

## Students discuss role of religion in elections

By Crystal Boateng

On Wednesday, November 7th, the day after the presidential elections, some students and members of the law school community gathered in the Starr Reading Room to engage in an open forum dialogue about religion and politics. The student forum, which was organized by the SBA Diversity Committee, focused specifically on whether voters' religious beliefs affected their choice at the polls.

The moderators of the forum, Delania Barbee and Christie Jean, co-chairs of the Diversity Committee, began the discussion by distributing an article (written prior to the elections) which highlighted ways in which religion could determine the winner of the presidential race. The article set the tone and led to a conversation about whether voters' religious ideologies often meshed with or influenced their political views and decisions.

Prior to the presidential elections, there were speculations about whether frequent churchgoers, especially Roman Catholics who tend to be swing voters, would vote for President Obama after his support of same-sex marriage. Steve Lyon, one of the students who participated in the forum, shared that in his view, "the election called into question how strongly people followed the teachings of their religion. With President Obama winning the Roman

See RELIGION, p. 2

## The Economics of Third Party Candidates

By Ashkon Roozbehani

The United States is a land of choices. This is at least true for consumer goods, for when it comes to picking out a new car or brand of laundry detergent, Americans are overwhelmed with the diversity of products, each boasting their own differentiating qualities and benefits. However when it comes to presidential elections, there appears to be only two products on the shelves: Democrats and Republicans.

Do the Democratic and Republican parties have a monopoly on political elections? Libertarian presidential nominee and former Governor of New Mexico Gary Johnson seems to think so. Johnson has filed suit in California District Court alleging antitrust violations against the Democratic National Committee, Republican National Committee, and the Commission on Presidential Debates. The complaint alleges that the three organizations conspire to restrain trade and competition by excluding third party presidential and vice presidential nominees from participating in nationally televised debates.

The former governor states that the defendants, while acting in concert, secretly meet to devise rules for the presidential debates which systematically exclude third parties and serve to "hoodwink the American people".

Although the Supreme Court has held that generally antitrust violations regulate business and not politics (see *Columbia v. Omni Outdoor Advertising*), Johnson argues that presidents are involved in commerce given that they are paid a salary

for rendering "services". Chris Sagers, a professor of law at Cleveland State University, believes that this claim will likely not hold much water given past precedent. However spokesperson for Johnson's campaign, Ron Nielson, has expressed the sentiment that even if his case fails, they will have succeeded in bringing increased awareness to what he claims is a "rigged system designed entirely to protect and perpetuate the two-party duopoly".

So what is this "rigged system" Nielson speaks of? Beginning in 1976, nationally televised debates were sponsored by The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan organization committed to promoting transparency in the presidential debates. The League was known for being courageous enough to pose difficult questions to the candidates and safeguard against debate manipulations. However starting in 1988, the League was replaced by the Commission of Presidential Debates, a private corporation founded by Democrats and Republicans. In an interview on Democracy Now!, founder of OpenDebates.org George Farah explained how the Commission now allows Democratic and Republican nominees to negotiate secret contracts which dictate the terms of the debates and exclude third parties. He went on to explain the dangers of this conspiracy and the historical importance of third parties,

"...it has been third parties, not the major parties, that have supported and are responsible for the abolition of slavery, women's suffrage, public schools, public power, unemployment compensation, mini-

See THIRD PARTY, p. 3

## UConn allowed to sue over library construction

By Elizabeth O'Donnell

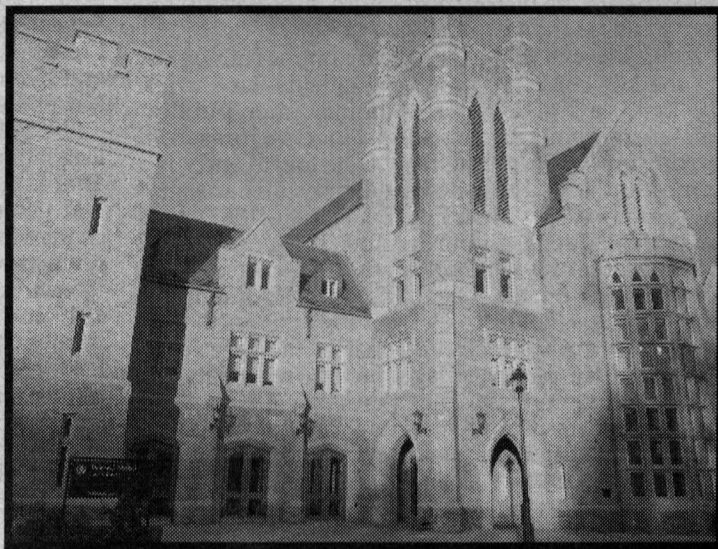
On November 2nd, the Connecticut Supreme Court unanimously reversed a Superior Court's 2009 decision that had prevented the state from suing the contractors that built the Thomas J. Meskill Law Library for damages associated with leaks in the structure.

The reversal allows the state to move forward with its claims for compensation on the botched design and construction of the law library.

Citing the doctrine of *nullum tempus occurrit*, which literally means "no time runs against the king" the state argued on appeal that it had immunity from the statute of limi-

tations given its status as the sovereign and should be allowed to continue with the suit.

Writing for the court, Justice Richard N. Palmer agreed with the state's argu-



The Supreme Court rules on case regarding repairs made to the Law School's Library.

See LIBRARY CASE, p. 3

## International Legal Practice Program allows students to intern abroad

By Alexa Millinger

Next year, the Law School will send its first batch of students to Europe to participate in legal externships in conjunction with the school's new International Legal Practice Program.

The program, the brainchild of Professors Mark Weston Janis and Jennifer Mailly, is aimed at offering students increased externship opportunities in light of the school's new policy that requires students, beginning with the incoming class of 2013, to complete clinic or externship hours in order to graduate.

Janis stressed that American law students have an inherent advantage in working abroad since English is the working language for international transactions. In light of this, he believes students not considering opportunities abroad are "really missing a bet."

"It has been my experience that there are lots of opportunities for students willing to travel overseas," Janis said, "It's a growth market."

The International Legal Practice Program will require participating students to work in an externship at an international organization, law firm, foreign corporation, foreign court, or non-governmental organization for 12 hours each week, in addition to their study with one of the Law School's foreign exchange programs. The program will also consist of a two-credit graded seminar that focuses on international legal practice.

Currently, the program is offered with the school's programs in England, Ireland, and the Netherlands, but Janis and Deputy Director of International Pro-

See INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM, p. 3

## Law School announces major curriculum change

By Patty Martins

Many law students and legal professors are aware that legal education's curriculum and practices are under fire. The UConn Law faculty recently passed a curriculum reform meant to improve law students' practical education. The reform will essentially require students to participate in a clinic or an externship that meets certain criteria before graduation.

The new requirement, which takes effect with next fall's entering class, can be fulfilled by participating in a clinic, an externship or a course that involves a group of students working with a client, so students will be able to work in situations that resemble real world lawyering. For the externship to qualify, it would have to be highly supervised and have a seminar component like all of the clinics offered at UConn Law. Since there would be an increased demand for clinics, there might be some difficulty for students to get accepted into the clinic of their choice. The faculty recognizes that, for all students to be able to participate in a clinic, there may have to be some modest expansion of the clinic programs to increase availability for the students.

Evening students who work full-time or who have other significant day-time obligations (such as child care) historically have found it difficult to participate in clinics and externships. Because of this, the Curriculum Review Committee - which proposed the new requirement - devoted special attention to issues surrounding its implementation in the evening division. According to Committee chair Professor Chill, the group was ultimately persuaded that administrators "will be able

See CURRICULUM CHANGES, p. 2

## Dean's Corner with Associate Dean Kirk

By Darcy Kirk,  
Associate Dean for Library and Technology  
(with extensive assistance  
from Jocelyn Kennedy)

### Thanksgiving: Ask a Law Librarian

Since it is November and Thanksgiving falls in November I found myself asking – what is the legal basis for the holiday? We all know the story about the Pilgrims and the shared Thanksgiving with the native Americans. But, is that really when the Thanksgiving holiday began? As a law librarian, my curiosity was peaked and I asked Jocelyn Kennedy, Director for Library Services, to assist me with some research into the history and (more importantly) the legal basis for the Thanksgiving holiday.

A quick search of the law library online catalog using the keyword "thanksgiving" yields ten entries. The first is a 2002 U.S. Fire Administration publication talking about the increased dangers of fires from cooking on Thanksgiving Day! The fourth entry is a sermon entitled "The federal judiciary: a Thanksgiving discourse," by Henry A. Boardman (1862) as is the sixth -- "Thanksgiving Sermon (1813)" published in a collection by Hannah Mather Crocker entitled Observations on the Legal Rights of Women and other writings (2011).

Several websites including that of the federal archives yielded plenty of legal history regarding the Thanksgiving holiday. The "first" thanksgiving celebration occurred in what is now Plymouth, MA in 1621, the fall after the Mayflower pilgrims arrived. Until the late 1800's, national celebrations of thanksgiving were established through general orders and presidential proclamations calling for a day of "Solemn Thanksgiving and Praise" (G. Washington, General Orders November 30, 1777). Presidents Madison and Adams called for days of fasting and prayer. This national day of thanksgiving was held at various times during the years, sometimes in November, December, February, April and August.

Between 1815 and 1863, the United States did not celebrate a formal national day of thanksgiving, although many of the states independently did. After receiving a letter from Sarah Josepha Hale (author-

ess of "Mary Had a Little Lamb", but no relation to Connecticut's own Nathan Hale), in 1863, President Lincoln, by proclamation named the fourth Thursday of November as a national day of thanksgiving. Starting a new tradition, the sitting President issued a proclamation naming the fourth Thursday of November a day of thanksgiving. However, conflict around the date ensued for two years in 1939 and 1940.

The connection between Thanksgiving and the economy was solidified in 1939 when President F.D. Roosevelt moved Thanksgiving to the third Thursday of November, to allow for a longer Christmas retail season. In 1939 and 1940 Thanksgiving was held on different days, depending on which part of the country you lived in, as many states rejected the President's decree, issuing their own proclamations and decrees to celebrate on the fourth Thursday of November.

In 1941, under national pressure, Congress, by legislation (House Joint Resolution 41), designated Thanksgiving on the fourth Thursday of November and essentially removed the President's ability to change the date by proclamation. American Thanksgiving traditions include the pardoning of the White House turkey (established by President Truman in 1949 and the Thanksgiving day football game (perhaps started in 1876 with the first American Intercollegiate Football Association game on Thanksgiving, but certainly solidified in the 1890s with collegiate championship football games held on that date).

When I was in law school, the Thanksgiving weekend was the time I began writing my outlines for final exams. I would leave my in-laws early the Friday morning after Thanksgiving and head to the library for the weekend. To this day, Black Friday, for me, is not a shopping day. Rather, now it is a day for a hike, a family soccer game, going to a movie or some other way of sharing time with family.

Finally, I cannot write a column about Thanksgiving without devoting some words to the topic of giving thanks. We in the law library are thankful to you our students for being here, bringing your talents, creativity, energy, and desire to learn to our campus. Happy Holidays to all!

## A Note from the Student Bar Association

Students at UConn Law have been busy this fall, and I am not talking about hitting the books and studying for class. Student group leaders on campus have been actively brainstorming, planning and hosting remarkable events with their student groups – events that engage the student body, faculty and surrounding community.

The Mock Trial Society and Moot Court Board kicked off the year with their annual co-sponsored Litigation Night event where students had the opportunity to observe both a mock trial and a mock appellate argument in a relaxed learning environment. Additionally, both groups held their respective mock trial and moot court competitions on campus; both were a huge success!

The Public Interest Law Group did a fantastic job running the annual PILG Auction. Thanks to the hard work of the auction chairs, volunteers who solicited local businesses, faculty and staff, and the donations from the community, PILG raised approximately \$19,000 for PILG Fellowships this summer! This money goes towards a great cause, supporting students who chose to spend their summer working unpaid positions serving the public.

Phi Alpha Delta, the American Constitution Society, the Federalist Society and the Military Law Society celebrated election night by collaborating to hold an Election Night Watch Party. Here, students enjoyed the opportunity to grab some food and talk politics while watching the votes come in!

Not to be outdone, the law journals brought the thunder hosting two thought-provoking and inspiring symposia on pertinent legal hot topics. Just in time for November's election, the Connecticut Public Interest Law Journal filled Starr Reading Room for a healthy discussion on campaign finance in America. UConn Law Professor Dan Klau moderated discussion and Former Wisconsin Senator Russ Feingold delivered an outstanding keynote address. The Connecticut Law Review again filled Starr Hall Reading Room to take a critical look at legal education models in the United States and abroad. UConn Law's own Professor Paul Chill and Professor Alexandra Lahav moderated two panels in discussing perspective changes in legal education. Professor William Henderson, an expert in the analysis of legal education and the legal profession, delivered the keynote address. These symposia were a great success thanks to the hard work of the journal members and faculty and staff of UConn Law!

It is great to see student groups and student group leaders doing their part to make a positive difference in the law school!!! Keep up the great work!!!

Finally, be on the lookout for some great events occurring before Winter break! The Law School Holiday party is being held on December 6th from 6:30pm-8:30pm. This is a great opportunity to mingle with friends and UConn Law alumni. Additionally, during finals, be on the lookout for therapy dogs, chair massages, free coffee and of course Midnight Breakfast!

Good luck on finals!

Respectfully,  
Brian Gore  
Vice President, Student Bar Association

## Sweden buys garbage from other countries

By Patty Martins

As many countries hunt for a place to put their trash, Sweden is looking to purchase trash from other nations. Armed with a highly efficient waste management system, Sweden has recycled or reused most of its own trash and has taken to importing it. It currently imports 800,000 tons of garbage from other countries annually.

The trash is used to heat an power homes. About 250,000 homes are heated through the Waste-to-Energy program which converts waste into electricity and heat. While earth's natural resources are finite, trash is not. Garbage is so abundant, there are limited areas for landfills and 70% of deep sea creatures have encountered human garbage. Sweden's Waste-to-Energy program greatly reduces the amount of waste Sweden buries. While sources vary as to whether the average percentage of Sweden's waste that is buried is 1% or 4%, it stands in stark contrast to the 38% of waste Europe produces and the 55% of waste Americans make.

Sweden is turning to Norway to purchase additional waste. While Sweden does get to use the waste as energy, it would be returning dioxin, a toxic substance formed from waste incineration among other combustion processes, to Norway. Dioxin is a family or type of toxin with multiply varieties - one of the varieties was in Agent Orange. The process isn't perfect, and isn't a long term solution, but it is an alternative to using natural resources.

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to find ways to make the new requirement work" for evening students.

The new curriculum will help propel UConn Law's legal education forward into a more modernized legal education. Instead of addressing professional training solely through clinics and keeping practical experience on the periphery, Professor Chill hopes that "this new requirement is only the beginning of broader curricular reform that better integrates real lawyer training into the core curriculum." Professor Chill mentioned that the curriculum reform is ongoing, and that among the ideas the Committee

has considered is tacking a "lab" component on to some classes so students would be able to apply the law as practitioners do and thereby learn to think like lawyers truly do. Ultimately, says Professor Chill, "thinking like a lawyer means using the law to help clients solve problems that have multiple legal and non-legal dimensions, and law schools can and must do a much better job of providing students the tools with which to do that."

UConn Law is only the fifteenth law school in the nation to require a practical component in legal education.

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Catholic vote - a denomination which has publicly opposed many of his policy positions, and several quite vehemently - the question is not necessarily what role religion had in the election, but what impact the different churches' teachings have on those who claim to follow them". On the other hand, another student shared that it was possible that religious beliefs and church teachings were not the determinative factors in choosing the next president. For example, in some swing states such as Ohio, Michigan and Wisconsin, where President Obama won considerably, voters were likely to have based their decisions on employment opportunities that he had created through the auto bailout.

Another highlight of the forum centered around the fact that some voters were also concerned that the elected candidate would be responsible for appointing the next Supreme Court Justices who will inevitably decide cases on highly debated issues such as abortion rights, affirmative action and same-sex marriage.

Before concluding the forum, Barbee tied the conversation together by reminding participants of the moment during the Vice-presidential debate in October when the moderator asked Joe Biden and Paul Ryan, both devout Catholics, to share their views on abortion. Their thought provoking answers from opposite sides of the spectrum showed that oftentimes, voters belonging to the same religious group might share different opinions on issues depending on their political affiliation.

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## Pro Se

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## Connecticut Election Results

By Matt Szafranski

Mirroring the national trend, Connecticut voters delivered victories to Democrats in races for the Senate, House of Representatives and the General Assembly. Democrats will control all three next year and therefore, like in Washington, the status quo will reign in Hartford.

Connecticut voted to reelect President Barack Obama by a margin of 18 points 58% to Mitt Romney's 40%. Obama's victory was declared shortly after 11 pm on Election Night and his final Electoral College tally, confirmed a few days later, was 332.

In the US Senate Democrat Chris Murphy prevailed in his race over Republican Linda McMahon.

Democrats and their allies won new Senate seats, such as Massachusetts and Maine where Elizabeth Warren and Angus King will succeed Republicans. King, an independent, will caucus with Democrats.

The other big win of the evening went to Democrat Elizabeth Esty who picked up Murphy's Northwest Connecticut-based House. She defeated Republican Andrew Roraback in a campaign replete with nasty attacks on and on behalf of both sides. Esty is a former State Rep from Cheshire.

Esty's race was the only really competitive US House race in Connecticut. It was also only one of five in New England that were competitive at all. Democrats swept them all for a net gain of two seats in the region.

In the Connecticut General Assembly, although Democrats remained firmly in control, the results a bit more mixed. Unlike in Washington, Connecticut Democrats actually lost an open State House seat in Newtown to hold a 98-53 majority.

The State Senate's partisan makeup was unchanged at 22-14. Democrat Dante Bartolomeo narrowly beat Republican Senator Len Suzio. Democrats also held the seat of outgoing Senator Edith Prague, a liberal stalwart. Some Democrats feared her seat might fall to conservative Republican Chris Coutu. Instead, Democrat Cathy Osten prevailed.

Republicans, however, cancelled out the Suzio's loss by picking up a sprawling district currently held by retiring Democrat Eileen Daily. Art Linares, the Republican, beat Democrat James Crawford in a race that featured a Green Party candidate whose vote total exceeded Linares' margin of victory.

Governor Dan Malloy, a Democrat, took the results as a vindication of his policies in a post-election press conference. However, Democrats' victory dances may be short lived as the legislature confronts a new budget deficit, likely to be tackled during a special session in December.

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grams Burak Can said they hope to expand its geographical offerings in the future.

One hope is that the program will assuage concerns of students who want to study abroad, but worry how it will look to prospective employers. Janis and Can say that working abroad will provide students with valuable, practical experiences at legal organizations that may be unique to the opportunities available in Connecticut.

"It always looks good to have international experience on a resume, even if you're not looking to work abroad permanently," said Can. He also stressed the invaluable communications skills students can gain merely by interacting with people from other countries.

For the first group of students, the program will be "tailor made" for them, said Janis. The students are asked to provide a detailed description of what type of experience they are looking for, and Janis will use the University's and his personal connections to place them in a beneficial externship. He hopes that over time, the program will establish a relationship with international employers who will be willing to take on student externs habitually.

Brian Seaman, a 1L, is planning to participate in the program next year. Seaman said he came to law school planning to work in an externship related to energy and environmental law, his primary area of interest. When he learned about the international program, he decided he could gain better experience by going abroad, where climate change and environmental issues are "more in the forefront."

"For my interests, going over there will expose me to things I really can't get here," Seaman said.

Students interested in participating in or learning more information about the International Legal Practice Program should contact Professors Maily or Janis.

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ment and reasoned that the doctrine of nullum tempus has been well established in Connecticut common law, as well as cited the consideration that nullum tempus provides protection for the state's taxpayers against injury and loss.

Connecticut Attorney General George Jepson called the decision a "major victory for Connecticut taxpayers."

On behalf of the Connecticut residents, the state will now be able to pursue compensation claims against 28 defendants including contractors, sub-contractors, architects, insurance companies, and suppliers associated with the design and construction of the library.

The suit was first filed in 2008, more than twelve years after the completion of construction in 1996, seeking reimbursement for the necessary corrective work that had been completed on law library.

Each of the defendants named in the complaint moved to strike or moved for summary judgment, most of whose motions cited statutes of limitation and repose. In 2009 a Superior Court Judge granted these motions and dismissed the suit reasoning that the state had waited too long to file, well outside the state's six-year statute of limitation associated with written contracts.

The state has already spent over \$15 million to repair damages associated with the "water intrusion" caused by the leaks associated with the botched construction.

In addition to allowing the state to continue with this suit, the decision will likely have an impact on the relationship between the state and its contractors on future projects because it exempts the state from having to file claims within a time limit.

## Upcoming Supreme Court Cases

By Alex Anastasio

In what may be its most controversial case of the term, the Court will issue a decision on the Constitutional validity of the use of race by public universities. In *Fisher v. University of Texas*, a rejected applicant to the school's undergraduate program is suing the school, claiming that the school's use of racial factors in its admissions process is a violation of the 14th Amendment guarantee of Equal Protection. The Court last examined affirmative action programs in the 2003 cases of *Grutter v. Bollinger* and *Gratz v. Bollinger*. In the former, it upheld the school's use of race, while in the latter it held that the school had violated Equal Protection. Some have speculated that the replacement of moderate Republican Justice Sandra Day O'Connor with current Justice Samuel Alito may have marked a legal turning point for the fate of affirmative action before the Court. The Fisher case, which was argued in October, will answer whether the Court has shifted away from tolerance of affirmative action.

In *Florida v. Jardines*, the Court will examine the use of police dogs in police searches. Specifically, the issue is whether police officers were engaged in a 4th Amendment search when they took a trained police dog to a suspect's front door and let the dog sniff at the door. In prior cases, the Court ruled that allowing police dogs to sniff certain objects did not constitute a search, and therefore that the police did not need to comport with 4th Amendment standards for searches before they could let the dog sniff the item. *Jardines* was argued in October; the liberal Justices appeared skeptical of Florida's argument, while conservative Justices Kennedy and Scalia appeared to share such concerns.

The Court has neither granted nor denied certiorari to the case over the constitutionality of California's Marriage Amendment. The amendment, popularly referred to as Proposition 8, mandated that the state of California could only recognize marriages between one woman and one man. The amendment was overturned in a broad decision by a Federal District Court. This decision was affirmed, but on far narrower grounds, by a three-judge panel of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. The Circuit has refused to grant appeals for an en banc review; either the Supreme Court will grant cert to review the 9th Circuit's decision, or the California amendment will remain invalidated. The Court might consider whether to grant or deny cert during conferences on November 20 or November 30.

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mum wage, child labor laws...The two parties fail to address a particular issue; a third party rises up, and it's supported by tens of millions of Americans, forcing the Republican and Democratic parties to co-opt that issue, or the third party rises and succeeds, which is why the Republican Party jumped from being a third party to being a major party of the United States of America."

Johnson's request for relief calls for a permanent injunction to restore competition and an honest playing field amongst those seeking presidency. Perhaps he will not get his wish, but at least Americans will always have their choices when it comes to laundry detergent.

## An interview with Senator-Elect Chris Murphy

By Matthew Szafranski

ROCKY HILL—Senator-elect Chris Murphy wants to clarify something. After his victory in Connecticut's US Senate race over Linda McMahon, New York Times profiled Murphy and said he carried a briefcase as a teenager. One high school friend, Murphy says, has inserted that "absolute fiction" into nearly every profile of him.

Since conquering McMahon's largely self-funded campaign, Murphy has been balancing his House duties with Senate orientation and tying up loose ends back in Connecticut.

Just across the line from Wethersfield where Murphy grew up, the Murphy campaign headquarters sits largely empty. Furniture is packed up while remaining staff tie up loose ends and stuff envelopes. Murphy spoke with *Pro Se*, while a stack of thank you letters next to him awaited his signature.

The election contest with McMahon featured particularly nasty attacks on Murphy's finances that brought in question his political giant-killer reputation. Yet, he flat out rejected the suggestion that this was unexpected.

"Our campaign strategy was based around the belief that she would bring it to a dead heat," Murphy said noting that McMahon narrow a 30+ point gap enjoyed by former Attorney General Richard Blumenthal in 2010. Blumenthal went on to win by twelve.

Murphy admitted some days he feared voters were not seeing the difference, but as the campaign wended down he sensed the momentum was with him. "Election night was gratifying not only in the win, but the margin," he said of his own twelve point win.

Murphy said most of his peers, growing up the post-Watergate era were turned off by politics. Not him. At 23 he managed a Congressional campaign. Two years later, he had won a Southington Planning & Zoning seat and then a state House race.

Murphy attributes his public service to his parents' influence. His mother grew up in public housing before becoming a teacher. She and her husband instilled in their children an understanding that not all lived as comfortably as their family.

Attending UConn Law had its impact, too. There he met his wife, Cathy Holahan, and participated in the Connecticut Urban Legal Initiative. Holahan was and is active in public interest law, and Murphy said her work reinforced his own

commitment to public service.

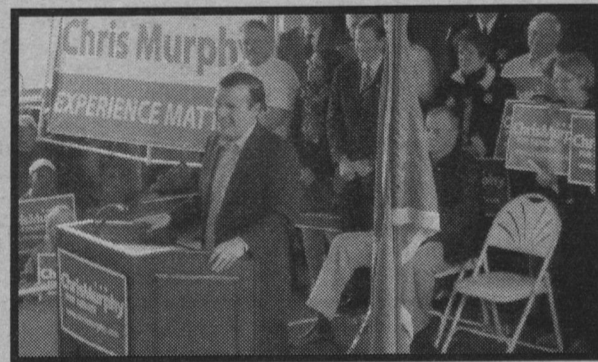
Of CULI, Murphy said, "It helped to shape my passion for urban redevelopment," notable as he did not represent any large urban areas until he went to Congress four years after graduation.

Still the Senate race has taken an emotional toll on Murphy, but taking him at face value he appears undeterred. "We knew exactly what we are getting into," he said referring to the 2010 Blumenthal/McMahon campaign.

Tough battles are not new to him. During his first legislative campaign in 1998, he says he knocked on 8,000 doors twice to dislodge Republican Angelo Fusco. He replicated that work on later campaigns with the help of a growing base of volunteers.

Still, the higher the office, the more venomous the campaign. Murphy races against Nancy Johnson in 2006 was one of the nastiest that year, but it paled in comparison to the contest with McMahon.

Could this venomous atmosphere dissuade other young people from getting involved and running for office? Murphy says no. He notes first that more twenty-somethings serve in state legislature now than when he did. More importantly, noting the coming budget cut, Murphy said, "The risk is that the burden will fall on students and young people." Political Newcomers should "depersonalize" attacks and not take every blow as a stomach punch. If you want to do it, just "dive in" he said.



UCONN/Matthew Szafranski

### Senator-Elect Chris Murphy

# The Back Page

## HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS

As students frantically prepare for exams, it's hard to imagine an end to the finals season in sight. All students should rest assured - it does end. When that last final finally ends, ushering in sweet vacation time, law students might search for ways to celebrate.

Celebration may mean something as simple as taking a nap after consuming as much food as your stomach will allow, or it may mean plummeting off a plane as you skydive over Taupo, New Zealand (it is summer there at this time of year). Even if both the afore-mentioned possibilities are undertaken, students might want to exchange gifts to celebrate surviving yet another (or their first - good luck, 1Ls!) finals season. Here at *Pro Se*, we know that trying to think of gift ideas when your brain resembles a pulverized banana might require more brain activity than you can handle at the moment. That's why we compiled a list of gift ideas for your use!

**The Gunner:** We all know that our high achieving friend has high expectations and, possibly, an equally prestigious internship already lined up. If you can afford that Brooks Brothers suit the gunner wants and you spend that money, you go above and beyond. Many of us can't afford a Brooks Brothers suit for our own internship (that may or may not be lined up already). For the more frugally minded, I'm happy to report that there is an equally satisfying gift alternative - highlighters swiped from bar exam study guide tables. Nothing would please the gunner more than having a delightfully florescent array of highlighters at his

or her disposal for all their studying needs.

**The Class Zoner:** You're already well acquainted with this friend's interests. You've seen them crack a smile over a variety of tumblrs, and peruse countless shopping sites. The best thing for this person is an Amazon gift card. They could use this at home or in class. It's practically the gift that keeps giving.

**The Freak Out:** For those people who hyperventilate over every assignment and have created mold from all the tears they've shed in the library, it might be a good idea to gift them a box of tissues and a piece of paper that says "The sun will come out tomorrow".

**The Living Dead:** This poor friend probably hasn't had a good night's sleep since last year. This poor bloke won't have the energy to enjoy any material item given to them, so give them the gift of energy. I'm not talking about energy drinks or caffeine - those relationships turned sour long ago. Ask them if he or she would like you to take away their distractions (phone, computer, etc.), so they could sleeping blissfully for the next three days sans interruptions.

Hopefully, this list has given you some gift ideas.  
Best of luck on final exams!

### Voices From the Quad

By Patty Martins

*What is the thing you fear most about exams?*  
All respondents have requested anonymity.

"Wait, exams? What exams? I'm in law school? Shoot! That's what all of those emails were about!"

"Oh man, there's so many. What if I studied the wrong part? What if the entire exam is based on a concept I don't understand? I'm not ready to hear that I'm a failure."

"I'm worried that we won't get tested on everything we discussed in class and everything we read. I spent weeks preparing."

### DIARY OF A 1L

By Sarah Ricciardi

People warned me about law school. My increased alcohol tolerance would make me a much more expensive date; the proportion of attractive men to attractive women would not be in my favor; I would be living on pb&j's for the entire month of November because my loan check would be long gone; and I would no longer be able to make it through an episode of Law and Order without constantly critiquing the poor actors, who have absolutely no idea what they're saying.

Of course, at this point, all those reasons seem fairly trivial. With finals just around the corner, I now realize that the sheer amount of honest to God work that is expected in law school is a sufficient enough reason to avoid a legal education at all costs. For my fellow 1Ls and myself, it is about time we admit to ourselves that this was all a huge mistake. I don't really want to be a lawyer. Torts, contracts, who needs 'em? I could be very happy living out my days never hearing the words "stari decisis" ever again. Do I really care if my cellphone agreement bars me from class action arbitrations? Is it such a big deal that I can be found liable for negligence just because I bent down to pick up a baby off of a railroad track and then decided not to help? Am I truly concerned that if I'm served while on a fishing expedition in Alaska there's a good chance I'd have to stand trial there? Due process, smue process. Am I right?!

Okay, for argument's sake, suppose I am somewhat concerned with justice, fair dealing, and yadda yadda yadda. If feigned indifference is not the best method of surviving finals, what is? My suggestion: Cancel Netflix. Block reddit. De-activate Facebook. Make a really big bowl of "puppy chow" (or "muddy buddies" for the traditionalists). Invest in a handle of Maker's. And look forward to next semester, when the kid who raises his hand with such enthusiasm that he resembles a member of the Third Reich now is conspicuously uninterested in class discussion.

**BEST OF LUCK  
ON FINALS  
FROM PRO SE!**

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| 3 |   |   |   |   | 2 |   |   | 8 |
| 4 | 1 |   |   |   |   | 9 |   |   |
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|   |   |   |   |   | 6 | 1 |   | 2 |
|   |   | 9 |   |   |   |   | 5 | 7 |
| 5 |   |   | 3 |   |   |   |   | 4 |
|   |   |   |   | 8 |   | 2 | 1 |   |

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### Wendy's Wise Words of Wisdom

Dear Wendy,

Exams are coming up and I'm already beginning to stress out. I see the gunners in the library from the moment it opens until the minute it closes but I can't study like that. What's an alternative way to study for finals without the library sucking out my soul?

-Lost in the Law Library

Dear Lost in the Law Library,

Exam time is stressful for everyone- students, professors, and especially the poor secretaries who have to copy about 50 copies of each exam. Knowing the right way to study for the type of exam you have is critical to doing well in the class as well as keeping your sanity intact. Finding both fun and effective methods of studying has been a passion of mine and I'm pleased to share my expertise with you.

TV isn't called the boob tube for nothing because you would be a boob not to use the TV networks to your studying benefit. Shows like Harry's Law and Night Court can give you insights into criminal law if you can catch them on. If you need legal show glory right now, I guarantee you can find an episode of Law and Order somewhere. That show has been on the air for over 20 years and is constantly playing on at least one channel. NCIS can be great for Evidence info and the best forensics show? Of course, Bones and CSI top the list. But for those of us who are too poor to pay for the cable, we have to resort to more creative solutions.

I recently stumbled across an 80's literary gem in the book sale of my local library called You Be the Jury. You can find your own copy on Amazon for the amazingly low price of one cent. This chapter book allows you to navigate through various fact patterns and look at critical pieces of evidence to determine precisely what happened, including whether your witnesses are perjuring themselves. While this work of art is intended for middle schoolers, I tend to be right only in about 3 out of 4 cases. Am I the best barometer of challenging? Probably not, but the book should still be able to keep you hopping.

And the best entertaining legal studying method you can possibly have? John Grisham novels. The man practiced criminal law for almost a decade before selling his first book so his novels are both fun and accurate. Pick up a copy of The Client or The Pelican Brief. Try to avoid Runaway Jury, that path is not one you want to follow as a good lawyer. If you don't have time to read the book, this is why movie versions were invented for the lazy at heart. Spend an hour or two wrapped up in Denzel Washington's yumminess or the stern countenances of Gene Hackman or Tommy Lee Jones. But, whatever you do stay away from Christmas with the Kranks as you'll probably be about halfway through the movie before realizing that it's about as legal related as Real Housewives of Orange County.

Hopefully these tips will keep you from developing library-related dementia and good luck with all your exam related endeavors!

Yours, Wendy