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THE VOICE OF THE STUDENT BODY AT UCONN LAW

Welcome from Dean Fisher

I want to welcome everyone to a new year at UConn Law. An outstanding new class is entering this fall. We are all excited to meet each of you and help you feel quickly at home.

There are some great things happening at the school this fall. We are opening the Brown Family Campus Center in the ground floor of the library building. The Campus Center will provide us a comfortable central gathering space and social center where you can eat and drink, meet with friends, study, and relax throughout the day. Join us at our dedication ceremony on October 18.

I am also pleased to announce that this spring we opened our law practice incubator, the Connecticut Community Law Center. The CCLC is on the first floor of Starr Hall, where it provides office space for five recent law school graduates (and soon more) who have launched solo practices serving moderate income and working poor clients. With the support of mentors and training, minimal overhead costs, referral pipelines, and the guidance of Director Mark Schreier, these new lawyers are helping to close our country's justice gap while building their own skills and future law practices.

For those of you starting law school, the most important part of your experience will be working with the extraordinary faculty who will be your teachers in the next few years. They will be your guides and your advocates. They will build in you new skills that will change your life forever. From courtroom success to public leadership to law firm practice, they have exercised the power and responsibility of the law at high levels, and have spent their careers developing a deep grasp of the law and its role in society.

Your teachers here will challenge you and raise you to ever-higher levels of mastery. Get to know them. They are this school's greatest asset, and hold the keys to your greatest potential.

Finally, we are excited to welcome the incoming class. You in our entering JD class are graduates of some ninety different colleges and universities. Many of you have already earned other advanced degrees, and come from prior careers as diverse as health care, entertainment, biosciences, and the military. Meanwhile our entering LLM class comes from twenty-two different countries, holding degrees from forty different universities around the world, coming here ready to share with us a tremendous range of prior legal experience.

Enjoy the weeks and months ahead. You will find both challenges and the sense of exhilaration that comes with new accomplishments beyond anything you have experienced before. Congratulations, and welcome!

What I Wish I Had Known as a 1L

By: Dylan Shaw '19

Law school is a marathon and not a sprint, in spite of how the first semester may feel. In the coming months, you will have to read hundreds of cases, learn dozens of legal terms, and spend hours upon hours parsing legal textbooks and searching legal databases. The most important thing to keep in mind when traversing this new territory is: do not get ahead of yourself. With all the reading and studying I faced in my first year, I found it helpful to prepare for each class no sooner than the day before the class. After class on Monday, I would read the assignments for Tuesday, and not for the rest of the week. Some of you may feel that it will be a better approach to get ahead in your reading. I personally found this to be overwhelming and would end up having to spend extra time before class reminding myself of the

material I had read. Instead, use that salvaged time to get involved on campus. The UConn Law community is a great asset – one that you should take advantage of as much as you can.

For almost all incoming students, law school will be a completely new experience. You will go from being a big fish in a small pond to being a small fish in a big pond. A great way to get acclimated to this big pond is to share your experience with those around you and to utilize all available opportunities to connect with classmates and professors.

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Prof. Kwak's 5 Tips for 1L Case Reading and Class Discussion

1. Case-based, first-semester classes are primarily about reading comprehension and only secondarily about the substance of the law. Read very slowly, and make sure you understand everything you are reading. If there is a word or a legal term you don't know, look it up—even if it's in Latin.
2. Make sure that you are parsing the arguments correctly. Many cases include multiple claims; make sure you can distinguish the claims and recognize how each one is resolved. You should know whether a party needs X, Y, and Z all to be true, or when the party only needs one of X, Y, and Z to be true.
3. Be attentive to procedural posture (once you know what this means). What the defendant has to show in a civil case depends on how far the status of the case also determines what the judge will assume to be true as opposed to what has to be proven factually.
4. Most cases you read are appeals. In general, an appeals court is only deciding whether something happened incorrectly in a lower court. It's important to be able to identify what mistake in the lower court (insufficient evidence, incorrect decision by the judge as a matter of law, etc.) the appealing party is alleging.
5. Classes involve long periods of time not being called on. When the professor calls on another student, try to answer the question in your head. That way, when it's your turn, you'll at least have some practice.

Bonus Tip:

In New York, the highest court is not the Supreme Court, but the Court of Appeals; the "Supreme Court" is a trial court. There! Now you know the one thing that distinguishes law students and graduates from all other people.

Prof. Macdougald's Advice to 1L's

Dear Entering Class,

Congratulations on beginning your 1L year! We haven't met, yet I feel I know a little bit about you. Twenty-five years ago, I too came to our UConn Law campus to start my own legal education. So when Pro Se asked me to offer a few words of advice, I reflected on my experience and knew exactly the one thing I wanted to say to guarantee ultimate law school success: "Take Environmental Law."Actually, that's not advice at all - just a shameless plug for one of my favorite subject areas. Instead, recognizing that the internet is by no means lacking for advice to law students, I thought I'd pass along some things that I wish someone would have told me back when I was standing in your shoes as an incoming 1L.

1. Read, Re-read and Remind yourself of your course syllabus and your book's table of contents.

I know this doesn't sound profound - but this practical point hides a bigger truth. On the pragmatic side, when you're reading a case, pay special attention to where it fits within the syllabus and within the broader analytical framework of the course. If your professor assigns a case-book, take advantage of the book's table of contents and section headings. *Continued on page 3...*

Dressing Properly

By: Nicholas Smarra '18 & Geraldine Macaisa '19

"First impressions last. You start behind the eight ball, you'll never get in front."

As many aspiring lawyers know, this quote is from power-attorney and all-around bad ass Harvey Specter from USA's *Suits*. Whether we like it or not, people shape an initial opinion of someone on their very first interaction. Overcoming this first impression, while not impossible, is an uphill battle at best. In law school, this adage could not be truer. With diverse events on campus including guest speakers, club meetings, and on-campus interviews, keeping straight how to dress can be difficult. Underdressing can give the impression that you do not grasp the importance of the event, while overdressing may come off as being "that person." This article is to help you parse through the different terminology you might hear with respect to how to dress. I will address three different types of attire you will come across when seeing events on campus: 1) casual 2) business casual 3) business professional.

Casual is the easiest attire to handle. Casual essentially means what you would wear on a day-to-day basis, with the caveat that you want to look presentable. If you plan on going to an event that is "casual" you can more or less wear what you would normally wear to class. However, remember that people are always forming an impression of you. Personally, if I were planning on going to a casual event on campus I would wear a pair of jeans with a well-fitting button-down shirt or polo and a pair of non-sneaker type shoes (i.e. loafers, boat shoes, etc.). Now this does not mean you have to dress like this every day. If you just have class and you know nothing important is happening on campus, t-shirts, shorts, and other comfortable clothes are fine. Just remember, first impressions matter.

Business casual is often vague and covers a broad range of possible different outfits. When I hear business casual I think of two different options. First, a well-fitting button-down shirt with a pair of khaki pants or slacks and dress shoes. Second, the same outfit applies, but throw on a nice blazer or sports coat. If you were to go with either of these options, you'll be fine. Ties are optional, although I personally like the look of a knit-tie or skinny tie with a blazer. A couple pieces of additional advice to put everything together. Search online for a color wheel and make sure what you are wearing are complementary colors. Also, do not wear two different patterns. If you are wearing a pattern (i.e. stripes, checkers, or paisley) the other parts of your outfit should be solid.

Lastly, unlike professional attire, business casual allows for a bit more flexibility in style. Patterns and colors may be slightly more pronounced. Keep in mind that your outfit should never be bolder than your personality.

For business professional attire remember one word: conservative. Professional attire consists of a fully matching suit, a button-down shirt, a tie and a pair of dress shoes. Unlike with business casual, your personal style should take a back seat. Typically, professional suits are black, grey, navy blue, and tan.

Continued on page 3...

Prof. Macdougald's Tips Continued...

Use all of these resources as shorthand roadmaps to navigate the subject area's big themes and orient this week's reading within the course's landscape. In a broader sense, the capacity for big-picture thinking is essential to succeed both within law school and within the legal profession. In my career, I rarely saw an attorney under-serve the client because he or she didn't know a particular legal area well enough; rather, I saw mistakes rooted in the failure to appreciate how a particular project fit into a broader legal architecture or the client's needs. As you start out in your study of this collective consensus on civilized action that we call "the law," strive for context.

2. With Great Power Comes Great Responsibility Not to be a Thanksgiving Know-It-All.

After a few months of law school, you will truly be transformed. You may think you see the world in shades of grey, but in a short time everything will display in vivid 4K color. Despite your newfound superpowers, nobody wants to hear about Offer and Acceptance when they pass the mashed potatoes. Try to keep your answers to "How's law school" under 30 minutes. (Trust me). Being a lawyer is more than just acquiring the knowledge of the system. Good lawyers can put themselves behind the eyes of their clients, their opponents, or even dinner guests. In a couple months, remember to keep thinking like a person as well as a lawyer.

3. Silence is Boring - Take a Chance!

One of the greatest strengths of UConn Law is our approachable faculty. Go to office hours when you have a question. Don't wait until the end of the semester. Similarly, when you are in class and have something to say, put up your hand and dare to be wrong. As a law professor, I can tell you that I only think better of the prepared student who volunteers the imperfect answer.

4. Listen to Supreme Court Oral Arguments

Supreme Court oral arguments have an uneven history. Some justices used to answer their mail during oral argument. Justice Stevens was unfailingly polite. Justice Breyer spins multi-pointed hypotheticals. Justice Thomas rarely speaks. By contrast, the late Justice Scalia seemed to love the forum. Recordings of the last several decades of oral arguments can be found on oyez.org and elsewhere. Pick an assigned case and give it a try. The back-and-forth will help you to engage with the cases in a deeper way. (Tip: If you want to start out, listen to *Lucas v. South Carolina Coastal Commission* or *Mass v. EPA* - they're funny.)

5. Even if you don't take Environmental Law (and you should) ... please feel free to drop by my office in Hosmer 120.

Good Luck!

Dressing Properly Continued...

Ties should be muted colors. Nothing should come across as eccentric. Events that require professional attire will be on-campus interviews, moot court/mock trial competitions, and networking events. During all of these events you want the people to remember you for what skills and attributes you bring to the table and not as the discount Saul Goodman. While this is just a generality and many people have put their own unique spin on professional attire, if you're looking to play it safe, follow these rules.

Women:

Similar to men, casual is simply your day-to-day outfit. If there is a casual event on campus, be yourself. Ladies, you have tons of freedom and creativity to put together an outfit that looks effortless and chic. However, remember that you're constantly crossing paths with law students, professors, and visiting attorneys on campus. For instance, try to avoid any shirts with crass sayings that while may be funny, they can give someone the wrong impression. Your shirt shouldn't broadcast your love for wine to the whole world.

Business casual is sometimes a daunting term. The best way to remember what to wear is to think: mix business formal pieces with everyday casual pieces. There's an array of options for this category, such as skirt/pant and blouse, dress and cardigan, skirt/pant and cardigan, etc. The possibilities are endless. For instance, my go-to business casual outfit includes a pair of slim-leg navy chinos, a patterned blouse, and a pair of flats. *Continued on page 4...*

Public Interest Law Group Auction

By: Uriel Lloyd '19

Greetings! Welcome to UConn School of Law from the Public Law Interest Auction Board. We hope everyone had a fun and productive summer. The upcoming fall semester means one thing: the 25th annual PILG Auction!

The Public Interest Law Auction raises funds to continue the Public Interest Law Group Fellowship Program. This program allows students to serve underrepresented communities through unpaid positions at public interest organizations across the country by providing stipends to cover living expenses. For the past twenty-five years, PILG has supported students who contribute their time to work at the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights, Hartford Legal Aid, the Connecticut Office of Public Defenders, and the United Nations Refugee Agency, among many other public interest organizations.

The 25th PILG Annual Auction will take place on **November 10th from 6:00-9:00 pm in the Reading Room of Starr Hall at UConn School of Law**. With over 200 community members expected to attend, PILG's Annual Auction is the school's largest event and a noteworthy experience for the Greater Hartford area. The Auction will consist of both a silent and live auction, chalked full of entertainment and exciting items to bid on.

We cordially invite you to attend and participate in the auction! With your help donating, volunteering, and attending the event, we will be able to celebrate PILG's longstanding tradition of supporting public sector work and to provide funding for future students. *Continued on page 4..*

What I Wish Continued..

It should not be necessary for you to spend all day, every-day, locked away in a cubicle in the library. Instead, distribute your time amongst your studies, involvement in various campus groups (especially Pro Se. I have it on good authority that they are a wonderful group of people who are looking for 1L's to join!) and law school events.

As you balance your time between these activities, remember – don't let law school take over your life (completely). Set aside a few hours or a day of the week to do something non-law school related. If you like hiking, plan a hike; if you like reading, spend some time reading non-required, non-law related reading; if you like music, it's okay (and I would even say, necessary) to see a concert every once in a while. Law school will be both an immensely challenging and an immensely rewarding experience, but don't let this experience take you away from you.

All in all, you are at this school because you have the capabilities to succeed now and in the legal field post-graduation. Pace yourself. Get involved in groups and events around campus. Get to know your classmates. Don't let law school dominate your life. Best of luck UConn School of Law Class of 2020/2021!

Dressing Properly Continued...

Also, unlike business professional, you can wear more variety of colors and prints. Look polished, but still feel free to play around with different colors and cuts. Closed-toe shoes are also preferred. You should aim to look professionally dressed, but in a relaxed and pulled-together way.

Business professional attire for women is not exactly the most fashion friendly or creatively stimulating. However, it is important to stay classy. A well-fitting blazer and a pair of dress pants or a pencil skirt is the most traditional and safe outfit choice for on-campus interviews, intramural competitions, and networking events. Skirts should hit the knee or below. Avoid clothes that are too tight or revealing. Wear colors based on a neutral color palette (black, navy, cream, charcoal, or grey). Wear heels or flats in a neutral color. Heels should not be higher than 3 or 4 inches. Avoid excessive jewelry. Think classy and chic. Also, hair and makeup should be simple, natural, and groomed. Your resume and personality should say more about you than your outfit or makeup does.

Some general rules for women's attire: All clothing should be pressed, clean, and wrinkle-free. Remember, if you wear it to a club, you probably shouldn't wear it in a law school or office setting. "Fancy" or "dressy" does not always mean office-friendly. Modesty is key.

PILG Continued...

For those who want to help with the Auction and business solicitations, more details will be provided in a PILG campus-wide email.

Student Organization Fair

Do you want to see what extracurricular groups are available to the student body?

Do you have a calling for Environmental Law?

On Wednesday September 6th, from 5:00 to 7:00 PM the Office of Student Services and Student Bar Association (SBA) invites all students to the annual Student Organization Fair.

The Fair will allow students to talk with student leaders and learn about the wide variety of organizations and opportunities here on campus. Several campus offices will also have tables at the event.

UConn Law students come to law school with varied interests, backgrounds and view points. Political, religious, affinity, professional, service, practice area, academic, athletic and social organizations reflect the diversity of our student body. Our student groups are active on campus, hosting events aimed at providing information and practical skills for our students, and off-campus in a variety of community service workshops and projects. Students are encouraged to attend any event that might pique their interest or try their luck on the court or field.

Organizations within the law school vary tremendously as a reflection of the wide variety of interests, backgrounds and view points of the diverse student body.

Last but not least, the Student Organization Fair will also be a BBQ so don't forget to RSVP directly on the UConn School of Law website.

Do you have an idea for an article that you want to write for an upcoming edition of Pro Se?

Do you want to practice your critical reading and editing skills?

Pro Se is looking for new members and to fill the highly-esteemed open position of Managing Editor!

If you want to contribute to an upcoming edition or join the ranks of the few who are lucky enough to call themselves members of Pro Se, contact one of our members:

Dylan Shaw '19 - Editor-in-Chief

Gideon Asemnor '18 - Financial Manager, Layout Editor

Nicholas Smarra '18 - Technology Editor

George Gelinas '18 - Associate Editor

Julia Steere '19 - Associate Editor

Uriel Lloyd '19 - Associate Editor

And look for the Pro Se table at the Student Organizations fair!