

THE INFORMER

NEWSLETTER

November 19, 2009

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The Life and Times of a Law Review Note Writer

By Shelby Alberts, 2L
Staff Writer

June 23, 2009

Europe. Nice, French Riviera. I am almost halfway into the best summer of my life: traveling through Asia and Europe, throwing in a law school summer session here and there. I walk home from class to my small, shared apartment overlooking the Mediterranean and sit down for my daily electronic exchange with the States. Upon opening my TJSJL email account, I see it. Subject line: Law Review Invitation. I am so excited that I can barely skim the email. "Must write a scholarly article of publishable quality... enormous amount of time, effort and dedication..." Whatever. I'm in!

August 13, 2009

My first day back in San Diego after a long summer. I am a little behind all of the other Law Review newbies, so I watch the orientation video (four hours!) to be briefed on the process. I come to realize that this prestigious student-run organization involves what is best described as an initiation, or hazing,

depending on how you look at it. Before becoming a full member, I must spend the entire semester writing a publishable article, on a topic that is novel, useful, and non-obvious. In plain language, I must write an amazing article on a topic that has not been addressed in the past. Topic Proposal due on Monday. This Monday. Here comes the first weekend I will sacrifice to the Law Review gods.

August 25, 2009

I have a topic. I am happy. Oh, wait. My advisor tells me this topic is unworkable. It's a nice way of saying that my argument is just plain wrong. Back to square one.

August 28, 2009

Preemption. A word a Note Writer does not want to hear. Through hours of reading various law review articles from various law schools I find THE EXACT SAME NOTE I am writing. Only it's written by someone else. Weekend two, check.

September 3, 2009

After talking to my advisor, and maybe looking for a little pity, I come up with some of these novel

Continued on page 2, **WRITER**



Left: Community Committee Networking Event: Prof. Luz Herrera, Faculty Advisor to the Community Committee.

Above: Community Committee Networking Event: Participants watch speakers during the event.

Working for a Better Tomorrow: A Community Committee Progress Report

Jennifer Goldman, 1L
Staff Writer

The Community Committee of Thomas Jefferson School of Law has made several significant advancements since its inception last August.

On November 9, the Community Committee held their first annual Networking Event here at Thomas Jefferson. Students, faculty, and staff had the opportunity to meet local professionals and non-profit organizations in the legal community. Among the attendees, guest speakers included Professor Herrera, Professor Dyson and Professor Slattery.

One of the Community Committee's goals is to create a greater network between Thomas Jefferson students and the surrounding legal community by facilitating a coalition with non-profit organizations and legal aid clinics. The Community Committee has begun to foster opportunities for Thomas Jefferson students by developing relationships with surrounding legal clinics, such as the Veteran's Legal Assistance, in which students provide actual legal representation to clients of the Veterans Village of San Diego. This opportunity will enable students to become more involved in their community by giving back, and thus helps to bridge the gap between students and the community.

Also, the Community Committee is conducting community surveys. The purpose of the surveys is to assess where Thomas Jefferson's interaction with the community is

Continued on page 3, **WORKING**

"OUR GREATEST HAPPINESS DOES NOT DEPEND ON THE CONDITION OF LIFE IN WHICH CHANCE HAS PLACED US, BUT IS ALWAYS THE RESULT OF A GOOD CONSCIENCE, GOOD HEALTH, OCCUPATION, AND FREEDOM IN ALL JUST PURSUITS."

THOMAS JEFFERSON

WRITER, from page 1

ideas. Then, Bingo! An unprecedented case! Decided last week! A little more research and I have it. My topic will be prejudicial jury instructions in capital trials for mentally retarded defendants. Now that's a mouthful.

September 5, 2009

Somehow, the Editorial Staff of the TJSJ Law Review has become a body of people that I desperately want to please. Particularly, I need to please my primary editor, who is someone that has been assigned to personally edit my work. Today, I receive a technical violation for page numbers. Even though I know I am far from the only one receiving one of these emails, I am embarrassed and ashamed. I pray the Editor-in-Chief does not find out.

September 14, 2009

I turn in my first real submission. I have found and referred to 35 sources at this point (not including the first two topics I spent hours researching). My carnal knowledge of Westlaw is excessively intense for a mere

2L.

September 22, 2009

My first feedback from my primary editor! Not good. I haven't even made clear what I am arguing. Another shame spiral.

... BUT THE FIRST TIME FACEBOOK WASN'T MY ONLY CLAIM TO FAME. THIS FEELS AWESOME!

October 1, 2009

My apartment and my truck are covered in Westlaw documents. I am still learning how to read the *Bluebook*. I feel like Nino (Scalia) and I are on a first name basis. I can quote jury instructions verbatim from three different states. How is my argument coming along? Who knows.

October 14, 2009

I receive a text message from my primary editor: "Great work

on your submission!" I wouldn't be this happy if Chuck Bass himself had texted me. Things are looking up in 'Law Review Land'.

October 29, 2009

I interviewed for a job today that I really want. He asked if I had ever done any sort of writing on criminal defense. Actually, yes, yes I have!!! I hope my answer didn't come out with as much enthusiasm as it did in my

head. This experience is starting to pay off.

November 3, 2009

As I was stressing out about a submission on Monday of this week, my Law Review study buddy tells me that I am mistaken, and our next submission is actually due next Monday. In fear of yet another dreaded technical violation, I have to check for myself. I don't have my staff manual with me, so I have to find the schedule online. In the process of

tracking down the staff manual on the Law Review website, I come across the fall 2009 Masthead. There it is. Staff Associates. Shelby Nicole Alberts. I am an officially documented staff member! I even 'Googled' myself. Not that it was the first time I had done that, but the first time Facebook wasn't my only claim to fame. This feels awesome!

November 9, 2009

Three weeks from the final submission of my note. Shockingly, I am stressing less than I expected. As of today, I have logged 74 hours for Law Review during the fall semester. Now it's just edit, edit, edit. In hindsight, the pain isn't bad compared to the sense of accomplishment. So, keep that in mind when you or a colleague is in the middle of the note writing process. The insanity is only temporary. On that note, I apologize in advance for my behavior for the following two weeks and six days. But, I'll make it up to you on December 1 at Kelly's.

Speed Networking Event – Friday 13th was Actually Lucky this Year

By Lydia Rose, 3L
Family Law Society, President

During my first year as an undergraduate student, a professor told me that it is not what you know that matters but *who* you know. That comment left me dismayed, because I found it difficult to believe that years of higher education would be of subservient importance to a mystical phenomenon called "networking." As the years progressed, I saw my colleagues become well versed in the networking process, and I, too, wanted to learn to step outside my comfort zone and become a better networker. When I would

attend networking events, however, I found myself merely standing with a group of friends that I already knew. I was unsure of myself and of how to approach an attorney so as to start a normal conversation. Many of these networking events gave off an air of formality and I did not feel as comfortable just being myself as I would be striking up a conversation with a classmate over a cup of coffee.

So, in March 2009, I envisioned a networking event that would offer a fun and relaxed setting in which students could network with legal professionals. Inspired by speed-dating

programs, I had the idea of a Speed Networking event.

And my idea finally became a reality on November 13, 2009. The Speed Networking event was hosted by The Family Law Society and co-sponsored by Phi Alpha Delta, the Criminal Law Society, La Raza, PILF, and Career Services. With over 70 students, attorneys, and judges in attendance, Speed Networking proved to be a great success! For this one evening the veil of formality was lifted and the students present had an opportunity to be themselves and network with a wide number of legal professionals in a short amount of time. Many students left with business cards and some now have job prospects lined up. If it is not about what you know but who you know, the students who attended Speed Networking on November 13 are surely ahead of the game.

I would like to give a special thanks to Randy Grossman for his efforts in obtaining some of the outstanding legal professionals that attended, including Judge Roderick Shelton. I would also like to thank Angela Bayne and Kathryn Markey for all their help in organizing the event. I am grateful to the dynamic student volunteers who helped make the event a success,

including Andrea Rodriguez, Shelby Alberts, Jeremy Evans, Elizabeth Ashton, Justin Duncan, Erika Aspericueta, Will Sung, Erika Gonzalez, Jon Cooper, and Brett Goda. Thank you all, and I look forward to seeing you at the next Speed Networking event.

WORKING, from page 1

strong and where improvement is necessary. The survey team is in the process of developing multiple surveys emphasizing student community integration.

Finally, the Community Committee's homeless project focuses on providing information and assistance to those who want to re-establish themselves in society. The homeless project began working with local groups that already provide services to the homeless community and contribute to their future improvement.

The Community Committee's goals this year have set a high standard, but the continued dedication and participation of the students and faculty are sure to make a valuable difference. We look forward to your contributions.



Gripes: Get What You Paid For

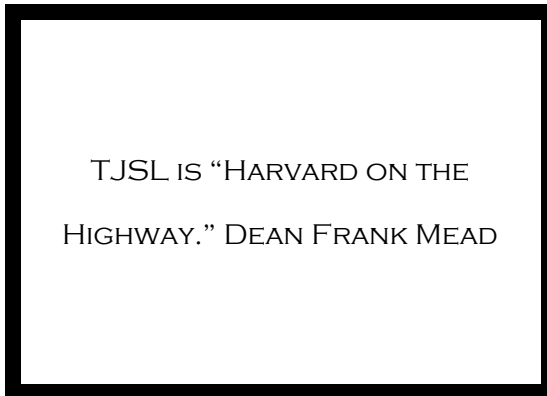
By Jeff Hutchins, 2L
Staff Writer

For this month's gripe I am turning my distain both inward and outward, calling out not only myself but also the majority of students at TJSJ. My gripe focuses on how numerous services at TJSJ are taken for granted and underutilized. I will be the first to admit that I am guilty of TJSJ bashing. It is very easy to complain about the lack of parking, poor facilities, and lack of respect shown by fellow law schools. Nevertheless, I am amazed by the number of students that just complain and do not use the services we are paying for.

The Externship Office, run by Angie Valdicenza and Judybeth Tropp, provides students with countless opportunities to gain practical real world experience. After speaking to Angie, she reported that roughly 100 students a semester partake in externships for credit. Adding together the summer and both semesters, this is less than half the student population. Getting

out and practicing law provides many opportunities: networking, skill and resume building, professional development, and many other areas of growth not possible in the classroom.

Lost opportunities do not only occur at the externship



office, but at the numerous panels and events that are poorly attended. For example, I am amazed by how many panels occur at school with so few students' attendance. I work for the IT department at night and help set up numerous events where only a handful of students attend. I acknowledge that students are busy and must complete many tasks, but

schoolbooks only advance our education to a point. This lack of participation not only makes our school look bad when attorneys from San Diego come to speak in empty classrooms, but also to your peers who put forth the effort to plan these events.

Summit, our academic support program, enrolls every First Year student in a two-hour

-a-week academic support class and provides mentors for every student. During my first year of law school, I was shocked as I watched the numbers fall through the year. In my section, the first Summit class

was close to capacity, but by the last lecture only 15 of the 70 plus students from my section attended. As for my mentor, she was assigned to about 20 students, but I was only one of about four who met with her on a regular basis.

I write not only to call out my peers, but also to motivate my fellow colleagues to get involved. We not only pay a hefty

fee for all of these services, but our professional development requires we get out and test these newly endowed skills learned in the classroom. By taking on externships, attending panels, and putting to use every opportunity provided during law school, TJSJ's reputation will flourish. Every graduate will succeed and spread the word about how lucky we are to be alumni.

In the words of Frank Mead, our wonderful Assistant Dean for Career Services, TJSJ is "Harvard on the Highway." I challenge every student to step up and utilize the short time spent in law school. Next time a student complains about some part of the school, don't join the gripe fest, instead respond with, "Yeah, our school, like most places, has its issues but we are sure lucky to have such a great externship, career services, student services, and numerous other opportunities that make up for it."

What's Eating You: Holiday Eating and Habits

By "Dr." Jonathan Cooper, 2L
Staff Editor

Eating habits evolve with the existing and daily added pressures put on us as students.

This translates into more time for studies and less and less time for activities such as eating. Worse, when the clock is ticking way too fast, a lot of students opt to skip breakfast once and for all. Breakfast is the most important meal of the day, because, just like it says, it "breaks" our "fast," which takes place during the time we're asleep. Skipping breakfast makes you groggy and shortens your attention span. As a dietician, Scott Fisher advises that "you should really go no longer than four or five hours without eating something. If you go for too long a period of time without eating, your blood sugar level drops. When your blood sugar level drops, your body essentially sends you signals that it wants a very quick source of energy, in which we consume the typical sugary foods, concentrated calories, hence fatty foods." Bad calories have become the primary energy source for the increasingly demanding

student lifestyle. Boxes of pizza litter study halls, bags of potato chips and soda are a staple during all-nighters, and the vending machine is every crammer's best friend.

As the holidays are here and the New Year right around the corner, this information comes at a pivotal point. Below you will find average statistics on traditional holiday dishes. Although this information may not change how we eat today, maybe it can act as a catalyst for future change.

Accordingly, the average American will consume more than 4,500 calories, consisting primarily of 229 grams of fat, on Thanksgiving Day alone (Caloric Control Council). If you are not careful, you can gain up to 3 pounds from Thanksgiving dinner alone. Likewise, between Thanksgiving and the New Year the average person gains between 7-10 pounds (National Institute Health).

Here is a list of common Holiday eating items:

Main Dishes

- Prime Rib (8oz) : 854 cal.
- Roasted Turkey (6oz): 350



- cal.
- Ham (8oz): 570 cal.
- Candied Sweet Potatoes (1 cup): 400 cal.
- Mashed Potatoes (1 cup): 250 cal.
- Gravy (1/2): 250 cal.
- Stuffing (1 cup): 350 cal.
- Green Bean Casserole (1 cup): 180 cal.
- Cranberry Sauce (1/2 cup): 210 cal.
- Ten Olives: 125 cal.
- One Roll w/ butter: 120 cal.
- Pies by the Slice
- Apple Pie: 420 cal.
- Pecan Pie: 520 cal.
- Pumpkin Pie: 320 cal.
- Fruit Cake: 300 cal.
- Whipping Crème: 180 cal.
- End Crust: 100 cal.
- 3.5 oz peanut brittle: 485 cal.
- Beverages (8oz)
- Egg Nog: 343 cal.
- Irish coffee: 205 cal.
- Hot Cocoa w/ whip: 260 cal.
- White Russian: 386 cal.
- Hot Buttered Rum: 292 cal.
- Wine: 192 cal.
- Cooper's Gin & Tonic : 161 cal.



Professor Leah Christensen

By Jenni Leys, 2L
Creative Director

Professor Leah Christensen graduated with honors from college with a degree in Chinese. She then attended the University of Iowa for law school. She's known for being a lot of fun, being a teacher that everyone should take at one point or another, and...for singing karaoke in China? She sits apart from the rest. Get a closer look at her through this brief one on one interview.

Jenni Leys (JL): Where are you from?

Professor Leah Christensen (PC): I was born in Madison, Wisconsin. A Midwestern girl through and through. I've lived in Chicago, Minneapolis, Ann Arbor. I went to law school at the University of Iowa. And so, I've been trying to get to California for most of my life, finally had an opportunity and took it. And I love it, and I'm never leaving. I'm going to retire in San Diego.

JL: I think that would be best.

PC: I do too. I was a little worried because people have told me that Midwesterners cannot travel to California and survive. And I have found it to be just so easy to assimilate. It's just a bunch of Midwesterners I guess...At least in San Diego. San Diego is nice and casual. I'm very happy here.

JL: I talk to a lot of students and you're their favorite.

PC: That is such an honor, seriously. One of the biggest honors of my life was getting the Golden Apple last year. I couldn't believe it. It's on my mantle. It travels with me. It's so awesome. It's the best thing that can happen.

JL: Is law school the first thing you did? The first thing you

jumped into after undergrad?

PC: It is, it is. Hindsight is 20/20. I wish that I took some time off. You know, I enjoyed law school. I enjoyed the practice of law more. And I think that my law school was very theoretical. And it wasn't until I did an HIV/AIDS clinic that I fell in love with law school. And I did it for two semesters, and started to tailor

my schedule towards that. I realized that I love the practice of law. I think because of that, I think that because I understand that for some students it doesn't click until you apply the concepts, I try to teach that way. To really sort of exemplify the practice of law. I try to reach more students than the traditional Socratic Method.

JL: I know that you got a major in Chinese. How... Chinese...law school?

PC: Yes, well there's an interesting story. And it's funny because my brother majored in Japanese. We're two Wisconsin homegrown kids, and he majors in Japanese. But he does business in China, he builds hotels there. And I majored in Chinese and went to law school. My plan was to do human rights work with the UN. Little did I know at the time it's really really hard to get a job with the UN. Particularly when you're at the University of Iowa. Iowa...sort of a lack of connections to Washington DC. That was the plan, and I had an opportunity to go teach in China afterwards, but I'm very impatient. And I was like, no I need to go right away to law school. And so I did. And I fell in love with litigation. I did a clerkship after that, and began to practice law...and sort of lost my Chinese. And then it came full circle because one of the reasons I chose Thomas Jefferson is because of their China program and getting to teach in the China program brings my life full circle. And it's awesome.

JL: Better question...Why teaching law school?

PC: Well, I practiced for ten years. I did litigation, medical malpractice, and switched to an in-house council job as Assistant Council for the Madison Metropolitan School District. I found that I couldn't practice in high stakes litigation and raise children in the way that I wanted to raise children.

See **Christensen**, page 8

Faculty Spotlight

Professor Steve Semeraro

By Amanda Litt, 2L
Staff Writer

Professor Semeraro is a popular man among the Thomas Jefferson School of Law students and faculty. Currently, he is a professor of property and intellectual property law, as well as one of the professors teaching advanced criminal law. Students who went abroad to Nice, France this summer, where he taught Comparative Antitrust law, have only great things to say about Professor Semeraro. They also talk about what an interesting man he is.

I had previously never met Professor Semeraro, or had the opportunity to be in one of his classes, but during my interview I discovered some of the intricacies of his life and was able to discuss with him some of his experiences with the law that have made him the knowledgeable professor and person he is today.

Here is the text of the interview that was conducted between Professor Semeraro and I:

Amanda Litt (AL): Where did you go to law school?

Professor Semeraro (PS): Stanford Law School

AL: Did you always know you wanted to be a lawyer?

PS: No, but when I got to law school I realized I was really interested in it, and law school for me was more fun than undergrad.

AL: Where did you go to Undergrad?

PS: Rutgers College

AL: Are there experiences in law school that helped you to be the professor you are today?

PS: Yes, definitely. I constantly think back about the things that happened in law school and take that into account for my own teaching. I always try to use the good things and discard the bad things. I had very few professors who just called on people cold and had them answer things about a case. I know I personally didn't like to talk in certain classes, so I tend not to force people to talk in my classes as much.



AL: When was your first real life experience: during law school or when you graduated?

PS: I don't think I had any real life experience during law school. There were not nearly as many opportunities as there are now in the legal practice. But when I got out of law school, I clerked for Judge Stephanie Seymour in the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Tulsa, Oklahoma. If I remember right, the first case I worked on was a 4th Amendment civil rights case dealing with a search and what the standards were for the police to violate the amendment. Whether they had to intentionally violate the constitution or whether their actions were sufficient even if they did not intend it.

AL: That sounds exciting.

PS: Yeah, it was very interesting.

AL: What type of law did you end up practicing?

PS: I liked my antitrust class in law school. I don't know if it was my favorite class because it turned out to be my worst grade in law school, but I liked it. After I clerked, I ended up practicing mostly antitrust law. I would practice pro bono criminal law when I could. Those are my two favorite areas of law.

AL: What did you like most about pro bono work?

PS: It was just an opportunity to have more responsibility early in my career. It was also nice doing something for the public too.

AL: I read that you have published a lot of articles. What's your favorite subject to research and write about?

PS: It all depends; I go through phases. There have been periods when I have done a lot of anti-

See **Semeraro** page 9

Student Leader:

Student Spotlight

Organization:



Brent Matthews

By Ian Van Leer, 2L
Executive Editor

For many students, like your author, law school is merely one of the final obstacles to face before entering the “real world.” Most of those with this mindset act and feel like school and its accompanying obligations are the sole present responsibilities, and the future looks unclear, as fields of practice and lifestyles are yet to be decided.

So, when I say that 2L Brent Matthews is an exceptional and inspirational Thomas Jefferson student leader, what I mean is that he is not only active on campus, scholastically and socially, working with his career objectives as guiding factors, but that he is able to work toward those objectives and handle his obligations, while balancing the trying responsibilities of being a young, married father.

Brent Matthews comes from a tax-oriented family in Oxnard, California. His father is a tax-law attorney and his brother is a CPA in the Oxnard area. Along such family lines, Brent studied accounting and finance in college and, like his father, wants to be a tax-law attorney in California. Toward that end, Brent worked for Thomas Jefferson’s Professor Burns in the L.L.M. office doing tax research over this past summer.

Thus, it is no surprise to learn that Brent Matthews presides as president over the Tax Law Society. His primary duty, besides recruitment and the day-to-day operations of the Society, is to run the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. The VITA program is authorized by the I.R.S. and involves students volunteering to aid the community with free tax assistance (such a caring

heart!).

Our student leader Brent is also a proud, card carrying member of the Jefferson Law Republicans, which may or may not help explain his attraction to taxes. He also has been a member of the Immigration Law Society for the past year and a half. And, to balance his volunteered obligations with some gain, on many a day you can find Brent at the front desk of our library, where he diligently works to put the right books in your hands.

But Brent is not all work. He is, in his own words, “an avid soccer player,” too, and it is rumored that he has the best foot in Southern California. Brent likes playing basketball, and he has never turned down a ping-pong match either. In fact, if you were to walk into the student lounge at any given time it would not be a rare occasion to find Brent “ponging it up,” as he might say. But be wary to challenge him, for he has an incredible record.

What I find most impressive about Brent, when viewed with busy work and school schedule, is that “When [he] is not doing the above, you will find him at the park with his kids.” Brent has two wonderful and beautiful children, aged 3 ½ and 1 years old, which means that while you were studying for class or filling out your law school applications, Brent was doing the former and holding his wife’s hand in the delivery room. (I was afraid to hear of the child rearing details involved with children that young. Too much for me to even hear about, but for Brent it’s a different story).

Brent juggles a terrifically demanding schedule of classes and extracurricular legal activities, an active social life appropriate for one his age, and the exacting yet rewarding duties of fatherhood. He truly has more responsibilities than many can balance as successfully as he, and that is why Brent is a Thomas Jefferson student leader.



La Raza

By Danaly Barajas, 2L
La Raza, Secretary

What Is La Raza All About?

The La Raza Law Student Association is a multi-cultural group of law students focused on advancing Latino and Latina academic success and serving our communities. La Raza is dedicated to making a difference at Thomas Jefferson by providing for our members a support system to preserve their culture and heritage in a profession that was not long ago an unrealistic aspiration for most Latinos/as. La Raza strongly encourages our members to use their legal talents to serve their communities, whether it be through legal advocacy, educating communities unfamiliar with the legal system, or through encouraging the younger generations to seek higher education. Finally, La Raza is dedicated to making a difference in American political and social arenas by encouraging discussion on issues that have a significant impact on our community.

What Has La Raza Done?

Success in legal academia continues to be a strong focus for La Raza. We began this semester by providing our 1L members with an informational package. The package detailed the intricacies of the first year of law school, ranging from examples of model outlines to general information crucial to 1L survival. Our academic chair, Michael Santos, ensures that our members have access to La Raza’s outline bank, in addition to holding tutoring sessions in

an attempt to better prepare our first year members for academic success. La Raza’s executive board organized an attorney panel composed of successful Latino and Latina attorneys practicing in family law, bankruptcy, real estate, and general civil litigation. Furthermore, for the first time, TJSL’s La Raza had the privilege of sending two teams to the National Latino/a Law Student Association Moot Court Competition hosted by De Paul College of Law in Chicago. The teams argued the Sixth Amendment’s guarantee of effective assistance of counsel for non-citizen criminal defendants, which is a significant issue affecting thousands of non-citizen defendants in our communities.

What Does La Raza Plan To Do?

In addition to our dedication to continued success in legal academia, La Raza recognizes the importance of helping our community. Next semester, La Raza will host the second annual Legal Education Access

LA RAZA STRONGLY ENCOURAGES

OUR MEMBERS TO USE THEIR

LEGAL TALENTS TO SERVE THEIR

COMMUNITIES, . . .

Program, or LEAP Day, at Thomas Jefferson. LEAP Day gives middle school students of diverse backgrounds the opportunity to be legal advocates for issues that matter most to them. The students will participate in a Mock Trial Competition that will allow them to experience the roles of attorneys, witnesses, and judges. Also, through our largest fundraiser of the year, Salsa Night, La Raza will provide scholarships to those students

See **La Raza** page 10

Special Recognition of an Award Recipient: Vikram S. Monder

By Jeremy M. Evans, 2L
Editor-in-Chief

Congratulations and a job-well-done to Thomas Jefferson School of Law student Vikram Monder. Vikram, a 2L, has been honored with the 2009 Service to the South Asian Bar Association of San Diego (SABA-SD) Award. Mr. Monder received this award because of his strong commitment and dedication to the San Diego Chapter of SABA. His record of accomplishment shows that he is a true student leader,

which is further proven by his role in establishing the South Asian Law Student Association (SALSA) chapter at TJSLS this past year. Mr. Monder laid down the platform for the SALSA organization and was able to connect with students in the San Diego South Asian legal community. These connections with the community were made possible by his notable personality and outstanding networking skills. He almost single-handedly served as the liaison between the South Asian legal community and

TJSLS. The 2009 mentorship mixer is an example of his service and dedication to the South Asian community, as he worked

hard to connect fellow students with established attorneys. A Warm congratulations to Mr. Vikram Monder!



2L Manifesto: Coupons are Not for Old Ladies

By Katie Tooma

According to the Federal Trade Commission website, "More than 3,000 manufacturers distribute nearly 330 billion coupons (worth an estimated \$280 billion) every year in an effort to help consumers save money. Indeed, it is thought that 77 percent of American households use some eight billion coupons to save \$4.7 billion on their grocery bills." \$4.7 billion is a lot, but it also means that about \$275.3 billion in savings is essentially being tossed away.

I beat my record of \$64 recently and managed to save \$129.60 at Ralph's. How do I do it? Coupons. I don't use any special websites (although sometimes I stalk certain retailer

newspaper bags. These hold EVERYTHING, and we usually only need to make one trip from the car).

The Sunday paper costs about \$2.00. To save money (and be educated on the news) I got a monthly subscription of \$6.00 and I receive Thursday-Sunday. This is still cheaper than four weeks of walking to the newspaper stand and buying one there. It also saves my quarters, which are precious for laundry.

The newspaper arrives and I have a system. I cut all of them out. Even things I don't need/never heard of/will never buy. Yes, it's time consuming but I do it while watching a favorite TV show. Once the coupons are clipped, I order them by breakfast, lunch, dinner, snack, and household (sometimes separated by kitchen and bathroom) and I'll recycle the ones I never would use, but the best thing to do is to be a "little coupon fairy" for someone else (I'll explain later).

I then put them in order according to date, so I know how long they're good for. This is also time-consuming, but I keep them organized by an accordion folder. I'd rather spend the time and save the money.

It's also important to note that a store's flyer usually is created based upon what coupons are going to be out that week. So if Ralph's is having a sale, like two pizzas for five, it's likely because there's a coupon

somewhere that also saves extra. It may have been from last week, but it's there. That's how the savings really add up. The stores want you to come in and buy that item and they know by giving you the extra savings you're likely to get that one. Also, Ralph's doubles coupons up to a dollar. So, for example, if you have a coupon that says, "buy one of these and get it for \$.50," Ralph's will double your coupon so that you'll save a dollar on that item. It only goes up to a dollar though, so if your savings is \$.75 you'll get a dollar's worth of savings.

Then I go through the coupons and discard the expired

ones, and make one big list, based off of what I've clipped. Usually, everything I need is in the coupons.

I also don't go food shopping regularly. I buy in bulk, one big trip, usually once a month. I'm shopping for two (my boyfriend, Andrew) so I try and get him involved (make him sift through the coupons, tag team the aisles, etc). Food shopping is a big production for us, as we have so many coupons.

So we go aisle by aisle, I have my list and Andrew can double-check the details of the coupon if I forgot to write them

Continued on Page 10, MANIFESTO

DON'T BUY THINGS JUST TO BUY THEM! IF YOU WOULDN'T HAVE PURCHASED THE ITEM IN THE FIRST PLACE, DON'T BUY IT NOW.

websites) but for the most part, I just go by the run of the mill coupons in the Sunday paper and a Ralph's card membership, which is free. You also get rewards points for bringing your own bags to the store, and shopping frequently. (I recently received a \$12.00 gift certificate from Ralph's for being a frequent shopper and for bringing my own bags. I have two IKEA shopping bags (the big blue ones), a Westlaw bag, and two

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Work-A-Day Event

By Sarah Robinson-McElroy, 3L
ABA Representative & 9th Circuit Lt. Gov.

On October 23, the Student Bar Association hosted the “Financial Crisis Solutions” event as part of the American Bar Association Law Student

across the country were encouraged to create events during October to help their local communities cope with the financial and legal challenges that all are confronted with in the current economic climate. TJSL’s SBA chose to focus on our students, to help us deal with the financial issues that we face.

The event had various workshops, which touched on issues such as Housing and Eviction, Managing Credit and Debt, Job Loss, and Education Loans. In the Bar and Education Loans workshop, Marc Berman, Director of TJSL’s Financial Aid department, provided students with advice about securing bar loans and repaying education loans. Linda Stouffer, Vice-President of Torrey Pines Bank (the student banking option available through TJSL), gave a presentation on how to manage credit and debt in order to se-

cure a successful financial future. Nikki Love, Career Services Advisor, also put together a presentation on tips for finding a job during hard times. The SBA also considered the outside community in their programming by including a fundraising aspect in the event.



The Work-A-Day event also included a Continuing Legal Education (CLE) course on the U.S. Housing Crisis for San Diego attorneys. The Housing Crisis CLE was presented by San Diego attorney Gary Laturno of Kuick Realty, the Chairperson for the Community Service Committee of the San Diego County Bar Association. Mr. Laturno’s presentation provided an opportunity for lawyers to learn more about the various legal issues involved with the current housing and economic crisis. All of the proceeds from the CLE were donated to the Housing Opportunities Collaborative.

The Housing Opportunities Collaborative (HOC) is a non-

profit organization dedicated to promoting equal access to housing for all. The San Diego HOC also runs the HOME clinics in association with the San Diego County Bar Association. HOME Clinics are held in various community locations and provide homeowners access to legal resources and information. Homeowners also receive presentations on credit, budgeting, bankruptcy, and consumer protection resources. The SBA raised \$400 for the Housing Opportunities Collaborative. For more information about Housing Opportunities Collaborative, please visit <http://www.housingcollaborative.org/>. Thank you to all who came and showed their support, and made this such a wonderful event.



Division’s Work-A-Day program. The Work-A-Day program is the annual public service project that brings law students from across the country together to participate in a one-day public service project in their respective communities. Student Bar Associations (SBA)

1L Manifesto: Library Species, An Expedition Through TJSL

By Al Masland

After 4 months of law school, it has become clear to me that the library is a jungle of various genus and species that co-exist in academic harmony. I have taken it upon myself, along with other brave souls, to delve deep in into the darkness to gain further understanding of these beings and the habitats in which they study. I pray, dear readers, that this study will both enlighten and engage your senses as you operate in and explore the halls of TJSL. God Speed.

I. *Seatius Samesius*: a territorial species found on all levels and sides of the library, but always in the same location. They feed at the same watering hole, lurk at the same hours, and God help you if you have taken their spot.

- A. Traits:
1. Predictable
 2. Cannot handle change

II. *Seatius Stealins*: a creature with little care for the presence of another’s chattels.

- A. Traits:
1. Predator
- B. Habitat:

1. Same desk everyday

III. *Seatius Roomius*: an adaptive species and yet one that requires

the closed door confines of a study room. They prefer to establish their own eco-system within the room they presently occupy.

- A. Traits:
1. Squawker
 2. Don’t sit still well
 3. Insist on control
 4. Predators

IV. *Roomius Invadius*: a creature known for its ability to enter and remain.

- A. Habitat:
1. Any available study room

V. *Seatius Whereverus*: a rogue species capable of adapting to any habitat. They may be upstairs in a study room, down stairs on a couch or posted on that “other” side of the library I just recently discovered while researching for this piece.

- A. Traits:
1. Rogue
 2. Curious
 3. Indifferent
- B. Predators:

1. *Seatius Samesius*: has been known to hunt down the *Seatius Whereverus* for seat trespass.

- C. Habitat:
1. Literally anywhere

VI. *Seatius Oddious*: a very peculiar library species, *Seatius Oddious* will sit in the most inconvenient locations. You may

find them sitting in the book stacks, perched in high traffic common areas, posted up under a desk in a study room, or reading on the floor in the hall. As far as I can tell, nothing about where this species sits makes sense.

- A. Traits:
1. Minimalists
 2. Strong ability to focus
 3. Predator Status: Unknown
- B. Habitat:

1. High traffic areas and the nether regions of the library

VII. *Seatius Distractins*: They may as well be Meerkats. The first sign of movement or rustle in their general area has them up and at attention with their heads on a swivel.

- A. Traits:
1. A.D.D.-esque

2. Observant
 3. Predators
- VIII. *Seatius Unablus*: a species known for its complete inability to stay in one place.

- A. Habitat:
1. Cubicles and isolated desks

I hope this information proves helpful as you spend the next few weeks in the library preparing for finals. I figure this can be a humorous way to observe and label your fellow students during an otherwise humorless time. If you happen to discover an unknown species, please write to maslanah@tjssl.edu. Special thanks to those who explored the library with me for this article. Good Luck on Finals.

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Ten Interesting Thanksgiving Facts

By Brandi Haefs, 2L
Advertising Director

1. Since we study the law, do you know how long Thanksgiving has been legally recognized as the "Thanksgiving Day" holiday?
A: It was not until October 6, 1941 that Congress declared Thanksgiving a national holiday. The holiday was declared to occur on the fourth Thursday in November.
2. Any idea why we eat turkey on Thanksgiving?
A: There is actually no official reason or declaration for the eating of turkey on Thanksgiving. Turkey meat just happened to be the most plentiful at the time of

- the first Thanksgiving and thus started the tradition.
3. Why is a male turkey called a "Tom"?
A: Some believe Benjamin Franklin actually nicknamed the turkey "Tom" to spite Thomas Jefferson, because Jefferson was opposed to the turkey being named as the national bird. Considering Jefferson scoffed at the holiday and the bird, it's a wonder we have the day off at TJS... but maybe I shouldn't point that out.
 4. Can you name the three U.S. cities named after Franklin's favorite bird?
A: Turkey, Texas; Turkey Creek, Louisiana, and Turkey, North Carolina

5. Any idea how many turkeys are sold for Thanksgiving?
A: In the U.S., about 280 million turkeys are sold for Thanksgiving celebrations.
6. What state do you think consumes the most turkey for Thanksgiving?
A: Believe it or not, Californians are the largest consumers of turkey in the U.S.
7. How many Thanksgiving dinners include cranberry sauce?
A: More than 94 percent of dinners include it, though cranberry sauce is available in different varieties.
8. Speaking of cranberry sauce, did you know that a lawyer invented the classic jellied cranberry sauce?

- A: It's true. Marcus L. Urann, a lawyer and co-founder of Ocean Spray, came up with the idea for canned jellied cranberry sauce as a way to use up all the excess cranberries.
9. What about stuffing, how many Thanksgiving dinners do you think include it?
A: Over 80 percent, and there are many regional differences including everything from oysters to raisins. By the way, 50 percent of Americans put the stuffing inside the Turkey.
 10. Guess how many calories the average American consumes on Thanksgiving.
A: Reports vary, but range up to 4,500 calories! I hope that we will all get some exercise after our dinner or dinners.

CHRISTENSEN, from page 4

So, I transitioned and worked for a school district as an ALJ, Administrative Law Judge, doing school expulsions for a while. Then I had this opportunity to teach at the University of Wisconsin. And so I started teaching there and I thought that this is the best. I loved it. Then I got my first full time tenured teaching job at the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis. So we moved to Madison, Wisconsin, which is cold, to Minneapolis, which is absolutely freezing. I was there for three years, but I was at a very conservative law school and that didn't fit my view point. So we decided to go somewhere warm. And I knew some professors here at TJ and I loved them and I feel like this is a school on the rise. I am so excited to be a part of that growth.

JL: I know that you're into the pedagogy of teaching law students, and you mentioned earlier the Socratic method of teaching. Does the Socratic Method now involve puppets and singing?

PC: And Marky Mark and sock puppet videos, yeah. No, that's not the Socratic Method, right? I think that my goal, and my research in pedagogy has taught me is that the Socratic Method only reaches about ten percent of the students. So it reaches people who are oral learners. I don't learn that way. Most other students learn in other


ways. Visual learning is probably the largest representative. Or kinesthetic learners. That's what the puppets are for. I need to see the defendant talking. And so, yeah, students think I'm a little crazy. But I'm actually doing it for their benefit in the sense that in every lecture I try to do something that will reach every single learning style. If professors don't change their way of teaching to diverse learning styles then they are prohibiting the learning of a majority of the students. So there's a real transformative thing going on in legal education, so it's going to take a while. There's a huge resistance.

JL: One last question, if you could give a piece of advice to law students, what would it be?

PC: My biggest piece of advice to law students, regardless of whether you're a 1L just coming in or a 3L ready to start the bar, is to figure out how you learn best. Because if you can maximize your learning style then you can maximize your academic success. I see so many students who try to fix their learning style into their professors way of teaching, or to a particular testing mode. Sometimes you need to step out of the box and say, "Okay, that's the way my professor is teaching it, because most of us teach in the way that we learn best. That's not how I learn best, I have to supplement." If students could get that and monopolize on that, they could really achieve great success.

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9					8	4		
	1			3	4			
3		5		1		2		4
			8	2			5	
		8	9					2
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Semeraro, from page 4

trust writing and there have been periods when I have done a lot of criminal law work. Right now, I am interested in researching property law and how it interacts with antitrust competition. Whatever I am working on at that time is my favorite thing to write about.

AL: I like that. That makes it easy.

PS: (laughs) Yes.

AL: I understand you served as a Special Assistant United States Attorney and prosecuted criminal cases.

PS: Yes.

AL: Do any of the cases still stand out to you today?

PS: It was a job I did as a special assignment when I was in the Justice Department, and I was only there seven months. I did a trial involving an illegal alien who was possessing a weapon and I tried that on my own, so it stands out to me. I did a lot of credit card fraud cases.

AL: From your experience, what do you think makes a good criminal attorney?

PS: Well, you have to be willing to separate yourself from the conduct and the mindset of what went on in the case. You have to be able to focus on the case from the perspective of the criminal law system and not be influenced by the idea that your client may be a bad guy who did bad things. Overall, the reality is that when you get involved in criminal law most of the time you are dealing with bad people and that can really get you down.

AL: That's great advice. What made you become a professor?

PS: It was something that I just always wanted to do.

AL: Do you still practice?

PS: A little bit. I try to do advising work where I can. I serve as a board member for an organization called Ethics and Compliance Alliance, partly due to my expertise in antitrust and competition law. I write short papers for them on various issues, which they share with their clients.

AL: Do you have any hobbies?

PS: I like to play around with cars. Older cars. I am not an expert or anything, but I like to play around with them and think about what it was like at the time when the cars were new. I really like my job so I tend to spend a lot of my spare

time working on my articles.

AL: Do you have any children?

PS: Yes, I have a 13-year-old daughter. I like to do things with her, like go to her soccer games.

AL: Does she want to be a lawyer?

PS: I don't know if she wants to be, but I think she would be good at it. Right now, she is really good with languages. She speaks French pretty fluently and is learning Spanish. She thinks she might want to do something with that.

AL: International Law?

PS: (laughs) Maybe.

AL: Favorite Food?

PS: Italian Food. Maybe Lasagna or Pizza.

AL: Are you Italian?

PS: Yes.

AL: Favorite Pizza place in San Diego?

PS: There really aren't any good ones compared to New York, but maybe Bronx Pizza.

AL: It's the water in New York. That's what makes the bread so good.

PS: Well that explains a lot.

AL: Do you like to travel?

PS: I do, but I am not a big traveler. This summer I went to on Nice Program. I like to travel when I am able to immerse myself into the area and the culture. The Nice Program was great: I taught, and the rest of the time I was able to really explore the city.

AL: Do you recommend doing the Nice Program?

PS: Absolutely. It's a wonderful place to be. It's beautiful. The food is great. And you are so close to so many other things and able to experience Europe. It's a great opportunity.

AL: If you could give any advice to a law student, what would that be?

PS: Well, I guess I would have to say to get to know as many people in the community you want to practice in. There is really no substitute for contacts when it comes to getting into the profession.

AL: That is great advice. Thank you, again, for your time.

“Mor” Distractions During Finals

Danielle Mor, 1L
Staff Writer

The word “distraction” is defined as a condition or state of mind in which the attention is diverted from an original focus or interest. Honestly, studying for finals is the last thing I want to do, but I know it is of the greatest importance. I can think of hundreds of better things to do, like hanging out

be an option for those of you who simply do not have the self-control to stay off Facebook. I am not saying that this is the most difficult task, but, naturally, we are easily distracted because we would rather be doing anything else but studying.

Another distraction that I have is my cell phone. I know what you are thinking, how could you live without your cell

phone? Trust me, it can be accomplished! Although I do not encourage you to temporarily de-activate your cell phone account, I would however encour-

age you to turn it off or leave it in your car while studying. This allows you to focus, thus eliminating possible distractions.

Distractions are inevitable everywhere. Removing the most easily accessible distractions can save you time and ensure that your finals experience is successful. Good luck!

DISTRACTIONS ARE INEVITABLE
EVERYWHERE. REMOVING THE MOST
ACCESSIBLE DISTRACTIONS CAN SAVE
YOU TIME AND ENSURE THAT YOUR
FINALS EXPERIENCE IS SUCCESSFUL.

with friends, shopping, sleeping or, more importantly, “Facebooking.” As I enter and exit the library, it has come to my attention that an abundance of students are on Facebook, including myself. I realize that Facebook is a huge distraction during finals time and that's why I am going to give you a helpful hint. I recently noticed that you can temporarily de-activate your account. This may

APALSA Holiday Dinner Korean BBQ Night!

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an adequate headcount.

LA RAZA, from page 5

who shine in the competition. Serving as mentors to the middle school students, La Raza's goal is to encourage the students who participate in LEAP to seek higher education. La Raza wants these students to know that they *can* seek higher education even if they would be the first in their family to attend college or feel like it would be impossible to pay for such schooling. Furthermore, La Raza, along with other student organizations at Thomas Jefferson, will be hosting a "Community Day," in which our members will provide high

school students with assistance in preparing college applications and securing alternative means of financial assistance. In the Spring, La Raza members will also be donating their time to Father Joe's Village homeless shelter.

La Raza is an active organization at TJSJ that advocates principles of social, ethnic, racial, gender and sexual equality. We are an organization that provides not only a support system for law students, but also a forum for the students to have their voices heard. Should you wish to get involved with La Raza, please feel free to attend our next general meeting

MANIFESTO, from page 6

down. We're still getting used to the aisles (eventually I'd like to have it categorized by aisle too) and often we find ourselves forgetting things and having to go back to the previous aisle. As we're going through our coupons that are on our list, if there is an item that is more expensive than the couponed item, we'll buy the cheaper item and leave the coupon for someone else to use. This is what I call being a "coupon fairy." Helping people save money. This is also a good thing if you clip coupons that you won't normally use. You can leave those coupons near the items you would've never bought anyway. There are certain people who stick to brand names and/or organic, and leaving them something is like an extra treat, because those are typically a lot more expensive. You can also send your coupons that you'd never use to military families who might use them. There are lots of internet sights dedicated to this.

One more thing, use your head. Don't buy things just to buy them! If you wouldn't have purchased the item in the first place, don't buy it now.

I'm not going to lie; we probably spend about an hour and a half to 2 hours at the supermarket. If you don't have a lot of time, then my process is not for you. There are tons of websites out there with other advice on how to save, but let me give you some proof to show it works.

I went food shopping in the beginning of October. We were running pretty low on food so Andrew and I went shopping last week. I cut the coupons on Sunday and made the list. Andrew and I are going away for Thanksgiving and Christmas for approximately 3 weeks total. I bought 87 items (enough food

to last us until January 5). My total before coupons and my Ralph's membership was \$336.36. After my membership rewards, my \$12.00 gift certificate sent from Ralph's, the coupons I had (36), participation in the Ralph's promotional event (another \$5.00 on stuff I was already buying in the first place), I managed to save \$129.87. Bringing my total to \$206.49. That's \$68.83 a month savings for 3 months, or \$34.42 for two people for 3 months. That's breakfast, lunch, dinner, and a snack. I also picked up some donations for the SBA Adopt-a-Platoon event: Women's Shampoo and Conditioner (by one get one free), Men's deodorant and body wash/shampoo (free because I bought the deodorant), three toothbrushes (one was free), and two packages of Mentos gum (\$.50 with coupons), and Gatorade packets (full price). I did a good thing and it didn't break the bank!

I know I could always do better. There's this lady called "the coupon mom" who took a news group to the supermarket and bought \$100 worth of items and paid \$0.25! But for now, this is working out pretty well.

Lastly, don't be ashamed of your coupon use! Yesterday the line behind me was getting mad and antsy because the clerk was taking so long scanning the coupons. I just said, "Wow, I just saved \$129" and I could see their eyes bug out of their head. Dear patrons, I'm sorry you're in a rush, but I'd like to save.

Besides, I took that \$129.87 and bought a pair of boots (with a \$10 coupon, I might add, and they were on sale), and Andrew is going to join the masses playing *Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2*. In the end, we're entertained, stylish, and stuffed.



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Ready and Willing

By Courtney Darnell
SBA, 2L Class Representative

“Work Hard. Be Kind. Dream Big!” We quickly learned this is the motto at Central Elementary School, and we were proud to be a part of their goal for excellence.

A few of your fellow TJSL colleagues spent their Halloween Friday afternoon at Central Elementary School to dress up and read to the youngsters.



Every year the Lawyers Club hosts a Halloween Read-In at Central Elementary. Melodie Dan (TJSL Student and SBA Treasurer) did an above-and-beyond job of getting the word out and recruited 80 lawyers, judges, and law students to participate at the event.

Upon arrival, the school principal (dressed-up as a kitty-cat) and vice principal (dressed-up as a butterfly) welcomed us with open paws and wings. We were politely escorted to our assigned classrooms by Central

students, and were able to read and play with the kids for an hour! Every book that was read to the students was donated to the class, along with various school supplies and other needed materials.

After an animated rendition of Where the Wild Things Are and a romp around the room with the kids, we headed back to the library. There we found that the kids decorated and hand made a sack lunch for each of the volunteers. The feelings of youth and days at camp flooded the room as we all sipped Capri-Suns and got sticky PB&J fingers. We reluctantly bid farewell to Central Elementary and some volunteers eagerly signed up for the upcoming Valentine’s Day Read-in. Marty Stratte, 1L, said,



“Friday’s Halloween Read-In was a great experience for me. With just a little of our time, we were able to help make these kid’s Halloween a little bit better.”

The children were precious. The school was such a kind and inviting host. Above all, the experience was moving and unforgettable. If you have a heart for kids and any desire to volunteer, contact one of your SBA members and we’ll gladly point you in the direction of these little guys.

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Composed by
Sterling Williams, 2L

I object to Street Fighter not working. Can we get some *Marvel vs. Capcom*?!

I object to Indigo Café charging me 10 cents for a plate to microwave my pizza that I brought from home.

I object to political conversations in social situations. No one is changing anyone's mind here people.

Objection to "Identity Withheld" on Cheaters. You got caught! Man/Woman up!

Objection to getting emails about the new books that are in the library. Who has time for casual reading? Anyone?

I object to the girls' bathrooms for being so flipping disgusting!!!!!! Learn to flush ladies!

Objection to all the Yankee fans who live nowhere near the East Coast, you are cool.

No objection to 6 a.m. registration time. Because that makes sense!

Objection to Bandwagon fans!

Objection to having to register at 6am and then having the system crash! Great start to the day!

Objection to realizing how many finals you have and how close together they are!

Objection to Facebook not only suggesting who I should be friends with but now who I should poke, chat with, or send a message to. No thank you Facebook, I got this under control.

Objection to throwing five interceptions in one game. I thought we traded for the better quarterback.

I object to big trucks parking in compact spaces and to the little cars not taking the compact spot when they have an SUV behind them. Seriously!

Objection to getting mail as if I'm a philanthropist. I need my own foundation: 'Sponsor a Broke Law Student!'

Objection to having to choose between studying or watching football.

I object to not having the school Gmail account already. Those posters are a tease!

No objection to watching your classmates fall asleep in class.

Why can't we Skype into class like the students taking L.L.M. courses? Parking & flu problems solved! (Bonus perks being, not having to deal with classrooms that are too cold, too stuffy, too stinky, and the numbing chairs).

I do not object to playing Scrabble in class. I'm expanding my vocabulary. I do object to people using dictionaries while playing scrabble in class.

I object to the scheduling of 3L classes on Friday afternoons. Throw us a bone already!

Objection to old, short, and weak people who sit in the emergency exit row on the plane. Not only can you not save my life, you are taking up good legroom. And you have the nerve to recline your chair?

I object to no Halloween costume contests at the Halloween Party and to the bad tasting drink "special."

No Objection to my professor saying "they got my money," referring to Disney Land and a \$4 lollipop with a picture of Goofy on it.

Objection to the random people who rummaged through my dumpster and came out with socks and a Crim Law book.



The Criminal Law Society's Fourth Annual Texas Hold Tournament Fundraiser

By Michael Juarez, 2L
Criminal Law Society, Fundraising Chair

Thanks to the Criminal Law Society (CLS), charitable Thomas Jefferson students and friends, \$558 was raised for the Restorative Justice Mediation Program at the Fourth Annual Texas Hold'em Tournament Fundraiser. It was enjoyable to organize and participate in the games. This being my first time organizing an event, there was no way I could not have done it without the many people that lent a hand. Thank you! In the

course of organizing the tournament, I discovered firsthand how supportive, thoughtful, and entertaining a community that we have here at TJSJL. After attendee Professor David Steinberg outwitted a 'professional poker player', it supported my speculation that people with an interest in criminal law are distinctive, like Rob Machado is to all other surfers. It was my pleasure to support the community with such a distinctive group of people.



Right: Criminal Law Society visits the Courthouse prior to the tournament.

Upper Right: The tournament festivities in full swing; and the river is ... ALL IN!



Class Schedule Options

By Dean Eric Mitnick & Jeremy M. Evans

After speaking with Dean Eric Mitnick, we wanted to share with everyone some schedule options for the spring 2010 semester and upcoming semesters. We hope that you find the list helpful.

New Courses:

Advanced Civil Discovery Practice in California – Adjunct Prof. Chris Ramey (a relatively recent alumnus)

Art & Cultural Property Law – Prof. Jeff Slattery

Controlled Substances: Crime, Regulation, and Policy – Prof. Alex Kreit

European Union Law – Adjunct Prof. Neil Ray (associated with law firm of Sheppard Mullin)

Interpretations of International Criminal Law Issues – Prof. Linda Keller

Seminar on Community Economic Development – Prof. Luz Herrera

Solo Law Practice Management – Adjunct Prof. O'Neil (solo practitioner)

New Professors (in old courses):

Administrative Law – Prof. Ben Templin

Community Property – Adjunct Prof. Sanzo (longtime adjunct; also teaches Law Practice Management); Adjunct Prof. Klueck

(Judge Pro Tempore, San Diego County Superior Court; former Vice President, San Diego County Bar Association)

Contracts Drafting – Prof. Thomas Golden

Professional Responsibility – Prof. Leah Christensen; Adjunct Prof. Rudy Gerber (retired Judge, Arizona Court of Appeals)

Trial Practice – Adjunct Prof. Lea Fields-Bernard (former Deputy City Attorney, handled over 90 trials)

CA Bar Tested, but Not Required: California Civil Procedure; California Evidence; Community Property; Wills & Trusts

Distance Education (ONLINE) JD courses: Entertainment Law Transactions with Adjunct Prof. Novak; eCommerce Law with Prof. Akindemowo; (2L's and 3L's have the option to take these courses and it will count toward your J.D.)

Some other courses that are unique, fairly new, or particularly interesting: Animal Law; Street Law; Mandarin Chinese for Lawyers; Sexuality, Gender, and the Law; Biotechnology Law; Technology Externship; Supreme Court Appellate Advocacy with Prof. Steinberg

Courses that will most likely be offered again in the near future: Federal Criminal Law with Prof. Anders Kaye; Vice-Law with Prof. Kaye; White Collar Crime

Thank you!



SAN DIEGO COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

The San Diego County Bar Association (SDCBA) is rounding out the year with some great programs and events. Be sure to take a look at the SDCBA's online calendar (www.sdcba.org/calendar) for information and to register for CLE seminars, Section & Committee meetings and other Bar events and programs that might interest you. The online calendar offers comprehensive event information, downloadable CLE flyers, and most importantly it's where you register for seminars and events. Please keep in mind that while it is rare, changes to event times or cancellations do occur at the last minute, however, up-to-the-minute event information is maintained on the SDCBA online calendar.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS:

December 4 SDCBA Annual Holiday Reception - Stepping Up to the Bar 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Stepping Up to the Bar is the SDCBA Annual Holiday Reception and installation of new SDCBA Board members and President. The event is a fun, social occasion and all SDCBA members, judges and law students are invited to attend. To RSVP, visit www.sdcba.org/steppingup.

SECTION & COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

12/07/2009 Children at Risk Committee Meeting
5:15 PM - 6:15 PM
12/07/2009 Ethnic Relation and Diversity Committee Meeting
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
12/08/2009 Appellate Court Committee Meeting
11:45 AM - 1:30 PM

CLE SEMINARS:

12/02/2009 New CEQA Guidelines Regarding Climate Change Analysis: Real guidance or will the uncertainty about how to deal with the issue continue?
12:00 PM - 1:15 PM
12/03/2009 Arbitration: How to Get the Most Bang for the Buck
12:00 PM - 1:15 PM
12/09/2009 The Law and Elder Abuse: Identification and Prevention
1:00 PM - 4:30 PM
12/14/09 Bridging the Gap - Part I, Criminal Practice
12:00 PM - 1:15 PM

(This program is for newly admitted attorneys and addresses best practices, process and procedures, common challenges, the importance of civility and how to avert problems during your early years in practice. Visit www.sdcba.org/bridgingthegap, for more information and to register.)

Wild, Wicked, & Wonderful!

By Raj Matani, 2L
SBA, Social Chair

On behalf of the SBA and Administration, now that the masks and mayhem has been stored away for the year, I would like to say thank you to all the students who made it to this year's Halloween party. The best Halloween party yet! The haunting Keating Hotel in downtown, San Diego was the location for this year's party. From the time the doors opened around 9p.m. until closing students, staff, and guests were treated to a variety of specials. And let's not forget about the costumes! The big winner was Marcellus Glasper as the ever-enigmatic "Prince". Other

winners included, Katie Tooma as "Lady Gaga", Joey White and Scott Dunn as "?????" and Emma Goda as "Lady Liberty". At midnight, special guest DJ and Entertainment Law Society President Victor Tsoi took over the turntables and brought the house down!!!

Overall, it was a fantastic party. Again, I would like to thank all of the students for keeping professionalism in mind at all times during the party. Let's continue this positive momentum for the rest of the school year! Have a safe and happy holiday season, and we will see you all next semester!

Adopt-a-Platoon

As Holiday Season begins, the SBA is taking some time to support the Troops currently serving overseas. Many of our own students or their loved ones are members of the military and the SBA would like to recognize them for their dedication and courage.

To show our support the SBA will be collecting supplies for soldiers who are currently deployed. There will be a bin the SBA office where you can drop of donation.

The last day for donations will be at the November 26th at the SBA Thanksgiving Dinner

Below is a list of items soldiers are currently asking for

Hygiene Products

Shampoo and Conditioner
Hair Gel
Shower Gels and Soap
Deodorant (Men and Women)
Lotions and Baby Powder
Baby Wipes
Razors and Shaving Cream
Toothpaste and Toothbrushes
Mouth Wash
Facial Cleaners
Q-tips
Vaseline
Toe Nail Polish

Entertainment

DVDs
Books, Magazines and Newspapers
Board Games

Drinks

Hot Chocolate,
Tea Bags, Instant Coffee
Kool-Aid or Crystal Light Packets
Propel Water Gatorade packets

Snacks

Candy, Cookies,
Chips, Popcorn, Crackers
Combos Pretzels
Cup of Noodles, or Ramen Noodles
Microwavable Dinners (not frozen!)
Beef Jerky
Tuna Lunch Kit
Protein Bars or Breakfast Bars
Fruit Cups
Raisins
Rice Krispies Treats,
Cheese-Wiz
Chex Mix
Nuts

Miscellaneous

Sugar
Holiday Decorations
Stationary Sets
Beanie Babies - the soldiers give them to local children

Anything else you think would make a soldier feel more at home while overseas!!

What NOT to send: Anything illegal, illegal copies of anything, homemade food, anything obscene or objectionable

This is about SUPPORT, not just STUFF!
A LETTER, from you or your children,
is often THE BEST THING to send.

Questions: Contact Sarah McElroy at robinssa@tjssl.edu



Soccer Wrap-up

By SBA Athletics

After an intense and highly competitive playoffs, the regular season points leader, Hannah Montana Fan Club, came from behind in the closing minutes of the championship match to capture victory over the reigning champions, Homegrown, Esq. The Fan Club for the alter ego of the daughter-actress of Billy Ray Cyrus had edged team Free Agency earlier in the evening in the second semi-final to set-up the championship match. The

reigning champions managed to hold off the Catalina Wine Mixers in the first semi-final to return to the championship for the second year in a row. Catalina had defeated a feisty PAD side earlier to reach the semi-finals while Free Agency had advanced after their opponent conceded.

Congratulations Hannah Montana Fan Club!



2009 SBA

THANKSGIVING DINNER

By Christopher Paulos, 3L
SBA, President

Last year, the Student Bar Association (SBA) began hosting a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner for students, staff, and faculty that did not have other plans for the Holiday. The purpose of this event was and still is to provide a much needed break from school prior to finals and to give our "family" at TJSL an opportunity to gather, eat delicious food, and give thanks for the many opportunities, gifts and blessings that we have all received. The SBA encourages all students, as well as their friends and families, to attend this year's event. Anyone who wishes may bring a dish that is traditional to his or her heritage or family to share a place on our "cornucopia" table. For international students, this is an opportunity to share in a uniquely American holiday. For others, it is a chance to have the semblance of a normal Thanksgiving feast while cramming for exams. In addition, for all participants, it is an opportunity to give back to the community. This year, we will be arranging care packages for the troops in Afghanistan and Iraq.

In conjunction with the ABA Adopt-A-Platoon program, we will be collecting goods that the troops have requested during the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving. After dinner, we will be preparing the goods for shipment overseas. Please join us for a festive meal, some pre-dinner "pigskin", and in giving thanks for such a wonderful year!

The dinner event will be on Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 26. The location of the dinner event will be the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center in Balboa Park. Located in the heart of the Park, the event will take place from 3-6 p.m. Those who are assisting may arrive earlier. Please contact the SBA for further information on that. During the pre-dinner social hour, guests will have the opportunity to explore the museum from 3-4 p.m., watch an IMAX movie for \$5.00, or play some "pigskin." Dinner will be served from 4-6 p.m., during which we will put together care packages for the troops! If you would like to attend, donate, or have questions, please RSVP to sba@tjssl.edu. Thank you!

CLASSIFIEDS

Help stamp out BSS, Broke Student Syndrome. Hardworking 3L will help with housecleaning, errands, gift-wrapping, and writing holiday letter, loving and reliable cat sitting, etc. Email: monkac@tjssl.edu.

If you would like to run an add in our classifieds section please contact Brandi Haefs at haefsbm@tjssl.edu.

December 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30 DEAD WEEK 8:00 PM La Raza Pre-finals Party	1 AIDS Awareness Day	2 7:00 PM SBA X-mas Event	3	4 FINALS BEGIN 5:30 PM SDCBA Holiday Mixer	5
6 FINALS BEGIN	7 11:00 PM Remember Pearl Harbor...	8 ... Remember Pearl Harbor...	9	10 Human Rights Day WLA Adopt-A-Family	11	12 Hanukkah
13 Hanukkah FINALS BEGIN	14	15	16 SBA STUDENT ONLINE POLL FINALS END	17 Wright Bros. Day	18 Islamic New Year	19 GRADUATION
20 SBA STUDENT ONLINE POLL	21 Forefather's Day 1st Day of Winter	22	23	24	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day Kwanzaa Begins
27 SBA STUDENT ONLINE POLL Islamic Ashura	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	1	2

Research: It's What You Need to Know

By Ian Van Leer, 2L
Executive Editor

It should come as no surprise when I say that legal research is an important, if not the most important skill, that you will learn while in law school. It is difficult, however, to perfect these skills in the brief introductions to Lexis and Westlaw that we receive during the initial Legal Writing I classes. Westlaw and Lexis are confusing to use, and “playing around” on these sites, imparts little, if any, practical knowledge.

Toward the end of my first

year as a law student, once I had a job scheduled to begin after finals, I became increasingly nervous about my usefulness to my summer employer. So, when I saw an email from my Westlaw representative offering classes in case study and other topics, I jumped at the opportunity.

Both Lexis and Westlaw offer numerous training courses throughout the year. The courses are free to TJSL students and each one offered covers a different aspect of legal research: cases, secondary sources, legal treatises, etc. Furthermore, our incredibly helpful library staff and research assistants offer a vast array of classes

(I believe in the library emails the classes are called “mini-classes”), to aid our development of these crucial research skills.

Not knowing the extent of my duties over this past summer, I only took the Westlaw case study class. It was a 50-minute interactive crash course in finding relevant and useful cases on almost any issue. After the class, I was far more confident in my research abilities and over the summer, I was much more efficient in locating sources to support my employer-attorney’s cases than I otherwise would have been. My only regret is not taking additional courses. For many of the topics assigned at work, I had to find new ways to research. For example, I should have taken the secondary source course. Had I taken that extra course, I would

have had a much easier time in learning the basics of the issues, before I was to delve into the case searching and memo drafting.

I encourage—no, I implore you—to take at least one of these research-training courses. The courses will not only assist you with your internships and future employment, but will help you in your legal writing classes and research-based classes at school. The classes are short, ungraded, free, and you follow the instructor on your own computer at your own pace. Therefore, you get practice using the various tools Lexis and Westlaw offer. Do yourself a favor by taking advantage of our school’s research-assistance programs and learn how to use these resources while you can—for free!

Spring Semester: Important Dates to Remember

School starts:
Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Barrister’s Ball:
March 27, 2010

Midterms:
February 24 - March 12, 2010

Dead-week: April 29 - May 4

Finals begin: May 5, 2010

Spring Break: March 15-19,
2010

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