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THE ADVOCATE

The Official Student Newspaper of the Fordham Law School since 1967

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September 21, 1998

Why I *Hated* (I mean Loved) Early Interview Week

by Maria C. John '00

On your mark, get set go! Out of the shower and into the conservative newly purchased navy blue suit. On with the shoes. Don't forget the resume holder and the resumes. Oh no! Do I have copies of my transcript? Yes, but I must make more. Off to the train station. Arrive at the Lowenstein Building at Fordham, with ten minutes to spare. Check face, hair, nails, and the suit for stains or spots. O.K. Now I'm finally ready. Ready for what you ask? Depending on who you are, either the most humiliating experience of all time OR "the most fun I've had in years!" When I talked to my fellow upperclass colleagues I received responses on both ends of the spectrum. Welcome to Early Interview Week at Fordham University School of Law.

The process of Early Interview Week at Fordham begins with an orientation approximately one month before, given by the Career Planning Center. Assistant Dean Micheal Schimo, with the faithful assistance of a very hard working staff, admirably put together an orientation that had something for everyone. The book that is distributed to all eligible candidates includes a complete fall calendar of interview events, in particular the dates that law firms will be on campus, the addresses and telephone numbers for every law firm in New York City, sample resumes, public interest and government job opportunities, and much, much more! The book is impressive, to say the least and is a companion to the DLE (Directory of Legal Employers). The DLE is given out at the end of the Spring semester to students about to enter their second year (day) or third year (evening). It includes profiles of law firms across the country, listing salaries, number of hires, hiring criteria and other information law students might want to know prior to an interview. Approximately thirty-five of the nation's largest and most prestigious law firms grace the halls of Fordham University with their presence during this period a week prior to the beginning of classes for first year students.

I vividly recall being enthused and excited about the prospect of early interview week. Two students at the orientation had discussed their summer opportunities and the fact that

although grades play a tremendous part (about 98% give or take) in job determinations, you can get a job with a mediocre transcript.

On Monday, August 17 at 9:40am, I had my first official on-campus interview with the firm I had selected as the one I'd most like to interview with. The session went very well (as did the others I had that week). What surprised me was no matter how well my interviews went, they gave me no real indicator as to

If we didn't know before, we sure learned quickly that we couldn't say things like, "I think I would be an asset to the firm because I really, really need this job!"

whether I would or would not receive a further interview. The interviews are only twenty minutes long so its understandable that an the person sitting across the desk really does not have enough time to make any valuable assessment of a candidate's qualifications beyond the numbers on the transcript.

I soon discovered we were all in the same boat. For example, one student I know began early interview week without a single scheduled interview, but by the end of the week had secured several through diligence and persistence. Other students I knew had so many interviews, that at some point mid-week, they canceled interviews with firms which were lower on their priority list. But the vast majority of students fell between these two extremes - they had scheduled interviews, and were grateful for the opportunity to answer such questions as: "Why do you want to be a lawyer?" "What do you know about our firm?" "Do you like Fordham?" "Why do you think you would be an asset to the firm of Big Shot, Bigger Shot and So and So?" In response to the latter query, we quickly learned, if we didn't already know before, that we couldn't just say "I think I would be an asset to your firm because I really really need this job!"

Once the dust settled and classes

began on Monday, August 31, I talked to some of my friends about their reflections on the process. One male student remarked "I know grades are important but there are other things the law firms consider." Gee thanks, Mr. Law Review, I thought to myself as we kept talking. Another student who did not take part in early interview week, who is also a close friend, and member of Law Review, informed me that her desire is to be happy -- so she's going into public interest law. I think this is terrific. One small problem, I can't afford that option. I told her, "more power to you, wish I could do what you're doing." Seriously, for those of you who may not know, it takes a real commitment for a student to pass up an opportunity of earning close to a six-figure income in order to work in the public interest field, making a difference in people's lives, but earning much much less than their colleagues. I commend my friend, and others like her, who know exactly how they want to start their legal careers once they graduate.

Another student, who has already achieved success in the financial industry takes a humble approach to the process. She says, "I will just be grateful when some firm says, "We'd like to offer you a place in our sum-

mer class." This is the general consensus among us all. It would be wonderful to work for a firm where we'd be happy, financially and emotionally satisfied, and proud to let our parents know that we've done well. But it is equally as gratifying to be selected by a firm we may not have even considered when the process began. The bottom line is this: Each law student is worthy of receiving the job of their choice. GPA's aside, we've all worked long and hard to even have the opportunity to interview with these firms. Not to mention getting into Fordham Law, which is one of the best regarded schools in the nation (See box below).

Hopefully each of us has the aspiration, the vision, and the ability to use our Fordham training well by becoming the best lawyers we can be in whatever arena we ultimately choose.

The National Jurist "Real-World Rankings"

The top law firms in the country focus their hiring on a small number of schools. Listed below are schools as ranked by proportion of students placed with law firms.

Rank	Law School
1	University of Chicago
2	New York University
3	Columbia University
4	Harvard University
5	Yale University
6	University of Pennsylvania
7	Stanford University
8	Duke University
9	Northwestern University
10	Cornell University
11	University of Michigan
12	UC Berkeley
13	Georgetown Law Center
14	University of Virginia
15	UCLA
16	University of Southern California
17	Fordham University
18	University of Texas
19	Boston College
20	University of Illinois & Vanderbilt University

Source: *The National Jurist* (as taken from an April survey by *The American Lawyer*). Rankings are based on the number of graduates hired by the top 100 law firms in 1996 and 1997.

INSIDE

Ramblings
Calendar
Page 2

The
Fordham Follies
Page 3

Dean's Letter
Pages 4-5

Throw Your Fears
Out the Window
by Professor
Paula A. Franzese
Page 6

EDITOR'S LETTER

So You Want To
Be A Journalist?

By Maria C. John

I will frequently use this space to express my opinion. However, I thought a list of the requirements for submitting articles to *The Advocate* might be more useful in this issue. So to all of those eager students who signed up to write for the newspaper, here are the guidelines you should follow, (compliments of Ilona Stanley, our Articles Editor).

Recommended Format for Article Submissions to *The Advocate*.

1. Typed Single space text
2. Double space between paragraphs
3. No tabs (left justification for paragraphing)
4. Submission title, if any, in bold when possible
5. "By" your name and two-digit class year underneath the title
6. Hard copies only, please
7. Letter-size paper
8. 12-point font
9. Please spell/grammar check when possible
10. Try not to use first-person voice unless you're writing what's supposed or be an opinion or commentary column
11. Please enjoy the effort
12. Submit your hard copy along with any pictures to Maria John, 3E or Ilona Stanley, 3D.

Volume II No. 10



Ramblings Calendar

Remaining September Events:

23rd: (Wednesday)
Panel Presentation on
the Mission to Turkey.
5:30 - 6:30pm, McNally.

Pizza night for evening
students. Room TBA,
5:30 - 6:30pm.

25th: (Friday)
Deadline to submit
examination conflict
forms

29th (Tuesday) - Yom
Kippur (after sundown).
No classes after 6pm.

30th (Wednesday) -
Yom Kippur. No classes.

October Events:

1st (Thursday)
Kick-Off of Latino
Awareness Month. Platt
Atrium

3rd: (Saturday)
Dean's Day: This year's
topic is Mega Mergers: The
Future or Fantasy? Sign up
at Alumni Affairs.

4th: (Sunday)
Family Day for all first
year students. Family
members and partners of
first year students are
encouraged to attend.
2:30pm - 6:00pm

6th: (Tuesday)
Noreen E. McNamara
Memorial Lecture Series
presents a lecture by the
Honorable Marina H.
Blank Horn '69, United

States Court of Federal
Claims. 6:00pm. McNally

7th: (Wednesday)
Finance Securities & Tax
Law Forum, Staff Meeting
5 - 5:30pm, followed by a
recruitment reception. All
Staff must attend for staff
and editorial positions.
Come meet the staff and
hear their plans for the
upcoming school year.
Dean Feerick will attend.
Atrium, 5:30 - 8:30pm

11th: (Sunday)
LALSA sponsored The-
atre Outing. Repertorio
Español, Evening perfor-
mance.

12th: (Monday)
Columbus Day - Univer-
sity is closed, no classes.

13th: (Tuesday)
Wednesday schedule of
classes.

14th: (Wednesday)
LALSA general body
meeting.

21st: (Saturday)
LALSA sponsored out-
ing: Museo del Barrio,
12:00pm

30th: (Friday)
Salsa with LALSA. Join
LALSA members as they
teach participants how to
dance Latin style. Room
TBA.

THE ADVOCATE

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The Advocate is the official student newspaper of Fordham Law School. The goal of The Advocate is to report news concerning the Fordham Law School community and development in the legal profession. The Advocate also serves as a forum for opinions and ideas of members of the law school community. The Advocate does not necessarily concur with opinions expressed herein, and is not responsible for opinions of individual authors or for factual errors in contributions received. Submissions should be made on disk in MS Word (any version) or Word Perfect 5.1. We reserve the right to edit for length and grammar. Advertising rates available upon request. Contributions are tax deductible.

THE ADVOCATE
Fordham University School of Law
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New York, New York 10023
(212) 636-6964

DO YOU HAVE TOO
MUCH TIME ON YOUR
HANDS?

Do you have no
consideration for contracts?

Do you feel like abandoning
Civil Procedure for failure to
state a claim for which relief
can be granted?

Do you simply own no
property and therefore see no
reason for studying it?

If you answered yes to any
of these questions, then
The Advocate can use you.

If you are interested in
writing for the official
Student Newspaper of
Fordham Law School, please
stop by Room 26 (on the
cafeteria level) or contact
us at 636-6964.

The Fordham Follies is Looking For A Few New Members

The Follies produces a show each year that spoofs
Fordham, the Administration,
the Professors and the Students.

We need help to produce this year's show--writers, technical
people, musicians, performers, ticket-sellers. Let's face it we
need bodies. Do you have a body? You Do?
Then We Need YOU!

Call 636-7026 and leave your name and number. One of the
Directors will call you back so you can learn more about us.

The Fordham Follies
Can't Sing? Can't Dance?
Neither can we!

IF YOU ENJOY VIOLENCE AND LOUD MUSIC, YOU'RE GONNA LOVE THE OPERA.

The new New York City Opera has a special offer for students who like their entertainment on the cutting edge. Student Rush is your ticket to an exciting new season of opera at New York's most innovative opera company. This season, you'll enjoy six brilliant new productions. Plus rarely performed masterpieces, contemporary works and classics. All at Lincoln Center's world-class New York State Theater, where you'll also find convenient English translations projected above the stage. And at a cost of just \$10 per ticket, City Opera's Student Rush is not only great entertainment, it's a great deal!

FALL 1998 SEASON PARTENOPE* Handel 1730
ORFEO ED EURIDICE* Gluck 1762
IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA Rossini 1816
RIGOLETTO Verdi 1851
HANSEL AND GRETEL* Humperdinck 1893
TOSCA* Puccini 1900
MADAMA BUTTERFLY* Puccini 1906
THE CUNNING LITTLE VIXEN Janáček 1924
CARMINA BURANA Orff 1937
& THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS Weill/Brecht 1933
OF MICE AND MEN* Floyd 1969
• new production

FALL SEASON OPENS SEP 10-NOV 22. Student Rush tickets must be purchased on day of the performance at the New York State Theater box office and are subject to availability. The box office opens at 10am on Monday through Saturday, and at 11:30am on Sunday. Students must present valid I.D. when purchasing tickets. Two tickets per student are available. New York City Opera, New York State Theater at Lincoln Center, 63rd St. and Columbus Ave.

Don Giovanni by Tim Simmons

THE NEW
**CITY
OPERA**

STUDENT RUSH TICKETS ONLY \$10!
FOR FULL DETAILS CALL THE STUDENT RUSH HOTLINE AT (212) 870-5630.

DEAN'S LETTER TO STUDENTS

Fordham University School of Law Office of the Dean August, 1998 (Reprinted with Permission of Dean John D. Feerick)

Dear Student,

On behalf of the faculty and administration, I welcome back to the School our returning students and welcome again our entering class. This brief report contains some of the changes which have occurred over the summer, as well as other initiatives that the School will be undertaking in the upcoming months. It also acknowledges some of the members of our community whose leadership makes Fordham such a special place.

I begin by recognizing Father Joseph A. O'Hare, S.J., whose stewardship as President of the University for the past 14 years has made possible so many accomplishments and the realization of many dreams, including the magnificent new library on the Rose Hill campus. This year, he celebrates his 50th anniversary as a Jesuit, and I know that all faculty, students, and members of the Law School administration join me in celebrating this milestone in his life.

I would also like to mention another significant presence in the history of the Law School: Father George J. McMahon, S.J. At this year's University commencement, Father McMahon, who has served as Vice President of our Lincoln Center campus, Dean of Fordham College, and University chaplain, was recognized for his contributions by having the Lincoln Center Residence Hall named in his honor. It is a honor which is truly deserved, as all who know him are aware.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

This year, in recognition of twenty year's service to Fordham University, the *Bene Merenti* medal will be awarded to Professors Andrew Sims, Hugh Hansen, and Maria Marcus. Also to be honored, with the Archbishop Hughes Medal, is Kathleen Keenan, our Associate Director of Financial Aid, who oversees the School's Student Loan Program. On behalf of the Fordham Law community, I congratulate them and thank them for their many years outstanding service.

FACULTY

I am very pleased to announce that three members of our faculty have been granted tenure by the University: Associate Professors Matthew Diller, Nicolas Johnson, and Daniel Richman.

I am also delighted to report the reappointments of Professors Elizabeth B. Cooper, Mark R. Patterson, and Benjamin C. Zipursky as Associate Professors in the Law School.

I know that you join me in congratulating all of these faculty members on their accomplishments.

New Full-time Faculty

Joining us this year as a member of our tenure-track faculty is Professor Gideon Parchomovsky. Professor Parchomovsky is a graduate of Hebrew University (LL.B., 1993) and holds an LL.M. (1995) from Boalt Hall (University of California at Berkeley) and a J.S.D. from Yale University. He was a Fulbright Fellow, 1994-96, and served as Legal Clerk (1992-93) to the Hon. Eliahu Massa, Justice of the Supreme Court of Israel. He was also associated with the firm of Zeev Weil and Co. in 1993, and from 1986-89, he served as Special Forces Commander with the Israel Defense Forces. His principal subject is Property.

Faculty Sabbaticals

Professors Carl Felsenfeld and Tracy Higgins will be on sabbatical during this fall semester, and Professors Martin Flaherty and Andrew Sims will be away on sabbatical leaves in the spring semester.

Returning to the School after spring 1998 sabbaticals are Professors Russell Pearce, Roger Goebel, and Joseph Sweeney. Professor William Treanor, who was also on sabbatical this past spring, is presently on leave as an Assistant Attorney General in the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel.

New Adjunct Clinical Faculty

We give a special welcome to Professor Pamela Rogers Chepiga who heads the School's newly created Securities Arbitration Clinic. Professor Chepiga is a 1973 honors graduate of our Law School, where she served as Notes Editor of the *Law Review*. She served as a law clerk to U.S. District Judge Kevin Thomas Duffy of the Southern District of New York, where she served as Chief of the Securities and Commodities Frauds Unit (1982-84); and as a member of the litigation department at Caldwater, Wickersham &

Taft (1984-93), where she specialized as a partner in securities litigation and white collar criminal defense.

Adjunct Faculty Promotions Professors

Tina Stark and Michael Lane have been promoted to the rank of Adjunct Professor. Professor Stark teaches Introduction to the Deal and Commercial and Corporate Drafting. Professor Lane teaches Legal Writing.

THE ENTERING CLASS

This has been another strong year in the admissions area, with the School continuing to attract an outstanding entering class. Applications rose by 10%, compared to an increase of one-half of one percent nationally and a similar, slight increase in our region, the Northeast. There was a 9% increase in applications for the Day Division, 7% in the Evening Division, and a 44% increase in transfer and visitor applications. The median LSAT for the Day Division was 163 (or 90th percentile). Statistics for our Evening Division were equally impressive.

The representation of women went from 43.7% last year to 47.4 in this year's entering class. Students identifying themselves as members of minority groups also increased, rising from last year's 23.3% to 25.2% this year. We also continued to attract strong candidates from across the country, with 164 colleges and universities represented in the entering class. Students in our Day and Evening Divisions come from 26 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, with 40% of the Day Division coming from out of state. In the Evening Division, 11 states are represented.

Students in the Day Division entering class range from 19 to 48, with the average age being 23. In the Evening Division, the range is from 20 to 50, with an average age 28. Members of the Day and Evening divisions have earned 43 advanced degrees, including 11 Ph.D.s, 1 M.D., and 7 M.B.A.s. These advanced degrees cover such subjects as architecture, international affairs, Talmudic studies, dramatic writing, engineering, and journalism, to name but a few.

There are 73 majors represented in the entering class. The 10 represented, followed, by number of students, are political science (87), psychology (45), English (44), history (42), economics (22), sociology (18), biology (18), philosophy (16), fi-

nance (15), accounting (14).

For this year's entering class in the Graduate Program (as of August 12), we received 189 applications (from 49 countries), a 12% increase in the number of applications received by this date last year. Fifty-nine new students have enrolled, and 19 students have registered to return from last year, bringing the total enrollment in our two LL.M. programs to 78. The Program currently enrolls students from 29 countries.

PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENTS

This past January, we welcomed Fran Sheeley as the Law School's Director of Development. Ms. Sheeley, who was formerly director of development for the Legal Aid Society and for the Fresh Air Fund, and other leading organizations in their field, has now been joined by three additional development officers. Her staff consists of Margaret M. O'Brien, a graduate of Smith College and Fordham Law Class of 1986; Rachel Schwartz, a graduate of Cornell University, Class of 1991; and Julia Lemmond, a graduate of Fordham College, Class of 1989. This new team will greatly expand the School's development efforts and help us to continue to remain among the most competitive institutions in the nation.

CROWLEY HUMAN RIGHTS FELLOWSHIP

I would like to welcome back to the Law School Rob Quinn '94 as our 1998-99 Joseph R. Crowley Fellow in International Human Rights. Rob succeeds Mike Sweeney, the first holder of the fellowship, who did such an outstanding job in setting up the program and won accolades from all members of our community. Mike has joined the firm of Debevoise & Plimpton, and we wish him every success in his new position. Rob Quinn is a 1985 *cum laude* graduate of Princeton University and an honors graduate of the Law School. While at Fordham, he received the MCI International Fellowship and served as Senior Articles Editor of the *Fordham Law Review*. From 1994-96, he clerked

(Continued on next page)

DEAN'S LETTER (CONTINUED)

(Continued from Page 4)

for Hon. John F. Keenan of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District, then joined the firm of Lankler Siffert & Wohl.

HAPPENINGS OVER THE SUMMER

As returning students will remember, Room 203 was redesigned last year and converted to a carpeted, tiered classroom with a capacity of 82 seats. It now contains a built-in overhead projector and a podium which controls electronic shades and zoned lighting. During the summer, the Room underwent further changes, including the installation of fixed chairs and tables, outlets for laptop computers and connections which will allow access to the Law School student network. In addition, Room 205 has been similarly converted to "smart classroom" status, and now contains 82 seats and the same audiovisual and computer capabilities. Classrooms 311 and 312, as well as the corridor outside these rooms, have been recarpeted, and the McNally Amphitheatre will be recarpeted in early September. Also, a new bicycle rack (with a capacity for 18 bikes) has been placed near the entrance to the building, just west of the doors.

MOOT COURT AND UNIFIED WRITING COMPETITION

The School's Moot Court Board, headed by Editor-in-Chief, Jennifer Hale, and Interschool Editor, Joe Campioli, have announced that U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia will be the Chief Justice for this year's Irving R. Kaufman Securities Law Moot Court Competition in the spring. The Board has also announced the finalists, best oralist and best brief writers from the 1998 William Hughes Mulligan Moot Court Competition: Finalists: Joshua Arnsel, Michael Bedell, Jasmine Khalili, and Ann Ryan; Best Oralist: Michael Bedell; Best Brief: Jodi Horowitz and Shari Finkelstein. I congratulate all the participants in the Mulligan Competition, those who participated in the Unified Writing Competition and those who were selected for places on our five journals, and the boards of our other student organizations.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND PLANNING

This summer, Information Systems and Planning completed installation of a new Student Network,

which is referred to as an "enterprise network," since it allows access points not only in the computer lab, but also around the Law School building in such areas as the library carrels, the Platt Atrium, and the cafeteria, among other locations. This network provides students with personalized "logons," 5 Megabytes of storage space for personal documents and research, access to the Internet, Office 97 and Corel WordPerfect, the University Notes Email system, and printing. We hope to have all laptop connections completed by the spring semester. Other initiatives (scheduled for fall semester) include completion of "networking" the student journals and student organizations, adding computers in the law library to enhance our growing clinical program, and making available remote access (from home or the residence hall) to Email and the Internet.

COMING EVENTS

SBA President Rachel Reingold informs me that this year's New York Cares Day will be held on Saturday, October 17. All students, faculty, administrators, and staff of the Fordham Law community are encouraged to participate in this very special event, which involves the cleaning and painting of a New York City school. Volunteers are asked to assemble at 8:00 a.m. in Bryant Park, located at Sixth Avenue and 42nd Street. Michael Perna, SBA Evening Division Vice President, is the contact person. More information on New York Cares Day will be available soon.

The School will host a number of important programs this year. On November 6, 1998, the eighth annual Stein Center Symposium will present a full-day program entitled, *The Changing Role of the Federal Prosecutor: In Memory of William M. Tandy*. (Mr. Tandy was a distinguished graduate of the Law School who served in the U.S. Attorney's Office for thirty years.) The symposium, to which students are invited, will result in a special edition of the *Fordham Urban Law Journal* will include a transcript of the proceedings.

From December 4-6, 1998, the Stein Center will co-sponsor an invitational conference on *The Delivery of Legal Services to Low-Income Persons: Professional and Ethical Issues*. The Proceedings will be published in the *Fordham Law Review's* fifth annual ethics book.

From December 7-9, 1998, the Stein Institute will co-sponsor a major interfaith conference on *Rediscovering the Role of Religion in the Lives of Lawyers and Those They Represent*.

The Robert L. Levine Lecture Series has two lectures planned for the year. In February, Louis Henkin (University Professor Emeritus and Special Services Professor at Columbia University School of Law) will deliver the first Levine Lecture, and Professor Martha L. Minnow, of Harvard Law School, will speak in April. More specific dates will be announced later.

ALUMNI NEWS

The Fordham Law Alumni Association, a great strength of the School under the outstanding direction of Dean Reilly, has been very active during the summer. In June, more than 30 alumni traveled to Northern Ireland to meet with human rights workers, jurists, and elected officials. In July, over 200 alumni gathered at the Westchester Country Club for the annual Mulligan Scholarship, Tennis, and Golf outing.

October's highlights include the Dean's Day program on Saturday, October 3rd, which will explore the recent history of mega-mergers. On Tuesday, October 13th, our Corporate Counsel Association will honor Mary McDonald '69, the general counsel of Merok & Company, with its Richard Bennett Award.

GRADUATE PROGRAM

This year our Graduate Program, which offers the LL.M. in Banking, Corporate & Finance Law and International Business & Trade Law, celebrates its tenth anniversary with a reunion in Paris in June. We now have 281 LL.M. graduates from 56 countries. Recently, LL.M. alumni chapters were established in Japan and Spain. The Japanese Chapter is the first Fordham Law Alumni Asso-

ciation chapter established outside the United States.

CLINICAL PROGRAM

The Securities Arbitration Clinic, directed by Professor Pamela Rogers Chepiga, is the latest addition to our Clinical Program. It offers students an opportunity to represent claimants in arbitrations involving disputes with the National Association of Securities Dealers and the New York Stock Exchange.

FINANCIAL AID

Our Financial Aid Director, James McGough, informs me that there have been a number of changes in the Federal Student Loan Program. To help you better understand those changes, his office has prepared a new, 1998-1999 Financial Aid Guidebook. The Guidebook was sent to all first year students, but upper class students can stop by the Financial Aid office to pick up their own copies.

CONCLUSION

The Dean's Town Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 4, 1998 in the McNally Amphitheatre at 5:30 p.m. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible there.

I wish you a very successful year.
All the best.

Sincerely,
John D. Feerick, Dean

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

In addition to the coming events listed in Dean Feerick's letter, the School will host several other important programs this October. These are discussed in the Dean's letter to our recent graduates. The events include the following:

On Tuesday, October 6, 1998 Judge Marian Blank Horn will deliver the *Noreen E. McNamara Lecture* in the McNally Amphitheatre at 6:00pm. Judge Horn sits on the United States Court of Federal Claims in the District of Columbia and is a member of the Fordham Law School Class of 1969. A lifelong public servant, she has held a number of important government positions, including Deputy Assistant General Counsel for Procurement and Financial Incentives in the U.S. Department of Energy and

Acting Solicitor and Principal Deputy Solicitor for the U.S. Department of the Interior.

On October 22 and 23, 1998 the School will host the Fordham Corporate Law Institute's annual conference on *International Antitrust Law & Policy*. This year, the conference celebrates its 25th anniversary as the premier event in its field.

On October 30, the law school will present the 23rd annual Fordham-Stein Prize to former Senator George Mitchell, the mediator of the Northern Ireland peace agreement. The presentation will take place at the Pierre Hotel in Manhattan.

Throw Your Fears Out the Window: Finding Higher Ground in Law School

by Prof. Paula A. Franzese*

No matter what you may have heard or read to the contrary, the law remains a most noble profession. The practice of law offers tremendous opportunities to do well and, even more essentially, to do good. During the more trying moments of the law school experience, remind yourselves: "I am going to be a lawyer." Feel proud and privileged by that fact.

Dreams brought you here. You are now on the road to fulfilling those dreams. And that sets you apart from the guy sitting next to you on the train, or from the woman sitting across from you at the laundromat. You are special. You are fortunate. Millions never get the chance that you have now. You are creating something for yourselves, and it is very good and it is very important. You have chosen to attend law school at a crucial

time. Alarming, this world finds itself in crisis, with people turning on each other and turning on themselves. Locally, nationally, globally, we have become increasingly contentious, litigious and combative in our approach to dispute resolution. Many in our profession will advocate, **by their words and actions**, that it is aggression, domination, control and war games that are what it takes to succeed. Reject this assessment. To the extent that it has prevailed, it explains why the reputation of our craft has suffered and why there is such a significant mess to be cleaned up.

My wish for you is that you never hesitate to choose the path of kindness, compassion, caring and peacemaking in your approach to your professional endeavors; that you seek to introduce reason, even in the midst of seeming chaos, and love, even in the face of significant adversity. You have begun a journey that

will offer many competing paths. When the road before you diverges, always ask, Which path has a heart? Choose that road. Your decision to do so, repeatedly exercised, will make a far more impressive change for the better than any courtroom or boardroom victory ever could.

It won't be easy. In the days ahead, there will be times of depression and disenchantment, when you will feel like an island. Your gentleness will sometimes be mistaken for weakness. But you will know better. And by your example, you will teach. Remember that cruelty comes from the weak. Gentleness is to be expected only from the strong.

The challenge ahead of you, then, transcends any of the more immediate hurdles that you will surmount. The true challenge for the years to come is that you hold tight to your ideals, to your goodness, to your commitment to exalting the kinder virtues.

Certainly there are risks involved. To place your ideals before the crowd is to risk feeling vulnerable. To act in furtherance of those ideals is to risk ridicule and disappointment. But risks must be taken. To lose yourself because of self-defeating ideas, or as a consequence of the assessments of others, is to surrender all that you are and all that you stand for. It is a betrayal of the legacies and hard-learned lessons of all who have come before you, who believe in you, and who have so much to do with your being here now. Never surrender. You are too talented, and there is too much to be done.

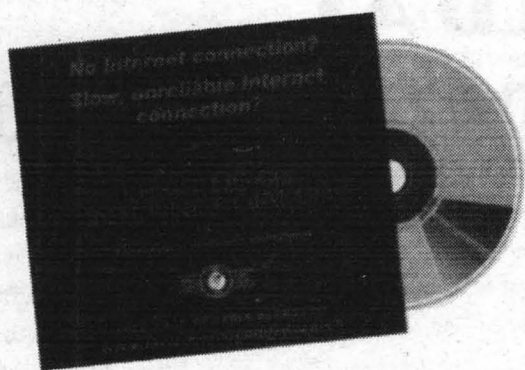
**Professor Franzese is the author of "Throw Your Fears Out the Window: A Book of Wisdom, Guidance and Inspiration for Law Students and Lawyers" (Donnelly & Sons, 1997).*

**THE FIRST GENERAL MEETING FOR
THE ADVOCATE WILL BE HELD
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 FROM
5:00 - 6:30PM IN ROOM 26.
REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED!
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(OR JUST THINK YOU ARE),
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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT ROSSANA PARROTTA.
(212) 636-6943**