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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **SLU LAW'S PUBLIC LAW REVIEW TO HOST POST FERGUSON SYMPOSIUM**

*Student- run journal program to explore legal and societal issues facing the community*

January 26, 2015 – Saint Louis University School of Law is pleased to announce this year's *Public Law Review* symposium, **The Thin Blue Line: Policing Post Ferguson** on February 20, 2015 from 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Scott Hall. The symposium, hosted by the law school's student- run *Saint Louis University Public Law Review*, will address the legal and societal challenges placed on the justice system in our world post-Ferguson.

The symposium will include panel presentations as well as an opening address by St. Louis County Prosecutor Bob McCulloch. McCulloch, as an attorney that works closely with law enforcement, will provide personal insight into the political challenges facing prosecutors who are asked to review police conduct, respond to community pressure, and set law enforcement priorities; whether by emphasizing low level, quality of life offenses or concentrating on more serious forms of violent gun-related crime. His presentation will be followed by a moderated question and answer session.

Panel presentations will include local and regional experts brought together to discuss questions surrounding the policing of protest and the policing of police. Today's law enforcement officers face new hurdles in an era marked by social media, smart phones, a 24-hour news cycle, citizen journalists and a growing divide between local police and the people they are called to serve. With the world's attention turned on Ferguson, Mo., critique of law enforcement procedures, tactics and behavior is at an all-time high. Through the hosting of these panels, the symposium will employ a local lens to identify legal challenges facing law enforcement officers on the streets today. Panelists include:

#### **Reflections on Policing Protest:**

**Chief Jon Belmar** - St. Louis County Police Chief

**David Klinger** - Associate Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at University of Missouri, St. Louis

**Alex Vitale** - Associate Professor of Sociology at Brooklyn College

#### **Reflections on Policing Police:**

**Kami Chavis Simmons** - Director of the Criminal Justice Program and Professor of Law at Wake Forest University School of Law

**Seth Stoughton** - Assistant Professor of Law at University of South Carolina School of Law

**Edward Maguire** - Professor in the Department of Justice, Law, & Criminology at American University

The *Public Law Review* Symposium is an annual event run by the journal students of *Saint Louis University Public Law Review*. This symposium has a history of visiting timely and often controversial topics in an academic setting, e.g. St. Louis's City County Merger discussion in 2014. This year's event is

no exception as academics, law enforcement officers and practitioners are brought together to engage in a candid discussion of the changing environment in which our justice system is closely examined.

[Registration](#) is required for this event. A separate media registration will be available at a date closer to the symposium.

***About Saint Louis University School of Law***

Saint Louis University School of Law was founded in 1843 and is the oldest law school west of the Mississippi River. The strength of the faculty, breadth of course offerings and extensive clinical and professional skills experience provide students with a well-rounded legal education. The School of Law's rich history consists of strong connections to the community and a long tradition of public service. SLU LAW's location in the heart of downtown St. Louis, offers students unparalleled access to leading law firms, courthouses, corporations, government agencies and non-profit organizations — and a unique opportunity to see the law in action. For more information, visit <http://law.slu.edu/>.

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