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Georgia State University College of Law

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Jury still out on looming budget cuts’ impact on College of Law

By Kevin Jeselnik, J1.

Largely due to the foresight of the university’s leadership, Georgia State anticipated the approximately $265 million budget cut that Governor Sonny Perdue drew up for the University System of Georgia’s fiscal year 2011 budget and took action to factor that cut into the school’s own budget. Unfortunately, no amount of foresight could have anticipated the state legislature’s late February request that the University System take into ways to absorb an additional $300 million — more than doubling what was already a substantial blow to Georgia’s colleges. With state revenues failing to recover as quickly as those at the Capitol hoped, the legislature is exploring every money-saving option at its disposal, however unpleasant some proposals may be. Most students have been exposed to the shocking numbers first bandied about by major media outlets in early March: A $34 million cut to Georgia State University’s budget! A 77 percent tuition hike! 622 existing paid positions eliminated!

BUDGET CUTS continued on page 2.

The CSO responds to student concerns, explains its benefits and limitations

By Madeleine Patton, JI. and Diane Kim, 2L.

Months ago, when I began my article series comparing objective facets of Georgia State University and Emory’s law schools, Diane and I came up with a short list of topics we wanted to cover. Originally, the Career Services Office (CSO) was not a part of that list. However, after hearing stories and reading emails to The Docket regarding the CSO and their recent performance, Diane and I decided to throw away our other ideas and address the students’ concerns.

We picked the issues about which students expressed the most concern to bring to the CSO. While we uncovered some surprising issues, one thing we discovered is how dedicated Vickie Brown (Director of Career Services), Ray English, Esq. (Associate Director) and our administration are to helping students find their destined career paths.

Communication

For those who took the survey, the opinions were overwhelming: the CSO did not communicate adequately with students, and as a result, students missed important deadlines, job opportunities, meetings, etc. We brought this dilemma to the CSO, and the answer was simple, yet surprising.

The CSO has three main vehicles of communication: monthly newsletters, weekly “Quick Hit” emails, and Symplicity. Understandably, all three methods involve either individualized or mass emailing. When the survey revealed that many students were not getting these emails, it quickly became the most alarming issue that we discovered.

Initially, English and Brown were quite confused and baffled by these concerns. They explained how they used Symplicity for all of their communications; the school has other student accounts is also futile.

Furthermore, some students were not aware that Symplicity is the main vehicle for communication, and if they did not set up their accounts and specify an email address, they would not receive correspondence.

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The Docket

The Student Voice of the Georgia State University College of Law

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Rise in bicycle traffic stirs efforts to make Atlanta more bike friendly
By Jane Stebbins, JLI

With the current economic and environmental climate, bikers are becoming more and more common on the streets of downtown Atlanta. As an alternative to driving, biking is healthier for your body, more cost effective, and your wallet; as long as you can avoid getting hit by a car.

The resident and faculty of the university, that last caveat is the biggest one. The roads around campus are not bike friendly. Although the recent upgrade of Downtown Atlanta bike lane to a wider sidewalk, bikes are still forbidden on Atlanta sidewalks and subject to a $50 fine. To make room for the wider sidewalk, the street was narrowed but no bike lane was added. Simply put, there is no room between the buffered sidewalks and the intersection for drivers to “Give Three Feet” to bikers, as the popular bumper sticker instructs.

Rebecca Serna of the Atlanta Bicycle Coalition visited campus on March 2nd to discuss biking in Atlanta. Included in her presentation were maps highlighting different routes in town and across the county. There were charts showing where Atlanta fell in the ranks of bikeable cities. While in-town Atlanta is less bike-friendly than other parts of the city, one area that has been improved is the University of Georgia’s campus. Metro Atlanta is less bike-friendly. Serna spoke about the economic and environmental benefits of biking for transportation.

Included in her presentation were maps of bikeable routes in downtown Atlanta. As an effort to make the streets of downtown Atlanta more bike-friendly, the Atlanta Bicycle Coalition and Georgia State University’s bikers are working to raise ridership and reduce wrecks as suggested by data in Serna’s presentation.

Jane Stebbins is interested in land use and environmental law. When she is not frantically pounding knowledge or writing incisive prose, she can be seen rocking the hass with her band, The Jane and Scott Show. Jane is Managing Editor and a featured blogger for The Docket. Her other blog can be found at www.jvshows.com.

Actual budget cuts may not be as bad, administration assures

BUDGET CUTS cont’d from page 1.

These numbers were taken as fact and disseminated rapidly across the state as soon as they came out of the initial Senate and House of Representatives sessions before which University System of Georgia Chancellor Erroll B. Davis Jr. appeared. Later moving quickly to calm fears from students and employees alike, GSU President Mark Becker quickly assembled a University-wide Town Hall session on March 3 to clarify the situation. Dampered by an understandable air of anxiety, Becker set the record straight and outlined the potential fallout from the legislature’s surprise request. The separate proposals released by GSU indicated that it could absorb its $34 million share of the additional $300 million cut through either a 77 percent tuition increase or the elimination of 622 positions. However, those proposals were just homework assignments requested by the Chancellor to establish two “bookends,” one absorbing the $34 million purely through tuition and the other purely through job cuts. President Becker described them at the Town Hall meeting as results of the first meeting of the minds, to be used to set the most extreme scenarios by which GSU could achieve its savings.

The exercise raised awareness within the legislature of where the cuts would likely occur and which programs would be most effective at cutting costs. One suggestion from the Chancellor for the elimination of the 4.1-hour program run by UGA elicited a wide range of reactions from those kept all parties involved in spin control for days. As it stands now, there is still uncertainty as to what the total budget cut will be and what GSU’s share of the burden will amount to. Governor Perdue has indicated that any additional cut is actually likely to be much less than $300 million, but the final number is presently unknown. According to GSU College of Law Dean Steven Kamishimine, “It is reasonable to speculate that there will be cuts greater than ... $265 million, but ... less than $565 million.”

If the university was forced to account for a $34 million budget decrease, Kamishimine likened such a cut to shutting down its three smallest colleges. The solution will likely reflect a compromise. This makes sense given the extreme “book-ends” first reported. “The message we heard loud and clear this morning was to find a balanced approach because whatever the size of the cut is, not to go to one extreme of the other,” said Becker at the Town Hall meeting.

One proposal offered by the Chancellor included a 35 percent tuition increase, an end to the guaranteed “fixed-for-four” tuition plan, a $1,000-per-semester “special exigency” fee, $500,000 in savings through consolidating services among the 35 institutions, a salary cut for employees, and a shorter semester schedule.

Additional faculty and staff furloughs remain a possible element of what Becker expects will be a balanced solution. Becker emphasized that employee layoffs would be an extreme measure. “That is the last thing we want to do,” he said. “We have already been through two rounds of layoffs at this university. Further layoffs would be the equivalent of cutting muscle, not cutting fat, and that would be our last resort, because we have to maintain the quality of this institution.”

At this point, it is difficult to speculate about how the final decision will impact students at the GSU College of Law. According to Kamishimine, tuition increases are typically centrally directed so that they raise base rates and affect students in every college at all levels.

For now, all parties are waiting to see the final numbers before the specific sacrifices are fully known. The severity of the cuts depends on how state tax collections improve and whether the legislature embraces any of the Governor’s proposed alternative streams of revenue. If a new list of health care institutions to an increased tobacco tax. More information will come to light in late April, after the state legislature session is complete and the decisions on the fiscal year 2011 budget are final. Becker emphasized the uncertain nature of the problem. “The reality is we still don’t know what the number is going to be,” he added. “The quality of the education that students get cannot be compromised. The quality of research here cannot be compromised. Protecting the quality of the institution will be the first priority.”

Kevin Jeselnik is a graduate of the University of Georgia with a degree in Journalism and spent his time between college and law school as an editor of various trade publications covering the commercial real estate industry. Kevin is the Associate Editor of The Docket.
From The Docket Online: competition recap

Recounting some of the successes of STLA and Moot Court

By Andy Hagenbush, 2L

Most Court Advances to Final Round in Regions for ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition

University of Georgia, Candis Jones, 2L, and Casey Viggiano, 2L, sacrificed their spring break and practiced three times a week for six long weeks to participate in the Regional ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition. And they didn’t waste the opportunity. From March 10th through March 14th, the GSU College of Law team competed against 31 other schools and advanced all the way to the final round. Along the way, they grabbed the 5th best brief award and Viggiano was awarded the 5th best overall oralist. Both of these awards are even more impressive considering the quantity and quality of teams competing at the tournament.

Vice President, Mechelle Bumpers, 3L, celebrated in South Beach for the next few days, along with Lisa Bobb, 2L, and Eli Bennett, 2L. Their spring break was earned the time on the beach. Vice President Mechelle Bumpers, 3L, and their spring break, and they certainly earned the time on the beach.

In the first of three preliminary rounds, the team dispatched Chapman, Cleveland, Marshall, and Oklahoma. After a re­ seeding, the GSU College of Law team ranked fourth overall and faced 13th seed Gonzaga. Georgia State defeated Gonzaga and advanced to the final round. Unfortunately, the team just missed the top four team cut-off to advance to the national competition when they lost to 12th seed Oklahoma.

Despite the missed opportunity to advance to nationals, the team had a lot to celebrate in South Beach for the next few days. After all, the competition was over their spring break, and they certainly earned the time on the beach.

Unstoppable: STLA sends TWO teams to final rounds in regions

In an unprecedented showing of litiga­tion domination, the GSU College of Law saw both its A team and B team reach the final rounds of the 2010 Student Trial Advocacy Regional tournament presented by the American Association for Pre-Law Students. Two previous winners of best advocate awards this year, Lawyer Ashley McIahan, 3L, (Best Advocate – William competition), and Lawyer Sam Nicholson, 3L, (Best Advocate – Michelle competition), worked with witnesses Braxton Davis, 2L, and Madeleine Peake, 2L, to form one of the finalist teams. They earned a spot in the final round by defeating Mercer in their semi-final match up. The second team, represented by Mindy Park, 3L, John Early, 3L, Adam Kimmerick, 3L, and Kristi Pearson, 3L, worked double duty as witnesses and attorneys, backed by their powerful support staff. They represented the team advanced to the final round after defeating Emory in their semi­ final round six days earlier. The final round resembled one of the many weekend morning scrimmages between the teams in preparation for the competition. Each side was prepared for the other’s best questions, objections, and rebuttals.

But in the end, only one GSU College of Law team could be “the best.” That award went to Park, Early, Kimmerick, and Pearson.

When asked how the competition went, Park referenced a reoccurring line from the popular television program, “House,” a TV show favorite: “Many were lawyers.”

In the end, only a GSU College of Law STLA team could beat another GSU College of Law STLA team. This accomplishment was due in no small part to the hard work and dedication of our fantastic coaches: Tom Jones and Rebecca Davis. Nationals were held in New Orleans, LA on March 18-21, 2010. Nicholson, McIahan (filling in for Park and Pearson), Early, and Kimmerick, placed 5th in the national competition out of 150 total participating schools.

GSU College of Law STLA Team Win South East Regional NTC, Advance to Finals in Dallas

The Georgia State University Student Trial Advocacy Team has done it again.

In the end, only a GSU College of Law STLA team could beat another GSU College of Law STLA team.

The National Trial Competition team defeated 25 other south east schools to advance to the national competition in Dallas, Texas. From March 25 to March 28. Organized by the Young Lawyers Association of the Texas Bar, the National Trial Competition is the largest and oldest mock trial competition.

Bob Quinn, 3L, Erin Schaub, 2L, and Maria Bates, 3L, represented the attorneys for the championship GSU College of Law team with help from their witnesses Cheree Miller, 2L, Danielle Hudson, 2L, Lisa Bobb, 2L, and Eli Bennett, 2L. Also representing the school, the second team GSU College of Law team was led by STLA Vice President Meabhelle Bumpers, 3L, with fellow attorneys John Phillips, 2L, and Ben Price, 2L.

The championship team defeated North Carolina Central and the University of Tennessee in the opening rounds. In the finals, the winning GSU College of Law team was represented by the advocates and the judges in a decisive victory over cross-town rival, Emory.

Bobby Champion and Tom Jones, veteran STLA Coach, sponsor, and course room, coached both teams and, with this victory, adds another trophy to the packed display cases of the Urban Life Building.

Madeleine Peake contributed to this article.

Better Know a Legal Profession: Comm. Real Estate

An interview with Abe J. Schear; Partner, Arnall Golden Gregory

By Kevin Jesnek, 1L

Abe Schear is a partner with Atlanta­ based Arnall Golden Gregory, where he serves as Chair of its Commercial Real Estate Department, as well as Chair of the firm’s Israel Team and its Cross-Border Practice Team.

Recently, the Docket spoke with Mr. Schear about what student success needs to suc­ ceed in the field of commercial real estate law.

In your own words, please describe the legal field in which you practice?

Commercial Real Estate comprises a number of trees in the legal forest. I primarily operate in the leasing office and retail real estate space, and specialize in related areas of retail practice pertaining to development and acquisitions.

What are the common issues and challenges in your field?

The most common problem stems from the fact that, as sophis­ ticated as the practice of law is today, you are typically dealing with specialists. As a spe­ cialist in real estate, I would prefer to be adverse to another spe­ cialist on the other side of the table. Working with a generalist is more difficult. They are competent in the law, but often lack general knowledge of real estate, which can slow deals down. While deals aren’t rushed, there is always a sense of urgency. In any deal you want to pace it correctly and make sure the other side is as quick as and thorough. To ana­ lyze to NACAR, you don’t want to be on the track driving 200 miles per hour with another car going 120 miles per hour. You want to all be at the same speed.

What type of clients, generally, do you work with?

I work with a wide array of fascinat­ ing landlords and tenants that are dedicat­ ed to proudly working with clearly defined platforms. We spend a lot of time with international investors seeking to invest in U.S. real estate.

Are there any skills that vital for all legal professionals, what specific skills should a student law development if they are interested in this field of law?

Commercial real estate is different from litigation, where you have winners and losers. Here, you have finished deals or dead deals. The skills you need are old­ fashioned: you need social skills, [and] the ability to communicate effectively in all ways, especially orally.

Are there any offshoots for students or young professionals in the field of commercial real estate? Could you recommend a student become involved with to assist them in finding a career in this field?

Commercial real estate isn’t a big community in Atlanta. You can make friends, and 5 or 10 years later, they are your clients. You don’t deal in one-and­ done matters, so you have to cultivate real relationships. Anyone interested in this field could join any number of organizations, start with the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC), as well as the Urban Land Institute, Commercial Real Estate Women (CREW) and National Association of Industrial and Office Properties.

Networking within those organizations is a great way to move forward, and can lead to internships or jobs. There are no shortage of organizations in any particu­ lar area of interest, and no shortage of opportunities for students or young profes­ sionals.

If you want to get into commercial real estate, you have to know the industry. That goes for any specialty; you must learn as much as you can about it. Young lawyers need to understand the dynamics of the deal, then the clients will understand that you bring value to the relationship. That is equally as important as your ability to competently draft a con­ tract.

If you knew what you know now as a law student what would you tell yourself? As I mention, you must: 1. Have more business courses. A law firm is a business. Good lawyers need to understand how to support their excellent legal skills. Many young lawyers lack business acumen, and are moving, barely keeping up. That will negatively impact them or two three years into their career.

How has your field changed recently?

Well, the market today is better than it was a year ago. Obviously, the real estate industry was impacted by the downturn over the past few years. But most compa­ nies have accepted where they are today and are moving forward. Essentially, the economy, and the commercial real estate industry with it, has moved from running too quickly to moving too slowly, and we’re just starting to get back up to a proper speed. There are a lot of pent­up deals from 2009 as well as new deals in develop­ ment that took way too long to materialize, and we’re just starting to get back up to a proper speed. There are a lot of pent­up deals from 2009 as well as new deals in develop­ ment that took way too long to materialize, and we’re just starting to get back up to a proper speed.
CSO fields questions from students frustrated by a recessed job market

CAREER SERVICES cont’d from page 1.

The CSO immediately contacted the IT department. Unfortunately, there is no way for the IT department to change all of the spam filters of all students en masse to fix this problem. Two basic solutions have been proposed for the immediate future. First, the CSO will send out a mass test email to all students on a widely publicized date. Students who do not receive this email will be shown how to set up their SympliCity and spam folders so that they will not get lost again. Second, the CSO will be working with the IT department on various emailing methods that will avoid getting caught by most spam filters (e.g., uniform font, longer emails, matching the server name with the email address).

Next, students explained that they had issues with the SympliCity layout. Unfortunately, SympliCity is a product of the school purchased, and it is used by many campuses around the country. The CSO would love to manipulate it to make it more user friendly and accessible, but that will not happen until they have a larger budget. For every student that complained about SympliCity, another student found it simple and convenient. Brown and English did point out to informational sheets outside of the CSO which introduce students to SympliCity, along with the tutorials online.

Within the area of communication, one topic was so highly commented on, and it could not help but chuckle. The SympliCity was the subject of student explained, "are sent in rainbow colors in the style of a 12 year old girl." While clipart or fancy letters may look nice on some occasions, the overwhelming consensus among our students were that they were superfluous and distracting. Thus, the emails, newsletters and files will be delegated to a new administrative coordinator. Ideas that are being considered are simplified weekly emails and a clean monthly calendar-style meme with directions on how to go to find additional information.

Employment

To quote an insightful 2L, "the economy is what it is right now; [the] CSO is not to blame for dismal employment." However, Brown and English explained that students' lack of interest in traveling outside the perimeter or metro area has dissuaded some employers from posting jobs at the GSU College of Law. Thus, students must be willing to travel outside the perimeter and need to start checking SympliCity on a regular basis (if you are looking for a job, do it daily). If students do not use SympliCity as one of their main job search tools, it will lose its potential effectiveness.

The CSO realizes how important our alumni connections are in supplying students with job opportunities. For the next year, the CSO created the EASE program, which used the Georgia Bar website to send out mass emails to all GSU College of Law alumni who are willing to post jobs for students on SympliCity. More support from our Alumni would appease students, place them in jobs and even help to increase the law school's prestige.

While there was some gripping about rank waves, a large majority of students, this is something the CSO cannot control. If an employer insists, whether through the CSO, SympliCity or otherwise, that they will only accept applicants in the top 10 percent of the class, the CSO cannot change that. Brown even mentioned that at times they have forwarded resumes of students who were not within the rankings specified, because she felt they were good candidates. A common complaint was that "the CSO seems only focused on the top of the class, and less interested in students in the middle." When asked about this, English acknowledged the student's concern, and stated that they do focus on the middle of the class. He said students in the middle who are not receiving the jobs would be the ones who need the most help, which is why many of the jobs posted on SympliCity do not specify class rank. If possible, they will choose the one of the choice to whom they can interview and hire based on the employers alone.

Additionally, many students commented that the new job fair demonstrates a "Ray English is an amazingly nice, attentive and supportive person. I cannot say enough good things about him. The only shame is that there is not twenty of him to go around." - Robert Bexley, 2L

The CSO's efforts. Nationally, 75% of all law firm jobs that students get at graduation are in firms that have between 2-11 attorneys. The majority of these firms are in the immediate Atlanta area, centralized around our school's location. The CSO's long-term goal is to make the GSU College of Law the premiere school for that small firm market. Hence, the addition of the Small Firm Firm and Solo Practitioner Job Fair and the Be Your Own Boss Network, NALP, the National Association for Legal Placement, the organization of which all CSOs of ABA-approved law school are a member, recognized the stellar efforts of the GSU College of Law, which manages a CSO in a shifting environment, and alerted them to subscribe to a national audience. These organizations report confirm that the law school's CSO offers far more services and opportunities than the average law school CSO.

Office size, Budget

The current university budget is $12 million, but over the next year, the University system may have to cut between $265-$565 million in expenses. Thus, increasing permanent staff over the next year is most likely out of the question. However, Dean Steven Kaminshine stresses that when there is a necessity and a pressing student need, the university will do everything that it can to address and accommodate that need in the budget.

To compensate, Brown and English have partnered with other outside alumni organizations. For example, The Solo Practitioner/Small Firm Section of the Atlanta Bar donated a large amount of money to the Atlanta Bar Foundation's Solo Practitioner Expo. They have partnered with our special-interest student organizations to help bring in speakers and arrange other networking events. Furthermore, our CSO also has students working part-time on administrative work. Our office may be smaller than the other CSO offices, but with unparalleled creativity and tenacity, Brown and English have created a commendable system to assure that every legal employment avenue has been explored.

Alumni connections

Many students wondered why we did not have a centralized alumni database available to students to find an attorney in a specified field, and get advice. However, GSU has lists of its alumni, and has refused to allow students to use that list to contact alumni based on practice area. The University's response is that if the GSU College of Law alumni is sent emails by current students, they will be annoyed and remove themselves from the University contact list. However, many students disagree and have found very few GSU alumni who found questions to be a waste of their time.

The good news is that the administration has taken a stand. The alumni portal is getting a major overhaul within the next month. Once the new portal is up, all GSU College of Law alumni will be contacted to create and update their profiles, including their practice areas. Through this new portal, we will no longer have to go through the centralized alumni database. While students will not have direct access to alumni lists, the alumni portal is getting a major overhaul within the next month. Once the new portal is up, all GSU College of Law alumni will be contacted to create and update their profiles, including their practice areas.

In the meantime, students can visit the Georgia Bar website, and choose to search the database of practicing attorneys based on law school they attended and their practice area. This is what Brown and English were forced to do when collecting information for the next year as well.

The Docket Career Services Office

The Docket, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
From 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Friday, Saturday
From 8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.

Other times available by appointment

Number of students per CSO Employee

The Georgia State University College of Law

Madeleine Patton is a first year law student. She received her undergraduate degree from Emory University. Madeleine writes exclusively for The Docket Online in her acclaimed "GSU vs. Emory" series of articles.

Diane Kim is currently a 2L member of the Student Review. She is the Opinion Editor on The Docket and an Appellate Fellow at the Georgia Capital Defenders. When she is not knee-deep in law school, you can find her volunteering at Buckhead Church.

were asked to fill out by Associate Dean of Academic Affairs Vickie Robertson directly addressed the CSO. Even better, this survey was given to law schools around the entire country. One student mentioned that he once visited the Dean's office to get a look at the 2007 results. Fortunately, the GSU College of Law's CSO was on par with other schools, around the country.

Conclusion

In the major course of research for this article, we realized that all parties involved had plenty to say and are more than willing to listen to all sides. The CSO wants to stimulate discussion and dialogue between the CSO and stu-dents. We need to bring our concerns to the CSO via email, the suggestion box, fora or even quick office visits. After a long discussion with The Docket, and evaluating the survey results, the CSO is listening to y ideas and they welcome your questions.

GSU has hard, working, marketable students. Our CSO has truly dedicated, hard-working individuals who are doing their best to help students find their own life passions. The administration has made a promise that they are always willing to listen to you and set up a meeting.
Subsidized education a privilege, not a right
By Daniella Hudson, 2L
As many are aware, the Georgia General Assembly is facing severe budget constraints this term and is considering outsourcing costs on higher education. Though it is important to understand why these cuts are being made, it is more important to understand that this would have happened despite the political majority that the state legislature is in. In contrast to the protests that this party or that party created, I, for once, do not blame the politicians. I blame the students.
We, as students, have a vested interest (read: interest, not right) in low-cost education. The Georgia College of Law is consistently one of the cheapest law schools in the nation and has been cited by U.S. News and World Report as one of the “Best Values” perhaps, because of its education. Its inaccessibility, however, does not detract from the value of our degree. Students have no basis for claiming that they do not deserve a degree that will open doors to the highest levels of compensation for anything less than fair market value.
So, what is market fair value for a JD from a public university? According to the ABA, the average in-state tuition for public law school was $26,193 in 2005. For private law schools, it was far higher. In-state tuition for the COL is $10,296. That’s a phenominal fact. In any case, Georgia subsidizes its universities far more than other states. In 2005, Georgia spent almost $900 more per student than the national state average on per pupil spending in higher education. Our state legislators are not cutting us out of the budget.
If tuition rates in Georgia reflected national rates, the cost of our degree would be double the education budget gaps. Unfortunately, that would require the students to spend more money. And naturally, as students, we do not like that idea.
No one wants to pay for things to which they feel entitled. It is true that many of us, if not most, will suffer dramatically from any significant rate. But it is also true that we should bear that burden, not the taxpayers at large. Why do we have a right to seek quality education.
We do not have a right to demand that others pay for it. Instead of blaming the budget, we should urge the university to eliminate waste and prioritize spending before raising tuition for unnecessary expenditures.

Law Students need to learn to take breaks, spend time with family and to smell the flowers
By Sara Adams, 2L
I know we are looking forward to graduation. I think a sense of expertise and anticipation. Law school has been hard work, with late hours and full schedules that we will be happy to see the end of. Unfortunately, I think that nagging feeling that things are not going let up once we graduate.
Law school has taught me there is a sense of accomplishment that can only come from a difficult job well done, but there will always be another challenge to face. I think that as we start making money, we will find that these challenges will translate to rings on a ladder that we must climb, climb, climb.

Law School needs to support open source computer platforms to stay on cutting edge of technology
By Paul Pichtn, 1L
I am a free software advocate. I am a student of law and of computing, particularly personal computing and remains in use the operating system (which enjoys widespread use), and that the word Linux is a popular name for an free system. I use GNU/Linux and I imagine a few of you know what that means. For the rest of you, it is an open source operating system.

Each and every senator is a beautiful snowflake
By Andrew Fleischman, 2L
Say what you will about the Roman Senate. It was filled with stuffy old pedants, endless speeches, and the constant risk of regicide. It could lose those education budget gaps. Unfortunately, that would require the students to spend more money. And naturally, as students, we do not like that idea.
No one wants to pay for things to which they feel entitled. It is true that many of us, if not most, will suffer dramatically from any significant rate. But it is also true that we should bear that burden, not the taxpayers at large. Why do we have a right to seek quality education.
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Every year The Docket recognizes students who have shown exceptional leadership, fellowship, and general achievement as a law student. These students have distinguished themselves and are deserving of recognition by their peers. To show our appreciation for all that these exceptional students have brought to the GSU College of Law student community, The Docket honors them as “Students on the Move.”

**Beth Bachman, 2L**

As President and Co-Founder of the Be Your Own Boss Network (BYOB), Co-Founder of a musical marketing firm, GrooveMuse, VP of Entertainment for the Sports and Entertainment Law Society, and Co-Producer of her own television program, “We Speak!,” Beth is one of the few law students that can juggle her academic load with her other passions in life. As the Co-Founder of BYOB, Beth focuses on assisting law student become solo practitioners or founding their own firm, and being committed to opening her own firm after law school, the irony of having a stacked resume isn’t lost on Beth. After working as a paralegal in a large firm, Beth knew she would eventually open her own small firm. Although Beth is still torn between her passion for health law and entertainment law, she knows the best place for her is in her own law firm.

**Sara Adams, 2L**

Sara graduated from Indiana University in 2006 with a BA in Linguistics and received her MA in Applied Linguistics from Georgia State in 2008. Sara is currently the Secretary and webmaster of the SBA and is on Law Review. Sara also manages the office of her husband’s family owned plumbing company, Aaron Plumbing, in Suwanee. In her spare time, Sara volunteers at church lending a small group of kindergartners on Sundays. Sara loves working at the HoLP Clinic, because she wants to go into poverty law when she gets her degree. She’d like to work with underprivileged clients helping them assert their rights and solve their problems. Prof. Bliss finds that Sara “approaches her work with a smile, a sense of humility, and a willingness to help others.”

**Dylan Bess, 1L**

Dylan Bess earned his BS in Organizational Management at Claflin University in 2008. For Dylan, leadership and service have always gone hand in hand, manifesting themselves in his academic, spiritual, social, and professional lives. Dylan has served as president of his church’s ministry for men, where he had the opportunity to improve living conditions for seniors, volunteer at an elementary school, and develop a mentoring program for young men. Dylan has also maintained membership in Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, an international fraternity of 17,000 active members whose focus is on social action programs. In 2003, he was elected to the international board of directors as one of its youngest members, and ascended to the organization’s third-highest ranking office in 2004. This summer he will be working for the EEOC through GSU’s externship program.

**Bob Quinn, 3L**

Bob Quinn achieved GSU College of Law immortality when he and his mock trial team brought home the national championship trophy from the NTC tournament this spring. The team went on to compete in the national tournament in Dallas, Texas. Having already earned his MBA, Bob hopes to parlay his success in mock trial to real trials as a lawyer specializing in business litigation. He gained additional litigation experience at the Cobb County DA’s office in the trial division and as a law clerk at Holzer, Holzer, & Fistel. In addition to STLTA, Bob is active in the Business and Law Society and serves as president of the Federalist Society. Despite his busy schedule, Bob somehow finds time to teach his nephew baseball and serve as a Counselor at Y. E. A. Summer Camp.

**Mindy Park, 3L**

Mindy Park has a degree in Industrial and Systems Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology. As an undergraduate, Mindy was on the Tech mock trial team and a member of the Undergraduate Judicial Cabinet. While Mindy was at Tech, her mock trial team won regionals, their division at nationals, and came in second place in the country. Prior to law school, she was an 8th grade Algebra teacher. She enjoys trial and appellate advocacy and would like to be a litigator or prosecutor after law school. She is on Moot Court, STLTA, and played the flute in the GSU wind orchestra this past semester. Professor Corneill Stephens holds Mindy in high regard, saying that “Mindy was awesome in Contracts. She was my ‘go to’ student.”

**Eric Coffelt, 2L**

Eric Coffelt graduated Magna Cum Laude from Mercer University with a major in criminal justice. Eric is now a member of STLTA, PILA, and has served as vice president of the Criminal Law Association while also serving as a GRA. He has interred with both the Appellate and Trial Divisions of the Georgia Capital Defenders. He plans to be a public defender because he says it is the most important job in the system. For Eric, no matter how dangerous an individual defendant is, letting the government violate someone’s rights or break the law is more dangerous. At the end of the day, a good defense attorney protects the rights of the client by holding the government to its legal burden. Professor Gabel commends him, for “grasp of both scientific and legal principles is a talent that usually takes years of practice beyond law school.”

**Naeeem Ramatally, 1L**

After graduating from Florida State University in 2005, Naeeem Ramatally put in a few years in the working world before making the move to Atlanta to get an MBA. Instead, Naeeem changed his mind and chose to earn a J.D. Naeeem is the 1L full-time Senator for the SBA and Secretary for the Asian American Law Students Association. For the SBA, he is on the Law Week and fund raising committees, and plans to run for Secretary in the upcoming election. For the AALSNA, Naeeem played a part in organizing its charity date auction that raised more than $2,000 to benefit Hanna’s House, a local women’s shelter. Naeeem can also be found giving tours of the College of Law to potential students for his part-time job in the Student Affairs Office. Neaem hopes to work in a medium to small-size firm. Dr. Cheryl Jester-George says that Naeeem “exhibits great character that exudes integrity, loyalty, and dependability.”

**Francine Acevedo, 2L**

Francine Acevedo graduated from the Georgia Institute of Technology, where she received a certificate in European Union Studies and a dual degree in International Affairs and Spanish. While at Tech, Francine was a varsity cheerleader and interned at the Canadian Consulate’s Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. Before law school, she volunteered at the Atlanta Legal Aid Society working on special education cases and was chosen as a Georgia Law School Consortium Fellow, through which she attended courses at the University of Georgia. Last summer, she received a grant from Emory Law School to help rewrite Georgia’s Juvenile Code. Currently, she is a law clerk and translator/interpreter at a law firm in Norcross.

**Janet Hardman, 2L**

Janet Hardman went to Emory for undergrad, earning a degree in psychology. Janet spent five years at the American Arbitration Association and a few more years at Drew Eckl & Farnham as paralegal/legal assistant. Janet is the President and Co-Founder of the Labor & Employment Law Society, VP of RWA for Most Court and she also volunteers with Jennifer Ann’s Group. She also has an externship with Judge Gogel at Fulton Superior Court, which has only strengthened her interest in litigation. Dean Sobelson praises Janet’s motivation and leadership abilities. “Janet strikes me as a hard worker, and who is more than happy to go the extra mile to get the most she can out of school and associated activities. She and I had some discussions about some student activities earlier this year, and I was really impressed with her drive, her maturity and her appreciation for the difficult choices we have to make in these lean budget times.”
Ed Hecht, 1L, convinces SBA to provide GSU College of Law a new refrigerator and microwave

By Andrew Hagenbusch, 2L

"I’m not the kind of guy to just sit around and complain," explained 1L Ed Hecht. "If I see something that needs to be fixed, I take action."

For any student who regularly brings his food to school, the fruits of Ed’s efforts are readily apparent: a brand new replacement fridge and new microwave located outside classroom 230.

Like many students, Ed brings his food to school in the morning, drops it off in the student fridge, and uses the microwave to warm it up at lunch. And just like many of his fellow students, Ed noticed that the fridge was not always very long. But unlike the rest of the students, Ed decided it was time to fix the refrigerator. He knew it was warm, but wanted to have evidence of the problem with the existing fridge. So far, that has changed, even deep into her second year. The College, her classmates and the organizations to which she dedicates so much energy are all enriched by her presence. Stephanie is interested in practicing sports law and boasts a Master of Science in Economics from Georgia Tech and a Bachelors of Business Administration from UGA."

Madeline Paton, 1L

While Stephanie Stewart finds getting recognition "extremely embarrassing," there is no doubt that she is deserving of such recognition. She is the rising Moot Court President and Law Review Managing Editor, as well as a member of the Environmental Law Society and Sports & Entertainment Law Society. She is also working with Prof. Crawford on the Environmental Law Capstone Building Project in Latin America. On the weekends, she works out, studies, and plays with her puppy, Blitz. At the moment, Madeline is interested in intellectual property and patent law, and time only will tell where her true law interests lie. Prof. Jennifer Chiovaro speaks very highly of Madeline, saying, "What’s unique about Madely is she embraces learning. She has the perfect combination of innate intelligence coupled with a conscientious work ethic."

Sarah Scott graduated from Furman University with a B.S. in Earth & Environmental Science. She then spent two years in Guatemala with Peace Corps, working in eco-tourism. At GSU, she is involved in a variety of law societies, including HSBA, LSJR, EPWM, and ELS. She is also working with Prof. Crawford on the Environmental Law Capstone Building Project in Latin America. In the spring, she will take a gap year to work as an archaeologist for years and currently works for a national environmental consulting company, directing their cultural resources practice in the eastern U.S. In 2004, Brian was elected as a Georgia State Representative for House District 100, where he still serves.

Josh Lott loves new and challenging endeavors. Josh received his undergraduate degree in Social Science Education from UGA in 1999. He has worked as a child abuse investigator and foster care case manager for DCFS, clerked in the Appellate Division in Atlanta, and performed on stages across the U.S. and Europe as the drummer in rock bands. Josh also externs at the Fulton Co. Superior Court with the Honorable Alfred J. Dempsey. This summer, Josh will be trying cases as a prosecutor for the Dekalb County Solicitor General’s Office. Josh is also the incoming Executive Editor of the Georgia State University Law Review. His note on federal habeas corpus law will be published next year. Professor Emanuel remarks: "Josh’s accomplishment in winning over the procedural and constitutional complexities surrounding the arcane original writ of habeas corpus is impressive. He clearly will enrich, and be enriched by, his chosen profession."

Brian Thomas, 1L

It was his first day on campus and he was ready to make a difference. On his first day, he showed herself to be interested, motivated and enthusiastic. So far as I can tell, none of that has changed, even as he enters his second year. The College, her classmates and the organizations to which she dedicates so much energy are all enriched by her presence. Stephanie is interested in practicing sports law and boasts a Master of Science in Economics from Georgia Tech and a Bachelors of Business Administration from UGA.

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Like many students, Ed brings his food to school in the morning, drops it off in the student fridge, and uses the microwave to warm it up at lunch. And just like many of his fellow students, Ed noticed that the fridge was not keeping food cold and the wait for the microwave was always very long. But unlike the rest of the students, Ed decided to take action. Ed decided it was time to fix the fridge and add a second, new microwave.

Before asking the SBA for a new fridge, Ed decided to gather evidence of the problem with the existing refrigerator. He knew it was warm, but wanted to have specific evidence to present to the SBA, so he placed a thermometer in the fridge and took a picture of the reading. It never got any colder than 52 degrees. Ideally, a fridge should stay between 35 and 45 degrees. At 52 degrees, the thermometer was reading in the clearly-marked red "unsafe" zone, which could potentially allow food to spoil. Before arguing for a new microwave and fridge in front of the SBA, he tracked down his 1L SBA student senator, Dylan Bess.

"Dylan thought I might have some trouble getting funding for another microwave and a repair on the refrigerator," Ed explained.

Despite his concerns, Dylan arranged for Ed to present his case in to the SBA board. During the same meeting, Ed also made the case for a second microwave oven. The SBA approved the purchase of a new microwave, largely because the added benefit of Student Affairs Kelly Timmons, Ed presented his argument. The SBA was fully aware that the fridge was unsafe. They decided to fund a new refrigerator!

Because the existing fridge had been used for over 16 years, the SBA decided it was only a matter of time before something else failed. So, they told Ed to purchase a new refrigerator with SBA money.

During the same meeting, Ed also made the case for a second microwave oven. The SBA approved the purchase of a new microwave, largely because the added benefit exceeded the relatively low cost of the microwave.

After the SBA gave Ed the green light for the kitchen upgrades, Ed arranged for the delivery of the new refrigerator. The process was not without its hurdles, as Ed discovered when the maintenance crew tried to install a door handle on the new fridge. The handle should be locked in place, but the shelves needed to be drilled into the door and side of the fridge for the Hasp. The last screw ruptured a refrigerant line while it was being drilled into the fridge.

After some negotiation with the University about covering the cost, Ed made a second trip to the store and purchased another new, working fridge. The lock on the fridge was also deemed unnecessary because of the risk of another "frigicide." The fridge was finally installed and Ed received a reimbursement check within two to three weeks of submitting his receipts.

The second microwave was installed on the shelf immediately above the old microwave and has significantly reduced waiting time.

Ed had some advice for other students hoping the SBA will help out with an obvious problem, "Come prepared to present options or different solutions to the SBA. You need to state your case and give them the costs associated with the solutions you offer." Ed had one suggestion for all students, "Don’t just sit and complain, take action."
All in a year’s work for the GSU Law Review

Students publish Peach Sheets, Symposium, Notes, Articles

By Josh Lott, 2L.

As the end of another school year approaches, members of the Georgia State University Law Review are again reflecting on their many scholarly contributions to the legal community. Although it has been a nonstop year of high quality work, our 2L members are already busy laying the groundwork for next year’s transition.

Currently, the Articles Editors are making their final selections of lead articles, a marathon of a process, but one that ensures only the most engaging and relevant topics are chosen for publication. Our symposium issue will explore the recent Supreme Court decision of Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, and we recently announced a nationwide call for authors’ papers on the subject.

We added a new Online Editor board position to implement much needed modern updates to our journal (Law Review 2.0 will soon be initiated with the help of tech guru and law librarian Pam Brannin). Of certainly not least, our Student Writing Editor is busy with the nuts and bolts of this summer’s Law Review Writing Competition – be on the lookout! 1L.

Many 1L students have recently been asking: What is law review and why do employers care about membership so much? Each year, the law review publishes the academic works of students, authors, and professors from across the country. Every member has a significant, integral role in editing articles and ensuring that the final product is worthy of publication: a publication that changes in scope, this editing process sharpens the analytical and writing skills of members. It is rigorous yet rewarding, not unlike a military-style boot camp for the legal mind. Members gain a high level of precision and clarity in their writing that no other course in law school can offer. In short, employers know that when “law review” is on a candidate’s resume, they are looking at a highly skilled potential employee.

Peach Sheets is our most coveted project in law review, however, is that each member will also be a published author by the time they graduate! In their first semester, members are required to research and write a Note on a pressing topic in a way that no scholar has explored before. Each member has complete autonomy over topic selection, which provides for a thrilling and rewarding creative writing experience. Although only some of the student Notes will be selected for publication, all law review members will be published in the annual Peach Sheets issue. The Peach Sheets are devoted entirely to the legislative history of new laws passed by the Georgia Assembly.

In the Spring of their 2L year, law review members track and document hearings on significant bills moving their way through the legislative process. The final work is compiled and published in the following year’s Peach Sheets, which are often cited as authority in judicial opinions and are the only written source of legislative history on new laws in Georgia. Our law review members are currently tracking highly contentious changes to Georgia’s gun laws, evidence rules, and child prostitution criminality, to name a few.

On behalf of all current 2L law review members, we want to thank the graduating members for their patience, guidance, and direction this past year. Good luck out there in the real world!

As for the current 1L class, we can’t wait to see your submissions in the writing competition this summer. We look forward to congratulating you on your well deserved membership and guiding you through your chosen writing topics this fall.

Moot Court offers marketable oral, written skills firm will have to invest in your learning and more time you can spend practicing law.

This year’s Moot Court executive board made substantial changes that have put it on the track to become even more successful. Next year it hopes to increase attorney and faculty involvement in practice rounds and preparing for competitions. Practicing attorneys and faculty are a tremendous resource and their support improves the students’ performance in competitions.

Moot Court has had success in competitions this year, and it will always strive to place first. This success will also help increase exposure in the community and become more recognized as one of the toughest appellate advocacy programs in the country.

Another asset to participating in Moot Court is that members get to network and interact with local attorneys. It organizes several social events throughout the year, which are amazing opportunities to meet your fellow students and network with alumni.

Please come to the Moot Court information session in room 170 on Wednes­day, April 21 at noon and 5pm for all the information needed regarding the summer competition and Moot Court membership.

STLA provides advantage for future litigators

Trial Advocacy program gives students edge over competition

By Will Smith, 3L.

At a recent speaking engagement at the College of Law, Jackson Bedford, Superior Court Judge in Fulton County, commended the College of Law’s efforts to provide its students with real-world, practical experience. In today’s market this added advantage sets GSU alumni apart from the herd.

One of the College’s most notable and practical programs is its Trial Advocacy Program, spearheaded by the Student Trial Lawyers Association, or STLA. STLA was formed in 1985 by adjunct professor Tom Jones, a career prosecutor with the Fulton County District Attorney’s office. The purpose behind STLA was to provide future lawyers with the skills and techniques used in the courtroom. Tom’s strategy was simple and effective: he took actual practicing attorneys to act as coaches to the students. While other mock trial programs simply used senior students as coaches, Tom’s method ensured that the teams were getting the benefit of real-world experience.

Today, STLA boasts one of the most distinguished mock trial programs in the region. Among the awards filling the shelves of STLA’s overcrowded display cases are eight national championships, fifteen regional championships, and sixteen awards for overall best advocate.

After both trials the jurors were impressed to discover that I was still a law student. Many of the jurors thought I had been practicing law for several years.

I credit Tom Jones and his program with providing me with the skills, confidence, and experience that enabled me to make such a positive impression.

While every law school class has helped me on my path to becoming an attorney, my experience with STLA has been the most rewarding and beneficial.

If you think you will never litigate, the experience gained in this program will set you apart from your peers. Students who wish to try out for STLA must be a second or third year student in good standing and have a minimum GPA of at least 2.3. Tryouts are held in September. Students are required to give an opening or closing argument based on a hypothetical fact pattern. Additionally, third year students must contact a direct contact and cross-examine one another.

If you want more information on the program please contact President Will Smith or Vice President Mochelle Bumpers at gusliala1@gmail.com.

I encourage all students to come to the STLA information sessions at Noon and 5 p.m. on April 17th.

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 trials.org/peachheets/2008/symposium/
Interview with Sylvia Howard, law library gatekeeper

By Jan Sansot, 2L

What's the best law school event this year?

"(and also hated) area: the law library. So often irritated at the "inconvenience." But what now, I'd like to get to know you better. How watching the dog up-end [Crim

By Casey Viggiano, 2L

20 Questions for Professor Tanya Washington

Compiled by Kevin Jeselnik, 1L

What is your official title?

Security officer. So, are you an employee of the school?

No, we're with the police department. How long have you been working here?

I've been here about eight months now. I started August 29, 2009.

What exactly are your duties?

Check to make sure that everyone who comes into the library has their ID cards if they're a student. We can take visitors up until 5:15 and after that visitors aren't allowed. I also watch the front doors to make sure that we don't get any vagrants or panhandlers in the building. When we have those "visitors" come in, are you the one we should come to?

Yes, and we always have an officer on the corner and we'll notify the officer to come inside and deal with it.

What shift do you typically work?

The evening shift and Pam works in the mornings. I stay until 11 most nights, but sometimes I'll stay until 12.

How do you keep yourself entertained and occupied on the job?

It can get boring at times, but you do what you have to do and make the best of it. I see the monitor there from the security cameras. Yeah, when it's quiet down here, I'll monitor the cameras, which can also keep me entertained. The monitor here covers the first, second, third, and the sixth floor. Do you guys get breaks?

Oh yes we do. We get a thirty minute break.

What pets do you have (if any)?

I do!

What kind of law would you be practicing if you weren't a security officer?

"The financial literacy series - those were bad ass." Matthew Queen, 3L

"The Crim Law Association event with the drug dog was interesting. It was entertaining watching the dog up-end [Crim Law Association President] Courtney Spicer's purse because of a planted packet." Kristen Spiers, 1L

"The Bioethics and the Law lunch and learn." Matthew Eason, 1L

"The AALS/AWLS Date Auction was the best event. It's good to see future lawyers put their dignity on hold and agree to awkward dates." Chris DeNeve, 2L

"Barrière's Ball!" Melissa Marietta, 3L

"The SBA/PAD Halloween Party, because I got to be Prince Harry." Harry Woodworth, 1L

"I enjoyed the initial panels that the SELS put on. Orientation was pretty good too." Raymond Garrett, 1L

"All the LSRJ events I put on." Carmela Orsini, 2L

"The SELS BMI Music Publishing event. It was interesting because there were attorneys and managers, so it gave a good look at the real entertainment industry." Tricia Smith, 2L

"The SBA Welcome Back Party in the spring. It was just good to see everyone after coming off a nice break. During the fall one everyone can be a little depressed about school starting back up." Ashley McMahan, 3L

(13) What pets do you have? None
(14) Legalities...
(15) Who is your favorite Supreme Court justice? Of all time.... Justice Marshall who understood that the true value of the law lies in the extent to which it improves the human condition. Of the current Justices, Ginsberg.
(16) If you could take class right now at GSU Col, what would you take and why? Estates Wills and Trusts because I didn't take it in law school and I wish I had and Prof. Radford is an excellent teacher!
(17) What would you be doing if you weren't a security officer?
(18) For inspiration...
(19) Who is your hero? My Mom.
(20) What outlook, motto or strategy helped you pull through the stress and pressure inherent in the law school experience? "Peace to all the non-believers."
Athena's Warehouse wants your Barrister's Ball dress

By Madeleine Peake, 2L

For most of us, high school prom was an unforgettable experience. Prom meant dressing up, going to dinner, and dancing the night away.

Last weekend, the students of GSU Law re-created this experience at Barrister's Ball. After Barrister's Ball, some of us

contributed 135 hours of service to Open Hand. "My favorite part [of AW] is working with the high school girls. . . especially when we went to Open Hand," Carlson said. "It is really fun to see them truly enjoy giving back to others."

This year, AW hosted its first "adult prom," Head Over Heels, to raise money to dry clean the hundreds of dresses donated.

"We had a high turnout coupled with an increased awareness to what we are all about," Carlson said. "It proved that for the same price of a cover at a club you could have a blast with just as much dancing and drinking all while giving to a good cause."

Head Over Heels raised over $4,000, with all of the proceeds going to cleaning costs for dresses for girls at Maynard H. Jackson High School, Grady High School and Cross Keys High School.

Most of us are years out of high school, however, the idea of prom is fresh in our minds after Barrister's Ball. Ladies of GSU Law, I urge you to think back to high school and how excited you were to have the perfect prom dress.

"For each dress that is donated, you are giving a girl a chance to go to prom that may not be able to go otherwise," Carlson said. "It is a simple thing, but very meaningful."

Please donate your Barrister's Ball dress to AW and make a difference in young girl's life.

Madeleine Peake maintains the Pro Bono Page and the Pro Bono Calendar.

Pro Bono Calendar

Students who are looking to get out of the law library for a few hours and help the community this semester are in luck! Pro Bono projects are happening all over Atlanta and they provide a wonderful opportunity for students to improve their resumes while giving back to the greater Atlanta area. Need more of an incentive? GSU College of Law offers graduates who have completed 50 hours or more of pro bono service "pro bono distinction" at graduation. The Docket has compiled a calendar of upcoming pro bono projects; however there are always more becoming available... take a study break and start working towards your "pro bono distinction" today!

April 2010

Pro Bono Calendar

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<td>9 a.m. to 11 a.m.</td>
<td>11 a.m. to 1 p.m.</td>
<td>1 p.m. to 3 p.m.</td>
<td>Help get books to children in Africa</td>
<td>Help sort and pack books for shipping to needy children.</td>
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<td>6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.</td>
<td>9 a.m. to noon</td>
<td>Early Atlanta Stores Meals Program Volunteers are needed to assemble and deliver sack lunches for hungry and homeless men, women and children living on Atlanta's streets.</td>
<td>9 a.m. to noon</td>
<td>6 p.m. to 9 p.m.</td>
<td>Meditators</td>
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Please see The Docket Online calendar at law.gsu.edu/thedocket/calendar for more info on these pro bono opportunities.
Ask Carli...
By Carli Mingus, 2L

Dear Carli,

I have been in a relationship for quite a few years now, and am waiting for a proposal. We have discussed the possibility of marriage and he tells me he wants to marry me. I'm getting to the point where I want to issue an ultimatum, what do you think?

Where's My Bling?

Dear Where's My Bling?,

Depending on the type of person you are with, an ultimatum could be a good thing. Some men are just terrified of commitment and being with one woman for the rest of their lives, and need to be scared into making the right move.

On the other hand, it is important for you to make sure you are reading the signals right. He may just not be ready for marriage, or may not want marriage at all. There are some factors that you need to weigh before making the ultimatum:

1) Look at his past, and see what kind of relationship his parents have. A lot of times men from broken homes have a harder time making the ultimate commitment because they do not have a great example to look towards.

2) Does he ever bring marriage up by himself or does it only happen when you bring it up? He may be telling you he wants to marry you to not rock the boat. Try not mentioning it for a while. If you are bringing up marriage too much or dropping too many hints, he may get turned off to the idea. Men want the proposal to be their idea and not be pushed or bullied into it.

3) Is he settled in his career? A lot of men don't want to enter into a marriage until they are on their way to being stable in their career, because they see themselves as a provider and they want to be equipped to provide for you.

4) Do you promote him having a life outside of the relationship? Make sure that you both have healthy friendships outside of your relationship; if you get mad every time he wants to go do something, he will be more likely to feel trapped.

5) How are other parts of your relationship? Do you want to marry him just to be married, or do you really have a wonderful relationship and want to spend your life with him?

6) If you have been together for a really long time, it is different from just one or two years. Also if you met when you were young, it may take more time because you are growing up together.

7) How old you and he are makes a big difference. The older men and women get, the more their biological clocks start ticking, especially for women. Want to make sure he either marries you or lets you go; while you are young enough to utilize your feminine wiles on other men.

8) Have you lived together? This could be a plus or a minus. Sometimes when you are living with a man, they feel comfortable and confident – to the point where they think you are there to stay and they don't have to propose. However, living together can give a man that extra push so they realize that they love every aspect of you, the even the weird ones that only a person you live with would know about.

9) Make sure you can live with the result of the ultimatum if you give it. Once you give the ultimatum, he will either propose or you will be breaking up. You need to consider the fact that you may be breaking up, and make sure you can live with that result.

Ultimata are an interesting beast. On the one hand you do not want to wait forever to get a proposal. On the other hand, do you really want to force someone to marry you? Backing a man into a corner is a dangerous thing. Marriage is such a huge commitment, it seems that if the man you are with has not already proposed and he understands how you feel about being married, he may never be willing to fully commit.

However, one of my friends had been with her (now) fiance for 4 years, and was getting ready to ultimatum him, she was so frustrated waiting for a proposal. He finally proposed, just before she gave him the ultimatum. He had the ring for a year and was just trying to plan the perfect proposal and the perfect timing. Proposing is a scary thing, and sometimes men need a little more time to prepare for it then women would like!

Marriage is not for everyone. Some couples live happily ever after together and never say their vows to each other. I also highly recommend the book, "He's Just Not That Into You."

Only you know your relationship, and whether an ultimatum would be effective or helpful towards promoting a good relationship between you and your boyfriend.

Carli

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LAWLcats: Wickard Cat

By Jan Sansot, 2L

WICKARD v. FIBURN CAT

CANNOT GROW THIS WHEAT FOR HIS OWN USE

Sudoku - Challenging

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Sudoku Puzzles Courtesy of PDF Pad (www.pdfpad.com/sudoku)
Talking with the real Matlock. Bobby Lee Cook

By Courtney Spicer, 2L

Named one of the ABA’s “Lions of the Trial Bar,” 60-year veteran trial lawyer Bobby Lee Cook addressed a crowd of 150 GSU College of Law students, faculty, alumni and friends on April 5th. Known for his blistering cross examinations and brilliant closing arguments, Cook is widely regarded as one of the preeminent criminal defense attorneys in the country. He is also reportedly the basis for the famed television show “Matlock,” in which an aging Andy Griffith — perennially dressed in a grey suit — charmed the jury and inevitably exposed the real culprit, exculpating his client in the process.

Dressed impeccably in a grey suit, Cook spoke eloquently of the past, present and future of the law and of his legal practice. He was admitted to the Georgia Bar in 1949, long before the landmark cases which we are all familiar — Gideon v. Wainwright, Miranda v. Arizona, Brady v. Maryland, and Mapp v. Ohio — were decided.

In Georgia, women and African-Americans were not permitted to serve on a jury; the police could conduct searches without probable cause and without a warrant, and the evidence seized could be used at trial. Back then, Georgia was the only jurisdiction in which a criminal defendant could not give sworn testimony, and in which his attorney could not conduct a direct examination of him. Moreover, the police were not required to inform arrestees of their right to counsel and silence.

He addressed the differences between current legal education and his time at Vanderbilt after World War II.

“Prosecutors and criminal defense attorneys are one in the same, only perhaps with a slightly different mindset. A good criminal attorney should be able to do both.”

Bobby Lee Cook did not always want to be an attorney, though. He majored in Chemistry and the Classics in college, hoping to go to medical school. But his mind changed during World War II while he was serving in the Navy. Instead of pursuing a medical degree, he went on to be a member of the first law school class to graduate from Vanderbilt after the war.

“I think I made a damn good choice,” he said.

“Your generation is very lucky,” he said. “There is much more at your disposal. We didn’t have trial advocacy teams or receive any sort of practical instruction.”

And obviously, there was no LexisNexis or WestLaw for research; no Facebook for networking and keeping in touch with friends.

Still, Cook has done alright for himself.

Cook has tried hundreds of murder cases, the Carnegies and Rockefellers have been his clients and he reminisced about his “good friend [Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court] Hugo Black,” who carried a copy of the Constitution in his jacket pocket every day.

Cook also answered a few questions following his 30-minute address. When asked if, in his 60 years of criminal defense, he had ever wanted to be a prosecutor, he answered succinctly, “Not really, no.” A short chuckle from the crowd followed, and he elaborated further.

“Prosecutors and criminal defense attorneys are one in the same, only perhaps with a slightly different mindset. A good criminal attorney should be able to do both.”

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