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# The Advocate

The Advocate, Fordham Law School

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# THE ADVOCATE

Vol. XXVIII, No. 3

The Student Newspaper of Fordham University School of Law

November 19, 1996

## NAPIL names Dean Feerick 'Dean of the Year'

by Robert J. Gorzelany

Dean John D. Feerick received the first ever "Dean of the Year" Award from the National Association for Public Interest Law [NAPIL] at the organization's Annual Awards Dinner held on the 18th of October in Washington, D.C. The dinner was attended by over 500, including Assistant Dean Robert J. Reilly, Assistant Dean Kathleen Brady, Professor Thomas Quinn who holds the Sidney C. Norris

Chair of Law to Public Service, Thomas Schoenherr and Susan Adelsberg of the Law School's Public Interest Resource Center. Also in attendance were representatives from student organizations including BALSAs, Environmental Law Journal, Intellectual Property Law Journal, LALSAs, Law Review, Fordham Student Sponsored Fellowship, Stein Scholar's Program, Student Bar Association and Urban Law Journal. Members of Fordham's D.C.

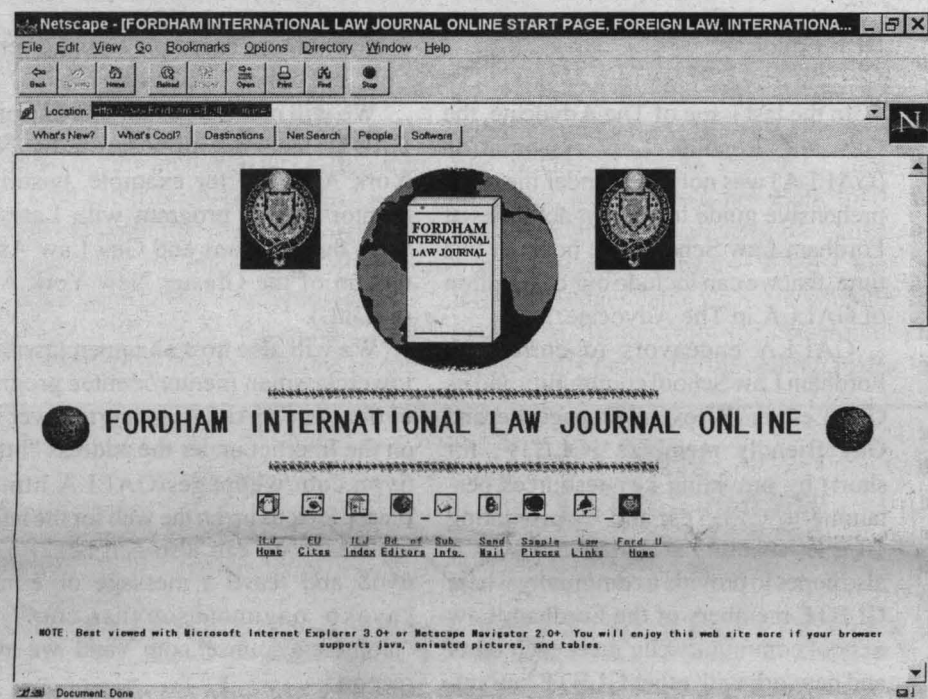
alumni community were also present, as well as several members of Dean Feerick's family.

In presenting the award, NAPIL Executive Director David Stern noted Dean Feerick's career-long dedication to public service, especially during his time at Fordham Law School. Stern recalled that Dean Feerick personally raised \$1 million from fourteen alumni to establish an endowment for the Public Interest Resource Center to ensure that public

interest lawyering will always have a place at Fordham.

Upon receiving the honor, Dean Feerick noted the strong Fordham presence in the audience and remarked that it was representative of the law school's commitment to public service. Dean Feerick went on to congratulate the other Awards Dinner honorees and to urge the

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### Http://www.Fordham.EDU/ILJ\_Online

As part of the Fordham International Law Journal's Twentieth Anniversary Celebration, the journal has launched Fordham ILJ Online, the Journal's home page on the World Wide Web. The page can be found by visiting Fordham University's home page at [www.Fordham.edu](http://www.Fordham.edu) and then following links to the Law School portion of Fordham's web domain or by entering the World Wide Web address: [http://www.Fordham.edu/ILJ\\_Online/](http://www.Fordham.edu/ILJ_Online/).

Fordham ILJ Online is an exciting opportunity for professionals, scholars and students around the world to become familiar with the Fordham International Law Journal. While giving the journal broad exposure, it will also serve several practical needs of the internet audience.

In particular, it will provide general information about the ILJ, the Board of Directors, staff members, and Journal events, such as the CLI conference. The best feature however, is a page devoted to providing a comprehensive list of "links" to legal resources on the internet. These links include connections to at least 50 foreign countries. This page will serve as a good starting point for any legal research.

The web page will also permit electronic correspondence with the ILJ by e-mail. Both students and authors can inquire about subscription information and the submission of manuscripts for publi-

cation directly from the web site. It will also enable authors to transfer manuscripts directly.

In addition, it offers the full text of A Citation Manual for European Union Materials.

Annually published by the ILJ, the EU citation manual provides a uniform system of citation for European Union materials, many of which are not included in The Bluebook. Since the ILJ has a large distribution throughout Europe, the ILJ hopes that the internet exposure of the EU citation manual will make it the standard for EU legal citation.

The ILJ home page will also provide a cumulative index of all articles, essays, introductions, book reviews, addresses, notes, and comments published by the Journal, as well as the full text of selected pieces by notable authors.

Andrew Lee, Research and Writing Editor for the ILJ created the web page. Through the use of books and instructive software, Mr. Lee has created a web page that rivals Fordham University's home page. In contrast to the university's page, the ILJ's page is sharp, colorful and informative. Collectively, Fordham's presence on the internet is now substantial.

ILJ's web page is best viewed with Netscape Navigator (2.0 or higher) or Microsoft's Internet Explorer 3.0.

## FORDHAM LAW STUDENTS/STAFF BRAVE STORM TO SHOW THEY CARE

By The Fordham New York Cares Day Team

Torrential downpours and gale force winds did not stop 21 Fordham Law student and staff volunteers from traveling to Far Rockaway on October 19th to spend a day renovating dilapidated surf-side Public School 256 as part of New York Cares Day '96. The volunteers, recruited by Fordham Law Women, the National Lawyers Guild, Phi Alpha Delta, and the Fordham Urban Law Journal, were tired and paint-spattered by the end of the day but treasured their newfound friendships, some very funny stories, and the feeling that they had made a real difference in the lives of New York City children by brightening their public school.

On learning of the project, Assistant Dean Robert Reilly observed, "It is very appropriate that this wonderful activity was taking place on the very same weekend that Fordham Law School was being honored in Washington D.C. by the National Association for Public Interest Law. Our students deserve to be the talk of the nation."

Every October, on New York Cares

Day, thousands of volunteers from companies, schools, and other organizations around New York join together to help fix and renovate New York City public schools. In the past volunteers have restored playgrounds, planted trees and bulbs, created murals, painted classrooms and renovated libraries. "The Urban Law Journal has sent a team every year for the past four years," said Bart Banino, of the ULJ. "We consider it a part of the Journal's commitment to address urban issues in the community where we live. In fact, photos of two of our team members from last year were used on this year's official New York Cares Day brochure!"

The volunteers awoke early Saturday morning, October 19th, to find the biggest fall storm in years lashing the streets with rain and wind. They forged ahead anyway, negotiating the wet public transit system at dawn to arrive in Grand Central Station for the 8:00 a.m. registration along with 7,000 other volunteers. Free coffee, juice and pastries helped warm them up. Then, joined by volun-

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## EDITORIALS

### The Bleakness of the Law School Cafeteria

The Law School cafeteria is a sorry excuse for a place to eat. Save for the arching windows and the Ms. Pacman video game, the cafeteria offers nothing. Cold and gray, it is another reminder - along with the Law School library - that Fordham is long overdue for a renovation.

Law Schools should be large and impressive, filled with stone and marble. Dreams should begin in the hallways and ideas should thrive in the classrooms. Fordham, on the other hand, portrays itself like a high school; lockers in the hallway, a painting here, a painting there.

If there's a plan for gutting the 62d street building, let it be known. But for now, we're in the cold, like being in the Law School cafeteria.

### Where are the Third Years?

What does happen to the Third Year Students? Are they shuffled out of sight? Perhaps to keep the rest of the students from seeing their soon-to-be-graduating gleefulness? If the stats are correct, there should be over three-hundred of them. The administration couldn't possibly shove them all into the broom closet.

For example, the International Law Journal purports to have enlisted over fifty of them when they were Second Years. Yet they are suspiciously inactive at gatherings and, more importantly, the journal office. One editor provided that the board "kills them all." Scary thought for all those innocent '96 staff-members.

### The Journal Periodicals

On a like note, why in the world are the Environmental and Intellectual Journals standing their published books in front of their doors? Tucked away, they are nearly impossible to grab hold of - a pity since some of the Notes and Comments are actually interesting to read.

With the administration's permission, all published journals should be displayed up by the entrance of the Law School, preferably along the wall near the library's entrance. This enables students, professors, staff, and visitors to reach out for one. Perhaps Professor Dworkin in his recent visit would have liked one of the Law Review's articles.

### Where's The Microwave?

Just the other day a new microwave appeared in the cafeteria. The sad part is that it looks like it has disappeared. In the same location where the new one used to be is a cruddy, and dingy looking DIRTY one. *Isn't anyone responsible for cleaning it?* Only a few weeks have gone by and yet you wouldn't even want to open the microwave. And while they're cleaning the microwave, they might think about emptying the garbage cans just a few minutes before they overflow.

And what about the missing degrees on the Registrar's list of graduates? Since a degree is necessary for acceptance into Fordham Law it seems rather stupid that the Registrar's office doesn't have the information available.

But you best be careful about where you choose to enter if you're coming to school on Election Day. It seems that security was preventing students from walking through Lowenstein to get into the Law School because the connecting corridor was closed. You could walk around Lowenstein and you could walk around the law school but you couldn't use one to get into the other. *What is their point?* Fortunately, since it is November and you have just received your direc-

tory you can call security and find the best way around. Especially since you already know where the copy center is in Lowenstein.

Food for thought: Where is Magnetti? Too many rumors, not enough truth.

### In this Issue

Don't forget to read Maria John's Evening Blues, day and evening students alike. She touches

upon an issue that has long been sulking in the hearts of evening students: basic unfairness. The reader probably saw this coming, but quite surprisingly, Maria plans to follow up in the next issue with an article from the opposite viewpoint.

As another voice to the evening division, Ayako Nagano reminds the day students about the fundamental confu-

sion an evening student must juggle and how it is exponentially more difficult to be an evening student than a day student.

For this issue, two new contributors throw in a piece of their minds. Ilona Stanley takes up where last year's First Year Drama left off, in its usual philosophical-after-a-joint ruse. Yuriy Kachuro then makes an argument for the anti-suit society and the demise of the stuffy attorney. The reader should jot down his or her own arguments and send them in. Both writers will gladly take anyone on.

Finally, an applause to Karen Hoffman, who had the simplest topic but the most difficult time getting the information. If I last heard correctly, she ended up playing a one-on-one with the entire Cravath team and winning! — M. Paulose Jr.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

In the last issue of The Advocate, the Gay and Lesbian Law Association (GALLA) was not listed under the comprehensive guide to student activities at Fordham Law School. We hope, at this time, that we can include our description of GALLA in The Advocate.

GALLA endeavors to enrich the Fordham Law School community and its Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Gay friendly members IGLBTF, for short) by providing key resources pertaining to GLBTFs, and by promoting GLBTF visibility at Fordham. GALLA also hopes to provide a community where GLBTF members of the Fordham Law School community can meet each other and network with other GLBTF law students and lawyers in the New York City Area.

During the year, GALLA members expect to produce a number of symposias that deal with GLBTF Legal issues. Topics will include: same sex marriages,

discrimination based on sexual orientation, and cyber-censorship.

We will continue to act as a liaison to GLBTF legal organizations in the New York Area by, for example, hosting a mentor/mentee program with Lawyers from the Lesbians and Gay Law Association of the Greater New York Area (LeGaL).

We will also host an upperclassman-lowerclassman mentor/mentee program of our own. GALLA supports a website on the Internet under the address "http://iypn.com/webpages/GALLA.html". Please look us up on the web for the latest updates. You can also call (212) 636-6968 and leave a message or e-mail "ayako\_nagano@sonyusa.com" or "jcolgate@counsel.com" and we will respond.

Thank you.

James Colgate and Ayako Nagano  
Co-Presidents  
The Gay and Lesbian Law Association

## THE ADVOCATE

Kenneth P. Persing  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Yolanda Figueroa  
MANAGING EDITOR

Matt Paulose  
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LAYOUT EDITOR

Melba Feliberty  
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Yongae Han  
STAFF WRITER

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  
140 W. 62nd Street  
New York, New York. 10023  
Telephone (212) 636-6964

To some it is a Brussel-Sprout,  
but I, I have no doubt,  
that taste both vile and replete,  
it surely is the devil's sweet.

That taste, my buds cannot block it,  
that taste - it is Satan's chocolate,  
from murky depths it has come,  
to threaten our lord's Kingdom.

Green gremlins the angels so despise,  
Blasphemy before god's eyes,  
Oh dear grocer hear the cries,  
And from your store, these demons  
exorcise.

- Timothy Dockery

# Interview with Fordham Alumni: Hon. Kevin Thomas Duffy and Hon. Irene K. Duffy: A Word of Advice to Students

by Amy Fahey ('99)

As a first year law student, I have heard again and again that my greatest resource for information about teachers, examinations, outlines and anything else relating to law school is Second and Third Years. While that may be true, it is my belief that the Fordham Alumni may be the most invaluable asset to all Fordham students.

I recently had the privilege of meeting two very interesting alumni, who both happen to be judges, and who happen to be married to each other. Honorable Irene K. Duffy, Class of 1957 and Honorable Kevin Thomas Duffy, Class of 1958, met during their senior year at college while he was attending Fordham, and she was attending the College of New Rochelle. They both went on to Fordham Law, he in the evening school, and she in the day, where they each worked to put themselves through school, and each excelled in their studies. The Duffy's are very kind and friendly people, each with a sense of humor that made my visit with them both fun and interesting.

Judge Irene Duffy is presently an acting New York State Supreme Court Judge, sitting in Bronx County in the

matrimonial part. After graduating from Fordham Law, she first worked for a law firm, then went on to work at the Securities and Exchange Commission, where she became the Assistant Chief of the Enforcement Division. Meanwhile, she and her husband had children, and she took a hiatus of roughly nine years doing private practice and raising their four children. She then went back to work at the SEC as an Enforcement Attorney, then took a job as the Assistant Corporation Counsel in Yonkers, and later, served as Assistant District Attorney. In 1977, she was appointed as a Family Court Judge, then later sat in criminal court, and now is sitting as a Supreme Court Judge.

Judge Kevin Thomas Duffy became a judge at the United States Courthouse in 1972. He resides over criminal matters, admiralty, anti-trust, and any other federal issues. When he graduated from Fordham, he became a law clerk for J. Edward Lumbard, a judge of the United States Court of Appeals. When I met with the judges, and we were walking back to his office from the courtroom, Judge Duffy pointed to the ceilings in the



Hon. Kevin Thomas Duffy and Hon. Irene K. Duffy

corridor, and with great pride, showed me the beautiful architect and design. It seems that after all of these years, he is still in awe over the overwhelming beauty and power of the courthouse. He explained that he came here once while he was a law student and has never really left. Though he did do other work for many years before becoming a judge, he has spent most of his career in the United States Courthouse. After his clerkship,

he served as the Deputy Chief of the Criminal Division of the U. S. Attorney's Office.

He then went on to private practice for nine years, and later, he too worked at the Securities and Exchange Commission, but never at the same time as his wife. While the assumption might be that the Duffy's have the most interesting and controversial conversations imaginable over the dinner table, they were both quick to correct this belief. Hon. Irene Duffy responded, "when you have four children to talk about, worry about, hope about, you don't talk about law at all." She went on to explain that although they are both judges, they address totally different legal problems, and have different personalities and outlooks. He went on to joke that if she came home citing cases, he "would be applying to the matrimonial part, hopefully in some other county, for a divorce."

The Duffy's are a real Fordham Family. He teaches, and has been the Vice President of the Fordham Law Alumni Association for the last 27 years. She judges Moot Court, and does any other services she is asked of from the school. They believe it is necessary to give back. In fact, the two could not emphasize enough the importance of alumni support.

They both talked about the Fordham Community, meaning both students and alumni. In addition to alumni being an important link for many of us to eventually find employment, the alumni are assisting us right now while we are students. Over the years, they have come up with ideas to better the school in a number of ways. They have made recommendations relating to examination procedures, the diversity of faculty and placement assistance. In fact, the Alumni Association paid for the Placement Office to be set up, and still support our Placement Center today. Hon. Irene Duffy advises, "become active in the Alumni Association. In the long run it's going to be Fordham and where it stacks up that is going to be most important to the students." He added, "Most of your clients will ultimately come not from

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## WESTBAR'S FREE REVIEW LECTURES FOR ALL FORDHAM STUDENTS

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<p><b>CONTRACTS</b> John Moye, Esq. Saturday, December 7, 1996 9:00 am - 4:15 pm Rm. 311</p>	<p><b>CONSTITUTIONAL LAW</b> Prof. Mary Cheh Sunday, December 8, 1996 9:00 am - 1:30 pm Rm. 207</p>
<p><b>CRIMINAL LAW</b> Prof. Byron Warnken November 22, 1996 3:15 pm - 7:15 pm Rm. 311 &amp; Sunday, December 8, 1996 10:20 am - 2:15 pm Rm. 211</p> <p><b>HOW TO WRITE A CRIMINAL LAW ESSAY</b> Sun., December 8<sup>th</sup> 9:15 am - 10:15 am Rm. 211</p>	<p><b>TORTS</b> Prof. Andrew Klein Friday, December 6, 1996 3:15 pm - 7:45 pm Rm. 311 &amp; Saturday, December 7, 1996 10:20 am - 2:45 pm Rm. 207</p> <p><b>HOW TO WRITE A TORTS ESSAY</b> Sat., December 7<sup>th</sup> 9:15 am - 10:15 am Rm. 207</p>
<p><b>CORPORATIONS</b> Stanley Chess, Esq. Sunday, December 8, 1996 9:30 am - 1:30 pm Rm. 311 &amp; Wednesday, December 11, 1996 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Rm. 207</p>	<p><b>EVIDENCE</b> Rafael Guzman, Esq. Saturday, December 7, 1996 9:30 am - 3:30 pm Rm. 211</p>
<p><b>CIVIL PROCEDURE</b> Prof. Arthur Miller LIVE at Columbia University 435 W. 116<sup>th</sup> St. NYC Rm. 106 Sunday, November 24, 1996 10:00 am - 4:00 pm</p>	<p>* WestBar enrollees can borrow audiotapes of these lectures, and many more, from our Lecture Series Library. Stop by the West Bar Review table or speak with a student representative for more information.</p>



# FIRST YEAR LAW

Dealing with the ups and downs of being a Fordham's First Year Student

## THE FIRST YEAR DRAMA

Any Club That Would Have Me as a Member

by Ilona Stanley ('99)

A memo to all first years, though I'm sure that's the last thing you want to see right now: Are you having some difficulty accepting the fact that you've joined the ranks of the suffering yet honorable participants in legal pedagogy? I know I am. Late at night, with my vision permanently focused on Calamari & Perillo, having decided I need a caffeine catheter directly to my vein, I get a little philosophical about what my being a member of the law student species means to my being a member of the human species. My thoughts often have the following tone:

I have a lot of friends who are firm believers in certain psychological phenomena. I'm not an expert in the ideas, but it's all stuff along the lines of individuals' amazing degree of suggestibility when they're in groups: people who never would have killed anyone becoming depraved murderers when exposed to the right mob at the right time; and people who never would have gone out of their way to help anyone pitching in to do one part of a crowd's good deed.

**I need to be part of the Twenty-something set: I need to go out and buy a pair of skintight, blue vinyl pants; or to put on steel-toed shoes and go hear some unknown English band in the East Village until all hours.**

I'll say right now that I often have a difficult time subscribing too much to the broad idea that humans can do certain things or act certain ways without at all wanting to. I don't think you can be hypnotized without buying in at least a little. I personally have tried on and off for years to become a bona fide smoker; and I still haven't managed to work myself up to more than a cigarette a day. The Cliff Notes to my philosophy of life would probably contain a lot of catch phrases like "free will" and "individual responsibility". The problem with my own theory starts when, every now and again, I become a victim of the group dynamic phenomenon myself. I'll watch a little too much MTV and decide that, instead of being a mild-mannered Fordham Law first-year, I need to be part of the Twenty-something set: I need to go out and buy a pair of skintight, blue vinyl pants; or to put on steel-toed shoes and go hear some unknown English band in the East Village until all hours.

"Instead of"? Why do I sound as though being here and being hip have to be mutually exclusive? Well, on my most recent trip to Avenue A, I knew I caught

a distinct whiff of weed being smoked a few feet from me at this club. Immediately I harked back to a particular Abramovskyan tirade on the subject of whether a lawyer's isolated mistake should be allowed to ruin his whole career, and found myself thinking, "Boy - if the American Bar Association even knew I was here, smelling what I'm smelling, that would be IT for me!" in this melodramatic way. Maybe that's true and maybe it isn't, and it's not as if I'm letting my potential livelihood determine my whole existence right now. Nonetheless, sometimes I can't help thinking that it's not a matter of "balanc-

ing your life", as they told us at Orientation; it's a matter of choosing your frame of mind. You can either be Responsible Person, Future Lawyer of America; or you can keep on being a kid. Somebody out there, some subversive, loud member of The Group I Could Be In, that exclusive club made up of all the people I must have elected not to be when I elected to come to law school, is speaking to me. Someone with yellow skin and a hypodermic needle cover through his earlobe (or maybe he's concentrating hard on his Rickenbacker, wearing sideburns and a three-button suit), is telling me that attending law school is maybe a

little more growing up than I have to do this soon.

But there I go again! Maybe the tight blue pants are cutting off the oxygen to my brain. Even the idea of a life that has equal distribution of "fun" activities and "responsible" ones is too anti-individualism for me. Even if "responsibility" is clear-cut enough, what is "fun"? I think we all choose our frame of mind, but we do it hundreds of times a week, each decision made independently of any of the others. No course of action I pick will buy my membership in, or relegate me to, one clique or another; no way do I need to tell myself that because I'm something that other people are too, there's suddenly going to be some formula that predicts how I will act. I'm just glad I remembered that in time to start the long memo.

## First Year Questions:

What is Law Review??

by Andrew Femia ('99) and Frederick Forster ('00)

This month's installment of First Year Questions poses the timeless 1L question: What is law review?

"Holy," quipped one 2L in a typically reverent response.

Notwithstanding the intended irony of her remark, it is clear that for many first year law students law review is a sacred issue. With little more than vague and grandiose notions of academic excellence, many 1L's take the importance of law review membership on faith. In a very real sense, it is the promised land of legal education, inhabited by a super-elite corps of chosen ones. Its inner workings are a mysterious enigma, wrapped in a Bluebook, inside of a library.

Clearly the myth and pageantry surrounding law review are considerable. Yet somewhere amidst all the deferential hullabaloo lies a fairly simple objective, namely, to publish six student edited journals of legal scholarship and case notes for each academic year. Aside from the inherent interest such publications have to players in the isolated world of academia, law review articles have broad potential to play a significant role in shaping the law as a respected secondary source of authority for legal decisions.

How, then, does one become a part of law review? Unlike many other schools, where membership is often based solely on grades, students at Fordham can make law review in one of two ways: by "grading on," or by "writing on." Although there is considerable dispute over the actual cut-off line, the general consensus is that students who grade onto the law review generally sport first year grade-point averages in the 3.5 or better range. Only the top 10% or so of the first year class is invited to join the law review

staff based solely on grades. The remaining positions are filled by ambitious students who participate in a voluntary writing competition. When the smoke clears after the writing competition, approximately a handful of first year students are offered positions on law review for the following academic year.

What follows is a substantial time commitment. Depending on the intended release date, at the discretion of the editorial staff, law review members may begin working on the first issue prior to the start of fall classes. Before first assignments, new members are given an informal orientation wherein Bluebook skills are reviewed. One 2L offered a word of advice: "If nothing else, pay very close attention to bluebooking classes in legal writing if you hope to make a journal."

**The boons of intense pride, personal satisfaction, and sheer resume power gained by membership outweigh the burdens of occasional inconvenience, sleeplessness and boredom.**

After orientation, new second year law review staff can look forward to receiving the first of their assignments, which are issued to pairs of students on a weekly basis. The individual assignments typically entail five to ten hours worth of cite checking per week, a process which is uniformly described as grueling, laborious, but frequently rewarding in view of the big picture. Several members admitted to having "serious doubts" about the usefulness of their endeavors early in the process. But, most review members seem to agree that the boons of intense pride, personal satisfac-

tion, and sheer resume power gained by membership outweigh the burdens of occasional inconvenience, sleeplessness and boredom.

Further incentive for law review members to maintain the required high quality of work is recognition of the fact that their efforts have a direct impact on the reputation of the school.

After conducting a number of interviews, it is apparent that the general perception of the practical import of making law review differs significantly between members and non-members. Most non-members tend to feel that in terms of prestige, it is the single most important item on any J.D. candidate's resume.

One 2L described it as "the fast lane into a Wall Street firm."

By contrast, many law review members share a tendency to downplay its significance in the job search process. The general consensus is that while law review is impressive resume fodder, students still have to interview well and impress potential employers in other ways. One 3L commented that while membership may lead to a relative abundance of interviews, "law review doesn't guarantee a job at the firm anymore."

Despite the marked divergence of opinion on the importance of law review, almost all upper-level students stressed the importance of journal membership in general, whether it be law review or other journals. When viewed in terms of the acquisition of essential legal research, writing, and bluebooking skills, all journals are viewed favorably in the eyes of potential employers. One 3L summed it up in saying that hiring law firms generally recognize that any kind of journal membership is valuable, because it provides students with practical skills that "pave the way for success in the practice of law."

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Hot soup and sandwiches served by the school staff provided a welcome lunch break.

By 4:00 p.m., the rooms and hallways looked beautiful, two gorgeous new murals adorned the walls, all stray drips of paint had been carefully mopped from the floor, all paper drop cloths and trash were neatly stowed away. Contributing just a few hours of their time, the Fordham team had transformed a ragged run-down school into a brighter, cleaner environment for learning. The students of P.S. 256, who face daunting emotional, economic, and educational challenges every day, would know, when they arrived at school on Monday, that someone cares about them.

On the bus ride back across flooded highways, through gusty wind and rain, the volunteers snacked and shared the stories of the day. Who won the award for neatest (and slowest) painter? How do you carry a book case which is falling apart through a narrow hallway with wet paint on both sides and filled with open paint pans and people painting? How do you eat lunch in five minutes? Which volunteer got so much paint on him that he gave up and started painting himself with polka-dots? "Besides just helping out the school, our group really got to know each other... even some things we didn't want to know," said John Galluccio of the ULJ.

Afterward, the New York Cares Day organization threw a party for all the volunteers at the dance club Roseland. There, the volunteers were treated to dinner, dancing, and free gifts for their day's efforts. Philip HoSang, President of Fordham's chapter of the National Lawyers Guild commented, "In the grand scheme of things, the free food and gifts that we received were insignificant. The greater reward came from knowing that we were needed and that we delivered on our promise to help." Finally, the team headed home -- the storm still raging -- tired, but feeling very good about their day.

"We'll be back next year," reported Katharine Loving, co-president of Fordham Law Women, "and again faculty, staff, students and alums are all invited! Not only is it a fun day for a great cause, but there is nothing like getting away from school and getting covered with paint for improving communication and building team spirit. Volunteering together helps us be better members of the Fordham community when we get back home."

Next year's New York Cares Day is on Saturday, October 11th, 1997.

**The Fordham New York Cares Day '96 Team:**

**Fordham Law Women:** Toni Agard, 3D; Darren Farrington, 3D; Mary Godfrey, Library Staff; Lora Groginsky, 2D; Emma Lewis, friend; Gina Lewis, 2D; Katharine Loving, 3D; Rebecca Marek, 1D; Eloy Nessue, NYU 2D; Amairis Pena-Chavez, 2D; and Erin Shaffer, 2D.

**National Lawyers Guild:** Philip HoSang, 3D

**Urban Law Journal:** Ed Balducci, 3D; Bart Banino, 3D; Steve Castro, 2D; Dotte Derrickson, 2D; John Galluccio, 2D; Anne McCaughey, 2D; Holly Mitchell, 2D; Carlos Ramirez, 3D; Danielle Sullivan, 2D; and Veronica Afif, 2D (honorary Journal member)

## Firm Sports Winter Opportunities To Play Basketball

by Karen Hoffman ('99)

It's starting to get cold outside and pretty soon the outdoor basketball court behind the residence hall will be closed for the winter. Without an indoor facility, most basketball players are out of luck until at least March.

However, some people may have an opportunity to keep playing ball during the cold winter months. The Lawyers Athletic League maintains several basketball leagues each winter, including a law firm league, a law student's league, and a women's league.

Almost every major firm in the city participates in either the Law-

yers Basketball League or the Corporate League, both run by the Lawyers Athletic League, an independent organization that coordinates several leagues throughout the year. Right now their volleyball league is in full swing, while basketball is just forming. There are approximately 300 teams combined in the two fall/winter men's basketball leagues, making it the largest non-scholastic basketball league in the country. For women interested in playing, the league has one division of about ten all-women teams this season.

The leagues start off with several scrimmages so that the organizers can place the teams into one

of six divisions with others of their approximate skill level. Each team has approximately ten games during the regular season, with the possibility of making the play-offs. The season lasts from December until early March.

Each month this column will highlight either an important league game or a game in which Fordham alumni are playing, and will include current standings from all of the leagues. Many of the firms that participate in these leagues are firms which recruit on campus. For those of you out there with an interest in sports, this league can be a great way to break the ice with alumni and potential employers.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE EXAM

**QUESTION: IF BAR REVIEW COURSES WERE LAW SCHOOLS, WHICH ONE WOULD YOU GO TO? (HINT: BELOW, SUBSTITUTE THE WORDS "BAR REVIEW COURSE" FOR "LAW SCHOOL")**

**A. A NEW YORK LAW SCHOOL WITH A 25 YEAR PROVEN TRACK RECORD OF SUCCESS WITH 13 FACULTY MEMBERS WHO HAVE TAUGHT FOR AN AVERAGE OF 15 YEARS FOR THE SAME NEW YORK LAW SCHOOL.**

**B. A NEW YORK LAW SCHOOL THAT JUST OPENED IN 1996, HAS NO TRACK RECORD AND HAS ONLY 3 FACULTY MEMBERS WHO TAUGHT IN A NEW YORK LAW SCHOOL PRIOR TO THAT TIME.**

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The Power Of Experience

## CLEAR AS A BELL: FORDHAM 2Ls WITH GPA OF 3.03 OR HIGHER RANKED IN TOP HALF OF CLASS; EVENING DIVISION STUDENT EARNED HIGH GPA OF 4.02

by Herb Detrick ('97)

In the last issue of the Advocate, we looked at Fordham's official grading policy for 1Ls. That policy, consistently enforced by the law school administration, resulted in a bell-shaped distribution of individual course grades, with 14% A's, 74% B's and 9% C's handed out by first year professors. In this issue, we focus on the bell-shaped distribution of individual student GPAs. Like the "Grade Curve," the "GPA Curve" closely approximates the shape of a standard curve. Yet unlike the well-publicized "Grade Curve," which is generally familiar to students and faculty alike, the exact outline of the "GPA Curve" is cloaked in secrecy by the law school administration. This purpose of this article is to make the shape of the "GPA Curve" as clear as a bell.

### Posted Grades

Students who want to acquire comparative information about their academic performance relative to their peers can avail themselves of the registrar's unofficial policy of posting grade information for each course at the end of the semester.

Thanks to this policy, students know where rank academically on a course-by-course basis. The posted grade reports consist in part of redacted grade rosters prepared for each course. These reports generally list each registered student's course grade and the last four digits of each student's identification number.

The grade rosters are frequently accompanied by a "grading report." The grading report summarizes how each professor has applied the grading policy guideline to students in the class.

Student anxiety over grades appears to be one reason for the grade posting policy. There is always a time lag between grading by professors and posting of grades to student transcripts. Posting grade rosters and the corresponding grading report for each course gives students an opportunity to learn about their actual and relative grade performance prior to receipt of an official grade report.

### The Grade Study

Using posted grade reports for first year courses, *The Advocate* recently completed a study of how well the Fordham Law School faculty adhered to the official grading policy. (See *The Advocate*, 10/9/96). This study determined that enforcement of the mandatory grading policy for 1Ls resulted in an overall assignment of grades within the boundaries of the stated policy.

For example, during 1995-96, Fordham professors teaching 34 first year courses awarded 14% A's, 74% B's, and 9% C's to their 1L students. This bell-shaped distribution is consistent with the desired grade distribution under the grading policy approved by the faculty in March 1995. The remaining 3% of 1L grades consisted of nearly

a score of D's, a few F's, and approximately three dozen grades which were not reported or marked as incomplete. (In conducting its study, *The Advocate* reviewed grading information for all first year courses except Legal Writing, Criminal Law 1, Constitutional Law 3 and 7, and Contracts 7, 8, and 9.)

### The GPA Curve

In addition to reviewing the 1L course grades issued by 25 different professors to determine whether the overall grade distribution conformed to stated policy, *The Advocate* analyzed over 2,200 individual course grades for 441 students who entered Fordham Law in August 1995. This analysis shows that, like the Grade Curve, the distribution of first year GPAs closely approximates the shape of a standard bell curve.

First year GPAs were distributed in a range which stretched from one GPA of 4.02 to at least seven GPAs below 2.0. Based on *The Advocate's* analysis of posted 1L course grades, the top 10% GPA cut off for grading on to Law Review was just over 3.5, while the 25% cut off for students trying to write on was around 3.27. Students with a GPA above 3.19 scored among the top third of all first year students.

The median GPA separating the top and bottom half of the combined day and evening divisions was 3.03. The GPA distribution for students in the bottom half of the class was roughly the mirror image of the GPA distribution for students ranked in the top half.

Figure One shows the distribution of first year GPAs for those students who started Fordham Law School last year.

### Sectional Strife?

One justification the current grading policy is that the curved grading scheme evens out variations among sections. In comparing GPA statistics for each section, *The Advocate* determined that the

goal of bringing the various sections into parity was only partially achieved. For example, median GPAs for the nine 1L day sections ranged from a high of 3.14 to a low of 2.97. Meanwhile, the low GPA for each section ranged from 2.72 to 1.82. Clearly, not all sections were created equal.

In addition, *The Advocate* was unable to determine whether the use of a tandem grading curve for day and evening divisions corrected for the varying impact of career externalities. Under the current grading system, day students who go to school full-time are evaluated by a different standard than students who work full-time and go to school in the evening. Yet it is interesting to note that 1Ls enrolled in the evening division accounted for both the "high" overall GPA of 4.02 and the "lowest-high" sectional GPA of 3.61. Without a comparison of raw examination scores, the extent to which evening students benefitted from the recent change to a "division-normed" grading system cannot be determined.

### Odds and Ends

Despite the lack of grading information for Legal Writing and a few other courses, *The Advocate's* study accurately reflects the influence of Fordham's mandatory grading policy over the shape of the 1L GPA Curve.

According to the calculated rank-order listing of GPAs for 327 day students, the median first year GPA was 3.05. This statistically-calculated figure was consistent with the officially reported 1L day division median GPA of 3.056.

Similarly, the rank-order listing of GPAs for 114 evening students showed a median GPA of 3.0. This statistically-calculated figure was also consistent with the registrar's reported first year evening division median GPA of 2.995.

As expected, application of the grading curve appears to have blunted the impact on any one section of quirks in the grading habits of individual profes-

sors. Nevertheless, some Fordham Law School students stand out not because of their high marks, nor because the Grade Curve "rescued" them from an unusually poor grade. Rather, these "perfectly average" students are remarkable for their consistency in earning the same grade for each first year course.

For example, two students in Section 10 received a "perfect" 3.0 GPA by earning all B's for their non-Legal Writing coursework. Similarly, one student in Section 12 earned all B-minuses, thereby achieving a "perfect" 2.7 GPA.

Such statistical oddities serve as reminders that Fordham students whose grades place them "in the bottom half" of their class can point to qualities like "consistency" when trying to land a legal job. After all, knowing how to successfully play one's given "odds" against someone else's unknown "ends" (whether those of employer, judge, negotiating opponent, or jury) is an important determinant of long-term success in the legal profession. Even Marvin Belli, the wildly successful "King of Torts," earned a C in torts during his first year of law school. And he didn't go to Fordham.

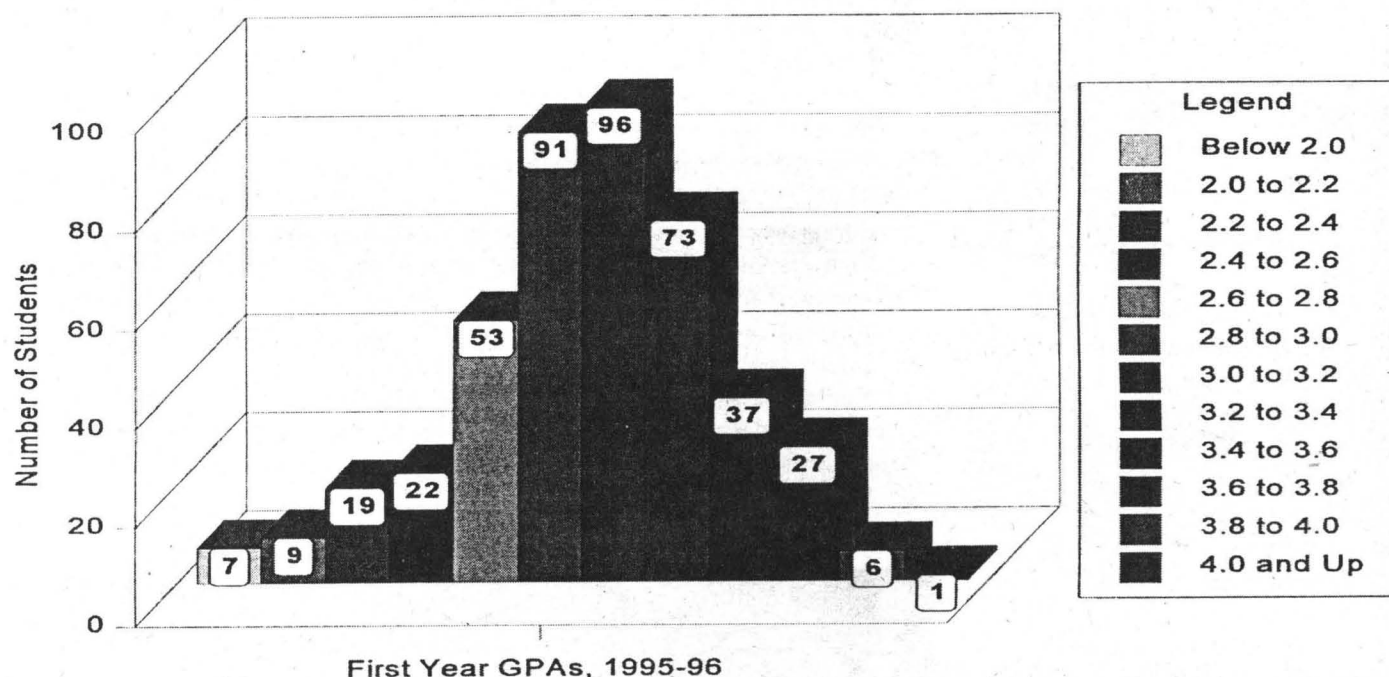
Fig. 1. Distribution of First Year GPAs, 1995-96

Grade	Students	Percent
4.0 and Up	1	<1%
3.8 to 4.0	6	1%
3.6 to 3.8	27	6%
3.4 to 3.6	37	8%
3.2 to 3.4	73	17%
3.0 to 3.2	96	22%
2.8 to 3.0	91	21%
2.6 to 2.8	53	12%
2.4 to 2.6	22	5%
2.2 to 2.4	19	4%
2.0 to 2.2	9	2%
Below 2.0	7	1%
Total	441	100%

Source: Grade reports for 34 first year courses offered at Fordham Law School during 1995-96 school year.

Figure 2: First Year GPAs

Based on Grades for 441 Students



# FORDHAM LAW CIGAR LOUNGE

presents

## BLOWIN' SMOKE

with Professor Steve Thel



### Steve Thel Professor of Law

B.A., North Texas State University, 1976; J.D., Harvard, 1979. Visiting Professor, Cornell Law School, 1992-93; Law Clerk, Hon. Albert J. Henderson, United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, 1979-81; Attorney-Advisor, Enforcement & Disclosure Policy Group. Office of General Counsel, Securities and Exchange Commission, 1981-83; Associate, Kilpatrick & Cody (Atlanta, Ga.), 1983-85; Associate Professor, University of Mississippi School of Law, 1985-88. Principal subjects: Contracts, Corporate Finance, Securities Regulation.

Q. How long have you been a professor at Fordham Law School?

A. I started Fordham in 88, and I spent a year away.

Q. When did you start smoking cigars?

A. At a young age, my father smoked cigars, and my grandfather actually sold cigars, but it wasn't until about 10 years ago that I started to smoke cigars seriously.

Q. Have you received any criticism from administration about being a cigar smoker?

A. No, the administration is very good. You know we have this intolerant no smoking policy at the law school but I've always abided by that, and I think the administration appreciates that.

Q. I thought there was a rumor around school that you were caught smoking cigars in your office?

A. Absolutely not, absolutely not, no we used to be able to smoke in our offices. But I've never disobeyed the rules. Any rumor to that effect is untrue.

Q. You know that the students have started the Fordham Law Cigar Lounge, what are your thoughts about the formation of such an organization?

A. I think it's good for students to get together, it's an opportunity for people with similar inter-

ests to share those interests. I think cigars are relaxing and it's a good chance for people to meet each other.

Q. Has smoking cigars benefited you in any way in the legal profession, has it inspired you as a scholar, or has it relaxed you as a lawyer?

A. I think that smoking cigars is fairly relaxing. When you smoke cigars, I think often you have an opportunity to reflect. But, all in all, I'm not sure I would recommend it.

Q. I know at times when I'm out in the public eye smoking a cigar that I'll feel uncomfortable with some of the looks that I receive. Do you ever feel that you are treated unfairly as a cigar smoker, especially considering how long you've been smoking cigars?

A. Yeah, I understand what you're talking about, but I try not smoke cigars in any place where you're not allowed to smoke.

Q. Today, we see a lot of women smoking cigars, and a lot of young people smoking cigars, what are your feelings about this trend?

A. I think it's O.K. for women, or young people, or anyone who wants to smoke cigars to smoke them, and I can see why people want to try them when they see them. I think most of the people who try cigars don't like them.

Q. Do you think that the popularity of Cigar smoking will last?

A. I think that with all the magazines and exposure that cigars are getting, a lot of people will pick up smoking cigars, it does seem like it's exploding.



Fordham Law Cigar Lounge President Keith Markel takes time to 'blow smoke' with Professor Steve Thel at A.J. Gordon's

Q. What would your grandfather say about the exorbitant prices of cigars today?

A. I think he would be a rich man

Q. One reason for prices being so high is the embargo we have against Cuba because it forces people to buy them illegally. What do you think of the trade embargo against Cuba?

A. I'm not sure about all the politics of it, but it doesn't seem to me that it's a good idea. Most people aren't smoking Cuban cigars. I think that embargoes on people as a tool is not a good idea, but it's not an area that I've studied, but I know people who have, and it doesn't serve a whole lot of purpose.

Q. When you went to Harvard Law School, were there a lot of students or professors who smoked cigars?

A. I suppose there were, but back then, people didn't really smoke cigars much. I might have gone through law school without ever smoking a cigar.

Q. Can you remember any time he had an intimate conversation with someone that he might not have had, had he not shared the common interest of cigar smoking?

A. I would say it's sharing a common interest, it takes about a half-an-hour, and you have occasion to talk. Having a half-an-hour conversation now a days is unfortunately rare. You may have a conversation like that with a person you don't know, or a person you've just met. Often enough, or I think often for me I've had very interesting conversations, I smoked a cigar with an insurance agent once, and that was not a good

conversation, but I smoked a cigar with a professor of education and learned a great deal about education and that's exactly what I ought to be doing.

Q. I know that for me there are certain times where a cigar typifies the moment, and puts everything in perspective. I don't want to use clichés, but a kind of "It just doesn't get much better than this" type of time. For me these moments are 1) when I'm alone driving in a car, just me and the cigar and the road, and 2) when I take a bath. What about you?

A. I don't think I've ever smoked a cigar in the bathtub, and not in the car either, I think that smoking a cigar after a good meal is a good thing, it is unfortunate and bad that there are relatively few restaurants where you can smoke a cigar. I think that the best time for me to smoke a cigar is when I take about an hour off in the afternoon and go out and talk to students or colleagues who are interested in the same pastime.

Q. I got an opportunity to hear Dean Feerick speak and he said that he and his wife, while walking down the street last week, passed some students. Dean Feerick's wife said to Dean Feerick, "Did you hear what that student said to the other student?" Dean Feerick replied, "no." She said, "The first student said, 'Was that the Dean?' and the other student said, 'I think so, but I'm not sure.'" And I think he kind of reflected on the reality that being a dean and being as busy as he is, he doesn't really get a whole lot of time to meet and interact with the student body. You were just discussing how smoking cigars afforded you the opportunity to talk to students and col-

Please see Thel

continued on page 13

**REMINDER: Please purchase a Fordham Law Cigar Lounge T-Shirt for \$15.00. This cost will go to defray the expense of our big alumni event next semester.**



## Reality Bites

'Learn to Like Chinese Food Five Days a Week' and Other Lessons for First Year Associates

By Susan Altamore '99

As part of my employment history, I have been involved in children's book publishing, worked in the in-house legal department of a foreign bank, negotiated leveraged leases, and worked as a legal assistant at one of the major law firms here in New York City. The last job is the one that I re-examine the most now that I am in law school. Not because I learned to do legal research there; I didn't. Nor did I learn the principles of tort law or contracts there. And not even because I made a lot of contacts there; what senior partner remembers a lowly legal assistant ten years later? No, the reason I look back on those years now is because I learned then what a first year associate really does — and it's not at all what you think.

I know, you imagine that being an associate at a major New York City law firm means lots of money, more time to have a life, a chance to use all the things you've been studying for three years in law school and just generally being a young, smart attorney. Well, the good news is that you will earn a lot of money, more in fact than you'll probably have a chance to spend most weeks. Yes, you'll be able to take extravagant vacations to lovely places like St. Thomas, Hawaii and Europe. You'll be able to afford a nice car - and the insurance on it. You'll probably even have a decent apartment. What you won't have, however, is the time to enjoy all of these accouterments.

Your vacation, assuming the partner lets you actually take the one you had scheduled three months before, will be interrupted by calls and faxes from the office that "can't

wait." (Note: when you are actually in the office you will never seem this important.) You will drive your car to the Hamptons the one Sunday all summer you escape from the office. Your apartment will become the place you sleep and change clothes, not necessarily in conjunction with each other. In other words, they make you earn the money!

Now, I am exaggerating a bit, but unfortunately, not too much. Year after year I would see new associates start at the firm, full of self-importance and expecting all those wonderful summer associate lunches to continue. And then reality would set in. Certain truths would emerge, the first one being as I said above: they make you earn the money. No, you're not working every day, all day, seven days a week. But, there is a certain amount of late nights; as the title to this column said, learn to love Chinese food because you will be eating it quite a bit.

There is weekend work: if you're closing a big deal or working on a brief that has to be in to the judge on Monday, kiss the beach good-bye. Your vacations will be at the mercy of the partners you're working for, and if they're canceling their trip, you can be damn sure you're not taking one either!

There's a few other surprises in store

for you as well. The largest for first-years is that you don't use anything you've learned in law school. All those contract principles and tort law cases: forget them. Criminal law: same. The great memos you were assigned to write as a summer associate: they're for summer associates to write. Instead, first-year associates use the following skills: cite-checking (and pray the client is willing to pay for Lexis, proofreading, Xeroxing, staple-pulling and inserting, velo-binding, and people management. The proofreading, etc. is all done as part of document production and/or distribution.

Great, you say, "I'll be producing documents!" No, other people will be producing documents; you'll be in charge of making sure that they come through word processing and duplicating and get in the hands of the people that are supposed to receive them. If you're lucky, you'll have a legal assistant or paralegal to help you. Don't count on it, however, because their time is more valuable than yours: they already know how to do this sort of thing and are busy drafting closing documents or filing motions. Which brings me to people management.

It's very natural as a first-year associate to think that you are superior to the support staff; after all, you've gone to law school and they haven't. Well, as I've said above, that paralegal or legal assistant or even secretary knows far more about the actual practice of law than you do. They've been at the firm

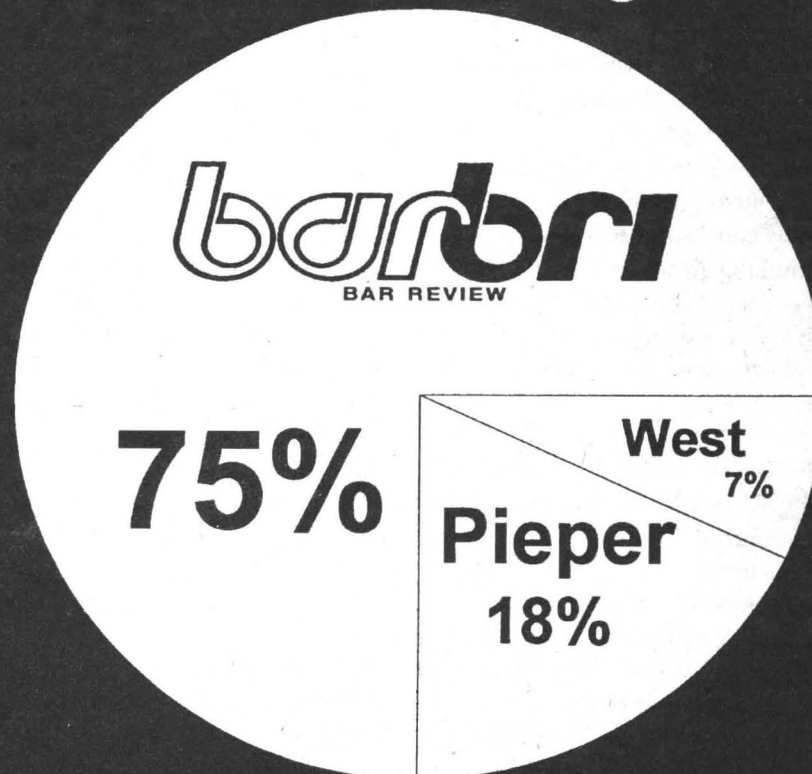
longer, they've worked on other similar transactions before and, most importantly, they know the senior lawyers better than you do. A lot of law is repetition; very little is drafted from scratch or breaks new ground. The people with the experience have the advantage, even if they don't have the degree. And, as an important aside, they often have the partner's ear, as well: it is not unknown for a partner to marry his secretary or that young attractive legal assistant! So tread carefully; unless you're Benjamin Cardozo. The first-year associate who gets along with the support staff and utilizes their knowledge has a far better chance of succeeding than the one who doesn't.

All of this said, it's really not so bad to be a first-year. It's over quickly, and the experience will stand you in good stead no matter what direction your career takes. Just as typing was probably one of your most important prelaw classes, so are duplicating, proofreading, and "relating well to others" (as they said on your first grade report card) skills that can be used anywhere. Just keep some perspective and a sense of humor - if you can't laugh about incurring \$100,000 worth of debt so you could stamp numbers on pages of documents, who can? And, finally, one last word, BEWARE: the office receptionist invariably knows all of the gossip and relays it to the other support staff, so don't start a relationship with another lawyer at the firm and expect to keep it quiet!

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Dean Feerick: "Dean of the Year"

## Feerick

continued from page 1

audience members to make public service an integral part of their professional lives.

Although Dean Feerick was the first law school dean ever to receive its new "Dean of the Year" Award, Fordham Law School has been honored by NAPIL in the past. The Fordham Student Sponsored Fellowship, the student group that organizes the annual Auction and funds students who spend their summers working for public interest organizations, has received several awards from NAPIL, including "Most Growth by a NAPIL Member Program" in 1992 and 1993 and NAPIL's "Special Award for Outstanding Achievement by a Member Group" in 1994. The Fellowship is the most successful law student fundraising organization in the country, last year raising more than \$110,000 at the Auction and over \$176,000 overall.

Also honored at the Awards Dinner were Alexander Forger, president of the Legal Services Corporation, and Bryan Stevenson, executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative of Alabama, who were named Outstanding Public Interest Advocates of the Year. Several law students were also recognized at the Awards Dinner: individual students, for their work providing legal services to underrepresented individuals and groups, and student organizations, for their significant progress in promoting public interest law at their law schools.

The awards dinner was a highpoint in a three day program of events planned for NAPIL's 10th Annual Career Fair and Conference. Other events included a public interest job fair and several panels on a range of topics including the death penalty, urban environmental justice and community economic development.

The National Association for Public Interest Law was founded in 1986 and is committed to promoting public interest law by providing grants to students and recent graduates, and by serving as a public interest law clearinghouse and public education center. Today, NAPIL counts 140 student organizations at so many law schools across the U.S. as members, including the Law School's Fordham Student Sponsored Fellowship.

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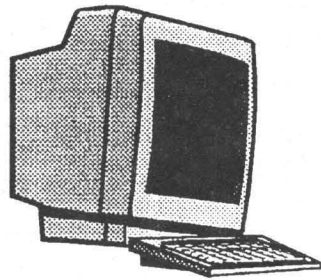
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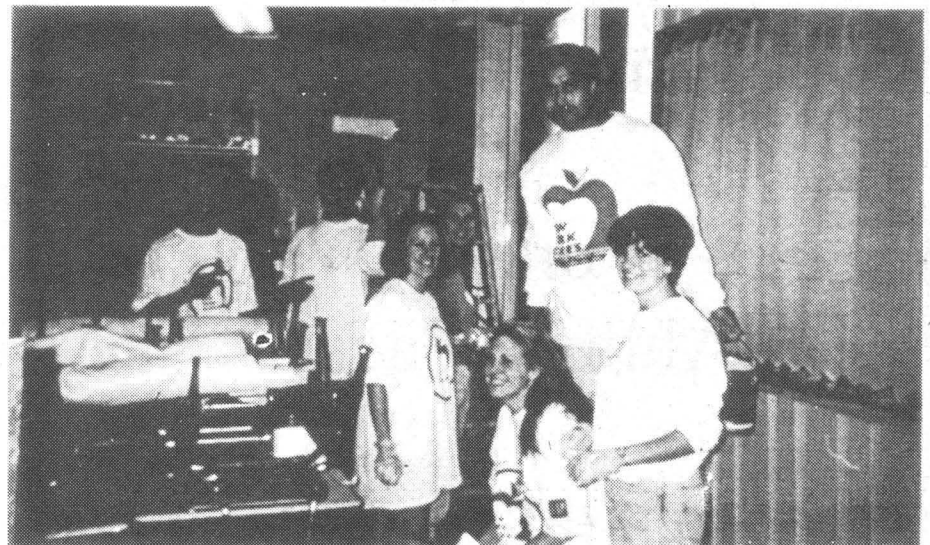


## FLW

continued from page 1

teers from Morehouse College Alumni, NYU Law School, and The Gap, they embarked on an hour's ride by leaky school bus, livened by conversations with old friends and new, to P.S. 256, a school serving orphans, juvenile delinquents and behaviorally troubled adolescents placed there by the courts. The toll of the city's fiscal cuts to public school budgets was evident. The paint was peeling from the dirty, graffiti-marked walls and buckets were set out in a hopeless attempt to capture the rainwater pouring through cracks in the ceiling.

Plans for outdoor work on the school's grounds were cancelled but there was plenty to do inside. With the grey surf crashing on the adjacent beach and the wind and rain leaking in, causing a river in one classroom and a steady shallow waterfall down the staircases, volunteers carefully masked off window frames and ceiling tiles and secured floor tarps before beginning painting over the dingy



Bart Banino, Steve Castro, John Galluccio, Dotte Derrickson, Danielle Sullivan, Ed Baldimucci, and Veronica Afif

cracked walls with bright 'melon'-colored paint. With the assistance of some of the students who attend the school, wielding big, fluffy, painting 'mitts', bookcases were painted a brilliant red. Rebecca Marek, a Fordham first year day student happily remembered the pleasure of looking out at the rough ocean waves while painstakingly covering the

window frames in off-white. "At first it was a little strange, being the only 'first-year' there," commented Marek, "but I was happy to be part of such a great team. It was really great to meet the grateful teacher whose classroom we painted."

Please see FLW

Continued on page x

# BOTTLE & GLASS: White Wines, Chardonnays and Alternatives

Most people only drink one variety of white wine, Chardonnay. Although the Chardonnay grape produces many outstanding whites, it's a shame that people don't try the range of choices available at most wine shops. Most shops carry many inexpensive white wines that offer a nice alternative to Chardonnay monotony. Today's column is a brief introduction to

some of the Chardonnay alternatives available at your local wine shop.

## Chardonnay and Hidden Chardonnay

Before discussing the alternatives, let me say a few things about Chardonnay. Although my favorite white wines are made from the Chardonnay grape, people

have forgotten that there are other types of white wine. In New York restaurants, people now commonly ask, "What is your house Chardonnay?" Further, I've spoken with people who said that they don't like white wine. When I asked them what types of white they had tried, most of them could not recall trying anything other than Chardonnay.

The Chardonnay grape is used to produce most white wines carried by New York wine stores. Shelves are packed with a plethora of California Chardonnay varieties. These wines say "Chardonnay" on the label and are made from a minimum of 75% Chardonnay grapes. Further, other countries are getting into the act. Argentina, Australia, Chile, Hungary, Romania, and South Africa are all making Chardonnay. Even traditional wine countries such as France, Italy, and Spain are now labeling their wines as Chardonnay."

But that's not all. There are many bottles of hidden Chardonnay on the shelves. Although they don't indicate it on the label, almost all French white Burgundies are made from Chardonnay. These include: Pully-Fuisse', Macon Villages, Macon, Chablis, Chassagne Montrachet, Puligny Montrachet, Meursault, and practically everything called "Bourgogne Blanc." Additionally, white Beaujolais and many Champagnes are made from Chardonnay.

## Chardonnay Alternatives

### Sauvignon Blanc

The Sauvignon Blanc is the Avis of white wine grapes: it's number two and it tries harder. Vintners on several continents make fine wines from this varietal. Despite their efforts, however, it has never equaled the Chardonnay's reputation. Although I am tempted to feel sorry for this long-suffering grape, I am happy that it has not achieved notoriety because it is a marvelous bargain.

The easiest Sauvignon Blancs to spot on the shelves are the varietals from California and Australia that are named "Sauvignon Blanc." Although these wines may be made from several grapes, they are predominantly Sauvignon Blanc. Very few of the California and Australian wines sell for more than \$12 a bottle; most sell for less than \$10. Almost all of these wines are undervalued and are worth a look.

Unfortunately, some California Sauvignon Blancs are called "Fume' Blanc." This term was coined by Robert Mondavi in an attempt to get his wines to sell better. I don't know if it worked, but I do know that it has caused needless confusion.

Sauvignon Blancs can be dry or semi-sweet. The dry Sauvignon Blancs are generally sharp, crisp, acidic wines that have decent fruity flavors. See, e.g., Robert Mondavi Fume' Blanc (California, \$8); Simi Sauvignon Blanc (California, \$8); Taltarni Sauvignon Blanc (Australia, \$8). The semi-sweet wines can be smooth, rich, and fruity. If you would like to try one of these, I strongly recommend the Caymus Sauvignon Blanc. For \$11, this is one of the best white wine values going. See also Carmenet, 1989, Reserve Bottling Sauvignon Blanc, Barrel-Fermented (\$12).

There are also many French Sauvignon Blancs that don't have the

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grape's name on their labels. France's Bordeaux region produces a number of Sauvignon-based wines. The best of these come from Graves sub-region, and they have "Graves" on the label. These are dry, strong, rich, complex, fruity, flowery wines with slightly grassy flavors. The best white Graves are very expensive, and even the lesser wines generally aren't cheap. Yet, these wines are fairly priced, and some of them can be really tasty. If you're looking for a very good white Graves, try Chateaux La Louviere; if you're looking for an excellent white Graves, try Chateaux De Fieuzal; if you're looking for a ridiculously expensive bottle of white Graves, try Chateaux Haut-Brion Blanc.

Many inexpensive Sauvignon Blancs are produced in a region of Bordeaux called Entre-Deux-Mers. These dry wines say "Entre-Deux-Mers" on the label and are reasonably priced. Most of these are decent quality, dry, grassy, pale white wines that sell for \$8-15 a bottle. Dry California Sauvignon Blancs, however, are usually a better bargain.

In Southern Bordeaux, the Sauvignon Blanc is blended with the Semillon and Muscadelle grapes to produce some of the world's finest sweet wines. In Sauternes, Barsac, Loupiac, Ste.-Croix-du-Mont, and Cadillac, vintners don't pick the Sauvignon Blanc until October or November. As the grapes sit on the vines, a fungus attacks them and sucks most of the water out of them. As the water level decreases, the proportional sugar content soars. As a result, the grapes produce rich, viscous, nectar-like wines that must be tasted to be believed.

Furthermore, the Sauvignon Blanc thrives in France's Loire Valley. Here the grape is used to produce a number of wines. See, e.g., Sancerre, Quincy, Reuilly, and Pouilly Fume. Unlike the Sauvignon Blancs from Bordeaux, many of these wines are excellent values. All of them are dry whites; some of them are bone dry. They generally compliment fish very nicely, particularly shellfish. Many of these wines sell for \$10 or less, and almost all of them sell for under \$20.

#### Riesling

The Riesling is a grape commonly produced in Germany, California, New York, and France's Alsace region. This grape is also used to make both sweet and dry wines.

I confess that I am no Riesling expert. I almost never drink domestic Rieslings or German Rieslings. I have avoided them because I have had bad experi-

ences with cheap German wines and with dreadful California wines with "Riesling" emblazoned on the jug.

Yet, I have decided to reconsider my position for several reasons. First, I have tried a few top-quality, sweet German Rieslings that are incredible. Although these wines are expensive, some of them can be very rich and absolutely packed with fruit flavors. Second, over the past two years, I have begun to drink dry Alsatian Rieslings, and they are a magnificent bargain. For \$10, you can buy a very nice bottle of Riesling made by Hugel or Zind-Humbrecht. For less than that, you can buy a good Riesling made by Spaar or Trimbach. These Rieslings are good dry whites with spicy, fruity flavors. Third, a friend of mine introduced me to a couple of good, dry, New York Rieslings. Quite frankly, I was shocked. I'll get the names to you soon.

#### Gewurztraminer

This grape is used to produce both dry and sweet wines in Germany, California, and France's Alsace region. Like the Riesling, it can be quite dry or can be made into late harvest dessert wines. Unlike the Riesling, however, the Gewurztraminer has a very distinctive spicy aroma and taste. Most people either like this grape a lot, or they dislike it intensely. Not only does the Gewurztraminer match very nicely with many spicy foods, but it perfectly complements asparagus. A dry

Gewurztraminer's spicy flavor is the perfect foil for the asparagus' tangy, vegetal, stalky taste. Further, the Gewurztraminer is a good bargain because not many people drink this wine; as a general rule, people don't drink a wine if they can't pronounce it. For a good, dry, \$10 Gewurztraminer, try the Hugel or the Zind-Humbrecht. For a good, sweet Gewurztraminer, look for late harvest Gewurztraminers from California. Many of them are sold in half bottles.

#### White Rhones

France's Rhone region makes many fine, inexpensive, full-bodied white wines. At the low end of the market, white Rhone's are simply called "Cotes du Rhone." Many of the wines sell for under \$8. They are generally high alcohol, strong, spicy white wines with low acidity and a nice degree of fruitiness. Because these full-bodied wines have low acid levels, they aren't the best wines to drink with white-meat fish or shellfish. Yet, because of their strength, these wines can stand up to heavier foods. For a good, cheap bottle, I strongly recommend E. Guigal's Cotes Du Rhone. For \$7, it is hard to beat this stuff. At the higher end of the market, the Rhone Valley makes some excellent wines. Because they are not in demand, these wines are a good value. The top wines are made by a number of producers in the Hermitage and Chateauneuf-du-Pape

sub-regions. Although inadequate funding has prevented me from extensively exploring these wines, once again, I can recommend E. Guigal's whites. Ask your local merchant for others.

#### White Italian Wines

I generally don't write about Italian wines because my colleague Carol Remy handles this subject. Yet, I must note that there are a number of tasty Italian whites that are fine alternatives to Chardonnay. I have had several Gavi white wines from Piedmont, and they all have been quite good. Typically these are slightly dry wines with medium bodies and tasty fruity flavors. I have particularly enjoyed the wines called "Gavi di Gavi." Most of these wines sell in the \$10 range and definitely warrant further examination. I have also enjoyed several refreshing, light, cheap Italian white wines. Although most of them are nothing special, cheap Chardonnay usually isn't that great either.

#### White Spanish Wines

Although they can be spotty, some Spanish white wines are nice. As with most of their wines, the Spanish only sell white wines that are fully mature.

If you look at the color of a bottle of

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Please see WINE

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Announces the APALSA  
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### ALUMNI

continued from page 3

your friends, but from other lawyers. The alumni help each other. "They both compared their experience with that of many of their friends who are lawyers. She said, "I personally know of some lawyers that are envious of us at Fordham because of the warmth the Alumni Association and graduates show to one another. At a lot of law schools, you are important if you are able to give money, and that seems to be the total criteria. That's not so at Fordham. My husband and I have never made big money. We have both more or less always been in public service. I guess we both could have gone out and made a lot of money; I think we have the ingredients to do it, but we chose to go this path. We can't give a lot of money, but we give back in another way."

In discussing their present careers, Hon. Irene Duffy feels that being a judge is very much like being a teacher. "When you're working with a jury, you are educating them as to what is going on in the courtroom. I always felt that it is important for the jury to get a very good feeling from the judge. A feeling of fairness, kindness and so on. I think we both have always tried to deal with juries in that way, and I think we have done it successfully. We are teaching the public that this isn't all such a bad system."

Her advice to students is that people who go to law school should realize you can do a lot of things beside being a lawyer. "I don't think students should worry too much about the future. Life will take you where it will, and sometimes you really don't have much choice about what happens. You have to be flexible and be optimistic. "Then, in quoting something her husband once said, she asked me, "what do you call the person to graduate last in your class?" Unable to answer, she told me: "A lawyer. No matter where you rank in the class, take pride that you graduate, that you are a lawyer."

# Eye on the Dean

By R.B. Crowley

I was curious about what Dean Feerick does, so I asked him. He told me more about his activities in the space of an hour than most people could come up with in a week. He's a busy guy to say the least; from breakfast meetings in the morning to dinner functions in the evening every day of the week, with a full day in between at the Law School.

Dean Feerick is very interested in clinical education, both in the development of programs and in the effort to obtain more space to accommodate them. While building expansion plans are considered for the Lincoln Center Campus, rented space will be used. A seminar and fieldwork course in child advocacy was developed in response to student interest. The dean often meets with faculty involved in this and other programs to discuss development, progress and ways the administration can support them.

His mornings are often spent at breakfast meetings. Dean Feerick, Dean Reilly of Alumni Affairs, and Dean Brady of

Career Placement meet with alumni at their law offices. This allows alumni to be updated on what's happening at the school, and for the school to strengthen alumni ties. On a daily basis, when he's in New York, he meets with members of the faculty on a one-to one basis to discuss their concerns about curriculum, on-going programs and new programs in the works. Students and alumni come in to discuss career directions. Dean Feerick welcomes high profile visitors to the Law School on occasion such as Irish Supreme Court Justice Hugh O'Flaherty and Conor Cruise O'Brien. There are also members of the Board of Visitors, a group of lawyers, judges and academics, who come to see the school from time to time and offer an outside perspective. One or two nights a week he attends functions at the school such as student sponsored presentations and the legal education conferences sponsored by the school. The remainder of his nights are taken by off-campus functions on behalf of the Law School. Even his weekends are taken by law school events, such as

speaking engagements at the New York City Bar Association.

Some of his external activities in the legal field bring interesting events right to the school. Dean Feerick is the chair of a twelve member commission appointed by New York State Chief Judge Kaye to look at the issue of cameras in the courtroom. Recently there was a public hearing on the subject in the Moot Courtroom. He is also the chair of the Fund for Modern Courts which will present a panel discussion at the school on November 19, at 6:00 p.m. here at the school entitled Courts on trial: Maintaining an independent judiciary. Not all of his work is at the school or even in New York. Recently the dean attended the NAPIL Awards in Washington, D.C., followed by a trip to Texas to present a paper on law and mediation, after which he went to a conference at the University of Pennsylvania on the health of the presidents. He credits the contributions of students in his work on papers and researching issues discussed in the commissions of which he is a part.

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## 'Twas The Night Before Christmas LAWYER STYLE!!!!

'Twas the nocturnal segment of the diurnal period preceding the annual Yuletide celebration, and throughout our place of residence, kinetic activity was not in evidence among the possessors of this potential, including that species of domestic rodent known as *Mus musculus*. Hosiery was meticulously suspended from the forward edge of the wood burning caloric apparatus, pursuant to our anticipatory pleasure regarding an imminent visitation from an eccentric philanthropist among whose folkloric appellations is the honorific title of St. Nicholas.

The prepubescent siblings, comfortably ensconced in their respective accommodations of repose, were experiencing subconscious visual hallucinations of variegated fruit confections moving rhythmically through their cerebrums. My conjugal partner and I, attired in our nocturnal head coverings, were about to take slumberous advantage of the hibernal darkness when upon the avenaceous exterior portion of the grounds there ascended such a cacophony of dissonance that I felt compelled to arise from my place of repose for the purpose of ascertaining the precise source thereof.

Hastening to the casement, I forthwith opened the barriers sealing this fenestration, noting thereupon that the lunar brilliance without, reflected as it was on the surface of a recent crystalline precipitation, might be said to rival that of the solar meridian. itself - thus permitting my incredulous optical sensory organs to behold a miniature airborne runnered conveyance drawn by eight diminutive specimens of the genus *Rangifer*, piloted by a minuscule, aged chauffeur so ebullient and nimble that it became instantly apparent to me that he was indeed our anticipated caller. With his ungulate motive power traveling at what may possibly have been more vertiginous velocity than patriotic alar predators, he vociferated loudly, expelled

breath musically through contracted labia, and addressed each of the octet by his or her respective cognomen - "Now Dasher, now Dancer..." et al. - guiding them to the uppermost exterior level of our abode, through which structure I could readily distinguish the concatenations of each of the 32 cloven pedal extremities.

As I retracted my cranium from its erstwhile location, and was performing a 180-degree pivot, our distinguished visitant achieved - with utmost celerity and via a downward leap - entry by way of the smoke passage. He was clad entirely in animal pelts soiled by the ebony residue from oxidations of carboniferous fuels which had accumulated on the walls thereof. His resemblance to a street vendor I attributed largely to the plethora of assorted playthings which he bore dorsally in a commodious cloth receptacle.

His orbs were scintillate with reflected luminosity, while his submaxillary dermal indentations gave every evidence of engaging amiability. The capillaries of his malar regions and nasal appurtenance were engorged with blood which suffused the subcutaneous layers, the former approximating the coloration of Albion's floral emblem the latter, that of the *Prunus avium*, or sweet cherry. His amusing sub- and supralabials resembled nothing so much as a common loop knot, and their ambient hirsute facial adornment appeared like small, tabular and columnar crystals of frozen water.

Clenched firmly between his incisors was a smoking piece whose gray fumes, forming a tenuous ellipse about his occiput, were suggestive of a decorative seasonal circlet of holly. His visage was wider than it was high, and when he waxed audibly mirthful, his corpulent abdominal region undulated in the manner of impectinated fruit syrup in a hemispherical container. He was, in short, neither more nor less than an obese, jocund, multigenarian gnome, the optical perception of whom rendered me

have the same general character as the Ruedas, they tend to be more smooth, complex, and full-bodied.

### Pretentious Tasting of the Month

This month, Dionysus smiled upon your friend and humble narrator, and I was fortunate enough to drink three glasses of 1961 Chateau Haut-Brion (Premier Grand Cru Classe') from Graves in Bordeaux. 1961 is supposed to be one of the best vintages ever, and Chateau Haut-Brion is one of Bordeaux's top red wines. My father was given this bottle 30 years ago, and he finally decided to open it last week. The Haut-Brion has a strong, deep, sweet, caramel, black-currant nose with hints of tobacco. On the palate, it is a dry, strong, spicy wine with tastes of tobacco. This wine is very well balanced, very long, and has a wonderfully complex variety of flavors. Although it is 32 years old, this wine tastes remarkably youthful and probably can last another decade. A legend.

## WINE

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white Spanish wine, you may notice that it has a deep, yellow color. This is caused by one of two factors. First, the wine may be golden because it is fully mature. As a general rule, white wines turn more golden as they age. Second, these wines may turn color because they are maderized. Maderization is a type of alcoholic oxidation that occurs when a wine has spent too much time in an oak cask. The wine turns an amber color, loses its fruity flavors, and tastes rather nasty. To avoid maderized wines look for the lighter, yellow-colored Spanish white wines.

If you can avoid the burnt, oxidized wines, Spanish whites are a good buy. White wines from the Rueda region sell for under \$8. Many of these are nice, strong, oaky, wines with little acid and a moderate degree of fruit. See, e.g., Marquis de Riscal, Reuda (\$5). Also, for around \$10-12, there are a few good whites from Spain's Rioja region. Although these wines

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Introductory Remarks by:  
**Dean John D. Feerick**  
*Fordham University*  
*School of Law*

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visibly frolicsome despite every effort to refrain from so being. By rapidly lowering and then elevating one eyelid and rotating his head slightly to one side, he indicated that trepidation on my part was groundless.

Without utterance and with dispatch, he commenced filling the aforementioned appended hosiery with various of the aforementioned articles of merchandise extracted from his aforementioned previously dorsally transported cloth receptacle. Upon completion of this task, he executed an abrupt about-face, placed a single manual digit in lateral juxtaposition to his olfactory organ, inclined his cranium forward in a gesture of leave-taking, and forthwith effected his egress

by renegotiating (in reverse) the smoke passage.

He then propelled himself in a short vector onto his conveyance, directed a musical expulsion of air through his contracted oral sphincter to the antlered quadrupeds of burden, and proceeded to soar aloft in a movement hitherto observable chiefly among the seed-bearing portions of a common weed. But I overheard his parting exclamation, audible immediately prior to his vehiculation beyond the limits of visibility: "Ecstatic Yuletide to the planetary constituency, and that self same assemblage, my sincerest wishes for a salubriously beneficial and gratifying pleasurable period between sunset and dawn."

## CIGARS

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leagues, and I know in our instance that's how we met. Has smoking cigars outside allowed you to be closer to your colleagues and meet students who are not necessarily in your class?

A. Yeah, I think so, there are a few students who smoke cigars outside, and I've gotten an opportunity to talk to them. I think you've made a very good point that it is good that faculty and students interact more. As for Dean Feerick, I think he is in touch much more so than the dean of my law school, and he does have a lot of obligations, and he works very hard, but I think that your point is well taken that Dean Feerick ought to start smoking cigars, I think that would be very beneficial.

Q. With our focus being on legal education, and everyone is so busy with their studies and finding jobs. Do you think that organizations like the Fordham law cigar lounge which, in essence, don't

pertain to the law, are healthy when you're in a law school environment?

A. I had a wonderful time in law school, and I hope that students do have some real opportunities, you're getting older, it's the end of being a student. I've made very very good friends in law school who are still good friends of mine, and you would think that these organizations are a good thing, because it makes it possible for students to spend time together. Having them in a law school setting I think is good, law school is a positive place to be, it's a time to enjoy your friends, and I think organizations like this make it possible.

Q. How do you see Fordham entering into the 21<sup>st</sup> century in terms of prestige of the students, when they leave Fordham, how do you see their future in terms of what they can expect?

A. That's the sixty-thousand-dollar

Please see CIGAR LOUNGE  
continued on Page 14

# An Argument Made: All Law Firms Should Have Casual Fridays

by Yuriy Kachuro

We are being encouraged to write in plain English, active voice, and short sentences. We are being told that our generation should change the way legal documents are written. One of the first things taught in the Legal Process course, the very first class in our law school experience, is the distinction between formalism and realism. Formalism is outdated and not that good anymore; realism is progressive and better. Why then are we still expected, after we are finally out in the real world, to wear formalistic, legalistic business attire? We are counted upon to bring changes to the legal profession, are we not? Then, let's do that. Let's change woolen suits, starched shirts,

silk ties, pantyhose, and heels to blue jeans, T-shirts, sneakers, or whatever else you personally prefer. Hey, why not? Oh, well, if not blue jeans and sneakers, then let's leave it for the next generation and let's start with "Dockers" at least.

You might say that you don't care much because you plan to end up on the bench eventually. That's a strong point. I wouldn't mind that nice, comfortable, and very practical judge's robe especially after the story I heard.

Once upon a time, a judge broke a zipper on his trousers on his way to the court. A practitioner would be out of luck, one more case would be ruined, but not the judge; much more depended on him. As the story goes, the judge pulls

the trousers, gives them to a clerk to get them to a tailor, puts on the robe and proceeds to the courtroom. No one noticed the change. Counselors on both sides were pleasantly surprised by judge's unusually good frame of mind. The judge sort of liked the new outfit. And the day in court flew by. I wonder sometimes if the new attire got secretly endorsed by the bench. We will never know, though.

Dream on. Most of us will never even come close to that sweet dream. So, let's get real and change legalese in writing, formalism in thinking, and business attire in clothing. However, we will not be the first ones to break the ice. The ice is broken in some places already, and the ice-holes are called "casual Fridays".

I recently came across a discussion

thread on Counsel Connect where some forty attorneys shared their experiences and thoughts about casual Fridays and casual clothing in legal environment. Among them were solo practitioners, small firm partners, large firm associates, law school professors, and other legal professionals (no judges, though) from all over the country. And what a surprise - by more than four to one they approve casualness. The following are excerpts from some of the opinions,

"... it enhances, not detracts from, work performance, making the office friendlier and more comfortable as a work..." D. F., New York

"Our clients are far more interested in the timeliness and quality of our legal work than what we are wearing when we give it. I think better in jeans than panty hose, anyway." L. Z., San Francisco

"I \*know\* I think better w/o a tie on (it cuts off circulation to the brain, methinks)..." M. P., New York

"I found that clients do not object to it, but they seem to genuinely appreciate the personable atmosphere which it fosters. In fact, I have even begun to ride my motorcycle to the office on Fridays, and my clients love it." D. H., Tampa Bay

"I would give 10% of my salary for casual Fridays 4 times a month. We currently are up to 2." J. p., Los Angeles

"We've found our clients are much more relaxed and open. The time saved when a client is open, frank, and relaxed is tremendous." K. T., Dunellon

It's not the clients who expect lawyers to dress up into the uniform, it's the lawyers who make clients believe that an attorney is supposed to be wearing a suit. So, let us change at least one false perception about the legal profession.

## CIGAR LOUNGE

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lar question. I think students coming out of the law school have a lot of opportunities. I think now, in the past, and always, what law students need to do is make the most of those opportunities, whatever they are. I think a lot of that is finding what they want, and being open to things. So far as what opportunities the law school is going to provide for the students, I think Fordham has always had a very strong reputation. It's always had very strong students and faculty, support from alumni and recognition in the community and I think that is, if anything, getting better. I think our student body, every year, gets stronger, I think our faculty has always been concerned with scholarship and teaching and continues to be. I think we have a strong faculty I think that everything is set right going into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

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# THE EVENING STUDENT

Conceived of and Written by Fordham's Evening Students

## Evening Blues

by Maria John

First, an introduction. I am a very exhausted first year evening student who is thrilled to be in law school. Is this an oxymoron — being thrilled and in law school? No. I'm just happy to finally, at age 27, be fulfilling one of my life-long dreams.

Now to other more interesting topics such as, what is law school life like for this year's entering evening class? HECTIC would probably be the most accurate description. But every law student can say that. What makes the evening students so special? Well in the words of one professor, "I don't know how they do it. When I went to school, I was a day student. Now, I see people like a young lady (who is currently on Law Review)

**What's the deal with these evening students who don't work? I mean its not fair that some of us have to handle a job while others don't work at all.**

who went to school at night and held a full-time job, and I think to myself 'I must not be using all the hours of the day I can.' "How is it that some night students can juggle the responsibilities of school, job and in many cases, marriage and parenting, while simultaneously staying on top of their studies? That is precisely what I sought to find out. What I discovered instead, was a major sore spot among quite a few evening students.

At the end of a Contracts class a few weeks ago, I announced that I would be writing for this issue and would welcome comments from my fellow 1L's. It didn't take long for a hot potato issue to surface. A first year student, who works full time as a paralegal, politely queried, "What's the deal with these evening students who don't work? I mean its not fair that some of us have to handle a job while others don't work at all." My immediate response to this comment was that as far as I knew the law school did not have a policy stating that admissions to the evening division was contingent upon an applicant's intended employment status. When more students began approaching me with this same issue, I decided to do a little investigating on the topic of non-working evening students.

The picture I got from students (first years and upperclassmen) overall was that evening students who don't work definitely have an advantage over their working counterparts. First, because they presumably have more study time and less overall time management issues; and second their higher exam grades would "throw off the almighty curve" by which we are all judged. If indeed non-working evening students have an unfair advantage over employed evening stu-

dents, where does that leave the latter group? It is plausible that the inequity could lead not only to greater variations in grades, but also to more frustrating competition for jobs.

According to Dean Feerick, the Fordham evening "program is designed to respond to a part of the world out there who cannot go to day school." He stated that every effort is made in the admissions process to provide opportunities for quality applicants who fit this profile. Since one purpose of the evening division is to provide a forum to the student who must work full-time, while striving to achieve his or her legal education, it is seemingly inequitable to allow students who do not fall into the workforce category to benefit from the evening division to the detriment of students whom the division was created to help. For

instance, one third year day student commented that many of the evening students he knew who did not work made Law Review.

But that's just one side. Perhaps some of you have a different view. Please share your thoughts by dropping a note in my mailbox. I'll do my best to state the other side of this tale in the next issue. Just one more note toward that end: A review of the cumulative averages of the 1995 first year evening class revealed that almost 60% of these students achieved averages of 3.0 or better. Hopefully, in the next issue, I'll be able to reveal what percentage of that 60% were employed.

Just some final, and hopefully encouraging, thoughts about Fordham's Evening Division. According to an article by The Princeton Review "Fordham can surely lay claim to offering the most respected part-time J.D. program in the entire Northeast." The article goes on to call Fordham "a godsend to several hun-

dred highly qualified working professionals who would otherwise be forced to step down a rung on the ladder of prestige in order to earn a law degree." Not only is the Fordham evening division highly respected in the New York City legal community, but the administration here has made sincere efforts toward addressing the overall concerns and needs of the evening student. Remember, the following resources are available:

The Evening Student Committee, chaired by Professor Debbie Denno (addresses concerns of students)

The Assistant Director of Student Affairs, Diana Sanabria (specifically devoted to assisting evening students) & Wednesday bi-weekly pizza nights hosted the Student Affairs office

Fordham Law Women Evening Division (the only association that has an evening division)

Alas, there may be hope for evening students after all.

## Life Since August

by Ayako Nagano

Sunday afternoon, 5pm in the West Village. I had just labored for a couple hours over the Contracts Hornbook. Somehow I kept on falling a sleep while trying to decipher U.C.C. 2-207, while my cat Kitto dozed, like me, in and out of consciousness with his chin propped up against my left foot. Then, the buzzer rang.

I sprang to the buzzer thinking that it was a friend that had come to rescue me, perhaps with a cup of cafe latte and a biscotti. "Who comes forth?" I inquired into the intercom with a Star Trek like formality.

No answer.

Disappointed, I walked back to the couch. The buzzer rang again.

I answered the door this time with a noise close to a grunt: "What?"

A broken voice came buck, "The\*r\*s a fire in your bu\*ldi\*g."

In a flash, I was back at the couch. Kitto was still slumbering where I had left him. I grabbed him in one arm and looked around. I had another arm and had to choose quickly what else I could save if the place were to burn down. Momentarily, images of childhood photo albums flashed by.

I thought of the man, during a fire, who had to choose between saving his unconscious wife or his unconscious child, but not both - what a cruel world. Luckily, I didn't have a wife nor a child so I quickly reached for my laptop computer with class notes inside - the ones I had neglected to "back up" at work.

Kitto meowed in discomfort as I ran to the front door and felt the temperature of the door. It wasn't hot. I flung it open and saw that brown smoke filled the stairwell. I didn't know where the fire

was but I could hear chaos throughout the building - shouting and banging from all directions. Other people were running downstairs, and I followed suit. When we were outside I saw that flames and black smoke rose out of a third floor window. Crowds gathered to watch the spectacle as sirens grew louder from all directions.

An hour later, I was sitting on a bench across the street on Waverly St. The fire had been put out a half hour ago and the firemen were patching up the broken windows with dark plastic sheets. Kitto was freaked out from all the noise. Meanwhile, I didn't know what to think, so I was trying to decide whether or not to call a classmates for that week's Tort reading assignments from the pay phone. I was upset because I had lost valuable reading time.

My neighbors talked about how we were all lucky that nobody was injured. A neighbor from my floor was allowed to go back to her unit to look for her cats, and later emerged with something lifeless wrapped up in a towel. She was trembling and crying in shock.

The rest of us were soon permitted buck into the building and found that all the doors had been crowd open, and the windows in the stairwell smashed. Glass was everywhere, and the stench of burnt ash filled the air.

\* \* \*

When I had started Fordham back in August, an alumnus had told me that he never knew anything about what his classmates were going through until after he graduated Law School.

He said that he, being HIV positive, used to believe that he was the only one in class that was living through daily distress. Only after graduating did he find out that the woman who sat next to him during finals was as well - she was going through a divorce - and was at the time living out of her car because of it.

I knew that working full time and going to law school at night would be tough. What I didn't realize was that there would be no room for errors when there is no time to fix them. It's like driving on a freeway with no place to pull over when the car breaks down. It would be all right if the car never broke down and everything worked the way it should work - but that never seems to be the case. Little errors look like major disasters - but I think I'm getting used to it.

As for the fire, I should have been thankful that I was present to save my cat and that no one was hurt - but instead I had lost perspective and was worried about my reading assignments. My priorities were, and still are, skewed. Life since August hasn't always been insane, but often enough, it seems that sanity has been the first thing I've left at the coat check up front.

I presume that the lives of many of my classmates have been quite eventful since August as well. Mine has been a rollercoaster, when all I've wanted was some peace and quiet to study. So I think of what the alumnus told me. I'm strengthened by the thought that I'm not the only one that's taking it one day at a time. That's what some of us in section have been telling each other, at least. Take it one step at a time - sometimes I trip and lose balance, but I'm still walking.



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