

## Hiring freeze ices new faculty hiring plans

By Chris Wasil

UConn Law administrators are bullish about the school's faculty complement next year, despite a hiring freeze and uncertainty about the state's budget that will leave a number of vacant teaching positions unfilled.

Described as an "unusual year" by Prof. Kurt Strasser, chairman of the law school's Faculty Hiring Committee, 2008 saw the departure of

four of the school's most distinguished faculty members: Paul Berman left to become Dean of Arizona State University Law School; Laura Dickinson, his wife, also became a professor there; Tom Baker joined the faculty at University of Pennsylvania Law School; and Leonard Orland retired from his full-time position.

Because of the statewide hiring freeze, the school will not be able to fill any of these

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## UConn Law unveils D.C. program

By Patrick Linsey

For students interested in federal employment, Hartford may seem an off-Broadway stage.

But fall semester, a group of UConn Law students will live and study in the nation's capital while working at federal agencies – as part of a new program designed to give a leg up to those with career interests in federal service and Washington, D.C.

"[A Washington, D.C. program] would not only be a good educational experience for students, but it would be an attraction for the law school and help attract students from across the country," said Prof. Jon Bauer.

Bauer will be teaching the program's first group of students – expected to be around eight – in a special administra-

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## Tough times reduce fund donations

By Alexa Lindauer

In another sign of tough economic times, the University of Connecticut Law School Foundation's annual fund has seen decreased donations this year, a foundation official said.

The annual fund provides money for the dean's discretionary fund – a fund Dean Jeremy Paul described as "supplementary." Cuts from the fund that affect academic programs would only be made in a last resort, Paul said.

But Paul also noted the annual fund provides money

for what many students today expect from a rounded legal education. The law school was recently asked to consider funding for participants in the Human Rights Clinic to travel to Cambodia as part of their clinic representation.

It is this and similar expenses that could be cut with a decrease in the annual fund budget. The law school board is considering what programming would be impacted in light of the shortfall.

The foundation has so far raised 54 percent of its goal, compared to 65 percent at this

time one year ago, said Kristin Magendantz, the foundation's director of development; although this fiscal year, ending in June, has a higher goal than last.

"The annual fund is certainly running behind, but our donor numbers aren't running behind," Magendantz said. "People are giving – just more conservatively."

The senior class gift, given through a breakage fee and contributed to the annual fund, has also diminished, with many students asking if they can refund part of that

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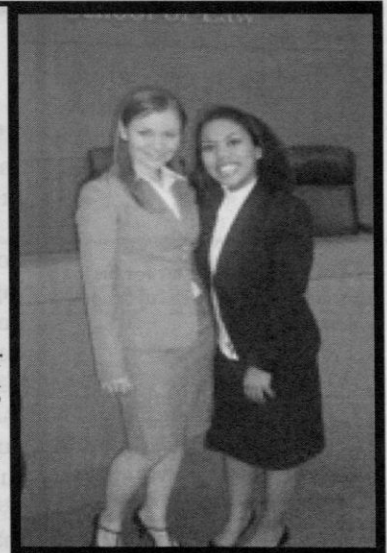


Photo courtesy of Erin O'Leary  
Erin O'Leary and Gwaina Wauldon, 2Ls, emerged victorious in the Moot Court Board's Loisel competition.

### Down to work

Students and faculty unite to create proposed Work Law certificate.

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Columnist argues steroid users should have special place in Hall.

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## Economy hits fundraising

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fee. Magendantz observed that, given many 3Ls and recent grads are concerned about the economy, it is a difficult year to approach new donors.

In an attempt to accommodate economic realities, the law school foundation sent the spring appeal letter early, in addition to holding its phone-a-thon earlier. The foundation has also received approval to increase its staff size, which may also help its fund-raising efforts in what will hopefully be the brighter economy in coming years.

However, the annual fund is only one part of the law school's fundraising. This fund is unrestricted and drained completely on an annual basis. Last year's fund generated roughly half a million dollars.

By contrast, UConn Law's endowment holds roughly \$20 million in assets, most of which are invested with only the spin-off spent in a given year. The economy has not damaged this school's endowment so much as it has other schools given its relatively small size and conservative investment posture. This could be good news for those hoping for financial aid.

Further, "a very high percentage of scholarship money comes from the state, and many of the [foundation] scholarships are endowed," Paul said.

State money for scholarships has not yet been affected by the economic downturn, though the law school is already bracing for other cuts in state funding.

## Internships await D.C. students

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tive law seminar and a class that explores various federal agencies in D.C. Students will spend another 30 hours each week working for the federal government.

Bauer said giving students the opportunity to work in D.C. during the academic year could open doors. The participating agencies, which include the Securities and Exchange Commission, the National Labor Relations Board and the Environmental Protection Agency, are currently reviewing students' applications.

"What we have discovered is in the fall agencies are really open to having interns because they're hard to get - particularly interns who can work 30 hours a week or so," he said.

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## Returning profs to boost numbers

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vacancies for the foreseeable future.

Strasser said this should not be cause for alarm. Having been through similar budget crises in the past, he believes "there will probably be something we'd like to do that we won't be able to do, but the core of the institution survives."

Indeed, the law school may be in a better position next year than it was this one, with 11 professors at other law schools or on some form of leave in 2008-09. Only four professors are presently scheduled to be away next year.

"It was an enormous challenge," said Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development Michael Fischl. On the positive side,

however, a number of these absences were for prestigious endeavors like visiting professorships at Yale and Harvard law schools, which Fischl sees as "a sign of our school's serious institutional distinction."

Such distinction likely served the school well in its most pressing faculty-related goal: finding a replacement for Baker as the director of the Insurance Law Center. Describing it as "a serious search," Fischl revealed that "an announcement will come shortly - I think everyone will be happy."

The administration is also thinking creatively in its effort to work around the hiring freeze. For example, there is a possibility that Richard Wilson, Director of the

Human Rights Institute at UConn's main campus, will become a part the law school faculty at least part time. Such a resourceful move would help fill the void left by Dickinson, a recognized human rights scholar.

Fischl said some professors aided the administration by agreeing to teach courses that would not have been their first choice. Professors may be asked to make further sacrifices next year given state funding - with short-term faculty furloughs having been discussed.

Administrators are hopeful the economic crisis has seen its worst days. However, concerns remain that a prolonged budget squeeze could eventually impact the faculty makeup.

## Students, faculty propose Work Law certificate

### *New program would utilize existing resources within school*

By Drew Schaffer

Plans to institute a Work-Law Certificate Program on campus are underway. The program, which would be one of roughly 10 nationwide, is being initiated through the joint efforts of Profs. Peter Siegelman, Michael Fischl, Deborah Calloway, Sachin Pandya, Jon Bauer, and Jill Anderson.

In light of the recent increase in labor and employment law courses offered at the school, and the high level of student interest, Siegelman said he felt it would be "good to be able to offer students a brand to show that they devoted attention to important labor law and work-law issues."

He pointed to a number of advantages offered by the program, including "the ability for students to signal to employers that they are dedicated to these issues and

to foster an alumni network in the area to promote student connections in this growing field."

Though the specific requirements of the program are being worked out, its structure will mirror already existing certificate programs. Requirements will likely include two or three labor and employment courses and two or three in related fields. Additionally, the program is expected to include participation in an externship or clinic, and/or an upper-level writing project that students may use to satisfy their SRP requirement.

Addressing the concern over funding, Dean Jeremy Paul said "the certificate programs that we have in place are mostly structured around a curriculum that current faculty are able to provide...[and] this will also be true with the work-law program."

### The proposed Work Law certificate

- Possible requirements include two or three labor and employment courses and two or three courses in a related field, plus a writing/externship requirement
- New program would join ten other programs nationwide

Taking into account the nation's fragile economic state, and the much more union-friendly National Labor Relations Board expected with the new administration, labor and employment issues have been on the forefront of the legal industry. Economic job cuts bring with them a tide of lawsuits.

"The number of job opportunities for lawyers in the field of human resources within companies is so vast that law schools should spend a significant time

training lawyers in that area, and to move in that direction is a very sound idea for our school," Paul said.

Rising 3L Leslie Shanley, a student who has taken the lead on this project and recently started the Labor and Employment Law Society on campus, added that the program "will really make students stand out from other applicants in the job market; they will have a definite edge on the competition."

## Tort du Stade: Steroid users deserve place in Hall

By Melanie Dykas

### COMMENTARY

Second in a two-part series

That steroid use amounts to cheating is inescapable. But there it's worth remembering, we've been celebrating cheating in baseball since the great American pastime's inception.

From the spitball, to corked bats, to the creative uses of pine tar, to leaning into pitches, to stealing signs, to inventive grounds keeping - the list

is seemingly endless. While one may argue the varying degree or level of acceptance of each, the point remains that cheating via steroid use should not elicit such hysterics as in the media these days.

And let us look at the media. The loudest voices crying over steroid use ruining baseball's reputation are clearly those in the media. It is they who keep this dying story alive. And yet, when you think about it, there is a certain irony in it all. The reason Canseco's book and its aftermath were such a big

story is that these same reporters season after season chose to look the other way and failed to report the rampant use of performance enhancing drugs (especially in the Texas Rangers clubhouse).

Even further, it is these reporters that hold the golden ticket into the Hall of Fame. During an era when we will never definitively know who did or didn't use steroids, let us not diminish the stars who have since been branded with the scarlet letter. I think baseball guru Bob Costas has the right idea - create a wing in

Cooperstown for this era and at the entrance place a plaque noting that these players all played during the steroid era. Then let patrons form their own opinions.

Baseball's history is a checkered one. From the Black Sox trying to stick it to an appalling owner, to Pete Rose betting on anything with a line, to the unchecked use of steroids. As the famed playwright Oscar Wilde once said, "The Americans are certainly hero worshipers, and they always take their heroes from the criminal classes."

### Pro Se

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# The Back Page

## Panel debates health care

By Allison Silva

The Health Law Interest Group, Law School Democrats, National Lawyers Guild, and the Latino Law Student Association hosted the Universal Health Care Debate and Respondent Panel on April 10th to a packed Davis Courtroom.

On one side of the debate was Juan Figueroa, President of the Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut, arguing in support of the Foundation's proposed health care plan, SustiNet. "It is the most exciting and feasible plan," Figueroa said. Figueroa explained that SustiNet is designed to provide coverage to every single state resident regardless of pre-existing conditions, job change, self-employment, divorce or

other life changes. It would include medical home services, inpatient and outpatient hospital care, and dental and mental health benefits.

On the other side of the debate was Eric George, associate counsel for the Connecticut Business & Industry Association (CBIA), arguing against SustiNet ... sort of. Throughout the debate, Mr. George repeated that CBIA supports somewhere between 75 and 85 percent of the SustiNet plan and that he supports universal health care. When asked by student moderator 1L Javier Villegas what exactly CBIA envisions an ideal plan looking like, Mr. George indicated it would be more efficient and cut more costs than SustiNet and ensure quality care.



Photo courtesy of Liz Letak

The "A" Team poses at the North Grounds Softball Invitational in Charlottesville, Virginia. The tournament drew 112 teams -- including two from UConn Law -- and raised \$20,000 for charity.

For those with health insurance, premiums are rising eight times faster than salaries. A 2005 survey found that seven in ten residents believe access to quality, affordable health insurance is a serious problem. SustiNet is a readily employable, viable solution to this problem. The plan is optional for individuals

and businesses. Residents who choose to can keep their current health insurance plan. Those who choose SustiNet would pay on a sliding scale based on their income. SustiNet passed its first legislative hurdle March 26, receiving an endorsement from the state legislature's Public Health Committee.

## Diversity plan seeks to welcome and retain minorities

By Heidi Cha

As UConn Law looks to welcome the most diverse class in its history, a committee has drafted a diversity plan for the school.

If approved by the faculty, the plan will be used to guide the school in increasing diversity and tolerance. An ad hoc Diversity Advisory Committee drafted the document in the wake of a controversial 2007 party that attracted nationwide media attention and allegations of racially insensitive behavior on the part of some law students.

The plan has three primary goals: First, recruitment and retention of underrepresented students, faculty and staff; Second, incorporation of diverse perspectives in educational activities, and; Third, developing a campus climate that "fosters inter-group relationships" and "creates a welcoming environment for all."

"[The law school's] commitment to diversity is important to make better people and better lawyers," said Karen DeMeola, assistant dean for admissions, and a committee member. "We are not a homogenous society anymore

and to pretend we are is a mistake."

Prof. Bethany Berger, the committee's chairwoman, said while all the plan's goals may not immediately be achieved, she thinks it will be an "effective tool."

"For things that require substantial efforts and funding, to have it in the plan is to think systematically about these issues and recognize the deficit that must be addressed," Berger said. "I can say that it is already working, in the change of the perspective of the administration on these issues."

The plan greets a changing

law school demographic. The Class of 2011 is the most racially diverse in the history of the law school, with 30 percent of students people of color. Despite this, the law school is not immune from issues of racial concern -- as 3Ls will recall.

In Spring Semester of 2007, a private, off-campus party at which some law students dressed in hip-hop garb put UConn Law under a national spotlight. Pictures posted to Facebook leaked to the media and some bristled at images of white law students parodying a culture dominated by African-Americans.