

## Finished library boasts artistic flourishes

By Erica Siegel

For the past seven years, entering the library has meant walking past construction signs, torn-up concrete and scaffolding. Now students may enjoy use of the library without the neon orange fencing and caution signs. However, the architects have left the University with more than just an aesthetically pleasing building.

On the exterior of the

building above the ground floor windows hang small, sculpted books with pictures of various objects such as a face, an ear or a gavel. These panels represent more than an amalgamation of seemingly random objects; they tell a story, which has great significance to everyone at the law school: the pursuit of justice.

The creator of these sculptures, Werner Pfeiffer, designed these panels to be a

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## UConn Law student arrested in drug probe

By Chris Wasil

As the harsh economic climate continues to stifle the job market, law students around the country have been forced to think creatively in seeking what they hope will be financially rewarding employment. Here at UConn Law, students have been encouraged to expand their job searches geographically, and to consider employment in sectors outside of the traditional big-firm environment. But here is one alternative-sector job you will not find on *Symlicity*: Player in \$1 Billion International Drug Ring.

That lucrative position was allegedly held by UConn Law student John Belanger, according to news stories that had the law school community abuzz all summer. Belanger was arrested in early July during a complex investigative sting so

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## Anti-tax activists bring tea party to Hartford

By Allison Silva

They call themselves "teabaggers," "tea party patriots" and "the radical right wing" (the latter with a touch of sarcasm). They rattle off book lists, recommending *Liberty and Tyranny: A Conservative Manifesto* by Mark Levin, the Bible, and anything by Anne Coulter. The TEA (Taxed Enough Already) Party Express is a national tour that began August 28, 2009 in California and ended one day after their stop in Hartford with



Michael Denis/Pro Se

Tea party activists congregate in Hartford to protest increased government spending.

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### 1L class shrinks

More applications lead to fewer matriculants in class of 2012.

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## Dean's Corner with Dean Jeremy Paul

By Jeremy Paul

Don't mourn, organize! This longstanding clarion call of the labor movement comes to mind as I regret law firm layoffs while happily reading e-mail announcements showing an explosion of student organization activity. Although no one would compare today's economic challenges for law graduates with the far harsher world of coal miners or migrant farm workers, student energy this fall tells me you have grasped a key strategy for seizing opportunity.

By my informal count, at least 30 groups have scheduled organizational meetings for September. Subject areas motivate some groups, such as the arts and entertainment law society, the corporate law

society, the environmental law society, the health law interest group, the intellectual property and technology society, the international law society, the labor and employment law society, the military law society, and the tax law society. Some groups are bound together by belief, identity or heritage, such as the Christian Law Society, the Federalist Society, the Jewish Law Students Association, APALSA, BLSA, LAMBDA, LLSA, SALSA and WLSA. We have groups with an explicit public service mission such as the Connecticut Unemployment Action Center, the Public Interest Law Group and the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund. And, of course, we have four legal journals, a Student Bar Association, a mock trial society, a moot

court board, a legal fraternity, and the student newspaper in which this column appears. I send thanks to every officer and member of each of these groups, as well as the ones whose meeting announcements I regrettably missed. Your work makes us a better law school.

Student organizations are more important than ever. They provide a structured opportunity for interaction with lawyers familiar with your chosen fields. They permit you to work collaboratively with your peers to achieve important goals. Sadly, the heavy schedules you kept prior to law school often prized individual achievement over collective problem-solving. Above all, running your own organizations requires you to shape your education rather

than merely reacting to it. You can maximize your success if you marshal available resources. For example, information for this column came from the web site's new events calendar. I encourage everyone to use it. You should read the budgeting and spending guide and work closely with the SBA, Donna Gionfriddo and Julia Dunlop before expending any funds. Above all, please consider working together to co-sponsor events that may be of interest to members of more than one organization. Adding the spirit of cooperation to the vibrant energy you have already demonstrated will produce an engaged academic and professional community that will make each of us proud.

### Pro Se

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## A note from the Student Bar Association

Fellow classmates, welcome to the start of another great year at the University of Connecticut School of Law. Since the current SBA Executive Board took office last April, we have been hard at work planning events, improving the operational efficiency of our organization, and working with the administration to enhance student life. Our goals for this year are too numerous to detail here. However, I want to take a moment to survey just a few of the accomplishments we have made so far and highlight some ongoing projects.

Pursuant to our goal of strengthening the law school community, the SBA combined efforts with the Dean's Office to renew the tradition of holding a Welcome-Back BBQ during the first week of classes. More than 250 students and faculty attended, making the event a

huge success. Mike Yedinak, Vice President and Chair of the Social Committee, is planning a number of similar events both on campus and off, at venues such as the Half Door and Wood n' Tap. We hope to fill the gaps between Fall Ball and Spring Fling with more regularly scheduled opportunities for students to get together.

Much has occurred behind the scenes as well. Justin Theriault, Treasurer of the SBA, has invested considerable time refining the budget process to increase transparency and assist student organization leaders in understanding the spending guidelines maintained by the SBA in managing the Student Fee Operating Fund. Yamuna Menon, SBA Secretary, updated our website to include current information on student organizations, SBA leadership, as well

as our Constitution and Bylaws. She is also working closely with the Diversity Committee and various student groups to coordinate events for the upcoming Domestic Violence Week. Finally, members of the Executive Board have met with Dean Paul, Dean Dailey, the Career Planning Center, and library staff to discuss a variety of issues ranging from ways to help students deal with the current job market to the need for additional space on campus for student organization use.

All in all, we are off to a great start. Keep an eye out for additional information on SBA events and projects during the coming month.

Best regards,  
Gabriel J. Vidoni  
SBA President

# New pro bono program to offer transcript notation

## *Students pledging in excess of 50 hours will get note on record*

By Patricia Ryan

*This fall, members of the UConn Law community interested in pro bono and public interest work have a new way to track their efforts: the Pro Bono Pledge Program. The Program allows students to pledge to perform 50 or 100 hours of pro bono work and will provide for transcript notations for those students who complete their pledged service. Students completing 100 hours will receive additional recognition from the Law School. To learn more about how to make the pledge and to find a pro bono opportunity, students should visit the Pro Bono Pledge Program website at <http://www.law.uconn.edu/student-handbook/pro-bono-and-public-interest/pro-bono-pledge-program>. This reporter connected with faculty*

*coordinators Margaret Martin and Tim Everett to find out more about this new program.*

*Reporter: "Why should students do the pledge?"*

*Faculty Coordinators: "First, we are thrilled to act as faculty coordinators in the inaugural year of the Pro Bono Pledge Program. The program should increase the visibility of public service work in our community, give recognition to those students who engage in pro bono work outside of for-credit course work (clinics and externships), and should encourage more members of our community to try pro bono service. One of the great values of pro bono legal work is that it reminds us in a fresh context – helping a needy*

*person or organization – of how the provision of voluntary legal services can make all the difference between success and failure in our society. Many attorneys find their pro bono work more memorable and somehow more rewarding than the part of their law practice that pays. The time to begin reaping the rewards of pro bono service is in law school."*

*Reporter: "What should students consider in researching a project?"*

*Faculty Coordinators: "Students should look for a pro bono activity that promises the satisfaction of doing well by individuals or groups that have a practical need for legal support. Having a mentor*

*or supervisor in the work would be a real plus in many instances. Students should start by checking with the student organizations already engaged in pro bono work. We recommend also speaking with practicing attorneys about pro bono work they do or can suggest. Another resource is faculty whose specialties make them aware of pro bono possibilities. We suggest, too, that students consider doing something that strikes them as interesting, and perhaps different from other activities and jobs they are pursuing in law school. It's a good time to experience areas of law and types of practice to which you would not otherwise be exposed here or later in your career."*

## Higher application rates, fewer students in 1L class

By Patrick R. Linsey

Not a lot of math majors in these parts, but nevertheless here's a quirky piece of arithmetic: UConn Law received hundreds more applications last year than in years past as the law school became less selective. Wait, what?

The cause is fewer accepted students choosing to attend UConn, forcing the law school to offer admission to a greater number of applicants. Admissions Dean Karen DeMeola attributed this to increased competition for top students by law school admissions departments, coupled with the prevalence of bargain-hunting applicants trying their luck at a dozen or more institutions.

"By April, which is typically

the first deposit deadline, we saw a number of schools pull out all the stops with scholarships," DeMeola said. "We knew when someone was coming when they were applying to three schools – but now that it's 10 or 12," the likelihood of an accepted student enrolling is more difficult to gauge.

While UConn has traditionally enjoyed an advantage given its relatively affordable tuition, many private schools upped their scholarship spending to lure applicants who were seeking to minimize their law school debt in this troubled economy, DeMeola said. Scholarship spending allows law schools to effectively buy students with higher GPAs and LSAT scores – statistics that play a large role in deter-

mining an institution's place in the influential U.S. News law school rankings.

The total number of applicants to UConn Law rose 23 percent last year. At the same time, the law school accepted a greater percentage of students – 28 as compared to 25 percent the year prior. That figure had not so long ago been as low as 17 percent.

The entering 1L class was also smaller this year, standing at 182, 10 less than the year before.

As economic woes made for thriftier students, DeMeola said admissions departments began fretting over filling out their classes, leading to "intense scholarship battles." Some may have overcompensated; one law school, the Uni-

versity of Miami, offered deals so sweet it oversubscribed its 1L class.

UConn's scholarship budget is relatively rigid, DeMeola said, though she hopes to offer more in the future with an eye towards increasing overall selectivity.

This year U.S. News unveiled a new rankings formula that caused UConn to fall out of the top 50 law schools to number 52. While its impact is impossible to definitively quantify, the rankings fall and concomitant effect on admissions could have been worse, said DeMeola.

"I think that for those students who ultimately decided to matriculate here they did so for a number of reasons," she said.

## Career Planning Center adapts to changing job landscape

*Center hopes increased interaction, focus on career development will benefit students in tough times*

By Alexa Lindauer

The Career Planning Center, formerly known as Career Services, has undergone changes more significant than a simple name switch, with the Center orienting itself more towards helping students equip themselves for an entire career, rather than only for their first job. The University recognized that, despite a hiring freeze, the Center needs to be well staffed and well equipped to help students find jobs in a difficult economy. Thus, the Center added two new attorneys to its staff, Nicole Ayala and Danielle McGrath Braun.

The Center aims to increase student interaction with career counselors during their time at the Law School. Ellen Rutt, Associate Dean for Admissions, Student Finance and Career Planning, said that, previously, "80% of the usage [of the Center] was by 10% of the people....Now, 1Ls will have a required counseling session. People will have to work really hard to slip through the nets."

A number of new programs are being initiated to encourage students to get involved with the Center, and to do so early in their law school career. In addition to the required counseling sessions for 1Ls, there will also be a mandatory program in the spring for all continuing students. Career Planning Center Director Aimee Houghton said, "To facilitate so many counseling sessions we will set walk-in hours to accommodate quick questions. We hope this will encourage students to plan meetings with us."

Additionally, the Center will be expanding opportunities for students to interact with potential employers and contacts. Like last year, the Center will offer a series with the Connecticut Bar Association Young Lawyers Section. Rutt noted that last year, she was amazed when events such as the YLS series had a low turnout. Rutt hopes that having fewer events and corresponding with student organizations will increase the turnout and encourage more students to attend. Also, the Center has joined with New York area law schools and the New York City Bar Association to sponsor the City Bar's 2009 Training Boot Camp, offered to law students and recent graduates in mid October.

Houghton offered further advice for students apprehensive about the job market. "It's important to remain positive, be realistic and flexible, and not panic. Students should attend as many events as is feasible for them. The people you meet today are key to securing employment in the future. We encourage all students to review the documents posted on Symplicity and to schedule an individual counseling appointment to strategize career initiatives."

## Durham '75 appointed to head terrorist abuse allegations

By Karen Rabinovici

A UConn Law graduate is at the center of a national controversy in which the White House and Attorney General do not see eye to eye. Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr. recently appointed longtime prosecutor John H. Durham, a UConn Law graduate, to investigate the possible abuse of terror suspects by the CIA. While Attorney General Holder recognizes the controversial nature of his decision – which is at odds with President Obama's desire to look forward rather than backward – he stated it was the only responsible choice.

But who exactly is John Durham? The 59-year-old is an Assistant US Attorney with over 30 years experience entering crisis situations. With so many high-profile investigations over that period, this is certainly not the first time his work has made headlines. Durham has already spent 19 months investigating the destruction of CIA videotapes believed to show the brutal interrogation tactics of al-Qaeda suspects. His investigation into Boston's organized crime scene inspired the Academy Award-winning film *The Departed*. He provided key evidence contributing to the incarceration of John Gotti, uncovered the corruption of former Connecticut Governor John Rowland, and received the Award for Exceptional Service by the Attorney General. And if that's not impressive enough, he has not lost a case since 2001.

On the personal side, Durham is known for rarely

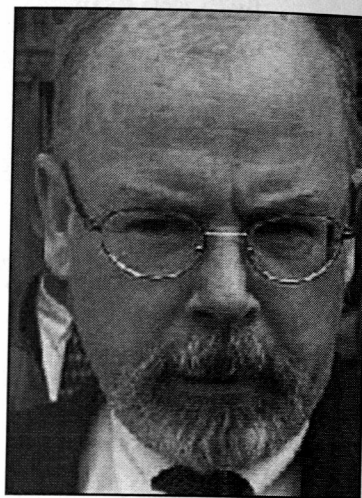


Photo courtesy of Bob Child/Associated Press

**John Durham '75, a current Assistant U.S. Attorney, will head up an investigation into possible prisoner abuse.**

speaking publicly, following the Boston Red Sox, and regularly attending mass with his wife. Before attending UConn Law, Durham completed his undergraduate degree at Colgate in 1972, receiving a degree in political science. Despite his Republican registration, Durham is considered apolitical and both parties have looked to him to manage difficult investigations.

On August 24, Holder stated that Durham's review will not be a full-scale criminal investigation and that the nature of the review is thus far unknown. However, in January 2008, Durham issued a daunting warning to those suspected of wrongdoing: "Nobody in this country is above the law, an FBI agent or otherwise, and ultimately the ends do not justify the means."

# Community, school clam up after Belanger's arrest

from BELANGER, p. 1

impressive it even had its own 1980's-action-movie-style moniker: Operation Iron Curtain. Led by the US Drug Enforcement Administration, the two-year operation led to 45 arrests and the seizure of an astounding \$6 million in cash, 55 pounds of cocaine, and more than 5,000 pounds of marijuana.

Belanger's role in the scheme, according to the DEA press release: "recruiting, employing, and coordinating couriers, who typically used rental vehicles and traveled in tandem with 'blocking' vehicles which scouted ahead for law enforcement, communicated potential problems to couriers, and intentionally violated traffic laws to protect couriers." So it seems while the rest of us were going home from class to master the *Erie* doctrine, the Dormant Commerce Clause, or *Chevron*

deference, the DEA believes Belanger was mastering a way to get duffel bags full of narcotics out of Canada, onto boats or snowmobiles (depending on the season), through Indian Reservations, finally arriving at various points along the East Coast. And you thought your semester was busy.

As word of the arrest spread among students – a slower process than normal given that many students were in the midst of legal summer jobs – some hit the Internet for more information. Somewhat unsurprisingly, Belanger was named "Law Student of the Day" on the popular legal website *Above the Law*, which suspected Belanger enrolled in law school with the purpose of benefiting the drug smuggling scheme. "Now that's putting your law school education to good use!" joked

one of the website's tipsters. Some more resourceful students found Belanger's Facebook page, which remained public for several days after his arrest, in an attempt to figure out how one of their peers could possibly be the criminal that federal authorities were claiming he was. (According to one such student, Belanger listed *The Sopranos* and *Weeds* as two of his favorite television shows.)

But this was not the first time Belanger had made a less-than-positive impression on the law school community. Third-year students will of course remember that Belanger once submitted the winning bid for the "Dean for a Day" prize at the Public Interest Law Group's annual auction. Belanger then attempted to use his "authority" to hold an on-campus party, complete with live music and

alcohol, and seemed to have made relatively advanced arrangements based on an email he sent to the entire school. Understandably, the party plans were quickly stifled by the administration for insurance reasons, and Belanger expressed his disappointment in a subsequent email.

This time, the administration has nothing to say about Belanger. The University, which unfortunately has seen more than its share of negative publicity come out of its law school in recent years, declined to comment for this article. Thus, it seems the only words that will be spoken about Belanger as his case moves through the federal criminal process are smug remarks like the ones that continue to be offered by students, professors, and this very article.

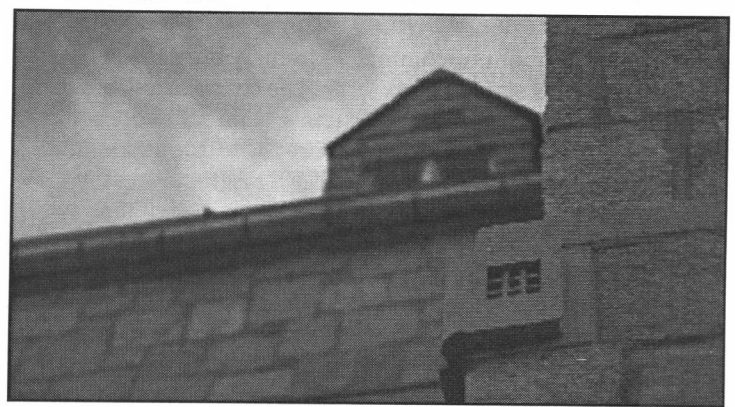
## Sculptures around library complement art on campus

from LIBRARY ART, p. 1

series of thirteen books symbolizing the elements of a criminal trial. They begin just to the left of the front door and travel around the side of the building. The story begins in the first panel with breaking the law, and ends in the last panel with sentencing. Pfeiffer made some of the sculptures a literal representation, such as the fingers emerging from a book to show the prosecution pointing fingers of accusation. Others were rendered metaphorically, such as the twelve question marks on the twelfth book standing for the twelve members of a jury determining a verdict.

The unveiling of the library allows UConn to add another gem to its already unique col-

lection of art. Just across from the library in front of Starr Hall sits a sculpture donated by Robert Sindorf called *The Middle Path*. Typical of Sindorf's style, the huge stone structure takes the form of a circle with an open center. Sindorf says that the open part, or void, serves to make the viewer feel "that you [are] part of [it] and not just a spectator." The sculpture further brings students to interact with it in that they can actually sit on the surrounding stones. Sindorf's message, to "communicate a sense of profound" is also applicable to Pfeiffer's artwork as it serves to represent each student's struggle to find justice, just as the accused does in the case.



Michael Denis/Pro Se

Little touches like these adorn the outside of the revamped library.

The long awaited unveiling of the library has brought more than just a beautiful edifice and a lack of scaffolding. Meaningful artwork graces its walls. Just as the sculptures remind their viewers that justice can

be served, all must remember to cherish a gift given to all who walk through the library's doors: the gift of an opportunity to find justice for others and for themselves.

## Tea party activists rally at the state Capitol to oppose higher taxes *1,500 citizens held up signs and lobbied for a smaller federal government*

from TEA PARTY, p. 1

the September 12th Taxpayer March in Washington.

On September 11, 2009, the Tea Party Express joined the Tea Party Patriots of Hartford for a rally at the state Capitol to oppose taxing, spending, and government intervention, which is typically defined as bailouts and universal healthcare. The cold rainy weather did not deter some 1,500 supporters from showing up armed with homemade posterboard signs declaring "Freedom, Liberty, Not Liberalism" and "The Obama Plan is only about control!! It Is Called Communism."

The Tea Party Patriots expressed indignation at what they view as government takeover of personal

choice and their paychecks. They spoke primarily about Obama's proposed healthcare plan, spurred by his recent speech on the issue and South Carolina Congressman Joe Wilson's interjection of "You lie!" at Obama's statement that illegal immigrants would not be covered by the healthcare plan. One of the tea partiers with whom we spoke wasn't opposed to undocumented immigrants receiving healthcare if the plan were to pass, however. He opposed the plan wholeheartedly but admitted that, "as long as an individual was paying taxes I don't care what their status is, they should be covered like everyone else." Most individuals who identify with the tea party movement do not share

his opinion. Obama's healthcare bill contains a section (Sec. 246) titled "NO FEDERAL PAYMENT FOR UNDOCUMENTED ALIENS," which states: "Nothing in this subtitle shall allow Federal payments for affordability credits on behalf of individuals who are not lawfully present in the United States."

James Bancroft, spokesperson and emcee of the Hartford Tea Party Patriots, remained on the steps of the Capitol while chairs were collected and stacked up, and microphones unplugged and packed into boxes. Bancroft expressed frustration with what he sees as having his hard-earned money taxed down to nothing and the expectation that he should be

responsible for taking care of others' healthcare. He explained that Jesus said there would always be poor among us and that we should be happy with our place in life. Bancroft himself is a recipient of workman's compensation for an injury that has left him unable to work.

According to the Tea Party Express blog, an onslaught of emails and phone calls from people across the nation who traveled far and wide for a chance to participate in the rallies was the impetus for a second national tour, this time called "Tea Party Express: Countdown to Judgment Day." The countdown begins October 25th of this year.

## Reporter's notebook: Bar exam blues

By Patrick R. Linsey

About a month ago I wrote a story for the Connecticut Law Tribune about upcoming changes to this state's bar examination. One major impact of an altered exam schedule is that candidates will no longer be able to take the Connecticut and New York bar exams in the same three-day period. Rather, candidates for both states, of whom there are many, must take one state's exam in two days and sit for a third day in the other state roughly half a year later.

Law students are largely aware of the practical implications of this change. For graduates whose employment searches include both states, it pushes back the timeframe for achieving dual bar admission. And although candidates

need not retake the multi-state multiple-choice exam, having to prep for another exam section months later is extremely burdensome.

The changes to Connecticut's exam schedule come from the introduction of NCBE multi-state essay questions – a step that, while of little practical benefit to UConn graduates in the short-term, does move this state's test in the direction of greater uniformity. In an interview, Dean Jeremy Paul embraced the idea of a uniform bar examination that would qualify candidates for admission in multiple states. It is easier now, observed Paul, for attorneys within Europe to practice in a different country than for attorneys within America to practice in a different state.

Reporting this story raised

strategic concerns about how bar examinations are designed and administered. Most states use a day-long multiple-choice section prepared by the National Conference of Bar Examiners. However, other sections of each state's test vary greatly. Some bar examiners test state-specific law and procedure. Others, Connecticut included, tend to test more general topics.

My reporting also raised a question voiced by multiple attorneys and members of the law school faculty. What exactly is the point of the bar exam, a ritual for which candidates cram their heads for several months with legal minutia they need remember only two to three days? What attorney in the real world is operating only under the

benefit of law he or she has memorized? One, you might agree, unlikely to long retain a bar card – regardless of bar exam score.

Alternatively, there is an argument to be made for a bar examination that tests practical lawyering skills. The NCBE does prepare such a section, which is used by some states, including New York, though not used in Connecticut. Maybe, in the future, bar examinations will focus primarily on fact analysis, problem solving and client counseling.

In Connecticut, students now at this law school may one day cast votes on these issues. There is no time like the present to start thinking about them.

# Our View

## Embrace the Opportunity Provided by the Fading Market

Harry Truman once said, "A pessimist is one who makes difficulties of his opportunities and an optimist is one who makes opportunities of his difficulties." We think if Harry were offering law students advice in September of 2009, he'd say something like this: The next time you get a rejection letter from the big law firm you had your eye on, or log onto Above the Law to see that another firm is laying off X number of attorneys, remember why you came to law school in the first place. And then see if you can't make opportunities of your difficulties.

Here are a few examples of such positive thoughts. First, summer associateships and other student-work programs are now about working. This is optimism, you ask? It is. Sure, weekly yacht trips and 5-course lunches everyday was probably a pretty sweet summer gig before the economy went belly up. But the reality is that, because firms have cut back on their attorneys, there are fewer people to get the work done. So the partner looks around for help and sees you, eager to learn, only around for a few months, and available to take on that motion-drafting assignment that would have gone to an actual attorney in a better economy. And hey, try putting "Went on yacht

trips" on your resume...see how that goes.

Furthermore, there's more to lawyer-life than big firms! If anyone has paid attention to the Career Planning Center, they have made it very clear that not everyone enjoys the lifestyle of the megafirm. (See also: next month's Government Career Panel article.) In better times, the lure of a six-figure salary may have been too much to resist, even for those recent graduates who unknowingly have an allergy to billable hours. Forcing everyone to think harder about their career path can't possibly be all bad. Who knows, maybe that second-, third-, or fourth-choice job is the one that will reward you in ways a six-figure salary cannot.

Some will undoubtedly read this and accuse us of being naive, unrealistic, or some other word that pessimists use to describe optimists. But the last time we checked, being a creepy old cynic was not an effective way of getting through a difficult situation. So, see if you can't come up with your own list of "pros." And if you have trouble, talk to a few jobless people who won't come out of the crisis with a law degree from a fantastic institution like UConn...they won't feel bad for you.

## Let Your Voice Be Heard: Introducing the Pro Se TWEN Forum

We here at *Pro Se* take a tremendous amount of pride in being the student voice of UConn Law. But try as we may, a small group of writers, editors, and designers cannot possibly capture the many opinions of our passionate student community. That's why we're now giving you – our loyal reader – the opportunity to contribute to the many conversations we seek to start through our articles every month.

As of today, we will be posting all of our articles on TWEN. Those students who add the Pro Se "course" to their TWEN page will be able to read articles online and post comments. And to ensure that this expression will be honest, candid, and free from self-censorship, comments will be anonymous.

Please take a moment to add *Pro Se* to your TWEN page. In addition to giving you access to the comment forum, it will increase the newspaper's online presence, hopefully saving some trees in the future.

We hope that you take advantage of this new feature. It is our vision that it will create a new "marketplace of ideas," a reflection of our student body's unmistakable intelligence and enthusiasm. Finally, we sincerely request that you use the forum's anonymity responsibly so that this experiment can survive well into the future, and so that all readers feel welcome.

As always, we welcome your feedback. To reach us via email, about this or any other matter, write to [pro.se.news@gmail.com](mailto:pro.se.news@gmail.com).

Have a great semester,

Chris Wasil  
Editor in Chief

PS: Special thanks to Drew Schaffer for his hard work in making this happen.

# The Back Page

## UnderCover rocks Arch Street Tavern, fellow students

By Brendan Horgan

There is no way around it – people born in the 80's love 90's music. From the guiltiest of guilty pleasures like Boyz II Men, to the timeless classics like Pearl Jam, there is something eternally special about a song that came out when you were 11 years old. Maybe it harkens back to an awkward middle school dance, or the first CD we ever bought, but there is some deposit of magic deep within our souls just waiting to be tapped. All it takes is the first two measures of some Third Eye Blind and the magic begins to brew.

UnderCover is UConn Law's undisputed 90's cover band king. OK, they seem to be the only UConn Law band... but

it doesn't detract from their sweetness. The band consists of Eric Miller on vocals and guitar, Justin Theriault on bass, Tony Mantia as the lead shredder, Phil Titolo on keys, and Mike "Mike being Mike" Molloy on drums. All UConn Law 3L's, somehow all about to be lawyers.

The band's two-set show at the Arch Street Tavern was surprisingly good. UnderCover matches very solid musicianship with the perfect amount of goofiness. They seem to master that intangible "Don't-take-yourself-too-seriously-but-still-play-really-well" fine balance. Highlights included Stone Temple Pilots, Violent Femmes, James, and even some incredibly solid harmonica playing by Miller. The crowd

dug it. Not only was the place packed (nothing to do with \$1 beers) but the crowd was into the sets from start to finish. The general consensus from the attendees was really positive, and the first-timers were happily surprised. There was no low point from start to finish, and the amount of "Man, I love this song" comments numbered in the thousands. I think that's the point of 90's cover bands: Take a bunch of kids from the 80's, mix in some inarguably awesome songs that everyone knows, and you have a cocktail of fun.

UnderCover means forgetting about the rules of Civil Procedure, and remembering camaraderie with fellow students. The Arch Street concert was a perfect venue, and Under-



Photo courtesy of Phillip Titolo  
Noted UConn Law cover band  
UnderCover rocks out at the  
Arch Street Tavern.

Cover kept things rocking. Who knows, maybe some of us might be inspired to dust off that Discman and break out some of those old classics.

## Ask McCarthy: Welcome to high school, 1Ls

By Kyle McCarthy

Another year, another set of problems. Since there are no longer any Sanetti siblings on campus, I'm your new advice guru for the upcoming year. Different person, same deal as before. Drop me a line at askmccarthy@gmail.com with your pressing concerns. I'll keep the quandary confidential, change the name to protect the innocent (or not so innocent) and do my best to put your question into print.

*I just started 1L and I feel like someone has dropped me off into*

*the middle of a jungle, handed me a pocket knife and asked me to fend for myself. Should I feel like this?*  
- J. Conrad

Absolutely, if you're willing to stipulate the jungle is more like William McKinley High than a tropical swampland. Just step back in time and recall when you were fending off fellow Type-A's at the top of the class so you could get into the college of your dreams. Same principle, different setting. The only difference: the prize is now one of the three remaining jobs in the flagging legal market instead of an Ivy League degree.

1L is a competitive tussle that will leave scars. It won't be pleasant, but it will be insightful and enriching. Avoid the endless drama, focus on your studies and try to have fun occasionally. You'll get through it, even if it goes down like barium.

*My significant other doesn't go to law school and doesn't understand how difficult 1L is to handle. We aren't communicating well and aren't spending much time together. How do I make him understand the stress?*  
- Ms. Guided

Enrolling in law school isn't an

excuse to start ignoring your relationships. I say relationships because it's about more than just your significant other. Presumably, you have other friends that you're neglecting as well.

Chances are high that you're in the wrong and your significant other is in the right. Fortunately for you, the fix is simple. Carve out some time from your engrossing study schedule – hint: Friday and Saturday nights are meant for fun, not for studying Torts – and give your significant other attention now before you start studying for finals and morph into a giant ball of stress and ignorance.