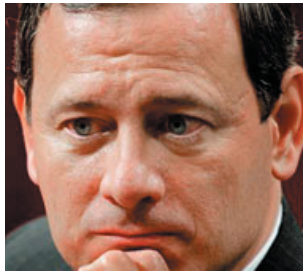


Judicial evolution v. originalism



The Founding Fathers wrote the Constitution several hundred years ago. Gavel columnists explore whether Supreme Court nominee Judge Roberts is bound to precedent.

BROADSIDE, PAGE 5

Law schools extend welcome



With Hurricane Katrina forcing the closure of some law schools in Louisiana, The Gavel examines these displaced students options in Ohio.

LAW, PAGE 2

Hands off adult entertainment?



Controversial legislation could curtail First Amendment rights. The Gavel explores both sides of a proposed bill in Ohio that could tighten restrictions on the adult entertainment industry.

LAW, PAGE 3



THE GAVEL

VOLUME 54, ISSUE 1 SEPTEMBER 2005

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER AT CLEVELAND-MARSHALL COLLEGE OF LAW

Scholarships, stipends help pay tuition

By Shawn Romer

Though some students receive scholarships upon acceptance to Cleveland Marshall College of Law, the majority does not. For these students, the issue of paying for law school is paramount. Many sign away projected income by taking out college loans. Others rely upon generous parents and still others work their way through school.

Regardless of the student's situation, almost all would like to pay as little as they can get away with. For those in this category, there are a few ways to get the university to pick up part of the tab on that next tuition bill.

First, a student can study hard or be lucky at exam time. The university awards \$2,000 Marshall Scholarships to the top five students in each class who did not receive scholarships upon matriculation. These scholarships

See **SCHOLARSHIP**, page 2

Local attorneys vie for position as mayor

By Stephen Wolf

Five of eight candidates for mayor of the city of Cleveland are attorneys. What attracts attorneys to the office, and why would anyone want to subject themselves to such a challenge? The Gavel spoke with two of these attorneys and mayoral hopefuls.

James Draper

When he was in law school at C-M, Draper never considered running for mayor.

Now, a lifetime later, his friends and constituents came to him and asked him to run. He said it was their faith in him that moved him to act.

Although initially not recognizing the full extent of his accomplishments, his friends convinced him of both his record of service and the administrative skills required to be mayor.

Draper is not new to public service. He devoted his adult life to serving the citizens of greater Cleveland.

Joining the Navy after college,



Photo provided by The Cauldron

The eight mayoral candidates debate at The Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs at CSU

he returned to begin a career as a Cleveland police officer. He enrolled at CSU and obtained his bachelor's degree and juris doctor. Draper began his law career with

five years as the general counsel for the Ohio Public Interest Campaign.

He proudly described this time as one of "fighting for equity for

Ohio citizens." Draper took a position as Chief of the Cuyahoga County Public Defender's office.

See **CANDIDATES**, page 3



Profile of 1Ls

Information about the current 1L class

Number of students:	236	
Full-time Day:	170	(72%)
Part-time Day:	23	(10%)
Part-time Night:	43	(18%)
Female:	114	(48%)
Male:	122	(52%)
Resident:	180	(76%)
Non-resident:	56	(24%)
Minority:	41	(18%)

25th percentile	151	3.14
75th percentile	157	3.59

Information provided by Melody Stewart

Students benefit from overseas studies

By Daniel Thiel

Upon returning to law school this year, a popular question seems to be "what did you do this summer?" Several C-M students, however, have a slightly better answer to this question, as their summer consisted of international study.

Josh Fellenbaum was awarded a scholarship from the International Law Student Association and Dispute Resolution Institution at Queen Mary School of Arbitration in London, England.

Queen Mary is one of the foremost schools in the world for international arbitration. He attended five weeks of class that he believes will benefit him for a lifetime.

Not only did Fellenbaum gain educational benefits, he was able to network with law students and young lawyers from the United

States, Europe, and India.

"This experience provided opportunities to make central contacts and invaluable knowledge of how to effectively advocate for a client outside a classroom," Fellenbaum said.

In a sobering contrast to this positive experience, Fellenbaum was riding the subway during the July 7th London bombings. Not only was he riding on the subway when it happened, the train he was riding was near the explosion.

"I was only about 15 feet away from one of the bombings," said Fellenbaum. "It was so close we could hear and feel the explosion."

Despite that horrifying ordeal, Fellenbaum still recommends this program to any student interested in international arbitration.

Mark Merims went to Saint Petersburg, Russia through C-M's

Study Abroad Program. The program was "great and well worth the time and money," Merims said.

His studies consisted of four weeks of courses with ample travel opportunities. The course was predominantly taught by American professors with one Russian professor. One of the most memorable trips during Merims' exchange program was to the small town of Novgorod.

Merim plans to practice international law and believes that this experience taught him many essential tools to assist him in that field.

The hardest part about traveling and living in Russia was not knowing the language. If one did not have a bilingual speaking

See **STUDENTS**, page 3

Dean introduces self, looks forward to year

By Geoffrey Mearns

For my first column, I would like to tell you a bit about my personal background, my professional experience, and why I am excited to be one of the newest members of this excellent law school.

I am the fifth of nine children. In 1974, my parents moved to the Cleveland area. I attended Shaker Heights High School and graduated in 1977. I received my undergraduate degree in 1981 from Yale University, where I majored in English, a subject I taught for three years at The Delbarton School in Morristown, New Jersey. I then attended the University of Virginia School of Law.



The Dean's Column

After graduating from law school in 1987, I clerked for the Honorable Boyce F. Martin, Jr., of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. During this clerkship, I enhanced my legal writing and analytical skills and learned that judges, including federal appellate court judges, decide disputes. Through that experience, I also learned some important lessons about life. Judge Martin is a mentor and a role model. Through his life-long commitment to public service, he demonstrates that a citizen-lawyer can make a difference in the lives of others. I know this because he changed mine.

Shortly after the end of my clerkship, I began a nine-year career as a prosecutor with the U.S. Department of Justice. From 1989 to 1995, I was an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Eastern District of New York. In that job, I principally prosecuted organized crime cases. The EDNY includes Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island, and Long Island, so for those of us who prosecuted mobsters, it was a "target-rich environment."

In June 1995, I left New York City to become the First Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Eastern District of North Carolina. I worked for Janice McKenzie Cole, who was one of the first African-American women in our nation's history to be appointed by a President to serve as a United States Attorney. Her life story is similar to the stories of many of the men and women who have attended our law school. She put herself through law school while working as a New York City police officer, and was the quintessential public servant: modest, honest, and courageous.

In May 1997, I was drafted – not by the Secretary of Defense, but by Attorney General Janet Reno—to assist in the prosecution of Terry Nichols, who was charged with assisting Timothy McVeigh in the bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City. Nichols was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment for his role in that terrible crime. As a result of the outstanding efforts of Nichols's defense team, the jury did not impose the death penalty. One member of that capable and dedicated team of trial lawyers was Professor Adam Thurschwell, one of my new colleagues.

While I was in Denver preparing for that trial, my wife Jennifer moved to Cleveland with our oldest three children: Bridget, Christina, and Clare. Shortly after I came home in January 1998, Jennifer gave birth to our twins: Geoffrey, Jr., and Molly. We live in Shaker Heights.

For the next seven years, I practiced with two national law firms based in Cleveland: first with Thompson Hine LLP, and then with Baker & Hostetler LLP. My practice focused on defending individuals and corporations in federal criminal investigations and prosecutions, as well as complex commercial civil litigation. Being a federal prosecutor was exciting and rewarding, although I found private practice to be equally demanding and challenging. In short, I enjoyed practicing law, and I am proud to be a lawyer.

I sought and accepted the appointment as your Dean because legal education is a special calling. It is a profession that embodies some of the values that were instilled in me by my parents. My father was a law professor for 40 years. After raising nine children, my mother spent 18 years in public service; she was the first woman to be elected Mayor of Shaker Heights.

This law school is also a special place. It has a tradition of excellence, and it is a law school of opportunity. Being Dean is an opportunity to be an advocate for a very good cause and an opportunity to share my passion for justice with the next generation of lawyers.

Over the next few years, we will face many challenges. Among other things, we need to continue to recruit and retain outstanding students and faculty in a very competitive environment, even though state financial support for higher education will likely decrease. In future columns and in other forums, I will discuss these and other challenges, as well as our plans to overcome them.

For now, I assure you that we *will* overcome these challenges, and we will enhance the regional and national reputation of this law school, because the entire law school community – the faculty, the students, the staff, and the alumni – are committed to advancing the common good, as opposed to preserving the status quo or protecting their own self-interests. I am here because I share this optimism, and because I believe that through service to others, a lawyer can find professional satisfaction and reap great personal rewards.

Hurricane displaces law students

Local law schools take in students affected by Katrina

By Margan Keramati

Ohio's eight ABA-accredited law schools offered to open their doors to law students from Tulane University Law School and Loyola University New Orleans School of Law. Both were affected by Hurricane Katrina which hit the Gulf Coast on August 28, 2005.

The Association of American Law Schools compiled a list of policies for admitting displaced law students from 183 out of 185 ABA-accredited schools, the two schools not participating being Tulane and Loyola.

C-M agreed to accept second and third year students as visitors for fall 2005 and waive tuition for the semester as long as the student had or would have paid tuition at their home school in New Orleans. No Tulane or Loyola student has asked to be admitted to C-M to date, according to Associate Dean

Linda L. Ammons.

Case Western Reserve University School of Law has provided accommodations for three first year Tulane law students.

"The students arrived at 8:00 a.m. Tuesday morning and were in class by 8:30 a.m.," said Barbara Andelman, Associate Dean for Student Services at Case.

The students, originally from Cleveland Heights, Rochester, New York, and New York City, only had one week of classes before leaving New Orleans, said Dean Andelman.

Case is giving the three students the option to stay indefinitely or return to Tulane once the school is back in operation.

"Our approach was to make it as easy as possible for the students, if they wished, to continue their law studies at Case, while allowing them maximum flexibility, given

the uncertainty of their situation," said Dean Andelman.

The University of Cincinnati School of Law took in one second-year student from Tulane and one third-year student from Loyola, both having ties to the greater Cincinnati area, according to Associate Dean Barbara Watts.

The school offered to admit second and third year students in good standing with a connection to Ohio or Greater Cincinnati on a visiting basis.

The Ohio State University's Moritz College of Law also took in two second-year students with ties to Ohio from Tulane on a visiting status basis. The school offered to admit second and third year students.

According to their Web sites, both Tulane and Loyola are expecting to resume classes in January 2006.

Scholarship: paying for school

Continued from page 1--

are subject to the availability of funds and are not guaranteed for subsequent years.

The second way is to get to know Professor Louis Geneva. C-M's scholarship donors include a number of organizations interested in contributing tax law education, and they fund a number of scholarships for students interested in the field.

These scholarships include the Lebit and Ernst and Young Scholarships. Professor Geneva selects students for both. The obvious requisites are a strong background and excellent grades in tax-related courses.

Another way is to work for it. A number of student positions offer university-funded stipends.

The student editors of The Gavel receive a university stipend as does the president of the Student Bar Association in return for services that should consume at least 20 hours of their time per week.

In addition, the other officers of the Student Bar Association, the Vice President of Budgeting, Vice President of Programming, Treasurer and Speaker of the Senate, also receive funding.

If a student is interested in these positions, then he or she should start campaigning. The Gavel staff writers elect their editors. SBA officers are voted in by the C-M student body.

In addition, the student editors of C-M's two scholarly publications, the Cleveland State Law Review and the C-M College of Law Journal of Law and Health receive university funding for their services.

CSU also funds stipends for other types of assistantships. Students with excellent grades in a first-year class can be asked to become tutors or research assistants during their second year.

These stipends vary depending on the nature of the work.

Though these and other opportunities do exist for continuing students, a C-M student's most likely avenue of funding is to receive a scholarship upon admission.

Seven hundred ninety-two thousand dollars were distributed last year enticing entering students to pass up other opportunities in favor of attending C-M. Two hundred sixty applicants were offered scholarships, and 102 people accepted.

Scholarships are funded through two types of donations: gifts and endowments. Students who receive endowed scholarships should feel more secure. The donors who funded these awards

gave a substantial amount of money that the university invested and used the interest each year to fund the endowed scholarships.

Scholarships funded from one-time donations, such as the Marshall Scholarships have a much more tenuous existence.

If the money runs out and is not renewed, the students' scholarships run out as well. The general requirements for sustaining continuing scholarships are maintaining a 3.0 GPA and full-time enrollment.

Funding for law school is out there, and there are ways to get it.

The common themes in all of them, however, are hard work and diligent studying.

CONGRATULATIONS

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THE GAVEL

American Bar Association

Student Division

BEST LAW SCHOOL

NEWSPAPER

Candidates: using legal education

Continued from page 1--

It was there he learned many of the administrative skills he hopes to bring to the office of mayor. His appointment as safety director broadened those administrative skills to include the biggest and most expensive part of the city.

Draper was also involved in the Eighth Judicial Conference, Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation and the board of trustees of Southwestern Christian College.

When asked about the large field of attorneys in this political contest, Draper dismissed any liability to being labeled as an attorney.

"As an attorney, you cultivate valuable mediation and negotiation skills," said Draper. "As mayor, it is necessary to bring together a diverse set of people and work with one another to find solutions

to problems facing the city."

Draper also acknowledged the importance of listening and the role of the mayor.

"The mayor must listen to the parties to better understand their needs and facilitate communication amongst the parties," Draper said. "However, it is the mayor's responsibility to choose the ultimate course of action."

David Lynch

Lynch was born and raised in the Cleveland area. He obtained his bachelor's degree from John Carroll and juris doctor from Georgetown University.

He brought his education back to Cleveland but did not foresee his current position.

"In law school I never envisioned running for mayor," Lynch said.

Lynch was born into politics and public service. His mother was active in republican politics and his father ran for school board.

After law school, Lynch found that he did not really enter politics as much as politics entered him.

"It's the nature of the beast that attorneys work with government," said Lynch. "If you're working on zoning, you find yourself in front of zoning boards, and after a bit, you realize what role politics plays in life."

Lynch ran for Euclid City Council and served two terms as mayor of Euclid. In that position, he discovered use for the skills he had learned as an attorney.

"While there is a mercenary aspect to becoming a lawyer, it is that adversarial aspect that becomes useful," Lynch said.

The 2005 Cleveland Mayoral Candidates

Anthony Brown	Former city employee Master of Business Administration from CSU
Jane Campbell	Current mayor of Cleveland Master of Science in Urban Studies from CSU
James Draper	Former Cleveland public safety director Juris Doctor from C-M
Frank Jackson	City counsel president Juris Doctor from C-M
David Lynch	Former mayor of Euclid Juris Doctor from Georgetown University
Michael Nelson	Attorney Juris Doctor from Case Western Reserve University
Bill Patmon	Consultant for development company Associate degree in construction technology Washtanaw Community College

STUDENTS

Continued from page 1--

friend along with them, then things like reading menus became impossible. This minor set back does not hinder him from suggesting that C-M students should seriously consider the program.

I traveled to Beijing, China through De Paul's Study Abroad Program. The program itself lasted about four weeks and included numerous field trips.

The major field trips included tours around Beijing to Shanghai in the south and Xian in the west. In addition, there were various small trips such as the observance of a criminal trial, a visit to a local law firm and a trip to the Supreme Court for a talk with two judges.

Somewhere between all these trips were classes, but they did not interfere with sightseeing too much.

The best part of this experience was that twice a week we would have Chinese guest lectures speak to us about their field of



Photo provided by Daniel Thiel

Students take a time out from class to visit the city of Shanghai

expertise.

One of the lecturers even provided me with the opportunity to participate in a six-week summer internship at the speaker's prestigious downtown law firm where I learned how real international

legal transactions are performed.

Although each student had a vastly different experience studying abroad, all agree that their experiences enriched them in a way that a summer in Cleveland could not.

Legislation proposes new restrictions on adult entertainment

By Kurt Fawver

A bill currently under consideration by the Ohio senate would substantially alter the state's adult entertainment industry if passed. The piece of legislation in question, known as Ohio House Bill 23 or "The Community Defense Act", proposes a stringent set of guidelines for the operation of businesses such as cabarets, gentlemen's clubs and adult video stores.

Under the bill's rules, a club or cabaret's nude or semi-nude dancers are prohibited from touching patrons, an act that remains a staple of many adult entertainment facilities.

Patrons could no longer tip performers through use of the traditional and time-honored g-string either. They would instead be obligated to throw gratuities into an off-stage tip jar. HB 23 also restricts the adult entertainment industry's hours of business.

In addition, between the hours of 11 p.m. and 10 a.m., any establishment engaging in a public display of adult entertainment is obligated to close for the night or otherwise end the entertainment.

Restrictions such as these have caused significant backlash from certain segments of the community and have surrounded the legislation with controversy.

The bill has already passed in the state house by an overwhelming majority and is now up for debate in senatorial committees. Citizens for Community Values, an organization dedicated to "the restoration of those Judeo-Christian moral values upon which this country was founded," has been one of the legislation's strongest supporters.

CCV promotes the Community Defense Act as a valuable tool in combating the violence that they believe often accompanies sexually-oriented entertainment. Citing numerous studies of rape and robbery statistics, the group claims adult businesses corrupt surrounding communities. They maintain that heightened crime rates in areas with adult businesses have a direct relation to the brand of entertainment those businesses provide.

CCV has crusaded against what they deem as obscenity since 1983, most notably in the Cincinnati area. There, the organization's efforts to eliminate the sex industry were largely successful.

In greater Cincinnati, only 5 percent of all video rental stores and magazine retailers still stock pornographic materials. The city also has the seventh lowest crime rate among the 38 largest metropolitan areas in America.

This correlation is not a coincidence, said CVV. By restricting adult entertainment statewide, they hope to precipitate an even wider decline in illegal behavior.

Opponents of HB 23, however, see it as a gross violation of the First Amendment. Worried the bill will push its way through a largely conservative senate without much resistance, they fear it is a weapon of censorship and repression.

Many of its critics have focused on the legislation's broader implications. For instance, it attempts to legally define what is "obscene" in regard to stage performances and works of art. Any work that has a "dominant tendency to arouse lust" will be labeled obscene and is therefore subject to the restrictions of the bill.

Free speech advocates across the state have cringed at the possible interpretations such a definition could have. Sexual expression in media and art is protected under the First Amendment.

To censor adult entertainment would be to disregard a basic principle of the Constitution and threaten the very foundation of our freedom, opponents said.

Still others are apprehensive about what HB 23 means for Ohio's nightlife. Several adult club owners across the state have come out against the bill and are nervous that their businesses will lose considerable profits. Some simply believe the industry and a part of the state's economy will die perhaps with good reason.

When asked for comment on the proposed legislation one anonymous 1L student said, "If I can't touch, I might as well go home and watch a movie."

THE GAVEL

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LB23

We are always accepting submissions.
If you are interested in contributing to the Gavel,
e-mail the editors at
gavel@law.csuohio.edu.

Come Join Us!

Choose classes with an eye for the future

By Karen Mika

LEGAL WRITING PROFESSOR

I kind of liked the idea of having all of my first year classes assigned to me. Now that I have to select classes, I'm not sure what to take. What's the best source of advice?

Most people these days don't make any major purchase without doing extensive research. The same should be true of planning out your course selections for law school.

There are, of course, lots of seemingly conflicting goals: taking required courses, taking bar exam prep courses, taking practical course, taking courses that you might like, taking courses that fit into your schedule, and, of course, graduating on time while participating

in a sufficient amount of extracurricular activities. What each student needs to do is to find out where he/she fits into the grand scheme of things.

For instance, everyone wants to pass the bar exam, but a schedule limited to bar courses isn't for everyone. Regrettably, there is a high risk group that should focus on bar courses, but maybe you're not in it and know that there are subject matters that you could learn on your own, or subject matters that you already know something about.

For instance, I wasted my time taking an agency course that fully replicated a course I had as an undergrad. If you fit into that category, then you should be focusing on courses that interest you, or courses that will advance your aspiration.

You also need to research things like prerequisites for certain courses. Be aware that if you want to work in tax law, there is a chronology of courses that needs to start earlier than later. Also be aware that if you would like to take trial advocacy, it might be a good idea to have background knowledge about evidence prior to the course rather than after it. Be aware that there are certain courses that must be taken at a certain time in order to participate in certain extracurricular activities (e.g., upper level Moot Court, Journal, and Law Review participation are predicated on courses/activities done in the summer and fall semesters.)

Consider also what you might want to do as a career. If criminal law is your thing, then take criminal law oriented courses and do criminal law oriented activities. Sometimes the experience you get from doing something like that outweighs your efforts to take a course in every subject tested on the bar exam.

As you've probably already discovered, advice about what you should be doing will come from all kinds of sources. Keep in mind that each person who gives you advice has his/her own viewpoint of priorities – both personal and for the school.

All viewpoints have merit, but the only person who can decide what is best for you is yourself.

Changes in summer writing competition

Students encounter new challenges in earlier start to writing competition

By Jamie Cole Kerlee

CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Many employers who participate in the Fall Interview Program either require or strongly prefer that the bidding student be a member of a law school publication. For C-M students there are two publications available, Law Review and The Journal of Law and Health.

Last year, Robert Koury, editor-in-chief of Law Review, worked with Andy Wancata and Evelyn Holmer, co-editors-in-chief of the Journal of Law and Health, to encourage first-year students to become associates with one of the publications. In addition to speaking in first year classes, the joint effort organized an information session in April that encompassed a wide variety of topics.

There are two ways that students can become associates of either Law Review or the Journal. Students in the top 10 percent of their class receive an invitation to be a member of Law Review or Journal. Students in the top 20 percent receive invitations from the Journal. Students who do not "grade on" to a particular publication can participate in the summer writing competition. Editors of the publications review anonymous submissions to determine whether the papers meet the standards set by the organizations.

In preparation for the 2005 summer writing competition, the two publications hosted a joint workshop for 1Ls on how to write a case comment. The workshop was held in early June. This workshop was the first of its kind and demonstrates the increased interest in and support of C-M's reputable publications.

The summer writing competition has seen many changes. In recent years, the summer writing competition was held in August. Although students had the benefit of knowing their class rank by this time, the competition interfered with the overall editing operations and scheduling of the publications. Furthermore, students were unable to depend upon using the publication on their resume as a 2L for the Fall Interview

Program. The summer writing competition was moved to May.

This reaction also had its problems. The competition assignment began during spring finals, and the students did not know their ranks or their grades. Furthermore, the Moot Court Competition for first-year students also takes place in May. Some students found themselves forced to choose between one or the other competition because they were unable to tackle both tasks simultaneously.

The bulk of the last summer writing competition began in June 2005 with the final draft submitted in July. Only the citation quiz was to be completed during the first week of May. The changes in the competition this year orchestrated by the editors-in-chief of the publications afforded students the opportunity to finish finals in the spring, attend the workshop hosted by the publications, participate in the Moot Court Competition and to view their final spring semester grades.

Several students have complained that they were unable to view their class ranking prior to the competition deadline. The delay in the rankings is a problem that the editors are trying to solve with the help of the administration. There are a lot of administrative procedures that make the grading and ranking process difficult for all that are involved.

Koury stated that prior to the start of the 2005 summer writing competition, Law Review editors established a standard for reviewing the submissions. The first test called for strict adherence to the format and citation rules of the competition. On that standard alone, 30 of the 40 Law Review papers were eliminated. Of the 10 remaining submissions, the editors narrowed their invitations down to five anonymous students.

"We have to have a higher standard," Koury explained. The problem facing both publications is purely mathematical. If the standards are the same, and the same people

submit papers to both organizations, then students will presumably receive an invitation to both publications.

In the past, Law Review invited a large number of "write on" students. Those students then chose to accept invitations with the primary publication, Law Review, which left the Journal with a small incoming class of associates. In order to prevent this from happening again, it was understood that the standards had to be different.

The previous two years have been difficult for the Journal. Two years ago, membership with the Journal was at an all-time low. This year, there are 21 editors and the incoming class totals 40 new associates, with 28 of those being "write on" students.

"We didn't go in with a number in mind because every class is different," Holmer said. "It all depends on the class' abilities."

While they recognized the need and the availability for a large incoming class, they knew that the number of associates would depend on the writing ability of the competitors.

"We have a standard, and everyone that makes that standard is on," the editors said.

The editors-in-chief of the Journal are pleased that they were able to accept as many students as they did.

The editors of the publications hope to continue making positive changes to the competition based upon survey feedback from students that participated in 2005.

As Jayne Geneva explains, the rewards of being a member of either publication outweigh the stress and time spent researching and writing. Employers prefer and in some cases require that students have the experience of researching an abstract legal issue and analyzing difficult concepts. Students who have not yet participated in the summer writing competition and are not members of either publication should consider submitting an entry in 2006.

Judge greets students, invites participation

By Judge Nancy Margaret Russo

Welcome to the 2005-2006 academic year and to a new column in the Gavel!

As a graduate of C-M (1982) and the Levin College (MPA 2000), I know that no matter what year of graduate school you are in this will be a year of challenges and discoveries.

Since this feature is new, I thought it best to start off with some introductions and my goals for this column.

Prior to election to the Bench (1996), I worked primarily in the areas of insurance and white-collar crime. That work provided me with the opportunity to work with and trained industry personnel and law enforcement at every level of government.

I am now in my second term on the Court of Common Pleas and serve as the Chairman of the Court's Probation Committee. I am a Fellow of the Ohio State Bar Foundation (2001) and an alumna of Leadership Cleveland (2000).

As you know, C-M is the law school of judges here in Northeast Ohio. Regardless of which bench you review, you will find graduates as judges in municipal, common pleas and appellate courts throughout the area.

One of the greatest strengths of our law

school is its diversity on every level from age, gender and ethnicity to life experiences. All of these variables make for great classes and a vibrant local bar. You have the opportunity here to learn from the faculty and also from fellow classmates. It is the

The
Judge's
Corner

richness of life experiences of the students that is most unique at C-M.

You also have a vibrant group of alumni, ready and willing to assist you as you transition from student to practitioner. Don't hesitate to network!

It is my hope that through this column we can establish a dialogue which will help you prepare for the real world of practicing law (the information you don't necessarily receive in a classroom, a form of virtual internship, if you will).

In keeping with that goal, each of you is invited to visit my court room and "shadow" me for a day, or more, if you'd like. That is my invitation to you to spend the day with me and my staff and do what we do, from criminal to civil to settlements, i.e. whatever is happening that day.

To those of you interested in public service, the Judiciary, or any form of litigation, this is a unique opportunity to see the

academic portion of your education applied to real situations, in real time, with real clients, and the ability to observe wonderful attorneys at work.

I also hope that you will forward any questions or column suggestions for future articles. I prefer dialogue and conversation to "speeches." This column is designed to be interactive.

This is an exciting time to be a student of the law because so much is changing.

We live in a period where technology makes daily demands on the law; terrorism is changing how we view privacy and search and seizure policies; and for the first time in decades, we are about to have a new Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Imagine: the next Chief Justice will only be the 17th Chief Justice in the history of this democracy; far more have served as President! Amazing, challenging, exhilarating...the law is all of these.

So...don't be shy! Every question is worth asking. We are in a profession where the questions never end. I look forward to your comments, questions and suggestions!

Judge Nancy Margaret Russo
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The Political Broadside

Constitutional interpretation: evolution or originalism

Should Supreme Court nominee John Roberts be compelled to follow precedent?



By Mike Laszlo
CONSERVATIVE GAVEL COLUMNIST

One thing is clear from the confirmation hearings of Chief Justice nominee John Roberts this past week: liberals are scared ... and they should be. But what exactly are they

scared of?

They are scared of the thought that the future Supreme Court of the United States will no longer cower behind “*stare decisis*,” but will fulfill the duty of the highest court in the land; first and foremost, the duty to interpret the laws of the Constitution, but also, in the words of the late Chief Justice Rehnquist, the duty “to reconsider constitutional interpretation that ‘departs from a proper understanding’ of the Constitution.” *Casey v. Planned Parenthood*, (Dissenting).

Rehnquist’s “counter-revolution” as it has been called was based on the position that “it is impossible to build sound constitutional doctrine upon a mistaken understanding of constitutional history.” This position is well illustrated in his dissent in the 1985 case, *Wallace v. Jaffree*, (statute setting aside one minute per day for school prayer unconstitutional) where he said, “as drafters of our Bill of Rights, the framers inscribed the principles that control today. Any deviation from their intentions frustrates the permanence of that charter and will only lead to ... unprincipled decisionmaking.”

Unfortunately for Rehnquist, the majority of the Justices have not been willing to follow such a noble charge. The most recent example of this can be seen in *McCreary v. ACLU* that was decided June 27, 2005, (display of Ten Commandments in courthouse held unconstitutional) where Rehnquist joined Scalia and Thomas in dissent.

The Justices rejected the idea of a ‘living constitution’ but asked “why [assuming the Constitution ought to change according to democratic aspirations] those aspirations [are] to be found in justices’ notions of what the establishment clause ought to mean, rather than in the democratically adopted dispositions of our current society?” (Noting that 97.7 percent of all believers in the United States are members of the three most popular religions in the United States: Christianity, Judaism and Islam, all of which believe that the Ten Commandments were given by God to Moses and are divine prescriptions for a virtuous life.)

Fortunately for those who appreciate the proper role of the U.S. Supreme Court, Judge Roberts recognizes the importance of judicial opinions being grounded on sound, consistently applied principals. And where judicial opinions have deviated from such principals, Roberts understands, as did Rehnquist, that it is the duty of the court to ‘right the ship’ so to speak, and reverse age-old precedent if need be.

This is made clear by Roberts’ response to Senator Kohl’s questions regarding the Court’s willingness to “step outside the box, to break new ground ... and strike out in an entirely new and positive direction” in *Brown v. Board of Education*. Roberts stated that *Brown*’s overturning of *Plessy v. Ferguson* was not a departure from the 14th Amendment, but it was in fact more consistent with the meaning of 14th Amendment than *Plessy*.

Roberts explained that it wasn’t necessary for the Court to change the rules of the game. “What was necessary for them to do ... was to get it right when they had gotten it wrong in *Plessy*.” Sounds familiar doesn’t it? What Senator Kohl fails to see like so many others is that the correct decision was arrived at in *Brown* not because the rules were changed but because the original meaning of the 14th Amendment was followed.

So, will Roberts pick up where his predecessor left off and lead a ‘counter-revolution’ of his own? One can only hope. Even if he does accept the charge, it will be anything but easy.

If confirmed as the next Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, Judge Roberts will join a court with only two originalists: Justices Scalia and Thomas. And with the vacancy of Justice O’Connor’s seat left unfilled, there are many uncertainties as to the direction of the Court. But one thing is for sure, it is heading in the right direction.

Liberal rebuttal...

I said in my original article that conservatives are worried about Roberts. Roberts has stated during his confirmation hearings that he will respect Supreme Court precedent and that *Roe v. Wade* is “settled law.” And there’s the troubling matter (to conservatives) of Robert’s pro bono work in preparing the plaintiff’s case in *Romer v. Evans* (Court struck down Colorado law banning any legal protection for homosexuals). The justices that are “cowering behind *stare decisis*” were appointed by republican presidents.

Do you think *Plessy v. Ferguson* was originally decided based on a flawed interpretation of the 14th Amendment? Much like the abortion issue today, *Plessy* was infused with politics not constitutional interpretation.

You seem to think the conservative justices have a monopoly on understanding the framers’ true intent. Isn’t it convenient that the conservative policy agenda happens to coincide with the exact intent of the framers? I’m sure conservatives consult the Constitution every time they write talking points. I’m sure the framers wanted school prayer and weren’t concerned at all with separation of church and state



By Paul Shipp
LIBERAL GAVEL COLUMNIST

Those of you who have taken your professional responsibility course know that the code of judicial conduct generally states that a judicial candidate for election may speak of a judicial philosophy and may praise or criticize particular decisions and laws, but the candidate must not make statements appearing to commit the candidate with respect to the merits of cases or issues likely to come before the Court.

However, this restriction does not apply to a candidate for appointive office. Therefore, despite what some conservative politicians are shouting Roberts may be asked about the merits of cases or issues likely to come before the court.

With privacy rights, abortion, affirmative action, torture, the war on terror, election rights, capital punishment, and economic and environmental regulation at stake senators not only can, but they should attempt to peg Roberts on such issues.

In a Republican controlled Senate, however, there will be little recourse for a nominee who refuses to answer the tough questions. This is why the confirmation process is ultimately about partisan politics, no matter what any politician says otherwise.

In a recent article by The Associated Press, republicans such as Senator Charles Grassley of Iowa and John Cornyn of Texas have urged Roberts not to answer “litmus test” questions because doing so would only be “giving in to liberal interest groups who only want judges to do their political bidding on the bench, regardless of what is required by the law or the constitution”.

One question: isn’t this exactly what conservative republicans want a nominee to do? Conservative republicans are phrasing the argument as if it’s only the liberal democrats that are playing politics with the Court. Conservatives are desperate to use this as an opportunity to move the Court to the right. There is a reason that the Court does not have a conservative majority already; conservative interests are not in the best interest of all Americans.

Conservatives want a Supreme Court that promotes 1) states’ rights 2) strict textual readings of the Constitution and 3) small government. First, conservatives only support states’ rights that fit their agenda. The conservative Justices vote against state-enacted laws routinely. Second, the founding fathers could not have imagined the vast increase in our country’s population, economy, and technology.

How could anyone think that only the express wording of a 200-year-old document (that originally counted African Americans as 3/5 a man and denied women the right to vote) should govern our individual rights of privacy? Third, states’ rights and small government led to historical events such as legalized segregation, the stock market crash, the Great Depression and Enron.

But I guess conservatives have good reason to be wary of republican judicial nominees. Republican presidents appointed the very Justices that conservatives decry mistakenly thinking the nominees would further conservative republican interests.

President Nixon appointed Justice Blackmun who is the justice that authored *Roe v. Wade*. Other current justices include: Justice Stevens appointed by President Ford, Justice O’Connor and Justice Kennedy appointed by President Reagan, and Justice Souter appointed by the first President Bush.

Lastly, many conservatives are wary of “activist” judges, but there are varying definitions of judicial activism. One of the most “activist” decisions a judge can make is to overrule a law enacted by Congress or state legislatures because these represent “the will of the people”. This past July, Paul Gewirtz and Chad Golder, writers for The New York Times, dug into past judicial decisions of the most recent Supreme Court. They found that the Court’s conservative members, Rehnquist, Scalia, and Thomas, voted to overturn democratically-enacted laws more than the so-called “liberal justices.” So who are the activists?

Conservative rebuttal...

I can only respond by reiterating that the proper role of the U.S. Supreme Court is to interpret the Constitution and the laws made therefrom.

“Activist judges” are not judges who strike down legislation found to be unconstitutional but rather are judges who, for whatever reason, decide cases without respect for settled law.

For instance, a ninth circuit judge who, without respect for Supreme Court precedent, holds that the reciting of the pledge of allegiance in public schools violates the constitution. This is judicial activism, and it is wholly unacceptable.

What is *not* judicial activism is the Court going back and ‘getting it right where they had originally got it wrong’ – i.e., *Brown & Plessy*.

Judge Roberts is the right justice for the Court. But his addition is only the beginning of what needs to be a continuing effort to put Justices on the Court who appreciate and respect the text of the Constitution and the importance of interpreting its original meaning instead of bending text to the changing whims of the day.

**President greets
new class, year****By Brendon Healy**

SBA PRESIDENT

Welcome back to what will be an interesting year at C-M. I would first like to welcome Dean Mearns on behalf of the Student Bar Association. I have met several times with him and am encouraged by his presence; he seems receptive to our needs.

This year, SBA is committed to improving the quality of life at the law school. We started this summer by getting the tables in the student lounge repaired. Although a few tables still need some work, on the whole they are better than last year. This of course could not have been possible without the help of Vicki Plata and Dean Mearns.

Some of our objectives this year are to investigate grade posting and class ranking procedures, ensure that any future renovations take into consideration the needs of C-M students, revisit the exam rescheduling policy, continue to work with Aramark to improve the quality of food service, work with the University to get free printing privileges in the computer lab, bring in speakers, and finally foster a sense of community to improve the overall quality of life at C-M.

One event we are excited about, which is currently in the planning stages, is a charity football tournament against Case Western Reserve School of Law. I approached Case's SBA President this summer and asked if he would be interested. He is very enthusiastic about the event and committed to seeing the project work. We have created an Athletics Committee, which SBA Treasurer Scott Kuboff will chair, to plan the event.

If ever you have questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR**Student takes issue with disabled parking**

When I came to C-M, I came with many beliefs, but those beliefs have been challenged and forever changed.

In May 2005, I experienced a terrible tragedy in my life; I suffered paralysis in my legs for no apparent reason. I was eventually diagnosed with multiple sclerosis.

MS is a chronic and disabling disease of the central nervous system that strikes people between the ages of 20 and 50. It is unpredictable and persons with ms have different symptoms. Currently, there is no cure for ms.

MS has consumed a large portion of my life. As a mother of four, grandmother of one, law student, and child support enforcement officer, ms was an intruder into a busy life. Currently, I am in the process of learning how to walk, talk, and think again after being diagnosed.

After being in the hospital for nearly a month and returning to my home in June 2005, I contacted CSU to see what accommodations I could receive upon my return to school in the fall. I was referred to CSU's new Student Disability Services representative, Kate Yurick.

I expressed my concern to Ms. Yurick that handicapped parking near the law school was unavailable, and I hoped it would be made available before the fall semester. Ms. Yurick informed me she would promptly investigate the matter. After many phone calls without responses, Ms. Yurick returned my call with the following information: No handicapped parking spaces had been installed near the law school because:

(a) Handicapped parking is available on the upper level of the 19th Street garage near elevators. This was done because the school was concerned that a handicapped person

may become injured while stepping in or out of their car by another driver entering through the 19th Street garage.

My response: The upper level of the 19th Street parking garage extends to 21st Street, and it was no longer close to the law school. The only way to return to the law school is to go through the tunnel (in my case, with law books and a manual wheelchair). Furthermore, if a person were speeding in the parking garage, anyone could be injured.

(b) Handicapped parking cannot be installed within the turn-a-round of 19th Street because only CSU vehicles and fire trucks could park in the turn-a-round. They also could not be installed within the turn-a-round because CSU had a mandatory policy that all student cars had to be covered.

My response: The fire hydrants are at the beginning of the 19th Street parking garage; therefore, if cars were parked at the turn-a-round, the cars would in no way block the fire trucks. Also, the 19th Street parking garage was not fully covered.

(c) Handicapped parking is available in the 17th Street parking garage as well as in the 19th Street parking garage.

My response: The distance is too great from the law school and the hill leading from the parking garage into the business school is a nuisance to climb everyday. And, the 17th Street automatic doors are powered off after a certain time making them difficult for a handicapped individual to open.

(d) Handicapped parking is available in the Corlett parking area on East 20th and Euclid Avenue.

My response: Again, it is too far for a handicapped person, and it is unsafe for an evening student to go to the Corlett parking alone.

Ms. Yurick informed me that there was nothing else she could do and referred me to Maria Codinach, Director of Affirmative Action of CSU.

Although I am still confused as to why I was referred to this office, it was non-productive. Ms. Codinach offered no assistance regarding the parking issue.

My experience with the two officials made me suspicious that I would not receive any accommodations from CSU without a fight.

Therefore, I contacted the Ohio Civil Rights Commission and initiated a complaint against CSU. I informed both Dean Mearns and Dean Ammons of my actions, who were supportive and encouraging. I learned that this had been an on-going request for a long time.

I informed Ms. Codinach that I would sign the complaint within a week and ended our conversation. Within two days after proposing signing my OCRC complaint, Ms. Yurick contacted me. She informed me that handicapped parking would be installed in the 19th Street parking garage, but she could not provide me with a date. She also informed me that the Bakers' Union had been purchased by CSU and because it had handicapped parking, I could use that area until the 19th Street handicapped parking had been installed. No mention was made that the Bakers' Union was uncovered.

No handicapped parking has been installed in the 19th Street parking garage. I do not want to pursue my OCRC complaint, but it appears I may have no other choice. I am in shock that the Director of Affirmative Action for CSU, CSU, and C-M have engaged in such a hard position in regards to resolving this seemingly minor issue.

Angela Harrell**THE GAVEL**

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Fall interview program: one student's view**By Brian Sammon**

As a second-year student, I have the privilege of participating in the fall interview program. It provides an opportunity to meet local lawyers and compete with fellow students for some of the most prestigious summer associate positions in the area. The experience requires researching, writing, revising, practicing and a little polishing.

From the very outset, I am confused. I want to participate in the Fall Interview Program but that seems to encompass a number of things. There's OCI (On-Campus Interview), Resume Collect and Resume Direct. In addition, there is a separate application for the DOJ (Department of Justice) and yet another process for judicial clerkships. I have absolutely no idea where to begin.

I go to see Jayne Geneva in the Office of Career Planning. She directs me to a number of packets including a handbook to the Fall Interview Program and lists of prospective employers who will be interviewing both on and off campus.

After perusing the materials, I decide that I will not pursue interviews with the DOJ. That leaves me with OCI, Resume Collect and Resume Direct.

Let me briefly explain these three programs. OCI brings law firms on campus to conduct interviews with students. Students must upload their resumes to eAttorney and "bid" on the employers with which they want to interview. If the firm likes a particular student, they will invite

her to their office for a second interview and then perhaps extend her a summer associate position. Roughly 35 firms participate in the OCI program at C-M.

Resume Direct and Resume Collect operate in practically the same manner except firms only conduct interviews at their offices and not on campus.

Students must either submit their resumes to the OCP (Resume Collect) or send them directly to the firm (Resume Direct).

Roughly 25 firms participate in the Resume Collect and Resume Direct programs.

These three programs are similar in that they involve mostly larger law firms looking for very specific students. Each firm sets out its criteria for determining which students are eligible for interviews.

The requirements range from the top 10 percent of the class down to the generic "top academic credentials." Some firms prefer students on Law Journal or Moot Court, while others prefer students with technical backgrounds in engineering or tax.

Seeing as I have no experience in engineering or tax and I'm not in the top 10 percent of the class, my

list is getting shorter by the minute.

I whittle away a dozen or more firms by discarding those without offices in Cleveland. Finally, I choose among the

remaining firms based on academic requirements.

Now it's time to work, and there's a lot to do yet. I need to revise my resume, have it approved by the OCP, upload it to eAttorney and print hard copies out for the Resume Collect and Resume Direct firms.

I need to research the firms and familiarize myself with the biographical information of each of my interviewers.

I need to practice interviewing, force myself to stop saying "um," "uh," and "yeah," and conjure up sophisticated answers to the tough questions.

And finally, I need to pick out an ensemble that will give my interviewers the impression that I am professional, mature, yet fresh.

I am excited to participate, but I still have reservations. I'm not sure that I will be selected for an interview. And if I am, then there's the chance that I'll embarrass myself.

Remaining optimistic, the best part of the Fall Interview Program is that this is one time in your career where shameless self-promotion is condoned, even encouraged.

*"...the best part of
the Fall Interview
Program is that this is
one time in your career
where shameless
self-promotion is
condoned..."*

New changes to C-M receive mixed reviews

By Nicole DeCaprio
Side Bar Hours

Last semester, C-M students may have enjoyed Side Bar Cafe's coffee before their morning class, and possibly one of their muffins or cereal. This dream is a reality no more.

For what seemed like a fleeting moment in time, the Side Bar's hours went from a ho-hum 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday through Thursday, to a spicy 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. on Fridays.

The Side Bar's selection got beefier, adding sushi, various microwaveable meals, and a plethora of salads and sandwiches.

A customer service hotline was adopted to encourage better service from Side Bar attendants. But alas, like the middle child se-

cretly unloved by his parents, Side Bar's new hours (implemented on a trial basis) were snatched away as quickly as they came.

Other campus food venues tauntingly open *their* gates at 8 a.m., but law students must wait, hollow-eyed, desperately clutching their empty coffee cups, until 11 a.m. By that time, the earlier classes are over, and who wants a muffin then? No one, that's who.

Yes, the Side Bar's hours have reverted back to 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday through Thursday. However, the expanded selection and great customer service remain.

SBA's Food Service Task Force is responsible for last year's changes to the Side Bar. "We knew the changes were temporary," Scott Kuboff, Task Force Chairperson said in a September 8 press release.

"The permanence hinged on sales revenue."

Cleveland State officials contend there was not a large enough increase in sales to justify keeping the Side Bar open the extra hours.

Kuboff, however, is no pushover. When asked what the Task Force's next move is he replied, "Now we have to get creative."

Plasma TV

The shiny new plasma TV in the atrium has probably sparked your fancy this semester.

"Where have the 1992-style paper banners gone?" you may have asked.

Director of Technology Operations, David Genzen, explains, "The plasma monitor was purchased to serve as an attractive way to share information about

upcoming events."

Currently, the screen is only used for displaying text-based information though soon it may be wired to display video or television.

"I plan to work closely with CSU's Instructional Media Services department as we consider future uses for the screen," Genzen said.

One of these future uses could be employing the new TV as an extra Moot Court room screen during events with an overflow crowd.

Genzen adds in a shout-out to his colleague, "By the way, the fantastic animated background on the screen was created by one of our talented network administrators, Rick Zhang."

Marshall name up for debate

By Christopher Friedenberg
GAVEL COLUMNIST

Quick question-- Ever hear of the Franklin Thomas Backus Law School?

What is it? Some unaccredited backwater law school? A diploma mill?

Few graduates ever mention that they attended that school. Indeed, some students at the Franklin Thomas Backus Law School may not even be aware that's the name of their school.

No, it's not a California law school.

Most people who refer to the Franklin Thomas Backus Law School just utter a single four-letter word.

Case.

Despite its official name since 1892, the school prefers to identify itself as Case Law School.

C-M may soon be facing a similar identity crisis. C-M students when asked where they go to law school are often as likely to reply Cleveland State or Marshall as often as Cleveland-Marshall.

In the opinion of some administrative officials, C-M could improve its reputation, name recognition, and U.S. News and World Report rankings if C-M were more closely identified with CSU.

CSU Trustee Carl Glickman recently asked Brendan Healy, student representative to the Board of Trustees, how he felt about the idea of changing the name of our law school to Cleveland State University College of Law.

"C-M has an established name in the community," replied Healy. "To change the name to Cleveland State would adversely affect the student's job opportunities."

According to Healy, "Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, Cleveland State University, while a mouthful, is the best of both worlds."

"As far as most big law firms are concerned, this law school is Cleveland State," new Dean Geoffrey Mearns noted. "But with the smaller law firms and alumni, we're Cleveland-Marshall."

C-M has a rich history and a proud legacy of providing legal education to many who not have otherwise dreamed of practicing law since 1897.

Cleveland Law School and Marshall School had been part of Baldwin College and Ohio Northern University in decades before it became part of CSU; a fact not lost on the C-M Law Alumni Association.

Over the decades, the centuries, identities shift, blur, abbreviate. One can find traces of the National Biscuit Company residing in the peculiar cryptogram, Nabisco.

And yet-- when anyone asks me, where am I attending law school, my answer is unequivocally "Cleveland-Marshall."

Not to be confused with Franklin Thomas Backus Law School. Though I'm sure it's a perfectly adequate school, it seems to be suffering from an identity problem.

Students face new challenges in first year

The following is the first in a six-part series following a first year C-M student from orientation to spring exams.

We are finally here. Law school is a reality at last. All of the torture of the application process is over. No more stressful LSAT exam. The terrifying afternoon waiting for special letters is all behind us now. We have made it. We have chosen our school and boasted to all about our new beginning in Cleveland.

Anonymous

1L

We are among the few lucky ones who have joined together to make C-M's class of 2008. Some of us have moved across the state or the country, and some of us have just changed parking lots.

Part I

We have bought our books, laptops, and of course our rainbow of highlighters. We have toured the library and fought with the wireless network.

We have met our professors, and remain uncertain of alphabetically linked characters likely to instill fear into our little hearts.

We were told during orientation that at some point we would all need mental health help, possibly alcohol treatment, and academic support during the year. At that point we started to ask what it was exactly that we were getting

ourselves into.

As our classes began we began to wonder what would be expected of us. A couple weeks in and the haze of confusion has only intensified. What is it we are we supposed to learning anyway? Then there is the terror and suspense of the socratic method.

As we sit in our seats and wait for the next victim we ask ourselves could we have given the right response? How can we answer what we really don't entirely understand? How do we know we are getting it? For that matter why don't the same three people who answer everything just stop talking once in awhile?

In all the confusion of the first month there are other serious questions. Such as what should we wear? Who should we sit by? How do we know who we can tolerate for a full year? What will happen if we are late besides books getting thrown.

All of these unanswered questions and there still remains the big one: study groups. Some study groups have begun to form throughout our class. How do we know who to invite and if it will even help? Are we going to live through this?

We have been told that the friends and colleagues we meet our first year will be our friends for life. How do we find the right ones? First impressions are mostly skewed, especially under the stress and rigor of all that the first month of law school demands.

The dust has begun settle around a few things. We have learned how much and how intently to read for classes. We know a trip to Becky's is worth every non-studying minute. We have figured out which classmate will always have a joke and which professors never will.

We have learned to prioritize during the tough days to make time for happy hour on the tougher days. We have found that no matter how much sugar or milk, the law school coffee will never get better.

We have also learned that no amount of homework is worth keeping us away from the buckeyes or the browns on the weekends.

At the end of the day, whether spent in the library with empathetic students, in class with intolerant professors, or at Becky's with White Russians we will all inevitably ask the same question: why are we here, putting ourselves through this?

The answer is simple. The alternative means getting a real job. And most of all it is because we are exactly where we want to be.

"We know a trip to Becky's is worth every non-studying minute"

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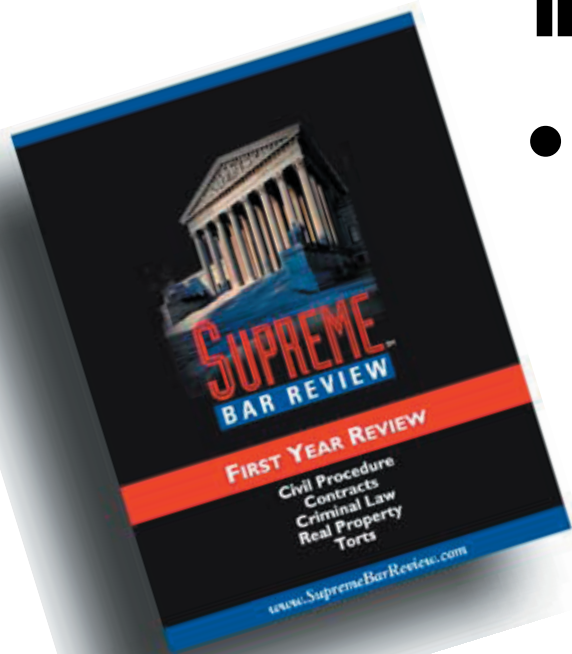
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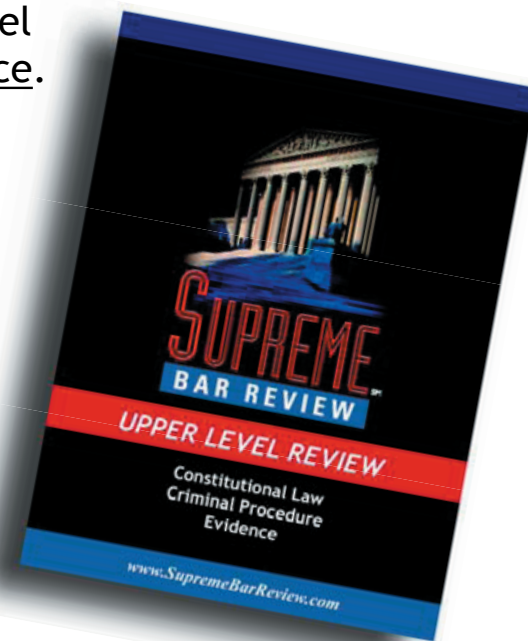
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