

## Daley and McGuckin win William R. Davis Mock Trial Competition

By Alexa Millinger

Beating out the largest number of participants in its six-year history, 1Ls Shannon Daley and Leah McGuckin won this year's William R. Davis Mock Trial Competition.

The Davis competition, hosted by the Mock Trial Society, is only for students who have not yet taken an evidence course, which is primarily 1Ls. This year's competition had 28 teams of 56 participants. After advancing through three rounds of arguments over about two weeks, Daley and McGuckin argued against co-finalists Katherine Cunningham and Samantha Wong at the final argument of the tournament on Thursday, October 20.

Participants were presented with a criminal case set in the state of Lone Star in which the defendant, Robert Duffie, was charged with the first-degree murder of two of his female co-workers. Daley and McGuckin argued for the defense and Cunningham and Wong argued for

the prosecution.

Three Connecticut judges presided the final argument: The Honorable Michael Sheldon of the Superior Court, The Honorable Jose Suarez of the Superior Court, and Joette Katz, Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Children and Families and former Associate Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court. "Having actual judges presiding and evaluating was intimidating at first too, but after the first few minutes, I was far more impressed than intimidated," McGuckin said.

After the argument, the judges spent nearly an hour critiquing and offering the finalists advice on their opening and closing arguments, witness examinations and use of evidence. The judges all expressed that they were impressed with the caliber of the arguments, especially by new law students. Judge Sheldon commended the four finalists on all being very articulate, and Judge Suarez highlighted that they "all acted



Hartford/Connie Wong

Daley and McGuckin celebrate their win.

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## Obama Administration approves killing United States citizen abroad

By Joe Miller

In an unprecedented move that has raised fresh concerns about civil liberties, due process, and the limits of executive power, American citizen and alleged al-Qaeda operative Anwar al-Awlaki was killed in Yemen by U.S. personnel on Sept. 30.

The "targeted killing" was approved by President Barack Obama in early 2010. Al-Awlaki died when Predator drones fired missiles at a vehicle he was traveling in with other suspected al-Qaeda members.

Born in New Mexico in 1971 to parents of Yemeni descent, al-Awlaki's life was divided between the United States and the Middle East. He earned a bachelor's degree from Colorado State University in 1994 and was involved with the mujahideen movement in Afghanistan after traveling there during a summer break.

Over the years, al-Awlaki became steadily more committed to a jihadist ideology that called for the liberation of traditional Muslim lands from supposed infidel occupation. He allegedly advised the perpetrators of several terrorist acts including the 9/11 attacks, the U.S.S. Cole bombing, and the attempted 2009 Christmas Day airplane bombing, and had been investigated by the FBI. In 2004, he returned to Yemen where according to U.S. officials, he served as a "regional commander" for al-Qaeda and built a reputation as a charismatic speaker and writer with a talent for inspiring prospective terrorists.

The decision to order al-Awlaki's death without charging him with a crime or publically proving his guilt generated an enormous amount

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## PILG working to raise funds for fellowships to fill gap left by SBA

By Matthew Zagaja

UConn Law's Public Interest Law Group (PILG) not only devotes their time to volunteering for programs like Volunteer Income Tax Assistance or home foreclosure mediation, but they also work to raise money so that students who would not normally be able to afford taking a public interest job are able to do so. The process starts early in the school year when the student body is asked to help solicit businesses for donations to the annual auction. These donations are important as the majority of money raised for fellowships is from the auction proceeds. According to auction chair Elise Baun, last year that amount was about \$23,000.

However that is not the only source of revenue for the fellowships. The PILG team partners with local businesses such as Reuben's Deli, Cosi, and Robeks to

hold fundraising days where they receive a portion of the profits from the sales at those businesses. Previously the Student Bar Association and Dean's Office both have contributed money to the fellowships as well. Baun has indicated that the Dean's Office will be contributing again. According to SBA CFO Mike Barresse, this year, the Student Bar Association did not fund the fellowships after receiving guidance from Storrs suggesting that giving money to the fellowships is an inappropriate use of SBA funds.

The PILG fundraising team has responded by working harder to raise private dollars. One avenue they are exploring is identifying employers that match the donations of their employees such as Johnson & Johnson. They are also working to hold other events such as a game day at Half Door that will be held at the beginning of De-

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## Florida case will likely take "Obamacare" to the Supreme Court

By Alex Anastasio

September 26, 2011 – The Department of Justice decided that it will not ask for an en banc review of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals' decision in Florida et al v. United States Department of Health and Human Services. The decision by the DOJ makes it highly likely that the U.S. Supreme Court will review the case, possibly before the 2012 election. The case concerns the constitutionality of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), sometimes known as "Obamacare."

The case originated in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida, where District Judge Robert Vinson ruled that the health insurance mandate under the new healthcare law is unconstitutional. Furthermore, Judge Vinson ruled that the mandate was not severable from the rest of PPACA, effectively meaning that the entire PPACA must be struck down. A divided three judge panel from the 11th Cir-

cuit affirmed Vinson's decision in part, ruling that the mandate was unconstitutional but that it could be severed from the rest of the law.

The Supreme Court has not granted certiorari, but the DOJ's decision not to ask for an en banc review by the 11th circuit and its subsequent request that SCOTUS hear the case increases the likelihood that there will be a Supreme Court decision on the matter, possibly before the 2012 election.

PPACA was signed into law by President Obama on March 23, 2010, after a bruising political battle in Washington. PPACA requires that health insurance companies sell their customers insurance plans at a uniform cost, regardless of most pre-existing medical conditions, with different prices allowed for customers of different ages or geographical locations. PPACA also contains an "individual mandate," which imposes a tax on people who do not purchase an insurance plan and who are not covered by Medicare or Medicaid. People who fall below a certain

income level can receive subsidies to help them pay for a private health plan.

The plaintiffs in the Florida lawsuit specifically target the individual mandate as being unconstitutional. The plaintiffs argue that the Federal government does not have the power under the Commerce Clause to mandate that consumers purchase private insurance plans. The Federal government argues that consumers who don't purchase private plans are still effectively participating in the healthcare market. Furthermore, the federal government, state governments, and medical providers are forced to subsidize health care for the uninsured.

A total of 28 states have filed joint or individual lawsuits targeting the individual mandate. The Florida lawsuit is a joint action by 26 state plaintiffs. At present time, two District Courts have ruled that the individual mandate is unconstitutional, while three District Courts have upheld the mandate.



## Dean's Corner with Dean Paul

By Dean Jeremy Paul

During a recent meeting a student asked me what law school deans do all day. I will answer in a later column, noting here only that one of my principal activities is to help the University and the Law School hire good people. I am now chairing committees searching for a new Director of the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center and for a new University Police Chief. I am also closely involved with selecting new faculty and staff for our campus. I mention this because I want to say something about one person's approach to hiring that may differ from current perceptions.

Last week the Law School hosted two informative and insightful presentations by Connecticut Supreme Court Justices (one retired). Justice Zarella skillfully explained threats to judicial independence that arise when outside pressure targets a judge deciding a case. But Justice Zarella's real emphasis was on the less noted, but perhaps more insidious, challenge to judicial independence that occurs when legislatures impose duties on the courts that are not properly within the judicial branch. Justice Borden spoke about how traditional approaches to eyewitness identification are too likely to produce mistakes. He offered proposals that would insist photo identification be done sequentially by investigators unaware of which photo was of the actual suspect. The Davis Courtroom filled for neither speaker, a fact caused partly by the Law School's failure adequately to publicize Justice Borden's remarks. I apologize.

Yet I am also told that many students don't find time to attend "extra" events because of the need to work and study for classes. This leads me back to hiring. When interviewing job applicants, I pay enormous attention to the candidate's ability to demonstrate intellectual curiosity about the principles guiding our profession. Someone who could explain to me the virtues of a recent event she attended, such as Justice Zarella's remarks, would rise over someone who relied only on a grade point average.

I feel the same way about course selection. Students tell me that courses are chosen now largely to avoid the B Median. Last year, we had to cancel a health law course offered by a visitor with an unknown grading style because no one signed up. I see this as a tragic waste. I await empirical work on whether those at the bottom of quintile three actually do better in the job market than those at the top of quintile four. I doubt it. I know, however, that in my conversations with candidates I always ask about the person's courses and professors to determine whether the person took the best classes. The training you will receive in the classes you find educationally desirable will also far outweigh any damage to your c.v. from a potentially lower grade. You are building a career for the long run, and you owe it to yourself to seek out the strongest classes and the "extra events." Those who do so will be selected by more hiring attorneys than you might suspect.

## An Evening Student's Perspective: An Interview with Edward McAusher

By Brendan Smith

The Evening Division is the soul of the law school. Evening students bring vibrancy, maturity and an even-keeled optimism. The 4-year night ride is filled with indelible personalities, which bring the school to life. You might even see students with tattoos and spunk. Police officers, veterans, engineers, painters, scientists, teachers, consultants, handymen, limo drivers, hedge fund analysts, con artists, managers, paralegals, bartenders, and fresh college grads form a priceless and eclectic mix. This column will shed light each month on one of these personalities. This month, this reporter sat down with Edward "Ted" McAusher, a 1L Evening student.

Ted is quick to offer a kind word and equally quick to offer his thoughts in class. He is a family man, the proud father of baby girl, Madison. Poke your head in any class, and you will soon hear Ted speak with precision and authority. He received training in how to think, write, and speak well at Connecticut College in New London. The school happens to be close to Groton, the home base of his father, Attorney Thomas Moukawsher, Class of 1986, one of the Law School's most illustrious graduates. Japanese television and the Los Angeles Times are among the major media outlets, which have chronicled Ted's father's breath-taking rise to the top of employee benefits law. Ted has the opportunity to learn lawyering skills from his father firsthand.



GROTON/McAusher

Ted with his father and baby Madison.

Attorney Thomas Moukawsher is a title partner of Moukawsher & Walsh. A gracious and unassuming man in person, he is nonetheless feared by corporate representation and revered by fellow practitioners. He has humbled the world's largest corporations, securing recoveries in the tens of millions of dollars. Such success has not gone unnoticed. Attorney Moukawsher was recently named as co-chair of the American Bar Association Committee on Employee Benefits. These successes have established a coast-to-coast practice and earned numerous invitations to speak on ERISA and pension plans.

The Groton office is where the bulk of Attorney Moukawsher's work is performed, and amidst the hum of activity in the office, Ted quietly examines research documents while keeping a watchful eye on Madison. Ted performs critical research for his father during the day before kissing his daughter goodbye and driving to class in the evenings.

**Interested in writing for Pro Se? Keep a look out for our LAST meeting the first week in November or drop us a line at [prose@students.law.uconn.edu](mailto:prose@students.law.uconn.edu)**

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## Pro Se

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A special thanks to our "columnist in exile"  
Scott Robson for his monthly column,  
*Robson's Ramblings.*

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They have also worked to identify more creative donations to the auction such as baby-sitting or Italian lessons.

The PILG scholarships have played an important role in helping law students secure unique public interest internships. Recipient Eleni Alevizos spent last summer working in a defenders office. Their mission is to implement the constitutional right to counsel for indignant de-

## A Note from the Student Bar Association

I hope that the Fall Semester is treating you all well. Although it feels as if the Semester has just begun, we are quickly barreling through the Fall term. I sincerely hope you all have an opportunity to get outside and enjoy the weather before winter once again forces us to remain in the library and finals keep us there.

I would like to take this opportunity to update all of you on the hard work of this year's Student Bar Association. Our Social Chair, Sebastian Tornatore, has been, and continues to be, working tirelessly to bring our campus together outside of the classroom. The SBA 1L Mixer during Orientation Week proved to be a great success as it brought our new incoming students together prior to the start of class. The SBA's 2011 Fall Ball was one of the most unique and well attended Fall Ball's in quite some time. For those of you who could not make it, we hope to see you at Spring Fling! Moreover, Sebastian and the Social Committee have several exciting events planned for the remainder of the Fall Semester. The SBA will be hosting its annual Halloween Party again this year and we encourage everybody to come in their favorite costumes. Also, this year's Holiday Party will not only be hosted with the Dean's Office but also with the Law School Foundation. Finally, the social committee is already planning the menu that will lift your spirits prior to Finals during our annual Midnight Breakfast. If any of you have suggestions for SBA social events please let us know! We are always happy to incorporate new and unique ideas into the SBA's Social Schedule.

Aside from our Social Events, I am especially proud of this SBA's representation of the Student Body. The SBA has been taking affirmative steps to address several of your concerns. For instance, we are looking into how we, as students, can help UConn Law rise in the U.S. News and World Report Rankings. The SBA is also assessing areas in which we can improve our campus. The Facilities Committee has some big improvements planned for the Knight Hall Lounge and expects to incorporate those changes throughout the fall semester and during winter break. As with our social events, we encourage all of you to contact the SBA or your SBA Representatives with any concerns you may have. Our goal is to represent your interests and we will continue to do so.

On behalf of the SBA Executive Board I wish you all continued success during the fall semester.

Respectfully,

Marco A. Allocca  
President, Student Bar Association

endants in death penalty appellate and habeas corpus proceedings. She noted the PILG fellowship allowed her to pay for travel and living expenses in the San Francisco Bay Area. Recipient Elon Rubin spent his summer at the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU and noted that he would not have been able to afford living in New York City without the fellowship.

The best way to help out is to attend and bid on items at the auction. This year it will be held on November 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the Starr Reading Room.

## Passionately Pink Fundraiser

By Alica Espisito, WLSA President

On October 27th, the Women Law Students' Association invited the Law School community to join them in celebrating breast cancer awareness month by participating in a Passionately Pink for the Cure® event. The Law School community and WLSA members wore pink on October 27th and raised funds to help breast cancer research and treatment and screening programs in our community. In addition to collecting donations, WLSA made information available about breast cancer awareness. WLSA would like to thank all of those who showed their support.

A 2011 Community Profile of Breast Cancer in Connecticut reported some alarming realities about breast cancer in the state of Connecticut. Connecticut has the second highest incidence of breast cancer in the nation and ranks 35th in the nation for breast cancer mortality rates. Additionally, 84.1% of Connecticut women aged 40+ years have had a mammogram in the last 2 years. However, racial and ethnic disparities for mammography persist. African American women in the urban centers and Hispanic women in manufacturing centers are among the least likely in the state to use mammography screening.

Our legal community also impacts the way breast cancer is diagnosed and treated. In May of 2009 the American Civil Liberties Union and the Public Patent Foundation brought a lawsuit challenging the patents on two human genes associated with breast and ovarian cancer as unconstitutional and invalid. The ACLU and the Public Patent Foundation claimed that the patents stifle diagnostic testing and research that lead to cures for cancer, as well as limit women's options regarding medical care.

If you are interested in more information about current trends involving breast cancer and the law, please contact WLSA.



# Strides made recently to grant Muslim women the right to vote may be impeded

By Sahar Hafeez

Life for women in the Arab world has long been a struggle. The first Arab Development Report cited the lack of women's rights as one of three factors that most impeded progress in the region.

Women's issues are very pronounced in Saudi Arabia. Women are required to wear a veil, not allowed to drive, and are stigmatized for going out in public without a male relative. Women constitute less than 10% of the workforce. Moreover, sex segregation is required by law in the country—restaurants, stores, and weddings are required to have separate sections for men and women to ensure that they do not interact. In 2008, a 75-year old woman was sentenced to 40 lashes and imprisonment for having a man deliver bread directly to her home.

Recently, women were granted the right to vote in 2015. While that is welcome news, it is

important to think about the real impact and significance of that change given that women are not allowed to drive or travel without a male relative's permission.

While women enjoy more rights in Egypt relative to Saudi Arabia, they are still an oppressed lot by modern standards. The beginning of this year experienced the Egyptian Revolution; one of the most ostensibly auspicious aspects of the Revolution was that women's presence was a defining feature of the protests. Thousands of women defied their stereotypical roles, and took to the streets to voice their frustration. However, following the Revolution, women's participation in protests has been discouraged. At a demonstration on International Women's Day in March, women were told to go home to take care of their children.

The constitution of Egypt formally bars gender discrimination, but women are entitled to inherit only half as much as man, husbands can

divorce their wives in moments while women who want a divorce are required to undergo court proceedings, and a woman who remarries loses the right of custody of her children. Polls show that over 60% of Egyptians agree that sharia law should be the operative source of law in the country, and the aforementioned policies are consistent with sharia law.

While there have been small victories for women in the Arab world, their significance tends to be offset by, or at least hampered by, the prevailing laws and social mores. The Arab world desperately needs a revolution of attitudes towards gender relations in order for changes in policies to be effective. It is an outrage that in the 21st century, a woman's right to vote is a cause of celebration, and that women are discouraged from peacefully dissenting. Although we should always have hope, it is hard to be optimistic given the current state of affairs and the mentality that accompanies it.

## UConn Law in the Capital, Part II

By Peter Golfman

WASHINGTON -- We left the old gold and carmine Secretary of War's Office in the Eisenhower Executive Building, where we had been discussing the work of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA). Michael Fitzpatrick, our guide, who also happens to be number 2 at OIRA, walks us down a spectacular marble hallway. Mr. Fitzpatrick loves his job, he knows what he's talking about, and he can certainly entertain. We stop by a few more executive offices, each as grand and American as the one before. It's getting late, but folks in suits are still scurrying down the halls. Suddenly, I hear someone from our class whispering, "Cass Sunstein just walked by!" By the way, he's number 1 at OIRA these days. Don't nudge him.

We exit on the far side of the building and realize that we're standing twenty feet from the West Wing of the White House. "That's where the Vice President's motorcade parks," Mr. Fitzpatrick points to a row of spaces 10 feet away. "That's the office where the President waited during the raid on Bin Laden's hideout," he continues. "Sometimes I see President Obama come through here. Yes, there are snipers on the

roof. What's that guy's name that's getting too close to the doors? Elon? Ok, when he gets tackled by security, it's not on me."

There are fifteen students currently in Washington as part of the UConn Law DC Program, thanks in large part to the efforts of many good people, including Professors Bronin, Mailly and Parker. Students have the opportunity to work full-time at federal agencies and non-profit organizations across the city. We have people at the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Education, the Internal Revenue Service, and Human-Rights First, just to name a few. On Tuesday evenings, we visit various government agencies and offices, where we gain a unique perspective on the workings of our government from very smart people. Aside from the White House, our visits have taken us into the fifth ring of the Pentagon, the Office of the Legal Adviser's secure communications room, Senator Al Franken's Office, and the Treasury's Terrorist Financing and Financial Crimes Office. I promise, you'd be hard pressed to find a group of law students with more experience in passing through security checkpoints.

## Occupy Hartford movement protests financial institutions

By Matt Szafranski

On a patch of green where Farmington Avenue begins near Interstate 84, the local branch of the Occupy Wall Street movement, Occupy Hartford, has taken hold. In the shadow of the city's insurance firms and with the State Capitol as a background, protesters have camped out to oppose the policies and power of massive financial institutions. Although the Hartford contingent is not as large as the New York or Boston protests, it still boasts some of the diversity seen elsewhere. This reporter had the opportunity to speak with several of the activists and find out what was motivating them to join the Occupy Hartford Movement.

At the corner of Asylum and Broad, three women who have been friends and "sister activists" since the 60's held signs supporting the occupation. Pat Ferrone of Boston and Ann Marie Judson of Harrisburg were visiting Sue Lavoie of West Hartford and said they could think of no better way to spend their time in Hartford. "I wanted to be here," Judson said. Ferrone gestured to a banner behind her that read, "Bring the war dollars home." Lavoie said she her goal was to stand for those who would want to protest but lack the time.

While some of the occupiers are seasoned activists, others are not. Luke Johnson, originally of Essex, came to the camp in lieu of staying at a homeless shelter downtown. "It's cleaner than the shelter," he said referring to the shelter's bed bugs. He has also found Occupy Hartford to be a positive experience. "Activism has been educational," said Johnson who attributes his homelessness to a bad economy and economic injustice.

Despite the City ban on the tents for health and safety reasons, more than twenty tents dot "Turning Point Park," the name the pro-



Hartford/ Matt Szafranski

### Despite city ban, tents occupy "Turning Point Park"

testers have given to the field and former highway ramp. Several official tents are run by organizers including the food tent where donated meals are served. When this reporter visited the food tent, Anna Lachlieo was manning it. She said that although it was slow then, on Sunday, the day after worldwide "occupy" protests, a potluck dinner fed one hundred people. Lachlieo, whose daughter is a JAG officer at Guantanamo Bay, said her concerns about economic justice, war and healthcare brought her to Occupy Hartford.

Johnson, standing by the food tent remains somewhat upbeat, although he is currently looking for work. He is thinking about trying to travel to Boston and New York's protests. He has even thought about documenting the movement nationwide, "I'd love to check out DC."

*Pro Se* will continue to monitor the Occupy Hartford movement and bring you updates. For more information about the movement, please see <http://occupyhartfordct.com/>.

## Professor Becker v. Attorney Gura

By Michael Kaczynski

The Federalist Society's first event of the year, "Litigating the Future of the Second Amendment," brought Attorney Alan Gura and Professor Lofty Becker to the Davis courtroom to debate issues regarding the interpretation of the right to bear arms. Attorney Gura was the lead counsel on the landmark *DC v. Heller* case, in which the Supreme Court overturned the District of Columbia's ban on private gun ownership and affirmed the individual's right to bear arms for self-defense for the first time at the nation's highest court. Professor George Mocsary moderated the debate.

The debaters took different positions on the topic of originalism; for example, Mr. Gura defended the historical justification of tyranny control as a reason to bear arms, while Professor Becker argued that this notion is irrelevant in modern day America. They also disagreed as to whether or not the First Amendment (as well as the rest of the Bill of Rights) served as an adequate analogy through we can understand the Second Amendment.

Approximately sixty students attended, as well as some members of the Federalist Society Lawyer's Chapter.

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of controversy across the political spectrum. While President Obama defended the action as a "major blow" to the al-Qaeda network – a justification that was applauded by many Republicans as well as Democrats – others felt that it was an unacceptable violation of constitutional principles.

The American Civil Liberties Union issued a statement saying that "it is a mistake to invest the president – any president – with the unreviewable power to kill any American whom he deems to present a threat to the country." Under the current policy, the government is not required to present any evidence of wrongdoing to the public.

Rep. Ron Paul, a candidate for the Republican presidential nomination,

sharply criticized the lack of judicial process, stating that "if the American people accept this blindly and casually that we now have an accepted practice of the president assassinating people who he thinks are bad guys, I think it's sad."

On the other hand, former Vice President Dick Cheney called the attack "a very good strike" and "justified," adding that Obama owes former President George W. Bush an apology for criticizing the previous administration's anti-terrorism policies.

Legal opinion on the legitimacy of the strike has been similarly divided, with experts seeking to reconcile the duty to keep America safe with the obligation to comply with the legal protections granted to citizens by the Constitution.

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very cordial with each other," which is noteworthy in this "inherently adversarial profession."

"Many of the practitioners who generously volunteered their time to judge were shocked that Davis is mainly a 1L tournament," said Hailey Fitzgerald Petrucelli, the Davis Tournament Coordinator for the Mock Trial Society.

Daley and McGuckin both said that familiarizing themselves with the Federal Rules of Evidence without having taken an evidence course was one of the biggest challenges of the competition. Balancing mock trial preparation with the notoriously heavy workload of a 1L's first semester was also a challenge for the participants, but the benefits outweighed the difficulties. "I thought that it was a great opportunity to have as a 1L to not only learn about evidence and trial advocacy but also to work on public speaking," Daley said.

The Mock Trial Society also awarded Best Advocate and Best Witness awards for the competition to Cassandra Beckman Widay and Nicky Dhaliwal, respectively.



# The Back Page

## Professor Jennifer Maily's Exam Strategies

It may seem early to be thinking about your December exams, but what you do now will help you succeed later. In counseling students about exam-preparation strategy, I have come to see the process as consisting of five major steps, several of which you should be doing now:

- 1) **Prepare for Class.** Approach each class as if you will be called on. Read and brief all assigned cases. If you are using a casebook, read the footnotes and endnotes. Anticipate the questions that your professor will ask in class.
- 2) **Actively Participate in Class.** Listen not only when the professor is speaking, but when your classmates are speaking. The dialogue that occurs during class is "class content" and will often highlight the ambiguities, inconsistencies or nuances in the law that are the subject of law school exam questions.
- 3) **Review Class Notes/Materials After Class, Weekly and At the End of a Topic.** You should review your notes within a day or so after class to make sure that you understand them. If you find that your notes do not make sense, now is the time to get help: Talk to your classmates, TA's and professors. You should review notes on a weekly basis and when you have covered a discrete topic (usually designated as such in your casebook). If, in reviewing your notes over time, you find that the pieces don't add up, you should seek help.
- 4) **Prepare and Study Your Course Outline.** The course outline is an essential tool for exam preparation, but if you have not done steps 1-3, above, outlining is an insurmountable task. You must create your own course outline. Outlining requires you to synthesize your class notes, case briefs, casebook and other course materials into a structure organized by topic, focusing on the rules governing each topic. For each rule, you should note the definitions, applications, exceptions, limitations, sources and splits of authority, and policy rationales. If there are conflicts over the governing rules (e.g., common law vs. UCC), note that too. Hypotheticals discussed in class also serve as illustrations of how rules are applied. Outlining can begin as soon as you have completed a topic, and it should continue until you have covered the course content. In the final days of exam preparation, you should use your completed outline for review and memorization.
- 5) **Learn about and Practice Taking Law School Exams.** Law school exams differ from many of the exams that you have encountered as a student. Begin by asking each of your professors about the format of his or her exam. Is it an essay-question exam, or a multiple-choice exam? What, if any, materials can you bring into the exam room? Learn how to approach these uniquely "law school-type" questions. If your professor posts past exam questions, try to answer them, ideally under exam-like conditions.



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UCONN/Matt Zagaja

October 15th: The Great Hall at Union Station

## Robson's Ramblings: The Rambler does Las Ramblas

By Scott Robson

BARCELONA-- Writing to you in exile from Barcelona, I have the privilege of being able to share some of the oddities and excitements that one might encounter in Spain's slickest city.

The city's sightseeing and people-watching spine, running from Barcelona's central Placa Catalunya down towards Port Vell, is known as Las Ramblas. Just over a kilometer long, Las Ramblas is a sprawling pedestrian avenue lined with shops, galleries, restaurants, bars, and markets. It's a vibrant place at all hours, choked with camera-wielding tourists and street artists by day or with dancing (sometimes, admittedly, stumbling) partygoers at night.

Las Ramblas is a keenly sensual place, with sounds and tastes and sights and smells to last countless visits. Many are pleasant: the music of a talented street guitarist; the sweet, somehow sinful chocolate caress of xurros amb xocolat (churros served with the thickest, most pudding-like hot chocolate you can possibly imagine); the sight of beautiful old-world architecture framing the street, or the scent of the innumerable florists dotting the boulevard. Others still are perhaps less pleasant, but still distinctly Barcelonan.

There are sights and tourist traps aplenty up and down Las Ramblas, from music venues and concert halls to street painters

and caricature artists. Plates of tapas clutter the hundreds of café tables; little morsel-sized portions of seafood or cheeses, or especially Iberian ham (which seems to get snuck into nearly everything imaginable here). Clay jugs of fruity sangria and comically oversized tankards of beer are ubiquitous.

In the center of Las Ramblas, through a set of heavy wrought-iron gates, sits La Boqueria marketplace - an immense swarming madhouse of greengrocers and dairy farmers, an asylum of cunning butchers and seafood vendors, a whole ward of confectioners and eccentric juicers. La Boqueria is all of these things and more. It's crowded. It's chaotic. It's not for the timid. But it's something to see.

There are many other things to see on Las Ramblas, but I should forewarn you, dear reader: it's a trap! Fun and fresh and exciting as Las Ramblas may be, your wallet will be safer if you view it (at least in part) as a wretched hive of scum and villainy. Beware of pickpockets and scam artists, who will use all sorts of Jedi mind tricks on you, given the opportunity.

Whether you come to Barcelona for a semester abroad (highly, highly, highly recommended) or for other reasons, no visit would be complete without a trek down Las Ramblas.

No pickpockets could be caught and tied down for interview. They all speak Catalan, anyway...

## Voices From the Quad

By Patricia Martins

This month's question:

How would you survive the zombie apocalypse?

"Get a gun from my brother and head to the woods."

-Melanie Spaulding, 2L

"I'd invest in a lot of cosmetic makeup so I could pass as a zombie."

-Mike Tellerico, 1L

"Hide out in my basement with canned food."

-Yifei He, 2L

## Wendy's Wise Words of Wisdom

Dear Wendy,

I easily get nervous/anxious and don't handle pressure well, and in stressful situations, I get super gassy and sweaty, which makes my stuttering problem worse. This is especially difficult in work-related situations as I am a salesperson for a large company and am therefore always giving presentations and doing public speaking. What can I do to boost my confidence under pressure and in front of groups of people?

-Nervous Nancy

Dear Nervous Nancy,

Your problem is pretty common and, luckily, I can offer you some pretty easy (and tested!) solutions. Everyone knows that practice makes perfect, so put yourself in as many high-pressure situations as possible! Take on the biggest and most valuable customers, volunteer to make all of your sales pitches company-wide events so that hundreds will observe you and, for a real challenge, stand next to your boss at staff meetings and repeat everything he or she says in a loud, clear, and confident voice!

Worried about sweating? Pat a thick layer of baby powder on your problem areas before you start presenting and offer attendees some baked goods in advance--everyone will think you were up to your arms in flour and they won't suspect a thing! Disguise that pesky gas issue with some strong perfume (spritz directly onto your clothing at least 8 times - only stop when you are coughing from the fumes) and go ahead and tuck a fresh-scented dryer sheet in your undergarments so that the gas is somewhat filtered.

I doubt you'll have a stuttering problem from nerves after trying some of these out, but if that's still an issue, speak as slowly as possible when you are nervous and talking to a large crowd. This will probably prolong the very presentation that you are dreading, but remember that it's really adding more practice time and helping you overcome your fear! Additionally, it might help to keep in mind that your speech, dress, posture, and every move are being scrutinized and deeply criticized by your superiors and colleagues: a minor slip could provide fuel for weeks of water cooler gossip and perhaps even daily ridicule and shunning from your peers.

Good luck, Nancy! I know you'll be over your nerves in no time!

Yours,  
Wendy

## PILG AUCTION

November 18

6:00 pm

Starr Reading Room

Items up for bid include:

Boating with Professor Strasser

Lunch for four with the Dean

Baseball signed by Jonathan Papelbon

Signed photo of Chris Canty