

## News in Brief

03/14/08

### **New Program Helps Ninth Graders**

Florida Coastal School of Law students are giving back to the younger generation. Local attorneys and law students are visiting ninth-grade classrooms to explain the importance of budgeting and how to “avoid credit card debt.” Thirty law students and 14 attorneys will visit the classrooms; each attorney will be paired with at least one law student. There will be four classes, each around 90 minutes long. The program is partially funded by a donation from the Jaguar Program of around \$9,000. Wachovia Corp. has also given a \$7,000 donation.

### **GPA Increase Proposal Causes Concerns**

S.J. Quinney College of Law at the University of Utah is causing some controversy due to a new proposal. The law school is considering raising its current minimum GPA from 1.85 to 2.5. If approved, the change would be implemented for the 2008-2009 school year. It would affect first-year law students that year, unless otherwise noted. School officials claim the raise is necessary to ensure more of S.J. Quinney College of Law’s graduates can pass the bar exam and become competent attorneys. The college council needs to approve the change, but if it does, students with GPAs lower than 2.5 will not be kicked out of the Utah school right away. Instead, they will have one semester to bring up their GPAs. The decision is still pending, and the debate over whether this action should be taken continues.

### **LSU Increases Scholarship Amount**

Louisiana State University has decided to increase its Paul M. Hebert Law Center’s scholarship amount by “more than 40%.” The \$1 million increase will be for the school year to come. The increase was approved at a recent board meeting. The law center’s new Louisiana Distinguished Public Service Scholars Program is one reason for the increase, which will eventually be funded by LSU fee increases and overall tuition. The new program is being implemented to raise legal public service awareness among students. Other issues pertaining to admission and applicants also contributed to the decision to increase funding for the law center’s scholarship program.