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LAW SCHOOL NOTES

Elder law goes international

JMLS conference seeks to influence world discussion with Chicago Declaration

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In January 2010, The John Marshall Law School became the first — and still only — law school in Illinois to offer a J.D. certificate in elder law.

Later that year, three members of the school's faculty were part of the task force on the formation of what became the Elder Law & Miscellaneous Remedies Division of the Cook County Circuit Court, the first such division of a major court system in the country.

The school will take an even bigger step in the promotion and advancement of elder law next month by hosting the first annual International Elder Law and Policy Conference.

The conference — to be held July 10 and 11 — will close with the unveiling of the Chicago Declaration on the Rights of Older Persons, a document that drafters hope will influence further international elder law.

"We are getting many of the greatest experts in the world on the rights of the elderly and coordi-

nating the efforts of all these folks to come to some common understanding of what the rights of the elderly should be," said William B.T. Mock Jr., a John Marshall professor and a member of the drafting team.

Along with Mock and Barry A. Kozak, director of the school's elder law program, the drafting team includes five other John Marshall faculty members: Teresa Do, Walter J. Kendall III, Ralph Ruebner, Steven D. Schwinn and Mark E. Wojcik.

The declaration also includes contributions from elder law experts in Australia, Belgium, China, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Macedonia, Paraguay, Taiwan and the United Kingdom.

"I would say that dozens of people have been involved in the process, many of them calling in from overseas," Mock said. "This is truly an international collaboration."

The 3,200-word declaration — currently in its ninth draft — outlines not just proposed rights for the elderly in general but for "older populations with specific vulnerabilities" such as minorities, mi-



William B.T. Mock Jr.

grant workers, the LGBTQ community, prisoners and people with disabilities.

Joining John Marshall in organizing the conference are Roosevelt University and the East China University of Political Science and Law in Shanghai. East China University will host the 2015 conference and will trade hosting duties with John Marshall every year.

The conference will feature five panel discussions over the two days covering a variety of elder law topics along with keynote addresses from Israel Doron, professor of law at the University of Haifa in Israel, and Eilionoir Flynn, senior lecturer at the National University of Ireland, Galway, School of Law.

On July 31 and Aug. 1, representatives from John Marshall will go to the United Nations headquarters in New York for the fifth working session of the Open-minded Working Group on Aging, where they will present the declaration.

"The purpose of this is to move forward toward drafting an international treaty or convention on the rights of older persons," Mock said.

"Our hope is that the work we are doing here on the Chicago Declaration will serve as a basis for further development of the international convention."

Cost for the two-day conference ranges from \$75 for students and faculty of John Marshall and Roosevelt University to \$200 for the public. Illinois attorneys can also earn 13.25 Continuing Legal Education credits.

Other law school events next month include:

- IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law's Alumni Association will host two events in July. The Leadership Circle Dinner will be held July 17 at the Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark St., and the Post Bar Party will be held July 30 at Rock Bottom Restaurant and Brewery, 1 W. Grand Ave.

RSVP for these events at alumni.kentlaw.edu.

- Northwestern University School of Law will offer a pair of lectures. Esther S. Barron and Stephen F. Reed will discuss entrepreneurship law service and education on July 15, while Carolyn E. Frazier and Uzoamaka E. Nzelibe will discuss juvenile justice on July 22.

For more information on both lectures, contact Magdalena Mahoney at magdalena.mahoney@law.northwestern.edu.

- And a reminder to law students: You can subscribe to the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin for free. Use your school e-mail address at www.lawbulletin.com/students to sign up.

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