

New Career Services hire prompts questions

By Alexa Lindauer

Despite its goal of making a "significant change" in how UConn Law helps students launch their careers, the nationwide search for a new career services director culminated in the promotion of an employee within the existing department, raising suspicions of a half-hearted search among some students.

A hiring committee of faculty and two students selected career services staff

member Aimee Houghton late last year. Houghton replaced former Career Services Director Maria Rivera.

UConn Law administration has defended the search as thorough and argued that an individual with a history in the department will be better qualified to serve the UConn Law community. However, confidentiality rules have prevented a student member of the hiring committee from disclosing how many candidates were under

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Economy dictates student loan changes

By Chris Wasil and Patrick Linsey

As Citibank seemingly teeters on the brink of nationalization or collapse, be grateful at least that you won't have to depend on them for your student loan check next year.

Sometimes it seems every aspect of our lives has been changed by the credit crisis, and UConn Law's student loan program is no excep-

tion. Whereas previously student loans were received through now-struggling private lenders, starting this fall loans will be administered through the United States Department of Education.

What does this mean for students? Aside from requiring all who receive aid to fill out new Master Promissory Notes, there are some notable benefits to the new system.

For starters, the interest

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Budget crisis could impact UCONN Law

By Alan Merriman

NEWS ANALYSIS

While Washington's stimulus plan fattens federal spending, state governments are exercising slash-and-burn budgeting to ensure they stay afloat. Kansas, mid-February, temporarily halted income tax refunds and was nearly unable to meet payroll requirements for state employees. Meanwhile, California

struggled to break a deadlock on its budget approval, causing over 10,000 state employees to receive layoff notices and halting several hundred public works projects.

So where does Connecticut, a comparatively wealthy state, fall in this fiscal mess? More importantly, to us at least, how will state spending cuts affect the budget for UConn Law? First, one must consider how the school's budget is broken down. The law school

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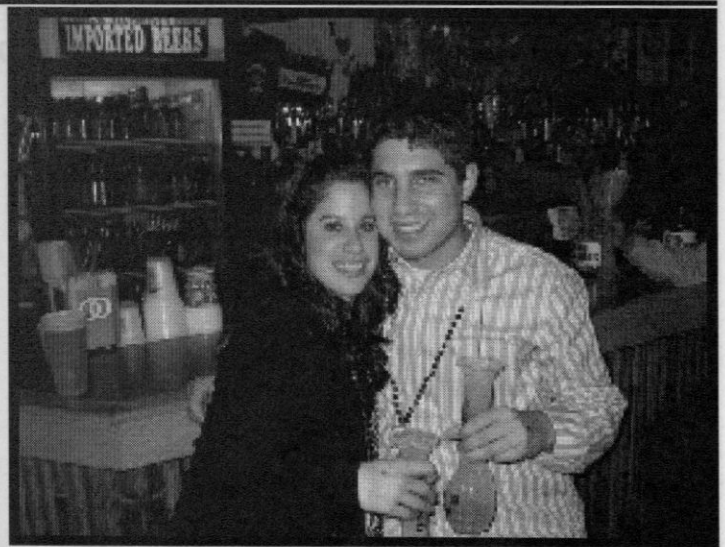


Photo courtesy of Jay Hyne

Jay Hyne and Elissa Glucksman, 3Ls, after the Mardi Gras Invitational National Sports Law Competition in New Orleans. Moot Court Board members also competed in D.C., L.A. and Boston.

Planes, cars...and trains?

Gallivan Symposium discusses the merits of light rail transportation.

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A Pérez problem?

Commentary argues politicians of color are heavily scrutinized.

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Habeus, schmabeus?

Commentary challenges notion that liberties were curtailed in war zones.

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Dean's Corner with Dean Jeremy Paul

By Jeremy Paul

Given the grim economic climate, you can imagine how proud I was to read the recent e-mail sent by SBA President, Ben Smilowitz, urging each of you to attend the February 23 legislative hearing concerning the plight of legal services in Connecticut. It's impressive when people immersed in job-hunting and weighed down by student loans are nonetheless able to show support for those with even more serious problems. And, for those not up-to-date, you should know that the legal services situation in Connecticut has become dire indeed.

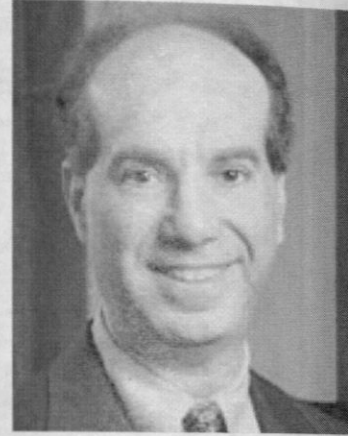
Two-thirds of the funds that support Connecticut lawyers representing those

who cannot otherwise afford an attorney come from a special program called IOLTA. In this program, lawyers who hold client money for short periods pool these funds in special accounts from which the banks pay interest that helps fund legal services for the poor.

Today's economic conditions have crippled IOLTA. Very few real estate transactions are going forward and thus little money is held in trust by lawyers. Equally important, current low interest rates have many banks paying less than 1%. As a result of these drastic changes, 2008 IOLTA money is expected to be roughly 1/2 of what was expected and 2009 revenue will likely dip to approximately 1/4 of that

generated by the program in 2007. This translates into a shortfall for legal services of between 8 and 9 million dollars for 2009, a catastrophic reduction.

If nothing is done to supplement IOLTA, legal services offices throughout the state will face immediate and severe attorney layoffs. Thousands of indigent clients who would otherwise be served will go without lawyers. Self-help materials that enable poor people to educate themselves about the law will go unpublished. And, as more individuals without resources find themselves unable to avail themselves of the nation's courts, our nation's adherence to the rule of law begins to slip away.



It is heartening to see the lawyers of tomorrow invested in solving the problems of today. I congratulate all of you who are helping key figures in the state to grasp the importance of this issue. Perhaps, with your help, a more stable base of funding for legal services will be found.

Pro Se

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Editor in Chief: Patrick Linsey
Managing Editor: Lynn Kelly
Executive Editors: Kyle McCarthy, Chris Wasil
Photo Editor: Peter Hitt
Features Editor: Allison Silva
Associate Editors: Alexa Lindauer, Alan Merriman, Drew Schaffer

Contributors

Dana Daniel
Melanie Dykas
Sarah Saadian
Javier Villegas

Kerrigan decision explored in LAMBDA forum

By Alison Silva

October 10, 2008 marked an historic day for Connecticut citizens: The Connecticut Supreme Court ruled in the landmark case, *Kerrigan v. Department of Public Health*, that the exclusion of same-sex couples from marriage is unconstitutional.

Recently, two major players in the decision spoke to an audience of local attorneys, activists and students at Tales From The Front Lines: The Fight For Gay Marriage: Connecticut Supreme Court Justice Richard Palmer, who wrote the majority opinion, and Bennett Klein, senior attorney and AIDS Law project director at Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) and plaintiff's lead counsel in the *Kerrigan* case.

Klein described the unique

situation presented by Connecticut's legal status for same-sex couples. The Connecticut General Assembly was the first state legislature to confer all of the rights of married couples to same-sex couples through civil unions. Although this meant that gay couples were accorded equal rights, it remained the case that they were relegated to a separate, arguably inferior, status.

Refusing to settle for the notion that marriage "just is" between a man and a woman, or that the argument over marriage and civil unions is purely semantic, GLAD and its many supporters insisted upon justice. The plaintiffs argued that a separate classification (civil unions versus marriage) for similarly situated groups (same-sex couples versus opposite-sex

couples) violated the Equal Protection clause of the state Constitution. Klein expressed incredulity when asking the audience, "How can a separate status for a minority group even be a close question of Constitutional law?"

Palmer explained that, in his opinion, he wrote sexual orientation is a quasi-suspect class (sex and illegitimacy are also recognized as such) and therefore subject to heightened scrutiny. Klein said the language Palmer used in his opinion was particularly powerful and insightful because it unpacked the nature of discrimination that individuals have face based on their sexual orientation, forcefully rejecting the notion that marriage and civil unions were the same.

Pro Se features editor Allison Silva is secretary of Lambda.

New loan procedures may help protect students

Lower rates and more safety in new regulations

from LOANS, p. 1

rate for the GRAD Plus Loan will drop from 8.5 percent to 7.9 percent, and some late fees will also be lower. But, perhaps more importantly, the change will prevent market-related problems that some law students experienced at the start of this semester, said Law School Director of Student Finance Roberta Frick.

"Some students' loans were released late, some private lenders changed guarantors

unexpectedly and some lenders simply stopped student lending altogether," Frick said. "This new system cuts out the middleman, and it means we don't have to deal with market volatility."

All that adds up to greater piece of mind in the borrowing process – something students can use given a general scarcity of capital in the economy. Much of this is due to the nation's primary lenders facing yet-to-be cal-

culated losses from investments in mortgage-backed securities. Now, investors are shying away from buying any financial products based on bundled loans.

"This dried up the availability of car loans, student loans and small-business loans," economist Brian Bethune of IHS Global Insight told the *San Francisco Chronicle* earlier this month. "Lenders started to ration the credit that was available."

Despite the dire economic circumstances that led to this change, students' reactions to the University's decision have been generally positive. Heidi Cha, 1L, was cautiously reassured.

"Whether justified or not, I feel a little safer now that the loans will be through the government," Cha said. "With all the problems the private banks are having, it just seems more stable to do it this way."

Connecticut rail solutions on the right track?

Gallivan conference debates the future of mass transit in state

By Lynn Kelly

Dean Jeremy Paul joked in his opening remarks to the 16th Annual Gallivan Conference last Friday about his dream of a West Hartford-to-Hartford light rail train with a main stop at the UConn Law campus. If the creative thinkers assembled for the panel continue to work together as they are now, Dean Paul's remarks could soon sound less like the fantasy of a well-intentioned administrator, and more like a serious proposal with an approaching shovel-ready date.

The answer to the question posed last week by this year's conference (Can Rail Save Connecticut's Cities?) was a resounding "maybe," as several legal, administrative, and political challenges were debated.

The panelists – including UConn Law Professor

Sara C. Bronin; Norman Garrick, Director of the Center for Transportation and Urban Planning; Joseph F. Marie, Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Transportation; and State Representative David McCluskey, Deputy Speaker and Member of the Transportation Committee – all seemed to agree that Connecticut cities need improved transit systems in addition to economic restructuring in order to survive.

The panelists identified a number of elements that would aid such improvement. Several panelists stressed the importance of decision makers having a regionalist mindset both among towns and our neighboring states when it comes to planning for rail projects. Another commonly identified issue is the need to reconcile the demand for parking along any proposed rail projects with the anti-

Proposed Light Rail and Mass Transit in Conn.

- Light rail from Waterbury to Hartford with stops in Bristol, Plainville and New Britain

- Extension of commuter rail service from Hartford to Springfield, Mass.

sprawl objectives of providing improved public transit in the state.

Connecticut's relatively lethargic response to the increasing popularity of improving rail service nationwide was brought to light by some comments addressing the comparative cost of the New Britain-to-Hartford busway. The venture is projected to cost around ten times the \$50 million estimated cost of refurbishing existing rail lines between Waterbury and Hartford, an economic corridor that was the focus of much of the afternoon's discussion.

Marie, the newest DOT Commissioner, was also

peppered with tough questions on the bogged down and increasingly expensive busway project between New Britain and New Haven, but overall both the panelists and the nearly 100 audience members in attendance seemed to agree that his leadership was a beacon of hope for progress on these projects in the State.

Professor Bronin, who was heavily involved in the planning of the event, agreed: "The comments of Commissioner Marie and Representative McCluskey gave us all hope about the state's renewed commitment to rail transit."

Prison reform headlines CPILJ symposium

By Patrick Linsey

America's stock market is in the dumps, its children are less educated than those in dozens of other Western nations and it is the only industrialized country in the world not to offer universal health care.

But there is one arena where the United States can still claim to be number one. America imprisons more of its citizens than any other nation in the world – roughly 2.3 million, far more than China, the first runner up.

It was on the causes and potential solutions to our bursting-at-the-seams prisons that the Connecticut Public Interest Law Journal hosted its annual symposium. Legal academics, social scientists and policy advocates from across the country attended "The Road to Prison Reform: Treating the Causes and Conditions of our Overburdened System" at

UConn Law in early February. Each brought his or her own perspective on America's prison system, but all acknowledged the severity of the problem.

Three panels included experts in a variety of fields. Some, like Bob Farr, chairman of the Connecticut Board of Pardons and Paroles, work within the corrections system. Others, including Barbara Tombs, senior fellow at the Center on Sentencing and Corrections, research policy solutions. And still others, like the silver tongued Prof. Anthony Farley, of Albany Law School, focus their academic research in the area.

Prof. Craig Haney of UC Santa Cruz gave a stirring keynote address on the conditions faced by today's prisoners. Haney was a lead researcher in the infamous Stanford Prison Experiment, which demonstrated the cruelty seemingly ordinary people can

visit on others when given control over the welfare of prisoners.

This month's event was organized by CPILJ symposium editors Dallas Dodge, Jared Grise and Meghan Reilly. Dodge said he and his co-editors had first intended to organize a symposium focusing on parole issues, given controversy with Connecticut's parole system in the wake of the grisly Cheshire home-invasion killings of 2007.

But, after consulting with Profs. Thomas Morawetz and Leonard Orland, they hit upon a policy problem of much greater scope.

"It's time we started having an educated and serious discussion about how and why we punish criminals in this country," Dodge said.

The CPILJ expects to release its symposium edition next fall. Emily Carroll, CPILJ editor-in-chief, said she was thrilled with

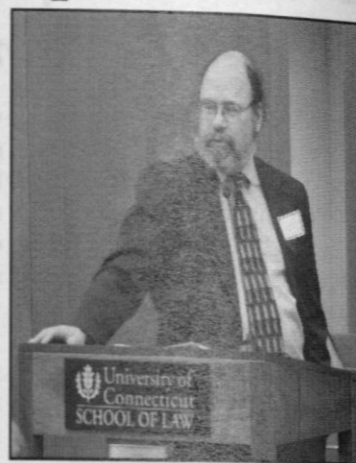


Photo courtesy of Peter Hitt
Prof. Todd Fernow, director of UConn Law's Criminal Clinic, moderating discussion

the wide range of thought panels brought to the symposium.

Pro Se editor Patrick R. Linsey is a member of the Connecticut Public Interest Law Journal.

Mayors of color under the spotlight?

By Javier Villegas

COMMENTARY

Mayor Eddie Pérez turned himself in to police on January 27. The corruption charges knee-jerked detractors and even the New York Times to call for his resignation. During the mayor's first press conference on the charges brought by the State's Attorney's Office, his lawyer, Hubert Santos, said, "When you evaluate this case you're getting half a loaf," calling the incident an "isolated episode."

One episode on rerun across the country features big city mayors of color tied up in court on corruption charges.

On Sep. 4, 2008, Detroit mayor Kwame Kilpatrick plead guilty to felony criminal

charges and resigned. Kilpatrick was followed by Birmingham mayor Larry Langford's FBI arrest for bribery and tax fraud on Dec 1, 2008. Then, on Jan. 9, 2009, Baltimore mayor Sheila Dixon was indicted on criminal theft and perjury charges. Most recently, on Feb. 10, 2009, Memphis mayor Willie Herenton's contract dealings made him the star of a federal grand jury.

This must make my hometown's new mayor, Kevin Johnson, of Sacramento, Calif., a little shaky. Hopefully his politics are as consistent as his scoring average in the NBA. Farther south and closer to where real features are made, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, in Los Angeles, has been walking on ice since his extramarital affair made national news.

On a cold sunny day I roamed the streets of Hartford, the Latino streets that many law students only see fictionalized in movies, searching for mayor Pérez's other half of the loaf.

The lady that sells pineapple empanadas and corn tortillas at El Mercado, on Park Street, is proud to have a mayor whose name she can pronounce. Like each of the other mayors under the microscope, Pérez can point to concrete positive change for underrepresented communities. Not least of which includes his signing of last summer's immigration ordinance. This type of inclusiveness can make fast enemies.

In this rich land of recent history populated by Boroughs and Shires, how much

is a mayor of color worth? Corrupt politicians must be tried and convicted for their violations of law, but the number of mayors of color being investigated raises the question: who is scoping the target?

The price for having a mayor who is liked and respected by a disenfranchised constituency is that he or she must watch his or her steps to keep the ground beneath from chipping away. Meanwhile, Wall Street CEOs continue to walk with your tax dollars as million dollar bonuses, and the Securities and Exchange Commission greases its public and private revolving door policy. In America, where a person is innocent until proven guilty, charges are only the tip of the iceberg.

Students voice concerns over Career Services hire

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serious consideration when the committee unanimously selected Houghton.

"The group was looking for someone familiar with the needs of the students, experience in career services and the legal industry," said 3L Sarah Saadian, a student member of the committee.

But, in response to further questions, Saadian said she was prevented by confidentiality rules explained to her in the committee from disclosing the size of the pool from which Houghton was chosen or whether the committee ever considered reopening the search. Associate Dean of Admissions Ellen Rutt, who led the search, said UConn's hiring policies applied to all members of the search com-

mittee.

When Rivera resigned in October, Rutt and Saadian, as well as Professors Jon Bauer, Willajeanne McLean and Thomas Morawetz and 3L Nidhi Parikh, were selected to be members of a hiring committee that would search for the best replacement candidates. Rutt said the committee chose Houghton given her "significant career services experience."

"She is very eager to implement a new, more forward-thinking approach to career services," Rutt said, adding that the law school will benefit from selecting someone with a comparably small learning curve given her history in the department. Houghton earned a JD at UConn Law, during which time she worked in the Career

Services department.

SBA President Ben Smilowitz voiced concerns held by some students regarding the selection and timing of the announcement, which occurred on the January first holiday, the evening before the appointment took effect.

"And now, students are largely in the dark about what new ideas and plans the new hire has for managing a severely understaffed office and assisting a wide range of students through a very difficult economy," Smilowitz said.

Rutt said that the decision was announced the day the offer was accepted, but added, "this isn't open to campus vote – it's an employment matter."

Rutt emphasized that the committee was "looking for someone to make a significant

change – kind of a daring change – in how the office was run."

Under the new leadership, it is hoped that career services will adopt a more education-oriented model. Rutt said the goal is "trying to get the skills from career services that will get you a lifetime of jobs" rather than just a first job through On-Campus Interviews, as well as building more personal relationships between staff members and the student body and between the department and alumni.

Rutt said that if students were unhappy, she had not heard about it directly.

"Give a person an opportunity," she said. "Aimee is extremely capable and has very big plans in a really challenging time."

UConn Law could face more cuts as state budget tightens

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receives funds from multiple sources, including tuition, fees, annual gifts from private supporters, the law school's endowment managed by the Foundation, and last but by no means least, the state government.

According to UConn Law Dean Jeremy Paul, the state cut its spending on the law school by 3.5 percent for the 2008-09 year.

"However, we had a great number of vacant [faculty] positions which enabled us to take money out of that line and rebalance, leading to no layoffs of permanent employees," Paul said. "But investment performance from the endowment is down and the economic conditions may affect annual gifts, as well."

Additional cuts from the

state budget are also expected this year.

Last year, a number of professors moved on from UConn Law leaving vacant positions. A hiring committee, led by Prof. Kurt A. Strasser, was charged with the duty to fill the four vacancies during the current school year. However, the process has been frozen indefinitely and the four vacancies remain.

Unfilled faculty position will do little to aid UConn's struggle to remain a Tier One law school, as ranked by U.S. News & World Report. And recent graduates, especially those looking to practice outside of Connecticut, would agree that, given the economy, the near future is an inopportune time for UConn Law to take a rankings hit.

Strasser said the most crucial

position to be filled is the director of the Insurance Law Center, and the school would most likely make an exception in the case that a highly qualified candidate were identified. Multiple candidates for the position are visiting the law school this semester.

"I have been here a long time and remember three such years with tight budgeting, including no faculty or staff raises," Strasser said, then cracking a wry joke. "Perhaps the law school should re-organize as a bank so that we can ask for a handout too."

Student organizations have also been affected by belt-tightening measures such as a ban on travel for non-mission critical activities. Paul, however, does not anticipate any unreasonably tight restrictions. While state

money cannot be used, other money, such as Student Bar Association money approved by UConn administrators, can allow for maintaining the travel flow of extra-curricular activity.

This administrative barrier does, however, raise interesting questions regarding the Student Bar Association's independence and authority to control student funds. SBA treasurer Gabriel Vidoni, 2L, noted SBA "activities funds come solely from the fees that each student pays with their tuition bill."

With economic indicators looking grim as of late winter, additional cuts could be in store, though Paul said the law school will continue to support its pedagogical mission.

Closing Gitmo will undermine U.S. interests

By Drew Schaffer

COMMENTARY

Amidst the bustle of a new Administration came a decision that shocked many and hit particularly close to home for me: the closing of the prison in Guantanamo Bay. With the announcement flashing across my computer screen, my mind took me back to my days patrolling the streets of Ramadi, Iraq and canvassing the Taliban stronghold of Musa Qal'eh, Afghanistan.

Though I understand the underlying impetus to make this change in light of recent record keeping failures and concerns with human rights abuses, the decision still disturbs me and, rest assured, the closing down of the this detention facility will be detrimental to both the interests of the United States and the world. I am particularly frustrated with claims referencing a lack of information tracing back to the prisoners' point of capture. Having been the on-

the-ground commander at the point of capture of hundreds of suspected Al Qaeda and Taliban operatives in both nations, I am intimately aware of the thorough procedures in place before, during, and after each detention and know that such claims cannot possibly be grounded in truth.

First, probable cause must precede an arrest. Such cause in my experience has included; watching a muzzle flash as an insurgent attempted to take my life, intercepting a radio transmission and receiving credible leads from local informants. After any suspect was detained, his name, fingerprints and a plethora of additional information were added to an international database to initiate his record. My team then completed at least four sworn statements, carefully collected and labeled all evidence, and I wrote up a thorough incident report. The intelligence team then conducted interrogations following strict international guidelines and sent the individual to a

holding area for a final determination by high-level government intelligence officers regarding the suspect's ultimate destination—a determination that includes hearings and can take anywhere from days to years.

Hence, by the time the detainee left my possession; he had with him all associated evidence, paperwork and a detailed description of all circumstances surrounding his arrest and subsequent actions. I now wonder where all of this information "disappears" to if it is in fact true that these individuals are being released for lack of cause to hold them. I have had the unpleasant experience of witnessing individuals that I had previously arrested for more than probable cause roaming the streets because of a minor technicality or a misplaced piece of critical evidence during subsequent transports. Frustrating experiences such as these caused me, and the commanders of the units that I was associated with, to tighten up procedures so as to prevent

such unwarranted releases from occurring and these procedures worked.

Although I fully support the fundamental rights of all individuals and understand the importance of furthering the principles of due process that we, as Americans, have long fought for at home and internationally, I fear that the new administration may be prematurely affording too much weight to the interests of the captured individuals while not considering the government's special interests during a time of international conflict. Those of us fighting for our freedom are acting according to the values espoused in the Constitution, and we require the firm and continuous backing of our government. Though I am in full support of releasing specific individuals who can be proven unequivocally to be innocent, I cannot condone the closing of the prison and I cringe at the thought of more blood being shed overseas as a result of such a seemingly rash decision.

Calhoun plays defense on UConn Law student

By Chris Wasil

UConn men's basketball coach Jim Calhoun has had some memorable confrontations over the years. Until recently, all of them have been on the court against fearless competitors like Jim Boeheim of Syracuse and Duke's Mike Krzyzewski. UConn Law 3L evening student Ken Krayeske joined the ranks when his verbal one-on-one with the Hall of Fame coach left many in the national media wondering who scored more points.

During the postgame press conference following UConn's 64-50 win over South Florida on February 20, Krayeske peppered

Calhoun with questions about his high income as a state employee in the midst of Connecticut's multi-billion-dollar budget crisis. It led to an exchange that has since been aired on news and sports media outlets across the country.

"Not a dime back," Calhoun quipped when Krayeske first raised the topic. "I'd like to be able to retire someday...I'm getting tired." Things quickly became more heated when Krayeske not only referenced Calhoun's \$1.6 million salary – to which Calhoun replied, "I make much more than that" – but also inquired about the value of his endorsement deal with Comcast.

"Are you really that stupid?" Calhoun asked. "My advice to you: shut up."

The exchange ended with Calhoun expounding on his basketball program's economic contributions to the state. "Quite frankly, [the UConn men's basketball program] brings in \$12 million to the University...Get some facts and come back and see me." Calhoun finished the conversation with, "Next question."

The \$12 million figure cited by Calhoun has yet to be confirmed.

Krayeske, a 10-year resident of Hartford, feels the "long overdue" conversation needs to continue. "I do not doubt Calhoun's

contributions to the University. But I think [the issue of his paycheck] is important considering that Governor Rell is asking for a five-percent across-the-board cut. Does it apply to everyone, or just everyone who makes under \$1 million?"

Calhoun, widely considered a beloved figure in Connecticut, was a "poor ambassador for the University in this instance," according to Krayeske. "If an administrator or professor answered a student policy question by saying 'shut up,' or 'you're stupid,' we would probably engage in some form of administrative grievance. Why should Calhoun get a free pass?"

One law student's trip to see President Obama's inauguration

By Sarah Saadian

COMMENTARY

It is impossible to describe the scene fully to someone who didn't attend Barack Obama's inauguration. It was truly a unique experience, and it will always stay with me as one of the most exciting and fulfilling days of my life.

I can't really explain the feeling that everyone seemed to have, or how people you didn't know suddenly stopped being strangers. There were over 2 million people crammed on the Mall and along Constitution Avenue, all ready to celebrate in a way unlike any other. The only other events of this magnitude—New Year's Eve in Times Square or Mardi Gras in New Orleans—just can't compare to the atmosphere in Washington, DC. The difference, in my opinion, was the sense of community; everyone there had a connection to everyone else.

How can I explain the nightmarish journey just to get downtown! It took me an hour to get on a train at 7:00 in the morning, and more than an hour and a half to get into the city (it normally takes me 20 minutes)! I was essentially navigating my way through a sea of people.

There is no way to tell you how I felt when I saw Barack Obama be sworn in. Or to hear Yo Yo Ma. Or to witness the emotion in the crowd. Or about how freezing cold it was, even with tons of layers on, but because I was so excited, that it didn't even matter.

Ultimately, the cold, the crowd, and the chaos were all worth it to see so many people: Black, White, Asian, Hispanic, some in their nineties, and some only months old, Foreign-born, and those born here in the U.S.—all with the same goal of being a part of a historic moment in American history.

Tort du stade: The most disputed figure in baseball strikes again

COMMENTARY

By Melanie Dykas

Scott Boras.

Good or bad, mention the prominent agent's name around a baseball fan and you are guaranteed to hear an opinion. Boras has a remarkable knack for putting teams in bidding wars (often with phantom offers) and creating a market for his clients. He also has a knack for exasperating teams and turning off fans. Attach the name Boras to a player and fans may wonder whether he's in it for the love of the game or for the bloated contract.

Boras encourages to sign with teams only under his terms. Take, for example, this hardball tactic: Boras represents many of the young talents who enter the draft, and when he is unable to get the price he wants, he persuades them to return to school and re-enter the draft the following year. For the past few years, this has led to Boras' draft clients making more money than those drafted higher.

That said, one thing used to be clear – you may have hated him as a fan, but if you were a professional ballplayer there was no one else you'd rather have had for an agent. That may no longer be the case.

Gary Sheffield has heatedly discussed his dealings with Boras in the public forum, calling Boras "a bad per-

son." According to Sheffield, he fired Boras in 2003 and then negotiated his own contract himself with the Yankees and George Steinbrenner. (A protracted legal battle continues, because Boras believes he is entitled to his 5 percent of that contract, just under \$2 million.) Even though Boras had been fired, Sheffield claimed his relationship with Boras had tainted him as a ballplayer, costing him a longer contract with a club when he left Atlanta.

A little more than a year ago, Boras advised Alex Rodriguez to opt out of his contract because he was sure to create a feeding frenzy on the free market. What followed was A-Rod swallowing his pride and negotiating with the Yankees – without Boras. This off-season, Boras again advised a client to opt out – Jason Varitek. When no team made an offer to the aging catcher after his worst offensive year, Varitek too swallowed his pride and sign with the Red Sox for millions less than he would have received if he picked up the option.

And, as always, the Manny Ramirez saga continues. Maybe Boras was behind Manny's attempt to be traded out of Boston, maybe not. One thing is clear – in this market, Manny antics plus Boras tactics may not equal the payday the future hall-of-famer and the notorious super-agent counted on.

The Back Page

Ask Sanetti: Passing, failing and Pass/Failing

By Dana Sanetti-Daniel

I am a 3L and considering whether it would look bad to have my transcript reflect that I took two of my four classes Pass/Fail in my final semester. Do you think it is okay to do this, or will it be painfully obvious that I got lazy? If yes, is it still worth it for the chance to be lazy?

I am one of those taking two of my four classes Pass/Fail, so yes, I think it's worth it. I think that we have the right to use those credits in such a way that works for each of us individually. Why should we be penal-

ized for using the majority of our Pass/Fail credits in one semester, even if it is the last semester of our law school career?

I am very fortunate to have lined up a summer job. With the economy tanking, many of my friends are not so lucky and I feel awkward when they talk about it. I don't want to pretend that I understand when I don't, and I don't want them to think I'm being a jerk. How should I handle these conversations?

You are very fortunate to have a summer position, but

it seems as though you are aware of your fortune, so I think that's a good start. This whole "tanking economy" thing is hard on everyone. Be proud of your accomplishment, and be a friend to those who aren't as lucky. Don't feel awkward when they talk about it, just listen.

What is your position on buying the bookstore's textbooks with the full intention of returning them for full price once the cheaper books you bought online are shipped to you? I'm divided, because while I think the textbook industry is akin

to pure evil (not the people in the bookstores obviously, just the industry itself), I also think it is pretty whack to "borrow" textbooks in this fashion. What is a law student to do?

Don't do it. Call me what you will, but I don't think we should ever purposely deceive others, be it our classmates, family, co-workers, or even businesses. Pick one: either buy your books from the bookstore or buy them online and use those in the library until the online ones are shipped to you.

E-mail your queries to asksanetti@gmail.com.

A Belated Valentine's Gift, XOXO UCONN Law

Prof. Lofty Becker,

If push and pull of doctrine and of rule befuddle and bewilder one and all, the remedy, like April, can be cruel:

on Lofty, the Illumined, you must call.

That is, you can if you are on the ball.

To listen is to see redshift unfolding

and to hear just how J. Caesar chopped up Gaul.

His doctrine quarks (not his) (not ours) dimensioning:

Reverse/obverse and how and why worth mentioning?

I hope the springtime gives you cosmic pause

from spacetime's warpish power:

entropic tensioning.

The crows of Hartford praise you by their caws.

Still April mays and after all's discussed,

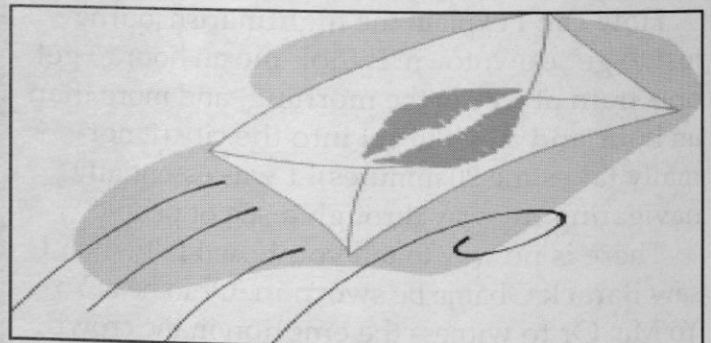
he'll show both law and fear in fists of dust.

Prof. Michael Fischl,

Happy Valentines (both this year and last)!!! I absolutely loved your class! Thanks for being so fun and hanging out with all of us both in and outside of class! Also, thanks for all your advice and encouragement since we've been here!

Lew K.,

Thanks for all of the time and attention you give to SRP students;



with so many professors on campus absorbed in their own workload, your open door and helpful feedback have helped many students actually enjoy the writing and scholarship process.

Prof. Kay,

Your sense of humor made Evidence a treat! I wish we could have gotten you better articles for Evidence in the News. Still,

there was the monkey in the sombrero. Maybe one day we can learn the Federation's Rules of Evidence. Until then, there's always Legally Blonde!

Prof. Hillary Greene,

Happy Valentines!!! Thanks for making Patent Law so interesting and for bringing us food and sweets when we needed them! You're the BEST!