

The Justinian

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Diversity Defines Incoming BLS Class of '06

by Brian Pleban, '05
with assistance from the Office
of Admissions

Law students can be an exciting and well rounded bunch -- and BLS' new students are no exception. With exceptional diversity, accomplishments, and social, geographic and cultural backgrounds, the Class of 2006 is certainly one to take a close look at.

The 2003 Entering Class is comprised of 497 students who were selected from over 5,800 applicants. 321 students have chosen to enroll in BLS' full-time division, while 176 other students are enrolled in the part-time division.

In terms of places of birth, the entering class comes to Brooklyn from 5 continents, 34 countries, 34 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Students are legal residents of 32 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The 24 students who are not U.S. citizens, come here from 17 foreign countries.

With a classwide average age of 25, the youngest in the group is 20 and the oldest is 40.

The class represents 175 colleges and universities which are located in 38 states, the District of Columbia, and 2 foreign countries. 75% earned baccalaureate degrees prior to this year; 14% have been out of college for at least 5 years; and 4% graduated 10 or more years ago.

As undergraduates, there were 71 different fields of major academic study



A group of 1Ls gather for a picture at the Cyclone's Game.
Photo by Tim Oberweger

pursued by this class. 30 earned master's degrees or doctorates in various disciplines prior to entering law school.

A wide range of experience is the rule for Brooklyn Law students. Included among the first year class are: a member of the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences; a chef; a doctor; a registered nurse; a glassblower; a fashion model; and a corporal in the U.S. Marines. One competed in track & field for Canada in the Junior Pan-American Games; one worked as a fig-

ure skating instructor and another was a gymnastics instructor.

Not surprisingly, some of the incoming students come from the publishing world. One was the managing editor of *Parade Magazine*; another was the publisher of a magazine called *The Wine Journal*. Others served as interns for the magazines *O* and *People*. We also have some accomplished journalists now among us who have written for *Reuters News*, *Fortune Small Business* magazine, and *The Onion*. One was the Chief

Financial Officer of *La Nacion*, a leading daily newspaper in Argentina.

Several of the incoming 1Ls worked in the sports arena for such organizations as Major League Baseball, the Madison Square Garden Network, the Brooklyn Cyclones baseball team, the Washington Capitals hockey team, and one was a volunteer at the Salt Lake City Winter Olympics.

See: CLASS of '06
Continued on p. 2

ABA Gives Honorable Mention to Two BLS Students

ABA Press Release

The American Bar Association (ABA) Commission on Law and Aging and the FJC Foundation announced the results of the 2003 Law and Aging Student Essay Competition. Laura Diane Seng of Valparaiso University School of Law received top honors for her essay titled, "Legal and Regulatory Barriers to Adequate Pain Control for Elders in Long-term Care Facilities" -- but Brooklyn Law was not left out of the mix, as we brought home an honorable mention award.

Second place was awarded to Lauren R. Sturm of the University of Kansas School of Law for her essay, "Fair Housing Issues in Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRCs): Can Residents Be Transferred Without Their Consent Under Federal Law?" Anna D. Halechko of Duquesne University School of Law received a third place award for her essay, "Viatical Settlements and the Elderly: Potential Advantages and Hidden Dangers." The winning essays will be published in the Fall 2003 issue of the *New York City Law Review*, which is published by the City University of New York School of Law.

There were also four honorable mentions, one of particular note to

Kathleen S. O'Leary and Geraldine Gauthier of Brooklyn Law School for their essay, "Medicare Reimbursement for Durable Medical Equipment."

Timothy McIntire of the University of Memphis-Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law for his essay, "Ouch! That Really Hurts. Pain Management in the Terminally Ill: Is This a Legal or a Medical Problem?"

Stephanie Roark of the University of Illinois College of Law for her essay, "When the System Fails: What Notification Procedure Does Due Process Require in the Context of State Aid to the Elderly?"

Bernee V. Kapili from Fordham Law School for his essay titled, "Should Doctor Welby Help Kill Grandma?"

The Law and Aging Student Essay Competition is supported by a grant from the FJC, a foundation of donor-advised funds whose mission is to increase and maximize the impact of charitable dollars and create innovative philanthropic solutions. The purpose of the competition is to reward innovative student research and original writing on issues concerning law and aging and to promote recognition of the value of this type of legal work. The competition is open to current law students in ABA accredited law schools, as well as to those who have graduated within the past year.

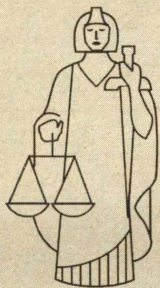


Kathleen S. O'Leary, '05, and Geraldine Gauthier, '04.
Photo by James J. Kempster, BLS Web Developer

The mission of the ABA Commission on Law and Aging is to strengthen and secure the legal rights, dignity, autonomy, quality of life, and quality of care of elders. The commission examines a wide range of law-related issues, including: legal services to older persons; health and long-term care; housing needs; professional ethical issues; Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and other public benefit programs; planning for incapacity; guardianship; elder abuse; health care

decision-making; pain management and end-of-life care; dispute resolution; and court-related needs of older persons with disabilities.

The American Bar Association is the largest voluntary professional association in the world. With more than 410,000 members, the ABA provides law school accreditation, continuing legal education, information about the law, programs to assist lawyers and judges in their work, and initiatives to improve the legal system for the public.



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Brooklyn Law School News

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The Brooklyn Law School News is a monthly publication written and produced by the students of Brooklyn Law School. The opinions herein represent the opinions of the individual article authors and do not represent the views of the student body as a whole or the administration. All students and faculty are encouraged to write. To submit articles, bring them to the SBA Office in Room 509 or email them to blsnews@brooklaw.edu. All articles are subject to editing and approval by the

The Hard Facts on the Incoming 1Ls

CLASS of '06

Continued from p. 1

A number have worked for members of corporate America such as Ford Motor Company, American Express, Visa USA, and Exxon Mobil.

On the international front, this year's class speaks more than 20 languages and dialects other than English.

Among the less familiar are: Wolof and Farsi, Urdu, Gujarati, Hindi, Ukrainian, Armenian, and Portuguese.

Some have even put their language skills to the test while working as a tour guide at the Louvre in Paris; teaching English in such countries as China, Thailand, Malaysia, Laos, the Czech Republic, and El Salvador.

The arts have not escaped the interest of this class – one performed with the Martha Graham School of

Contemporary Dance; while another wrote the musical score for a children's musical based upon "The Jungle Book."

A number of the new students did internships in the entertainment industry. Several worked in television for Court-TV, MTV, Nickelodeon, CBS News, and the History Channel.

In keeping with BLS' reputation as a center for public interest, this class includes many who also have a serious commitment to public service as exemplified by their involvement with Habitat for Humanity, Amnesty International, United Way, Special Olympics, Meals on Wheels, Americorps, and the Heritage for the Blind.

Among us in the halls now are Peace Corps volunteers that worked in countries such as Nicaragua, Senegal, and Krygyzstan.

Not surprisingly, a number of legal interns, researchers and paralegals at some of the nation's busiest law offices, corporations, and government institutions now walk among us. Some of these include internships at the White House, U.S. State Department, U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Attorney's Office, and Citigroup. Several worked for senatorial and congressional offices on both sides of the aisle. Many worked in politics for several candidates involved in some of the most heated races in the country. In fact, one student can "recall," that they were a communications intern for Governor Gray Davis of California.

Another amazing class another amazing year to come. Go out and meet these people, and best of luck this year.

The SBA Takes 1Ls Out to the Ballgame

by Brian Pleban, '05 and
Tim Oberweger, '05

On Wednesday, August 27th, the Student Bar Association hosted a trip to Coney Island for a baseball game between the Brooklyn Cyclones and the Hudson Valley Renegades – and they even paid for the tickets.

About 150 Brooklyn Law students and faculty crammed the bleachers to watch The Cyclones drop a tough game to the Renegades, 8-5.

The game was a great opportunity for some BLS first year students and others to get out and meet each other.

The Renegades took both games of the Day-Night Double header.

Brooklyn overcame an early lead, and had a 5-3 advantage in the fifth inning, but Matt Rico struck for the Renegades, with a three-run home run, to rack up his seventh RBI of the day.

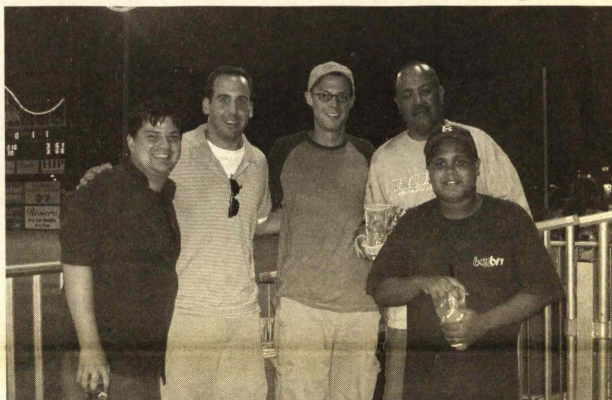
Aaron Baldiris and Ian Bladergroen each had two RBI for the Cyclones in Game Two.

As a treat for all those Met fans out there, Mike Piazza's cousin Tony played for the Cyclones.

Those that attended made the most out of the trip down to Coney Island, enjoying pre & post game hot dogs at Nathan's and rides on the Cyclone roller coaster.

The SBA plans to make this a yearly tradition to kick off the school year, so if you missed it, make sure you keep your eyes out next year.

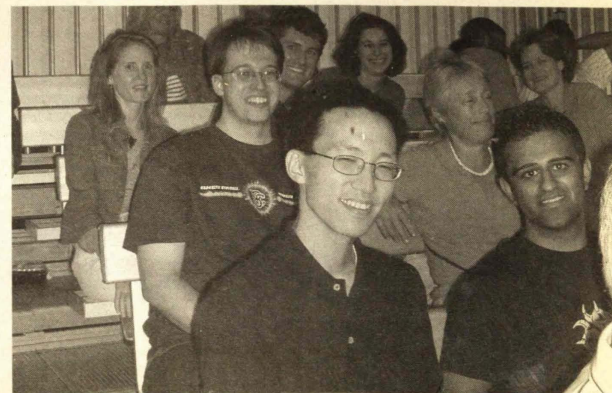
The SBA also has many other exciting things planned this year, so check this paper as well as the billboards around school for all their events.



L to R: Juan Carlos Restrepo-Rodriguez '05, Tim Oberweger '05, Clark Whitsett '05, Luis Rosario, Luis Rosario Jr. - Photo by Willow Oberweger



L to R: Professor Ted Janger, Blair Wallace '06, Jessica Wallace, and Kerrie Lynch - Photo by Tim Oberweger



A group of BLS students, faculty and staff pose for a picture. Photo by Tim Oberweger

The Supreme Court Weighs in on Heavy Issues

[Affirmative Action]

by Yael Utt, '05

In a landmark decision this past June, the Supreme Court ruled the University of Michigan's affirmative action admissions program unconstitutional. In a companion case, the Court held that the alternate affirmative action program employed by the University of Michigan Law School was permissible.

These two cases taken together shed light on the constitutionality of preferential admissions policies in higher education; twenty-five years after the Court decided *UC Davis v. Bakke*.

In *Gratz v. Bollinger*, in which two petitioners were denied admission to the College of Literature, Science, and Arts (LSA) at the University of Michigan, the Supreme Court gave insight into the question: to what extent may racial classifications be used for "benign" purposes? That answer indicated that racial preferences can be used to promote diversity, but not where quotas or percentages are used.

One key element of LSA's program included the "Selection Index Score" that was assigned to each applicant. Grades, test scores, and high school curriculum made up the bulk of the score. At issue were the 20 points under a 'miscellaneous' category given automatically to students who were members of 'an underrepresented minority group.' These points were equal to points awarded for athletic recruits and far exceeded the maximum points an applicant could receive for outstanding leadership experience or the "artistic talent of a Picasso."

Chief Justice Rehnquist explained in the 6-3 majority opinion, "the LSA policy does not provide [the necessary] individualized consideration," but instead "makes the factor of race decisive for every minimally qualified applicant."

In the *Grutter v. Bollinger* decision released the same day, the court articulated the difference between a permissible admissions program (used by the U of Michigan Law School) and LSA's program that was struck down. The law school utilized an admissions policy to admit a "critical mass" of underrepresented minority students by using race as one potential "plus" factor, but not "determinative." The critical mass was not numerically set, but rather the law school was looking for a "meaningful representation" of minority students.

The key difference between the two admissions policies was the degree to which each was tailored to achieve what the Court had already deemed a compelling state interest: diversity of the student body in higher education. The law school did not use quotas but considered race as only one of many factors that can add to "diversity." The LSA did not give the appropriate individualized review to each application and was thus not narrowly tailored.

While it was encouraging for many supporters of affirmative action to hear the Supreme Court still considers racial diversity a compelling state interest, there remain critics. These critics point

competitive university, it would be almost an administrative impossibility to give individualized attention to every applicant. However, the Court did not accept this 'efficiency' argument as justification for potentially "punishing" non-minority applicants and used the Harvard College admissions program (as it did in *Bakke*) as a model to strive for – again a program that looks to individual qualities of uniqueness.

No doubt institutions of higher education around the country have had to take a look at their own admissions programs.

According to the Admissions Criteria stated on-line for Brooklyn Law School, "No goals or quotas are set, but an applicant's potential contribution to diversity is another consideration in determining which applicants are selected for admission." The site goes on to list many factors that make up diversity. Minority enrollment on average for the years 2000-2002 was 22.2% and the school's Minority Student Recruitment Program may successfully increase the number over time. We hope to explore this issue at BLS further in a forthcoming issue.

[Sodomy Statutes]

by Alyson Mathews, '04

During the Supreme Court's last term, it had the chance to decide a case with the potential to change the face of privacy and sexual politics in the United States. For the first time in almost 20 years, the Court confronted the issue of sodomy statutes in *Lawrence v. Texas*.

This country has a history of criminalizing sexual conduct between persons of the same sex. These laws typically make it illegal for persons of the same sex to engage in sodomy, which includes both oral and anal intercourse. When the constitutionality of such laws is challenged, courts have usually had little difficulty finding them permissible.

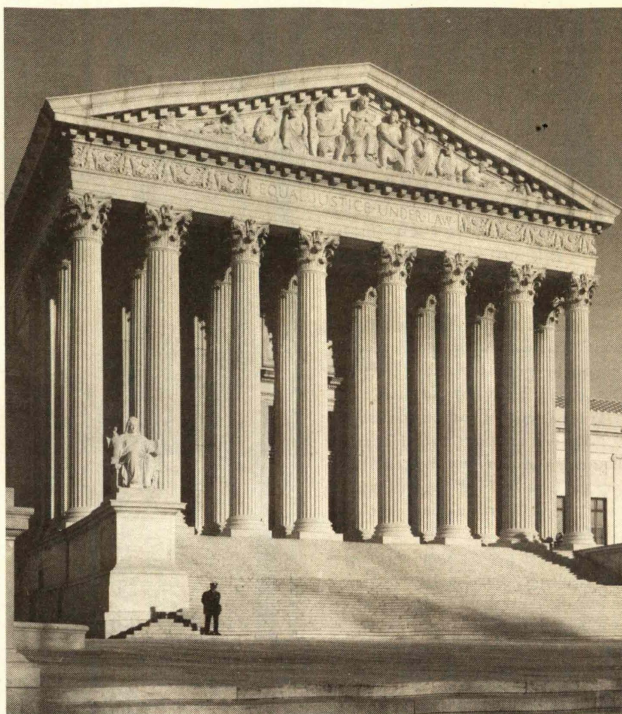
Sexual orientation has not been categorized as a suspect classification – and few judges are willing to be the first to condone same-sex sexual rela-

[Campaign Finance]

by Alyson Mathews, '04

On September 8, 2003, the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in what will become the prevailing precedent for campaign finance regulations. The case that previously held this title, *Buckley v. Valeo*, was decided in 1976. The *Buckley* court set the standards for future campaign finance regulations and how to maintain the integrity of the electoral system without infringing on First Amendment rights.

The Court has always held that the government has a substantial interest in combating the corruption that tends to find its way into the electoral process. Because it takes a great deal of money to run a successful campaign, candidates are especially susceptible to the influence of large donors. In addition to the



The Supreme Court Building, Washington, D.C.
Photo from Library of Congress

tions. Because these laws tend to be subject to rational basis scrutiny (sometimes intermediate scrutiny), courts usually find the states' police power over moral interests enough to support the constitutionality of the law.

The issue of same-sex intercourse was last examined in 1986 (*Bowers v. Hardwick*) where the Court decided the constitutionality of a Georgia sodomy statute. The Georgia statute, similar to that at issue in *Lawrence*, criminalized same-sex sodomy, but permitted the same conduct by persons of the opposite sex.

Rather than consider the equal protection and privacy problems in allowing opposite sex couples to engage in conduct that same-sex couples could not, the Court decided that it is not a fundamental right to engage in homosexual sodomy. By framing the issue in this manner, the Court easily sidestepped the larger equal protection and privacy implications of the

Georgia statute. The sharply criticized *Bowers* opinion was considered a major step backward in the fight for gay rights. With such an opinion as precedent, it appeared that the petitioners in *Lawrence* had little hope of success.

In a surprising move for the Court though, it not only found the Texas statute unconstitutional, but it also overruled *Bowers* in a 6-3 decision. Acknowledging the privacy issues involved in sexual relations, *Lawrence* holds that states may not criminalize intimate consensual sexual conduct. A state's interest in morality will no longer suffice to justify such invasions of private conduct.

Although the *Lawrence* opinion is a huge step forward in the battle for gay rights, the war is not over. What remains to be decided, among other issues, is whether states may prohibit sodomy between all persons, homosexual and heterosexual.

actual corruption presented by *quid pro quo* agreements, the Court is also concerned with the appearance of corruption. It has repeatedly stated that citizens lose faith in democracy if they suspect candidates are corrupt even when no corruption has taken place.

In *Buckley*, the Court drew distinctions between campaign contributions and expenditures. Contributions are given directly to a candidate, who may then decide how to spend the money. Expenditures are spent by the donor on behalf of a candidate. The candidate cannot choose how to use an expenditure, making it less valuable. Both campaign contributions and expenditures enable people to speak and disseminate their political views. Because they enable speech, regulations of campaign contributions and expenditures must be tailored so as to not infringe on First

Amendment rights. While the *Buckley* decision remains the controlling precedent for campaign finance laws, the decision was not universally welcomed. The interests of the government in eliminating corruption and the interests of the people in First Amendment rights are equally important in our democratic system.

Since *Buckley*, the federal government has made several attempts to create a campaign finance law that will further both interests.

SUPREME COURT
Continued on p. 6

Have an opinion about the Supreme Court's recent decisions? Submit an Op/Ed Piece for next month's issue of BLS News. Send us your submission by e-mail at blsnews@brooklaw.edu or in person at Room 509.

Did You Say Summer Vacation? What Vacation?

[EDNY]

by Greg Brown, '05

While New York City spent this past summer bathing in the heat and humidity of one of the wettest summers on record, I was busy wading through a deluge of Federal law in my capacity as Intern in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

I worked for a Magistrate Judge whose expertise lay in handling cases brought by pro se plaintiffs (literally, "for oneself"), and by extension, petitions for a writ of habeas corpus. By assisting her and her staff, I became intimately familiar with Federal statutory and case law - the likes of which do not typically make it into first year case books.

Review of pro se complaints was a new challenge because it required me to read the complaint first as an advocate, with an eye to constructing a claim out of a set of facts, then as a judge, to decide whether that claim had any merit. Although, I read some complaints that were well thought out, and with great merit, more often than not the complaints failed to state a claim.

For example, I drafted an order in response to one complaint that sought release from prison under USC Section 1983. Unfortunately, release from State prison for violation of a Constitutional right is only available through a petition for a writ of habeas corpus. That complaint, like many other pro se complaints, might have been dismissed for failure to state a claim. However, in his complaint, the plaintiff alleged that at some point during his incarceration he was forcefully injected with antipsychotic drugs. Case law in the Second Circuit makes clear that a pro se complaint is to be read liberally. Therefore, although this pro se plaintiff failed to name the person who administered the alleged injections, I was still able to recommend that the court grant the plaintiff leave to amend his complaint.

My review of petitions seeking a writ of habeas corpus was made similarly difficult by the law governing their review. It sets a very high bar for prisoners' seeking a grant of the writ, and therefore, the vast majority of petitions are denied. Review of a habeas petition invariably begins with an examination of the state court record. This typically includes the entire trial transcript and, since petitioners must exhaust the available state court remedies, briefs presented to the appellate courts. Unfortunately, due to the fact that many petitioners are without counsel, and that the resources available to them in prison are frequently insufficient, the quality of the petitioner's documents in support of his petition is not typically very high.

To make matters more difficult for the petitioner, his filings are not entitled to the same broad readings given to other pro se parties. Therefore, a court reviewing a petitioner's case may not introduce a claim sua sponte. The body of law surrounding the writ of habeas corpus is extensive, and beyond



Morgan Frohman is presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for her contribution to the U.S. Department of State this past summer.

For me to say that an individual seeking the writ has an uphill battle. Even though a court reviewing a petition believes that the petitioner is innocent, the petitioner still might not be granted the writ.

For example, I reviewed a case in which a petitioner was convicted almost entirely on the testimony of the arresting officer. However, the officer's testimony was inconsistent and, in my opinion, unbelievable. However, a court reviewing a habeas petition is to give maximum deference to the jury's findings regarding witness credibility. The court may not substitute its interpretation of the facts for that of the jury. Therefore, although I believed that the jury had made a poor decision, in the absence of any other violations of the petitioner's rights, I had to recommend to the court that his petition be denied.

Despite spending my days doing what may sound like depressing work, I enjoyed my experience this summer. I learned a good deal about an area of law that I would not likely have had any exposure to otherwise. And although I cannot honestly say that I see myself going into this area of law once I start practicing, the lessons I learned about building up and knocking down legal arguments will most certainly stay with me no matter where I end up.

[Dept. of State]

by Morgan Frohman, '04

After two summers of interning in Washington, D.C., I finally got my own office. This summer, I worked at the Department of State, in the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, Multilateral Trade Office, Multi-Sectoral Trade Division. Aside from the pain of explaining that long-winded bureaucratic label to people unfamiliar with the office (read: everyone), it was an amazing summer internship that I hope to continue full-time after

responsibility than I could have ever hoped for (I was the office happy hour coordinator) and my office comprised the best group of people that I have ever had the pleasure of working with.

My primary responsibilities encompassed the Iraq economic reconstruction efforts, preparation for the World Trade Organization's September trade ministerial in Cancun, and immigration issues in the U.S. Free Trade Agreements. I represented the State Department in trade negotiations with Morocco and made frequent trips to Capitol Hill as a point of contact for particular Hill activity on the U.S., Chile, and Singapore Free Trade Agreements. I had the opportunity to draft memos that made their way up to Secretary of State Colin Powell and drafted cables received by U.S. consulates across the globe.

As an intern, one is relegated to tasks that full-time employees simply don't want to be bothered with - but those jobs often turn out to be the most exciting. For instance, I was "tasked" with escorting the Danish Foreign Minister and his entourage to and from a senior level meeting. As a result, I had the chance to shmooze with the Minister for several minutes.

I attended meetings that included foreign service officers (FSOs), former ambassadors, and senior level civil service officials. FSOs spend most of their careers living abroad while working in different U.S. consulates or embassies and return to Washington periodically. Colleagues told anecdotes drawn from their experiences working in Australia, Hong Kong, Greece, Burkina-Faso, and Bosnia, just to name a few places.

After attending daily planning meetings on Iraq, I know more than I ever wanted to about rebuilding Iraq. Being a part of the reconstruction effort, no matter how small, enabled me to comprehensively understand what the media, here and abroad, is criticizing about U.S. efforts.

In the State Department, experience varies from bureau to bureau. The Economic Bureau, hands down, is one

of the best to work in because it has some of the best talent and a congenial Assistant Secretary in charge. A friend of mine who interned in another office did not have as positive an experience as I did, but that is probably attributed to the fact that there were simply too many lawyers in his office.

The State Department maintains a solid, organized intern program (as opposed to my internship at the Department of Commerce last summer, where the extent of the formal program was handing off a security pass to enter the building). An actual intern coordinator organized tours of the White House and the Pentagon, an intern talk with Secretary Powell, and attendance at daily press briefings, among other outings. Other exciting experiences included witnessing a treaty signing ceremony with Singapore, being privy to up-to-the-hour news updates on world events, and bumping into Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.

I got my job by applying through the general application process available on the Department's website (<http://www.careers.state.gov>). The application deadline is November 1, 2003 for summer 2004 internships. I discovered this opportunity by attending the Equal Justice Works Fair in Washington, where several government agencies have informational tables on jobs and internships that would otherwise be difficult to discover on your own (this year it will be held on October 23-24, see <http://www.equaljusticeworks.org>).

At the conclusion of my internship, the Assistant Secretary of the Economic Bureau presented me with a Certificate of Recognition "for superb service," most notably for my work supporting the Iraq Task Force. It's cool - it has the State Department official gold seal and real wood laminate.

I did more reading this summer than during the school year, but it was well worth it. And although I did work more than forty hours a week, I never worked late enough to miss happy hour.

A Festival of Fun and Food
for the entire BLS Community

The First Class

PARTY

Thursday

September 25th

3pm to 6pm

Street Fair on the Plaza

DJ Games Prizes Food

Supreme Court My First Three Weeks at Brooklyn Law School

Continued from p. 3

It made the latest attempt last year when Congress passed the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act ("BCRA"). As soon as President Bush signed the BCRA, a slew of lawsuits were filed. The suits were consolidated by the District Court of the District of Columbia into one case, McCConnell v. Federal Election Commission. This court was chosen specifically because its decisions can be appealed directly to the U.S. Supreme Court. All parties expected the case to become the next Buckley and hoped to have a Supreme Court decision announced before the 2004 election season began. Arguments were heard in December 2002 and the almost 1500 page decision, the longest ever from a federal district court was made in May 2003.

Despite the limited time before the start of campaigns for the 2004 election, a writ of certiorari was quickly sent and granted by the Supreme Court. It agreed to hear arguments on September 8, when it is normally not sitting, and gave each side 2 hours argument of time, much more than the normal thirty minutes.

When the Court reaches its decision, McCConnell v. FEC will take its place as the new precedent for campaign finance laws. The landmark case will decide how the government can regulate the potential and actual corruption in the electoral system for years to come.

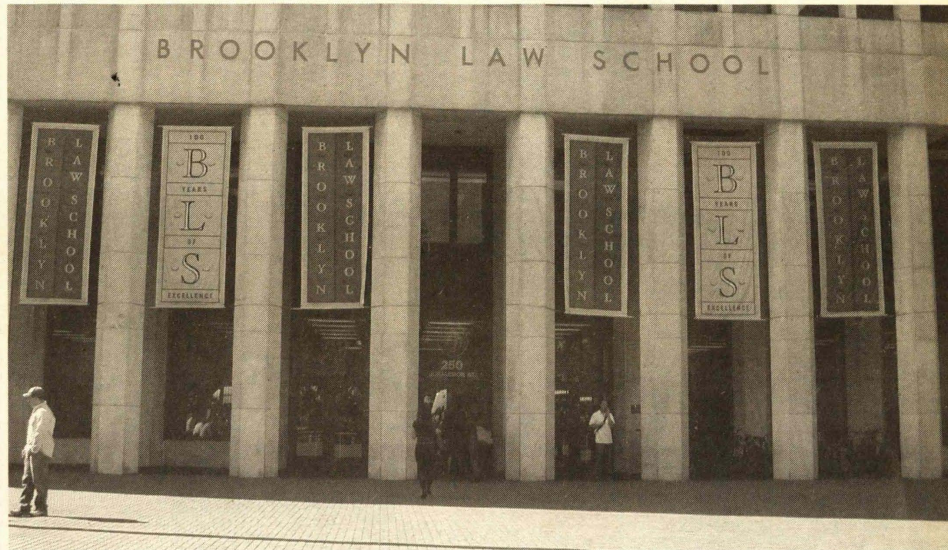


Photo Miri Frankel

by Nicole Zerillo, '06

On my first day of law school, my father gave me some advice: "It's only paranoia, if they're not really chasing you."

Those words weren't exactly the pearls of wisdom I was looking for, or even expecting, but they were oddly comforting. Especially after the way friends and the pop culture at large (many thanks to the writers and producers of "The Paper Chase" and "Legally Blonde," as well as John Grisham) sardonically enjoyed portraying law school to impressionable pre-frosch.

With an evil laugh followed by a sin-

ister smile, they described law school as a series of exquisite horrors: sleepless nights and tortuous days of non-stop studying, professors who delight in dining on 1Ls, and stress that causes disfiguring bumps in the night.

Frankly, I should never have accepted their spooky psychological baggage; it wasn't even gift-wrapped.

True, delusions of persecution, much like delusions of grandeur, are rarely realistic, but does that even matter? Isn't perspective everything? As a child, the proverbial monster under the bed was real enough. I never let a foot stray off the bed, just in case he was hungry for a toe or two.

Even though I couldn't see the

monster that combined the creepiness of E.T. with Alf's eerie laugh, I couldn't reason away the possibility of his existence. In fact, I still can't; I imagine the toe-monster still living under my bed in semi-retirement reading back-issues of "Sassy" and pretending to ignore the New Kids On The Block cassettes, ice skates, and neon scrunchies.

Supposedly, a student newspaper column, much like an After-School Special, concludes with a decisive moral that is meant to promote the writer's personal propaganda At the moment, I couldn't say. I'm just trying to brief my cases, participate in class, and stuff the spooky psychology back under the bed.

"La Bagel Delight"

CATERING FOR EVERY OCCASION BREAKFAST A SPECIALITY



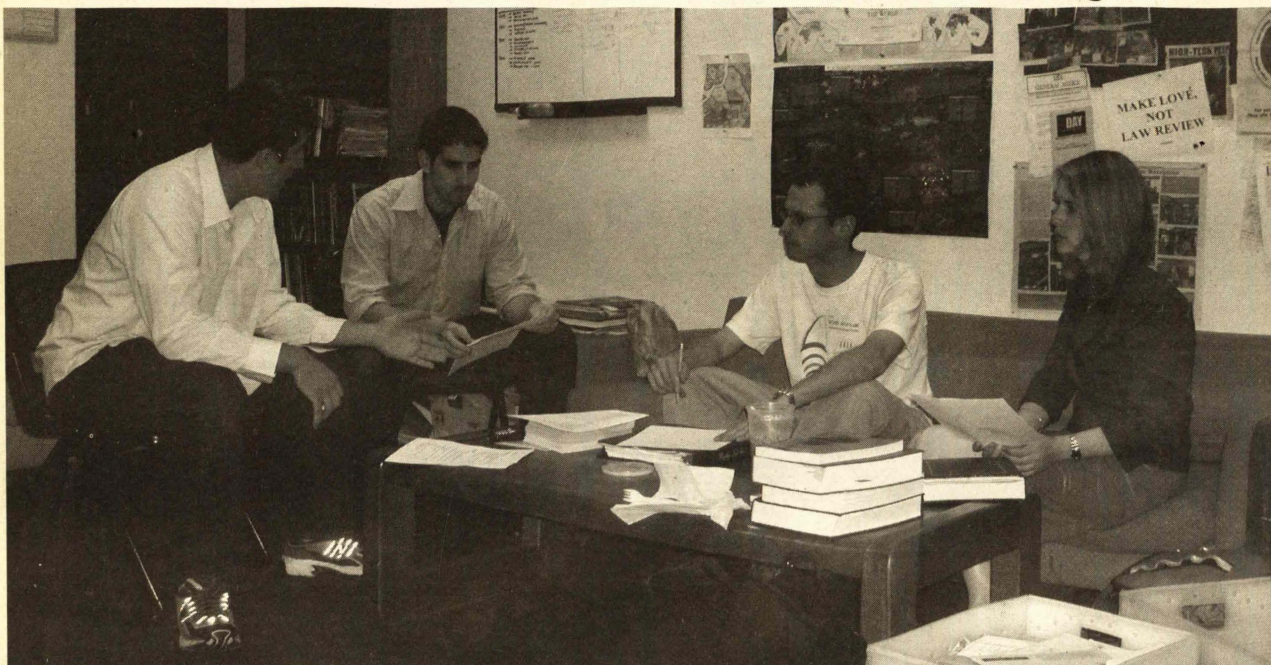
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- Hot & Cold Buffets
- Big Wheel Bagels
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First Student Bar Association Executive Board Meeting for 2003



From Left to Right: Joe Anci, President; Paul Reinitz, Co-Secretary; Clark Whitsett, Co-Secretary; Heather Baker, Vice-President take part in the first E-Board Meeting.
Photo Yael Utt

Almost one month into the semester the Student Bar Association has already provided the BLS community with two very successful events. The Brooklyn Cyclones game on 8/27 brought 150 members of the faculty, upperclass students and 1L students together for a great night of baseball on the Coney Island boardwalk. Rain threatened the Student Organization Fair on 9/2, but the inclement weather and a last minute change of venue failed

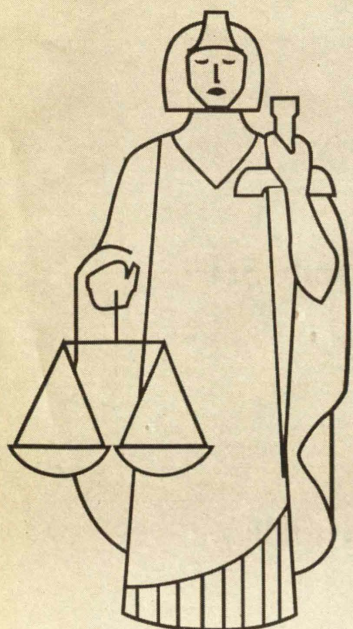
to keep the eager 1L students away. This year, student organizations garnered more interest and had more 1L students sign-up than in previous years. The SBA is hoping to build on this interest and enthusiasm expressed by the student body and bring more events to the BLS community. On 9/18, from 4-6 PM, the SBA, Brooklyn Law School News and Italian-American Law Students' Association are co-sponsoring a beer & pizza party in the courtyard.

Additional co-sponsored beer & pizza parties will be scheduled throughout the semester. The beer & pizza parties are only the beginning. Future events will include open SBA meetings; distinguished speakers; fundraisers; informational and educational events; and more. Be sure to check your brooklaw account and the bulletin boards for postings about future events sponsored by the SBA and BLS Student Organizations.

Please feel free to email sba@brooklaw.edu or stop by the SBA office (Room 509) with any questions or suggestions.

The SBA Executive Board
 Joe Anci, President
 Heather Baker, Vice-President
 Paul Reinitz, Co-Secretary
 Clark Whitsett, Co-Secretary
 Tim Oberweger, Treasurer

[JOIN US!]



**BLS
NEWS**

The staff at the Brooklyn Law School News wants to make your school's newspaper even better, but we need your help. You don't need to have any experience on a newspaper - just a desire to help. We're recruiting students to fill various positions on our staff. Take a look and see if you can help with any of these positions:

WRITERS >>

Submit a story on any topic you want to see addressed in the BLS News. You don't have to be a member of the staff, though. We're always accepting submissions from members of the BLS Community. E-Mail us at blsnews@brooklaw.edu.

COPY EDITORS >>

Review submitted stories for grammar and consistency. Ever find a typo in this paper? You're perfect for this job.

PHOTOGRAPHERS >>

Take pictures of events at BLS. Know anything about doing color correction or photo retouching? You're our hero - sign up now.

LAYOUT >>

Put the whole thing together. Let your creative juices flow and play around with QuarkXPress and Illustrator.

The Brazen Head



**Welcomes Back
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