



OPINION, PAGE 5

### Political Broadside: Which candidate has the best domestic policy?

George Sakellakis and Kevin Kovach square off in this year's first head-to-head political column.

### Students sound off on parking issues plaguing CSU's campus



Five C-M students offer their take on the parking situation.

OPINION, PAGE 6



### Looking for a job?

Find out why the fall interview program isn't your only source for employment opportunities.

CAREER, PAGE 4



# THE GAVEL

VOLUME 57, ISSUE 1 OCTOBER 2008

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER AT CLEVELAND-MARSHALL COLLEGE OF LAW

## C-M reaches Wolstein Fund goal, celebrates raising over \$1.25 million



Photos By Paul Deegan

(Above): A plaque in dedication to Iris and Bert Wolstein adorns the entranceway to the newly renovated Bert L. Wolstein Hall.

(Left): A string quartet plays during the Wolstein Fund celebration reception, held on Wednesday, September 24th. Speakers at the event included CSU President Michael Schwartz, C-M Dean Geoffrey Mearns, and Iris Wolstein.

By Michelle Todd  
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On Wednesday, September 24th, the C-M community celebrated raising over \$1.25 million for the Bert L. and Iris S. Wolstein Scholarship Fund. The event was held in the newly renovated Bert L. Wolstein Hall.

The celebration was well-attended, and showcased a string quartet that played classical music throughout the event as guests nibbled on hors d'ourves and sipped wine.

Dean Geoffrey Mearns spoke to distinguished C-M alumni, current students, and other community leaders that had gathered to attend the celebration. In his speech, Mearns recognized the generous contributions made by those individuals and businesses who donated to the Fund, as well as giving a heart felt thank you to Iris Wolstein, who was in attendance and also spoke at the event.

In October 2004, Iris Wolstein pledged \$6.25 million to C-M in memory of her late husband, Bert '53. Mrs. Wolstein donated \$5 million to support C-M's renovation of the law school building and pledged the remaining \$1.25 million as a challenge grant to create the Bert L. and Iris S. Wolstein Endowed Scholarship Fund. As part of the challenge, Mrs. Wolstein agreed to match dollar-for-dollar each donation to the Scholarship Fund. In May 2008, Dean Mearns announced that Mrs. Wolstein's challenge had been met. In fact, an excess of \$1.35 million was raised by generous matchmakers, and the Scholarship Fund will now provide \$2.5 million in scholarships to promising students for many years to come.



## Student author wins national writing competition, obtains book deal



By Jillian Snyder  
GAVEL CONTRIBUTOR

At the end of its 2007-2008 term last June, the Supreme Court ruled that, "the Second Amendment protects an individual right to possess a firearm unconnected with service in a militia, and to use that arm for traditionally lawful purposes, such as self-defense within the home." The narrow 5-4 decision mirrored the statistic that 75% of Americans think the Second Amendment protects an individual right to bear arms. C-M student-author Patrick Charles refuted that belief, along with the Supreme Court's contentious ruling, in his award-winning essay titled, "Bearing Arms in the Ohio Constitution: A Historical and Legal Analysis of Article I Section 4."

Charles's interest in the topic was nothing new, but his ideas for a thesis were innovative. "I was interested in this topic and the American Revolution for some time," Charles said. "I met with Paul Finkelman, law professor at Albany State. I read some of his books and met with him to talk about this issue. He assured me nothing showed that the Second Amendment had an individual right. Where was the evidence? I was curious, and wanted to look into it," he said.

With a degree in History and International Studies from George Washington University and two years of law school under his belt, Charles was up to the challenge. He launched his research by looking at every colonial law from every founding colony until 1800 to see how the phrase, "bear arms", was used. Charles wanted to see if these documents used the phrase, "bear arms", in terms of denoting individual rights for purposes outside of the military.

"The great legal minds of the 18th century, Revolutionary War documents, and all famous philosophers used "bear arms" to denote military service to describe politics or international governments, but never in any other sense. Not one of the books suggests as such," Charles explained. "A 1773 legal dictionary uses the actual term, 'bear arms', in the context of what appears to be a statute, but the law never existed. The Supreme See Author, page 3

## Organization fair motivates C-M students to get involved, highlights student groups

By Rick Ferrara  
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A recent organization fair provided students with the chance to learn about the variety of extra-curricular groups at C-M.

On Thursday, September 25th, the student atrium became a venue for nearly all of C-M's student organizations to attract new members. Organizations placed out candies, cookies, and other treats to entice students to stop by and learn more about how to get involved.

Over twenty-five student organizations had a table, including the newly organized Student Intellectual Property Law Association and the Business Law Association.

Students that did not attend the fair can contact Inga Laurent for more information at [ILaurent@law.csuohio.edu](mailto:ILaurent@law.csuohio.edu).



Photo By Rick Ferrara

## Reflecting on success

By Geoffrey Mearns

Each year, shortly after classes resume, I do a presentation for the law school faculty and staff. I made my annual presentation a few weeks ago.

During this year's presentation, I spoke about some of the progress we have made as an institution over the last few years. And I used some graphs and statistics to illustrate my points.

For example, since 2000, the LSAT scores of our incoming first-year students have increased significantly. Specifically, in 2000, the median LSAT score of our



### The Dean's Column

incoming, full-time students was 149, which was approximately the 40th percentile of all law school applicants nationwide. The median LSAT score of this year's full-time class was 156, which is the 68th percentile of all law school applicants nationwide – a 28 percent improvement in only eight years. There has been similar improvement in the LSAT scores of our part-time students.

At the same time, the passage rates of our graduates on the Ohio bar exam have also improved dramatically. For example, on the July 2000 bar exam, 67% of our first-time takers passed the Ohio bar. On the July 2007 exam, the passage rate for our first-time takers was 90%. And on the February 2008 exam, the passage rate for our first-time takers was 95%.

During this same period, we have also received substantially more financial support from graduates and friends. For example, in 1999, we received a total of \$250,000 in donations. In each of the last two years, we have received \$1.25 million – that's a five-fold increase in annual contributions. And those recent figures do not include the \$5 million we received from Mrs. Iris Wolstein to fund the recently completed renovations to our law building, which is now named Wolstein Hall in memory of her late husband, Bart.

During my presentation to the faculty and staff, I also discussed our plans to raise even more money in the coming years to fund a variety of important initiatives, including more student scholarships, more support for faculty research, and some additional renovations and improvements to our facilities.

And I recognized several law faculty and staff who will be honored by the University for distinguished service and teaching. Specifically, Professor David Forte, Professor Sheldon Gelman, and Ms. Joan Shirokey will receive awards next month for their dedication and accomplishments.

I hope that my presentation made the faculty and staff proud of our achievements. I also hope that it will provide some motivation to dedicate ourselves to achieve even more ambitious goals in the future.

A few days after my presentation, I received a remarkable email from a student. The sentiments expressed in this student's note were more inspirational than my words. And this student made me very proud to be a part of this law school community.

In the note, this student described the challenges the student faced last year as a part-time student with a full-time job, a long commute, and a young child. The student also described struggling in a first-year course and considering dropping out of school.

Then, the student went to meet privately with one of our professors. During that meeting, the professor helped the student realize that the student was, in fact, learning the material. The professor demon-

# Carolyn Broering-Jacobs named new Legal Writing Department Director

By Michelle Todd  
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

When she's not busy teaching first year C-M law students how to properly cite an Ohio Supreme Court case, it is likely that new Legal Writing Department Director, Carolyn Broering-Jacobs is chasing after one of her three young children or knitting a scarf for her husband, a skill she just recently taught herself.

Although Broering-Jacobs may be new to the position of Director, she is not new to the C-M Community. In the years 2000-2005, she taught Legal Writing at C-M, after working at the Cleveland office of Baker-Hostetler as a litigation associate for four years. "I liked the work I was doing for Baker because they [Baker-Hostetler] gave me many responsibilities, but I eventually got the "teaching bug" and wanted to apply for a C-M legal writing faculty position that I knew was available," Broering-Jacobs said when asked what motivated her to leave the firm for teaching.

Despite the fact that Broering-Jacobs thoroughly enjoyed teaching as well as the students and faculty at C-M, she eventually made the decision in 2005 to leave her job to be a stay-at-home mom.

However, Broering-Jacobs admits that she never really took a "break" from her busy lifestyle, even after she left her full-time teaching position. In addition to caring for her three children during this time, she was active in the PTA at her children's school, taught writing workshops for summer associates at Baker-Hostetler, and even found the time to do pro bono work. "My friends always joked that I was the busiest stay-at-home mom they knew," Broering-Jacobs said.

Eventually, the "teaching bug" bit again when Broering-Jacobs learned of the Legal Writing Department Director position available at C-M last spring. "At first I wasn't sure if I wanted to go back to work, but once I interviewed for the job, I knew that this is where I wanted to be and I was really hoping

strated genuine concern for the student as a person. At the end of the meeting, the professor assured the student, with a warm pat on the back, "You're getting it." Of this encounter, the student told me:

"That meeting was the most profound meeting I have ever had with a teacher in my entire lifetime. In one 10-minute conversation with an understanding, approachable, and compassionate faculty member, my doubts were cast aside, my confidence rose 100%, and I was reassured that law school was the absolute right decision for me. Many people in this world do things every day which positively affect other people, and they go unnoticed. [This professor] touched my life in such a profound way that I had to send you a note about how one of your fine law faculty members touched my life and salvaged my law school experience."

As teachers, our goal is to prepare you to be good lawyers. Our professional dream is to change your lives in a positive way, so that you can change the lives of others through service and the quest for justice.

It is very gratifying to know when we have achieved our professional dreams. So, if one of my colleagues has made a difference in your education or your life, please let him or her know. Your words of appreciation mean so much to us.

that I would have the chance to teach again," Broering-Jacobs said. Although she admits that she enjoyed having all of the extra time to spend with her children, Broering-Jacobs was excited to return to C-M after being offered the Director position this past spring.



Prof. Broering-Jacobs

When asked what future plans she has for the Department, Broering-Jacobs is full of ideas, but mindful that she needs the support and advice from the legal writing faculty before making any decisions. "The legal writing faculty here at C-M is strong and long-term... any plans for the Department would be made in conjunction with them," Broering-Jacobs said. However, she does admit that one area she would like to focus more of her efforts on is learning exactly what type of writing skills law firms and other employers are looking for most when

hiring new associates. However, Broering-Jacobs does not think that this information will be difficult to uncover. "C-M alumni are so invested in what happens here that I believe we would have a good reception by the legal community in Cleveland," she said.

Broering-Jacobs is settling into her new office and looking forward to beginning her new position, but is really just glad to be back at C-M as a member of the Legal Writing Department faculty. "The great thing about the legal writing program at C-M is that we have always been ahead of the curve," she noted. "In past years, legal writing wasn't even a graded first year subject at the majority of law schools, but C-M has always graded the first year course and offered numerous upper level courses to students as well. More importantly, most of the legal writing faculty members have been here for many years, and all are committed to the students here, as is the administration," Broering-Jacobs said.



IL Jason White sits with a fellow classmate at the CMBA sponsored social at Becky's.

## Faculty and students welcome Professor Matthew Green to C-M

By Eman Dughly  
GAVEL CONTRIBUTOR

New to Cleveland, Professor Matthew Green has become very fond of this city, of Clevelanders, and fonder still of the students and faculty here at C-M.

A product of the Washington D.C. area, Green graduated from the University of Maryland, majoring in journalism, with a minor in Spanish. A few years after graduating from college, Green decided to pursue a law degree from the University of Baltimore School of Law. As a law student, Green



Prof. Green

was quite busy as a teaching assistant, and a member of Law Review and BLSA. Not only did he graduate with honors, but Green also received the Law Faculty Award, an honor given to a graduating student who, in the judgment of the entire faculty, exhibited exemplary scholarship, service, and leadership qualities. After law school, Green went on to receive his Masters of Law from Columbia University School of Law.

While practicing as a litigator, Green dealt a great deal with employment issues. Green also taught as an adjunct professor, instructing students on the litigation process.

Having moved to Cleveland about a month ago, Green is currently using most of his spare time to finish unpacking, get

his cable set up, and settle into his new apartment. When he does find the time, however, Green enjoys reading up on the Supreme Court. Although Green greatly enjoys composing scholarly publications, he harbors aspirations of becoming a fiction writer as well, hoping to one day author several short stories, or perhaps a novel. Musically inclined, and a member of the choir in his college years, this law professor may be caught humming along to the tune of "This Ol' Heart of Mine," and other favorites from the '60's.

Green is currently teaching contracts and a civil liberties seminar here at C-M, and will hopefully be teaching a course on employment discrimination in the spring. Professor Green joined the Cleveland-Marshall community because he observed that C-M was doing good, "innovative" things for its students. Green notes, "they [the faculty] care about teaching here; that's not true at a lot of other places, unfortunately."

Green finds that the most rewarding thing about teaching is working with students to help them grasp the material and learn it better. He feels he is a product of his experience, and hopes to use that experience to help challenge and motivate his students.

Professor Green is very happy to have joined our law school community, and is eager to help C-M students in any way possible. His door is always open to those who need his assistance.

In concluding his speech at his law school graduation, Professor Green left his class with these inspiring words, and would undoubtedly share the same advice with his students today: "Reach for the moon, because even if you miss you'll still be among the stars."

## Author: Student Awarded

Continued from page 1:

Court has inferred otherwise," he added.

Charles's 82-page essay was the judges' unanimous choice for the \$10,000 Judge John R. Brown Award for Excellence in Legal Writing from the John R. Brown Scholarship Foundation. In light of last summer's Supreme Court ruling, Charles has a unique opportunity to expand his thesis into a book while the topic remains hot. Charles found the Supreme Court's majority opinion to contain some of the most perplexing interpretations of the Revolution that he has ever read.

"Their use of sources was not exhaustive, it was

selective. And the sources that they did use, they often took out of context – even

their own decisions," Charles said.

Charles' new book, *Founding Guns: The Second Amendment, the Supreme Court and Understanding the Right to Bear Arms in State Constitutions*, will be published this spring. The book purports

to show that not only did the Supreme Court err when it went to great lengths to side one way, but that the majority created a right that cannot be found in the Constitution: the Second Amendment does not protect private civilians' use of firearms.

Charles hopes that his book will be influential, because the Court has never decided the issue as to whether the Second Amendment has been incorporated into the Fourteenth Amendment. "There are cases pending in a number of States, and each district will decide differently on this issue and it will make its way up to the Supreme Court," he said.

"I hope that by that time, the research will be influential in changing the Court's opinion. It was a 5-4 decision, and Kennedy was the swing

vote. He was somehow convinced that the right to keep and bear arms dealt with self-defense on the frontier from Indians and protection from grizzly bears."

"However, Kennedy may be persuaded otherwise," Charles noted.

*"[Justice Kennedy] was somehow convinced that the right to keep and bear arms dealt with self-defense on the frontier from Indians and protection from grizzly bears."*

- 3L Patrick Charles

## Dual Degree Program offers C-M students distinct advantage in job market



**By Mike Borowski**

GAVEL CONTRIBUTOR

The dual degree program here at C-M is a unique opportunity available to students interested in earning both a J.D. and a Master's degree in four years, as opposed to the five years it would take if the degrees were pursued separately. The average dual degree student would spend his or her first year of classes at the law school, the second year at their chosen program's respective school, and the final two years would be a combination of both law and grad courses. Currently there are five different Master's degrees available that can be earned in addition to a J.D.: Master of Business Administration, Master of Public Administration, Master of Urban Planning, Design, and Development, Master of Arts in Environmental Studies, and a Master of Science in Environmental Science.

For students currently enrolled in

the law school the process of applying to the program is very simple. Students fill out the appropriate online application from the Cleveland State University website and then complete a transfer request form and turn it in to Marcie Rechner, the C-M records officer, in LB 142. The transfer request authorizes the law school to transfer a copy of your file to the graduate college.

I completed this process myself last spring when I enrolled in the J.D./M.P.A. program at the Levin College of Urban Affairs beginning this fall semester. The total process took me no more than thirty minutes and turned out to be as simple as I had been told. Another factor that

makes the process so simple is that the Levin College will accept the LSAT in place of the GRE. However, those students interested in the J.D./M.B.A. program should be advised that the Cleveland State University College of Business does require students to take the GMAT.

One of the factors that influenced my decision to enroll in the dual degree program was that I had been a part-time student during my first year of law school, which meant that I would have to go to school for an extra semester or take summer classes in order to make up for the credits I had missed my first year. Summer classes were not really an option for me, because financial aid would not cover the cost and I could not afford to pay out of pocket. Therefore, it seemed like I would have no option but to attend for an extra semester.

However, after attending a dual degree program information meeting I was impressed

by the fact that I could receive two degrees in only four years, which actually translated into one additional semester due to my current situation. And, with ten credits from graduate courses transferring towards my J.D. and eight credits from law courses transferring towards my M.P.A., I would actually be saving money and time by working on both degrees at the same time rather than pursuing them separately. It's not very often that a law student can actually save money, let alone by taking more classes.

Henric Haldeborg, the student President of the Dual Degree Students' Association, points out some of the benefits that pursuing two degrees can have in the classroom setting. "A dual degree gives you a new perspective on things. Because of the two

*"A dual degree gives you a new perspective on things. Because of the two degrees, you can come at a question from a different angle."*

- Dual Degree Student,  
Henric Haldeborg

degrees, you can come at a question from a different angle. Imagine sitting in an M.B.A. class after having already taken contracts and corporations in law school. You're going to know some things most other students don't. It works in reverse as well," Haldeborg said.

## Professor Browne C. Lewis excited to begin at C-M



**By Susanna Ratsavong**

GAVEL CONTRIBUTOR

Originally from Louisiana, new professor Browne C. Lewis brings to Cleveland-Marshall four degrees, eight years of teaching experience, 12 years of experience as a practicing attorney and kind words for the law school and its students.

Lewis is a new resident of Cleveland. She came from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, where she was a visiting professor.

While comparing the two schools, Lewis said, "The student to teacher ratio here is wonderful; at Pitt, I had 80 to 100 students in Property. Here, I only have 56. It affords good learning opportunities for the students."

Lewis is teaching Property, Estates and Trusts and a seminar on the inheritance rights of children at C-M. From Legal Writing to Property to Torts to Environmental Justice, Lewis has taught the gamut.

Similarly, Lewis has taught at a variety of law schools. Lewis has spent time at Hamline University School of Law, Seattle University School of Law, University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, and University of Pittsburgh School of Law. Additionally, she has taught courses for CLEO, the Council on Legal Education Opportunity.

C-M students, however, have quickly distinguished themselves on Lewis' roster of universities. Especially impressed by



Prof. Browne Lewis

the level of preparation of Cleveland-Marshall students, she is excited to see students help each other, from helping when someone misses a class to positively challenging each other in class discussion.

"I've seen more collaboration of students here [than at other schools]." Her thrill is particularly extended to evening students. "They are always prepared, ready to tackle the subject—these are people who had to work all day!"

After receiving her B.A. in political science from Grambling State University, Lewis left Louisiana to pursue her J.D. at the University of Minnesota School of Law.

degrees, you can come at a question from a different angle. Imagine sitting in an M.B.A. class after having already taken contracts and corporations in law school. You're going to know some things most other students don't. It works in reverse as well," Haldeborg said.

A common question that Haldeborg receives from students interested in the dual degree program concerns the amount of additional work involved in the program. "Sure, there is extra work involved, but it also means getting a degree for less work than they [each degree] would have required separately. As for the classes taken across the street, let's just say that law students tend to do very well, even those averse to hard work such as myself," Haldeborg said.

The dual degree program is a great opportunity and thus far my experience at the Levin College have been very positive. Students who have any questions regarding the program should plan to attend a dual degree program meeting, which should be held later this fall. Interested students can also contact the Dual Degree Students Association at [ddsa@law.csuohio.edu](mailto:ddsa@law.csuohio.edu).

She has continued to achieve advanced degrees. Lewis maintains a Masters of Public Administration from the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota, where she specialized in land use administration and an L.L.M. in Energy and Environmental Law from the University of Houston School of Law.

Before beginning her teaching career in 2000, Lewis was a practicing attorney for 12 years. After a judicial clerkship, Lewis went to Boston where she worked for the Conservation Law Foundation. There, she fostered her interest in environmental law while working with water safety, lead paint and other public health issues.

As a lawyer, Lewis has dabbled in a range of issues. Lewis has been involved in environmental law, probate law, elder law, housing law, family law, bankruptcy and foreclosures and real estate. While in Minnesota, she even co-authored a manual on kinship care for the state.

Working with Legal Services in Texas and Minnesota in particular, provided her the variety she enjoys about the legal field.

*"The student to teacher ratio here is wonderful; at Pitt, I had 80 to 100 students in Property. Here, I only have 56. It affords good learning opportunities for the students."*

- Prof. Browne C. Lewis

"I know I'd never want to go into a narrowly focused area of law. I get too bored too easily," Lewis said.

Today, Lewis' main interest is in the inheritance rights of various classes of children. She is currently working on a casebook on the same topic. More specifically, Lewis is also interested in the rights of artificially-conceived children. "The law hasn't kept in touch with the technology," she said. With the advent of artificial dissemination, in vitro, etc., Lewis says, "ten years after someone is dead, he could have a child."

Law, however, was not always the focus of her career.

"My other great love is medicine, mostly holistic medicine and natural law," she explained. So great is her love that Lewis said she may be interested in achieving a PhD in these fields.

In her spare time, Lewis enjoys writing legal mysteries and thrillers.

## THE GAVEL

### Join Us!

Come to our next meeting and contribute to the best student-run newspaper in Ohio:

Wednesday, October 1st

Submissions or letters to the editors can be e-mailed to: [gavel@law.csuohio.edu](mailto:gavel@law.csuohio.edu)

## The best method for “getting it” your first year

By Karen Mika

LEGAL WRITING PROFESSOR

“Getting it” is a balance between how much one studies and how one studies. No one can do well in law school without studying a lot, but students have to understand that any in-depth study requires a sort of immersion and an expectation that the pieces will come slowly and build upon each other. There is a great pressure to achieve good grades in law school and correspondingly a desire for some method to learn the material quickly. But that simply cannot be done.

Imagine the study of law as being like working on a jigsaw puzzle without having a picture of the final product. If you pick up one piece, you have no idea what it is or where it fits into the big picture; however, slowly (and after comparing and contrasting the pieces to one another), you start figuring out how things should look. Sometimes that means making mistakes (you thought the piece fit with another piece, but it didn't), and it often means rethinking your previous assessment of a particular piece (you decided two pieces did not fit together, but after trying them in a different configuration or angle, you found they did). It is slow and meticulous work, and it means reviewing what you already know -- perpetually. It also means accepting that a lot of knowledge will be gained only through making mistakes.

So the object is to keep up with your work for all classes, plodding through, even when not fully understanding a concept. Set up a time schedule for studying so that none of the classes are shortchanged, and so that there isn't too much of a gap between preparing for a class and the class itself. Try to set up a time to re-review material before the actual class rather than relying only on notes and case briefs. Even if it seems that you aren't “getting it,” do the work, as in reading carefully and preparing case briefs. Everything will come together, but it will take time and repeatedly going through the same steps.

## Clinics offer real world experience

By Tara Chandler

STAFF WRITER

During their second or third year, students have the option of earning credit through participating in one of CM's multiple legal clinics. However, many students, especially first year students attempting to navigate the many courses available to them for a second year schedule, are not aware of the unique opportunities offered through the clinics.

Current clinical students offer praise for the program, and specifically take note of the opportunity to see the progression of a case from the initial client meeting to resolution, be that settlement, mediation, judgment or appeal. Third year Fair Hous-

## Fall Interview Program not the only path to employment

By Stacey Fernengel

GAVEL CONTRIBUTOR

It will send shivers down the spine of a law student faster than any Halloween ghost or goblin. It's scarier than class exams and even the dreaded bar exam. After so many dark nights spent nose to textbook and so many days spent sitting in lectures, there are few things scarier than the thought of not obtaining a job after graduation.

If you are a 2L or 3L, you may have recently participated in the Fall Interview Program (FIP) in an effort to avoid this fear. Maybe you are one of the lucky few that will get that 2nd interview or a job offer. If not, no reason to fear yet (really!!). The truth is that the majority of students don't obtain employment this way. Although the Office of Career Planning does not keep statistics on job offers or acceptances resulting from on-campus interviews, Bernadette Salada, Assistant Director of Career Planning for CM, advised that only a small percentage of students obtain employment this way.

But, if only a small percentage of students obtain employment through on-campus interviewing, why does it seem that there is so much excitement over the FIP? According to Salada, the extra push during this time is mainly to get students thinking about employment after graduation, not to ensure that a majority of the student body will obtain jobs during this time period. “The Fall Interview Program is stressed because we want students to start thinking about making employment decisions,” Salada said.

So if the majority of students are not obtaining employment as a direct result of on-campus interviewing, how are students finding jobs? According to Salada, graduate surveys reveal that approximately 50% of students obtain employment through

networking. If the word networking conjures up images of uncomfortable “meet and greets” with hors d'oeuvres and forced conversation, no need to fear. Networking includes so much more than these types of traditional events. Other networking ideas include joining a professional association, participating in a Clinic/Externship/Clerkship through the school, volunteering, and fostering relationships with mentors, peers, faculty and staff.

If you know the area you would like to practice in, joining a related association can provide a great opportunity to meet professionals in that field. For example, if you are interested in Intellectual Property

tunity that leads you on the path to finding that perfect job. Legal Aid Brief Advice Clinics (a one-morning commitment) put law students face-to-face with public interest lawyers and with the various private firms that staff each clinic. Prolonged volunteer experiences, like the Cleveland Metropolitan School District's 3RS program, provide benefits far exceeding the time commitment. Volunteer experiences offer contact with many legal professionals on one, or continuous, occasions. While volunteering, you will be able to demonstrate your superior work ethic by showing up timely, dressing professionally, and letting your natural charm shine through.

Casual relationships are also beneficial to your future employment. Mentors can provide guidance on your important career decisions. Additionally, fostering your law school friendships with fellow students, faculty, and staff can help to create a personalized social network for contacts, information, and support in the field.

Finally, another way to show initiative for finding that perfect job involves creating your own opportunities. Do not wait until a job is posted before you inquire. In addition to networking, research firms or areas that may be of interest to you and apply for positions without being asked. And, keep in mind that many small and medium-size firms will not post their open positions. “Many firms advised that they are already getting enough resumes, so they don't post,” Salada said.

There is enough to fear this Halloween without worrying about your employment situation, so just do some research, show initiative, and you will likely find that perfect fit. And although the job search may seem like a challenge, always remind yourself of how much you have already accomplished in getting to this place.

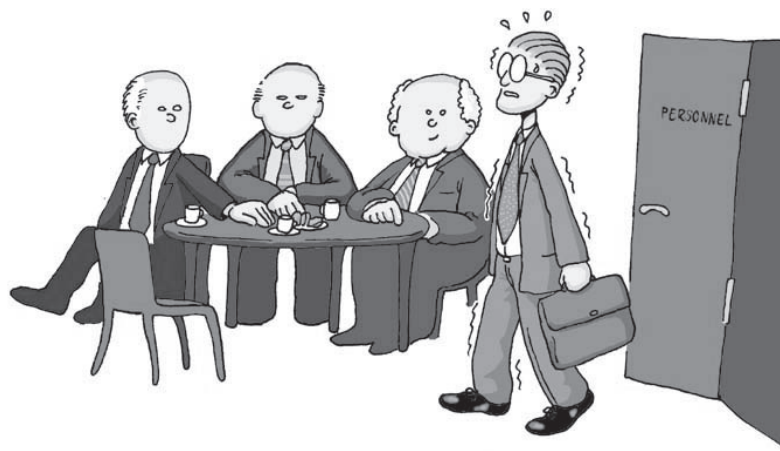
*“The Fall Interview Program is stressed because we want students to start thinking about making employment decisions”*

- Bernadette Salada,  
Assistant Director of Career Planning

Law, you could participate in meetings and events with the Cleveland Intellectual Property Law Association. If you are unsure of a practice area, you can join a non-practice related group, such as the Women in the Law section of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association. Either way, you will need to do a small amount of research to find the group that is a good fit.

In addition to outside associations, participating in C-M externships, clinics, and clerkships can be beneficial for your ultimate employment goal. These benefits include increasing your legal experience in a “real world” setting and introducing you to various areas of practice. Additionally, some students have found subsequent job placements after participating in these programs.

Volunteering can be another great oppor-



ing Clinic student Eric Long had this to say about his experience, “My initial thought is that it is a good opportunity for several reasons. It provides experience and opportunities to develop litigation skills. It allows me to get out of the classroom setting, and put some of my education to the test.” The chance to interact with actual clients also attracts students, and Long is particularly impressed by this aspect of the experience.

“This is an opportunity to really help people. While I have been trained through my previous job experience to side with defense counsel, the fair housing issues that we deal with at the clinic are genuine and it is rewarding to know that I am helping people who cannot help themselves,” Long said.

Additionally, clinical students seem to favor the format of clinical courses as opposed to general law school courses. First, the courses are not set up as typical theory courses. Instead, the clinics are practical in nature. The aim is to provide a student with the ability to understand practical lawyering skills and tactics to aid them in their future positions.

“The clinics are an excellent change of pace in law school. They give you the opportunity to work with real clients, on real cases, and obtain real-world experience before graduating.” Long said.

Most of the clinics are litigation oriented, with students communicating with clients and assisting with issues that could form lawsuits. Still, opportunities are available if you

prefer client counseling or transactional work.

The clinics cover a broad spectrum, and the available options may surprise you. Students may choose from a variety of areas to focus on, including employment law, environmental law and policy, fair housing law, urban development law, and law and public policy. Each of these clinics provides anywhere from 2 to 5 credit hours towards a J.D. Generally, students are rewarded at the close of the course with a grade that reflects the work they put in.

The employment law clinic offers students the opportunity to represent individual clients or non-profit organizations in unemployment compensation, wrongful termination, discrimination and statutory claims. The claims may be brought before state or federal courts or agencies such as the Ohio Civil Rights Commission and Unemployment Compensation Review Commission. In addition, weekly seminars are provided to assist students in developing skills such as interviewing, drafting pleadings, motion practice and court hearing simulations. Though the cases are kept confidential, the employment clinic has already enjoyed at least one successful case this semester. One clinic student reports that, “the employment law clinic is an experience that has reminded me exactly why I came to law school, to bridge the enormous gap between the legal system and the average person.”

See **Clinics**, page 7

# The Political Broadside

## Which 2008 Presidential Candidate Has the Better Domestic Policy?

By George Sakellakis

CONSERVATIVE GAVEL COLUMNIST



Conservative (noun) a: one who adheres to traditional methods or views, b: a cautious or discreet person.

This definition alone does not fully define me, but this and my future columns will. Although I will not bore anyone with my platform, I will remind readers that I am a realistic and open-minded conservative, who is not afraid to take a perceived liberal (see progressive) stance if I think it is better, not for me, but for America. I do not take kindly to big brother holding us back by substituting his own judgment for ours, or doing things that we are empowered to do for ourselves. Any governmental institution that engages in these things does not correspond with “freedom”, which is the very noun we had the audacity to define ourselves by in 1776.

Although there are many domestic issues to debate, the main focus today is on the basic differences between the candidates’ agendas on taxing and the economy. But even if you are a political junkie, looking to the media for answers can easily give one a splitting headache from trying to separate the truth from all the lies and empty promises – most of which the executive branch just doesn’t have the power to do alone. I looked to basic policy variations, and found Obama’s promises to be contrary to conservative ideals and to be of the “over-ambitious” and “unrealistic” type: in other words, not what our country needs. While McCain is not the next messiah, his economic and tax policy is far superior to his opponent’s.

McCain begins with putting more of our hard-earned money back into our wallets and, consequently, back into the economy. Both candidates propose tax cuts for those with incomes up to \$226,981, which is a great idea. However, McCain is the only candidate that will cut income taxes at every single income level. And, under Obama’s tax plan, people in the lower tax brackets like those who earn up to \$37,595, and who, for the most part, are already making a net profit from our current tax policy, will see massive, patronizing cuts. Yet, those in higher brackets will take a huge hit in tax increases. Obama would have the IRS reach so deep into the pockets of the members of higher income brackets that his plan makes a bar chart look like a see-saw. If Karl Marx was still around, he would certainly approve that message. Call me crazy, but I don’t believe that the ultimate goal of American tax policy should be to compellingly blur the line between the bourgeois and the proletariat.

*“Apparently the liberals... think Americans really can plant money trees in their gardens.”*

Most people believe in a little bit of graduation in income tax rates for the wealthy. But such larger amounts of money should not be unwillingly removed from the wallet of someone who earned it by risking and taking a stand, and thereby redistributed into someone else’s, for no other motive than a fondness of monetary musical chairs. Such a broad plan of wealth redistribution strikes against the very heart of the notion of liberty, and chips away at any incentive to become successful. The type of people in the tax brackets hit the hardest by Senator Obama’s plan make up the backbone of our economy: small business owners, who comprise over 90% of all American business and employ around 60% of our workforce. Apparently the liberals are either ignorant of what history has taught us about the effects of tax increases in trying times, or they think Americans really can plant money trees in their gardens.

In other taxing schemes, McCain will keep the capital gains/dividends tax, a “re-tax” that only the sovereign can get away with, at 15%. Obama will raise it to between 20-28%, which, due to pressure by campaign advisers that actually know about these things, is more conservative than his initial proposals. Also, in a move surely to make America’s departed patriots, who coincidentally can no longer vote, roll over in their graves, Obama plans on increasing the estate tax from McCain’s proposed 15% to 45%!

Nothing will hurt this economy more than a government sponsored hunting expedition into the funds of hard working people and established businesses, and nothing will harm the stagnant housing market more than punishing those who want to participate. McCain’s policy of less taxes, less spending, and less government aligns more closely with the conservative, perhaps maybe even neo-progressive, suggestion that actually letting people keep more of their own money makes for positive effects on the economy.

### Liberal rebuttal...

In his 1905 Lochner dissent, Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote that the majority should decide our economic theory. When the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of a minimum wage in West Coast Hotel in 1937, the matter was settled; the people choose our economic philosophy. After watching Wall Street pilfer away jobs and retirement savings multiple times, the American people have consistently expressed disdain for laissez-faire economics. Wall Street often validates this sentiment with a constant myopic focus on the present. “Trickle down economics” is now more bankrupt in theory than its corporate practitioners are in reality.

The median annual household income is just under \$45,000, which falls into the 15 percent tax bracket of those who earn approximately \$38,000 to \$66,000. McCain will cut taxes for this bracket by \$319. But pair this cut with McCain’s \$1,300 increase from taxing employer healthcare contributions as income, and the Republican “maverickly” raises middle class taxes by nearly \$1,000! Obama proposes a \$1,042 tax cut and \$1,000 middle class energy rebate. This \$2,042 net tax cut keeps more than \$3,000 in middle class pockets that would go to the IRS under McCain’s plan.

I find it disingenuous to describe tax cuts for working families attacked by Republican policies as “patronizing.” There is nothing patronizing about using economic policy to help keep people in their homes and paying taxes to fund our schools and keep crime out of our neighborhoods. What’s patronizing is Wall Street laughing off trouble until those who sold out millions of working people feel the pinch. It’s patronizing to tell the families whom the Bush-McCain agenda has hung out to dry, that we will fund bailouts and tax cuts for the über-rich with \$1,000 tax hikes on the middle class. Vote your economic interest this election.

By Kevin Kovach

LIBERAL GAVEL COLUMNIST



I am a third-year student in my first year of the JD/MPA Dual Degree Program. I value justice foremost in politics.

Our economy is the heart of our country—we stop when it stops. We face a massive economic crisis requiring corrective surgery. If you needed heart surgery, would you hire a maverick doctor? Or would you hire someone who sticks with what works? Perhaps we need to “shake things up” and elect someone who understands the middle class. Who understands the middle class?

Barack Obama was raised by his working mother and great grandparents. He attended college on student loans and scholarships. Obama served as a commu-

nity organizer on Chicago’s south side before graduating from Harvard Law, where he was President of the Law Review. After his first year at Harvard, Obama clerked in a Chicago firm and met his wife, Michelle. Her parents raised a family on the south side and sent two children to ivy-league schools on her father’s municipal worker salary.

After law school, Obama practiced civil rights law and taught for twelve years at the University of Chicago. He then served two terms in the Illinois Senate, where he created the Illinois Earned Income Tax Credit, passed a law requiring videotaping of all criminal interrogations and confessions in capital cases, and expanded early childhood education. While running for the U.S. Senate, Obama earned national acclaim for his keynote address at the 2004 Democratic National Convention. Barack and Michelle Obama own one car and live in one house in Chicago. They recently paid off their student loans with money from Barack’s book sales.

John McCain hails from a family of two Navy admirals. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1958, near the bottom of his class. McCain flew combat missions over Vietnam, was shot down, and heroically survived five years of torture. Since entering Congress in 1983, the

Republican nominee has invented the BlackBerry, voted against Martin Luther King Day, and voted for the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, which repealed the Depression-era Glass-Steagall Act, which is explained in more detail below. John McCain and his wife Cindy own 13 cars and live in seven houses in three time zones. They recently lost money when the stock market plummeted, but don’t have to worry about a 401(k).

In 1933, after maverick commercial banks lost customers’ life savings by playing the stock market with other people’s money, the New Deal Congress passed the second Glass-Steagall Act. The law created the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and separated investment banks from commercial banks to divide risk and improve regulation. In 1999, anti-regulation maverick John McCain voted for his top economic adviser Phil Gramm’s Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act. The act repealed the regulatory aspects of Glass-Steagall by straight partisan vote. As result of the law, banks sold-off parts of mortgages to be shuffled around the stock market in a previously illegal manner.

In July, Gramm said America is “a nation of whiners,” and in “a mental recession.” Disciple McCain recently said “the fundamentals of our economy are strong.” It is indeed maverick to believe you can wish this crisis away.

During tough economic times, it makes sense to put money into the hands of the middle class that spends it. This year, quarterly economic growth peaked during the same three-month period we received tax rebate checks. Following this evidence, Barack Obama will cut taxes for 95% of Americans and return a \$1,000 energy rebate to middle class families, while restoring regulation to the banking industry. He also supports equal pay for women. McCain does not. Obama sticks with what works to stimulate the economy.

John McCain apparently believes we need maverick hidden tax increases on the middle class to stimulate our economy. He has proposed to tax all employer contributions to employee healthcare as income. For the average American worker, this is nearly \$9,000 additional taxable income, translating to a \$1,300 tax increase on a working family, and \$0 in additional actual income. Senator McCain also plans to leave more than 100 million families without a tax cut.

Do you want a maverick to perform heart surgery on this troubled economy? Or do prefer the leader who sticks with middle class tax relief and improved regulation that works?

### Conservative rebuttal...

Hell yes I would want a maverick doctor doing my heart surgery! My liberal counterpart mistakenly equates the “traditional” description of conservatives to people who resist change. I would prefer a surgeon that has both repaired and occasionally obliterated some hearts, and brings with him the lessons learned from those experiences. Much to the delight of bacon cheeseburger fans, cardiovascular surgeons never just settled with “what works,” perhaps because they came to the astonishing realization that non-conforming, courageous advances in medicine tended to make for hearts that failed less often. What novel ideas.

I wish more liberals would compare Obama’s life experience to McCain’s. Unfortunately, most of them understand that using character and a year’s-old speech to justify Obama’s bid for president is like claiming an elementary-age school safety guard should be on a SWAT team. I prefer the character of a candidate who was repeatedly beat to near death for openly honoring his country while a POW, and still mustered the resolve to say, “Screw you.” That, my friends, is character.

A backward-looking financial blame game is a waste of time, as our current situation is a complex, bipartisan blunder. I will entertain the idea that McCain is a woman-hater as much as the equally ridiculous notion that Obama is a baby killer. But, since it was brought up, it should be noted that, on average, male employees of Obama’s campaign make \$54,397, while females collect just \$45,152.

If America wants a leader, someone that has proven they can make tough decisions instead of just reminding us that they are “present,” then I urge the people of greater Cleveland to grab one of our new optical scan ballots and punch the hole beside the words “JOHN MCCAIN.” Just don’t leave any hanging chads.

## SBA President welcomes students, discusses year's goals

By Elias Hazkial

SBA PRESIDENT

My fellow schoolmates, I hope that everyone is off to a good school year. Once again, I want to extend a warm welcome to the entering students, and thank you for choosing Cleveland-Marshall to provide you with the resources you will use on the road to becoming a lawyer. With one month behind us, and May 17 on the horizon, there has been much going on and much more to happen. There were countless great reviews regarding the Welcome-Back Social that was at Shooters Waterfront Café on August 28, and please be assured that is just a sign of things to come.

**SBA  
President  
Column**

I would first like to address a few matters that affect students directly, most evident to returning students rather than the new ones. Those who have rented a locker this year realized that rental rates were increased from past years. Locker rentals and apparel sales are the only two forms of fundraising the SBA conducts to supply our operating budget for the year. Simply put, the reason for this increase is so that the SBA will be able to continue to provide the students with the same funding and activities as in the past, and attempt to provide even more. I don't believe extensive discussion on the rising cost of goods and services is warranted. However, it follows that because goods and services outside of school cost more, that goods and services in school will cost more, as well.

Staying on the subject of funding, existing student organizations this year will receive a total of \$800, rather than \$1000, such as was disbursed last year. To briefly explain, there are more existing student organizations this year than last year. It seems odd to hear this, but last year there were newly formed groups that are categorized as existing groups this year. Additionally, there are reactivated groups that did not exist last year, but they exist this year. In a nutshell, the SBA has the same size pie to cut up and distribute to more groups, so the pieces naturally have to be smaller so everyone gets their fair share.

Off of business matters, I want to highlight that the food/coffee cart that we worked so hard to get last year, is now open. It is located on the top floor before you get to the inner link; just around the corner from the elevators and stair well by room 237. The SBA now has a Medicine Cabinet with standard over-the-counter products such as Advil, Tylenol, Roloids, Alka-Seltzer Cold, and Imodium AD. The products come in individually packaged doses, and are available for a nominal cost (usually a quarter). We still have apparel, hats, travel mugs, and shot glasses so faculty, staff, and students can show their C-M Pride. We will be ordering more and different products to be available later this fall.

The SBA is holding an Outlining Workshop for 1Ls on Friday, October 3 at 12 noon and Wednesday, October 8 at 7:15. Bagels and coffee will be provided by BarBri, so students will be able to stay alert and hear the tutors over their quieted stomach grumbling. The Halloween Social will be on Friday October 31 at 7pm at Panini's on E.9th. That's right,

By Paul Deegan

CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The morning commute is never a pleasant experience, especially when you have to drive downtown. That being said, when you get off of the freeway one would assume the worst is over. Unfortunately, the worst is not over when you have to park at CSU. When you finally get to the lot where you want to park, there they are – five cars in front of you waiting for a parking spot.

**The  
Gavel**  
Editorial

Attending school downtown always brings parking problems unless you walk or ride the bus. However, this year's parking situation is particularly egregious. Not only is CSU's enrollment up, but parking areas have been eliminated. Nobody knows what is going on in the lot right next to CM and other areas have been leveled to create multi-level parking lots for the future.

Most of us would agree that multi-level lots will benefit the school in the future, but it sure hinders us right now. It's up to debate whether this is all due to poor planning or if luck would just have it this way. Whether the school could have done some of this construction in the summer is something we will never know.

What we do know is that this sordid



state of affairs has brought massive frustration to students. First, many of us pay the \$160.00 fee for the semester hangtag. This hangtag supposedly guarantees a parking spot on campus. What they don't tell you is that you may have to spend a half an hour waiting in line for a spot, or alternatively, that you may have to park in BFE and spend a half an hour walking to class (yes, with all those dirty case-books).

Of course, some of us don't have the patience to wait or walk, so we either; 1) park at a meter on the street (if we can find one); or, 2) park illegally. Both of the aforementioned choices bring the possibil-

ity of those pesky parking tickets. If that happens, then not only did we pay \$160.00 for nothing, but we get to pay \$25.00 on top of that, in addition to the change we put in the meter. All in all, students get a raw deal when parking here at CSU.

We may have a shot at parking in the lot next to CM if we're lucky and get here early. "Early" used to mean getting here about 9:00am, but now that parking is so bad, early means before 8:30am. We could then try to park in the Business building's lot. But even that one is getting filled up early too. You could then try to park in one of the big lots close to the main campus, but that can be a hike and your car is exposed. Meanwhile, you have to deal with traffic and frustration.

Luckily, CSU has opened up a couple of other lots (not that many spaces, but hey, we'll take it). The best one for CM students to use is the lot west of Becky's, which is right behind Conrad's on Chester Avenue.

Maybe they will have some lots open up for next semester. Lets hope so.

## What do you think about the parking issues?



*"It really hasn't been a problem for me because I've been parking in Dean Mearns's spot."*

-Adam



*"If I wanted to pay \$160 to wait in line and then get pissed off, I would have bought 20 tickets to 'Mamma Mia' the movie."*

-Alex



*"It 's a quagmire and we need an exit strategy."*

-Kira



*"I already owe the campus police hundreds of dollars, so I'm crossing my fingers for a piece of the \$700 billion government bailout."*

-Natasha



*"I'm rankled."*

-Matt

a Halloween party on Halloween night! There will be free food, beverages, and costume contests. And for our members of Cleveland-Marshall that have children, the SBA is inviting you to bring your children to school for a pre-trick-or-treat party, from 4-6pm. The kids will enjoy themed activities and a classic movie on our version of the silver screen (the Moot Court Room).

I am aware that many students delete

their e-mails without even reading them, and then claim that they don't know what is going on around school. I encourage everyone to at least open your e-mails and decide if you want read in detail before you delete. E-mailing is the most effective way for communicating among students and administrators, and the preferred way. Stay tuned to your e-mail for further updates regarding the SBA and the things we are doing.

### THE GAVEL

CLEVELAND-MARSHALL COLLEGE OF LAW  
CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY  
216.687.4533 TELEPHONE  
216.687.6881 FAX  
GAVEL@LAW.CSUOHIO.EDU



Co-Editors-in-Chief  
Paul Deegan  
Rick Ferrara  
Michelle Todd

Staff  
Anonymous 1L  
Tara Chandler

Gavel Columnists  
Kevin Kovach  
George Sakellakis

Gavel Contributors  
Mike Borowski  
Eman Dughly  
Joseph Fell  
Stacey Fernengel  
Susanna Ratsavong  
Jillian Snyder

Adviser Thomas Buckley  
Printer P.M. Graphics

<http://www.law.csuohio.edu/students>  
ALL RIGHTS REVERT TO AUTHOR

# Anonymous 1L takes first year in stride, doesn't "sweat the small stuff"

By Anonymous 1L

The following is the first article in a six-part series following the experience of an anonymous first year student.

Isn't it a little...elementary?

I wear an oversized backpack, I have a locker, I see

the same people every day, some days I'm not sure if anyone will eat lunch with me. Other days, people bum money off me so that the vending machine can steal it. The only thing missing is the bully—and even to that effect, for some, certain professors could compensate as such.

At some point during orientation, I was surrounded by several people flipping through their notebooks, discussing a case for Legal Writing, a fully-outlined case in hand. I could feel their pending hypertension from where I was standing 20 feet away. Stressed out at orientation?! I immediately questioned the next three years of my life before they even happen.

Now that orientation is behind us, stress emanates most strongly from the library.

*First-year life: Part I*

I stride in there as though I've been going there all my life. I huddle in a carrel somewhere. I open up Contracts; I do the daily Facebook-stalking; I decide Torts is much more exciting. When I go to the water fountain, I look around nervously, hoping no one catches me in this moment of weakness, the one where I'm not studying because I'm too busy hydrating myself. I quickly return to my hole and hope no one assaults me with their eyes.

I think the truth, though, is not that we are all really stressed (most of the time), but that there's some notion out there that in the first year of law school, we're just supposed to be stressed. And, so, when in Rome, do as the Romans.

Likewise, when in law school, do like the Greeks. "The Socratic Method" may be getting weak with its old age; it isn't nearly as bad as I thought it might be. Personally, I'm not scared of embarrassment. If I am trying, and I don't know, someone else must be in the same boat. Of course, as

the maxim goes: "It is better to keep your mouth closed and let people think you are a fool than to open it and remove all doubt."

Most professors do a fair mix of questions and lecture. Several times, I've left class frustrated because I don't think I learned anything more than I read. Other times, I felt really engaged. I'm sure life is filled with these undulations.

Whatever else is floating out there disseminating information about the first-year experience—it's unfair to say that everyone is sitting in their seats, quaking at the knees.

I'll admit, though, the words I speak in class sound to me like those of a meek third-grader who is too scared to ask the teacher if he can go pee. But, all things considered, I've got better things to worry about. Like outlines.

The ambiguous "outlines" loom over us. Friendly upperclassmen offer to send us their outlines. Some claim they never even used outlines. Some of my friends have started perusing hornbooks and canned outlines. I can barely keep up with what's

going on with the substantive reading, let alone be prepared to supplement it. How can I supplement something that isn't yet whole? I don't know, but everyone else is doing it.

I think I found "that guy." Mostly, though, there is a lot of "everyone else." Ultimately, we are all here, which means we all have achieved some level of intelligence that we should take advantage of, rather than be threatened by. Nonetheless, there is an unspoken, but ever-present, tension of competitiveness. It's hard to avoid it when first-year grades mean so much to our job prospects, and our job prospects are one of the driving factors for many of our presences here.

Of course, it is only the end of September, what do I know? I'm just another confused 1L.

A lawyer I met recently told me he hated the smell of the crisp autumn air; it reminds him of the first year of law school, and an unsettling anxiousness overcomes him, he feels a little manic and he has to quickly remind himself that it is over.

For us, that is his welcome to law school: this experience will scar us for life.

(In retrospect, that lawyer may have a cause for intentional infliction of emotional distress...because I respect my professors' advice, I think I'll go "talk about it in my study group"...) )

## Obama: Presidential hopeful and former law professor

By Joseph Fell

GAVEL CONTRIBUTOR

He has been a prominent figure on the American political landscape ever since his show-stopping speech at the 2004 Democratic National Convention made him a future presidential candidate. Yet, Barack Obama is still viewed by sizable numbers of Americans as an enigmatic figure whom they do not yet fully know and understand. This is somewhat understandable, given that some of the elements of Obama's life, such as his biracial background and background as a community organizer, make him a fascinating and groundbreaking figure yet also unfamiliar to many Americans.

Perhaps you're one of those who views Obama as an unusual figure, an arugula-munching, world-traveling individual who can relate very little to you and with whom you have little in common. Before you put this article down and pick up that casebook though, let me ask you a few questions. You've taken the LSAT, right? I'm sure you have briefed a few cases in your time here in the hallowed halls of Cleveland-Marshall as well. And, to the big 2L's and 3L's—have you been on a law journal, worked at a firm in the summer, or found love during your law school years?

If you answered "Yes" to any of the above questions, Barack Obama may not be as different from you as you think. Although he is best known for his activities in government, Obama had an illustrious career in the legal world that helped shape and prepare him for the world of electoral politics. Obama attended Harvard Law School from 1988-1991 and taught law at the University of Chicago School of Law from 1992-2004. Additionally, he also worked as a summer intern at a prestigious Chicago firm and

as an associate with another Chicago firm following graduation. If one substitutes "Cleveland-Marshall College of Law" for Harvard and "Cleveland" for Chicago, one could easily have a biography that is quite similar to many of our own biographies.

As a law student, Obama is best known for becoming the first African-American president of the Harvard Law Review, an honor which eventually led to the contract for his first book, *Dreams From My Father*, which is a memoir about Obama's life. Prior to Obama's election to the presidency, the Harvard Law Review staff was bitterly divided by partisan politics. However, after working hard to convince the conservative members that he would look out for their interests, Obama was able to obtain

the support of the conservative members of the review board and thus win the election. The success of Obama's efforts is reflected in a New York Times article that contains a quote from Bradford Berenson, a former lawyer in the Bush Administration who served on the Harvard Law Review with Obama: "Whatever his politics, we felt he would give us a fair shake." The listening, negotiating, and compromising

skills that helped Obama ascend to the presidency of the Harvard Law Review have also helped him win the respect of conservatives and independents as well as encourage Americans to hope for and work to create a post-partisan style of politics.

Obama graduated magna cum laude from Harvard Law School in 1991, but his involvement in the legal world was only beginning. In 1992, Obama was hired by the University of Chicago Law School as a lecturer. As a law professor, Obama taught classes involving various constitutional law topics. Despite the fact that his position as an Illinois state senator required him to hold his classes on Monday mornings and

Friday afternoons, which are probably the least popular times for classes aside from Friday nights (as any law student can attest), Obama received near-perfect teaching evaluations and developed a great deal of popularity among the student body, according to various articles in *Time* and *The New York Times*. A brief survey of articles discussing Obama's professorial style indicate that Obama encouraged discussion and critical thought in his classes, encouraging his students to think about all aspects of an issue.

Like Obama, members of our faculty surely have had the experience of guiding students through the process of navigating through thorny, difficult, and controversial questions of law and many of them can probably relate to the following quote from a book written by Obama, titled *The Audacity of Hope*: "I loved the law school classroom: the stripped-down nature of it,

the high-wire act of standing in front of a room at the beginning of each class with just blackboard and chalk, the students taking measure of me, some intent or apprehensive, others demonstrative in their boredom, the tension broken by my first question — What's this case about? — and the hands tentatively rising, the initial responses and me pushing back against whatever arguments surfaced."

Hopefully, this article has helped you learn more about one of the two individuals who will become our great nation's next president. With Election Day rapidly approaching, it is important that all of us take the time to make informed voting decisions and determine who has the best plans to fix the many problems that plague America and the world. As part of doing so, make sure that you register to vote.



## Clinics: Hands-on learning

Continued from page 4:

The environmental law and policy clinic provides teams of two students the ability to assist with issues such as pollution abatement, storm water regulations and brownfields redevelopment and land use with local environmentally-focused non-governmental organizations. Students work with a clinical director and may also interact with governmental representatives and administrative agencies. Weekly seminars focus on client communications, factual investigations, interviewing and specialized research techniques.

Fair housing clinic students work with The Housing Advocates, a non-profit advocacy organization, to represent housing discrimination victims. Students are involved in interviewing and counseling clients, negotiations, drafting legal documents, and may have involvement with hearings before the Ohio Civil Rights Commissions as well as state, federal and appellate courts. Weekly seminars focus on litigation skills, while reviewing the pending cases and discussing tactics with the supervising attorneys and professors. This appears to be a particularly important clinical area this year. Long notes that, "especially with what has been happening with the housing market,

predatory lending and foreclosures, I think by doing this clinic at this point in time, I am working in one of the more critical arenas of our economic and domestic troubles."

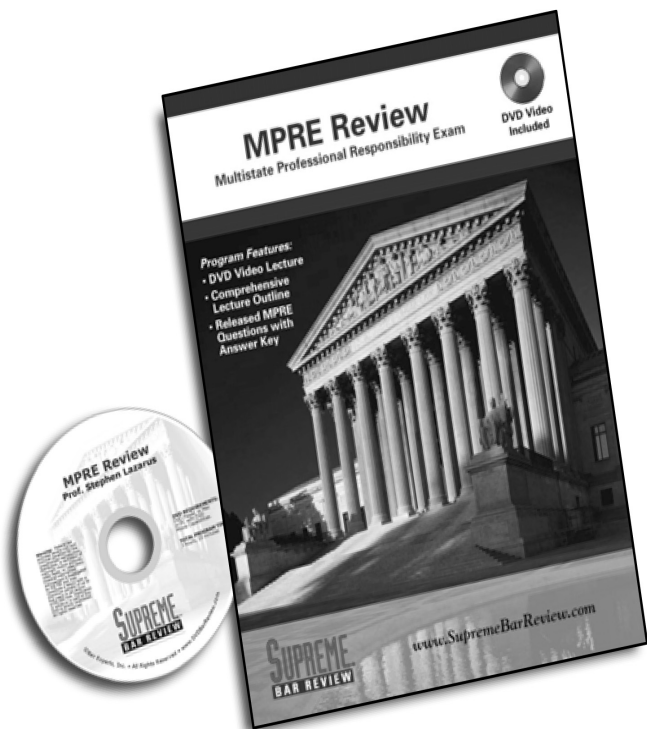
The Urban Development Clinic is focused primarily on legal services for the nonprofit community development corporations working to restore Northeast Ohio neighborhoods. The first semester of the clinic is spent gaining knowledge of nonprofit corporation law through weekly seminars, while the second semester puts this knowledge to work, focusing on the clinical clients. Students gradually receive more responsibility for the cases as they gain experience. Clients include Cleveland Neighborhood Development Coalition and Neighborhood Progress, Inc., among others.

For those students interested in public policy issues, the Law and Public Policy Clinic is available.

Students enrolled in this clinic conduct legal and historical research, consult with clients and their constituencies, draft legal memoranda and correspondence, analyze legal and policy issues, and perform presentations for clients.

For additional information, visit the clinic's web page at <http://www.law.csuohio.edu/clinics/all.pdf> or contact the clinic at (216) 687-2344.

# MULTISTATE PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY EXAM



**SUPREME  
BAR REVIEW**

# MPRE

## DVD Video Home Study Course

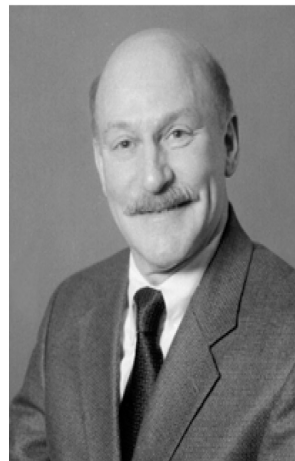
Until now, the only way to prepare for the *Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam (MPRE)* was in a crowded classroom.

Now there's a better way! Get the *Supreme Bar Review MPRE Review* DVD video course and study for the exam in the comfort of your own living room and according to your own schedule!

ONLY **\$39.<sup>95</sup>**

Fully updated for the current MPRE exam, this comprehensive program includes:

- DVD video MPRE lecture (4 hours, 43 minutes)
- Complete MPRE subject outline
- 150 actual questions from past MPRE exams with explanatory answer key



Our DVD video MPRE REVIEW is the only one of its kind and features a lecture by Cleveland-Marshall's own:

*Prof. Stephen Lazarus*

**AVAILABLE NOW AT YOUR CAMPUS BOOKSTORE**

To order direct from *Supreme Bar Review*  
visit our website: [www.SupremeBarReview.com](http://www.SupremeBarReview.com)

or call: **(216) 696-2428**

or stop by our office in the Hanna Building (Suite 601) at Playhouse Square,  
just one block west of Cleveland-Marshall, to pick up your copy today.

***We Turn Law Students Into Lawyers!®***

**STUDY AT HOME FOR THE MPRE!**