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New York Law School

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102nd Commencement
Barry Block’s 18-Step Guide to Getting to Getting an “A” in Law School

By Barry Block ‘91

This will be the most important article you read during your law school career! By reading and following the advice in this story, you should be able to get an “A” on every exam you take. I use the special qualifier “should” because of the special grading curve at NYLS. It seems a dean decided that the way to improve our school’s academic standing among the hiring community would be to institute a severe grading curve, with a “C+” grade as the median. However, hiring partners know that the magic number is class rank, not GPA. Nevertheless, a transcript loaded with “C’s” looks bad when compared to another institution’s “B” or “B-” curve.

Given the almost insurmountable obstacle of getting an “A,” one might be tempted to ask, “If only eight to ten percent of any class will receive an ‘A,’ why should I keep reading?”

“Given the almost insurmountable obstacle of getting an ‘A,’ one might be tempted to ask, If only eight to ten percent of any class will receive an ‘A,’ why should I keep reading?”

(1) Go to class. This might sound a little obvious, but it’s not. There has been the occasional student who rarely attended class but still received an “A.” This is possible in cases where the student found a good outline, or where the professor expected the student to recite Black Letter law. The problem with not attending class is that you lose the opportunity to get the flavor of the instructor. An outline can abstract everything that the professor says, but it cannot capture his or her intonation.

(2) Pick up the “vig.” That’s a slang expression I have for the 1/3 extra grade you can get for class participation. From an appearance standpoint, an “A-” looks a lot better than a “B+.” How to get the vig is an article in itself. In the meantime, keep in mind that you don’t get it if you sit in the back of the class and never open your mouth. It’s better to make a fool of yourself in law school than later in life. So ask your questions now and save some embarrassment later.

(3) Prepare a good outline. You can not possibly remember all the miscellaneous odds and ends that you learn in an entire semester. The challenge is to separate the wheat from the chaff. A good outline is short and concise. It should condense the really important cases and rules of law. If you do not have the time to make up your own outline, look for someone else’s. Caveat: Make sure the outline you get is from a superior student. I have seen many, many outlines that have serious factual errors in them. A bad outline is worse than no outline at all.

(4) Consider commercial outlines and flashcards. These are not substitutes for your own work. They can, however, serve as an effective method of putting a topic or a subject into perspective. There is also considerable reinforcement value in seeing the same cases and rules restated in a different form.

(5) Read the professor’s old exams. You can find them in the library. Make copies early in the semester, before less ethical students steal them. If they are already stolen, ask the librarian or the professor for copies. Old exams allow you to really get into the head of the professor. In many cases, the same issues recur in subsequent exams. Practice taking these exams under test-like conditions. Afterwards, dissect the exam to see what issues you missed. Discuss your analysis with other students or ask the professor about any areas that you are unsure of. Check to see if your professor bases his question on recent or pending Supreme Court decisions. This is likely, because such cases provide for good fact patterns involving topical issues.

(6) Sign up with a good bar review course in your first year. You will eventually be tested on most of your law school courses after graduation. Courses such as BAR/BRI have prepared outlines and other materials which you can receive as early as your first year. In addition, some courses provide video tape lectures which condense an entire semester’s work into a four or five hour session. In these sessions, the speaker often clues you in on the favorite trap questions that professors love to ask. These materials can be very useful, and you will eventually have to sign up anyway. Why wait until after you graduate?

(7) Type your exams. This course assumes you can type. If you can not yet type, consider taking a course, since word processing is more and more becoming an essential skill for the practicing lawyer. Time pressure is an intrinsic part of law school exams, and you can not expect a professor to give you credit for the response “out of time” scrawled across the bottom of the page. Keep an eye on the clock and pace yourself accordingly.

Remember, the name of the game in law school is competition. Not against fellow students, but against yourself and the substantive matter being studied. I hope you will take my advice to heart and I hope even more you write an “A” paper.

Get An Edge

IMPROVE YOUR STUDY SKILLS
IMPROVE YOUR GRADES
ONE ON ONE TUTORING
HELP WITH PAPER WRITING
HELP WITH STUDY SKILLS

FOR AN APPOINTMENT OR MORE INFORMATION
CALL THE LAW TUTORIAL SERVICE
CALL (516) 485-5133
OR (212) 886-5427

SEPTEMBER 1994
Editor's Note

Welcome all new and returning students. I hope your summer was enjoyable and productive. I am looking forward to the coming year and with your help, I'm sure that the Reporter will fulfill everyone's expectations. I want to encourage everyone to get involved in the production of the paper. There are many things to do, including taking pictures, writing and editing articles and commentaries, and soliciting ads. For those of you interested in computers, we make extensive use of desktop publishing programs. Whatever your interest, the amount of time you invest is up to you - it can be 1 hour a month or 10 hours a month. The Reporter presents an excellent opportunity for students to hone their writing and editing skills. Stop by the office and talk to someone on the staff.

In this, our first issue of the semester, the Editorial Board decided to reprint several articles from past issues of the Reporter. The authors' advice is helpful and informative. In particular, three of the articles are written by NYLS alumni. Barry Block '91, a podiatrist, is currently Editor-in-Chief of a podiatrists' trade magazine; Mike Simone '93, is practicing law in Syracuse; Michael Wood '93, is currently authoring several articles on labor law issues. Both Mike Simone and Michael Wood are former Editorial Board members of the Reporter.

In closing, I would like to thank Rupi Badwal for all his help with putting this issue together. I look forward to putting out a quality publication during my tenure.

Rekha Brahmbhatt, Editor-in-Chief

The 1994 Froessel Moot Court Competition

By Professor Gerald Lebovits

Each year our nationally renowned Moot Court Association sponsors the Froessel Intramural Competition for all 2nd, 3rd, and 4th year (evening) students in good standing. This includes all transfer students and anyone who has completed twenty credits. This fall, the top 16 competitors, the quarter-finalists, will automatically become candidates on the Association. If the winners of the Best Brief, Best Team, and Best Preliminary Round Oralist awards are not among the top 16, these winners also automatically become Moot Court candidates. Moot Court's Executive Board then selects other candidates, traditionally another 16, on a discretionary basis. Candidates who perform office hours may be elected to membership and are then eligible to compete in an outside competition and to assist in hosting and hosting the Robert F. Wagner National Labor Law Moot Court Competition and future Froessel competitions. Moot Court members earn academic credit, satisfy their writing requirement, and receive a variety of honors.

Everyone who competes in the Froessel, now in its 18th year, benefits by writing a persuasive appellate brief and by engaging in oral advocacy at its highest levels. The Froessel, after all, is not just a competition to determine who gets to join Moot Court; it is also designed by the Moot Court Association to reach out to the NYLS community and to teach every participant about advocacy and teamwork. The Froessel is a large part of the NYLS experience. It should not be missed.

This fall's fact pattern will concern two hot topics in constitutional law: The burdens of proof in (1) selective and vindictive prosecutions and (2) the Federal Sentencing Guidelines. The fact pattern, which is edited by the Moot Court Association, is written by John Estes, who won last year's Froessel Best Brief Award; Michael Mayer, who won last year's Froessel Best Team Award; and Laurie Mayer, who won last year's Froessel Best Oralist Award. The fact patterns are fun, concise, and filled with research with correct pinpoint Bluebook citations, so that competitors can concentrate on writing and on oral argument, not only on researching the law.

Moreover, the Froessel benches will be stellar. For example, here are the nine judges for the Final Round, which will be held on Monday, September 26, in the Ernst Stiefel Room: John Steer, the General Counsel to the United States Sentencing Commission, who co-wrote the law on which one of the two issues is based; NYLS Professor Nadine Strossen, the President of the American Civil Liberties Union; Judge Pierre Leval of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit; Judge George Bundy Smith of the New York State Court of Appeals; Judges John Keenan and John Sprizzo of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York; Judge Raymond Dearing of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York; Judge J.T. Gilroy Daly of the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut; and Zachary Carter, the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York.

Continued on page 11
Take My Advice Please!

By Michael Simone '93

I commissioned myself to write a bit of advice on law school for all you new 1Ls. Please excuse the fact that I am slightly cynical. Okay, I am mostly cynical. I need a vacation and school hasn’t even begun. So sit back and take some tips from a stressed out third year. You won’t regret it.

LAW SCHOOL

Don’t even start. Go straight to the second floor and get a full refund. Catch a flight to some South American country before your parents or your bank knows what hit them. Change your name, marry a local, and live like royalty happily ever after.

TUITION

Borrow it. Study like mad (if you decide to stay). Find out how to keep from paying it back (there must be some sort of bankruptcy loophole — if you find it, please tell me).

STUDY GROUPS

Find four people you never want to become friends with. Plan to meet twice a week to discuss all your wonderful classes. Let them outline all the cases for you. Sit around for an hour and stare blankly into space while they discuss the metaphysics of what they have learned. Collect their work. Be a nice guy and buy them all a beer (optional).

READING PERIOD

One…two day max. Time to make friends with the upperclass students and find the best outlines from years past. Steal your classmates outlines. Break up with your significant other, give them all the cases for you. Sit around for an hour and stare blankly into space while they outline all the cases for you. Collect their work. Be a nice guy and buy them all a beer (optional).

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You have to be if you want to find a job after you get out of this place.

GOOD LUCK!

Equalize, Not Stigmatize

By Bryan Solomon '95

New Jersey Supreme Court Commentary
by Bryan Solomon '95

On Tuesday July 12, 1994, the New Jersey Supreme Court ruled [for the third time since 1973] that New Jersey’s system of financing its public schools is unconstitutional. The system, like other states all over the country, is based heavily on property taxes for its funding. This leads to disparate levels of education and funding among the 612 New Jersey school districts. Across the country, property taxes usually account for more than 55% of the public school funds; the state usually kicks in another 35%, and the federal government supplies about 10%. The rationale for this system is local community control and the opportunity to decide how best and how much to spend on education. This is referred to as the “community control” argument.

found somewhere in the cases.

Third, during the analysis you should argue both sides of the issue. By the way, that is how you spot an issue — it has two or more sides. One-sided issues aren’t really issues at all. Besides, they also aren’t very interesting to write about.

Lastly, if you have time, try to sum things up. Try something like this — “In conclusion, professor, this was a lovely class and thank you for teaching it.” This conclusion isn’t very helpful, but it works a lot better than a conclusion that contains a whole bunch of nasty expletives.

PROFESSORS

What you should call teachers now that you are in law school. These are the very intelligent creatures who stand at the front of the room. For the first couple of weeks it may sound like they are speaking in tongues, but after a while you will understand what they are saying. They will ask you many silly questions, yell at you when you are not prepared, and give you trivial clues about what will be on the test. After class, many of them are really friendly people who love to be on a first name basis with their students.

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There are many exceptions. I found that a flow chart helped me more than an outline. I used the rule and exceptions to create a simple decision tree. I then used the decision tree to analyze the case. You can buy wall poster flow charts for basic courses at Universal Law Books on Broadway. Bar/Bri gives flow charts to students who enroll in the Bar Exam prep course.

Check Lists

It is very easy to forget important information or procedures when working under time pressure. Check lists are also important tools in analyzing cases. Practicing attorneys often use check lists to verify that they have done everything necessary in case preparation.

Look for "Paper Courses"

Many students find that the pressure is more difficult to handle than the law. While some students excel under the pressure, other students would perform better with the take-home exam or the "paper course". Many upper class courses offer the "paper option". Take a paper course as the elective in the third semester. If you do better with papers, look for paper and take-home exams when registering for class.

Finding a Job: The Real Reason Students Attend Law School

The most important task for any law student is finding a job after graduation. At one level this is a lot like writing a brief—the writer must play on the strengths and minimize the weaknesses of the argument. In this case, the law student wants to make a persuasive argument to hire. A recent study of placement efforts found that the highest paying jobs in America are filled by personal referrals and the lowest paying jobs tend to be filled by advertising.

Pressure and the Top 10%

Almost 90% of a typical class entering NYLS was previously in the top 10% of the undergraduate class. After two semesters, only 10% of the students graduated. It is a very inexpensive option. Take a paper course as the elective in the first semester. A series of cases will tend to demonstrate the changes, over a period of time, in the various courts' approaches to a common problem. Combing through large amounts of material will eventually train students to look specifically for the issue, rule, analysis and conclusion ("Thinking like a Lawyer"). This method also places the responsibility for learning on the student, rather than placing the responsibility for teaching on the professor (who can teach a class of a hundred?).

Many of the students gather at the front of the room after class to discuss questions with the professor. I learned a lot by listening to the questions of fellow students.

Alumni Corner

On behalf of the New York Law School Alumni Association, Kathleen Grimm '80, president of the Association, extends a warm welcome to the incoming class of 1997 and to all returning students.

Ms. Grimm and members of the Alumni Association Board of Directors look forward to meeting the students during the coming year. The Alumni Association also hopes that students will be able to participate in many of the alumni events and programs that are planned.

The big event for the fall will be the annual Black Tie Dinner Dance Gala scheduled for Tuesday, November 15th at the Grand Hyatt Hotel. This year two distinguished attorneys in the legal community will be honored; Arthur Abbey '59, partner of Abbey & Ellis will receive the Distinguished Alumnus Award and Stuart Schlesinger, partner of Julien & Schlesinger will be presented with the John Marshall Harlan Award. Special student tickets will be available at $50 per person. All students who are interested may serve on the Dinner Dance Committee. They should contact Steve Johansen, Director of Alumni Affairs, at extension 808.

In addition to social events, the Alumni Association sponsors two or more P.L.E.A. (Practical Legal Education for Attorneys) programs during the academic year. Recent topics have included medical malpractice, estates, wills and trusts, and criminal law. Students are welcome to attend. Notices will be posted in key locations throughout the school.

Dominic Esposito '95, president of the S.B.A., is a student representative of the Alumni Association Board of Directors and will be an important link between the students and the alumni/ae of New York Law School.
**Commentary**

**Equalize**

Continued from page 4

The "community control" argument supports the notion that the community has the right to decide what education should cost and how much money to spend on it. There is also an inference in the community control argument that certain communities are spending more money to provide a good education because they are more affluent whereas poor communities do not value education as much, otherwise they would spend the money. This is a fallacy; in fact, the rate of taxation in poor communities is typically higher than in rich communities. Because they are poor, these communities can never spend the money for a quality education based on property taxes alone.

The court noted that "the responsibility for a substantive education is squarely and completely committed to the state... delegation of any part of the educational function to school districts does not dilute that state responsibility at all." (Abbott v. Burke, 136 NJ 444, 643 A.2d 575, 1994) The Court, in repeating the holding of Serrano v. Priest (487 P.2d 1241, 96 Cal. Rptr. 601, 1971) held that a child's education should not be the function of the wealth of his/her parents or of the surrounding community in which he lives. A child's level of education should be a function of his/her innate ability and the effort he/she is willing to expend in acquiring that education.

In a society such as ours, where everyone is supposed to have an equal opportunity to succeed, the fact that your parents are unable to "buy" your education is not only a handicap, but also makes it impossible to compete in the marketplace. For those who can afford such an education, this system provides an unfair advantage in the marketplace. Some argue this is the way it has always been in America. While it's true that the system has functioned in this manner in the past, the system was inequitable.

Furthermore, society found this to be a tolerable compromise because this country was able to provide good education to children which could provide a middle class standard of living and thus enable one generation to buy an education for the next generation. This country is no longer able to provide these types of jobs. Without these jobs it is impossible to buy one's way into the marketplace. The opportunity to compete that is left is when all are afforded the real opportunity of a substantially equivalent education. Then, their respective talents can compete equitably in the marketplace.

The court in its decision noted that a "substantially equivalent education" may require more spending in poorer neighborhoods than in more affluent neighborhoods. The court stated "their situation in society is one of extreme disadvantage... the state must compound it by providing an inferior education... the state must provide for the special educational needs of children growing up in blighted urban areas." (Burke, 136 NJ at 444, 643 A.2d 575, 1994) What the Court recognizes is that not only do these children need "equivalent" educational spending in their communities, but also as children of poor and poorly educated parents, these children begin school with an educational disadvantage which requires even more extensive educational efforts to redress and compensate for. Whereas middle-class children may be able to obtain an effective education in a class size of 20 students per teacher, to obtain the same effective education, poorer children may require class sizes as low as 10 students per teacher.

Although I believe that this decision is the right one for the Court to reach, I despair over what this Court and several others have done. That is, they have deferred back to the same legislatures which have created this situation, the authority and the responsibility to correct this system themselves. The NJ Court, in particular, has seen 20 years go by since it first found the system unconstitutional in Robinson v. Cahill (287 A.2d 187, 118 N.J. Super. 223, 1972). Yet, here they are in 1994 going through the motions again. Meanwhile, another generation or two have gone through this educational system and have in effect not benefited from the court's decision. This and many other state decisions look too much like Brown v. Board of Education II (349 U.S. 294, 75 S. Court. 253), where the U.S. Supreme Court left the remedy up to the same state actors who had created the violation in the first place. The court required that a remedy be instituted with all "deliberate speed." Now, 40 years later, it is fair to say that the schools are almost as segregated as they were before Brown II. Is this the fate of these poor children? Will they hear the court pronounce that there is a problem, but look back in forty years to find that not much has changed? Remember, as far as NJ is concerned, the Cahill decision is already half-way to it's fortieth anniversary. It is time the courts learn from Brown II and Serrano and Cahill that the legislature is no longer able to protect the interests of those least influential in our society.

It seems that only in the area of school litigation are courts willing to find a violation requiring a remedy, yet, at the same time, decline to impose the required remedy.

**Career Services Welcomes the Entering Class**

By Deborah Howard, Esq.

The Office of Career Services would like to welcome the members of the 1994 entering class. We wish you the best for your next three (or four years for evening students) years here with us. Before you become too absorbed in your class work, we wanted to take this chance to introduce ourselves and answer some questions you have.

What Kinds of Services Do You Offer?

Our services range from individual career counseling and providing assistance with resume and cover letter drafting to presenting educational workshops and panels. Last year, we offered 26 panels and programs for students (see list below). We initiated a new program, the Step-by-Step Job Search Skills Series, in which we presented a series of workshops (on self-assessment, resume and cover letter writing, networking, interviewing, and using the materials in our Resource Room) to teach students the necessary skills for a successful job search.

This year, we are pleased to introduce a new program, the Faculty Career Planning Luncheon Series. This Series will consist of lunches with individual faculty members who will talk with students about their areas of expertise and experience. We urge you to take advantage of all the opportunities we provide for you to learn about job search skills and various legal practice areas.

Some of the activities we conduct are not immediately visible to students. We make on-site visits to employers in the New York area to develop relationships and promote our students and alumni. We also meet regularly with alumni inside and outside of New York City. We initiate innumerable telephone calls to employers to encourage their participation in our recruitment programs and send numerous mailings to employers to solicit job listings.

In addition to our direct services, we have many valuable resources available in our Resource Room. Among those, is the Mentor/Network Program. This Program enables students to get in touch with a NYLS alumnus who can give them job search pointers and information about practice areas. First year students can start using the Mentor/Network Program as soon as they like and we urge you to do so.

What Is the Most Important Thing for Me to Do Now?

Many new law students concerned about employment after graduation want to know what they should be doing now. Each of you should think about why you came to law school and what your interests are for after graduation. Then, learn as much as you can about the practice area or type of position you think you are interested in as well as other opportunities. Do not narrow your options and take time to learn about all the opportunities available to you. A good way to do this is to take advantage of the various educational programs we present throughout the year.

In November, we will present a Career Services Orientation for all first year students and will give you more information about how to start your summer job search. In the meantime, be sure to read the Counselor to find out about our programs and panels.

Where do NYLS Graduates Work?

NYLS graduates from the Class of 1993 are employed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employment Category</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private Practice</td>
<td>50.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-employed</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-10 attorneys</td>
<td>19.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-25 attorneys</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-50 attorneys</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51-100 attorneys</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>101-250 attorneys</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>251-500 attorneys</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 500 Attorneys</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Continued on page 14

SEPTEMBER 1994
ATTENTION FIRST - YEAR STUDENTS

REGISTER FOR BAR/BRI WITH

NO $ DOWN

AND RECEIVE:

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NYLS' 102nd Commencement

Lori Bukoff, Commencement Speaker

NYLS Graduates

A Thankful Trio!

SEPTEMBER 1994
NYLS' 102nd Commencement

Keynote Speaker, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani

Setting Up for the Ceremony

Faculty and Staff

SEPTEMBER 1994
An Ombudsman investigates reported complaints (from students or consumers), reports findings, and helps to achieve equitable settlements. The Reporter’s column “Sound Off To The Ombudsman” is presented for entertainment purposes only.

Ombudsman:
The library staff is always hounding us to limit our printing of LEXIS and WESTLAW documents to only those documents that are unavailable by any other means; yet, law review printed the cases for their write-on competition on WESTLAW, instead of photocopying the cases from the reporters (like the rest of us proletariats are required). Why should law review have privileges that the majority of us don’t have? After all, we’re paying the same tuition.

Signed, One of the Masses

Dear Endangered Species:
Of course those people on the 8th floor print out on LEXIS and WESTLAW with impunity. They’re privileged. You could do the same if you spent less time writing and questioning mundane things and a little more time studying.

Ombudsman:
Why are there so many bald men in NYLS? They say hair makes a man and by the looks of it, that doesn’t add up to many men here at NYLS. There is a 3rd year who thinks he is hot, but his baldness makes me say “not.” Can we get the admission committee to exclude bald guys?

Signed, “I’m not only the president, I’m also a client”

Dear Telly Savalas,
Sounds like you need a new pair of sunglasses. Your obsession with hairlessness seems to be extreme. This is perhaps a result of your own receding hairline. A few suggestions: why not try Rogaine, Hair Club For Men, etc. As for excluding bald men from NYLS - what a brilliant idea! It’s not like NYLS has enough problems recruiting as it is. Get a life and stop focusing on other people’s hairlines.

Ombudsman:
Why has Career Services chosen to have summer hours from 9am to 5pm Monday through Friday? I realize they must think it’s pretty convenient for most students since they hadn’t placed very many of us in gainful summer employment. Could you please tell them to consider those of us who found jobs in spite of what they do on the 5th floor?

Signed, Why do they lock Career Services anyway?

Dear Bright Eyes,
Why do you think Career Services is going to help you to get a job anyway? If they were open only 15 minutes a day it wouldn’t make a bit of difference. Here’s the only thing they will tell you anyway, even if you make it in during those convenient hours - Network! Network! Network! In other words, don’t bother with Career Services, instead you should be bugging the crap out of all your friends, family, former employers, complete strangers, etc. Get off your butt and start knocking on the doors.

Ombudsman:
Why did Dean “I do as I please” Wellington select his own graduation speaker when there were 4 students selected by the graduating students? Does he feel he is all powerful?

Signed, I hated his choice also

Dear “I don’t get out enough,”
Who cares? Like anyone listens to the speakers, except for you? Worry about something else, like getting a job or making loan payments. Secondly, what do you expect from NYLS? A say in something? Please! An election was held, and the Dean made the choice for us. Who are you to have a say anyway? NYLS employs only the finest decision-making professionals like the art critic who picks the cafeteria artwork and the culinary master who prepares the delicious, nutritious and reasonably priced cafeteria food.

The Ombudsman invites all comments, “beefs” or questions for publication in this column. Letters will be selected, published and addressed as the editor sees fit. Send all submissions to the Ombudsman, c/o of the New York Law School Reporter, 57 Worth Street, NY, 10013, or drop off your submission at the Reporter office located in the student center -- the basement of the “C” building.

Why Are We Here?

Continued from page 5

those will remain at the top of the law school class. It is very helpful to graduate in the top 10%. Many employers look for resumes which list Law Review, or “top X%” (This is still no guarantee of a job after graduation). If you make it, congratulations. However, 90% of us must examine other options to make ourselves more attractive to potential employers.

Moot Court
What if a student is not in the top 10%? The first option for most is to compete in the Moot Court competition. This is done by entering the Froessel Competition. Those who advance in the competition are eligible for the NYLS Moot Court. Even those Froessel competitors who do not advance are eligible to advance through the ABA Client Counseling Competition or the ABA Negotiating Competition.

Building a Great Resume
 Those students who do not make the top of the class or Moot Court must continue to look at other options. The main reason that a high class rank and Moot Court honors are important is that these credentials jump out at a potential employer. A student is looking through many applications. There are other strategies.

Student Internships
A useful strategy is to work as a student intern. Working as a student intern allows a student to get into anfirm or agency. Once in the workplace, an intern has the opportunity to demonstrate abilities and skills which may not be documented on a resume. Many student interns elicit job offers which might never have been advertised. It is natural for an employer to look to fill jobs from within the organization. For more information, contact the Lawyering Skills Center (1st Floor of “B” Building). Take the Civil Law Clinic or Trial Advocacy
The Civil Law Clinic gives a student the opportunity to build a legal resume while accumulating credit. Students work on real cases under the direction of a professor. A similar strategy is to work as a volunteer. Almost all of the Bar Associations (The American Bar Association, the National Bar Association, New York State Bar, New York County Bar, New York City) operate volunteer programs. Usually these programs require fewer hours than a formal internship or externship program. The Office of Career Services at NYLS (5th Floor of “B” Building) will probably have more information, as do the bar associations.

Become a Member of the Board
Most non-profit, charitable organizations are managed by a board of trustees or a board of directors. These boards are always looking for members who will dutifully fulfill the responsibilities of service. The organizations are also looking for volunteers to provide client services. Like internships and volunteer activity, working with a charitable organization gives the student a chance to build a network and enhance a resume. A few hours’ investment pays off for savvy students.

Join a Student Organization
Student organizations also offer a chance to network and learn specialized skills. For example, students who work on the Reporter learn several different word processing programs, desktop publishing and may generally acquire a higher proficiency with computers. Students service advertisers, sell advertising to new clients, work on writing and sometimes get to write horrible puns for headlines. New York Law School has over 25 student organizations. Chances are that one will be of interest. Interested students may contact organizations in their offices in the basement of “C” Building.

Be a Nice Person
Law school is a pressure cooker. Learn to deal with the pressure. Treat your fellow students and the staff at NYLS with kindness and respect. Three years from now, will you be remembered only as an asshole? The long wait for assistance with registration, financial aid or accounting is tiring. Everyone has something better to do. Students tend to get very “bitchy” at exam time and when forced to wait. Think about the effect on the poor person on the other side of the desk. Almost every “customer” is in a hurry, demands immediate gratification, and has a problem. Sort of like a high class restaurant, but no tips! The people who take care of the registration, financial aid, accounting, building services or security are among the lowest paid at NYLS. They take care of problems. They protect students’ property and persons. They clean up the mess. They also get the most grief from students. Have some respect.

If you can, have fun. After all, if I made it, almost anyone can make it.

Mike Wood is a former Editor-in-Chief of the Reporter. He had a job at graduation.
The Froessel fact pattern will be available on August 9th. Participants have approximately 4 weeks to write the brief. This will allow students as much time as possible to write their briefs and to prevent interference with classes or other co- or extra-curricular activities. This large amount of time is designed to encourage the best students to compete and to enhance the level of competition.

During the Froessel, all competitors will argue at least three times; the winners will argue seven times. Additionally, Moot Court will host its Second Annual Froessel Moot Court Competition Workshop to help everybody with their writing and oral-argument skills. We are determined to help all the competitors with their advocacy before the competition begins.

Please register for the Froessel ASAP. Pick a teammate now or by the first week of classes. If you cannot find a teammate, Moot Court will find one for you. Your teammate is important. Although the oral scores are determined individually, brief scores are assigned to each team, and the briefs carry considerable weight in scoring the rounds.

DATES FOR THE 1994 CHARLES W. FROESSEL MOOT COURT COMPETITION

FACT PATTERN AVAILABLE: August 9th.
FROESSEL WORKSHOP: August 28th.
CLARIFICATIONS DUE: August 29th.
BRIEFS DUE: September 8th at 9:00 p.m.
LATE BRIEFS DUE: September 9th at 3:00 p.m.
(If you submit your brief after September 8 at 9:00 p.m. you will lose 5 points; if you submit your brief after September 9 at 3:00 p.m. you will be disqualified.)
PRELIMINARY ROUNDS: Friday, September 16th.
Saturday, September 17th.
Sunday, September 18th.
Monday, September 19th.
Tuesday, September 20th.
Wednesday, September 21st.
Thursday, September 22nd.
Friday, September 23rd.
Saturday, September 24th.
Sunday, September 25th.
Monday, September 26th.

1993-1994 NYLS Moot Court students accomplished the following in intermural competition around the country:
1993 - University of Cincinnati Products Liability Moot Court Competition: National Best Brief Award.
1994 - Vanderbilt University First Amendment Moot Court Competition: National Best Petitioner's Brief and National Semi-finalist (3rd in the U.S.).
1993 - Widener University Corporation Law Moot Court Competition: National Best Brief Award.
1994 - St. John’s University Bankruptcy Law Moot Court Competition: National Best Oralist Award. (In 1993, NYLS was 2nd overall in the U.S.)
1993 - San Diego Criminal Procedure Moot Court Competition: National Semi-finalist. (In 1992, NYLS was also the National Semi-finalist and won the National Best Oralist Award. In 1991, NYLS won National Best Brief.)
1994 - Brooklyn Law School Evidence Moot Court Competition: National Semi-finalist (3rd in the U.S.). (In 1993, NYLS was the National Quarter-finalist.)
1993 - The National Moot Court Competition: Regional Semi-finalist (3rd in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut). (In 1992, NYLS was the Regional Champion and National Semi-finalist (3rd of 154 schools fielding 230 teams). In 1991, NYLS was the Regional Finalist (2nd place)).
1994 - Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition: Regional 3rd Best Memorial Award and “Honorable Mention for Oral Advocacy.” (In 1992 NYLS was 3rd in the county of 140+ schools and 8th worldwide of 280+ schools. In 1989, NYLS was 1st in the county and 3rd in the world.)
1994 - American University First Amendment Moot Court Competition: National Best Brief Award.
1993 - Pace University Environmental Law Moot Court Competition: “Honored Orals” in each of the three preliminary rounds.
1994 - Fordham University Securities Law Moot Court Competition: National Octo-finalist and National Quarter-finalist. (NYLS entered two teams, with the teams also ranking, respectively, National 3rd Best Brief and National 2nd Best Oralist.)
Dear Editor,

Although the study of law is exciting and rewarding, it can also be a nerve wracking and stressful experience. I'm sure you've all read a few of those law-school survival guides that deal with the "nuts-and-bolts" issues of law school, issues like how to brief cases, how to prepare outlines, how to write exams and other similar garbage. However, precious little information is available to advise you on how to cope with the everyday stresses of dealing with the law-school community (i.e. the people you'll be stuck with for the next three or four years). After years of painstaking research, I have gathered all of the crucial information you'll need about how to cope with these everyday stresses. What follows is not merely my opinion but the collective knowledge of tens-of-thousands of NYLS students and alumni, knowledge that I carefully compiled and objectively interpreted with the help of the staff of the NYU Law Review.

Many students are anxious to make a good impression on their professors but are worried about how they'll fare under the rigors of the Socratic method. Don't let the professors' superior intellect and Harvard degrees intimidate you. With the exception of a handful of professors, whose inferiority complex compels them to flaunt their disturbed egos, the professors at NYLS are dedicated, helpful, accessible, and respectful toward the students. And while it's fashionable among some students to blame their professors when they don't get a good grade or when they don't learn, just remember that it's up to you to read the material and learn; and the professors are only there to assist you in the learning process. In other words, don't expect any of your professors to give you a straight answer. After all, they're Lawyers!

Even if you are assigned one of the less dedicated professors, keep in mind that during the first year, all grading is anonymous. This means that the C-minus research assistant who's being paid minimum-wage to grade your exam doesn't know the identity of the bar where your professor is washing down compliments of buffalo wings with shots of kamikazes. Notwithstanding the scandal surrounding the breach of anonymity that occurred last year, when a list of exam numbers was missing (this is actually true, a copy of the list was missing) students are free to voice their opinions, debate the finer points of law, spew obscenities, or otherwise make complete idiots of themselves without fear of retaliation by their professors. The sole exception to the anonymous grading policy is legal writing, which is graded by lottery!

The next cause of stress for the twenty percent of you that achieve a passing grade the first year is registering for second-year classes. Don't be misled by all those rumors about the poor attitude of the employees of the Registrar's Office. They only look surly and disinterested. Sure they may look at you as if you've just beamed down from a Zorkian starship with a live dillithium grenade strapped to your chest and an axaial bush growing from the top of your head, but don't be alarmed. It's nothing personal. It's simply the Registrar's Standard Look. All of us have been subjected to this look at one time or another. This look coincides with the Registrar's Standard Answers which are: "Stick it in the box" (which gets the same results as throwing it in the trash); "Look on the rack" (Hey, is that the missing list of exam numbers?); or "Try again tomorrow" (Elvis isn't here right now). Meanwhile, they're dispensing that "Registrar's Standard Look," which expresses what they really want to say, which is "Go away, my coffee's getting cold." I can't say what the administrators who run the Registrar's Office are like because none of the 75,000 survey respondents has met any of them. They're hidden away somewhere like the Wizard of Oz, Judy Garland's dead and no one else knows where the witch's broom is.

Similarly, the Finance Office employees seem equally disinclined to answer any but the most routine of questions. Of course, when they do give you an answer it's wrong more often than not. Furthermore, the inner circle of the Finance Office is even harder to penetrate than that of the Wizard's, er, I mean Registrar's. Madalyn Murray O'Hair and Ali Agca have a better chance of getting an audience with the Pope than you or I have of speaking to someone in charge at the Finance Office.

Accept another member of the law-school community with which you'll deal regularly is Career Services. Career Services is very valuable if you're ranked in the top ten percent of your class. Everyone else can please just quietly vanish beneath the Bimini Road. Basically, they'll just point the rest of us to a wall of books, binders, and outdated career services literature, remind us of their business of finding jobs forjournal members. Career Services says that "We don't find you a job, we give you the skills so you can find one yourself." Actually, I don't know for sure if anyone at Career Services has ever said this because I was too busy researching this article to talk to any of them. I was given this quote from an informant within the SBA, whose name I am not at liberty to divulge. This is known as "hearsay" and is considered unreliable for some reason that no one really understands. (For an explanation of the 197,000 exceptions to the hearsay rule, see the Federal Rules of Evidence).

Security is another part of the law-school experience that is a daily source of stress. You must show your NYLS ID card, passport, birth certificate, and a major credit card every time you move from one classroom to another. Actually, this isn't true, although you'd think it was by the way everyone complains about NYLS security. Personally, I don't understand all the whining about security. Is it really that difficult for students to show their IDs? If displaying an ID is too hard for you, maybe you should consider a career that is less demanding than a legal career. I hear that passing the bar is even more difficult than displaying an ID!

Which finally brings me to the largest source of stress at NYLS, your classmates. Ninety-nine percent of the 750,000 survey respondents replied with a resounding "YES!" when asked, "Are NYLS students the biggest bunch of crybabies on the face of this planet?" And I'm really sick and tired of listening to you crying that "This exam was too hard," or "This professor requires too much work." Geez, my one-year old doesn't cry as much as some of you. This isn't "Dorrian's Red Hand" or "Stan's" or wherever it is you brats hang out; this is LAW SCHOOL. It's supposed to be a lot of work. It's supposed to be a challenge. If it were easy, every money-hungry, two-bit huckster would become a lawyer and poison our noble profession's esteemable reputation by advertising on patch-work covers and late-night television.

Okay, I'll admit that the last two paragraphs were my opinion. I'll even admit that I made up this entire article. Basically, you just wasted your time posting this and I'm giving you a bunch of nonsense. Better get used to it, you'll be doing it the rest of your professional life.

Ron Gregorio '95

Yeah, nobody likes a whiner!!! — Ed

SEPTEMBER 1994

LAUGH PARADE

BY BUNNY HOEST AND JOHN REINER

"If I have to swear to tell the truth, shouldn't you swear to believe me?"

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Summer 1994: What A Long Strange Journey It’s Been...

By Timothy Wedeen ’95

Summer 1994 may well go down as one of the most, uh, eventful, in recent memory. The final exams were over by the middle of May, and except for those of us lucky enough to have to take summer classes, NYLS was a distant memory. A lot happened over these past few months: The New York Rangers won their first Stanley Cup since Cardozo was alive; O.J. Simpson interrupted a Knicks-Rockets game with his highway hijinx, on his way to surrender to the cops for allegedly killing his ex-wife; the Knicks blew it (again); the President of the United States is being sued for his “hands-on” approach; Curt Cobain of Nirvana blew his head off, guaranteeing him “Jim Morrison of the 1990s” status; “Universal Coverage” isn’t 95%; it’s 95% by 1999; the Yankees were in first place throughout August; and, for a brief moment, America caught up with the rest of the world and soccer was the hottest sport.

Definitely the most memorable event for any New Yorker was trying to watch the Knicks-Rockets game, and having the coverage interrupted with images of O.J. Simpson in his white Bronco rolling down the highway with 10 LAPD patrol cars right behind him. Of everything that happened this year, that few hours will be the most definitive of 1994. After the Knicks were finally and mercifully trumped by the Rockets, O.J. Simpson in full-paint, full-neckpiece, net work gave gavel to gavel coverage of the preliminary hearings, from every frivolous motion, to every pointless voir-dire. A full week of this stuff, and all that happened was he pled not guilty, and a trial date was set. The networks had so many lawyers floating around with different “opinions” that I’m surprised no postings were made at NYLS for jobs. Wouldn’t a headline like “Washed up football player, minor actor, and pitcherman O.J. Simpson indicted for double homicide, see you September 20th” have sufficed?

Next up was Bill Clinton, President of the United States, defendant, versus Paula Jones, dumpy looking, barely credible, Republican backed, former employee, plaintiff. Not to downplay a serious problem like sexual harassment, but isn’t being shot down by a woman of her looks and charm, and everyone finding out about it enough punishment? Did he do it? Maybe. Does it matter, well, sort of. No woman should have to put up with that type of crap, period. A man using his position of power to demand sexual favors from a woman is disgraceful, demeaning to women, and one of lowest forms of behavior men are capable of. The punishment should be there, and a big fat punitive damages award is definitely in order.

On the other hand, look at the facts. He’s the President, he’s a Democrat. She’s a former employee, who waited years to raise this claim. She says she was afraid of retribution while he was Governor. So wait until he’s in a position of lesser power, like, say the Presidency? Who’s backing him? Republicans by chance? Furthermore, do we import a plan from Japan? Who’s backing us? What next? Maybe we can import a plan from Japan, but I didn’t get much wear out of it. Ditto for the U.S. team shirt I bought. Anyone interested in these items, cheap, contact me at the Reporter Office, basement of C-build.

While we’re on the subject of sports, how about those Yankees? At the time of writing, they were in first place and going strong. The only thing standing in the way is the baseball strike. There’s always next season...

Finally, we have the subject of “Universal” Health Care. I always imagined it to mean coverage for every person in the United States. Now it means covering 95% of the people by the end of the decade. How is it that every single Western country in the world can pull this off and we can’t? Maybe we can import a plan from Japan or Germany, they seem to be able to do things pretty well over there. Only time will tell, but don’t worry about that 5%, which translates to 12,500,000 people, or the population of every state between Delaware and Florida, they’re probably Rockies fans anyway! Maybe if Howard Stern gets back into the race and becomes governor he can figure this one out...No one else seems to be able to.
be held on August 28, 1994. Furthermore, Lexis and Westlaw will offer classes focused toward researching the Froessel Moot Court problem.

5. THE FROESSEL IS FAIR
Each competitor will argue three times during the preliminary rounds. The individual competitor’s lowest scoring round will be dropped from the overall score. Additionally, most of the research needed to write the brief will be provided in the fact pattern.

6. ARGUE BEFORE DISTINGUISHED ATTORNEYS AND JUDGES
Whether or not you plan to become a litigator, the Froessel is your chance to argue before accomplished attorneys and judges. In last year’s Froessel, for example, approximately 70 sitting judges participated in the advanced rounds.

7. WINNERS GET PRIZES
Money, plaques, and gifts from Westlaw and Lexis.

8. MOOT COURT ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP
Up to 36 competitors will be invited to join the New York Law School Moot Court Association. And membership does have its privileges.

9. MOOT COURT MEMBERS GET TO TRAVEL
Get some of that tuition money back! Many Moot Court Association members compete outside New York City, and the Law School pays all reasonable expenses.

Where Do We Draw the Line?

Commentary by Iris Springer ’96

It was a hot summer day in June and I found myself watching the news trying to figure out who Nicole Simpson was. I finally realized that she was O.J. Simpson’s wife and that she had been murdered. The events that followed her death were presented to the public by a distasteful display of media coverage.

The focus was turned immediately towards O.J. Simpson. I kept trying to put in perspective that Nicole Simpson and the almost forgotten Ronald Goldman, were both brutally slain. But how could I remember the victims when the media was conducting a trial on O.J. Simpson before, during, and after he was arrested? I was immediately off balance because this man was being tried and convicted by the media even before he was officially arrested or convicted by a court of law for 2 counts of murder.

From the point where the Los Angeles Police confiscated Mr. Simpson’s property to the so-called “highway chase” at 30 mph, I began to hope that O.J. did in fact find a way out of this tragedy.

Quickly, the media managed to obtain 911 tapes of O.J. and his former wife Nicole in a heated argument despite the fact that you were only able to clearly hear O.J. screaming and yelling. Yes, he pleaded nolo contendere to charges against him for one domestic dispute but this tape was not part of that plea and it should not have been made public when a Grand Jury had not even been chosen. How does a person receive a fair trial around here?

And what about the allegations of the bloody ski mask found at the scene?; lies; lies, and more lies being spread nationwide thanks to the media. The dramatic car chase would have been tragic if this man, having lost his wife and being accused of killing her, had decided to kill himself. Would the media have stopped just in time for the public to witness O.J. blow his brains out? It doesn’t seem likely because they made sure to broadcast his son running and pleading for his father to give himself up. They continued to broadcast O.J.’s lifetime friend A.C. desperately trying to keep the situation under control. There were continuous flashes from O.J.’s house, to Nicole’s house, back to O.J.’s house and so on, interviewing “would be” supporters who looked to me like people simply seeking a chance to be on television.

The circus grew larger as the preliminary hearings were broadcast by the networks. I have never witnessed a hearing on anything other than Court TV. Okay, maybe a little CNN, but when have you ever seen every major network interrupt their regularly scheduled programming for an entire week and 1/2 of boring court room drama?

The icing on the cake for me had to be when the networks reported that hair of African-American origin was found at the scene of the crime. This is ludicrous, what in the world is hair of African-American origin? All African-Americans do not have the same hair texture. I have never heard any news reports that speculated on hair found at the scene of a crime to be of Caucasian, Asian, Hispanic, etc. nature or origin.

Even if O.J. is innocent, his name and reputation has been destroyed by the media. This tragedy has been so exploited that the real victims, Nicole Simpson and Ronald Goldman, have been forgotten. The L.A. Police and the District Attorney are so determined to convict O.J., that other possibilities are being completely and purposely ignored.

Let us think for a second; if you were a well known celebrity and you wanted to kill your wife, would you buy a knife from a well-known cutlery store? Would you leave a glove at the crime scene and then go back home only to know the right application process and who to contact. For example, there are job opportunities at state agencies that are never posted in the job binder because many agencies take people off an eligible list that is compiled by the Department of Civil Service. Similarly, an application process exists for jobs at Legal Aid.

Why can’t Career Services make these inquiries for us to find out and inform students of these opportunities? Instead, they seem as if they would rather prepare seminars on the ever useful art of networking! The information is out there and is readily available. Career Services needs new direction and should step up to the task for which it was created and exists.

SEPTEMBER 1994
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