A Conflict of Interest

WE'RE BACK!

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NEWS BRIEFS

Dean Search in Progress

The search for a new dean continues to move ahead. The Search Committee, which includes faculty members and members of the Board of Trustees, has conducted a nationwide outreach and will shortly begin to meet with prospective candidates. It is expected that a final candidate will be identified by the end of the year and will assume duties for the 2000-01 academic year.

Justice Thomas Returns

The Hon. Clarence Thomas of the United States Supreme Court will make a repeat appearance at NYLS next March to preside once again over the final round of the Wagner Moot Court Competition. Justice Thomas was an enthusiastic participant in the proceedings last March.

Prof. Benson Honored

The American Immigration Lawyers Association during its annual conference on June 12 in Seattle presented Prof. Leni Benson with the 1999 Elmer Fried Excellence in Teaching Award. Established in 1996, the award recognizes persons who are outstanding teachers and who have made significant contributions to immigration and nationality law, inspiring students to enter that field.

Prof. Benson, the first woman to win the award, teaches a survey course on Immigration Law, Federal Civil Procedure and Administrative Law. Together with Adjunct Prof. Frances C. Berger, she developed an advanced immigration seminar combined with externship placements for NYLS students.

CityLaw Breakfasts a Go

The Center for New York City Law will begin its fall CityLaw Breakfast Series with Bernard H. Mendik '58, real estate developer and member of the NYLS Board of Trustees, Mendik will discuss "Reminiscences, Real Estate and New York Law School" on Friday September 17, 1999 at 8:30 am in the Stiefel Room. Many other prominent New Yorkers are scheduled to speak on issues concerning NYC. For more information, call (212) 431-2115 or visit www.nycitylaw.edu.

New Professors at NYLS

Associate Prof. Sadiq Reza joined the NYLS faculty to teach Criminal Procedure (Investigation) this fall and first-year Criminal Law in spring 2000. Prof. Reza was a clerk for Judge Stanley A. Weigel, US District Court, and a staff attorney for the Federal Public Defender for the District of Columbia. He has also worked for the American Muslim Council and the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. Prof. Reza, who was most recently an associate at Arnold & Porter, Washington, D.C., received his JD from Harvard University.

Pamela Champine will join the NYLS faculty in spring 2000 as an associate professor teaching Wills, Trusts, and Future Interests. Her previous experience includes positions at Hughes Hubbard & Reed, Los Angeles, and Fishman & Merrick, Chicago. She taught legal writing at Brooklyn Law School. She has also worked as a principal court attorney of the NYS Surrogate Court. Prof. Champine received her JD from Northwestern University and LLM in Taxation from New York University.

Michael H. Gottesman joins NYLS as a visiting professor this academic year. Students in his Labor Relations Law and Torts classes will benefit from his four decades of practice and academic experience. He is a professor of law at Georgetown University Law Center.
NYLS Students Visit Central America

Eddie Westfield
Editor-in-Chief

This summer, NYLS students Juan Jaramillo and Alcides Casares (both 3Ls), traveled to León, Nicaragua for three weeks to research conflict resolution in the aftermath of revolution and civil war. They interviewed a wide variety of local officials and community leaders, compiling information about the conflict resolution services offered by institutions such as the mayor’s office, the police department, the labor ministry, and community service organizations.

The project was sponsored by the “NYLS-UNAN Exchange Program for the Study and Resolution of Conflict in Nicaragua,” a joint project of NYLS and the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Nicaragua (UNAN). Designed and administered by Prof. Timothy Lytton in conjunction with professors at UNAN, 1998-99 marked the first year of the Exchange Program. All activities are scheduled to take place at UNAN and at NYLS.

The Exchange Program receives administrative and technical support from the Proyecto de Mediación en Nicaragua (Mediation in Nicaragua Project). The Proyecto, a non-profit American nation, which uses fire to an enduring and just peace will take more than just legal documents,” stated Prof. Lytton. “This program comes from the United States Information Agency (USIA).

NYLS Students Visit Central America

Alcides Casares expanded

April 2000

Student Bar Association

1999-2000 Executive Board

Danielle Butler
President

Dawn Felco
Vice President—Day

Lori Quinn
Vice President—Evening

Joe Tornberg
Attorney General

Darrin Ocasio
Treasurer

For more information, contact the Student Bar Association at ext. 4203.

If it matters to NYLS, it's in the L!
Building the Bandwagon

If no one has done so already, I would like to extend a welcome to all my fellow students, new and old. I have a feeling that this turn-of-the-millennium academic year will prove to be an exiting time for NYLS. For one, the powers that be will be deciding on who will lead this School into the next decade. We at the L also have big plans this year.

I do hope you are enjoying this publication in your hands. Our goal, here at the L, is to provide you with the latest news, views and information of concern to the NYLS Community. However, publishing this newspaper is no small feat.

From organizing a staff, to handing out news assignments, to researching and covering recent and current events, to interviewing key figures, to laying out the publication, to contracting with a printer, to distributing throughout the school, and repeating this process each month during the school year, we’re pretty busy. The right amounts of manpower, funding, and administration is necessary produce a reputable student publication. This is how student law journals at NYLS and other law school maintain a certain level of quality.

The L is no different. An active and respected student news publication is important to the health and reputation of the Law School and its constituents.

Though we at the L are a small group of students committed to churning out this publication, we strive to represent the entire NYLS Community, all along maintaining a certain standard of quality and professionalism.

We invite you to show your support, by contributing to the L and by letting this School, through its administration and through each other, know that you want to see the L flourish.

I would like to thank Susan, Mark and Dave for joining me in this endeavor. I also wish to thank the Offices of Student Life and Development and Public Affairs for their continued support. Lastly, I’d like to thank all the members of the NYLS Community who are reading this right now, without whom our efforts are moot.

The L meets every Thursday while classes are in session at 1:00 pm in room L2 located in the lower level of the Student Center. All are welcome to attend.

ATTENTION ALL STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The L wants to know what has been going on in your organization. Please send your article on disk (Word or WP) along with a hard copy to Room L2 in the student center (You may leave it in the box outside), or simply e-mail it to L@nyls.edu. Be sure to include your name, your position within the organization, phone number, and e-mail address so we can contact you if necessary. Please keep your article to about 50 to 100 words. Thank you, —ed.

Deadline for the October Issue: Sept. 23
Your Social (In)Security Number

The Key to Unlocking Your Private Information

Susan L. Harper
Managing Editor

Last May, I choose not to vote in the NYLS Student Bar Association elections. While at the ballot table, a student representative asked me for my social security number (or at least the last four digits) in order to vote. When I asked why and what would be done with the list of names and student SSNs, I did not receive an answer. Being that this procedure was not in my best interest, I forewent voting as a cautionary measure.

We must face reality. The world is "wired" and virtually all commercial and government institutions have our most private information stored on computer databases. The key to unlocking this information is our Social Security Number (SSN) and it seems like no matter where you go everyone everybody wants it.

At NYLS alone, I have been asked for my SSN for admission and financial aid applications, as my password to log onto the NYLS computer network, for SBA elections, to write on checks when paying tuition, when filling out forms for the registrar and when requesting my "confidential" exam number. Outside of school, my social security number (or at least the last four digits) in order to vote. Upon requesting their credit report, they found 33 delinquent fraud accounts listed in their name. Upon requesting their credit report, they found 33 delinquent fraud accounts listed in their name.

"Typically," says Beth Givens of the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse, "It takes six months to two years to restore someone's identity. It is rare identity theft cases are prosecuted."

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With our world being wired, each of us must take precautions to guard our most private information. Just as you would not give someone your PIN number to your bank account, it is not in your best interest to give out your SSN indiscriminately. I urge the SBA to amend their election procedures and use a different identification process for next year's elections.
In a Class of Its Own

Summer School of Hard Knocks

How I Survived the Third Semester

Eddie Westfield
Editor-in-Chief

Ah... Summertime. Nothing is better than taking some time to rest and relax after an exhausting first year experience. Yeah, right! Before the spring semester is halfway through, most students know what they are doing that summer. Be it an internship, externship, research assistant position, or a summer associate position for those who are out of here in a year, we all find ways to fill the gaps between academic years.

Those who know me know I am not very career oriented, but that my main goal is to make money as soon as possible. In order to switch to part-time in my third year and work full time, I had to take at least six credits over a summer session to fulfill my residency requirements. I decided to take seven.

Registration for summer school took place the same time as registration for the next academic year. The session lasted seven weeks. Classes began May 1 and included summer associate positions and other opportunities. The first class was in Wills and Trusts, which I chose to take because I have a friend in the class. Classes met Monday through Thursday from 6 p.m. until 9 or 9:30 p.m. About 200 students enrolled in classes offered during the 1999 summer session.

I found summer school to be laid back (by 'laid back' I do not mean 'easy'). Almost everybody enrolled held down some permanent or temporary full-time job during the day. My classes had a good number of evening students, I assumed this routine was probably not very much different from what they were used to. Dave, an evening student in my Wills class, pointed out to me that summer classes actually caused a definite shift in rhythm to the usual evening routine. Summer Session was a very relaxed, albeit surreal, experience.

Professors in my summer session courses were very friendly. Perhaps it had something to do with class sizes of only 25 to 40 students. Instructors were able to get more "one-on-ones" going with students while in class. It was a nice change from the more mechanical and monolithic Socratic Method that I was first exposed to here at NYLS. Others may have a different view on their summer professors. From where I sat, the profs were more than adequate in their abilities.

The crowds were a good mix of day and evening students. There were students finishing their first year as well as those with a few notches under their belt. Most students realized that different rules apply to summer classes. We adapted our outlook to our studies and to each other.

The Session's evening schedule allowed you to work during the day and attend classes at night. This made perfect sense, since mostly everyone is working in some capacity while they attend school in the summer if not all year round.

It was not all fun and games. Summer classes are still classes, complete with exams and all.

And they were long classes. We were not out until 9 p.m. or later. I thought sitting through a hundred minute lecture was tough. This was grueling. Yes, I had professors who were stimulating and tried to keep you in the game, but after 8:30, it was hard for anything to sink in.

Since summer classes go through a given course in half the time of a regular semester class, you must be prepared to read twice as much in a given time. Most of us just could not keep up.

There was only one day between the last scheduled class and exams, and there we only two in the exam period. There was one weekend in which to tie it all together. For me, I had exams on both nights, Wednesday and Thursday. After that first exam, there really was no time to prepare for that second exam. My advice: Take only one class with a scheduled exam.

And finally, summer classes are expensive. At $800 a semester hour, an extra student loan was in order. Nevertheless, it should pay off.

Overall, I enjoyed the summer session at NYLS. I highly recommend it for anyone wishing to speed up his or her law school experience. See you next summer.
Beyond 20 North Moore Street

Remembering our neighbor JFK Jr.

Eddie Westfield
Editor-In-Chief

All the flowers, memorials, and candles are gone. On this day, all that remains is yellow caution tape and workers refurbishing the façade of 20 North Moore Street, former home of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, Jr. and Carolyn Bessette Kennedy. It is all too surreal. To the highly imaginative mind, it would seem that these men are here to remove all traces of what was a memorial to JFK Jr.

I remember when they first announced Kennedy’s Plane was missing. That week, a fleet of news vans set up broadcast points on the corner of North Moore and Varick to bring live reports from his home.

Soon after, the crowds flocked to Tribeca. Most mourners were men and women who only knew JFK through the magic of television. They laid down flowers, candles, photographs, and other memorabilia: Ordinary citizens saying goodbye to somebody larger than life.

A lot of the media hype (for lack of a better term) surrounding Kennedy’s disappearance and death had as much to do with who his family is and what they have done as did his own identity and accomplishments. He was the three-year-old child who, at his mother’s suggestion, saluted his father’s coffin as it proceeded through the streets of Washington. Now John-John is gone too.

JFK Jr. was more than a media figure to the residents and regulars of Tribeca. He was a good neighbor. His picture hangs in the Socrates Diner on Hudson Street. The manager told me John was a regular of the establishment.

On the first Tuesday of last November, Kennedy would cast his vote right here in our Student Center. This caught the attention of more than a few students. So, in a way, this NYU alum was also member of the greater NYLS Community.

What happened to JFK Jr. was tragic. For the Kennedy and Bessette families, the grief and sorrow is real and lasting. The media will archive this tragedy in its vast library of tragedies (filed under Kennedy) and JFK Jr. may be but a footnote in history books. Yet, the people of this community will always remember their good neighbor and friend. Here’s to you, John.

NYLS Center for International Law

Symposium Series at the Association of the Bar of the City of New York 42 West 44th Street (between 5th and 6th Avenues)

Moderator
SYDNEY M. CONE, III
C.V. Starr Professor of Law
Director, Center for International Law
New York Law School

Wednesday, October 13, 1999

States’ Rights v. International Trade: The Massachusetts Burma Law

In recent years, many state and local governments have passed laws restricting trade with countries whose policies they disapprove of or deplore. One such measure, the Massachusetts “Burma Law,” restricts state purchases from companies doing business in Burma (now known as Myanmar) because of alleged human rights abuses.

After being held unconstitutional by a federal appeals court, the law is now poised for review by the Supreme Court.

The case raises important issues under federal and international law. May states and localities pass laws imposing upon foreign commerce and obligations under international trade agreements? If the case is reversed and the law upheld, what will be the implications for the World Trade Organization?

THOMAS A. BARNICO
Assistant Attorney General
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PAUL R. DUBINSKY
Associate Professor of Law
New York Law School

JOEL P. TRACHTMAN
Professor of International Law
The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University

7:00 to 9:00 pm in the Stimson Room

Monday, October 25, 1999

Multi-disciplinary Practice (MDP)

Certain lawyers have been seeking the right to form partnerships with non-lawyers such as accountants, elder-care advisors, and financial analysts. In addition, the Big Five accounting firms have been seeking the right to render legal services to the public and to acquire their own law firms. In each case, the objective is to engage in multi-disciplinary practice (MDP). Recently, the ABA issued a long-awaited report on MDP. The Symposium will discuss and analyze the issues relating to the needs of clients and the professional responsibility of legal practitioners under MDP.

ALISON CRAWLEY
Head of Professional Ethics
The Law Society of England and Wales, London

L. HAROLD LEVINSON
Professor of Law
Vanderbilt University School of Law

LUCINDA A. LOW
Partner, Miller & Chevalier
Washington, D.C.

DEBORAH H. SCHENK
Marllyn & Ronald Grossman Professor of Taxation
New York University School of Law

BERNARD WOLFMAN
Fessenden Professor of Law
Harvard University School of Law

1:30 to 5:00 pm in the Stimson Room

Admission is free, however seating is limited.

To RSVP, please call Michael Rhee at (212) 431-2865 or e-mail mrhee@nyls.edu.
The Art of Law

A Look at the NYLS Artists Show

Eddie Westfield  
Editor-in-Chief

Anyone who pays tuition to attend this School has seen him on the sixth floor of the A building in the Accounting office. His friendly face greets you when you either sign off or pick up your check. Robert Cook is not only the student accounts manager here at NYLS, he is also a talented artist.

Each summer, Cook transforms the Student Center and cafeteria at 47 Worth Street into a colorful display of the creativity and talent that flows through NYLS. The NYLS Artists’ Show runs from July 19 until September 3. Faculty members, staff, members, students, alumni, and friends connected in some way to the School (e.g. relatives of students and employees) are among the contributing artists.

The NYLS Student Center displays art throughout the year in conjunction with the Organization of Independent Artists. However, the summer Artists’ Show is entirely produced by NYLS under the auspices of Bob Cook.

“Each year we have people who continue from previous years. And new participants each year,” Cook explained. “We get a good deal of positive feedback from the NYLS Community. Everyone seems to enjoy these shows very much.

“I am always impressed with the variety of work from members of the community, many of whom are not full-time or professional artists. I am surprised by the vitality and quality of the work that’s turned in.”

Not just curator of the show, Cook is also a featured artist. “I’ve turned in a variety of work over the years,” he says. “This year, I’ve put up drawings of people that I drew from life. I had several that turned out well this year that I thought would be nice to put in the show. I try each year to have a basic theme to what I’m doing.”

Standing out in his work is Cook’s self-portrait. “Once I put in a self-portrait in the show, I got a lot of response,” he explains. “People would see it and than come up to my office and see me and make that connection. I realized that putting self-portraits in each year might seem to be egocentric, but, at the same time, it is a handy way for me to identify my work.” Cook’s work is only one of the many featured sets of paintings, photos and works in other media shown here.

Other artists whose work are on display are Seth Cohen (3L), Maria DelBagno, Robinette Dingle, Janeen Elliott-Constantino, Melissa Layla Longo (3L/e), Dominik Malidari, Eileen McCrohan ‘96, Prof. Elaine Mills, Michael Rhee, Soo-Jung Rhee, Jonathan Rosenbloom ‘97 and Angela Rose Voulgarelis.

“I don’t tell people what to submit,” says Cook. “It is understood that there is a variety of work on many different levels at this show. Those different qualities add to the fun and stimulating nature of the show.”

Robert Cook in front of his self-portrait and alter-ego "Crusty"

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Works from the NYLS Artists Show

Works of Calligraphy by Seth Cohen

"The Municipal Building" by Jonathan Rosenbloom

"Metamorphosis in a Room of My Own" by Melissa Longo

"Paper Poppies" by Prof. Elaine Mills

"The Adventures of Soo-Jung" by Michael Rhee

*All Photographs: Eddie Westfield*

Deadline for the October Issue: Sept. 23