the specific issues that brought the veteran to the clinic. The volunteer attorneys (Overmoe and Krause) then gave legal advice to the client while a law student was able to observe the entire interaction. Later, after the client departed, the student was able to speak privately with the attorney regarding the advice provided to the client.

VLEG President, Zach Meisler, had this to say about his experience: “These Veterans Legal Clinics that USD allows us to organize and partake in are, in my opinion, one of the best experiences of law school. You have the chance to put theory to practice; the people who come here are seeking help and we do our best to help them get the help they seek. You have no idea what type of issue you will be addressing when you greet someone who just walked through the door. You have to work one-on-one with the client and get to the facts of their problems and the remedy they are seeking. You have to think on your feet and you get real-world practical experience. If you want to build or strengthen your budding legal skills, this is one of the activities the school makes available, in which you should be participating.”

First time VLEG Clinic volunteer, Cody Raterman, noted that students without military history, like himself, had no trouble interviewing clients, as the legal issues were everyday problems (e.g., torts, criminal defense, estate planning). “It was baptism by fire: clients interviewed directly with VLEG volunteers for about thirty minutes prior to meeting with the attorney. I had to listen to each client’s story, drill down to what the legal issue was, and relay that information to the attorney. Some issues I had no idea about how to go about handling—like setting up a funeral trust—while other legal issue mimicked cases textbooks from my 1L year.”

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VLEG Clinic Brings Legal Access to Veterans West River

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Another USD School of Law volunteer student, Kaleb Paulsen, said of his experience: “Being able to give back to someone who was willing to pay the ultimate sacrifice for me gives me a feeling of gratitude and reminds me of why I’m in law school: to make a difference in the world.” Paulsen was impressed with volunteer attorney Jason Krause’s ability to instantly connect with every client that visited the clinic, and said he learnt valuable lessons on attorney client interaction.

When asked what the biggest challenge in setting up the clinic was, Meisler said, “It’s letting the veterans know about the clinic, as many of them are either reluctant about seeking legal assistance because they think their issues isn’t a big deal, or they aren’t aware a clinic is even being held.”

Meisler also noted that US Army OneSource Coordinator Wenzel Cummings was an excellent resource in publicity and outreach for this event. “VLEG has really grown as an organization over the years and I think one of the main reasons is that the students and the volunteer attorneys genuinely care about the mission. We even had representatives from the Law School’s Tax Clinic take part this year, which allowed us to enlarge the scope of our services. We’ve formed what we like to call the ‘South Dakota Military Legal Alliance,’ which is a catchy way to say Army OneSource, USD Student Veterans Resource Center, South Dakota Young Lawyers Division and the State Bar, USD School of Law, and the VA Health Care System are all working together behind the scenes to make clinics like this possible.”

Meisler noted that between the two clinics hosted in 2016 (Sioux Falls and Hot Springs), approximately eighty veterans received legal assistance.

VLEG is funded by the School of Law and is open to all law school students. The next Veterans Clinic will take place in the spring time, at the VA hospital in Sioux Falls.

Any students interested in volunteering are encouraged to contact VLEG President Zach Meisler (meislerzach@yahoo.com).
Dellinger Receives Fulbright

USD School of Law Associate Professor of Law Myanna Dellinger was recently named the recipient of a prestigious Fulbright specialist grant to conduct research and lecture at the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) in Potsdam, Germany (http://www.iass-potsdam.de/). The purpose of the IASS is to pave the way towards sustainable societies through transdisciplinary research, to develop solutions for urgent sustainability challenges and to support national and international decision-making processes. Dellinger will lecture on American climate change policy under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Paris Agreement. She is working on two versions of her lecture in preparation of either major presidential candidate securing victory; both candidates (Trump, Clinton) have opposite beliefs and policy directions concerning climate change.

While in Potsdam, Dellinger will also research improved methods of public participation into government decision making on environmental law and policy, given technological change and the changing preferences of new generations. She hopes to research and explore community action in the age of transparency, growth, and hyper-connectivity. The benefit of completing this research at the IASS is the opportunity to learn from other academicians that share passion for the same subject, but from different backgrounds. Fluent in German, Danish, and English, Dellinger is looking forward to immersing herself in an environment of conflicting ideas and languages.

Unlike most Fulbright grants, Dellinger’s “Fulbright Specialist” award lasts only one month. She leaves mid-November and return mid-December. Keep in touch with Dellinger by following her on the blog or by listening to her weekly podcast.
Staff Spotlight: Teresa Carlisle

USD School of Law welcomes Teresa Carlisle into her new position as Registration Officer. Many of you may know Carlisle, as she has been senior secretary at USD Law for the past 15 years. A natural transition, Carlisle is excited at the opportunities and challenges inherent to the Registration Office. She said, “Even though my position will be a serious shift in responsibilities, the most rewarding part of my job has been, and will continue to be, working with our students.”

Students that need a break from the stress with law school may come up and adorn the “Teresa Tiara of happiness” or practice their Hulu skills to decompress. Carlisle jokes that she does not charge for therapy, but does have an open door policy; all students are encouraged to stop by and introduce themselves.

 Plans for changes are still pending, but Carlisle wants students to know the following important information:

♦ **All 2Ls and 3Ls must reapply yearly for certification of good moral character.**

Even if there are no corrections or additions to your academic file, students must recertify yearly. The form for recertification can be found on TWEN/Administration/Forms or in Carlisle’s office.

♦ **Exam4 is out. ExamSoft is in.**

The difference between the two? Exams will be digital. No more paper, no more Scantrons. More to come as finals approach.

♦ **Interdisciplinary Classes:**

Students in good standing may apply to take up to six credits towards your graduation from outside the Law School catalog. Forms are available on TWEN and in Carlisle’s office.

In her free time, Carlisle enjoys honing her amateur photography skills, writing prose, and taking her Chihuahua-Dachshund rescue puppy, Ollie, for walks.

Coming into this new position, Carlisle hopes to streamline and make the Registration process as efficient and effective as possible. Carlisle is also interested in student artwork for her office. She is very interested in Native American or Impressionistic works. Any budding artists wanting to preserve their work may submit it to Carlisle for framing and appreciation.
VLEG Team Runs Marathon To Honor Veterans

VLEG members ran in the 13th Annual Black Hills Veterans March and Marathon on 17th of September 2016, following their legal clinic. The Black Hills Veteran March is a picturesque trek through the mountainous terrain of the beautiful Black Hills of South Dakota. This march/marathon pays tribute to the many sacrifices that this nation’s veterans have made in the past and continue to make today.

The run started in Rochford, South Dakota, and ended in downtown Deadwood, South Dakota. Runners noted that the temperature were 38 degrees—and really, really cold in shorts and t-shirts—at the starting line in the valley of the Michelson Trial. Each runner completed the 26.2 mile marathon, placing first in the Coed Team Division, and each received a granite award for their achievement.

VLEG Treasurer, Kaleb Paulsen said, “The point of the marathon was to honor veterans and to serve as a VLEG teambuilding exercise. As hard as the run proved to be, we stuck together and stayed positive taking it one mile at a time. In hindsight, we may not have prepared as well as we should have; still, not a bad time for our first official marathon.”

All USD School of Law students are encouraged to participate in the 14th annual Black Hills Veterans March and Marathon next year. The VLEG Schmidlap runners hope to retain their COED team award and to have more female runners next year. The 2016 VLEG “Schmidlap” Runners included:

- Kaleb Paulsen (2L)
- Zach Meisler (2L)
- Maria Reffner (USD RN Studies)
- Cody Raterman (2L)
- James Jund (3L)
- Morgan Nelson (2L) Reserve Runner
- Jake Dawson (3L) Reserve Runner

Left to Right: Cody Raterman, James Jund, and Kaleb Paulsen set the pace for the first mile

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Morgan Nelson and Jake Dawson were reserve runners for the team in case of any injury. They still volunteered their time by assisting as course guards and cheerleaders. Nelson, stationed at the last mile in downtown Deadwood, lifted spirits by taking selfies with the USD VLEG team and notifying friends and family on social media of the group’s progress.

Cody Raterman slipped on an unexpected pinecone around mile marker 22—his second pinecone slip during the marathon—causing injury to his knee. Raterman unfortunately had to finish the remaining four miles of the marathon by walking. “There was no way I was going to give up at 22 of 26.”

Teammate Kaleb Paulsen finished the race at 5 hours 30 minutes, and went back to help his teammate for the last two miles. Raterman had assistance from a lone runner (Bob) that had been running at the same pace as the “Schmidlap” group throughout the course, and stayed with Raterman until Paulsen returned. All three finished together.

Interested in running next year? As Professors of Law Hutton, Horton, and Van Patten all suggest: “Start training, now!” For more information, contact VLEG President Zach Meisler (meislerzach@yahoo.com).
OCI Event: “Smashing Success”

The week of September 12th-16th, over forty law related employers from around the region participated in USD School of Law’s On Campus Interview (OCI) event. The purpose of OCI was to match employers with 2L and 3Ls for coveted 2017 summer internships and post-graduate positions.

Employers held formal half-hour interviews with each candidate for every position offered. Strict rules kept employers from pressuring students to accept offers during the interview process. After a weekend to weigh candidates, employers sent out offers and students were able to accept or deny the offer beginning the following Monday.

In applying for positions, some students took a shotgun approach and applied to all available internships, while others were more selective based on location or area of law. Some firms required applicants to be in the top percentages of their class to receive an opportunity to interview.

When asked about the best strategy for applying for OCI internships, one student noted that, “because I’m from out of state, I applied to every position possible so I could interview employers and see which is the best fit for me.” Others noted they applied for only their top choices of familiar firms or agencies.

Devra Hermosilla, Director of Career Services at USD School of Law, called the event “a smashing success.” Hermosilla said that post event feedback from the employers included repeated comments that the 2Ls and 3L were “exceptional candidates and the employers were very impressed.”

Hermosilla noted that internships are still available for students who did not participate or did not find a position during OCI. The Career Services Office is available to assist students in identifying potential internships and help students prepare resumes, cover letters, and practice interviewing.

On campus interviews are part of the tradition of being a student at USD School of Law. The past few OCI events were less formal and designed to be a less intimidating career fair-like environment. Hermosilla believes that the shift in event style to a formalistic setting helped lead to the success of the event. This year, the formal interviews were identical to the type of experience students would receive in the job market. The added benefit of the private setting was that students took away valuable interview skills even if they didn’t land an offer.

Doubling the number of employers from previous years was another achievement that made the event a success.

Goals for next year’s OCI includes getting 100% participation from 2L students. Hermosilla said that only about half of the current 2Ls took advantage of the event this year. Hermosilla wants to thank all of the students who participated and wants to strongly encourage every 1L to participate next year.

Career Service News and Events

♦ Career Services will be hosting a Professional Development Series, 12-1pm, every third Wednesday of each month. The purpose of this series is to hone professional skills, prepare students for the workplace, and present JD career information. The series will be consistently held on the third Wednesday of each month to avoid overbooking events with student organizations.

♦ Attention 1Ls: Career Services will be hosting a “How to Land an Internship” workshop sometime after Dakota Days. The purpose of this event is to begin to prepare you for a spring 2017 OCI specifically designed for 1Ls.

♦ 2Ls and 3Ls that have previous internship experience and would like to volunteer to discuss previous internships and help conduct mock interviews, please contact Devra Hermosilla in Career Services.
USD Professor of Law & Heidepriem Trial Advocacy Fellow Thomas Horton taught “Deposition Skills” for the National Institute Trial Advocacy (NITA), October 14th-16th at the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law (commonly referred as Berkeley Law or Boalt Hall). The purpose of NITA is to train and mentor lawyers to be competent and ethical advocates in pursuit of justice, and to develop and teach trial advocacy skills to support and promote the effective and fair administration of justice.

Professor Horton regularly teaches trial and deposition skills for NITA, and additionally helped teach young South Dakota attorneys trial skills along with other members of the South Dakota Trial Lawyers Bar, as part of the South Dakota Trial Academy’s week long NITA style course at the USD School of Law this summer.

For more information about the National Institute of Trial Advocacy, or how to attend one of their many skill building seminars, visit http://www.nita.org/.

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Horton’s “Deposition Skills” course at UC Berkeley will focus on:
- Eliciting information using the “Funnel Technique” that exhausts a witness’ subject knowledge
- Identifying other potential sources of information
- Closing off avenues of escape
- Working with documents to gather information, refresh memory, and impeach
- Dealing with objections and coping with obstreperous counsel
- Defending depositions
- Working with witnesses to prepare them both substantively and emotionally for their deposition
- Knowing when and how to make proper objections and instruct not to answer
- Ethical considerations in deposition settings and witness preparation.
VITA Ready to Train Volunteers

The University of South Dakota Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) offers free tax help to low-to moderate-income people who cannot prepare their own tax returns. These include the elderly, disabled, limited-English-speaking, those in rural communities, and international students. The VITA program is sponsored by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and uses certified volunteers to prepare basic tax returns and answer tax related issues. The University of South Dakota VITA site actively seeks more volunteers to meet the Vermillion community needs.

VITA is an experiential learning opportunity that allows students to refine real legal skills. Volunteering allows students to strengthen your client interviewing skills, as the first task of any VITA meeting is to administer a complete interview of the client’s tax liabilities and credits. Developing a positive relationship with a client and effectively communicating to achieve a desired result are key skills students will take away from volunteering with VITA. Students also learn more about the intricacies of the United States tax system as the families secure the full tax refunds they’re entitled.

Students who would like to participate do not need any prior experience with income tax returns. VITA will provide all the training needed to be administer successful interviews and tax returns. To assist others with their tax returns, you must simply pass the online tests offered by the IRS; multiple opportunities are given to pass the test.

In Vermillion, the VITA site is located at the Vermillion Public Library. The clinic hours vary, but they are typically one weekday evening and one weekend afternoon. Students are able to sign up for the time slots that work best for their schedules. As an organization, VITA asks members to commit to volunteering at five clinic days.

VITA is an extremely valuable service for the clients in the Vermillion community. Many discover that they are eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit, an important yet not widely known federal initiative, and are entitled to substantial refunds.

President of VITA Mallory Schulte says, “This is your opportunity, as students, to use your basic academic and social skills to improve the economic lives of the Vermillion community.

Please contact Mallory.Schulte@coyotes.usd.edu to learn more about VITA.

Class of 2018 Completes Clothing Drive

The University of South Dakota School of Law Class of 2018 recently completed a clothing drive community service project. Students donated fall and winter clothing, blankets, and household goods. The Class Vice-President, Cody Raterman, noted that the class collected over 70 articles of clothing, and that the reason for the clothing drive was to “re-stock the Civ” following the successful Student Bar Association ‘Thrift Shop Formal’ event where students were encouraged to wear items purchased from local thrift stores.

The Class of 2018 would like to thank all who donated time and clothing to the event, especially Burt Becher, Kaleb Paulsen, and Amber Walter for the large amounts of clothing they donated. The Class plans to recreate and heavily promote the event next year.
### Student Organization Directory

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<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
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<td>Kaleb Paulsen</td>
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<td>Second Year Class</td>
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<td>Third Year Class</td>
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<td>Alternative Dispute Resolution</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Law Student Association</td>
<td>Prof. Tom Simmons</td>
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<td>China Honorary Ambassadors Law Students Assoc.</td>
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*Story idea? If your organization’s contact information is incorrect or not listed, please email*  
*Cody.D.Raterman@coyotes.usd.edu* with updates.