

Timothy Fisher Named New Law School Dean

By Alexa Millinger

After an extensive national search, the University Provost announced on March 11 that Timothy Fisher, a local practicing attorney, will be the next Law School dean. Fisher will officially assume his new role on July 1.

Fisher, a New Haven native, moved to Hartford when he was 15 years old after briefly living in Puerto Rico. He earned his B.A. from Yale and his J.D. from Columbia Law School. He has practiced law in Hartford since 1978 and is currently is a partner in the Hartford office of the national firm McCarter & English.

Over his career, Fisher has established deep connections with the local legal community, which helped make him an attractive candidate for dean. Among other things, he is the current president of the Connecticut Bar Foundation, has been an officer of the Connecticut Bar Association, has been appointed by two different governors to serve on state commissions relating to justice and the courts, and has engaged in extensive pro bono work including with the Connecticut Innocence Project.

In an interview with Pro Se, Fisher said he was drawn to the role of Law School dean due to his deep respect for the school's faculty and its work, the opportunity the role would allow to build up the institution, and ability for "mentoring the next generation to understand the rule of law as a deep instrument of change."

Fisher reiterated his four main goals for the Law School. First, he will aim to preserve and build upon the high level of scholarship of the Law School's faculty. Second, he hopes to engage the law school with a variety of other communities – including those within the city and state, nationally and internationally, other schools within the university, and other institutions in the state. Third, he will work to assure that the Law School is graduating young J.D.s who are "complete professionals," job ready for today's legal market. And finally, Fisher will focus on attending to the life of the school, including encouraging discourse among students, faculty, and staff.

Fisher explained that his biggest challenge in assuming his new role will

See DEAN SEARCH, p. 4

Law Students Devote Skills to Helping Iraqi Refugees

By Elizabeth O'Donnell

With the American military mission over, the War in Iraq War can seem like a thing of the past, but for some students at UConn Law helping refugees, its impact is as alive as ever.

The UConn Law Iraqi Refugee Assistance Program (IRAP) formed last year as a chapter of the national program that helps to provide legal assistance and advocate for policy changes for the thousands of Iraqis displaced by war.

Chapter Director Lisa Browne said student participants in the program have the ability to help improve the lives of those displaced by the war.

"As a refugee, you cannot go home and are stuck in a sort of limbo, so we have the opportunity to help provide these people with new beginnings.

The program combines practicing attorneys with students at law schools across the country to provide legal assistance to those who have been displaced by the Iraq war.

"A supervising attorney, group of students, and client work together to process paperwork and gather all information necessary in order to get the resettlement process started.

Thus far, ten students have participated in training for the program. Browne said those students will take on the bulk of the work associated with cases, such as making sure all the forms are filled out correctly, collecting evidence, and putting the entire package to-

gether so that it is ready to be sent to the national chapter.

The chapter recently received its first case, which it will be its focus for the remainder of the school year and over the summer months.

"Once we take on a client, we can't stop because it's summer break, or winter break," she said. "This group of students are committed to the whole process and to see it to the end."

Graduate students at Yale Law founded IRAP in 2008 in order to help provide legal services for Iraqis who had been displaced during the war. The program was later moved to New York City, where the national organization's headquarters are now located.

In addition to UConn Law's chapter, IRAP has locations on twenty-one other law school campuses around the country. According to IRAP's national website, the organization has already taken on over 400 cases. They have resettled over 1,000 individuals to seven different countries.

Browne said she hopes that IRAP will become embedded into the UConn Law community as a program that allows students to take part and understand how the settlement process compliments other areas of law.

"I think this is a great opportunity for students to learn not just about the law, but what's happening in the world," she said. "It is important that we do what we need to in order to assist those in need."

Diversity Week

The Honorable Lubbie Harper kicked off Diversity Week by discussing the importance of diversity in the legal community.

Image: UConn / Slota

See DIVERSITY WEEK, p. 2



Muslim Law Student Association Newest Organization to Join Campus

By Sarah Ricciardi

When Samem Jabarkhail first arrived on campus, he was surprised to learn that UConn Law's diverse range of student organizations did not include a group geared toward Muslims.

Rather than establishing yet another club that students add to their resumes, Samem created the Muslim Law Student Association – an organization that focuses on fostering relationships among students interested in Islam. It aims to raise awareness of Islam among the UConn Law community as well as in the legal field in general.

"It is as much about non-Muslims as Muslims," emphasizes Samem. The club is open to all who want to join – no knowledge of Islamic law or Islam is required.

Samem also wants to make sure the meetings do not come across as obligations, but rather informal gatherings of students genuinely interested in learning from each other. Over the coming semesters, he hopes to arrange a number of events educating the Law School community about Islam and issues Muslims face in the legal field.

Some of the group's anticipated events include a panel of practicing Muslim women lawyers and the challenges they face in professional settings, such as the wearing of headscarves and the incorporation of daily prayers into their work schedules. In the fall, he plans to organize a day-long event with other law schools, where students will have the opportunity to learn about the relationship between English common law and Islamic law, among other topics.

The first meeting was held on March 26, sponsored by Day Pitney, in particular Asker Saeed, Director of Diversity at Day Pitney. The second meeting of the Muslim Law Student Association will take place in April, and all are welcome. E-Board elections will be held before the end of the semester with open positions available to all students. Students who are interested in the group or would like more information should email Samem at samem.jabarkhail@gmail.com.

Update on Connecticut Gun Laws

By Matthew Szafranski

More than three month after the horrifying events in Newtown some states have made major revisions to their gun laws. Both Colorado and New York have passed restrictions with the intent to improve gun safety. However, Connecticut continues to lag behind.

Commissions set up by both legislators and Governor Dannel Malloy have produced some solutions, but no legislation has been formally submitted. The Democratic and Republican leaders of the General Assembly had established a task force to develop legislation. While both sides report progress, only solutions by the parties separately have been produced.

Speaker of the House Brendan Sharkey has said that he only wants to put forward a bill if all four caucuses, Democratic and Republican in both chambers, agree. Sharkey could have an effective veto since the bill would likely require emergency certification to reach the floor of either chamber. The deadline to use normal process, going through the committees, has passed.

In the meantime, other states have made leaps and bounds compared to the Nutmeg State although hardly without controversy. New York passed laws rather swiftly with a month of the Newtown shooting. Among the restrictions enacted are limiting the number of rounds in a gun's clip to seven. Gun licenses must be renewed periodically and judges were given new power to remove guns from those who have protection orders issued against them.

The speed of the New York laws' passage, however, irked a number of local officials who said the haste undermined the laws' enforceability. Legislators are revisiting some of their changes, although anything other than technical changes is unlikely.

Colorado, meanwhile, just enacted its own law. Governor John Hickenlooper signed the law less than a day after the head of the state's Corrections Department was gunned down at his own home. As of press time, the police do not know if there was any connection to his death and the new laws.

Colorado's laws would limit the capacity of gun clips to fifteen rounds and close background check loopholes. However, those laws, too have Republi-

See GUN LAWS, p. 3

Dean's Corner with Associate Dean Wilf

By Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development
Steven Wilf

In many ways, the Law School is a business. It needs to be managed under stewardship with clearly set goals. It has assets that should be leveraged. And, like any large organization, there are a variety of stakeholders—students and faculty, alumni and the legal community. But what are we producing?

As someone who teaches intellectual property, I tend to think of ourselves as making intangibles. We are not manufacturing students as widgets, a sort of ready-made lawyer straight off the production line, but a professional who can work outside of the immediate dictates of a supervisor with keen intelligence and clever strategizing. Probably the most important transformation that takes place in the course of law school—through the mentoring of skilled clinicians or through the unpacking of legal arguments in substantive law classes—is elusive to capture as a metric.

Similarly, a new list has just been released of the most productive law faculties in the United States. But what is meant by productivity? Certainly, it should not be measured in the number of words written per capita—that would simply reward verbosity. Two years ago, our comparatively small faculty published ten books, which we celebrated in the Year of the Book. About the same number of books are now underway at the law school, though I doubt if they fortuitously will be published in the same year.

More than the number of books or articles, I think of ourselves as making ideas, conversations, creative solutions to real problems, running a thought experiment on a regulatory approach too far out of the mainstream to be immediately applied elsewhere, and, in short, providing the kind of robust thinking that a complex, democratic society needs.

Peter Lindseth blogs at eutopia law on new legal developments in the EU. Sara Bronin works at the interface of law and architecture to construct a model green building in New Haven. Dalié Jiménez is engaged in an empirical project tracking consumer financial behavior. Leslie Levin and Peter Siegelman are studying whether lawyer disciplinary violations can be predicted. Richard Kay will be a reporter for the International Congress of Comparative Law in Vienna where he will analyze prospective overruling.

Faculty members are constantly looking for opportunities for students. Susan Schmeiser intends to involve students in preparing the government report on the Sandy Hook tragedy. Such task forces are extremely important in sharpening student writing, problem solving, and research skills. Similarly, Mark Janis has created a new international legal practice externship which allows students the opportunity to work with a foreign law firm or corporation, an international organization or court, or an NGO in England or the Netherlands. I have organized a task force for students to work on a project preparing copyright legislation for the Ministry of Justice in Israel.

If we are producing intangibles in a knowledge industry, then we should move in directions that are entrepreneurial, savvy, and different. The Law School should experiment with curriculum; push for even more faculty productivity—in an unstructured fashion; and figure out ways to differentiate our students from other law graduates around the country. One of our competitors has a trademark phrase: lawyers in the best sense. We should redefine the “best sense.”

A Note from the Student Bar Association

Dear Students & the Greater Law School Community,

As the snow melts, the spring semester winds to a close, and the exam season quickly approaches, we would like to introduce ourselves as your 2013-2014 SBA E-Board in an effort to keep you informed and let you know that we will be working on your behalf. Jess Signor will serve as next year's President. Xander Cogbill will serve as SBA Vice President and Laura-Ann Keller will act as our Chief Administrative Officer. In the coming weeks we will appoint a Chief Financial Officer to fill out the E-Board's ranks. The SBA is rounded out twelve of your fellow classmates who will serve as representatives.

With the appointment of Dean Timothy Fisher as the next leader for our law school, we are very excited to embark on a year of great change for our school. As Dean Fisher leads us into a new age of legal education, we would like to be there to assist and support the effort. Additionally, we would like to lend our support and suggestions to the faculty and administration in order to fulfill our needs and highlight our concerns as students. We hope to become more involved in various areas of campus in order to serve as a liaison between students and staff as the school continues to evolve.

We will continue to foster collaboration among student groups and extend this collaboration to include faculty and staff across campus. Throughout the Dean's search process, we have reaffirmed our confidence in the accomplished faculty, staff, and students on this campus. Given these great resources, we must bring them together to further collaboration beyond just student groups. Now is the time for us to bring together all of those successful pieces and assemble them.

As we all plan for classes, internships, and other commitments for this upcoming fall semester, we implore you to get involved because involvement is the simplest way we can improve as a law school community. Join a new group, run for a position, attend a Career Planning presentation, or go to a professor's office hours. We are proud of where UConn Law is currently and we know the law school has all the requisite parts to excel even further, but we must continue to bring those pieces together in the coming year. As your SBA, we will provide support and encouragement. Our hope is to hit the ground running in this next academic year in order to provide meaningful change while working toward campus greatness!

We look forward to working with all of you. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions, concerns, or ideas at SBA@students.law.uconn.edu.

Respectfully,

Jess Signor, SBA President-Elect
Xander Cogbill, SBA Vice-President-Elect
Laura Ann Keller, SBA Chief Administrative Officer-Elect

from DIVERSITY WEEK, p. 1



Lambda Legal sponsored a panel discussion of DOMA moderated by Dean DeMeola. Panelists included Professor Susan Schmeiser, Sandra Staub (Legal Director for the Connecticut ACLU), and Professor Ari Waldman of Brooklyn Law School (Brooklyn Law School, Paul F. Lazarsfeld Fellow, Columbia University, and legal blogger).

Image: UConn / Slota

See DIVERSITY WEEK, p. 4

Library Technology Updates

By Anne Rajotte of the Law Library Reference Department

You may have heard the recent announcement that Google is discontinuing its popular Google Reader service. Google Reader is an RSS Feed Aggregator or RSS Feed Reader, which is a way to push content from all over the web to one location. RSS feeds are a great way to stay current on the news, legal issues, sports, your hobbies, or any other subject.

RSS Feed Readers work best for sources that are frequently updated, such as news sites and blogs. Rather than visit a number of different websites to check for new content, the sites push their content directly to your reader through RSS feeds. You can subscribe to RSS feeds by looking for this symbol on websites:

Once you have subscribed, all new content from that site will automatically be delivered to your reader. Depending on your reader's capabilities, you can organize your feeds by topic, save items to read later, and share items with other people.

RSS Feed Readers can be web-based, desktop-based or mobile-based. Many readers have multiple ways to access them and will sync with each other so you do not receive duplicate content.

Because Google Reader will no longer be available after July 1, 2013, here are some suggestions for other RSS Feed Readers:

Web and Mobile-Based:

Feedly (www.feedly.com): Feedly has already developed a Google Reader replacement called Normandy, which can be used as an extension for Firefox, Chrome, and Safari, and as an app for iOS (iPhone and iPad) and Android. If you were already using Google Reader, you can import your subscriptions directly through Feedly.

The Old Reader (theoldreader.com): this reader is based on a previous version of Google Reader and can be accessed through the web by signing in with your Google or Facebook Account. Google Reader users may import their subscriptions directly through The Old Reader, but it does not currently exist as a mobile app.

Newsblur (www.newsblur.com): the free version of this account allows up to 64 feeds, while the paid version (\$24/yr) allows unlimited feeds. Newsblur can be accessed both from the web and through iOS and Android apps.

Netvibes (www.netvibes.com): Netvibes is similar to iGoogle (which is also being discontinued this year) in that it allows you to create a personalized site based on content from all over the web. Netvibes includes an RSS Feed Reader.

Flipboard (flipboard.com): Flipboard is available only as a mobile app for iOS and Android. Flipboard is more visually-based and is excellent for news and other image-heavy sites.

Desktop:

Desktop-based RSS Feed Readers usually have more robust features than web-based or mobile-based readers, such as the ability to tag items and receive search alerts. The downside, however, is that your reader is tied to one computer. The most popular desktop readers are Feed Demon for Windows (www.feedException.com) and Reeder for Macs (reederapp.com).

If you have any questions, please come see us at the Reference Desk!

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

Stay updated through our
facebook and twitter pages!

Pro Se

Volume VII
Issue 5
March 31 2013

The student newspaper for the
University of Connecticut School of Law.

Editor in Chief: Patty Martins
Managing Editor: Matt Szafranski
Executive Editor: Alexa Millinger
Features Editor: Alex Anastasio
Layout Editor: Michelle Davison

Contributors:

Geoffrey Miller
Elizabeth O'Donnell
Jason Paul
Sarah Ricciardi
Ashkon Roozbehani
Sidd Sinha
Nick Stadnyk

Special Thanks to
Anne Rajotte

Recent Cases

By Alex Anastasio

March 19: In *Kirtsaeng v. John Wiley & Sons*, the Court expanded the "first sale" doctrine to protect consumers' rights when those consumers tried to sell, in the U.S., copies of works that were manufactured abroad. The case originated when a Thai student, Supap Kirtsaeng, decided to make a little extra money to fund his graduate studies in the United States. The enterprising student contacted people back home in Thailand and asked them to buy English-language foreign-edition textbooks printed by John Wiley & Sons. These foreign-edition textbooks were "essentially equivalent" to the versions printed in the U.S., with a major exception being their considerably lower prices. Kirtsaeng had the textbooks shipped to him in the United States, where he promptly began selling them over eBay to make a profit.

The Court confronted a slew of laws regulating the sales of copyrighted works. Under the Copyright Act, it is illegal to distribute a copyrighted work without the permission of the copyright owner. However, under the "first sale" exception, once the copyright holder lawfully sells a particular copy, the buyer is free to transfer or sell that particular copy as he wishes. A third statutory provision banned importation of copyrighted works from abroad unless the importer had the copyright holder's permission. This statute stated that unauthorized importation implicated the exclusive distribution right as codified in the first state; the problem arose because the text of the first provision appeared to state that the "first sale"

exception applied anyway, regardless of where the copyrighted item was manufactured. Thus, Kirtsaeng might be able to purchase books abroad, claim the first sale exception, and sell them in the U.S.. The District Court ruled that the first sale exception did not apply to the sale of a work manufactured outside the country.

Justice Breyer delivered the opinion of the Court, joined by Chief Justice Roberts and Justices Thomas, Alito, Sotomayor, and Kagan. Kagan also filed a separate concurring opinion, in which she was joined by Alito. Finally, Justice Ginsburg dissented, joined by Justices Kennedy and Scalia.

The majority opinion held that the first sale doctrine applied to the sale of copyrighted works manufactured abroad. In doing so, the Court rejected the argument that the doctrine only applied to works manufactured inside U.S. territory, a position supported by the Second and Ninth Circuits, as well as by the U.S. Solicitor General. Instead, the court adopted Kirtsaeng's argument, that the exception applied to all works made in accordance with the standards of American copyright law. A large chunk of Breyer's analysis focused on the precise language of the statutes in question, and concluded that it did support Kirtsaeng. Meanwhile, in dissent, Justice Ginsburg argued that the clear intent of Congress should control and that Congress had intended to prevent the unauthorized importation of low-priced copies of copyrighted works.

Either way, the Court's decision substantially narrows the scope of what is forbidden under the Copyright Act's ban on unauthorized importation.

from GUN LAWS, p. 1

cans, who largely opposed the measure, up in arms. Several Republican sheriffs have even promised to not enforce the law.

In Washington, D.C., the situation is not much better. Democrats will not bring to the floor a bill that would ban assault weapons. However, the measure is not necessarily dead. Senator Dianne Feinstein of California, who sponsored an passed an assault weapons ban in 1994*as an amendment*will likely try to do so again.

The centerpiece of the gun law reforms, universal background checks, face an uncertain future. One of the Republicans negotiating over the matter has blanched over the law's record-keeping that would result from background checks.

Other matters, such as bolstering federal anti-gun trafficking laws and lending support to schools for security, are not expected to face nearly as much opposition. However, President Obama's bid to get a director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) have received a cool reception from Republicans.

Back in Connecticut lawmakers have received pressure from gun control groups and the governor. Governor Malloy said he hopes to see legislation hit the floors of either legislative chamber, whether bipartisan or not. by around Easter.

March Madness

By Sidd Sinha

While brackets get busted and college pride hits a high across the nation, UConn Law took part in the 38th Annual Western New England University Basketball Tournament. The men had three teams that went to the tournament and the women had one as well.

The UConn men were broken down into the school colors to differentiate the teams, UConn Grey, UConn White and UConn Blue. The UConn Grey team was able to finish in contention for the playoff portion of the tournament but failed to advance due to an earlier forfeit due to a lack of players.

After contacting the administrators of the tournament, I was informed that a team that forfeited would be shown to have lost by 15 points (winning team would be shown to have won by 10 points) and since there was one forfeit by the UConn Grey that counted as a loss, they were not allowed to move forward in the playoffs. The reasoning was that point differential was a tie-breaker for advancing in the tournament and the "15-point loss" eliminated the UConn Grey team by a total of 3 points. The frustration was high and it was not quite a strict environment that enforced all the rules that were in place so it can be understood that many left with

disappointment.

It should be somewhat expected to have analysis of the rules in a competition that has two classes of relatively competitive personalities in law students and basketball players. All in all, it was a rule that denied the UConn Grey team a chance to play in the playoff rounds but the selective enforcement of rules is what put the team in that position. The UConn Grey team had a player ready to play for them in the game that was forfeited but because of the inability to provide the appropriate identification, he was not allowed to play.

There is no guarantee that allowing the UConn Grey team to play with 4 players, or the use of the 5th player who was ruled ineligible would have ensured victory or that any loss would have been less than 12 points, which would have still put the UConn Grey team on the outside looking in, but the opportunity to prove ones worth is an innate freedom that when lost, begs the question of lost possibility.

The moral of the story seems to be that although rules are made to be broken, picking and choosing which rules to break and when to break them is a key to success, or making the playoffs of a basketball tournament.

The Truth About Evening Students

By Ashkon Roozbehani

After the sun has gone down and sounds of crickets resonate throughout the Elizabeth St. campus, creatures of the night inconspicuously lurk into classrooms to stalk their prey. They are hungry to master the law, and under the light of the moon they feed on plates filled with cases and statutes. When they are finally satiated, they retreat back to their homes, or perhaps to the cave that they call Meskill Library, leaving hardly a trace of their presence. By the time the sun rises the next morning, the day dwellers haven't a clue that these ghosts were ever on the premises. Of course, the haunting *Palsgraf* diagram on the whiteboard wasn't exactly there when they left yesterday, but they don't think twice about it.

It's true that evening students at UConn Law can be regarded as mere aberrations of the law school community. We are on campus during the times when most students and faculty are elsewhere, and because of our busy lives independent of legal studies, we miss out on many of the things that create a cohesive scholastic community. Nevertheless, the evening program is source of great esteem for those of us who have the privilege of balancing law school with other diurnal activities. Indeed, for many the evening program is the only possible way to achieve a J.D. Students such as Marco Pavela, a current 3LE who works a full-time job in healthcare finance, say that without the program, law school might've been but a distant dream. Whether they have a job that they cannot lose, a family to support, or simply chose to be diligent in managing their debt, evening students rely on the program to achieve their goals of obtaining a legal education.

In the recently released 2013 U.S. News rankings, UConn Law rose to the fifth spot among schools with evening programs. This rise in reputation is reflected in many students' contentment with the program. There is a common consensus that evening classrooms are filled with fruitful discussion given the diversity of careers and skills; current evening students hold day jobs ranging from police officer to chemist. When asked what they liked about the program, many evening students were relieved to find that professors were very understanding of their schedules, assigning readings with ample time to complete them before class. Some were pleased with the choices of classes, whereas others lamented the fact that their favorite courses were hard to come by at night.

However, despite the division's reputation and benefits, evening-goers are forced to endure hardships inherent within the program structure. We are often forced to forgo experiences that are deemed critical to the law school experience. For example, we are hard pressed to find a summer internship to accommodate our schedule without having to quit our jobs. Popular clinics and seminars that are enjoyed by day students are not even an option for those who work full-time. One student expressed her disbelief that she may graduate law school without ever having stepped inside a real courtroom. Overall, an evening student's resume may look sparse compared to their day counterparts who have the time to engage in a diversity of experiences. Not only do we miss out on career building activities, but some also feel left out of general campus life, constantly having to miss out on panels and daytime social events such as faculty breakfasts.

All in all, it is these boons and hardships that shape the evening student experience. We are but ghosts sauntering through the campus at night, yet at the same time our unique lifestyles and experiences contribute to the proud diversity of UConn Law.

Moot Court Board Increases Visibility in National Competitions

By Nick Stadnyk

The Connecticut Moot Court Board is comprised of students who have achieved excellence in oral advocacy at the law school. Selection for the board is through outstanding performance in the William H. Hastie and Alva P. Loiselle intrascholastic competitions, held in the fall and spring semesters, respectively. Board membership provides students with the opportunity to improve their oral advocacy skills through participation in national competitions. Furthermore, board members assist with the first-year moot court class by judging practice arguments.

Recently, the Connecticut Moot Court Board has been sending teams to participate in competitions all over the country. In doing so they have been increasing the visibility of the University of Connecticut School of Law on a national competitive level. Some of the places team traveled to include LA, Minnesota, New Orleans, Boston and Nashville. Several of the teams advanced to the second round or beyond - the New Orleans team made it to the final round and placed second out of over thirty teams.

In order to prepare for the competitions, each team works together to design an argument. After the argument is complete, they usually have other student board members moot them, and then after that coaches or

other attorneys will moot them. This is the first year that all the teams have coaches. One of the goals in preparing for the competition is to try to set up teams with coaches who work in the area of law that will be discussed, or who have experience in Appellate Law. The Minnesota team, for example, worked closely with Wes Horton - who argued *Kelo v New London*. He mooted them several times prior to competition. In preparation to travel to LA, our team had a coach who had competed in our competition 3 years ago as a student. Students usually put in many hours of work on their own in preparation, then several more hours of mooting with a coach. The whole process is very time consuming and a lot of hard work, but it looks like all that work pays off.

On campus, the Connecticut Moot Court Board hosts two prestigious intramural competitions. The William H. Hastie competition is in the fall, and the Alva P. Loiselle competition is coming up shortly this spring. The idea behind these competitions is to help train great oral advocates, who may then be selected to join the board and participate in national competition. Through the running of these intrascholastic competitions, the board has brought dozens of attorneys to school to interact with students, has increased alumni participation, and has even brought several judges to school - including two CT Supreme Court justices and several appellate court justices.

The Back Page

Diary of a 1L

By Sarah Ricciardi

Now that the end of my first year at UConn Law is fast approaching, I thought I'd share a few things that I've learned over the past 8 months. The seating chart in Knight 215 will never be correct. Truffle's cafeteria specials are emailed out at 10:47 every morning. Falafel good; beer cheese soup eh... Some professors will repeat the same stories in class. The law of Perpetuities is exactly as confusing as it sounds. If you hang out in the student lounge in Knight for long enough, food will appear. If you leave your stuff unattended in the library for even a second, your laptop will disappear. You will never find a parking space in time for your 3:30 class. Briefing cases is about as useful as the Time Warner Cable customer service webpage. If a gunner sits directly behind you in class, you have an obligation to roll your eyes whenever he speaks. It may cost ten cents a page to print in the computer lab, but you can have all the Lexis highlighters, pens, and pocket Constitutions you want. The gym in the basement of Starr is great. You can eat pizza while you're working out and no one's there to judge you. A class that meets once a week for three hours is not better than a class that meets twice a week for an hour and a half. For those that drink milk in your coffee, the Co-op in Knight is of no use to you. If you want to up your class participation, "Can you put that up on TWEN?" is always a good question. And let's be honest, completing a beer passport at the Half Door is way more impressive than ranking in the top ten percent of the class.

Changes to 2015 Bar Exam

By Patty Martins

Current 1Ls take note: in 2015, the Multistate Bar Exam will undergo a major update. The Multistate Bar Exam has 200 questions that test constitutional law, contracts, criminal law, criminal procedure, evidence, real property, and torts. The update will add another subject to the Multistate—civil procedure. The change will take effect in February 2015.

Previously, Civil Procedure was not specifically tested, although it may have been included in the essay portion of the exam. Because of the addition of Civil Procedure, the amount of questions dedicated to the other subjects will be trimmed.

Many bar courses include civil procedure in their 1L study guides.

What do we want?

By Jason Paul

OPINION

So like almost everyone in our generation, I spend a lot of the time on the Internet. I recently saw something there that I found very troubling and yet also indicative of something broken that is incredibly difficult to fix. The problem is the striking and growing degree of economic inequality in this country. This video made the key point that although we as Americans have a rough idea of the sort of division of the economic pie we would like, the gap between the top and the bottom is much, much larger than our collective understanding allows. How many grasp to their bones that the top 1% owns 42% of the country.

Even as I write this already I can hear in the back of my head, the screaming and the yelling. Indeed, by raising this topic, I risk being called all sort of nasty names: I am a communist; I am a socialist; I am a dreamer. Even worse there would be some people who share my dissatisfaction with the wealth gap but would never write about it because they were afraid of the name-calling or more likely afraid about offending the kinds of people who make hiring decisions. But those of us in law school cannot afford to be silent. The concentration of wealth con-

tributes to untold suffering, poverty and hopelessness. And one insidious reason it is allowed to persist is the limited range of thought recognized in mainstream discussion. Whether it is political, non-profit, conservative, or liberal almost all public conversation about policy is created, shaped and encouraged primarily by members of the top 1% or even more accurately the top .1%. The top 1% does not obviously have a single ideology; there is no great conspiracy of the Elite. However what is beginning to set in is a rather self-satisfied defense of the status quo. The range of debates has begun to shrink. The available options dwindle, and pragmatism becomes the order of the day. This isn't all bad, but it leaves a lot to be desired. As lawyers, a larger number of us end up working to defend the system than dare to challenge it. This is true even for those who choose public service work because of the degree to which almost all institutions are at least somewhat dependent on the 1%. As a Democracy, we have too often stopped asking what should happen, and have already basically all accepted what is. Yet we can't, or at least we shouldn't be complacent if we want to end up living in a country of which we can be proud. We need to expand our choices. If we are going to be able to solve our problems, the Elite cannot always have a veto.

Law is a Personal Professional

By Geoffrey Miller

As modern technology accelerates, life has become less personal. We use ATM's and Self-Checkout at the grocery store. Jobs and internships are often filled by emailed and electronically scanned resumes. Law, however, remains a very personal profession. Employers care about whether you can do the job and fit in at their office. Because of this, there is an easy way to get on the short list for any job regardless of your grades – apply in person. Instead of emailing your resume to a prospective employer, show up in person, wearing your best suit, with your credentials neatly presented, and express your enthusiasm for the position. This proves right off the bat that you have initiative and enthusiasm.

I really wanted a federal judicial internship for the summer of my first year, and applications were due before grades came out. Having no transcript technically meant that I could not apply, but I ignored this. I put on a suit and knocked on about 32 chamber doors. One clerk threw the application back in my face because I had no grades. I was rejected either directly or tacitly by more fed-

eral judges than my entire class combined, however because of my initiative, I received several interviews and got an amazing internship. Additionally, two judges on the second circuit court of appeals agreed to meet with me personally, even though they do not hire interns. Keep in mind that I did this with no grades and while competing with students from higher ranked schools.

The first step is to strengthen your resume, as outlined in my previous article. Next, pick your best writing sample and ask a professor who you will want a recommendation from to help you perfect it. You will get a better writing sample and the professor will know you and your writing personally. Always include a fantastic and personal letter of recommendation regardless of whether or not it is requested. Compile these in a professional looking folder to give to prospective employers when you apply.

When you find a job or internship that you want, do not simply apply online or send a resume. Everyone does this, and it is hard to stand out from the crowd. Go in your best suit and deliver your packet in person. Ask if anyone is available to speak to you briefly about the

position. Even if no one is available, you will stand out. Always be very nice to the administrative assistant as she will decide how far you can go.

Be prepared to interview on the spot. Although this did not happen to me, if you show up at a law firm and someone has a few minutes, they may sit down with you right then and there. Because of this, you must research every place you go to ahead of time. You do not need to go too far, but you should at least read through the company's website.

When you are offered an interview, ask questions about who will be interviewing you. What do they do exactly? How long have they been there? Look them up on Google and LinkedIn (log out of LinkedIn, so they do not see that you are looking them up). Learn as much about them as you can, including where they went to school.

The legal profession is a very personal one. Employers want to know that someone they hire has initiative and is well spoken. If you show up in person, you can demonstrate these qualities easily and you will stand out as a real person – not just one paper in the stack.

Volunteer Opportunity

By Sarah Ricciardi

It has been over two months since the Newtown shooting, and many people are still trying to find a way to help. But, how?

First year Laura Ann Keller came up with the idea to focus on the victims of this horrific event – the children of Connecticut. The SBA is joining forces with an after-school program called "OPMAD" to have UConn Law students volunteer at schools in the Hartford area. The program runs Monday-Friday from 3 to 6 p.m. Typically, Monday to Thursday the children do homework for the first hour and then participate in various recreational activities until their parents are finished with work for the day. On Fridays, there is no homework hour. The children are broken up by grade into four groups: K-1, 2-3, 4-5, and 6-8.

The volunteer experience is especially individualized in a program such as this one. After a meeting with an on-site coordinator, law students are then placed in one of three schools based on the skills and interests of the students and the needs of the children. Volunteers can help with homework, organize group games, and/or lead activities such as music lessons or arts and crafts. The hours are flexible – volunteers are free to choose times that best fit with their own schedules.

In order to foster relationships between the children and the UConn law students, a minimum of three visits is required for each volunteer. This program offers an amazing opportunity to make a consistent commitment to our community. Many Law School students will be living and working in Hartford for at least a few years, and this is a great way to give back and earn some non-legal pro bono hours. For information on how to get involved email Laura Ann Keller at lauraannkeller@gmail.com.

from DIVERSITY WEEK, p. 2

Filmmaker Valerie Kaur met with Interim Dean McLean and members of the Diversity Committee on Thursday after a viewing of Kaur's film *Divided We Fall*. After viewing the movie, Kaur led a discussion.

Image: UConn / Slota

from DEAN SEARCH, p. 1

be the steep learning curve. This learning process, he said, includes learning not just about the institution and faculty, but about the students. Fisher said he hopes to get to know as many students as possible in the coming months.

The decision to name Fisher dean comes after the Law School Dean Search Committee spent months collecting and vetting prospective candidates.

Professor Bethany Berger, faculty chair of the Dean Search Committee, said that the committee aimed to "cast a wide net and bring in a mix of traditional academics as well as individuals from 'outside the box,' so that the law school community would have a broad range of choices."

Although Fisher is considered a non-traditional candidate because he has never been a full-time faculty member at a law school, Berger said the committee hailed his "tremendous intellectual firepower as well as a track record of accomplishment across many different environments."

"Each of [the candidates] presented attractive strengths," Berger said, "but Tim simply knocked it out of the park during his visit, and we couldn't be more delighted with the result."



The winner of the
2013 SALDF Pet Photo Contest
Penny
submitted by Rachele Torres

