

The Cheese Stands Alone: CWSL Grading Curve Presents Uneven Playing Field in Job Market

BEN PEZZNER
MANAGING EDITOR

[Editor's note: The following article is the second in a two-part series about the peculiarities of the CWSL Grading System. The first article addressed the 50-95 grading scale and can be found at <http://cwslsba.com/commentary> (March 2012 issue). This article addresses the grading curve. The ideas expressed in these articles do not necessarily reflect those of the CWSL administration or faculty.]

"The Farmer in the Dell" originated as a courtship game, with a farmer choosing a wife, then in turn selecting a child, a maid, and a serving man, who leaves the maid after kissing. In the American version, everybody gets chosen except for the cheese, which, unfortunately, ends up standing alone. A law student is a lot like a farmer, standing in the dell deciding what to choose. We first choose which school to attend. We then choose our classes, our areas of concentration, our social and professional networks, and ultimately our jobs. But unlike the farmer who always gets a wife, or the dog who always takes the cat, sometimes the law student doesn't get the job.

When it comes to jobs, we can use all the help we can get, especially in this economy. California Western is an amazing school. CWSL graduates can boast a top-notch legal education, thanks to the brilliant professors and a dedicated and hard working administration. CWSL graduates can take advantage of a vast network of professional connections through the efforts of the Alumni Association and the Career Services Office, and the Clinical Internship Program. CWSL graduates will likely pass the California Bar Exam on their first try, thanks to the aggressive efforts of the Bar Review Program. But despite all of this,

CWSL remains a fourth tier school (for unrelated reasons that are better left to another article). Outside Southern California, it is harder to rely on CWSL's local reputation and alumni network for help. Instead, we must rely on our resumes to stand out.

The Importance of Grades

I recently attended the ABA Law Student Division's 9th Circuit Spring Meeting at Whittier Law School in Costa Mesa. The first panel of speakers was made up of managing partners in private firms as well as hiring attorneys in the public sector. They spoke about what hiring attorneys look for in resumes, what has impressed those making the hiring decisions, and how to stand apart in this challenging employment market. I made a list of the non grades-related factors they mentioned most: integrity, competence, demeanor, personality, nuances (looks, confidence), worldly experience, interest in the firm, work ethic, and passion.

While these factors are important in the final hiring decision and can often make or break the candidate, they are secondary to grades. According to Aaron Lubeley, hiring partner for Seyfarth Shaw LLP in Los Angeles, "Grades open the door; the rest of your resume walks you through." In other words, it does not matter how amazing your resume looks, or how well you perform during the interview; at some firms, you will be disqualified if your grades do not meet a minimum requirement.

Of course, there are always exceptions; some firms value grades less than others. Nevertheless, grades remain an important part of the resume. And at many firms, without a high enough grade point average, it may not matter that you were the president of your club, a distinguished advocate award recipient, or even managing editor of your school paper!

If grades are so important, would it not be in a law school's best interest to give out lots of As and very little Cs? Not so fast, my fellow grade reform advocates. The ABA is silent when it comes to grading scales and curves. Accordingly, law schools have availed themselves of the opportunity to inflate their curves to give their students a better chance in the job market.

Grade Inflation

Grade inflation is a hot topic among academic scholars and journalists alike. Stephen Colbert even ran a segment addressing Loyola School of Law's recent retroactive grade adjustment. But grade inflation seems to be more of an academic issue than a practical one. Hiring attorneys seem to have bigger fish to fry, like, "How am I going to get through this humongous stack of resumes on my desk, and still be able to bill seven hours today?"

I suspected this was the case, so I fielded a grade inflation question to William Black, General Counsel of BAE Systems, at the conclusion of the hiring panel. According to Black, "The hiring process involves sifting through tons and tons and tons of resumes, to come up with that group of resumes that you actually will have people come in and interview. I don't think that a great deal of thought goes into one school's grade point average versus another school's grade point average, or comparing grade

inflation or things of that nature."

To be fair, BAE Systems is just one company. Depending on the size of the firm, results will vary. Your resume might get more face time. Your hiring attorney might be well versed in the grading curves of each school that he or she receives applications from. But this is not a very strong economy, and chances are there are more resumes than positions, no matter how small the firm is.

At BAE, not only do resumes have to pass through a cursory step before receiving a review "on the merits," but this initial step is not even performed by an attorney. According to Black, "As resumes are being processed, the initial review of a resume takes less than 30 seconds, and usually is done by a very low level person. We don't have senior vice presidents and the general counsel wading through a stack of 2,000 resumes to cut it down to the number of people who are given further consideration. So it's usually someone who's in an administrative position that's looking at them and saying *no . . . yes . . .* and going down through the stack."

The Curve Stands Alone

So what's all the fuss about? A quick look at the graphs on page 3 will give you a good picture of the discrepancy between CWSL's grade distribution and those of the See CWSL's CURVE on page 3...

LAST MONTH IN NATIONAL NEWS

1. Trayvon Martin's shooter not arrested based on Stand Your Ground law.
2. Supreme Court considers new healthcare policy's constitutionality.
3. Romney solidifies his lead in race for Republican presidential ticket.
4. Amelia Airhart airplane investigation to begin this summer.
5. Hunger Games breaks box office weekend records with \$155 million.

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Commencement: Carol Corrigan (left) 2010 speaker & Bruce MacDonald (right) 2011 speaker. CWSL.edu.

Spring '12 Graduation Details

LEAH REEVES
STAFF WRITER

It's that time of the year again. Time for some of our fellow students to walk down the aisle to proudly show their friends and family, and themselves, that they have completed their JD degree (or LL.M for some).

The graduation ceremony will be held on April 23, 2012 at 10am. This ceremony marks Dean Steven Smith's last commencement as Dean. As mentioned in the September 2011 issue, Dean Smith is stepping down as Dean after 15 years of service, but will be continuing to work at CWSL as a faculty member where he will be pursuing his research and writing.

This year's ceremony is going to be held at Spreckels Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park, which is located at 1549 El Prado, and the venue is very close to California Western

School of Law.

There are 219 students expected to graduate, which includes both JD and LL.M candidates.

There are no ticket purchases required, and as such, spectators can show up and claim first in time, first in right (Property I anyone?).

The speakers scheduled for the ceremony are father and son judges, Judge William Enright (Father) and Judge Kevin Enright (Son). Judge William Enright is on senior status from the US District Court for the Southern District of California and his son is Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of San Diego County.

For more information about CWSL's graduation ceremony and requirements, visit the Registrar's graduation webpage at: <http://tinyurl.com/cwslgraduation>

THE COMMENTARY EDITORIAL

Law School Relationships: Students and Faculty

Every month, the editors use this space to talk about popular topics that are relevant to the student body. We choose the editorial topic based on a number of factors, including the number of our colleagues who are talking about a certain topic, the relevance of the topic to the student body as a whole, and the possibility that addressing the issue in *The Commentary* could have an effect on how it is handled in the future. This month, we have decided to bring to light an issue that blows each of these factors out of the water: romantic relationships between students and faculty members.

This editorial has been extremely difficult to write, due to the sensitivity of the topic. We realize that these relationships, when they are happening, are personal, confidential, and potentially uncomfortable to talk about for those directly and indirectly involved. Therefore, we would like to state at the outset that this editorial is not about a specific relationship. It is intended to apply very generally, and not just to our school, but to any graduate school without an explicit non-fraternization policy.

This editorial has four parts. First, we will explain why we think that relationships between students and their professors in a law school setting are a bad idea. Second, we will detail the administration's policies regarding this issue. Third, we will provide some suggestions to the faculty, which includes tenured and associate professors, adjunct professors, support attorneys, and anyone else serving a professorial role who is thinking of pursuing a relationship with a student. And finally, we will provide some ideas for the administration that we think would be a more effective way to address this matter.

Reasons to Avoid Relationships

The power dynamic. Perhaps the most popular argument for the legitimacy of faculty/student relationships is, "Hey, we're all adults here." That may be true, but the faculty role inherently involves a power dynamic, considering the influence they have over students. And this influence transcends the traditional teacher/student relationship when in the context of a law school. Professors assign grades, and grades ultimately determine who gets to

finish school. Adjuncts supervise the small offices in STEPPS, run the pre-bar programs, and teach the smaller classes. We may all be adults, but the combination of authority, influence, and control that faculty members have over students involves a power dynamic that could have damaging repercussions for all of those involved.

The rumor mill. When a faculty member pursues multiple relationships with students, he or she develops a reputation among the student body that does not go away. While we are not addressing actual relationships in this editorial, we would like to point out that we do have colleagues that are uncomfortable with the prospect of taking classes with certain professors and joining certain programs, based on what they have heard from other colleagues. Needless to say, rumors need to be taken for what they are. But regardless of the accuracy of rumors of this type, why risk being caught up in the mill by pursuing a relationship?

Your reputation. This one is obvious. In a law school setting, the probability that there will be perceived favoritism for a student who is dating a professor is very high. Even if the student is not in the professor's class, the fact that a student is sleeping with a member of the faculty can lead to damaging reputation points. And because our area of study is the law, the reputations we make in school follow us into the professional world.

The drama. Law school is hard enough as it is. What happens when the relationship goes bad and a student has a falling out with his or her professor? Will there be any reverse favoritism? Will it have an effect on the student's ability to focus in class? On his or her studies?

The Administration's Policies

While there is no explicit ban on faculty/student relationships, the Faculty Bylaws provide that faculty members must conduct themselves consistent with accepted standards of "professionalism." Further, the Employee Handbook discourages dating between employees and students. But despite these policies, faculty/student relationships are not a specifically prohibited.

Even so, the Deans recognize that serious questions arise from these relationships.

We learned during a meeting with the Administration that the Deans are mindful of the power disparity that exists in such relationships, and they understand that such relationships may give rise to questions of propriety, fairness, and possible conflicts of interest. Given the commitment they have to maintaining an environment free from harassment, if the administration was notified of such a relationship, they would investigate to determine whether the allegations were correct and whether administrative action was warranted.

Suggestions for Faculty

We realize that the "professionalism" standard is vague so that it can address a wide range of conduct. But the lack of an outright ban should not be used as an excuse to pursue a relationship.

Consider using a "reasonably prudent professor" standard in determining the meaning of "professionalism." Consider keeping your door open if there is a student in your office. Avoid staying at off-campus social events where there is alcohol involved and you find that most of the other professors have already left. Would a reasonably prudent professor be drinking with students, going to clubs with them, and getting into cabs with them at two in the morning? Probably not. The key phrase to keep in mind is "avoiding the appearance of impropriety."

Most faculty members reading this will not be learning anything new, and are perhaps even holding themselves to an even stricter professionalism standard. But to the faculty members who may be crossing the line, hopefully this editorial will provide you with some helpful suggestions in order to stay out of the rumor mill, to stay out of future *Commentary* articles, and, ultimately, to keep your job.

Lastly, realize that the chances of faculty members being able to successfully keep the relationship a secret are slim to none. We're law students. We see the same people every day for many hours a day, attending the same classes, studying in the same library, working on the same projects. We talk. Further, we can't even keep relationships between ourselves secret. To expect us to be able to keep quiet about a relationship between a student and a professor is to

be living in a fantasy world.

Suggestions for Administration

Probably the biggest reason that students do not report these relationships is that we do not want to jeopardize our relationships with each other. We are told from Day 1 that law school is where we build our professional networks. The friendships and professional relationships that come out of law school last throughout our entire careers. Accordingly, many students feel that reporting a relationship against one's wishes could potentially sever ties, alienate the reporter, and create rifts in the student body. We recognize that reporting the relationship anyway could ultimately benefit the community as a whole. But as a student, it is hard to make that decision, especially when faced with the prospect of losing friends and colleagues. Therefore, we urge the administration to be mindful of this issue if and when students do come forward with something to report.

We strongly suggest that the administration consider implementing a strict non-fraternization policy. We recognize that it is possible for a relationship to exist that is entirely proper, completely fair to everyone directly and indirectly involved, and avoids all potential conflicts of interest. But we think it is very unlikely for such a relationship to be able to exist without being a distraction to some students and making others feel uncomfortable.

Most importantly, we give up a lot to go to law school (e.g. money, time, sanity), and in return, we expect a top-notch legal education and an environment that is fair, supportive, and promotes professionalism and academic success. We acknowledge that the administration is committed to providing a community that is free from harassment and discrimination, and we thank them for that. But we believe that such a community is unattainable as long as faculty members are allowed to pursue relationships with students at will.

[Please send comments and letters to the editor to cwscommentary@gmail.com. We are especially interested in any feedback from this editorial due to its important subject matter. Comments will remain anonymous and/or unprinted upon request.]

Corrections from March 2012: *The previous issue should have been labeled March 2012, not 2011. The club feature should have been identified as Student Animal Legal Defense Fund, not Animal Law Society. Two names were misspelled: Akeel Birk should have been Aqeel Virk and Sarena Kusic should have been Sarena Kustic. We regret the errors.*

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

ELENA SHAYGAN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

When thinking about this last year I can't help but smile at the immense growth of the *Commentary*. It wasn't easy – meeting every week, begging friends to write, learning/relearning design software on weekends, editing late into the night – but every issue has been worth it. As our managing editor Ben Pezzner says, every issue seems to be "our best issue yet." I'm very happy

to introduce Mr. Pezzner as the upcoming Editor-in-Chief because I am confident that this paper will continue to grow and develop under his guidance. As my last issue, I want to take this space to recap some of the stories we touched upon and remind everyone of the importance of open, independent press.

In our first issue, we provided advice on law school related apps and mourned the loss of technological genius Steve Jobs. We also discussed alternative careers, joint programs, and gave first year students a little survival advice to help start the year.

In the second issue, we covered the possibility of a lawsuit against CWSL over misleading employment statistics which was later confirmed and followed up on. We also talked about law school office hours et-

iquette and focused on the personal side of things by giving tips on how to stay healthy and how to manage stress.

In the third issue, we got to know more about our alumni, bar associations, competitive teams, favored classes, and clubs.

In the Fall-Spring transition issue, we finally got an explanation of our strict attendance policy and had some fun with finals party places. And how could anyone forget the article that exposed the goofy mix of music that comes up on some of our professors' iPods when on shuffle. There was also clinical internship information, considerations to keep in mind during finals, and most importantly, the first annual CWSL Cutest Pet Competition!

When we returned in the spring, we unveiled the truth behind disability accom-

modations and introduced the prospect of fourth floor renovations. We also had articles covering love, language, and the trial advocacy L.L.M. program.

Overall, the coverage of this paper has been broad but always relevant. We listened to your concerns and worked hard to address them in this open forum. We listened to the rumors and worked hard to print the truth. We listened to what you wanted to know about school, careers, music, dining, partying, and dating, and we worked hard to find the best people around to give you answers - all the while loving every minute of it.

In the end, we hope you've enjoyed the paper this year as much as we have. I personally look forward to the things to come and can't thank you enough for the support.

ABOUT US: The *Commentary* is the official California Western School of Law student newspaper. The editors are Elena Shaygan (Editor-in-Chief), Ben Pezzner (Managing Editor), and Grace Garner (Associate Editor). The SBA president thinks The *Commentary* has been around for 38 years, and we think that's pretty neat. We work out of the SBA office in the basement of the 350 building. We don't mind if you want to come by but we may recruit you to write an article while you're there. We have amazing support from the California Western community. The paper used to only print once in Fall and Spring but with all the fun stuff going on, why only print twice a year? Although we "borrow" many photos, we do always give credit so if you wish to reprint any of our stuff we ask that you just ask. The *Commentary* is a committee of SBA. The views expressed within the content of The *Commentary* are not necessarily the views of any specific agent of California Western School of Law, its administration, or the other SBA members.

CWSL’s Curve Situated on Unlevel Playing Field, Calls for Reform

From CHEESE on page 1... other two law schools in San Diego. The most blaring difference is the number of As each of the schools is required to give. USD requires its professors to give As to 20-25% of the students in each upper division class. TJSL requires As for 24% of each upper division class. CWSL, on the other hand, requires As for only 5-10% of each class. Granted, professors can petition for exceptions from the curve if an exceptional number of students perform well. But so can professors from USD and TJSL.

Looking at Bs, all three schools seem to be relatively on par, except CWSL allows professors to only give Bs to 30% of each class. This means that each CWSL class only requires a minimum of 35% of the students to get As and Bs. On the other hand, USD requires 65% and TJSL requires 72%.

Looking at Cs, CWSL’s minimum is equal to USD’s and TJSL’s maximum requirements. In other words, even if a CWSL professor awarded the maximum number of As and Bs, the professor would still have to hand out Cs to 40% of the class. In comparison, USD professors do not have to hand out any Cs at all, and TJSL professors are only allowed to give Cs to 28%.

And as for C- and non-passing grades, no school is required to give any (for upper year classes). However, CWSL allows professors to give a C- or lower to up to 20% of each class, whereas USD and TJSL only allow up to 8% to receive C- or lower.

To conclude, a class of 40 or more upper division students at CWSL will likely get less than half the amount of As those same students would have gotten had they taken the class at USD or TJSL. And the CWSL class will likely end up with much more Cs.

Hence, it is much more likely that a USD or TJSL student will have more As on his or her transcript and less Cs than a CWSL student who has worked equally as hard, and performed equally as well.

Leveling the Playing Field

It is clear that CWSL’s grading curve is not on par with those of other schools. While discussing my findings with CWSL professors and staff (including career ser-

vice), I received plenty of arguments for and against making an adjustment to the grading curve. But the overwhelming response is best summed up by Professor Campbell, who calls the current system “unfair,” and agrees that by “leveling the playing field, Cal Western students would be at less of a disadvantage.”

The arguments against adjusting the curve mostly focus on how our high bar

passage rates would be in jeopardy if more students got higher grades. But by making parallel adjustments to the drop cutoff, cum laude levels, and scholarship minimums, grades on an adjusted curve would still reflect the quality of a student’s work compared to his or her classmates without having to reinvent the wheel. In other words, students would all have to work equally as hard to avoid getting dropped, to try to keep their scholarships, and to strive

for higher class standings. Additionally, some professors would not give out more As than they currently do, because they feel that only a small handful of students set themselves apart from the rest, and they should be awarded for it. But under a new grading scheme, these students could still be awarded (with a 4.0, an A+, or a 100) while still allowing more students to get relatively lower As.

Hi-ho, the Derry-o

Lastly, some professors contend that if it were easier to get As and Bs, students would not try as hard to succeed. In response, I assert that the vast majority of students at CWSL are hard working by nature (spending \$40,000 a year for an education and trying to be as marketable as possible). The prospect of additional As and Bs would make students work even harder to be the ones to achieve them.

Making an adjustment to the CWSL curve would allow grades to more accurately reflect the quality of a student’s work compared to his or her peers at other schools, effectively leveling the playing field. But this proposition is a win-win because it would have no effect on the current grading standards, meaning grades would still reflect the quality of a student’s work compared to his or her classmates.

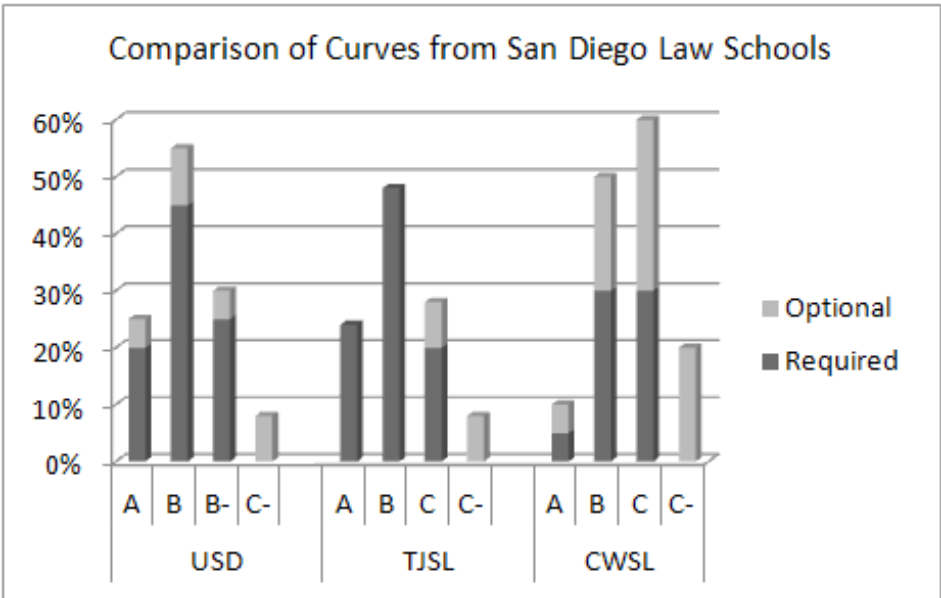
Alternatively, CWSL can leave the curve as it is – standing alone in the dell – and continue to hope that hiring attorneys understand that an A from our school is worth more than an A at USD or TJSL.

COMPARISON GRAPH SOURCES:

USD: Rule V.B.2., Academic Rules of the University of San Diego School of Law (November, 2011). Upper year classes of at least 20 students, mean GPA: 3.15. Fewer than 20 students: no mandatory curve, mean GPA: 3.40. The Dean’s Office can authorize exceptions. In graph, pluses and minuses converged into one letter: A=A+/A-/A-, etc.

TJSL: Rule IV.C., Student Handbook (March, 2012). Upper year classes. No minimum students, no mean GPA. The Dean’s Office can authorize exceptions. In graph, letters based on standard gpa conversion scale of: A=3.8-4.3, B=2.6-3.5, C=2.1-2.5, C-=2.0.

CWSL: Rule 6.02(C)(III), Statement of Academic Policies (January, 2012). Upper year classes of at least 40 students, no mean GPA. See Student Handbook Rule 6.02(C) for classes of fewer than 40, fewer than 15, Legal Skills, and STEPPS. The Dean’s Office can authorize exceptions. In graph, letters assigned based on Rule 6.02(A): A=90-95, B=80-89, C=74-79, C-=67-73.



Part-time Status: What it is, How to get it, & Why

LEAH REEVES
STAFF WRITER

For those people who long to attend law school, but cannot find the time to take five classes at a time, in addition to having a job, family priorities, etc., CWSL offers a part-time program of study. I sat down with Dean Seibel, the Associate Dean of Student and Diversity Services, to ask her a few questions about the part-time program.

Part-time students take 8-11 units per trimester. If a part-time student wishes to deviate from that amount, he or she must petition the school.

One benefit of attending law school part-time is that it gives some people who would otherwise not be able to attend the opportunity to pursue a Juris Doctor degree. These are people with outside commitments like jobs or children. Most of the people in the part-time program are employed. There is no limit on how many hours a week a part-time student can work, whereas full-time students are encouraged to not work at all, or for a maximum of five hours a week if absolutely necessary.

Dean Seibel did state that even though there might be fewer classes offered during summer (a trimester where part-time students may typically take classes), no problems have been brought to her attention in regards to this.

In addition, there are classes that are only offered during summer, such as classes taught by visiting faculty. Sometimes, these classes are not offered again for many years. This can be an advantage for part-time students, since there are many full-time students who do not take classes during summer at all.

As for how long it will take to finish, all credits can be earned within three years, if

students take 11 units a trimester and do not take summers off. However, it can also take four years or more if students choose to take off various trimesters in order to do internships, or to tend to other obligations. It really depends on the student.

After their 1L year of a set schedule is completed, they have the option to take between 8-11 units, depending on how long they want to take to finish school. For those entering 1Ls who choose to take classes during the summer, they will be considered a 2L after completing their third trimester, or after completing 25 units. Thus, a part-time student who started Fall 2011 (and will take three classes this summer) will be a 2L when entering this upcoming Fall 2012 trimester. Students are considered 3Ls after completing 54 units.

It should be noted, however, that part-time students are required to complete all of the required units needed for graduation within six years. Part-time students can start in either the fall or spring trimester, but fall tends to be easier and a more common choice.

As for being dropped from school due to poor grades, part-time students won’t be forced to drop out (if applicable) until after their third trimester grades, whereas full timers can be dropped after completion of their second trimester (since they will have taken all of their required 1L classes).

However, as for being eligible for reimbursement of tuition, it does not matter whether a student is part-time or full-time. After grades are released for the first trimester, students with low grades are given an opportunity to withdraw within 10 business days and be reimbursed for the current trimester’s tuition. So if a part-time student wanted to finish the current trimester, and

try a third trimester, then they would not be eligible for tuition reimbursement.

It is important to note that there has been some issues brought to my attention by full-time students about the part-time program.

The main issue centers around full-time students who worry about how the part-time students are affecting the grade curve, since part-time students have less final exams to study for and take each trimester.

Full-time students are essentially suggesting that part-time students might be at an advantage, grades-wise. But I will reiterate that most part-time students are working, many of those jobs are full-time, and many of those students have families that they attend to in addition to taking 8-11 units a trimester. And if this is an issue for any full-time student, they do have the option of switching to part-time as well.

In order to switch to part-time, the full-time student must petition to Dean Aceves, the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. This change is not recommended during the first year, and if requested during that year, the petition will only be granted in extraordinary circumstances.

Students are usually only allowed to make the status switch one time, and thus cannot switch back and forth multiple times. Traditionally, more full-time students tend to switch to part-time, rather than the reverse.

In my personal experience, being a part-time student has allowed me to work part-time, which means I can borrow less money in student loans so that I will have less debt when I graduate. In addition, taking only three classes has given me more time to devote to the studying of each individual class.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS CONTRIBUTED IN 2011-2012:

Brian Horan (former Editor-in-Chief), Jake Weinrich (Sports Editor), Cedric Anderson (cartoonist), Heather Moss (columnist), Kevin Magennis, Weston Penfield, Marisa Mandos, Sarena Kustic, Leah Reeves, Deniz Bayramoglu, Kendra Bray, Brian Lynch, Christine Palcisko, Rachel Ragosa-Quapp, Jacob Spaid, Michelle Ryle, Paul Ciccarelli, Joshua Fox, Nicole Ing, Shana Metzger, Chanel Call, Kate Suchman, Jaimee Butts, Brendan Daly, Jacob Harding, Scott Wintermute, Anna Burnett, Jackie Runner, Mike Hardy, Chante Coleman, Cassie Gottschalk, Amy Broderick, Sheela Tabrizi, Clayton Carr, Christian Barton, Sarah Jordan, Donna Blain, all of CWSL SBA, deans, professors, faculty, and staff. And thank you to the readers.

WRITE FOR THE COMMENTARY!

If you are interested in writing for us email cwslcommentary@gmail.com and we will get back to you when Fall starts up.

Have a great summer!

Final Message from your President...

My time at California Western has flown by, and as President it went by quicker than expected. This past year has been a whirlwind of fun. I would like to thank Weston Penfield and the rest of the 2011-2012 Student Bar Association for their time and dedication to the school and the student body.

The 2011-2012 SBA was lucky to put together a first class representation of what this school has to offer outside of the classroom. Building off of familiar events like Race Judicata, Bar Review's this year's SBA took on a heavy task to start new traditions and legacies.

One of the newest events for the past year actually turned into two. Twice our student body got together with a large showing to head down to Petco Park and watch the San Diego Padres. The first event filled the normally silent summer with the sounds of baseball. The student body was in full force for the final days of baseball when the students attended the Oktoberfest party at the beginning of the fall trimester.

Also during summer the foundations were laid down to help build the school newspaper into a cornerstone of California Western. A task was given to the new Commentary staff; make the paper monthly, relevant, interesting, and first class. The Commentary staff exceeded all expectations and is now nominated as a candidate for ABA Student Newspaper of the year. The Commentary successfully transitioned from a once a semester issue to a monthly publication with relevant local, and legal stories leading the headlines.

From back to school nights, grade parties, and bar reviews California Western SBA and the over 30 active student organizations provided plenty of opportunities for students to engage their classmates outside of the classroom. SBA is a strong part of California Western, and the student organizations are the foundation of SBA's strength. To encourage student participation in the various student organizations, SBA started an annual Student Organization Fair, so new students could find opportunities to learn more and be more active in their educational experience.

Besides the social nightlife, SBA gave students the opportunity to run wild for the annual Race Judicata 5k at Mission Bay. This year runners were not only rewarded for who ran the fastest, but who looked the most (or least) fashionable doing it! With a beautiful day, a live band made up of CWSL students, and a catered BBQ, the event ran strong, continuing the trend to be a staple SBA event.

The Student Bar Association wanted you to be involved, so whether you karaoke or play the violin there was an avenue for you to have fun and socialable! Through the help of student leaders, SBA sponsored karaoke night. Students from the three different class years threw caution to the wind and sang to their hearts' content. Singing with a live band behind them, students took turns showing off their skills that didn't pay the bills, and probably reinforced their decisions to become lawyers.

The student body is filled with many talented students. To show off this talent, SBA put on "CWSL's Got Talent." This year's turnout was the largest any talent show had ever seen, filling the Moot Court room with an overflow audience and 18 performers. Students sang, strummed, DJ'd, cello'd, and rapped their way through the competition.

Throughout the school year students and alumni had the opportunity to be competitive. SBA put together intramural leagues for basketball in the fall and spring. Although we lost to the alumni in the annual softball game, it was great to watch the sunset over the water. Although it would have been sweeter had we won!

California Western students also gave back to our community and our environment. This year SBA's Community Outreach Committee adopted Sunset Cliffs park and beach, one of the most needy beaches in San Diego. Students and student organization leaders organized multiple events to remove trash from the beach and park, ultimately picking up over 200 pounds of trash. In addition to helping the environment, the SBA's Community Outreach Committee built on long standing relationships with local schools encouraging our students to read and tutor students who need extra help, or may be falling behind.

Fly Me To The Moon, but stop by the San Diego Air and Space Museum on the way. Barristers' Ball had over 450 people attend, the DJ kept the dance floor full, and the attractions around the museum entertained the students with two left feet. Overall, the event was a huge and classy success.

Some of the newest ways SBA expanded the student experience was building off our successful events. In March, SBA had an "Open Mic & Food Truck Night" where students, faculty, and staff performed for each other all while grabbing something from local food truck Curiosity. The food and entertainment kept the party lively. Building off the success of Race Judicata, SBA turned its attention to "Legal Seagull's Race Around Downtown," our take on the Amazing Race. The scavenger hunt throughout downtown San Diego put teams of two against each other to try and get all the clues before the other teams did. The winners had to use their intelligence and agility to solve riddles and puzzles to ultimately take home some sweet prizes.

The last thing SBA for 2011-2012 has planned is also one of the first things we ever wanted to do. In December students lined up and food sold out as Groggy's foodtruck kicked off finals by serving students awesome food. For Spring finals we are planning to make it even better, so don't forget to come out and enjoy the sun before you hide away in the library.

Overall, this year has been a blast. Looking back at all of the great activities SBA 2011-2012 put on and the success they enjoyed will make next year even better. Thank you to everyone who has made this year so much fun.

Sincerely,

Kevin Magennis

2011-2012 President, California Western Student Bar Association



KEVIN MAGENNIS
SBA PRESIDENT

SBA Community Outreach Thanks You



Here is to another amazing year for Cal Western volunteers who contributed towards service in our community. On behalf of the Committee, we would like to extend a warm thank you to those who helped tutor local students and to those who helped us keep our newly adopted beach clean. A special thanks to those who helped pick up over 150 lbs of trash from our last clean-up.

On May 2nd from 9 am to 1pm, we are participating in the SDCBA's Law and Justice Job Shadow Day. This is a great event in which CWSL students and local lawyers are paired together to expose local high school students to the law by showing them around the Superior Court. We are in need of volunteers for this great networking event (lunch included).



To participate, just email us at sbacoc@gmail.com noting your preference for being paired with a criminal prosecutor, criminal defender, civil practitioner, or no preference at all.

Are you a 1L or 2L interested in joining the Committee? We are looking for dedicated individuals to take the helm of the committee. If you enjoy giving back to the community and are interested in making a difference, please email us with a 1 page letter of intent.

CALIFORNIA WESTERN STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION

Election Results

The Commentary would like to congratulate the following winners of the Spring 2012 SBA Election!

President:
Eric Tu

Vice President:
Kevin Kanooni

Treasurer:
Sarena Kustic

Administrator:
Lauren Foley

Activities Director:
Andrea Pella

ABA Representative:
Conor Flahive

SDCBA Representative:
Christian Barton

Intramural Athletics Director:
Walter Lau

The Commentary Editor-in-Chief:
Ben Pezzner

3L Representative:
Grace Garner

2L Representatives:
Bianca Barela
Emily Cunningham
Patricia Wilson
Sami Haddad

“I’M ELATED, TO SAY THE LEAST, ABOUT CONTRIBUTING TO THE UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR. MY BIGGEST HOPE IS THAT WE CAN EXPAND THE STRONG WORK ETHIC LEFT BY THE PREVIOUS SBA BOARD AND MAKE OUR YEAR ONE OF EVEN GREATER ACTION.”

- ERIC TU, 2012-2013 PRESIDENT

Myths on Memory and Studying

CHRISTIAN BARTON
GUEST WRITER

As we learn more about neurology our understanding of memory has undergone a radical change, which in turn has greatly affected the field of law. Where once eye-witness testimony reigned supreme, in recent years its probative value has decreased due to the many studies which have demonstrated people’s propensity to remember false events or events that did not occur. But the study of memory has not only provided guidance in how to more effectively practice law, but also into how one can more efficiently study the law. In his recent Wired Magazine article titled “Everything You Knew About Learning Is Wrong”, Garth Sundem pointed out three myths about memory that directly relate to law students.

Myth 1 – Taking Notes In Class

While many students furiously attempt to transcribe every syllable uttered by their professors, studies show that these students are not necessarily getting the full benefit of the lecture. When performing rote tasks, such as dictation, our memory functions at a greatly diminished capacity. Ask most court reporters what they just transcribed and most will be unable to tell you. To combat this phenomena, scientists recommend that you wait until class is immediately over to prepare your notes. Unlike the act of merely copying information taken directly from the professor’s lecture, this practice forces your mind to work to make the neural connections, thereby making them stronger.

Along the same lines, in order to best reinforce a memory, one should wait to review the information until one has nearly forgotten it. The more you have to fight to retrieve the information, the more it will reinforce your memory. For as Robert Bjork, a professor of psychology and the director of the UCLA Learning and Forgetting Lab stated, “When we access things from our memory, we do more than reveal it’s there. It’s not like a playback. What we retrieve becomes more retrievable in the future. Provided the retrieval succeeds, the more difficult and involved the retrieval, the more beneficial it is.”

This phenomenon is known as the “spacing effect” and was first described in 1885, by Hermann Ebbinghaus, a German psychologist who spent more than 15 years testing himself on the recall of random strings of nonsense syllables which he had memorized. He discovered that to gain the most benefit from learning one should review memorized information in stages which are spaced apart in a series of exponentially greater increments. Thus to maximize retention students should first review important information after a few seconds, then after a minute, then an hour, then a day, a week, a month, etc.

Myth 2 – Topic-Focused Study

When studying for law school exams, it is my experience that most law students tend to review a single class in full, whether it be Property I or Evidence or Torts, reviewing their entire outline on the subject, and only upon completion moving to another subject matter. At the end of the trimester, it is common for students to review a single subject for multiple days in secession. Yet again studies show that this is not necessarily the most effective study technique.

While focused learning is effective for learning a singular subject, and may provide for relatively large strides in learning and memorizing that one subject matter, it has been proven that when one expands their horizons and studies multiple interrelated topics at the same time, ones overall learning and retention potential is greatly increased. While admittedly one will not have made the same strides in that one subject as if they had focused solely on it, nonetheless the sum of the learning and information retained from studying multiple subjects will greatly exceed what one could learn by focusing on but one individual subject. Thus by repeatedly alternating between multiple interrelated subjects, instead of focusing on one, mastering it and only then moving on, we can maximize our learning and retention potential.

Myth 3 – Consistent learning environment

We are all creatures of habit. I for one have a particularly comfortable chair and desk, at which I conduct the overwhelming majority of my studies. Yet once again studies show that this may be a poor approach to studying. Scientists, such as Robert Bjork, instead recommend that people vary their studying location. The logic is simple, studying in only one location is highly effective, but only if you intend to recall the information solely in that location. Since it is highly unlikely that you will be able to conduct the majority of your studying in the room in which your exams will be delivered, the next best approach is to study at multiple locations.

ALUMNI FEATURE



KENDRA BRAY
ALUMNI REP

TARA D. NEWBERRY ‘06

Ms. Newberry moved around as a child, moving from Louisiana to Atlanta, GA, then Cincinnati, OH, and Houston, TX, and finally graduated high school in Humble, TX. She obtained her BS in Criminal Justice at University of Cincinnati. After college, she attended the police academy in Cincinnati, joining the force for 8 years where she held a variety of positions. Interested in intellectual property law, she decided to attend law school. Like most law students; she changed her mind after taking a class in medical malpractice and switched her focus to that field.

While at Cal Western, Ms. Newberry was active in student organizations and SBA. On SBA she held the positions of 1L Rep, Athletic Director, and President. Additionally, she was SDCBA’s student liaison, involved in Teen Court, and President of Pride Law. The connections and networking from her activities were crucial in her securing employment after graduation and providing referral sources for future clients. The connections she made also benefited her later on while litigating against other alumni from Cal Western, USD and TJSI whom she had met while attending the SDCBA events. Ms. Newberry has found greater professional courtesy and cooperation among lawyers she knows from these events.

After graduating, Ms. Newberry took a position in insurance defense at a large firm in Las Vegas, NV handling mostly medical malpractice and wrongful death/catastrophic personal injury litigation. In 2009, the Nevada Supreme Court appointed her to be a mediator for Nevada’s foreclosure mediation program where she handled hundreds of mediations. Later, she took a position working for a small real estate firm. She then partnered with another attorney and opened her own firm handling bankruptcy, real estate-specializing in foreclosure and short sale, and LGBT family law.

When asked about practicing law in states other than California, Ms. Newberry said attending Cal Western benefitted her because she learned more about the practice of law than her counterparts who attended other schools both in California and elsewhere where the courses were more theoretical. Ms. Newberry accredits this to Cal Western’s courses that taught her how to write discovery plans, deposition summaries, and what questions to ask both during a deposition and in interrogatories. Additionally, she felt it was much easier to study for the second bar exam because she took it right after her first. She said the only difference was learning Nevada procedure and case law. “The bottom line is, all new attorneys are just that “new” and it takes time to learn your craft and as one of my favorite legal skills professors used to always say ‘It’s called the ‘practice’ of law for a reason... we are always ‘practicing’ because nobody gets it right all the time.”

When asked what advice she wished she had received during law school she said first and foremost to get internships and clerkships at a variety of firms. “The more exposure you have to variables, the easier it will be to determine where your career is headed and what firm will best suit you as an individual.” Furthermore, she encouraged students to look beyond getting paying internships because it often leads to unhappiness then and later on. “Even if you can’t get an internship with a particular firm or practice area that you are interested in, call the firm or find alums and ask if you can shadow for a week.” Her last recommendation is to take as many practicum courses as possible because they help with the transition to actually practicing law.

For further questions or follow information feel free to email Ms. Newberry at tnewberry@cnlawlv.com.

MUSIC, ART AND MORE THINGS TO DO DURING YOUR SD SUMMER

SARAH JORDAN
GUEST WRITER

It's May, final examinations are over, and you can finally put away the books and start getting rid of the solid library tan you have. Luckily, for those of us spending the summer in San Diego, we can take advantage of the many summer activities San Diego has to offer.

Music

If you like music, head on out to Coronado and check out Coronado's Summer Concert Series in Spreckels Park. Spreckels Park is located on Orange Avenue between 6th and 7th Street. Concerts are held on Sunday evenings throughout the summer. Free admission!

Outdoor Activities: Kayaking, Running, and Hiking

Explore the coastline in a kayak at La Jolla Kayak. While kayaking, you can see the spectacular sea cliffs, the Seven Caves, and the La Jolla Underwater Park. La Jolla Kayak is located at 2199 Avenida de la Playa La Jolla, California 92037. La Jolla Kayak's phone number is: (858) 459-1114

Help raise money and awareness for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society by running in the San Diego, Rock n' Roll Marathon Series® full or half marathon on June 3, 2012. Visit <http://runrocknroll.competitor.com/san-diego> for more details on registration and training.

Help raise money for the San Diego Blood Bank by running in the 2012 San Diego Blood Bank 5K Walk/Run. The 5K will be held on July 29, 2012 from 7:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. \$25.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children 12 and under. Location: Embarcadero Marina Park North, 839 West Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA

Hike Cowles Mountain, located at Mission Gorge Road and Mesa, San Diego, CA 92119.

Hike Cabrillo National Monument, located at 1800 Cabrillo Memorial Dr., San Diego, CA 92106. On a clear day, this hike can provide you with breathtaking views of the Pacific Ocean.

Art

If you enjoy art, meeting new people, learning about other cultures, and sipping a sophisticated glass of wine while listening to a dj drop some beats, check out the San Diego Museum of Art's popular Culture and Cocktails series. Admission for nonmembers is \$15.00. The San Diego Museum of Art will host its next Culture and Cocktails series, The Invention of Glory: Alfonso V and the Pastrana Tapestries on June 21, 2012. For more details, check out: <http://www.sdmart.org/programs-events/culture-cocktails>.

Aquarium

If you like learning about the ocean and marine life, check out the Birch Aquarium at Scripps, which is affiliated with the renowned Scripps Institution of Oceanography at University of California San Diego. With more than 60 habitats on display, a kelp forest, a shark tank, interactive tide pools, and an expansive view of the Pacific Ocean, the Birch Aquarium is a fabulous facility. The aquarium is located at 2300 Expedition Way, La Jolla, CA 92037. Admission for students with a valid student id is \$10.00.

June Gloom Alternatives

Head to Carlsbad Premium Outlets to stock up on business casual attire, as well as jeans, tops, slacks, shoes, and bags. Located at 5620 Paseo del Norte, Carlsbad, CA 92008, this shopping center has many stores from which to choose: Banana Republic, Brooks Brothers Factory Store, Joe's Jeans, Theory, and many more.

In the mood to create something artsy? Head to CeramiCafe in Del Mar, where you can select from over 500 blank ceramics to paint, decorate, and take home. CeramiCafe is located at 12925 El Camino Real, Suite J-I, San Diego, CA 92130. CeramiCafe is open Monday through Saturday, from 10:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. Call (858) 259-9958 more information. For students with young children, CeramiCafe has birthday party options.

Using Experience to Get Past Resume Snobs

MARY FALES

GUEST WRITER

What do brand names and law schools have in common? Brand name value, as Aswath Damodaran professor of Finance at New York's University Stern School of Business puts it, is simply about being able to charge a "higher price for exactly the same product" (The Power of a Brand Name April 2, 2009). In other words, it really isn't about the product quality. I'm going to make a lot of assumptions, but work with me.

Assume that some law schools have brand name values associated with them. If you haven't encountered it yet, in the legal field, it's known as "resume snobbery."

There seems to be two prevailing thoughts out in the work force:

1. A degree from a highly respected university, like Yale (brand name) may get a candidate hired if you have no work experience, but what really matters is your past performance. Past performance is often the only true indicator of future performance.

2. No matter what experience one has, brand name primarily matters as an indication of future performance.

Some real life examples: while working as an engineer our group hired a new graduate with a Ph.D. from M.I.T. A pretty impressive brand name! However, she was politely asked to leave after a few weeks, because she just couldn't cut it in our group.

In this instance, brand name recognition got her in the door, but her performance

is what ultimately mattered. On the other hand, I once interviewed at a law firm for a Patent Agent position. I was told, in spite of my tremendously great work experience, that if I went back to school and obtained the exact same degree from a prestigious college, that I would most likely be hired. In other words, for the firm's clientele, my brand name mattered as an indication of future performance. So what is my point?

I want to encourage CWSL students not to care too much about resume snobbery. Sometimes obtaining a prestigious degree can land you in a firm with low career satisfaction; not to mention a lot of debt.

There are companies, firms, and clients that will focus on experience as an indicator for future performance. You will have opportunities, created by CWSL, to show your past performance: research projects, blogs, and internships. Thankfully, there seems to be a growing trend that recognizes that the key to success "has more to do with what students do with their time in college than where they choose to attend" (Martha O'Connell, What You Do vs. Where You Go March 31, 2011).

It's up to us to spend our time wisely at CWSL. We have a duty to change any misplaced reliance on brand name as prediction of future performance. Finally, what a great thing it is to be at a law school that has a good reputation and quality of education without brand name cost.

Call to Increase Conference Sponsorships for Students

ELENA SHAYGAN

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

ABA Conferences are one of the best ways to expand your education while making valuable lifelong connections. These conferences provide an opportunity for you to meet other law students that have a shared interest and to meet the attorneys that may someday be hiring you on.

My experience with ABA conferences began my second semester of law school. A friend of mine, knowing how interested I was in water law, suggested I attend the upcoming ABA Water Law conference which was held in San Diego. When I looked into it and saw the cost (\$600 for general admission!) I thought I would never get a chance to attend. I researched further to see if I could get a scholarship and, because it was so close to conference time, submitted my scholarship application two weeks past deadline. Thankfully I was still given the scholarship.

While at the conference I was horrified to find that I had no idea who anyone was and no idea what anyone was talking about. I took notes on everything and read up on the major concepts being discussed later. I learned more about my area of interest in two days than any trimester class could have taught me.

The second time I attended the conference I was a section member and a law student so it was only \$30. As I looked through the registration list and saw law



Photo from sandiegocoastlife.com



Photo from sdmart.com



Photo from sandiegodailyphoto.blogspot.com

students from all over the country were attending I couldn't help but wonder, "How many CA Western students are there at conferences on the east coast?" My guess would be very, very, few if any at all.

Most of my peers have never been to an ABA conference and it's a shame. Yes, they can be expensive and yes, they are sometimes far away but what a student gets out of these conferences is worth more than money can buy.

It was my second time at the ABA Water Law conference when I made my first networking breakthrough. It was my goal to get in touch with someone from the San Diego County Water Authority general counsel. I had been to tons of mixers, community service events, public meetings, etc. but with no luck. Then I went to the conference and was surrounded with a community of attorneys where everyone knew everyone and with the mere mention of the Water Authority I was able to get an email, phone number, and recommendation.

I'm not saying mixers, clubs, and community service events are not a great way to meet people but if you have a specific area of interest the odds are you can get all the biggest names in that field in one room for two to three days. So why aren't we all starting there first and saving ourselves a ton of time? Because most conferences are not in San Diego and there are very few opportunities offered by the school for us to attend.

GRACE GARNER
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

1. What exactly is the attendance policy? The syllabus says that small group is mandatory yet many of our classmates have missed classes. What are the consequences of this and what is formally allowed by the school and ABA?



2. Some students find it difficult and frustrating to do coursework (interviews, negotiations etc) on the weekends. What is the reasoning behind this and is it possible to have the projects during class time or during the week?

3. There are rumors that the course will no longer be mandatory, is this true?

No, the STEPPS Program is a required course.

4. Why is the course required for students who are not planning to practice law or have already been in the workforce for an extended amount of time? Is there any way to be exempt?

There is no exemption based on one's current ideas about future career plans or prior work experience. In my view, ethical training is the most important aspect of professional education. The STEPPS Program offers students the opportunity to confront ethical issues in the context of a law office with the guidance of an experienced practitioner. The skills we teach apply to the boardroom as well as the courtroom.

5. Students agree that the small group meetings are a highlight of the course. However, there are concerns that the classes are too different. What level of structure are each of the supervising attorneys given? Are the classes meant to be very different?

The small law offices are indeed the highlight of the program. The small law office environment not only provides students the opportunity to develop lawyering skills, but also introduces students to an experienced lawyer from the San Diego community.

As an initial matter it is difficult to tell whether the small law office meetings are “too different” because no one attends more than one session. One of the lessons from the program is that there are different ways to accomplish the same task, and the diversity of our supervising attorneys provides one of our greatest assets.

I ask and expect each of our supervising attorneys to teach to their personal strengths, while simultaneously following the general contours of the course. I meet with each supervising attorney on a weekly basis to ensure all law offices are following the guidelines set by the curriculum. These weekly meetings not only allow the law offices to remain on the same page, but also provide a forum for the exchange of ideas among our talented supervising attorneys. The result is a course that follows the same meta structure with each small law office and caters to the strengths of the individual instructor.

DAN SWANSON
GUEST WRITER

Cowles Mountain is one of San Diego's most popular hikes. The trailhead is located on Golfcrest Drive, just North of the intersection of Navajo Road. Parking can sometimes be difficult to find, since it is almost always crowded, but if you circle around a couple times you will find something. It is approximately 1.5 miles each way (up/down) with an elevation gain of 950', and at the summit you reach an elevation of 1,591'. On a clear day you can see all the way to Tijuana and the Coronado Islands. In addition, as pictured here, you get great views of Lake Powell and the San Carlos Golf Course. (Left)

Mt. Woodson, via Lake Poway, is another very popular hike in San Diego County. It is most famous for its “Potato Chip” rock. The trailhead is located at Lake Poway Park, 14644 Lake Poway Road, San Diego, CA 92064, and parking usually costs \$4.00. The hike is approximately 6.4 miles total, and as you ascend 2000’ to the summit there are breathtaking views in all directions. This is a more strenuous hike, and during the summer it can get extreme-

ly hot, so make sure you bring lots of water! At the top you reach the “Potato Chip” rock, as pictured here, and you can see all the way to the ocean in the West, and Palomar Mountain in the East. (Upper Right)

Lastly, another great hiking hot spot in San Diego County is known for is located right on the coastline at Torrey Pines State Reserve. The entrance is located at 12600 North Torrey Pines Road, San Diego CA 92037, just north of La Jolla.

Parking is \$10.00, or you can try to find a spot on the street and walk into the park itself. The Reserve is full of trails that overlook the Pacific Ocean, and also Torrey Pines Golf Course. Trails vary in distance and difficulty (.5 miles to 1.2 miles), but there is something for everyone. From the top of the Reserve, where parking is located, it is approximately 1 mile down to the beach.

The best part about Torrey Pines State Reserve is that there are numerous trails interconnected and you can vary your descent and ascent from the beach to experience new trails and views of the coastline, as pictured here. (Lower Right)



SARENA KUSTIC
STAFF WRITER

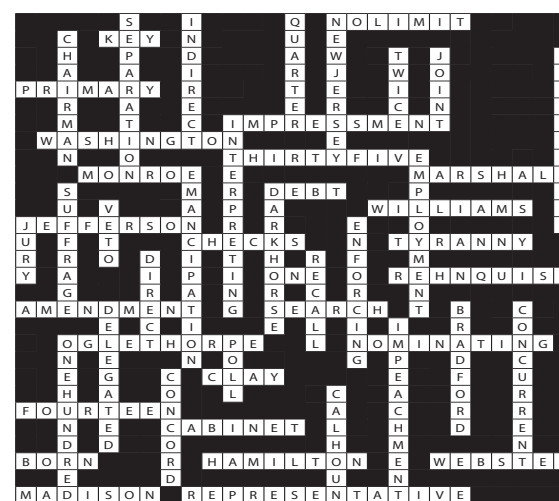
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ABNORMALLY DANGEROUS
ACCIDENT
BREACH
CAUSATION
CONSENT
DAMAGES
DEFAMATION
DUTY
FORESEEABLE
GOOD SAMARITAN
HAZARDOUS

INTENTIONAL
INTRUSION
LIABILITY
LIBEL
LICENSEE
MALPRACTICE
MISAPPROPRIATE
NECESSITY
NEGLIGENT
NUISANCE
PRIVACY

PRIVILEGE
PRODUCT DEFECT
RES IPSA LOQUITUR
RISK
SLANDER
TORTFEASOR
TOXIC TORT
WARNINGS
WRONGFUL DEATH
ZONE-OF-DANGER

March 2012 Constitution Crossword Solution



Bearded Women, Gender Bending, and Breaking Norms

GRACE GARNER
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Beauty standards abound in our culture. Women and men are bombarded with images of how a member of each gender should look and act. The media, culture, and society dictate what it means to be a man or woman and criticize those who do not fall within those standards. One of the most important standards is to maintain a clear line between how men and women are supposed to look. Images of androgyny push us to think beyond the gender binary which is often difficult and complicated to process. Society wants to clearly identify someone as a man or a woman. So what happens when a woman has a beard?

Jennifer Miller is a woman with a beard. As she says in her circus performance with Circus Amok (circusamok.org), she is a woman with a beard and not the “bearded lady” because the latter implies that there is only one, when in fact, there are many women with the ability to grow visible facial hair. Miller is the founder of Circus Amok, a progressive New York City circus that aims to provide free public art and educate people about issues of social justice. She is also a professor at Pratt Institute where she teaches performance art. Miller is dedicated to social justice issues and spends a great deal of time educating people about what it means to be a woman with a beard. Through her activism and circus work, Miller has been able to reach large audiences in New York.

The Pink Razor Project, led by Carly Gershon, is an upcoming documentary about the daily lives of women with beards. According to Gershon’s website, pinkrazorproject.com, there are 12.5 million women with the ability to grow facial hair. As you can imagine, it’s not easy to be a woman with a beard. Many women shave, wax, thread or use electrolysis to get rid of their facial hair—including Gershon. Her website and documentary discuss the difficulties of deciding to shave or keep her facial hair. She, and many other women, struggle with conforming to beauty norms or accepting their facial hair. For some it is an obvious choice but it is clear from the experiences these women face in public that it is not easy for others to accept.

Despite the lack of mainstream discussion on this issue, there are actually dozens of blogs devoted to the topic. The authors discuss telling friends and significant others about the process and share tips on hair removal. Few of the bloggers actually live openly as a bearded woman and those that do tend to have non-traditional jobs, like Jennifer Miller’s circus and Aimee (<http://beardedladypiercing.wordpress.com>), who has a body piercing business.

As a woman without the ability to grow facial hair I am fascinated and impressed by women like Miller, Gershon and Aimee. Their ability to tackle this issue and be proud of their identity is inspiring. They are showing people that there is more to being a woman than looks. And they are doing so in an in your face way. Challenges to femininity and beauty standards are often seen in clothing, hair styles and body art. Rarely do we see women walking down the street sporting a goatee!

Projects like Circus Amok and The Pink Razor give us an alternate forum to discuss what it means to be a woman and what exactly it means to be ‘feminine’. It allows people to come together and support each other regardless of their journey. We all struggle in some way with our appearance; wouldn’t it be great if we all supported each other instead of being critical of people who somehow buck the norm? I fit strongly into the accepted feminine beauty standard, partially due to genetics and partially because I like dressing this way—it’s my choice. Women with beards should be able to make a choice too without ridicule.

I encourage you to learn more and check out the documentary Juggling Gender about Jennifer Miller. It’s a great film and not to be missed.

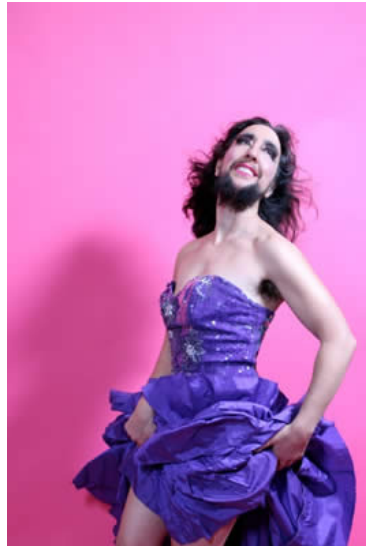


Photo by Karl Giant

Beauty Tips: Get Set For Summer Without Breaking the Bank



With finals week rearing its ugly head, summer will be here before we know it. I’ve put together several tips that will help you make a quick transition from your daylight and sleep deprived law school look to a summer-ready glow.

SARENA KUSTIC
STAFF WRITER

Body Scrub: Before putting shorts on, be sure to exfoliate and moisturize. Tip #1: Avoid the retail costs of body scrubs by making your own. Simply, squeeze the juice from one or two lemons, add a little olive oil, and mix together with sugar (enough sugar to keep a thick consistency). Before getting out of the shower, lightly massage the scrub over your skin and rinse with cool water. Gently pat dry after the shower and apply your regular moisturizer while skin is still damp. The lemon and sugar will exfoliate, while the olive oil helps replenish moisture. Your skin will instantly glow!

Sunscreen: Protect that glowing skin with sunscreen. Tip#2: Check the expiration date on your sunscreen before you use it. If you’re not sure whether your sunscreen is still good, buy a new one. Trust me, saving a few dollars here is not worth the pain and long-term damage from sunburns.

Sunburn Care: For some of us, sunburns are inevitable. Recently, my library-tanned person went outside without sunscreen for about 20 minutes. Even though it didn’t feel hot outside, my face was sunburned. If you forget to apply sunscreen, there are some ways to minimize your suffering. Tip #3: Aloe Vera doesn’t cost much and is extremely soothing. I prefer the kind with Lidocaine in it to minimize the pain. The next two tips come from Health911.com, which provides several natural remedies to heal sunburns. Tip #4: “Apple Cider Vinegar: Apply apple cider vinegar to the burn with a cotton ball, or make a cooling compress for a large area to relieve the pain. Keep the skin moistened. This remedy will prevent blistering and peeling.” Tip #5: “Lemon Water: Mix the juice of three lemons into two cups of cold water and sponge on the sunburn. The lemon will cool the burn, act as a disinfectant, and will promote healing of the skin.”

Sunless Tanning: Sunless tanner is a great way to achieve that sun-kissed look without the cost and risk associated with actual tanning. However, orange is not a good look for anyone. Tip #6: Don’t paint yourself 10 shades darker than you actually are. If you want your tan to appear natural, a couple shades darker than your actual skin should be the max. Tip #7: Do exfoliate first with your homemade body scrub. This helps to get an even application and make the color last longer. Also, if you need to correct a streaky or spotty application, the same scrub will help remove the tanner. Tip #8: Stay away from aerosol sprays. It seems like an easy way to evenly apply tanner but, unless you go outside to use it, you’ll be wiping down every surface in your bathroom. Even if you think your safe by standing in your shower to use it, I promise it ends up everywhere! Tip #9: Moisturizers with gradual tanners are ideal. You can get these lotions for around five dollars, and it doesn’t take a pro to apply them.

Face: If you’re looking to add some color to your face, a little bronzer can go a long way. Tip #10: Don’t use shimmering bronzer to make your face look tanner. Matte shades of tan work best here. Save the shimmers for highlighting/contouring purposes and avoid appearing oily. Tip #11: Rather than spending to replace your foundation shade, opt for a tinted moisturizer. Tinted moisturizers are more appropriate for the summer heat and are less expensive than your Dior AirFlash. My favorite tinted moisturizer is from Aveeno’s “Positively Radiant” line. It has an SPF, gives great coverage, and hydrates well—for less than \$20.

Nails: It’s perfectly fine to reuse your nail polish shades from last summer. Tip #12: Revive your polishes with Nail Polish Thinner. A bottle costs around three dollars, and with only a few drops your nail polishes will work like new. You can bring all your shades back to life for less than it costs to buy one new color!

Hair: Being out in the sun will slowly lighten your hair, but there are a couple ways to get lighter strands faster. Lemon juice works well to lighten hair using the heat of the sun. But this can be very drying as well. Tip #13: Mix the lemon juice with water and a little leave-in conditioner. The conditioner will keep your hair soft and hydrated while out in the sun. So if a subtle change is what you’re looking for spray the strands you want and enjoy your day in the sun. Tip #14: Don’t forget that old time favorite Sun-In. If you’re looking for more extreme color lift, spray your strands with Sun-In and let your blow-dryer do the work. For around five dollars, you can take medium brown up to blond. Again, overdoing it can cause damage to your hair so be sure to read the instructions. For all over lift or for really dark hair, it’s best to stick with the professionals for highlighting.

Lips: Use your favorite lip color all summer long. That gorgeous red lipstick you wore in January, can work as a lip stain in June. Tip #15: Apply the lip color lightly. Blot. And layer with a clear gloss. You can also use a lip balm before applying, for a lighter application. (This trick works best with matte lipsticks, rather than high gloss lip colors.) Tip #16: Tinted lip balm is another great way to enhance your look without paying more than a few bucks.

Exercise: Unless you’re going to use it regularly, there’s no point in paying for a monthly gym membership. Tip #17: Use your Netflix account to access various workout videos with no added expense. If you don’t have Netflix, there’s always YouTube. You can work out in the privacy of your own home for free.

There are tons of articles online regarding the benefits of fresh lemon. Most of the articles agree that lemon water throughout the day can help with weight loss. Ruby Samy, Staff Writer for Factoidz.com writes, “Lemon juice helps in digestion and aids the liver to get rid of impurities, which is very important to loose weight, and keep off excess weight. Drink daily glass of warm lemon water mixed with honey.” Tip #18: I sampled this drink and warm lemon water tastes way better without honey. Plus, let’s be honest, most of us will need to help out our liver after a weeklong celebration of completing another trimester. Finally, Tip #19: a quick Google search can provide you with tons of helpful money saving ideas for any season. Plus, it doesn’t cost much to browse the Internet.

That’s all I have for now. So, Tip # 20, spend some time pampering yourself over the break and enjoy your break!



Sunscreen photo from supercoloring.com and lemon photo from sallypasleyvargas.com

West Virginia & Big East Conference Extinction

CONOR FLAHIVE
SPORTS WRITER

While the average American shelled out \$122.03 to hold on to their loved ones this Valentine's day, West Virginia University agreed to pay the Big East conference a figure that could surpass \$20 million in return for its expulsion from the conference.

The settlement ended months of litigation after last October West Virginia announced its intention to leave the Big East and join the Big 12 at the start of the 2012 college football season.

After receiving West Virginia's notice of intent to leave the conference, the Big East, which had just lost Syracuse and Pittsburgh to the Athletic Coast Conference, (ACC) and had received confirmation from Connecticut that it was aggressively seeking an invitation to the ACC, responded by saying it would hold West Virginia to their contract's exit clause.

The closure of the litigation between West Virginia and the Big East could set precedent for any case filed by Syracuse, Pittsburgh, or Connecticut, as well as jeopardize the Big East's future BCS status- so a closer look into the claims of the two said parties could provide answers to both of these questions.

The Claims: Upon announcing its intent to exit the conference, West Virginia attempted to avoid the 27-month mandatory waiting period required by the Big East's bylaws with claims like "breach of fiduciary duty" and "breach of contract."

Flexing its own legal muscle, the Big East responded by filing a law suit in attempt to force the university to follow the 27-month notification period before leaving the conference, as drawn up in the league's bylaws.

West Virginia argued that the Big East and its commissioner, John Marinotto, breached their fiduciary duties to the university by failing to keep the Big East a successful football conference. Relying on its assertion that the Big East is "no longer a viable and competitive football conference," West Virginia also argued that its performance under the contract has become "impossible or unreasonably burdensome." Specifically, the complaint alleges that these fiduciary obligations include "maintaining a ratio of football-to-non-football universities of eight-to-eight and maintaining and enhancing the level of competition in the Big East football conference."

The use of the word fiduciary is key. West Virginia did not argue that the recent actions of the conference constituted any legal breach, but it argued that the conference broke the University's implied confidence that the Big East would remain viable.

In its lawsuit, the Big East was sure to highlight that the BCS has confirmed its status as a BCS football conference through the 2013 season, and that the conference will operate the same in 2012 as it did in 2011. Further, the Big East suit points out that if West Virginia's withdrawal forces the conference to play with fewer than eight football teams and sixteen basketball teams ESPN and the Big East "shall negotiate in good faith with respect to a reduction of the rights fees." Perhaps most interestingly, the Big East pointed out that former West Virginia President David Hardesty was "among the principal drafters of the withdrawal provisions of the Bylaws, including the 27-month notice requirement." That claim may not have any legal weight, but it is certainly ironic. West Virginia is getting away with calling a clause it helped construct meaningless.

Nevertheless, as elaborated on below, there is no question that confidence in the Big East as a conference moving forward is fading faster than ever. The settlement essentially forced West Virginia to pay the Big East a few extra million than the stated amount under the bylaws, leaving the door open for similar conference realignment suits. Evidence of the Big East's distress can be found in the commissioner's misleading statement that same day, in which he claims that having the court "acknowledge [the bylaws]' validity of enforceability obviously reinforces the premise that the conference is viable moving forward." Unfortunately for the Big East, the parties settled in non-binding mediation. Thus, the court only recognized the validity of the bylaws as part of the consent decree it issues as a result of the parties' settlement.

One thing is certain. West Virginia will be playing football in the Big 12 in 2012. But what will happen to the Big East conference?

The Big East's Future in the BCS: First, it is important to understand why the Big East was willing to play hardball with West Virginia. For the 2011-12 academic year, BCS conferences will receive \$22.3 million for their qualifying team, with the potential to earn another \$6.1 million if another conference member receives an at-large birth. If the Big East were to lose Pittsburgh, Syracuse, and West Virginia beginning with the 2012 college football season, the Big East has a serious chance of losing its BCS status by 2014. Here's why:

All eleven football conferences compete for an opportunity to earn automatic qualifier status. Current BCS conferences were determined based on data from the 2004-07 seasons, specifically through three criteria: rank of the highest-ranked team, rank of all conference teams, and number of teams in the top 25. The six conferences which stoop atop standard, including the Big East, are the current BCS conferences. The same criteria will be used this year, using data from the 2008-11 seasons, to determine whether another conference achieves automatic qualification for the BCS games that will conclude the 2012 and 2013 seasons. Assuming that the BCS format remains the same following the 2013 season, BCS guidelines provide for the same formula to be used in determining automatic qualifier status for the 2014-2017 seasons. And that is what the Big East is worried about-holding West Virginia, Pittsburgh, and Syracuse to the conference bylaws' 27-month exit waiting period would have ensured the teams' Big East membership through 2013, and would have greatly bolstered the Big East's chances of holding onto its automatic BCS bid under the 2014 BCS review.

It remains to whether Syracuse, Connecticut, or Pittsburgh will use West Virginia's litigation strategy attempt to get out of the Big East early. Nevertheless, the imminent loss of these regional football powers is probably not going to be balanced by the addition of San Diego State, Boise State, Memphis, and Navy, Houston, and SMU.

Perhaps the only way to define the Big East's future in college football is to let go of all preconceived notions of what an intercollegiate athletic conference should be, and accept the premise that they are really the ultimate expression of college sports as a fully commercial entertainment enterprise.

MADOFF'S BANKRUPTCY TRUSTEE V. NY METS

CONOR FLAHIVE
SPORTS WRITER

Remarkably, as of February 2012, approximately fifty-two percent of the principal lost by investors of Bernard Madoff's unprecedented \$20 billion Ponzi scheme has been recovered for those that have filed claims.

Of the \$9 billion recovered for claimants (the other three billion lost in courts fees, settlements, rendered unrecoverable), just \$100 million is from the forfeiture of real estate, bonds, arts, boats, and other properties owned by Madoff himself. So how has the Madoff Recovery Initiative and its trustee, Irving Picard, recovered so much money? And where did it come from? One needs not to look further than America's greatest past time (besides money laundering) to find the answer.

In analyzing the ongoing litigation between Picard and New York Mets' owner Fred Wilpon, and Wilpon's equity group, Sterling Equities, Inc., who had invested more than \$500 million in at least 483 accounts with Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities, LLC, I've discovered the legal vehicle Picard used to recover that fifty-two percent, as well as how that money will affect the Mets' future.

Under federal bankruptcy law, the trustee of any debtor (Madoff) has the right to "avoid" or undue certain transactions, such as the fraudulent transfers alleged in Picard's lawsuit, through what is known as a claw-back. If a creditor, or an investor in this case, has intentionally received a fraudulent transfer within two years of the bankruptcy filing, the trustee can sue to recover that transfer, or claw it back. The policy reasoning behind the claw-back is to ensure that people are treated equally in bankruptcy. It prevents debtors from transferring assets to relatives and insiders just before bankruptcy is filed, and provides proportionate distribution to all investors harmed by fraud.

In his lawsuit, Picard alleged that the Mets' owners received \$83.3 million in fictitious profits and \$301 million in principal in the two years before involuntary bankruptcy proceedings were filed on behalf of Madoff. On March 5, U.S. District Judge Jed S. Rakoff denied both parties' motions for summary judgment, setting the stage for a March 19 trial in Manhattan that is sure to steal headlines.

The \$83.3M in "fictitious profits" was essentially the interest the Mets' owners "earned" from their principal investment. Bankruptcy law does protect profits earned by fraud, so the \$83.3 million figure will not be at issue next Monday (the Mets' owners must pay the trustee that sum, which will be distributed to other investors).

At the heart of the litigation is whether or not the \$301 million of principal the Mets' owners withdrew some six months before Madoff's collapse was done in "good faith," or whether it was the result of a fraudulent conveyance to an insider. To recover the money, Picard will have to prove that Wilpon and company's failure to recognize the Ponzi scheme approaches the standard of "wilful blindness."

In his decision, Judge Rakoff said he "remains skeptical that the trustee can ultimately rebut the defendants' showing of good faith." While that wording certainly gives the Mets' owners reason to be optimistic, their case is far from a home run. There is plenty of case law that says if such withdrawals were based on even a wiff of fraud, they cannot be considered to be in good faith, and after all, when you get back \$83.3 million more than you invested, it is a tough to get a jury of your peers behind you. Furthermore, the jury is certain give a lot of weight to the fact that Wilpon and company's accountant advised them to withdraw their money just before Madoff went down.

Very basically: Six months before Madoff went down, the Mets' owners withdrew \$303 million from their Madoff accounts, in a transaction that was either really lucky, or the result of insider information. Under bankruptcy law, the claw-back tool allows Picard to sue investors that received payouts from Madoff's fraud, and disperse it to other injured investors proportionately.

So how does all of this affect Mets franchise?

Last January, Wilpon announced that he may be forced to sell up to twenty-five percent of the ball club as a result of the Madoff litigation. Wilpon has recently renounced this possibility, asserting that the litigation will not affect the Mets' day-to-day operations and control. But after a lackluster 85-loss season and a fourth-place finish in the National League East last season, the third-highest valued team in the MLB shed \$50 million off their payroll this winter.

The Mets will probably fall short of the playoffs once again this year, and time will tell whether eight-figure contracts like that of Jason Bay's will be worth it (he started spring training 0-8 - a K for each figure I presume). However, if the Mets' owners have learned one thing from the Madoff case, it is that if you think something is too good to be true, it probably is.



Photo (left) from popularlogistics.com. Photo (right) from pregame.com

Disclaimer: The Artichoke is satire, and it is meant to make you laugh. Its stories and characters (however misguided) are completely fictional. Proceed at your own risk.

~ NO PANTS ~ WHY SUPREME COURT DOES NOT ALLOW CAMERAS

By: Ben Pezzner

As the Supreme Court hears oral arguments about whether the nation’s healthcare law is constitutional, many are wondering why cameras are not allowed. This is clearly one of the most important Supreme Court decisions since Bush v. Gore. The case will impact millions of Americans, and will likely have a substantial impact on the upcoming presidential election. Yet the Supreme Court has denied the medias’ request to allow cameras to film the oral arguments, opting to stick with its current system of posting delayed audio recordings instead.

Bloggers and news pundits continue to kvetch about the lack of TV coverage. Currently, cameras are allowed in the trial courts of 36 states, and some appellate and state supreme courts even offer live web streaming of oral arguments. So why is the Supreme Court afraid to be on television?

One argument is that there is a fear that lawyers or justices will “showboat” for the cameras. For instance, a lawyer could conduct his or her opening in the style of a William Shatner monologue. Or Justice Scalia could start doing magic tricks. No, it’s probably not showboating.

Perhaps a better argument could come from the fact that most of the time, the Justices aren’t wearing pants. It can get hot in our nation’s capital. And Justices must wear robes (they had a choice between wigs and robes, and they chose robes because they’re less itchy). According to Chaz Higgins, a Supreme Court clerk, the Justices began this practice years ago when one of them accidentally forgot to put his pants back on after taking a bathroom break, then realizing there is a nice draft underneath the Justices’ table.

Obviously, the threat of a Supreme Court Justice’s naughty bits poking out of a robe on national television would never pass the censors, which explains the camera ban. Even so, pundits still call the ban unfair. We live in a world where everybody can watch Lindsay Lohan’s probation hearings and Snooki’s adventures in municipal court. This is good TV, folks. But until the Supreme Court Justices close their drawers and open up their doors to cameras, we’ll all be on the short end of the entertainment stick.



en.wikipedia.org

“TRIAL CHEER LEAGUE” TO TOUR WITH CWSL MOOT COURT TEAM

By: Elena Shaygan

Due to the highly competitive nature and the national status of California Western trial teams, the administration has developed a special program where students can try out to tour with the trial team, as cheerleaders. The program is know as the Trial Cheer League.

Auditions for trial cheerleaders will be held in the Koy Stall Reading room next week. There will be a mock trial where students trying out will cheer on the sidelines individually and as a group. Students will be judged on creativity of chants, height of jumps, enunciation, and overall enthusiasm. Extra points will be awarded for flips.

The winners will be granted a DC Award (Distinguished Cheerleader Award) and will go to cheer camp over the summer to be trained by prominent sports law professor Max Gilford. “I’ve never actually coached a cheer team but I do have lots of experience with cheerleaders from my past law practice,” said Gilford.

The summer cheer camp will be held at Camp Hagangal and will teach the students terminology to use in their cheers that would be relevant

to moot court. Students will also be given two whole days to practice doing the splits in suitpants. At the end of camp there will be an exam to judge quality of cheer and students will be placed into different teams.

Once placed on a cheer team, trial cheerleaders will even have the opportunity to travel with trial teams, when competing in other states and internationally.

Although this is the first trial cheer team, the administration has already seen a huge amount of support for the program from students and teachers. “We already have 90 students signed up to try out and a panel of judges that are ecstatic and ready to get started,” said Dean Sabat.

In fact, California Western announced last week that it is looking for new trial coaches due to the high number of coaches switching over to the Trial Cheer League.

Other schools, however, have shared concerns with the administration about the feasibility. “California Western doesn’t even have a mascot,” said Michael Boyard, Colt School of Law trial coach. “How can you possibly cheer without a mascot?”

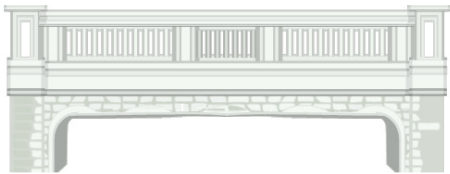
THE ARTICHOKE WANTS



YOU!

The Artichoke is looking for fresh veggies. We’re tired of the same old crap. Think you’re funny? Think you’re not funny but your friends tell you otherwise? Send an email to cwslcommentary@gmail.com and tell us you’d like to write humorous satire for The Artichoke section. Do it. It’ll change your life. You don’t even have to come up with your own topics. We can help you brainstorm.

For instance, how about writing an article about Apple’s newest e-reader, the iPod? You can write about how it’s specifically designed to be used in the bathroom, and how it comes with complimentary wiping and flushing apps. You see? Writing is fun!



SKY BRIDGE TO CONNECT 350 BUILDING AND LIBRARY TOWER

By: Ben Pezzner

As part of the ongoing efforts to renovate the 350 building, Cal Western plans to install a sky bridge connecting the fourth floor of the 350 building to the fourth floor Tower Reading Room in the library. “We’re very excited about this new project,” said Julie Carpenter, head of the CWSL Architects Committee. “Now that the fourth floor renovations have kicked into high gear, we can begin planning for the sky bridge.”

The sky bridge project was first proposed when the bums began taking over the streets. Students would continually be harassed for matches, change, and free legal advice on their way from the class to the library. There is also a traffic problem on 3rd Ave during passing periods, when anxious drivers get sick of waiting for all the students to pass.

The sky bridge was proposed in order to minimize the fear of being hit by a car while traveling between buildings and giving nonpizza lunch leftovers to the bums. And when it comes to efficiency, the Architects Committee estimates an average time savings of 23 seconds per trip.

Besides efficiency, other sky bridge benefits will include a Donna’s Coffee Cart Annex, plenty of lawn furniture, a smoker’s area, and three new Dean Castetter statues. In addition, the infrastructure will be installed for a future airport-style people mover. And from there, the possibilities are endless. CWSL might even move up in the rankings because of this. How many other law schools have a sky bridge?

The Artichoke Personals

Really Good Outliner Seeks 1L in Need of Study Tools, and Love

Helloooo ladies. I’ve got what it takes to make a killer outline. I have a highlighter for every color you can think of. I make charts and eat my note cards for lunch. I have three push points in Torts. Last month I took the MPRE and I had really bad gas the entire time, but I ethically held it in.

I may seem to have everything going for me, but I am missing a partner in crime. Criminal law, actually. I need help outlining for that class, and making love to the recordings I’ve made of the tutoring sessions.

So if you’re lacking in the love and outlines departments and you want to get hooked up, let’s hook up. I’ll bring my highlighters.

Professional Female Seeks Blue Collar Male

Gentlemen, say hello to this overworked and under-appreciated female law student from Southern California! I have blonde hair, thin lips, and bags under my eyes. I am a member of every campus club, work 30 hours a week, take a full load of classes, and have no time for you.

I’m looking for someone who works with his hands, who won’t call in the middle of my meetings, and who never asks to go for long walks on the beach.

If you don’t know what the terms mens rea, strict liability, and administrative remedies are then you’re the man for me. Please call.

Although I probably won’t pick up or have time to call you back.

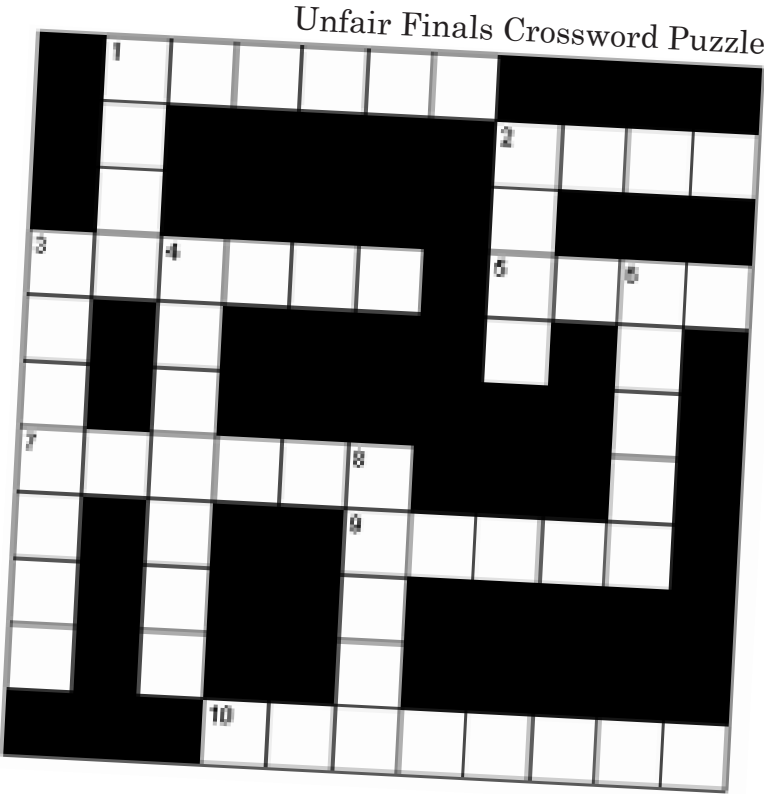
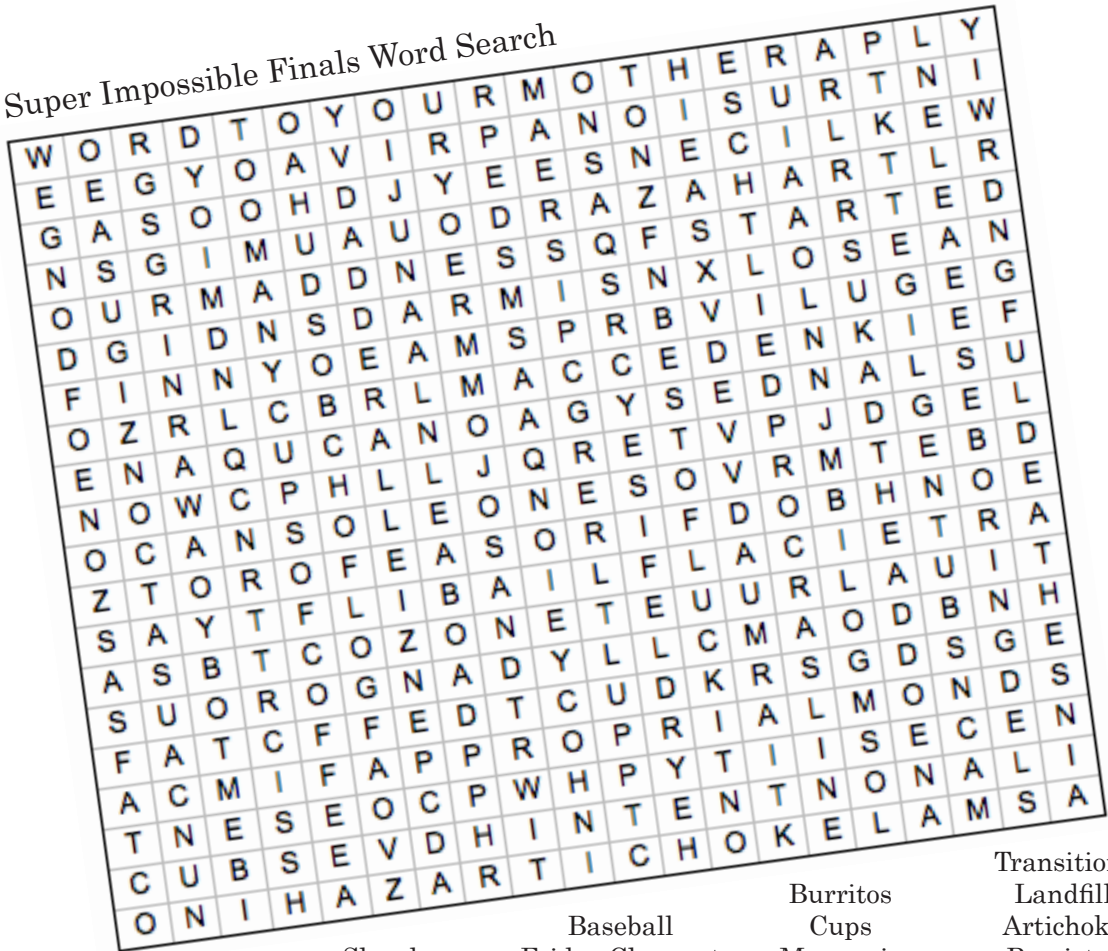
Married Student Seeks Law School Girlfriend to Walk the Halls With

Yeah, yeah, I’m married. So what? It’s not like I’m looking to cheat on my wife. All I want is to find a girl who will hang out with me 24/7 while we’re at school, so as to give the impression that we’re dating, but we really won’t be. Instead, people will talk about us like we’re law school boyfriend and girlfriend.

Just think of all the stairways and hallways we can walk through, shoulder to shoulder, stepping in stride, giggling and looking cute. We can even drink from the water fountains at the same time, and I can wait for you while you put your books away in your locker. But don’t worry, because I’m married. Nothing to see here, folks. Move along now.

Disclaimer: The Artichoke games are totally unfair. I bet you won't even be able to solve any of these puzzles. But if you do, Ben Pezzner will buy you a veggie burrito. Mmmmm.

Artichoke Games - Good Luck! You're gonna need it.



- Procrastinate

Your Mom

Caffeine High
- Sleepless

STEPPS

Heels

Doritos
- Baseball

Fridge Cleanout

ADHD

Polo

Fire Hydrant
- Burritos

Cups

Magennis

Beaches

Captain Picard

Sknvngns
- Transitions

Landfill

Artichoke

Barrister

Foosball

Corgies

Brian Horan

- Across:
1. My middle name

2. Square root of 3

3. Grace's favorite dessert

5. Typo

7. Not really a hint

9. Same as 7 across

10. Opposite of cantilever

12. Not even in puzzle
- Down:
1. Spinach

2. More than one rabbit

3. Make my day

4. I'm totally LOLing

6. Playing with your ear

8. Should I wear pants?

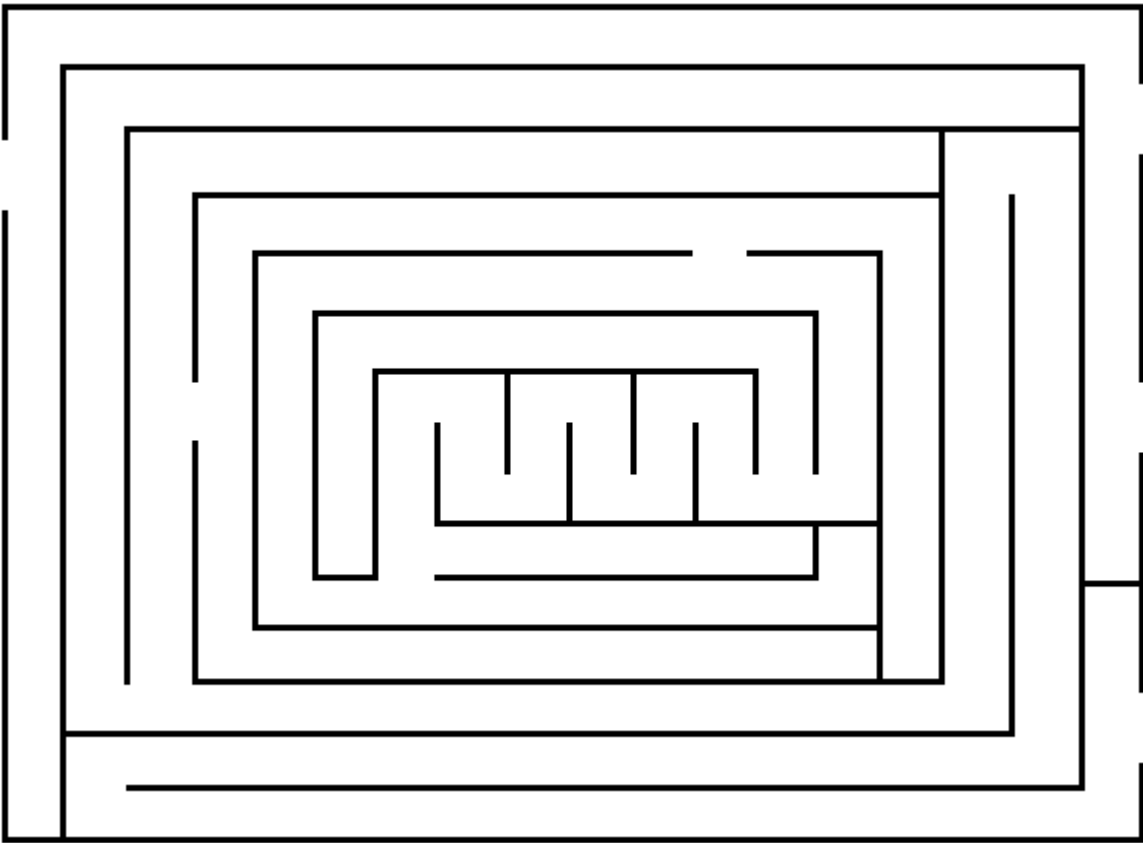
9. Worst puzzle ever

11. Rick Roll



Help the law student get an A+ at each law school.

Beware... it may be trickier to find the A+ at some schools than it is at others!



See if you can spot the differences between these two photos:





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