



VIRGINIA LAW WEEKLY



Serious
interview
edition
(see p. 4)

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2012 Rosenbloom Awards Announced

Jim Russell '13
Editor-in-Chief

Each spring, students and faculty are invited to nominate third-year students for the Rosenbloom award, established in 1991 "to honor a student with a strong academic record who has significantly enhanced the academic experience of other law students by volunteering support and assistance to them." The award was created by and named after Daniel Rosenbloom '54, an Honorary Trustee of the Law School Foundation. Rosenbloom himself selects the winner each year from the nominees.

"History suggests that Mr. Rosenbloom is particularly interested in recognizing students who unselfishly assist other students in classes they share or students who might otherwise generally be considered in competition with them for grades," said Dean Martha Ballenger, whose office coordinates the award.

This year, three students of the Class of 2012 won the award - Lindsay Booker, Michael Moskowitz, Mariana Seixas. In addition to the honor, the award also carries with it a significant monetary component.

"The collegial culture at UVA makes this Law School so special and unique," said Moskowitz. "Mr. Rosenbloom embodies this school's spirit of community and cooperation, and I am extremely honored and grateful to have been nominated by my peers and chosen by Mr. Rosenbloom for this award."

Anyone interested in nominating a fellow student may do so next year by filling out the application distributed by the Office of Student Services.

Congratulations

To Anne Malinee '12 and Kristin Millay '12 for winning the William Minor Lile Moot Court Competition last weekend! Congratulations also to Millay for being named Best Oralist.



photo courtesy of Lynn Schlie '13

(From left) Ariel Hopkins '13, Esther Winne '13, Judge Christine Byrd, Holly Spencer Bunting, Athena Eastwood, Rachel McKenzie, and Katie Rumbaugh.

Career Women Discuss Professional Development

Jim Russell '13
Editor-in-Chief

Virginia Law Women and the Virginia Law and Business Society hosted a panel on April 16, consisting of four women with several years—and in some cases, decades—of experience in the legal field. The guests spoke and answered questions for an hour, sharing anecdotes and advice for women to achieve success in their legal careers.

The guests varied in age and title: Judge Christine Byrd '75 was recently appointed to the Los Angeles Superior Court after spending many years as a partner at Irell & Manella; Holly Spencer Bunting graduated from Washington College of Law in 2003 is a partner in K&L Gates' Washington, D.C. office; Athena Eastwood '02 is special counsel in Cadwalader's Washington, D.C. office; and Rachel McKenzie '05 is a senior associate in Orrick Herrington's Washington, D.C. office.

One of the primary themes echoed by all the speakers was the need for female associates to be their own cheerleaders. "Not everyone at our firm knows everything that's going on," counseled McKenzie. Self-promotion comes more naturally to men, noted some on the panel, and women who consistently do good work can fly under the radar if they don't do the same.

"I want to talk about money," Judge Byrd interjected at one point, to laughs from the audience. "Women don't talk about it enough." She recommended that women do two things with their money: (1) invest in their careers, and (2) save a significant amount for security. She related the story of purchasing a fax machine in the 80's for her house so she could go home to have dinner with her family and still do work. Bunting agreed, noting the fact that firms are moving away from lockstep compensation argues in favor of accumulating a financial safety cushion.

The last scheduled topic of discussion was that of mentoring. "You're doing yourself a disservice if you *only* seek out [female mentors]," asserted Eastwood. Judge Byrd agreed and advised that women may gain insight into a male co-worker's attitude towards women by examining what his wife does. A partner whose wife is also a practicing attorney, or a doctor, for example, is more likely to understand the professional challenges women face. Eastwood followed up by making the distinction between a mentor and a sponsor. A mentor takes you out to lunch and offers advice, but your sponsor "should be somebody powerful, [somebody who is] in those small cigar smoke-filled rooms when you're not and who

is mentioning your name."

An audience member asked what some common mistakes were that women made when attempting to advance their careers. McKenzie remarked that some young associates, men and women alike, have a tremendous sense of entitlement about their job or getting the best assignments. Judge Byrd observed that "women can set a hurdle that's way too high in terms of what networking and business generation [can accomplish]."

Eastwood had the final piece of advice on the topic and of the presentation. "Don't broadcast your every need," she said, but then stressed that women should not refrain from being assertive if the situation is right. She explained a study that grouped law firm employees into three groups: (1) lawyers that sacrificed everything for the job and were successful; (2) lawyers that sacrificed everything for the job and were not successful; and (3) lawyers that were just as successful as the lawyers in the first group, but took vacations and "were the guys with the putters in their offices." The third group was populated almost entirely by men, and she suggested that they had figured out what they actually *needed* to do and did just that but no more. "I call it the 'in late, out early' theory," she laughed.

around north grounds



Thumbs up to 4/20, the anniversary of the day that ANG discovered ANG's hand was super interesting.



Thumbs down to the Career Services seminar "What Interns Say, What Supervisors Hear." It turns out that, to a partner, no doesn't mean "yes" and yes doesn't mean "stick a zucchini in my bum." Too bad ANG already found that out the hard way.



Thumbs up to one more week of classes. Wait, what happens after classes are over? Never mind, thumbs down.



Thumbs down to the winner of PILA trivia being a team that was in last place at the halfway point. ANG refuses to believe in the majesty of comeback stories until ANG's father returns from getting cigarettes.



Thumbs up to the SBA survey that's been making the rounds asking whether students are interested in the SBA coordinating a "stress relief with dogs" event. ANG is only slightly concerned about the overlap with the "stress relief with bitches" events that Suede, the 3L that wears purple leisure suits, is planning.



Thumbs up to Professor Leslie serving martinis in one of his classes this week. As if students in Leslie classes need any help feeling like they're drunk the entire time.



Thumbs down to penny wars. Give peace a chance, nickels.



Thumbs up to Dean Mahoney speaking at the PILA grantee luncheon this week despite his well-known aversion to talking to poor people.



Thumbs up to photographers visiting Professor Laycock's civil liberties class this week. Selling a crotch shot of ANG to ATL was a weirdly effective way of teaching ANG about the importance of a free press.

faculty quotes

J. Ryan: Teachers and principals don't get involved in education in order to screw Special Education kids... figuratively... or literally, either.

T. Hafemeister (to student): Is that a Captain American t-shirt? I know because I have an 11-year old.

G. Rutherglen: That's my attempt at being poetic. Thank goodness they edited it out in the broadcast and I seemed like another wise, sensible person.

G. Rutherglen: I'm the only person I know to have ever published this opinion. Which seems to indicate that it's at least unpopular, if not wrong.

K. Kordana: I love Halloween. I'm usually at home handing out apples with razor blades inserted in them hoping to make the evening news.

J. Harrison: I get rapid plaque and tartar buildup, frankly. Flossing needs to be performed, but don't floss in class. Take care of your teeth and they will take care of you.

G. Rutherglen: Contracts for prostitution are void due to public policy, no matter how good the deal is.

T. Nachbar: Wait, are you Canadian? No? Oh good.

J. Ryan: Why is there brown paper only on the first floor windows of Slaughter? I thought the construction workers wanted some privacy but there's no paper on the second floor. So, I went up there, waved down to them and said "Hey guys!"

L. Weekly: Please continue to submit quotes to facultyfo-rum@lawweekly.org!



photo courtesy of Jim Russell '13

The administration drained the Spies Garden fountain this past Monday as a precautionary measure after fliers advertising the upcoming fundraiser, "Peeing in Pools for PILA," went up around the school.

precedential papers

Sept. 26, 1963



Virginia Law Weekly COLOPHON

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Virginia Law Weekly
580 Massie Road
University of Virginia School of Law
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903-1789

Phone: 434.924.3070
Fax: 434.924.7536
editor@lawweekly.org
www.lawweekly.org

Editor

VIRGINIA LAW WEEKLY

Dear Sir:

Even taking into consideration the fact that the first few months of each school year are hectic ones involving try-out programs for the Law Review, VLRG and CLRO and, after these, extensive preparations by second and third-year men for the Moot Court competition, it seems that the noise level, particularly where talking is involved, has risen to a new crescendo in the law library. This, apparently, is the result of a complete breakdown of student discipline.

It would seem that such painstaking research and thorough analysis as are involved in the aforementioned activities would require a high level of concentration and thought. And, just as obviously, such levels cannot be obtained against a background of idle chatter.

What makes the situation all the more deplorable is that students have not availed themselves of the facilities present in the Law School for normal conversation, i. e., the lounge, Mural Hall and the front lobby. It would seem a simple matter to merely step outside the library proper to converse. And surely this would eliminate the present problem.

Something must be done and soon, for examinations are not far ahead. Surely this year, as always, many, upon return from Thanksgiving recess, will gravitate to the library intent upon extensive review and preparations for the upcoming exams. This is natural, for the library is the prime source of information for the student and also supposedly one place where the student may work without interruption and distraction.

It should not be the province of the library administration or the Student Library Committee to station proctors dressed out in armbands around the library for purposes of ejecting offenders and maintaining proper order and decorum. I feel that this is a situation which calls for student cooperation and personal discipline. This is the only proper solution and it is a necessary one.


John P. Lee

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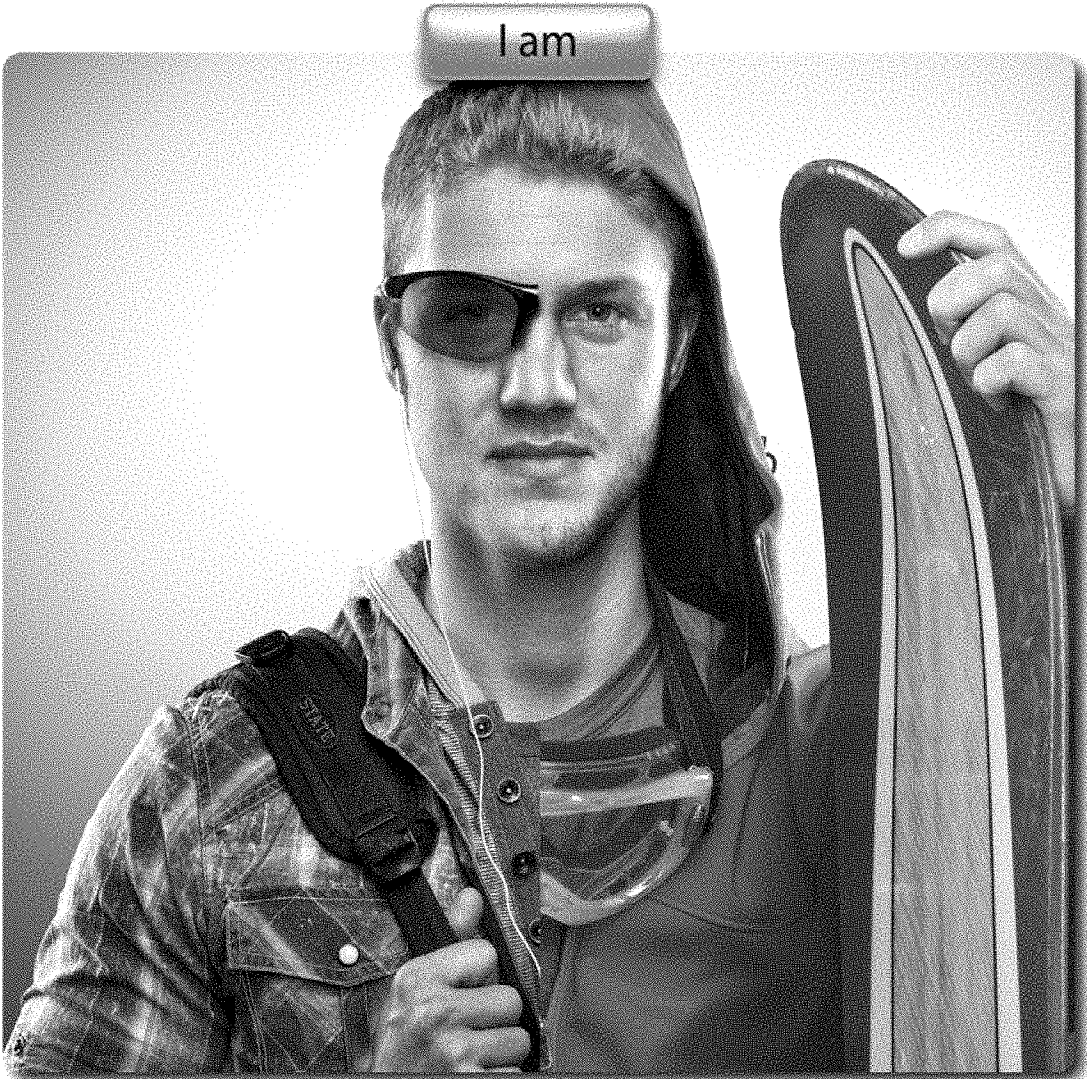
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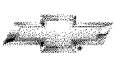
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Do you think that ATL’s spotlight on individual students and employees will affect people’s behavior and discourage them from doing stupid things?

I certainly think so. I think that one way that norms within a community are enforced is by discussing instances of behavior that is inappropriate so that people can know what is appropriate and what isn’t. A lot of times, people don’t even necessarily know what is appropriate or inappropriate behavior. So, I think publishing about cases where somebody acted inappropriately or unethically could certainly serve as a deterrent for unethical behavior in the future.

Has it already done so at all?

It’s very hard to prove a negative, but I can certainly say that over the past few years, we have gotten fewer and fewer stories of summer associate misbehavior. In the past, stories of summer associates acting inappropriately at their law firms were very common. Now, we have dramatically fewer stories about summer associate misbehavior. It could very well be that there are fewer summer associates to engage in misbehavior, which is certainly true, but I do think that now summer associates are aware that if they act inappropriately, word of that behavior could spread. Certainly career services officers have been instrumental in advising law students about the importance of behaving themselves at their summer employers.

Let’s start talking a little bit more about UVA. During the Elizabeth Epps (UVA spitter) story in 2009, you told the UVA Law Blog that people often overstated ATL’s influence and readership. Do you think that is still true?

I think that that is still true. I don’t want to discount the reach or influence of our own website, but a lot of the time these stories that we cover would have gotten out anyway. A lot of other outlets are covering these stories. It’s not like we’re the only people on the scene. I don’t want to be narcissistic and act like if it didn’t get covered on ATL, it didn’t happen. Of course these things happen and they get covered by a multitude of outlets and we happen to be one of the outlets.

Your policy on publishing names was made an issue at that time as well. Could you describe your reasoning behind the policy?

I think that it has evolved a little since then. It is a matter of our sole editorial discretion as to whether or not we publish someone’s name. We have general guidelines that we will consider, but we do not adhere or bind ourselves to any particular policy in this regard. We are a private website, we do not function under any governmental strictures. If people don’t want to read us, they don’t have to.

So, it’s gone from being a policy to a set of guidelines since 2009?

I would say yes. I would say that currently, we have guidelines concerning whether or not we publish, but by analogy to your honor code, every case we look at on a case-by-case basis. In terms of the factors that we do consider, we will consider the extent to which a person’s name is already out there in the public discourse. So, for example, if a student has been named by an outlet with a much larger circulation than ours, it doesn’t make sense to omit the person’s name. It seems coy and a bit silly for us to not mention a person’s name if they have been featured on television or a major newspaper. We also, like many other publications, will mention names if they’re already in public documents. So, if somebody’s name is mentioned in a police report or could be readily looked-up on a court docket by anyone with an internet connection, again, it doesn’t seem to make a lot of sense to omit the name. It seems unnecessary. It seems silly. So, we tend to omit names in cases where there is no public record, there is no mention in another outlet, and the incident involved a small number of people.

As someone who is out there in the broader legal community, how would you describe the public image of UVA Law?

I think it is a very highly-regarded law school. I would say that it is especially known for a couple of things. First, I think that UVA Law is known for a very strong sense of community and a sense of student spirit. One area that I think of is the amount of care that is put into the Libel show videos. These videos are hilarious and brilliant and the production values far outstrip those videos of almost every other law school. I just think that UVA has a tremendous amount of school spirit and a very deep and abiding sense of community.

Second, I think UVA has a very strong tradition of its graduates going into public service, particularly

post-graduate clerkships. UVA has a tremendous record of sending its graduates into prestigious judicial clerkships, particularly Supreme Court clerkships. I would say that this is something that UVA is known nationally for. It’s known nationally as a school that mints superb law clerks.

Third, I think that UVA has a very strong faculty that produces an impressive amount of scholarship, so I would cite that as something that people would realize about UVA as part of its general strong academic reputation. So, those are the three things I would think of: a sense of community, a commitment to public service, and a high degree of academic rigor.

This has been a rough year for UVA’s PR. Can you remember a tougher one for any school in recent years?

Off the top of my head, I can’t. It is an unusual run. I think you had one major story and then a proliferation of minor ones. So, it might be easy to overstate how rough a year it was because there was one story that just dominated the attention, that story being, of course, the Johnathan Perkins story.

What role do you see UVA’s honor code playing in the coverage of these embarrassing stories?

I don’t want to opine too much on things that I don’t have adequate knowledge of. It’s funny, some people say “Oh, that’s what you bloggers do.” But I actually keep my powder dry unless I have a good, decent body of knowledge on the question. I would certainly say that people looked to the honor code in figuring out what might happen to Johnathan Perkins, for instance, or in some of the other individuals who had issues. But, I think one thing to keep in mind about the honor code is that the proceedings of the committee are confidential, so in some ways it doesn’t lend itself to public debate due to the lack of transparency. I did a recent story where I took note of the public summaries, but it was pointed out to me that the public summaries of honor code proceedings do not have to be posted if the students in question would be identifiable. So, you can think, in the case of Johnathan Perkins, that any summary of that proceeding would make him identifiable, so as a result there is no summary.

Do you think there was any sense of UVA hypocrisy or sanctimony in terms of the coverage?

I do think that people thought that due to the honor code, Johnathan Perkins should have received a harsher punishment. But, it’s hard to Monday morning quarterback those proceedings because we don’t know what they ruled on. Don’t get me wrong, I would love to see a summary of the Perkins honor committee proceedings so that people could opine on whether he got off too easy or whether or not the resolution was justified. But, we don’t know. I certainly detected from comments on ATL, which may or may not be representative of public opinion generally, that some people felt that if the honor code was going to have any teeth, Perkins shouldn’t have been issued a degree. On the other hand, we don’t know what other circumstances the honor committee took into account. So, I would be loathe to jump to too many conclusions until we know what was before the Honor Committee.

Let’s talk specifically about the Johnathan Perkins incident. Could you walk me through how that story broke for you?

I’m trying to remember, I can’t obviously reveal anything about our sources since we do keep them confidential. I do recall numerous people at UVA e-mailing us to let us know about what was going on in his case. I don’t think we actually broke the story. I think we picked up on the coverage of the *Law Weekly*. Some people e-mailed the link to [the *Law Weekly*’s] Facebook posting of the press release and we wrote the story based mainly on your posting of the release.

Is that true throughout the story? Particularly when the Honor Committee made its decision and when it became public?

On that story, I think what happened was that we were alerted by several sources that Perkins had in fact received his degree. At that point, I reached out to the Law School spokesperson and asked if the Law School could comment on whether or not Perkins had received his degree. My recollection is that the Law School then issued a statement to ATL informing us that he had received his degree.

31 Aug 2011 at 11:48 AM

UVA Law Student Cleared of Assault and Stalking Charges

11 Aug 2011 at 1:19 PM

UVA Law’s Employment Numbers Are Less Than Impressive

15 Jul 2011 at 10:02 AM

Allen & Overy Partner Accused of Kiddie Porn Purveyance

10 May 2011 at 7:12 PM

More Drama From UVA Law School

09 May 2011 at 3:07 PM

What To Do With The UVA Law Student Who Cried Wolf?

07 May 2011 at 2:33 PM

A Law Student Plays the Race Card — and Gets Busted, Big Time

21 Apr 2011 at 10:11 AM

This is How A Top Law School Should Look Out For Unemployed Grads

04 Apr 2011 at 12:31 PM

Most Creative Way To Shame Your Office of Career Services

29 Mar 2011 at 4:16 PM

Law Students at a Top School Protest Continued Unemployment

What kind of interactions did you have with the UVA administration during your coverage?

Other than their sending us various statements which we ran, we didn’t really have much interaction with the administration. I do appreciate that they were very responsive to our inquiries. Some schools are very responsive and some schools are not. UVA’s administration is definitely one of the most responsive.

You’ve complimented UVA for their handling of the Perkins story, balancing his privacy and the public’s interest. If you were working at the UVA administration, would you have responded any differently?

No, I don’t think so. I think they handled it as I would have handled it. They could have also said “we are not going to respond about the disciplinary record of any of our students” and if they said that, I would have understood that as well. But, I think that would have been unresponsive to the public interest in this case. They could have said that because they could have just cited the federal privacy statute, FERPA, and said, “due to FERPA concerns we can’t say anything.” But they went above and beyond the call of duty. They obtained permission from him to discuss his record and then they disclosed what happened in terms of his degree and the honor proceeding.

This story happened at a weird time for a lot of UVA students. There were a lot of interviews still going on and a lot of students here have expressed a fear that these negative stories would hurt their chances at getting jobs. What is your reaction to that?

I don’t think that any of our stories about UVA would have any material effect on the reputation of the school or on the ability of students to get jobs. Keep in mind the big picture. UVA is one of the nation’s top 10 law schools and there is one alleged bad apple in Johnathan Perkins. I really don’t think that any employer would hold it against the school or its graduates that one graduate out of hundreds had apparently fabricated something. If you look at subsequent developments, I don’t think that there’s any evidence that UVA has been in any way affected by the Perkins story. We cover clerk hiring at ATL pretty closely and, since the controversy, UVA has placed numerous clerks at the Court. Justices are very sensitive to their public image and if justices are happily snatching up UVA law grads as their law clerks, it’s hard to see how UVA has really been affected. I don’t know about Johnathan Perkins himself, it might be hard for him to get a job, although as we mentioned in our last story, it appears as though he got a job at a firm in Pennsylvania, so even he may have landed on his feet.

Looking beyond the Perkins story, how do you see ATL’s influence in the legal job market? Do you think that fears of negative stories are legitimate?

I think that a negative story about an individual can affect that individual’s prospects, but I think that employers are sophisticated enough to realize that you can’t judge an entire group of people based on one individual. Keep in mind also the employer’s interest. The employer just wants to get the best person they can. Why should they deny themselves a very qualified person to be an associate or law clerk merely because some other person, who isn’t being interviewed by them, did something unwise? It’s not in an employer’s rational self-interest to hold the indiscretions of one student against another student. It’s not rational.

Have you ever heard of an ATL story negatively affecting a firm’s hiring decisions? If so, when?

I can see sometimes firms being affected. If we wrote a story about a firm not paying market compensation, that might affect people’s decisions to go to that firm. They might want to go to a firm that offers better compensation. On the other hand, there are many factors that people take into account when they choose an employer and they might be looking at factors other than compensation. So, I generally think that ATL affects legal employment [by] serving as a clearinghouse for information, but we just provide information. What people do with that information is up to them.

How do most law schools respond to being mentioned on ATL?

It depends on the story. Some law schools are pitching us on stories. They are e-mailing us to tell us we should be covering some development at their law school. Some

law schools ignore our inquiries; they don’t respond ever. Some law schools will respond selectively.

I would say that it is in a law school’s interest to respond. I won’t go into particulars, but just today we had a story that we thought was a particularly juicy one involving a career services office. They provided us with information that put the story in a different light and removed its newsworthiness. That story would have been a negative one. Sometimes when law schools provide us with greater information, it is to their benefit.

Is there a general sense of schools being more defensive in terms of responding to your requests?

I would say that over the five and a half years of ATL, schools have become more cooperative with us. When we first started the site, it was very difficult to get schools to respond to anything. Now, I would say that the majority of schools will respond. Sometimes they will respond with a no comment, but in terms of being completely ignored, that doesn’t happen too much anymore. They will at least give us the courtesy of a return e-mail or phone call, even if it’s just to say “we can’t comment because of privacy reasons.”

There’s been a lot of attention in the last year or two about the so-called “scam” of law school. What’s your take on the current state of legal education?

My general view is not as negative as some of my co-writers. I feel like Elie Mystal writes very critically about legal education. I am not quite as down on law school as he is. My general view is that law school is a perfectly fine decision for a lot of people. My own view is that people just need to make an informed decision about whether or not to go to law school. I think that historically many law schools were providing somewhat misleading information about the employment outcomes of their graduates. I think that law schools are now steadily improving in this regard. I also think that media coverage of law school helps prospective law students make better decisions about whether to go to law school. Whether it’s the *New York Times*, Slate, or ATL writing articles about how not everyone who goes to law school gets a lucrative job afterwards, the information is useful for people considering law school. I would say, by the way, that UVA is definitely much better than most law schools about the disclosures that it makes about its employment numbers. I remember it being pointed out to us that UVA’s website has very detailed information about graduate outcomes.

Do you see ATL, in particular, as part of the solution to this transparency problem?

I think that we can certainly help with the news that we write when we are trying to open the eyes of prospective law students to the dangers of debt and the difficult legal job market. Those stories like that are helpful. But, at the same time, I think our influence is limited in that regard. Most of our readers are either lawyers or law students. We have a growing number of people who read us even before they go to law school, but it is not huge. It is not at the level of our market penetration in law schools or law firms.

One of the solutions to the problem of law school transparency needs to come from entities that are more powerful. First, I think the ABA needs to take a tougher stance with its member schools about disclosing this information. Second, I think it would be interesting if *US News* were to take into account transparency issues when it compiles its highly influential law school rankings. So, I think that if ABA and the *US News* were to put a higher influence on law school transparency, that would really cause schools to fall in line.

What do you think will actually happen though? What is your prediction for more realistic change?

I think that we might end up in a better state in a few years down the road through a combination of factors. I could see fewer people deciding to go to law school; law school applications are down about 15% in this latest cycle. And I could see people who do go to law school going in with more reasonable expectations thanks in part to media coverage. I could also see the ABA getting a little tougher about accreditation of law schools and maybe even removing the accreditation of several law schools, especially those with high bar failure rates. I could also see some law schools shrinking their entering classes, which is a trend that we’ve discussed on ATL. So, if you have a little bit of this and a little bit of that, you could end up with a partial solution to the problem of unemployed law school graduates.

28 Feb 2011 at 7:57 PM

Do You Really Need Confederate-Flag Decor at Your Law School Party?

13 Jul 2010 at 2:52 PM

UVA Law Stakes Claim to Become the Douchiest Law School of All Time

22 Feb 2010 at 11:37 AM

Lile Moot Court Board Embarrasses UVA Law, Again

05 Oct 2009 at 10:55 AM

Eskridge v. UVA Law: Prominent Professor Testifies That He Was Denied Tenure Because of His Sexual Orientation

18 Sep 2009 at 11:10 AM

UVA 3Ls Threaten to Eat Their Young

28 Jul 2009 at 10:06 AM

Law Student of the Day: UVA Law Student Spitter

08 Jul 2009 at 4:28 PM

Hunton & Williams Abandons OCI At UVA Law School?

01 Jun 2009 at 4:27 PM

UVA Law Is Set to Won’t Welcome Tom Tancredo Staffer Guilty of Hate Crimes

ATL Addendum

The previous Executive Editor and David Lat agree on one thing – it’s been an odd year for UVA. The

Billy Easley, II ’13
Executive Editor

amount of coverage from Above The Law was unprecedented, not only in terms of its content but also in its influence. In the final weeks of last semester, the previous Executive Board began developing a feature proposal about Above The Law. The goal was to be comprehensive and informative; by contacting members of law firms, the UVA Administration, and ATL, they would craft a feature that was without bias and of interest to the community. While we received some limited replies to our inquiries, the first person we contacted—David Lat— was the only person to give a thorough and satisfying response that was on the record.

To his credit, Dean Mahoney was the one administration figure that *did* respond to our inquiries: “Here are my thoughts: Before the Internet, people would call friends and co-workers to say, ‘Did you hear about such-and-such?’ Blogs today serve the same function but make the news or gossip more widely available more quickly. I don’t think Above the Law treats Virginia-connected topics differently than other topics. Employers are most interested in an applicant’s individual talents and professionalism, and always will be.”

The lack of any response from every other administration official that we contacted (multiple times each, in some cases) is not merely unfortunate, but also disappointing. While David Lat’s candor is greatly appreciated, it is not enough to fulfill the initial promise of this feature. ATL has had a marked impact by becoming a necessary part of the conversation. The validity of that impact on UVA’s culture is a potent issue and one that should be examined thoroughly. When Letters to the Editor are signed under a pseudonym and mention ATL as a reason why members of the Law School community didn’t want to write this publication; when the SBA frequently mentions ATL in their deliberations over an issue; or when a Professor asks us not to publish a story about a specific individual because of how a media source would react that’s indicative of an issue worth exploring.

Are those concerns valid or are they a measure of the neurotic, risk-averse nature of the legal profession? Does that influence have a positive impact on the student body or on UVA as an institution? Does Above the Law actually have a tangible effect on our job prospects or how hiring partners view our school? The previous Editorial Board did not know. This Editorial Board does not know. And despite the rarified, concrete opinion of our dear readers on this subject, they don’t know. The only way they could is by exercising the same kind of judicious and practical examination of issues our professors teach us – by eschewing our knee-jerk reactions, gathering information, and examining every side of the issue. The Law Weekly, at its best, isn’t just a comedic valve for the community but an informative one as well. Hopefully, next time such an opportunity arises the administration will be more willing to supplement that effort.

- bje4rf@virginia.edu

A Ball and Chain You Can’t Easily Discharge

I love graduation. Who wouldn’t? You put on a ridiculous robe, stand up on stage, and everyone tells you

Ben Hurst ’12
Columnist



that you’re great. What could be better than that? I like weddings as well, but all the congregants at a wedding show up at least in part to impress on you the solemnity of the occasion. You’re taking on a big obligation, they say, and not just because if this goes south you have to return the silverware. Graduations don’t ask anything of you at all. It’s enough that you simply stand there and agree that you are, in fact, awesome.

I yield to no man in acknowledgment of my own awesomeness. Not for no reason am I a member of the most qualified class, ever. I am awesome, my friends, but you are awesome too. A great many of you are more awesome than I, but every one of us is awesome. Look out NYU, we’ve got your number.

As long as I’m being honest, however, I think it’s worthwhile to note that I feel just a tiny bit of guilt in accepting the praise that will certainly be heaped on me in a few weeks. True, parts of law school have been difficult. I didn’t understand the parol evidence rule

two years ago, and I probably never will. My Civil Procedure exam was a truly soul-crushing experience. Journal tryout weekend caused an existential crisis, but it did bring me closer to the guy working at Kinko’s at three in the morning. No doubt, there have been trials.

I feel guilty because all of the trials came in my first year. There have been crises since then, of course (the moot court debacle comes to mind), but in general I think you could have trained one of the higher primates to do what I’ve done since May of 2010. He’d need one hand to hold his bourbon and another hand to alternatively turn steaks on the grill and use the remote control. As long as he could stammer and look terrified when called upon, he would be as qualified as I to graduate.

It occurred to me last week that most of my work lies ahead. Early in April of your third year, the Law School requires all third-year students with debt to attend what, where I’m from, would be described as a “come-to-Jesus meeting.” Congratulations, they say, and oh by the way, if you’re not going to make \$160,000 next year, you may want to consider a 25-year repayment plan. You see, a great many of us owe so much and may make so little in the future, that we

might end up paying our children’s first college tuition bill before we have paid our last.

(I ought to note here the incandescent crassitude of the Law School’s graduation pledge drive. My wife and I have given the Law School more money in the past three years than we’ve spent on expenses, gifts, or charity to every other person on Earth, combined. We’re tapped, a fact of which the Law School is well aware. Even if we weren’t, why would I donate our money to the Law School? This is a business arrangement. Do you donate money to your grocer after you’ve paid him, just because he *swears* that he didn’t charge you enough for what you got?)

Should we now celebrate our graduation?

It takes a couple of things to graduate from law school. You have to gain acceptance, you have to pass the required classes, and you have to pay a large sum of money. The Law School will give you a degree if you finish the first two and promise to do the third, as if paying off this debt is somehow less important than getting accepted and passing classes. But what if it’s not? What if it takes more effort to pay off your loans than it does to “earn” acceptance and pass classes? Have we really earned our degrees

if we haven’t even started to pay for them? It seems to me that the federal government owns my degree and I have to pay them interest for the privilege of using it. Not exactly a cause for celebration.

I chose this route voluntarily and under no impression (the Law School’s employment data to the contrary notwithstanding) that I would make \$160,000 the year after I graduated. I have enjoyed many of my courses, hope that some of them will be useful, and have enjoyed the opportunity to learn from some wonderful professors. I have no reason to complain.

But I don’t think that we graduates should now celebrate because we’ve accomplished something very challenging or difficult; most people work harder for longer hours than we do. Perhaps instead we ought to celebrate not because we’re awesome, but because we’ve reached a point where we can stop borrowing money and start repaying our loans. We’ve reached a point where we can stop borrowing from society and start contributing to it. Come to think of it, when it comes to serious obligations, maybe graduation isn’t so different from a wedding after all.

- jbh4zn@virginia.edu

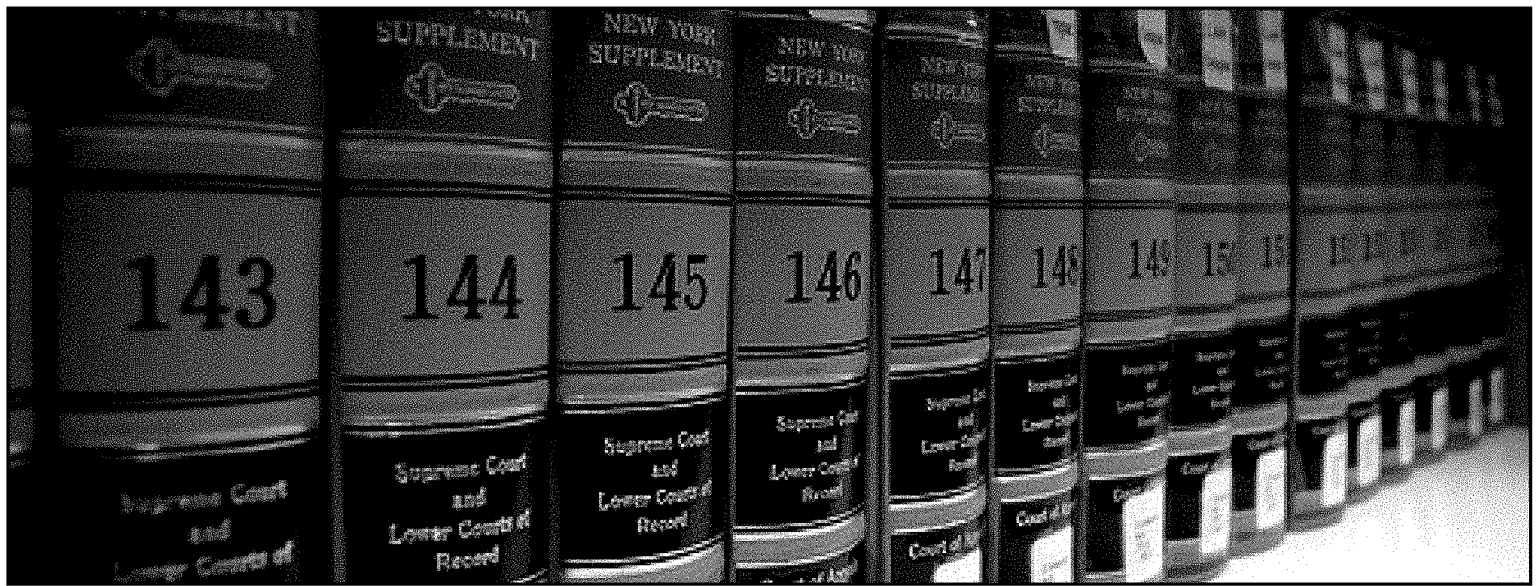


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This year’s Law School graduation pledge drive has been particularly ineffective given the nature of the complimentary gift: out-of-date Supreme Court Supplements.

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This is weird



photo courtesy of woodness.wordpress.com

Keep crying and we WILL throw the baby out with the bath water.

I have no idea how to do this. I have absolutely no clue how to encapsulate my experience over the

Jen Becker '12
Columnist



past three years and I certainly don't think I can do it eloquently. If my other columns have taught me anything it's that graduation or not, I'm not Ms. Wonderful over here with the whole writing thing. But I figure we can take this road to overflowing sentiment in steps: 1L, 2L and 3L. Rather than tell you all the times and experiences that meant the most to me, I'll tell you what I wish I had done differently.

1L

1L was especially weird. You get thrust into a whole new environment (unless you went here for undergrad - in that case you keep hanging out with the same people you did for the past four years, parade around in pastels and Barbour, and generally have a crappy attitude about anything non-UVA. Unless you're Paul Wagoner. He's the tits. But I digress...), you have to start learning all this really complicated stuff, and come to realize that you are not *anywhere* nearly as smart as you once thought you were. It sucks, dude. It's 1L year.

If I could have done 1L year all over again (which, to be honest, I wish I could because that would mean I'd get three more years here), I would have done it differently. Instead of listening to everyone around me tell me how to study, where to study, and how to achieve a stress-induced aneurism the quickest - I would have listened to

myself. I wanted to go to law school for as long as I can remember. I loved reading about the law, taking classes on the law - I got really fired up to a point where boys, stress, and most importantly YouTube, meant absolutely nothing to me. I had a hunger for learning that I hope one day I get back. I lost that somewhere 1L year because I let myself be convinced that it would be the worst year of my life and I would hate every minute. If I could go back I would have devoured school with a positive, non-bitching attitude, and I would have realized sooner than later that I was damn lucky to be at a place like UVA, learning a thing like the law.

Oh, and I wouldn't have tried to spray that skunk with Raid.

2L

2L year is kind of like the middle stepchild of an emotionally vacant family. You're worried about jobs, finding a great sublet in your foster city for the summer, and who you're going to take home from Bilt on Thursday night. You know where WB151 is, you know which professors NOT to take, and you know exactly what time you need to get to D3 to get a decent spot. Which, by the way, is 8:55am. You look forward to Feb Club, the Softball Tournament, hell maybe you're digging Moot Court (which, by the way, means you're a sociopath). And while everything seems consistently decent, you've completely forgotten that next year will be your last at this magical adult faux summer camp known as UVA Law.

If I could do 2L year over again I'd appreciate it more. I would have spent more time with friends

who will live in different cities upon graduation. I would have actually made it to Humpback Rock at some point. Eh... that's kind of a stretch - I hear you have to hike up things to get there or something.

3L

3L year is kind of like senior year of high school. "I don't *really* need to go to class, do I? 10:30 is really kind of early for brunch... You have two finals!? Didn't you plan your schedule out better??" 3L year is all about saying goodbye to the people and place we've come to love the most. 3L year is for streaking the lawn, saying you'll go to Mas more often but never actually going, and Blue Mountain Brewery. You savor every single moment because you know THE END IS NEAR!!! But then you come to find that you've turned into one of those apocalyptic nut jobs running down Lexington Avenue with a huge sign that says "THE END IS NEAR! YOU'LL BE DOING DOC REVIEW BEFORE YOU KNOW IT!" Okay, so it would need to be a mad big sign to fit all of that in block letters, but you get what I mean.

This probably hasn't been the funniest column of my Law Weekly career - not that they've ever been side-splitting but I do have a bottom line. 1L, 2L, and 3L have been some of the most magical years of my life. Support one another, remember how special legal knowledge is, and please - for the love of Oliver Wendell Whatever-his-name-is - keep UVA Law special. Oh and Dean Mahoney, never change tailors.

- jnb7wc@virginia.edu

sudoku
Hard

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

Medium

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

ANSWERS

Hard

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

Medium

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

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