

## USD Criminal Justice Education Project Hosts Documentary, "Gideon's Army"

VERMILLION — The Criminal Justice Education Project of the University of South Dakota School of Law is hosting a public screening of the prize-winning documentary "Gideon's Army" on Wednesday, March 4, starting at 5 p.m. at the Law School.

The event will start with a panel of four speakers from 5-6 p.m. in Room 101 of the Law School, followed by a 6-8 p.m. showing of the film in the Law School Courtroom. A reception for panel speakers and guests will be held in the commons area of the Law School after the screening.

"Gideon's Army" follows the personal stories of three young public defenders who are part of a small group of idealistic lawyers in the Deep South challenging the assumptions that drive a criminal justice system strained to the breaking point. Backed by mentor Jonathan "Rap" Rapping, a charismatic leader who heads the Southern Public Defender Training Center (now known as Gideon's Promise), they struggle against long hours, low pay and staggering caseload. Even the most committed often give up in their first year.

An official selection in the prestigious U.S. Documentary Competition at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival, "Gideon's Army" was awarded the editing prize at the festival. The film premiered on HBO in July 2013.

The panel speakers are Traci Smith, Mary Moriarty, Eric Shulte and June Hardwick.

Traci Smith is the Chief Public Defender for the Minnehaha County Public Defender's Office in Sioux Falls. She started her career as a deputy public defender in 1999, became the chief deputy in 2003, and the chief in 2005. With more than 15 years of trial experience and a staff of 32 employees, her office is providing indigent defense in the state's most populous county.

Mary Moriarty is the training director and the managing attorney of the Hennepin County Public Defender's Office's Adult Division in Minneapolis, Minn. Moriarty has taught attorneys, judges, investigators and paralegals in every region of the country. She serves on the faculty of public defender trial schools in Minnesota, Kentucky, Illinois, and Louisiana. She is a core faculty

member of Gideon's Promise. Her interactive curriculum models have been widely copied by other trainers.

Eric Shulte is a Bar Commissioner and serves on the Law School and Legal Services Committees for the South Dakota Bar Association. Eric also serves as Advisory Board President for The Banquet. He was elected President-Elect of the South Dakota State Bar Association during the association's 2014 annual meeting.

June Hardwick is one of three attorneys featured in the documentary. She currently practices in Jackson, Miss., as a criminal defense attorney, and although she is no longer working in a public defender's office, she still dedicates herself to defending the indigent through her pro-bono work.

The Criminal Justice Education Project is a group designed to facilitate, through speakers and lectures, improved understanding on research areas in the psychology-law, criminal justice and legal fields for future public defenders, prosecutors and practicing attorneys.

### USD School Of Law To Host Balko

VERMILLION — The Federalist Society of the University of South Dakota School of Law is hosting activist and author Radley Balko at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 4, in the courtroom of the law school.

Balko will discuss his nationally publicized 2013 book, "Rise of the Warrior Cop," which contends police in American communities have increasingly come to resemble military ground troops. He suggests that the consequences have been dire: One's home is no longer a place of sanctuary, the Fourth Amendment has been gutted and police today have been conditioned to see the citizens they serve as the enemy.

Balko is a senior editor at Reason Magazine, a public policy analyst at the Cato Institute and he blogs about criminal justice, the drug war and civil liberties for *The Washington Post*. His work has been featured in the *New York Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Los Angeles Times*, and *Huffington Post*.

The program is free and open to the public.

### Co. Commission Accepting Applications

Yankton County Commission is accepting applications for four open positions on the Yankton County Planning Commission.

This board meets the second Tuesday of the month to review applications in accordance with the Yankton County Zoning Ordinance and provide recommendations/findings to the Yankton County Commission/Board of Adjustment. This position is three year term from April 2015 to March 2018.

Those who want to be considered for an appointment are asked to submit a written statement describing their background to email address: pat@co.yankton.sd.us or Yankton County Planning & Zoning, 321 West 3rd Street #209, Yankton, SD 57078. All applications will be submitted to the Yankton County Commissioners for review and selection.

All applications must be received by 5 p.m. Friday, March 13. For more information, contact Yankton County Planning & Zoning Department at 605-260-4445.

## MMC

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music to see who you think is going to get the Mount Marty 'bump'.

"Now the students are excited and are constantly asking when are we going to make the announcement on who it is going to be this year. We have started to develop the culture that this is something we are going to continue to do. The buzz is there and it is exciting," he added.

Yager, who insists he is just one in a team of people who make the events at the college work, said all of the artists they have brought in have been represented by the same management company in Nashville. So, when they were contacted this year, it was to see who might be available.

"A lot of it has to do with routing," he said. "For example, an artist may be touring the southwest for their fall tour and the southeast for the spring tour. For King and Country are involved with what is called the Winter



SHAUNA MARLETTE/P&D

For Mount Marty College activities director, Wyatt Yager, his job is all about sharing the Catholic college's message. His latest event, booking Grammy award winning artists For King and Country, Yager is pictured with a photo from a previous concert held in Cimpl Arena.

Jam with a bunch of different artists, and they tend to do the east coast first and then the west coast second. They had about a month off in between the two before they were going to be back on the road doing the west coast portion of their tour. They have to travel through our area to get to the west coast, so the timing of when they leave and having the date

open worked."

Yager said he is a big Christian music fan, so he was very excited that the group will be performing on campus.

"It is kind of a big coup that they just, literally in the last few weeks, won two Grammys," he said. "I had solidified the contract with them just before they won the Grammys. They have

started to have crossover appeal. They headlined LifeLight one of the nights this past year, and did the Tonight Show with Jay Leno just before he stepped down."

Calling the group "rising stars," Yager said most importantly they have a great message for the young people in how to treat women and a very personal message on dealing with illness.

Yager noted that lead singers for the band, Joel and Luke Smallbone, have been raised in the music industry and know how to put on a great production.

"Their sister is Christian music start Rebecca St. James and their dad is their manager," he said. "So, from him they have learned all aspects of a tour and they take what they have learned and put it into their production."

While this year's concert promises to be special, Yager said each event he learns something and makes changes for the future to make things run smoother. One big change was moving the concert to a Wednesday night.

"We moved the concert date to a Wednesday two years ago," he said. "It has

worked to do it on Wednesday nights so youth groups can come and they can use it as an end of year celebration, as well."

Yager noted that eventually the college would like to expand what they are doing with the concerts, but for right now they are happy with the results they are seeing.

"We have to remember our purpose here, we are a college," he said. "That is why we hold the concert in the late spring, so all the athletics are done except for baseball. We want to make sure we accommodate all of our students first."

Yager said the college hopes to announce ticket sales within the next two weeks.

"We can fit 1,500 people in there," he said. "Once our students have claimed their free ticket, whatever is left we will sell which is usually in the 1,200-1,300 range."

However, he noted if the concert isn't for you there are always other events to consider.

"This year we have had the St. John's Bible," he said. "Right now we just have two volumes, but for the reunion this summer we will have all

seven. People can go to the website and get more information about that. It's one of those things that you hear about, but until you can actually come and spend time with them and see the amount work that went into it and the passion that you see on the page, it is very transformational."

Yager said no matter which event you attend at Mount Marty, it is his job to see that the college's message is spread.

"Seeing everybody happy is what I most enjoy," he said. "I love hearing the talk after an event where people are saying they enjoyed it. It's all about Mount Marty College. It is about getting our message out there and sharing what we are doing here with as many people as we can."

For more information on events going on at Mount Marty College, visit [www.mtmc.edu](http://www.mtmc.edu).

To follow Shauna Marlette on Twitter go to [www.twitter.com/shauna.marlette](http://www.twitter.com/shauna.marlette). To comment on this story go to [www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net).

We like a good colonoscopy joke as much as the next person, but there's nothing funny about the fact that **one in 20 will be affected by colon cancer.**

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# BUTT SERIOUSLY

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