

THE COMMENTARY

Upcoming ABA Slte Visit

ABA Site visit
March 3rd-5th

By SAMI HADDAD
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Every seven years, the American Bar Association (ABA) conducts a site visit on each fully approved law school in the country. The ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar organizes the site visits. The visit is required by ABA Standards for Approval of Law Schools and the Rules of Procedure for the Approval of Law Schools.

California Western School of Law was first approved by the ABA in 1962. The last time the ABA conducted a site visit on campus was March 7, 2007. The American Bar Association and the American Association of Law Schools (AALS) will assess our compliance with appropriate standards. A team of about a dozen visitors from the ABA and AALS will be at our law school from March 3rd to March 5th.

As part of the site visit, the administration will conduct a full self-reflection of every on campus program. Areas of Concentration, Moot Court honors board, Bar Prep bar passage rates, and LLM programs are just some of the areas that will be reviewed. Every part of the school's curriculum will be reviewed.

The visitors from the ABA and AALS are interested in meeting students and discussing campus life, complaints, thoughts and perspectives. There is an open meeting on Monday March 3, 2014 from 4-5pm, which are students are invited to attend. The open meeting is designed for students to voice any opinions they have. Students are strongly encouraged to attend. This is their opportunity to speak openly and directly to ABA representatives who are eager to hear from students as part of their site visit.

A site document will be produced, explaining the results of the self-reflection, outlining topics such as the programs of legal education, facilities, faculty, students, law school administration and technology resources. This document will be available to the public and is usually over 100 pages long .

As current students, we have the potential to influence the effectiveness of our soon-to-be alma mater. Let us use this wisely.

CWSL Students win 1st Place in Moot Court Competition



On February 7th-8th, California Western School of Law students Rachel Ferguson and Susan Sindelar won first place at the National Juvenile Law Competition in Whitier. They also won best brief and were recognized as top advocates after the preliminary round.

More Moot Court Honors Board on page 3...

Grade Change to Take Effect Spring 2014

By SAMI HADDAD
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Thirty years ago, an associate dean with a vision came up with a unique grading scale for CWSL. His vision was to teach students that it is impossible to know 100% of the law, so the highest-grade students could receive was a 95. Last March, the faculty approved a new grading scale, designed to improve the academic experience and employment opportunities for all students. The faculty as a whole approved the following changes to the CWSL grading scale:

CWSL is moving to a system in which student transcripts reflect a letter grade (A+ through F) and a GPA (on a 4.33-0.00 scale), as well as a class rank. The conversion from the current 50-95 point system to this new letter grade and GPA system will be as follows:

Number Grade	Letter Grade	GPA
93-95	A+	4.33
90-92	A	4.00
87-89	A-	3.67
85-86	B+	3.33
80-84	B	3.00
77-79	B-	2.67
74-76	C+	2.33
72-73	C	2.00
70-71	C-	1.67
65-69	D+	1.33
60-64	D	1.00
55-59	D-	0.67
54 and below	F	0.00

CWSL's Academic Policies will continue to govern, subject to administrative changes to reflect the new external grading scale. The Academic Policies apply to various aspects of students' grades including, but not limited to, Dean's List, Academic Achievement Workshop, the curve, graduation with honors and disqualification. Implementing this new grading scale has resulted in significant changes to many of CWSL's current Academic Policies, and multiple administrative departments have made changes and coordinate with one another.

This new grading scale will apply retroactively to alumni who matriculated after Summer 1983, as well to current students. Once the new grading scale is implemented fully, these alumni will be given the option of requesting revised transcripts from the law school Registrar.

More Grade Change on page 4...

Religious Clubs Cope with CWSL Grant Covenant

By SETA SARABEKIAN
STAFF WRITER

Many years ago, a grant was given to California Western School of Law to help renovate and improve the 350 building where all classrooms are located. Part of the grant was an affirmative covenant, which prohibits any sectarian instruction or religious worship. California Western is not, in any way, trying to limit the practicing ability of religious organizations, but rather upholding the covenant.

However, none of the grant funds were used in Room 2C, making it the only room on campus where students can engage in religious worship. This room has been used as an exception to the affirmative covenant for over a decade.

There are three religious organizations on campus, the Jewish Student Union, The Christian Law Society, and the J.Reuben Clark Society. With three religious clubs sharing one room, there have been scheduling conflicts.

Jin Hee Park, the president of Christian Legal Society, has felt the effects of the covenant, namely how it limits the growth of religious organizations which are confined to Room 2C, and the increased difficulty in scheduling meetings with three organizations sharing a single room. The lunch hour, between 12:15pm and 1:05pm, is a premiere time to meet, and most meetings in that time slot must be scheduled well in advance in order to be accommodated.

So can the covenant be removed to allow easier scheduling for our religious organizations? Professor Mario Conte has researched case law extensively on this topic, and is focused on accommodating student needs to ensure the bond does not get "called." A violation of the covenant results in an \$11 million dollar penalty.

On February 14, 2014, the administration put a new room booking policy into effect to help combat the religious organizations room booking difficulties. This policy limits other organizations from booking room 2C unless they are engaging in religious observances.

This includes the religious clubs. If a religious organization is meeting, and does not plan on holding a religious observance, they do not need to book Room 2C, leaving it available for another group. The administration is confident that with policy changes such as this, they can accommodate the needs of California Western students within the limitations of the covenant.

INSIDE

Club Bonanza- Over a dozen of California Western's thirty-five clubs have advertised events in this issue. Students are encouraged to participate in any and all events. More information on club events can be found on Pg 4, 6 and 8.

The Red Badge of Courage
Should students with badges take them off before coming onto campus? Katie Aul says no Pg 5

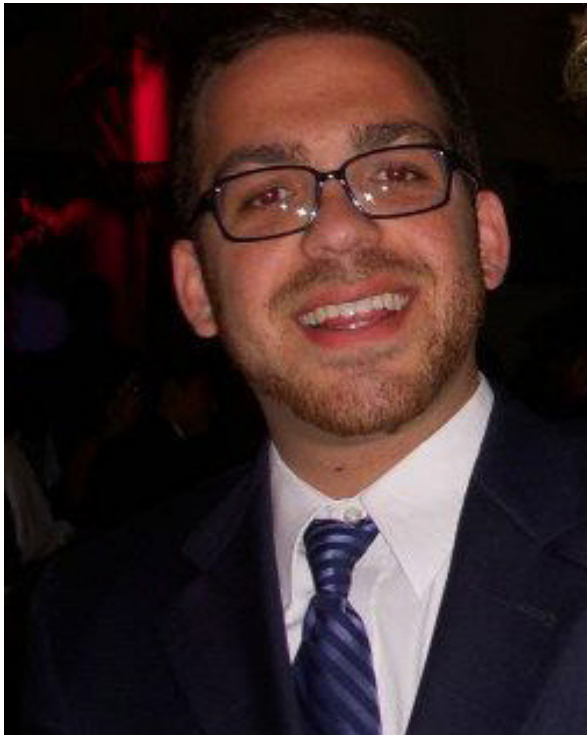
Law School How to Create a Well-Rounded Resume
Law school is not just about grades. Turner Hopkinson articulates other critical components to having a well-rounded resume Pg 9

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

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INSIDE COVER

Letter from the Editor



SAMI HADDAD
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

It's interesting – the progression of law students over time. The motto is that during 1L law school scares you to death, 2L year it works you to death and 3L year it bores you to death. Although I certainly don't feel bored this year. 1Ls survive their first year and come out of their turtle shells, 2Ls dominate their second year then take over the mentorship and leadership roles as 3Ls move into Barbri land, and for 3Ls, it's all over before we know it. I feel like I was walking into summer enrichment yesterday. It's been two and a half years since then. Graduation is in two months. Amazing.

It does move fast. But that doesn't mean we can't enjoy the ride while we're here. This issue is all about that. We've hit some really big issues that students and faculty have worked very hard on to get this point. The grade change coming into effect, the ABA site visit, grant covenants binding religious organizations and students showing their talents in the Moot Court Room are just some of the highlights of this issue.

This issue also had a strong club presence. One of my major goals coming into the Editor-In-Chief position was to get the clubs to advertise and write for the student newspaper. The leaders of each of our thirty-four organizations are some of the most active and dedicated students on campus. I am honored to have such overwhelming involvement in this paper, and I hope it continues even after my time as editor.

This issue also has another riveting contribution from Professor Campbell. I want to publically thank him for all of his contributions this year. His pieces are always an interesting read, and I highly recommend it. On a lighter note, Pete Sumulong is a former sportscaster and is one of the most knowledgeable sports minds I know. His advice on filing out brackets could be worth its weight in gold. Also, Turner's article on building a well-rounded resume is great advice that puts life in law school in perspective.

We only have one issue remaining for this year. I encourage everyone who's been thinking about participating to come to a meeting. It's highly rewarding. The couches are comfortable. All the students share your love for journalism. The conversation is light, and the people... well they are not so bad.

Authentically yours,

Sami Haddad

San Diego-Based Air Law Institute Announces 1st Annual Air & Space Law Symposium

March 14th and 15th

California Western School of Law is hosting the first annual Air & Space Law Symposium on March 14, 2014, followed by an awards reception at the San Diego Air & Space Museum. CWSL is a major sponsor of the Symposium, and CWSL students are invited to attend at no cost.

San Diego is a hotbed for aerospace. California Western graduates practice-ready attorneys for large aerospace companies, and a number of California Western students intern at large firms that support the burgeoning aerospace industry. Major sponsors of the Symposium include Foley & Lardner LLP, Boeing, Morrison & Foerster, Airbus, Legal.com, Northrop Grumman, United Lex, Cadria Aerospace, Quantax, et al.

The Symposium will feature top speakers and panelists from San Diego's aerospace industry, and topics will examine past, present, and future regulatory structure, integration of unmanned aircraft into the national airspace system, and the commercialization of space in the 21st century. The keynote speaker is Linden S. Blue, vice chairman of General Atomics.

The cost to participate in the Symposium events

ranges from \$75 to \$250, depending on the package. California Western School of Law students, faculty, and staff are invited to attend the Symposium alone for free. However, space is limited and seats will be given out on a first come first served basis.

The content of the symposium will meet the standard required to provide Continuing Legal Education credit for practicing attorneys. In addition to sponsoring the annual Air and Space Law Symposium, ALI plans to publish reports and opinions on matters related to air and space law, publish a journal, and continue providing scholarships and academic awards at all educational levels.

About the Air Law Institute

The Air Law Institute (ALI) was formed to advance the study of air and space at the intersection of business, law, and engineering. ALI does this by partnering with centers of excellence in all three focus areas at the primary, secondary, and university levels to promote and fund educational opportunities for students. ALI also provides a

forum for discussion by industry leaders on the issues facing the future of Air and Space Law. The goal is to promote and provide a pipeline of trained professionals ready to take on the very near and real changes expected in the next ten to twenty years while allowing current practicing experts to shape the direction the future will take.

The Air Law Institute was founded in the spirit of the original Air Law Institute, affiliated with the Northwestern University Law School, founded in 1929 to foster the development of American air law and provide information about air law worldwide.

ALI is a pending 501.c.3 California Public Benefit Corporation.

For more information and the event's agenda, please visit <http://www.airlawinstitute.org>. Any Questions can be addressed to Stephanie Thompson Public Relations, (619) 840-7353. Her email is stephanie@stephaniethompson.com

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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

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MARCH MADNESS AND NASCAR

NASCAR Brings a little March Madness to Its Chase for the Cup

BY MIKE COSGROVE
3L REPRESENTATIVE

As you read this, the National Association of Stock Car Auto Racing (“NASCAR”) season will be in full swing. This year fans of the sport will experience several changes in the sport. The iconic 3 car will return to the track after a 13 year hiatus following the death of Dale Earnhardt during the 2001 Daytona 500. The qualifying format will be different this year as the organization borrows from the Formula 1 racing series-style of qualifying. And the manner of crowing the champion will be different.

This past January, NASCAR announced a drastic change to its system for crowning a champion – the biggest change for the organization since 2004. From its founding in 1949 until 2003, the driver who earned the most points during the racing season was the champion. This led to situations where the eventual champion may have won fewer races than another driver. In the 2003 season, Matt Kenseth won the championship with only one win. Several other drivers had more wins than him. Also, sometimes the eventual champion could technically not race in the final race of the season and would still be crowned champion because he had such a sizeable point lead. NASCAR wanted to keep the final races of the season exciting for the fans with respect to the championship and put a premium on

winning races.

In 2004, NASCAR implemented the Chase for the Cup in order to keep excitement in crowning its champion and emphasize winning races. A NASCAR season consists of 36 races. At the end of 26 races, the top ten in points plus two “wild card” drivers compete in the last ten races to determine the champion. The system, though, was still based off of points. Thus, the possibility of a driver cruising to the championship in the final race of the season still existed. For example, last year Jimmie Johnson, an El Cajon native son and winner of six of the last eight NASCAR championships, only had to finish greater than 33rd to win the championship. With a starting field of 43 drivers, this meant he only had to beat ten other drivers to win overall. Not that exciting for the fans.

The 2011 Championship was very exciting. Carl Edwards and Tony Stewart were one and two in the points. Very few points separated them. The key for both of these drivers was to win the race. Tony Stewart won the race with Carl Edwards second. They finished tied for the points lead with NASCAR crowning Tony based on a last winner of a race tie-breaker. NASCAR wanted to create this kind of excitement for its fans for the Chase.

Borrowing from the “stick and

ball” sports, NASCAR created an elimination style Chase Championship to determine the NASCAR champion. The Chase for the Cup still consists of the last ten races of the season. The new spin is the Chase Grid. The Chase Grid will consist of 16 drivers – those drivers who won at least one race during the season (last year 18 different drivers won a race, which would have meant two drivers would not have made the Chase last year if this format was in place) plus the top drivers in points to round out the Grid to 16 drivers.

The first three races of the Chase are dubbed the Challenger Round. If any of the drivers in the Chase win one of those three races, the driver will automatically advance to the next round. At the end of the third race, the field will be reduced to 12 drivers – those drivers who may have won during the Challenger round plus the top drivers in points to round out the field.

Races four through six of the Chase are called the Contender Round. Again, if any of the remaining 12 Chase drivers win one of these races, the driver is automatically advanced to the next round. At the end of race six, four more drivers are eliminated from contention.

Races seven through nine are labeled the Eliminator Round. Much like the other two rounds, if a remaining Chase

driver wins one of these races, an automatic berth to the final round is guaranteed. At the end of race nine, four drivers will remain in contention for the Championship.

The final race of the season will be a “highest finisher” take-all type of race. The four remaining drivers in the Chase will race for the Championship. Points will not determine the Champion. The finishing position of the drivers will determine who NASCAR crowns as it Champion. The driver who finishes best finishes as the NASCAR Champion.

This new elimination style format should make the final ten races interesting. And to have four drivers vying for the Championship with a sort of winner take all in the final race should be exciting. With any change dissenters exist. But I believe at the end of the 2014 NASCAR seasons, the fans will be giving thumbs up to the new Chase format.

NASCAR wants to keep its sport popular with a growing fan base. The last several years has seen race attendance drop. The new Chase format is not a guarantee to fill the seats. At a minimum, though, the new format should keep those that do show up entertained.

How to Fill Out Your Bracket

PETER SUMULONG
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

March Madness is right around the corner. This tournament takes the top 68 NCAA basketball teams in the country and pits them against each other. So how do you pick a winner for your office pool?

The tournament is divided into 4 regions (East, West, Midwest, and South) with 17 teams per region. In fact, Viejas Arena will host second and third round games on March 21 and 23 if you can tear yourself away from the library to attend. Each team is seeded roughly corresponding to how well they are expected to perform in the tournament. For a respectable performance in your pool, it's easy to go ahead and pick the top seed for each game played. This tactic rarely leads to a winning bracket, although it saves the completely ignorant from abject embarrassment. You'll finish in the 60th percentile or so of your pool, and waste any entry money you spent. It is a very safe, yet forgettable strategy.

Despite this, your first order of business is to advance all #1 seeds. Don't try to be a hero. Just do it. Of course everyone wants to see Northeast Alaska Tech A&M State Bible Study Nursing School beat Florida, and I would love to see California Western School of Law upend Arizona, but it's not going to happen. (Chances are Northeast Alaska Tech doesn't exist, and if they do they probably wouldn't make the tournament anyway.) Then you have to look for the dark horse teams. If you're feeling lucky you can pick a 15 over a 2 (which actually happened last year when Florida Gulf Coast topped Georgetown) or a 14 over a 3 (which strangely also happened last year when those genius Harvard kids beat New Mexico by six), but I don't think I'll be doing that.

Every year since 2008, a 13 beats a 4. Remember in '08 when San Diego beat Connecticut? So it may be smart to pick one of those. Last year, three 12 seeds beat a 5 seed, and the last time that happened (2009), the year after only one 12 seed won. I'll be picking one 12 seed to advance in my bracket. You should also pick at least one 11 seed over a 6 seed. It's bound to happen. If you don't, I will be very upset.

The 7 seed has won about 60% of matchups against the #10 seed; so feel free to pick one or two 10 seeds to pull off the “upset.” The 8 and 9 seeds are a toss up, so go with your gut on that one. The Number 1 seeds usually make it to the Sweet 16 without a problem, although there have been rare instances in the past (see Northern Iowa over Kansas in 2010 and Alabama over Stanford in 2004) where that hasn't been the case, although I don't see that happening this year.

Personally, I prefer big conference schools. ACC, Pac-12, Big 12, and Big Ten teams are battle-tested. Pick Syracuse and Duke to go far. You can't go wrong with legendary coaches Jim Boeheim and Coach K. These are veteran teams that are always in championship contention. I know picking Duke is a tough pill to swallow, but you want to win, don't you? Jabari Parker is the most gifted college scorer since Kevin Durant, and is capable of carrying the Blue Devils to a title much like Carmelo Anthony did for Syracuse in 2003. Syracuse has been great in their first year in the ACC thanks to the play of point guard Tyler Ennis and forward Jerami Grant, even though the loss to Boston College was embarrassing. The Orange's 2-3 zone is always a liability against teams that can shoot the 3, so put them on upset alert. Don't forget about Kansas. Potential top five picks Andrew Wiggins and Joel Embiid could take the Jayhawks far.

After that, pick Ohio State. They're tough inside and play good defense. The Buckeyes' defense is led by the pesky Aaron Craft, who will finally graduate after what has felt like ten years of watching him play college basketball. Michigan State has also been playing exceptionally well and has one of the most underrated coaches in all of basketball in the great Tom Izzo. The Big Ten is loaded with great teams (hello Wisconsin, Iowa, and Michigan); they could have as many as five in the sweet sixteen. Arizona is a big team with a ton of talent, depth, and experienced guard play, which is the recipe for success in the tournament. Point guard T.J. McConnell and forward Aaron “Baby Blake Griffin” Gordon have impressed this year.

Teams I Love

Creighton – Want to learn how to Dougie? The Bluejays' high-scoring forward Doug McDermott can show you how.

Wichita State – Winners of 28 straight and hotter than Kate Upton at the moment (debatable, I know). Led by the awesomely-named Clea Anthony Early, the Shockers are a deep and talented team who advanced to the Final Four last year.

Syracuse – Is the loss to BC a sign of things to come or a blip on the radar? I say blip on the radar, this team is too good.

Arizona – Losing Brandon Ashley hurts, but guard Gabe York will pick up the slack on the offensive end.



Teams I Hate

San Diego State – Great defense, but do they have any semblance of offense?

Gonzaga – Perennially disappointing Zags are best remembered for letting Adam Morrison sit on the floor and cry after a tournament loss to UCLA.

Saint Louis – The Billikens flamed out in the second round of the tournament in each of the last two seasons and are still looking for a consistent offensive presence.

Texas – The young Longhorns struggle outside of Austin.

Oklahoma State – As Marcus Smart has imploded, so have the Cowboys.

Just remember, when filling out your bracket, there are some general rules to follow beyond the first round. Do not pick all #1 seeds in the Final Four. It just doesn't happen. There is also no correct way to pick teams. Choose a fun strategy that makes you feel good. I know some people have had success picking their favorite colors or which mascot would win in a fight to the death (hello UC Irvine Anteaters!), so that's something to consider. Even Steven Colbert also has a bracket methodology, which involves picking all the Tech schools. He claims that they're the “manliest” teams. And he may be right. When all else fails, throw a dart at a board and that's your winner. Good luck on winning your office pools!

AROUND CAMPUS

Moot Court Honors Board

From MOOT COURT HONORS BOARD on page 1

Below is a list of each of the traveling trial teams, the students on the team as well as the date, time and location of their respective competitions. They all represent California Western extremely well, and we are honored to have them represent us in statewide and nationwide competitions.

TYLA National Trial Competition, Whittier School of Law
2/20-2/23

Team 1: Corey Garrard and Jordan DuBois
Team 2: Melissa Mack and Katie Nagler

AAJ Student Trial Advocacy Competition, Seattle, WA
3/20-3/23
Team 1: Dana Ellsworth, Michael Brenn, Mary Naoom, Shane Lauritzen
Team 2: Micaela De La Cerda, Marlena Balderas, Kara Ritter, Patricia Wilson

Moot Court Teams:
National Juvenile Law Moot Court Competition, Whittier School of Law
2/7-2/8
Susan Sindelar and Rachel Ferguson
Overall Winners
Best Brief
Top Oral Advocates after Prelims

ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition, Las Vegas, NV
2/27-3/1
Jennifer Monterroso
Emily Cunningham
Angela Porter

Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, Portland OR
2/27-3/2
Reema Abboud
Jazmin Clark
Matthew Drenan
Michelle Pacis

ADR Team:
Mediation Team:
Matt Prellberg
Lauren Foley
Sara Khosroabadi
Amanda Khiterman

Negotiation Team:
Matt Prellberg
Katrina Julian
Catherine Asuncion
J.R. Canlobo
Alicia Morrell
Nicole Shirm
Noura Bariche

BY MATTHEW A. LAB, ESQ.
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR,
CAREER SERVICES OFFICE



Preparing for Summer: Five Keys to Staying Ahead of the Game

It is difficult to believe that we are almost through the spring trimester! Due to our unique trimester calendar, summer arrives early at Cal Western! For those of you who are taking a break from school or a lighter course load, I am sure that you are anxiously awaiting the completion of your final exams. For our spring start 1Ls (and others taking full course loads), you can look forward to shorter lines at the deli.

So, how should you spend your time this summer? First off, you should plan to take some time to relax and reconnect with family and friends that you may have neglected over the past few months. It may be a good time to notice that your significant other has done something different with her (or his) hair... The summer is also a great time to gain some practical legal experience and assess your long term career goals. Here are some tips to make the most of your summer:

Obtain a Summer Internship (if you haven't already). The summer is an opportunity for you to gain practical legal experience. If you still haven't secured a summer internship, do not despair. San Diego is a small to mid-sized law firm market, which means that these firms generally do not hire interns (and attorneys) well in advance of their firm's need. They often do not know that they need some additional help until your resume is on their desk. Thus, regularly check with Career Services and on our online jobs database for regular job postings that pop up daily!

Rock Your Internship. Whether you will be clerking, interning or volunteering, use the opportunity to showcase your potential as a future attorney. You definitely want to put your best foot forward during the internship, so be sure to review our handout titled "Hit the Ground Running: How to Make the Best Impression as an Academic Intern/Law Clerk (Spring 2014)", available at the Career Services Office, for tips on developing good work habits.

Network Over the Summer. The easiest and most effective way to find a job is through people you already know or those you will soon meet. The summer presents great opportunities to network due the wide variety of social events that are typically planned. Do a little research and identify specialty bar associations that you may want to join to learn more about your area of interest. Student memberships are typically inexpensive and you'll be able to attend meetings and social events at a discounted rate. Take this time to set-up informational interviews. This is especially important for students who are working away from school this summer. It's important to start building relationships in the geographic location in which you would like to practice.

Find a Mentor. A good mentor can be worth their weight in gold. Mentors can fulfill an important role by providing skills, knowledge and wisdom to law students and new lawyers. They can help with ethical dilemmas, give practical advice or simply act as a sounding board. They may not offer you a job, but someone they know might. If you meet an attorney at an event this summer whose career interests you, ask if he or she would be willing to act as your mentor. Alternatively, you can always invite the attorney out to coffee or ask him or her to lunch to learn more about their career path. Take advantage of this opportunity to learn as much as you can and to create contacts in the legal field.

Prepare for the Fall Recruiting Programs. The fall is our largest recruiting season with legal intern and judicial extern jobs generally posted for immediate as well as spring and summer 2015 openings. Keep an eye out for upcoming Career Services seminars and emails related to the programs, which will be sent out beginning in May! Note that some employers (SD Public Defender) post fall openings in June!

Jewish Student Union

Fantastic Networking Opportunity to meet law students and lawyers from other law schools!

Thursday, March 6, 2014

7:00pm

The Legend- 325 7th Ave., San Diego, California 92101

It's that time of year again JSU.... MATZO BALL EATING CONTEST!!!! Cal Western, TJSJL, and USD are once again about to compete to see who can lay claim to the best of the best at Matzo ball eating!

There will also be board games, snacks to ensure a great time for all! Last years turn out was fantastic, and this years is slated to be even better, so please come and bring your friends!

From GRADE CHANGE on page 1...

should be on the lookout for further information regarding the implementation of the grade scale. Grades for current coursework will appear in the new grading scale, unless students petition to the registrar.

The new grading scale does not change how professors grade coursework. According to Dean Aceves, the faculty will grade all coursework and exams in the old system. The registrar will then convert all grades into the new system. At that point, the student has the option to decide which system they would like to use to identify their grades on their transcript.

STUDENT OPINIONS

An Inside Look at Transgender Students

BY DIANA SENSALÉ
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

The California Governor passed a law in August called the School Success and Opportunity Act (SSOA), which was to go into effect January 2014. This law would allow transgender students (K-12) to join extracurricular activities and use the restroom of the gender that they identify with. Some people are uncomfortable with this, but the whole point of the law is to help students feel safe, which should be more important than irrational fears.

I grew up with a transgender older sibling, so I’ve seen how hard it can be to feel like you were born in the wrong body, but like most people I’ve never had to experience the problems associated with that. I may still feel bad years later about not standing up enough for my (now) brother against sixth grade bullies, but I wasn’t the one who was bullied for just trying to be myself. I was safe in school. And I’ve never even had to hesitate about using a public restroom, a privilege that not everyone has.

Below is a short interview of my friend, Miranda. If you’ve never met a trans person before, you can learn a little about her story. And for more info, check out TSroadmap.com or look for Miranda Southwell on LinkedIn.

Q: Do you remember when you first started to feel like you were different than other people of your sex?

A: “Around 1st or 2nd grade. I think being kind of forced to regularly associate with other boys by my family, on the playground and in boy scouts for example, made the differences between us that much more apparent. I was never interested in any of the things they were interested in, we spoke differently, acted differently, thought differently. As a result, I never felt accepted by them the way I did by my female peers who I was always way more comfortable with.”

Q: Were you ever bullied growing up?

A: “I was totally bullied every year of my life. It was really horrible. Kids would call me names like sissy, homo, queer, faggot. They’d try tripping me. Once when I was in the second grade a group of three older boys locked me in the restroom and then opened the door just enough for me to get my fingers through before they slammed it back down on me. I was constantly mocked and mimicked by people who thought the way I talked or walked was too effeminate.

I began junior at the local public HS, and while there for only two weeks was told by a friend that this boy she knew in passing had made comments about “hating fags and wanting to kill them all” and then began asking her about me, if she knew whether or not I was “a fag.” It was super distressing at a time when I was already going through so many other transitions, ultimately it pushed me towards a suicide attempt and dropping out of high school.”

Q: What has your experience been with using public restrooms?

A: “Initially it was very uncomfortable. During the beginning of my transition, I was in that awkward “in between” place appearance-wise and so if I’d go to the men’s restroom, they’d ask me if they were in the right one. And if I went into the ladies’ restroom, I’d invariably have some female acquaintance or other telling me it wasn’t right because I wasn’t a girl. So I usually opted for unisex single stall restrooms whenever they were available, but once I began “passing” as my transition progressed, I stopped having any issues and went into the women’s restroom without incident.”

Q: If a law like SSOA existed when you were in school, do you think it would have made things easier?

A: “Absolutely! I would have had a chance to actually maybe enjoy my childhood instead of struggle through it. It would have also set a precedent earlier on for kids to see their transgendered peers as their equals and not as some sort of fringe element deserving of their ridicule. Obviously a kid is going to look a little strange to his/her classmates if you’re forcing them to do something they don’t want to be doing or be someone they aren’t. What’s natural is doing what *comes* naturally, and if that doesn’t sync up with society’s expectations of what you should be doing, then really they’re the ones with the problem, not you. It’s an odd thing to most people, but if education and dialogue are encouraged and rights and liberties are respected, I really feel a positive change can begin evolving the quality of trans-kids lives from something that they want to end because it’s so hard to something beautiful and unique that should be celebrated.”



Above: The universal transgender symbol

A Red Badge of Courage

BY KATIE AUL
RACE JUDICATA CO-DIRECTOR

Note: This article is in response to an earlier article discussing the cons and negative stereotypes of students who innocently wear badges from their internships on campus. The article stated that those students seemed somewhat pretentious and focused on the small burden it would be to remove the badge, which is unnecessary on campus.

The Badge. How many people in their lifetimes get to possess a ‘badge’ which gains you entry into select circles of public legal service? A better question, what is the number of persons who strive to become a DA or PD or judicial staff attorney and have their hopes dashed?

The truth is that coming out of law school, few persons in 2014 “expect” that their qualifications will be proven, hallowed if you will, on a plastic badge distinguishing you as one of the few who has gained access to contribute to the esteemed public justice systems of our nation as someone from the inside. It was brought to my attention by an article in a recent issue of The Commentary that to some it is a mark of gross self-absorption to be seen wearing your badge within the realm of the three buildings that encompass California Western. That sentiment is very complicated given our generation’s culture, and it warrants a discussion.

In this age of information, of Facebook and Twitter, most law students are expert in the artful and self-serving depiction of one’s habits, goings, eatings, etc. I would bet good money that the author of that opinion piece certainly appreciates the photographic styling of meals, vacations, and cats, what have you, which their ‘network’ places within reach. Undoubtedly, we all gleefully consume these trivial things every day. So why is it that the open depiction of one’s internship – you know, something of lasting impact – doesn’t warrant the same blithe acceptance inherent of our exhibitionist culture? What makes someone scorn another’s openness?

I understand that one cannot use a badge from one’s court or DA internship to get in or out of any classrooms on campus so the badge in essence is reduced to a decorative accessory. But why would one resent seeing someone’s badge? Is it the badge, or is it the wearer? I think it might be the latter.

One thing I love about working towards a law degree is that I never dreamt I would learn this much. Regardless of what brought me to CWSL, I have found higher education is humbling, but so very rewarding. Aside from learning, the absolute cherry on the sundae of law school is applying practical knowledge every day in an internship. How could it not be? I am surprised no one told me when I first entered law school that I would be blown away by how much I learn in an internship – it takes the 2-dimensional class room and blows it up 20 dimensions wide, showing you just how much you still have to learn in practice.

Please tell me: What are we all doing here at California Western if not waiting for some omen, a ‘badge’ if you will, to give you a sign that you’re on your way to realizing your potential as a lawyer? I think everyone should be proud of their accomplishments at California Western, especially the ones which reach outside the classroom. The ability to spring-board from our wonderful school into the justice system is one such accomplishment.

I like knowing what my peers do – we’re a helicopter generation, we’re always looking to check who is doing what, and where, and with whom on our little electronic update devices. It’s so anti-intellectual to think people need to hide vestiges of their internship where they amount to a passive form of bragging. In the era of pride, feminism, progressive concepts, and nagging tweeters, why shouldn’t someone showboat their foray at the DA’s office, or wherever?

CLUB CORNER

CALIFORNIA WESTERN SCHOOL OF LAW PUBLIC INTEREST LAW FOUNDATION

INVITES YOU TO ATTEND

THE 18TH ANNUAL PUBLIC INTEREST LAW FOUNDATION LIVE AUCTION AND RECEPTION

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2014
5:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.

THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION CENTER
401 WEST A STREET, SUITE 1100
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101

JOIN US FOR A HOSTED BAR & EXCITING AUCTION ITEMS!
ALL LAW STUDENTS & MEMBERS OF THE SAN DIEGO LEGAL COMMUNITY ARE
WELCOME.

*ALL AUCTION PROCEEDS GO TOWARD FUNDING JOSI DIXON SUMMER PILF GRANTS TO FACILITATE
STUDENT INTERNSHIPS WITH PUBLIC INTEREST AGENCIES, AND TO HONOR THE MEMORY OF
2006 CALIFORNIA WESTERN ALUMNA, JOSI DIXON. APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE TO PICK UP
AT CAREER SERVICES AND ARE DUE BY 3:00 P.M., THURSDAY, MARCH 20TH.*

FOR QUESTIONS OR TO DONATE AN AUCTION ITEM, PLEASE CONTACT: CARINA.ROJO@GMAIL.COM

California Western School of Law's

Federalist Society



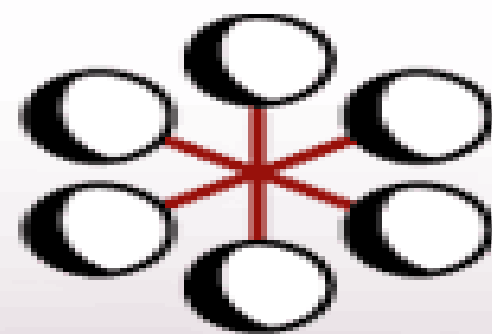
The Federalist Society is hosting a speaker event. All students are welcome to attend

March 17, 2014: Mario Loyola

Room 2B @12:15pm

Mr. Loyola will be speaking about the implications of state income taxation and how that effects our economy when people move to other states.

Free Food and Red Bull!



CALIFORNIA
WESTERN
SIPLA

The Student Intellectual Property Law Association (SIPLA) offers a forum for students to discuss patent, trademark, copyright, licensing, trade secrets, unfair competition and other issues related to intellectual property. The Student Intellectual Property Fund will be holding the following events this semester:

3/13: 2nd General Meeting

3/15: Philanthropy: Partnering with Irish Congress of San Diego and Volunteering at St. Patrick's Day Parade from 8:00am-noon. All are welcome. If interested email chdavidson@law.cwsl.edu all participants receive free t-shirt.

3/29: Tri-Org Mixer (SIPLA, Federalist Society, OWLS): Volleyball

ENTERTAINMENT SYMPOSIUM

CALIFORNIA WESTERN'S ENTERTAINMENT
& SPORTS LAW SOCIETY

PRESENTS:



Do You Have What it Takes to Make the Deals?

CAMPUS NEWS

Community Outreach Committee

BY CARINA ROJO
COMMUNITY OUTREACH CO-CHAIR

SBA COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE (COC)
CREATES AN ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY FOR CAL WESTERN STUDENTS AT THE GARY AND MARY WEST SENIOR CENTER

WHAT IS IT? The SBA Community Outreach Committee has created a community service project for all Cal Western students to participate. As a law student volunteer at the Gary and Mary West Senior Center, you will be improving the well-being of low-income seniors through innovative programs and services that have a positive impact on seniors and our community as a whole. Specifically, you will work with the Senior Nutrition Center, which provides fresh and healthy meals to seniors.

HOW MUCH TIME WILL IT TAKE? The opportunity requires 90 minutes of your afternoon and you can volunteer as many times as you wish based on the availability of time slots listed on the SBA COC TWEN Page. Time slots are available between 11:45 am – 1:15 pm, Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO? You will serve seniors lunch, by carrying food trays from the kitchen to their tables. After all the seniors are served, you will then help collect food trays to return to the kitchen, and assist with cleaning up the dining room.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? Altruism - One can't put a value on the experience of serving seniors who are very appreciative of what you are doing for them. The 90-minute volunteer opportunity is a great afternoon study break, to help you get away from the pressure and stress of law school. Additionally, the Community Outreach Committee will specially recognize each student who volunteers.

WHERE DO I SIGN UP? Students interested in volunteering are required to sign up on the SBA Community Outreach Committee TWEN page. After selecting a date and time to volunteer, students will be sent an email with check-in instructions. Students will then check in at the Gary and Mary West Senior Center, be given a short 2-minute training and begin volunteering!

WHERE IS THE GARY AND MARY WEST SENIOR WELLNESS CENTER?
The Gary and Mary West Senior Wellness Center is located across the street from school at 1525 4th Ave., San Diego, CA 92101.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

MELSA
MIDDLE EASTERN LAW
STUDENT ASSOCIATION

CALIFORNIA WESTERN
SCHOOL OF LAW | San Diego

California Western School of Law's Middle Eastern Law Student Association is hosiing a bake sale on March 21st. A variety of authentic Middle Eastern goods will be available for purchase in the lobby. Exact hours for the bake sale are yet to be determined.

One of California Western's newest clubs, the Criminal Law Association, (CLA), in conjunction with Exonerate (The California Innocence Project's (CIP) student group) are hosting a panel discussion on the death penalty. Justin Brooks, the Director of the Innocence Project, is one of the speakers. A CIP exoneree who was on death row before his wrongful conviction was overturned may be in attendance. The event is on **March 27, 2014; between 6-8 pm in the AUD.** This event is pending MCLE approval, so any participating or attending attorneys will get MCLE credits. Students are encouraged to attend.

MOOT COURT HONORS BOARD SPRING 2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Congratulations to February Bar Takers!



BY ALL STUDENTS
OF CALIFORNIA WESTERN

On behalf of the California Western Student Bar Association, representing all students, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our Fall 2013 graduates and February 2014 bar takers. You have worked tirelessly for the last few months regardless of the result; we all envy your current position. You have been model citizens for the past few months, displaying the kind of discipline and endless worth ethic that is needed to pass the Bar Exam. Best wishes in your future endeavors!

Bookstore to Close

The California Western bookstore, located in the 225 Building will be closing at the end of this semester. By Fall 2014, all books must be purchased online. The administration is looking into still selling school supplies and parking meters on campus. They are looking for student feedback to determine what items should still be sold. Students are advised to be aware of an upcoming email announcing a forum to express their thoughts. It is currently unknown what department will replace the bookstore.

MORE CLUB EVENTS

Health Law Society Gears up for Semester Full of Events

Students are encouraged to attend any and all events. For more information please e-mail president Cindy Wong at CPWong@law.cwsl.edu

Feb. 28 – Mar. 28	Catherine’s House Toiletries Drive HLS, OWLS, and the Christian Legal Society are hosting a toiletries drive to collect any toiletry items (shampoo, toothpaste, first aid, etc.) for disabled orphans from Catherine’s House in Rosarito, Mexico. Donation bins are set out next the staircase in the 350 lobby. (See right)
Tues- day, Mar. 4 12:15 PM – 1:15 PM	Second General Meeting in Room 2G Featuring guesting speakers: Nicole Wells from Dummit Buchholz & Trapp & Stanton Stock from Hooper Lundy & Bookman Nicole Wells currently practices medical malpractice defense and is also a former HLS board member and CWSL alumni. Stanton Stock was previously a paramedic before entering law school and currently practices health law with an emphasis on managed care litigation.
Mon- day, Mar. 17 10 AM – 4 PM	Food Sale We will be hosting a food sale at one of the tables in the 350 lobby. Please stop by for some homemade goods or help us out by donating your favorite dish to the table or by tabling. Sign-up sheets are up on TWEN for both food donations and for tabling.
Friday, Mar. 21 9 AM – 3 PM	Blood Drive A San Diego Blood Bank mobile will be parked outside the 350 building. Please sign up for an appointment time and help save lives at: https://www.mysddb.org/Appointment/location.html?did=72880 . Sign-ups may also be done the day of, but reserving an appointment online will save you time from waiting around. Remember to eat healthy and drink plenty of fluids! Sign up on TWEN to volunteer for tabling.



HEALTH LAW SOCIETY (HLS)
OPPORTUNITY FOR WORK
LIFE SUCCESS (OWLS) &
CHRISTIAN LEGAL SOCIETY
(CLS)

SPRING 2014 PHILANTHROPIC
EVENT

Donation Bins will be out in the 350 lobby next to the staircase from **February 28 - March 28.**



Catherine's Kids
Transforming Lives
CATHERINESKIDS.ORG

Catherine's Home
Donation Bins

HELP PROVIDE BASIC NECESSITIES TO ORPHANED CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS IN ROSARITO.

Mission Statement: To transform the lives of underprivileged or abandoned, medically fragile special needs children by providing a loving and nurturing home where their emotional, medical, educational, and spiritual needs are met, giving them an opportunity to live to their full potential.

Any toiletries are appreciated, however the following are especially desired:

- Baby shampoo
 - Kids toothpaste
 - Kids toothbrushes
 - Baby wash
 - Baby lotion
 - Band aids
 - Kid-friendly combs
 - Brushes
 - Hair ties for the girls
 - Socks for children ages 1-7
 - Wash cloths
 - Baby powder
- Desitin for diaper rash
 - Antibiotic cream for scratches
 - First aid cream
 - Hydrogen peroxide
 - Pain reliever
 - Cough and cold medications



About Catherine's Home

Catherine's Children's Home is a Christian nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization founded in 2005. Catherine's has facilities in Rosarito, Mexico where it provides room and board and professional rehabilitation therapy and medical treatments to orphaned children with special needs. All services provided at Catherine's are free and the organization is open to the local community, serving without discrimination of age, political affiliation, race, national origin, ethnicity, gender, disability type or religious belief. Catherine's mission is to rehabilitate orphans with special needs giving them an opportunity to have productive and joyful lives.

Opportunity for Work Life Success (OWLS)

BY TEENA FODGE
OWLS PRESIDENT

Below is a list of OWLS events for this semester. OWLS is working hard to expand membership to all students. We are no longer the Older, Wiser law student organization.

OWLS Philanthropy Event: We will be working with Health Law Society to gather donations of toiletries for Catherine’s Home in Rosarito, Mexico from 2/28-3/28/2014. After collecting toiletries for the orphanage, we will visit Catherine’s Home to deliver the donated items and spend time with the special needs children there. This is a great cause and something that is very needed by these children. Support this event with toothpaste, soap, shampoo (baby and adult), children’s toothbrushes, and other toiletries.

OWLS- Tri-Org Mixer - Tentatively scheduled for March 29 - With Student Intellectual Property Law Association, the Federalist Society and possibly Entertainment Law: A

Family Friendly volleyball tournament on Mission Beach. Stay Tuned for more information!!

OWLS Family Dinner Night– MARCH 14TH, 2014 Bring your family (spouse, partner,significant other or other support person as well as any children you have) to enjoy dinner. Our families always enjoy meeting other law school student families to socialize and “commiserate” on “life with a law student” and this is also a great way for us personally to relax, relate, and recharge before the anxiety of exams!

OWLS Speaker luncheon - MARCH 20th with Dean Susan Garrett and Professor Timothy Casey speaking about balancing work/school/life. Mark your calendars for 12:15 that day and come have lunch with us!

Phi Alpha Delta (PAD)

Phi Alpha Delta (PAD) is the largest international legal fraternity offering opportunities that include: outlines and workshops for the entering student; academic enhancement seminars for the continuing student; and philanthropic service to the law school. Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, International is a professional law fraternity advancing integrity, compassion and courage through service to the student, the school, the profession and the community. PAD also offers networking sessions with the legal profession and PAD alumni judges and attorneys. PAD is heavily involved on the California Western campus, hosting social functions and professional programs throughout the school year.

Rady Children’s Hospital Philanthropy Event: Date TBA. The members of PAD are teaming up with local attorneys to bring joy to the patients of Rady’s Children’s Hospital by spending one Saturday reading books to sick children.”

Third General Meeting: 3/24 at 12:15p

End of the year Banquet: 4/4 at 5:30p

STUDENT OPINIONS

Hunting: An Escape from Law School

BY MITCHELL MILLER
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

What do you do to take your mind off of law school? The study and practice of law requires intense concentration. I find it difficult to leave my thoughts behind while I am away from school. Activities that are physically and mentally exhausting are exactly what I need. While I like yoga, I often need something that pushes me further. Perhaps that is why I found hunting.

Last Fall I found myself going out in the Golden Trout Wilderness with nine days of food and a rifle slung over my shoulder. I was alone, nervous, and anxious. It was deer season and I was still coming to terms with the decisions that led up to my first hunting trip.

I grew up in the outdoors in Washington State, where the forests are green and endless. Nature has always amazed me. There are no forests in the mountains In San Diego. I found that exploring kelp forests while spearfishing off the coast was another way to set myself free.

About a year ago, there was a three month stretch of large surf, bad conditions that kept me from free diving. Persistent law school thoughts once again invaded my mind during my free time. That was the beginning, when I decided to start researching hunting.

Ideologically, I was very unsuited to the task. My first difficulty was to buy a rifle. I was not raised in a home with guns, my parents are both recovering hippies, and I had no friends who could show me the way. My sense of moral ‘goodness’ did not include killing animals for sport. Another thing: I drive a Volkswagen Golf.

I was hyperactively alert as I walked down the trails of the Golden Trout Wilderness, with permission from the State of California to shoot a properly antlered buck in my pocket. I planned to set up basecamp twelve miles from where I parked the car. It was quite a day’s journey. I crossed streams and passed through dry meadows. No snap of a twig or footprint went unnoticed. My knowledge of hunting at this point was purely theoretical.

If I was to go out and shoot an animal, I was going to do it right. I took the hunter’s safety education class and passed the test with a near perfect score. I poured through books on how to spot and stalk prey, and what to do with the animal after it was down.

It was easy to learn about hunting techniques. It was much more difficult to jump the moral and ideological hurdle of going hunting. I started telling myself what most hunters say about hunting: as we have killed off most natural predators, killing deer is important to maintain a healthy ecosystem. The Department of Fish and Wildlife closely studies, monitors, and controls deer populations. If I was going to pull the trigger, these justifications were not enough for me.

I spoke with the president of the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund at California Western, asking for her to talk me out of it. As many members of that student organization don’t eat meat, I expected that I could gather some useful insight.

Our discussion was long and detailed. In the end, she told me that if someone was going to eat meat, they should know where the animal comes from, and do the work themselves to get it. She didn’t agree with hunting, but we flushed out many interesting things to think about. Even though I had made some progress, I still was unsure about the whole hunting thing. I pushed on.

As the books told me, I woke up before sunlight to arrive at a vantage point above a deer path before sunrise. I spent many hours shivering and motionless waiting to spot a deer. By the time the sun was out, the deer would be bedded down for the day, and almost impossible to spot.

After three days of heavy hiking and searching, I did not see a single deer. I decided to change my strategy and go over a 9,700 foot mountain pass for a new area to search. I left most of my gear at base camp and found a good place to set up my temporary camp next to a mountain spring. Just as I finished making dinner, a lonely bear crossed the bottom of the meadow nearby. Every bump in the night opened my ear canals wider than they have ever been.

I had plenty of time to think about how we are either hikers or we are hunters. These two cultures are divided by a valley of ignorance and mistrust. Hikers wear Patagonia fleece jackets; hunters wear Real Tree camouflage. My reservations about hunting could have something to do with crossing this divide. The word “hunting” can suck all the air out of the room in some conversations. The word “liberal” can start a hunter on a few long rants. What would my family and friends think of me after I bought a gun or took down a large mammal? Could I convince them that I was only hiking with a gun for a week, and that I was not actually a hunter?

I woke up at 4:30am and walked down to a nearby meadow. I sat up against a log in the dark and waited for the sun to rise. My mind was full of dilemmas, nervousness, and hyper-alertness. A deer walked cautiously out into the bottom of the meadow. I slowly raised my rifle, spotted the three points on the deer’s antlers through my scope, and pulled the trigger. BOOM! Reload. I watched the deer jump in the air and fall in one movement. A perfectly clean shot. I didn’t even pause to think about the meaning of life, as I expected I would.

It wasn’t until I looked over the large animal before I felt the entire gravity of the situation. All of my effort and nervousness came to one loud moment. I was beaming with pride. I shouted at the top of my lungs, which was the first loud noise I had made in four days. I also considered how my family and friends would think of this moment. The most daunting thought was how to get the deer back home. I was fifteen miles away from the car.

After many days of hiking through wilderness, field dressing the buck, and carrying the meat home, I apprehensively told the skeptical people in my life about my prideful moment. My ideological crisis was solved through telling my story. The food and water that the buck consumed was fresh in my mind. I had its blood on my hands. I ate some filet mignon of venison, cautiously, worried that I would not like the taste. It was excellent. I had never been closer to an instinct that I was barely aware of.

Whatever takes your mind off of law school, I highly recommend trying something that challenges your body and mind. Bringing in a buck not only challenged me physically and mentally, but I had to explore my own sense of personal identity. I may not be ready to call myself a hunter, but I am comfortable saying that I enjoy hiking with a gun from time to time. When I sit in a suit at my desk, memories of this trip invaded my thoughts in daydreams.



Third Year Student Mitch Miller poses during a hunt

How to Create a Well Rounded Resume

BY TURNER HOPKINSON
STAFF WRITER

Grades are an indisputably important facet of creating a well-rounded resume. However, they are just that – one part. There is much more that is required to make yourself an attractive candidate in today’s competitive job market. If you have not already started, now is a good time to start thinking about striking a proper balance between maintaining (or improving) your grades and being hired at your dream job. Here are some ideas:

I spent a lot of time my first semester of school attending random mixers that sounded interesting. While I don’t want to say I wasted my time, the fact is, well ... I wasted a lot of time. Mixers are important, attend as many as you can but be smarter than I was about it.

By now, we all should have at least a vague idea of what type(s) of law we want to practice. At the beginning of each week, try developing a targeted list of school or out-in-town events. Attend each event with the purpose of developing yourself professionally, not mingling with your school friends. Develop a list of questions to ask practicing attorneys, introduce yourself, be outgoing, exchange business cards, and most importantly make sure to follow-up and keep in touch with whom you meet. The more people you know and the more you get your name out there the better. I make it a talking point to ask attorneys – if you have two applicants with the same GPA who is hired? The consensus answer: the applicant another attorney knows and thinks highly of. This is the stepping-stone towards making those important connections.

Attend office hours, be a consummate professional, and develop a rapport with as many professors as you can. Earn their respect and lean on them for advice, networking opportunities, and most importantly letters of recommendation. All of our professors have been practicing law a long time and know more people than we will be lucky to know in the next 25 years. A truly strong and genuine letter of recommendation from a professor will pay dividends.

Internships come in all shapes, sizes, and locations. We will almost all likely do the internships required and/or recommended by the school at the appropriate times during our law school career. That’s not what I’m talking about here. Do you have a friend who is an attorney? Even if you don’t, do you know a specific type of law you are interested in? Spend some time researching and give them a call, especially solo practitioners. Most will be more than happy to have you for a few hours a week, even if it is just a memo or two a week. Go in, work hard, and gain invaluable experience. It shows initiative, a strong work ethic to prospective employers, and may even score you a solid letter of recommendation when you need one later on down the road.

On that note, be friendly and professional to everyone you meet because you never know who they are and how they may be able to help in the future. Case in point my first internship came from a man’s dog I trained that I didn’t even know was an attorney at the time. He’s become a good friend, a great mentor, and given me invaluable real-world experience in legal writing and research.

Tailor Your Resume

Let me clarify this right off the bat: do not lie or exaggerate. As much as we may all chuckle when we read the occasional story of some judge being discovered 25 years later as saying he graduated first at his class at some prestigious school when he didn’t I’m pretty sure it would be exponentially less funny if that story was about yourself.

What I do mean however is make yourself sound marketable. Very few of us have any legitimate legal experience worthwhile of a potential employer batting an eye at prior to starting school. This is where you come in. I was a bomb dog handler in the Marine Corps. I can promise you my resume doesn’t say “walked around with dog looking (mostly stupid probably) for bombs”. No, it says things such as “conducted legal research in latest cases regarding applicable search and seizure laws and presented information to other Marines”. It may have been a sliver of what I did as a whole, but it’s what’s relevant to what you’re trying to do now, sounds professional, and highlights what little experience you may have.

Interview Preparation

The greatest resume in the world will likely mean nothing if you can’t interview. Interviews will literally make or break you. Research the firm/organization before interviewing, be immaculately dressed, and be confident, thoughtful, outgoing, and professional. This is one of the easier areas to improve in and Career Services is invaluable if you feel interviewing is a personal weak point. After all, it’s pointless to spend so much time on a resume/cover letter only to fall flat during the interview.

While these are just five tips and not all you can to stand out come job application time hopefully they will make you as competitive as possible. Internship season is upon us and the sooner you get a head start boosting your resume the better it will make you look in the end. Just remember to strike a good balance and don’t forget about keeping the grades up!

BY MIKE COSGROVE
3L REPRESENTATIVE

The thought process for selecting your 2L summer internship needs to revolve around what your number one goal at the end of law school should be – a post law school position. The criteria you should use in selecting a 2L summer internship is: 1) the internship should be with the law firm you want to work for when you graduate; 2) the internship should be in the area of law you want to work

Many of us started law school without an idea in what area of law we wanted to practice. But, by the time you reach the end of your 2L year, you should have an idea of what area of law really interests you. While your grade in a specific subject can be a factor in what area you like, do not make it your lone factor in the decision. Your area of law just might be the course with the worst grade. Use your 1L summer internship and an internship or two during your 2L year to narrow the areas down. Then choose an internship in that area for your 2L summer internship. When you intern in that area of

When you are considering your 2L summer internship, you should follow the immortal words of an Indiana Jones' movie character: "Choose wisely." While factors such as the prestige of the firm or the exoticism of the location can play a part in your decision, you should use the above criteria as the guideposts for your decision. Otherwise, you might find yourself without a post-graduation job. Good luck on your 2L summer internship prospects, and choose wisely.



<http://siecindia.files.wordpress.com/2013/11/internships-wordle-v3.png>

The Alumni Association Board of Directors encourages fellow alums to get involved with the board's mission and have an immediate impact upon the success of our



PROFESSOR’S PAGE

Professor Campbell’s Interview with James B. McEnteer

Part One of a Two-Part Interview of Art Campbell by James B. McEnteer
© 2014 by James B. McEnteer & Arthur W. Campbell
Biographical Sketches:

Arthur W. Campbell and James McEnteer were close friends before either went to college. Campbell graduated from Harvard in 1966, later collecting a J.D.an LLM. His treatise, LAW OF SENTENCING, has been cited as authority over 600 times, and his three-part memoir, TRIAL & ERROR: The Education of a Freedom Lawyer, has achieved critical acclaim. James McEnteer was educated at Wesleyan University (BA), the University of British Columbia (MFA) and the University of Texas at Austin (PhD). His published books include: Shooting the Truth: the Rise of American Political Documentaries, Deep in the Heart: the Texas Tendency in American Politics, and Fighting Words: Independent Journalists In Texas. Having lectured at universities in the United States, Europe, Asia, Latin America, and the South Pacific, his work has been translated into Spanish and Chinese.

McENTEER: As you know, I’m interested in how you reconcile practicing law and practicing Zen.

CAMPBELL: Wow, I didn’t think there was a problem til you asked that question!

McENTEER: Sorry....

CAMPBELL: That’s okay. “No problema,” I should say. But let me start by stating I’m not qualified to speak for Zen. I can only talk about my own experiences. Zen masters warn that to pontificate on the subject is “to stink of Zen.” So now I’ll totally disregard my disclaimer and...

McENTEER: ... Uh-oh, let me move a little downwind.

CAMPBELL: You comfy now? Returning to your question, let’s agree on its two central terms. A basic definition of practicing law is “applying legal rules to facts.” And a useful definition of practicing Zen is “directly apprehending reality— being totally awake.” Now, since I can apply legal rules to facts and still be awake, I feel no basic tension between Zen and law. But you asked how I “reconcile” the two. That question seeks an answer on the abstract level. You know, a Zen master might...

McENTEER: ... hit me over the head...

CAMPBELL: ... hand you a cookie, smile, and then hit you over the head. The hit would come from an existential level— as an attempt to wake you up and kick you off the level of abstractions. But since law profs generally teach on the abstract level, let me stay there and address a couple squirrely issues I see running around the base of your question.

McENTEER: Would those squirrels stop if you offered them a cookie? Seems you don’t need me or my questions to keep you going. How about you just talk to Mikey Microphone while I go get a cookie?

CAMPBELL: No stay! I’ll write “cookie” on this slip of paper. You can wad it up and swallow it. It’s abstract, of course, but some lawyers and professors live their lives as if abstractions were real.

McENTEER: Okay, since I’m a journalist, I’ll stay and save the paper-wad in case I get desperate. So let’s explore those under-running issues.

CAMPBELL: One way to view the difference between practicing law and practicing Zen is to see them operating at different levels of the same reality. Lawyers use their analytical minds to solve client problems on the abstract level. They’ll pull up conceptual boxes and choose one into which they’ll fit the problem. For example, some larger boxes bear the label “Property,” “Torts,” “Contracts,” “Criminal Law,” etcetera. Attorneys fish around inside their chosen box to find the best solution for the interests of their client. By comparison, Zen practitioners open their intuitive minds, try to be aware of all levels of reality, then act upon whatever level or levels best harmonizes interests of everyone and everything concerned.

Another way to view their differences is to see attorneys marching down an abstract spectrum labeled “time.” They stride to the past (legal precedent) to find solutions to control a portion of their client’s future. Zen folks know “past” and “future” are abstractions that can serve as handy tools, but what’s basic, essential, and real can only happen in the present. So, although Zennists don’t disregard the concepts of chronology, they prefer to dwell in Now. Whoa, those distinctions just triggered more thoughts in my head!

McENTEER: Maybe I should go downstairs, bring us up some coffee, and leave you with your “present.” Can you keep firing off your thoughts to Mikey Microphone?

CAMPBELL: Sure! At least Mikey Mic will listen. But, I wonder— can he hear?

McENTEER: Does he really need to— as long as we’re all one?

CAMPBELL: Well, some of us are more aware of that than others. And though Mikey’s on the level, I’m not sure which level.

McENTEER: Okay I’ll stay and hold off our caffeine fixes for a while.

CAMPBELL: Hear, hear! Let me spill these thoughts your question started spinning in my mind. First, let’s return to viewing Zen and law as working on their different levels of reality. Law, with its abstract categories and precedent— plus special rules controlling just what evidence can be considered by a jury or a judge— could be seen by Zennists as creating heaps of maya, or illusions of the mind.

Yet I still don’t feel a basic contradiction in being both a Zen man and a lawyer. For instance, a Zen attorney outside court can often solve a client’s problems

without resort to law’s boxes of abstractions or precedent. Focusing on Now, she might show her client that at deeper levels of reality there’s nothing to be “fixed.” In some cases she may point out that what seems a “problem to be solved” is simply “life to be lived.” In other words, sometimes the most effective way to deal with a situation is attitudinal— not negotiable, contractible, or litigatable.

Even inside court a Zen lawyer could work to expand those little legal boxes or include more levels of reality. Coming from the Now, she can employ the tools of humor and compassion to nudge the judge or jury to embrace more viewpoints or vital information, aiming toward an outcome that’s more satisfying to all concerned.

McENTEER: But...

CAMPBELL: Wait, wait, there’s more!

McENTEER: What, you’re offering me free Ginsu knives... but only if I buy your product “now” while operators are standing by?!

CAMPBELL: Yes, you’ve got it! But let them sit down while I “stab” a few more skittering thoughts. Your initial question jumped from the middle of a cultural assumption. Our society does see Zen and law as conflicting. It also slaps its frames around them, often calling one “religion” and the other a “profession.”

However, when I place Zen inside a frame, its borders embrace the entire universe. By contrast, law’s frame only holds a few man-made abstractions. If the cosmos were a framed sand-painting, only a few grains would represent the law. On the other hand, a Zen roshi would kick apart the painting to show reality is what’s outside all frames.

McENTEER: But isn’t Zen a way of life, rather than an organized religion?

CAMPBELL: Right on. Zen sidesteps many of the rigid formalities, hierarchies, and dogmas of conventional Buddhism. Except for a few rituals in its monasteries and meeting places, Zen is as dis-, non-, and un-organized as any wisdom warehouse I’ve walked through. Indeed Zen’s hallmark is to question all authority and accept only what is verified. In other words, Zen strives to apprehend what’s real by way of one’s experience. On the other hand, I see most religions striving to prescribe what’s real according to their founder’s experience. Then, of course, there’s law as an institution which strives to control what’s real, at least on the finite level.

McENTEER: Doesn’t it get confusing for you to work towards two apparently contradictory objectives, apprehending versus controlling life?

CAMPBELL: I confess, occasionally my elevator gets stuck between floors. For instance, I exhort my first-year students to master “legal analysis.” But sometimes I wonder if I’m lockstepping them along the road of pure abstractions, blind to what is real, thus increasing their illusions. I’ve often quipped, “Tenure for professors means...

McENTEER:... never having to say you’re sorry?

CAMPBELL: Oops, I’ve probably relied on

that too much. But it also means I can “profess” not only law but also what is real. Of course, good lawyers definitely need both. And teaching’s a profession where sellers want to give more than their buyers paid for. Still from time to time I ask myself, “Am I hiding a Zen robe beneath my shirt and tie— a wannabe roshi in drag? Am I baiting students with a law degree, so I can hook them with a little life? How can I convey that law is just a tool that can be used in, but should not be confused with, life?” Maybe we’ll explore these issues later in our interview.

McENTEER: No, go ahead, El Senör Professor. I see you’re on a roll.

CAMPBELL: Okay, let me lug some boxes of abstractions to our talk. When I work inside a box called “negotiation,” I’ll help put a deal together and draft a contract to control the parties’ future actions. Other times I’ll work inside a “corporate” box as member of a board of directors, trying to group-solve business problems. For years I operated in a “litigation” box. Later on today I’ll stand inside a “teacher” box, helping students see how they can function ethically inside boxes called “crim-law” or “copyright.”

Regardless of which box I’m working in, when I’m there with other lawyers, I’ve found we tend to operate and view the world on the same level. We’ll clothe selected facts and abstract thoughts with special lingo and then— voila— we’ll treat our manikin as real!

But lawyers working inside boxes function with such starved and artificial views of what is real! To begin with, in this country our reasoning is limited by the Judeo-Christian-European logic that undergirds it. Next, laws are limited by changing cultural norms that brand them “good,” “bad,” or “irrelevant.” Finally, along with rules for what’s considered “evidence,” lawyers narrow what is real by employing only facts that match their box’s label: “contracts,” “property,” etc. All these pressures work to shrink the sides of boxes in which lawyers peer to find what they can work with as if real.

Of course, collectively the boxes brim with legal rules— legislative, judicial, administrative— designed to govern problems previously stuffed inside the designated given box. But usually lawyers aren’t allowed to look outside that box for rules to solve their clients’ problems. The exception to this way of doing things— one honored as “creative lawyering”— merely plucks solutions from some other box.

So there’s great potential mischief when attorneys try to view new, large, multi-leveled problems with old, small, single-level lenses— then “fix” them using old-box formulas. On the plus side, this process lends great stability and predictability to society. Of course, latent hazards rise from law’s disregard for facts and views that don’t fit in its prefabricated boxes.

Editor’s Note: Part Two of this interview will appear in the next issue of The COMMENTARY.

