

## Committee explores possible B-median changes

By Patrick R. Linsey

Significant changes to the law school's B-median system are possible in the near future, as a committee draws its investigation of grading policies to a close.

UConn Law's Educational Policy Committee is considering several options, including placing limits on the number of non-median courses that affect class rank and implementing a grading curve based on the mean, not the median class grade.

If the EPC approves one or

more proposals, they may be presented to the faculty for a vote later this semester.

Committee members said changes could address the perception that some students take non-B-median courses not because of interest in the subject matter, but rather to pump up their Grade Point Averages. The committee has also discussed concerns of disparate application of the system from professor to professor.

The law school's current grading policy requires that courses with more than 18

students or with multiple sections in the same academic year be graded on a B-median curve. In these courses, half of students must receive a B or higher and half must receive a B or lower. But professors teaching seminars with 18 or less students are free to grade as they please, often giving much higher marks — and competition over entry into these courses has given some at the law school pause.

"[The grading system] has not worked that well in accomplishing its primary goal:

reducing grading disparities in required and multiple-section courses," said Prof. James Stark, chairman of the EPC, in an e-mail interview. "It has skewed course selection of electives, with the result that students are avoiding important, but perceived-to-be-difficult courses in pursuit of higher [Grade Point Averages.]"

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Paul Chill called the B-median's impact on course selection "the worst aspect of our current

See MEDIAN, p. 5

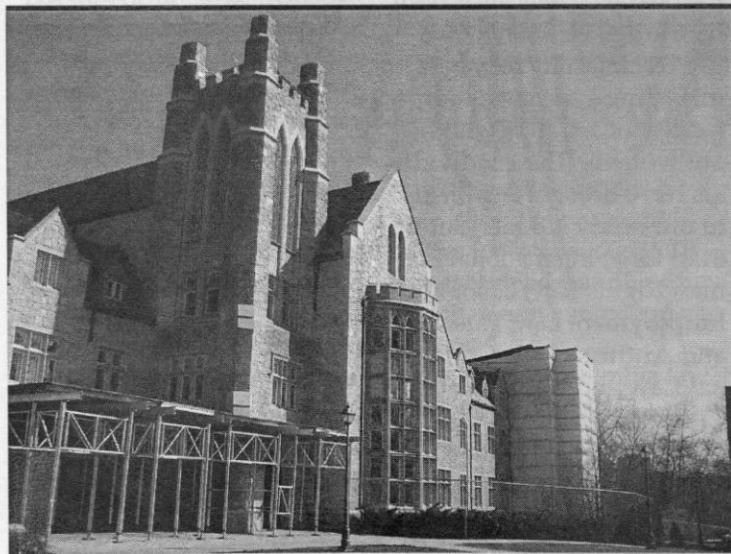


Photo courtesy of Peter Hitt

*Scaffolding and tarp adorn the library exterior as construction is underway to remedy structural problems with the \$24 million facility. Repairs are expected to be completed within 18 months.*

## State government sues fifteen contractors over library construction

By Alexa Lindauer

Attorney General Richard Blumenthal recently announced that he would be suing fifteen contractors, architects, and others responsible for inadequate design and construction of the University of Connecticut School of Law Library.

The \$24 million library was completed in January 1996, but Library Director Darcy Kirk said leaks were noticed in the building even prior to moving from the old facility in Starr Hall to the new facility in August 1996. At first, the extent of the problems was not fully known, but as time passed it became more and more apparent that the issues were severe and widespread. "Things tended to get worse as time went on, and then it leveled out," explained Kirk.

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### Dean's Corner

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### Pro Se

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## Dean's Corner with Dean Jeremy Paul

### *What kind of change?*

By Jeremy Paul

A recent comment at a public forum from a student I greatly respect caused me to pause and reflect. The student's remark was that "nothing ever changes" around the law school, and the clear implication was that we are somewhat stuck in our ways.

This impression of stasis doesn't square with my observations, and since a brief detailing of recent accomplishments is also a suitable tribute to my predecessors, I am delighted to offer one. If a similar list can be written at the end of my tenure, I will be proud indeed.

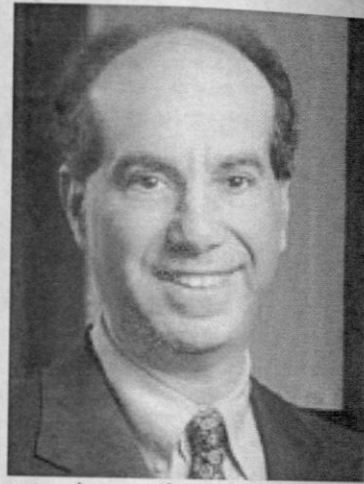
Educational offerings are our most important contribution, and the registrar's office informs me we have added 107 new courses in the last decade. These range alphabetically from a new course on animal law through the nationally-noted seminar on WalMart. We now sport courses in Elder Law, Higher Education Law, Historic Preservation Law and Public Policy and recently have added an introductory course in Islamic Law. Students can now earn credit as teaching assistants, and we have a course taught by fourteen different faculty members covering Recent Cases: Trends and Significance. And, of course, we have just opened a brand new legal clinic focusing on intellectual property and entrepreneurship and, this semester, launched an international law clinic to complement the

human rights and asylum clinic, which brings pride to us all.

Our facilities have been substantially upgraded. In recent years, Chase 110 and 210 were entirely renovated and are now fully equipped with contemporary technology. We opened two new beautiful courtrooms in Starr Hall. The student lounge in Knight has new furniture, a new television, and a new wall to block it off from foot traffic into the classroom. The campus now has wireless service in many places, and we have a whole new web page design.

Not counting new folks for next year, the law school has added eleven new tenure track faculty members, including a current junior faculty of six, all of whom are women. These individuals have brought new focus to our study of American Indian Law; International Human Rights Law; Labor and Employment Law; Patent and Antitrust Law; Criminal Law and Welfare Policy; Civil Procedure and Class Actions; Administrative Law and European Community Law; International Tax; Banking and Corporate Law; Family and Health Law; and Law and Economics.

Student academic life is now bolstered by four law journals, including the recently launched Connecticut Public Interest Law Journal. Student organizations such as BLSA, WLSA and LLSA have blossomed in recent years. And the paper you are now reading, *Pro Se*, did



not exist until just last year. Incoming student orientation has dramatically expanded to include academic and community service components, and the law school has added a whole new term of study each July.

The point, of course, is not that recent changes are enough. We have many important improvements we need to tackle if we are to remain a proud school worthy of our predecessors. Some of my goals are to add a semester in Washington program, to launch some educational programming in Stamford, to partner with the University's new programs in human rights and environmental science, to grow and diversify the faculty, and to move forward on building adequate students space for gatherings, student organizations, and possibly student living. I'm also very interested in your ideas. It seems to me, however, that change is something the law school has experienced a great deal in recent years. I look forward to hearing from you on what accounts for any perception to the contrary.

## New editors-in-chief take office with eye towards future

By Jillian Redding

Ah, springtime. New buds on the trees. New birds a-chirping. And new slates of editors for UConn Law's several journals. Let's take a moment to get to get to know them!

Aaron Mensh, the new Editor-in-Chief for the Law Review, intends to uphold the high standard maintained by the 3Ls this year. He wants to continue publishing articles that are interesting and discuss solutions to real-world issues. He hopes upcoming topics in the Law Review will prove interesting to the community and spur reactions from readers. Mensh said he also aims to retain the excellent training for incoming 2Ls that he underwent and the responsiveness that was

provided to them during their first year on the journal.

Alexandra Greene is the International Law Journal's new EIC. She plans to continue the journal's tradition of teamwork. As EIC she is committed to scholarship and putting out the strongest journal issues possible — ones ripe in content pursuing scholarly topics of interest in the international forum. The 2008 CJILJ symposium will examine immigration. Her goal is to bring awareness of the international scene to our campus and beyond, educating people about the global issues that face our world today and that will in the near future.

Then there's Gabe McGlamery, the new EIC of the Insurance Law Journal. He has a strong interest in insurance law and intends to help the

journal rise in prestige. Ongoing projects at the insurance journal include increasing the number of subscribers by making digital editions available online, which may also lead to increased submissions on a wider variety of topics. McGlamery would also like to make the journal more attractive to 1Ls by increasing their awareness of jobs in insurance law, including externships and internships. The journal will have a symposium in August focusing on Intellectual Property and insurance.

Emily Carroll, the new EIC of the Public Interest Law Journal, has an additional challenge — on top of adding acclaim to what is an already well-respected journal for its young age. She wants to foster discussion and interest in the public interest forum by

tackling the tricky question of what exactly "public interest" means. Varying interpretations include governmental and political issues, policy debates, human rights, race, gender and sexuality issues. CPILJ recently concluded a highly successful symposium, entitled *e-Democracy: Democratic Values in a Digital Age*. Upcoming activities include the journal's second annual alternative application for the summer write-on competition, which gives the option of writing a shorter essay, as opposed to the traditional two-week tryout. Its purpose is to allow students who otherwise are unable to afford a heavy investment of time to devote to the competition because of work or family an opportunity to compete for journal membership.

## Cover retreat focuses on social justice opportunities

By Allison Silva

Tucked away in cabins in Peterborough, NH, 103 law students, practitioners and professors from 25 schools hailing from Florida to Maine gathered at the 21st Annual Robert M. Cover Retreat. UConn had the honor of hosting this year's retreat and succeeded in bringing 14 students as well as Professors Berger and Gustafson as part of our delegation.

Student and retreat organizer Ben Smilowitz sums up the vision that Robert Cover had for this retreat.

"It's easy to forget our sense of purpose when we are bogged down with mountains of law school work," Smilowitz said. "Ultimately, the people that gathered

might be our closest long-term allies, fighting uphill battles for social justice. The Retreat provides a solid foundation of community and support."

Celebrated Columbia law professor, Robert Cover, once predicted to be considered for the Supreme Court before his untimely death at the age of 42, first conceived of this retreat while teaching at Columbia Law. His colleagues, who ultimately made his vision a reality, spoke about Cover's dedication and brilliance. As a law student at Columbia, Cover was an active proponent of civil rights; involving himself with the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee and its voting rights campaign. Exemplifying his dedication

to the cause, Cover exercised his right to civil disobedience and as a result served a three-week jail term in Albany, Georgia in the early 1960s. The brief biography given by Cover's former colleagues emphasized his ambition and sense of urgency. He did not wait until graduation to begin his work; rather he started as a student.

Students embodying Cover's ethic spoke about the public interest work they are currently engaged in. The New England School of Law started the Judicial Language Project in 2005. This project aims to identify language in judicial opinions that inappropriately implies that the victim of the violence was in some way responsible for the violence. Students

in the Street Law Clinic at Georgetown University teach public high school students the distinctions between civil and criminal law and conduct a mock trial program. Throughout the weekend attendees discussed issues such as Impact Litigation, Racism and the Law, and Immigration and Prison Reform, sharing ideas to bring back to their campuses and communities.

Participating in social activism on behalf of the public interest provides the opportunity to create a direct link between the study of law and the application of the law.

If you would like to get involved, contact our Public Interest Law Group and consider attending next year's retreat.



## Gallivan conference examines sustainable, green development

By Lynn Kelly

Our campus became the intersection of sustainable development and the law last month as a record crowd attended the 15th annual Gallivan conference.

Dean Jeremy Paul, "was delighted to be able to support [Professor Sara Bronin] in bringing scholars and policymakers to Connecticut who are national leaders in this field."

The panelists, who hailed from places including the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and the U.S. Green Building Council, touched on a wide range of issues including sustainable growth in developing countries, market-based incentives for smart development and

the importance of greening our public schools.

A highlight was impassioned keynote speaker, Douglas Foy, founder of Serrafix, a leading environmental consultant firm, and former Massachusetts secretary of development. Foy called on those in the audience to rethink their notions of living green by advocating increased density in development and starting a dialogue about how existing buildings can be made more environmentally friendly.

Bronin, who planned this year's conference with the help of numerous faculty, staff, and students, "was thrilled to see so many students, alums, and members of the legal and development community."

### What is sustainable development?

**Sustainable development:** Maintaining a delicate balance between the human need to improve lifestyles and feeling of well-being on one hand, and preserving natural resources and ecosystems, on which we and future generations depend. ([www.gdrc.org](http://www.gdrc.org))

The registration list included 130 state and local officials, developers, planners, engineers, architects and students, who all gathered to discuss the ways in which the law makes it easy, or not so easy, to be green.

*Sara Bronin is the Gallivan Research Professor of Law, and has recently accepted a tenure*

*track position at the Law School. The Gallivan Conference is supported by a fund set up to honor a beloved property professor, Thomas J. Gallivan, to ensure that our law school would be a focal point for discussion of cutting-edge property and real estate topics of interest to the real property bar.*

## State seeks \$15 million for library repairs from builders

from LAWSUIT, p. 1

Two outside firms were hired to evaluate the condition of the building. After the second firm issued its report, the scaffolding – that many law students have never seen the library without – went up. As Kirk explained, in the event of heavy rain and wind, "there was a slight chance that some of the stones could come up, and then it was clear that something was going to have to be done."

The library is home to pervasive leaks, particularly on the north side of the building, due to substandard materials, improper installation, defective anchors securing the stone front, and a lack of steel reinforcing bars within the walls. The extent of the leaks raised some concerns about mold and air quality so the air in the building now must be

monitored continuously to ensure that it is safe for patrons and staff.

Necessary repairs, which are expected to take 18 months, include removing and reattaching the stone facade, installing missing steel beams, replacing the waterproofing system, and repairing or replacing all windows.

With the cost of repairs not far below the cost of the building itself, Attorney General Blumenthal announced on February 15 that he would be suing 15 defendants on a 26-count action. Charges include negligence, breach of contract, product liability, breach of fiduciary duty, intentional misrepresentation, and negligent misrepresentation. The State will be seeking \$15 million, which is the estimated cost of repairs, plus damages.

For the time being, the

money for repairs is coming from UConn 2000, the \$2.3 billion, 20-year state investment into University of Connecticut facilities. UConn 2000 provided the original funds for the library, as well as for the Davis Courtroom and four other classroom renovations. Any money awarded in the pending suit will be put back into the UConn 2000 fund.

The Attorney General will be working with McCarter, a firm that specializes in construction, on the suit. The defendants will include construction manager Gilbane Building Company of Rhode Island, architects SLAM Collaborative of Glastonbury and Hartman-Cox of the District of Columbia, general contractor F.B. Mattson Company of Waterbury, and masonry contractor Lombardo Mason Contractors of Hartford,

along with ten other parties involved in the construction. Legal counsel for a number of defendants have claimed that their clients fully cooperated with the State in addressing its concerns. Others say they were extensively supervised when the building went up over a decade ago, with inspection reports requiring four signatures everyday. If these claims are true, exactly how the extensive problems went unnoticed until the building was completed is a mystery.

The School of Law is not taking an active role in the proceedings, but will provide Attorney General Blumenthal with any relevant files, observations, or information. "I suppose at some point I could be deposed, but the State and the University are really the plaintiffs," Kirk said.

## Flexibility and application among B-median concerns

from MEDIAN, p. 1

system." He recalled dealing with "many very frustrated and angry students" who, due to technical glitches, were prevented from using their priority enrollment appointments to gain entry into certain courses.

"[M]ost of the time it is clear that the primary source of their unhappiness is less that they won't be able to engage a particular subject matter or study it with a particular professor, but rather that they may have to forfeit three non-B-Median credits," said Chill, who along with Dean Jeremy Paul is a non-voting, ex-officio member of the EPC.

One of several options the EPC has examined would limit the number of non-median courses that affect a student's GPA. Students taking additional non-median courses would receive grades, but not the potential boost in class rank.

The committee has also discussed raising the cap in non-median courses from

18 to 24 students. Paul, who prior to assuming his current post served for five years as Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, said some professors prefer teaching non-median courses and that raising the cap would allow them to teach larger classes.

The EPC includes six professors and two student-members, one of whom is 3L Chris Parkin. Last fall, Parkin raised another concern about the B-median scale to the committee – that some professors apply it differently than others.

The B-median system's flexibility would allow one professor teaching a class of 60 to give 30 A's and 30 B's while another professor gives 30 B's and 30 C's. Though an extreme and unlikely hypothetical, the EPC has noted more moderate inconsistencies in the B-median's application.

In the Fall semester of 2005, the average numerical grade in one Contracts section was 3.31 while in another it was 2.99. This and other examples

have prompted the committee to consider backing a stricter curve, which members hope could stanch grade inflation and grade compression.

"If the first in your class is a 3.7 and the last in your class is a 3.3, nobody wins," Parkin said. "Grades [need to be] disparate enough so you can actually tell top students from bottom students and within the middle where people fall."

First-year students are especially susceptible to disparate application of the median, as all their courses are held to the median and they have limited choice between sections. However, a survey of data from the registrar's office reveals little discrepancy between the average GPA of the large sections in which most 1Ls take their core, doctrinal courses.

Last academic year, sections A, B and C together had a mean GPA of 3.185 for their large lecture courses, while sections D, E and F together had a mean GPA of 3.144. The difference was even smaller

the year before.

That could be in part because Chill and Paul said they have taken into account professors' grading styles when scheduling first-year sections as one of many factors. Paul said professors in different sections of the same first-year course will also sometimes conference to ensure they are applying similar curves, though he suspects that practice is in decline.

Over the last two years, the EPC has studied data on grading practices at the law school provided by the registrar, as well as a report by the American Bar Association analyzing the practices of dozens of law schools.

And while members of the committee said there is as of yet no consensus, they are hopeful a plan can be approved by the committee and put before faculty this year. That would mean having it ready by May 9, the last full faculty meeting of the semester.

## Simon says: Sites and sounds for election junkies

By Simon Canick

The 2008 presidential campaign has generated tremendous interest, with unique storylines and strong candidates. If you're like me, you may check a few web sites and tune into a couple of TV and radio broadcasts to keep up with the news. But we're only scratching the surface.

My goal in this short article is to introduce you to a few (relatively) nonpartisan sites that aren't affiliated with the major outlets.

*Real Clear Politics*, <http://realclearpolitics.com/>:

Collects opinion, news and analysis from dozens of sources. Updated constantly. Links to general election and state polls as they're released, with graphs showing trends. Highly addictive.

*Politico*, <http://politico.com/>: Politico's own staff reporters offer original election coverage. Check out blogs focusing on the campaign (left, right, and center), and how politics intersects with media coverage and pop culture, among other things.

*Rasmussen Reports*, <http://rasmussenreports.com/>: Significant primarily for its daily

surveys, including presidential tracking, electoral college breakdowns, approval ratings, exit polling, and the "Mood of America" on numerous subjects.

*Daryl Cagle's Professional Cartoonists Index*, <http://cagle.com/>: A vast, searchable collection of political and editorial cartoons from all over the world. You can set up RSS alerts covering your favorite artists, or just waste a whole lot of time browsing.

*The Onion*, <http://theonion.com/whitehousewar>: Reliably hysterical source for semi-serious-sounding fake news.

*Justia Blawg Search (Election Law)*, <http://blawgsearch.justia.com/>: Check out this directory of law blogs for almost any subject. Click on "election law" for links to election-related blogs written by law professors and practitioners.

Political Podcasts (iTunes) – log into the iTunes music store, and select Podcasts > News & Politics. There's a nice mixture of traditional news (BBC, Economist, 60 Minutes), liberal / conservative talk shows (Keith Olbermann, Sean Hannity), and humor (Bill Maher).



## Kay discusses original intent at Federalist Society lecture

By Jon Lewis

On February 28, The Federalist Society sponsored a talk by Professor Richard S. Kay on the topic of originalism and constitutional interpretation.

About 50 students attended Professor Kay's talk where he discussed "original intent" originalism, the concept that the constitution should be interpreted according to the intent of the Framers. Kay contrasted originalism with non-originalism and entertained several thought-provoking questions regarding amending the constitution and the role his-

tory scholarship should play in constitutional law. As someone who helped organize this event, I was particularly pleased that so many of my fellow 1L Constitutional Law classmates were able to attend.

The UConn Law Federalist Society is a group of conservative and libertarian students interested in the current state of the legal order. The organization has chapters throughout the country of both law students and lawyers and was founded on the principles that the state exists to preserve freedom, that the separation of governmental powers is central to our Consti-

"Any rules of law, and especially long-term constitutional rules of law, have to issue from a legitimate source ... a source that was and continues to be recognized as a good one to make such long-term decisions. In America ... the source is said to be the people."

-- Professor Richard S. Kay  
(Source: Feb. 28 lecture notes by Patrick R. Linsey)

tution, and that it is emphatically the province and duty of the judiciary to say what the law is, not what it should be.

UConn Law Federalist Society members have a wide range

of views on many topics from abortion to drug legalization and enjoy having respectful, intellectually stimulating debates. New members are always welcome.

## Studying abroad in King Arthur's Exeter backyard

By Blake Ratcliff

I spent last term studying abroad over in Exeter, England. I suppose it's forgivable if merely mentioning Exeter doesn't conjure up any images of this quaint, provincial English city among the student body. As the oldest of UConn Law's many study abroad programs, however, such unfamiliarity is a shame.

My experience at Exeter was exhilarating; from the faculty to the coursework, to the weekly traveling to the English food, adventures were always around the corner. The city of Exeter is situated in the southwestern tip of England, famous for its cheddar, surfing, and pirates. You can wander around Exeter's winding downtown streets and Tudor buildings, and catch a sunset over its spellbinding 12th century Norman and Gothic cathedral. Cornish pasties, little savory half-moon treats, comprise the major regional dish, and unfiltered apple cider served purple, with

blackcurrant syrup, is the popular local drink. Amazing, exotic flavors are also found in England's potato chips; the most bizarre include pickled onion, prawn cocktail, and turkey and stuffing. Exeter's a wonderful place to explore the English countryside, as it is close to two national parks that offer hiking around the windswept moors, sits ten minutes from the craggy coast, and is just a short train ride away from Penzance, Bath, Stonehenge, and the thatched Cotswolds.

Exeter University's coursework is perfect for anyone interested in practicing internationally. Courses are offered in both private and public international law, so you can choose between UK and EU corporate subjects and international law options that are not offered at UConn. My classmates were from all over Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, giving an exciting range of perspectives to our discussions, and the professors were charming and

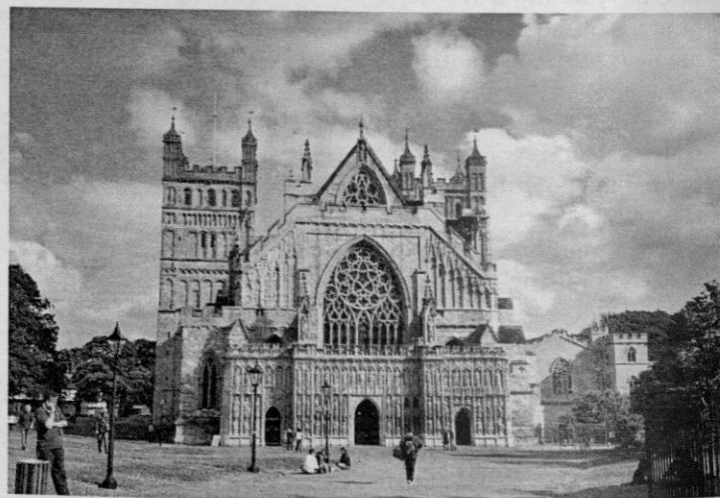


Photo courtesy of Blake Ratcliff

*Students file off to class at Exeter University. Ratcliff spent the first term studying international law in the southwestern English city.*

very accessible. One of the highlights of my semester was heading to Geneva for a week with my International Human Rights Law class to observe UN Treaty Body committees.

And that, of course, leads into one of the main reasons why students head abroad: the traveling! Exeter is served by two airports, so it was easy to score \$10 discount airline

tickets all across Europe. Sure, London is two hours away, but I was able to bounce around Barcelona, Edinburgh, Milan, and Amsterdam, and was invited to spend ten days around Germany with my classmates. Exeter was an amazing experience, and I highly recommend heading abroad — anywhere — if you can.

## Response to "B median rule emphasizes learning, not GPA"

*Avoiding median-bound classes does not hurt students, does not trick employers*

### COMMENTARY

By Keisha Palmer

While I agree wholeheartedly with Aaron Mensh's point of view on the B median rule or at least the application of the rule to only classes of nineteen students or more, I seek to clarify some points and of course, add my point of view.

Aaron discussed the importance of grades and the impact on fall recruitment, otherwise known as OCI. However, the importance of second year grades is slightly inflated.

In the fall, employers look to first year grades to select candidates for screening interviews. While some students may have taken a small class as their statutory elective in the Spring of their first year, students largely compete on a level playing field as they head into OCI. We all take the same first year classes with the exception of the statutory elective.

Dare I say someone who

makes a point of taking a class of eighteen or less only to avoid the B median do themselves a disservice. That student has missed the opportunity to take a class they are sincerely interested in, in the search for a very slight increase in their GPA. The below average performer who earns one high grade in their statutory elective will not likely become a more attractive candidate for fall recruitment. Students who jockey to register for these small A average classes, only for that reason will have other barriers to overcome when they seek future employment.

Aaron's piece gives very little credit to the employers. Future employers almost unanimously request a copy of recruits' transcripts. Most of these recruiters will have graduated law school and I am confident that when they decide to invest in a new hire they will delve into why the student's resume seen to be padded with "off the beaten path" courses. The student who had a true desire to take those classes will be

able to convincingly explain their interest in the subject matter. Students who registered for the class only for the benefit of the grade are cautioned and reminded that attorneys are trained to wade through fluff language and reasoning.

I must take exception to Aaron's indictment of Clinics in his piece. I am now in my third clinical class and so I speak from experience when I say Clinics are more demanding than doctrinal classes. In Clinics, there are real clients and real consequences if the student lawyer is inattentive to their clients' needs. I cannot speak for anyone else but I know I felt tremendous pressure to work with extra diligence when completing work on behalf of a client who is dependent on my work product. The skills acquired in a clinical setting are invaluable to a new lawyer.

Students taking these clinical classes, through the presence and guidance of Clinical Professors, gaining experience and learn to navigate a multitude of

landmines that could not have been learned from a book and a class discussion. Clinics are unique and distinct from seminars; students, not the Clinical Professor, have the responsibility of deciding strategy and legal arguments. The professor acts as a sounding board and guide much in the same manner a Partner or Senior Associate would in a firm.

Whether students are hired because they padded their GPAs or took classes in which they had a "legitimate" interest becomes secondary in the real world. In the long run, no employer will invest time and money in an employee merely because that student had a stellar GPA when he or she left law school. There are a number of factors that the employer will use to determine if that individual is a proper fit. A few people may get far by taking short cuts, but I would like to think that where long term success is concerned, that is the exception and not the rule.

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If you are interested in contributing an opinion piece, please send an e-mail to [pro.se.news@gmail.com](mailto:pro.se.news@gmail.com).



# The Back Page

## Spring break involves road (trip) to the show

By John Kim

For most UCONN Law students, spring break is an opportunity to put down their books and escape the frost-bitten confines of Hartford ... only to pick up another book and re-assume the fetal position in such exotic locales as Glastonbury, Conn., and Parents-Basement, MA.

But a few brave law students, however inconceivably, decided to actually enjoy themselves over the break, boldly strapping themselves into a Honda Pilot for a road trip down the eastern shoreline to catch some spring-training baseball games.

Day 1:

Preparing for our 20-hour trip to Florida. I pack enough supplies to sustain us until the Chicago Cub's next championship. Unfortunately forgot to pack non-law school related things to talk about with a car full of law students. Awkward silence ensues.

Day 2:

Grueling drive. Would put a Posner dissent to sleep. Finally arrive at our destination: Vero Beach, Florida, spring training home of the Los Angeles Dodgers. They're taking on the defending world champion Boston Red Sox. Today's game announced as the largest in Dodger Town history. (At least until the 6th inning before your

typical Dodger fan starts filing out early.)

Small stadium. Super close to the field. Many fans able to meet their favorite baseball players.

Some leave with souvenirs. UCONN Law student Jonathan Burby (2L day) bare hands a batting practice home-run off 2007 World Series MVP Mike Lowell.

Day 3:

Next stop: The baseball cathedral. Port St. Lucie, also known as the spring training home of the New York Metropolitan. A lifelong Mets fan, I am excited to meet (stalk) some of the superstars on the team.

Most bigger stars are too

busy getting injured and ignoring my Facebook requests. Had to make do with minor-league Met retreads like Nelson Figueroa, Sandy Alomar, Jr., and the aptly named Robinson Cancel.

Day 4-6:

Baseball games. Sun. Zero stress. Repeat.

Day 7:

Head back to the loving embrace of Hartford. Replace blue skies and white sand with bluebooks and Subway sandwiches. We arrive home with fond memories, good souvenirs and bad tans.

(We also learned that a \$40,000-a-year education is not nearly as valuable as being able to hit a round ball with a bat.)

## Ask Sanetti: Dance lessons and other useful advice

By Chris Sanetti

Dear Sanetti,

*I'm very self-conscious about my dancing. I am reasonably coordinated and usually very confident...but on the dance floor, I just can't get comfortable. I enjoy dancing, but I feel it's more like a musical spasm rather than something fun, sensual, exhilarating, etc. Do you have any pointers? Dance Fevered*

Dear Fevered,

I must admit that this is the first time I've ever been asked for choreographic advice. However, I think that two basic ideas can help.

First, take comfort in the fact that dancing well doesn't have to include large-scale movement. As long as your feet are moving with rhythm, you are already using your body as an expression of the music, which is the whole point.

Second, as far as enjoying yourself and getting comfortable, I can't ever remember being on a dance floor where someone's unorthodox-yet-spirited dancing left anything more than a fleeting impression. Remember that you are among friends and it is highly unreasonable for anyone to fault a law student for their

dancing.

Ultimately, I'm reminded of a note a former boss of mine had posted in her office that read, "Work as though you don't need the money. Love as though you'll never get hurt. Dance as though no-one is watching."

Good luck out there.

-Sanetti

Dear Sanetti,

*What is the best way to get annoying people to shut up when I'm trying to dutifully study next to them?*

-Library Lounger

Dear Lounger,

Try announcing your presence with a firm but simple clearing of the throat. Then, wait ten-to-fifteen seconds. If the rudeness persists, try a one-and-a-half-second exasperated sigh. Wait five more seconds. If the rudeness continues, gather your patience, paste a smile on your face, and ask the talkers whether they'd mind taking their conversation to another spot, since you are working under a serious deadline, (and resist the urge to embellish the importance of your work).

-Sanetti