THE NISONGER CENTER
BROWN BAG SERIES PRESENTS:
THE CASE AGAINST BANNING THE WORD “RETARD”

Please Join Us:
Tuesday March 30, 2010
12:00 – 1:00
243 McCampbell Hall

Presenter: Christopher M. Fairman
Professor of Law
Michael E. Moritz College of Law

Professor Christopher Fairman is a national expert in civil procedure, legal ethics, and most recently, taboo language. While these areas may appear diverse, Professor Fairman’s scholarly interests can be easily summed up: words matter.

Professor Fairman was recently featured in the Washington Post for his article on the use of the word “retard”. In his article, Fairman points out that “If the history of offensive terms in America shows anything, it is that words themselves are not the culprit; the meaning we attach to them is, and such meanings change dramatically over time and across communities”.

Articles to read prior to the Brown Bag:

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/02/11/AR2010021103896.html?hpid=opinionsbox1

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/02/14/AR2010021402893.html?hpid=opinionsbox1