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*Fifth Anniversary Edition*

# PRO SE

THE STUDENT VOICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT SCHOOL OF LAW

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## Building Genuine Community is Now *By Deborah Calloway*

Five years ago, *Pro Se* was created by students and for students and with a stated purpose of making positive changes for our campus by improving communication. One of the most wonderful things about *Pro Se* is that it is a continuing process. This is an essential element necessary to maintain a genuine community.

In the first issue of *Pro Se* I described the process of building a genuine diverse community as having three components. First, we must be honest with ourselves, recognizing our tendency to label and judge, and work toward seeing each other clearly without pre-conceived expectations. Second, we need opportunities to learn about each other and to appreciate and use those opportunities both inside the

class-room and at campus-wide events. Third, we need to interact with each other both on an academic and on a social level.

While it is certainly possible to identify many ways in which the law school community has grown and changed over the last five years, it is not possible to talk about progress in a linear fashion. Maintaining an open and comfortable learning and social environment for the entire community is a continuing, ever-changing process. Every year nearly a third of the student body graduates and is replaced by a new class in the Fall. Every year staff and faculty retire or relocate and are replaced by new staff and faculty. It is an unavoidable reality that the process of creating genuine community must be ongoing.

But, there is no need to feel discouraged. The positive side of constant change is constant opportunity. Every moment is an opportunity to learn from each other and grow. Every moment is an opportunity to drop pre-conceived ideas and see each other clearly. Every moment is an opportunity to really listen to each other. Every moment is an opportunity to show kindness to others. Every moment is an opportunity to notice the kindness of others. This is how genuine community is built and maintained on a continuing basis. There is no need to worry about the future or compare with the past. If we can all genuinely appreciate each other in the present moment that is all that is required to create a genuine diverse and positive community now.

## Five Years of *Pro Se*, Fifty Years of Student News *By Erica McKenzie*

Five years ago a group of students got together to bring back the student newspaper at UConn Law to give the student body a voice in the law school community. This month we celebrate not only five years of students' hard work executing this mission but we also celebrate fifty years of student news.

"News from the Students": In April of 1961, the Law School Alumni Association in its inaugural edition of *The Star Report* presented the very first student news in an article entitled "News from the Students." *The Star Report* took its name from the news bulletin the retiring Professor William Star had periodically sent since 1944 to alumni with news about alumni activities and school activities. The first "News from the Students" in 1961 consisted of five short paragraphs.

"Comments on New Law Review Favorable": The student voice in *The Star Report* became stronger as the years went on, eventually being co-sponsored and edited by the Student Bar Association. In April of 1968, however, the alumni association decided to publish its own newspaper and no longer fund the student newspaper, taking with it *The Star Report* name. That fall, *The Legal Realist* was born, a newspaper run by students, for students.

"Enough of Death": In 1970 another news source arose: *The Liberated Law Student*. This newspaper ran only for a year and focused on relaying information and opinions about the Vietnam War and law student protest efforts.

"UConn Board Hikes Fee for All Law Students": *The Legal Realist* transformed itself into "a REAL newspaper for this school," when in 1974 it transformed into *The Pocket Part*, which continued its focus on student events, but began to cover

local legal news as well. In 1984, however, *The Pocket Part* stopped printing. This marked UConn Law's longest consistently run student newspaper.

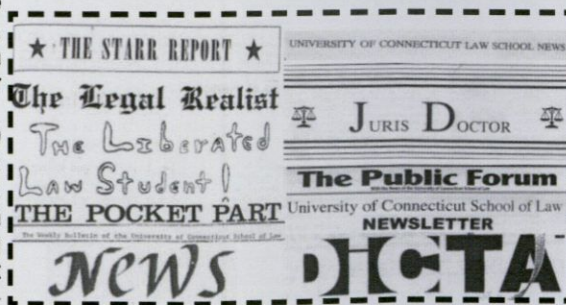
"Soviet Speaker": The 1980s and 1990s saw a large variety of news sources with many different names including faculty run *News*, student run *J.D.*, *Juris Doctor*, and 1991's *Juris Doctorate* when the old editors (one having moved to the west coast) stayed on to continue the newspaper since the student body lacked the interest to do so. *Juris Doctorate* eventually became *J.D. Newsletter*, then *Newsletter* in 1993, before student news disappeared.

"Coming Soon: Parking Shortage Solution" and "The B-Median has its Merits": 1995-1998 saw the resurgence of student news in *The Public Forum*, a newspaper which reported on student, local, and national news.

"A Moment Frozen in Time": From 1998-2005, the student voice at the school remained fairly quiet. In 2000 *Pro Se*'s own advisor, Dr. Brown ran a monthly newsletter that reported campus events and news. In 2002, student run *Dicta* accepted "thoughts, epiphanies, verse, rhyme, flow or rhythms for publication." *Dicta* included student, local, national, and international perspectives.

"Teaching the Teachers": In 2005, following several controversial events on UConn Law's campus including the "Bullets and Bubbly" party, UConn Law students and faculty focused on a diversity initiative. The events that spawned from this initiative led students to create our beloved *Pro Se* to facilitate better communication on campus. From five paragraphs of news to five years of our own newspaper, the voice of students here at UConn Law has become stronger and more powerful. In this special anniversary edition, please join us in celebrating five years of *Pro Se* and fifty years of student news with a return to *Pro Se*'s initial format and style.

Please enjoy news from not only this year, but also news by those who spoke for UConn law students in years past.



# The Original Intention of *Pro Se*

by Katrina M. Goyco '08

Former Editor in Chief and Founder of *Pro Se*

To be selected among thousands of bright and impressive applicants to attend UConn Law is an honor. To sit in distinctively small classes where you can closely interact with each other in a much less intimidating environment than most other leading law schools is a benefit not to be underestimated. To compete against each other in mock trials and negotiations, to strategize together and argue in moot court competitions, to engage in heated discussions in classrooms, or to struggle together over late nights of strong coffee and energy drinks to win an important case in a clinic will bring a smile to your face – maybe not right away, but eventually.

I've heard it time and time again since I graduated law school that the thing that makes a workplace a truly great place to work is the people that are in it. Your peers and professors are the people that will inspire you to do the work that you do to earn a living and to make a difference in the future. They will teach you lessons you need to learn, help you understand tough issues, ask difficult questions, and work out complicated problems. *Pro Se* was intended to help foster your early professional development and more firmly establish a closeness to the people you work with by sharing the knowledge, criticism, opinions, humor, pride and joy that is learned, believed, and experienced among individuals and small groups on your campus on a regular basis with everyone. It was to provide the students, SBA, and Dean with a constructive forum to communicate messages of significance concerning the community to each other. The founding members wanted to highlight the past and present accomplishments of your talented and diverse community and wanted to keep everyone apprised of what cutting-edge topics were being grappled with on campus so that these ideas could be appreciated and discussed on a wider scale.

After a year in law school, time might feel scarce to many of you and it is easy to get so wrapped up in your own activities and pursuits, so comfortable with your circle of friends, and so consumed with balancing your own obligations and personal life with your studies, that it might not seem important to engage with your peers and in all of the many outlets of discourse and conduits of knowledge the school has to offer. This oasis of knowledge, broad array of opportunities, and flexibility with your time does not last forever. You can never do everything, but try not to forget the importance of taking advantage of what you have whenever you can, and make time for it. For the past five years, *Pro Se* has duly met its mission, and I am very proud of how far it has come. I hope that it will continue to progress well into the future and that while you can you will continue to enjoy it.

**The Legal Realist**  
**On Policy**  
SEPTEMBER 3, 1968

It is customary for a new editorial board to announce its policies upon assuming its duties. Therefore we will briefly explain what we believe is the function of this paper and our role at this school.

First we intend to keep the readers of this paper informed of matters which are related to and of concern to the Law School Community. We do not intend to create controversy for its own sake nor do we intend to avoid controversy when controversy is needed.

This is your paper. It belongs to you until you abandon it. Then it belongs to the persons whose names appear in the staff box below.

**Announcements:**  
\* *Pro Se's* editor board would like to extend our deepest condolences to our layout editor, Michelle Davison, and to her family for their recent loss.  
\* Correction From May *Pro Se* Diversity Week Article: Dean Karen DeMeola is biracial, not Hispanic.

## A Note from Our SBA President...

Dear Fellow Students,

As spring rolls in and rejuvenates our campus, it is my hope that it also rejuvenates our spirits as well. I know I speak for all when I say the warm weather is more than welcome after the snow filled winter we have all just experienced. The new found sunlight and warmth reminds me that even though law school can be an exhausting, demanding and even demoralizing place at times, there is much to be optimistic for. For all the graduating students, it is the end of your academic careers and the beginning of the life we all strive for. For those of us continuing our legal studies, the spring reminds us that we are just one step closer to our ultimate goals. Our journals continue to create excellent scholarly works that are well-respected throughout the legal community and our multiple student organizations have put on some of the most impressive events to date on our campus. It is my hope, that in serving all of you, I can contribute to continuing UConn Law's tradition of excellence.

I look forward to working with all of you this upcoming year, and I wish you all the best on your upcoming finals.

Respectfully,

Marco A. Allocca  
Student Bar Association President

## Graduation Sentiments

By Drew Schaffer

It's crazy how time flies! I feel like just yesterday I was in my orientation group staring down the barrel of what people had told me would be the longest and most stressful three years of my life. I remember when the bar exam seemed like it would never come and now here I sit looking over my first set of Barbr study materials.

I have had an amazing time at UConn Law and have learned so much, not just about the law and the legal profession but about myself. I have enjoyed the past three years with all of my classmates and thank the 1Ls and 2Ls for their high levels of enthusiasm and eagerness to take the ball that we have held and run with it.

I hope all of you feel that law school was the right decision for you and that you find your true calling, whatever that may be.

I also thank the faculty and staff for their hard work and dedication to making the school as great as it is. Finally, thank you all for your continued support of *Pro Se* over the last year, and I greatly appreciate all of the positive comments and emails that I have received. I know that the paper is in good hands in the years to come and I encourage everyone to step up and contribute and give UConn Law a voice!

I wish everyone the best of luck in the future, definitely stay focused but also remember to have fun!

## The Connecticut Journal of International Law and The Connecticut Insurance Law Journal Present their 2011 Symposia...

**Connecticut Insurance Law Journal examines how much a life is worth**

By Kennex Chan

Medications harming large numbers of patients, credit card companies charging undisclosed fees for international transactions, and many people developing illnesses from exposure to toxins all lead plaintiffs to bring high volumes of lawsuits against common defendants. Defendants' and plaintiffs' lawyers are continually refining methods for resolving such large-scale disputes. Increasingly, they rely on statistical techniques to do so.

On April 15, the Connecticut Insurance Law Center and the Connecticut Insurance Law Journal hosted their spring symposium – Actuarial Litigation: How Statistics Can Help Resolve Big Cases. The Symposium brought together special masters, insurance professionals, economists, political scientists, legal scholars, and law students, as panelists and as audiences, to discuss how risk is quantified in litigation, especially in those high value and large-scale complex cases.

The keynote address by Mr. Kenneth Feinberg marked a high point of the Symposium. Mr. Feinberg shared with the audience his experience as the Special Master of the Federal September 11th Victim Compensation Fund, in which he managed claims from victims of the national tragedy. Mr. Feinberg shared with the audience what he had written in his book "What is Life Worth?" about his duty to assign monetary value to each victim's life. Despite the fact that many panelists argued for applying (at least partially) the experience of the 9/11 Fund to other massive complex cases, Mr. Feinberg repeatedly emphasized that this institutionalized method of claim resolution is unprecedented, does not conform with the American adversarial litigation system, and should not be a model for other cases.

Mr. Feinberg's experience in the 9/11 Fund led him to become the Administrator of the BP Claims Fund. "I do not work for BP," he reminded the audience. In fact, Mr. Feinberg was appointed by the Obama Administration and BP to manage a \$20 billion fund to pay claims related to the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico last year. These claims added another complex variable that troubled many first year law students to the formula – the "proximate cause." "The spill is in Gulf coast," said Mr. Feinberg, "we have received claims from all 50 states."

While institutionalized claim resolution is relatively new, statistics has been utilized in many massive cases for decades.

Three panels were held during the Symposium to discuss topics on Class Actions and Regulatory Actions, Aggregation Litigation and Mass Torts, and Accuracy in Statistical Adjudication Techniques. In these panels, leading thinkers in the field presented different perspectives and possible solution in balancing fairness, judicial efficiency, victim's dignity, due process rights, and the application and accuracy of statistics in large-scale complex cases.

The NY State CLE Board accredited the Symposium. In the future, Alumnus practicing in NY will have one more reason to spend a day trip back to their alma mater.

**Connecticut Journal of International Law examines a "political tsunami" in the Middle East**

By Erica McKenzie

The Connecticut Journal of International Law invited Professor Jeremy Pressman and Dr. Ghassan El-Eid to UConn Law for a discussion of the current state of affairs in the Middle East. The discussion centered on the wave of political unrest currently making its way through the Middle East spreading from Egypt to Bahrain, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait and Libya.

El-Eid, the Coordinator of the Middle Eastern Studies program at Central Connecticut University, focused his presentation on the relationships between nations in the Middle East. He described the political climate not as a revolution, but as a "political tsunami" sweeping through the entire region. He explained that this tsunami was set off by a series of pressing problems in the area, notably the widening "aspiration gap," or the problem of having a large impoverished class that feels entitled to those luxuries the rich have, leading to frustration in that impoverished class.

The pressure from aspiration frustration built up, culminating in an uncontrollable wave of rage against the regimes

sweeping across the region. Those that are in power in the region currently have much to lose: in the Middle East, having power means having everything, but losing power means losing everything as well, and so, those in power fight hard to quell any uprisings. El-Eid emphasized that despite the uprisings, the situation in the Middle East is not a revolution, as it has been popularly labeled. It lacks the organized leadership, financial assistance, and support needed to become a full revolution.

Pressman, a Professor in the Political Science Department at UConn, presented the impact this unrest has had on U.S. Foreign Policy. In particular, Pressman tried to tease out both the potential harm and the potential benefits that the changes in the Middle East could have on the U.S. by presenting two different views of the situation. In the first view, which he described as the conventional view, Pressman explained that the changes in Egypt might create disadvantages for U.S. interests in the region. The tactical alliance with Egypt has been key to the U.S. fight against Al Qaeda. Also, the U.S. needs oil for a functioning economy and may suffer under a regime change as Egypt becomes less willing to be a tactical ally and access to oil decreases.

Pressman also put forth what he termed an unconventional view, whereby these changes could actually benefit the U.S. For example, the issues with access to oil may cause the U.S. to pursue alternative energy sources and decrease dependence on oil. The new regimes may also provide alternative models for the other nations to look to.

Both speakers seemed to agree that while the present situation, with fewer U.S. friendly regimes in power, could create some disadvantages for the U.S. in the short term, in the long term these changes may benefit the U.S. and hopefully the people in the region. As El-Eid urged, the U.S. should care less about what the governments of the nations want and focus on the desires of the people: "We should let the people decide their future."

## THE STARR REPORT

NEWS FROM THE STUDENTS

APRIL, 1961

Professor Don Wickstein instituted a legal ethics symposium for seniors this year. Invited as speakers were members of the bench and bar and of the Grievance Committee.

Such topics as the Canons of Ethics, Lawyers' responsibility to clients, Lawyers' responsibility to the Courts, and "Solicitation Vs. Starvation" were discussed in the meetings.

The symposium is designed to acquaint seniors with what is to be expected of them as attorneys with respect to ethics.

## The United States at war in Libya *By Brendan Horgan*

The United States, NATO, and several Arab allies recently intervened in a Libyan intrastate conflict. With wars ongoing in Iraq and Afghanistan, the American public is concerned about the potential ramifications of another long-term engagement.

The Libyan crisis began as societal unrest with the autocratic thirty-year rule of Moammar Gaddafi. In tandem with neighboring countries Tunisia and Egypt, the unrest evolved into large-scale political protests. Gaddafi responded to the demonstrations with an iron fist. The violent response turned protestors into revolutionaries, and political unrest into a violent civil war. The scale and mercilessness of the

Gaddafi reprisals made it politically difficult for Western powers not to intervene.

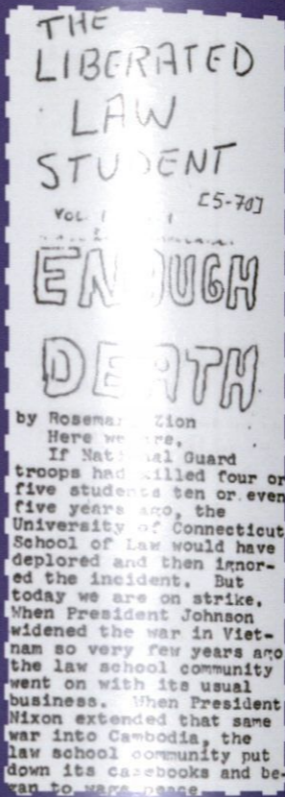
On March 17th, 2011 the UN Security Council delivered a resolution stating that intervention is necessary to protect the civilians of Libya.

For the several weeks that the UN Security Council was deliberating, Libyan rebels were making ground against the Gaddafi regime. However, the superior aerial capabilities of Gaddafi was severely inhibiting sustained rebel progress, and causing great devastation amongst civilians.

On March 18th, 2011 President Obama announced to the American people that the United States, along with its NATO allies would

create a "no fly zone" in Libya, hopefully giving the rebels enough traction to turn the tide of the battling. Americans hoped that the engagement would be swift. Much like the lessons learned with the Iraqi "shock and awe" campaign, it's often not that simple.

As the fighting is reaching some sort of stalemate, it is apparent that NATO and the United States have chosen sides in a civil war. The mission began as simply enforcing "no fly zones," but has greatly expanded to something less concrete yet more significant. It is apparent that NATO and the United States are invested in Libya until the regime is ousted.



## Second Circuit visits UConn Law *By Michael Chase*

Perhaps the Connecticut Moot Court Board is best known for hosting moot court competitions and sending teams to compete in those hosted by other schools. Perhaps, I'd suggest, however, that the Board is better described as a collective of future advocates with a commitment to excellence in all facets of courtroom practice, not just competition. This fact has never been more apparent than this past month.

April 8, The Connecticut Moot Court Board hosted,

for the first time in the history of the law school, the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. More than one hundred students, faculty, and local practitioners gathered in the Davis courtroom to hear five cases argued. Although many in attendance were unfamiliar with the cases before the attorneys took the podium, by the close of Court's session our campus was buzzing with discussion and debate.

While each of the five cases presented strikingly

different issues, what many in attendance found captivating was the collegial and often humorous exchange between the advocates and the panel. Even Chief Judge Jacobs himself remarked at how excited the Court was to have an attentive and enthusiastic audience. We were happy to have them.

The purpose of litigation week has long been to fulfill the Moot Court Board's less known function - to offer experiences in the full richness of appellate advocacy. Con-

tinuing in this tradition, the Board has brought judges, practitioners, and a host of other events to our campus, but never before has our campus been the forum for developing jurisprudence in such a tangible way.

The efforts of the Moot Court Board's Litigation Director Matt Nettleton, coupled with the indispensable help of Professor Bader and so many others have truly enriched our law school experience and for that we should be extremely proud.

## Government showdown results in passing of federal budget *By Matthew Szafranski*

More than six months late, the federal budget for the 2011 fiscal year finally passed after an epic war of words and political brinkmanship that nearly shut the federal government down. The showdown, complete with shutdown clocks plastered across cable television nearly happened after Congress failed to pass a budget last year.

In fact, the House of Representatives did pass a budget last year, but at the last second the Republicans in the Senate reneged and instead passed a temporary budget lasting through this March. It was extended

several times before the final budget agreement on April 8th.

Enter Republican House majority. At first Republicans proposed only modest cuts, albeit ones decried by Democrats as too much and by archconservatives as too little. The result was a House budget unacceptable to Democrats and even to some hardliner Republicans in the Senate.

As John Boehner attempted to extract political cover by drawing out the process, the government had no choice but to prepare for a shutdown. To comply with an obscure law known

as the Anti-Deficiency Act, federal agencies and even the elected branches themselves would need to lay off workers in the event of a shutdown. Under the Act, the government cannot employ an individual if there is no authorization to pay him or her. Exceptions to the law include jobs that are essential, usually a bare minimum of agency head and those in defense and law enforcement.

When a budget solution finally reached the House floor, it still needed the support of Democrats as Boehner had failed to secure a majority on the strength of

his caucus alone. By comparison, the small minority opposing the budget in the Senate came from the wings of each party.

The game of chicken over the budget, however, was only a prelude to a much bigger fight now brewing in Congress. In May the federal debt ceiling will be reached and it will need to be raised regardless of what Congress does about the deficit long-term. That increase is expected to provoke another larger fight over the direction of federal spending and revenue.

## DEAN'S CORNER A Word from Dean Jeremy Paul

What a semester this has been. Not in my 21 years have we packed so many outstanding events into one term. National luminaries we attracted to campus include Patent and Trademark Office Director David Kappos, U.S. District Judge Edward R. Korman, GLAAD President Jarrett Barrios, NYU's Dennis Bell, ACLU President Anthony Romero, settlement guru Ken Feinberg, Boies Schiller partner Alan Rutherford, OMB's Michael Fitzpatrick, and Pulitzer-Prize winning journalist Bob Woodward.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit heard argument in the Davis Courtroom. The moot court finals were presided over by Justice Richard Palmer '77; Justice David Borden, and Massachusetts Appeals Court Justice Ariane Vuono. Diversity week was a home run. The Public Interest Law Journal packed the house with a symposium on the role of mental illness in defining guilt. The Insurance Law Journal assembled the country's leading experts on mass tort litigation. The International Law Journal explored recent developments in the Middle East. The Center for Energy and Environmental Law hosted a balanced and sophisticated conversation about storing spent nuclear fuel. The SBA Diversity Committee enlightened us by showing The Dark Side of Chocolate. The Admissions Office held an inspired open house. The Career Planning Center orchestrated numerous events. And for bonus points, Kemba Walker led the basketball team to the national title.

I like this breathtaking array of successes not to boast (ok maybe a little) but to thank several people who make it all possible. First, we count on private philanthropy to sponsor our guests. Cantor, Colburn created the lecture series that brought David Kappos, Bingham McCutchen helped us launch Diversity Week. The Entergy Corporation invested in the nuclear energy symposium. And the Day Pitney Foundation continued its leadership by bringing us Bob Woodward. These sponsors deserve applause from the entire campus.

Second, our inspired and dedicated staff is managing many more events. This means more stress and longer hours without personal reward. And yet we continually receive unflagging support from our facilities team, our IT colleagues, our world class library, our communications, external relations and development offices, our admissions office, our career planning center, our business office, our faculty support team, and our inside and outside caterers. We cannot thank them enough.

Third, our events reflect considered choices about which issues are crucial to contemporary legal debate and which individuals have the most to offer our audience. That's because our faculty provides inspired leadership to make campus life vibrant both inside and outside our classrooms. They deserve broad acknowledgment.

Finally, I would like especially to thank the student leaders who spearhead our extensive menu of campus events. Our student groups have displayed a dedication to task, a mature and professional approach toward our speakers, flexibility with respect to institutional constraints, and an infectious love of learning. Nothing could make a dean more proud. Bravo to all!

## Mock Trial/Moot Court Update

*by Brendan Horgan*

Blake Holler, Keegan Drenosky, Sebastian Tornatore and I traveled to New Orleans for three days in early March to compete in the annual Tulane Sports Law Moot Court Competition. We argued three times in the Eastern District of Louisiana courthouse in front of sitting state and federal judges and received very high marks. The trip was a fantastic success and we were able to observe how other schools approach oral advocacy, not to mention enjoy sunny New Orleans during Mardi Gras. The judges were impressed with our advocacy style as well as our ability to handle very tough questions, which reflects very highly on our moot court professors as well as our entire moot court board. Tulane was happy to have us and encouraged UConn Law to send another team next year.

**The Legal Realist**  
SEPTEMBER 3, 1968  
**Moot Court Team  
In Viet Debate  
Set for October**

Members of the Moot Court Team from the Law School will argue the validity of the Vietnam conflict in national moot court competition this year.

## Arnold and Sasso win Louiselle

*by Elise Baun*

Dinner for the Loiselle Moot Court Final Arguments started promptly at six, and all of the tables were full of eager students and cheerful faculty. After eating, everyone shuffled into the Davis Courtroom and settled down to hear Anthony Sasso and Rebecca Arnold argue for the respondent against Alan Colley and Lucas Lycksell for the petitioner. The arguments started with the presentation of several certificates of appreciation for the members of the current Moot Court Board who put the entire competition together. Dean Paul presented Mike Yedinak with his certificate, and then the two issues were introduced.

After the explanation of the issues - the case centered on whether or not California could enact a statute the extended the statute of limitations for art lost during the Holocaust era - the three judges were introduced.

Alan Colley started off the arguments for the petitioner. Luckily for the four competitors, the judges were very vocal and asked quite a few questions. Judge Borden even graced everyone with one of his long and complicated hypotheticals. Those arguing successfully answer the difficult questions with some quick responses, even drawing laughter from the audience.

After all four competitors argued, the judges retired to decide who the winners were. Once they returned to the Courtroom, each judge took the time to address the competitors with comments. All three judges expressed how happy they were with the level of competition from the four finalists, and they noted that the caliber of argument was superior to many of the seasoned lawyers arguing in court. After the judges finished with their praise, they announced Rebecca Arnold and Anthony Sasso as the new Loiselle winners.

## Voices from the Quad

*by Patricia Martins*

**"What did a movie make you afraid of?"**

"Beverly Hills Ninja made me afraid of Chris Farley."  
-Peter Golfman, 2L

"The Grudge made me fear creepy little girls."  
-Ariel Kaplan, 1LE

"Friday made me afraid of hockey masks."  
-Mike, 2L

"The Mothman Prophecies made me afraid of red eyes and lights."  
-Chris Giuliano, 1L

"The Notebook made me afraid that my TV wouldn't ever turn off."  
-Jim Ringold, 1L

"The Child Play movies made me afraid of mutilated dolls."  
-Mike Habib, 2L

# Student Events Update

## Spring Fling Cruise a Success Despite Weather

By Ben Kuehn

This April, the UConn Law School student community shipped out for the second "We're On a Boat" Spring Formal. Despite heavy rains and rough water, which kept our ship—the Lady Katherine—docked, spirits were high.

A celebration of spring and a break from the academic term, the annual cruise was kept at dock due to a Coast Guard flood warning. Though the storm was a setback, the event went off without a hitch. "People seemed to have enjoyed having the opportunity to relax and let loose a little with their classmates before finals and graduation," said DeVaughn Ward, the current Social Committee chair. Once the Lady Katherine was loaded up, the music, food and drinks were all in order.

The SBA Social Committee has not made its plans for next Spring, but there is no intention to call off the cruise because of this year's bad weather, according to incoming Social Committee Chair Sebastian Tornatore. I agree with the Social Committee; these events are a welcome change of pace and make a great alternative to the typical evening out.

## ELS Makes Big Recycling Moves for Earth Day

By Katherine Welsh Laliberte

The Environmental Law Society celebrated Earth Day a few days before its regular April 22nd date in an effort to catch students before the weekend. Reusable grocery bag giveaways, fresh organic fruit from Whole Foods, and a number of printers and old electronics that students dropped off to be

'e-cycled' by Green Monster E-cycling in West Hartford were all in abundance.

Green Monster is a company committed to keeping end-of-life electronics out of landfills by reusing working components and carefully recycling the rest. They are located at 150 Brook Street in West Hartford and accept drop-offs of old electronics all year round, though they are especially busy doing pickups for Earth Day events. Any old cell phones that were collected were donated to Verizon's HopeLine™ phone recycling program to benefit victims and survivors of domestic abuse.

Despite cloudy skies, the day was a success and highlighted some of the progress UConn Law has made in the arena of environmental friendliness. "With cooperation from students and the administration, recycling has really increased on campus," says outgoing 3L and Environmental Law Society President, Jon Schaefer, "I hope our campus maintains and even improves its efforts."

Next stop: composting!

## Former Connecticut tax commissioner shares insights over sushi

By Drew Schaffer

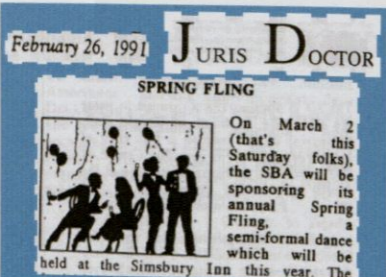
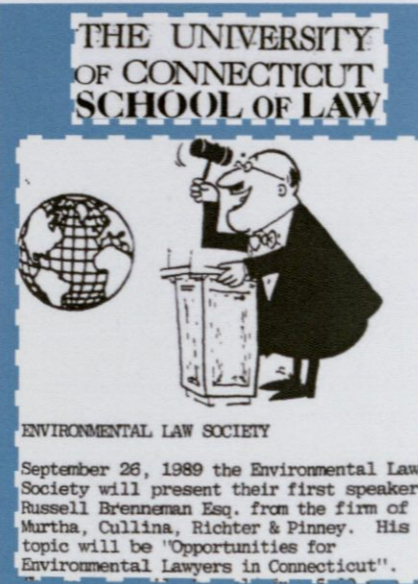
On Tuesday, April 19th the UConn Law campus was graced with another phenomenal presentation, this time put together by the Tax Law Society. In a round table discussion entitled Reflections (and Confessions) of a Former Tax Commissioner, former Connecticut Tax Commissioner Richard Nicholson (UConn, '73) lead the discussion and shared his thoughts on Governor Malloy's proposed tax and spending plans.

The event, which drew a crowd of about 60 students and local practitioners, featured our own tax expert Professor Richard Pomp as the moderator. Some of the topics discussed by Mr.

Nicholson included: the Amazon cases (in which Connecticut courts have evaluated whether Amazon should be forced to collect state taxes on its transactions), corporate income tax and whether Governor Malloy's new tax plan would negatively impact Connecticut business (Mr. Nicholson suspected that it would not have any substantial

impact), how the new personal income tax would affect Connecticut citizens (Mr. Nicholson voiced his belief that getting rid of the lowest tax bracket of 3% was a good thing), where the Commissioner fits in the whole tax policy scheme, and whether Governor Malloy's increase in the sales tax would have any effect on state revenues and/or sales.

Following the more formal portion of the presentation in which Professor Pomp discussed tax issues with Mr. Nicholson, the floor was opened up to questions. Many of the members of the audience brought up issues that were of particular personal concern to them. In addition to providing a great discussion with a well respected practitioner in the field of tax law, the event also included an extensive array of sushi and teriyaki from Ichiban, a welcome change from the usual pizza served at such events. This round-table discussion was a great opportunity for all those in attendance to hear from a well-respected professional in the field. *Pro Se* offers kudos to Matt Stein, Keegan McClure, Jordan Fieldstein, Will Herchel, and the rest of the Tax Law Society for putting a successful, informative, and enjoyable event together.



# PROFESSOR SPOTLIGHT: PROFESSOR MARK WEINER

I'm currently writing a book titled *The Rule of the Clan: What an Ancient Form of Social Organization Can Teach Us About Modern Law and Culture*. The book examines the legal and cultural characteristics of societies organized primarily on the basis of kinship, and it uses clan-based legal systems as a mirror to reveal some of the underlying though often unrecognized legal and cultural features of our own, modern liberal society. The book is divided into three chapters. The first considers clans from the perspective of comparative constitutional law; the second looks at clans from the inside, from the perspective of legal anthropology, showing how they structure the legal rights and obligations of their members; and the third examines how societies that have overcome the rule of the clan remember their clan-based past (for instance, think of Scotland), a chapter whose perspective is that of cultural history. I've enjoyed working on this, my third book, especially because it's allowed me to travel—at least, intellectually!—all over the world and across history. The manuscript recently came under contract with the publisher Farrar, Straus, Giroux, and is due with my editor this January.

Professor Weiner is a visiting professor from Rutgers School of Law Newark, 2009 Fulbright Fellow, and the author of several award winning books dealing with race and the law.

## WLSA Annual Luncheon

By Cindy Miller

The Women Law Student's Association's annual luncheon proved to be another success this year. WLSA invited keynote speaker, Alanna Rutherford up from New York to speak to students, faculty, and staff about women in the law. Last semester she was a visiting Civil Procedure professor. She is a Georgetown University and Columbia Law School graduate, former clerk for the Honorable Charles Wilson of the Eleventh Circuit and partner at Boies, Schiller, and Flexner in New York City.

Beginning with historical accounts of Justice Ginsburg's trials and tribulations as one of nine female law students in her class at Harvard Law School, Rutherford delivered a promising and motivating speech on how women can continue to have a profound impact on the world around us. She offered three pieces of wisdom to the listeners in the Reading Room: 1. Make each closed door an opportunity—when people underestimate you, make it work for you; 2. Allow opportunities to change or grow—you will get to a successful place; and 3. There are incredible things to be achieved by working with other women, such as support and strength—there is power in numbers. Rutherford concluded by challenging everyone in the room to remember what they have accomplished and to never forget what other women have accomplished; to show that women are "a force to be reckoned with!"

## Debate Over Separation of Church and State

By Mike Kaczynski

On April 13th, the ACLU Foundation of Connecticut presented the Milton Sorokin Symposium on campus, co-sponsored by UConn Law and the UConn Law chapter of the Federalist Society. The ACLU's Executive Director Anthony Romero and Kevin Hasson of the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty gathered in the Starr Reading Room to debate the controversial injunction granted against the Enfield Public School District. This injunction stopped the district from holding its graduation ceremony at the First Cathedral in Bloomfield, CT.

For several years, the Enfield Public School District has held graduation there. The First Cathedral is decorated with Christian imagery, including a large depiction of a Christian cross and banners proclaiming that Jesus is Lord. In 2010, the ACLU, along with Americans United, filed suit against the Enfield public school district to enjoin it from holding graduation ceremonies at the First Cathedral.

Mr. Romero and Mr. Hasson debated the merits of this injunction. Mr. Hasson asserted that the public display of religious icons does not necessarily create a Constitutional issue. On the other hand, Mr. Romero argued for a strong interpretation of the doctrine of the separation of church and state. The opposing viewpoints made for a lively and interesting discussion.

# Hello From Haifa (and Holland!)

By Karen Rabinovici

## The Legal Realist Law Wives Set Activities

SEPTEMBER 3, 1968

The University of Connecticut Law Wives Club is happy to welcome all wives and fiancées of law students to participate in its club meetings this year. The Law Wives Club is open to all women whose husbands are 1st, 2nd, 3rd year or night students.

This year our meetings will be monthly, on the 1st Wednesday evening of each month at 7:45 p.m. at the Law School.

To start the year off all wives and fiancées are invited to a Welcoming Tea on Sunday, September 8, 3-6 p.m. at the home of Deana and Mrs. Howard Sacks. The Club is anxious to meet many new faces at this time and to welcome old friends.

On Wednesday October 2 at 7:45 p.m. in the Faculty lounge we will have as our guest speaker Mr. Sid Schulman, Senior Staff Attorney of Neighborhood Legal Services, Hartford, Connecticut. This will be a panel discussion with law

After visiting Akko, a beautiful Arab town in the Western Galilee, and the famous Bahá'í Gardens (the Bahá'í faith is extremely interesting – worth looking up) I finally visited Nazareth and walked in Jesus's footsteps. Nazareth is a wealthy town and possesses the cleanest and most organized shuk (market) I have ever encountered. It certainly

has a special atmosphere and is filled with churches claiming to have some connection to Jesus.

But of course, the Basilica of the Annunciation is the main attraction. The Basilica is located on the spot where Mary was supposedly told she would become the mother of the son of God. The Church is surprisingly modern, the outside lined with mosaics donated from around the world. The inside is simple but beautiful, and un-cluttered, unlike many other churches I have seen. A 12 shekel (\$3) falafel was the perfect end to the day.

A few days later I celebrated Passover with my family in Jerusalem, joined by my German flatmate, an interesting addition. The traffic in Israel before Passover Seder can be equivocated to the traffic in the U.S. before Thanksgiving – it's chaos. After the meal I went straight to Ben Gurion Airport and flew to the Netherlands, where the other half of my family lives, for my two-week Passover break. I keep combining Dutch with Hebrew, but Holland is in bloom, and it's warm and sunny, and the country is filled with fields of flowers. I've already seen Emily Bolton, Brian Smith, Willem, Adriaan, and Rob. I have one more week in Holland, which covers Queensday, a huge deal here – everyone spends all day and night outside, wearing orange, eating, and drinking. Lang leve de koningin!

Barbara Semple (Mrs.)  
UConn Law Wives

## Robson's Ramblings *By Scott Robson*

THE UNIVERSITY  
OF CONNECTICUT  
SCHOOL OF LAW

September 1981

We entered Hosmer Hall in late spring of 2008, hoping that our expedition would fare well in the fair climate. Our plan was to chart Hosmer's vast expanse, establish an initial outpost, and depart before temperatures began to fall in late autumn. We had never planned to endure the long, frigid dark of a Hosmerian winter, let alone three.

What fools we were.

Hoping to duplicate the success of my great-great grandfather Robert Scott's historic expedition to Antarctica, I had gathered my team of the best and brightest. We were ready for monsoons, droughts, sand storms, even volcanoes. But we were woefully unprepared for the Labyrinth.

Originally designed by L.P. Escher (M.C.'s younger, less successful brother who dabbled in architecture and social work) as a thesis project, Hosmer's design defies logic and sanity alike. The building's titanium alloy skeleton, which allows it to change configuration on a minute-to-minute basis, also generates an intense magnetic field. Neither cell phones nor compasses will work within the depths of Hosmer Hall.

Hopelessly lost, my team and I were trapped within the labyrinth for three long years. By November of 2009, only one of the Sherpa and I still stood. Eventually, even poor Tenzing succumbed to cold and hunger.

The snack and soda machines in Hosmer have been moved to the southern end of the basement just past the lockers near the elevator.

If it were not for the hospitality of the International Law Journal, I would surely not have survived. I staggered into their basement sanctuary in December of 2010, half-mad and bearded. They led me on a pilgrimage to the distant shrine of Truffles, where I tasted what must surely be the food of the gods: the quesadilla special.

Hopeful once more, I managed to make my escape from the labyrinth.

No Sherpa could be reached for interview. Too soon?

### Pearls of Wisdom *from former Editors-in-Chief*

**Katrina Goyoco**, *Pro Se Editor-in-Chief 2007 & 2007-08*: "Be true to yourself. Regularly take stock of what you are learning and how it relates. Take classes in topics that you would want to read about in the newspaper for fun and try to do at least one clinic or externship that you know you will be passionate about."

**Patrick Lindsey**, *Pro Se Editor-in-Chief 2008-09*: "When the Class of 2010 set forth on our epic pub crawl, our fuchsia t-shirts bragged we were 'celebrating three years of bad decisions.' Even so, I think most all of us agree that we began our legal careers with good decisions in coming to UConn. In the time I worked on Pro Se whatever we were writing about -- faculty scandals, the crappy job market, an awesome law school cover band -- we always tried to ask how the issue would affect the the students, the faculty, the staff - the 'UConn Law community.' While we may have overused the term, the 'UConn Law community' is not merely a cliché; it's a little hamlet in the scruffy West End of Hartford where people care about one another and want to see one another succeed. I hope it stays that way."

**Christopher Wasil**, *Pro Se Editor-in-Chief 2009-10*: "It's inevitable that you'll change as a person during your legal education, and again when you begin practicing law. But don't lose yourself completely. Maintaining a kind, respectful, and even a fun-loving personality -- even during your most stressful times -- will not only help in your relationships, but it will make you a better lawyer. Take your work seriously, but don't take yourself too seriously."

**Drew Schaffer**, *Pro Se Editor-in-Chief 2010-11*: "Whenever you feel like school might have been a bad decision and you wish you were pulling in a paycheck in the 'real world' instead, remember that the grass is always greener on the other side. Years from now you will look back and wish that all you had to do was keep up on some reading and execute a three hour brain dump at the end. And remember during exams that once they are over you can't do a thing to change them, and no matter what grade you receive you will be alive and in good health - be thankful for that and remember that there are many who are not so fortunate!"

## The Cranky DVD Reviewer *By Scott Robson*

In this column, I'll dismiss a hot new DVD release in a sentence and recommend a similar film you've probably never heard of that's more worth your limited law student time.

**You could see *The Tourist*, but you should see *Anthony Zimmer*.**

On paper, *The Tourist* looks like it could have been pretty promising. That is, until you actually look at the paper.

Billed as a breakneck thriller set against the romantic backdrop of Paris and Venice, starring both Angelina Jolie and Johnny Depp, *The Tourist* perhaps could have been a contender. Unfortunately for everyone concerned, however,

*The Tourist* plays more like a two-hour commercial for a tasteless travel agency. Badly directed, lacking in chemistry, and utterly without imagination or passion, *The Tourist* looks and feels like a tacky, over budgeted imitation.

In fact, (if I am feeling generous) *The Tourist* is a total rip-off of Jérôme Salle's deft 2005 French film, *Anthony Zimmer*. More honestly, *The Tourist* is a shameless cinematic molestation of *Anthony Zimmer*. Sophie Marceau and Yvan Attal star in a slick, sexy, and scenic thriller that keeps the viewers guessing.

Here's the setup: a wanted criminal, Anthony Zimmer, is being hunted by the French police who want him behind bars, and by the Russian mafia who just want

him dead. Zimmer has just undergone plastic surgery, so nobody knows what he looks like.

Zimmer has a weakness, however: his mistress, played deftly by Sophie Marceau, who keeps in touch with him via messages hidden in the newspaper. Zimmer instructs her to board a train and pick the man who most closely resembles his size and shape -- and then play up to him as though he was in fact Anthony Zimmer. Why? Because Zimmer wants an unsuspecting sap to act as stand-in when the mafia finally comes calling...

It's a great thriller in the vein of "North by Northwest," "Marathon Man," and "The Fugitive." It packs mystery, romance, and action all set to the cinematic gleam

of the Côte D'Azur. Check it out.

## The Public Forum

### Hardly the Horoscopes

By JAY BRUDZ

If today is your birthday: There is a cadre of grim-tipped men in camouflage fatigues somewhere in a bunker in southern Illinois who await your next command. Somehow their codebook got mixed up with your ConLaw notes. They now believe your name is a codeword for "Exalted Leader," and that "Jeremy Paul" is code for "in-room movies, heated swimming pool, AAA approved." Do us all a favor: Order them to do something useful like aim their crossbows and spears at daytime talk shows or produce an all-nude, musical comedy remake of "Silence of the Lambs." Happy Stinkin' Birthday.