

Professor Birmingham takes leave

Professor apologizes after inflammatory incident in class; will return in spring

By Kyle McCarthy

A prominent professor at the School of Law has taken a leave of absence after moderating a contentious discussion on slavery and pausing a film on an image of a stripper while conducting a recent class.

Robert L. Birmingham, a professor at the School of Law since 1971, stepped away from the law school for the remainder of fall semester after showing a clip of an interview from a film called "Really, Really Pimpin' in Da South" in his Remedies class on Sept. 21. According to media reports, he

showed the same clip later in another class upon a student's request.

According to a composite of information gathered from a number of students in the class, Prof. Birmingham presented an interview clip from the film relevant to *United States v. Pipkins*, a case involving an Atlanta pimp busted under racketeering statutes for running a prostitution ring.

After Birmingham showed the clip, he halted the film shortly into the next scene, freeze-framing a stripper clad in pink lingerie posing suggestively on a stripper pole. Prof.

Birmingham then commenced discussion about the interview while the image remained on the screen.

The incident followed a racially charged discussion earlier in the same class. In *Farmer-Paellmann, et. al. v. Brown and Williamson*, a group filed a class action against a series of prominent companies seeking restitution for slavery descendents.

Birmingham moderated a debate on the case discussing whether slavery descendents are better off now than if they had remained in Africa, according to several students in

the class.

One student attempted to walk out after another student suggested African-Americans are better off because they are in America and not disease-ridden in Africa. Birmingham implored the student to stay.

School of Law Dean Jeremy Paul learned of the incident from a faculty member in the days after the class and asked Dean of Academic Affairs Paul Chill to investigate. Paul said he had no official complaints from any students.

"The fact of a complaint would not lead to a decision," Paul said.

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Students feel academic effects of Birmingham incident

By Kyle McCarthy

Left with holes in their schedules due to Professor Robert Birmingham's leave of absence, approximately 90 students are working with the School of Law to ensure the leave does not impact their academic careers.

Dean Paul Chill met with each of Prof. Birmingham's four classes to hear concerns and discuss academic options

for the forthcoming term.

"The starting point is that you want to do everything you can to mitigate the impact to the students," Chill said. "You're not going to be able to give them the status quo."

Chill said the ideal scenario would be to see another professor take over the existing classes. But given the difficulty of finding qualified instructors who are available during the class period and willing to

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Photo courtesy of Peter Hitt

Dave Tanner ran the Huck Finn 5k as part of the Hartford Marathon -- See The Back Page

Barak speaks on campus

Former President of Israeli Supreme Court shares his experiences in 2007 Martin Flynn Lecture

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In his monthly column, Dean Paul discusses communication on campus during controversial times

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A Note from the SBA

SBA president Fallon Depina asks students to foster healthy debate in the classroom

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Barak juggles national security and human rights in talk

By Patrick R. Linsey

Call him the anti-Dick Cheney.

As president of the Supreme Court of Israel for more than 10 years, Aahron Barak helmed the quintessential activist judiciary — striving to enforce his ethics of democracy and human rights even as his nation battled widespread terrorism.

Barak addressed UConn Law faculty and students last month for the 2007 Martin Flynn Lecture. While he kept his remarks confined to matters of his home country's policy, it was clear from recent articles in American newspapers his philosophy is just as relevant outside Israel's borders.

"It is a myth to think that it is possible to maintain a

sharp distinction between human rights in war and human rights in peace," Barak said. "We should assume that, whatever we decide when terrorism is threatening ... will linger many years after terrorism is over."

Barak left Israel's Supreme Court last year, after reaching the mandatory retirement age of 70. But in the years before his departure, Barak led the definition of a sweepingly powerful judicial branch.

The Barak court abandoned traditional notions of standing, allowing any person to bring any grievance to the halls of justice. And, in the absence of an Israeli consti-

tution, the court declared certain laws passed by the legislature as "basic" and non-repealable.

Such decisions remain controversial, and with some Barak enjoys the reputation of an anti-democratic usurper in a black robe.

Among the gentler criticism aimed at the former justice, a 2005 opinion piece in the center-right *Jerusalem Post* explained: "Barak has an extremely well-

developed view of the court's proper function. In a nutshell, it is that the court should be the arbiter of every major political and social issue."

Barak is currently a visiting lecturer at Yale Law

School. UConn Law School Dean Jeremy Paul introduced his lecture in Starr Hall last month.

"If the job of a judge is to put so many dimensions into one pot ... how can one tell if he is a good judge?" asked Paul, who noted the large crowd drawn to the reading room. "At least here at the University of Connecticut, we believe he is a good judge."

And while Barak declined to comment on the United States' tactics in its war on terror — "I have my own problems" — at times he seemed to be speaking to every free nation:

"National security cannot justify undermining human rights in every case," Barak said. "The balance is the price of democracy."

"National security cannot justify undermining human rights in every case."

— Aahron Barak

Pro Se

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Editor in Chief: Katrina Goyco
Managing Editor: Lynn Kelly
Executive Editors: Naurin Hashmi, Christophe Renaud
Production Editors: Patrick Linsey, Kyle McCarthy

Contributors

Fallon Depina
Peter Hitt
Joanne Cossitt
Jennifer Galiette
Kiley Gosselin
John Kim
Jonathan Lewis
Heather McRoberts
Aaron Mensh
Tom Plotkin
Christopher Sanetti
Rachel L. Sauer
Chrystal Szeto

Forsythe sheds light on Red Cross in lecture

By Joanne Cossitt

On September 25, 2007, David Forsythe, a visiting professor in conjunction with the Human Rights Institute and a political science professor from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, presented a talk at the UConn Law Campus on the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in conjunction with Professor Mark Janis' International Law class. Forsythe covered a number of topics, including the history of the organization, the fragmentation and diversity among the ICRC and national Red Cross/Red Crescent societies, the organization's current mandate, and the ICRC and the U.S. "War on Terror."

The ICRC was founded by Henry Dumont in 1863 to act as a neutral relief force for mil-

itary wounded. By WWII, the ICRC had gained the right to visit prisoners of international armed conflict and war to determine if states were complying with the Geneva Conventions. Forsythe explained that through the mechanisms of international humanitarian law, and treaties construed through international conferences, the law recognizes both privileged combatants (termed prisoners of war) and unprivileged combatants (not considered prisoners of war, yet still covered by the law). The ICRC treats both types of prisoners.

Forsythe said that the ICRC endorses a "moral minimum" and "minimal threshold of decent treatment" including no torture, mistreatment, humiliation or degradation. The official doctrine is to secure access to prisoners and inves-

tigate conditions discretely to determine what improvements are needed.

The ICRC was inside Abu Ghraib making some improvements when the infamous photos were leaked, Forsythe said. The ICRC was criticized for not having gone public, but Forsythe said the ICRC grants confidential reporting detailing Geneva Conventions violations to governments in exchange for access to prisoners.

Towards the end of his talk, Forsythe queried the audience on a "great unexplained mystery." He asked why the United States government would install permanent ICRC access when the government policy includes detainee abuse during interrogation and refuses to recognize the Geneva Conventions, leaving the audience to ponder the answer.

Birmingham incident challenges, divides students and alumni

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Chill said he talked to students and faculty before reporting back to Paul about the incident.

Paul and Birmingham met twice to discuss the incident on Sept. 24 and Sept. 25, with Birmingham providing his account of events in the first meeting.

"I certainly would not take action without speaking to Professor Birmingham," Paul said.

Birmingham then agreed to apologize to the class and take a leave of absence that covers the remainder of the semester. Birmingham is a tenured professor at the School of Law, making his removal difficult.

SBA president Fallon Depina said she spoke to the administration shortly after the incident. Depina said the administration "presented [the leave] as a mutual decision."

Birmingham forwarded a request for comment to his lawyer, Heather Kaufmann.

"Our main concern at this point is that the situation not be escalated any further," Kaufmann said in an e-mail.

Paul sent a campus-wide e-mail on Oct. 19 announcing Prof. Birmingham's return to campus in the spring. According to the e-mail, Birmingham will teach three courses in the spring: Justice Jackson, Law and Philosophy and Law and Science.

The circumstances surrounding Birmingham's leave have proven divisive, with students and alumni alike struggling to come to terms with the professor's sudden removal.

The administration has faced criticism because it did not disseminate the information in a timely manner. Some students learned of the news through an article published in *The Hartford Courant* on Oct. 4 and questioned why the administration had not said anything prior.

Paul noted he held an open forum that drew a number of students and suggested that he thought word of mouth would have spread to nearly all the students on campus by the time the article hit. The e-mail invitation to the forum was sent before many students had learned of the situation and did not specifically reference Birmingham.

Depina said the student body "felt like it had a stake in [the situation]" but on-campus communication was not ideal.

"If you didn't know someone in the class, you didn't know," Depina said. "Perhaps it could have been communicated better."

"I'm going to try as much as I can to communicate with students," Paul said. "I can imagine students are seeing this for the first time and asking 'what are they hiding?' I appreciate that students feel that way."

Students contacted for this

article said the slavery discussion was consistent with Birmingham's teaching style, which encourages students to examine both sides of contentious issues, dares students to exceed their comfort zone and treads on the border between academic freedom and indecency.

Diversity has been a sensitive issue at the law school since the "Bullets & Bubbly" party held last January. Photos of that party showing law school students dressed in Hip Hop garb appeared on the Internet, drawing nationwide media attention.

"An incident like this happens in a context," Paul said. "What happened last year is in our context. If it influenced what we did this year, it was a very small part of it."

"Our main concern is that professors are responsible and respectful to students in the classroom," Depina said.

Students, administration attempt to pick up academic pieces

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start immediately, Chill could only locate professors for two of the four classes.

Prof. Paul Berman will take over the Remedies course and two adjunct professors, Adam Gendelman '07 and Sarosh Wahla '07, will helm the Energy Law course.

For students in classes for which replacement professors could not be found, Chill presented what he called "a menu of options," allowing students to pick the paths they felt were best for their academic careers.

"I understand that students are concerned about it," SBA president Fallon Depina said. "It's tough because it was so sudden. But I don't know what else you can do. You can't re-

Percentage of students graded A or A- in non-median classes with Prof. Birmingham

	Spring	Fall
2003	N/A	100% (32/32)
2004	100% (52/52)	78% (38/49)
2005	86% (32/37)	71% (36/51)
2006	80% (57/71)	87% (59/68)

Source: Registrar data

ally replace a professor. I can't think of a better way to do it."

Students in Remedies and Energy Law were to select one of four options: Students may take the class for a grade based upon a 24-hour take-home exam; take the class pass/fail based upon the take-home exam without the course counting against the 12-credit

limit on pass/fail courses; replace the course with a special research project (SRP) without the project counting against the limit of 3 SRP or externship credits; or take the class pass/fail by submitting a 15-page paper without the course counting against the 12-credit limit on pass/fail courses.

Students in the now-defunct The Nuremberg Trials and Admiralty Law classes were offered two options to select: They may take the class pass/fail by submitting a 10-page (Nuremberg) or 15-page (Admiralty Law) paper on a relevant topic without the course counting against the 12-credit limit on pass/fail courses or drop the class and add a SRP with another professor without the SRP counting against the limit of 3 SRP or externship credits.

Nuremberg students were also allowed to enroll in Prof. Laura Dickinson's International Human Rights course and Prof. Leonard Orland and Prof. Steven Wilf offered to supervise a limited number of SRPs.

Cheap Canadian drugs pose legal problems for United States

By Chrystal Szeto

On October 4th, University of Connecticut's Professor Susan Schmeiser appeared before a full house for a lunchtime lecture on prescription drug importation.

During the Health Law Interest Group sponsored event, Professor Schmeiser presented the research and findings of the March 2006 publication, *Prescription Drug Importation Programs Relevant to the State of Connecticut*, she coauthored for the Connecticut Legislature. Among the topics discussed were the costs of brand name and generic drugs, and our culture's reliance on prescription drugs.

Currently, prescription drug expenditures account for 10% of the nation's total healthcare expenditures. The pharmaceutical industry has

been one of the most profitable industries in the U.S. in the last 10 years. Nearly two-thirds of the population incurs a prescription drug expense at some point each year. That figure rises to a staggering 92% among those who are aged 65 and older.

One of the possible solutions to the problem is importation of drugs produced outside of the country. However, the only way pharmaceuticals can be legally imported into the United States is if the drug is manufactured at an FDA approved site or if it is re-imported directly by the manufacturer.

Another proposed solution to high prices of brand name drugs is use of generic drugs. Generic drugs typically cost one-third of the cost of brand name drugs. What many consumers do not realize is that



Photo courtesy of Peter Hitt

brand name drugs have a narrower spectrum of deviation from the standard than their generic counterparts. These differences do not allow all consumers to take advantage of the cheaper generic drugs.

Because of these regulatory limitations, many seniors currently travel across the border to Canada or Mexico to obtain cheaper drugs. There is a dis-

cretionary enforcement policy that allows personal importation for a 90 day supply or less. Although Connecticut did not ultimately adopt a state sponsored importation program, residents may go to infolines.org to find links to internet-based discount drug programs.

Sexed by the state: the role of gender in law and government

By Rachel L. Sauer

The government tells a person a lot of things – his social security number, what she owes the Internal Revenue Service, how fast he can drive on I-84. But the government also dictates one of the most basic aspects of a person's being: his or her gender.

UConn's Lambda Law Society hosted "Trans-Forming the Law", a panel discussion on gender identity and civil rights, on Oct. 12. The panel included State Rep. Michael Lawlor, D-99; Jerimarie Liesegang, the founder of the Connecticut TransAdvocacy Coalition; Northeastern University Law Professor Taylor Flynn; and Carrie Backer, a Professor of Gender and Women's Studies at Smith College.

Panelists' comments sparked discussion on a topic many law students might not have considered – that of transgender rights.

When a person is born, a doctor checks a box "male" or "female," and for life that person is expected to live, look, and act accordingly. In order to legally change one's sex, it is generally necessary to be diagnosed by a doctor as having a mental disorder.

Due to varying laws throughout the states, people can sometimes change their genders. But moving from one state to another, new sets of laws take effect and "he" may legally become "she" again.

Legislation prohibiting discrimination against minority groups, even some

which include rights for homosexuals, often excludes the transgender community for fear of losing the entire proposal, said Lawlor. The state representative co-chairs the General Assembly's Judiciary Committee, where he is seeking to legalize gay marriage in Connecticut.

Liesegang said, in a way, many people could be considered transgender, because they sometimes bend the rules society has imposed on their sex. However, people who do not conform to the point of actually identifying as a nontraditional gender are fewer in number and face greater opposition, she said.

While most people would agree that males and females have distinct, expected cultural behaviors, Flynn

pointed out that nowadays the lines are fading. A boy who trims his eyebrows, however, is still likely to turn a few heads, she said.

One who identifies with the opposite gender than that which he was legally assigned is very likely to face confrontation and discrimination in both social and professional circles, panelists said. Liesegang noted people can become uncomfortable at even the thought of sharing a bathroom with a transgender person.

If gender were simply physical or was not assigned a host of expectations, said Liesegang, the matter would be less complicated.

"Sex is not as simple as we would like it to be," she said.

Features

Twice as likely to find the right fit

By Jennifer Galiette

Spending two summers as a summer associate at the same law firm gives me a somewhat unique perspective on summer programs. Each summer was an opportunity to learn about life at a large Connecticut law firm, and about the environment at Day Pitney (formerly Day, Berry & Howard), the firm where I spent those two summers. Most importantly, each summer was an opportunity for me to learn about myself, and whether this environment would be the right fit for me.

Day Pitney's summer associate program closely simulated associate life. Numerous social functions were also planned, giving summer

associates the opportunity to meet an array of the firm's partners and associates from all of its practice groups. Each of us was assigned to our own office, complete with a firm e-mail address, telephone extension, and nameplate on the door. We received assignments from a variety of practice groups, enabling us to test our preconceptions about our interest in working in different areas of law. We recorded our time, attended meetings, and accompanied attorneys to trials, depositions, and closings. We received formal and informal mentoring

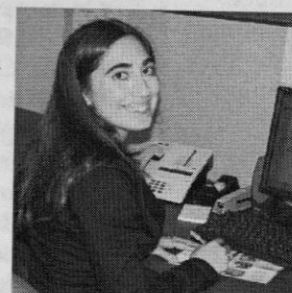
throughout the summer, and attended social events including cooking classes, mini-golf outings, and happy hours. My classmates and I bonded as together we experienced these aspects of law firm life.

Throughout my first summer at Day Pitney, every experience was new and carried with it an element of excitement. When I returned as a summer associate following my second year of law school, I found that element of excitement gave way to feelings of comfort and satisfaction.

Even as the initial excitement

I'd experienced the first summer dissipated, the reasons I chose the firm – twice – remained. Young associates and summer associates are given responsibility early on, working on inte-

gral aspects of litigation and transactional matters. Attorneys have the opportunity to strike a work/life balance that is right for them, and respect one another's commitments to family and other matters outside the office. Finally, all the attorneys I interacted with were enthusiastic about their work, and truly wanted to help me succeed as a summer associate. My summer experiences at Day Pitney offered me the unparalleled opportunity to immerse myself in the firm's environment and, in doing so, to realize that such an environment is the right fit for me.



From policy to BigLaw

By Kiley Gosselin

After spending three years working in politics and housing policy, I fully expected to forgo the whole "big firm recruitment nightmare" in favor of policy, government, or non-profit legal employment. Last August, however, I decided to cast a wide net and explore options I wouldn't have considered prior to law school. I viewed my second summer as a way to try something completely new before possibly heading back to the world of policy and government.

When I stumbled across Holland & Knight's Boston website I did the usual cursory glance at statistics – number of attorneys, offices, etc. I then moved on to the "practice areas" section. There, I found that the firm has a large syndication practice: the process of essentially selling federal tax credits for programs like low-income housing to investors, making an otherwise financially unfeasible project a fairly sound, solid investment. While the thought of answering the "what do you do?" question with "I practice corporate tax law" was not appealing, the chance to apply my interest and knowledge about housing policy to help finance affordable housing was. After the usual round of interviews I was lucky enough to land a summer associate position.

If I was going to be at a big firm, I wanted one that

was less corporate and more "down to earth" with smart, genuinely nice people who were a pleasure to work with. In the long term I was looking for a family friendly atmosphere and reasonable billable hours (no sleeping under the desk or working every weekend). I also wanted a firm that was fairly politically active and paid more than lip-service to the importance of pro-bono work. While I originally thought I would be better suited at a mid-sized firm, I found that the syndication group at H&K operated, for purposes of personal interaction, as a mid-sized firm in itself. I made it a point to talk to as many people as possible, especially women, about their experiences – everything from realization rates to health care – before accepting my summer offer.

Although I always thought I would end up a litigator, I quickly found the "forward-looking" and cooperative nature of transactional syndication work more satisfying. The life of a syndication deal is much shorter (about 3-4 months) than the life of many lawsuits. I also liked the idea of handling my own deals and having a sense of organization, control, and achievement that comes with managing and closing them. I made it a point to try out other practice areas, but in the end found myself looking forward to my next syndication assignment.

A word from the stacks

Current awareness services

By Simon Canick

Keeping abreast of news related to one's legal specialty, or one's clients' interests, is critically important to practicing attorneys. To stay current, lawyers may attend conferences and continuing education classes, subscribe to newsletters, and read blogs, among other things. Similar tools are available to law students, and signing up can help you understand the subjects you're studying in class, and impress those with whom you interview.

Westlaw and Lexis offer various email alert options, of course but here are a few others you might consider:

- BNA (Bureau of National Affairs) produces over 100 legal newsletters that report recent developments. UConn Law students can now subscribe to any of BNA's electronic alerts by visiting <http://www.bna.com/>, and

selecting "BNA's Law School Professional Information Center." Scroll through the "BNA All" list for choices, then sign up for email updates using the "E-Mail Preferences" link. (Note: you must sign up for this service from an on-campus computer.)

- Blogs have the potential to displace expensive current awareness services like those published by BNA. With rapid reporting and provocative commentary, well-chosen blogs can keep you informed and save you time. But finding good blogs can be tough. <http://www.blawg.com/> is a helpful directory featuring blogs on hundreds of legal topics. You might also use Google's blog search engine, <http://blogsearch.google.com/>, to find postings on specific attorneys, companies, or legal topics, then save your searches as email alerts or custom RSS feeds.

- SmartCILP is an updating service that emails you a weekly list of recently published law review articles. You can select specific journals or subject areas to track by creating a profile at <http://depts.washington.edu/scilp/>. For "affiliation" and "authorization code," please contact me, or stop by the reference desk.

- U.S. government documents are published daily, on almost every subject imaginable. Browse these lists of government email alerts <http://tinyurl.com/2yg5a4>, RSS feeds <http://tinyurl.com/2x24uk>, and podcasts <http://tinyurl.com/ytcco4>. You can track the progress of pending legislation by bill number, subject, sponsor, or committee with <http://www.govtrack.us/>, or request daily reports of administrative activity at <http://tinyurl.com/yoaatn>.

Cranky DVD Reviewer: Horror movies

Don't Look Now brings the screams as Halloween approaches

By Tom Plotkin

Halloween is upon us again, and that means it's time to hunker down and watch horror movies. There was a time and a place when horror was cerebral, sexy, literate – and genuinely scary: Here is my Halloween pick: one example of classical British horror cinema of the 70's now available on lovingly restored DVD.

Don't Look Now (1973): A husband and wife are in deep mourning after the tragic drowning of their little girl. They have come to Venice in the off-season, where the husband is restoring a cathedral in the deserted labyrinth of a city. One day in a restaurant, a blind woman gazes at the husband and says, "I see your daughter. She is trying to tell you she's all right...and she's laughing." The husband begins to have encounters with a small figure disappearing at his approach in the twisty arcades of the city. She wears the same red hooded raincoat his daughter wore the day she died and appears just as a serial killer begins littering the streets of Venice with corpses. Warning: this is one of the CREEPIEST ghost stories ever, and I will say no more....

CLS helps students find God in law

By Heather McRoberts

What are we called to do? Most law students feel the call towards the law at some point. But what do you do with it and how can you use the law to better serve God, if possible? And can you serve God at Sidley Austin or must you devote your life to working for non-profits?

The Christian Legal Society serves as a rock for lawyers and law students seeking to live a life in Christ and law. At our weekly small group meetings – Thursdays at 12:30 P.M. – we discuss this "something more" that we're searching for.

On campus, we will team up with BLSA and LLSA for Operation Christmas Child, an international effort to get Christmas gifts to children in third world countries. There will be a box in Knight Hall starting October 29, 2007 where you can drop off small toys, socks, toothbrushes, school supplies or monetary donations (left with a CLS member, please). We also will be having a food drive which will help people more locally. Your help with donations will be greatly appreciated!

Later in the semester, the group will attend the CLS National Conference in Destin, FL.

One last thing: watch out for details coming later this month regarding anonymous prayer requests. If there's something or someone you think prayer can help, feel free to contact us.

Dean's Corner: A message from Dean Jeremy Paul

Spreading the Word

Thanks once again for providing me this forum to communicate with the student body. I invite readers to provide me with feedback about other ways that we might enhance communication between the administration and the students.

I understand and sympathize with the desire of many to hear more from me right now about recent events that commenced with Professor Birmingham's Remedies class on September 21. Toward that end, I did chat with Kyle McCarthy, who, I understand, is writing a story about the matter for Pro Se. I would also like to add my sincere apologies to those students whose semesters were disrupted and my sincere thanks to Dean Chill for his tireless efforts to minimize that disruption. Regrettably, however, this is not the time for a further statement. My principal concern is to move toward Professor Birmingham's return to the classroom for the spring semester. I don't want further public characterizations of past events to interfere with ongoing discussions. As time goes on, I will speak at length with the student body about the core issues of academic freedom and an appropriate classroom

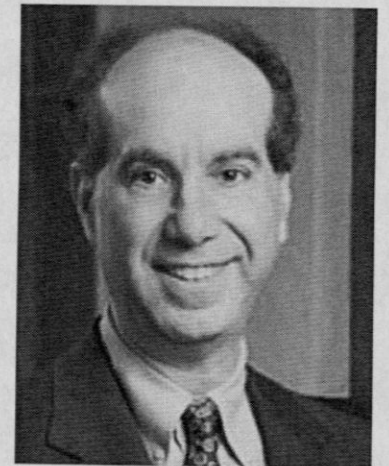
environment. It's clear to me that different views on these issues exist within our community, and I am eager to hear them all.

For now, I wish to discuss how I can effectively communicate with all of you in ways other than sending global e-mails to the entire community. This is not a new issue here at the law school. One year, one of our guests passed out at a law school function. We received many complaints that we had not posted information the next day about the guest's medical condition. Fortunately, this guest was fine, and so we could presumably have communicated that fact. Were we to do so, however, we would establish a pattern where if we failed to write, our community could presume that someone was really ill. We believe that guests in this situation have a right to keep their medical condition private, and thus we do not use e-mail in this way. In general, the more sensitive a situation, the less likely we are to send out written statements. Certainly this will be true of anything fairly described as a personnel matter.

Another event of a few years back involved allegations of academic misconduct.

The situation turned out to be complex because the rules in the particular class were unclear. Rumors flew through the campus ranging from stories about mass expulsions to claims that a few folks had gotten away with cheating. These rumors, however, were far from the dean's office. As we learned of them slowly, we moved to solve the underlying problem. Dean Newton and I never, however, put out a statement. My concern was that we had a small tear in the fabric of our community. We wanted to move to heal those most affected. An e-mail to the wounded parties might help them, but it might also spread the rip clear across to the other side of the blanket. I heard later that rumors had spread so widely through the grapevine that everyone was talking about it anyway so a statement was needed. There is always reason to be concerned, however, that global e-mails will just make such matters worse.

The active grapevine was what I thought I faced in recent days. I posted an announcement of an open forum to talk to all of you, presuming (and being told) that events in the Remedies class and the e-mails to the more than 80 affected stu-



dents were more than enough to have the campus buzzing. Later I discovered, however, that there were many in our student body who saw the "Query the Dean" message yet knew nothing of recent events and so missed the one hour and twenty minute discussion on October 1.

Accordingly, far too many students awoke one morning to learn about events at our law school for the first time in the Hartford Courant. No one is sorrier than I that news traveled in this way. One idea I have is to establish a council of student leaders and call them in for an information session should we have important news in the future. I continue to believe there will be many cases where global e-mails are not the way to go. I very much look forward to hearing what you believe.

Dear UConn Community:

A note from the SBA

By Fallon Depina

If you're anything like me, you came to law school in part (even if you never admitted it) because you want to make better arguments. You like to argue and you like to win, which may or may not make you a good attorney, but will most definitely make you everyone's least favorite din-

ner guest. Many of us carry this desire to win arguments to the classroom. This usually leads to healthy debate and a balance of differing viewpoints. These are the sorts of exchanges that everyone benefits from. However, sometimes these debates take a turn for the worse. What begins as intellectual becomes inflammatory. We

get so caught up in winning the argument and dominating the debate that we fail to respect our fellow classmates. So I would like to take this time to encourage everyone to try a little harder to listen to other points of view and to respect others' opinions. We all gain when everyone's voice is heard and respected.

Thank you.

The Back Page

UConn Law students go the extra mile(s) in marathon

By John Kim and Aaron Mensh

Some saw it as an opportunity to get away from their books; others were looking for a challenge; and still others ran to qualify for the marathon in Boston this spring. The UConn Law community was well represented in the 14th Annual Greater Hartford Marathon on Oct. 13.

Emily Carroll and Allyson King were among the most outstanding student competitors whose performances

qualified them to run in Boston next April.

"I'm really excited with my time, especially since this is only my second marathon," said Carroll, who celebrated her 23rd birthday as she ran 26.2 miles. "I am looking forward to Boston, but for now I just need to go home and take a shower."

A number of this year's competitors were first-timers. Elizabeth Krasnow loved the experience.

"That was twice as far as I've ever ran," Krasnow said.

"I couldn't feel my legs for the last five miles."

Another entrant, Jon Burby, a 2L and a member of the Arts, Entertainment and Sports Law Society, looked exhausted after running for more than four hours. Burby almost fainted at the 17-mile mark, yet kept his wits about him long enough to cross the finish line.

"I feel worse than Pheidippides after he ran from Marathon to Athens in 490 B.C.," Burby said. "He had stamina."

Pheidippides might take a different view. He collapsed

and died after reaching Athens.

UConn Law School students also participated in both the half-marathon and a 5-K race. Elizabeth Cunha relished the half marathon, her first road race.

"I had so much fun running out there," Cunha said. "I saw parts of Hartford I've never seen."

Dave Tanner, John Kim, Julie Wynns, Kiley Gosselin, and scores of Mark Twain supporters completed the "Huck Finn" 5-K.

Upcoming Home Sporting Events

Football

October 27	TBD	South Florida
November 3	TBD	Rutgers

Men's Soccer

October 27	7:30p.m.	Marquette
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Men's Basketball

November 7	7:00p.m.	Morgan State
November 8	9:00p.m.	TBD

Women's Basketball

November 11	2:00p.m.	Stony Brook
November 14	7:30p.m.	Holy Cross

Men's Hockey

October 27	7:05p.m.	Army
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Sanetti's Pearls of Wisdom

By Chris Sanetti



-- As the semester goes on, get to know your TAs. They've (usually) got valuable insight into the course, the instructor, the exam, the school, etc. Plus, office hours get lonely.

-- Offer your notes and a quick summary of class to anyone you notice was missing. It's a small school and a small legal community. You are guaranteed to need a favor from them someday.

-- Take every chance to meet practicing lawyers and judges, when they come to campus. Those that come here are obviously interested in being heard by law students, so oblige them. You'll learn a ton about the law while getting in some low-stress networking.

-- Make sure you are backing up your notes in Gmail, a USB drive or some other safe place. You don't want to be at the Geek Squad's mercy with 2 1/2 weeks before your exam. Oh, and speaking of technology, don't let your cell phone ring during class. We all mess up occasionally, but nobody wants to be interrupted by Kanye while trying to learn about causation.