By Sarah Ricciardi

What attracted you to the University of Connecticut School of Law? This Law School has a great reputation as well as incredible potential to train the best lawyers of the next generation, develop cutting-edge scholarship, and engage in society in ways that improve our institutions of law and government. I am so fortunate to have this opportunity, and hope that the skills and relationships I bring to the job can help move us to the next level in the quality of our programs and in our national and international what I wish I knew as a first-year law student

By Ivan Tereschenko

On behalf of our law school community, I would like to welcome the Class of 2016! Law school is unlike anything you have ever done before in your life. On the road ahead, you should take advantage of every opportunity at the law school to gain legal knowledge and experience. While you will certainly be very busy with your studies, you should make the time to socialize and network. Networking will be very useful to you as you look for an internship placement next summer and later on, when you will be looking for a permanent job. Looking back, I wish I spent a little bit more time socializing and getting to know my classmates outside of class. It is an empty feeling when you have no one to ask for help or assist you in finding a job, even when you have excellent grades. Perhaps the single most important piece of advice I can give you is that you must exercise effective time management early on in your law school career. Your time is the
Take a break from studying, join a student organization

By Liz O’Donnell

By now many 1Ls have probably heard horror stories about countless hours in the library, nights without sleep, and insatiable coffee addictions. While claiming to have lived in the library may be an exaggeration, it is true that the first year of law school will be one of the most demanding years of one’s life. However, to break up the hours of reading and case briefing, many students choose to become involved with one of UConn law’s student organizations. Here’s a snapshot of some of the different clubs and ways in which 1Ls can get involved.

**Student Bar Association**

SBA is the student government body of UConn Law. Each class year elects representatives to be members of the association. According to SBA President Jess Signor, the Student Bar Association is responsible for the management of a budget created from student activity fees, which is used to fund other student organizations, community activities, and promote the quality of student life on campus. SBA meetings are held every other Tuesday evening at 9:30. In addition to running for 1L representative when elections are held in the fall, 1Ls can also become involved with SBA by joining the Social Committee. The Social Committee helps plan social events for the entire school community, including the Fall Ball and Spring Fling.

**Phi Alpha Delta**

PAD is a professional law fraternity advancing integrity, compassion and courage through service to the student, the school, the profession and the community. According to Nicole Gehen, Justice of UConn Law’s Starr Chapter, one aspect of the Starr Chapter that demonstrates the sense of community and support between our members is the comprehensive outline bank. “Members are encouraged to donate their outlines they have created for any and all classes at UConn Law,” she said. 1Ls are encouraged to join PAD by participating in either its Fall or Spring initiation. Once a member, 1Ls can then join committees that help plan PAD’s events, such as St. PADdy’s Day, which is their annual St. Patrick’s Day party.

**Public Interest Law Group (PILG)**

PILG provides students with Pro Bono opportunities to get involved off-campus, such as Homeless Experience Legal Protection (HELP), Domestic Assistance Clinic, and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA). In addition, PILG also hosts the annual PILG Auction I, which will be held this year on November 8th. President Allie Roisman said the auction raises grant funds that are distributed as fellowships among selected students who are employed in public interest positions over the summer. In addition to participating in some of the pro bono opportunities offered by the group, 1Ls can also help raise prizes and funds for the auction.

These three clubs provide a small glimpse into the many student organizations UConn Law has to offer. To learn more about these clubs and others, 1Ls should attend the campus activities fair, which will be held Thursday, August 29 at 12:30.

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**Pro Se**

**Welcome from the Student Bar Association**

Welcome!

On behalf of the Student Bar Association, and as a representative of the student body, I would like to welcome you to UConn Law! We are excited that you are joining us here in Hartford and are looking forward to meeting all of you over the coming weeks!

Over your next three (or four) years here in the West End, much will be asked of you academically, personally, and professionally. Despite the busy adventure you are about to begin, there is so much you will gain from your experience here at UConn Law. I encourage you to engage in the many academic and professional opportunities the Law School offers. In particular the Pro Bono Pledge Program designed to aid students in providing legal aid to those members of our community most in need.

The Student Bar Association is here to represent your interests to the law school administration, to foster a professional community, and to give you the opportunity to develop a network within the student community and Connecticut community. As you arrive for Orientation, members of the UConn Law student community will greet you, including members of the Student Bar Association. Please feel free to come to any of us with questions, concerns or thoughts as you move through the orientation process and begin to embark on this exciting time in your academic and professional career.

Until you get settled in, there are current students who will act as your representatives in the SBA. This fall after classes are underway and you have had a chance to digest everything you’ve learned at Orientation, the SBA will run elections for Student Representatives for the SBA. This election will give you one of the first opportunities to get involved in the law school and to help represent your fellow class members through the 2013-2014 school year. If you decide not to run for an elected position on the SBA Board, we hope that you will still attend and participate in many of the SBA events or join us at one of our bi-weekly meetings to share your ideas!

During your first week of classes, you will be invited to attend a student organization fair, where representatives from all of our different student organizations will meet and speak with you. These student representatives are there to recruit new members and to answer any questions you have. I invite you to get involved in the groups in which you are most interested.

I look forward to meeting you at Orientation, and please let me know if you have any questions or if the SBA can be of service to you. Again, welcome to UConn Law!

Sincerely,
Jessica M. Signor, ’14
President, Student Bar Association
New dean hopes to accomplish plenty in first year

from DEAN, p. 1

reputation.

How would you like to improve the relationship between faculty and students?
We need to create spaces and occasions that bring us together as a community engaged in intellectual exploration and service. That cannot be done in classrooms alone, since we learn from each other through informal dialog as much as in classes. I will be searching for ways to use the spaces on our campus, which is probably the most beautiful law school in the world, and identify opportunities that will encourage gatherings among students and faculty where we will get to know each other better.

UConn is known for its extensive clinical programs. In what ways would you like to expand and improve those programs?
UConn is justly proud of its intensive program of clinical education. Many graduates have told me that the most important lessons they learned at our law school came though clinics. We will be looking at how we can expand our programs within the constraints of their relatively high cost, reflecting the intense faculty time they require. I am also very interested in reviewing our externship programs. I will be working with our faculty on ensuring that these are consistently good experiences, with meaningful connection to each student’s personal curriculum plan.

One of the main concerns for law students today is landing a job upon graduation. How do you plan on working with Career Services to improve our employment statistics?
Some of our recent graduates have been disadvantaged by geography, since Connecticut has emerged from the recession more slowly than other parts of the country. But there is much we can do to prepare and steer our students toward the areas where jobs are available. We will do that in several dimensions. First, we will put more focus on opportunities nationally and globally. Second, we will urge students to acquire the vocabulary, knowledge and personal networks of client industries so that they are more employable upon graduation than were past generations of law students. Third, for those who plan a local practice we will develop mentoring programs and networking opportunities to help launch their careers.

Scholarships for second and third year students are limited. With the rising cost of a legal education, how do you plan to keep students matriculating at UConn?
Cost is always a concern, but it is an area of relative advantage for UConn law students. We have one of the lowest in-state tuitions of any law school in New England, and our graduates have one of the lowest levels of law school debt in the country. Merit scholarships are important, but we also need stay focused on affordability of law school for those with limited means. I am also interested in seeking donor support for a loan forgiveness program for those entering public service careers.

What is the one goal you would like to have accomplished by the end of this academic year?
I have a list of about fifty goals. But if you’ll forgive a compound goal, it would be this: to enhance the relationships between the Law School and its stakeholders, including not just students and faculty, but also alumni and donors, other schools of the University, the institutions of government in Connecticut and beyond, and the employer community. This, I believe, will expand our graduates’ job prospects while bringing new opportunities and resources into the school. We are well poised to move this Law School to a new level, and I welcome the opportunity to be part of that challenge.

Professor celebrates 50 years at UConn Law

from WHITMAN, p. 1

only 16 faculty members. Unsurprisingly, he would be the heavy favorite to win a Jeopardy category called “History of UConn Law.” He recalls every detail of the move to Elizabeth Street and the purchase of land from the Hartford Seminary. Apparently, the property was appraised at $6 million, but UConn acquired it in a bargain sale for $2 million because the Seminary was pleased that the new residents would be involved in the pursuit of research and writing.

Whitman admits that law school has changed immensely since his days at Columbia. For one, grade inflation is rampant. At Columbia, one-third of his 1L class flunked out of school, but at UConn, 75% of our 1L class has a 3.0 GPA or better. Further, “it used to be law review or nothing,” but UConn has three specialty journals and our law review accepts nearly seventy members. At Columbia, he attended classes six days a week and studied “all of the time.” Now, Bob sees big changes in the student body: more students are married, have children, work through school (unheard of in the 1950’s), and are only on campus a few days per week. Good news: at least one thing has not changed. Whitman fully supports the argument that LSAT scores do not accurately predict law school success.

Whitman has no plans of retiring. He is a frequent speaker at conferences, remains active with his publications, and hasn’t taken a sabbatical in three decades. He encourages students interested in trusts and estates to reach out to him. He hasn’t taken a sabbatical in three decades. He encourages students interested in trusts and estates to reach out to him. He encourages professors to form bonds with students and not let the pressure of academic scholarship overwhelm their ability to provide guidance and support.

As we begin a new chapter, Whitman is hopeful that Dean Fisher will be able to get us back into USNWR’s top 50 because, as he points out, “that’s important to people.” Forty-seven years later, Whitman wants to be remembered for his kindness and his pledge to “give back.” He encourages professors to form bonds with students and not let the pressure of academic scholarship overwhelm their ability to provide guidance and support.

Whitman and his wife have been married for fifty-two years, have lived in West Hartford for forty-seven years, and have two children and four grandchildren. Their oldest grandchild will be heading to Storrs this fall, which was his first choice.
Tips for a successful first year of law school

from 1L, p. 1

The precious commodity in law school, and you must use it productively to succeed. For example, between doing the reading, going to class, and working on my outlines, I found that I had very limited time to relax or even have time to grab something to eat! This is why it is a good idea to make a schedule of everything you will do during a day, and yes, this includes even scheduling a little time to relax and when you will eat.

Do not hesitate to ask the professors questions in class because it is very likely that other students have a similar question. If you find yourself confused about something discussed in class, you can always go to the professor’s office hours. The professors are usually available by appointment or during their office hours and will be glad to answer your questions. Way too many students shy away from going to office hours - only to their own detriment. I made important connections between cases and learned more about the law by going to my professors’ office hours than I would have mulling over the material on my own or in a study group.

On a last note, you should start working on your course outlines early on in the semester. Everything you do should be geared towards improving your grade on the final exams. That being said, you should start preparing your outlines two weeks to one month into the semester at the latest. You should also familiarize yourself with your professors’ old exams and sample answers. The best way of doing this is by finding your professors’ old exams in the library or on the law school’s website and practice taking them under the actual testing conditions. This way you will effectively prepare yourself, minimize the stress, and conserve valuable energy before your final exams. These are just some of the things that I wish I knew last year as a 1L!

Welcome to UConn Law! Best of luck to everyone in their 1L year! I look forward to seeing many of you on campus.