

Winter 2007

Worth Knowing, Winter 2007

New York Law School

Up Close and Personal with... **Bob Ward**

By Daniel Rothbart



Bob Ward's good nature, technical expertise, and managerial skill have served New York Law School very well over the years. Each day he schedules audio visual setups; supervises, mentors, and trains young staff; and ensures that audio visual needs at New York Law School are provided for. But just who is this wizard-like "man behind the curtain" who accomplishes difficult and at times seemingly impossible tasks on a routine basis?

Bob Ward joined the New York Law School staff in 1991 after years as an officer of the Irving Trust Company in charge of the Graphics & Video Department. He was the first official audio visual technician at New York Law School and was hired to assist with the newly installed video equipment in the A building classrooms. The School had just begun to tape simulations of classes and needed someone to ensure equipment was working properly. In the 16 years since 1991, Bob has shepherded New York Law School from the use of simple VHS cameras and slide projectors to digital video on DVD. He also produces excellent digital video, which is optimized for live webcasting and archived streaming video.

One of Bob's most important accomplishments outside the realm of audio visual work was the production and postproduction of a weekly television show called *MEDIA REPORTER*. This program, a creation of Professor Michael Botein and the New York Law School Media Center, is the continuation of programming that Botein started on PBS over 20 years ago. *MEDIA REPORTER* features media law symposia, other law symposia, and interview-based programs that highlight New York Law School faculty. A pilot is currently in the works of a Russian-language version (*MYDIA ZURNALYST*) for Brooklyn public TV. For the past five years, *MEDIA REPORTER* has been broadcast continuously in Manhattan, Brooklyn, and the Bronx.

In 1994, Student Bar Association President Dominic Esposito and Director of Public Affairs/Lincoln Scholar Larry Starkey approached Bob Ward about producing a mock trial of John Wilkes Booth. This was the first of 12 mock trials that Ward has produced at the Law School, and another is already in the works for 2008. While the Wilkes Booth trial was a straight-forward production, subsequent trials have grown to include burlesque theatre and karaoke singing to the joy of many students and faculty. Mock trial defendants have included Harry Kendal Thaw (Stamford White murder), Aaron Burr (Hamilton duel),

Billy the Kid (murder of Sheriff Pat Garrett), and John Dillinger (murder of sixteen people). Ward has also produced the reenactment of famous speeches by Emma Goldman (directed by Professor Lenni Benson). Particularly successful mock trials have had encores, including the trials of John Wilkes Booth, Dorothy of Oz, and Eve of Eden—which was staged this year to the delight of a full house.

When asked what he most enjoys about his job, Bob replied, "Working on these programs with students and faculty has always been a pleasure, as have been the TV programs. But mostly, I look to the future, toward AV being part of the continuing challenge of connecting our faculty to our students. Each time a student watches a Professor Michael Perlin DVD on mental health law, or a Professor Joseph Marino webcast on passing the Bar, or simply a video of Professor Nadine Strossen discussing the Constitution with Antonin Scalia, I am getting to do something really important."

Bob lives in New Jersey with his wife Geraldine. He has a grown daughter, Melissa (23), a dog, and two cats.

Trivia Time

Brainteaser:

If you were running a race and passed the person in second place, what place would you be in?

Can you name the movie that contains this line?

"I'm not looking forward to jumping in after you. But like I said, I don't see a choice. I guess I'm kinda hoping you'll come back over the rail and get me off the hook here." (1997)

Art: Name the painting!

This painting by Norwegian painter, Edvard Munch, a forerunner of Expressionism, shows his fear of insanity and death.

The first employee to e-mail Karen Burke, HR, at worthknowing@nyls.edu, with correct answers to all three trivia questions will win a gift from the HR department.

Interesting Facts!

By Farrah Nagrampa

- For 47 days in 1961, Matisse's painting "Le Bateau (The Boat)" was hanging upside down in the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Apparently none of the more than 116,000 visitors seem to have noticed.
- Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history:
 Spades - King David Hearts - Charlemagne
 Clubs - Alexander, the Great Diamonds - Julius Caesar
- $111,111,111 \times 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321$

Buzz Around Town

IN THE HEIGHTS | By Warren Friedman

IN THE HEIGHTS is a new, Off-Broadway musical by the producers who brought us RENT, AVENUE Q, and DE LA GUARDA. This musical covers three days in the life of Washington Heights, a vibrant and tight-knit community in northern Manhattan. The show's synopsis describes the neighborhood as "a place where the coffee from the corner bodega is light and sweet, the windows are always open, and the breeze carries the rhythm of three generations of music."

I recently saw a preview performance of IN THE HEIGHTS, which was quite pleasing and impressive. (Preview performances are shown as the creators continue to work on the show and make changes before opening night.) When I saw the show, I knew very little about it—only what I had read in an ad. It is not your typical Broadway musical, since it has some rap, hip hop, jazz, and Broadway styles strewn throughout the show. It also has a very large cast and big production values. I enjoyed everything about the show, from the acting, singing, and dancing, to the great set and lights. The cast is filled with Broadway professionals, from Priscilla Lopez (A CHORUS LINE) and Mandy Gonzalez (AIDA and LENNON), to performers just making their Off-Broadway debuts, such as Robin De Jesus (from the movie CAMP).

I would recommend this show for everyone, including children. It is for all to see. I hope to go back and see the show again now that it has officially opened (on February 8, 2007) to see what changes have been made, if any. In my opinion, the version I saw needed just a little tweaking. I was quite surprised at what an excellent musical it was. It had a lot of emotional punch to it. I am not sure if this show is a limited engagement or an open-ended run, so go and see IN THE HEIGHTS. Also, there are a few tickets specials available. Make sure you see it—you won't be disappointed.

Getting Outta Dodge

Visiting Anguilla: An Island in the Sun | By Lurlene Barry

Anguilla is located in the Caribbean Sea and is the northern most island in the Leeward Island chain. Its nearest neighbor to the south is St. Martin/Saint Maarten. The average year-round temperature is 80 degrees.

Anyone visiting this island is guaranteed a good time, or if you just want to relax, you're guaranteed that also. To make it two vacations in one, take a 15 minute boat ride to the island's neighbors in St. Martin (French side)/Saint Maarten (Dutch side). There you will find shopping, movies, fast food restaurants, casinos, and much more.

On Anguilla, my cousins own the Anguilla Great House Beach Resort (www.anguillagreathouse.com). Mentioning my name to the right person may get you a free drink or discount, but unfortunately that's not a guarantee. If you're looking for local food, don't leave the island without stopping by my aunt's Tamarind Tree Bar and Restaurant. It looks just like it sounds—it is actually a small bar and restaurant located under a tamarind tree. There you will find local fried or steamed fish, a variety of patties, conch soup, barbecued chicken and ribs, rice and peas, and her famous "Johnny cakes." You must have one of her Johnny cakes before you leave the island! Mention my name here, and you will get a free drink or discount, and that **is** a guarantee.

Visit the links below for more information on visiting Anguilla, and please don't hesitate to e-mail me at lbarry@nyls.edu if you decide to make Anguilla your next vacation destination.

Sites to visit:

www.anguilla-vacation.com

www.tripadvisor.com/Tourism-g147238-Anguilla-Vacations.html

What's Cooking?

Chicken Romano | By Mary Rose Mercieca

1 onion (peeled and diced)
8 garlic cloves (sliced)
1 can of whole plum tomatos
extra virgin olive oil
1 lb of boneless, skinless chicken breast (cut into strips)
1 tbsp of basil
16 olives (sliced in half)
1 green pepper (remove seeds and slice)
1 lb of pasta
1 cup of grated Romano cheese
salt and pepper (alter to fit personal preference)

Break up and place the tomatoes in a pan and warm over very low heat. In a separate pan, cook the onion and garlic in olive oil. Once cooked, add the sliced chicken and basil, mixing in with the onion and garlic. This will create a chicken broth in the pan; do not discard this. Once the chicken is cooked, mix with the tomatoes adding the sliced olives and green pepper. Serve with your favorite pasta. Commonly, the chicken is sliced very thin to compliment linguini or spaghetti. If you prefer a thicker cut, add with rigatoni or penne. Top with cheese.



Save the Date!

Commencement 2007 | By Harry Althaus

It's that time again! (Well, almost...)

Commencement '07 is still a few months away, but the Law School already is getting into high-gear for this big event. As always, help from many people will be needed to make it happen, and, this year, Commencement is expanding to include more activities for graduates and their families. So there's more to be done, and more of your help will be needed. If you haven't done so already, please mark **Saturday and Sunday, May 19–20, 2007** on your calendar—we need you!

Two new elements for this year's Commencement activities will be a celebration for graduates on Wednesday evening, May 16, and Open Houses for graduates and their friends and families on Saturday and Sunday, May 19–20. All of these activities will need to be staffed to some degree, in addition to the help that's needed with the ceremony on Sunday, May 20.

Open Houses are scheduled for 1 p.m.–4 p.m. and 4 p.m.–6 p.m. on Saturday, May 19, and again for 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 20. The Commencement ceremony itself is scheduled to begin at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday. More details about when and where staff are needed will be sent to everyone during the next few weeks as plans firm up.

While it's possible that not all staff members will be needed for Commencement, please save the date, just in case. Even with assignments in place, there's always the possibility for change (or crisis), so an extra pair of hands may be needed at the last minute—that's why you're asked to keep the date on your calendar, whether or not you have a specific assignment. (If you already anticipate that you won't be available, please let your supervisor know.)

Commencement is the largest annual event at the Law School. For many of our students and their families, it is one of the most important days of their lives. We work hard to make it fun, special, and meaningful, and that can't be accomplished without you. If you'd like to request a special area of assignment for Commencement, please contact Harry Althaus (halthaus@nyls.edu) or Jimena Buitrago (jbuitrago@nyls.edu).

We'll see you in May!

Worth Knowing

E-mail worthknowing@nyls.edu with stories you would like to share with your colleagues.

Movies

Upcoming Movies | By Farrah Nagrampa

- **BLADES OF GLORY:** March 30, 2007
After being stripped of their gold medals and banned from singles competition, two rival Olympic ice skaters join together to qualify as a pairs team. Distributed by DreamWorks Pictures, this movie stars Will Ferrell and Jon Heder.
- **THE REAPING:** March 30, 2007
Hilary Swank stars as a paranormal detective who investigates religious occurrences. Her latest case: a town where the 10 biblical plagues are in full force.
- **TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES:** March 30, 2007
Who hasn't heard of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles? Join Donatello, Leonardo, Raphael, and Michelangelo—named after the famous Renaissance painters—as they are trained by their famous Ninja-Master, Splinter the Rat.

Must-See Movies | By Farrah Nagrampa

- **GHOST RIDER:** February 16, 2007
Distributed by Sony Pictures, this movie stars, among others, Nicholas Cage, Eva Mendez, and Sam Elliott. Based on a Marvel comic book character, this movie tells the tale of stunt cyclist Johnny Blaze, who, in order to save his dying father, must sell his soul to Mephistopheles (an entity of pure evil), and separate from Roxanne, the love of his life. Fast forward a few years later, and Johnny comes face to face with Roxanne (now a reporter) and Mephistopheles. Here, he strikes a deal with Mephistopheles to give him back his soul if he becomes the Ghost Rider, a supernatural agent of vengeance and justice, whose primary task is to defeat Mephistopheles' nemesis and son, Blackheart.
- **THE NAMESAKE:** March 9, 2007
The son of Indian immigrants, Gogol wants to be a thoroughly modern American man, but he finds that his wishes are at odds with the traditional life his parents wish he would live.

Cool Web Sites

By George Hayes

- **U.S. and Canadian telephone area codes in numerical order:** www.prodiat.com/areacodes-alpha.html#ALA
- **International area codes:** www.countrycallingcodes.com

The Water Fountain

Running for a Cause | By Caitlin M. Hannon

In August 2006, I decided that I wanted to run a marathon. I've been a runner on and off my whole life, but I had never committed to anything beyond a half marathon (and even that nearly killed me). Through friends, I found out about Team in Training, the largest sports-endurance training program in the world. They partner with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, and participants raise money while they train for a marathon, century ride, or triathlon.

On January 14, 2007, after months of training and injuries, I completed the 26.2 miles in Phoenix. It was the hardest thing I've ever done in my life—but I'm hooked! I'm planning on running in Chicago this fall and joined NY Road Runners so that I could get into the NYC Marathon in 2008. I raised almost \$4,000 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society—a large part of which came from my co-workers at New York Law School. I can't thank you enough for your generous support! I encourage anyone else interested in participating in an endurance event to check out Team in Training!

Bon Appétit

Edward's—An Original American Bistro | By Phyllis Evans

Nestled between the Chambers Street and Franklin Street stops on the IRT line is a slice of American cuisine called Edward's. In the midst of TriBeCa's trendy haunts—such as the Odeon, Megu, Petite Abielle, and Starbuck's international coffees, Edward's serves up appetizing meals with no "outrageousness" and just the right amount of ambiance.

Step one foot inside this restaurant and you are transported to the antiquity of a 1950s, retro scene reminiscent of the days of James Dean or Frank Sinatra. With the dim lighting, hardwood floors, and parlor style bar, you feel right at home before you even sit down. The staff is friendly and very attentive, and will greet you like an old friend. Jazz and soft rock are played at just the right volume.

The menu consists of great American favorites, and you will be hard-pressed to decide what to start with. Whether you begin with a hearty appetizer such as the soup of the day; a country salad with chicory, frisee, and bacon lardoons; or just mixed greens with sherry vinaigrette, you will still anticipate your entrée. What ever you choose, you will be served a hearty portion along with great service.

If you stay long enough for desert or coffee, you may be in for a double treat. The owner of the restaurant is usually there and often speaks to most of his customers. His name is Edward.

Announcements

Welcome!

We would like to welcome the following employees who joined the New York Law School family between January and March of 2007:

Karen Burke	Human Resources
Darwin Cheung	Library
Warren Friedman	Dean's Office
Karen Miller	Career Services
Sondy Ortiz	Faculty Assistant
Rahan Uddin	Institute for Information Law and Policy

Congratulations!

We would like to congratulate the following employees on their promotions:

Traci Harris	Human Resources Coordinator
Kevin Hauss	AVP of Human Resources
Wanda James	Coordinator for Career Planning and Public Interest
Stephanie Vincent	Senior Admin Asst., FA and Admissions

Figure This Out!

