



Nota Bene, 2012

Nota Bene, 2010s

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2-15-2012

## Nota Bene, February 15, 2012

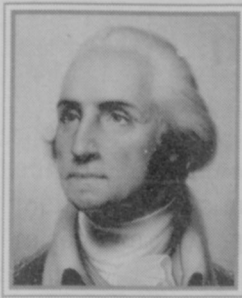
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### Recommended Citation

George Washington University Law School, 26 Nota Bene 8 (2012)

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## GW Law Students Expand Horizons at Indian Moot Court Competition

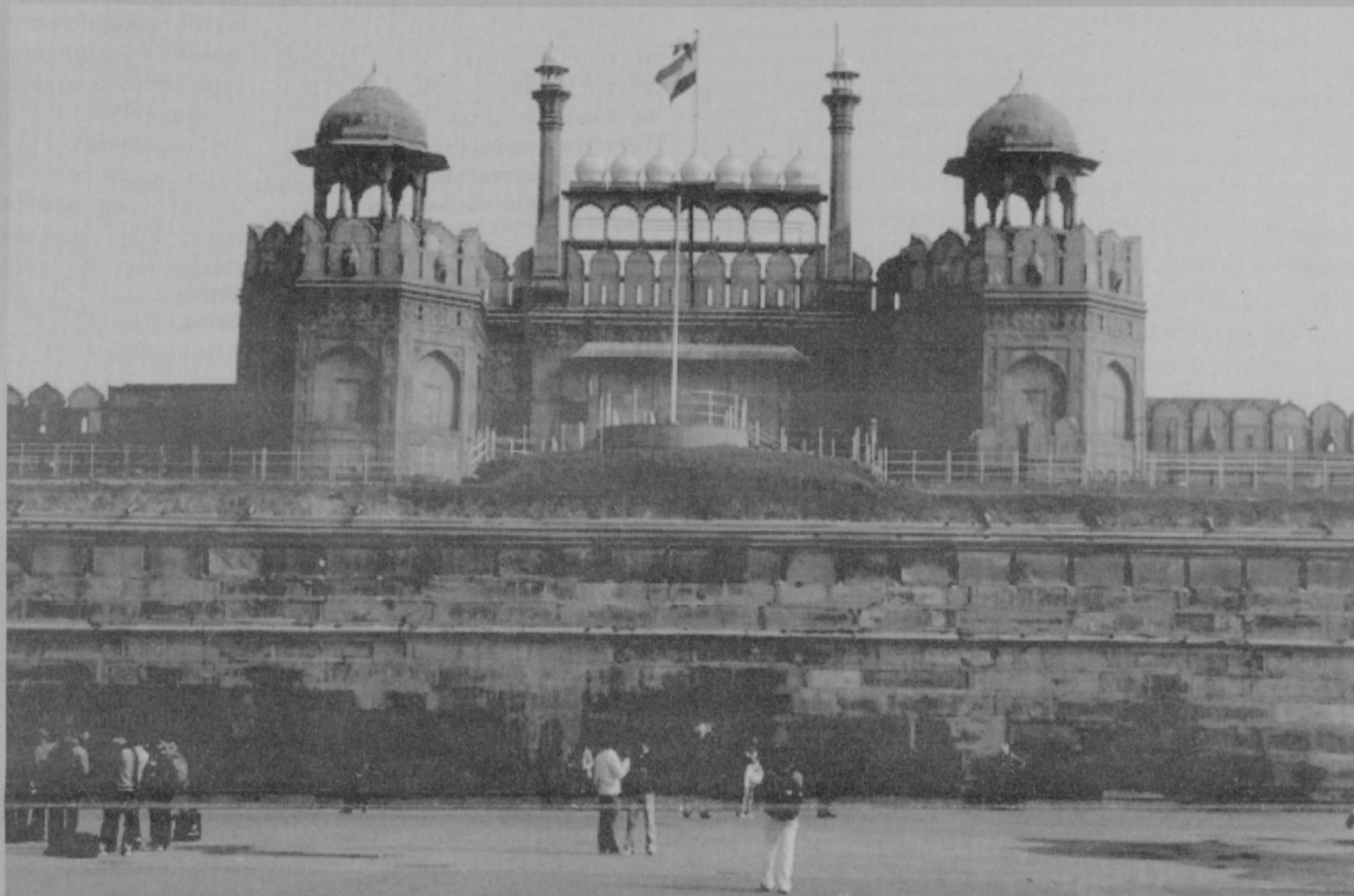


Photo of New Delhi, India. Courtesy of Puja Bhatia

By KATHERINE MEREAND-SINHA  
*Editor in Chief*

Third year students Elizabeth Saxe and Puja Bhatia brought home the first and second place oralist (speaker) awards from the Eight Annual KK Luthra Memorial Moot Court Competition held in New Delhi, India this January. This is the second year that a George Washington University Law School team attended the Luthra competition, and the second year that a GW team was honored with an award. Last year Shauna Johnston, now a third year student, and Anne Sidwell, who graduated in the class of 2011, won the tournament and brought home the award for best brief. Ms. Johnston returned this year with Assistant Dean David Johnson, Director of Advocacy Programs, to lead an informational session about appellate advocacy skills.

Nota Bene interviewed Ms. Saxe and Ms. Bhatia about their success at the competition and the exciting trip halfway across the globe. Neither had been to India prior to this trip, but both would be excited to return to see more. We also spoke with Ms. Johnston, Assistant Dean Johnson, and Dean Susan Karamanian about the unique experience that is the Luthra competition, which is one of two Indian moot court competitions

that GW Law students are attending this year.

This week third year student Christy Milliken and second year student Sam Stone are attending the Gujarat National Law University Moot Court Competition and thus were not available to be interviewed for this article. GW Law teams attended, and won, the Gujarat competition for the last two years. We got in touch with the 2012 team just after they landed in India and were adjusting to the significant time difference. The Gujarat Competition will close on February 12, and we wish the best to Ms. Milliken and Mr. Stone. Dean Karamanian worked with the team to prepare for the Gujarat competition, but the team traveled to the competition on their own.

As Dean Johnson noted, GW is fairly unique among its peer law schools in that we rarely send advisors to advocacy competitions, but that allows us to send more teams to more competitions each year. That decision is made by each of the skills boards, but giv-

en how well GW teams perform generally it seems to be a system that works. His and Ms. Johnston's attendance this year was by special invitation of the competition, and so no one is sure whether such presentations will be invited again should GW return to compete in future years.

GW Law's attendance at the Luthra competition owes its genesis to Mr. Aditya Singla, who earned an LLM from GW last year. He advocated for and arranged for sponsorship of the 2011 team. We understand that Mr. Singla is now working with the Virginia-based Institute of Multi-Track Diplomacy to help support peace building programs between India and Pakistan along the border in the Punjab region.

GW was the only American school to send a team to the Luthra competition this year. Although most of the teams were Indian, a team from Pakistan and a few other international teams from the UK attended. The international aspect of the competition benefitted our students not only by focusing their efforts on

international law, but also by allowing them to meet and interact with international students and practitioners. For students interested in pursuing careers in international law, the opportunity to speak to students from other countries about "law school and what the first few years of practice are like", as Ms. Johnston noted, are invaluable.

Ms. Saxe described this year's problem as "a comparative criminal law problem arising in a new, hypothetical common law jurisdiction". In comparing the problems from each year, Ms. Johnston noted that this year's problem was particularly challenging including a lot of local law and "and an entirely fake constitution modeled very closely off of the India constitution". In contrast, last year's problem focused on International Criminal Court Statute.

Ms. Bhatia suggested that the nature of the problem presented an additional challenge that national competitions do not present: finding good sources for the appropriate law early in the research process. She stated that it was critical to

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## NEWS

## NOTA BENE

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NOTA BENE IS A BI-WEEKLY STUDENT PUBLICATION AT THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL. NOTA BENE SERVES AS A FORUM FOR NEWS, FEATURES, AND OPINIONS IN THE LAW SCHOOL COMMUNITY.

WE SEEK SUBMISSIONS FROM ALL AT GW LAW.

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## Art Law & Entertainment Society to Host GW Law Fashion Week

By VIRGINIA LENAHAN  
ALES PR Officer

The Art Law & Entertainment Society (ALES) will be hosting the first-ever GW Law Fashion Week from February 13 to February 16. The special events that ALES has planned will provide students with an opportunity to learn more about the legal aspects of the fashion industry. ALES members will be stationed at the Info Desk (first floor of Stockton) from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Wednesday, taking orders for newly designed GW Law t-shirts (\$15).

On Monday, stop by the Info Desk in the afternoon to check out **"Do You Keep It Real? Spot the Counterfeit Goods!"** The interactive exhibition will test students' counterfeit-identification skills while providing information about knockoff designer items.

**"Let Fashion Be Your Valentine"** on Tuesday by wearing red (or red lipstick!) to show your support for Fashion Week! Stop by the info desk, where ALES will have candy, stickers, and more information about the week's events.

Wednesday will feature a **"Careers in Fashion Law"** panel from 6 to 8 p.m. in the FCC (fifth floor of Burns). The discussion will feature three panelists who have used their JDs to pursue fashion-related careers.

April Reddick, a graduate of Howard University Law School, teaches Fashion and Retail Management at the Art Institute of Washington. Michael Grow, GW Law alumnus and co-chair of the Intellectual Property group at Arent Fox, practices in the fields of trademark, copyright, right of publicity, advertising, and more. He has represented clients in the eyewear, clothing, and fashion, entertainment and online services industries. Last but not least, panelist Bisola Daramola, an attorney at Patrick Henry, serves as the Fashion Law Committee Member for the Washington Area Lawyers for the Arts. A graduate of New York Law School and a former intern for Christian Louboutin and Coach, Ms. Daramola now works in civil litigation, entrepreneurship law, and trademark law.

Finally, on Thursday evening, ALES will be hosting a **Professional Dress Fashion Show**, sponsored by Banana Republic and Ann Taylor in the FCC. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m.; the show will start at 6:30 p.m. Be sure to arrive early for drinks and snacks before sitting down to watch both students and professors (including Dean Berman) model work-appropriate attire. Plus, learn the dos and don'ts of professional dressing, and get information on discounts from Banana Republic and Ann Taylor.

## Senator Absenteeism Mars Otherwise Productive SBA Meeting

By MARK AARON COX  
SBA Correspondent

The SBA Senate convened at 8:30pm on January 31, 2012 for its second full session of the spring semester. Only eleven of the twenty-two elected representatives were actually present for the meeting. Even counting appointed proxies, only sixteen votes were available at the beginning, with several senators entering late and leaving early due to scheduling conflicts.

Absenteeism has been on the rise since the Fall, with at least one senator (and often several more) absent for each meeting since the beginning of the academic calendar year. Holly Trogdon (Part Time Division) publicly admonished the Senate during the evening's open-floor period for its faulty attendance, with echoing statements by Rob Russo (2L-Evening) and Sam Stone (2L-Day). Mr. Russo further noted that Shirley Liang, VP of Finance, has been absent from the Senate for several meetings and has not submitted an amended finance report in "clear violation of the Bylaws." Ms. Trogdon moved to follow the punitive procedures encoded in the Bylaws, up to and including impeachment proceedings against chronically absent senators. The motion was carried by a strong voice vote, with a single nay from A.J. Sutton (1L-15), who called the move "spiteful" and "unnecessary," because "most of the work we do is outside of these meetings anyway."

Mr. Sutton may be correct about the workload, but the text of Bylaw 406(f) of the GWSBA Constitution is unambiguous: "The Chief of Staff shall issue a warning to any Senator who has missed two or more meetings in any semester. A further absence beyond the warning shall constitute an impeachable offense." The Chief of Staff in this case is Mike Lueptow, who was not present at the meeting. Mr. Lueptow is also running for SBA President in this year's election.

Attendance issues notwithstanding, last Tuesday's meeting was one of the most productive sessions of the Senate in some time. Two bills passed with unanimous approval of the present voting members and their assigned proxies, and a third passed with a clear majority.

The first was Rob Russo and Sam Stone's Minute Publication and Bylaw Reconciliation Act, a new piece of legislation crafted deliberately to compel more timely publication of Senate session minutes into the public record. The GWSBA Bylaws previously mandated publication of the

minutes generally, but did not task a specific officer with publication. The bill corrects this omission by assigning the task affirmatively to the Executive Vice President or his/her designee. This bill evolved in reaction to the non-publication of minutes on the Senate website throughout most of the school year. This Nota Bene correspondent and members of the Senate often raised the issue at Senate sessions, but fortunately, most minutes have now been published (for the first time).

The second was Mr. Russo's Executive Budget Transparency Act, which is an amendment mandating publication of general budgetary practices and line item expenditures from the SBA Executive budget. Prior to the new act, students could ask the SBA Executive (namely, President Nick Nikic) for viewing privileges that are rarely denied and even more rarely asked for. The new law instead mandates publication of these reports in Senate meeting notes.

The third was Sam Stone and Dean Aynechi's long-delayed Sunlight Act, which mandates retention and subsequent publication (with redactions) of closed-door meeting minutes. The Senate delayed voting on this bill several times, usually due to absences (or, in one instance, a lack of familiarity with its provisions following winter break). All excuses for avoiding it aside, the Senate finally committed it to law by a majority vote (13 yeas, 4 nays, 2 abstentions).

The Senate also approved an ad hoc funding request for the Art Law and Entertainment Society (ALES) in the amount of \$500. The money was requested in anticipation of the Society's upcoming Fashion Week, which will include events on fashion law and professional dress advice from area business fashion consultants.

Though the sudden burst of productivity that characterized last week's meeting may be attributable in part to diminished senator turnout at last week's meeting, general absenteeism draws the ire of those senators dedicated enough to attend every session absent legitimate emergencies. The Senate will convene again on February 14, 2012, though it remains to be seen how many senators will still be holding seats if Ms. Trogdon's impeachment motions are acted upon. According to this correspondent's meeting notes, the Senate would lack a quorum if they impeached all multiple absentees

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## NEWS

## Twitter Adopts New Censorship Policy

By ALEX GIANNATASIO  
News Editor

From the protests at Tianmen Square to today's "Occupy" movement, protesters have found a way to coordinate their uprisings. In 1989, in the midst of the protests at Tianmen Square, Chinese students in the U.S. defied the Chinese government and used fax machines to communicate news back to China and to organize protests.

With the introduction of Twitter, today's protesters have found a way to communicate with each other with extraordinary efficiency, and have consequently become a more menacing force to their governments. As the global economy continues its downward spiral, more unsatisfied, unemployed youths find themselves participating in various protest movements around the world.

With Twitter's new role in global protests, the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression believes that the Internet is an indispensable tool in the 21st century for enabling active citizen participation in the construction of democratic societies. One U.N. report indicates that the recent surge of demonstrations in countries across the Middle East and North Africa has shown the key role that the Internet can play in uniting citizens to call for justice, equality, accountability and human rights.

On January 26, 2012, Twitter announced a new policy stating that upon request, it would censor users' Tweets in certain countries in which the content of the Tweet is considered to be illegal. The announcement was met with global outrage, as many viewed Twitter's new policy as a constraint on free speech. Some users went so far as to call for a boycott of the social networking site that now has over 100 million users.

ACLU staff attorney, Aden Fine is very skeptical of Twitter's new censorship powers and was quoted saying, "[t]he countries that engage in censorship are precisely the ones in which open and neutral social media platforms are most critical." He went on to say, "[w]e hope Twitter will think carefully before acceding to any specific requests by those governments to censor content simply because they want to interfere with their citizens' access to information and ideas."

Twitter's general counsel, Alexander Macgillivray, argued that Twitter's new policy would actually foster free speech rather than hinder it.

"This is a good thing for freedom of expression, transparency and

accountability," said Macgillivray. "This launch is about us keeping content up whenever we can and to be extremely transparent with the world when we don't. I would hope people realize our philosophy hasn't changed." The company insists that it will not censor Tweets before they are posted and will only remove content that is illegal. Furthermore, Twitter has no plans to censor tweets unless it is called to do so by government officials, companies, or other sources that alert Twitter to illegal content. Twitter will not remove any messages until an in-house assessment determines there is a legal issue.

Twitter's new plan was not met with universal distrust, as some academics such as Zeynep Tufekci, an assistant professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, supported the move. Tufekci wrote that she is "defending Twitter's policy because it is the one I hope others adopt: transparent, minimally compliant w/ law, user-empowering."

Experts on international media censorship believe that the recent shift in policy by Twitter was a necessary compromise and something it had to do to continue to operate as a global business.

Some have questioned how effectively Twitter would be able to censor communications. Professor Tufekci believes that authoritarian regimes' attempts to silence protesters by censoring individual tweets would prove to be futile, as the utility of Twitter lies in the sharing and dissemination of information, rather than in individual Tweets.

While Twitter has been faced with general outrage and distrust over its new policy, it seems that users could easily bypass censorship. Twitter users have the ability to set the location on their accounts and can even select "worldwide." For example, users in Egypt can set their location to "worldwide" and have access to Tweets that might have otherwise been unavailable to them.

It is yet to be seen how strongly Twitter will adhere to their new policy, as users can readily bypass censorship. However, one can be sure that protesters and dictators alike are anxiously awaiting the effects of this potentially game-changing shift in Twitter's censorship policy.

## LRW: Behind the Curve?

By JONATHAN FOSTER  
Staff Writer

You've heard it before: "Legal Research and Writing is the most important class of your first year." It's a sentiment that is frequently repeated in law schools and law firms across the country. Professors of other subjects often admit that the skills taught in LRW are more important than any single theory course. A recent article in *The New York Times* disparaged the law school experience for producing graduates lacking in tangible skills, but research and writing abilities remain valuable takeaways to most employers.

Still, given the near-universal acclaim attached to the subject, the GW LRW program doesn't carry much legitimacy in the academic milieu. At the law school, LRW only became graded three years ago, in the fall of 2008. To this day, it remains a two-credit course—the least of any first year class. It is taught primarily by a group of over 30 adjunct professors, aided by a select group of 3Ls—called Dean's Fellows—whose duties sometimes blur the line between assistant teacher and secretary to the adjunct. GW has only four full-time professors in the LRW program. American University has eight. Georgetown has eleven.

The primary justification for an adjunct-based program is that it gives students the chance to benefit from the adjuncts' professional experience, gained from work in the legal community. But the downside of such a program can be significant. This past semester, the most visible problems with LRW was the lack of uniformity between teaching and grading practices across sections, both with respect to the speed of feedback and the quality of commentary from the various adjuncts. Some students received drafts of their memos back in a few days. Others received drafts weeks later, on or near the deadline. Still others received drafts of memos past the deadlines, or even after the complete office memo was already due. The level of commentary provided by different adjuncts varied greatly as well: some professors returned drafts with only a few comments, while others returned the same assignments with 40 to 50 comments.

During the writing of this article, LRW Adjunct Professor Patrick Pearsall resigned from teaching this semester in order to work on a fishing rights treaty with Guam. While this type of experience is valued when it is brought to the table before the teaching begins, it creates a flux-inducing mini-drama when a Professor chooses to leave his students in the middle of the year. This situation is exemplary of the flaws of having an adjunct professor with divided attentions and the unbridled ability to

leave teaching at any moment. Dean Monroe has taken over teaching Professor Pearsall's class.

Speaking with Professor Christy DeSanctis, the Director of GW's LRW program, it is clear that the department doesn't condone the problems students faced last semester. Professors are asked to give an average of "one substantive comment per paragraph" on any given paper, and are urged to meet deadlines. Professor DeSanctis stressed the challenge of getting 30+ adjunct professors on the same page. "Adjunct-based programs can be difficult. Invariably, someone will be called out of town," she said. "I wish I had heard about these problems before it was too late," she added. "I can respond to complaints while they are occurring more effectively than after the fact."

While the disparity between sections is troubling, it may just be the nature of an adjunct-based program. Though she emphasized the upside of having practitioners teaching our students, Professor DeSanctis, when pressed, said that she would prefer to have a program made up of full-time professors who could give a bigger commitment to their students. "There is a nationwide trend towards full-time [LRW] professors and away from adjuncts," she said.

Professor Jessica Clark, the Associate Director of the LRW program, is less reserved in expressing her desire for a full-time LRW faculty. Professor Clark "would love it if GW moved to full-time professorships teaching 40-60 students." A full-time staff of 10 to 12 professors teaching LRW would "remove the administrative problems of adjuncts." So far, the department has responded to negative feedback by increasing the maximum class size from 12 to 14, thereby hiring fewer adjuncts, and removing the less successful ones. This year, they reduced the program by 7 sections, from 45 to 38. While Professor Clark sees the value of adjuncts, she stresses the lack of a "level playing field" when comparing student experiences across the program. She believes that the positive aspects of having adjuncts could be replicated with a different model, anchored by full-time professors and supplemented by working attorneys in seminars or bimonthly sessions. Some programs have professors teach the Fall course, bringing in adjuncts to teach the advocacy program in the Spring. Such programs focus the role of the adjunct on sharing experiential skills, while a professor provides a more committed introduction to research and writing.

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## OPINIONS

# Too Much Advice About 1L Grades, or Not Enough?

BY KYLE KISSICK  
Guest Columnist

As the clock ticked down to the third Friday of Spring Semester, this year's batch of 1L's began to hear more and more about our fall semester grades. Our Dean's Fellows told us when and where to find the long-awaited grades. Our professors told us these grades would not define us, that they only reflect a very narrow set of skills. Dean Berman told us to relax. He said that after this summer our grades won't matter as much as they do now. Our SBA mentors told us we did a good job and should be proud. Our 2L friends told us to drink. Everyone has been so full of advice, counsel and commentary about grades during these last few weeks; and yet, some of our most pressing questions have not yet been answered.

We have been told what our grades don't mean – that they aren't a reflection of our potential as future lawyers and that they don't mean we need to drop out or consider a different career. But now that we have our grades, many of us are left wondering what exactly do these grades

mean? What do my grades mean? What is considered a "good" GPA? What do I do if my grades don't fit into that category? What effect will these grades have on my life? On my career prospects? On my ability to pay off these massive loans?

There seems to be a disconnect between our reality and the many assurances we have received. It's easy to say that our grades don't define us, or that they won't matter so much in the long run, but the truth is that they matter right now because they define us right now. For some, especially those with limited work experience, grades may be the only indication to employers as to what kind of potential employees we could be. The truth is that stellar grades might just be the extra push an otherwise lackluster résumé needs to make it into the "interview" pile? If that were not the case, why have potential employers been heckling us for weeks about our transcripts?

The truth is that our grades are the single most important thing in our

burgeoning careers to this point – because we are still in transition. When we were in high school, grades and test scores were enormously important in deciding which colleges we got into, or if we could get into college at all. Once in college, our high school grades became completely unimportant. Now that we're in law school, the same is now true about our college grades. We needed a great GPA to make it to GW Law, but now no one cares what we did before we got here. The only thing that matters is what we've done since we got here. We are in a constant battle to do the best that we can to make it to the next step, only to start over again. Right now, we need these grades to get our first jobs as attorneys. Eventually, just like our grades from high school and college, our law school grades will fade into the category of 'potentially interesting but ultimately unimportant things from our past.'

With all that in mind, I wonder if the regimen of assurances and platitudes we received made any difference. Most of us judge ourselves

by our academic performance, even while recognizing the relatively limited long-term importance of these grades. If we didn't hold ourselves to such high standards, we might not be here at GW today. Ultimately, I haven't met many colleagues who were genuinely placated by all of the advice we got. In fact, some became even more distressed after hearing so much about our grades before they were actually released. There was too much abstract advice telling us what our grades don't mean, but not nearly enough realistic information on what they do mean.

## The Truth About 1L Grades

BY DAVID KEITHLY  
Opinions Editor

By now all you 1Ls have your grades. The suspense and the waiting are over, and now you find yourselves in the position of trying to figure out what these grades will mean for you and your futures. By now you've heard all kinds of advice from friends, family, professors, mentors, deans and even complete strangers. The message seems to be consistent: grades don't define you, it's not the end of the world if you didn't do well, your future is still bright. I'm sorry to be the one to burst the advice-induced feel-good bubble you may have replaced your initial disappointment in your 1st semester performance, but the truth is: grades matter.

It's not just that grades matter. The fact is that grades may well be the only thing that matters at this point. I'm not writing this article to discourage those of you who didn't do as well as you would have liked, I'm writing because you still have time to fix whatever you did wrong last semester and do better this time around. Your job prospects, your future and your ability to pay off the truck-loads of student loans depend in large part on your ability to get good grades.

Here's where the caveat comes in.

I'm sure many of you 1st semester underachievers are thinking: "this doesn't apply to me, I'll still be ok. I'm the exception." Maybe you are the exception. In order to determine whether this article applies to you, I've developed the following questionnaire:

- (1) Are you independently wealthy?
- (2) Is either of your parents a partner in a law firm (that doesn't have an anti-nepotism policy)?
- (3) Are you here at GW on a full scholarship? (If so, are you going to be able to keep your scholarship based on your academic performance?)
- (4) Is someone else paying your tuition?
- (5) Do you already have a job lined up after graduation?

If you were able to answer "yes" to any of these questions, congratulations – you can stop reading. You're officially "the exception." The rest of you, listen up.

Grades matter. I don't care what everyone has been saying. If you want to get a job in the field of law, the first thing potential employers will want to know is your GPA. Maybe it's not

fair, maybe it's close-minded, but it's the truth.

It's like when you were applying to law school. You spent hours and hours poring over your personal statement and polishing your optional essays. You carefully chose people to write recommendation letters who would present you in the best light. You were sure that those law schools in your "reach" column would look beyond your undergraduate GPA or your LSAT score, and that these other factors would tip the scales in your favor. At the end of the day, you got into the schools that you should have and didn't get into the schools that you shouldn't have – largely based on your GPA and LSAT score.

The job market is the same. While employers say they look for things like Journal, Moot Court or Mock Trial, and they might like to see that you're the treasurer of the Human/Women's/Business Rights Club, the single most important line on your resume is the one that says GPA: X.XXX.

Although your grades won't ensure you a job, they'll get your foot in the door in order to showcase your other talents and abilities. Most firms have cutoffs, some are explicit, some un-

spoken. All employers look to your GPA as an indicator of your ability to perform as a lawyer and the reality is that most of the time you won't even get an interview if your GPA isn't where they want it.

So what do you do now – especially if you didn't do as well as you would have liked last semester? Short answer: do better this semester. Figure out what you did wrong. Meet with your professors. Try reading the cases. Take notes in class. Participate. Go to office hours. Buy and read the E&E. Do whatever you need to do to bring your GPA up to where it needs to be.

In this economy, the legal job market is terrible. You need every edge you can get. Don't handicap your chances at legal employment by believing the pretty little lie that grades don't matter. Grades matter. At this point, they're practically the only thing that matters. You can rest when you're a 2L or a 3L, but right now – get to work.



## FEATURES

### Interview With Jonathan Willingham, Chief of Staff to Councilmember Mary Cheh

By TODD WATSON  
Features Editor

We've all heard that you don't have to practice law with a law degree. A JD is, supposedly, adequate preparation for a variety of careers. A career in politics would seem to be a natural alternative to practicing law, but where does one begin?

The post-graduate experience of Jonathan Willingham (GW Law JD 2006) is a case in point. Willingham is currently serving as Chief of Staff to Mary Cheh, DC Councilmember for Ward 3 (in Upper Northwest DC) and GW Law Professor. He attended Wake Forrest for his undergraduate degree, and went straight to GW Law afterwards. As a GW Law student, he worked on Cheh's campaign. After graduating in 2006, he spent a year clerking for DC Superior Court Judge Geoffrey Alprin. When he finished his clerkship, Cheh invited him to return to work on her campaign as Chief of Staff. After a year and a half as Cheh's Chief of Staff, he took a job at GW Law teaching Legal Research and Writing full time and helping to run the program (Willingham still teaches LRW, but only one class). He left his full-time position at GW Law to pursue a career in antitrust litigation with a private firm. After a couple of years he decided this line of work wasn't for him, and gladly accepted the invitation to once again don the mantle of Chief of Staff for Mary Cheh.

As Chief of Staff, Willingham manages all administrative functions performed by the staff and handles various political aspects of Cheh's work, such as how her performance is viewed by the public and the press. For instance, when Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli re-



Photo courtesy of Jonathan Willingham

cently took issue with an animal welfare law that Cheh supported, prompting Rush Limbaugh to refer to her as a "babe," Willingham was in charge of handling the public reaction. This entailed dealing with a flood of emails from Limbaugh's audience, some merely critical, some seething with verbal abuse. "What I didn't like about private practice, is that it's a relatively isolated experience," said Willingham. "You work with your partners and associates and occasionally get to see a client. But for the most part it's you, in your office, reading and writing. That can get very dull. I need more interaction with people."

Willingham was an executive in the Student Bar Association at GW Law. He credits the experience with helping teach him how to manage people and effectively communicate. "There are people who are hired because a

firm can put them in a room and they will buckle down and put in the hours and produce a good product. And there are other people who are hired because they are good at communicating with people, and I think that's a very real skill that is undervalued in law school and not really understood by students," said Willingham.

Willingham is also on the board of directors for the GW Law Alumni Association. "We have a lot of conversations about how to help students who are struggling finding jobs," Willingham said. "And what we have found is that students seem to be unwilling to put themselves out there, to put themselves in positions where they might be rejected. It's like a lack of gumption. What they need to do is go to the website of the firm they're interested in working for, find the person who went to GW Law, and call

the person. Call that person. And say 'I went to GW Law and I'm thinking about your firm.' Those kind of attitudes are what's going to get you the job. When I'm interviewing somebody, I accept as a baseline that they can do the work. I wouldn't have brought them in for an interview if I didn't already know that they can do the work. What I want to see know is whether you are somebody that I can work with, somebody that is interesting, intellectually curious, pleasant, etc. You would be shocked at the number of people who come in and are rude to secretaries and just kiss up to the boss. Do they not realize that as soon as they leave, the secretary comes in and tells everyone how rude they just were?"

"I think a lot of law students are not used to thinking outside of the box. They think they come to law school and go through a set of preordained steps and that results in a good job. They need to be more creative. Students should literally explore every connection available to them, whether it's through teachers or parents or friends - any connection that you have. Also, regularly check craigslist, manatos ([www.tommanatosjobs.com](http://www.tommanatosjobs.com)) linkedin, etc. We hire through those channels. We don't participate in career fairs and such. Few employers do. Also, if you graduate and don't have a paying job, you still need to do something. Go volunteer, do anything. Employers want to see that you're doing something. Also, little things make a difference. I interviewed someone recently who had nice business cards printed up, and it made a strong impression on me. It showed that that person was really trying."

*Continued from Page 2*  
before the next meeting...

But if there is another session, the Nota Bene reminds its readers that these meetings are, for the most part, open to the general public. That said, the Spring 2012 schedule has yet to be published, so good luck finding the location. Your faithful correspondent usually gets a friendly tip from a Senator minutes before it begins. It begs the question: who's in charge, here, anyway?

As the Nota Bene's GWSBA correspondent, I've had a chance to witness every Senate meeting since last September. While it has been an excellent opportunity to view the inner workings of the Senate, it has also precluded me from participating in the process. Thus, it is with mixed feelings that I announce my candidacy for a 2L position for the 2012-13 Senate. To avoid potential conflicts of interest, this will be the last column I will write until the election results are in. Thank you for reading.

Check out our website  
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# FEATURES

BLAKE BEHNKE

## Badinage: The Republican Primary

This is my second attempt at writing this article. The first draft deteriorated rapidly into a personal rant against the individuals attempting to capture the Republican nomination for the Presidential race.

Over the past six months I've been watching "The West Wing" with my lady friend. I love the show. It's hard not to as a newly minted "DC Insider." I recognize certain streets, and coffee shops and pick up on lingo that I would have missed before moving here. I'm almost done with the series - right now I am in the middle of the last season. During seasons 6 & 7, the show is mainly focused on a campaign for the Presidency. After watching two heavyweight candidates slug it out, I can't help but ask: where are the Arnold Vinicks of the Republican Party?

There is so much to love about Arnold Vinick - he is a Republican from a traditionally blue state (California); he is a social moderate and fiscal conservative; and most importantly he seems to make logical, sound decisions based upon his convictions. I'm amazed at the man's ability to stand up to his party, to decry negative ads, and to recognize the good qualities in his opponents. As someone who traditionally finds himself a little left of center, Vinick is a Republican that I could vote for!

Unfortunately, in real life, I find this type of politician with a backbone absent from the Republican primaries. It's disappointing to see can-

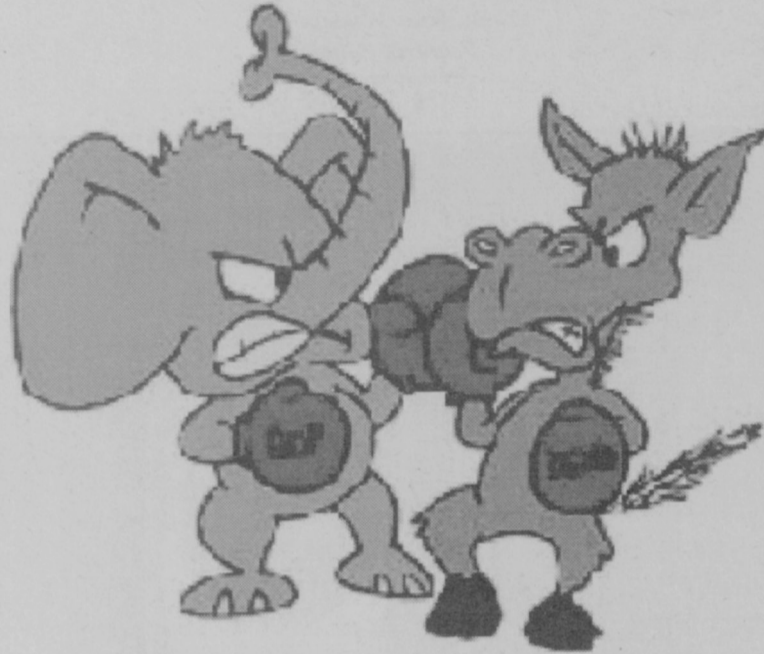
didates pander to party extremes in order to become viable. Perhaps what I love so much about Arnold Vinick is that at times the man seems like a walking contradiction. He is human, not a walking campaign platform catering to the extremes. One of Vinick's major hurdles was his pro-choice stance. In today's politically polarized climate, it's hard to imagine anyone becoming the Republican nominee without changing his or her personal platform to appease the party.

In my view, the real tragedy of the primary season has been the ability of the 24-hour news cycle to distract from the real issues. Who could forget all the hoopla surrounding Herman "9-9-9" Cain and his sexual misadventures? Or Michelle Bachman (the Sarah Palin of 2011)

and her creepy stare, or unflattering photo on the cover of Time magazine? More recently, news outlets literally filled hours upon hours of airtime discussing whether or not Romney would release his tax records. He ultimately did, and did we find out anything interesting or substantive? NO! The only thing we learned was something we already knew: Romney is rich - and he pays a lower average tax rate because like other millionaire venture capitalists, he understands the benefits of being paid in stock options and using the principle of carried interest to his advantage.

As I've watched the debates I keep wondering: is this really the best the entire Republican Party can do? Even as someone outside of the Party it is disappointing and discouraging

to realize that of the vast multitude of talented, hard-working, and intelligent human beings that comprise the America people, these four individuals represent the best that the Conservative movement has to offer: a former Governor who has had to criticize one of the most successful and non-partisan Health-Care initiatives that he himself pioneered in Massachusetts; a former Speaker of the House who was reprimanded for ethics violations and forced to resign his post due to pressure from his colleagues (not to mention his adultery which according to him was the result of how passionately he felt about his country and the pressures stemming from working too hard to improve the country); a Senator whose rhetoric seems so out of touch with the realities of modern-day America that he comes off as a bigot caught in the wrong century; and of course there is Ron Paul, who just keeps ticking along with his desire to return to the gold standard and return to isolationism. All in all, it's a discouraging bunch. Where is Arnold Vinick when you need him?



### A.J. KORNBLITH Korn Feed





# FEATURES

Continued from Page 3

Professors DeSanctis and Clark also agree that valuing LRW at two credits does not accurately reflect the amount of work students perform. Professor DeSanctis has "mixed feelings" about the two-credit classification, positing that fewer credits and a higher mean grade "removes some of the stress" on the student. Professor Clark finds the lower amount of credits troubling. "The message from the school is that this is less important," she said. The common rationale provided by the administration is that if LRW were to increase in credits, another course would have to lose a credit. But Professor Clark wonders why we can't add another credit to the graduation requirements while also bumping LRW up a credit.

In the changing landscape of the legal hiring community, the importance placed on the LRW program at GW should reflect the high expectations of tangible skills that employers increasingly have.

**LUEPTOW AND STONE**

The Spring  
Two-Thousand and Twelve

**Town Hall  
Debate**

**The Student Bar Association of  
The George Washington University Law School**

REQUESTS the Honor of the Attendance of  
Students, Professors, Administrators, Staff and All Interested Parties

WEDNESDAY, the Fifteenth of February  
Two-Thousand and Twelve

at **FIVE THIRTY** in the Afternoon  
in the Kelly Lounge

CHRISTEN GALLAGHER

## Snippets

<p>HOW LAW STUDENTS ENVISION THEIR WEEKEND:</p> <p><u>To Do:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Laundry</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Review Tax</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Reading for Monday</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Clean</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Groceries</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Work on brief/Note</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Gym</li> </ul>	HOW THE WEEKEND ACTUALLY GOES:		
	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY



# THE BACK PAGE

## Continued from Front Page

success and noted the the staff at the GW Law Library were particularly helpful in tracking down the best sources.

Those sources are not only used to compile the brief, but are compiled into a binder that competitors bring on site for use and reference during the competition. How to build and use the binder to the greatest advantage was part of the focus of Ms. Johnston's presentation, and, as Dean Johnson mentioned, part of GW Law's continuing success at the competition.

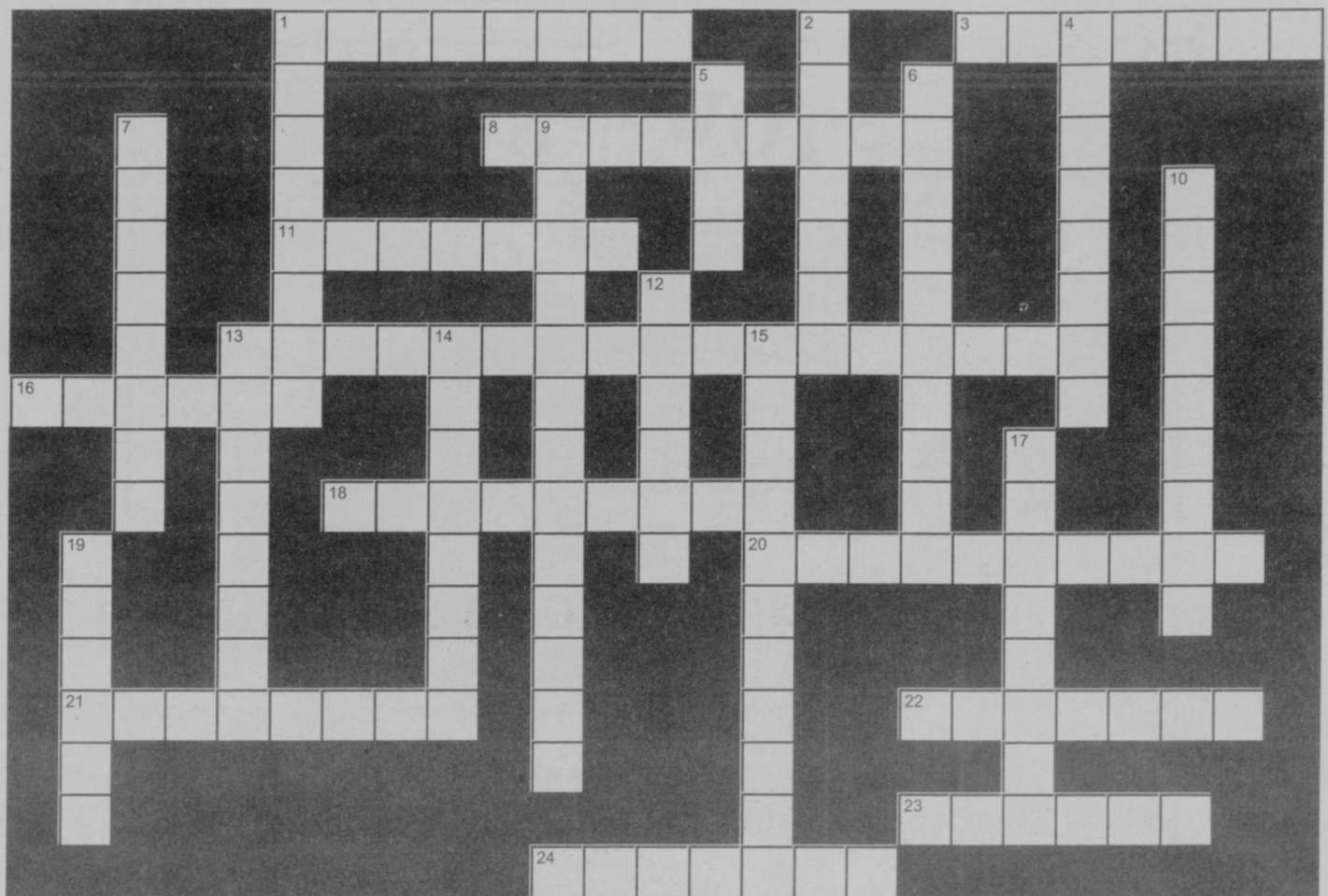
Through competitions like KK Luthra and Gujarat, the GW Law community is able to learn more, and share more, about diverse appellate advocacy skills and approaches. As Ms. Bhatia noted, GW teams were more likely to incorporate and address their opponents arguments into their responses during the competition and as Dean Johnson noted were more likely to rely upon case law. Traditional Indian appellate advocacy, in contrast, is more likely to reply upon direct readings from law treatises.

But law students in India appear keen to sharpen their appellate advocacy skills with lessons from GW Law students and faculty, if the jam-packed room for Ms. Johnston and Dean Johnson's joint presentation is any indication. While Ms. Johnston's presentation focused on how to succeed in the Luthra competition, Dean Johnson spoke for about 45 minutes about pure advocacy skills regardless of jurisdiction.

While future participation in the Luthra competition is not guaranteed, there are many reasons for GW to continue with it in specific and with engagement with Indian law schools in general. Both the competition and the reception for the presentation underscore the immense value of GW Law connections with Indian law schools. As Dean Karamanian noted, the law school has a significant incentive to continue to engage with "the world's largest democracy". Particularly given GW Law's impressive IP portfolio and India's booming tech sector, avenues for future growth are many.

But as Ms. Bhatia, Vice President for External Affairs of the Moot Court Board, also highlighted, all external competitions are of great value to the students who are able to attend. All students interested in increasing their advocacy skills should be persistent in trying to make the board and find external competitions to attend.

## Property Law Basics



### Across

1. Created in a parking garage
3. Rule in whose case?
8. Permanent interest in land
11. Ownership for unbroken bloodlines
13. Open and notorious, and five other things
16. Form in which property law conceptually packaged
18. Finders keepers only when stuff is
20. Intent + Delivery + Acceptance =
21. A legal action to get your stuff back
22. Tangible personal property
23. Government granted monopoly for 20 years
24. Private property for public use

### Down

1. Innocent purchaser of stolen stuff
2. Pierson v. Post
4. Right of way to get to the beach
5. Property can always be transferred as a \_\_\_\_
6. If a freehold is not absolute then it is
7. Authorized deviation from zoning ordinance
9. Under the fifth amendment government can use
10. Making someone's else's property a lot better can result in \_\_\_\_\_
12. Land regulation
13. Title independent of everything except the government
14. Rights for water allocation
15. Creating multiple parcels from one
17. Promise about land use
19. Doctrine of as good as you can get

The answers to our crossword will be posted on our website.

[www.thenotabene.org](http://www.thenotabene.org)

Stay tuned next week for our  
Special SBA Elections Issue!