

# THE COMMENTARY

## Dating in Law School- Yes

I’ll be the guy saying, “I told you so”

BY THE VOICE OF REASON

San Diego may be one of the best cities in the United States to be single in, the weather is amazing, the views are breathtaking and the people are attractive. I’ve been lucky to date people that are non-law students as well as law students throughout my few years of law school. In my opinion, dating law school students is significantly better than dating outsiders for the following reasons:

### Convenience

Since I practically live at school, I’m more likely to see the person I’m dating at school than if I were to live with a significant other. Often, I’m not even willing to make the drive to my house to go to sleep. The additional effort of visiting someone else is just not going to happen unless they live in the library, SBA office, CIP office, law review office, etc. The outsiders I dated got annoyed when I would forget to return calls or take five hours to reply to a text message. Law students, though, are just around. Plus, even if they’re not around, they’re always on gchat, where I’m at least five times more likely to respond to their messages. I can combine down time at school with time with my significant other- a win-win.

### Multitasking

I’m not likely to be able to sit for a full dinner on a date without getting stressed about how many things I could be knocking off my to-do list. Inexplicably, the outsiders I dated who weren’t law students would get annoyed when we’d be out to dinner and I’d pull out law in a flash and start reviewing the week’s material. They just don’t understand the pressure that law school entails, and the amount of stress law students face. The law students have I dated, though, all have agreed on how romantic eating Kebab Shop in the student lounge while outlining can be. Similarly, the emotional DTR (determining the relationship) talks can easily be done with other law students over gchat while in class. When it’d get to be that time with the outsiders, they were offended if I

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## Happy Birthday California Western! 1924 - 2014



## CALIFORNIA WESTERN SCHOOL OF LAW | San Diego

California Western School of Law celebrates its 90th anniversary this year. The school was founded in 1924 and is the oldest law school in San Diego.

## Barrister’s Ball to be held at the Omni Hotel

A evening to celebrate CWSL’s  
90th anniversary

BY SAMI HADDAD  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Ladies and Gentlemen of California Western School of Law, it’s that time of year again, time for California Western’s Annual Barrister’s Ball, brought to you by the Student Bar Association. This year’s Barrister’s Ball is on Saturday, March 8, 2014, from 6:00 pm to 12:00 am, and will be held at the Omni Hotel on 675 L Street in downtown San Diego.

The theme of the event will be the Roaring 1920’s. It is a celebration of California Western’s 90th anniversary. California Western was founded in 1924 and is the oldest law school in San Diego. Decorations are still in the process of being configured and any suggestions on decorations for this event can be submitted to [cwslcommentary@gmail.com](mailto:cwslcommentary@gmail.com) and are greatly appreciated.

Check-in begins at 7:00, so be sure to arrive at the hotel in time to avoid long lines, get a good seat and begin mingling with friends and fellow students! There will be passed appetizers served during the beginning of the evening.

This year, due to budgetary constraints, a three-course meal will not be provided. Instead, your Barrister’s Ball Committee has elected to provide stations. This will increase interaction between the guests; allow guests more choices of food, and not keep them bound to their tables. However, there will still be unreserved, banquet style seating throughout the venue.

The menu of stations this year is centered on sushi! There will be a sushi station, a sliders and tots station, a vegetarian station, a street taco station and a flatbread station. Furthermore, there will be an open bar for two hours, which have yet to be determined.

The stations will begin serving sometime in the first hour of the event and are provided by the hotel. Entertainment includes your SBA members as emcees announcing the Professor of the Year Awards. A DJ will be spinning and a photographer will be on hand taking photos that will last a lifetime.

The Barrister’s Ball Committee has been hard at work since October of last year, planning what is sure to be a fantastic event! As every year, the committee is comprised of your fellow students, many of who are in the SBA but some of who are not.

Tickets will begin going on sale shortly. SBA members and members of the Barrister’s Ball Committee will be tabling on the first or second floor during the late morning and early afternoon. You can get more information by asking your class representative. The price per ticket will be \$40, which is a considerable decrease from the \$60 per ticket price last year. Dress is formal, and dressing to impress is extremely encouraged. Furthermore, the Student Board Association is proud to announce that the total cost of Barrister’s Ball this year is nearly \$20,000 cheaper than it was last year. The Committee worked diligently to keep prices low for students while simultaneously reducing the total cost of the event.

## Dating in Law School- No

Don’t be the fool,  
that dates in law school

BY YOUR FAIRY  
GODMOTHER

As we begin our journey into law school, it seems as if law students are the untouchables- shielded from the outside world but relegated to only dating each other.

Law school is difficult. Dating is challenging. So naturally, mixing the two will likely equate to a recipe for disaster. As a law student our lives are spent in one of three ways: in law school classes, studying for law school, or a legal internship. Do you want to walk pass someone on the way to class and your first thought being, “Yeah, I remember that night?” This can make for a bad idea to date your peers.

First and foremost law school is like reliving your high school days, there is the gossip and the drama problem. A law student’s only outlook to the outside world is other people’s stories. A life of a law student is usually extremely boring; law students thrive on other people’s drama in order to keep themselves sane. If you don’t want to be the focus of Monday Morning gossip, think twice before getting down and dirty with your peers.

Another problem is that anyone you date is law school is always there. They’re always in your life. You will not be able to have any independant, free time to just be yourself. If you have a bad day, they’ll know it, if you have to “pass” when you’re cold called, they’ll know it. Surely anyone in a relationship gives up some freedoms that single people have, but not all relationships where both parties spend all their time together go well. They’re not as perfect as Jim and Pam in the Office.

Law students are not only your peers and best friends; they are also your future co-workers, opposing counsel and judges. Whether it is a single date, a one-night stand or the end of a lovely long relationship, remember you will be forced to see that person everyday for the extent of law school and sometimes even your legal career. Do you really want to be arguing a case and think, “Why does that judge look familiar?”

If you are dating a law student most likely you are in the same circle of friends, same study group and sit together in almost every class. Because let’s be honest, as a law student it is hard to maintain any sort of relationship outside of law school. What happens then if a relationship goes wrong? Do you come up with some non-embarrassing excuse to force the professor to switch your

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*The Commentary* meets weekly on Mondays at 12:15 PM on the third floor couches. You can reach us via email at: [cwslcommentary@gmail.com](mailto:cwslcommentary@gmail.com)

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# INSIDE COVER

## Letter from the Editor



**SAMI HADDAD**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Another issue of *The Commentary* has graced the halls of California Western, and I hope our readers are seeing a progressive improvement. I was worried at first, taking over for the prestigious and award winning editor Ben Pezzner. I still think the paper is a work in progress, but it is coming along nicely, I'm enjoying the ride, and I would appreciate any feedback from readers.

That being said, I am really looking forward to more club involvement in future issues of the paper. *The Commentary* can be an amazing asset for you to gain new members and interest in your club. So whether you're a club president or just a member, any submission to *The Commentary*, whether a save the date, club background or notice of a general meeting, would be greatly appreciated.

In this issue of *The Commentary*, the SBA released details regarding its annual Barrister's Ball. I've worked a lot with the Barrister's Ball Committee and I'm proud of what the SBA has planned for this year. There has been a lot of scrutiny about the fiscal responsibility of spending so much money on Barristers. Indeed it

does cost a lot of money, even though we have lowered the cost this year from \$56,000 (the average of the last 3 years) to around \$36,500 this year. The critics of Barristers say that it costs too much money and that it is an exclusive event that a limited number of students attend.

I respect those arguments, as they certainly have merit, but I respectfully disagree. Although Barrister's Ball cannot accommodate all students, each student has the opportunity to buy tickets. Second, the event is a law school tradition, shared annually by law schools throughout the United States and around the world. Third, even if the event was canceled and the SBA had all of that money, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to spend all of those funds. Planning activities requires a lot of time, and although SBA members ran for these positions, there is so much work that we, as law students, can put in. Either way, I hope you all consider attending, and I look forward to seeing many of you at the Omni this year. It is sure to be a lovely event.

Authentically yours,  
Sami Haddad

*The Commentary* is currently looking for a design editor! A design editor helps create the layout of the paper. Any experience with InDesign is preferred, but not required. Any interested students are encouraged to contact Sami Haddad at:

***cwslcommentary@gmail.com***

## Letter from the SBA President



**LAUREN FOLEY**  
SBA PRESIDENT

With another month of classes underway, another round of grades released, and another holiday weekend to enjoy this SoCal sunshine, I hope all of you have had the chance to finally settle into the new semester! As expected, your SBA has quite a few events planned for the next few months so I'd like to take this chance to share them with you:

First, Barrister's Ball is quickly approaching. Located at the Omni on the night of Saturday, March 8th, this year's ball will take place in the heart of downtown and is planned to be as magnificent as ever. Tickets will be sold on-campus throughout the month of February and the entire first week of March. Be sure to purchase yours before they sell out!

Second, your SBA Community Outreach Committee is working hard to foster volunteer opportunities for Cal Western students to take advantage of this semester. Serving lunch to seniors over

each weekday lunch hour is the first step in a long-term plan to craft meaningful relationships between California Western students and our nearby San Diego community.

Third, while the Grades Party at Bassmnt was a HUGE success this year, we hope to plan a more family-friendly event for the month of February. As always, please keep an eye out on campus, Facebook, and cwslsba.com to stay informed for upcoming SBA events. Lastly, SBA General Elections will be taking place sometime within the next month. All positions will need to be filled for the following school year, so if you have any interest in serving as a student leader please consider running for office!

Until then, I hope each of you continue to work hard, play hard, and find success. I look forward to seeing many of you in the halls at school, on the streets of Gaslamp, or amongst friends at one of our next events!

Cheers,  
Lauren Foley

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We need one!

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*The Commentary* meets weekly on Mondays at 12:15 PM on the third floor couches. You can reach us via email at:  
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*The Commentary* is a student-run newspaper at California Western School of Law. As a committee of the CWSL Student Bar Association, *The Commentary* has been around for 40 years. Please contact us at [cwslcommentary@gmail.com](mailto:cwslcommentary@gmail.com) for reprinting permission. The views expressed within *The Commentary* do not necessarily represent the views of California Western School of Law or its administration, faculty, staff, or other students.



# A MESSAGE FROM YOUR SBA

## SBA Sponsored Grades Party is a Great Success



Cindy Perez

CWSL Students Mingle at Bassmnt

BY BRIANNE McLAUGHLIN  
STAFF WRITER

On January 17th, the SBA sponsored a Grades Party at Bassmnt. It was an opportunity for students to mingle and celebrate the release of grades. Students were provided free entry before 11pm, and enjoyed conversation and dancing with their fellow classmates.

The Student Bar Association is currently planning future activities which are less centered on nightlife. We are aware of the various and diverse student body the California Western has, and we are working to host events that cater to the needs of all students.

If you have any suggestions as to an event you would like to see the SBA host, please feel free to e-mail us at [cwslcommentary@gmail.com](mailto:cwslcommentary@gmail.com). We would love to hear your ideas for events.



CWSL Students and SBA Representatives Patti Wilson and Sami Haddad pause for a photo during the Grades Party.

## Student Lounge to Get New Vending Machine



healthyvending.com

Disclaimer: This isn't the actual new vending machine. For the sake of your eyesight and time, please do not waste time identifying/drooling over the items.

BY THE LEAGUE OF HUNGRY  
LAW STUDENTS

In late February a new vending machine will be placed in the lounge on the basement level. This machine will focus on giving students more diverse, healthier options. One of the soda machines will be removed to make room for the new machine.

The specific products sold in this machine are unknown, but keep a look out for a newer, healthier alternative to candy and junk food in the lounge.

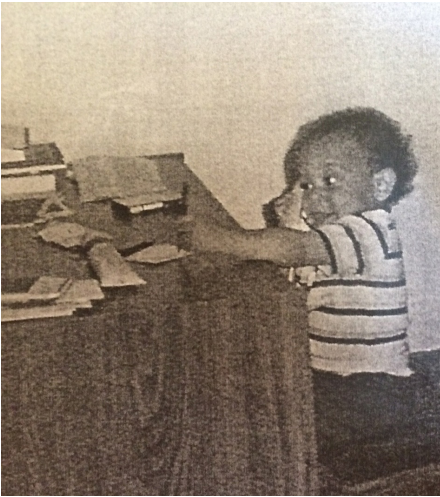
The Student Bar Association's next mission is to get a water fountain that is designed to fill reusable bottles. However there are plumbing issues that need to be addressed.

# Welcome!

The Student Bar Association would like to welcome each of the 42 Spring Starts to California Western School of Law. The entire SBA is here to ease your transition to law school. Law School can certainly be nerve racking and traumatizing and the SBA would like to help.

We would also like to welcome Robert "Bobby" Case. Bobby is a spring start who is the newest member of the SBA. He is the representative for the Spring starts and his job is to be the liasion between the new 1L class and he current SBA. Spring starts can address any questions or concerns they have to Bobby.

Bobby Case is pictured to the right (at an obviously much younger age). The members of the SBA are excited to work with him and ready for the ideas he will bring on behalf of the Spring starts.



## Student Bar Association Prepares for Elections to Ring in New Officers

### Election Information

The Student Bar Association will hold elections during the week of February 24th. All positions will be available. Below is a list of the positions on the Student Bar Association:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Editor-In-Chief of the Commentary
- Administator
- Four Representatives (For both the 3L and 2L classes)
- ABA Representative
- SDCBA Representative
- Activities Director
- Intramural Director
- Alumni Association Representative

SAMI HADDAD  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF





# CAMPUS PERSPECTIVES

## Dating-Yes

From DATING IN LAW SCHOOL- Yes on page 1



<http://nd.keepcalm-o-matic.co.uk/i/keep-calm->

didn’t see the problem in combining the DTR conversation with class, reading, or outlining.

### Humor

Law students tend to be pretty witty, and it’s tragic for promissory estoppel, adverse possession, personal jurisdiction, and Learned Hand jokes to fall on deaf ears. They just “understand” me better, the struggles I face and the dilemmas and worries that I have.

Meet more Interesting People- I’ve found that students in law school tend to be more interesting than those who are not in law school. Students in law school are focused, determined, and have excellent work ethics, three qualities that law students find attractive. They also have their life together; they have a plan, goals and ambitions.

### Mutual understanding.

Outsiders just don’t understand law school, and can often be insensitive. When I was stressed out about my first year finals, my non-law student significant other at the time would always say, “Just work hard, it will be fine.” Law students, though, understand that FINE is not the least bit reassuring. One outsider even told me, “There are things in life more important than law school.” A law student, though, would never have the nerve to say something as offensive as this to me.

Of course, there are positives and negatives to everything. But, as law students, our time is very limited. Because of this, my dating advice is just to focus on efficiency don’t be afraid to date within school walls. Sure, you may worry about reputation and awkwardness if things don’t work out, but let’s be honest, if you can’t handle a breakup, then you probably aren’t cut out to practice law.

## Dating- No

From DATING IN LAW SCHOOL- No on page 1

seating chart assignment? Try to find new friends? Or just bite your tongue, be an adult about the situation and still act like you’re their best friend? Do you really want to be stuck face to face with your ex every day for the next few years?

Here’s some advice:

1) Date outside of law School - though this is easier said than done, Law School is all about balance of personal life and law school life.

2) If you do date outside of law school: DONT TALK ABOUT LAW SCHOOL!

3) 1Ls- Don’t date anyone in your section. And if you really like to live dangerously and refuse this advice, then do not, under any circumstances, date anyone in your legal skills section. At that point you’re just ASKING for trouble.

4) Keep it simple! Keep your Professional life Professional and your personal life personal.

5) if you instead decide to dive into the law school dating pool GOOD LUCK (You’ll Need It)!

SAVE THE  
DATE

Annual PILF  
AUCTION

Thursday,  
March 13th

## Making the Best Impression as a Law Clerk or New Associate

BY MATTHEW A. LAB, ESQ.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR,  
CAREER SERVICES OFFICE



CWSLEdu

After having hired, trained and supervised a number of law clerks and associate attorneys during my time in law firm and in-house practice, I thought it would be helpful to provide a short list of reminders and suggestions that may assist our students and recent graduates to make the best impression as a law clerk or new associate attorney.

With these tips, and your hard work, you will be on the right track to impress any potential employer.

### Develop Good Work Habits

- Hours: Be early! Call if you are running late or will be out.
- Prioritize tasks to complete them on time and don’t limit yourself to just one project at a time—show that you can multitask!
- Treat everyone with respect! Stay out of office politics. Avoid gossiping about anyone.
- Communicate. Make sure all attorneys with whom you are working know what you are doing.
- Keep a log of the work you are doing. This will help with time keeping (and later for your review and resume).
- Bring a pen and paper everywhere! Assignments may be given at any moment. Time is precious.
- There is no such thing as a “rough draft”. Always turn in your best work. Never submit a draft.
- Always clarify and confirm the nature of the assignment before you leave the office by summarizing the assignment back to the supervising attorney: “So what you want is a client memo summarizing their rights of reinstatement under California law and you need this by Monday. Is this correct?”
- Resolve Questions ASAP. If you’re still confused, ask follow up questions either in person or by email to ensure you give the attorney what she needs.
- Be prepared. The only thing worse than walking into an attorney’s office unprepared is doing so – in the company of someone who is prepared.

### Work Assignments: Questions to ASK upon receiving a new assignment

- When is the due date and do you want status updates? Attorneys often don’t have a deadline in mind when they ask you to undertake a project. However, when they want the results of your project, they will want them immediately. To avoid being unprepared, press the attorney for a deadline and then deliver your work early.
- Do you want a written or verbal response? As to research, sometimes attorneys want might want a formal memo, but often they just want a quick email or verbal briefing on the issue.
- Are there any reference materials that you think I should look at first? Code section? Practice guide?
- Who will be the audience for this document? Supervising attorney, the client, the court, etc.? The intended audience will set the tone and level of complexity for the document.
- Are there procedural rules or standards that affect the approach I should take? For example, a complaint and demurrer address allegations, whereas a motion for summary judgment also requires admissible evidence in support of allegations.
- What is the jurisdiction for this case or matter? Don’t be that guy who prepared a well-reasoned memo analyzing California deficiency statutes for a matter that involved a property located in Arizona! Not helpful!
- Do you have a template or sample that I should follow? Different firms will have different policies and procedures in how they handle certain memos, drafts, letters, etc. It’s important that you conform your work product as soon as possible.
- Is there a page length or limit? Many motions have page limits, and some attorneys prefer even shorter written work. Ask to save yourself time.
- Where would I find the complete file? What materials should I review for background/context (e.g., the case file, prior correspondence, etc.)
- How long should I spend on this project? This question saves you time from spending twenty hours researching a particular issue if the assigning attorney believes it should only be a two hour assignment.

## CWSL Intramurals

California Western School of Law’s intramural program is currently in the midst of basketball season. Several teams representing California Western are competing every Sunday this month against Thomas Jefferson School of Law students.

The intramural program is also planning on beginning signups for intramural volleyball after numerous requests from students. More information can be found on the SBA website or by tabling students. Later this semester, intramural softball will be offered, again in collaboration with Thomas Jefferson School of Law.

Playing with students from Thomas Jefferson has been a nice change added to intramural sports this year by director Anthony Chance. Not only does it make games more competitive, but it builds the team aspect of playing as students from California Western.



# 1L's IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## Coping with the Release of First Semester Grades

With our first set of exams under our belt and grades in hand, most of us are likely experiencing a range of emotions. We expected all the stress and anxiety to melt away with the release of the grades but that probably didn't happen regardless of the actual grades you received. If you Amjured every class you will be dealing with the stress and worry of being able to replicate it for the next two and half years. If you didn't do as well as you hoped then you are dealing with the stress of having to develop a new study plan to do better this semester. Regardless, it is a stressful time and here are FIVE tips for dealing with that stress throughout the semester.

BY TURNER HOPKINSON  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

- Do not drink.** I'm Irish and spent five years in the military where drinking is basically a national past time, so need-less to say I understand drinking...very well. Also, let us be realistic; I'm not saying don't drink at all. Instead what I *am* saying is that drinking to excess will shred your study plan, cause you to fall behind in your studies, and leave you either cramming right before finals or doing poorly on them. If you're going to drink make sure it's in moderation and in a social capacity.
- Do not lie.** With a few exceptions, it is amazing that every-one I talked to did spectacularly in every single class. I am not the brightest bulb out there and math certainly is not my strongest suit, but our grades are on a curve. In other words, there is no way everyone got an 85+ on their exams. Lying about it accomplishes nothing except making everyone else feel like they did poorly, leading to insecurities and doubts. Treat others how you want to be treated and there is no reason to make other's feel badly. Ultimately, you do yourself a disservice by lying to yourself as well. If you do not want to talk about your grades because you did not do as well as you hoped, then simply decline to discuss them, and for the sake of everyone else, do not blurt out how you Amjured every class. For that matter, even if you did amazing, there is no need to tell everyone, as no one likes a braggart.
- Do not listen to others.** In my opinion, this is both the most important and most difficult task to accomplish. I have never seen so many different study methods employed to all reach the same end goals as I have in law school. Be confi-dent about *your* study plan. I liked getting all my readings done as early on in the semester and caught plenty of flak for it. The bottom line is who cares? Do what works for you. If you are getting good grades then keep it up and make minor adjustments where needed. If you are not getting the grades you want, then only two people can help you fix that: your-self and your professors. Not those around you who insist their way of studying is either the only way or the best way to get the great grades you desire.
- Sleep.** We are all getting a good eight hours of sleep right? Probably not, but it is still early in the semester and while I am by no means saying slack off, getting a full nights rest does wonders towards keeping you physically in shape and maintaining a grip on sanity. Plus, it will give you that extra gas in the tank for later in the semester when that appellate brief is due in a few hours.
- Do something.** I failed miserably in this the first semester. I ended up looking as white as a polar bear from lack of sun exposure and left in the worst physical shape of my life. Take an hour a day and do something that is not school related. Gym, beach, run, read an unrelated to school book (you are a better person than I if you can still read after all the class readings), hang out with friends – it does not matter, just do something not related to school each and every day. You may not get a chance every day realistically, but actually plan for it and incorporate it into your daily to-do list, and ulti-mately you will end up feeling much better about yourself.

I hope the tips help you cope with the stress of both getting our first set of grades back but also from the generally stressful experi-ence of law school. Find a balance, find a rhythm, and find what works for you without having a heart attack during school.

## Book Review- My Beloved World

BY ALLAN ACEVEDO  
STAFF WRITER

Raised in a housing project in the Bronx with an alcoholic father who died while she was young, Justice Sonia Sotomayor experienced loss and struggle early on. She was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes at seven and learned to give herself her own insulin shots. She dealt with drug addiction and AIDS in her family later on. She survived the demands of law school and a failed marriage with grace and candor.

The story of Sotomayor's rise from a broken family in a Bronx housing project, through the Ivy-covered walls of Princeton and Yale, to the highest court in the country is not just a story of individual success and aspiration. Sotomayor weaves together a story of courage, resource-fulness and aspiration inspiring to any reader, but especially touching to those who have struggled to create something for themselves out of nothing.

Many law students may feel overwhelmed by their course load and feel unable to include additional readings in their schedule. I would assuage those concerns by telling you So-tomayor's memoir reads like a conversation with a wise friend hoping to impart wisdom through her own narrative of struggle and success.

Sotomayor struggled to develop self-confidence and recognize the strength and insights she brought to the table. She came from humble beginnings. Yet, she allowed her struggles not to define who she could become but to define how she would become who she knew she was always meant to be.

During her time in Princeton, Sotomayor felt out of place and behind many of her peers who came from more affluent backgrounds with greater resources and expectations of suc-cess. Sotomayor did not let this hold her back, but embraced her upbringing for the experi-ences and insights it allowed her to developed. She did not "fail to appreciate that [she] had experiences of [her] own to prize or that [she had] seen some aspect of life of which [her] classmates were sometimes naively unaware."

While she did not have much growing up, her mother prioritized education and instilled in Sotomayor early on the belief that you can achieve anything you set your mind to. As Sotomayor struggled through the challenges of academia, she often felt there was "something else [she] was supposed to know." As if she had missed out on many opportunities growing up which now set her back as an adult.

Rather than accept the status and con-ditions she was born in to, Sotomayor chose to challenge the limits imposed on her by class and cultural back-ground. Though she feared these gaps in her knowledge might be indicative of a lack of aptitude, she recognized that for many of her peers "the agenda for self-cultivation that had been set for [them] by their teachers and parents" was something she would have to de-velop and create for herself.

To her, this meant a commitment to being a life-long learner. This meant challenging herself to use her back-ground and lived experiences as a catalyst to acquire the knowledge and

skills that for others may seem like a birthright. From her memoir, you understand that her background experiences and adversity are as much her source of strength as they are her struggles in life.

Though she is coy about her experiences at Princeton and Yale Law School and how they may have shaped her views of the legal system and politics, she is frank about discussing the role affirmative action played in propelling her from the free health clinics where she was treated for juvenile diabetes in the Bronx to the bench at 1 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20543.

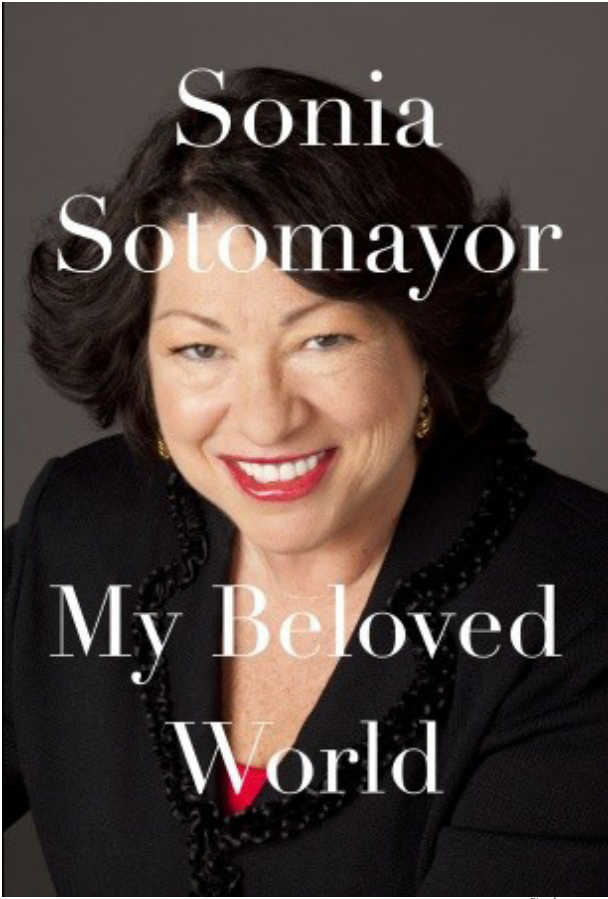
She recounts regular letters in the Princeton student newspaper where complaints appeared asserting students like Sotomayor were taking the place of worthier, more qualified students.

Sotomayor is candid and readily offers praise and thanks to those who shaped her experi-ences. Indeed, Sotomayor underscores that it does take a village. Sotomayor discusses inti-mate details of her blood family, the extended family she created for herself and mentors who offered her help and advice.

Sotomayor recognizes she was shaped a life of racism, dearth, family tragedy and self-doubt. Yet by the end of her memoir, you recognize a woman who is an epitome of the American Dream. She is unapologetic about her life experiences or the opportunities that were afforded to her because of them.

This book should serve as a reminder that we are more than where we come from and can accomplish much more when we work together and allow others into our lives and hearts.

Last semester when the monotony of law school had me down, I could turn to the pages of





# THE SOCIAL SCENE

## What it’s like to Date a Law Student: A Significant Other Finally Speaks

BY A WOMAN WITH PATIENCE  
DATING A LAW STUDENT

When I met my law school significant other, I did not realize that I had entered into a classic co-dependent relationship. More often than not things seemed absolutely normal: I miss him when he’s not with me, wish we could be together more often, and (mostly) love hearing about his day. But when grades are about to come out, it’s a completely different story.

“When they are with you, they are thinking about law school,” says Jeff Schmitt, who knows from experience what it is like to date a soon-to-be lawyer. “Dating someone in law school is like dating a crack addict looking for their next fix.” They’re constantly either thinking about law school, or thinking about how they should be working on assignments from law school.

I can understand that sentiment: when grades are about to be released, you’re continually on edge, constantly distracted, and always talking about school. However, it isn’t just the time of the year that grades are being released.

There is almost always something going on, between their internship, classes, extracurricular activities and their lame (yet cute) attempts to retain a social life.

Fortunately, those times are only passing “blips” on our otherwise wonderful relationship. I admire how my significant other always makes time to talk with me multiple times throughout the week, and we see each other almost every weekend. Even though I can’t get as much time with him as I would like, I know I’m an important part of his life, as he is in mine. Besides, he doesn’t need me around distracting him when he’s on his quest to save the world one case at a time.

The best thing about dating a law student is that they’re witty, clever and smart. They think of interesting solutions to problems and have a good sense of humor (although I still don’t understand about half of his jokes). It’s important to remember that no one outside of law school can ever begin to understand what it is like, but that isn’t their fault. You have to work with them, because I think I speak on behalf of all significant others of law students when I say that we genuinely care about how you’re doing, even if we can’t understand it entirely.

As a side note, you don’t have to be right in every argument or discussion you have. You can’t object to my claims as hearsay, but we aren’t in the court of law here. I know it’s habitual, but just remember that you’re not defending a client when we are debating what we should have for dinner.

My advice to all of the soon-to-be lawyers reading this is to remember what is really important in life. Sure, you study to get good grades, and you get good grades to get a job, but at the end of the day, you do everything to attain happiness. So prioritize things in your life, and don’t sweat the small things. It’ll all be fine in the end.



Photo from [http://31.media.tumblr.com/tumblr\\_lmz430UaGdIghwo6yo1\\_300.jpg](http://31.media.tumblr.com/tumblr_lmz430UaGdIghwo6yo1_300.jpg)

## San Diego Beer Guide

BY BRIANNE McLAUGHLIN  
STAFF WRITER

San Diego is known for their numerous amounts of breweries and craft beer. And San Diego isn’t subject to winter weather, what’s better than an ice-cold beer? Here are the five best bars to sample local beers and eat some great food.

### Toronado San Diego: 4026 30<sup>th</sup> Street

With over 50 beers on tap and 300 bottles of beer from all over the world, there is most likely at least one beer for everyone. If you find yourself here, make sure to try Nelson IPA from Alpine Beer Company and Pliny the Elder from Russian River Brewing Company. If you want to give your palate a shock, order a glass of Cuvee des Jacobins (my favorite).

### Hamilton’s Tavern: 1521 30<sup>th</sup> Street

Hamilton’s Tavern is located in South Park and has 28 beers on tap as well as 130 bottles of beer. Here, you can bring your dog, play some pool, drink some great beer, and eat some tasty food. Also check out Small Bar in University Heights and Monkey’s Paw in East Village, which are both owned by the same owner.

### Blind Lady Ale House (BLAH): 3416 Adams Avenue

Another great spot to try local beer where you can pair your beverage with a delicious pizza or salad. BLAH has 20 beers on tap. If you drive (sober) around the corner, you can check of BLAH’s new edition, Tiger! Tiger!, which has an interesting food selection and 25 beers on tap plus wine taps.

### Pizza Port:

There are five different locations throughout San Diego: Carlsbad, Ocean Beach, San Clemente, Solana Beach, and Bressi Ranch. You can taste Pizza Port’s own beers brewed at their different locations as well as beers from their guest beer tap list. Make sure to check out Pizza Port’s Brewbies Festival on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014, a beer festival that raises money A Keep A Breast Foundation. A special pink beer is brewed for the event.

### O’Brien’s Pub: 4646 Convoy Street

With over 20 beers on tap and over 100 bottles to try O’Brien’s is another great beer bar to check out. This bar is right around the corner from Kearny Mesa Bowl too, which makes a fun night out in a different part of San Diego then your regular downtown night out.

And if you find yourself without a designated driver but craving beer, make sure to participate in San Diego DrinkAbout. On every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday get on the bus and visit eight of San Diego’s best beer bars including Blind Lady, Small Bar, Live Wire, Toronado, The Station, Hamilton’s, Ritual Tavern, and Tiger! Tiger!. The upcoming dates are 2/19, 3/19, 4/16, and 5/21. Visit [sddrinkabout.com](http://sddrinkabout.com) for more information!

Always remember to drink safe!

## The Top 10 Reasons To Quit Being on Facebook During Class

BY ALISON SCHLICK  
SDCBA REPRESENTATIVE

- 10) All the cool kids are doing it. Seriously that was reported on CNN.
- 9) Moral Character Application - ‘nuff said
- 8) That guy is already rich enough
- 7) Privacy??? \$@#!\*!
- 6) Maybe Twitter would take less time. So would picking your nose.
- 5) Linked In is more professional
- 4) As Shakespeare said... Ah the webs we weave... Leaving those things unattended can give you a serious panic attack if they blow up at some point.
- 3) You really should be paying attention in class, considering you’re spending so much money.
- 2) Avoid implicating yourself in trouble by association.
- 1) It was first created to be a bullying tool to make fun of people at Harvard. That’s the rumor and that’s what the movie said. So it must be true.



<http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-JLAlVEE3Oha/T-MRnAsCk4I/AAAAAAAAABo/4lo6k3Q81U/s400/Things%2Bto%2Bde%2Bbefore%2Bquitting%2BFacebook.jpg>

# CAMPUS HAPPENINGS

## Hello Goodbye: Law School Indoctrination

BY LU LOBELLO

Only one other time in my life have I participated in such an intensive indoctrination as law school, United States Marine Corps boot camp. Interestingly enough for me is that both of them took place in San Diego and both ultimately became my identity. The Commentary, through the SBA, has given me an opportunity, to formalize my goodbye to Cal Western by writing this article, hopefully you will read until the end and then realize that I take our baptismal of one L year seriously, and in me, you will always find a compatriot.

I came to law school after being forever changed by my time in service. I do not now, nor had I ever identified myself with the generic Marine Corps, meat, eating, Reagan loving, pistol packing, Amuricans, although, some of those guys are my dear friends and I will love them till the end. No, I have always taken my commitment to my craft of being a Marine so seriously because of the people I met while I was in and because of their familiar process of indoctrination, which as I will be explaining throughout this article is eerily similar to our law school indoc and for that matter, most all indoctrinations.

At this point, 32 years of my life, I have tried to aspire to at least four different classes of people in America. In all four classes I have found disillusionment, struggle and atonement. Growing up in Vegas, being one hundred percent Italian and having a family from back east caused me to waste a great portion of my adolescence wanting to be a member of organized crime. Laugh if you will but by the time I had graduated high school I had done it all.

My father had died by the time I was in third grade and after my grandpa passed I was the only male in my family. This lasted all through out my younger years and is still true to this day. The Marines was a perfect match. My mother was sure to remind me weekly that the Mafia was not what it used to be, they would ask you to kill your family, steal from old ladies and in the end no one respected Omerta, they all ratted. I went from one extreme to the next. Tony Spilatro to GI Joe (although he was Army).

The Marines talked to me about ethics, formally, like law school. They seemed to imply that Marines had a different set of ethics, a higher degree of ethos. We were assembled in sections and were encouraged to have pride in ourselves first, then our section, then the Marines. It was called esprit de corps, here we call it a 3L gift or the Dean's list. We had Latin in the Marines too. We say Semper Fidelis. It means always faithful. Now I have lex lata. I don't think it as dramatic. We had heroes in the Marine Corps, Chesty Puller, Smedley Butler, demigods. Now I have Karl, Posner, Brennan, and Kennedy. We had an emblem, an Eagle, Globe and Anchor. Now I have the scales of justice. In the Marines there is no better friend and no worse enemy. It all seems so familiar.

I am back home in Vegas this semester, far removed from the new warriors I have met during my second indoc in San Diego. Like so many young Marines were during our early careers, I see some of my fellow students already waning, questioning their loyalties, their choices. I say have faith. There is a little truth to every lie. During our first year our administration and ourselves talked broadly about the change that attorneys have carved out for the broader society throughout history, we talked about future possibilities, about justice. I ask that you don't forget that lady justice is not only blind but well armed, she serves to remind us that we are entering a profession that if you choose, will allow you to fight for something bigger than yourself, It doesn't matter which battle you choose amidst the war, but, if you want to get your hands dirty, look for me, I'll always joining you in the mud.

## A Letter from Former Students Now Studying for the Bar Exam

BY THE POOR UNFORTUNATE SOULS OF BARBRI

Dear CWSL students,

As most of you know, bar study began the day after graduation. Considering it is an incredibly stressful time in every law students' life, here are some tips in dealing with a bar studier. When you encounter us in the hallways of Cal West, the best thing to do is:

- (1) Ignore us. Ignore us because right now we do not care about anything but ourselves and anything you say to us will not be heard. We will not judge you for not saying hello. In fact, it will make us happy to not spend any extra energy trying to formulate any sort of conversation that does not consist of multiple choice questions, elements, or IRACs.
- (2) If you have trouble feeling like the nice thing to do is ignore us, just say this phrase, and this phrase alone: "Good luck, and keep going!"

It is not that we do not like you in general, but right now, as we are studying for this beast of an exam, we do not like anything. If you are afraid you will not know if someone you encounter is studying for the bar, don't worry, you will recognize us by our yoga or stretch pants, scarves and gloves used to keep us alive while studying in the frigid Moot Court Room, and overall unkempt appearance of frizzy hair and stress breakouts. And don't worry, you all have this beautiful experience to look forward to in your near future.

Genuinely and selfishly,  
Bar study students

### MOOT COURT HONORS BOARD SPRING 2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 1: 1L Competition Workshop, 8:30am-12pm  
Monday, February 3 – Friday, February 7: Tabling for 1L Competition  
Tuesday, February 4: 1L Competition Info. Session, 12:15-1:05pm  
Wednesday, February 5: Traveling Teams Send-Off Dinner, 7pm Reading Room

Monday, February 10 – Friday February 14; Tabling for Negotiation Competition  
Monday, February 10: 1L Competition Prelims, 6-9pm  
Tuesday, February 11: 1L Competition Prelims, 6-9pm  
Thursday, February 13: 1L Competition Finals, 7-9pm

Wednesday, February 19 – Friday February 21; Tabling for Negotiation Competition  
Wednesday, February 19: Negotiation Competition Info. Session, 12:15-1:05pm

Tuesday, February 25: Negotiation Competition Prelims, 6-9pm  
Thursday, February 27: Negotiation Finals, 7-9pm

#### MARCH

Monday, March 10: Legal Skills II Competition Workshop, 6-9pm  
Monday, March 17 – Friday, March 21: Tabling for Gill Competition  
Monday, March 17: Gill Competition Info. Session, 12:15-1:05pm  
Monday, March 17: Legal Skills II Competition Prelims, 6-10pm  
Tuesday, March 18: Legal Skills II Competition Prelims, 6-10pm  
Thursday, March 20: Legal Skills II Competition Semi-Finals & Finals, 5-10pm

Monday, March 24: Gill Competition Prelims, 6-9pm  
Tuesday, March 25: Gill Competition Prelims, 6-9pm  
Thursday, March 27: Gill Competition Finals, 7-9pm

On behalf of the SBA and all students, *The Commentary* would like to congratulate Professor Sax and Professor Brooks on recently being granted tenure! We look forward to many years of your continued instruction and contribution to California Western.



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## Nicolai Abramson: A December 2013 Graduate and Local Business Owner

BY SAMI HADDAD  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



Abramson poses inside of Electromist, located on 5th and Elm Street

You might recognize Nicolai Abramson, a recent CWSL alumni, who's now deep in the trenches of the library preparing for the February Bar exam. Nicolai was previously featured in the Commentary way back in the glory days of his 2L year. Nicolai is an active home brewer and occasional beer drinker. "Since that article came out, I embarked on a journey rebuilding my brewery from scratch, using stainless steel parts I found at the scrap yard. Frankenstina (the name of his brewery) is taller, bigger and louder than I am. Her parts ended their previous lives as forgotten scrap metal wasting away in scrap yards" said Nicolai.

I recently spent an evening meeting Nicolai at something else he recently created, a vape shop called Electromist. It's after hours and the first thing I notice outside his shop is the video of what I think is smoke being projected on the window. I'm perplexed, because Electromist anything but a smoke shop. "It's not smoke. Its vapor" he says. "That's our slogan- No Smoking, Just Vape!" Nicolai has me sit and brings me an e-juice menu and a Mexican Coke. He says, "Try anything you want. I let customers try our e-juices to see what which ones they like. None of my samples have nico (tine) in them." The menu has over 40 different e-juices to sample; I feel like I'm at the adult version of Baskin Robbins.

Nicolai says that his inspiration for Electromist came when he learned that new technology exists that serves as a better alternative to a harmful habit that has been killing people for hundreds of years. Americans have been smoking tobacco since before this country was founded. Tobacco was the basis of the early economies of the many of the original southern colonies before the Revolutionary War. Our families in the old world smoked it long before the colonies even existed. Unfortunately, despite all of the technological advances, many people that still smoke today. Nicolai continues, "But at the same time, this is 2014. California is the place to be in the modern era; we love our electronic devices: Phones, tablets, laptops, etc. Tesla is revolutionizing the car market by replacing gas combustion engines with electric ones. I'm selling the same principle with respect smoking. I guess you could call me Nicolai Tesla."

"Most smokers crave nicotine, a byproduct that comes from combusting (burning) tobacco. But tobacco combustion also releases countless other unhealthy toxins and carcinogens. Instead, vapes use electricity to heat e-juice at a much lower temperature than tobacco combustion and produce vapor." No match, no lighter needed. You can charge them up with a USB cord."

E-juice ingredients are all individually FDA approved as safe for human consumption and contain the same two chemicals that are in the fog machines at nightclubs. The nicotine is professionally extracted in USA laboratories. When you vaporize e-juice, it creates a form of water vapor, which simulates smoking for the user. "No Smoking, Just Vape!"

Because vape users each want a different strength of nicotine hit, every e-juice in the store comes in varying strength levels of nicotine, including zero nicotine. Electromist sells various items, such as disposable e-cigarettes, to refillable starter kits, heavy-duty brass and stainless steel mods, atomizers and drip tips. He has vapes in all shapes and sizes, including e-cigars, e-hookahs and wooden e-pipes. Everything is electronic, no lighters allowed! "The legalities of vaping are in a state of flux, so lawyers will surely be needed to interpret and advise on the constant adapting state of law. I wrote my scholarly writing paper on the current state of regulation of e-cigarettes and how that effects what testing is required from e-juice manufacturers. It's a very exciting time to become an attorney," says Nicolai.

The message here is simple, law students should follow their dreams. Put a lot of work into that dream. If your gut says go for it, and it makes sense, just do it. Anything's possible with enough effort, even when you're still in law school."

Nicolai says his background in law school, specifically at California Western has helped him tremendously in the creation of his business. "Law students have a lot of potential because they're smart and they work hard, or else they wouldn't be here, doing what they do. Use those abilities and build something bigger than yourself. Finally, make the most of the law school experience, it goes quick and soon enough you'll be sitting in Barbri wondering what happened," jokes Nicolai. You can check out Electromist up the street from CWSL on 5<sup>th</sup> and Elm or online at Electromist.com.



Nicolai after a successful brew

## List of Student Organizations

Here are a list of active clubs on campus. If you are interested in joining any of them, you can look for there posters around campus or email The Commentary at cwscommentary@gmail.com to get their contact information. If you don't see a club and want to create one, that's possible too!

Alternative Dispute Resolution Club (ADR)  
American Constitution Society (ACS)  
Amnesty International  
Asian Pacific American Law Student Association (APALSA)  
Black Law Student Association (BLSA)  
Business Law Society (BLS)  
Child, Family, Elder Law Society  
Christian Legal Society (CLS)  
Criminal Law Society  
Education Law Society (ELS)  
Employment & Labor Law Society (ELLS)  
Entertainment and Sports Law Society (ESLS)  
Environmental Law Society (ELS)  
Estate Planning Society (EPS)  
Exonerate  
Federalist Society  
Hawaii Law Student Association (HLSA)

Health Law Society (HLS)  
Immigration Law Society  
International Law Society (ILS)  
J. Ruben Clark Law Society  
Jewish Student Union (JSU)  
La Raza Law Student Association (LARAza)  
Law Students for Reproductive Justice (LSRJ)  
Maritime Law Society  
Middle Eastern Law Student Association (MELSA)  
Moot Court Honors Board (MCHB)  
Native American Law Society (NALSA)  
Older, Wiser Law Students (OWLS)  
Phi Alpha Delta (PAD)  
Pride Law  
Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF)  
Social Media Advocacy Think Tank (SMATT)

South Asian Law Student Association (SALSA)  
Student Animal Legal Defense Fund (SALDF)  
Student Intellectual Property Law Association (SIPLA)  
Women's Law Caucus (WLC)  
  
Contact the Student Bar Association at [sba@law.cwsl.edu](mailto:sba@law.cwsl.edu) for more info.

## Club Sponsored "Dress for Success" Recap

BY CHRISTIAN BARTON  
3L REPRESENTATIVE

On Friday, January 17th, California Western held its first annual Dress for Success Presentation. The night began in the Roy Bell room, where attendees could bid on silent auction items, such as a Kate Spade Hand Bag, while enjoying Hors d'oeuvres provided by Donna's Coffee Cart. At 7pm the presentation moved into the Moot Court Room where California Western students walked the catwalk and modeled the latest business-friendly fashions from Ann Taylor, Loft, and Joseph's Mens Wear & Custom Tailoring. Explaining the details of each ensemble was the MC for the evening, Kristi Brooks. A celebrity stylist and fashion show producer with many years of experience in the fashion industry, Kristi's commentary provided insightful and entertaining tips to assist in assembling a fashionable yet professional business wardrobe. From clothes perfect for a power meeting to more casual designs suited for Fridays in the office, the nine student models stylishly displayed their ensembles before heading offstage for lightning



Volunteers take a bow after a wonderful evening

fast changes in preparation for their next trip down the runway. The evening concluded with a raffle drawing, with the lucky winners receiving gifts provided by Loft, Donna's Coffee Cart, Career Services, Nadine Cooper-El Adib (faculty support), and Bobbi Weaver (Foreign and International Reference Librarian/Adjunct Professor). Between the silent auction and the raffle, in total \$380 was raised, with all proceeds going to the International Dyslexia Association.\* The Dress for Success Presentation was organized by members from Law Students for Disability Rights, Phi Alpha Delta, and Women's Law Caucus who began working on the event well over six months prior. In addition to the donors, the MC Kristi Brooks, and all of the attendees, the organizers would particularly like to thank the student models: Initially the funds raised by the silent auction were designated for the establishment of a scholarship to benefit students with disabilities. Unfortunately the administration advised the organizers of the long lead time required



Students Christian Barton and Brittany Dobbins take a break to pose for the camera

to create the proper structure required for an annual scholarship, requiring the funds to be donated to another worthy cause. However, the administration has expressed a strong interest in creating a scholarship for students with disabilities and obtaining outside grants for its endowment. Stay tuned for future updates Commentary readers!