

AG debate pits Dean against Jepson at UConn Law



Erica McKenzie/ UConn

Attorney General Candidates Martha Dean and George Jepson square off in Starr Hall.

By Erica McKenzie

As UConn Law's students and faculty prepared for evening classes on Thursday September 23rd, supporters for the two candidates for Connecticut Attorney General flooded the campus, waiving colorful signs at drivers entering campus struggling to find parking spots. The reason UConn Law's usually quiet campus was inundated with sign-waving campaigners? UConn Law was co-hosting a debate between the candidates for Attorney General with the Connecticut Law Tribune and

LexisNexis.

Law Students, attorneys, faculty, supporters, community members, and even a few high school students filed into Starr Hall for this exciting event. The hall was full by 6:45, the time the organizers intended to close the doors, but people were still crowded in the stairwell. The remaining people had to watch the debate remotely via the Connecticut Law Tribune website.

The Tribune's publisher, Jeff Forte, opened the debate, introducing Dean Jeremy Paul as the chief panelist. Other panelists were Thomas Schaf-

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President Obama visits Connecticut

By Karen Rabinovici

President Barack Obama visited Stamford, CT, on Thursday September 16, ending speculation of whether or not he would visit the Constitution State in support of state Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, the democratic candidate for senate. Blumenthal is facing former World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc. executive Linda McMahon, the Republican candidate for senate, as his opposition.

The forum took place in the ballroom of the Marriott Hotel. A main point of criticism from President Obama towards Linda McMahon was her high spending on her campaign (\$50 million from her personal finances) and her alleged, "flooding the airwaves with negative ads." Blumenthal himself stated that he was honored by Obama's

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Proposed "Ground Zero Mosque" stirs controversy

By Sarah Shah

How many Muslims does it take to convince Pastor Terry Jones that not all Muslims are radical extremists Hell-bent on destroying America? The answer, it seems, is 1.6 billion. Does Jones voice the sentiments of all Christians? Certainly not. Nor does Al-Qaeda voice the sentiments of 1.6 billion Muslims. The Qur'an burning organized by Jones, which was scheduled to occur on the 9th anniversary of September 11, was the pastor's way of showing his discontentment with the "Ground Zero mosque."

But as political commentator Keith Olbermann stated, there is no Ground Zero mosque:

Park51 is a community center, not a mosque, to be situated two blocks north of Ground Zero. How close is too close? Other establishments in the area are McDonald's and a gentlemen's club. Does anyone refer to the gentlemen's club as the "Ground

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Dean's Corner with Dean Jeremy Paul

By Jeremy Paul

Welcome new and returning students. The fall 2010 semester offers 8 new courses in topics ranging from food and drug law to workers in American film. Our fledgling Center for Energy and Environmental Law includes a renewable energy course and a CULI-based Environmental Practice Clinic directed by Alan Kosloff. Jill Anderson, Lynn Fountain and Richard Wilson have joined the law faculty, and my colleagues Kaaryn Gustafson, Ruth Mason and Steven Davidoff are now tenured Professors of Law. A beautiful, new student lounge graces the Library's 4th floor.

Despite all there is to celebrate, including the best September weather in recent memory, now is also the time to get serious about the career ahead of you. You need not be fearful about your future. To the contrary, over the long term, boundless opportunity exists for hard working, well-educated people across the globe. Our career planning staff is here to help you maximize your own prospects. Pay attention.

More than that, however, use your time in school to avoid the epidemic of short-term thinking that is plaguing America. Focus on developing habits that will permit you steadily to improve your performance of your profession's most crucial skills. Read widely and deeply so that you become comfortable with different aspects of contemporary life. Tackle pro bono work not only because it's the right thing to do but because it will force you to navigate unfamiliar situations. Travel abroad, learn foreign languages, master financial statements, or manipulate computer programs. Above all, work on your writing as hard and as often as you can. Try, for example, taking memos you have written and re-writing them at half the length. Whatever you choose remember that you are embarking on a lifelong process. The only thing that will keep you from reaching excellence is giving up.

Regrettably, the LSAT sets the wrong tone with respect to needed long term thinking. Because it's difficult to improve one's test performance with pre-test studying, the test inadvertently sends a message that students can't change what matters most. Nothing could be further from the truth. Imagine how well a student would perform on the LSAT, if she started studying problems of that kind for three hours a day at age 15. How poorly would she do if deprived of the opportunity to read and write during critical early years of schooling? Right now, whatever your age, you face that long time horizon. By finding enthusiasm for what you do, you can make yourself someone not only employable but indispensable. Dedicate yourself to this, and I promise Law School will prove rewarding, and you might even have some fun along the way.

Pro Se

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A note from the Student Bar Association

Welcome to another great year at UConn Law! The SBA has been moving full steam ahead on a number of initiatives and goals for the year. We recently announced the opening of the new Fourth Floor Library Lounge and have implemented the new Lockers program, which we hope will be just the beginning of some great upcoming projects for the year!

Under the direction of Vice President and Social Committee Chair DeVaughn Ward, we held great Orientation events to welcome our new students, and also co-sponsored a community-wide Welcome Back Barbeque that over 280 students, faculty, and staff were in attendance. Our own SBA Class Representatives and SBA Diversity Committee members also contributed to the success of Orientation and the Barbeque, including Marco Allocca, Sebastian Tornatore, Blake Holler, Jeff Kanca, Lisa Rodriguez, and Rebecca Arnold. DeVaughn is also planning some fantastic events for the year, so stay tuned!

David Shufrin, Treasurer, has also kept busy not only by facilitating the student group budget process, but also by holding planning meetings with students and the administration, improving the SBA's Budget and Spending Guidelines, and spearheading the Lockers program.

Bethany DiMarzio, Secretary, has done significant behind-the-scenes work in ensuring that our administrative and logistical planning is in place for the new year. In addition to organizing the 1L and LLM elections, she was integral to the opening of the library lounge and increasing the visibility of the SBA through organizing reservations and planning office hours for our Starr office.

We are off to a great start as we remain busy. Keep an eye out for additional information on SBA events and projects in the coming weeks!

Respectfully,
Yam Menon
President
Student Bar Association

Law campuses, the environment, and you

By Katherine Welsh Laliberte

In an age in which environmental awareness and sustainability has become a trend, environmental activists focus on moving beyond the buzzwords. 'Green', 'energy-efficient' and 'sustainable' are thrown into advertising like consumer bait, and even law school admission offices are using green initiatives to reel in future students. Harvard Law boasts new bike shelters, Yale has purchased a fleet of biodiesel shuttle buses, and the Vermont Law School (where UConn has an Environmental Law exchange program) even had a bicycle-powered smoothie bar in operation.

While these buzz words are noticeably absent from UConn's homepage, like-minded initiatives are in fact happening on campus in West Hartford. Sponsored by the law campus' Environmental Law Society (ELS), a recycling campaign is taking hold, and the group's Campus "Green" Report is

a good indicator of UConn Law's strengths and weaknesses. The report focuses on boosting the Environmental Law curriculum and infrastructure, and also the areas in which students can improve their sustainable habits. The report highlighted the structural improvements that have been made like the installation of double-paned windows and insulation to combat energy inefficiency in the older buildings. Most classrooms are equipped with light sensors and energy efficient lighting is in place.

The informative website for UConn's Office of Environmental Policy in Storrs details the expensive, but also very dynamic, overhauls taking place that are meant to reach all campuses. The design of the first university athletic facility in the country to pursue the environmentally-stringent LEED certification is a testament to scale of their projects.

But now the microscope turns to you, the individual,

and what you can do to contribute to a greener campus. The big ticket items are important, but real change occurs from the accumulation of little habits in everybody.

- Recycle! There are receptacles outside the library and in the new students lounge for bottles and cans and recycle paper in the Shred-it boxes. The ELS has made great strides in recycling and is working to acquire more receptacles. Look out for electronic recycling drives throughout the year.

- Suggest places that need recycling bins! The more supported an initiative, the higher its priority.

- Truffles will use paper containers instead of styrofoam for you if you ask, so ask!

- Print on two sides. If you print in the library's computer lab, select double-sided printing under Properties.

- Cut down the use of plastic bottles and paper coffee cups by using reus-

able mugs and water bottles. Look out for sales at the Co-op on these items.

- Carpool, walk, or bike. How many people drive every day? Do we have to?

- Ask your group leaders to avoid styrofoam when they buy for group events and to incorporate an environmental aspect to projects.

- If you have a concern, talk about it! Go to an Environment Law Society meeting. Caring is contagious, and action arises only out of ideas that are talked about.

To learn more about the campus' sustainability analysis, the "Green" Report is available on the Environmental Law Society's TWEN page.

Over the course of our time at UConn Law, constant emphasis is placed on the spirit of volunteerism and responsibility. Stewardship, too, begins here. We have a responsibility for the world we live in our whole lives through—as future lawyers and as people.

PILG ramps up for its annual auction

By Elise Baum

The Public Interest Law Group (PILG) is the second largest group on campus and one of the most active. The group is dedicated to providing an avenue for law students to serve underprivileged people in the community. PILG strives to create an environment where students interested in public interest law can gain experience while making a difference. The group also hosts different events throughout the year to promote community service and raise funds.

These funds are raised mainly through one large event, which takes place in the fall—the PILG auction. This year the auction is being held on November 5th at 6:30 in the Starr Reading Room. Generally considered the biggest event on cam-

pus, several hundred people attend the auction including community members outside the law school.

This auction makes the prospect of working in the non-profit sector much more affordable for students with a passion for public service. The auction is meant to raise money for student fellowships, which help 1L and 2L students looking to gain experience through unpaid internships this summer. Last year the auction raised enough money for twelve students to receive \$4000 each. The money supports qualified students working in the non-profit sector during the summer.

Before the auction can even begin, students in PILG must go out to businesses and solicit for donations. These donations can be as simple as gift cards to

different businesses and as unique as a house to rent in Maine with fellow students. Students are encouraged to bid on anything and everything, but popular bidding items in the past have been lockers in the library and a special reserved parking space on campus. It is fun to get dressed up with friends and bid for a week-end vacation, or to simply show up and spend \$15 on a \$50 gift certificate. Leading up to the auction, there are PILG sponsored events at businesses near campus where students can grab a bite to eat with the proceeds supporting scholarships. PILG would love any type of donation, and strongly encourages students to go to the sponsored business nights.

At the auction there will be a band, food, a cash bar, and even a professional auctioneer for the live auction. For the more reserved students, there is a silent auction as well. Students can also volunteer for the night of the auction to help out or get involved in the planning process.

Of course, the auction is not the only PILG event. There are many other programs in which students can participate including the Home Experience Legal Protection and Kids In Need of Defense. All nine PILG programs can be found on the TWEN site. If you are interested in helping out with these programs, join the site on TWEN or talk to Eleni Alevizos. If anyone would like to donate or volunteer at the auction, contact Ben Cheney or Emily Nicholson-Gross.

Pro Se Welcomes Professor Lynn Fountain and the Center for Energy and Environmental Law

By Patricia Martins

"Fall is my favorite season in Los Angeles, watching the birds change color and fall from the trees." -David Letterman

Unfortunately for David Letterman, UConn Law is solidifying its stance against pollution, and hopefully the epidemic of diseased birds will not reach New England this fall.

On September 13, 2010, professors and businessmen mingled in Janet M. Blumberg Hall, discussing possible future environmental and clean energy projects in the Connecticut region as Dean Paul welcomed Professor Lynn Fountain to the UConn Law staff. Professor Fountain, herself a UConn Law graduate, was recently hired as Executive Director for the Center for Energy and Environmental Law (CEEL).

Before rejoining the UConn Law community, Professor Fountain practiced energy law at a Connecticut law firm, where she focused on renewable energy, nuclear energy, project finance, and mergers and acquisitions. Her research and interests are focused on renewable energy and sustainable development. Professor Fountain says, "Part of the Center's mission will be to prepare students for careers in energy and environmental law that will leave them ready to serve the state and the nation in jobs that will become increasingly important in the years ahead."

The CEEL is poised to handle growing environmental concerns and the increasing demand for clean energy. It will promote information and education on energy efficiency. Among other events, lectures and conferences will bring together public inter-

est organizations, environmental and energy attorneys, and policy makers, creating a forum in which to exchange ideas.

With the growing demand for green jobs, environmental awareness, and clean energy, the CEEL would provide an important opportunity for interested law students. The CEEL plans to have a clean energy clinic and externships, allowing students interested in energy and environmental law more opportunities to get hands-on experience. UConn Law students might also have a chance to collaborate with regional campuses, professors and students. By collaborating, Professor Fountain hopes that the projects the campuses could work together on will "foster the development of clean energy technologies and markets in Connecticut and the region."

CEEL is partially sponsored by

a federal grant that UConn was awarded. Professor Fountain will work with a number of advisors including Sara Bronin and Richard Parker as two faculty co-directors. The future of the program remains bright for, as Professor Fountain says, "We have an excellent, dedicated group of faculty as well as a significant number of students with strong interest in the areas of energy and environmental law."

CEEL's official welcome will occur in the spring. For more information about the program, visit CEEL on the UConn Law website: <http://www.law.uconn.edu/center-energy-and-environmental-law>. In the meantime, we can continue to enjoy leaves changing from a natural biochemical process, and pick apples without radioactive worms.

Obama and Blumenthal take aim at McMahan policies

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(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais) President Barack Obama with Conn. Attorney General and Democrat candidate for US Senate Richard Blumenthal wave during a fundraiser in Stamford, Conn., Thursday, Sept. 16, 2010.

visit and that it would make a big difference for his campaign. Before Obama's visit took place, the National Republican Senatorial Committee criticized the move

as "desperate," pointing to Blumenthal's drop in the polls after being in the lead. McMahan, during an Associated Press interview at her West Hartford campaigning headquarters, had some criticism of Obama regarding his success as a president, but also offered some mild praise for Blumenthal as a successful self-promoter.

Obama's visit to Stamford resulted in \$400,000 of fundraising for both Blumenthal and state Democrats. He also attended a dinner at a Greenwich home, one of the guests of which was movie director Ron Howard. The dinner resulted in just over one million dollars in donations for the Democratic National Committee.

The election will be held November 2, 2010, and the

winner will join the 112th United States Congress. Democrats have held the Connecticut Senate seat for the past 46 years.

McMahan campaigned for lower taxes, fiscal conservatism, and job creation. She had many mail, radio, television, and Internet advertisements, which have been attributed to boosting her position in the polls. Her spending, as mentioned earlier, has become a major argument against her by her opponents. One theme during her campaign is to "put Connecticut back to work." She supports offshore drilling and is pro-choice.

Blumenthal has been the Attorney General since 1990. During this campaign period he was criticized for making statements alluding to per-

forming service in Vietnam, which he did not do; this appears to have hurt him in the polls. As Attorney General, he aggressively worked for consumer protection, environmental awareness, labor rights, and personal privacy. He is campaigning on job creation and aid to small businesses, reform of the financial system (including an end to bonuses for companies that owe taxpayer bailout money), and commitment to veterans.

Another big gun coming to Connecticut in support of Blumenthal will be former President Bill Clinton, scheduled to visit on September 26.

When the Cheering Stopped v. The Bible

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fer of the Connecticut Law Tribune, Mark Pazniokas of the Connecticut Mirror, and UConn Law's own Yam Menon.

Throughout the debate Republican Candidate Martha Dean, a UConn Alumnus, focused on creating an efficient, apolitical Attorney General's office dedicated to upholding the principles of the constitution, while Democratic Candidate George Jepsen, former state senator, focused on what he would do to strengthen the economy by going after financial and mortgage fraud.

At times the debate, while not friendly, was relatively cordial, with the candidates agreeing on certain issues like that the Attorney General did not have a place interfering at the governor's request when a rapist is released from jail and that the Attorney General should support the laws of Connecticut like its death penalty law. Despite these calmer moments, sparks flew between the debaters as each lashed out at the other's politics, character, and experience.

The candidates faced off over the question of whether they would cut staff for the Attorney

Generals office. Dean indicated that she would "do more with less" and do what was necessary to put Connecticut on firm economic ground. Jepsen countered Dean's criticism of the inefficiencies of the office by indicating that roughly the same number of attorneys were handling a case load that had grown drastically over the past years and that the Attorney General's office paid for itself with the revenue raised. Dean strongly and firmly rebutted, indicated that, despite the fact that the Attorney Generals office is instrumental in levying and receiving fines, damages, and settlements, the office is not a revenue raising office.

Early on in the debate, the candidates again faced off, but not over the contentious question that Yam raised (whether the candidates would support denying inmates information under the Freedom of Information Act), but instead redirected their answers to argue about whether Jepsen was in fact too political for the job since he was just like former Attorney General Richard Blumenthal.

Dean started this attack on Jepsen, which she would continue to reiterate throughout the

debate, saying that Jepsen intended to follow Blumenthal's strategy of using the Attorney General's office for a political agenda. Jepsen countered by indicating that he was not the same man as Blumenthal, and had worked well with Republicans during his time in the state senate, often sitting down to meet with them to hash out problems and differences.

Immediately after this conflict, the candidates swung back at each other over the question first posed to Jepsen about how he would react if his employees wanted to form a union. After Jepsen indicated that he would stand up to organized labor when appropriate, Dean let her metaphorical fist fly at Jepsen, indicating that she would be "a little bit of the Iron Lady" because unions are out of control in Connecticut, but Jepsen was too beholden to labor unions and had taken contributions from them. Jepsen rebutted firmly that he "had not taken a dime" from labor unions.

Towards the end of the first round of the debate, Jepsen had an opportunity to strike back at Dean for her continuous attacks on him for being to

political. When asked whether there was any litigation that as attorney general she would use to push back the Federal Government, Dean responded that the federal government's power is overwhelming and she would join the group of other states' attorneys general challenging the requirement in the new health insurance bill that requires everyone to have health insurance. Jepsen grabbed this opportunity to point out that Dean was joining the same politically charged legal fight that she had accused Jepsen of being a part of: "For Martha to say she is not political is like me saying I have a full head of hair."

Perhaps the most interesting and revealing question of the night came from Dean Paul when he asked the candidates to recommend to the law students in the audience inspirational books. Jepsen recommended the book about Woodrow Wilson, *When the Cheering Stopped*, while Dean recommended the Bible. What this says about the candidates, you'll have to decide. Connecticut residents, vote for your next Attorney General on November 2nd!

A Work in Progress: Renovating the Starr Hall Tower

By Scott Rosen

With elevation comes vision, and with vision comes power. It is fitting, then, that civilization's greatest symbol of wealth and might is also its tallest. The tower, dear reader, is a silent witness that offers testimony to human ingenuity.

Since the earliest proto-hominids began stacking stones, towers have come to symbolize authority and achievement. In antiquity, towers such as the famed

Ziggurat of Ur were the fortresses and great temples of their age. In the Renaissance, Italian city-states constructed towers to showcase their opulence and wealth. Today, towers such as the Burj Khalifa in Dubai reach hundreds of meters into the air, flaunting gravity itself.

Our own Starr Tower looms over the UCONN Law campus, some six stories of stone and splendor. Its dark windows watch over the campus, yielding no secrets to those who look upon them.

Through the seasons and the ages, its purpose and contents remain a mystery.

Starr Tower joins other famous towers in secrecy and intrigue. The Tower of London concealed regicide and a haunted past. The Eiffel Tower mystified a generation of Parisians. The mythical Isengard hosted a mad wizard and a toppled regime. It is perhaps fitting that Starr should remain inscrutable to those who are closest to it.

For the meantime, however, the Tower rests incomplete.

Its keep is ensconced by a latticework of steel and plywood; its turrets lay in pieces across the parking lot. For several months, the Tower has waited as workers strive diligently to restore its glory.

By the end of October, repairs on the tower should be complete. It should come as no surprise that our most mysterious holiday, Halloween, will coincide with the consummation of our school's most puzzling—and most provocative—feature.

Thoughts on the "Ground Zero Mosque"

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Zero Gentlemen's Club?" I think not. The community center, welcoming to people of all faiths, would house a pool, culinary school, and theater among other facilities that surely Al-Qaeda surely would not approve of.

If Muslims are denied the right to a community center two blocks north of Ground Zero aren't we just playing into the hands of the terrorists, who want the controversy and bigotry against Muslims to continue? Taliban operative Zabihullah told Newsweek, "By preventing this mosque from being built, America is doing us a big favor. It's providing us with more recruits, donations, and popular support." While this may seem oxymoronic, as the type of moderate Islam that founder

Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf of Park51 practices, Sufism, is certainly not the type of Islam that a Taliban operative would approve of, one should remember that terrorism knows no reason. The sentiment against Muslims, however, has spread, as mosques across the nation are facing opposition, and Muslims have been the targets of hate crimes in recent weeks, from the desecration of several mosques to the stabbing of a Muslim taxi driver in New York.

Is there a "compelling government interest" in preventing Muslims from building Park51? In order to impose zoning restrictions of the building of a religious institution, such a compelling interest must exist, as stated in The Religious Land Use and

Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIP). Security is indeed compelling, but without the certainty that such an interest is justified in the prevention of the building of Park51, it would be unconstitutional to deny peaceful Muslims the right to a community center. Will we as a nation regress in human rights, and return to a time of "separate, but equal?" Can't we view the community center as a rejection of bigotry, instead of as a monument to terrorists, when clearly the founders intend for Park51 to inspire interfaith dialogue and bridge cultures.

Families of 9/11 victims have been divided, some stating that it is insensitive to build a community center so close to Ground Zero, while others view it as not just an

issue of freedom of religion, but support it to show Muslims that America does not hold all Muslims responsible for 9/11. Keith Olbermann eloquently stated, "Virtually every church, every synagogue, indeed every mosque built on this continent stands where a Native American lived, or died, or was buried, or saw his world—his religion included—wiped out. By us." Should all Americans today be punished for the atrocities committed against the Native Americans? Do we want to collectively punish all American Muslims for an act of violence committed by 19 extremists by denying them the right to a community center on private property? I hope not.

Voices from the Quad

By Brendan Horgan

What is the best Law School hypothetical ever posed:

Hands down, the best one ever was by Professor McGill. We were discussing the chain of causation. In the hypo, a man threw a grenade. A condor swooped down and picked up the grenade and flew several miles. The condor then dropped the grenade into the back of a wagon carrying school children. The wagon exploded and school children ran in every direction on fire. In the chaos of screaming children and burning flesh, one of the children ignited a house on fire. Who is responsible for the damage to the house?

- Billy Goodbody

By Roopa Modha

As a 1L student, I felt that UConn Law's film night came at a perfect time—right at the beginning of the semester, when students are still developing notions of the world of law. Last Friday, September 24th, the UConn Law campus screened the movie "Disturbing the Universe," a riveting biopic of William Kunstler's life as put together by his two daughters, Sarah and Emily Kunstler. His daughters' perspective helped frame William Kunstler as a sympathetic figure and also worked to humanize him. The movie night was a collaborative effort between UConn Law's Diversity Committee and several faculty members and was followed by a discussion session. Students truly seemed moved by the movie and enjoyed the event.

After discussing the movie with other students, I found that the general consensus was that it was very reassuring to know that many lawyers truly want to effect positive change, regardless of society's perception of them. Although at times Kunstler's choice to represent clients was questionable, his ultimate goal

Grab your popcorn Film Night is a success!

was to provide everyone access to a fair trial. Initially, my perception was that Kunstler was merely an attention-seeking rebel but in the end he demonstrated the values on which our legal system is based—providing a just and fair trial for all regardless of background, age, race, gender, etc.

The movie also served to expose internal flaws in the legal system that one otherwise would not consider. Hailey Fitzgerald, a 1LD student, reflected that it was interesting how the documentary exposed that "prejudices extend into the judicial system with regard to people being prejudged as guilty rather than presumed innocent." The movie further opened students' eyes a difficult side of law—representing an accused party. As 1LE student, Lisa Tran, opined; "Everyone deserves justice, but [one] think[s] about [cases] in terms of the plaintiff." This plaintiff-centric perspective often causes us to fail to give credence to the lawyer representing the accused party. This point was a common theme in the discussions. If a lawyer represents an accused party, it shouldn't reflect negatively upon him, as our justice system is built upon

equal access to counsel. The film reinforced the perspective that everyone deserves a lawyer and is entitled to a fair trial. Kunstler believed in this perspective and stood up for all defendants—even when others did not have the courage to do so.

Despite the generation gap between when the events transpired and today, the movie's message transcended the gap. Kunstler was the one domino that refused to fall in line with the rest. Most students acknowledged that the legal system needs lawyers like Kunstler to "disturb the universe" of law to try and test notions, like fairness and justice, to see if they hold up in reality. Without anyone to question the system, its function would be taken for granted. In a truly evocative part of the film, Kunstler's daughters described how their father saw himself as a "David" figure standing up against the Goliaths of the world. This imagery resonated with students since most have entered law school with that same idyllic notion. If you have not seen the movie, do watch it and we hope to see you at our next film night. Good luck tackling any Goliath that comes your way!

Entertainment

Popular show uproots: Moves to Hollywood

Law & Order to resume Sept. 29th

By Matt Szafranski

Two separate, yet equally important groups from New York no longer protect the television audience. Last spring, amid declining ratings, NBC announced it was cancelling the flagship branch of the Law & Order franchise. After twenty years, numerous cast changes, several spin-offs, and nearly every form of human depravity possible, the creators hung up their guns, briefs, and robes.

It was no secret that the creators of Law & Order sought to surpass Gunsmoke as the longest running prime time television drama. However, network television was crowded with so many CSI's, NCIS's,

and other Law & Orders that the drama could no longer distinguish itself. For many years, part of its appeal came from its focus on the cases and the process rather than the personal lives of the characters.

Still, the performance of the cast was key to its longevity. When NBC pulled the plug, Sam Waterston, who became District Attorney in 2008 after fourteen years as the executive ADA and S. Epatha Merkerson, the detective squad lieutenant, had the longest tenures on the show. Every other cast position had changed numerous times including the late Jerry Orbach, who held the longest detective tenure as Lenny Briscoe, and real world presiden-

tial aspirant Fred Dalton Thompson as the unlikely conservative D.A. of liberal New York County.

Part of NBC's decision probably related to cost. In 2008 New York City introduced additional fees and insurance requirements for filming on city property, including the courthouses in Foley Square. Added onto the other expenses of filming in New York, NBC, part of struggling conglomerate GE, could not justify keeping the show on the air. Notably, the series' most successful spin-off, Law & Order: Special Victims Unit and its increasingly bizarre and absurd sex crimes will return this fall.

Law & Order fans need not fear that their only

hope is reruns and SVU's ever-kinkier atrocities. Somewhat prophetically, in 1997, the Law & Order cast traveled to Los Angeles for a case involving a dead Hollywood producer, crooked L.A. cops, seductive studio staff, and the deceased's director ex-husband. A Los Angeles edition of Law & Order built on the same premise as the New York version will go on the air September 29th. Mixing the glamour and scandal of Tinseltown with the LAPD's penchant for controversy, hopefully the producers have found the right formula for a fresh series built on the foundation the original laid down, but with a Hollywood twist.

Fall 2010 Social Events at UConn Law

By Peter M. Golfman

Doing some casual reading the other night, I stumbled upon the second annual "Law School Party Rankings" published by SubtleDig.com. UConn Law was ranked all the way down at number 62. Surprised? Well I sure was. Those rankings clearly overlooked the nights I played Parcheesi alone in my basement. All jokes and bogus rankings aside, it is important to have a little fun once in a while, close the books

for a few moments, and share a laugh with some friends before gulping four 5-Hour Energy Shots and studying through the night. If you agree, you might be interested in checking out a few of the social events in store for this fall...

First, the Homecoming Tailgate/Fall Ball combo (10/2). Join our friendly undergraduate compatriots cheering on the Huskies as the team runs circles around the Vanderbilt Commodores. Then go home, take a nap, and put on

something nice to wear as you make your way down to the Marriot for some food, drinks, and dancing deep into the night. Spend the next twenty-eight days thinking about your Halloween costume, because if it's not good, you stand no chance of being considered for "best costume" at the Halloween Party, UConn Law's highest honor. The event will be held at Elizabeth Park Pond House (10/30).

Finally, do not forget my personal favorite, the Public

Interest Law Group Auction (11/5) where compulsive gamblers and the rest of us have a great time while supporting a wonderful cause and eating lots of cheese.

I hope to see everyone out at each of these exciting events. The more the merrier. In the meantime, hit the books, study hard, and stay healthy.

10/2	Fall Ball
10/30	Halloween Party
11/5	PILG Auction

The Back Page

UConn football in full swing, where are you?

Get out there and support your team

By Drew Schaffer

Get out your grills and practice up on the Bag-o because tailgating season is back. Coming off of an exciting win over the University of South Carolina in the Papajohns.com bowl, the Huskies are ready to continue their FBS success in the 2010 season. With Coach Randy Edsall back at the controls, quarterback Zach Frazer at the helm, and 16 starters returning, UConn is in a great position to dominate the Big East conference and vie for a coveted BCS bowl bid. However, the road will not be easy with scheduled opponents the likes of Michigan, Pittsburgh, and West Virginia who are all looking to knock

off the Huskies who have transformed from an easy win to a formidable opponent.

Although the beginning of UConn's season has been marred by a sizeable loss to Michigan, a surprising fall to Temple, and an injury to running back Jordan Todman, the nation's fourth-leading rusher; the team has plenty of time and ample opportunities to regain their composure. After each of the team's two losses, they have bounced back with sizeable wins demonstrating the team's commitment to bringing the school another bowl victory and continuing the rise to college football prominence.

With home games against Vanderbilt (Oct. 2), West

Virginia (Oct. 29), Pittsburgh (Nov. 10), and Cincinnati (Nov. 27) everyone should make it their goal to make at least one trip to Rentschler Field and enjoy the exciting atmosphere that surrounds every game. Make sure you don your Husky blue, get to the stadium early to secure a good spot on the tailgating field, and make as much noise as possible during the game. Also remember, the SBA has purchased an additional 30 tickets to the October 29th game against West Virginia and will be sponsoring a tail-



AP Photo

Coach Randy Edsall energizes his team from the sidelines.

gate—this is a great opportunity for you to get out there and watch the Huskies as they take on a Big East rival!

Capital Punishment Skates Into the Fall

Under new leadership, team looks to repeat past success

By Shane Goodrich

Some UConn Law students choose to take a break from learning the law each week by "laying down the law" on the ice.

The UConn Law club hockey team, cleverly named "Capital Punishment," has been competing since 2001. President Ryan McLaughlin said this is the ninth year Capital Punishment has been in existence, and that he is excited to be running the team this year.

"It's a competitive league," said McLaughlin, "We have a pretty good team. We have a couple kids that played in college and some that played in high school." He said there were twelve students that showed up to play last week, and that any student is welcome to come out for the team. "We take anybody that can skate."

Capital Punishment plays once a week at the Newington Connecticut Skating Center. They play in an adult league against teams

from the Hartford area in both the fall and the spring.

McLaughlin said the team has been quite successful in past years. "Last year we made it to the playoffs and ended up fourth in the league," he said, "We had a couple kids who led the league in scoring and goals." McLaughlin said that one of the best parts of the season is the alumni game, where former students come back to play against the current students. He said it is an annual event to look forward

to.

Capital Punishment plays again this Wednesday at 10:10 p.m. So, come on out to Newington and watch your classmates commit some Torts on ice.

Thank you for reading this edition of *Pro Se*. If you would like to contribute, please attend our next meeting on October 7th at 12:30.