November 2007

November 2007 Docket

Georgia State University College of Law

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What a challenging semester this has been! So many exciting happenings, so many things that have students talking. There was tremendous excitement created by the administration in preparation for the September 28 Open House. This event was an incredible success with students coming from across the state visiting the school and interacting with current students. This editor had the opportunity to meet STL A alumni and listen to their interesting stories about, who else? Our own Tom Jones, head coach of the mock trial team. No doubt, students in other areas had similar experiences. To top off the festivities, attendees visited the future home of the College of Law and enjoyed live music at a fabulous alumni reception. To stay on top of more annual events, see the Events Calendar on page 3 and remember to check your email.

As the semester ends, students are also thinking about the job market. In the Careers section, a legal headhunter gives some helpful tips and advice for students looking for employment.

Everyone is also continuously talking about the U.S. News Rankings and how well the COL is doing. Did you also know that our law school is ranked to be one of the top schools for non-traditional students? Many non-traditional students (like me!) are those changing careers. As such, they are older and more likely to have spouses and children. In the Student Life section, we reprinted an article featured in the November 2007 edition of Student Lawyer Magazine. This article discusses the challenges of juggling family life with law school life. It doesn’t sound easy to me! Kudos to law students with children...everyone else, stop complaining!

Also at the forefront, of many student discussions, is the issue of crime. This semester alone, there have been several muggings, an armed robbery and a kidnapping. I had a conversation with a student who had the interesting opinion that if you choose to go to a school in downtown Atlanta, those are the consequences you must deal with. Personally, I do not believe I should have an “expectation” of crime, simply because I attend a school in an urban area. What I expect is exactly what our administration is doing to increase police presence, provide escort services and ensure areas where students congregate are well-lit and patrolled. I implore you to take advantage of these services and use the “buddy” system when leaving the school at night. Please stay safe.

Tragically, this semester also saw the loss of a promising student. Paul Brau, a One L, was hit by a car, near the COL, and on October 8, he succumbed to his injuries. Two days later, in the spirit of our great school, members of the COL community held a candlelight memorial on the second floor courtyard. This event, led by the Black Law Student’s Association, included thoughtful words by the Dean, students and members of the faculty. For more thoughtful memories about Paul, visit the Student Life section on page 4.

On another bittersweet note, the Georgia Supreme Court finally came to its senses and released Genarlow Wilson. In case you don’t remember, Wilson was the 17 year old child who was sentenced to a 10 year prison sentence for engaging in consensual oral sex with a girl two years his junior. The Docket brought this story to you last Spring in an effort to bring awareness to this issue. Good job B.J. Bernstein, Wilson’s attorney, and our own Sherrie Brady for keeping this issue in the forefront.

Well, with so many exciting announcements below, I am running out of room. So, good luck exams, have a wonderful holiday season and to the December graduates—including our own Staff Writer John Gunn (who will be sorely missed!)—Congratulations and good luck on the bar exam! As always, thanks so much to all of the people who make this magazine possible. Your hard work is ever-appreciated. See all of you next year.

Best wishes,
Suzanne Jackson, Editor-in-Chief

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Georgia State Students Rock the Bar !!!

Georgia State’s Bar passage rate was the highest of all the law schools in Georgia. 96.8% of first timers passed the Bar Exam and 96.3% passed overall. Emory students passed at a rate of 92.1 and UGA, 92.6. In addition, with an average score of 151.9, Georgia State students had the highest average ABDE scores of all law schools in Georgia. “We are extremely proud of our students,” said Dean Steven Kaminshine. “Their bar exam performance, as well as many other indicators and accomplishments, are reflective of their talents and the strength of our program,” he said.

Mock Trial Team wins National Championship
From a field of a dozen invited law school mock trial programs, a team from Georgia State University’s College of Law came away with a national title from the first competition of the fall. The four-member team, coached by adjunct professor Tom Jones and alumni Cheryl Champion-White (J.D. ’91), took top honors at the 17th Annual Cathy Bennett National Student Trial Competition in Key West, Florida. The competition was held during the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers’ fall conference Oct. 18-20. Georgia State law students Emessa Brawley, Zach North, Holly Muhlemann and Mitch Freehauf worked over three days of competition, acting as defense and prosecuting attorneys (advocates) and as witnesses. North also took home honors as Best Advocate. Dean Steven Kaminshine offered his congratulations to the team and its coaches. “Tom’s developed an outstanding mock trial program and news like this reminds us that it keeps getting better,” he said. “The students simply did a great job.”

Professors Johnson and Hartfield Honored
Nancy Johnson, the College’s law librarian and professor of law, is the recipient of this year’s Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries (SEAAAL) Service to SEAAAL Award. The award is given to the chapter member who has made special, significant and sustained contributions to the chapter. In addition, the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys (GABWA) has named College of Law Professor Bernadette Hartfield as the recipient of the Benesonna Tipton Lane Award for Commitment to Family at the recent GABWA annual Founders Awards Gala. The award recognizes an individual who has used her professional and personal leadership to advance family, and child-related programs and initiatives, including those that focus on education, domestic violence, health care, child advocacy, adoption and other issues impacting the family. Congratulations to both on their achievements in service.

Prof. Bernadette Hartfield

Student Life
Law Students with Children
Students balance law school with life. Read about this growing trend in law schools across the country.

Law Day of Service
Students, faculty and staff join together at Bright Futures Atlanta in conjunction with Hands on Atlanta.

Downtime Fun
Anyone love the two Step? Test your knowledge of movie trivia with this law-inspired quiz.

Pro Bono
ANCORE Services raises over 54K. Walk Atlanta 2007 AIDS

Editorial
Is it “tough luck” for the war on drugs or a “safe haven” for drug addicts: San Francisco “Needle” Houses

The Future of Legal Education
Read about the history of legal education in the United States and how COL students compared reform proposals to those in other countries.

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The Future of Legal Education
Read about the history of legal education in the United States and how COL students compared reform proposals to those in other countries.
Sherie is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Emory College (B.A. in Political Science and Music) and Emory Law School, where she served as the Editor-in-Chief of the inaugural edition of the Annual Survey of Bankruptcy Law (now known as the Bankruptcy Developments Journal), was a research assistant for professors Charles A. Shores and Attica T. Mayon, received the Akin Award in Contracts, and the Corpus Juris Secundum Award her 3rd year for the most significant contribution to scholarship. Prior to becoming a search special- ist in 2004, she practiced law in Atlanta for 20 years, including as a partner at Holland & Knight, as counsel to Arnall Golden Gregory and Long Aldridge and Norman, and as an associate at Jones Day and Powell Golden. During her legal career, she managed a commercial lend- ing practice and was very involved in firm life, including service on associate, marketing and recruiting commit- tees, as well as serving on a number of pro bono activities. Sherie is married with one high-school age daughter. Her husband is a partner in a national law firm with an office in Atlanta.

So your advice to students is...? Second-year law students should analyze what they view as a “normal” life, should determine what balance they want between the various components of that life, should consider what time investment level they are comfortable with and for how long, and should have some long-range plan so that options remain open. And then they can plan their track accordingly. Big firm life offers a wide variety of employment opportunities and training, but it is not always a fit for – or even available to every- one – and there are many other excellent alternatives. But keep in mind that a rigorous, full-time schedule for three years regardless of environment is advisable in order to get good training and keep options open.

Let’s talk a little more about the analytical process you refer to. Second-year law students should be given counseling or maybe even a mini-course on how to balance expectation with reality, on how to manage career and family life, and how to perform some self analysis on long- range goals before they embark on their summer associate or clerk- ship experiences. This will give them more of a perspec- tive and background from which personally to:

- observe and be more aware of the “true” lifestyles of the attorneys at the firm or agency (as opposed to the social whirl that surrounds most firm summer programs);
- observe the quality of the personal relationships and private lives of the associates, partners, prosecutors, defenders;
- observe the responsibility and autonomy given to each level of associate;
- observe whether real-life marketing opportunities and support are given to associates for building a client base (the best route to long-term professional security in private practice);
- talk candidly about whether they are actually doing due diligence about whichthey think and how long they did practice on the normal track before switching to the non-tradit- ional path, are they happy with the quality of work they’re provided.

Then they can ask themselves what they did and didn’t like about what they observed. Most law students – at least those who have enrolled straight from college and haven’t had a prior career – are completely unware of what issues to look for and how those might clash with their personalities down the road. They really should be educated on how to balance early opportunity vs. long- range goals and make a good professional match given their individual temperament and personal priorities.

And the questions you would have them ask themselves as part of the process? Here are a few. And these apply to all students although the last few are probably directed more to the female stu- dents because of maternity leave “impact” issues which are generally still with us in the profession. There are no right or wrong answers to these questions, and each student’s combination of answers will be unique. The questions do require honest self-analysis and self-aware- ness, an ability to imagine life 5 or 10 years down the road, and perhaps even a reflection back on the student’s own family life. The answers to these questions then should be used in evaluating all available opportunities – some rule out a big firm career, others point to it! But there are no right or wrong answers to these questions, and each student’s combination of answers will be unique. The questions do require honest self-analysis and self-aware- ness, an ability to imagine life 5 or 10 years down the road, and perhaps even a reflection back on the student’s own family life. The answers to these questions then should be used in evaluating all available opportunities – some rule out a big firm career, others point to it!"Your school’s placement office may be able to help in this exercise.

1. Do you have outside responsibilities or commit- ments that might make a 50 -60 hour (or more) work week difficult now? For the next three years? Over the long term?
2. Do you need a regular schedule now or in the fore- seeable future?
3. Do you have a passion – e.g. a sport or fitness regime, charity work, music performance, painting, religious involvement – that you need or just want to reserve time for during the week?
4. Do you want immediate, hands-on practical experi- ence?
5. Do you want as much training and mentoring as you can get, or are you better at figuring things out for yourself and then being evaluated?
6. How important is status/prestige to you? In other words, do you think you want a big firm because that’s viewed as “the prize” or do you really want that environment – and if you really want that envi- ronment, do you know why?
7. How important is maximizing compensation in the early years? Are you willing to trade dollars for time?
8. Do you work well in a structured, rigid environ- ment?
9. Do you want variety in your practice, or would you prefer to focus on a specific area of the law – or even a sub-specialty within that area?
10. How important is having a daily challenge? Or do you prefer more repetitive processes to stay in your comfort zone (many do)?
11. How important is achieving partnership?
12. Is an exciting career or a well-paid job for you? (It’s a very subjective question, but you’d be surprised how often, when answering honestly, choose the latter answer. I probably would have.)
13. How well do you handle competition?
14. Have you have difficulty coping with change (i.e. could you see yourself gaining experience in one environment, then having no problem moving in 3 – 4 different places)?
15. How important is public service? Pro bono work?
16. Do you like to travel? Would a long-term out-of- town project present problems for you?
17. Is your long-range goal to go in-house?
18. Do you plan on having children?
19. Do you plan on working (either full or part-time) after you have children?
20. Would you use firm-sponsored daycare or would you make other arrangements?

Sherie Discusses Big-Firm Life and equally attractive alternatives.

Legal education is on the minds of law students every- where and Georgia State College of Law is no exception. Students critique legal education as they choose classes for the next term, chat about various professors before exams, and debate the value in changing grading policies and approaches to skills training. GSU College of Law went one step further this summer, giving seven students the opportunity to explore the future of legal education in the United States by exploring the methods employed at universities around the world.

This one-time course, linked to the College of Law’s 25th Anniversary International Conference on the Future of Legal Education, began in the summer and continues through fall semester. Under the guidance of Professor Clark Cunningham, students learned about the history of legal education in the United States and compared reform initiatives in existence in other coun- tries. On the acceptance of their research proposals, Ana Flores and Holly Harrington flew off to law schools in India, Nichole DeVries and Tiffany Williams made their way to Argentina, Deana Spencer to Australia, where they explored those programs first hand. Liz Li has yet to do her fieldwork and plans to travel to Scotland after exams in December. According to Professor Cunningham, “The work these students are doing is, to my knowledge, unprecedented among American law schools. Not only have they designed and undertaken fieldwork in unfamiliar and challenging locations, some of which are rarely visited by Americans, but they have earned such respect from the deans and law professors they visited that these dis- tinguished academics have agreed to collaborate with these students in the presentations to be made at the con- ference next February.”

The Future of Legal Education

Lawyers: Preparation for the Profession of Law. The report calls for fundamental changes in both the struc- ture and content of legal education in the United States to integrate realistic and real-life lawyering experiences throughout the curriculum, and challenges American law schools to produce lawyers who are not only efficient problem-solvers but also responsible professionals com- mitted to both clients and society.

The upcoming international conference on the future of legal education, to be held February 20-24, 2008, is a major event in the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the GSU College of Law. The conference has nine co-sponsors, including two ABA committees, the Global Alliance for Justice Education , the Council of Australian Law Deans, and the Professional Development Consortium, which represents 13 professional development partners at large law firms around the country.

The conference web site is:
http://law.gsulaw.edu/conf/
Behind the Scenes with Keneé Stephens
By Suzanne Jackson

Who is Keneé Stephens? For one, it’s Keneé, not Kenny, not KeeNee...like Renée with a “K.” Well, most of us 3Ls know her as the person we complained to when we had “witness” issues during Litigation class last Spring. She was calm, cool and collected (and never complained about the occasional “Kenny”)....but before today, we only knew her as an “email” address.

What did I find out while talking with Keneé? She’s a family person, high energy, has a great sense of humor (ask her about a particular “ring-tone” – not hers!) and we haven’t managed to drive her crazy...yet. And as an extra bonus, she can DJ our Graduation parties!!!

Name: Keneé Stephens
Birthplace: St. Louis, MO
Hometown: Atlanta, GA (been here since age 11)
Position at the law school: Administrative Coordinator in the Associate Dean’s Office

Major responsibilities:
Order all textbooks and coordinate the Litigation Program
Favorite thing about working with law students:
The vast amount of comic relief to an otherwise mellow-dramatic day

Why Georgia State University College of Law:
10 minutes from home and about 20 paces from continuing my education.

What did you do before coming to GSU-COL:
Coordinator for Bellsouth.net Project Management
Favorite Neighborhood: Kirkwood
Favorite Restaurant:
Phace Oricalz, Evenessence, Corrine Bailey Rae

Favorite musical group: Phace Oricalza
Name of 3 CDs that are currently in your stereo:
Phace Oricalz, Eivenessence, Corrine Bailey Rae

Favorite movie: Anything with James Bond in the title but I prefer Sean Connery
Favorite book:
Eyes of the Dragon by Steven King

Favorite show:
The Cosby Show
Favorite TV show:
Night Court

Favorite sport:
Night Court

Favorite vacation spot:
Any place that Phace Oricalz,a local Atlanta group, is playing.

Favorite super hero:
Elijay, GA

What did you want to be when you were growing up:
Any place that Phace Oricalz,a local Atlanta group, is playing.

Who is Keneé Stephens? For one, it’s Keneé, not Kenny, not KeeNee...like Renée with a “K.”

News from the Career Services Office
CSO Announces the establishment of CSO Student Advisory Council
The Career Services Office is pleased to announce the formation of the CSO Student Advisory Council. Among many things, the Council will advise CSO on student perspectives regarding goals and policies of the office and help CSO strategize about how best to serve the professional development and career needs of students. Representatives will be outreach to their respective classes for input as the Council gets under way very shortly.

Friday, November 16 - Career Treks, 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.
Come trek with CSO to visit several employer offices. Students hear presentations about work employers do in diverse practice areas, submit resumes directly to employers for school year, summer and post graduation opportunities, etc. CSO has a track record of 100% hiring through Career Treks.

Tuesday, November 27, Career Connections Series,
“Transition: From Theory to Practical Application,” 12-1:10 p.m., rm 230. This professional development program is sure to win positive responses. Join members of the legal community as they educate students about the “business” of law, preparation tips for “developing” good relationships and future clientele, how to effectively “transition” from law school to lawyer, and a lot more.

Job Fairs sponsored or supported by CSO:
Still to come fall semester:
Judicial Clerk Job Fair – post graduation positions for 3Ls and recent graduates only and Prosecutors Interview Program – summer and post graduation positions for 1Ls, 2Ls and 3Ls.

25th Anniversary Events Calendar
To stay up to date on the 25th Anniversary festivities, check your email and the College of Law website. New events are being added daily!

November 15, 2007
Newly Minted Lawyers Reception & Sweatin’ In Ceremony

November 16, 2007
National Briefing Day for the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

January/February 2008
Law Review Symposium (Dine & Speakers TBD)
February 7, 2008
Ben F. Johnson Jr.
Public Service Award Ceremony
February 16, 2008
Public Interest Law Association (PILA) Annual Auction
February 20-24, 2008
National Conference on The Future of Legal Education

March 11, 2008
The Hon. Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, Keynote Anniversary Speaker

April 7-11, 2008
42nd Henry J. Miller Distinguished Lecture

April 7-11, 2008
Law Week

April 17, 2008
25th Anniversary Celebration Gala at the Atlanta History Center

May 9, 2008
College of Law Hooding Ceremony

December 2007
Hooding Ceremonies

December 2008
Hooding Ceremonies
A Growing Minority..Law Students with Children

By Morgan Stone

Countless index tabs are squished between the pages of Matt Wolfe’s Constitutional Law casebook. Exam time is quickly approaching. While Wolfe isn’t looking, his two-year-old son Brayden efficiently pulls out each index tab. One by one.

Scenarios such as these have become the norm for Wolfe, a law student and the director of Counseling and Resource Services at Golden Gate University, and co-president of Parents Attending Law School (PALS) at Duke. “It’s not a difficulty. It’s more of a challenge,” he says. “It’s just another component of my life that I have to work on.”

Most law students don’t have that added component, but an increasing number of law students have the added responsibilities of missing index tabs and the everyday tasks of child rearing. The number of students age 35 and older in undergraduate and graduate programs doubled from 9.6 percent in 1970 to 19.2 percent in 2001, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. Many older students bring kids along with them. Attending law school as a parent is without a doubt challenging, but there are ways to manage. Treating school like a job, finding a support network, being open with your family, and avoiding getting involved in too much will make your time in law school more enjoyable not only for you, but also for your family.

Treat school like a job

You’re in law school to get a job, not have one. Getting in the routine means you won’t hurt your family. Thomas Kramer, director of the Student Counseling and Resource Service at the University of Chicago, says there’s a danger of law school consuming all of your time, so it’s best to set limits for yourself. Liam Montgomery, father of three, law student at the University of Virginia, and co-president of Virginia Law Families, does this by treating his law studies as a job. “I work from 8:30 to 5:30,” he says. “I try to limit weekend work, so sometimes I have to get up earlier to do work, or I’ll do work after the kids go to bed.” He says it forces you to prioritize. “Every 15 minutes during that time that I’m not doing something productive…is 15 minutes less that I get to spend with my son.” Wolfe’s family also makes it a point to be together from 5 p.m. until the time Brayden goes to bed. They also plan weekend activities. Spending time together “means I can’t brief every case or I can’t read everything,” he says. “But you have to find the most effective way to be a law student with the resources you have.”

“Just because you’re stretched in 100 different directions does not mean you’re exempt from finding a summer job (paid or volunteer) to build your resume.”

And keep in mind that parents are not exempt from job-seeking responsibilities during law school. This means making a commitment early in law school to have a career game plan in place that’s realistic and changeable with circumstances. Visit your career services office and get advice about how to build a solid resume. Just because you’re stretched in 100 different directions does not mean you’re exempt from finding a summer job (paid or volunteer) to build your resume. Simply getting through law school academically is not enough and would ultimately be a disservice to your family. Keep your eye on your career. That means multitasking (even more than your nonparental classmates) throughout law school.

Find a support network

Greg Wong, law student, co-president of PALS at the University of Washington, and father of three, learns strategies to succeed. “It lets you know it’s okay not to commit 24 hours a day to studying,” he says. Wolfe sees his support network as a place of belonging. “Being a law student can be isolating, and being a parent can be isolating,” he says. “Having a support network makes you feel less isolated.” Emil Rodolfa, director of Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at the University of California, Davis, agrees. “Sometimes students feel isolated,” he says. “Seeking help helps out.” Talking about the experience with others in the same situation also helps. Rodolfa also recognizes that spouses may struggle. “Groups where partners of law students can talk about what they’re going through,” he says. Groups such as PALS and Virginia Law Families schedule activities that engage the spouses and children of law students. “Once a month, we have family activities such as pizza dinners, potluck dinners, or apple picking,” says Montgomery. If there’s not a group at your school, start one. Even starting off small and creating a listserv is extremely useful. “You can e-mail people for babysitting, recommendations on pediatrics, daycare facilities, and other needs that parents have,” says Wolfe.

Be open with your family

One of the biggest problems is that your spouse doesn’t know how or when things happen in your school life. You need to have a strong communication channel. “Stay as candid as possible about what law school demands of you,” says Wolfe. “Talk about how demanding it is, and talk about the changes in the relationship,” says Rodolfa. “Talk about the effects of the…academics on the relationship.” Your spouse has to be aware that the demands of your studies can possibly take a toll on your relationship. Also, keep in mind that, as the relationship is affected, your partner will be affected. “Focus on your relationship and listen to your partner as [he or she] goes through the changes.” Rodolfa says. “It’s always better to talk to your partner, even when you don’t want to hear about it. Your partner has to understand the program in order to go through it with you.”

“I make sure I remember my goals… but I’m not the person who sets the goals for the whole family,” says Wong, who makes a point to support his wife and meet her needs in her endeavors. Wong admits that it can be difficult when he has multiple-day obligations. He spent days traveling the lengthy road from the University of Washington to Golden Gate University to participate in a moot court competition. Beforehand, he spent hours reading endless amounts of pages to prepare. “It’s challenging when you’re gone,” he says. “You have to maintain that relationship with your spouse, though.” It’s important to be open with your family about your time commitments. “Not only is your life stressful and time consuming, but your family needs to be prepared for how stressful and unpredictable practice will be following graduation,” says Montgomery.

“Don’t over commit yourself”

Wolfe stretched himself too thin during his first year as a law student. “I got caught up in the whole vibe of law school,” he says. He got involved with a play, a mock trial, and moot court, among other things. “There was a two-month span where I wasn’t home every night,” he says. Wolfe says he appreciates the experience, but it’s not what he needed in his life. There’s always something more you can get involved in or do. “It’s nice for my family to give me that slack when I need it, but you need the family there to hold you back sometimes and help you maintain the balance,” says Montgomery.

Ellen Murphy, executive director of Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers in Massachusetts, advises setting boundaries that work for you and your family, not for your professors, your study group, or others. Remembering your priorities is essential in not getting overly involved. “There’s always more you can be doing, and you always feel the pressure for more,” says Wong. “Know what you can and can’t do, and know when enough is enough for you. Know your goals and what sacrifices you have to make to achieve them.” Murphy suggests scheduling time for doing things outside of school, such as a hobby or church. And post your schedule where the whole family can see it. “Knowing that there is downtime scheduled is good for everyone,” says Murphy.

It’s always helpful to look at the perks of being a parent and student like Wolfe does. “After a day at school, I’m excited to pick my son up and come home and run around the house and act like a two-year-old,” says Wolfe. “At the end of the day, though, I’m excited to go back and figure out how a case works.”

Paul, you will be forever missed and appreciated.

Paul Brady, 26 years old, was beginning his first year of law school as a full time student here at GSU. He is remembered as a God-fearing man, a friendly face, and a person who never met a stranger. Paul left a positive impression with everyone whom he came in contact with.

On Tuesday, October 09, 2007, the Black Law Students Association at GSU COL distributed memorial ribbons to students and provided greeting cards to present to the family. Furthermore, BLSA, in conjunction with the law school, held a candlelight vigil on Wednesday, October 10, 2007 at 7:15 p.m. in the second floor courtyard of the school. Many of Paul’s family members were in attendance in addition to an overwhelming number of people who Paul had impacted in their very short amount of time he had known them.

Paul, you will be forever missed and appreciated.

My Experience with ABA Law Student Division

By Sharif Jones

A year ago, I scrounged up $20 and applied for membership to the ABA Law Student Division -- the world’s largest voluntary professional organization -- all because a professor told me to do so. Each month, I received the ABA Journals and Student Lawyer Magazine, which kept me informed about issues on the forefront of the legal industry. But, other than that, did I find it to be too much of a hassle? Not that way for me. That is until last Spring. I was walking in the law school lobby and a poster caught my eye: “A Call For Leaders”. I thought “Heeey. I should apply for that. I’m a leader!”

The poster identified all of the different Sections within the ABA, and the different leadership positions within the Law Student’s Division (LSD). Since the deadline appeared to have already passed on everything except for the “ Liaison” position, I focused on that. I selected five Sections of Law that I would be interested in representing, including Domestic Violence and Mental & Physical Disability Law, completed the application, talked briefly about myself, included a resume and placed the packet in the mail.

Several weeks later, I was interviewed by phone by the 5th Circuit Governor, a 2L whom I met in Alabama during the summer. During the interview, she encouraged me to apply for one of her Liaison Governor positions. I declined, thinking it might require some type of political or legislative background or something like that. I told her I didn’t think I really wanted to get involved with politics right now. She talked about how she became very silent on the other end. I wonder why?

Anyway, a month later I received word that I had been appointed to the Liaison position, along with 59 other law students attending approved schools throughout the country (including one other Georgia law school). We all participated in an hour long conference call and then we were off and running. Well, I was. I sent emails out introducing myself to the Commission members and the current liaison, and waited for my tenure to begin.

Almost immediately, I begin to get emails from other Liaisons and LSD members encouraging me to attend the ABA Annual Meeting. What? I didn’t even know what or where that was. And I had bigger problems: No Money! My summer internship at the Public Defender’s Office was paying me with experience, not cash. And, the Commission had been appointed to not receive funding from the ABA for my position. However many other Sections do offer funding. Instead, I was encouraged to ask my law school for money. So, I wrote to the Dean of the law school and the president of the SBA. No luck there. I then told my Professional Responsibility professor about my money problems. She steered me toward her colleague at the State Bar of Georgia, who encouraged me to solicit funding from the ABA Sections. Taking her advice, I applied for and almost received a $2000 scholarship from the ABA Tort, Trial and Insurance Practice Section (TIPS). And with that, and my daddy’s credit card, I was on my way to San Francisco for six fun-filled days. Wait, did the San Francisco weather report really say the average temperature was 60 degrees? In California? What? However, I did get a couple sweaters, a coat and my moon boots...just to be on the safe side.

Upon arrival, I registered, picked up a few freebies from a large exposition, learned that my $55 registration fee included an ALL ACCESS pass to any of the Continuing Legal Education (CLE) programs at the meeting. Oh, and apparently that 60 degree weather report was right on the money. Um, where did I pack those moon boots?

I then immediately begin attending a series of meetings where I met dozens of law students who were involved with the ABA’s Law Student Division, including Delegates, SBA Presidents, ABA Representatives, Liaisons, Governors and their Lieutenants. Everyone seemed to be interested in networking with the hundreds of lawyers, judges, professors, advocates and other law students. Delegates, SBA Presidents, and ABA Reps were there, in part, to debate and vote on resolutions at the Law Student Assembly. Law students shared advice and information on funding sources, leadership and networking opportunities. Everywhere I went, I went to offers to attend this reception and that meeting. What is that I didn’t have money to buy a ticket. Many receptions were free and a crafty lawyer or poor law student could always find a donated ticket to the receptions that weren’t free (many legal professionals donate their tickets if they can’t attend a reception). I received several other perks: I was invited to attend a TIPS Welcome Reception for new members, a meeting by the Task Force for Outreach to Law Students and their Law Student’s Board of Governors Meeting. The Commission on Mental and Physical Disability Law, invited me to an awesome Reception for Lawyers with Disabilities, where I met remarkable lawyers who gave new meaning to the phrase “overcoming a challenge.” At each meeting, I met Committee Chairs and lawyers who invited me to more committee meetings, gave me tickets to receptions, encouraged me to attend specific CLE programs, gave me advice on Networking and introduced me to other lawyers.

During my final two days in San Francisco, my mother-in-law and I walked across the Golden Gate Bridge, blew a couple hundred dollars Chinatown and took a Champagne, Chocolates and City Lights tour one evening. It was during that tour that I not only froze my buns completely off -- whew -- but I also begin to fully comprehend the words behind the song, “I left my heart in San Francisco.” That city is cunning, well planned, environmentally friendly by day, and absolutely stunning by night. The perfect place to fall in love with an amazing organization.

Currently, I’m preparing an article for the TIPS Government Law Committee’s Newsletter and I’m updating their website.

Next year, my goals include attending the TIPS meeting in Las Vegas and the ABA Annual Meeting in New York. Where will I get the moolah from? Well, I’ll get it from somewhere. And whenever I find it, I’ll be sure to share it with you.

Join the ABA Law Student’s Division and fall in love…well I can’t really guarantee that you’ll fall in love, but I can assure you that you will really enjoy yourself.

UPCOMING ABA CONTESTS, INTERNSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS, EVENTS ET C.

Writing Contests


Awards: First Place: $5,000. Runners-up (4) $1,500 + trip to the Grammy’s. www.abanet.org/forums/entsports/home.html

Section of Business Law. Deadline: February 26

Awards $500 - $2500 (3)

www.abanet.org/buslaw/shersham

ABA Health Law Writing Competition http://www.abanet.org/health/06%5Fmembership/LawS tudents/WritingCompetition.shtml Award: $500 plus travel and lodging to the Section’s Emerging Issues Program Deadline for entry: December

Internships

Commission on Law and Aging (Wash. DC)
Deadline: January 18.

Interns are paid a stipend.

www.abanet.org/aging/lawstudents/home.shtml

Division for Public Services (Wash. DC)
Deadline: January 15.

www.abanet.org/publicserv

Scholarships


Forum on Communications Law.
Deadline November 15

abanet.org/forumcommunication/scholarships.html

Award: Attendance at Annual Conference in Boca Raton, FL

 Mentor Programs

Law Students with Disabilities Mentoring Program Contact: Shariff Jones - sjones95@student.gsu.edu

Events

ABA Mid-year Meeting February, 2008

Los Angeles, CA

ABA Annual Meeting August, 2008

New York, NY
By Meg Smothers Robinson

On Saturday, October 6, GSU College of Law students, faculty, and staff joined together for the annual GSU Law Day of Service at Bright Futures Atlanta, a nonprofit organization that provides mentoring, tutoring, and safe havens for at-risk adolescents. The project was in conjunction with Hands on Atlanta Day, the single largest day of community service in the Atlanta area.

This event was made even more special for the volunteers by the opportunity to work side-by-side with adolescents that are a part of the Bright Futures Atlanta program. The COL community labored with the local teens on a variety of projects, including intensive hedge-pruning and landscaping, digging an impressive drainage ditch, building the foundation for a volleyball court, and the artistic assembly of a back-porch mosaic.

What better time to show our dedication to the community than in the midst of our 25th anniversary and our 25,000 pro bono hour pledge? It was a proud day for the Georgia State College of Law. If it is true that a law school’s maturity may be gauged by its dedication to service, then in my humble and certainly unbiased opinion, GSU Law has reached a new level of maturity. And what better time to show our dedication to the community than in the midst of our 25th anniversary and our 25,000 pro bono hour pledge?

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the volunteers who attended Saturday – not just from your colleagues, but from the children whose lives are touched by your contributions. Your selflessness is much appreciated.

Bright Futures Atlanta is always looking for volunteers to serve as after-school tutors and mentors any day of the week.

For more information or to sign-up to volunteer, visit the Bright Futures Atlanta website at: www.brightfuturesatl.org

16th Annual PILA Auction in the Works

Mark your calendars – the 16th Annual PILA Auction is scheduled for February 23, 2008 at the Georgia Freight Depot!

All proceeds from this event go towards providing summer fellowship funding for students working at public interest organizations. These funds enable our law students to take on unpaid summer internships at local community agencies, helping those members of society whose rights are often unrepresented because of economic disparity, lack of education, or other forms of prejudice.

Last year, our efforts raised more than $18,000, which enabled seven students to volunteer at a variety of public agencies, including the DeKalb County Public Defender Office, Georgia Innocence Project, and the College of Law Defender Office. This year, GSU Law has reached a new level of maturity. And what better time to show our dedication to the community than in the midst of our 25th anniversary and our 25,000 pro bono hour pledge?

Thank you in advance for your support – we’ll see you at the Auction!

The COL team begins its march in the 2007 AIDS Walk Atlanta, covering 5 kilometers through Midtown.

GSU COL AIDS Walk Team raises Over $4,000

By Brian Basinger

After raising more than $4,200.00 in donations, College of Law students and faculty took to the streets of Midtown on Oct. 21 to participate in the 2007 AIDS Walk Atlanta.

The College of Law team raised more money than any of the 26 other teams from Georgia State University which took part in the fund-raising event. The donations collected by COL team members easily surpassed the group’s goal of $2,500.00. The money raised helps to fund various HIV/AIDS services throughout the city.

“I am doing this walk because I think it’s important to raise awareness for AIDS whenever you can, and this is a great time to do it,” said 3L Nancy Rhinehart, who raised $145.00 for the event.

Do you have something to donate? Let us know! We’re still gathering items for the silent and live auction. Contact Auction Chair Nichole DeVries if you have an item you would like to donate.

Finally, are you a member of a student organization? Start thinking now about what your organization will donate to the auction! Last year, several student groups donated baskets of items related to their group’s “theme” to the auction. For example, the Environmental Law Society donated a basket full of environmentally-friendly household cleaning products and the Student Health Law Association donated a basket of items to keep a student healthy through flu-season. Other student groups donated items related to the winter season – like OUTLaw’s Valentine’s Day-themed basket.

The Association of Women Law Students held a fundraiser pool tournament and donated the proceeds to the Auction. Our goal for this year is 100% student organization participation in this year’s auction.

What can you do to help?

Mark your calendar and plan to attend this year’s auction! Tickets will be available through PILA beginning in January.

What can you do to help?

Marching with students was Associate Dean of Academic Affairs Roy Sobelson, who raised $100.00 for the event.

Topping the COL team’s fund-raising list was 3L Deana Spencer, who amassed $1,125.00 in donations from 14 different contributors. “It was the right thing to do,” Spencer said of her efforts.

Student Bar Association President Joshua Saunders expressed appreciation for those who walked in the event, as well as for those who raised money. “I just have to say congratulations to the Georgia State College of Law AIDS Walk team,” said Saunders, who raised $275.00, and whose mother, Cynthia Stewart raised $775.00 on her own, and funneled more than $200.00 to other participants. Saunders said he was optimistic that the success of the COL AIDS Walk team would encourage more students to take part in pro bono events during the remainder of the academic year.

“I think it’s a great start,” Saunders said. “I am glad that we were one of the top fundraising groups out of the Georgia State’s broader community. I think it’s great because it brings visibility to the College of Law.”
San Francisco considers Safe “Crack” Houses

By Heather McPhillips

San Francisco recently took steps towards opening the nation’s first legal safe-injection room where addicts are free to shoot up heroin, cocaine and other drugs under the supervision of nurses. I must ask, has the City of San Francisco lost its mind? Apparently it has.

City officials assert that they are concerned with reducing the number of HIV and hepatitis C infections. Their solution? Give intravenous drugs users-no, addicts-a comfy room to get high in and the number will somehow, magically, decrease! But it seems that the City has forgotten a few things in its poor judgment and analysis. For one, it is estimated that the majority of addicts in San Francisco are homeless men. I do not think it is a stretch of the imagination to believe that these unfortunate individuals are probably uneducated and lacking in employable skills, not to mention, they probably have criminal records of some sort. So let me see if I have this right; instead of providing education or training or even some form of drug counseling, giving already despondent and distraught individuals a place to get high will…oh yeah, reduce the number of…

Secondly, unless these facilities are open any and everywhere, what does the City believe these addicts will do in the mean time, say when the “safe rooms” are closed? Do officials really believe that these individuals in need of a fix will stay clean until the safe rooms reopen in the morning? No, they will manage to get high anyway that they possibly can—dirty needle not withstanding.

Hence, the City’s concern/argument about reducing HIV and hepatitis infections is literally punctured with holes. More importantly, what type of message does the City send to its young or those at risk? Providing safe rooms, whether the City wants to admit it or not, sends the message that drug use is no longer taboo or just simply wrong.

I could go on and on about why this is a bad idea (umm, increased incidents of violence, prostitution, drug addicted children, destruction of families and communities…) But, I’ll finish on the strongest argument: for the reasons stated above, it’s against the damn law.

San Francisco considers Safe “Injection Facilities”

By Suzanne Jackson

Last month, members of the San Francisco health community sponsored a full day symposium dedicated to examining the feasibility of a legal Safe Injection Facility (what this editor may later refer to as a legal Crack house). The meeting was held in hopes to find solutions to San Francisco’s high rate of fatal drug overdoses. According to drugpolicy.org, San Francisco has several large concentrations of injection drug users and while studies indicate that HIV remains relatively low among them, fatal opiate overdose remains one of the leading causes of death in San Francisco. In addition, concerns regarding public drug use and improperly discarded syringes have been raised repeatedly over the last few decades.

Forty other cities in eight countries around the world facing similar issues have opened Safe Injection Facilities since the first one opened in Switzerland in 1996, and last month’s symposium opened a broad discussion about this option for San Francisco.

The site will be exempt from drug laws, so users can visit without fear of arrest. Additionally, private booths are planned where addicts can inject drugs such as heroin, cocaine or crystal meth. The staff will provide the equipment and techniques and drug users may be able to get medical attention in the facility. At a similar site currently in operation in Vancouver, there have been 800 overdoses. However, due to the medical supervision provided at the facility, there were no deaths reported.

Yes, you read correctly. A legal, “safe” Injection Facility…a needle house…a legal crack house. The philosophy is that drug addiction is a way of life and thus it is best to find a way to reduce the harm and increase the health of the community. Forget rehab, forget group help, forget psychiatric help and forget getting to the root of the problem. Well, that is just one prosecutor-to-he’s opinion. Or maybe not.

I originally intended this section as a debate on the feasibility of the legal crack houses. I sent an email asking for differences of opinion. I wanted a DEBATE! However, not one student offered to write an article agreeing with, or attempting to justify this measure. Not one. Does that say something about us? Or them?

There is still time. Anyone interested, send me an email: slee88@student.gsu.edu.
1. In the 1980 film, 9 to 5, sexual harassment and sex-based discrimination were the normal operating procedure. Name the three actresses who got together and kidnapped their boss. Put yourself on the back if you can name his character and the actor who portrayed him.

2. Sally Field could have used the NLRB in this 1979 film as she became involved in union organizing. Name the film.

3. Lois E. Jenson v. Eveloth Taconite Co. was the first class-action sexual harassment lawsuit in the United States, filed in 1988 on behalf of Lois Jenson and other female employees at the EVTAC mine in Eveleth, Minnesota. Name the 2005 film based on the claim, along with the starring actress. Put yourself on the back if you can name the actor who portrayed her attorney.

4. In this 1993 film, a lawyer with AIDS filed suit against his firm for wrongful termination and employment discrimination. Name the film and the Oscar-winning actor who played the lawyer. Extra points if you can name the actor who played his reluctant attorney.

5. In this 1994 film, a man filed a sexual harassment claim against his female boss. Name the film, the actor who played the lead, and the actress who portrayed his boss. Put yourself on the back if you can name the head of the technology company who was backing his female protégé all the way.

6. Whistle blowing can be dangerous as depicted in this 1983 film about dangerous practices at a nuclear plant. Name the film and the actress who played the lead character.

7. From Captain Kirk to the legal eagle he currently portrays in Boston Legal. Name the actor and his character.

8. Questions about: My Cousin Vinny: Name the store the “two utes” allegedly robbed: Although set in Alabama, which state was the movie actually filmed in: In the full name of Marisa Tomei’s character: Crime that Stan originally thought he was being charged with:

9. In Anatomy of a Murder, an attorney tries to get his client acquitted on murder charges by pleading temporary insanity. Name of the actor who plays the attorney: Also, what is the reason Lt. Manion “goes insane” and kills his victim:

10. In A Civil Action (which most of us read in Civil Procedure!), John Travolta portrays Jan Schlitzmann, an ambitious personal injury attorney. What did Jerome Facher tell his law students to do “as much as you could” during a trial (even if you are caught sleeping?): According to Jan Schlitzmann, who is the “perfect” personal injury victim? According to Schlitzmann, what kind of death nets the most money in a personal injury case:

11. In this new legal thriller, George Clooney plays an attorney known as the “fixer” in a giant corporate law firm. Name the movie:

12. In The Firm, Tom Cruise’s character ultimately is able to get his firm in legal trouble with the FBI by gathering evidence for what federal charge. Pat yourself on the back if you can name Cruise’s character and the firm he worked for.

13. In The Client, Tommy Lee Jones’ character arrests young Mark Sway and has him held in jail. What type of warrant was filed in order to jail Sway:

14. In Runaway Jury, Dustin Hoffman represents a plaintiff in a personal injury suit. What industry did the defendants represent and what was the basis of the claim: Also, what was Gene Hackman’s character’s job:

15. In The Accused, Jodie Foster plays a woman who was raped in a bar. Although the perpetrators were caught and took a plea, the ambitious prosecutor sought to have others charged in the crime. Who else did she charge and under what criminal charge. What charge did the rapists ultimately plea to: Extra points if you can name the actress who played the prosecutor. Even more points if you can name the current Rule of Evidence which would have barred the defense attorney’s “provocative” questions of the victim:

16. In the classic A Few Good Men, where did the twelve men spend their time and why:

17. In A Few Good Men Tom Cruise and Demi Moore defend two marines on trial. What were they on trial for, where were they stationed and what branch of the armed forces were they in. Extra points if you can name his character and the actor who portrayed him.

18. In The Devil’s Advocate Keann Reeves’s first case with the new firm was defending a man who slaughtered an animal during a religious ceremony. What was Reeves’s theory of the case: it actually won over the Court:

19. In Liar, Liar Jim Carrey portrays a lawyer who is unable to lie for 24 hours due to his son’s birthday wish. During a child custody trial, Carrey was able to invalidate his client’s prenuptial agreement. What first year class would help you understand that scene and what was the defect:

20. No legal trivia would be complete without questions about Legally Blonde: What was the score Elle received on her practice LSAT: What was her ultimate score:

Hmmm...does this score improvement seem realistic to you?