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Police Chief Thor Caught Napping on the Job

PAGE - 12

BREAKING NEWS: Monday Morning Messages Aren't Edited for Succinctness

PAGE - 568

LeBron James Announces His Retirement PAGE - 7

Congress Votes to Make April Fools' Day a National Holiday

PAGE - 43



Public Protesting Plague of Pernicious Puns

Peter P. Peppercorn Pesky, Pranking Petitioner

The world is seeking an injunction against law school

CSU|LAW students have been beset by a mysterious, neurological condition that causes them to view every event or interaction as an opportunity to terrorize those around them with references to basic legal principles.

"We were watching *The* Last Of Us last night," one law student's unfortunate wife reported to the authorities, "and he kept saying

'That's a battery!' 'That's a battery, even in a dual-intent state!" 'That's an assault!"

"He claims I don't get it," she continued. "But like, it's not that complicated. It's just not funny."

A non-law student told us he made a suggestion for dinner plans that his lawstudent friend disagreed with, and the law student told him "I'm gonna have to file a 12(b)(6) on that one."

"We aren't speaking anymore," he reported afterward, visibly shaken.

Reports are coming in of roving gangs of plaguestricken students tossing

around such phrases as "why's it always gotta be mens rea and never women's rea?"

"If I have to hear the word 'reasonable' again I'm filing for divorce," another law student's spouse told The Gravel.

The havoc has brought about a rare moment of bipartisanship at all levels of government. Cleveland City Council is currently voting on the Just Cut It Out Already Ordinance of 2023, forbidding the use of Latin outside of campus. Ohio Governor Mike DeWine declared a state of emergency,

with the trauma of calling

the number on the sticker

to no avail, as well as for

those who bought a second

snack simply to push out the

first, only for both to end up

The Vending Machines are

evil. I am fully convinced

these machines laugh every

time one of us walks away

them dancing in the middle

disappointed. I imagine

of the night to the sound

of growling stomachs and

under-caffeinated yawns.

machines. Would I resort to

eating coins? No. Maybe.

We should all fight the

stuck.

with the support of the Ohio because I think I've figured Democratic and Republican Parties. "They're just not funny anymore," Ohio leaders wrote in a joint statement signed by 257 elected officials across the state. President Biden is reportedly considering the nuclear option.

Scientists have speculated that the condition is a symptom of brain damage caused by prolonged exposure to judicial opinions and statutes, which are written in ways that the human brain is friend's number from her not equipped to withstand.

One scientist observed, "Call me Judge Andrews, out the proximate cause in this case," after which she cried "my God, it's contagious!" and fled to a decontamination chamber.

Officials hope that the end of the spring semester will ease the crisis, at least temporarily. However, there are also worrying signs of a new variant: the inside joke.

"I don't know what a Garlock is and I don't want to know," said one victim as she deleted her law student phone.

Vending Machine Drives Law Student Mad

Han Grystudent **Gravel Consumer**

Last Tuesday, a student was driven mad when her chips remained stuck against the glass of the vending machine. She was simply trying to enjoy lunch after being cold-called in the class before, but the chips were the last straw. The student in question went full She-Hulk and was seen carrying the entire machine down Euclid before throwing it into the middle of Public Square. There she devoured everything inside the machine, including all of the dimes.

It has not been reported what state the student is in now or how they will explain the incident on their Character and Fitness.

No arrest was made, though everyone present at the scene was simply "generally disturbed" and

"scared." Many law students, however, are not as shocked by the scene and have reported the incident to be "relatable."

It is well-known that the vending machines in our school betray us regularly. They lure us in with goodies, the promise of energy and rejuvenation. We pay and watch as the black spiral spins excited for Starburst, listen to the swoosh of the weird drink elevator sliding to our refreshing cold beverage, and then . . . our hearts break. With a thud, the Starburst falls perfectly wedged against the glass stuck. The elevator spasms; no drink for you.

Worst of all, they leave us feeling hopeless. These machines know when they can hurt us the most. They sense our desperation, our lack of time. Support groups should be offered to deal

"Gravel" Edition Continues on Page 3 with

the W-Dollars Story! Normal

"Gavel" Stories Begin with the YLTC Story,

on Page 3!

Okay, it was me.

CSUILAW Vending Machines. Legend has it these monstrous machines were manufactured alongside the animatronics from Five Nights at Freddy's

'W-Dollars,' Redeemable for Cracker Barrel Gift Cards

Jack Wedgie Lexis Associate

When it comes to legal research, the Westlaw platform may not grant you the ability to "Shepardize," but you will be able to score some Shepherd's Pie once you earn enough "W-Dollars"—Westlaw's answer to the famous "Lexis Points." Thomson Reuters CEO Steve Hasker recently expressed his excitement about the new rewards program during an interview.

"I want to make myself extremely clear: the digitalgift certificates that we plan to offer to our users are limited to brick and mortar Cracker Barrel locations," said Hasker. "However, this decision was an intentional one. John Briggs West, the founder of West Publishing, had an affinity for chicken fried steak, rivaled only by his passion for legal publication access. It is also a widely-known, historical fact that John B. West never had a single breakfast, over

the course of his seventy years on this earth, that was not served with a generous helping of coarse, ground grits. The folks at Westlaw can think of no better way to pay homage to the man who founded the publishing company that started it all."

Hasker clarified: "I'm not saying that John West actually ate at Cracker Barrel, because, of course, the Cracker Barrel franchise did not exist during the late 1800's. Although the folks at Westlaw certainly understand how the blandness of the food served at Cracker Barrel could lead a reasonable person to believe that it was indeed around in the late 1800's—prior to spices finding their way into American cooking. Hence why I felt the need to make this clarification."

Hasker also laid Westlaw users' fears to rest by assuring that any gift cards that are earned with W-Dollars are not just limited to dinein or carry-out menu items, SEE WESTLAW,

page 2

Where's the News? The April Fools

Westlaw to Introduce

2 • APRIL 2023 THE GAVEL

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The Young Lawyers **Theater Collective**

Maggie Sullivan YLTC Executive Board

I never considered myself a fan of theater. In fact, I used to think quite the opposite. Before the Young Lawyers Theater Collective ("YLTC"), I had seen one musical and didn't have any interest in going to another. Now I've been to almost 10 shows and am looking forward to more.

The idea for YLTC was born when Drew Gittins (CSU|LAW Class of 2022) took a handful of friends to see musicals with him, in and around Playhouse Square. As the group saw more shows, word spread through the law school and attendance grew steadily. Over the last two years, I and Kelsey Holmberg (CSU Law Class of 2022) have helped Drew develop this group into what YLTC is today.

The YLTC experience is

different for every show depending on what theater the show is in, but the formula remains the same: we host a social event before the show at a nearby bar or restaurant, attend the show for a discounted rate with our seats grouped near each other, coordinate a postshow gathering for those looking to continue the fun, and highlight a local charity, supporting the arts, for an optional donation. For example, we had nearly



70 people join us for the smash hit musical *Hamilton*, where we enjoyed food and drinks at Masthead before the show and sat in quality seats throughout the theater. Earlier in the year, we had more than 40 people join us at Parnell's before Waitress, where YLTC rented out the Hannah Theater's lounge seating and watched the show from the comfort of couches next to the theater's bar. Other amazing shows we have seen include Hadestown, Book of Mormon, and Les Misérables.

At its core, YLTC is about making connections, both personal and professional. We have evolved from our humble beginnings to a seasoned team responsible for hosting large theater events for young lawyers, law students, young professionals, their families, and their friends. The YLTC experience goes beyond the musicals, though. We pride ourselves on providing a unique

way to relax and socialize with peers in an exciting, but casual, environment. It is an excellent way to get to know other attorneys and young professionals in the Cleveland area, away from the pressures of the office or classroom.

It does not matter if you are a full-blown theater nerd, or if this is your first time seeing a show—we encourage you to join us for an unforgettable evening. We handle all the logistics for our members so that everyone can simply show up and have a stressfree experience. Next up, we will be attending Moulin Rouge on June 9th and Six on August 25th.

If you're interested in joining us, you can reach out to me at m.sullivan35@cmlaw csuohio.edu, or follow our Instagram page @younglawyerstheatercollective for more information.

WESTLAW

From page 1 but also to any Cracker Barrel gift shop (at participating locations). He also clarified that the gift cards are also eligible for use on Cracker Barrel's online store—but only in the "Nostalgic Electronics" Department. Hasker said that Westlaw made this decision because both John West and Westlaw shareholders agree that tape recorders are the premiere platform to record legal information, particularly tort law. "The anticipation of flipping the tape partway through one's recording session, as well as the risk of accidentally losing a chapter's worth of information by recording over it, makes legal education all the more thrilling," says Hasker.

"Like, for real," Hasker added, "Google the Cracker Barrel online store. It's basically a HomeGoods at this point. They even have designer-brand clothing. Which is all the more reason that law students and lawyers alike shouldn't be wasting any of their precious time earning points on any of our competitor's platforms when they could be earning much more valuable W-Dollars. Get citing so you can get cracking! That is, Cracking the proverbial Barrel of course."

Hasker then said that he needed to cut the interview short because Sunday mass was letting out, and he wanted to beat the rush and secure a booth next to the front window of his local Cracker Barrel so that he could spend the W-Dollars that he pays himself with.

WNBA Investigating Las Vegas Aces Following Dearica Hamby Discrimination Accusations

Reece Barnett Gavel Contributor

On January 21, 2023, two-time WNBA All Star Dearica Hamby sent shockwaves through the sports world with a rather interesting Instagram post.

The caption-less post did not seem odd as the first photo was of a pregnant Hamby. The second photo was a written statement announcing that she was leaving the 2022 WNBA championship team, the Las Vegas Aces. This, while

shocking, is not what made the post interesting. Nor was it the fourth photo, which was a statement confirming she was joining the Los Angeles Sparks. It was the third photo, which was a lengthy statement about why exactly she was leaving the Aces after signing a contract extension.

In the statement, Hamby explains: "Being traded is a part of the business. Being lied to, bullied, manipulated and discrimination against is not." The statement continues with Hamby explaining

how the Aces accused her of signing her extension knowingly pregnant, that they told her she was being traded because "I wouldn't be ready and we need bodies," despite the fact that she had made it very clear that she planned to play this season, and that the treatment by the Aces towards her was traumatizing.

Many WNBA fans and commentators were surprised by the accusations due to the fact that the WNBA had added perks for players with families

or planning to start families in the 2020 Collective **Bargaining Agreement** (CBA). The new CBA, which runs through 2027, includes: players receiving full salary while on maternity leave, a new annual childcare stipend of \$5,000, two-bedroom apartments for players with children, workplace accommodations that provide a comfortable, safe, and private place for nursing mothers, and family planning benefits of up to a \$60,000 reimbursement for veteran players for costs directly related to adoption, surrogacy, oocyte cryopreservation or fertility/infertility treatments. As such, there was very little surprise

when the WNBA announced it would be investigating the claims of Hamby.

Currently, the investigation is looking into whether the Aces violated the CBA in regard to Hamby and into allegations that the Aces circumvented the salary cap by making under the table payments to players (as the Aces were trying to clear up salary cap space so they could sign two-time MVP Candace Parker, who agreed to the deal, just days after Hamby's allegations). Additionally, it was reported that in order to circumvent the salary cap, the Aces utilized a pre-selected company SEE WNBA,

page 6

APRIL 2023 • 3 THE GAVEL

Students Concerned About the Shift to an **All-Remote Evening Program**

SBA

Part-Time, Dual Degree, events. and Non-Traditional **Students Committee**

In December 2022, CSU|LAW students were startled to receive an email announcing, for the first time, massive changes to the Part-Time program.

Starting in Fall 2023. classes for all incoming Part-Time Evening students will be entirely remote. Instead of the current mix of in-person and remote classes, incoming Part-Time Evening students will only be able to take their firstyear classes online. After the first year, they will have the option to take some inperson classes, but they will also be able to complete the entire program remotely if they so choose.

To address the lack of in-person interaction (and therefore social connection and career advancement) available in such a program, Part-Time students will be required to attend six "weekend residencies." These are long weekends where students will come to Cleveland and attend six in-person networking and

professional development

As we've learned during the worst phase of the CO-VID-19 pandemic, remote learning is a useful tool. Today, when professors permit remote learning, it continues to be a helpful resource for students dealing with emergencies or sicknesses, and for making learning generally more accessible.

While the committee is strongly in favor of increasing the accessibility of legal education, the rollout of this program has left many CSU|LAW students deeply concerned about its viability and the willingness of the administration to communicate with students about curriculum changes.

First, the announcement.

Almost no one outside the administration was notified or consulted in advance of the December email. Students, alumni, and even many faculty were left entirely in the dark. Students, particularly those enrolled in the Part-Time program which is directly affected by this change, were never given the chance to share

their feedback about the program until it was official.

Next, the program itself.

Online learning is a useful tool, but, as anyone who took all-Zoom classes during the pandemic can attest: it has serious drawbacks. Students often find it difficult to prepare and focus in an online class; class discussions are less engaging; information is harder to retain. This has led to demonstrably worse outcomes—the 2021 bar exams (which were conducted after a year of largely remote learning) show across-theboard declines in scores, with some states' passage rates declining by doubledigit percentages. (see Reuters). The school has not provided data to show the efficacy of online learning relative to in-person learning—which is particularly troubling—given that the online-JD program will cost the same amount in tuition as the in-person program.

The "residency weekends," while a welcome acknowledgement of the need for in-person interaction, have also raised concerns. Who

will pay lodging and travel expenses? What if a student can't make it to one of the required weekends? Is it really practical to assume that a few jam-packed weekends can replicate the experience of a campus and integrate these students into the CSU|LAW community? These questions remain largely unanswered.

And finally, the months following the announcement.

We, the SBA Part-Time, Dual Degree, and Non-Traditional Students Committee, have actively made ourselves available to the administration to assist in the transition and keep students informed. Unfortunately, while we've had meetings and traded emails with some members of the administration, we've gotten worryingly limited concrete information on program details—and almost no chance to give actual, constructive feedback.

The root of our concern lies with the educational experience of students enrolled in the Part Time Evening Program. The

students who take advantage of this program—who are often employed full time, parents, and other types of "non-traditional" students currently find themselves unable to fully integrate into the CSU|LAW community given their later class times and pre-existing obligations. It is our concern that, if administered incorrectly, these changes to the program will leave this integral sector of the student population even more isolated than they may already feel.

In response, the committee has sent out a poll to all CSU|LAW students (especially Part-Time students) to make sure everyone has a chance to make their voices heard. Once the poll is concluded, we will use the results to work with the administration to make sure that students' concerns are taken into account during the rollout of the new program.

Source:

Bar Exam Scores Keep Rolling In, Nearly All Lower Than Last Year, REUTERS https:// www.reuters.com/legal/legalindustry/bar-exam-scoreskeep-rolling-nearly-all-lowerthan-last-year-2021-09-22/

Student Spotlight: Jonathan Alamir's Travels

Jonathan Alamir Frequent Flyer

Traveling as an Outlet:

Traveling has always been an outlet for me after a stressful period of work. I always try to have something lined up to look forward to and help motivate me during tougher times, especially after final exams. I am fortunate to have friends in many cities, making it easy to find affordable accommodations while on the

Where I Have Been:

I was privileged to have a unique schedule my 3L year that has allowed me to explore the world. This current semester has been especially flexible, with my entire schedule being remote (Law Review, Moot Court, OBEST, and a remote externship). Thus, I have had the chance to travel quite a bit.

My first visit was in August to see some old friends in Toronto. Luckily, they were only a six-hour drive away. I try to catch up with them once a year when I can. Usually, we will spend a few days in Toronto and then head up to Muskoka a popular lake spot where we stay at their grandma's cottage.

Next, I was off to Florida in October. A good college friend of mine lives in Fort Lauderdale, so two other friends and I decided to spend a week with him down there. Florida was a nice change from the Ohio weather, which was just starting to get cold. I enjoyed the opportunity to get some nice sun and a tan on.

There was no shortage of sun in the coming month as I went to the Middle East in November for the World Cup. We first flew

into Dubai to spend a few days exploring. The city was beautiful and had lots to offer, including Skydive Dubai (a must-experience for anyone visiting). After that, we flew into Doha, Qatar, for the start of the World Cup, where I saw

family in Los Angeles and Oxford, Mississippi. I spent returning home. a week in each location visiting a different cousin (two very different places). It was great to spend some quality time with those family members.

Finally, at the end of Feb-



infamous Argentina v. Saudi Arabia upset. Finally, we flew back to Dubai and Abu Dhabi for another two days before returning home.

In January I began my fully-remote semester, allowing me to see some

seven games—including the ruary, I left for Cairo, Egypt. My aunt, uncle, and cousin moved there from Syria after the civil war, and it was the first time I had seen them in twelve years. It was an emotional but incredible experience to be reunited, and I enjoyed exploring the

desert for two weeks before

What I Have Learned from Traveling:

There are a few things that I have learned from traveling. First, I learned that good time management and planning can go a long way. Although I was traveling frequently, I was often do ing work on the road to further my semester. However, I found that planning out my schedule efficiently for work allowed me to allocate the rest of the trip for enjoyment. Second, I learned that there are so many cultures out there to discover. It was amazing to see how different many parts of the world were—even within the United States. Finally, I learned that there is no time like the present—the billable hours are coming soon, so take that bar trip and have some

4 • APRIL 2023 THE GAVEL

The East Palestine Derailment: What Happened and What Comes Next?

Allison K. Younger Gavel Contributor

On February 3rd, 2023, around 9 PM, a Norfolk Southern train derailed in East Palestine, Ohio. Of the 150 train cars traveling down the track, 38 derailed, causing an additional 12 cars to be damaged. This train was carrying combustible materials, chemicals, and vinyl chloride—a toxic flammable gas.

Residents of East Palestine were ordered to evacuate, and on February 6th, 2023, toxic materials were released in what is being called a "controlled explosion" to prevent potential, catastrophic damage. The **Environmental Protection** Agency (EPA) was most concerned about the hazardous materials on board. The EPA reports 20 cars were carrying the hazardous materials that were then released, landing in the air, on surface soil, and surface



New York Times

waters. Despite odors in the area, the EPA's tests have shown no breach in water-quality standards.

People were not the only ones impacted in this incident. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources reports an estimated 3,500 fish died in the 7.5 miles of stream that were affected. In addition, it is estimated 38,222 minnows and 5,550 other species of fish were killed during the derailment.

Officials have no timeline

for the extent of the ecological damage to be cleaned up. Governor DeWine set up a landing page on the official governor website where updates can be found. He has publicly backed the S.576 Bill—The Rail Safety Act of 2023 and H.R. 844—The Rail Act, both of which are aiming to make change in the rail industry in the areas of safety, accountability, inspections, and greater penalties for violations.

It is clear due to the im-

pact of this derailment that change needs to be made, and safety needs to be put back on the top of the priority list. Recently the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) stated that it has opened a special investigation into the safety practices of Norfolk Southern. Since December of 2021, Norfolk Southern has had five significant accidents, including this one. This announcement came days after their stories. Norfolk Southern spoke out,

stating they are changing their safety practices and are hoping to improve the conditions.

Residents of East Palestine are still feeling the effects of the derailment and the controlled explosion. The lasting impact of this incident is sure to be felt for years. This story will continue to develop as the investigations continue, and more residents come forward with their stories.

Joshua Bazzoli Gavel Contributor

"The longest train I ever saw went down that Georgia line. The engine passed at six o'clock, and the cab went by at nine."

- "In the Pines"

Railroads have been making the headlines left and right for the past six months. Last fall, negotiations between the big Class I rail carriers and various rail-labor unions for a new collective bargaining agreement broke down, leading Congress and the President to force a contract on rail workers that the largest union of rail workers had just rejected.

Unlike other private sector workers, rail workers are governed by the Railway Labor Act (RLA) rather than the National Labor Relations Act. The RLA permits the federal government to intervene in railroad-labor negotiations to impose collective-bargaining agreements and preempt strikes.

Railroading on the Class Divide: Organized Labor and the East Palestine Disaster

Negotiations broke down over the subject of paid sick leave. Since the 1990's, rail carriers have been implementing a new logisticsmanagement system called Precision Scheduled Railroading (PSR). The bottom line of PSR is to cut operating costs by running longer trains with smaller crews. Under PSR, trains now average over a mile in length, and freight rail carriers employed 30% fewer workers than in 2018, according to the Surface Transportation Board. From the rail carriers' point of view, the ideal size for train crews is 1.

The disastrous derailment in East Palestine and the rail workers' struggle against PSR are intimately linked. Per the dictates of PSR, the Norfolk Southern freight train that derailed in East Palestine was 1.76 miles long, weighed over 18,000 tons, and was flying just shy of its 50-mph maximum speed. Ohio officials were not notified that the

train was hauling hazardous materials.

Since the derailment in February, rail unions such as the Transportation Division of the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail, and Transportation Workers (SMART-TD) have come out in support of the recently proposed Railway Safety Act. The Act, initially introduced by Senators Brown (D-OH) and Vance (R-OH), would take steps to undercut PSR through regulation. Among the new regulations proposed in the bill are a prohibition on oneperson train crews, requirements to notify state officials of train cars containing hazardous material, and greater penalties for violations of safety rules.

Rail unions have long been the public's first line of defense against the irresponsibility of the rail carriers. Much of the actual regulation of the rail industry, especially concerning personnel, is contained in the collective bargaining agreements between the rail workers and the rail carriers rather than the Code of Federal Regulations. The rail workers and their unions were the first to sound the alarm on PSR, and now the federal government is listening. Between continued struggle at the bargaining table and new oversight from the federal government, it is hoped that the rail carriers' greed will not precipitate another East Palestine.

"Casey Jones kept his junkpile running. Casey Jones was making double time. Casey Jones got a wooden medal for being good and faithful on the SP line . . . Well Casey's wheezy engine went right off the wheezy track, and Casey hit the river with an awful smack."

Casey Jones(The Union Scab)



APRIL 2023 • 5 THE GAVEL

The SBA Has a Democracy Problem

Philipp Corfman SBA Senator

Disclaimer: The statements made in this article do not reflect the views of The Gavel Newspaper.

As the 2022-2023 term of the CSU Student Bar Association (SBA) comes to a close, it has a lot to be proud of. The SBA led the charge on reforming our pass/fail policies, launched the Presidents Council, revamped many of its outdated rules, and spoke up for students in countless meetings with CSU Law faculty and administration.

But one thing the SBA should not be proud of, in my view, is its democracy problem.

For one thing, students may be surprised to know that a third of the current SBA Senate was appointed, not elected.

Under Article VI, Section 5 of the existing SBA Constitution, the President has the power to fill any vacancies that open in the SBA Senate. These vacancies are filled by appointed "Senators-At-Large," which are Senators who are appointed by the President, with the approval of two-thirds of the Senate.

This situation has come up five times in the past year alone. Meaning that, in a Senate of sixteen total members, nearly a third were not

elected.

This is a serious problem for an organization like the SBA. Speaking as a member of the SBA, we present ourselves as the voice of the students. We are the people that students go to when they have a problem, the people that the administration turns to when they want the students' opinions, the people the student body depends on to speak up on its behalf. We are given that power because, in theory, we were chosen by our peers through the election process. Democracy is therefore the source of our legitimacy.

Article VI, Section 5 of the SBA Constitution undermines this legitimacy. It sends a message to students that the SBA can pick their representatives better than they can. It fails to require that appointees make themselves available to their constituents and actively represent their interests. And it gives the President an inordinate amount of power, checked only by Senators who are given every incentive not to rock the boat.

Article VI, Section 5 was not created by anyone currently in SBA. Our current SBA considered changing the rule, to introduce a democratic process for filling vacancies, however, it chose not to. SBA members made reasonable arguments

in favor of the existing system. It's simple – it avoids overburdening students with multiple elections, and it allows the President to remedy underrepresented class years. (Although it should be noted that under the current system, nearly half of our current Senators are 1L's.)

But ultimately, there was a choice between turning outward to a democratic process and turning inward to maintain an internal process. The SBA chose to turn inward.

This is symptomatic of a broader issue. SBA often struggles to connect with the student body. Our meetings are open to the public, but very few students are aware of this fact, let alone choose to attend. This year, I have only seen one student attend a meeting who wasn't required to. Our committees are free for non-SBA members to join, where they can influence our work and make their voices heard, but very few students know this is an option, and even fewer take advantage of it. Too often, students view the SBA as elitist, ineffective, or both, and certainly not worth engaging with.

This has had real consequences. SBA committees are severely overworked and can't accomplish all of their goals without the help of non-SBA members. Important projects have been left on the table simply because there wasn't enough time. And without active student input at meet ings, the SBA is often left guessing at what students are thinking.

This was dramatically shown with the student organization room controversy this year.

Getting the student organization room cleaned has been a longstanding complaint from students, and it was one of the top priorities of this year's SBA. However, when the SBA began discussing the issue, rumors spread that this would lead to an effort to repurpose the space altogether. Tensions rose over the subsequent months, as students grew increasingly distrustful of the SBA's intentions, while both sides were separated by a wall of miscommunication. In late February, when the SBA sent out a survey about the student organization room, many assumed it was a Trojan horse for the school to take away the space and reacted angrily. SBA has since worked to resolve these tensions, holding several public meetings to discuss the room. But this controversy illustrates a broader disconnect between the SBA and the student body that is undermining the SBA's ability to do its

Now more than ever. students need to be able to trust and engage with their student government. Major decisions at CSU Law have increasingly been made without any student input, including moving the Part Time evening program to an all-remote format and ending the publication of grade distributions. As we push back against this kind of secretive decision-making, and as we raise longstanding student concerns like paid externships and curriculum reform, students need to be able to see the SBA as their advocate—not as an elitist club.

Bridging that gap will take a lot of time and a lot of work, and the SBA has to take the first step. One way to start would be to take another look at Article VI, Section 5. Instead of having the SBA fill its own vacancies, let's have the students do it. Instead of introducing new Senators to the student body in an email announcing their appointments, let's introduce them to the student body with their names on a ballot for their review. Instead of telling students we can pick their representatives better than they can, let's put our faith in the people we're supposed to be advocating for.

It will take more than one rule change to fix the SBA's democracy problem. But making the SBA more democratic is a good place to start.

Patrick Fox SBA Constitution Committee Chair

Recently, the Student Bar Association constitutional Committee was presented with a well-written and thoughtful proposal from a Senator regarding the way that our Senator at Large elections were run pursuant to the current SBA Constitution. After lively debate and well-reasoned arguments from both sides, the decision ultimately came down to one question: does the Senator at Large appointment stay an internal process or become an external process? For those unfamiliar with the provision, the SBA Constitution currently states the following:

"The Cleveland State University College of Law

Efficiency and Effectiveness: An Op-Ed Regarding the Senator-At-Large Debate

Student Bar Association Senate may fill any vacant Senate seats. To be considered for a vacant seat, a candidate must be a member of the CSU College of Law Student Bar Association, and be in good standing with the University. The student need not be a member of the class whose seat he or she is assuming. *Notwithstanding article six,* section two, with regard to consecutive semester requirements, a student may be nominated so long as the student will be enrolled as a student for the remainder of the current Senate term. *The President may initiate* this process by presenting a list of candidates to the Senate. The Senate may

then, by a two-thirds super majority vote, confirm candidates from the President's ending within the Senate, list to fill the vacant seats. to an external one, which *In the event that the Senate* rejects a nominee, or rejects the list in its entirety, the Senate may either instruct the President to present additional candidates at the next Senate meeting, or nominate candidates on its own accord. In the event that the Senate nominates a candidate on its own accord, the Senate, by a twothirds super majority vote, confirm the candidate as a Senator at the next scheduled Senate meeting."

The proposal on the table from the committee member offered the idea to move the process away from an

internal process, which would mean starting and would shift the decision to bring in new Senators to the entire student body.

It is important to note that the Senator at Large spots exist because the democratic process did not yield the expected results. The spots are always first offered up to each class where candidates are selected through an election. However, this process does not always work, and the Senate is left with vacancies. The workloads presented by these vacant seats must then be distributed and picked up by other members of the Senate. The SBA Senate

operates best when it is at its max capacity, and when the student body is being represented equally and efficiently. The process that is currently in place is similar to many state governments, where if a spot is left vacant by a senator, the governor will nominate a candidate to fill the vacancy until an election can be held. There are already three elections that occur during any given school year, and terms are not long enough to hold a special election every time a seat becomes vacant. There are checks that SBA has put into place to balance the power this grants the President, by requiring confirmation by the Senate. Senators were elected by each class to represent every member of that class.

SEE OP-ED, page 6

6 • APRIL 2022

OP-ED

From page 5

Instead of bringing the vote to the entire student body, SBA brings the vote to the elected representatives, who were voted into their positions to be the voice of the students they represent. Keeping the process internal does not mean that the students' voices aren't heard, but rather that the voices are being heard, through the representatives those students elected to be their voice.

The choice between the two was not an easy one. However, the decision to keep it internal was seemingly the best one. From the SBA Constitution, "The Cleveland State University College of Law Student Bar Association Senate shall represent the interests of the student body of the Cleveland State University College of Law." Furthermore, "The Cleveland State University College of Law Student Bar Association shall provide an open, visible, and effective way for students to raise their concerns." As elected representatives of the school, SBA Senators are responsible for representing the interests of their peers. By the time they are elected, their classmates have indicated that they have placed their trust in them to make decisions in their best interests. While recognizing the merits of the alternative, this internal process is an open, visible, and effective way to allow students' interests to be furthered.

Speaking to openness and visibility, SBA meetings are open to the public. As representatives, SBA Senators are encouraged to share the occurrences of meetings with our peers. To be honest, this system is not a perfect one, and there is always room for growth. There is always more that can be done in terms of visibility, especially in the digital world that we live in. Attendees who sit in on this process have an open opportunity to see why SBA makes the decisions that they do. SBA encourages people to speak up if they feel like their needs aren't being met, so please, speak up—we will listen. If speaking in front of a crowd isn't for you, there are other opportunities to speak your mind. Each SBA senator is required to maintain office hours every week, so there are numerous occasions to speak directly with a Senator in a smaller setting.

Finally, information about each class's Senators is posted on the bulletin board in the basement by the lockers. Feel free to send any of them an email and your concern will make its way to the Senate's attention.

Moving to effectiveness, an email election may be effective to some extent but based on what SBA has seen this year, and in past years, we run the risk of burning the student body out over and over with email elections (a little peek behind the curtain, reader: SBA has had quite a few Senators step down within the past academic year. This would have meant participating in multiple elections, multiple times a semester). How many emails a day do you get that you ignore? Between the ABA, law school events, Blackboard notifications, and the Federal Bar Association, an internal process keeps the election process efficient and effective.

Arguments can be made that new Senators voting in these Senator at Large elections will not want to "rock the boat." However, they have an obligation to speak our minds. These Senators were elected to be the voice of every student. That means speaking up for people that they might not necessarily agree with. Senators were elected to be the voice of the people, even if that means disagreeing with someone like the President. Pushing back against ideas is what SBA members do. If the Senate is presented with a candidate who will act against our students, they have an obligation to protect those interests however possible.

As future attorneys, we are told to zealously represent the interests of our clients. Today, SBA's clients are the students of CSU Law. Senators continue to represent the students, and ensure each voice is being heard. The democratic process continues even internally, because the Senators are the students. By streamlining this process to produce a system of efficiency and effectiveness, SBA continues to serve its constituents and make decisions that serve the students' best interests. That is why SBA decided to keep the process the way it is—by representing students through the students.

US Drug Crisis

Abdul Aziz MeslatGavel Contributor

The US has been grappling with a drug crisis since the late 1990s, but the situation has become even more severe in recent years. Since 2020, the country has been facing a new wave of drug addiction and overdose deaths that has left many policymakers and healthcare professionals struggling to find a solution.

One of the main drivers of this crisis has been the widespread availability of opioids. Opioids are a class of drugs that include prescription painkillers like oxycodone and fentanyl, as well as illegal drugs like heroin. Over the past two decades, opioid prescriptions have skyrocketed in the US, leading to a surge in addiction and overdose deaths.

Another contributing factor to the drug crisis is the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has exacerbated existing mental health problems and created new ones, leading to increased drug use and addiction. It

has also disrupted access to addiction treatment services, making it even more difficult for those struggling with addiction to get the help they need.

To address the drug crisis, there are several possible solutions that policymakers and healthcare professionals are exploring. One approach is to increase access to addiction treatment services. This could include expanding Medicaid coverage for addiction treatment, increasing funding for addiction treatment programs, and increasing the number of healthcare professionals trained to provide addiction treatment.

Another potential solution is to reduce the supply of opioids. This could include tightening regulations on opioid prescriptions, cracking down on illegal drug trafficking, and increasing the availability of non-opioid pain management options.

Overall, legal solutions are an important part of addressing the drug crisis in the US, and a multifaceted approach that combines legal, medical, and social interventions is necessary to make progress in combating this complex problem.

Finally, addressing the underlying social and economic factors that contribute to addiction could also help mitigate the drug crisis. This could include investing in job training programs, improving access to affordable housing, and increasing funding for mental health services.

In conclusion, the US drug crisis has been a persistent problem for decades, and the current wave of addiction and overdose deaths is a stark reminder of the urgency of finding solutions. While there is no easy fix to this complex problem, increasing access to addiction treatment services, reducing the supply of opioids, and addressing the underlying social and economic factors that contribute to addiction are all potential solutions that policymakers and healthcare professionals are exploring. By taking a multifaceted approach to the drug crisis, we can work towards a future where fewer Americans suffer from addiction and overdose.

Prominent Legal Professional: Greg Jolivette

Miriam Kobella
Gavel Contributor

"I'm still trying to figure out what I'll do when I grow up." This is a phrase that Greg says often. It may seem like an odd phrase coming from someone who certainly looks like he knows what he is doing. But beyond the funny part, that phrase shows a part of Greg's personality. He is always looking forward to improving and he is very positive about the future.

positive about the future.
Greg Jolivette is a CSU
College of Law summa cum
laude graduate, class of
2007. He knew he wanted
to go to law school since he
was studying his undergrad
in History and Economics at
John Carroll University. He
chose CSU Law because it
was a great local and affordable option to achieve his
goal. During law school, he
participated in moot court
and law review. He also

served as a legal writing tutor. After his first year of law school, Greg externed for Judge Christopher Boyko. After his second year, he worked at Jones Day as a summer associate, where he also served as a law clerk during his third year.

After graduation, he became an associate at Jones Day for one year. Then he had a clerkship with the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio where he worked with Judge Kate O'Malley. He also worked with Judge Dan Polster. Through his externship and clerkship, he gained valuable experience with how the legal system operates. These opportunities exposed him to different types of cases. Being a clerk also put him behind the scenes with the judges. He was able to participate in settlement conferences and discovery disputes. He also helped draft opinions.

Greg's advice to law students is to focus on time management and maintaining a positive attitude. When he was in law school, he and his wife were parents of two children. He had to learn very fast how to efficiently use his time for all his school activities, work, and family. Greg is a strong believer in worklife balance; he thinks that students and legal professionals should focus on their family and their health. He also thinks that going to law school not only teaches you about the law but about how to learn. Law school teaches you a lot about yourself, according to Greg.

Currently, Greg is an Associate General Counsel at The Sherwin-Williams Company where he is responsible for managing mass tort product liability litigation, insurance litigation, and assisting with

SEE **JOLIVETTE**, page 8

APRIL 2023 • 7 THE GAVEL

Just a Kid from Akron

Marshall Farber Gavel Contributor

On February 7, 2023, LeBron James broke the NBA's all-time regular season scoring record. It's not only the hardest record to achieve in the NBA, but likely the most challenging record to achieve in any sport. This was viewed as a virtually unbreakable record held by the great Kareem Abdul-Jabbar for 38 years. Breaking LeBron's scoring record would take a nearly perfect player designed to play the game at the highest level with extraordinary scoring ability, unmatched consistency, and a career spanning decades. They would have to stay healthy and avoid the ended today, Embiid could sharp decline late in their career that every athlete inevitably faces. There are three main factors why this record will never be broken: scoring averages, longevity,

and the current NBA rules. First, in the NBA, 20 points per game (PPG) has been the standard for a good or even great scorer, depending on what era that athlete played in. 20 PPG may not sound impressive these days, but the list of great players to average 20 throughout their careers includes Tracy Mc-Grady, Dirk Nowitzki, Paul George, Kawhi Leonard, and Paul Pierce. In fact, of the thousands of athletes who've played in the NBA, only 74 have a career average of at least 20 PPG. If a player averages 20 PPG and they play at least 72 games a season for every season of their career, they would reach LeBron's scoring total NBA season. Thus, using somewhere towards the end of their 26th season in the NBA. However, that's what it would take to reach LeBron's current record; LeBron is still one of the league's leading scorers with no signs of slowing down. This scoring record is not just some achievement demonstrating how long LeBron has been playing in the league; it's evidence of his outright dominance of the game for two decades. Thus, to break this record in the future, a player would need to score the ball better than anyone in the history of

the NBA and play the game longer than anyone in NBA history ever has.

Second, LeBron's ability to stay at his peak for so long is inconceivable. The last time LeBron failed to score double-digit points in a regular season game was back in 2007. His monumental streak of double-digit scoring is now at around 1140 games. This sounds like an impossibly large number, but to truly grasp how long he's been on the streak, one must look at who has the second-longest double-digit scoring streak. Joel Embiid has the next closest with 109 consecutive games, which means at his current pace, and if LeBron's streak break LeBron's consecutive double-digit scoring record sometime during the 2041 NBA season -18 years from now.

LeBron has said on multiple occasions that he wants to and feels capable of playing into his early 40s, and he's also stated that he wants to play with his son (Bronny) in the NBA and win a championship with him. This gives a rough timeline of his last years in the league. Next season Bronny will be in his first year of college, and he'll more than likely need to play at least two years of college basketball before he has a legitimate shot of being a high draft pick or lottery pick. This means Bronny's first season in the league will be the 2025-2026 season, which puts LeBron's final season as roughly the 2026-2027 LeBron's current PPG this season (29.5) and decreasing that number by a generous percentage (20%) to account for age and injuries, LeBron would be averaging 23.6 points per game over his final four seasons. Moreover, LeBron would have scored 6,702 points over this period, bringing his total career points to 45,152, taking an already mythical number to greater heights. Excluding LeBron, there

have only been seven players in NBA history who have even passed 30,000 career points. Among active players, Kevin Durant is the close. closest to LeBron's scoring total, and after fifteen of some of the most dynamic scoring seasons the NBA has ever seen, Durant is still nearly 12,000 points behind LeBron. This means that if LeBron retired today, even if Durant maintained his current level of production while playing 55 games a season, it would take Durant eight more seasons until the old NBA age of 42 before he even catches up to LeBron's current career point total. As one moves farther down the list of active NBA players with the most career points, there's no one relatively close to being on track to beat this record. James Harden is already 33 years old, Westbrook is 34, Chris Paul is 37, DeRozan is 33, and Steph Curry is 35. The first player on this list still at the peak of their career is Giannis Antetokounmpo, but because of his moderate start when he entered the league, he is about 6000 points off target from where LeBron was this point in his career. Thus, it's evident that a player who might have a chance at breaking LeBron's all-time scoring record is not from this NBA age group.

Since no players in that age group have a chance, one must analyze the younger generation of the NBA. After five NBA seasons, LeBron had already surpassed the 10,000-career point threshold. Finishing his fifth season with 10,689 total career points, on a 27.3 points per game. Among the most productive scoring young players in the NBA, these seven are the only players that are remotely close to a young LeBron's PPG: Morant (22.5), Giannis (22.6), Booker (23.9), Mitchell (24.4), Trae Young (25.6), Embiid (27.1), and Dončić (27.5). At 27.5 PPG, Dončić is the only player in the entire NBA with a higher career PPG average than a young LeBron. Dončić's career point total in his fifth season is 8,871, and he's 24 years old. LeBron was only 23 in his fifth season and already had 1,818 points more than Dončić. It becomes clear that no one comes

Furthermore, players did not miss games to rest nearly as much at the beginning of LeBron's career. As time has progressed, players have become more aware of risk factors like overworking the human body, which can lead to career-ending injuries. In Dončić's first five seasons, he averaged 66.2 games played, and in LeBron's first five seasons, he averaged 77.8, over ten more games played. Moreover, in 2006, after LeBron had been drafted, the NBA implemented the "one-and-done rule." This rule forces athletes to play at the college level for at least one year, opt into the NBA's G League, or sit out a season before entering the NBA. No athletes moving forward will have the advantage LeBron had joining the NBA so young.

Suppose a player wants an opportunity to even touch this record. In that case, they will need to enter the league as a polished superstar and spend no time

developing their skills or learning the nuances of the league. They would need to be one of the most productive scorers ever, i.e. 28-29 PPG every year for over two decades without missing a beat. On top of that, they would need to do it in a league that no longer emphasizes the regular season. They'll have to go against the grain and suit up nearly every single game while avoiding injuries for over 20 years. Ultimately, by the time he retires, LeBron's scoring record will be so monstrous that no one will ever be able to surpass it.

Despite having a difficult childhood and growing up without a father, LeBron accomplished all of this and more. Perhaps his most significant achievement was opening the "I Promise School" in 2018. A public elementary school in Ohio, supported by the LeBron James Family Foundation and specifically aimed at atrisk children. It's extraordinary for someone who says he's just a kid from Akron, Ohio.

WNBA

From page 2

to offer player money for negligible work allowing the team to sign players to smaller contracts and stay under the hard salary cap.

On February 8, the Aces released a statement in regard to the investigation, stating: "As an organization whose mission is to support and celebrate the tremendously talented women in our league, we take seriously our responsibility to hold ourselves to the highest professional standards." They ended the statement by stating that they will no longer comment at this time, due to it being an ongoing investigation.

However, what was odd about the statement was its beginning, where the Aces claimed the investigation had been "launched today" (Feb 8th). The league disputed that claim, stating that they had begun looking into the matter well before that. Team owner Mark Davis claims that he was not aware of any salary cap circumvention by his front

office. Furthermore, during Candace Parker's introductory press conference, when a reporter attempted to ask team president Nikki Fargas about Hamby, a team representative cut off the reporter and said Fargas, who was still on the call, had to leave the press conference.

As of right now the investigation is ongoing, and not much has been reported since the release of the Aces statement. However, the investigation and backlash from fans seems not to have affected the team much during this offseason. In addition to signing Candace Parker, the Aces now have a new minority owner: 7-time Super Bowl Champion and future Hall of Famer Tom Brady. For the time being, until the WNBA announces the completion of investigation or more allegations appear, it seems that the only thing the Las Vegas Aces are worried about is defending their title against the now All Star-packed New York Liberty.

THE GAVEL APRIL 2023 • 8

Student Spotlight: Noah Seabrook

Noah Seabrook Gavel Contributor

"Once upon a time" – four simple words used to signal to the audience that we are about to dive deep into a story. But it's never just a story-those words inform you that we are going into the story. In today's society of superheroes and reimagined fairytales, we are embedded with the notion that every story is unique. Every story has a place in the space-time continuum. More importantly, every story matters. Mine and Yours. So, here's part of my

Once upon a time, there was a boy in Central New York suburbia. He was timid, a straight A student, and never fell out of line. The pool in the backyard, his blackbelt, and his books left him wanting very little. For what more could he want, or need, when he could travel to distant planets, fight alongside dragons, or go on epic ghostly adventures at just the flip of a page. Then came Smallville, a T.V. show depicting a teenaged Superman. The show brought those adventures in the books to the boy's T.V. screen and everything was right in the world. He was able to live through the characters. Their adventures. Their (frequent) love triangles. Their tragedies. Their stories. Until one night, he wished upon that star in the sky just like the characters do in his books and shows. What was his wish? Why, to live a life like Clark Kent, of course. in his story.

Now that I have hopefully written that "attention grabbing introduction," I'll speak plainly. Shortly after wishing on that star, my life did change. In 2008, a local girl named Erin Maxwell was strangled to death after being sexually and physically abused by her stepbrother. Erin also lived with her father and stepmother in what has been deemed as one of the worst cases of neglect and abuse in the area. Her death came shortly after my family, and I returned from working

inside Romanian orphanages. During that trip, we would pass a horse farm and tried to connect the orphanage to the farm for a means of therapy. However, that just wasn't possible. Like an inspirational story you'd see in a movie, my mom took her horse farm idea and decided to implement it in the States. Her mission: to save the next Erin.

Within two years, our family sold off our home and our camp to put the down payment on what became Purpose Farm. The farm is a youth mentoring program for youth who are in life crisis stemming from abuse, trauma, neglect, or behavioral issues, or who may live in a high-risk environment. Our program is specifically designed to be free to the youth who utilize it. The youth who attend the program can be residents of governmental facilities or group homes, but often are the kids "in your own backyard." Just like Erin. Through the program, the youth learn empathy, cultivate confidence, and develop skills to build lasting, healthy relationships. They do this by working with a human mentor and an animal mentor. Over the past 10 years, our animal mentors have included a wide variety of rescued farm, domestic, and exotic animals. Horses, pigs, peafowl, alpacas, chickens, roosters, turkeys, rabbits, chinchillas, goats, and a camel are just a

But what did all this mean for the boy above? It meant trading in his pool for fields, That's when he began living his books for manure picks, and his shows for helping run goat yoga fundraisers. Along with so much mud. As the spick-and-span golden child, I must admit that I had a very hard time making those tradeoffs. I had no intention of moving; certainly, no intention of learning how to exist with farm animals or spending every holiday in the fields feeding them. Nor did I envision that along the way I would become a surrogate father to Noah Jr. – a rooster born on the farm. He inherited some genetic issues and struggled with maintaining his vitamin-B

few of the different species.

levels which are vital for roosters. This caused his neck to coil backward and, at times, upside-down. With vitamin supplements he would bounce back like a spring chicken. Yet, it was the weeks he would spend at helped heal the academic my bedside during treatment that changed me. Like our youth in program, I learned how to truly care for another living thing, unconditionally.

Like every impactful story, there is a tragedy to go with it. During the pandemic, I was in my first year of medical school. With everything on Zoom, I remained close to home. February 22, 2021, seemed unremarkable until a wild Cooper's hawk got into the main barn and sparked a fire. The fire consumed everything in its path: our family car, the barn, riding arena, pole barn, all our equipment, tools, veterinary supplies, feed, hav. Tragically, we lost 11 of our 40 animal mentors to the fire. Esther-Ann was the sole survivor of animals who lived primarily in the barn. It was then that I took a short leave of absence as my name was mistakenly attached to the insurance policies. As I found myself surrounded by policies,

contract debates, and legal issues, I learned that medicine was never where I was meant to be. I soon left medical school and applied to CSU Law.

Applying to law school disruption. But it was the community that helped to heal the profound grief we as a family and an organization had over the fire. With pandemic-pricing, we were looking at million dollar estimates to rebuild mere shells. And again, the community we poured into, poured back into us. Ultimately, we were able to regain the tools and equipment needed for our new normal. The farm was even featured on an episode of Rachael Ray. Now, two years later, we are excited to announce that we are finally able to rebuild one of the barns this year! This modular barn is a much more budget friendly alternative to rebuilding what we once had. With the generous support of our community and a local foundation, ground breaks on this new project in the coming weeks.

So, when I wished upon that star, my intention was to obtain superpowers; but what I received was a life

like Clark Kent in living on a farm. Cue Chris Daughtry's song about being careful what you wish for. Nevertheless, Purpose Farm, the animals, and the youth made me the man I am today. They created the advocate and board member I am for the farm. Because of them I developed my own confidence and empathy. I even found myself public speaking for large audiences, networking with foundations and community leaders, and writing grants. I never could have conceptualized that these are all skills I would be relying on for law school and as a future practitioner. What's the moral of the story – my story? The point is that your story has significance. Your story shaped you into the law student, dean, professor, or faculty member that you are. So, what is your story? What skills have you inadvertently developed within the experiences you never anticipated? And most importantly, how can you use your story and those skills to impact your peers, students, clients, or your community? Because, once upon a time, there was... YOU.

For more information on Purpose Farm, follow us on Facebook or visit our website: www.purposefarm.org.

JOLIVETTE

From page 6

environmental matters. Regarding the legal profession, he believes that lawyers are problem solvers. Lawyers often confront problems or issues that they know little about, and they study and learn more and then make decisions.

Last February, Greg came to our College of Law to talk to students about "landing your dream job." I had the opportunity to walk with him in the school halls and ask him what he felt at that moment. He said, "I wish I was back in law school." He is very fond of this school. He talked to me about how much he liked his professors and the classes. It was impossible for him to pick one favorite class because he enjoyed so many. He even showed me where he used to sit in class. Despite his multiple

achievements, Greg is a family man. He and his lovely wife, Mary Pat, have six beautiful children: Georgie, Tony, Charlie, Ruby, Howie, and Hank. Georgie is a 1L at Ohio State University. He also likes to spend time exercising. So far, he has participated in five marathons. Greg is known in the office for biking every morning to work.

Getting to know Greg makes me ask myself, what is a prominent legal professional? Are professional achievements enough to be recognized as "prominent?" After talking with Greg, I do not think that's enough. Your professional achievements alone do not make you a great legal professional, but also the impact that you have on the people around you. For Greg, what he likes the most about his work is the people with whom he works. He be-

lieves that every person in the office is a contributor to the company's success.

Greg is someone that I admire because he is not only a great attorney, but a genuinely good person. I'm very fortunate to work with him and learn from him. Through his example, he has taught me that I can become a great professional and still be someone kind who cares for others, someone with high professional and personal ethics. When working in the legal field, sometimes our morals, ethics, and perception of people and the world can get distorted. Having people like Greg in the legal field, in corporations, and in law firms adds human value and meaning to our profession.

Greg Jolivette has not figured out yet what he will do when he grows up. But I am certain that when I grow up, I want to be like Greg!