



UCONN/Bianca Slota

Russ Feingold speaks

CPILJ Symposium discusses campaign contributions

By Alexa Millinger

As the presidential campaign enters its final weeks and candidate ads dominate the media, the Public Interest Law Journal held a timely on-campus forum focused on campaign finance on Friday, October 19th. Headlining the event was former Wisconsin Senator Russ Feingold, who made a name for himself as a campaign finance reform advocate championing the McCain-Feingold Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act.

Moderated by Daniel Klau – adjunct faculty member and attorney at McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter – the forum's three segments centered around the Supreme Court's 2010 Citizens United decision and its effect on campaign finance laws and the emergence of SuperPACs. The forum's speakers were made up of law professors, reporters for Bloomberg News and SCOTUS blog, Jonathan Salant and Lyle Denniston, and directors of the Connecticut ACLU, Andrew Schneider and Center for American Politics and Citizenship at the University of Maryland, Paul Herrnsen.

Senator Feingold's keynote address forcefully vilified the Supreme Court's decision in Citizens United, while stressing the decision's impact on American democracy. Feingold called the decision "lawless," "reckless,"

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McMahon and Murphy's race to the elections

By Matthew Szafranski



UCONN/Szafranski

Chris Murphy speaks to a crowd.

HARTFORD—After a rocky September that turned Connecticut's Senate race from an easy Democratic bet to a tossup election, Congressman Chris Murphy, the Democratic nominee, appears to have gained his footing. The polls have moved in his favor, his performance at debates has been scored better than Republican Linda McMahon's, and he has received several newspaper endorsements.

Since announcing her decision to run in early 2011, Murphy was seen as the favorite, which made it all the more troubling to Democrats when McMahon took the lead in this heavily Democratic state early last month. McMahon, the former CEO of WWE, has poured tens of millions of her own money to secure election. She did the same in 2010 and failed against former Attorney General Richard Blumenthal.

Both candidates have endured press criticism for being publicly

scarce, although McMahon's availability has seemingly frustrated reporters more. Pro Se was unable to attend any of McMahon's more limited number of events.

At least part of Murphy's turnaround can be attributed to help from the Democratic Senate Campaign Committee, but also due to the four debates he had with McMahon. While both were criticized for sticking to talking points as times, McMahon's performance was seen as stilted and bland.

By contrast, Murphy appeared to have a much broader command of issues, was able to switch gears more effectively than McMahon and pointed out when she did not answer.

However, as in many races across the country, the battle lines for this campaign return to the same ones that McMahon fought with Blumenthal: women's votes. When McMahon launched her campaign for the 2012 election, she tried to soften her image, which was said to turn off women voters in 2010.

For a while, a loss of women's support was the source of McMahon's surge and Murphy's faltering as McMahon carpet bombed Connecticut with ads. However, a focus on McMahon's positions, particularly support for the Blunt Amendment, which could stymie access to preventative health services like birth control, may have stopped her advance.

Following an event in Hartford earlier this month which included NARAL-Pro Choice head Nancy Keenan, Murphy said he was surprised that contraception had been

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Malala Yousafzai recovering from attack

By Michelle Davison

Fifteen-year-old Malala Yousafzai is recovering from gunshot wounds to the head and neck after being attacked as she was on her way home from school on October 9 in the Swat Valley region of Pakistan. Malala was targeted by the Taliban for advocating for the education of girls in her homeland. Two other young girls were injured in the shooting.

Malala achieved international recognition for her advocacy when she began blogging under a pseudonym in 2009 at the age of 11. The Taliban had decreed earlier that year that no schools were to admit female students. Malala quickly became a target, but remained steadfast and continued speaking out and attending school.

In the wake of the attack, she won Pakistan's first National Youth Peace Prize. After doctors in Peshawar determined that her condition was stable, she was moved to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham, England

which has a specialized trauma center for treating major head injuries and gunshot wounds and has treated many soldiers injured in combat in Afghanistan.

While Malala is recovering nicely and walking, talking, and eating, it will take her weeks for her to recover enough for reconstructive surgery. Doctors have said that she will probably be able to travel back to Pakistan in a few months.

Malala has shown equally fierce determination during her recovery. In fact, when her family came to visit her in the UK, she asked that they bring her school books from home so she did not fall behind in her schoolwork in preparation for her final exams.

The Taliban issued a statement justifying the shooting with out-of-context passages from the Quran and accusing Malala of promoting Western culture. The group has also threatened journalists who spoke out against them after Malala was shot.



Washington Post/Unknown
Malala Yousafzai

Pakistani officials and political leaders, including Interior Minister Rehman Malik and Aseefa Bhutto Zardari (the daughter of Benazir Bhutto), have attempted to visit but have been denied by the hospital. Instead they were able to spend time with Malala's parents.

Her father told Reuters that "[w]hen she fell, Pakistan stood," and believes that "this is a turning point". Let us all hope that he is right.

Helping local residents "Keep the Power On"

By Patty Martins

Two times a year, UConn Law students are afforded the opportunity to help the local community "Keep the Power On." On Friday, October 12, seventeen UConn law student volunteers assisted the Medical Legal Partnership Program of the Center for Children's Advocacy in the biannual event at St. Francis Hospital. The event, held once in the fall and once in the spring, is designed to help members of the community avoid cancellation of their utilities.

At the event, volunteers work in teams of two to assist each client. Volunteers talk with each client to help them get a visual comparison of the client's income and the amount they are paying out on their bills. After getting the necessary information, the volunteers and the client discuss possible payment options with representatives from the utility company. After a payment plan is reached, the client pays the monthly amount agreed upon.

To help reduce the client's expenditures, multiple organizations are represented at the event in an effort to assist the clients. Those organizations can help the clients find affordable housing, clothing, or food. One of the organizations also serves as an information hotline for future questions that the client may have.

"Keep the Power On" is an opportunity
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Dean's Corner with Assistant Dean DeMeola

By Assistant Dean of Students
Karen DeMeola

A few short months ago, I made the transition from admissions to student services. I went from reading files and traveling to implementing policies and attending more meetings than I thought possible. Regardless of where I spend my days, my message to students, whether prospective or current, remains the same: your story matters.

Identity is formed in many ways – socially, culturally, familial order and dynamics, birth right, astrological sign, even television. The paradigms of gender, race, sexual orientation and gender identity are challenged each time we refuse to check a box that fails to recognize our individuality, our uniqueness. I'm a Virgo through and through. I am also an adoptee, lesbian, attorney, raised in an Italian household and almost a mom. These pieces of me shape my perspective, my sense of humor, my penchant for 70s memorabilia and my world view. Our narrative guides us in how we read and learn the law, it allows us to see or not see how we might better serve our clients, or carry out justice.

Many of us have spent a great deal of time fighting – for child care, equal access, against injustice, higher pay, or simply to survive. We all contribute a wealth of experience to the Law School. The diversity that we all bring is apparent in the debates I witness in student lounge or in class, at social events, the well planned symposia and the thought provoking brown bags. From planning to implementation, each event highlights the unity of our community.

I can still remember the amazing things you have done, the places you have travelled, and the circumstances that you have survived. The wonderful thing about my new role is that I have the privilege of witnessing the transformation you will undergo while on this journey. That said life does not stop for law school. There will be bumps in the road – job promotions, births, death, illness, stress and anxiety. Should you find that life is interfering, please visit the student services office. Jane Brown, Jennifer Cerny, Claudia Norsworthy and I are here to lend an ear and to give you the tools necessary to manage all that you will inevitably juggle throughout your time at the Law School.

The energy I feel around campus is palpable and motivates me every day. Students are engaging with each other as well as with faculty and staff in ways that I have not seen before. People are sharing their narrative and adding to it. I have no doubt that this energy will have a lasting impact on the Law School and will be instrumental for success in the changing legal landscape.

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come such an issue. "I'm not surprised we're debating choice," Murphy said to Pro Se referring to abortion, but called the debate about contraception "a surprise."

Murphy's wife, Cathy Holahan has also driven home this point appearing at rallies with women's group. Holahan is a former head of NARAL-Pro Choice's Connecticut branch.

This race, like many across the country, may ultimately depend on turnout. The Connecticut Mirror reported that McMahon had several paid field organizers in a relatively small state.

Murphy spokesman Ben Marter replied that the campaign has the support of the grassroots from working families to teachers to women's organizations. "These hardworking people have taken time out of their own schedules to fight for Chris Murphy and the middle class values they know he stands for – not because they are paid."

McMahon has brought in national Republican names like New Jersey Governor Chris Christie and Senator John McCain to drum up enthusiasm. However, it is unclear if it has been working. Polls indicate McMahon has lost some support among Republicans, too.

Murphy has also drawn upon a National Democratic Party eager to keep Connecticut's Senate seat blue. On October 23, there was a sizeable rally in Bushnell Park where Murphy was joined by senators Mary Landrieu, Barbara Mikulski and Jeanne Shaheen. Blumenthal, Planned Par-

enthod's Cecile Richards, and New Haven area Congresswomen Rosa DeLauro were also in attendance.

However, the most powerful speaker at that rally was Hartford Hospital nurse, Cheryl Stuart. She introduced Murphy and put the stakes of the election in no uncertain terms. Noting that she had seen patients die without health care, she excoriated McMahon for opposing the president's health reform bill.

Asked after the rally why she was at the rally, she said, "Because I feel that I need to do more." Trembling slightly from the adrenaline and a touch of vertigo from which she said had been suffering, Stuart expressed a fear that McMahon's election would harm her patients and set the country back. "I don't want us to backpedal," she said of progress on health care and women's rights.



UCONN/Szafranski
Cheryl Stuart introduces Chris Murphy.

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for UConn law students to engage in Pro Bono work. The event, itself, was about 3 hours, with an hour of training held beforehand. It will be held again in the spring, when the utility companies can shut off clients' utilities under statute.

The event is coordinated by Bonnie B. Roswig, Senior Staff Attorney, Medical Legal Partnership Project of the Center for Children's Advocacy. The UConn Law Student Coordinators are Robyn Andersen and Samantha Wong.

A Note from the Student Bar Association

As we continue our rapid approach toward finals and the end of (another) semester, I want to congratulate everyone on their hard work in class, as well as for the many great events we've had on campus thus far. I would also like to take this opportunity to offer some insight into the SBA budgeting process. Now that the budget is completed and available on the SBA TWEN page, the hard part is over and the job of the budget committee consists mostly of making post-hoc approvals of supplementary requests and, of course, providing reimbursements to students. Putting the budget together, however, is no easy task. Rather, it is an arduous and time consuming process, requiring weeks of preparation, communication and revision, before its culmination in a (at least) 10-hour day of line-by-line review, and vigorous debate. I have served on the budget committee every year that I have attended UConn Law, and I wanted to offer some of the observations I have made over the years, in an attempt to promote a greater understanding of the process.

Each year, it seems, the budget committee gets requests totaling roughly twice what we are able to allocate. Additionally, during my tenure on the budget committee, it seems that each CFO has a smaller allocable amount than his/her predecessor. Thus, each year, deep and significant cuts must be made. The budget committee dissects every single line of every event for which funding was requested by a student group. There are many issues that the committee must tackle on budget day.

Much like in the law, there are both procedural and substantive issues that we must address. Generally, procedural issues are limited to two common problems: failure to reserve a room for the event, and lack of specificity. I try to "nip in the bud" as many of these issues as possible by holding the individual group budget meetings. During these meetings, which many of you attended, we review the group's budget for potential procedural problems, and allow groups another few days to make revisions. Most of the procedural problems are corrected at this stage.

Budget day itself is when the committee deals with the more substantive issues. These issues are mostly value judgments and run the gamut from disagreements about expected attendance, to redundant events, to whether an event or line item is an appropriate use of SBA funds. Other times, we are bound by the budget guidelines and simply cannot fund an event in full, even if we find it completely meritorious. Regardless of the individual reasons for a reduction in funding, each decision is carefully made, thoroughly debated, and formally voted upon. This year, the budget committee spent a total of fourteen hours reviewing the requests and compiling the fall budget - ten straight hours on Friday, and an additional four on Saturday. We do not make any cuts lightly, and fairness is always our highest priority.

Once the proposed budget is completed, every group has a chance to petition the SBA general body to overrule a particular committee recommendation before it votes on the budget's approval. The number of groups that arrive to challenge an allocation varies from semester to semester, and year to year. Any group that did not wish to make a formal challenge, but would still like to receive additional funding for an event, may submit a supplemental budget via e-mail.

I would like to thank every student group that submitted a budget this semester for their understanding of the importance of collaboration, for their shared sacrifice, and for their tremendous versatility and ingenuity in being able to pull off incredibly successful events with (often much) less money than they had planned.

The SBA's theme this year is U.C.L. - "Unity, Commitment, Loyalty". It is a theme that we hope every student and student organization will join in spirit, and it is a promise that we make to you as your SBA. It is also a theme that applies to our budgeting process. We stand united with each and every student group on campus, committed to their success as an organization, and loyal to one another and the missions, goals, and dreams that we share as a campus community.

Congratulations again on being half-done with the semester, and good luck on your endeavors between now and finals.

Respectfully,

Matthew Loftus

Chief Financial Officer, Student Bar Association

Interested in writing for
Pro Se? Keep a look out for
our second meeting the first
week in October
or drop us a line at
prose@students.law.uconn.edu

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Pro Se

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Connecticut's Fifth Congressional District Race

By Matthew Szafranski

Chris Murphy and Linda McMahon are not the only candidates on the ballot in Connecticut, but they are certainly getting much of the attention. It could be easy to forget that Murphy's House seat is among the most contested in the country.

Former State Representative Elizabeth Esty (D) and State Senator Andrew Roraback (R) are locked in a tight contest to succeed Murphy in the Fifth Congressional District. The district includes New Britain and much of northwestern Connecticut. Just this week, both campaign releases polls that showed their candidate ahead.

The race has been a rollercoaster since Esty defeated the Connecticut Speaker of the House, Chris Donovan, after the latter's campaign collapsed amidst staffer corruption indictments. Roraback, too, won a tough primary and some of his opponents had legal problems, too.

Neither Esty nor Roraback are seen as ideologues in their party. Indeed, many

wondered if Esty could get the Working Families Party line. She ultimately did, but only after Donovan resigned the WFP's ballot line he obtained before the primary. In Connecticut, candidates can appear on the ballot under more than one party's line.

Millions of dollars from third-parties have been poured into the district. Both sides have called foul on some of the ads. Roraback has resented being lumped in with tea party Republicans as one ad suggests. Roraback's complaint drew rebuke from tea party groups in Connecticut.

Esty has also been the subject of such an ad. Esty's husband, Daniel Esty, is the State Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection. A Republican ad alleges that she is receiving contributions from those that her husband regulates. The Hartford Courant reported Esty's retort that such an ad is run when you do not have a policy argument.

While every representative in Connecticut has an opponent, only the Esty-Roraback race is seen as competitive.

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and "one of the most fundamental things that has ever happened to our democracy."

He highlighted the need to curb the potentially corrosive effects of unlimited corporate contributions allowed in the wake of Citizen United. Feingold said he saw firsthand during his 18 years in the United States Senate the immense corruption that corporate political contributions created. This was one of the motivators that led him to team up with Senator John McCain on their landmark campaign finance legislation.

Feingold warned that unlimited corporate contributions would inevitably lead to what he called "Democrat and Republican toothpaste." He explained that major companies and their products could become strongly associated with one political party to the point where every time a consumer buys a product, that money "can be used against you in politics." He cautioned that this could lead to people boycotting certain products or making their economic decisions based on politics.

Before taking questions from the audience and signing copies of his new book, Feingold concluded by discussing various solutions to the curb the effects of Citizens United, including passing a Constitutional amendment. He noted that overturning Citizens United is not a "silver bullet" in repairing America's campaign finance problems, since it "gets us back to where things were, but more work needs to be done."

Monks sue over coffin law

By Alex Anastasio

On October 23, a panel of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed a District Court's ruling that a Louisiana law restricting casket sales was unconstitutional. This statute, the Louisiana Embalming and Funeral Director's Act, required that anyone who wished to sell caskets in Louisiana be a licensed funeral director. The law was challenged by a group of monks who were selling hand-made caskets for prices considerably lesser than those charged by licensed funeral directors.

In this case, *St. Joseph Abbey v. Castille*, the plaintiffs successfully challenged the statute on both Equal Protection and Due Process grounds. The state countered by arguing that the insulating statute was rationally related to its interest in regulating the funeral industry. It also argued that it was legitimate as a form of economic protectionism. The Fifth Circuit, in affirming the District Court, held that the law could not pass rational basis review.

In its ruling, the court acknowledged the existence of a Circuit split. The Tenth Circuit has already held that similar legislation can be legitimated by a state's desire to engage in economic protection of an industry, while the Sixth and Fifth Circuits now appear to reject such an argument as sufficient

to survive rational-basis analysis.

The panel rejected the state's argument that it was protecting consumers from predatory coffin sales practices. The court noted that Louisiana's laws did not require consumers to purchase caskets from licensed funeral directors (consumers could acquire caskets online or by importing them from out-of-state), nor did they impose any quality requirements on caskets sold by funeral directors. The panel concluded that the law merely served to protect in-state funeral directors from competition over casket prices.

The court noted, with a degree of sarcasm, that the only abusive coffin sales that had been brought to its attention were being carried out by funeral directors. The decision is noteworthy for its harshness towards the challenged statute; in concluding its opinion, the panel commented that it did not feel obliged to honor "nonsensical explanations for naked transfers of wealth."

The decision noted that the end of the "Lochner era" largely meant the end of aggressive judicial review over state economic regulation. It attempted to distinguish its holding from the Supreme Court's decision in the 1953 case of *Williamson v. Lee Optical*, in which the Court upheld a similarly protectionist state law. The Fifth Circuit panel drew a distinction by first

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Student reactions to First Year Fridays

By Sarah Ricciardi

First Year Fridays: Three words that are the talk of the 1L community. This year the UConn administration decided to shorten orientation by instituting weekly workshops throughout the semester. Subjects range from Pro Bono opportunities to ethics and professionalism. Lunch is also provided at every session. So what's the big deal? Attendance is mandatory.

This is what the student body has to say:

"First year Fridays have provided the practical 'real world' perspective on practicing law that sometimes is missed in classroom discussion." - Daniel Lage, 1L

"Some of the sessions have been very useful, especially the one about the Pro Bono program. I think that maybe we could have used more technology oriented discussions instead of the upper-class perspectives." - Nicole Gehen, 1L

"The First Friday series has been especially helpful in acclimating the new crop of 1Ls to the expectations of law school, while simultaneously, alerting us to the next steps that we should undertake to secure summer internships/finals/jobs, etc." - PJ Anastasio, 1L

"There's quite a few of us that don't have scheduled class on Fridays so the FYF workshops require us to travel to campus for a panel discussion that lasts less than an hour. I could be at my job, with my kids, or studying during that time, but instead I have to travel 45 minutes both ways just to hear Career Services tell me that I'm probably not going to get that corporate job in New York." - Anonymous, 1L

"I think it would have been better if they had just consolidated the sessions and discussed the various topics during Orientation. Or as an alternative, they could have had the sessions midday during the week as opposed to Fridays." - Emily McDonnell, 1L

"I definitely would have preferred to get this information during regular orientation before school started. Time is precious now. When I have an LP paper looming over my head, I don't necessarily want to be spending my time listening to the shoul'da, woulda, coulda's of the upperclassmen." - Anonymous, 1L

"I think the 'mandatory' aspect is the part that's hard to swallow. I'd like to pick what sessions I want to go to. Some of them were very helpful while others didn't interest me as much." - Jade Baldwin, 1L

One thing it seems everyone can agree on:

"The food improves every week. That's definitely a plus." - Anonymous, 1L

Achieving an American experience at UConn Law

By Ellie Scogings

After applying to do the exchange programme and having an interview, I was so pleased and ecstatic to be travelling to the U.S for the first time. Upon arriving at UConn Law School, I was welcomed and quickly found my feet with all of the International events organised. To date it has been a great experience to meet students from all different cultures and countries including China, Ukraine, Holland and Iran to name just a few! The Law School induction week included watching our first ever Baseball game, visiting local restaurants and attending parties which really helped me integrate and meet new friends.

The Law School itself is much smaller than my University back home but I was pleasantly surprised that despite its size it has a variety of activities, societies and events to join! I have al-

ready joined the Hartford Bar Association, volunteered for the "Keep the Power on" project negotiating debt arrangements for public citizens, been elected Vice President of CAIL, and visited the Supreme Court of Connecticut and its Criminal courts.

The procedures of the criminal justice system are very different to what I had anticipated. In the UK we have a Magistrates court allowing an individual who has had some training, but no formal qualifications, to decide the case. However, here it surprised me at how at an early stage in the criminal procedure the parties have the chance to negotiate a settlement. Moreover, despite the fact the UK and the U.S both have a common-law legal system, I quickly discovered differences that were both interesting and useful. I anticipated that studying Contracts in the U.S would not have so many significant differences but once delving deeper into the cases in class I

discovered many comparative areas including, for example, the doctrine of unconscionability, which has not been formally incorporated into UK law. My Capital Punishment class further demonstrates important differences in our laws. Overall, my learning here so far has therefore been very valuable for comparative analysis and for my understanding of a new legal system.

My first visit to New York was truly amazing; I have never felt such a buzz in a city. The lights in Times Square; Broadway and sightseeing were definitely great experiences. I have already planned to travel to Washington D.C and hope to see the West coast in the summer! My group of friends was happy to see that red cups at parties are actually used and the Ben and Jerrys ice cream here on offer really does have some amazing different flavors! I just can't wait to discover more 'typically American' things in the future of my stay and fully experience American culture.

The Back Page

Diary of a 1L

By Sarah Ricciardi

During orientation, one of the first pieces of advice we were given was to maintain some form of life outside of law school. As we've discovered over the past couple months, the pressure can be overwhelming. So how do we stay sane? Since Netflix and tequila shots can only go so far, here are a few suggestions from some fellow 1Ls:

"I waitress at an Italian restaurant on the weekends. There is something to be said for manual labor. After spending the entire week sitting in the library or in class, it feels great to actually move around for an extended period of time. I also enjoy the social aspect of my job -- interacting with people other than other law students and professors. Having a conversation about even the most frivolous topics keeps me in touch with reality, and reminds me of the value of being able to communicate with people without the use of legal jargon." -- Valerie Ferdon

"Dinner time is great break from studying when I actually have to make the food myself instead of just ordering

takeout. I taught myself how to cook through a mixture of watching the Food Network, and making a lot of really bad tasting things. I like to make pretty much anything, but I like cooking for other people in particular. There's just something about cooking something that somebody else enjoys that makes me feel good. It's a great release from all the school pressure. I made a sausage pasta fagioli last week that turned out awesome on the first try." -- Rob Fontaine

I'm not an exercise freak, but I'm obsessed with running. To me, it's the perfect way to de-stress. It gives me a few hours to just clear my head. I run a lot of races to give myself a goal that has nothing to do with law school grades. I hope to qualify for Boston next year. On December 2nd, I'm running the Las Vegas marathon for the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America. Raising money for a good cause while trying to reach a personal goal is an amazing way to remind myself that there are important things out in the world that don't involve class rank.

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stating that economic protection of "pet industry" is not a legitimate state interest, then noting that a state might offer a legitimate interest post hoc.

In concluding, the panel sought certification of one specific question to the Louisiana Supreme Court. The panel requested that the Louisiana court decide whether the Funeral Board, which initially restricted the plaintiffs' sales was authorized to do so. In doing so, the panel appears to have largely disposed of the case; if the board lacked authority, the plaintiffs may sell caskets, and if the board did have that authority, the Fifth Circuit just overruled it.

Wendy's Wise Words of Wisdom

Dear Wendy,

I know that as a go-getting law student, I don't have time to commit to a cat or dog or other high-maintenance pet. But I miss the company at the end of the day and the unconditional love. What can I do to get that feeling without making such a big time and energy commitment?

Sincerely,
Lonely in Library Lounge

Dear Lonely,

A pet can be a great de-stressor in times of exams or at least serve as a sympathetic ear when you've been cold-called in Civil Procedure and you've read the wrong assignment. But dogs require attention and walking, cats get bitter if you've been gone too long and take it out on your furniture.... what to do? I guess I could try to make the case that fish make great listeners.... but I don't want to because it's too much effort and you know I'm lying to you. So let's move on to the more realistic options that you can take advantage of. You can begin creeping on professors. Several bring in their dogs to campus to keep them company. If you can come up with enough excuses to satisfy your pet urge, this is a simple, cheap alternative.... unless you find yourself hiding behind doors so that they don't see you and groan, "Again??" Then we need to move on to Option 2. A relationship. Now I know what you're thinking.... "Wendy! I want less work, not more!" but you can make this work with the right person. You don't have to feed them or walk them or clean their litter box. If they get sick they can clean up after themselves and if they can't keep themselves clean then you can move on to a new love. Be forewarned though- this is most likely a temporary solution since eventually most significant others are going to want time, affection...attention. If you are not willing to drop this needy person like a hot potato when these warning bells go off then you might not be willing to take the necessary risk this solution requires for success. So we move on to the last resort option: make your own pet. Squirrels are plentiful on campus. The world is your Disney movie. Snow White, Sleeping Beauty, Cinderella- these strong women have given us the key to these relationships. Break into song. Sing about everything you do and everywhere you go and woodland creatures are bound to follow you where'er you go. On the other hand, if squirrels, raccoons, skunks, and other city dwelling animals don't appeal to you, well, it's Halloweentime still. Take a page out of Mary Shelley's book and piece out your perfect features. Sciencey types can mold their own ideal companion. However, please be aware that should you choose this path to happiness, the writer of this column, the editors of the Pro Se newspaper and the law school community are not liable for any mischief, murder, or mayhem that is likely to result from any choices made in this course of action. Thank you for your attention and good luck in all your endeavors.

Yours, Wendy

UConn Law in D.C.

By Tamara Kramer

Twelve upperclass students have left the confines of the Hartford law campus and have journeyed south for the fall semester. For the fourth straight year, Professor Richard Parker, and this year accompanied by Professor Sara Bronin, has lead a full-time semester long program in the Washington D.C. area for interested second and third year students. Participants enroll in two classes, Advanced Topics in Regulation and Advanced Topics in Legislation, and work thirty to forty hours a week for credit with federal agencies and national non-profits.

The unique structure of the program makes UConn the envy of law students across the country, as participants hold positions that allow them to be fully integrated into the full-time operations of the federal government's critical enforcement agencies and critical advocates, while accumulating a full semester of credit.

Interactive Learning

In the classroom, Professor Bronin constructed a simulation that pitted the program's participants in a battle over the future of interstate raw milk sales. Students adopted the roles of agency heads, advocates, and congress persons in a month long activity that culminated in drafting a piece of legislation. The simulation allowed students to apply principles of administrative law and statutory interpretation in an activity that mirrored the types of activities that they witness in Congress and within their agencies during their externships.

Beyond the Classroom and Life in the City

The opportunity to be in the nation's capital during election season allows first hand exposure to both the perks and challenges of electoral politics. Students have had the opportunity to attend rallies held by both the President and Republican candidate Mitt Romney, discuss campaign strategy and party shifting with Capitol Hill staff, and interact with agency personnel limited by the current political situation. Second year, Matt Gunter, has seen the restrictions within his work at the Department of Transportation, which is almost at a standstill in the run up to the election. The Department has been asked by the White House to refrain from submitting new rules or regulations before the future administration is determined. National non-profits, who focus much of their work on the activities of the federal government and engage in federal advocacy, are similarly in a holding pattern until November.

Living in the greater D.C. area also allows for experiencing the increased opportunities that are available in a larger metropolitan area. Tim Bleasdale, a second year who is participating in the program, has described the city as an international cultural center. "There is always something going on. A few weeks ago I was at a Turkish cultural festival down by the National Mall and last weekend I was at an art fair in Bethesda. There is so much to do - even if you don't count all the touristy stuff like the monuments."

Until next time...

With a month and a half remaining in the program and the semester, and an election that could change the entire tone and political focus of the city, this story is only beginning. Stay tuned to Pro Se for further developments!

Relax with Pro Se's monthly sudoku puzzle

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